



Coccia Foundation

Preserving Italian Culture



Volume 2 Issue 1

Coccia Foundation

Fall 2006

Coccia Foundation Appoints New Trustees

Joseph Coccia, Jr. and the members of the Coccia Foundation are proud to announce the appointment of Elisa Coccia and Ralph A. Contini, to serve on the Coccia Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Elisa Coccia, CTC

A qualified and distinguished member of the Coccia Foundation, has been appointed to serve on the board of trustees. Elisa Coccia, a Certified Tax Collector, is also the daughter of founders Joseph and Elda Coccia.

"We are again extremely pleased to have another experienced and passionate person on our board of trustees," Coccia said. "Elisa's desire to preserve Italian culture is so similar to ours and with her financial and communication skills, as well as ideas, we can help move the foundation in the right direction and promote growth in all areas."

Elisa is excited to be a part of the foundation's board, and ready to embark on this journey with her family and other distinguished members. She is also proud to represent her brothers and sisters and intends to call on them for their areas of expertise as well.

"I can't even begin to tell you what it is like to attend a program sponsored by my family's foundation," said Elisa. "The powerful effect of the work this foundation is accomplishing can only be understood by observing the energy and enthusiasm of the audiences at events. Whether it is children, students, or adults, the reaction is always extremely positive."

Elisa was not only chosen by the foundation because of her "close connection" to the founders, but because of her notable resume, communication skills and strong desire to preserve Italy in America.

"Preserving Italian Culture is what this is all about" said Elisa. "To be part of something which will make a difference to those interested, regardless of age, is so rewarding."

As the new Tax Collector for the City of Hackensack, Elisa will be collecting from more than 10,000 properties. She received a degree at Rutgers University, is a member of the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey as well as the Bergen County Tax Collectors and Treasurers

Association. Formerly the Deputy Tax Collector of Franklin Lakes for nine years, she was also the payroll clerk and assistant to the Chief Financial Officer. These financial skills, along with her strong people skills, will aid the foundation through critical decisions and growth opportunities.

Elisa has been an active part of the foundation since its beginning and holds a shared passion with her family for the Italian American culture and preservation. She resides in Saddle Brook, since 1990, with her son Jonathan, 24, who is a loan consultant with Countrywide Home Loans.

Elisa has been active with UNICO in Kearny as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and is currently on the advisory board for the Coccia Institute at Montclair State University. Elisa is also active with the youth ministry at St. Philips Church in her hometown.

"The powerful effect of the work this foundation is doing, can only be understood by observing the energy and enthusiasm of the audiences at events or the individual people who are positively affected by it" said Elisa. I have never been more proud of my parents for creating the Coccia Foundation or so honored to be appointed a trustee.

Ralph A. Contini, CPA

"The addition of Ralph Contini to our Board reflects the Coccia Foundation's continued growth," said Coccia. "By adding respected business persons and civic leaders such as Ralph to our Board, we hope to expand our ever increasing pursuit to preserve the Italian Culture and Heritage further."

Contini's long and impressive resume over qualified him for the position on the board. He is a long-time friend of the Coccia's and is pleased to embark on another exciting year with the Coccia Foundation, as a member of the board of trustees.

"It is indeed a privilege and honor for me to become part of the Coccia Foundation. I first met Joseph and Elda Coccia nearly 25 years ago," said Contini, a Maywood resident. "Over the last five or six years, I have had the opportunity to chair a number of events sponsored by the Coccia Foundation. I look forward to the future with an eye to the past for the continued success of the Coccia Foundation."

Contini, an accountant graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, is the owner, and sole member, of Ralph A. Contini, CPA, LLC in Paramus. This practice provides



Elisa Coccia



Ralph A. Contini



Rudy J. Valli

Continued on page 2

Coccia Foundation

Continued from page 1

accounting, consulting, financial planning and services, along with management of client real estate assets for corporate and personal clients, trusts and estates. He also is a managing partner with Bescon Realty, LLC.

Contini is licensed in New Jersey and New York State, as a certified public accountant. He is a registered NASD Series 6 representative and a licensed mortgage solicitor. He also is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He resume continues with his membership in many Italian organizations. He is an active member of UNICO National,

serving as national auditor from 1984 to 1994 and as a member of the organization's Board of Directors. He has held various officer and committee chairmanships, throughout these years as well. He is a charter member and treasurer of the Tri-State Italian American Congress of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and advisory board member of the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute at Montclair State University. Contini also reaches out to the youth by being an active soccer coach and serves as treasurer of the Hackensack Junior Soccer Association.

"We are very pleased to have Contini as an advisory member of the foundation and part of the board of trustees," said Coccia. "I am excited and looking forward to working closely with him and the rest of the board in the coming new year."

Rudy J. Valli Chairman Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute

Rudy J Valli, an executive coach and business developer from Mendham, has accepted the position as Coccia Institute's Chairman of Board.

Valli has over 28 years of business development, operations management, equipment leasing and consulting experience. Joseph Coccia Jr., founder of the institute is convinced Valli's prestigious resume will benefit the institute greatly.

"His years of business and executive experience make him more than qualified for the chairman position," said Coccia. "I am proud to have such a distinguished member of the Italian-American community with our institute."

In 2002, Valli retired as a partner with a global professional services firm, Accenture (CAN-NYSE), and later founded his own consulting firm, in 2003, called Valmar & Associates. This firm is focused on assisting senior executives with business development, strategy and executive coaching. His "boardroom" activities have included service to his own firms as well as advising major clients and other entrepreneurial entities.

His resume shows a significant success record in sales, financing, management consulting and strategy development in the broadband, media and communication industry.

Valli began his career back in 1978 with IBM, as a sales and marketing manager. From there he

went to XL/Datacomp Inc. and served as the vice president and general manager, to Ernst & Young LLP as a consulting partner before ending up at Accenture. He has handled many customer relation positions and his communication skills as well as his ability to make a business last and flourish were perfected through his professional years. His consulting and business plans have earned companies he has worked with millions of dollars in revenue.

Valli earned his Global MBA from Fairleigh Dickenson University and his B.S. in Business Administration with Summa Cum Laude honors at Montclair State University.

He has been married for 27 years to Maryanne and has three children; Dominic, 25, who works with Continental Airlines, Patrick, 22, who is employed by EBI/Biomet and Annemarie, 21, who is a senior at the University of Delaware.

He is a proud member of the West Essex NJ Chapter of UNICO and has been a member with the Coccia Institute since its beginning days.

Coccia is proud to have Valli as a part of the team, and looks forward to his input and leadership with the Coccia Institute.

"I am looking forward to collaborating with Rudy and the rest of the board," said Coccia. "It is going to be a great new year!"

COCCIA FOUNDATION

Founded 1994
"Preserving Italian Culture"

23 Leswing Avenue
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663
201-712-5512

Joseph and Elda Coccia Founders

Elda M. Coccia
Joseph Coccia, Jr.
Elisa Coccia
Ralph A. Contini
Valley National Bank
Trustees

Lisa Martone
Judi Ciminni
Kristen L. Kettelhut
Daniela Puglielli
Paolo Porcelli
Contributing Writers

Man-Hon Kam
Design

Alicia Dunn
Assistant

Suggestions,
corrections, additions,
or terminations,
please call
(201) 712-5512.

What have YOU
Done to Preserve
Italian Culture and
Heritage?

Read any Italian books?
Seen any Italian movies?
Have you visited Italy and
its Regions?
Tell us about your trip,
We'd love to hear from you!

Coccia Foundation

Finally! Our Voice Can be Heard

Speech by Senator Renato Turano at the Italian Senate on July 26, 2006

Thank you Mr. President.

Honorable colleagues:

I wish to thank all of you for the warm welcome to all the representatives elected in the districts abroad, and especially to those of us who for the first time are called upon to face the challenge of Italian politics and Italian Parliament democracy.

Following the recent international and national events, the reasons that made me run for L'Unione have been reinforced and so is my determination to fulfill the objectives that are at the foundation of my electoral program.

Allow me to point out some of these objectives that I believe deserve the attention of the Senate in order to find appropriate and urgent financial funding.

1. Increasing funding to Italian consulates and improving consular services, with the objective of hiring local Italian residents of the consular districts. Increasing Italian cultural programs through the Italian Cultural Institutes and facilitating access for the Italian community.
2. Eliminating the inefficiencies in public offices, both local and national, responsible for services to Italians abroad.
3. Increasing funding to Italian programs on the elementary, middle and high school levels, and to non-profit organizations that offer Italian courses.
4. Appropriate funding to Italian language newspapers and media, especially to those who have shown effort in promoting Italian language and culture supporting the activities of the Italian communities in their area and promoting 'made-in-Italy' and the 'sistema Italia' all over the world.
5. Increasing funding for cultural exchange programs between Italy and America at all levels: museums, public libraries, nature parks; and support to sister-cities programs at the municipal, provincial and regional level
6. Increasing funding for scholarships for students attending middle, high school and university, including programs between universities and businesses promoting internships and professional advancement.
7. Facilitating trade and other forms of economic exchanges between Italy and the commercial representatives resident abroad.
8. Re-opening the opportunity to gain Italian citizenship or dual citizenship
9. Reform of the COMITES and CGIE in order to better manage the representation of Italians abroad before the Italian government institutions
10. Reform, requalification and promotion of RAI International, in line with the proposal made by Vice Minister Franco Danieli in his report to the Foreign Affairs Committee
11. Financial assistance to small businesses owned by Italians residing abroad who import and sell products made in Italy, many from the regions of Southern Italy, and more support for the chambers of commerce abroad.
12. Updating of the AIRE lists and revision of the rules for the vote to Italians abroad.
13. Creating programs for Italians who have been successful abroad both in businesses and cultural activity
14. Creating and funding programs that promote cultural traditions of our regions of origin.



Honorable colleagues: A lot has been said and written on the economic value of Italians abroad. Now is the time for action. We, Italians living abroad, are to be regarded as a permanent resource for Italy, not something which is only occasionally noticed or used. While the creation of a vote by mail giving us representation is a very important historical and democratic event, we need to take further action to make sure that the objectives of the Italian representatives abroad are fully met. I respectfully ask, therefore, that our requests be urgently approved and financed to give benefit to all Italian citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

Senatore Renato Turano

Coccia Foundation

The 2006 Italian Studies Golf Classic

Our annual classic honoring Cav. Dottore Thomas Bellavia was held on Monday, June 26th, 2006. The event was hosted by the Coccia Foundation and proceeds benefited Italian Studies Programs at the Coccia Institute at Montclair State University.

Mother Nature cooperated and those who braved the early rain were treated to an ideal day for golfing and good luck held throughout the day as golfers

were welcomed to the White Beeches Golf and Country Club in Haworth, NJ. For those who preferred cocktails and cards to birdies and bogies, the golf classic was followed by a grand reception and casino night at the Florentine Gardens Estate in River Vale, NJ.

The highlight of the evening was presentation to our 2006 Honoree, Cav. Dottore Thomas Bellavia for his long-standing and unwavering support for Italian Studies. The presentation was followed by casino gaming, a raffle and the awarding of numerous gifts and prizes. Family members, dignitaries and friends were in attendance to help celebrate the occasion.

We wish to thank all our sponsors for their generosity particularly our corporate sponsors - Heights Medical, Valley National Bank, Sintro Associates, Bildisco Mfg., Coccia Realty, Elite Development, Montclair State University, Paragano Enterprises, Smith Barney-citygroup, Florentine

Gardens and Max Berlin.

Once again, we say "MILLE GRAZIE" to all those who participated and look forward to joining with you to support Italian Studies in the future.

Ralph A. Contini, CPA
Thomas Daidone
Golf Committee General Chairmen



Coccia Foundation



Save the Date 2007
Italian Studies
Golf Classic
at
White Beeches Golf and Country Club

Monday, June 25th

THE COCCIA INSTITUTE
WISHES TO EXPRESS
DEEPEST APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

PAST HONOREES

JOHN & LINDA-GAIL ALATI
PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT -
UNICO NATIONAL & FIRST LADY
PAUL DI GAETANO
FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN
RICK CERONE
FORMER NY YANKEE



Coccia Foundation

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Little Italy In The South

On April 26, I embarked on yet another exotic journey, this time to visit Clemson University in South Carolina, accompanied by Phil Sergio, an associate with the Coccia Foundation. The campus of this top ranking university stretches out from the edge of Lake Hartwell on more than 18,000 acres of former cotton fields and pine forests. Just like my predecessor, also a northerner, Thomas Green Clemson who founded Clemson in 1889, I fell in love with the beauty of its lush vegetation, mild climate and immaculate golf courses. Yet, I was most impressed with its academics.

Clemson University has more than 17,000 students hailing from 77 countries and offering degrees in more than 70 fields of study in five colleges, such as agriculture, forestry and life sciences, engineering, health, education and human development.

The Director of Development for the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, Rob Porter, proved not only be a most gracious host, but also an excellent guide on our tour of the campus and sports facilities. We admired the classical lines of Tillman Hall with its bell tower, as much as we did the huge football stadium, appropriately named "Death Valley," the home of the Clemson Tigers. Our brief stay was a whirlwind of social activities and meetings. We had a delightful conversation with Jim Barker, the president of the university, an excellent lunch with the Associate Dean, Judith Melton and the Chair of Department of Languages, Constancio Nakuma, as well as real espresso in the office of the Dean, Jan Schach.

I know that you are all eager to ask a question, what was the purpose of my visit to Clemson, apart from the desire to see this campus? The answer may come as a surprise to some, but believe it or not Clemson has a vibrant Italian program. This program offers elementary and intermediate language instruction as well as a minor in Italian, with courses on Italian literature, culture and cinema. Over the last 10 years the number of students grew from 30 to 120 and the number of minors keeps growing every year.

Clemson students of Italian have been a steady presence in the Ponte program in Rome, winning the Ponte awards in competition with the most prestigious universities and colleges in the United States. But statistics apart, what impressed me the most was the enthusiasm and preparation of the students and their dedication to studying Italian. Dr. Barbara Zaczek, the head of the Italian section, arranged a two-hour drop in for students to meet with us. We were delighted to see over 40 students who stopped by to chat with us. We were even treated to an opera piece sung in Italian by one of the second year students, Julie Hamilton.

All in all, it was an extremely rewarding experience and I plan to return to Clemson on September 30 to work with the Italian club on campus for an "Italian Night."

I received a letter on May 30 from President Barker, thanking me for our visit and expressing his feelings on working together in the future as well.

"I applaud the work you are doing to promote Italian language and culture for this generation of students," Barker stated in his letter. I have always believed that no architect or designer's education is complete without experiencing Italy. The eye must be trained to see. Dr. Barbara Zaczek will remain in touch with you as we move forward to nurture the mutually beneficial relationship that has begun. I look forward to seeing your newsletter with its article on "Italy in the South."

We presented the president with a check to support students of the Italian program and I hope our collaboration will flourish in the future and that our foundation will be able to provide aid to more deserving students. Would I recommend Clemson to anyone wanting to study Italian in the south? For a clue to my answer please return to the title of this piece! "Clemson University, Little Italy in the South." Absolutely!

Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr.



Coccia Foundation

Lost but not Forgotten

The millions of Italians who left Italy during the turn of the century, brought with them the tradition of outdoor religious feasts. They left many things behind, but the love and devotion to the saint of the hometown, was not one of them.

At one time in America, there were a little over 3,000 of these celebrations, which may be difficult to fathom in this day. For instance, the town of Potecello, a fishing town in Sicily, honors the Madonna de Lume. These people settled in San Francisco and San Diego, Calif., Milwaukee, Wis. and Gloucester, Mass. All four of these American cities have a celebration in her honor. Now try and picture Chicago's Taylor Street district in 1925, with two Italian parishes, Holy Guardian Angel and Our Lady of Pampeii, only one mile apart. Together they held over 30 processions, some taking place on the same day and hour.

Sadly, today we are reduced to a little over 300. Some of the causes for this decline through the years have been The Great Depression, due to the lack of money and World War II, due to the lack of men.

I grew up across the street from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Montclair, NJ, which hosted three such celebrations each year. To prepare for these, the entire neighborhood began sprucing up weeks in advance. Every decision was centered on the feast, such as major renovations and even vacations were



Referred to as 'the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.' Only three statues of the blessed Virgin in the entire Western Hemisphere have been crowned by Pontifical Decree. This historical event took place on July 10, 1904"-----from "Our Lady of Mt Carmel- East Harlem, NY

scheduled at that time.

The first physical sign the festival was eminent came when the green poles that hold the multi-colored garland-lit arches went up. Kids would run through the streets and one could just feel the excitement in the neighborhood. From the butcher to the bakery, everyone was in preparation. As the time drew closer, the hammering of the vendors putting up their stands could be heard. Benches, chairs, and tables, each with a homemade bottle of wine, lined the streets. Men would be playing bocce along the railroad bed, woman in the kitchen cooking and pictures and miniature statues were starting now in view. Colorful baskets of money and flowers hung from second and third story windows of homes, ready to be lowered as the saint passed under.

Then the moment the church bells rang with that special "feast ring" we knew the time had come. The bands could be heard playing triumphantly, the deafening cacophony of fireworks; both on the ground and in the air went off, as the large crowds chanted. The saint is out!

My mission

I began a mission 20 years ago to capture and preserve the remaining Italian-American saint celebrations on video. To date, I have taped 242 different feasts in many states. New York leads with 64 and New Jersey comes in second with 59. Other states such as Massachusetts, California, Connecticut and Ohio, among others, come in with 30 or less.

Traveling to these Italian-American saint celebrations has been quite an adventure. I try my best to go in and out of the state within a day's time, sometimes regretting not seeing the sights. Yet, I never would have been able to reach all of these destinations if I decided to stay over night. For instance, I flew to Denver and returned the same day without viewing the magnificent Rocky Mountains, but I did see St. Rocco's procession. I am most proud of setting foot on the ground of more Italian neighborhoods in America than, I dare to say, anyone.

I am currently writing a book entitled *When the Saints Come Marching Out*. The book, will discuss what takes place prior,

Continued on page 8

Coccia Foundation

Continued from page 7

during and after the saint departs from the church. The book will be a chronicle of my observations and dialogue with participants on the day of their feasts. This book will educate and inform on subjects inclusive of -- but not limited to -- the neighborhoods, societies, saints, the food, statues, processions, decorations, bands, major causes of the decline, and surviving the 21st century.

The traditions



One of over 20 candle houses in one of the most colorful and devotional processions in America. Candle houses are sometimes referred to as 'centi'---Our Lady Mt Carmel - in Melrose Park IL

Numerous traditions will be elaborated on in the book such as candle house, the laboriously made "centi," whose original purpose was to serve as a donation of candles to light the church for the coming year. Today, they add to the festive aura. At a glimpse they look like tiered wedding cakes, decorated with colorful ribbons and topped with a small statue.

These are still present in many of the Chicago area feasts, such as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Melrose Park, where as many as 25 can be seen in the procession.

There is also the St. Sebastian "nuri" runners in Middletown Ct. Over 300 men, women, and children dressed in white with red sash, all holding a bouquet of flowers, which are raised in unison as they run and chant prayers to the saint *Primo Dio, viva St. Sebastiano*.



One of the most authentic saint carries in the 'New World'. A beautiful piece of art work hand-carved from wood. Saint carriers are also called 'vara'. ----St. Sebastian- in Montclair NJ

There are many more traditions worth mentioning, like the greased pole contest, which requires athletic participants to inch their way up on the shoulders of those below, to reach the prize at the top.

The book's topic is extremely visual and photos will be selected from my collection of over 3,000 8x10 images. The photos were gathered from cultural centers, libraries, newspaper archives, personal collections, with the majority photographed by me. I am currently looking for a few Italian-Americans to do the narration of the DVD, which will be included with my publication.

My goal is to preserve what I believe to be one of the most important aspects of the Italian-American experience -- la festa. The collection of videos and photos, along with a book and documentary, should one day be accessible to people of today as well as future generations. I hope others use my work as an inspiration to continue their feast, and also give ambition to some to resurrect theirs.

Paolo Porcelli is available for presentations, where he will supply his own "state-of-the-art" equipment. For information contact him at 973-482-5845 or at IAFeastman@yahoo.com



A typical step shrine set up during the feast. They usually include statues, flowers, and pictures of deceased family members." --- from Our Lady Mt Carmel in Kenosha WI

Coccia Foundation

Spinone Italiano?

By Judi Ciminnisi

"Absolutely, I would love one; could you please make that two?" Could I be speaking of a revered Italian dessert? Not quite. Perhaps I hint a little more. It is something which is grandiose, loving, extremely intelligent and absolutely stunning. Not sure yet?

Well it is official to say the Coccia Foundation has "gone to the dogs!" I congratulate and deeply thank Mr. Coccia for recognizing that a part of Italian culture, history and education is Italy's canines.

For those of us who are "dog people," you can just understand it. There is something amazing about having a dog totally dedicated to you, waiting excitedly for you when you walk in the door after a stressful day at work. They come with no back-talk, no bad grades and most importantly they don't ask for money!

Just as humans do, canines come from all over the world before they end up at the end of your bed in your New Jersey home. The Spinone Italiano breed, more commonly known as the Italian Griffon in the United States is an ancient dog which dates back to before Christ. Pronunciation is easy for those well-versed in Italian. Spi-no-nay is singular while Spi-no-nee is plural. It is quite easy to confuse the two, but when speaking with Spinone enthusiasts, like members of the



Spinone Club of America, they are eager to teach and educate you on this wonderful dog breed.

Although it is not known exactly when this breed was first found in Italy, it is a fact that the Spinone descended from an ancient hunting breed in the Northern Piedmont region of Italy. Proof has been found to show these ancestors date back to 500 B.C.

Spinone, have a very long and complex history. At one point during the 1950s, this deeply loved breed, was on the brink of extinction. It is during this time, a few dedicated breeders revived this breed to the magnificent family and hunting dog it is today.

Still used today as hunting dogs, Spinone are a versatile breed with exceptional stamina and strength. They are considered a soft mouth retriever, meaning they do not damage the game they retrieve, but gently bring the game back to their master. Spinone retrieve no more than 30 yards away from their master.

Spinone willingly and lovingly hunt in all climates and on all terrain. They have a thick, rough coat and very thick skin, which protects them from all temperatures of water. As excellent swimmers, Spinone are the ultimate hunting dog.

Although they are best known as a hunting breed, Spinone are well loved by not only



hunters but non-hunting families just the same. Spinone are unlike "traditional" hunting dogs, because they too can be kept in the home, with a family who loves them. They are not a breed that will fare well being away from their Master and family. The Spinone needs and thrives on their Master's love. They become part of the family, and are well-known to be exceptional buddies to children.

Spinone are approximately between 60 - 90 lbs, and can grow to a little over two-feet tall. There are several colors that are specific to Spinone, including white and white with brown roan. These dogs require a small amount of grooming and their personalities can be smart, sneaky and manipulative. Yet, they are generally docile, patient and non-aggressive, with not dog bite on record for the entire Spinone breed.

If you are interested in any dog breed, it is extremely important not to make a hasty purchase because that "puppy in the window" is staring at you with lonely eyes. Research and speaking with professionals involved with canines, are a huge key to success. Reports have shown 56 percent of dogs and 71 percent of cats are needlessly euthanized in the United States each year. So I encourage you to do your part. Reach out, research and rescue these animals if at all possible.

For further information on Spinone, please contact: The Spinone Club of America, www.spinone.com; if you are interested in adopting a Spinone, please email spinone@spinone.com or call: 804-333-0309.

Sources for this article would not have been possible without loving help from members of the Spinone Club of America (<http://www.spinone.com>). Information was provided by Jan Naigus and Bill and Bev Thomas and americanhumane.org.

Yes, we are at it again. With the new school year approaching, our campus Italian Club students are extremely excited and pleased about our new initiative.

This October, (Italian Heritage Month), NIAF (National Italian Association Foundation) will host a student conference in Washington, D.C. on the weekend of October 20 & 21, 2006.

The Coccia Foundation is looking to sponsor a minimum of 25 to 35 excited students to attend and participate in this most important annual event. This will be a weekend convention in which students will participate in special receptions, conferences and entertainment. We are requesting your support for a monetary donation anywhere between \$100. and \$200. dollars to off-set the cost of the students expense.

All donations are to be made payable to COCCIA FOUNDATION and mailed to: 23 Leswing Avenue, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663.

All questions, if any, can be answered by calling me at 201-712-5512. On behalf of the students, we greatly appreciate and thank you for your support. Participants and donors will be listed in a future Coccia Foundation Newsletter. "MILLE GRAZIE"

Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr.

Coccia Foundation

GARDEN STATE OPERA

COMES TO WAYNE, NJ

The Coccia Foundation and New Jersey Music and Arts, Inc. are presenting the Garden State Opera in Wayne this fall. The Garden State Opera was founded in 1999 to bring quality operatic productions in Northern New Jersey at inexpensive tickets price. GSO founder and artistic director is Francesco Santelli, Italian born composer and Conductor from Rome who is also the Composer in Residence with the annual Assisi Music Festival in Italy.

The mission of GSO is to introduce new and classic operatic works of Italian composers to the audiences of Northern New Jersey.

The GSO Fall production will consist of a double bill:

Santelli, 'An Angel in the Park' (World Premiere)

Some frequent visitors of a park find help to their troubles in a most unusual way.

Rossini, 'La Cambiale di Matrimonio'
(The Bill of Exchange of Marriage)

An English merchant plans to repay his debt to an American businessman with a marriage deal that goes wrong

The production is staged, with orchestra and the English projected titles.

The performance will be in Wayne at the Wayne Valley High School Auditorium on Saturday, December 2, 2006, 7PM.

Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for seniors and \$10 for students).

GSO would like to thank Mr. Joseph and Elda Coccia for their support and we hope that GSO can play an important role in the cultural life of the Italians and Italian Americans of New Jersey. Please visit our website at www.gardenstateopera.org.

For tickets sale, information or if you would like to help Garden State Opera please call (973) 272-3255.



Coccia Foundation

Looking Ahead

A very excited new year is unfolding. The appointment of two additional Trustees, along with a team of 12 dedicated volunteers, led by Anthony Marucci, are working together to review and strengthen the foundations Vision and Mission.

Since our last issue, a number of universities have joined our net work and many of our students have traveled to Italy through financial grants sponsored by the Coccia Foundation, friends and Italian organizations. Mille Grazie to our supporters.¶K

A number of students will soon be traveling to Washington, DC (sponsored by our foundation) on the week-end of October 20th and 21st, 2006, to attend the National Italian American Foundation's 2006 (31st Annual Gala and Conference) an event which honors Italian-Americans and hosts informational events for students.

Our annual Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute at Montclair State University, drew over 400 high school students (10 schools participating, along with their Italian teachers) to honor their heritage. Since our Mission to Preserve Italian Culture" became prominent;Kfour years ago, we have seen growth in every aspect of student interest in their Italian Culture.

As we enter this new school year, I am filled with enthusiasm for what is to come.

Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr.

Tante Grazie

Whenever you look at this clock, think of the time we have spent together. We wanted to thank you for all your support, energy, and efforts. This would not be possible without you. Thank you,

La Piazza,

Danielle, Mynda, Matt and Jennifer
Students at Fairleigh Dickinson University Madison Campus

Dear Dr. Fitzpatrick,

I was chosen to receive the annual Coccia Foundation Scholarship Award this year, and I am writing this letter to express my sincerest thank you. Please thank Mr. and Mrs. Coccia for their generosity in funding this scholarship.

It was an honor to be recognized for my hard work in my Italian language classes, and receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue to strive for excellence in my future endeavors. I am honored to be the recipient of the Coccia Foundation Scholarship Award. Thank you once again.

Yours truly,
Marissa Fremont

Dear Members of the Coccia Institute,

I was much honored to be selected as this year's recipient of the intermediate level Italian language scholarship. I am writing to thank you for sponsoring this award through the Coccia Institute at Montclair State University.

I am currently a third-year biology major with a minor in international studies at MSU. After graduation I hope to apply the knowledge I have learned in Italian language and culture to the global market in pharmaceutical research.

Sincerely,
Lindsey A. Newman

Dear Mr. Coccia and the members of the Coccia Foundation,

Thank you very much for your kind and generous gift to the band program at Midland School. We will be using the funds to begin a rent-to-purchase contract on a new tenor saxophone for the school. I am very excited about this because, thanks to your gift, we will not have a full complement of saxophones for the concert band.

On behalf of the Board of Education in Rochelle Park, our Superintendent of Schools, C. Lauren Schoen, Ed. D, and our Principal, Mr. Mark Mongon, I would like to thank you again for your generous support of our program.

Grazie Tanto!
Dr. Steven Sacco
Instrumental Music Teacher

On behalf of the Executive Board of The American Italian Cultural Roundtable, Inc., please accept my sincerest thanks for the generous donation by the Coccia Foundation for our May 4th, 2006 New York Awards Benefit. We hope you enjoyed the evening and look forward to your continued support.

Richard F. Sorrentino, President

Thank you for the Coccia Foundation's generous gift to Drew University. I greatly appreciate your generosity towards our students of Italian. By providing for a student's experiences in Italy and by supporting the CIAO group's activities, you have invigorated our resources for the study of Italian language and culture. Thank you for this special contribution to the Drew educational experience.

Robert Weisbuch, President

Coccia Foundation

Why Blue?

Italy's colors are green, white and red!

FORZA AZZURI! Those words rang out around every town and city in Italy after the Azzurri - Italian National Soccer Team- won their fourth World Cup title in their history of soccer against their French rivals on a hot July afternoon. A sea of blue jerseys, shirts, hats and other paraphernalia unmistakably characterized the supporters of this seemingly invincible team.

However, after realizing that Italy's flag colors are green, white and red, a predominately blue jersey appeared to have no real significance; except for proving the sky is their limit to success by wearing this rich royal blue shade. Remarkably, the stunning shade of blue has more significance than even true Italians are aware of.

Before Italy became a republic on June 2, 1946, the country was ruled by the House of Savoia or in Italian "La Casa di Savoia". The ruling house asserted its power over the land from 1861 to 1946. It was during this reign that Italian soccer made its first debut.

On May 15, 1910, Italy played its first national game against their arch rivals, France. The fearsome match was held in Milan, where the Italians proved victorious by a score of 6-2. Since this merciless game, soccer has been a religion to the devout soccer enthusiasts. During the rule of this house, the national team fell into becoming one of the most successful and victorious teams in the world. Their record to this day displays proudly one Olympic Tournament won (1936), one European Championship (1968), and now, four World Cups (1934, 1938, 1982, 2006).

The brilliant shade of blue or "azzurro" worn by this Italian National Soccer Team and every other major organization dates back to when the House of Savoia reigned over Italy. The shade is the distinctive color on the house's coat of arms, and was used on the previous president's flag (blue with the coat-of-arms of the Republic in gold). Out of respect for the monarchy, the shade worn during all national matches is the royal blue. Hopefully, by continuing with this tradition, the Azzurri will continue to amaze its supporters by winning a fifth and even a sixth World Cup Title!

Currently the present Italy flag bears the colors green, white, and red which signify hope, faith, and charity respectively.

Kristen Kettelhut, Student
Emory University, Georgia



Coccia Foundation
"preserving Italian culture"

Foundation Office
23 Leswing Avenue
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

Benvenuti...

To our AMICI and supporters.

Thank you for bringing our rich Italian
Culture and Heritage into your home.

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #79
Hackensack, NJ
07601