



*The Newsletter of the Lancaster
Italian Cultural Society*



L'Osservatore Lancastriano

President's Message

Spring has arrived and I am glad that the winter months are behind us. It is time to get out and take a long walk and clear the cobwebs from our brains!

We had a very good turnout for the March election meeting and want to thank Bruce & Jeannie Hubbs for putting the election slate together to present that day.

Welcome to two of our new Board members: Marie Witkonis and Nick Siviglia. Thank you to Nella Seward and Joe Ricupero, whose terms were finished, for their time and commitment to our Society in helping us to move forward.

Again this year we are participating in the Old World Multi-Cultural Fest being held **Sunday, June 12th** at the Liederkrantz picnic grounds. We are looking forward to a fun filled day with plenty of food and entertainment for all. Please read the enclosed flyer for more details about receiving your tickets for the event.

We had a very good response to the volunteer sign up sheets for our upcoming events.

A special thank you to all who committed to help at the different events.

The Committee Chairperson will be giving you a call.

Look forward to seeing you at the May meeting on **Sunday, May 15th**.

Respectfully,
Jennie E. DiCola

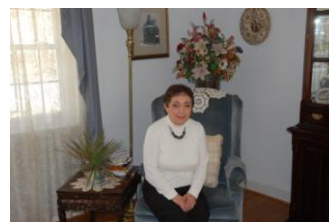
Member Spotlight: Nella Caponi Seward by: Jim J. Lombardo

Many people have a difficult time placing a name with a face. That is not the case with Nella (Caponi) Seward. Nella is a familiar face at many of the Society events and has a long history of involvement not only in our Society but in the Lancaster community.

Born in Rome, Italy, Nella came to America in 1961 on a cold December day. She remembers it well because she never experienced such cold in her young life. Rome, in December, was a comfortable 50 degrees at the coldest and when she first stepped on American soil, the 20 degree cold of New York made her feel like she was in the Arctic. Travel on the "Leonardo Da Vinci" across the Atlantic was an emotional experience for the 17 year old girl, her mother and four sisters. Leaving her home and the city she loved for an unknown place was a sentiment she will never forget.

In Rome, she had the security of living with her parents, Elviro, a handsome man of six feet who his children affectionately called "Il Piccolo Duce" and mother Agnese who worked very hard at raising her seven children. During the war, she risked travel to her home in Abruzzi to gather rations for her family which were not available or too expensive in Rome. Nella gained an appreciation of opera, dancing, literature, fine art, family values and tradition from her father who taught her how to make delicious homemade soups and from her mother she learned obedience, patience, courage, faith and generosity. During the war, her father owned a bicycle shop which unfortunately was bombed along with her home. The Italian government gave them temporary shelter in a school classroom. While she was too young to remember everything, memories of Christmas stand out. Her father and the children built a magnificent Nativity with many figurines as well as the entire town of Bethlehem. The younger girls' job was to gather fresh moss for the display. Today, at Christmas, she continues that tradition and still builds the town with the same joy and memory of the old days. Eventually, the Italian government gave the homeless families new apartments called "Case Popolari" where she and her family lived for a few years before moving back to the center of Rome. That is when Elviro began dreaming about America. (he eventually came here in the summer of 1960.)

Elviro owned a "caffè" (coffee shop) on the corner of Via Nomentana and Viale XXI Aprile in Rome. When Elviro and Nella's two brothers left for America, the ladies took over the business and grew it into a successful venture while sharing many good times and a lot of laughter. Nella was too young to work full-time at the family business but helped out when she could while still attending school with her younger sister.



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(Member Spotlight continued from page 1)

She smiles when she remembers the good times the ladies had tending to business and interacting with customers. At that time, her goal was a career in fashion design but that all changed when she came to America.

After arriving in New York, the Caponi ladies travelled to Hammonton, NJ where Nella's father and two brothers, Tony and Reno had already immigrated the year before to test the American lifestyle. Happy with it, they called the rest of the family to join them making their father's dream come true. Not all the family shared the father's dream and to Nella, leaving Rome for Hammonton was like "going to prison". Fortunately, at that time, Hammonton was populated by many Italian immigrants which made the transition a little more agreeable. Nella finished high school in Hammonton, NJ and trained at Temple University in Interior Design and Architecture. Eventually, she worked in this field for 28 years. She became fluent in English and for a time taught English to immigrants and helped them in their personal lives which in turn helped her overcome the sadness of leaving her Rome and her friends, especially the "boy she left behind".

Succeeding years saw Nella and her siblings in various jobs in America, two trips back to Italy and eventually a marriage in Italy. Nella had two daughters in her first marriage and a good job at the University of Pennsylvania. Over the next several years her life changed and in 1987 she married Austen Seward, left her employment with the University of Pennsylvania and moved to Lancaster. She saw in Lancaster a place with the flavor of a city and feeling of the countryside. While in Lancaster, she practiced interior design with a local firm and even commuted to Philadelphia to stay in her field. Eventually, she retired from the design profession and opened her own "caffè" shop in Ephrata which was followed by an in home catering service. She sold the businesses and began a new profession in the mortgage business with Fulton Bank where she worked for five years. Her latest venture was to return to school and become a Pastoral Assistant, currently assigned to her parish, Sacred Heart Church.

When Nella first came to Lancaster, she desperately sought others of Italian heritage, but the lack of any organization made it difficult to bond. Then, in 1999, her daughter learned of a new organization being formed and Nella attended the first organizational meeting of what was to become the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society. Naturally she joined, becoming a charter member and was immediately appointed to the first Board of Directors.

Since that time, Nella has been very active, serving as President for two terms and on the Board for 10 years. To her credit, she pursues the cultural aspect of our Italian heritage with a persistent fervor and can list several accomplishments to her credit. Included are the following, either on her own or through the Society: Italian cooking classes, Italian language classes, Trips to Italian operas, 6 group trips to Italy, Carnevale (Masquerade Ball), Planning for 5 and 10 year gala anniversary celebrations of the Society, the 1st cookbook and most recently, the Italian dance group.

Nella is proud of her heritage and at every opportunity offers anyone the benefit of sharing and learning about the Italian culture,

from language to cooking and traditions. Unfortunately, her husband of 24 years passed on recently, but Nella remains close to her two daughters, Lyza and Lora, their husbands and children. Nella has two grandchildren, Joey and Bryer and three step-children.

In her own words she says: "In hindsight, as I think of my father, I need to say to him "grazie papa" for bringing us to America. Italy will always be my beloved native country, but America is my precious home."

OLD WORLD MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Society is pleased to announce the second annual Old World Festival scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2011 at the Lancaster Liederkrantz. This year, as in the past, the Irish, German and Italian cultures will blend together for a day of fun, food and entertainment.

This is a member and family only event. Tickets are available at a cost of \$5.00 per adult (ages 13 and older). Children (ages 12 and younger) are FREE. Reservations are required and tickets must be presented for admission.

The event will take place from Noon to 5 pm and the menu will include the following:

Italian: Tossed salad, meatballs, and manicotti

Irish: Irish stew, potato soup, and corned beef sandwich

German: German potato salad, sauerkraut, and 2 types of sausage

Drinks and homemade desserts will be sold.

This year, tables will be called for food service to eliminate the long lines we experienced last year.

Each ethnic group will again perform songs and dances along with a description and history of their performance. There will be free time to play bocce or horseshoes.

See the enclosed flyer for more details

This is the fourth in the series on: **THE REGIONS OF ITALY**

SICILY

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. It has an official Italian name which is Regione Autonoma Siciliana, meaning Sicilian Autonomous Region.

The original inhabitants of Sicily were the Sicani (around 8000BC), the Elymians and the Sicels in 1200 BC. In time, Egyptian, Phoenician and Iberian peoples mixed with the oldest inhabitants before the Greeks arrived. Palermo is a name of Phoenician origin.

About 750 BC, the Greeks began to colonize Sicily (known as Sikelia). Their most important settlement was called Syracuse. The native Sicani and Sicel peoples were absorbed by the Hellenic culture and the area became part of Magna Graecia, Greater Greece. The Greeks introduced grapes and olives which soon became profitable trading commodities.

By 242 BC, Sicily became the first Roman province outside of the Italian Peninsula and stayed in Roman hands for approximately 700 years, never losing its Greek influence. After a series of conquests, including those of Arabs in 965 AD, Sicily, together with Calabria, was taken from the Arabs by the Normans in 1072 for about 100 years, then changing hands to the German, French and finally independent in 1409. Revolts, wars and even pirate raids ensued over the next 400 years resulting in independence in 1848. In 1860, the Risorgimento and Garibaldi made Sicily a part of the Kingdom of Italy and as we all know, Italy became a Republic in 1946 with Sicily as one of its regions with special "autonomous" status.

Sicily has its own unique culture and its economy is largely based on agriculture and tourism. It is the home to many archeological sites such as the world famous Necropolis and the Valley of the Temples.

Separated from mainland Italy by the Strait of Messina, travelers can take a ferry from Calabria directly to Sicily which is about a two mile boat ride at its shortest distance.

Mt. Etna, an active volcano, is located in the east of Sicily reaching a height of 10,890 feet and is the tallest active volcano in Europe.

The Aeolian Islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea contain several volcanoes including an underwater volcano (Ferdinanda) which last erupted in 1831.

Sicily has a population of 5 million plus people and the capital is Palermo.



MEMBERS CORNER

BENVENUTO!

Welcome New Members:

Stephen & Judith Iovino	Adam Witkonis
Jon & Beth Petricoin	Susan Gottlieb
Marlin & Jacqueline Fellenbaum	Andy Hull
Marlin (Jere) & Adrienne Fellenbaum	

Get Well:

Al Santivenere
John Zangari
Angela Cucchiara
John Vilella
Giovina Bradley

Congratulations to:

Valerie Miller on the birth of her grandson Jameson Michael Miller.

Condolences to:

The Family of **Lawrence and Rose Forestiere** on their passing.

Elizabeth Madonna and Family on the passing of her mother, **Mary J. Madonna**.

Quirino and Jennie DiCola and Vincent Sapone on the passing of their sister-in-law, Patricia R. Sapone.

Michael and Rosa Mastromatteo on the passing of his brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Dorothy Masters.

The Family of **Michael Cleffi** on his passing.

Members should contact Ann Marie Petrone (393-8271) with any News, Condolence, Get Well, Thinking of You and Congratulation items.

The revised Society Cookbook is now available at \$10. Over 300 recipes have been submitted by our members. Thank you for a great job!

To order: Call Sherri Criniti (898-0857) or Jennie DiCola (393-4595). Copies will also be available at our meetings.

2011
CALENDAR FOR MEETINGS AND EVENTS
(Subject to change)

Sunday, May 15	Scholarship Awards and General Meeting	Liederkrantz
Sunday, June 12	Old World Multi-Cultural Festival (only members and family living in same household)	Liederkrantz
Saturday, July 9	Oldies Dance Under the Stars	Liederkrantz Pavilion
Sunday, Sept. 11	LICS Annual Picnic	Liederkrantz
Sunday, Oct. (?)	Vendemmia	Wilmington, DE
Saturday, Oct. 15	LICS 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner	St. John Neumann
Sunday, Nov. 13	General Mtg. & Program	Liederkrantz
Sunday, Dec. 11	LICS Annual Christmas Party	Eden Resort

2012

Sunday, March 11	LICS Election & General Mtg.	Liederkrantz
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2011 Board of Directors Meetings 6:30 AT LIEDERKRANZ

Tuesday, April 12
Tuesday, June 14
Tuesday, August 9
Tuesday, October 11
Monday, December 12

ART AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The following students were awarded the Society recognition for their artistic talents for the year 2011:

Michelangelo Award - Alyssa Herr (Solanco)
Da Vinci Award - Tierney Kreider (Lampeter-Strasburg)
Excellence Award - Brooke Kauffman (Solanco)
Excellence Award - Luciano Abbarno (Home Schooled)

Congratulations to all for a job well done!

THE ROMAN FORUM by: Jim J. Lombardo

The Roman Forum was for centuries the center of Roman public life and sits between the Palatine and Capitoline Hills. Today it is a sprawling ruin of architectural excavations but in ancient Rome it was the most significant seat of power and influence in the known world of that time.

Dating back to the 6th century BC, it is a tribute to Roman engineering and ingenuity. The oldest surviving foundation is the Temple of Saturn which history says served as the first Roman treasury and as a gathering place for the winter solstice festival called "Saturnalia".

Additionally, The Arch of Titus and Arch of Septimius Severus still stand as a tribute to Roman victories in war. The House of the Vestal Virgins is easily identifiable. This is where the sacred fire of Vesta was kept aflame from which any citizen could receive fire for their homes.

Basilicas to the Roman emperors can be seen along with the Imperial Rostra which is the platform where great speeches were delivered and where Mark Antony eulogized Julius Ceaser.

After centuries of deterioration and rampage by Romans and others, the Forum still stands as a legendary landmark of the once great Roman Empire.

IL FORO ROMANO Translation by: Nella Seward

Per secoli il Foro Romano fu il centro della pubblica vita romana ed è locato tra il colle Palatino e quello Capitolino. Oggi è una vasta rovina di scavi architettonici, ma nella "Roma Antica," era la più significativa sede di potenza ed influenza di quell'epoca..

Fin dal sesto secolo, prima di Cristo, Il Foro è stato un tributo all'ingegneria e ingenuità romana. La più antica e sopravvivenza costruzione è il Tempio di Saturno, il quale, secondo come racconta la storia, servì come il primo Ministero del Tesoro e come un luogo di riunione per le festività invernali chiamato "Saturnalia".

In oltre, "L'Arco di Tito" e quello di "Settimio Severo" sono tutt'ora un tributo alle vittoriose gurre romane. L'abitazione delle "Vergini Vestali" è facilmente identificata. Questa è situata dove la sacra fiamma dedicata a Vesta rimaneva accesa e da dove i cittadini potevano ricevere fuoco per le loro abitazioni.

I monumenti dedicati agli Imperatori Romani possono essere visti lungo la Rostra Imperiale, la quale è una piazza da dove Marco Antonio elogiava Giulio Cesare.

Dopo secoli di deterioramento e violenti invasioni dai Romani e da altri, il Foro tutt'ora rimane come il leggendario punto di riferimento di quello che un tempo fu "Il Grande Impero Romano."

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Ann Marie Petrone

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Anita Bomberger
Charlie Criniti
Betty Gallo
Jim V. Lombardo
Enrica Gerhart
Valerie Miller
Dominic "Nick" Siviglia
John Vilella
Marie Witkonis

Webmaster: Lee Gerhart

ITALY MARKS 150 YEARS OF UNITY

by: Jim J. Lombardo from excerpts taken from
"Italian America" magazine

Although one of the oldest civilizations in the world, Italy is one of Europe's newest nations. It was just 150 years ago, a drop in the historical bucket, that Italy became a unified country with one government.

It was in May of 1860 when Giuseppe Garibaldi and his one thousand man army departed a seaport near Genoa to liberate Sicily and Southern Italy from the Spanish. Their rallying cry was, "Qui si fa l'Italia o si muore" which means, "Here we either make Italy or we die."

Italy's history after the 5th century fall of Rome is varied in terms of invading and occupying countries. We see the French, Spanish, Austrians and the Pope exerting heavy influence as well as a myriad other countries in between. It was so diversified that the 19th century Austrian statesmen Metternich was quoted as saying, "Italy is only a geographic expression!"

In 1859, the year before Garibaldi's initiative, Italy was comprised of four independent states: The Kingdom of The Two Sicilies (Sicily, Naples and all Southern Italy) ruled by Spain; The Papal States in the center ruled by the Pope with the help of France; Lombardy, Veneto and Tuscany in the north under Austria. The fourth, the Kingdom of Sardinia (Piedmont Savoy, Nice and Liguria) was the only independent Italian state under King Vittorio Emanuele II of the House of Savoy (later to become the first king of united Italy).

The movement to unify Italy was called "il Risorgimento" and was inspired by the writings of Giuseppe Mazzini. Garibaldi took up the cause and ultimately recruited his one thousand volunteers called "i Mille" (the Thousand) and put them in uniforms of a simple red shirt "le camice rosse". It must have been quite a sight to see one thousand red shirted volunteers board two ships, the Lombardo and The Piemonte, and set sail for battle in Sicily.

When they landed in Sicily on May 11th, the battle began and by the end of July, all Sicily was conquered and Garibaldi's one thousand man army grew to four thousand and took on a new name, "l'esercito meridionale" (the southern army). This army entered the mainland and conquered Calabria on its march to Naples which it conquered in September without firing a shot (the Bourbon king and his army fled the city).

By now, the army was at 24,000 volunteers and in a one week battle finally secured all of southern Italy. A few weeks later, Garibaldi met up with King Vittorio Emanuele II and uttered the famous words, "I salute the King of Italy" and with that gave control of all conquered territory and his army to the King.

On March 17, 1861, the United Kingdom of Italy was declared but it took another several years until Rome itself, under Pope Pius IX, fell and the Pope retreated to Vatican City. Finally, Italy was one country with a formidable task as one writer stated, "We have created Italy. Now we must create the Italians." Some would say that task still exists!

New Board Members Elected

Five Board members were elected at the annual membership meeting on March 6, 2011. Three of the five are new while two are incumbents. The members (from left to right) are:

Dominic (Nick) Siviglia
Marie Savoca Witkonis
Valerie Miller
Enrica Gerhart
Bob Barbush

Congratulations to our new and re-elected board members and we are grateful for their service.



NOTICE:

Porsia Palumbo received a beautiful book on Pentidattilo, the city of her family in Calabria, Italy. The book was written by her cousin Dott. Ferdinando Tropeat and his wife Giovanna and contains a history of the ancient city complete with color and black and white photographs.

Porsia will have the book at future Society meetings in the event anyone would be interested in seeing it.

THE LANCASTER ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY

Our society made several significant contributions to various non-profit organizations and individuals during 2010. Below is a listing of those contributions:

Donations for 2010

The United Support Group	\$ 100.00
Hospice of Lancaster County	\$ 142.00
Haiti Relief Fund	\$ 100.00
Children's Miracle Network	\$ 510.00
Art Awards (4 students)	\$ 200.00
Scholarships (2 students)	\$4000.00
Lancaster Opera Co.	\$ 235.00
St. John Neumann (donation for use of hall)	\$ 400.00
American Heart Assoc.(Heart Walk)	\$ 100.00
Lancaster County Food Bank	<u>\$ 168.00</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 5955.00</u>

ATTENTION: ALL FORMER RESIDENTS OF LANCASTER'S SOUTHEAST AREA:

Recently, I was contacted by Crispus Attucks of Lancaster about a project they are launching involving all ethnic groups who have lived in the Southeast Area (7th Ward) of Lancaster City. This area served as the "entry point" for various immigrant groups including: Jewish, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek and African.

The project involves creating a "Wall of History" comprised of various plaques engraved with names and/or photos of the families/businesses which were a part of the area. Each plaque will cost \$1,000 and can contain up to 155 words.

We are seeking the surname (last name) of families who would be willing to participate at a fee of \$25 per name. At this rate, we would need 40 names of families or businesses willing to participate. For example, my family name of Lombardo would be one name. Although there were several Lombardo families who lived there, \$25 would cover the cost of representing all the families and the name Lombardo would appear on the plaque.

If your family lived in the 7th Ward at some point in the early-mid 1990's and if you would like to be represented on the Italian plaque, please let me know. Send no money now. If we reach our goal of 40 names, I will contact you and you can contribute at that time.

Thank you for considering this request and please let me know if you are interested in participating.

You can contact me at: jjl521@msn.com

Jim Lombardo

My Heart Belongs to Florence

by: Fred Rodger

Every year since 2000, I've returned to Florence and Tuscany. Why Florence, you say? Well, Florence is perhaps the most magical city in the world. It was home to some of the greatest artists and minds that ever lived.....Giotto, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Masaccio, Botticelli, Donatello, Verdi, Brunelleschi, Galileo, Dante, and Boccaccio to name a few. Florence is the undisputed cradle of artistic and intellectual talent. The Florentine people are very proud of their heritage and much of the city remains as it did 600 years ago.

I can't tell you what it feels like to stand in front of Michelangelo's "David", walk the same cobblestone streets as Leonardo da Vinci, or touch a sculpture carved by Donatello. You just have to experience it for yourself. I love Florence because it challenges and inspires and to walk in the city is to literally walk into a work of art.

This past year I led 15 people from the Lancaster area and beyond into Florence and Tuscany. We not only saw great art, but visited two wineries and olive groves in the Chianti Hills, along with visits to Cinque Terre, Lucca, Impruneta, and Chianti in Greve. We also had a terrific lunch in the private home of Gianni and Christina while we were treated to a wonderful tour guide serenading us with love songs. In past years, we visited Montalpulciano, Pienza, Volterra, Siena, San Gimignano, Popolonia, Castellina, and other small hilltowns boasting populations of less than 100.

All the travelers were encouraged to strike out on their own and pursue and discover the things that interested them the most. Some simply enjoyed

trying some great wines and sampling Tuscan cuisine and fabulous gelato, while others strolled the streets of the city visiting markets and shopping for the perfect leather coat. For me, doing a little sightseeing in the morning or afternoon was on the agenda, but I always find time to sit at an outdoor café, sip a glass or two of wine, and simply 'people watch'. The beauty of traveling to and staying at one destination for 10 days is that you never feel rushed to do everything in one or two days.....you can take your time and relax, get to know the neighborhood you are staying in, and even make a few friends. The owner of a little wine bar in the San Niccolo district certainly got to know me!

The point is we traveled to Florence to become 'temporary locals' even for only 10 days. My philosophy of foreign travel is to go to enjoy the **differences**. Of course, you will feel frustrations.....shops may not be open when they say they will, traffic laws will appear to be non-existent, and you may find your drink or shower isn't as cold or hot as you are accustomed. I think the benefits of travel is the eye-opening realization that there are civil (and maybe even better) alternatives to living life. A willingness to 'go local' ensures you'll get a full dose of Tuscan and Florentine hospitality.

Anyone interested in learning more about Fred's educational trip for 2011 please feel free to call him at 687-6074 or email at: fredrodger@comcast.net.

Editor note: Fred has been a frequent presenter at our Society meetings and entertained while educating our members with his knowledge of Italian Renaissance art.