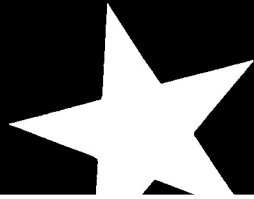


# PAPPAGALLO



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

Fall 2012

## **Greater Rockford Italian American Association**



## **Hall of Fame & Special Recognition Banquet**

**October 6, 2012 Giovanni's Restaurant**

**Dinner \$30.00 per person**

**Social hour from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Please see page 2 for the menu**

**and information on how to make a reservation for the event.**

**Hall of Fame Awards for 2012 are:**

**Dr. Albert L. Pumilia**

**Amici Italian Adult Group**

**and**

**Amici Italian Youth Group**



## Hall of Fame and Special Recognition Award Banquet

### Saturday, October 6, 2012

Giovanni's Restaurant

6:00 p.m. Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Music provided by the Mike Alongi Trio

Dance Performance by Amici Italiani Youth and Adult Group

8:00 p.m. Awards Program

#### Menu

Garden Fresh Salad and Pasta Appetizer

**Choice #1:** Combo entree of Seared Filet of Sirloin with Chicken Marsala  
served with Roasted Red Potatoes and Julienne Vegetables

or

**Choice #2:** Entree of Roasted Vegetable Strudel  
encased in pastry with Basil Pesto and Sundried Tomato Sauce

#### **Dessert of Homemade Cannoli**

(Flaky, made from scratch, Italian Shell, filled with Sweet Creamy Ricotta  
and Chunks of Chocolate, topped with a Dollop of rich Cocoa Mousse)

**\$30.00 per person**

**R.S.V.P as soon as possible**

Please make your check payable to GRIAA. Send the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Entree Choice #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Entree Choice #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: GRIAA, P.O. Box 1915, Rockford, Illinois 61110-0415**

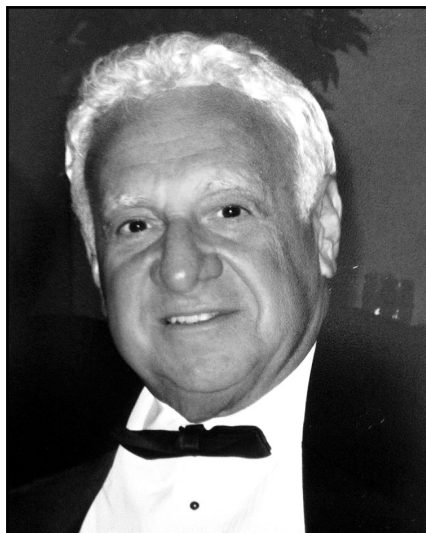
If you have any questions, please contact Gene Fedeli at 815-877-2888

We hope to see you there to help us recognize these distinguished Italian Americans from our Community!



# Italian Hall of Fame Awardees for 2012

## Dr. Albert L. Pumilia



Dr. Albert L. Pumilia, a long time Rockford dentist, has served the Italian-American community for decades. For nearly 30 years he has volunteered at Festa Italiana, GRIAA's major funding source to provide scholarships to Italian-American youth attending local Catholic grade schools and Boylan High School.

He is a longtime member of St. Anthony of Padua Church, the Catholic Church established more than 100 years ago for Italian immigrants who were settling in Rockford. He has served in many roles in supporting St. Anthony Church, vice president of parish council, president of Holy Name Society, finance chairman for the St. Joseph Altar and fundraising co-chair for parish activities. He and many other Italian-Americans have supported St. Anthony Church as it continues to be a home parish for many Italian-Americans in the Greater Rockford area. Dr. Pumilia has also served Italian-American youth by being a basketball coach at St. Anthony's grade school.

He is a member of the Guiseppe Verdi Society, St. Ambrogio Society, Venetian Club and as 4th degree Knight of Columbus. He is an honorary fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Pumilia has given his time and talent to community programs which serve those that need assistance. He was instrumental in the establishment of Crusader Dental Clinic which services the dental needs of many people who otherwise could not afford dental services. He played an integral role in the beginnings of the Head Start Program in Rockford.

Dr. Pumilia's dental career spanned 32 years. He served as a mentor to several young Italian-American dentists who began their careers with him. Although, he retired from dentistry in 1999, the family practice, Pumilia Family Dental Group continues to be served by his two daughters, Dr. Cathryn San Souci and Dr. Pacita Pumilia who followed their

father into dentistry. Dr. Pumilia continues to teach at the Dental Careers Foundations where he has trained more than 300 dental assistants.

He recently published an e-book "Your Travel Companion: A Chapbook of Short Stories", where he depicts several historical incidences in the Rockford Italian Community.

Dr. Albert L. Pumilia, a retired Rockford dentist, will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Over the years he has and continues to significantly impact the Italian-American community. Dr. Pumilia is a longtime Festa Italiana volunteer, and active in parish activities at St. Anthony of Padua Church. He has positively impacted the community by playing integral roles in the formation of the local Head Start Program and in the establishment of Crusader Dental Clinic.

He is married to Elsie Pumilia. They have two daughters, Dr. Cathryn San Souci and Dr. Pacita Pumilia, and one grandson, Alex Pumilia-Sagona.

## Amici Italiani Adult Dance Troupe 2012



We are very proud and pleased to receive Italian Hall of Fame Award this year. We just finished our 27th year of celebrating at Festa Italiana and other events in the Rockford area and Chicago area. We are the largest Italian Folk Dance group in the State of Illinois! In the past, we have danced throughout Wisconsin and Illinois remembering especially the invitation to perform at the Opening Ceremonies for the World Soccer Cup USA at the Chicago Soldier Field in 1994! Yes, this is truly sharing our Italian Culture!

Amici Italiani means (Italian Friends) and we are Italian Americans of all ages and backgrounds to learn and share the rich tradition of Italian Folk Dance. The main goals of Amici Italiani are to preserve and share the Italian culture, by educating and entertaining audiences with the color and warmth of the rich Italian heritage of its members

The dances we perform are Quadriglias, Saltarellos, Mazurcas, Tarantellas, and Codigiones.



# Italian Hall of Fame 2012 continued

And they are great fun!!

Rosie Scalise Sheridan is the Director for the troupe and Bea Giammarese Ricotta is their Dance Instructor. They research all their dances to maintain detail and authenticity.

Established in 1985 by Shirley Martignoni Fedeli, the troupe gathers Italian Americans of all ages and backgrounds to learn and share the rich tradition of Italian Folk Dance. Their goals are to preserve and share the Italian culture by educating and entertaining audiences with the color and warmth of their rich Italian heritage.

The troupe has flourished in the past and to date with the help of and direction from several people. During the time Shirley Fedeli was the Director for the troupe, Jo Giammalva Wargo was the Dance Instructor for the troupe. Once Shirley retired as Director, Jo Wargo and Rosie Scalise Sheridan were Co-Directors for the troupe. The troupe has benefited from the talents and support of so many people and most especially from the support of G.R.I.A.A.

Members this year include: Ellie Addotta, Jennifer Bauer, Caroline Cascio, Josey Donofrio, Heather Dunaway, Johnny Fandel, Bobby Fandel, Michael Galiano, John Logan, Hannah Massari, Mario Mirabile, Kylee Noonan, Mia Cellitti-Oliver, Terry Polizzi, Madz Ricotta, Steph Ricotta, Craig Sheridan, Pauline Urso.

## Amici Italiani Youth Dance Troupe 2012



Amici Italiani Youth Troupe is overwhelmed and honored to be chosen as one of the 2012 inductees into the GRIAA Hall of Fame.

After the adult troupe was formed by Gene and Shirley Fedeli in 1985, their daughter Lisa wanted to get children of Italian descent from the Rockford area involved in an Italian dance troupe. So in 1989 Amici Italiani Youth Troupe emerged.

Amici Italiani is an authentic folk dance troupe performing dances from all regions of Italy. The troupe is sponsored by the Greater Rockford Italian American Association. Amici Italiani has boys and girls between the ages of 7 to 13. The teachers vol-

unteer their time and the children attend without tuition. Pauline Urso and Carla Cacciatore Mullin work with the children to introduce them to the music and movement of their ancestors.

Amici Italiani has been sharing the culture of Italy for the past 23 years. This years group of "Italian Friends" are Teresa Amore, Caroline Binotti, Tamir Bell, John, Joseph and Macy Boeke, Andrea Bowes, Rose Cassioppi, Morgan Canova, Nina and Sophia Celletti, Giana Dreger, Gia Maria Fandel, Sylvia Felauer, Gabrielle and Juliana Tarara, Izzy Gianesin, Bella Graciana, Maria Hare, Ella and Mia Lassandro, Gabriele and Luciano Mirabile, Briana Murphy, Isabella and Roland Rodriguez, and Ellie Schneider.

This season the troupe has appeared at Festa Italiana, Maple School, Midway Village, and Cherry Valley Days.

Over the years many wonderful young Italian Americans have learned the traditional dances of their ancestral homeland. We hope they carry with them the music and dance of Italy and have great memories of their participation in Amici Italiani Youth Dance Troupe!

## Family Names gathered for our New Project: Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families

Here is the list of family names that signed up at Festa Italiana 2012 to contribute to our new project: "Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families". If you do not see your name on this list, please send an e-mail to [e.fedeli@comcast.net](mailto:e.fedeli@comcast.net). On the e-mail please include the following items: Family Names that you are planning to research, your name, your phone number and your e-mail address. It will be an exciting new or to continue for you and your family!

Perrecone, Fedeli, Martignoni, Di Verdi, DeCori/Correnti, Cantele/Mazzola, Riganti/Notari, Tarara, Scalise, Scalisi, Juliano, Mandell, Bianchi/Bonzi, Marelli, Parrinello, Parlapiano/Zinna, Armato, Calacurcio, Gucciardo, Tomasini, Lamia/Galvanoni, Rini/Annerino, Provenzano, Biondo, Frisella, Castree, Di Lorenzo, Alongi, Mauro, Lungo, Falzone, Maffioli, Cascio, Boenzi, Bianci/Dimarzio, Valentine, Cacciatore/Prinzevalle, Casazza, Cascio/Mandell, Spataro, Borgetti/DeCori/ Gugliuzza/Calvana, Lazzio/Caccioppo/DiGiovanni, Ruggero/Rongere, LaLoggia/Cavallaro, Saporito/Bocanelli, Castelli/Castano/Perrone and Giammalva/Cascio. We will be holding sessions at the Ethnic Heritage Museum on Sunday afternoons to help you with the process. and also answer any questions you might have at that time.



## Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families by Frank Perrecone, Chairman GRIAA

There have been several books and histories written over the years about Rockford Italian-Americans and their families. The last book I recall was written by Vincent LasCasas, entitled *Non Dimenticare: Italian Immigration to Rockford 1878-1998*.

I don't know about you, but the first thing I do when a new book is published about Rockford Italian-Americans and their families is flip to the index and see if my family is included in the book. If so, I immediately go to that page, read what is written and buy the book. Often, my uncle Peter Perrecone or the Perrecone family business is mentioned. I have yet to find anything written about the Saporito side of my family, even though they worked hard, led good lives, and raised wonderful families with their wives. This sounds like nearly all Italian-American families that settled in Rockford. Yet, perhaps because of space limitations, these families have not received the recognition they deserve in these past publications.

**Now, GRIAA is offering you the chance to share your family's history in its new publication.**

GRIAA is reaching out to all Rockford Italian-American families. Under the guidance of Gene and Shirley Fedeli, GRIAA kicked off at Festa Italiana a four-year project entitled *Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families*. We want your family history included! It's easy to write. And our book will include your submitted photograph.

**For directions on how to write your immigration history, go to this web page:**

**<http://www.griaa.net/culture-education-committee>**

**On this page you will find examples of submitted immigration histories, scroll down to the photographs below the written directions. Attached here below is a new family history page sent in by Mike Saunders about his grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Guidi.**



I am Charles Michael (Mike) Saunders the grandson of Noé Carlo (Charles) Guidi and Tecla Giuseppa Marelli. Charles was born in Borsano, Varese, Italy on May 12, 1876, the son of Angiolo Guidi and Angiola Sassi, and my grandmother Tecla Marelli was born in Bolladello,

Varese, Italy on August 19, 1882, the daughter of Innocente (Samuel) Marelli and Giuseppa Teresa Marelli. Charles left Borsano at the age of 16 and immigrated to the United States with his brother Carlo Gerolamo Guidi, age 23. They were given permission to leave Italy by King Umberto I on November 13, 1892 at Gallarate, Lombardia, Italy, Registration No. 26, and Passport No. 1226. They arrived in the United States at Ellis Island, after a winter transit of the Atlantic, on February 3, 1893 aboard the India. Upon arrival Charles took the train alone to Rockford and his brother Carlo went to Brookline, Massachusetts, where he died in 1951. Tecla arrived in the United States when she was six months old. Tecla, her mother Teresa, brother Stefano and her uncle Charles Marelli arrived at Castle Garden, New York, on March 28, 1883 aboard the Chateau Leoville and then traveled to Rockford to join her father who came to Rockford before 1882. The Marelli family was one of the first Italian families in Rockford joining the Maffiolis who arrived shortly before. Charles and Tecla were married at St. Mary's Church Rockford on November 4, 1899. Upon his arrival in Rockford, Charles worked as a shoemaker until ca. 1923 when he began working as a carpenter which he did for the remainder of this life. Charles was also a charter member of the Columbia Band, comprised of young Italian men, which was chartered in 1899 and played the bass horn. Charles and Tecla had six children, Steven Angelo (Burnetta Alma Upton); Alice (Sister Frances Regina, Sister of Loretto); Mary Margaret; Catherine Louise (Edward J. Gallagher); Margaret Mary (Arthur Francis Keith); and, Rose Francis (Henry Joseph Saunders). Charles died on May 11, 1967 and Tecla died on March 16, 1947.

Submitted by Mike Saunders on August 17, 2012 for the Genealogy Project--Culture and Education Committee of GRIAA **"Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families"**

You may also contact Gene Fedeli at [e.fedeli@comcast.net](mailto:e.fedeli@comcast.net) to have your name included in our data base for this project. We will be holding sessions at the Ethnic Heritage Museum on Sunday afternoons to help you with the process and also answer any questions you might have at that time.

**If your family is not included in GRIAA's book, *Immigration Histories of Rockford Italian Families*, it is because no one from your family submitted the required information to us. Don't flip to the index of our book and be disappointed that your family is not included. Be part of Rockford Italian-American history by giving us your information.**



# Welcome to the Many Islands of Italy!

No doubt you have heard that "No man is an island". But do you have any idea as to how many islands Italy has? (some of which "No man inhabits!")

But never fear as we will introduce you to many of the smaller islands that embrace the seas of our great land. As you read through this Fall 2012 Pappagallo, you also will realize that some of the islands that were here yesterday, are gone tomorrow...are you not curious as to why? Read on, my dear people...Grab an espresso get comfortable and find your spectacles. Let us begin!

## The island of Asinara

Asinara is located north-west of Sardinia about 180 miles west of mainland Italy. The first human traces can be found in prehistory with the "*domus de ianas*" (sprites' houses) built of soft limestone, unique to the island. For its central position in the Mediterranean, Asinara was already known and enjoyed by Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans; and in the Middle Ages monks from Camaldoli settled there devoting themselves to agriculture.

In the late 700's, shepherds from Sardinia and Liguria colonized the island until 1885 when all 500 inhabitants had to move away to let the isle becoming a penal colony and a quarantine station (as decided by King Umberto di Savoia, remember Italy was not united at this time). During the Great War it was a concentration camp for many thousands of Austro-Hungarian soldiers. Later over 5000 soldiers died on the island and were buried in a dedicated charnel house. In the 1970's it became a high security prison for convicts of organized crimes, also imprisoning the most dangerous criminals of the Red Brigade. Today, the island has but one human inhabitant, a former guard at the prison who decided to remain on the island and pursue a future as a sculptor when the prison closed in 1998.

Asinara has a unique National Park. The National Park is set up on the basis of governmental Acts 394/91 and 344/97 and has been managed up to now by a provisional managing committee. By Presidential Decree on the 3rd October 2002 it was officially set as the Park and the Park body for protected areas.

Asinara has come a long way since its dark days as a top Italian Mafia prison. This tiny island is visited by many animal lovers to see the rare and occasionally lovelorn white donkeys gambol free. Violently-torn donkey ears are a common sight, scars from the fights these peaceful-looking animals get into in the hope of conquering their heart's desire.

Local legend has it that a French king on his way back from Africa left a few of the beasts on the Mediterranean island before continuing his journey.

Italy has seven species of donkey, of which two are on Asinara, the only place with white donkeys: this is a priceless heritage (see photo).

The island's arid coast is spotted with euphorbia and other brightly colored wildflowers, some very rare. The snaking footpath leads past some Roman ruins, whose peace is disturbed only by passing flocks of sheep, goat and the white donkeys!



Wild donkeys on the island of Asinara, Italy. The small white donkey of Asinara is an albino variant of the more common Sardinian donkey

## Sanctuary of the Barbana Island

The Barbana Island is situated at the eastern tip of the lagoon of Grado and features an ancient Marian sanctuary. A primitive sepulchre was built on the island in the 6th century which, according to tradition, had to preserve a holy image of the Virgin transported in that place by the sea after a storm and later erected, by order of the Patriarch of Grado Elia (571-588), to thank the Virgin for saving the town of Grado.

A community of Franciscan Friars live on the island. Its name probably derives from Barbano, a sixth-century hermit who had settled on it gathering a community of monks. The Sanctuary, in its current form, dates back to the 1926 renovation. Its high bell tower can be seen from far away, thus being a point of reference of the lagoon of Grado. This picturesque island, an oasis of peace and of ancient traditions, has always been a pilgrimage destination. A regular boat service leaves from the Schiusa Canal, links the Barbana Island to Grado. The trip lasts about 20 minutes. The island can also be reached by private boats and is provided with a small port.

## The "Perdon di Barbana" - 1st Sunday of July

Since 1237, on every first Sunday of July, the community of Grado goes in procession on boats dressed with flags to the Barbana Island, to renew the ancient vow to the Virgin who saved the town from terrible epidemic. This dates back to when the Patriarch of Grado, Leonardo Querini, summoned the fathers of families and decided to make a vow to the Madonna of Barbana. According to this vow, every year and perpetually, at least one person from each family of Grado is to take part in the procession that, across the lagoon, reaches the small Barbana Island, getting to "our queen of the sea and of our lagoon", to ask the **Madonna of Barbana** for forgiveness - "perdon". The



house of spiritual exercises is open all year round for groups and individuals according to possibilities. Add this to your northern trip to Italy!

## San Pietro Island

It is located off the south western coast of Sardinia, Italy and is the sixth largest island in area. The 6,000 inhabitants are mostly concentrated in the fishing town of Carloforte, the only *comune* in the island. The island is of volcanic origin. The coasts are mostly rocky with some natural grottoes, unprotected landings, with a few small beaches. While the eastern coast, on which the port of Carloforte lies, is more protected low and sandy.

The island has no rivers or streams, but features numerous ponds and marshes. The vegetation is that typical of the Mediterranean coast, with, Mastic, Strawberry Tree, Juniper, Aleppo Pine and Holm Oak. Cultivation especially in the eastern region includes grape and Indian fig. The western part with the prevailing wind, the Mistral, is arid. The climate is temperate-hot.

The island has been known since ancient times. The Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans settled there.

According to a legend, St. Peter visited the island in 46 AD, whence the modern name.

In the 18th century the uninhabited San Pietro was colonized by Ligurian speaking people coming from the Republic of Genoa. Today most of the population has retained a variant of Genoese dialect, called *Tabarchino*, which is also spoken in the northern part of the next Sant'Antioco island, in Calasetta, of same origin.

## Ferdinandea

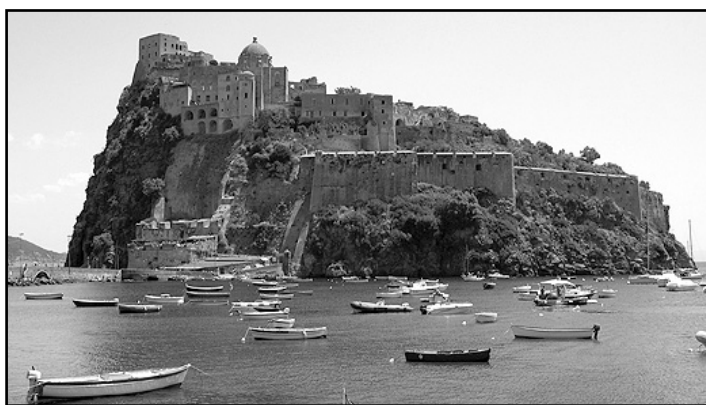
Ferdinandea is a submerged volcanic island which forms part of the underwater volcano Empedocles, south of Sicily, and which is one of a number of submarine volcanoes known as the Campi Flegrei del Mar di Sicilia. Currently a seamount, eruptions have raised it above sea level several times before erosion has caused it to submerge again. When it last rose above sea level after erupting in 1831, a four-way dispute over its sovereignty began, which was still unresolved when it disappeared beneath the waves again in early 1832. Some observers at the time wondered if a chain of mountains would spring up, linking Sicily to Tunisia and thus upsetting the geopolitics of the region. More recently, it has showed signs of volcanic activity in 2000 and 2002, forecasting a possible appearance; however, as of 2006 it remains 20 feet under sea level. Don't we love the "ups and downs" of our Sicilian life styles?

## The Flegrean Islands

Italian: *Isole Flegree* are an archipelago located in southern Italy near the Gulf of Naples and are made up of the islands of Ischia, Procida, Vivara, Capri and Nisida. They are also known in the ancient world as the Pheligrean Islands. Capri is usually not included as one of the islands since it does not belong to the geologic area. In the classi-

cal era the Flegree islands were called Pithecussae, Greek for "islands of the monkeys." The myth tells of two brigands who played pranks on Zeus, who then punished them by turning them into monkeys and exiling them to the islands of Aenaria (Ischia) and Prochyta (Procida).

Another Greek myth, inconsistent with the preceding one, says that Zeus was fighting with two Titans, one called Typhon and the other Miming. The clash ended with the defeat of the two Titans, and that they were punished by Zeus by being buried under two mountains of rock: Tifeo under Ischia and Miming under Procida. This version of the myth could be significant as a clue to how the ancient Greeks attempted to account for volcanism of the whole area. The resulting changes in the islands were due to the frequent intervention of a deity.



Ischia

## Ischia

Ischia (Italian pronunciation: [ˈiskia]) is a volcanic island in the Tyrrhenian Sea. It lies at the northern end of the Gulf of Naples, about 30 km from the city of Naples. It is the largest of the Phlegrean Islands. It is almost entirely mountainous, the highest peak being Mount Epomeo. The island has a population of over 60,000 people.

The main industry is tourism, centering on thermal spas that cater mostly to European (especially German) and Asian tourists eager to enjoy the fruits of the island's natural volcanic activity, the thermal hot springs, and volcanic mud. For many of the inhabitants on the Italian-speaking island, German and English are second languages]. This is because of the large number of German- and English-speaking tourists who visit the island each year.

The current name appears for the first time in a letter from Pope Leo III to Charlemagne in 813 (*iscla* from *insula*) though there is an argument made for a Semitic origin in *Ischra*, "black island". An acropolis site of the Monte Vico area was inhabited from the Bronze Age, as Mycenaean and Iron Age pottery finds attest for trade with the Etruscans of the mainland. This settlement was home not only to Greeks, but a mixed population of Greek, Etruscan and Phoenician inhabitants. Because of its fine harbor and the safety from raids afforded by the sea, the settlement of Pithecussae became successful through trade in iron and with mainland Italy; at its peak, Pithecussae was home to about 10,000 people.

Today, Ischia is a popular tourist destination, welcoming

*continued on next page*





up to 6 million visitors per year, mainly from the Italian mainland as well as Germany (approximately 5,000 Germans are resident on the island), although it has become an increasingly popular destination for the well-to-do Eastern Europeans particularly Russia and Poland. Ischia is easily reached by ferry from Naples, with an approximate travel time of between 40 minutes and one hour. The number of thermal spas on the islands makes it particularly popular with tourists seeking "wellness" holidays.

## **Ischia in literature and the arts**

The British classical composer William Walton settled in Ischia in 1949 and lived on the island for the remainder of his life, dying there in 1983. In 1948, American author Truman Capote stayed in room number 3 in the Pensione Lustro in the town of Forio on the island. He wrote an essay about his stay there, which later appeared in *Local Color*, published in 1950 by Random House. Parts of the Hollywood film *The Talented Mr Ripley* were filmed on the island. Samuel Taylor's Broadway play *Avanti!* takes place on the island and Billy Wilder's adaptation was filmed there. Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen lived on the island for a short period, and is said to have finished *Peer Gynt* there in 1867. The Hollywood Hit *The Crimson Pirate* was also filmed on the island. French novelist Pascal Quignard set much of his book *Villa Amalia* on the island. *Cleopatra* with Elizabeth Taylor was also filmed on the island. Hergé's *The Adventures of Tintin* ends in Ischia, which serves as the location of Endadine Akass's villa in the unfinished book *Tintin and Alph-Art*. From June to July 2012 there is the tenth edition of Ischia Film Festival.

Today, the castle is the most visited monument of the island. It is accessed through a tunnel with large openings which let the light enter. Along the tunnel there is a small chapel consecrated to Saint John Joseph of the Cross, the patron saint of the island. A more comfortable access is also possible with a modern lift.

## **Nisida**

In ancient times Lucullus built a villa on Nisida. Marcus Brutus also had a holiday villa there. Cicero's letters record visiting Brutus there. He also may have agreed with Cassius on the assassination of Julius Caesar there. The claim is made that some of archaeological remains on Nisida are, indeed, those of the villa of Brutus. There may have been a monastery there in the 7th century and in the 16th century a castle was built. In the 19th century, Nisida was the site of an infamous Bourbon prison that gained notoriety when - after a visit to the prison in 1851 - William Ewart Gladstone wrote exposing the harsh conditions. Gladstone coined the now famous description of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies as "the negation of God erected into a system of Government." Indignation throughout Europe was partially responsible for the at least partial bettering of such conditions in the prison. During the Second World War, the island was occupied by British Army and

used by them as a prison facility. At least one execution of a war criminal (by firing squad) took place there during this time. From 1946 through 1961 the island was home to the Accademia Aeronautica, the Italian Air Force Academy. Today, Nisida is divided now between a naval headquarters belonging to NATO and a juvenile detention facility.

## **Vivara**

Vivara flanks Procida to the south-west and is connected to it by a bridge. Vivara is a crescent-shaped remnant ridge of an ancient volcanic crater, part of the Phlegraean Fields. It is now a nature reserve. Giuseppe De Lorenzo described it thus: "What remains without darkness and without mysteries, outside the doubt and eternal uncertainty of scientific analysis, limpid and clear in the light of day, is the pure aesthetic vision of the crater Vivara, rising from the crashing sea with a sweet and harmonious form, its cliffs hues of hot colors, expressing from her breast a green mantle of herbs and plants, on which laughs a perpetual spring."

Main sights: Aragona Castle, Garden of La Mortella, and Villa Ravino and the Villa Colombaia. The beautiful beaches are Maronti and Bay of Sorgeto with hot thermal springs, and Poseden Gardens with the spasssss, ahhhhh!

## **From Arturo's Island by Elsa Morante**

"Ah, I would not ask to be a seagull,  
not a dolphin,  
I would be content to be a scorfano,  
That is, the ugliest fish in the sea, just to find myself down there,  
playing in that water."

In the bay of Naples are three islands: Capri known for the Blue grotto and chic nightlife, Ischia with summer homes for Neapolitans and thermal baths visited by Germans year round, and little Procida unknown to tourists except as the first stop of the hydrofoil on the way to Ischia. The streets of the town are lined by high walls behind which are houses surrounded by lemon groves, grape arbors and abundant gardens (volcanic soil) filled with tomato plants, potatoes and green vegetables. The back of the gardens look out to the sea...the center of life for the Procida native (Procidano). The high school on the island is a technical maritime school. The oldest nautical college in Italy is on Procida. Graduates go to sea on freighters, cruise ships and ferries or hydrofoils that ply the Mediterranean. Of the 8000 residents about 1/3 are at sea (a bordo) at any given time. The dream of every Procidano is to retire to his island. He/she will spend his old age fishing, making wine, bottling tomato preserves and telling tales of the exotic places that they have visited. (Our next door neighbor grows Beefsteak tomatoes from seed he brought back from Brooklyn.) If you want to bring a present to a local, they love Hersey Kisses because their family a bordo would bring Kisses to the children when they return from a voyage. There are only a few Procidani





immigrants in the US and Australia.

There are some small hotels and good seafood restaurants. The fishermen village Corricella is filled with pastel colored little houses. Small motor boats and sail boats fill the harbors in the summer months and motor vehicles (including scooters) cannot circulate from about 8PM til 7 AM. (Nice!) The Procidani want to keep their little island a charming little garden in the middle of the sea.  
Written by Karen Maxwell

## Bergeggi

The little island of Bergeggi is located in the Riviera di Ponente in the province of Savona. It is part of the Regional protected area of Bergeggi.

The natural environment includes Mediterranean scrub. On the cliffs washed by the waves, visitors can find unique species as the campanula sabatia and the euphorbia dendroides.

The surrounding area includes marine conservation areas with important biological species in its sea beds.

The island has several signs which prove humans settled on the island since Roman times. Here you can find a very ancient circular sighting tower and the ruins of a Roman church dedicated to St. Eugenio, which dates back to the fourth century.

In 992, the bishop of Savona ordered the construction of a monastery on the island to pay homage to the saint, and it was given as a gift to the Colombian monks of Lérins, the monks of St. Colombano.

During the Middle Ages, another sighting tower was built on the ruins of the Roman one. On the western part of the island, you can view the pifferaio (Pied piper), a metal statue which represents a sitting human figure who plays a wind instrument. According to reports, the statue represents a shepherd who's calling a little goat which is in the gardens of the promontory in front of the island. In this area, it is strictly forbidden to have any activity that would disturb the animal and plant species, such as swimming, navigation, anchorage, mooring, use of water motors, water skiing, underwater fishing, fishing, but peaceful and calming.

## Italian Island Languages

**Tabarchin** (*Tabarchino* in Italian) is a Ligurian dialect spoken on the islands of San Pietro and Sant'Antioco in southwest Sardinia. It was originally brought to the island of Tabarka, modern-day Tunisia, by coral fishermen from Genova in northern Italy in the 16th century. In the 18th century, due to political and social problems, these Ligurian communities left Tabarka and landed on the Sardinian islands. Tabarchin, unlike most minority languages, is still heavily spoken in these communities, even by the younger generations.

Tabarchin is very similar, though not identical, to Ligurian Genovese. The former tends to be more linguistically conservative than the latter, and has adopted some vocabulary from its Arab and Sardinian surroundings. Conversely, Tabarchin also lost some of its superfluous vocabulary—

such as ice, frost and snow—which was no longer relevant in Africa and southern Sardinia.

Proverbs:

Tabarchino: Nu esiste pignatta senza cuerciù.

Italiano: Non esiste pentola senza (il suo) coperchio.

English: Every pot has its own lid.

Tabarchino: Vò ciù a pràtica che a grammàtica.

Italiano: Vale più la pratica che la grammatica.

English: Practice is better than theory.

Proverbs from:

<http://www.charlieonline.it/ProvProverbs.html>

**Pantiscu** (*Pantesco* in Italian) is a Sicilian dialect spoken on the island of Pantelleria. Pantelleria is a part of the Province of Trapani and thus of the autonomous Sicilian Region of Italy. It is situated only 37 miles from the coast of Tunisia and 62 miles to the southwest of Sicily.

As a dialect of the Sicilian language Pantiscu is linguistically similar to the other Sicilian dialects, however, due to the island's proximity to the Maghreb and relative isolation from Sicily, it does exhibit some differences. For example, its vocabulary tends to be more conservative, e.g. *esti* "he is," which persists from Latin *esti*, despite more common, modern forms *è*, *èni*, etc. Its vocabulary and phonology also reflect its Arab surroundings. For example, in Pantiscu we find words like *runcuni* "corner" and *mineci* "freckles" which are derived from Maltese *rokna* and *nèmx* respectively. The Greek  $\chi$  is also present in Pantiscu, a remnant of past Arabic influences.

Vocabulary

Pantiscu: haninu [Arabic *ḥanīn*]

Italian: bello

English: handsome

Pantiscu: habba [Arabic *ḥabb*]

Italiano: nocciolo (di pesca/albicocca)

English: pit (of a peach/apricot)

Researched by Carlo Mattia Scalisi

## Gallinara

The Gallinara Regional Park is a rocky and luxuriant island just on mile off the Albenga beach near the north-western sea near Liguria. It has been inhabited since ancient times.

Its name is derived from the many wild hens ("galline" in Italian) living on the island and mentioned by Latin writers. From documents we know that St. Martin de Tours lived here from 356 to 360 A.D. Later, a community of hermits was founded on the island. A monastery was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Martin run by the Benedictines. They became extremely rich and powerful. In the 15th century the island passed to the Albenga church and since last century it is private property.

The typical Mediterranean flora covers this island and it is a fond refuge for many species of birds. The entrance is forbidden unless you have a very special permit. But the surrounding view is spectacular of the deep blue sea. A wonderful place for swimming, tanning and boating and from the tourist point of view it is a beautiful underwater world. It is also archaeologically protected but one can view the wreck of the 1st century ship lying on its side. The Naval Museum is open for tourists.



## The Maddalena Archipelago



This group of islands is located in the Straits of Bonifacio between Corsica and northeastern Sardinia, Italy. It consists of seven main islands and numerous other small islets.

The largest island is Isola Maddalena, on which sits the archipelago's largest town, La Maddalena. The other six islands, in order of size, are: Caprera, Spargi, Santo Stefano, Santa Maria, Budelli and Razzoli. Only Maddalena, Caprera and S. Stefano are inhabited! Lying adjacent to the famous tourist resort of the Costa Smeralda, Maddalena shares the same crystal clear waters and granite coastlines yet remains a haven for wildlife. It is a designated National Park and is especially popular among boaters. In 2006 it was placed on the tentative list for consideration as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The islands have been inhabited since prehistoric times. They were known by the Romans as *Cunicularia* and were a busy shipping area during the second and 1st century B.C. The Maddalenas have always held strategic value and were first the object of a war between the maritime republics of Pisa and Genoa in the 13th century. Later, they were colonized again by Corsican shepherds and by the first Sardinian settlements in the 16th century. Napoleon Bonaparte, Admiral Nelson and particularly Giuseppe Garibaldi all have historical links with the area. Today, the island of S. Stefano houses a NATO naval base, but was closed in 2008. The main access into and out of the archipelago is via the frequent car ferries from nearby Palau on Sardinia that run into La Maddalena.

## Let's visit some of the well-travelled Italian Islands...

Isola Comacina is a small wooded island of Italy's Lake Como, a lake of glacial origin in Lombardy, Italy and the country's third largest lake, after Lake Garda and Lake Maggiore. At more than 1320 feet deep, it is one of the deepest lakes in Europe. In 1919, the island was given to Belgium, in honor of King Albert 1 and was given back the following year.

Isola del Garda is the largest island on Italy's largest lake, Lake Garda. It has been inhabited since Roman times. It is home to a privately-owned historic manor, with a spectacular mountain view, and surrounded by Italian and English-style gardens, that was built at the beginning on the 20th century, and used for special occasions such as weddings. The beautiful English-style landscaped gardens are surrounded by woods. It is believed St. Francis of Assisi walked those woods.

Lago d'Iseo or Lake Iseo is the fourth largest lake in Lombardy, Italy, fed by the Oglio River. It is in the northern part of the country, near the cities of Brescia and Bergamo and the lake is almost equally divided between the two provinces. In the middle of the lake is Monte Isola or Montisola, an island of outstanding natural beauty in an otherwise heavy industrialized area. It is the largest lake island in all of Italy and South and Central Europe and has a population of about 2,000.

The Borromean Islands are a group of three small islands and two islets in the Italian part of Lake Maggiore, a large lake on the south side of the Alps. Totalling just about 50 acres, the islands are named after the family that acquired them in the early 16th century and still owns the majority of them.

Isola Bella was originally a large barren rock, until the mid-1600s, when large amount of soil were brought in to build up a system of ten terraces for the garden of a summer palace that was built. Isola Madre is the largest of the three islands, and is noted for its English-style gardens and a palace furnished with 16th to 19th century Italian masterpieces and paintings. Isola dei Pescatori is the only inhabited island in the chain, and is mainly a fishing village of about 200 people. The family made many attempts in the late 16th century to own Isolino di San Giovanni, with plans to build a Barnabite (Catholic order) college. They acquired the island in 1632 and instead built a palazzo and gardens. A well-known resident who lived there in the 1930s and 40s was conductor Arturo Toscanini.

Isola San Giulio is an island within Lake Orta in Piedmont in northwestern, Italy. The lake is in northern Italy, west of Lake Maggiore. The small island is known for its picturesque buildings, the most famous being the Basilica of Saint Giulio and an old Seminary which was transformed into a Benedictine monastery in 1976.

Lake Trasimene is the largest lake in the Italian peninsula, south of the Po River. Isola Polvese is the largest island on the lake. Isola Maggiore is the second largest island on the lake, which is located in central Italy's region of Umbria. It is the only inhabited island on the lake, with a population of less than 50. It is believed St. Francis of Assisi lived on the island as a hermit from 1211. The 12th century Church of Saint Michael was built there and a Franciscan Monastery was established in 1328. The Guglielmi castle was added to the monastery in the 1880s and is now in the process of being turned into a luxury resort. Isola Minore, the smallest of the three islands, is covered by woodlands and is a nesting site for Cormorants, a coastal bird related to the pelican.

The Pontine Islands are a group of islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea off the west coast of Italy. The islands were



named after the largest one in the group, Ponza. Other islands in the archipelago are Palmarola, Zannone, and Gavi to the northwest and Ventotene and Santo Stefano to the southeast. The two groups are separated by 22 nautical miles. The string of islands is the result of volcanic activity and the two largest islands are populated, while the others are not. During the time of Caesar and the Fascist regime, the two largest islands were used to exile political protesters. Vineyards, herbs and flowers, secluded beaches and grottos make them a popular tourist destination.

The Tuscan Archipelago is a group of islands between the Ligurian and Tyrrhenian seas, west of Tuscany, Italy. The chain includes the islands of Gorgona, Capraia, Elba, Pianosa, Montecristo, Giglio and Giannutri, all of which are part of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park. Because of their location near major cities, the islands are a popular tourist destination. Elba and Montecristo are the most well-known islands in this group. Elba was known for its iron resources and the fumes from furnaces for metal production gave it the Green nickname Aethalia, meaning fumes.

French emperor Napoleon I was exiled to Elba after his forced abdication in 1814. At the time, the island was patrolled by the British Navy. During his time on the island, he carried out many economic and social reforms to improve the quality of life. He stayed there for 300 days and returned to France. After his defeat at Waterloo, he was exiled again to a South Atlantic island. Elba is best known for its connection to Napoleon. The island became part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1860. Formiche di Grosseto is a small group of islands in the Tuscan Archipelago, the largest of the three small islands is home to a lighthouse. Sant'Antioco is the name of an island and a community in southwestern Sardinia and has a population of about 12,000. It is the second largest island of the region, after Sardinia itself and is connected to Cagliari by bridge. Tavolara is a small island off the northeast coast of Sardinia. Most of the population was displaced in 1962 when a NATO radio goniometric station was built on the island's east side. Equipment there is used for transmitting messages to submarines. The island and the surrounding waters are part of the Tavolara and Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Preserve, created in 1997.

San Pietro is off the southwestern coast of Sardinia. The few thousand people living on the island are mostly concentrated in the fishing village of Carloforte. This island is of volcanic origin with mostly steep, rocky coastlines. The interior is also hilly, with vegetation typical of the Mediterranean coast.

## **Vin Brule**

As we enter into the cool months of fall, try this favorite old Northern recipe.

Easy to create in large batches, for friends that you know will drop in.

1 bottle full bodied Italian red wine  
2-3 cinnamon sticks  
1 cup sugar  
4-6 cloves

1 grated orange zest  
1 grated lemon zest

Place all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Cover and cook on high heat.

When it starts to boil, remove lid and light with a match...be careful! As a large flame with burst out. When the flame dies down, filter with a fine strainer and ladle into your finest heavy pottery Italian mugs,,,mmmm.

Thank you Fra Noi for the info!

## **Aglio, Olio Pepperoncino**

This is a hot sauce, best served with spaghetti, spaghetti-ni or linguine. Its contrast, the bite of pepper and the flavor of garlic colored with the fresh taste of parsley.

### **Sauce**

3 red pepper pods, seeded  
3 cloves of garlic  
1/3 cup olive oil  
2 tbs. chopped fresh parsley

### **Pasta**

6 quarts of water  
6 tbs. Salt  
1 ¼ pounds pasta

Sauté the pepper pods and garlic in the olive oil in a small frying pan over medium heat. When the garlic is golden and the pepper dark brown, remove them from the oil and turn off the heat.

Cook and drain the pasta thoroughly and put it on a warm serving platter or in a warm bowl. Sprinkle with the parsley. Bring the flavored olive oil to a high heat and pour it over the pasta. Turn and mix so that all the pasta is covered with the oil and the parsley is well distributed. Serve immediately. Lino says that this is a simple dish but very good!

Lino Gnesda

## **Piccata Di Vitello**

Veal slices, pounded thin, floured, and cooked in butter, and then generously covered with a white wine and lemon sauce. This is a basic recipe used for white meat of chicken as well as veal. It gives a taste of both delicacy and sharpness that is hard to beat!

½ pounds veal round, sliced 1/8 inch thick  
½ cup flour  
6 tabs. unsalted butter  
1 tsp. salt or to taste  
½ cup dry white wine  
Juice of ½ lemon  
Sprigs of parsley

Cut veal into 6 to 10 very thin slices. Pound them to make them uniform and more tender. Flour them by pressing them in the flour and patting them gently to get as much as possible to adhere.

Melt the butter in a large frying pan over medium heat and add the veal slices. Turn them the minute their edges whiten, salt them lightly. When both sides are done, pour



in the wine, and let bubble until vapors cease to "tingle" the nose. Add the juice of ½ lemon and stir gently with a wooden spoon. Cook a moment more. Serve with the sprigs of parsley on a warm platter.

Lino Gnesda

## Isole Tremiti

The Isole Tremiti are an archipelago in the Adriatic Sea. They constitute a comune of Italy's Province of Foggia and form part of the Gargano national park. The name of the islands relates to their history of earthquakes in the area. (*tremi* means "tremors")

The islands were used for the internment of political prisoners during Benito Mussolini's Fascist regime. This was nothing new since two millennia earlier Augustus Caesar had exiled his granddaughter Julia the Younger to one of these islands!

The islands are now an important tourist attraction because of the clear waters surrounding them. Up to 100,000 visitors come to the islands in the summer season. Ferry services from the mainland operate from many nearby parts of the mainland.

San Domino is the most developed island for tourism and has the only sand beach in the archipelago.

San Nicola is where most of the population resides. It is the site of a monastery where a monk named Nicolò was buried. Legend has it that every time someone tried to move his corpse off the island, a violent storm would break out, preventing navigation around the island.

Capraia (or *Capperia*) is deserted.

Cretaccio is a large block of clay and thus uninhabited.

Pianosa is a small, uninhabited island. Its maximum elevation is 15 meters. Sometimes, during storms, the waves cover it.

Inhabited since late Iron Age the Tremiti have been a confinement place since ancient times.. In the Middle Ages the archipelago was ruled by the Abbey of Santa Maria a Mare ("Holy Mary on the Sea") at San Nicola island, founded in the 9th century by Benedictine monks from Montecassino. In 1412 the Lateran Canons took the ownership, and restored the abbey with cisterns and fortification which withstood the assault of Ottoman ships in 1567. The abbey was suppressed in 1783 by King Ferdinand IV of Naples, who instituted a penal colony. During the Napoleonic age the islands were a stronghold of Joachim Murat's supporters, who resisted in the fortress to a British naval fleet in 1809. In 1843, to repopulate the islands, King Ferdinand II of Two Sicilies moved here numerous people from Naples' slums, who mostly became fishermen.

In 1911 about 1,300 Libyans that opposed colonial Italian rule were confined to Tremiti. After one year, around one-third of the people died, mainly from typhus. During the Fascist era, the archipelago continued to perform its function of confinement, detaining, among others, Amerigo Dumini and future president of the Republic Sandro Pertini. In May 2012 the provincial government caused a scandal by attempting to sell-off blocks of land on two of the

islands for development for a reported €4m. Local environmental groups campaigned vigorously and the result was no bidders.

## Family Tree Researcher Uncovers Deep Italian Roots in Rockford

Steven Salvato has done years of research and spent endless hours at the computer satisfying his curiosity about his own family history. Unlike other people, though, his love for making the past come alive didn't stop there. His mission statement is "all Italians are related," and so his "detective" work continues more than a decade later to unravel the mysteries of the past and make the present clearer for many people with Italian and Sicilian heritage. It's a journey worth traveling.

That's his motivation for Italian family history that began with his own family in 1999, and has grown into a data base filled with more than 92,000 names spanning 10 generations, with the majority being of Italian descent with ties to Rockford, IL. His oldest record is from 1670.

"I take great pride in my heritage and to me family history is more than names and dates, but rather it is reflective of the culture. Our ancestors took great pains and sacrificed much to settle in this country and I believe it is our responsibility to remember them," he said.

Salvato, 44, was born in Rockford, grew up in Durand, IL and currently lives in Loves Park. He is proud of his heritage and said he feels "privileged" to be 100 percent Sicilian, learning so much from his ancestors. It is very rare, in today's terms, to have ancestry from only one region. Even while living in Rockford, people from certain regions of Italy lived in their own neighborhoods. That started changing in the 1960's.

"I have a strong base for traditional Italian customs and I learned to respect and cherish those experiences. I was always interested in learning about my family because of the historical aspect. I got a computer program to search out names and dates of my immediate family, but I kept going," he said.

He has worked 22 years as a probation officer for Winnebago County. While helping people be accountable for their lives by day, his nights involve another check system of how people got to where they are today, adding branches to family trees.

"I was always interested in history. It was my major in college. I look at genealogy as history and I love research. It's more than just names and dates; I learn about families, trends and the culture," he said. Italian customs and culture are important when researching the past.

Depending on what village a person comes from, the names common to that village often reflect the patron saint of that area. Certain first names are common in villages. Girls in a family will often have the same first name, being known by their middle name. If a female or male baby dies, the family will give that name to the next baby of the same gender, until one survives. If a spouse dies, the one who remains will sometimes marry an in-law -- out of respect. The more you go back in time, the more likely

*continued on next page*



you will find family origins in another village because it was often tradition to move to the wife's village after marriage, he said.

It is also common for an Italian name to have another name in America, leaving people stumped in their search for family origins. For example, Alex is a common name for Calogero. The female version of the name ends in an "a." Then, to complicate matters, names change.

Mistakes were made in documentation during immigration, and were never corrected. Other misspellings occurred.

For example, Cassioppi is a name not found in Italy, yet it's a well-known name in the Rockford area. The original spelling is Cacioppo. An elderly family member explained that generations earlier, a teacher misspelled the name and it stuck. Another name, Cioppa, became Chioppi. One name can be spelled many ways, yet they are all connected, Steven explained.

Various regions will spell the same name differently. Rotolo can be Rotulo; DiGiovanni can be DiGiovanna; Ferruggia can be Farruggia; and Fedeli can be Fedele. A few Italians changed their names so they could avoid discrimination and get a job.

"Every ethnic group at some time in history has had to face prejudice against them. For Italians, it was when they were coming over to America," he said.

Most Rockford Italians are from primarily four regions: Lombardia, Veneto, Lazio, and Sicilia. Many families also have ancestral connections with Louisiana, Chicago, Boston, New York, Kansas City, Bureau County, IL and Southern, IL.

Most local Italians came through ports of entry at New Orleans, New York, or Boston.

"A lot of people don't know about their family history because most immigrants to America were born in small villages and the only reason they came to America was because they were poor and needed a new life. Those who lived in the city were not as likely to be poor, and for the poor who lived there, they had resources available to them. People came here because they wanted a better life and they were hungry," he said.

Those who worked in the sulfur mines in Italy settled in Southern Illinois to work in the coal mines. Many Italians were among the more than 200 people killed in the Cherry Mine Disaster of 1909 in Cherry, IL, when a car full of hay caught fire when it passed by a kerosene lamp, causing the supporting structures of the mine to burn down and produce deadly gases.

Uncovering names and dates from the past has been a growing passion among people, especially since computer software has helped them get organized and record data. However, there are dos and don'ts in the world of tracing the past.

It's fine to talk with relatives, but you have to back up what they say with research, he said, because stories change as each person tells their version. Focus on names and dates.

The internet is the best resource and a lot of the information is free. Some of his favorite websites include EllisIsland.org, familyresearch.org, genealogybank.org,

and findagrave.com. The county clerk's office and old newspapers are also good sources.

When you get conflicting information, go with the oldest document. It may not be totally accurate, but chances are its more accurate because it is closer to the event, he said. No clue is too small.

"The littlest thing could open a floodgate of information. I take bits and pieces and put it all together like a jigsaw puzzle. I don't claim every piece of information is accurate, and I am sure there are mistakes, but something is better than nothing."

French Military and political leader Napoleon Bonaparte gets credit for making family research easier. He insisted that civil records be kept, and as a result, birth dates were more accurate. Prior to that time, the only record-keeping was done by churches, which mainly kept baptism dates rather than birth dates.

For more information, contact Steven at [ssalvato@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssalvato@sbcglobal.net).

Written by: Peggy Sagona Werner

## **Celebrate Italian Heritage Month!**



**We will present the movie, "The Rose Tattoo" At the Rockford Public Library Auditorium October 9, Tuesday at 5:30p.m. Reservations needed.**

Call 815-8772-888 or email me [s24fed@comast.net](mailto:s24fed@comast.net)

Anna Magnani was an Italian stage and film actress. She won the Academy Award for Best Actress, along with four other inter-

national awards, for her portrayal of a Sicilian widow in *The Rose Tattoo*. Born in Rome, she worked her way through Rome's Academy of Dramatic Art by singing at night clubs. She was referred to as "La Lupa," the "perennial toast of Rome" and a "living she-wolf symbol" of the cinema. *Time* magazine described her personality as "fiery". In the realm of Italian cinema, she was "passionate, fearless, and exciting," Director Roberto Rossellini called her "the greatest acting genius since Eleonora Duse". Playwright Tennessee Williams became an admirer of her acting and wrote *The Rose Tattoo* specifically for her to star in, a role for which she received her first Oscar in 1955. As early as 1950, *Life* magazine had already stated that Magnani was "one of the most impressive actresses since Garbo".



## **Festivals and holidays of Italy September thru December**

### **September**

Historical Regatta in Venice *Regata Storica*

- 1st Sunday in September (Sept. 2, 21012)
- Celebrated in the canals of Venice
- Dating back to the 13th century, it is the city's largest regatta of the year. The most important races feature rowing between the city's neighborhoods.

### **October**

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi *Festa San Francesco*

- October 4
- Celebrated world-wide but especially in Assisi, his ancestral home.
- The most important feast on the Franciscan calendar, the town of Assisi is illuminated by oil lamps bearing consecrated oil from a different Italian city every year.

### **November**

San Miniato Truffle Fair *La Sagra del Tartufo Bianco*

- Second, third, fourth weekends of November (Nov. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 2012)
- San Miniato, near Pisa in the province of Tuscany
- 25 percent of Italy's white truffles come from this region. Truffles are traditionally harvested in October and November.

### **December**

Saint Nicholas Day *San Nicolo*

- December 6
- Abruzzo region
- Commemorates St. Nicholas when loaves of bread and taralli, hard, round biscuits, are eaten with wine.

1) May your life be like Good Wine, tasty, sharp and clear, and like Good Wine may it improve with every passing year!

2) Many Italians offered their services for the Revolutionary cause and had great influence over the outcome of that war.

Are you familiar with these names: Filippo Mazzei, Giuseppe Vigo and William Paca? Which of these signed the Declaration of Independence?

Let us continue to take pride in our Italian Heritage!

# **LET US NOT FORGET!**



(The above was taken from the Newsletter of the American Sons of Columbus Home for the Aged, Sons and Daughters of Kansas City, Missouri)



The Ethnic Heritage Museum  
Italian Gallery New Exhibit  
Presents  
*"Wandering through Memory Lane"*

Exhibit Dates:

Every Sunday through November 11, 2012

Open Sundays 2- 4 p.m., Donations appreciated

Docent guided tours on other days scheduled by appointment call 815-962-7402

Weekly Tours and Special Events Admission: \$2 student, \$3 adult, \$5 family



See the Italian Gallery photo displays of people, places, and events that showed where Italian families settled in Rockford. Did you shop at Liberty Market with your grandparents or did you have lunch at The Three Trees? Would you like to see a picture of your mother, sister or father from the Washington Junior High School Band?

**Come wander with us.....you might be surprised!**

Visit our website: <http://ethnicheritagemuseum.org> for more events and information on our other five galleries Irish, Polish, Hispanic, African American, and Lithuanian.



Greater Rockford Italian American Association - GRIAA  
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P.O. Box 1915  
Rockford, IL 61110-0415

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**Your editors:**  
**Shirley Martignoni Fedeli,**  
**Gene Fedeli,**  
**and Peggy Sagona Werner**



## **Italian Heritage Month**

### **Mark your calendar for these events:**

**October 6th (Saturday)**  
**GRIAA Banquet**  
**Hall of Fame and Outstanding Awards**  
**Giovanni's Restaurant**

**October 7th (Sunday)**  
**GRIAA Columbus Day**  
**St. Anthony of Padua Church**  
**11:30 a.m. Mass, All are invited.**

**October 9th (Tuesday)**  
**DVD "The Rose Tattoo"**  
**Rockford Public Library in the**  
**Auditorium**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**December 8th & 9th Saturday and**  
**Sunday**  
**Santa Lucia Mass**  
**St. Anthony of Padua Church**  
**Honoring the Sicilian tradition of Santa**  
**Lucia and distributing "cuccia" to all**  
**families**