



Giornalino di Italia Unita

Uniting the Italian-American Communities of America

January 2005

Quarterly Newsletter

East Boston, MA



Porto Fino, Italy - Photo by Jena Cotreau

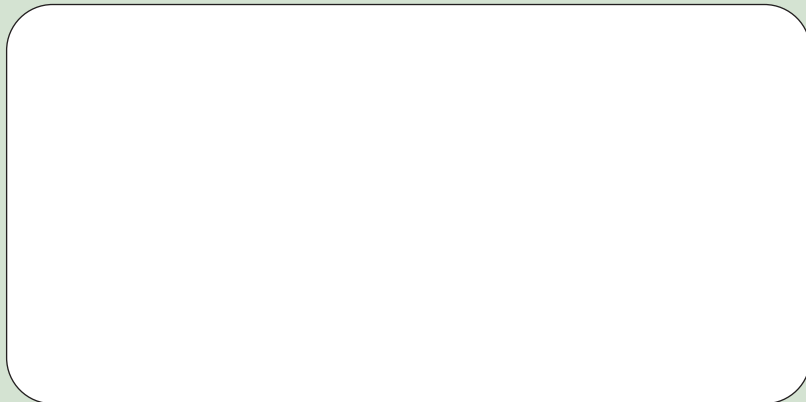
Annual Italian Festival, East Boston - Photo by Mario Alfano

Have any Italian-based photos to share? Email us a high resolution photo with your name and location and we'll print it in our next issue!



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Welcome to Our First Issue of *Giornalino di Italia Unita*

"Uniting the Italian-American Communities of America"

Dear Friends of Italia Unita,

Welcome to our first edition of "Italia Unita's Giornalino"! Italia Unita was started 10 years ago in East Boston, MA as a non-profit Italian Cultural organization. Our first event was the Italian Festival, which has grown into one of New England's Largest Italian Cultural Festivals. Throughout the years Italia Unita has produced many other events, such as the "Strictly Sinatra Night", Bel Canto Opera Brunch, Italian language courses, scholarships and delighting our elders in the community with evenings of sing-alongs.

Italia Unita is an entirely volunteer effort and the focus is promoting Italian culture and heritage. Recently we celebrated October as Italian Heritage Month in Massachusetts with other Italian organization and continue to celebrate our culture yearly by promoting Italian events and programs. I invite you to read this newsletter and learn more about Italia Unita and what our organization offers. Your support in the past has been greatly appreciated and we hope that you will continue to support us and join our membership to learn more about the beautiful Italian culture.



A Night at the Heritage Brings Song and Smiles!



On October 27th, Italia Unita sponsored an evening of Italian sing alongs at the Heritage Elderly Complex in East Boston. The evening included music and song provided by Elio Lo Russo and Jimmy Bono Geany from the Italian American band Seabreeze. The band typically play every summer in East Boston at the annual Italian Festival. Italia Unita happily sponsored this event to celebrate October as Italian Heritage Month and to provide entertainment to the elderly

especially those who are not able to participate in the annual Italian Festival every summer.

The duo sang traditional songs from different regions of Italy. Some of the more popular songs, were O Sole Mio, Mamma, Campagnola and much more.

Most of the residents of this complex were born in Italy and the evening was a way to bring them back to their roots and reminisce with the songs they grew up with. Some residents were moved to tears as they sang and clapped along with the group. The evening concluded with Italian pastries and coffee provided by Italia Unita. This is the beginning of a series of visits to elderly homes with more sing alongs.



The Italia Unita Board Members:

- Pasquale Capogreco President, Founding Member
- Angelo Vigliotta Vice President
- Lisa Capogreco Event Coordinator
- Marina Galbiati Secretary
- Anna Scimemi Treasurer
- Nino Visconti Board Member
- Neffo Cappuccio Sponsorship
- Jena Cotreau Advertising Graphic Designer
- Benito Tauro Founding Member

For more information see our website www.italiaunita.org

Italian Recipe of the Quarter!

BEEF BRACIOLE IN TOMATO SAUCE

- 1-1/2 pounds flank, skirt, or top of the round steak
 - 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 - 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
 - 3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 2-1/2 cups canned peeled and crushed tomatoes
 - A little less than 1/2 cup olive oil
 - Pinch of dried basil, red pepper flakes, and mint
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
 - 1. Lay the meat out flat on a smooth working surface. Flatten it to 1/2 inch thickness, pounding it lightly with the dull edge of a meat cleaver, or use a meat mallet. Keep the meat in one piece.
 - 2. Cover the steak with parsley, cheese, salt, and pepper.
 - 3. Roll up the steak, jellyroll fashion, and tie it securely with cotton string or several toothpicks.
 - 4. Heat the oil in a large heavy skillet and brown the meat thoroughly on all sides. This should take 10 minutes.
 - 5. Add the tomatoes and seasonings to the browned braciole. Cover the skillet. Simmer the meat for about 1 hour until it is tender. Do not overcook, or it will fall apart.
 - 6. When the meat is ready, place it on a large serving platter, cut the string, slice, and serve with the sauce poured over it.
- ** This may be accompanied with cooked pasta. Braciole can be made in advance. It can be refrigerated for 3 to 5 days after cooking and it freezes well if covered with the sauce.**
- Recipe was taken from, *The North End Italian Cookbook*, Author, Marguerite DiMino Buonopane.



Flowers are donated in support of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

The Struggle Continues at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church has been officially closed by the Archdiocese of Boston. The last Mass in Italian was celebrated on October 10, 2004. Since October 12th, the faithful parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel have stubbornly refused to have the Archdiocese their way, because we parishioners truly believe that an injustice has been done to the Italians of this area. Initially, the church that was scheduled to close was the Assumption on Sumner Street, then the Archdiocese made their decision to close Mt. Carmel instead without giving a believable reason. Therefore, we parishioners have started a protest vigil, 24 hours a day with the hope that this church will remain open. If anyone is willing to join our cause and is willing to help us with dedicating few hours of your spare time, please, join us in the vigil.

The following is a brief history of the relationship between the Italian-American and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church - East Boston:

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church was built Italian immigrants in 1905.

Since 1905, the church has been staffed by the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, who have faithfully served the spiritual need of the Italian-Americans; this church was designated as a "National Church" rather than a "Territorial Church". The Italian-American community is very much alive,

vibrant, and socially active for the good of the neighbors and of the community, especially in religious, cultural, and charitable activities. This is so that the Italian traditions and language are preserved and passed on to the next generations.

To be more specific to the meaning of culture, history, and tradition, we celebrate the feast of Saint Anthony (Padova), Our Lady of Mount Carmel (just about everywhere in Italy and throughout the world), Our Lady of Sorrows (Mirabella Eclano - Avellino), San Pantaleone (Catanzaro - Calabria), San Liberatore (Ariano Irpino - Avellino), Santa Lucia (patroness of the blind), Our Lady of Mount Viggiano (Viggiano - Potenza), Saint Gerardo Maiella (Materdomini - Avellino), Saint Padre Pio (Pietrelcina - Benevento). All these religious celebrations are held with a procession (accompanied by a band) with the respective statues of the saint that was purchased and brought here in the USA by Italians.

The cultural/social festivities that we also celebrate, not only to remind us of our roots, but also to raise funds towards charitable causes, are: Carnevale (end of February), Pasquetta (the Monday after Easter), Saint Anthony Spaghetti Supper (June), and Christmas.

The Mount Carmel Church is located at 128 Gove Street, East Boston.

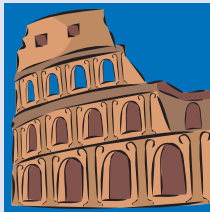
Article by: Lorenzo Grasso

If you would like to share a story on your experience in Italy or growing up Italian, please send your story to: italiaunita@verizon.net

HEADLINE NEWS IN ITALY

*as of November/December 2004

On November 26, 2004 an earthquake measuring 5.2 on the richter scale jolted the city of Brescia which is located in northern Italy.



On December 03, 2004 Presidente Ciampi departed to China to open talks on importing and exporting between Italy and China.

Simone Torretta and Simone Pari both 29 years of age known now by the world as "Le Due Simone" are Italian aid workers who went to Iraq to help rebuild the schools, train teachers, and distribute water and medicine were kidnapped on September 07, 2004 from their Baghdad office in broad daylight. According to published reports that if the Italian government did not withdraw their troops from the war the two women would be killed.

After 21 days of heartache and the Iraqi television reporting that these two women had been killed, the gunmen that kidnapped the two put them in a car and drove them to the airport and miraculously set them free. On December 06, 2004 the two Simone returned to Iraq to continue their work.

POLITICS:

Presidente Della Repubblica: Carlo Azeglio Ciampi
Prime Minister: Silvio Berlusconi
Presidente Del Senato: Marcello Pera
Presidente Della Camera: Pier Ferdinando Casini

MONEY:

As of December 06, 2004 the Euro was at \$1.3400

SPORTS:

Formula 1: Ferrari on top of the world once again finishing 1st.& 2nd. in 2004. Drivers Table: Michael Schumacher 1st.place 148 points, Rubens Barrichello 2nd.place 114 points, J.Button 3rd.place 85 points, F.Alonso 4th.place 59 points. Constructors Table: Ferrari 1st.place 262 points, Bar-Honda 2nd.place 119 points, Renault 3rd.place 105 points, Williams-BMW 4th.place 88 points.

SOCCER:

As of December 06, 2004 the standings for the top ten teams in the Serie A group are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Juventus 35 pts. | 6. Inter 20 pts. |
| 2. Milan 31 pts. | 7. Lecce 20 pts. |
| 3. Udinese 25 pts. | 8. Fiorentina 19 pts. |
| 4. Cagliari 22 pts. | 9. Sampdoria 18 pts. |
| 5. Palermo 21pts. | 10. Messina 18pts. |

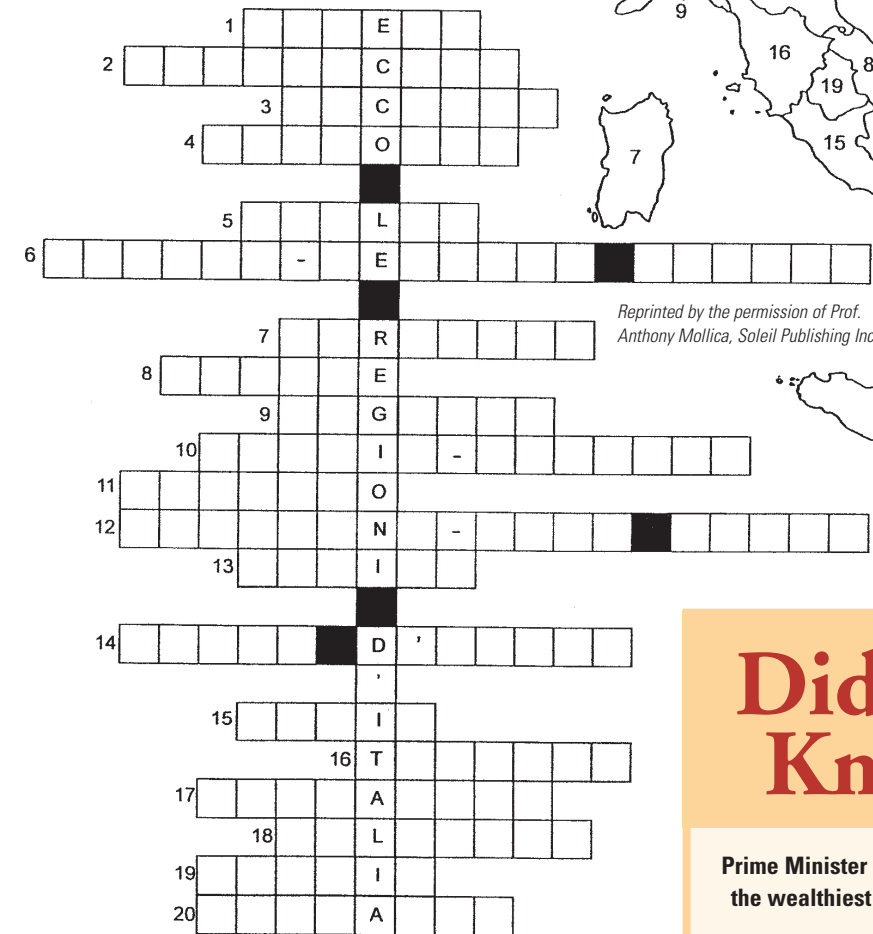
Italian Trivia of the Quarter!

In what year did Italy win their first World Cup in soccer?

Answer will be printed in our next issue in April!

GEOGRAPHY PUZZLE:

Can you name all the regions of Italy?



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Did You Know?

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is the wealthiest man in Italy today.

Become a Member of Italia Unita!

Membership Benefits:

INDIVIDUAL - \$20

- Italia Unita Event Discounts
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Italia Unita Gift
- Meet the Members Party

BUSINESS - \$50

- Italia Unita Event Discounts
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Italia Unita Gift
- Meet the Members Party
- Business Link on Italia Unita Website

* Please visit our website, www.italiaunita.org for a full description of membership benefits.

If you would like to become a member of Italia Unita, please fill out this form and send a check for the amount specified above (good for one year) to: **Italia Unita, Membership Request, 35 Bennington Street, East Boston, MA 02128.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____