



Funded by the Greater Rockford Italian American Association - GRIAA
P.O. Box 1915 • Rockford, Illinois 61110-0415

Spring 2007

The Region of Molise

Molise: The Region

Molise is a region of south central Italy, the second smallest region in the entire country. In a country known for its ancient history, the little region of Molise didn't exist prior to 1963, when the region "Abruzzi e Molise" was split into two regions. Campobasso and Isernia are the capitals for the two small provinces of Molise, with about 136 municipalities. Many of the sights in Campobasso have been rebuilt due to destruction during World War II and earthquakes. But history has been preserved in the stepped streets and alleys throughout the charming neighborhoods. Isernia was also destroyed by war, but also has many ancient remains and rebuilt monuments and a thriving industry in embroidery and stonework. Sights to see include many churches and the 14th century Fontana Fraterna.

The Terrain

Molise is not a highly populated region or a main tourist destination, but it is rich in its own tradition and culture. One of the most distinguishing features of Molise is the land itself. The area is rich in a variety of terrains varying from dramatic mountainous regions to hills and valleys and pastures green with vineyards and groves. The valleys are home to large herds of sheep and goats and the annual movement of flocks to these pastures from the mountain peaks is an important part of life in Molise. Retracing these routes by foot, horseback or truck is one tourist attraction.



Mules and donkeys are the most efficient means of transport on Molise's small farms on mountainous terrain, where a traditional way of life persists.



The typical Molise countryside, near the town of Bagnoli sul Trigno.

There are freshwater lakes and sandy beaches along a river delta leading to the Adriatic Sea. The regions of Abruzzo, Lazio, Campania, and Puglia border Molise. Mainly an agricultural region, Molise is known for its friendly inhabitants, colorful festivals, and regional traditions. The main economic forces are agriculture, livestock raising, food and the garment industry. Unlike other parts of Italy, Fishing is not a major industry in the region, with Termoli being the only port, but it is still a busy fishing port.

The Food

The region doesn't produce as much wine as other regions, but what it does produce is top quality. Wine is made mainly for local consumption. With vineyards mainly in Isernia and Agnone, about 75 percent of the wine is produced in Campobasso. Because of the excellent conditions for winemaking in the area, in time, Molise could very well increase its impact in winemaking someday. Pasta making is a big industry in Molise and a major export business. One Molise pasta maker boasts of more than 130 varieties of pasta in different shapes, each suited to a particular sauce or dish. Lamb, kid, mutton and ewe are all favorite meats, coming from the livestock in mountainous regions. The cheeses of Molise include Pecorino, Caciocavallo, and Scamorza. Olive oil produced in Molise is among the best, but is not made (*continues*)



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(continued from page one)

in large enough quantities for export. Local cuisine is spiced with chillies called Diavolini (little devils). Porcini mushrooms are abundant after seasonal rain-falls. A variety of sausages, including smoked Prosciutto, come from the region. Agriculture and the public sectors are the main sources of jobs. Artisan's work of cloth, metals and other products, mostly preserving technique developed centuries ago as they develop their crafts. Most church bells in Italy are made in the town of Agnone. (See separate article on page #5)

Here two delicious Molise recipes:

Bracioline D'Agnello con le Olive Lamb Chops with Olives

12 lamb chops, cut thin
4 oz. black olives, pitted
Juice of 1/2 lemon
1/2 glass dry white wine
Flour
Oregano (or sage)
Extra virgin olive oil
salt
chili pepper flakes

In an earthenware pot heat 7-8 tbsp. olive oil with the chili pepper. Flour the chops lightly and brown them in the oil over high heat for a few minutes, turning as they brown. Add salt to taste, then add the white wine. Add the coarsely chopped olives, oregano or sage and the lemon juice. Cook until done and serve hot.

Calzoni Alla Molisana Sweet Pastry Shells

For the Pastry:
9 oz. flour
2 egg yolks
3 oz. sugar
1 3/4 oz. butter
pinch of salt
lukewarm milk
1/3 oz. (approx. 1 tbsp) cream of tartar
1/16 oz. (approx. 1 1/2 tsp) soda bicarbonate

For the Filling:
7 oz. boiled chestnuts
2 oz. bittersweet chocolate, grated
1 tbsp honey

1 oz. peeled toasted almonds, chopped fine
1/2 oz candied citron, chopped
1 pinch cinnamon
a few tbsp. rum
oil for frying
confectioners' sugar

Blend the flour with the egg yolks, sugar, butter and salt; add the lukewarm milk gradually, blending the dough until smooth. Set aside dough for one hour, then add the soda bicarbonate and cream of tartar. To make the filling, press the chestnuts through a sieve and mix in a bowl with the chocolate, honey, almonds and citron, add the cinnamon and rum. Roll out the dough until thin and divide into 2 sheets. On one sheet arrange small heaps of filling in rows about two inches apart. Cover with the other sheet of dough and press the sheets together between the lumps formed by the filling. Using a pastry wheel, cut the dough in squares. Fry the squares in deep oil until they are golden brown, dust with confectioner's sugar and serve hot!
This is a favorite dish served on special occasions as Christmas and festivals.

Art and other Attractions

In this land of mountains and valleys, far from the mainstream tourist attractions, there is still a lot to see. There are ancient Roman ruins, medieval towns, castles and churches. One of the most picturesque sites is not far from the capital city. People, mainly shepherds and farmers, have made their homes around the ruins in the city of Saepinum. Near the hilltop castle of Cerro al Volturno are the ruins of the Benedictine abbey of San Vincenzo al Volturno. Here, excavators discovered Byzantine style frescoes of the 9th century. There are also Romanesque-style monuments and medieval architecture. The Baroque style of art can be seen in civic places. In Campobasso, visitors can visit a castle of the Longobard period and the Romanesque churches of San Bartolomeo and San Giorgino. The Church of Sant Antonino Abate is home to a 16th century collection of carvings and wooden sculptures. Not far from the city is the Romanesque Santa Maria della Strada with the 15th century Gothic sepulchre. In Isernia, the Civic Museum has Samnitic epigraphs and sculptures. The Fontana della Fraterna is from the 14th century. In Pastena, tourists can see the Sanctuary of the Addolorata of Castelpetroso, surrounded by forest.



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Festivals

Every town and village has its traditional festivals. Some of the regional festivals included Sagra dei Misteri or Feast of Corpus Christi in April or May; San Legno of the Cross Festival with ox-cart race in May; Saint Nicardo Festival and bareback donkey race in



Folk festivals are many and genuine in Molise, pictured above, a statue of San Basso, patron of Tremoli, is being carried to a boat in Tremoli's harbor for the celebration of the saint's feast day.

June; Pentro wine Festival in October; barbecued lamb festival in August; and Feast of the Mountain in September. One of the most popular festivals is the religious and agricultural festival of San Pardo, a three-day festival in May. The festival is held in honor



Hand made paper flowers adorn the beautifully decorated carts during three separate processions in May.

of a saintly bishop whose preserved body was "liberated" from a tomb near Lucera. The festival is an offering to the gods to protect crops. It consists of flower-filled oxen-drawn carts, which represent individual families. Each family owns a cart and cares for it through the year, in preparation for the festival. Each



Wreaths of wheat crown a jaunty ox team in the procession of carts honoring Saint Anne on her feast day in Ielsi. The carts carry figures made entirely of wheat.

cart is numbered and the lower numbers represent families who have been in the festival the longest.

Local Festival-Goer

Lionel Bottari of Rockford has discovered the festivals of Italy and can not get enough of them. He's been to Italy more times than he can count and tries to return at least a couple times of year. Born in America, he worked in the Rockford area as a contractor and was mainly involved with the remodeling and renovation of older homes. He grew up in an Italian neighborhood, born to Italian parents and spoke Italian in his home. "When I went to Italy for the first time, it was like I was coming home," he said.

He enjoys participating in the cultural events while in Italy. He was especially awe-struck by the bagpipers or "Zampogne," as it is called in Molise.

"When I first ran into the bagpipers, I was amazed and surprised. I just marveled at it," he said, while making an attempt thereafter to find out all he could about the traditions that are a powerful cultural image. All European countries have bagpipes, but Italy has more tradition with bagpipers than any other country.



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Italian legend claims bagpipers were the first to hear of the coming of Jesus and were the first to go to the manger, he said.

He sought out where to buy an instrument and learned to play. Bottari said he can play basic melodies and although he doesn't perform in festivals, he participates in those events in other ways. At home, he is often asked to play at special events and parties.

Italian Folk Instruments

"Since folk instruments are usually constructed out of easily available materials, it is interesting to note how the personality of a region is often reflected in the musical creations of the area."

Rose Grieco

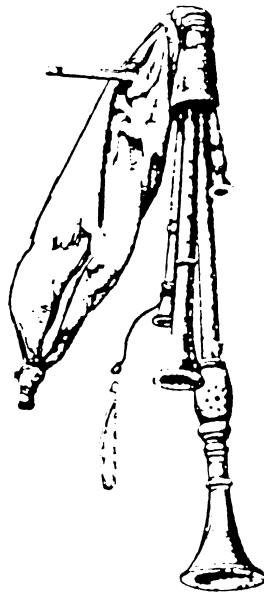
The Zampogna is a unique wind instrument known to most people as bagpipes.

The players are called Zampognari! As early as November 15, the shepherds begin to arrive in the major cities of Italy. Since the Roman times these humble bagpipers have been around and were once common in all of Italy, inspiring such Northerners as Antonio Vivaldi to create their melodies into such well-known pieces as the **Four Seasons** as Lionel Bottari tells us.

Many of the shepherds live in the hills of the Molise and Abruzzi regions. During the Christmas season they enter especially the city of Rome.

The Zampognari are found in the Piazza Navona entertaining anyone who stops to enjoy that unique sound and to purchase any of the many styles and figures of the Presepio. These figures are brought back to their homes to create a never-ending elaborate family Nativity scene. Of course, the favorite figure to add to your family Presepio is the Zampognari!

The town of Scapoli is host to the International Zampogna Museum. Molise prides itself on being the home of the original serenading (bagpiper), the zampognaro, who travel throughout the region.



Typical Zampogna

Look at what the students of the Italian Language of the Cathedral of St. Peter School have been learning in their classes!

As students of St. Peter's Cathedral School in Rockford, Illinois, we have the privilege to take Italian as a second language with the experience of Maria Diemer. Signora Diemer, as she is known to us, has asked us to compile the thoughts of students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We asked them what they have learned so far and what they love about taking Italian.

For Kindergarten, having fun while learning is important. One of their favorite games is the "number freeze". They get to dance, sing and then FREEZE while counting in Italian. They also learn words for the weather and clothing. The "helper" leads the class in counting the days on the calendar and choosing whether it is "C'è il sole o nuvoloso" (sunny or cloudy). By the end of Kindergarten they can count to 20, they know their colors, basic greetings, animal names and much more.

With the basics they learned in Kindergarten, 1st graders learn not only weather words, names of food, days of the week and parts of the body. Each class can recite the Glory Be and the Hail Mary in Italian. They still do the number freeze, but in 1st grade they learn to count by tens while singing. They also love when Signora Diemer plays "Simone Dice" Simon Says. Signora Diemer will give them a command in Italian, sit, stand, dance, sing, touch your nose, clap etc. They love this game while learning many verbs in the process.

Second graders learn to recite the Glory Be, Hail Mary and Our Father and start each class with these prayers in Italian. They also are able to read the date and the type of weather for that day. While the class counts to the correct date, Signora Diemer writes the date and weather on the board. 2nd graders receive an Italian calendar each month. Signora Diemer will say "metti un gelato sul tredici di marzo" (put an ice cream cone on March 13). The kids have to listen and draw the command on the correct date.

3rd graders start to learn the basics of Italian grammar. Each day, there is a word of the day written on the board. The students write the words in their notebooks and can earn extra credit points for remembering these words. They also end in each with a review game. A favorite is "lo vedo" I spy. (*continued on page 7*)



The Bells of Agnone

Despite the fact that Molise is a small region; the people have a special pride in the fact that they are one of the most unique regions in the history of bell making.

Agnone is a small town where beautiful bronze bells decorated with intricately carved reliefs and laced with ornately inscribed inscriptions have been made since the Middle Ages. In fact, the town has been known for their artistry in making ornaments, and tablets of bronze back to the year 1,000 A.D. Of the many foundries, at one time in Agnone there is still one very active today. It is the Nicodemo Marinelli foundry. There is evidence that Signore Marinelli's two ton bronze bell was cast in 1339! Agnone's bells have been shipped to countries all over the world, from Europe to Asia and from the Americas to Africa.



In March 1995, Pope John Paul II visited the town while on a papal tour of the Molise region. One of the foundry's chief customers is the Roman Catholic Church. It is customary for a priest to be present when a church bell is cast to impart a blessing as the

bell is cast. In 1924 Pope Leo XI gave the Marinelli foundry the right to add the title of "Pontificia," (papal) to its name.

The town itself has a population of about six thousand and is perched above the forested slopes of a mountain valley, near Isernia. The older parts of the town have typical narrow streets where the character of the Italians really shows. Most of the bell foundries were located there at one time. How many times have you heard those beautiful and sometimes mournful peals of the bells of Italy?

Near Agnone is one of the most important archaeological sites in Molise, at Pietrabbondante. This city was the civic and religious center of the ancient Samnite people. The Samnites were a political symbol of anti-Roman resistance.

(Can you imagine anyone going against the Roman Empire? Can you name a few historical examples? Call or email us s24fed@insightbb.com (no prizes, but self-satisfaction)!

The Computer Word Searches

Websites to visit from NIAF Newsletter:

www.italianancestry.com Italian heritage, links to genealogy sites, as well as historical, cultural and travel info.

www.finditaly.com "The Website for those who love Italy" offers an array of information and links as Italian language and culture schools, cooking schools etc.

www.webvisionitaly.com This comprehensive website offers video transmission to your favorite Italian regions. Food, travel and festival channels and an Umbrian channel

www.chicagoitalian.org This is the Chicago-North Chapter called POINTers in Person. Italian genealogy. Check for meetings and info.

www.edu/calandra/community Sponsored by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.

www.lifeitaly.com/art/stabiae.com this is one of my favorites! The city of Madison, Wisconsin will have an exhibit on ancient Stabiae (a Roman Spa type luxurious city) from March 17 through June 3. Check it out!

Let us know what you think of the sites!



Proverbs and Phrases in Molisano

by Rosaria Mercuri Ford

Proverbs:

Molisano: Le campane se siendn a cocchia
 English: *You must hear both sides of the story*

Molisano: Spart palazz, arrevenda candón
 English: *If you keep on dividing something you will get crumbs*

Molisano: Chi bella vo' compari', pene e vuai adda suffri'
 English: *If you want to appear beautiful you need to work at it*

Molisano: Tand pozza durua' la suocera aglie palazz quand dura la neve de marz
 English: *May the mother-in-law last (in the house) so long as the snow of March lasts on the ground*

Molisano: Chi tand ne fa', una n'aspetta
 English: *If you play a lot of tricks on others, you might as well expect some back*

Molisano: Tante vot va glie uasin a la fond fin a che ce sbatte la frond
 English: *The donkey goes so many times to the fountain until it hits its head against it-or: you take so many chances until you get hurt*

Molisano: A chiovr e muri' n ce vo' niend
 English: *It doesn't take much for it to rain or (someone) to die*



Molisano: Nen tie' mangh glie uocchie pe chiagn
 English: *You don't even have eyes to cry with = you have absolutely nothing*

Molisano: Chi nen ze more, za revevede
 English: *We will see again if we don't die*

PHRASES:

Molisano: Statt buon (long u and o- when addressing a male)

Molisano: Statt bona (short o- when addressing a female)
 English: *Take care*

Molisano: Siendete cundiend
 English: *Be happy*

Molisano: Nen te sta accid a fatia'
 English: *Don't work too hard- don't kill yourself with work*

Molisano: Chelle ch fia' e' tutt perdut
 English: *No matter what you do, it all goes wasted*

Molisano: Glie munn e' com te glie piglie
 English: *Life is how you take it.*

So you think that you are an Italian Trivia Titan?

Try these:

1. New Yorker Francis B. Spinola was the very first Italian American to serve in which political establishment?
2. What was cited as the top reason Italians are happy to live in Italy?
3. Sicily and Sardinia are the two largest islands of

- Italy. Which is the third largest island?
4. For what two reasons is the Colosseum elliptical shaped?
5. In what year did women win the right to vote in Italy?

Check with the NIAF website (www.niaf.org) for the answers or see us in the fall!



St. Peter School (continued from page 5)

In this game they have to give the class clues in Italian, color of item, large or small, what it is close too. It is a great tool for reviewing colors and classroom objects.

4th graders learn sports, verbs and nouns. This is when grammar lessons really begin. They are given a word of the day and verb of the day. Signora Diemer starts teaching the concept of conjugation. They also earn extra credit points for remembering these words. In 4th grade they have to write both the Italian word and the correct English meaning. Review games in 4th grade include translating complete sentences. They also learn harder songs and poems.

5th graders review all of the information they have learned and grammar takes center stage. Right now they are learning how to conjugate verbs along with preparation for middle school learning. Class still ends with a review game. In 5th grade the translations have to be perfect in order to earn points. In middle school, Italian is offered as an elective. In this class, grammar is a key part of learning. They also take field trips and are able to work in the computer lab doing research on Italian culture. For Christmas, the class did reports on an Italian Christmas. Many students brought in traditional desserts and food. It was delicious and informative. The class will be attending a St. Joseph's altar and will be taking a trip to the Verdi Club to play bocce.

All in all, we have enjoyed the privilege of learning Italian. Some of our favorites have been making masks and noise makers for Carnevale. All of the classes attended an assembly in the gym and Mr. and Mrs. Fedeli dressed in traditional Italian masks. Mr. and Mrs. Fedeli looked great. We crowned a King and Queen! We also have started communicating with two schools in our sister city of Ferentino, Italy. The 3rd grade class wrote letters in Italian about their pets and even sent pictures. The 4th grade class wrote letters describing the types of lunch offered at St. Peters and what they brought in their own lunches. We look forward to seeing what the children in Italy have to say about their pets and lunches.

This article composed with the help of the following students:

Caroline Mangiardi
Jennifer Szleslinski
Alex Klitz
Claudia Gomez
Santiago Consuelos

Italian Conversational Meet-up.



Our Italian Teachers

First row: Left to right Rosaria Ford, Marie Diemer
Second row: Tony Tararà, Karen Maxwell, Jason Fabaz
Absent: Bruna Holt

We are proud of our six Italian teachers that live and teach in Rockford. Meet-up is an opportunity for you who enjoy the Italian language or have had courses from one of our teachers to continue to practice your Italian.

The mission for our Meet-up "Incontri" is: "Meet and mingle with others who enjoy the Italian language and culture! Come to an Italian Language Meet-up and make new amici as you practice speaking, build your vocabulary and finally understanding those difficult verb conjugations!"

Our Meet-up sponsored by GRIAA "Incontri di lingua e cultura italiana promossi dall' associazione GRIAA" will take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month beginning in April from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Cannoli Caffè at 1620 North Bell School Road.

Please go to www.griaa.com and click on Contact Us. Send us an e-mail if you are coming to our first meet-up.



ITALIAN GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS/USING POSSO? AND PREGO!

By: Tony Tararà, the Italian teacher for GRIAA The Greater Rockford Italian American Association
 Tony classes are held this year at St. Anthony Church in the class room center.

There are some common words and phrases in Italian that can get you a long way. Let's look at some greetings and introductions and the use of Posso? and Prego!.

Greetings

Ciao (chaow)	<i>Hi, bye</i>
Buongiorno (Buon-jorn-oh) Morning/Good Day	<i>Good</i>
Buona Sera (Buona Seh-rah)	<i>Good Evening</i>
Arrivederci (ahr-ree-veh-dehr-chee)	<i>Goodbye/until we see each other again</i>

Introductions / Asking "How are you?"

Come ti chiami? (Koh-meh tee keeah-mee?)	<i>What's your name?</i>
Mi chiamo _____ (Mee keeah-moh ____)	<i>My name is _____</i>
piacere (peeah-chehr-eh)	<i>pleasure (to meet you)</i>
Come stai? (Koh-meh sty?)	<i>How are you?</i>
bene (behn-eh)	<i>well</i>
grazie (grah-tsee-eh)	<i>thank you</i>
prego (preh-go)	<i>your welcome</i>
scusi (skoo-see)	<i>excuse me</i>

Posso? and Prego!

In Italian Posso? (Pohs-soh) means "Can I?" and it can get us through many situations. Whether you're trying to ask if you can take a picture or if you want to ask if you can take a chair from another table in a cafe'. It's not necessary to know how to ask the complete sentence. If you hold up your camera and ask Posso? it will be understood that you want to take a photo. Likewise, if you grab a chair and ask Posso? it will be understood that you want to take one of the

chairs. Italians will usually respond Prego! which in this case has a different meaning from "your welcome". In this circumstance Prego! means "go ahead!".

Excercise 1 - Translate

Matteo goes with a friend to the house of Chiara (Keeah-rah), a girl he doesn't know. Use the vocabulary above to translate what they say to each other.

Matteo: Ciao!
 Chiara: Ciao!
 Matteo: Come stai?
 Chiara: Bene, grazie.
 Matteo: Mi chiamo Matteo. Come ti chiami?
 Chiara: Mi chiamo Chiara, piacere.
 Matteo: Piacere.
Matteo needs to make a call and his cellphone is dead. He places his hand on the telephone and says: Posso?
 Chiara: Prego!

Excercise 2 - Match

Match the phrase on the left with the appropriate response on the right

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Buongiorno. | a. Bene. |
| 2. Grazie. | b. Prego! |
| 3. Come ti chiami? | c. Buongiorno. |
| 4. Mi chiamo Silvia, piacere. | d. Prego. |
| 5. Come stai? | e. Buona sera. |
| 6. Buona sera. | f. Mi chiamo Nino. |
| 7. Scusi, posso? | g. Ciao, arrivederci. |
| 8. Arrivederci. | h. Piacere. |

Excercise 1 - Answers

Matteo: Hi!
 Chiara: Hi!
 Matteo: How are you?
 Chiara: Well, thank you.
 Matteo: My name is Matteo. What's your name?
 Chiara: My name is Chiara, pleasure (nice to meet you).
 Matteo: Pleasure (nice to meet you).
 Matteo needs to make a call and his cellphone is dead. He places his hand on the telephone and says: Can I?
 Chiara: Go ahead!

Excercise 2 - Answers

1. c. 2. d. 3. f. 4. h. 5. a. 6. e. 7. b. 8. g.



Prisoners Among Us!

Join us on April 3, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. In Rockford's Eiger Lab to view Award Winning Documentary DVD "Prisoners Among Us"!

In the decades preceding WWII, hundreds of thousands of Italian flocked to our shores in hopes of starting new lives in a land that promised freedom and opportunity. Some made their way to the west; others remained close to the eastern seaboard. And many clung to urban havens, favoring the familiarity of their customs and language as they struggled to preserve their heritage while embracing and entirely new culture.

With the outbreak of a second world conflict in Europe, their sense of identity was thrown into turmoil. Paranoia in this country ran the gamut from street-side prejudice to formal declarations of war upon non-citizen Italians. This sentiment reached a crescendo in December of 1941 when 600,000 non-naturalized Italians were branded by the government as "enemy aliens." While more than a million Italian-American soldiers were fighting and dying with honor, hundreds of thousands at home were being systematically stripped of their civil liberties. But the community survived these travails, emerging as one of the most affluent and influential ethnic

groups in the nation. Those who were repressed responded with fortitude and character, ultimately enriching the nation they now called home.

"Prisoners Among Us" overflows with interviews, photographs, historical detail, literature, music poetry and analysis, revealing a chapter in history unknown to most, and a tribute to those who have lived it.

Quoted from the DVD Michaelangelo Production narrated by Tony Lobianco featuring Tom Brokaw and Mary Ann Esposito.

Date: April 3, 2007

Place: Eiger Lab

on Fulton Ave.

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Price: \$3:00 donation at the door.

To reserve a seat in the auditorium-
Please call Shirley or Gene Fedeli at
1-815-877-2888

or email at
e.fedeli@insightbb.com

Restoring A Dream

The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum a 100 year old Gothic revival style home that is located in Staten Island, New York, is undergoing renovation. The largest part of the restoration project comes during the museum's 50th year. The museum celebrates the lives of inventor Antonio Meucci and Risorgimento hero Giuseppe Garibaldi.

The project entails replacing much of the flooring throughout the house, repairing plaster walls, replacing windows and doors and other things that seem to happen with older buildings.

Assemblyman John Lavelle has secured \$50,000 for restoration of the building's interior. An addition-

al \$25,000 is still being sought to restore the exterior of the building and to restore a 100 year old iron gate at the museum's entrance. (If you are not familiar with either of these men, as an educated Italian, you must check Google or such search engines to learn more about two of the most misunderstood men in Italian history!)

For details, visit their web site at
www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.org



The Maestro di Maestri!

This year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the brilliant genius, Arturo Toscanini's death. Throughout the world there will be concerts, exhibitions and movie showing to highlight this most celebrated Italian.



Many of us know about his mastery of music and expression but

are you aware of his love for art? While winter is still around, check the library or google.com for more information on this aspect of the great Arturo Toscanini's other passion.

**Arturo Toscanini, 1867 - 1957,
legendary Italian artist and
musician**

Scholarships!

Attention!

All students, whether high school seniors or returning to college...

Look here for financial aid!

The National Italian American Foundation will award nearly 100 scholarships in the academic year 2007-2008. Majoring or minoring in Italian Language, Italian Studies, Italian American Studies, or a related field. minimum GPA of 3.5

Visit the web site at www.niaf.org/scholarships

The Sons of Italy Foundation has leadership grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Visit www.osia.org or write to:

The Order Sons of Italy in America, 219 E. Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 or call 202-547-5206 The deadline this year is February 28th, but keep in mind that you may apply each year!

Sons of Italy Foundation, Illinois: Several \$1,000 scholarships awarded to students of full or partial Italian ancestry graduating from high school. Financial need, scholastic record, activities showing character and leadership are criteria.

Write to: Illinois Sons of Italy Foundation, 333 N. La

Grange Road, Suite 9, La Grange Park, IL 60526. Applications must be submitted no later than July 1. Only written requests will be honored. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

Justinian Society of Lawyers: many scholarships offered to students of Italian American ancestry in law school.

Visit www.justinians.org

Thanks to the Fra Noi Italian American Newspaper for the above information.





Genealogy Festa 2007 Culture Theme

Karen Cantele, Festa Italiana Chairmen for 2007 announced "Genealogy" as the theme for the Culture Tent. In the tent we will have two computers and two great guys who have very large data bases on Italian surnames. Steve Salvato and Mike Cascio will be in the Culture tent with information that might help you build your family tree. If you are Italian and have a family tree or genealogy data that you would like to share with other Italians, please contact us so we can display your family history at the Culture Tent at Festa this year. Listed below are sites that will help you search your family.

One of the questions people frequently ask is, "Where do I go on the Internet to find my Italian relatives?" Unfortunately, there is no one Web site that contains exclusively Italian genealogy data.

What you need to look at is small pieces of the puzzle that you will put together yourself. Depending on what you are looking for, there are a number of sites you should keep in your favorites list. Here are a few, if you know other sites that will help people in genealogy searching please go to our GRIAA Web site www.griaa.com and send us an e-mail.

www.italianancestry.com

italian heritage, links to genealogy sites, as well as historical cultural and travel info.

www.ancestry.com and www.genealogy.com
Contain more records than any other genealogy site.

www.paginebianche.it

This is the Web site for the Italian telephone book. You can search for your surname that you are looking for and write a letter to Italy that may connect you with a cousin.

www.ellisland.org

Millions of immigrants flooded into the port of New York from 1892-1924—one of the best places to find the name of the birth town of your Italian ancestor.

www.circolocalabrese.org

This group focuses on Calabria but they have some fantastic tools for all Italian researchers, including their interactive form letters. If you do not write in Italian, you can use this site to create letters for different purposes, such as civil record requests.

www.familysearch.org

This is the main genealogy site of the LDS (Mormon) Church which has a lot of data in several collections.

This is not in anyway a complete list, if you have a site that will help people in their search please e-mail it to us for our next Pappagallo issue in September.

Get Ready for Festa Italiana 2007! Mark your calendars now for Aug. 3, 4, & 5!

We are busy preparing for our 29th year of celebrating family, friends, and our heritage! Entertainment will include Mr. Big Stuff, Infinity, Moonlight Jazz, Denny Diamond, Mark Maffioli & Friends, Anthony & Valerie, Radio Stars, Jack Miuchio, and of course our own Amici Italiani Youth and Adult Dance Troupes! Our theme this year is "Genealogy". Stop by the Culture tent for help in starting your research on your family tree! We will have internet access and experts to help! If you would like to get involved with Festa Italiana or

volunteer in one of the tents, please go to our website www.griaa.com and let us know! We hope to see you there! Thank you for your continued support of our GRIAA organization.

***Speriamo che ci vediamo
—Hope to see you there!***

Karen Cantele – Festa Chairperson 2007



PAPPAGALLO



Things To Do

What: **Ethnic Heritage Museum's 16th International Music Festival**

Where: **The Rockford Lithuanian Club, 716 Indiana Ave.**

Time: **June 10, 2007**

About: **Food, Music, Dance, Honoring our Ethnic Father of the Year!**

Join Us for a Sunday with family and friends keeping our heritage alive!

Call 1-815-962-7402 for information and tickets!

Remember the Golden Days of Theatre

Where: **Ethnic Heritage Museum Italian Gallery**

What: **"At the Movies: the Capitol and the Rialto"**

When: **Encore Opening: April and May 2007**

See: **"Flappers" dancing for you!**

Admire: **1928 Packard Roadster and Model A Coupe Vintage Autos**

Check our EHM newsletter for the time of the Capitol's opening!

(If you have any memorabilia of the Capitol or Rialto, I would like to display it!)

Questions to: Shirley Martignoni Fedeli

1-815-962-7402

email: ehm1129@insightbb.com

Greater Rockford Italian American Association - GRIAA

PAPPAGALLO

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