



Coccia Foundation

Preserving Italian Culture



Volume 3 Issue 1

Filling the Need

Summer 2007

This year's symposium, entitled "Italia America, Past, Present, Future", as sponsored by the Coccia Foundation (CF), Rider University, and the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and was held on March 26th. The symposium brought together students taking Italian language courses from high schools throughout New Jersey. The symposium, with an attendance of over 200, featured presentations on "Pop Culture: High School Life in Italy", "Dual Citizenship: Living and Working in Italy" and a discussion on the Sacco and Vanzetti case.

In the morning students met at the Rider University Bart Luedeke Center where they began their day with a tour of Rider, followed by lunch. The students and their teachers were offered insight and strategies for learning the Italian language, culture, and Italian American heritage. The number of students enrolled in high school and university Italian language and study courses has grown exponentially over the past decade, making it one of the most studied foreign languages.

Peter Miller, creator and director of "Sacco and Vanzetti", discussed the history of discrimination towards Italian Americans, highlighting the Sacco and Vanzetti case. Nick Iovacchini made a presentation on the pop culture and high school life in Italy today. A representative from the NIAF explained the process of attaining dual citizenship between Italy and America. Students were also invited to engage in a dialogue about living and working in Italy today as well as the growing business relations between Italy and America.

New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission



Coccia Foundation Trustee Ralph A. Contini and Founder Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr. with Chairman Cav. N. Larry Paragano and Executive Director Dr. Mary Ann Re of the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission. The Commission embraced the buzz words used for the Student Symposium held in Washington, D.C. prior to the NIAF Gala.

1st Annual High School Student Italian Symposium Held at Rider University



At the Coccia Foundation sponsored Symposium are Barbara Peirano, Patrick O'Boyle, Founders Elda and Cav. Joseph Coccia, Gary Belotti, Trustees Elisa Coccia and Ralph Contini, and event coordinator Anthony Marucci.

Many Italian American dignitaries were also in attendance including: Joseph Agresti, President-Elect of UNICO National; Barbara Peirano, UNICO National Executive Director; Chairman Cav. N. Larry Paragano and Executive Director Dr. Mary Ann Re of the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission; as well as Frank Gargione, Michael Genevrino and Rose Zagari-Marinzoli all from the commission, Anthony DiPerno, author of "Adventures of Garibaldi", which he presented to the dignitaries and teachers present, President John Scarpato, representatives from the Mercer County Italian Festival, UNICO National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona, and past UNICO National President Frank Tidona. Also present were members of the AMICI della LINGUA ITALIANA Society of Burlington County: President (Founder) Joseph Paglione, Trustee

Vito Finizio, Sister Carmela Cristiano, Anna DeCristofaro, and a number of members, along with former president and member Joseph DeFelice.

The Coccia Foundation, founded in 1994, is committed to supporting young Italian Americans and students of Italian through scholarships, mentoring programs and implementing Italian curriculum in schools. The Foundation is proud to support fifteen Student Italian Cultural Organizations across the country as part of its AMICI della CULTURA ITALIANA clubs. Additionally, the Foundation donates more than \$30,000 in scholarships annually.

Coccia Foundation Supports New Orleans Renaissance



President Joseph Masselli of the American Italian Renaissance Foundation thanks Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr. of the CF for a donation to the redevelopment of New Orleans. Anyone interested in helping with the renaissance of New Orleans may send a donation to: American Italian Renaissance Foundation, Post Office Box 2392, New Orleans, LA 70176

Coccia Foundation Names Editor



Barbara Peirano, a member of the Coccia Foundation for the past year and serving as a member of the Executive Board, has been named editor of the Coccia Foundation newsletter.

Ms. Peirano comes to us with outstanding credentials. She is editor of UNICO National's "ComUNICO" and, prior to holding this position, was the Copy Editor for many years. This year she will

have been with UNICO 30 years. Starting in April 1977 as a bookkeeper, she was promoted to Office Manager, and in 1986, assumed the position of Executive Administrator for both UNICO National and UNICO Foundation. She still holds both positions today.

In early 2006, Barbara was elected to the Cooley's Anemia Foundation Board as UNICO National's representative. UNICO has been an active participant in looking for a cure since the early 1970s. She served as UNICO National's annual Convention Co-Chair on two occasions.

Barbara stated, "One of the goals I have for my tenure as a CAF Board Member is to bring a better understanding of the Foundation's work to my membership and to create a plan where UNICO and the CAF can work jointly on upcoming projects."

On a personal level, Barbara returned to college and graduated from Centenary College with a degree in Business Administration in 2001. She continued with her education and graduated from Centenary College with a MS degree in Professional Accounting in 2004. Born in Paterson, NJ, she is the proud mother of one daughter, Beth.

Lo Castro Appointed to Institute Board



The Coccia Institute is proud to announce the appointment of Marcella (Marcy) LoCastro as the newest member to be appointed to the Institute Board. Marcy comes to the Institute with the experience of 30 years working in the financial community.

Marcy joined SolomonEdwardsGroup, LLC (SEG) in April, 2006 as Managing Director of the NJ Office. SEG is a leading professional services firm that provides expertise in accounting and finance by uniquely combining business consulting and accounting solutions with a professional search and interim resources model. She has over 30 years of experience working with CEOs and CFOs, providing accounting solutions, software package implementation, business process improvement and management reporting solutions. She has held principal and partner roles with Deloitte and Touche/Deloitte Consulting LLP, JH

Cohn LLP/JH Cohn Software Associates, Arthur Andersen LLP, and Ernst & Young, LLP. She was the first woman partner at JH Cohn LLP, Arthur Andersen and Ernst & Young in their NJ offices. In these roles, Marcy has dealt exclusively with many of the major financial software vendors including: Oracle, JD Edwards, SAP and Lawson - on behalf of her clients. Her experience has been across a wide range of industries including: medical devices, life sciences, manufacturing, and consumer products.

She has been a frequent speaker on information systems topics for accounting and business associations, women's topics for various women's associations, and has been a contributor to several articles. She was heavily quoted in an article by the Associated Press which appeared in three newspapers and was posted on more than 15 news websites. She was featured in "WomensBIZ.US" in its October 2004 technology issue. She also has been a panelist on News 12 New Jersey's "New Jersey Business" television program. She was part of a panel of NJAWBO members who appeared in a national documentary by Ivanhoe Broadcast News on "Women and Ambition" which aired in November 2004. She was also interviewed by Lee Spinelli, host of "Changing Images, A News Magazine for Women" in December 2004. She is a contributor to an article on Information Security and WD on the front cover of the November 2006 issue of CPA Magazine. Marcy is a recipient of *Business News New Jersey* New Jersey Leader Recognition Award and was honored by the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) with its 2005/2006 Service Award. Marcy is also President of Executive Women of New Jersey, the oldest professional women's group in the State.

Welcome aboard Marcy!

COCCIA FOUNDATION

Founded 1994
"Preserving Italian Culture"

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Coming in next issue.

**2007 Italian Studies
Golf Classic**

Scholarship News

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www.cocciafoundation.org

Foundation

Coccia Institute Events “Una Serata Elegante” visit to MSU



Amici della Cultura Italiana hosted its third annual dinner dance, “Una Serata Elegante,” a night of Italian culture and celebration for 255 young Italian Americans and Italian enthusiasts at the Excelsior on April 20.

The guests were students or recent alumni from University Italian clubs of Fairleigh Dickinson Madison and Teaneck Campuses, Montclair State, NJ Institute of Technology, Ramapo, Rider, Rutgers New Brunswick, Seton Hall, Westchester Community, and William Paterson.

The evening, celebrated the end of the most successful year thus far for Amici della Cultura Italiana, began with a lavish cocktail hour followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner and gelato bar. Guests were treated to live Italian music during dinner and danced into the early morning to the latest Italian dance and popular music, with a few English songs thrown into the mix as well. Italian Club president, Mynda D’Andrea, of Fairleigh Dickinson Madison, presented Italian Professor Josephine Spina with the advisor of the year award for her hard work at both of the Fairleigh Dickinson campus’ Amici della Cultura Italiana Italian clubs.

Amici della Cultura Italiana consists of 16 University Italian clubs whose efforts are cultivated and encouraged under the guidance of the Coccia Foundation. The majority of the university Italian clubs are in the New Jersey and New York metropolitan area; however, Italian clubs from universities such as Clemson in South Carolina are also involved. The organization has grown tremendously since it was established just three years ago with only two university Italian clubs.

The Students of Amici della Cultura Italiana are dedicated to preserving the Italian culture for future generations and promoting Italian language and cultural studies at every level of a student’s educational journey. Nearly all of the over 600 students, who make up Amici della Cultura Italiana study the Italian language at their respective universities, with many having chosen to major or minor in Italian.

Additionally, the students of Amici della Cultura Italiana hold many cultural and educational events for their university communities. They include exhibits of Italian artists, cinema nights, excursions to the opera, and Italian feasts in the area. Bi-weekly meetings are held at their universities where students often play Scopa, read up on the latest Italian news, listen to the newest Italian music, and tutor each other in Italian. 98 students attended the annual NIAF Youth Gala and Conference in Washington last October. Fundraisers held throughout the year included annual Halloween and Carnevale fundraisers and have raised over 5,000 dollars for charitable causes this year. The annual student bocce and soccer tournaments held each spring are very well attended. Through the generosity of the CF the clubs are able to award their members with a scholarship to study Italian in Italy.

The young leaders of Amici della Cultura Italian look forward to expanding their reach among the youth of the Italian American community. Italian clubs are being formed and will be ready to join in September. Plans to start clubs for young adults, alumni and those who are beyond college and in the workforce are being considered.



“WHAT EMERGING ADULTS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE MARRYING”! WHY YOUR BLOOD COUNT IS IMPORTANT



Young James is a sterling example of the compassionate way Cooley's Anemia patients are treated.

Every person perceives the Italian Experience in America from a different vantage point. The aspect of our culture that most resonates with me is represented in the colors of the Italian flag - the green, white and red signifying hope, faith and charity. From where I sit as an Italian American and as the National Executive Director of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, I am proud that the Italians in our native land and in America have distinguished themselves as global leaders in the fight against the fatal blood disorder - thalassemia. Also called Cooley's Anemia, thalassemia is disproportionately represented among people of Italian descent: as a matter of fact, it is so associated with Italy that it was once popularly known as Mediterranean anemia.

Thalassemia is a genetic disorder. Children who inherit the gene from both their parents require lifelong blood transfusions as often as every two weeks. These transfusions save their lives and ameliorate the anemia, but they have a deadly consequence. The iron from all these transfusions build up in the body, destroying the heart, liver and organs. Unless that excess iron can be removed, it will kill the patient.

For many patients, the only way to remove the iron is through a process that involves sticking a needle in the leg or stomach and pumping into the body for 8-12 hours EVERY NIGHT. It's a difficult and burdensome process that is impossible to maintain. In addition, patients are subject to complications that range from heart and liver failure to diabetes to blood borne.

Fortunately, advances in treatment mean the patients now live longer. The good news is that in years past, most patients died in childbirth; nowadays, the majority live into their thirties and beyond. Some have even been blessed with children of their own. But even with the best of care, patients have a life expectancy that is far from normal.

As you can see, this is a serious disease and causes a great many problems for those whose lives it affects. And the seriousness of the disease is something that the Italian American community has recognized for many years.

Often when confronted with what seems a hopeless cause, the reaction is to give in - unless you are Italian. I think it is within our nature to persevere - to look for opportunity and to achieve great things.

Here is a small example. In Italy today, thalassemia is well known. There is an abundance of education and awareness in each of the regions. I remember on my first trip to Italy reading posters covering the town that called for blood donors to help those with thalassemia, or posters that emphasized the importance of a thalassemia trait screening. I was amazed.

I also learned through visiting the various thalassemia centers that this awareness has resulted in a blood supply that takes into consideration not just the quantitative needs of the thalassemia patients but also their qualitative

needs as well. When you are getting blood every two weeks, it is important that that blood be properly cross-matched and safe, and these education campaigns had ensured just that.

The first bone marrow transplants were performed on thalassemia patients, and the leading clinic for transplantation is located in Italy. There is a large bone marrow bank, again due to education and awareness. And to add to an impressive list of accomplishments, the Italians have been extremely generous in funding gene therapy research. Thalassemia is a worldwide problem; in fact, the World Health Organization considers it the number one genetic blood disorder in the world. The population of patients is greater in many other countries - yet Italy is a leader in innovative care for the disorder.

This experience is similar in the United States among Italian Americans. When the Cooley's Anemia Foundation was founded in 1954, its base of support was largely from the Italian Community. Indeed its founding members - the Ficcarà's, Caltabianco's, Paradiso's and Cazzetta's - were immigrants who came to America with the cultural belief that anything is possible.

In 1954, they were told that their cause was hopeless. At that time, little was known about the disease in Italy or the United States, other than that it was fatal and that periodic blood transfusions seem to help prolong life for a few years.

Even something that today seems as simple as a blood transfusion was a challenge in 1954. The Foundation had to work hard to make sure that blood was available for patients; sometimes a “blood exchange” was necessary, meaning that one pint of blood would need to be donated for every pint that was used.

Clearly, there was a need to make sure the blood supply was adequate, and the Foundation asked the Italian American Community to help in this regard - and they responded. Requests for blood to help children with thalassemia struck a special cord with Italians in America.

As the Foundation grew, it recognized the need for more research into thalassemia. Here too, the Italian community in America refused to accept the situation as hopeless. They realized that, in this case, hopeless meant that there simply wasn't enough information. The community supported the Foundation as it began its medical research programs which, through the years, have made significant contributions to the fund of knowledge about thalassemia. (Much of this knowledge, by the way, has had a subsidiary benefit for research into many other diseases and conditions.)

The Italian American community, of course, played a tremendous role in supporting that research.

This isn't surprising; after all, scientists and doctors in Italy have been responsible for some of the most important studies and trials in the field of Cooley's Anemia. Working with a larger patient population base, the Italian medical community has risen to the challenge and has played a key role in determining the needs of the thalassemia community and in working to meet those needs. In turn, the community has worked in collaboration with doctors in America and around the world.

(Continued on Page 5)

Patient demonstrating the pump that must be used each and every night to help prevent iron building up in their blood.



Foundation

(Continued from (Page 4)

Before...

That commitment has crossed the ocean, whether it is through organizations such as Coccia Foundation, OSIA or UNICO, or through the thousands of individuals who have supported the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, the Italian American community has demonstrated that they will do anything that is necessary to help their children - and the children of all people, from all backgrounds, who suffer from thalassemia.

Today, the Foundation is proud that our patients are living longer and fuller lives. But we are more committed than ever to finding an actual cure for thalassemia - and that commitment is finding shape in supporting clinical trials that utilize gene therapy. Gene therapy has been proven to work in animals, and initial trials in humans are finally getting started.

There's a long way to go before we achieve that cure. But we know one thing for certain: We WILL achieve it. It is in our genes - it is part of our culture to persevere and succeed.

What's in your Genes?

Two million Americans carry the genetic trait for thalassemia and most of them don't know it. FIND OUT.

Ask your physician to look at a copy of a complete blood count (CBC) on file or ask your doctor for a CBC. The CBC will tell you the size of your red blood cells - measured as the Mean Corpuscular Value ((MCV)

If the MCV is less than 75 and you are not iron deficient, you may be carrying the genetic trait for thalassemia.

Gina Cioffi, Esq.
National Executive Director
Cooley's Anemia Foundation



Joe Pesci with young patients who participated in a New York City parade to help bring awareness to Cooley's Anemia.



Actors Tony LoBianco and Chazz Palminteri with teenage patient Alicia

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Networking with other Italian American Organizations



At the National Italian American Foundation dinner are CF Trustee Ralph Contini, Carmen Berra, CF Founder Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr., Sports Legend Yogi Berra, and UNICO National 3rd Vice President Chris DiMattio.



Co-Founders Cav. Joseph and Dr. Elda Coccia take a moment for a photo op with UNICO National President Michael and First Lady Linda Spano.

ANGELO PATRI EDUCATOR AND PIONEER IN LIBERAL EDUCATION

By John V. Perrella



John V. Perrella

B-1876, Salerno, Italy
D-September 13th, 1965,
Interred in Pawling, New York

"If we could only discover what makes one person different from another. Consider one frail, delicate Italian boy brought to our land and grew to become one of the finest contributors to civilized life in our nation". So states Dorothy Canfield Fisher in an article published in the *Christian Herald* in June of 1940.

Angelo Patraglia (later in America changed to Patri) was born in Piaggine, in the province of Salerno, which is located in the Region of Campania. In 1881, his family arrived in New York and settled in East Harlem. At that time, the largest Italian immigrant population in America was located in that area. His father, Nicholas, was a common laborer who could barely read but was a story-teller, reciting exciting tales of historical figures and events of the past. His mother, Carmela, wished him to be a priest. "I guess" he later stated, "I turned out to be a little of both."

It was only when he went to school that young Patri realized that he was not in Italy anymore, but in America. Until age eleven, Angelo was home-schooled by an uncle and only taught to read and write the Italian language. The only English he knew was what he learned in the street. At age eleven, his parents, who both realized the benefits an education would enhance Angelo's life, enrolled him in public school. Once in school, he had to learn the English language. The going was tough for the boy, but he was making great strides in his education. Mostly due to recommendations from his teachers, the sixteen year-old Patri was admitted into City College of New Jersey.

In 1898, at twenty-two years of age, Patri graduated City College with an AB degree and began teaching in the public school system. During this time, he also furthered his education by enrolling in evening courses at Columbia University earning a Masters Degree in Education.

He was terribly disappointed in the teaching methods, and he called the program, "a deadly mechanical grind". He then returned to Columbia University for graduate work and there discovered John Dewey's "Ethical Principles," which said conduct was the real test of learning. "No other book," Dr. Patri said, "had such an influence on my life. It made me feel that I was responsible for children and not for the facts of the curriculum or the ways of the supervisor."

In 1904 there were 219,000 Italian Immigrants in Manhattan, New York and of that number, only fifteen were teachers.

After Columbia, Patri returned to teach in the public schools once again; however, the supervisor objected to his use of the Dewey principle, Dr. Patri changed schools and found a Principal who wanted to "serve the children." A few years later, he was appointed Principal of Public School 4 in lower Manhattan. That probably marked the first time that an Italian American was appointed to be a principal of a school in New York City. In 1913, he was named the first principal of the newly constructed school, Paul Hoffman Jr. High School, (P.S. 45), located in the Belmont (Fordham) section of the Bronx. The latter school served a low-income Italian American district and presented a difficult educational problem. "I had lived the same sort of life when I was a boy," Angelo Patri said, "That made the challenge worthwhile."

His own immigrant background did enable him to understand the underprivileged youngsters, and to pioneer liberal education in the Paul Hoffman Jr. High School. In his school, the student body was divided into two groups. One group would work in shops for a half day and then sit in the classrooms. The second half would then sit in classes for the first half and finish the school day working in shops. Book-learning was not overstressed, but pupils were encouraged to develop whatever talents they had. Shops and studies were open to them, and they modeled in clay, painted, wrote, worked in wood or metal, sewed,

wove, or played in an orchestra. They also had an outside area, which included a greenhouse where they planted fruits and vegetables. The school also had a printing shop as well as a book-binding class. Students were encouraged to develop their creative ability while they studied the three "R's." To get parents involved, he started an Association of Parents. Dr. Patri presented his principles of teaching to a large audience with a number of books he authored, radio talks, and a syndicated column in over a hundred newspapers throughout the nation called "Our Children."

Visitors and world-wide notables, including Theodore Roosevelt and Maria Montessori, came to view the concept and study the results of Dr. Patri's innovative approach to primary education.

The educator on child guidance received numerous honors for his work. In 1931, the *Parents Magazine* Medal was awarded to Dr. Patri for distinguished service in parental education and, two years later, the Gold Medal for special merit in education was presented to Dr. Patri by the Minister of National Education in Italy.

President Eliot of Harvard University said of Patri, "Whatever Patri does, he must never stop those irreplaceable talks to teachers and parents in the newspapers."

In 1935, he declined an offer from Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia to serve as a member of the Board of Education preferring to remain in the classroom environment. This was the first of the several "greatest educators in our country."

In 1939, Mayor LaGuardia did finally get an opportunity to appoint Angelo Patri to the New York City Radio Board, to supervise programs on municipal radio stations, and in 1942 he was made a member of the Mayor's War Council. Dr. Patri was honored by Associate Alumni of City College in 1944, and that year became a director of the American Relief for Italy. It was also in 1944 that Dr. Angelo Patri retired from the position he held for 31 years as principal of the Paul Hoffman Jr. High School, (P.S. 45, The Bronx, N.Y.).

In 1940, Dorothy Canfield Fisher wrote an article entitled "Angelo Patri's Public School," where she describes admiring a head in Bronze atop Dr. Patri's desk and asking, "Who made that?"

"A fourteen year-old boy," Dr. Patri replied.

"Has he done anything since he left school?"

"Oh yes", the Principal said, his tone still casual. "He is Antonio DeFilippo. You can see his work on the doors of the Nebraska state capitol and in the Louisiana state capitol."

Dr. Patri had a mane of white hair and a craggy face. He liked to wear bright green ties and light suits and was a serious student of the game of golf. He was married to the former Dorothy Caterson who also was a member of the N.Y.C. School System for thirty years and passed away in 1961. For a man who devoted his entire life to the early education of children, Dr Patri and his wife, Dorothy, ironically had no children.

At eighty-nine years of age, Angelo Patri, who resided in Patterson, New York, passed away in Danbury Hospital. He is buried beneath the Memorial Monument designed and executed by Attilio Piccirilli in the Historic St John's Roman Catholic Cemetery located in Pawling, New York.

Patri had visited Salerno and Piaggine, Italy in 1927, 2002 and 2003. In close to 50 years since his passing, seminars were conducted by Italian School Administrators on his methods of teaching.

Somewhere along in his life, Angelo Patri must have known the value of his contribution to education, for there are 90 boxes of his papers deposited in the Library of Congress.

A definitive book on the life of Patri, "The Promise of Progressivism", Angelo Patri & Urban Education, by James M. Wallace was used as a source for this article. Other sources used were: ANGELO PATRI'S PUBLIC SCHOOL by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Copyright 1940, Christian Herald Assoc., Reprinted in The Readers Digest, June 1940, page 101-105.

OBITUARY, NY TIMES, September 14th, 1965, page 39.

PORTRAIT OF THREE AMERICANS AND THE SEARCH FOR CRISTOFORO COLUMBO by John V. Perrella. Copyright 2006

Foundation

International Police Association Builds Friendships

My relationship between the police from Italy and the police in the USA began in 1991 on my first visit to Italy. I was on a trip with a small group of students from Seton Hall Preparatory, two of their teachers, and several New Jersey Police Officers including an investigator with the U S Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The DEA agent contacted the DEA office in Italy and arranged for someone to meet us in Florence.

In route to Florence, our tour had a stop in Bologna for some sightseeing and lunch. Our bus driver stopped near some motorcycle police officers to ask where he could park the bus. Initially, the officers gave the bus driver a hard time until he told them that he had American Police officers onboard. The officers' attitude changed immediately and they boarded the bus to speak to their American colleagues. After exchanging police patches, the officers told the bus driver to follow them. Three motorcycles escorted our bus through the streets of Bologna to a Piazza where motor vehicles were not allowed. They told the bus driver to leave the bus there and they would watch it while we were sightseeing. This was our first experience with Italian Police.

In Florence, while having dinner at our hotel, two Polizia di Stato arrived in uniform from the DEA office in Italy. Ispettore Superior Alberto Caracchiolo explained that he was a member of the International Police Association whose function was to show visiting police officers the sites of their cities. After dinner, Alberto and his partner escorted our bus to Piazza Michelangelo which is a park overlooking the City of Florence where tourists go to take pictures. He stayed with our group and explained the sites and answered all questions. He then escorted us back to the hotel and told us he would see us the next day. The next day, Alberto was waiting for us in the lobby and rode with us to the center of Florence. There he brought our group to one of the museums where he already made arrangements for us to get in at no charge. After the museum, he arranged for our lunch as his guests. This was a perfect opportunity to discuss the differences and similarities of police work in America and Italy.

Alberto was coming to America the week we returned from our trip. We exchanged telephone numbers and said we would see him here in America. This was the beginning of a wonderful friendship which has matured and exists still today.

Italian teacher, Vinnie Ferrara, and I went to pick up Alberto and his family. During their stay, they met Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura, toured Seton Hall University (to give daughter Ambra a look at an American University), drove through Branch Brook Park where Cherry Blossoms were in full bloom, and visited Sacred Heart Cathedral (now Basilica). After Seton Hall, we brought Alberto and his family to the Appian Way Restaurant in Orange for dinner. We had already made arrangements for the other Italian teacher, Tony Lupica, and several of the police officers from our trip to meet us there. The owner of the Appian Way, Bruno LaBanca, born in Italy, and his son Bobby also joined us. Alberto and his family were impressed by the food and were surprised that it was prepared like they do it in Italy. After espresso, grappa, pastries and fresh fruit, we drove them back to Long Island. On the way, Alberto explained that in his role with the International Police Association he has met police officers from all over the world. He said everyone tells him when he goes to their country to call them, but he never does. He said, "You called me and made such wonderful arrangements for the day I will never forget what you did for me and my family."

The trip to Italy and talks with Alberto, through interpreters, made me want to go back to my roots. My late father was born in Italy, but like all the Italians of that time, he wanted his children brought up as Americans. He only spoke Italian when he did not want us to know what he was talking about. My brother and I contacted Tony Lupica who we call Pazzo Professore and asked him if he

would teach us Italian. We decided we would go to a different Italian restaurant once a week and learn Italian over dinner. One night, we thought we would send Alberto a letter and tell him we were learning Italian and show him how we were doing. We did not tell Alberto that we were dictating to Pazzo in English while he wrote the letter in Italian. Alberto answered our letter and at the next dinner, I mean lesson, Pazzo translated it. Alberto wrote he had a thought, but did not know if it was possible to accomplish. He wanted to put a group together of about twenty Italian Police Officers, from different agencies, and come to America to participate in Columbus Day Celebrations. He asked if we could arrange to have them march, in uniform, in any parades. We knew we could get them in the Newark Parade which was sponsored by the *Italian Tribune*. We were friends of Ace Alagna, the publisher.

The Italian lessons were soon replaced by parade plans. We asked Ace Alagna if he was interested in having the Italian Police, in his parade. He loved the idea so we put him on the committee. Sheriff Fontoura was asked to co-chair the committee along with the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark (now Bishop of Brooklyn). We contacted Bill Schievella of the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey, who was involved with the Hackensack Columbus Day Parade and the New York City Parade. Alberto's group was now in three parades! At the time, we had no idea of what we started.

In 1997, a group of American police officers and members of the parade committee visited Italy where we were greeted at Rome Airport by representatives of the International Police Association. Our group was escorted through customs and the airport to our bus; we then traveled to Florence. There, the Italian Police arranged for our group to tour the historic Carabinieri Police Academy, the Polizia di Stato Emergency Services Bureau, and many of the beautiful historic sites in Florence. These high ranking police officers were our tour guides, and all doors opened for them. As they showed us around we were joined by police on motorcycles, on horseback, and in patrol cars; they all wanted to meet us and take pictures with us. It was an unexpected honor. Dottore Giovanni Cantini, second in command of the Municipal Police of Florence, invited our entire group of eighteen to his home for dinner. The plans for Columbus Day 1997 were thus solidified.

Fundraisers were held with enough money raised to cover everything but their airfare. It was so successful we brought them back in 1999. Since then, I have been to Italy and Alberto has been to America numerous times. In 1997, I became a member of the International Police Association. The friendships blossomed expanding to members of the NY Police Department, the NJ State Police, the Port Authority of NY and NJ, US Customs, US Immigration, Bergen, Essex, Morris Counties Police Agencies, Atlantic City Police and more. All this was made possible because of one phone call and one letter.

In 2005, East Hanover Mayor Bill Angellino asked if a Columbus Day Parade was possible in town. It was decided that the parade should be a Morris County Parade as there wasn't any there then.

As they say, the rest is history. I knew I could count on Alberto to put a group of Italian Police together and come to America. He did, and the people loved seeing them and wanted them back in 2006. The 2006 Parade was a tremendous success and, we get more and more positive responses from the people of Morris County. Morris County will eventually have the biggest parade in New Jersey. The best part, Alberto is only a phone call away.

John Pasquarosa, East Hanover NJ



Join us for the Morris County Columbus Day Parade
East Hanover, New Jersey
10/07/2007 at 2 p.m.
For Additional Information Contact:
Rich Tamburro - 973-615-0874

Institute Message

By Gina Miele, Ph.D.

We at the Coccia Institute for the Italian American Experience in America extend our most sincere gratitude for your efforts to support our important programming for Italian and Italian American students, educators, and the community at large.

Though the mission of the Coccia Institute is to educate and entertain Italian Americans of all ages, our primary purpose is to support the growing number of young Italian Americans who have embarked upon a quest to research themselves and their heritage. It is imperative that we direct our attention to these emerging adults who will ultimately contribute both to Italian American culture and to the economic, political, and socio-cultural ties between Italy and the United States.

Since our last Golf Classic, the Coccia Institute has offered to the public eighteen educational events and nearly as many cultural events including: the opening celebration and lecture for the "Italian Scholars - in - Residence Program" at the Verona and Emerson Public High Schools, the Italian Keynote Address at the annual Romance Studies Colloquium, the premiere of Dr. Marisa Turbine's exhibit "Montclair Memories: The Italians of Montclair, New Jersey" at the Montclair Historical Society, a lecture on Italian American authors by Dr. Luigi Fontanella, "The Legend of La Befana" program for young children, a presentation by acclaimed photographer Jessica Chornesky entitled "Something Borrowed, Something New: Italian Women in the New World and the Old Immigration Post WWII," a Carnevale celebration at Nanina's in the Park, The Second Annual "Teach the Teachers" Symposium, an Italian concert featuring Danny Tarantino, two culinary book signings and demonstrations, and the world premiere of Ennio Flaiano's play, "Il caso Papaleo/The Papaleo Case" at Montclair State University.

In addition, The Coccia Institute awarded five Montclair State University students with academic grants in 2005. "The Most Promising New Italian Major" for \$1000 went to Ms. Catherine Allora, who declared an Italian Major during her first semester of Italian, and according to Dr. David El Principe, "one of the brightest Italian language students here and excels in every way." This award was generously given by UNICO District Seven through the Coccia Institute. "The Coccia Institute's Student Achievement Awards" for \$250 each, were awarded to Mr. Sean Mulachy, a Music Major, Ms. Anisa Robo, an Italian Major, Mr. Robert Ottogalli who is majoring in both Italian and Latin, and Sr. Helen Louise Sanchez, a Spanish teacher who is pursuing second degree in Italian. These students have distinguished themselves not only for their superior work in the classroom, but also for their special individual talents, according to the faculty.

The Coccia Institute's capstone event in 2005 was our First Annual New Jersey Statewide Student Symposium on Italian and Italian American Studies: "Le Radici e Le Ali: Roots and Wings." A National Italian American Foundation grant-awarded program, the symposium was the first of its kind in New Jersey. Attended by over one hundred Italian American students and educators, the symposium included lectures, workshops, performances, and exhibits by Professor Alfio Russo (Director of the Education, Office at the Consulate General of Italy in New York), Commissioner Cathy Vignale (The New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission), Joseph Cervasio (Italian American Businessman and Author), Lucia Grillo (Producer, Director Actress, and President of Calabrisella Films in Rome), Joseph Coco (Sicilian Musician and Artist), and Michela Musolino (Sicilian Folk Musician and Performer).

Our charge to educate the future generations of Italian Americans will continue this summer as the Coccia Institute presents its Third Annual "Lingua Viva Italian Summer program for Children." The four week Italian Theatre Workshop will run from July 5-28, 2007, at Montclair State University. Students ages eight to fourteen will learn Italian vocabulary and act in a bilingual production on the final day of the school. Our two teachers are native Italian speakers and actresses who have studied with Nobel Prize winner Dario Fo. Enrollment is currently underway, and space is limited.

So, as you can see, we at the Coccia Institute have much in which to take pride. However, without the support of you, our friends, we could not have achieved so much in such a short time.

Vi ringraziamo di tutto cuore.

Grazie infinite,

Gina M. Miele, Ph.D.

The Foundation at UMDNJ

In keeping with its mission of helping to promote the advancements of Italian Americans, the Coccia Foundation (CF) has initiated an endowed scholarship in support of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Italian American Student Physician Association. As the fundraising arm of the school, the Foundation of UMDNJ was grateful for this gift, which will mean so much to Italian American students.

The Foundation of UMDNJ was created in 1974 as an independent, not-for-profit, private sector corporation whose mission is to support education, research, community service and patient care programs at the University. By providing support that supplements state funding received by the school, the Foundation of UMDNJ supports excellence and works to improve healthcare for the state of New Jersey in a wide variety of areas.

One thing that sets the Foundation of UMDNJ apart from many foundations that solely support higher-education is that 100% of all gifts received go directly to the fund, program, or research each donor specifies. The Foundation of UMDNJ prides itself on adhering to strict guidelines concerning donor's intentions, accountability of all gifts, investment income generated from board-designated funds, and not from money contributed by donors.

Since its creation over 32 years ago, the Foundation of UMDNJ's assets have grown to over 230 million dollars, and last year alone, more than 10,000 gifts were received. Because of its carefully managed portfolio, investment returns are currently averaging 17.2% - which is higher than its peer organizations.

The Italian Student Physician Association at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School is a student-run group that organizes events such as its annual wine tasting, trips to operas, and community health outreach programs. Through its gifts to the Foundation of UMDNJ, the CF will strengthen this group by providing scholarship support to deserving students who are passionate about their Italian heritage. The first recipients were Marissa DiGiovane and Joseph Nezzgod.

The CF, and all those who contribute to our efforts, received thanks on behalf of the Foundation of UMDNJ, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and its students. Through the generosity of the CF a vital source of scholarship support is now available to our future Italian American physicians.

If you are interested in supporting the Joseph and Elda Coccia Italian American Student Physician Association Endowed Scholarship Fund, or would like information about how you can become more involved, contact:

Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr.

The Coccia Foundation

201 - 712 - 5512

or via e-mail at:

cocciafoundation@yahoo.com

Proverbs

La vecchiaia sia un prezzo eccessivo da pagare per la maturita'
Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

Il dire e' una cosa, il fare e' un'altra
Saying is one thing, doing is another.

Cuor forte rompe cattiva sorte
Nothing is impossible to a willing heart

Il primo amore non si ecorda mai
You never forget your first love.

Garibaldi's 200th Birthday Remembered

By Anthony Di Perno



Family: Granddaughter Antia Garibaldi, Anthony DiPerno, and Great-Grandson Paul Ziluca - cousin of Anita.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the great Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi. Celebrations in his honor are being held in the USA as well as in Europe and South America.

Known as the "Hero of Two Worlds," Garibaldi championed the cause of freedom and the formation of a unified Italy. His dream became a reality in 1861 when King Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy was crowned King of Italy. Prior to that time, the name "Italy" was a geographic term referring to a peninsula in the Mediterranean region.

Today, I find that most Americans know very little about this great man. They may have seen his name on street signs or monuments. They may have heard his name mentioned on a quiz show such as Jeopardy. They may have read about the bicentennial celebrations being held in his honor. And yet, the fact remains that few Americans know anything about him.

Garibaldi was born, July 4, 1807, in the town of Nice on the Rivera. At that time, Nice, or Nizza as it was called, was part of the empire of Napoleon Bonaparte. Following Bonaparte's defeat in 1814, the town reverted back to the Kingdom of Sardinia. The language that Garibaldi grew up with was a local Ligurian dialect called Nizzard. It wasn't until he was in his teens that he learned the Italian language.

At that time, there was no nation called Italy. The Italian Peninsula was divided into many small states – some of them independent, some ruled over by the Papal Authority in Rome, and some ruled by foreign powers such as Austria and France. Of the independent states, the Kingdom of Sardinia in the north and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in the south were the most notable. A map of the region looked like a jigsaw puzzle.

The thought of a unified Italian nation had enthralled Garibaldi from the time he first visited Rome in 1825. The seventeen-year-old Garibaldi had gone to Rome on a business trip with his father and was so awed by the grandeur of the Eternal City that he began to envision it as the capital of a unified Italy. It was a vision that would become a reality forty-six years later.

The task of creating a unified Italian nation proved to be no easy matter. During his career as a nationalist, revolutionary Garibaldi had to overcome almost insurmountable obstacles and face endless hardships. He fought in over 130 battles, winning almost all of them. He was wounded many times and suffered severe physical hardships. He was imprisoned three times and once brutally tortured. He was sentenced to death by a Piedmontese court and forced to flee into exile under an assumed name. Nevertheless, he remained a determined foe of tyranny and oppression. Kings feared him and politicians tried to manipulate him, but the people believed in him. He personified their hopes for a better life.

During his lifetime, Garibaldi was probably the most popular person in the entire world. Everywhere he went he created euphoria. On a visit to England in 1864, he was greeted by such large crowds of well-wishers that a jealous Queen Victoria ordered him to leave the country! Men admired him and women loved him with a passion bordering on that of a cult. The numerous letters found in his archives attest to their devotion to him and his cause.

Journalists hailed him as "the champion of the oppressed"; an American diplomat described him as being "Hercules, George Washington, and Robin Hood all rolled up into one."

In 1861, Garibaldi handed over all conquered territories to King Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy, thus making him (Victor Emmanuel) the first King of Italy. Garibaldi took nothing for himself and retired to the lonely Island of Caprera. However, even in retirement, Garibaldi remained a force to be reckoned with. Twice he led volunteer armies to liberate Rome from the Papal Authority (1862 and 1867) and once to battle the Prussians in the Franco-Prussian War (1871). He died at his home on Caprera June 2, 1882.

Today, over 120 years after his death, Garibaldi's legacy lives on in the minds and hearts of the Italian people, his heroics forever enshrined in legend and folklore. He is revered as a great soldier and as a champion of freedom and liberty. His was the sword that unified Italy, and his is the name that comes first among its heroes.

Editor's Note: Should any readers be interested in reading more about the life of Garibaldi, they may purchase "Adventures of Garibaldi" by Anthony DiPerno by using the internet: cfpress.com or cocciafoundation.org.

Volunteer's Sought

The Coccia Foundation has various volunteer opportunities available. Is our mission of Preserving Italian Culture something that interests you?

If so, ask yourself, what abilities will I bring with me to the Coccia Foundation?
Can I help "Fill the Need"?
Do I have some time to give?

If you answered yes to these questions why not contact us today at: cocciafoundation@yahoo.com? We will be please to provide you with additional information on how you can help.



World-Wide Girl Scout Fashion Show

The Girl Scout Troop of East Hanover Township held an evening fashion show that depicted world-wide Girl Scout uniforms to illustrate the different wardrobes, as well as the different cultures, involved in Girl Scouting.

The girls, and their moms, developed the idea with many other countries' uniforms being purchased. The leader is Genevieve Coccia Nicaastro, Girl Scout Service Unit Manager, who purchased the Italian uniform worn by the Girl Scout in the picture at left.

Foundation



Looking Ahead...

Year 2007 began with the same enthusiasm and excitement as the year before. With the new trustees giving a needed thrust to our vision, we began by creating an Executive Committee to spearhead our mission of "Preserving Italian Culture". In addition, a Board of Administrators was appointed to help carry out past and future initiatives. A formal budget was also approved to direct our funds toward our new goals, and a name was established for all our groups at each University — AMICI della Cultura Italiana.

We welcome our recent addition, the Italian Club at Rider University who had their coming out celebration this past February 21st and participated in a Rider University/Coccia Foundation student symposium held at Rider in March.

Included in our budget, we have allocated funds to grant 15 students, one from each of our groups, to participate in a study abroad program (in Italy) along with two additional students by private donations.

Also included, is sponsoring of 50 or more students (depending on support) to NIAF's Annual Student Conference held in October (Italian Heritage Month) of each year.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our friends, supporters, and volunteers who have helped the vision of the Coccia family become a reality.

Tante Grazie

Cav. Joseph Coccia, Jr.



Images of Italy



I was taking some time to relax from my schoolwork tonight, so I thought I'd send some pictures from my trip to Italy.



Hadrian's Villa

The first two are from Hadrian's Villa, one of the day field trips we went on. The first is a model of what the Villa looked like originally, most of it is now just ruins. It was very dusty there, but some of the architecture that was still standing was beautiful. We loved seeing the water, too, after all the walking we did that day!

The next two are from another short field trip we went on to Villa D'Este in

Trivoli, which is not too far from Rome. The gardens were so amazing. We really didn't even see much of the building itself. The picture of the man gesturing and talking to the girl next to him shows our professor Jan Gadeyne. He was with us for this field trip and the one to Hadrian's Villa. This is also the man responsible for our Tuesday morning classes every week that took us all around Rome. I liked to call that class "the Jan Gadeyne workout plan." Thanks to him, I could eat pretty much all the pasta I wanted!

The last two pictures are from Rome taken on the same day that I went to see the Colosseum with two of my friends. The one shows pretty much the smallest



Villa d'Este in Tivoli



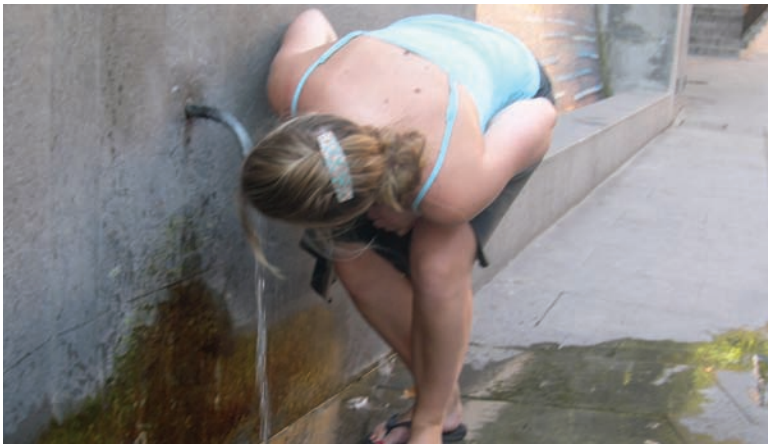
Acting like tourists.

car I have ever seen! The one with the fountain is funny because this was when we had first arrived in Rome, and we didn't know yet how to use the water fountains. Apparently if you put your finger underneath the spout, there's a little hole on top for the water to come out so you don't have to bend down like this and look like such a tourist! It was fun, though, and I think these pictures made it worth it!

Looking at these pictures again are bringing back a lot of fun memories. I hope you enjoy them as much as I am!

Nicole
Cornell '07

Coccia Foundation



Coccia Foundation "preserving Italian culture"

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Benvenuti...

To our AMICI and supporters.

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