



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

## Newsletter

**January/Gennaio 2011**

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



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RON LITTLE	Vice President (919) 821-2770
BOB CAPRIOLI,	Treasurer (919) 554-1805
JIM FREDERICI,	Secretary (919) 957-0792
VICTOR CONONI,	Sergeant-at-Arms (919) 782-2876
FRANK FERRARO.,	Past President (919) 349-5854



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CHARLIE MORABITO	(919) 783-6725
MIKE KUHARCIK	(919) 550-8317



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FRANK FERRARO,	Social Chairman (919) 349-5854
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BOB GIANNUZZI,	Scholarship Chairman (919) 676-0082
BOB PETROLINO	Membership Roster Chairman (919) 760-9039



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Ciao Brothers,

It was said, if you want it done right, in our case, do it yourself. Why are we in this club? No one wants to run for office. We are doing less and less and I am not running this year for president and will not cook anymore. Well that's a maybe because I love to cook but I am not going to be chairman for any things like St. Raphael's or the International Festival. I am done.

I suggested making our club a family club, that means bringing women in the club; and it was put down. So you guys who put this down what are you doing to make it bigger and better. Plus, no one wants to cook. This January 20<sup>th</sup>, for our meeting, I'm ordering pizza, will make a salad, get wine, bottled water, plates, napkins, etc., for us to use.

We must have a slate of members to run for office. If we do not get a slate we can not have an election and nothing will get done this year. It will be the end of the club. Do we want to merge with another club? Do they want us first or do we start a new club with family invited. We do not have stag parties. We do not even play cards any more.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

Just remember dues are due and we are charging eight dollars a meal now. Is this the problem? I am searching for help to make us work like we were. All I know is we need new blood, younger blood. I figure 80% of the membership do not even read my notes or the newsletter. So why stop the club if you do not care about it. We must do something. I do not care who does it but we need a slate to run for office and the new officers must find a way to increase this club with new members who will work and make money so we can do our charitable works for the community or forget it all and donate the money to the orphans and never meet again. Do we want this? Do we want to go to a different club or do we want to change our club? I am not a charter member but close, I joined in 81 and have been in office for almost 20 years and would have been more if I did not have my accident and been away from the club for 5 years in Florida and laid up in a hospital and could not drive.

Ron Little started to bring to the club, and when I was able, took Nick Guarino for almost 3 years until his passing. We lost our friendships that we once had. A changing world means we have to change too and not keep to ourselves. We must open our hearts and show ourselves as caring souls. Maybe we ran our road to an end. It would be a shame to let this club of over 30 years die like no one is caring. I care, so I am pleading that **WE ALL STEP UP AND DO SOMETHING FOR OUR CLUB.** GOD BLESS and In His wisdom go into the souls of us guys to keep this club alive.

President Sal Notarmaso

**TIAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Fallon Center, 2718 Overbrook Dr., Raleigh NC

Sal Notarmaso, Bob Caprioli, Vic Cononi, and John Bono attended the meeting. There were not enough attendees and, therefore, no business was conducted. It will have to be done at the regular General Meeting on January 20, 2011. We have no cook for the meeting. Anyone who want to cook please call me.

**Sal**

**TIAHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

December 16th, 2010 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Fallon Center, 2718 Overbrook Dr., Raleigh NC ,  
Raleigh, NC

**The general meeting was not held in December.**



## An Italian Loan

An Italian walked into a bank in New York City and asked for the loan officer. He told the loan officer that he was going to Italy on business for two weeks and needed to borrow \$5,000 and that he was not a depositor of the bank.

The bank officer told him that the bank would need some form of security for the loan, so the Italian handed over the keys to a new Ferrari. The car was parked on the street in front of the bank. The Italian produced the title and everything checked out. The loan officer agreed to hold the car as collateral for the loan and apologized for having to charge 12% interest.

Later, the bank's president and its officers all enjoyed a good laugh at the Italian for using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral for a \$5,000 loan.

An employee of the bank then drove the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parked it.

Two weeks later, the Italian returned, repaid the \$5,000 and the interest of \$23.07. The loan officer said, `Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled.

While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?`

The Italian replied: `Minkia, where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$23.07 and expect it to be there when I return?`

Ah, the Italians.... Bada Bing!

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

12/2010

## Milwaukee

Italians first came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the late 19th century. Then in the 19th and 20th centuries large numbers of Italian immigrants began to come in mainly from Sicily and southern Italy. Brady Street, the historic Third Ward and the east side of Milwaukee is considered the heart of Italian immigration to the city, where as much as 20 Italian grocery stores once existed on Brady Street alone. Every year the largest Italian American festival in the United States, Festa Italiana, takes place in Milwaukee. Italians number at around 40,000 in the city, but in Milwaukee County they number at 110,000. There is also an Italian newspaper called *The Italian Times* printed by the Italian Community Center (ICC).

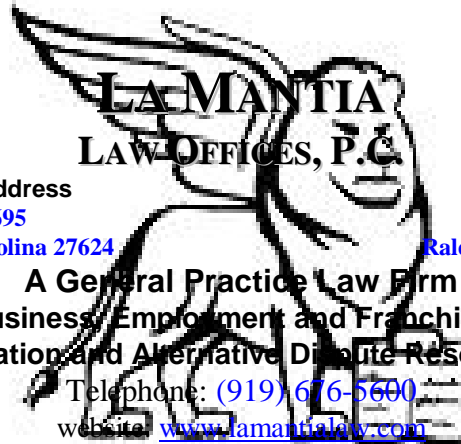
**MARK A. LA MANTIA**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW\*

Telephone:  
**(919) 676-5600**

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

Facsimile:  
**(919) 676-6674**

\* and Certified Mediator - North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission



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

Street Address  
8341-101 Bandford Way  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615

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## **Suffolk County, Long Island, New York**

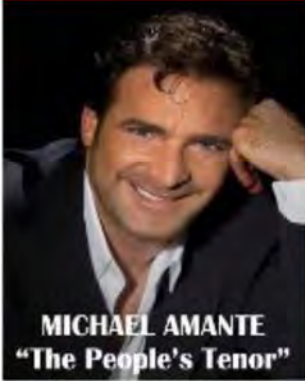
Suffolk County, New York is the county with the highest number of Italian Americans in the United States.

## **Birmingham, Alabama**

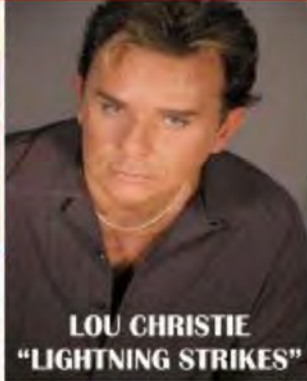
Birmingham, Alabama, was representative of smaller industrial centers. Most Italians in the early 20th century came to work in the burgeoning iron and coal industries. Dorothy L. Crim founded the Ensley Community House in the Italian district in 1912 at the behest of the Birmingham City Mission Board. From 1912 to 1969, Ensley House eased the often difficult transition to American life by providing direct assistance such as youth programs and day care services, social clubs, and 'Americanization' programs.

**ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CONCERT  
PROGRESS ENERGY CENTER IN RALEIGH  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2011**

SHOWTIME 6PM



**MICHAEL AMANTE  
"The People's Tenor"**



**LOU CHRISTIE  
"LIGHTNING STRIKES"**



**SPECIAL GUEST HONOREE  
"CHEF" TONY NOTARO**



**JERRY CASTALDO**

**GROUPS FROM ALL  
OVER THE CAROLINAS  
WILL BE ATTENDING.**

**COME CELEBRATE  
YOUR ITALIAN  
AMERICAN HERITAGE  
AND ENJOY GREAT  
MUSIC, CULTURE &  
STORIES FROM SOME  
PROUD ITALIAN  
AMERICAN ARTISTS.**



**JOIN US FOR A GREAT NIGHT OF MUSIC WITH MICHAEL AMANTE-WHO  
TONY BENNETT CALLED THE NEXT MARIO LANZA.  
60'S SUPERSTAR LOU CHRISTIE STILL SINGING HIS HITS PLUS A NEW RELEASE  
IN ITALIAN "NON SE PERCHE".  
FREDERICO CARDELLA WHO BLEW THE TOP OFF THE TENT AT THE 2010 CAPE  
FEAR ITALIAN FESTIVAL IN WILMINGTON.  
JERRY CASTALDO DUBBED "THE BEST ALL AROUND ENTERTINER IN NEW  
YORK"  
SPECIAL GUEST HONOREE TONY NOTARO. YOU KNOW HIM AS "CHEF" TONY THE  
MAN WHO MADE THE MIRACLE BLADE FAMOUS.  
TONY WILL SHARE HIS RISE FROM BROOKLYN NY TO BEING ONE OF THE TOP  
INFOMERCIAL PITCHMEN OF ALL TIME!**

## **TIAHA MEMBERS**

**RECEIVE 2 FREE TICKETS (\$70 VALUE) AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 20TH IF YOU PROMISE TO  
TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES. HELP GET THE WORD OUT!!**

**SEE MEMBER PETER GALLO AT THE PARTY OR EMAIL AT [TRIANGLEMEDIA@LIVE.COM](mailto:TRIANGLEMEDIA@LIVE.COM)**

**Bob Caprioli** received a call from **Rudy DeFrancisci**. Rudy is doing well and wants to wish everybody in the club a Happy New Year and hopes everybody had a great Christmas.

He also misses the clubs meetings and activities.

### Remembrance of Valarie DeFrancisci

Valarie, Daughter of Rudy and Nora Defrancisci passed away earlier this year. Valarie lived with her parents to care for Nora who has Parkinson's disease. As a result of her death, Rudy's family decided it would be best for them if they moved back to Queens New York to be near family members. To help them with moving, his grandson Brandon, family members and several of TIAHA members helped Rudy with his move.

Part of the move was a garage sale. To honor his daughter, and help TIAHA, Rudy donated several hundred dollars from the sale to TIAHA.

Rudy loved being a member of TIAHA and really misses being here with his brothers. Though in New York, Rudy is still a member and enjoys the newsletter each month. He loves hearing from members. If you get a chance give him a call.

Rudy's address and telephone number:

5925 Grove Street  
Ridgewood, NY 11385

Telephone: 347-763-1687

## Music of Italy

Music has traditionally been one of the great cultural markers of what it means to be “Italian” and holds an important position in society, in general, and even in politics. Italy is also widely regarded as the birthplace of sheet music, after Guido d’Arezzo was responsible for arranging musical notes on sheets of paper. The music of Italy ranges across a broad spectrum, from her renowned opera to

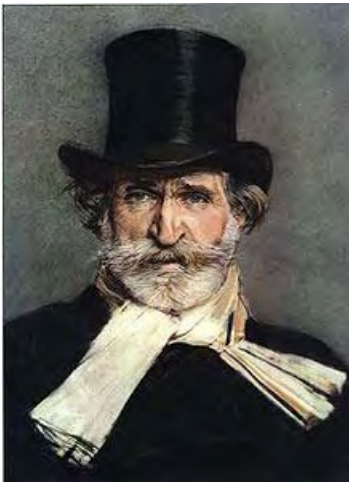


modern experimental classical music; and from the traditional music of the many ethnically diverse regions to a vast body of popular music drawn from both native and imported sources. Historically, musical developments in Italy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance helped create much music that spread throughout Europe. Innovation in the use of musical scales, harmony, notation, as well as experiments in musical theater led directly not just to opera in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, but to classical music forms such as the symphony and concerto, and to later developments in popular music. Today, the entire infrastructure that supports music as a profession is extensive in Italy, including conservatories, opera houses, radio and television

### Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti

stations, recording studios, music festivals, and important centers of musicological research. Musical life in Italy remains extremely active, but very Italian-centered and hardly international. The only main international Italian pop-singers include 1970s pop-diva Mina, who sold 76 million records worldwide in her lifetime and singer Laura Pausini, who has sold 45 million albums and has been dubbed the ‘Queen of Italian Pop’.

Italy is widely known for being the birthplace of opera. Italian opera was believed to have been founded in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, in Italian cities such as Mantua and Venice. Later, works and pieces composed by native Italian composers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini, are amongst the most famous operas ever written and today are performed in opera houses across the world. La Scala opera house in Milan is also renowned as one of the best in the world. Famous Italian opera singers include Enrico Caruso, Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli, to name a few.



**Giuseppe Verdi, one of Italy's greatest opera composers.**

**Portrait by Giovanni Boldini, 1886**

# Was Christopher Columbus Polish?

29th November 2010

A Portuguese historian believes he has solved the age-old mystery surrounding the nationality of Christopher Columbus.

According to Manuel Rosa, a lecturer at Duke University, North Carolina, the explorer was in fact the son of Polish King Władysław III.

It has always been thought that King Władysław III fell in battle against the forces of the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Varna in 1444. According to Mr Rosa, however, the king managed to survive the battle unscathed and fled to the Portuguese island of Madeira where he lived out the rest of his life as a hermit and married a Portuguese noblewoman.

It was there that the exiled king bore a son – or so Mr Rosa's theory goes – who would later be credited with the discovery of America. In Mr Rosa's opinion, a conspiracy was in place to protect the identity of Columbus' royal father.

“The courts of Europe knew who he was and kept his secret for their own reasons,” he told *The Daily Telegraph*.

Mr Rosa says that he has uncovered a plethora of evidence lending support to his theory. First, the explorer's last will, which read “being I born in Genoa,” was apparently forged after Columbus' death. Secondly, the explorer's coat of arms is similar to that of the Polish king. And thirdly, he had “reddish-haired, fair skinned and blue eyed – all features commonly found in Poland.”

The historian is hoping to clear up the mystery by collecting DNA samples from Poland's dead kings and comparing them with the DNA of Columbus' son who lies in rest in Seville Cathedral.

“I have made a request to the Cathedral in Kraków to examine remains from the tomb of Władysław II, who could turn out to be the grandfather of Columbus. It would prove the truth of my theory,” said Mr Rosa.

It is a commonly held belief among historians that Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, to Genoese parents. Some have said, however, that he was actually born in Spain.

From Warsaw Business Journal by Andrew Shale

Thanks to **Jim Frederici** for contributing the above article to the newsletter.

## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*From the beginning of U.S. history, Italians have supported American independence.*

- **Three Italian regiments**, totaling some 1,500 men, fought for American independence: the Third Piemonte, the 13th Du Perche, and the Royal Italian.
- **Filippo Mazzei**, a Tuscan physician, fought alongside Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry during the American Revolution. Mazzei drew up a plan to capture the British in New York by cutting off their sea escape, and convinced France to help the American colonists financially and militarily in their struggle against British rule. He also inspired the Jeffersonian phrase: "All men are created equal" when he wrote "All men are by nature equally free and independent."
- Italian officers in the American Revolution include: **Captain Cosimo de Medici** of the North Carolina Light Dragoons; **Lieutenant James Bracco**, 7th Maryland Regiment, killed at the Battle of White Plains; **Captain B. Tagliaferro**, second in command of the Second Virginia Regiment, a direct subaltern of General George Washington; 2nd Lieutenant **Nicola Talliaferro** of the 2nd Virginia Regiment; and **Colonel Richard Talliaferro**, who fell at the Battle of Guilford. Other Italian officers, most from Massachusetts, are on regimental rolls of the Continental Army.
- **Major John Belli** was the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army from 1792 to 1794. The first settler in Scioto County, Ohio, he lived there until his death in 1809.
- Three of the first five warships commissioned by the Continental Congress of the new American government, were named Christopher Columbus, John Cabot and Andrea Doria. Doria was a 16th century navy admiral from Genoa who was still fighting the Barbary pirates in his mid 80s.
- **Francesco Vigo** (1747-1836), is believed the first Italian to become an American citizen. A successful fur trader on the western frontier (today the mid-western states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Vigo served as a colonel, spy, and financier during the American Revolution. He died a pauper, but in 1876 the U.S. government gave his heirs about \$50,000 to repay them for Vigo's financial support of the Revolutionary War. Along with George Rogers Clark, he helped settle the Northwest territory.

*Prepared by: The National Italian American Foundation*

The NIAF thanks military historian Rudy A. D'Angelo for his assistance with this fact sheet.

## Italian Feasts

The most characteristic and popular of Italian American cultural contributions has been their feasts. Throughout the United States, wherever one may find an "Italian neighborhood" (often referred to as "Little Italy"), one can find festive celebrations such as the well known Feast of San Gennaro in New York City, the unique Our Lady of Mount Carmel "Giglio" Feast in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, New York, Italian feasts involve elaborate displays of devotion to God and patron saints. On the weekend of the last Sunday in August, the residents of Boston's North End celebrate the "Feast of all Feasts" in honor of St. Anthony of Padua, which was started over 300 years ago in Montefalcione, Italy. Perhaps the most widely known is St. Joseph's feast day on March 19. These feasts are much more than simply isolated events within the year. Feast (*Festa* in Italian) is an umbrella term for the various secular and religious, indoor and outdoor activities surrounding a religious holiday. Typically, Italian feasts consist of festive communal meals, religious services, games of chance and skill and elaborate outdoor processions consisting of statues resplendent in jewels and donations. This merriment usually takes place over the course of several days, and is communally prepared by a church community or a religious organization over the course of several months.

Currently, there are more than 300 Italian feasts celebrated throughout the United States. The largest is Festa Italiana, held in Milwaukee every summer. These feasts are visited each year by millions of Americans from various backgrounds who come together to enjoy Italian delicacies such as zeppole and sausage sandwiches. Though in past, and still unto this day, much of Italian American culture is centered around music and food, in recent years a large and growing group of Italian American authors are having success publishing and selling books in America.

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

No anniversaries for January



**BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:**

**MEMBERS**

John Colombo  
Markus Isenrich  
Vince Salvaggio

**SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

**Mark Caprioli** and his wife had their second child December 22. It's a boy named **Holdan** and he weighed 7lbs 8ozs.

**CONCERNS:**

**Ron Little** is recovering from surgery on his neck.

**CONDOLENCES:**

**Sal Notarmaso's** sister-in-law, **Paula Notarmaso**, passed away in NJ on Christmas Eve after a long illness. She is survived by her husband of sixty years, Ralph, three children and seven grand children.



**EDITOR:**

Is something newsworthy?  
Let us know, send it to

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

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

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

and/or

Sal Notarmaso: [snotarmaso@nc.rr.com](mailto:snotarmaso@nc.rr.com)  
(919) 383-3131

If your e-mail and/or home address changes, please notify Bob Petrolino, at (919) 760-9039, [bobbypet@earthlink.net](mailto:bobbypet@earthlink.net) .

The deadline for submitting input to the newsletter is 9:00 PM the second Wednesday of the month.

**Newsletter Advertisement Rates:**

Business card	\$40	per year
1/4 page	\$60	per year
1/2 page	\$80	per year
Full Page	\$100	per year

**Member Dues:**

Regular dues \$45

Seniors 65 and over \$22

Members who volunteer at least 10 hours to TIAHA \$35



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

**TIAHA UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**January 20th (Thursday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
Fallon Center, intersection of Overbrook and Anderson Drives, Raleigh

**February 1st (Tuesday), 6:30 PM – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
Fallon Center, intersection of Overbrook and Anderson Drives, Raleigh

**February 17th (Thursday), 6:30 PM - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic  
Church Fallon Center, intersection of Overbrook and Anderson Drives, Raleigh