



Triangle Italian-American Heritage Association
PO Box 20266
Raleigh, NC 27619

Newsletter



February/ Febbraio 2006

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- TONY AIELLO, Adopt-A-Hwy Chairman (919)554-4676
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear TIAHA Brothers,

As always, the Pot Luck Dinner was an excellent time. If nothing else in this organization, we sure have some people who can cook. There was a great variety of great things to eat, and drink. Thanks to everyone who participated in the cooking, set up, and cleaning. The "Holiday Gift Grab" worked out very well also. There were some very interesting serious and gag gifts and everyone walked away with something that brought joy and the holiday spirit.

My 11 year old son James had quite a surprise when he picked out what seemed to be the heaviest package in the stack and wound up with two large cans of tomato Puree. Luckily for him someone who had put a gift in did not take one out so James got the last present on the table that turned out to be a bag of Ghiardelli chocolates. A lot better gift for an 11 year old. It was a good lesson for him that big is not necessarily best.

Last month's meeting with Dominic Pulera as guest speaker was fantastic. He spoke on "*The tremendous progress that Italian Americans have made over the last century.*" He is a very impressive young author and the consensus of opinion was that his talk was both interesting and informative. Thanks to all the Brothers that brought their wives, girl friends, etc. It's always a special evening when we can share it with family.

As you know, it is the time to elect a new Board. Being a Board member takes about an hour or so of extra time each month to attend the Board meetings which are held the first Tuesday of the month at the K of C hall. Regardless of what some may say, it's a gratifying job that gives you an opportunity to help make decisions that build, shape, and improve our organization.

Although most of the present Board is staying for the next year, we are losing three Board members that I know of and I am therefore asking for some help in some of you to volunteer to join us. I need a Secretary and two Members At Large. I know that some of our older members have "Been There – Done That," but this might be an opportune time for a few of our newer members to step right in and get really involved in TIAHA.

Although I'm asking all of you to please consider joining the Board and making a difference, I'd like to have the people who do volunteer do so because they want to, and not just because no-one else came forward.

Our meeting is on the 15th of this month and because Joe Frangiosa will be having surgery on his wrist today, the 7th, he will not be doing his annual winter cooking for the Brothers. Carmine DiGrande stepped up and will be doing the cooking and he has a special delight planned for dinner. Carmine could use some help so please let us know who can come out as chef's assistants. We wish Joe a successful surgery and a speedy recovery and we're looking forward to his cooking at the March meeting.

Let's all try to get out for this month's meeting. There are some important goals to be accomplished that will strengthen and determine our TIAHA growth and enjoyment in 2006.

Fraternally yours,

Frank

TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 18th, 2006 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

Guests: Sergio Fabris(Dorothy)- moved from Boston 3 yrs ago. Originally from Frioli as is his father. Mother is Venician.

Jim Polito: from upstate NY. Family is from Naples.

Carol Meshot- hosts Italian Language night at Conti's via her website meetup.com.

Millard Darden- came here from meetup.com

Guest Speaker: Dominic Pulera – author from Wisconsin who writes about race, ethnicity, and gender.

Tony Aiello – Good and Welfare – Lorraine Mancuso underwent 2nd back surgery.

Vinnie and Ann Marie Doria are moving to new house.

New Board of Officers – Election Committee Vince Salvaggio, Bob Cenfetelli, and Vince Lanzola. Please contact any of them if you are interested in running for the board.

Frank congratulated the club for a successful year. Our scholarship was \$1,000.

Please obtain new membership cards from Vic Cononi.

Feb speaker is Dan Daniel who does newsletter.

Please respond to Frank's email to update your info on the roster.

Jim Polito won the 50/50.

TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February, 7th, 2006 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

The board minutes were not available at time of newsletter publication

An Italian Mother

Mrs. Ravioli comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner. Anthony lives with Maria, a female roommate.

During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between the two, and this had only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye.

Reading his mom's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates.

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?"

"Well, I doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure."

So he sat down and wrote:

"Dear Momma, I'm not saying that you 'did' take the sugar bowl from my house, I'm not saying that you 'did not' take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Love, Anthony

"A few days later, Anthony received a response e-mail from his Momma which read:

"Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with her. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now.

Love, Momma

Lesson: Never lie to your Momma!!

Thanks to **Bob Cenfetelli** for contributing the above.

Following are scenes from the Pot Luck Dinner, held at the Odd Fellows Lodge, January 22nd, 2006.



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Modern Day Abbott and Costello

If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous ketch, "Who's on First?" might have turned out something like this:

COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business.

What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue "W."

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue "W" if you don't start with some straight answers.

What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

A few days later.....

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store.

Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on "START

Thanks to Bob Cenfetelli for contributing the above

February 2006

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TIAHA ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Because of the success of the raffle and other fund raising, this years Scholarship has been raised to \$1,000 (In previous years it was \$500 - \$750). The requirements are that the applicant must be 1/8 Italian, submit an application with all associated and required information, and must be already attending, or as a High School Senior, accepted to, any accredited institution of higher learning. The funds can go towards tuition, books, housing, or any other costs associated with education.

There is an application in this newsletter so get them to your candidates ASAP. All applications ***must be in by April 15th at the latest.*** The selection committee (Made up of TIAHA Board members and Academic Faculty/Educators in Wake County) will then review all applications, transcripts, etc. and we will announce this year's recipient at our May meeting.



Italian American Heritage Association
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Through Service and Fellowship*

APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP
Academic year: 2006 – 2007
Deadline: April 15th Notification: May 15th

Part I :

Full Name : _____

Permanent Home Address : _____

Telephone Number : _____ Date of Birth : _____

Name of parents/guardians : _____

School you plan to attend or presently attend : _____

Present or intended field of study : _____

Honors : _____

Other points of consideration, e.g. extracurricular activities, service, interests, sports, etc. :

Please provide a **copy** of your transcript (HS or college) and SAT/ACT scores (where applicable) to secure the completion of this application.

Part II :

Please provide an essay (500 words or less) for each of the following questions. Your answers should be on separate sheets of paper, typed and double-spaced.

(1) What are your plans for the future, and what has been a significant experience in your past that has helped you decide this course of action for yourself?

(2) How has your Italian-American heritage affected you, and what part will it play in your future?

Signature of applicant : _____ Date : _____

Upon completion, this application plus any additional information should be mailed to:

Triangle Italian-American Association
PO Box 20266, Raleigh, NC 27619

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the _expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October)! Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the "chair man." Today in business, we use the _expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . therefore, the _expression "losing face."

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman . as in "straight laced". . . wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead.

Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "minding your "P's and Q's."

One more: bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations.

However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper _expression, didn't you.)

Thank you, **Bob Vetrano**, for contributing the above to the newsletter.



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Italian Coffee

The Art of Drinking Espresso

Espresso, caffè normale, cappuccino; sometimes it seems that there are as many types of coffee in Italy as there are pastas. And just like pasta, Italian coffee is an art form with many customs and traditions. Whether it's a *caffè corretto* thrown back like a shot, a *cappuccino* and brioche for breakfast, or a *granita di caffè con panna* to cool off from the hot midday sun, in Italy there is a coffee drink specific for every time and mood.

The Perfect Tazza

Want to start a heated discussion in Italy? Ask a group of friends how to make a perfect cup of stove top espresso! There are fully automatic espresso makers, pump driven espresso machines, lever piston espresso machines, and, of course, the classic [aluminum espresso coffee maker](#) (also called a moka pot or The Moka Express), which was invented in the 1930's.

Italian coffee *tifosi* [in search of the perfect cup](#) will also debate various factors such as bean type, [blade vs. burr grinders](#), tamp pressure, water temperature, and humidity. Caffeine junkies not only have their favorite local *torrefazione* (coffee house), but even prefer certain *baristi* because of their ability to deliver a perfect *caffè espresso*.

'S' Marks the Pot (of Coffee)

No one expects a first-time visitor to Italy to trill their r's like a native Italian speaker. But if you don't want to be labeled *maleducato*, when ordering a coffee in Italy it's *espresso*, not *expresso*. Both will quicken your heart rate, but an *expresso* is a fast train and an *espresso* is a small cup of very strong coffee. And *caffè* (with two f's) is both the beverage and the locale that serves it.

What kind of coffee should you order in a *caffè*? The possibilities can be as daunting as a [Starbucks menu](#). Below is a list of the most popular caffeine-laden drinks. Keep in mind too, Italians generally don't drink coffee with any meal except breakfast. Coffee is often ordered after a meal, and—*che vergogna!*—[only the unwitting tourist will order a cappuccino in a restaurant after lunch or dinner](#). When ordering an after-dinner coffee, do not ask for an espresso, ask for "*un caffè, per favore.*"

Italian Coffee Vocabulary List

- *caffè (espresso)*—a small cup of very strong coffee, i.e., espresso
- *caffè Americano*—American-style coffee, but stronger; weaker than espresso and served in a large cup
- *caffè corretto*—coffee "corrected" with a shot of grappa, cognac, or other spirit
- *caffè doppio*—double espresso
- *caffè freddo*—iced coffee
- *caffè Hag*—decaffeinated coffee
- *caffè latte*—hot milk mixed with coffee and served in a glass for breakfast
- *caffè macchiato*—espresso "stained" with a drop of steamed milk: small version of a cappuccino
- *caffè marocchino*—espresso with a dash of hot milk and cacao powder
- *caffè stretto*—espresso with less water; rocket fuel!
- *cappuccino*—espresso infused with steamed milk and drunk in the morning, but never after lunch or dinner
- *granita di caffè con panna*—frozen, iced beverage (similar to a slush, but ice shavings make it authentic) and topped with whipped cream

ON A PERSONAL NOTE:



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Tony ad Ginny Aiello
Andrew and Theresa Caamano
Bob and Eileen Cenfetelli



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

MEMBERS

Don Savino

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

Tina Caffera
Camile Conzola
Carey Giamportone
Jo Guglielmi
Dianne LaFata
Roxann Larotonda
Carol Torsone

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:

Bill Macario has been moved permanently to Windsor Point Nursing Home on Broad Street in Fuquay-Varina.

Joe Frangiosa had major surgery on his right hand February 7th.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.



EDITOR:

Is something newsworthy?

Let us know, send it to

Neal Caliando: nealcali@yahoo.com

If you know of an illness, birth, death, marriage, etc., of a TIAHA member or member's family, please contact:

Neal Caliando: nealcali@yahoo.com
(919)846-2747

and/or

Tony Aiello: taiello1@nc.rr.com
(919)554-4676

If your e-mail and/or home address changes, please notify **Vince Conzola**, at (919) 878-7976, conzola@us.ibm.com .

The **deadline** for submitting input to the newsletter is the **second Wednesday of the month.**



**Triangle Italian-American Heritage Association
P.O. Box 20266, Raleigh, North Carolina 27619**

TIAHA UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15th (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

March 7th (Tuesday), 6:30 PM – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

March 15th (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.