



# PAPPAGALLO

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

Spring 2006

## Lombardy

Lombardy is among the largest and most significant regions in Italy. Situated in central northern Italy (at the top of the boot), Lombardy is known for its beauty and remarkable natural diversity, from the snow-covered summits of the central Alps to the fertile low-lying plains of the Po River Valley. There are also deep glacial lakes and quiet hill country. Lombardy borders the Italian regions of Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Trentino-South Tyrol, as well as Switzerland.

Lombardy is Italy's most populated region, with Milan being the largest city in Northern Italy. Lombardy is also one of the richest regions in all of Europe. The economically active region has an extensive industrial base and a large service sector, with Milan being a business, fashion and cultural center of Europe. Many businesses have their headquarters in Milan and Lombardy is home to many top sports teams and clubs.

The region is named for the Lombards or Longobardi, who came after the fall of the (western) Roman Empire. The name "Lombardy" applied to the whole of Northern Italy until the 15th century. The region has nine provinces, including Bergamo, Brescia, Como, Cremona, Mantua, Milan, Pavia, Sondrio and Varese – each with their own distinctive specialties in food and wine.

### Lake Regions

With mountains rising up all around it, Lake Como is truly a place of beauty. Towns around the lake include Como, Varenna, Menaggio, Lecco and Cernobbio, home to the Villa d'Este, an elegant 16th century complex that is now a luxurious hotel. Built in the second half of the 16th Century, the general appearance of the Villa hasn't changed much, but a process of continuous change has gone on in the life of the luxury residence once inhabited by a Cardinal and then a Queen before becoming a place of hospitality for guests. The name of the Villa goes back to 1815, when occupied by Carolyn of Brunswick. In 1833, the Villa d'Este became the property of Baron Ippolito Ciani, and for the next 30 years was a political center during one of the most turbulent years of Italian

history. In 1868, the villa became the residence of Empress Fedorowna, the mother of Czar Alexander II, and for awhile was known as a spotlight for culture and fashion. It was in 1873 that the new owners decided to convert the villa into a luxury hotel, being among the most famous in the world. On the other side of the lake is Cadenabbia, where you can visit the splendid Villa Carlotta, a romantic turn of the century villa situated in wooded avenues and close to many major tourist attractions. In 1856, the Villa Carlotta and its park were given as a wedding present to Charlotte of Nassau when she married the Prince of Saxe-Meiningen, the family who owned the Villa until 1915, when the Italian government took the land as a result of the declared war against Germany. At first, it was considered to be a home for war veterans, but then it was decided it should be transformed into a public museum, with its own administrative body. The Villa is home to numerous works of art, elegant shapes of hedges and floral gardens, mosaics, pergolas, a fountain and an elaborate entrance,

Other lakes that lie at least partially in Lombardy are Lake Maggiore, Lake Garda and Lake Iseo. Lake Maggiore is partly in Piedmont and some of the sights here are a magnificent castle at Angera and pottery from Laveno. Also nearby is the Church of St. Catherine of the Rock, appropriately named because its location on the rocky edge of the lake. Lush vegetation lines the 16-mile shore of Lake Iseo in Valcamonica. The largest Italian lake, covering a surface of more than 150 square miles, is Garda. Olive and citrus trees, magnolias, and palms can be found in this Mediterranean climate.

### Como

Located at the southwestern edge of Lake Como is the town of Como, surrounded by hills and filled with 18th and 19th century villas, castles, homes and small palaces. There are a few Romanesque churches, namely Sant' Abbondio, San Fedele, and San Carpoforo, built by the master builders of Como called Maestri Comacini, who are known for their works throughout Europe. The town has a long history of

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## Lombardy, *continued from page 1*



**Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo**

industrious character and at one time was known more for its production of wool, rather than the silks and fabrics that are its main industries today. Como's original inhabitants date back to 1000 B. C. in a location just southwest of where the town is today. The Romans took Como in 196 B. C. after a long struggle. Julius Caesar rebuilt the town where it is today and helped it move forward with people and purpose. Como is in a strategic location with its place at the end of the lake, amongst valleys, and a road to Milan. Having suffered through times of war, plague, and other crisis, Como survived, developed and became one of the most prosperous and industrious cities of the region.

### **Bergamo**

Among the oldest cities in Lombardy is Bergamo, divided into two distinct parts. Lower Bergamo is flat

and modern and upper Bergamo is a walled medieval city on a hill. Bergamo is home to Carrara Academy, one of the most important art museums in Europe, with paintings by Botticelli, Raphael, Durer, Brueghel, etc. Also in this region is what many believe to be the most picturesque piazza in the world. Mantova's Ducal Palace has a cycle of frescoes by Mantegna that no art lover should miss. Bergamo also has a prominent place in music history. The large Romanesque 12th century church of Santa Maria Maggiore has a long tradition of music teaching and singing for more than 800 years. Well-known musicians born in Bergamo include Gaetano Donizetti, Pietro Locatelli, and Antonio Lolli. Other sites to see in this region include the Gombito Tower, the Palace of Reason, the Colleoni Chapel, Church of St. Bartholomew and the Church of the Holy Ghost are two Renaissance churches in the region.

### **Cremona**

A few miles down the Po River is Cremona, home of the world's best violins. Cremona is an agricultural and industrial center with many important ancient structures. In the city's main square is the Piazza del Comune, one of the most beautiful in Italy. Nearby is the 12th century Duomo, one of the of the region's most distinctive example of Romanesque architecture. Cremona is also known for its importance in the world of musical history. The city was home to Claudio Monteverdi, the father of opera, and to Antonio Stradivarius, one of the greatest violin masters in the world. The tradition of fine workmanship has been carried down through the centuries and today, the International School of Violin-making, and other artisan workshops, maintain the city's reputation as the source of the world's finest violins.

## **MILANO: Capital of Lombardy!**

Milan is probably Gallic (Celtic) in origin, but the Romans who conquered it called it Mediolanum in 222 BC. By the 3rd century Diocletian made Milan the seat of the Emperors of the West and by 313 Constantine published the Edict of Milan making Christianity the official religion of the Empire.

After the barbarian invasions in the 5th and 6th centuries, Pavia became the capital and Charlemagne was crowned with the Iron Crown of the Kings of Lombardy. (see Pavia and Monza article)

But enough about Milan's early history...you can check the internet for details. On to one of the most modern yet keeper of its classical architecture, yet,

the latest in fashion and design! Today, Milan is the capital of Italy's printing industry and is an important center with its numerous art galleries, for contemporary art and other commerce.

If you have not visited Milan you must make it a part of your travel plans soon. There is so much to see and do in this amazing capital city that I thought that a listing of a few of the "best" places to visit should be included.

A masterpiece of Gothic architecture clothed in pristine white marble...the Duomo is breathtaking as

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## Milano... continued from page 2



**Milan Cathedral**

viewed from the Piazza...sit in the piazza and admire the church of a thousand spires and saints topping each one. High above the rest is the golden Madonina loved by all who pass under her protective eye. Make sure that you take the tour and walk on the roof of the Duomo especially climbing the spiral staircase to another dizzying level.

La Scala, the most

famous opera house in the world was built from 1776 to 1778. It seats over 2,000 and the acoustics are perfect. The Baroque style set with shimmering gold, where plush burgundy velvet seats makes one feel like royalty. Where the thing to do was "to be seen" at The Opera! Imagine rubbing shoulders with Donizetti, Verdi, and Puccini. Life Styles of the Rich and Famous!

Castello Sforzesco can be described as the most

perfect castle ever; its geometric crenellations pictured against an azure cloudless sky is sitting in the middle of the busiest traffic jam ever! Remember Leonardo di Vinci painted its walls, played with and presented his ideas of perfect warfare models to the royalty who constantly battled with the other city states of the times.

Speaking of Leonardo, make sure that you visit the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie where in the refectory you will find one of the most talked about, most written about and wondered about masterpiece: "The Last Supper"! Please remember to make reservations before you leave the States or you will probably not get tickets to view this masterpiece.

Another unique masterpiece dedicated to the dead is the Milano Cemetery located on the outskirts of the city. It is composed of massive marble works from a copy of the Tower of Babel, to a bronze casting of a farmer with his oxen plowing an imaginary field. Not morbid at all, but beyond imagination honoring Milan's dead.

La Moda is a synonym of Milan...fashion is her statement and is it bright, brilliant and constantly challenging! Take time and plan ahead to visit some of the top name designers...names that roll off your tongue: Fendi, Versace, Moschino, Para, Ferragamo, Valentino, and the hottest, latest diamond in the Italian crown, Dolce & Gabbana!

## Pavia: City of Kings and Scholars



**Pavia's Certosa**

Ancient Pavia is a "hidden treasure"... there for the viewing, but off the beaten path. Looming over all like a giant shadow is the "other treasure"...Milan with its bustling traffic, constantly updated "la Moda" and magnificent Il Duomo. Pavia, on the other hand is a

unique city of over twenty thousand university students, Italian and foreign and a magnificent Certosa built by the Visconti family many years ago.

In ancient times, cities like Pavia had a center section fairly small but a pleasure for the walking tourist

today. At the core of Pavia are two main streets that intersect at right angles, cutting it into four sections, Strada Nuova, and the Corso. These streets are typical of cities laid out by the ancient Romans over two thousand years ago.

In the 1300 and 1400's the castle served as a summer palace for the Visconti who were the dukes of Milan and Pavia. The castle was known throughout Europe as one of the era's most sumptuous princely residences.

Another site to visit is the church called San Pietro Ciel d'Oro built and consecrated in 1132. Inside is a beautifully sculptured Gothic ark reliquary of Saint Augustine. The 5th century Father of the Church.

Pavia's early history is closely bound with the Lombards, a Germanic people who invaded northern Italy under the leadership of their king Alboin. The

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## Pavia... *continued from page 3*

largest of the Lombard kingdoms was in the north, and Pavia was its capital. (Lombard is loosely translated as Longo-Bardi "long beards")

The Certosa or the Carthusian Monastery is one of the most remarkable examples of Lombard art. The façade, even though unfinished is one of the most beautiful and extremely rich in decorations. The more ornate lower part was the work of the Manegazza brothers. It is adorned with multicolored sculptures in marble, with medallions, copied from ancient times. The base is covered with a multitude of statues of

saints in niches and an amazing variety of foliage, garlands and ornamentation.

As though this was not enough for the eye to absorb, the interior has grandeur of Gothic style, with numerous works of art, chancel screens of hand carved ivory, chapels decorated with frescoes, and breathtaking altarpieces in splendid Renaissance style!

Yet, the cloisters are designed with charming terracotta a series of 122 decorated arcades bordered by twenty-four tiny cells. Yes, here is where the monks prayed for the souls of the wealthy... Remember Pavia when you are touring the beautiful Northern part of Italy!

## Monza

Monza is an industrial, but beautiful town nestled in the hilly, mirrored lake region of Lombardy. Today it specializes in textiles. There are magnificent villas surrounded by glorious gardens. The Cathedral (Duomo) built from the 1300 through 1400's has that unique Lombard façade creating the alternating white, green and black marble that is set in amazing harmony! The master architect and sculptor, Matteo di Campione was called *Maestri campionesi* due to his spreading the Lombard style throughout Italy.

The interior of the Duomo has a magnificent silver gilt

altar front that dates from the 14th century. In the treasury is the famous 5th through 9th century Iron Crown of the Kings of Lombardy. The legend states that the Iron Crown was made from one of the nails that pierced Jesus' hands.

One must not forget to visit the world famous Monza automobile racetrack! When we were there a few years ago, they were having a trial run with the Ferraris and Lancias. What a treat to see that Italian horsepower harnessed in those gorgeous cars!

## Lombardy: Cuisine and Wines

Known in ancient times as the name of Insubria, Lombardy with Venetia and Piedmonte is bordered by the Alps to the north and the Po River to the south. With its mountains, its network of valleys, and treasure of lakes this region is truly a wonder of nature. Not only its industry and commerce, but also its rich and fertile countryside play an important part in the economy of the region. In this region every village has its own wine that is praised by Pliny, Virgil, Strabo, Augustus himself and Leonardo (so the guide books state)!

### Cuisine:

Cooking in Lombardy is a tasty and aromatic affair that takes advantage of the local produce as rice, smoked meats, dairy products, etc. It is believed that the tastes of this region are one of the best in Europe!

Among the specialties is *Busecca*, the famous (or infamous) tripe dish that is boiled with vegetables and flavored with spice; *Cotoletta alla milanese* the world-

famous Milanese hand-fed veal cutlet dipped in egg and bread crumbs then fried to a golden brown in butter; as well as the famous *Risotto* that needs no description; *Ossobuco* the well-known marrow bone stew cooked in ragout and served on a bed of rice or peas; *Polenta* that peasant food made with yellow or white cornmeal served with a mouth-watering rich stew; salami from Brianza; rich nourishing broths; whipped cream; *Torrone di Cremona* that wonderful hard nougat, made of egg whites, honey, sugar, spices, toasted almonds and always served at Christmas; and the classic holiday *Milanese Panettone*...that unique "top-hat" high delicious, melt-in-your-mouth dessert served at any time!

### Cheeses:

Mascarpone, Gorgonzola, Robiola, Stracchino, Bel Paese and Groviera must be at the table, too.

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## Cuisine... *continued from page 4*

### Wines of the Region:

*Barbagallo* a rather strong red with a delicate bouquet that is fruity and mellow. Serve with all meals especially poultry.

*Chiaretto del Garda* has delicate bouquet of almonds, and a somewhat sharp, nutty flavor, also comes in "brut". Serve with special meals.

*Frecclarossa* is amber-yellow and has a subtle and pervasive bouquet, its aroma is unmistakable. Serve with fancy cooking or dessert.

*Inferno* is a deep ruby-red with a penetrating bouquet that becomes even more marked with age. The flavor is soft with a nutty after-taste. Serve with all meals when young; after three years of aging serve with special roasts.

*Sangue di Giuda* is intensely red with a nutty somewhat sweet flavor and sparkling pleasing slightly sharp taste. An anonymous name giver has followed the custom of the district in attributing the most horrid names (Blood of Judas) to the best wines. Serve with all meals, especially roasts.

### An Invitation to hear Dominic Pulera!

Attention: Readers of the Pappagallo! You are cordially invited to an exciting, and delightful evening with Author and Commentator, Dominic Pulera! A native of Wisconsin who graduated magna cum laude from Beloit College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and earned departmental Honors in History. Dominic has visited many countries throughout the world and brings many experiences to his audiences. Through the use of numerous facts and anecdotes, Pulera traces the tremendous progress of the Italian-American people over the years. There will be dialogue after his presentation, so join us for an evening with friends!

**When:** May 3, 2006

**Where:** EIGERlab Auditorium, 605 Fulton Avenue

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. Presentation

Reception following in the Green Vue Room

**Call for reservations:**

**815-877-2888 Shirley and Gene Fedeli  
or e-mail [esfedeli@aol.com](mailto:esfedeli@aol.com)**

## Italian Biographies from the Lombardy Region

### Saint Frances Cabrini



Lodi, a small city in Lombardy is well known for a well known American Saint, Mother Frances Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants. The first American to be canonized makes a spiritual bond linking Italy and America. The youngest of thirteen children, she was born in 1850 at Sant'Angelo Lodigiano a few miles from Lodi. Her farmhouse birth place is now a museum. As a child, Frances Cabrini dreamed of becoming a missionary to China.

When she became a nun she remained close to home, at a nearby town called Codogno where she founded a convent, the Institute of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1880.

At 39 she was sent as a missionary to America. In Manhattan, she helped the immigrants arriving in massive waves, especially the Italian Americans. In 1890 she opened the first of many orphanages and hospices for the poor and later a convent of the order she had established in Italy. In all, she opened sixty-seven institutions of various types throughout America. Frances Cabrini died in Chicago in 1917 the same year she became an American citizen. Her tomb is in New York, but her memory is proudly honored in her native town, Lodi, Italy.

*Note: There is a beautiful statue of St. Frances Cabrini in St. Anthony of Padua church in Rockford, Illinois.*

*More biographies continue on next page ➤*



## Italian Biographies from the Lombardy Region...

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### Gaetano Donizetti

Gaetano Donizetti was born in Bergamo, Italy in 1797. He was a prolific composer. He wrote over 60 comic works of which the most well known are ***The Daughter of the Regiment*** and ***The Elixir of Love***, which had its premiere at La Scala one of the world-famous Opera House located in Milan.

He was also well known for the tragic opera ***Lucia di Lamermoor*** that contributed to the development of serious opera. His death in 1848 was a tragedy to all opera lovers.

The Donizetti Museum is located in Bergamo, his birthplace. It is one of the best preserved historic centers, full of atmosphere and charm of past centuries. Every year in September a Donizetti Festival is a highlight of Bergamo's lively musical calendar. The city also has an opera season, opening in October and a resident symphony orchestra. So on your next trip to Italy make sure that you "opera lovers" include this wonderful city!

### Giacomo Leopardi

Giacomo Leopardi was born in 1798 in the small town of Recanti, Italy. Recanti is called the "City of Poetry" since it proudly proclaims that Leopardi was born here! Through road signs on the long, twisting road that leads to the city you will find acknowledgements of his fame. In fact, the town's residents pulled down their medieval town a half a century ago and built a new one to mark the first centenary of Leopardi's birth! The main square echoes his name and the streets recall the titles of his poems. ***The Infinite*** (that you will find below) and ***In Saturday Night the Village*** as well as a local inn called ***La Ginestra*** (The Broom) are excellent examples of his work. Critics say that his poetry gives an intimate, introspective voice of a tortured man...check the Rockford Public Library and read about Giacomo Leopardi...after reading some of his works...will you feel the same way? Let us know. You will find one of his poems in Italian and English in this issue of Pappagallo...What do you think about his work?

### L'infinito

Sempre caro mi fu quest'ermo colle,  
e questa siepe, che da tanta parte  
dell'ultimo orizzonte il quadro esclude.  
Ma sedendo e mirando, interminati  
spazi di là da quella, e sovrumani  
silenzi, e profondissima quiete  
io nel pensier mi fingo; ove per poco  
il cor non si spaura. E come il vento  
odo stormir tra queste piante, io quello  
infinito silenzio a questa voce,  
vo comparando e mi sovvien l'eterno,  
e la morte stagioni, e la presente  
e viva, e il suon di lei. Così tra questa  
immensità s'annega il pensier mio:  
e il naufragar m'è dolce in questo mar.

### The Infinite

Always this baldy solitary hill  
was dear to me; and his hedge too, that shuts  
so much of the last horizon from one's sight.  
But sitting here and staring out, I form  
in thought unending spaces there behind it,  
higher-than-human silences, and deep  
beyond, the deepest peace; in which the heart  
all but gives in to fear. And as I listen to the  
wind bustling among these plants, I start  
comparing this vociferation to that infinite  
silence, and I call to mind eternity, those dead  
seasons, and this present and living one, and  
how it sounds. This way in the immensity my  
thought is drowned: and it is sweet to shipwreck  
in this sea.

Poetry of Giacomo Leopardi  
Translated by Alistair Elliot



# The Life of Alessandro Volta

Count Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta was born in Como, Lombardy, on February 18, 1745. Volta was born to nobility that had moved downward in the social ladder. Unlike his siblings, young Alessandro did not enter the church even though it was the proper thing for upper class families to do.

His young childhood did not show the makings of a prodigy. It was not until the age of four that he talked, and his family was convinced that he was retarded. However, at the age of seven when his father died, he was at the level of other children and then began to march ahead. By the age of fourteen, he made up his mind to be a physicist.

Volta became fascinated with the phenomenon of the age, electricity. He became so enamored with it that he wrote an excellent Latin poem on the subject. In 1774, he was appointed professor of physics in the Como high school and the next year he invented electrophorous, a charge-accumulating machine.

Volta's fame spread as result. In 1778, Volta was the first to isolate the compound methane, a major constituent of natural gas.

Further, in 1779, he received a professorial appointment at the University of Pavia, where he continued his work with electricity. He invented other gadgets involving static electricity and received the Copley medal of the Royal Society, where he was elected to membership, in 1791.

The major feat of his life involved not static electricity, but dynamic electricity- the electric current. Following the experiments of Galvani, who was a friend of his and sent copies of his papers on the subject, Volta attacked the question of whether the electric current resulting when muscle was in contact with two different metals arose from the tissue or from the metals.

To check this he decided in 1794 to make use of the metals alone, without the tissue. He found at once that an electric current resulted and maintained that it therefore had nothing to do with life or tissue. This sparked a controversy between the two Italians with the German Humboldt, the chief of Galvani's supporters, and the Frenchman Coulomb, the chief of Volta's. The weight of the evidence leaned more and more heavily toward Volta, and Galvani died embittered.

In 1800 Volta virtually clinched the victory by constructing a device that would produce a large flow of electricity. Volta's device was an "electric battery"- the first in history. The invention of the battery lifted Volta's fame to its pinnacle. He was called to France by Napoleon in 1801 for a kind of "command performance" of his experiments. He received many medals and decorations, including the Legion of Honor, and

was even made a count and, in 1810, a senator of the kingdom of Lombardy.

Throughout his life, though, Volta was able to shift with the changing politics of the time and to remain in good graces with whatever government was in power. After Napoleon fell and Austria became dominant in Italy once more, Volta continued to excel and to receive posts of high honor. Volta received his greatest honor of his fellow scientists. The unit of electro-motive force- the driving force that moves the electric current- is now called the "volt."

The energy of moving charged particles produced by modern atom-smashing machines is measured in electron-volts. A billion electron-volts is abbreviated "bev," and when we speak of the particular atom-smasher called the bevatron, the "v" in the name stands for Volta.

The Voltaic pile was Volta's life accomplishment. Initially, he used bowls of salt solution that were connected by means of arcs of metal dipping from one bowl into the next, one end of the arc being copper and the other tin or zinc. Volta made matters more compact and less watery by using small round plates of copper and zinc, plus discs of cardboard moistened in salt solution. Starting with copper at the bottom, the discs, reading upward, were in the pattern copper, zinc, cardboard. If a wire was attached to the top and bottom of this "Voltaic pile: an electric current would pass through it if the circuit was closed.

The Voltaic pile was the first electric battery, and it shortly led to its practical application by William Nicholson and the work of Davy, as well as, being the progenitor of modern day batteries."

## GRIAA News

GRIAA is proud to announce that we will be launching a web site!

Please check [www.griaa.com](http://www.griaa.com) for information on Festa Italiana, Scholarships, Hall of Fame, Women's and Men's Italian Open and Ferentino, Italy Rockford's Italian Sister City project. You will be able to e-mail us if you would like to work on a committee, volunteer at Festa, need information on Italian Folk Traditions or Culture for a school project or need help on how to apply for Italian dual citizenship.

We also have a new phone number listed under Greater Rockford Italian American Assoc. (GRIAA). The number is **815-636-2902**. We now have two new ways for you to stay in touch with us!





# La regione da dove è venuta la mia famiglia

by Gene Fedeli

My parents were born in the region of Lombardia and at the age of seventeen, I made my first trip back to Italy with my parents.

Yes, they brought me back to the town where they were born. My mother, Santina Piazzalunga Fedeli was born in Barzana, Bergamo, Italy and my father, Alberto Gaetano Fedeli was born in Bolladello, Cairate, Italy. My mother moved to Bolladello when she was very young and this is where she met and fell in love with my father.

In this issue of Pappagallo, I will let Shirley and Peggy write about the many cities, and towns as Milano, Pavia, Como, Bergamo, Cremona, Varese and the beautiful lakes of this region.

But, I must tell you two wonderful things that happened to me this past September.

The first one is when I wrote to the Comune of Cairate asking for the correct day of my mother's marriage. When I received the letter, along with the response came a letter from the Mayor *Sindaco* Clara Fanton. She asked me if I could please send her some pictures of my father's family and a picture of Shirley and me and one of our town, Rockford for a calendar *calendario* that Cairate would send to all the families that fall under the *Comune di Cairate*.

Below, you will see the calendar, where in the month of June (*Giugno*) our family's photos are on display.

Even though both of my parents have passed away, there is one thing that I remember very well. At the age of three I remembered hearing and learning the dialect from the region of Lombardia where my mother lived.

So, I wish to share some of the words and phrases that I remember as a child. If your background is Lombardian, perhaps you will also recall that wonderful, unique sound of the "mountains", the homeland. You can see the translation below. Enjoy!

di adrè	giorno dopo	day after
cadrèga	sedia	chair
cagiada	latte cagliato	curdle milk
ciapà	prendere	to take
cicà	masticare il tabacco	chewing tobacco
busèca	trippa	tripe
lazarun	lazzarone	lazy
sta san	stare sano	stay healthy
bràsc	braccio	arm
setta giò	siediti	sit down
spazèta	spazzola	brush
ugin	occhio	eye
vun	due	two
surèla	sorella	sister
fradèll	fratello	brother

USA Fam. Fedeli



Foto di famiglia con i nonni

Eugene Fedeli e la moglie Shirley Mascheroni (originaria di Cassano Magnago)

Matrimonio di Alberto Gaetano Fedeli

I genitori Maria Carnelli e Luigi Fedeli nacquero a Bolladello; Alberto Gaetano Fedeli, loro figlio, nacque nel 1899 ed espatriò verso l'America. Eugene Fedeli, figlio di Alberto Gaetano, vive ora a Rockford nell'Illinois. Parenti residenti nel Comune: Santina Piazzalunga e Luigi Fedeli

## GIUGNO 2006

1 *giovedì*  
S. Giustino

2 *venerdì*  
Festa della Repubblica

● RACCOLTA  
BOLLADELLO  
FEVERANZA  
CAIRATE

*venerdì* 16  
S. Aureliano

*sabato* 17  
S. Demo V.

Taca seù ul capel  
appendere su il tuo cappello  
*hang up your hat*

La ma fa bela cera  
mi ha ricevuto bene  
*they received me well*

Manga bev e sta san.  
mangia beva e sta sano  
*Eat drink and stay healthy*

If you are from the Lombardy region and remember any of the dialect please write or e-mail me some of the words and phrases that you remember. Thanks!

E-mail: [esfedeli@aol.com](mailto:esfedeli@aol.com)



# Italian Language

- MARINA: Buongiorno signora. E' stata in centro?
- SIGNORA: Si, da Benedettini, c'erano i saldi di fine stagione. Marina, non ho mai visto dei prezzi cosi bassi!
- MARINA: Davvero? Normalmente Benedettini e cosi caro... anche durante i saldi è difficile trovare qualcosa veramente a buon mercato.
- SIGNORA: Hai ragione. Comunque dopo sono andata da Brogini e li si che ho speso un mucchio di soldi.
- MARINA: Ha comprato il regalo per Giovanna?
- SIGNORA: Ma si; il commesso mi ha fatto un buono sconto su un servizio di posate stupendo, sai, l'ultima collezione di Alessi. Non ho saputo resistere. Pensa che non avevo abbastanza contanti e ho usato la carta di credito per la prima volta in vita mia!
- MARINA: Dice davvero? Be', eccoci arrivate. Faccia tanti auguri a Giovanna da parte mia. ArrivederLa signora.
- SIGNORA: Senz'altro, ciao Marina. Salutami la mamma.

## VOCABOLARIO UTILE

### I negozi

Negozio di

abbigliamento	clothing store
arredamento	home furnishing store
articoli sportive	sporting good store
biancheria intima	lingerie store
elettrodomestici	appliance store
mobili	furniture store
strumenti musicali	music store

### I prezzi

strumenti musicali	music store
a buon mercato	it is a good price
a presso basso	the price is low
in saldo	on sale

## La Bella Sicilia Tour

La Bella Sicilia is waiting for you! Join us in a customized, unique and exciting tour! We will depart from Chicago to this ancient island on Sept. 12th and return Sept. 24th.

We have planned a Grand Tour including Palermo, Monreale, Erice, Trapani, Marsala, Sambuca, Agrigento, Siracusa, Catania, and Taormina. Enjoy the charming small villages located between these historic cities.

See the breath-taking landscape, architecture, and illuminated temples during the warm Sicilian evenings. Enjoy the local wines, world-famous Sicilian food especially the pastries and gelato. Relish the Mediterranean life style, La Vita Dolce... this is waiting for you when you travel with us.

Gene & Shirley Fedeli and Rose Mary Sandahl with Around the World Tours.

If you would like to hear more about this fabulous trip call or e-mail us. Gene and Shirley Fedeli, 877-2888 [esfedeli@aol.com](mailto:esfedeli@aol.com).

Or Rose Mary Sandahl at Around the World Tours 332-8285 e-mail [rosemarysandahl@aol.com](mailto:rosemarysandahl@aol.com).

## Ferentino... Rockford Sister City

Rockford will soon officially have its first-ever Italian Sister City! The Italian Sister City Committee is pleased to announce that a delegation of city officials from Ferentino, Italy will visit Rockford in May 2006. Last spring, the Mayors of Rockford and Ferentino signed preliminary documents through the mail establishing Ferentino as Rockford's fifth Sister City. Mayor Piergianni Fiorletta, his assistant Franco Martini, and two other officials (and maybe more) will visit Rockford from May 10-20 to formalize the agreement. Rockford's Mayor Lawrence Morrissey will sign the Sister City agreement with Mayor Fiorletta at the May 15, 2006 Rockford City Council meeting. Join us in the audience at the City Council meeting at 6:00 pm on the second floor of City Hall in downtown Rockford. Our committee is busy planning a week of festivities and events for that week. Join us as we celebrate our first Italian Sister City. You can help in many ways to make this a success.

Call Valeri DeCastris at 969-8899 or email her at [rockfordrocks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockfordrocks@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer.



# COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

## DOTTOR BALANZONE

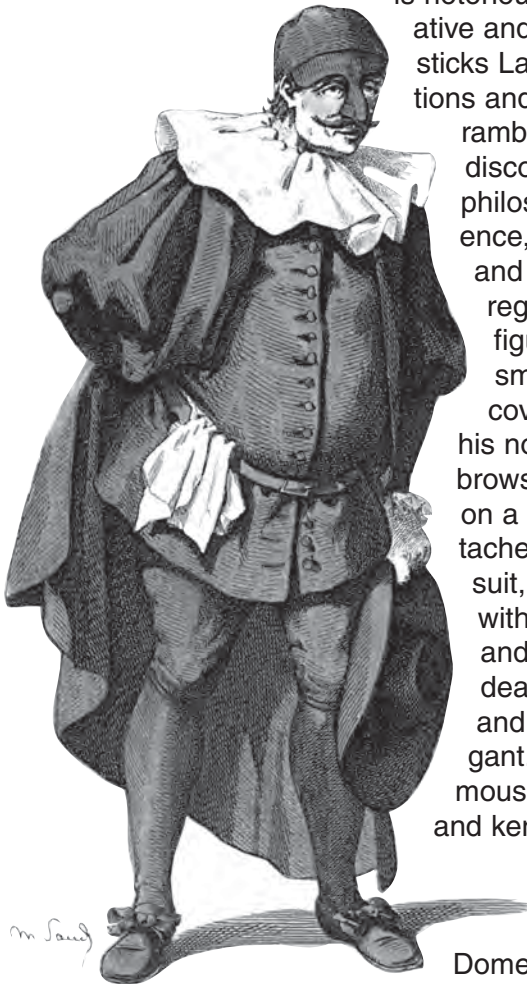
The name coming from "balle" (lies) gives the idea of this character, who seems to know everything supported by his science, arrogance and ignorance. This character was originated in Bologna, at the time when the University was well established in this Emilian capital city. (second half of 16th century).

Dottor Balanzone talks and talks, he is a river of ostentatious, useless science, teasing the current exaggerated belief in science and humanism. Balanzone, one of the groups of old people in the Commedia of Art, is a serious old chap who tends to be pompous. This lawyer or doctor is rather big headed airing his opinions about all and sundry items. He

is notoriously too talkative and readily sticks Latin quotations and strange ramblings into his discourse about philosophy, science, medicines and law. This regal, hearty figure wears a small mask, covering only his nose and eyebrows, that rests on a huge moustache. His black suit, complete with white collar and cuffs, is deadly serious and very elegant. An enormous hat, jacket and kerchief are part of his attire.

Thanks to Domenico Lelli, from Bologna who

was one of the most famous actors who played Balanzone became synonymous with the learned lawyer, rather stuffy and always picking hairs. In more recent times, Tawny Lanzarini and Andrea Matteuzzi have interpreted the role.



## MENEGHINO

Meneghino is the typical mask of Milan. The probable origin of its name is simply from the name of the servants as in the word, (do)menicali. Its character is lighthearted and extroverted. In theatre scenes the character usually does not have a fixed role: often he is a servant, other times, a foolish peasant or sly merchant. Meneghino made its appearance in the 1600's, in the literary works of Carl Maria May that gave the last name of Pecenna, hairdressing salon to it, for its habit "to curry" the noble class for their defects. In the first decades of the 1800's Carl Door emphasized the character of a censor of the customs of the clergy and the aristocracy. Good-natured and loving, a man of the calm life, Meneghino is characterized having a strong moral sense, from one of great dignity, to one of wisdom. With time, Meneghino became the emblem of the people of Milan, a symbol of freedom, when the domination of Austria ruled the Italian land. Interpreters of this famous role were Gaetano Piomarta, Giuseppe Moncalvo, Luigi Preda, Tagliabue Malfatti. In the course of the last century Meneghino gradually became part of the theatre of the marionettes or puppet shows.



## Italian Proverbs (Proverbi)

**O mangiar questa minestra o saltar questa finestra.**

*(Either eat this soup or jump out this window.)*

*– Take it or leave it.*

**Non fare il passo piu lungo fella gamba.**

*(Don't make a step longer than your leg.)*

*– Don't cross your bridges until you come to them.*



## High School and College Students:

Again this year National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is offering you the following three programs with grants.

1. NIAF Students to Leaders program for high school students
2. NIAF Graduates to Leaders program for university/graduate students
3. NIAF Scholarship Program

1. Students to Leaders (S2L) is an all-expenses-paid educational workshops designed to introduce young Italian Americans to the inner workings of government and public policy, while helping them to develop effective leadership skills. The Government/Public Policy S2L Workshop will take students to Washington, D.C., the center of US politics for 4 days of meetings with important political leaders, visit the institutions that surround those sectors, and partake in interactive leadership and team-building sessions. Visit <http://www.niaf.org/s2l/2006/index.asp> for details.

2. Graduates to Leaders (G2L) is an all-expenses-paid educational workshops. This year we are offering Workshops in law and communications. The G2L Law program, held in Washington, DC, is offered to second and third year students currently enrolled in law school and Communications for undergraduate majors in communications, media, journalism and

graduate students (New York City). Participants will receive an "insider's" view into their vocation, taking part in sessions which will delve into important issues and key strategies helpful in maintaining their professional lives. In addition, the seminars will double as a networking forums among participants, providing the base of a professional support group of Italian Americans. The seminars will be all-expenses paid, including transportation, accommodations, meals and events. Participants will be selected through an application process. Visit <http://www.niaf.org/g2l/index.asp> for details.

3. Scholarships: Are you an Italian American high school senior, college undergraduate, or grad student? Do you have a GPA of 3.5 or higher? If so, then don't miss out on the NIAF Scholarship Program! The 2006-2007 application is currently online, and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2006. For more information, eligibility criteria, FAQ, and the application, visit [www.niaf.org/scholarships](http://www.niaf.org/scholarships). Please note scholarship funds cannot be applied towards summer study or study abroad programs that are not through an accredited US college or university.



## Festa Italiana 2006: MUSIC & LANGUAGE

Buon giorno! As the chairperson for Festa 2006 I would like to introduce myself. I am Brenda Falzone Phillip and the proud daughter of John and Kathy Falzone.

*The theme for this year's Festa Italiana is Music & Language.*

On August 4, 5, & 6, 2006 The Festa Italiana committee would like to invite you to come and enjoy a weekend full of food, cold drinks, Italian dancing, culture and some great entertainment. Here's a sneak peek at our entertainment — Shannon Brown, Tony Spavone, The Fabulous Janes, Joe Scalissi, Bullet and many more.

A whole Boylan class reunion is even joining us this year. Why not plan yours too!

You can now visit our website at [www.GRIAA.com](http://www.GRIAA.com), (Greater Rockford Italian American Association) and click on our link or call us at 636-2902.

**Admission is \$4.00 and children 12 & under are FREE.**

**Friday 5p.m., Sat. 12 noon – 11 p.m. & Sun. 12 noon – 9 p.m.**

**Mark your calendars....We look forward to seeing you!**



# PAPPAGALLO



## Ethnic Heritage Museum Events:

**Attenzione:** March and April will have one of the largest collections of **St. Joseph Altar Breads** on display every Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Italian Gallery. Stop by and “feast your eyes” on some of the most beautifully intricate work that Salemi, Sicily produces!

We also celebrate **March with Women’s History Month** honoring Rockford’s women. This year we are honoring the **20th Anniversary of Amici Italiani Folk Dance Troupe**. This wonderful tradition of learning and sharing Italian Dances is being carried on by Rosie Scalise Sheridan and Beatrice Giammarese Ricotta director and dance instructor plus a wonderfully dedicated group of young men and women. Come and see this display of 20 years of learning and community spirit.

Save the date for our International **Ethnic Music Festival Fund Raiser** will be on **June 4th Sunday!** It will be held at the Rockford Lithuanian Club this year! Call 877-2888 or 962-7402 for more information and price of dinner.

The Italian Gallery of the Ethnic Heritage Museum is planning to display “**Wedding Gowns**” this summer. We are looking for gowns that represent our rich Italian culture the earlier the better. Also, if your “nonna” was married in Italy, we would like to know who made the gown. We would have them from May through August. If you have a photo that goes along with the wedding gown, please let us make a copy of it to add to the history of the times. Please call or email Shirley Martignoni Fedeli at 877-2888 or [esfedeli@aol.com](mailto:esfedeli@aol.com).

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