



**Triangle Italian-American Heritage Association**  
**PO Box 20266**  
**Raleigh, NC 27619** [www.theitalianclub.com](http://www.theitalianclub.com)

## Newsletter



**January/Gennaio 2007**

**Editor:** Neal Caliendo  
 (919) 846-2747  
[nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Dear TIAHA Brothers,

As we look forward to a new year, I look back at 2006 and hope we can repeat the wonderful and productive year we had in raising money for charities, providing a plethora of help and support for a number of worthy organizations, TIAHA social events, participating in events such as The International Festival and St. Raphael's that generated funds to add to our treasury, and a number of events that we, as brothers and an organization, brought to fruition in 2006.

The Christmas meeting/dinner in December was a wonderful end to a wonderful year. The food was excellent. The beverages and good times flowed. The music was fitting and entertaining. The presents were unique, serious and comical, and very appropriate. But most of all, the feeling and overall atmosphere of Family prevailed over the entire evening. It was one hell of a great night.

Nominations and the voting in of new officers for 2007 are still open and coming to fruition over the next two meetings. Please look into yourselves and decide if you'd like to be involved in helping to make decisions that operate, and shape our organization's existence and growth. If you don't want to be a member of the Board, remember that you are still a member of TIAHA, so I beseech you to give your full support and an amount of dedicated time to your new officers.

Please accept, and extend to your families, my very best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2007.

Fraternally yours,

Frank

## **TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 2nd, 2007 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

In Attendance: Frank Ferraro, Bob Cenfetelli, John Bono, Victor Cononi, Bob Vetrano, Vince Salvaggio, Dave Baron, Peter Cari

- **MEMBERSHIP DATA LIST**
  - 
  - Discussion of updating spreadsheet, utilizing one for all uses. Bob Vetrano to coordinate.
- 
- **DECEMBER POTLUCK DINNER**
  - Was a great night for all..
- 
- **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
  - Roy Cordato was to bring criteria. Did not attend. Frank to contact.
- **RAFFLE**
  - Victor Cononi sold the most tickets. Decision was made to have more of the charities, such as Oxford House, Healing Place, etc, printed on the tickets. Also add a line for who sold the ticket.
- 
- **TIAHA SHIRTS**
  - ❖ It was decided to buy 2 dozen golf shirts and 2 dozen t-shirts with logos.
- 
- **INSTALLATION DINNER**
  - Scheduled for Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Frank to check out Heritage Place, Victor Cononi Casa Carbone, John Bono NCS Faculty Club.

## TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

December 20th, 2006 at Knights of Columbus, New Hope Road and Columbus Road, Raleigh, NC

President Ferraro greeted all present and thanked them for coming. Pledge of allegiance recited.

### □ GUESTS

- ✓ Mary Donovan Metzger, visiting from New York. She is Molly Ferraro's mother.

## OLD BUSINESS

### □ OXFORD HOUSE

- ✓ John Colombo praised the good support from all. John Bono was a great Santa Claus. TIAHA purchased his suit. Twenty four people attended the dinner and gift giving. John raised \$1,000 from outside of TIAHA. Dr. Chris Morea contributed \$500 to the fund.

### □ INTERNATION FESTIVAL , ST RAPHEAL, ST MICHAELS

- ✓ We cleared over \$2,000 on these events, with the proceed going towards our charitable projects..

### □ KNIGHT'S RAFFLE TICKETS

- ✓ \$100/ticket. Limit of 125 will be sold. Trip to Italy for four. Round trip airfare, up to four rooms .

### □ VALENTINE/WISE GUY NIGHT

- ✓ Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 7-11:30 P.M. at the Knights. Five course dinner with bottle of wine for two. Bill Stonehouse will entertain. \$20/person. Call (919) 612-3327 for reservations. Limited space available.
- ✓ applications from Frank.

### □ RAFFLE

- ✓ A total of \$2,200 in tickets were sold. Cost of prizes was #1,100.

Winners:

TV	Roy Cordato
IPOD	Bob Petrolino
IPOD	Jack Giamportone
\$75 Gift Certificate	Tom Devito
\$75 Gift Certificate	Clara Chiello

### □ PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- ✓ Rudy DiFrancisci

## Masonic Home For Children At Oxford Christmas Party

The party was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time. It's great that TIAHA is part of this meaningful celebration. John Colombo did a terrific job in raising the funds, buying the presents, opening his and his wife Mary's home for wrapping of presents, etc., etc. Thanks to all the TIAHA members and spouses who helped John and Mary (not enough room to name them all here).

And let us not forget the wonderful job John Bono did as Santa Claus.



**From:** Suzanne Brown [mailto: slewisbrown@earthlink.net ]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2007 10:06 AM  
**To:** Frank Ferraro  
**Cc:** donl  
**Subject:** Easter Basket Project for Source Force

Dear Frank,

I sent you an email in early November regarding the dates for the 2007 Easter Basket Project so you could have as much notice as possible. I had no reply so am writing again to make sure you receive this.

We will do the actual basket assembly on Saturday, March 17 from 8:AM until not a minute past 4:00PM ( church has a wedding booked for this area right after us). It will again be at the Unitarian Fellowship, 3314 Wade Avenue in Raleigh which is where we were last year.

We need the wonderful assistance of your group again...you were invaluable last year and Don Ludlow came on as a full time volunteer with us afterwards and he is just the BEST (he needs to be our poster child for ideal volunteer). Peter Cari took the mandatory 2 hour training but evidently decided it wasn't his cup of tea.

We need 'help' on Thursday, March 15th to pick up and transport items to the church location and unload, etc.

We need 'help' on Friday, March 16th to set up this massive amount of merchandise in order to run as an assembly line the next day.

We need 'help' throughout the day on Saturday, 15th.....ESPECIALLY starting around noon when boxes need to be broken down and taken to the recycling at the Jaycee Center down the street a few blocks. We have to leave everything in pristine condition when we leave and all the next group comes in to set up for the wedding. Last year some of us were there many hours into the night cleaning up but this year it just cannot happen, therefore we need the 'fresh group of workers' to be there to clean up while we finish up the remaining baskets. All pick ups of the baskets will have to be moved back as well.

We are waiting to find out if the church will allow us to put a POD in the parking lot and depending on that decision we will know whether or not we need a truck to come here to Chapel Hill and my house like you did last year.

Your group was just wonderful....hard workers, cheerful, and very efficient and we were honored you choose to strengthen our backbone in this marvelous way. Our workers are great but we have very few men among our regular volunteers.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me by email or phone and feel free to share it with your membership as someone may have a source for something we need or some better solution for carrying out this enormous undertaking.....we are always open to new ideas and help making it all run smoother and getting more items for our money.

I will email you the new flyer update as soon as it is available.

Thanks so much for all your club has already done for Source Force, we are most grateful!

Suzanne Lewis Brown

942-0442

our website: [www.Source-Force.org](http://www.Source-Force.org)

## *History and Demographics*

Most immigration from Italy occurred between 1880 and 1920. Many Italian Americans came from Southern Italy and Sicily as rural peasants. Italians lived in cities, mill towns and mining camps all over the Northeast, with New York City the favorite destination. A small proportion became garden farmers. They dominated specific neighborhoods (often called "Little Italy") where they could interact and find favorite foods. The immigrants arrived with very little cash or human capital; their manual labor was in demand. These neighborhoods were typically slums with overcrowded tenements and poor sanitation. Tuberculosis was rampant. In the 1890-1920 period Italian Americans were often stereotyped as being "violent" and "controlled by the Mafia".] In the 1920s, many Americans used the Sacco and Vanzetti trial, in which two Italian anarchists were sentenced to death, to denounce Italian immigrants as anarchists and criminals. During the 1800s and early 20th century, Italian Americans were the one of the most likely groups to be lynched. In 1891, eleven Italian immigrants in New Orleans were lynched due to their ethnicity and the suspicion of Italians being involved in the Mafia. This was the largest mass lynching in US history.

To this day, Italian Americans are frequently associated with organized crime in the minds of most Americans, largely due to pervasive media stereotyping and a number of popular gangster movies (such as *The Godfather* and *Goodfellas*). A Zogby International survey revealed that 78 percent of teenagers 13 to 18 associated Italian Americans with either criminal activity or blue-collar work. A survey by the Response Analysis Corp. reported that 74 percent of adult Americans believe most Italian Americans have "some connection" to organized crime.

However, the National Italian American Foundation and other Italian American organizations have asserted that the Mafia in the United States never numbered more than a few thousand individuals, and that it is unfair to associate such a small-minority with the general population of Italian Americans. Further, many Italian Americans hold distinguished jobs, including many distinguished positions in business, academia, the arts, medicine, and public service.

Italian Americans throughout the United States are well represented in a wide variety of occupations and professions, from skilled trades, to the arts, to engineering, science, mathematics, law, and medicine, and include numerous Nobel prize winners. Notable Italian Americans include scientists (Enrico Fermi, Antonio Meucci, Riccardo Giacconi, Eugenio Calabi, Gian-Carlo Rota, Salvador Luria, and Renato Dulbecco); jurists (including current Associate Justices of the United States Supreme Court Samuel Alito and Antonin Scalia); artists (Frank Stella, Corrado Parducci, Joseph Barbera); politicians (Rudolph Giuliani, Janet Napolitano, Mario Cuomo, and others); athletes (Joe Dimaggio, Joe Torre, Rocky Marciano, Yogi Berra, Vince Lombardi, and many others); actors and directors (Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Chazz Palminteri, among many others); musicians (Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Perry Como, Jim Croce, Dean Martin, Frank Zappa, Bruce Springsteen (half Italian), and others); numerous winners of the Medal of Honor; corporate executives (Thomas Golisano, Jerry Colangelo, Sam Palmisano, Robert Mondavi); and composers (Bill Conti, Angelo Badalamenti, Henry Mancini, Gian-Carlo Menotti).

### *Italian American culture*

Many Italian Americans still retain aspects of their culture. This includes Italian food, drink, art, Roman Catholicism, annual Italian American feasts and a strong commitment to extended family. Italian Americans influenced popular music in the 1940s and as recently in the 1970s, one of their major contributions to American culture. In movies that deal with cultural issues, Italian American words and lingo are sometimes spoken by the characters. Although most will not totally speak Italian, a dialect of sorts has arisen among Italian Americans, particularly in the urban Northeast, often popularized in film and television.

Among the most unique and popular of Italian American cultural contributions has been their aforementioned feasts. Throughout the United States, wherever one may find an "Italian neighborhood" (often referred to as 'Little Italy') one can find festive celebrations such as the well known San Gennaro Feast in New York City or the unique Our Lady of Mount Carmel "Giglio" Feast in Brooklyn, New York.

Although popular expressions of religion exist in many cultures, Italian Feasts are unique ways in which Italians mix culture and religion in elaborate displays of devotion to God and their patron saints. These feasts are much more than simply isolated events within the year. They express a "typically Italian" approach to life and are taken very seriously by the communities who prepare them. Feast (*Festa* in Italian) is an umbrella term for the various secular and religious, indoor and outdoor activities surrounding a religious holiday. Typically, Italian feasts consist of festive communal meals, religious services, games of chance and skill and elaborate outdoor processions consisting of statues resplendent in jewels and donations. This merriment usually takes place over the course of several days, and is communally prepared by a Church community or a religious organization over the course of several months.

Currently, there are more than 300 Italian feasts celebrated throughout the United States. These feasts are visited each year by millions of Americans from various backgrounds who come together to enjoy popular Italian delicacies such as Zeppole and sausage sandwiches.

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### **Trivia.**

The word 'trivia' itself is Italian trivia. From the plural of the modern Latin *trivium*, the place where three roads meet, comes this word referring to the not-very-important content discussed at such intersections. (Depends on what you consider "important," I guess.)

### **Amphitheatre.**

The [Colosseum](#), or, as it was more often known, the *Anfiteatro Flavio* (Italian) or *Amphitheatrum Flavium* (Latin), or simply [il Colosseo](#), is a real amphitheatre.... because it is oval. It is made from TWO theatres facing each other, thus "amphi" (Greek, "both") + "theatre."

### **John Cabot.**

The English-funded navigator and first European to touch the American mainland since the Vikings (Columbus and the genocidal Spanish only landed in the Caribbean) was born *Givanni Caboto* in northern Italy and grew up in Venice..

### **Ciao!**

From the formal, polite, and old-fashioned Italian *schiaivo*, meaning "I serve," or, in its idiomatic meaning, "at your service," comes the informal, casual, and modern *ciao!*

### **Caffe' corretto.**

When you want to order an espresso with a shot of liquor in it, you order a "corrected coffee." Coffee without liquor is, I deduce, somehow a rule-breaker or defective.

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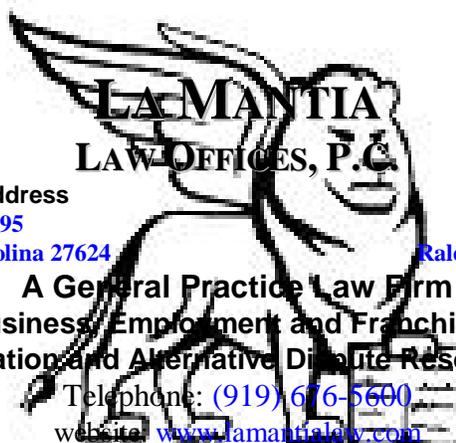
ATTORNEY AT LAW\*

Telephone:  
(919) 676-5600

e-mail:  
[mark@lamantialaw.com](mailto:mark@lamantialaw.com)

Facsimile:  
(919) 676-6674

\* and Certified Mediator - North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission



Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 97695  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27624

Street Address  
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- Did you know that the interior dome of the U.S Capitol was painted by an Italian-American?
- Did you know that there were two Italian-Americans that signed the United States Declaration of Independence?
- Did you know that out of the 36 soldiers that traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 2 of them were Italian Americans?
- Did you know that the largest bank in America and one of the largest in the world was founded by an Italian-American?
- Did you know that the word "America" came from the name of an Italian explorer? (Amerigo Vespucci)
- Did you know that ice cream was created by Italians?

### *Old sisters*

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 lived in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells down the stairs "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses, "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having a cup of tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." She knocks on wood for good measure. She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

### *Taxi Drivers First Day*

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments, everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry but you scared the daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab.... I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years

### *Having a Bad Day?*

A man was working on his motorcycle on his patio and his wife was in the kitchen. The man was racing the engine on the motorcycle when it accidentally slipped into gear. The man, still holding onto the handle bars, was dragged through the glass patio doors and along with the motorcycle dumped onto the floor inside the house.

The wife, hearing the crash, ran into the dining room and found her husband lying on the floor, cut and bleeding, the motorcycle lying next to him and the shattered patio door. The wife ran to the phone and summoned the ambulance.

Because they lived on a fairly large hill, the wife went down the several flights of stairs to the street to escort the paramedics to her husband. After the ambulance arrived and transported the man to the hospital, the wife up righted the motorcycle and pushed it outside. Seeing that gas was spilled on the floor, the wife got some paper towels, blotted up the gasoline and threw the towels in the toilet.

The man was treated and released to come home. Upon arriving home, he looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle. He became despondent, went to the bathroom, sat down on the toilet and smoked a cigarette.

After finishing the cigarette, he flipped it between his legs into the toilet bowl while seated. The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard the loud explosion and her husband screaming. She ran into the bathroom and found her husband lying on the floor. His trousers had been blown away and he was suffering burns on the buttocks, the back of his legs, and his groin.

The wife again ran to the phone to call the ambulance. The very same paramedic crew was dispatched and the wife met them at the street. The paramedics loaded the husband on to the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. While they were going down the stairs to the street accompanied by the wife, one of the paramedics asked the wife how the husband had burned himself.

She told them and the paramedics started laughing so hard, one of them slipped and tipped the stretcher, dumping the husband out. He fell down the remaining stairs and broke his arm.

....taken from a Florida Newspaper.

Having a bad day? Just remember, it could be worse.....

## ITALIAN AMERICANS IN THE ARTS

**Enrico Causici, Antonio Capellano and Luigi Persico** were sculptors who worked on the early phase of the building and decoration of the U.S. Capitol in 1805. They were the first to introduce American mythology into their sculptures.

**Costantino Brumidi**, (1805-1880) who emigrated to the United States in 1852, is the "Michelangelo" of the U.S. Capitol. Among his many achievements is the painting of the huge Capitol interior dome as well as the decoration of the President's Room, where Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Brumidi started his career in Rome where he became known for restoration of classic works. In 1855 he began working on the Capitol dome and dedicated the rest of his life to embellishing the Capitol.

**Giorgio Cavallon** (1904-1989) was one of America's first abstract-expressionists. His works won him election to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and are part of permanent collections of major museums of modern art.

**Robert De Niro** (1922-1993) has paintings in the Metropolitan and Brooklyn Museums and other major institutions. Admired for the unusual "physicality" of his painting, he is the father of the famous film actor who bears his name.

**Ralph Fasanella** (1914-1997) was known for his "primitive" paintings of working class life and ethnic neighborhoods, especially that of his native Bronx in New York City. A self-taught painter, his best known works are "*The Supper*" and "*The Great Strike - Lawrence 1912*."

**Attilio Piccirilli** and his five brothers carved the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC along with the famous lions guarding New York's Public Library, statues in Rockefeller Center, and many other works. The studio that he and his brothers established in New York in 1889 became the largest sculpture studio in the country.

**John Rapetti** (1862-1936), worked in Paris with Frederic Bertholdi on the Statue of Liberty and his name is engraved in the crown as one of its creators.

**Frank Stella**, born in 1936, achieved fame as a painter and sculptor in the 1960's. His art evolved through several stages and his works range from minimalist paintings to abstract expressionism. His paintings hang in America's most prestigious museums, including New York's Museum of Modern Art, Chicago's Art Institute, and San Francisco's Museum as well as in museums in Europe. Born in Malden, Massachusetts, the son of a Sicilian American physician, Stella attended Phillips Academy and Princeton University.

### CLASSICAL MUSIC AND OPERA

**Dominick Argento** was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1975 for his song cycles "From the Diary of Virginia Woolf." Argento is among the most frequently performed 20<sup>th</sup> century composers of opera. His most famous works include "Postcard from Morocco", "Casanova's Homecoming" and "The Dream of Valentino." He has held various teaching positions at universities nationwide.

**John Corigliano** is the composer of "The Ghosts of Versailles," which had its premiere in 1991 and was the first new work commissioned by the New York Metropolitan Opera in more than 25 years. His compositions have won Grammy Awards and have been performed by the most famous orchestras worldwide. His works also include "A Dylan Thomas Trilogy" and "Sonata for Violin and Piano", which brought him his first fame in 1963.

**David Del Tredici**, renowned contemporary composer and Pulitzer Prize winner, was born in 1937 in California. He based a series of works on "Alice in Wonderland" and is recognized for his compositions for large orchestras. His works include "Pop-Pourri", "An Alice Symphony", "Child Alice" and "In Memory of a Summer Day", for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1980.

**Gian Carlo Menotti** is the first composer to write American operas that have become part of the international repertory. Among his most famous works are "The Consul" (1950); "The Medium" and "The Telephone" (1947), "Amahl and the Night Visitors" (1951) and "The Saint of Bleeker Street" (1955), an opera set in a modern Little Italy. His operas "The Consul" and "The Saint of Bleeker Street" won him Pulitzer Prizes. "Amahl" was the first opera ever televised while "The Consul," "The Medium" and "The Telephone" were produced on Broadway. Menotti also founded the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto (1958) and its American counterpart in Charleston (1977) which celebrate western music. Though he was born in Italy in 1911, he came to the U.S. when he was only 17 and has made his career here.

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

None this month



**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

**MEMBERS**

Chris Palmisano  
Vince Salvaggio

**SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

Vickie Christofaro  
Rosa D'Arduini  
Ann Marie Doria  
Carole Frangiosa  
Sherry Salvaggio

**PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:**

**Vince Sorrentino** is ill and undergoing tests.

Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



**EDITOR:**

Is something newsworthy?  
Let us know, send it to

**Neal Caliendo:** [nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)

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

**Neal Caliendo:** [nealcali@yahoo.com](mailto:nealcali@yahoo.com)  
(919)846-2747

and/or

**Tony Aiello:** [taiello1@nc.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

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**January 17th (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

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

**February 21st (Wednesday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Knights of Columbus, New Hope and Columbus Roads, Raleigh.

**March 25th (Sunday), - INSTALLATION DINNER** Details not available at this time.