

The Founders' Log

No. 10

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March 1999

Founders of the Italic Studies Institute, 1987

Stefano Gristina

John Mancini

Carl Pescosolido

Dear Member,

We have just completed another season of the *Aurora Youth Program*, having graduated 225 youngsters in the Metro New York area. It was your generous donations to our National Appeal that made this expansion possible. Over \$11,000 was raised to sustain the program. In turn, the expansion brought in pledges of \$8,000 from local legislators, merchants, and organizations. At a per pupil cost of about \$100, your Institute was able to bring the inspiring Italian culture and language to these kids. They have now received their foundation in foreign language at age 10 or 11. They are super-prepared to study all the Italic languages -- from Latin to Spanish to French, and of course, Italian. What an amazing bargain for everyone! We can't thank enough our *Aurora* staff, headed by Tony DeNonno and manned by Angelo Merenda and John Misso.

On a much sadder note, *Aurora* and the Institute recently lost a pioneer of the program, Janice Ricci. As a very close and dear friend of mine for thirty years and wife of our treasurer George Ricci, her untimely death at age 50 has stunned all of us. It was Janice who developed our *Aurora* recruitment strategy in which 5th and 6th graders in public schools were targeted. Janice's teaching background and her active involvement in PTA made for an unstoppable force in *Aurora*. Janice also sent her two sons, Andrew and Greg, through the program. In tribute to Janice, we have established the Janice Ricci Memorial Scholarship Fund to endow *Aurora*. Her husband George will administer the Fund. Your gifts to this Scholarship Fund, payable to ISI, will be a lasting tribute to her life.

February, 1999, was the regularly scheduled Institute elections. We are pleased to report the new leaders for the next two years:

President: Vincent Pizzulli

Treasurer: Steve Napolitano

Vice President: Frank Fellone

Financial Secretary: Patrick Curtis Cicala

I will serve as Chairman of the Council of Governors, succeeding Steve Gristina, who has carried that title ably for some six years. My term as president *pro tem* was one of challenge and recovery. I and the other governors have the fullest confidence in the new team. They are veterans of past strife and they have remained true to our original purpose. These leaders, at the head of the newly-constituted Development Board of Fifty (our most dedicated and supportive members), will hopefully carry us to the next level of success.

John Mancini, Chairman

NEW MANHATTAN OFFICE

For some ten years now our Executive Council and various committees had nowhere to call home in Manhattan. Conference rooms were occasionally volunteered, and often, lunchtime meetings at high-calorie restaurants substituted for a permanent meeting place. Our new landlord, Regal Construction, offered us special accommodations that included private offices, a conference room and a beautiful classical reception area. The new digs will serve as our Executive Offices and the Floral Park, Long Island, space will be our National Production Center and Aurora headquarters.

Your response to the National Appeal made this possible. Our Manhattan address is 130 West 30th Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10001, Tel: (212) 268-8085, Fax: (212) 268-8052. Please continue to use our Floral Park address for mailing.

12TH ANNUAL GALA**WALDORF-ASTORIA****8 MAY 1999****BOARD OF FIFTY**

For our forthcoming 12th Annual Gala at the Waldorf-Astoria we invited 50 of our most dedicated Plenary Council members to commit themselves to assembling a table and one journal ad each. Thus far, the following members have stepped forward. Beside the satisfaction of participating in a successful fund-raiser, these members will staff the newly constituted Development Board of Fifty within the Plenary Council. It will be this Board that will determine the ways and means of achieving our Institute's goals. We are quite excited about the talent and commitment these men and women have already demonstrated. They honor us with their service. To join, call Vince Pizzulli at (212) 268-8085.

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|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Nino Antonelli | Frank Fortino | Barbara Nichuals |
| Ronald T. Bellistri | Danilo Gristina | Nick Pizzone |
| Richard Camarco | Stefano Gristina | Vincent Pizzulli |
| Anthony Cardillo | Charles Guigno | Charles Russo |
| Mick Carnevale | Steve Kivlen | Mary Sabatelli |
| Pat Cicala, Jr. | Thomas Lacorazza | Richard Scuderi |
| Joseph Corso | Ross Landesman | Gennaro Spampinato |
| Albert Crecca | John L. Mancini | Robert Speranza |
| Joseph Dee | James Marrone | Vincent Stramandinoli |
| Salvatore DiLorenzo | Robert Merlo | |
| Nick DiVito | Mary Ann Minucci | |
| William Esposito, Sr. | Nicholas Montesano | |
| Frank Fellone | Steven Napolitano | |

**THE ITALIC STUDIES INSTITUTE
GREATLY APPRECIATES THE
GENEROSITY OF THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS WHO HAVE RESPONDED
TO OUR NATIONAL APPEAL:**

Guardians of the Italic Heritage (Over \$1,000)

Joseph E. Fay (In memory of Rosina and Giuseppe Fiorito)
Steven M. Napolitano

Benefactors (\$501 - \$1,000)

Elio Grandi
John L. & Rita L. Mancini

Builders (\$251 - \$500)

Viola Cirio
Corso Family Foundation
Italian Club of Staten Island, NY

Patrons (\$101 - \$250)

Concrete Workers District Council
of NY #16
Frank Guida
Thomas Lacorazza
Carmine D. Marinelli
Thomas Militello, MD
Carl A. Pescosolido, Sr.

Donors (\$51 - \$100)

Arturo Barone
Ronald Bellistri
Cafe Italia of Arlington, VA
Charles Calderone
Alfred Cardone
Charles J. Cerutti
Salvatore J. Cocolicchio
Maria Gloria
Stefano Gristina
Joseph Neto
Charles A. Pisaturo
Vincent Pizzulli
Peter Scaramuzzo
Michael Sica
Vincent Stramandinoli & Assoc.
John Villanella

Friends (Up to \$50)

Thomas A. Adamo
Frank Alfano
Charles Anatra
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Joseph Avveduto
John Barone
F.D. Becchetti
Alfred Bevilacqua
Edward Bonardi
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Vincnet P. Durso
Elevator Doors, Inc.
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Salvatore & Theresa Giove
Danilo Gristina
Italian Cultural Soc. of Sacramento
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Dennis & Maria Mancini
John A. Manes
Savery S. Manfredonia
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Mario & Joanne Missaggia
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(OVER)

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Richard Vannucci
Santino M. Vasquez
Frank Vitale
Marie Vitale
Frances Viviani
Jeffrey Weisbrot
A. P. Zechella

**WE ALSO THANK THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS WHO HAVE EITHER
PURCHASED ITEMS FROM THE
PROJECT ITALIA CATALOG OR
BROUGHT IN NEW MEMBERS:**

Alfred Aicardi
American Italian Heritage Society
Camille M. Annichiarico
John P. Avveduti
Robert J. Brockmann
Mary DelVecchio Burns
Francis J. Camerini
Alfred Cardone
William L. Cerrutti

Joseph A. Citro
John Coppola
Piero DeLouise, MD
Robert DiBenedetto
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John M. Fiore
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Agostino T. Galluzzo
Maria Gloria
Heritage Lodge #2227, OSIA
Catherine T. Kastenbaum
John David Kirkland
John LaRocca
Anthony Latona
John J. Lazzaretti
Judge P.F. Ludovici
Anthony Martignetti
Robert A. Matteo
Judith Mazziotti
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Maria G. Nigro
Otello Restaurant
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Elvira R. Primavera
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Cesidio Tallini
Teresa Tallini
Salvatore J. Tomaselli
John Tornillo
Richard J. Vannucci
Silvio Venturi
Victor Villacarra
Villa Cusenza

FEEDBACK FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Last year's Gala honoree, attorney **Daniel Petrocelli**, is now representing Lisa Marie Presley against the *National Enquirer*.

Another of last year's honorees, Marine General **Anthony C. Zinni**, broke with the Clinton Administration policy of supporting any and all political opponents of Saddam Hussein. Testifying before a Congressional committee, Zinni indicated that fomenting a civil war in Iraq would only lead to chaos.

One of this year's honorees, **Sonia Gandhi**, President of India's Congress Party, has protested the poor handling of anti-Christian terror in the world largest democracy. Mrs. Gandhi, widow of slain leader Rajiv Gandhi, is an Italian-born Roman Catholic.

Long-time member **Rudy D'Angelo** sent us a copy of his latest project, a book entitled *Television's Cowboys, Gunfighters & Cap Pistols*. This amazing piece of research, chock full of photographs, doesn't leave out a single memory of those inspiring TV cowboy days. The book is published by Antique Trader Books, (800) 334-7165. Rudy is also a professional military writer. This is the kind of talent that is unique to the Institute.

Italic Studies Institute

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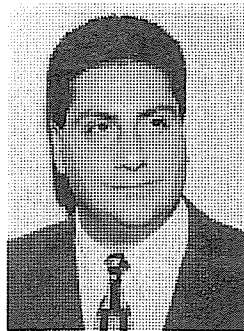
Congratulations to the new officers of the Institute:



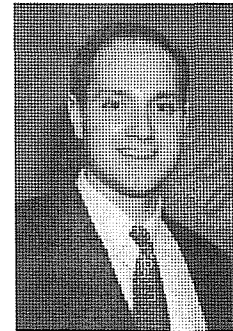
Vincent Pizzulli
President



Frank Fellone
Vice Pres.



Steven Napolitano
Treasurer



Patrick C. Cicala
Financial Secretary

NATIONAL APPEAL UPDATE

Over \$11,000 in contributions and \$2,000 in catalog orders have been received through the National Appeal. Still, a good number of response cards have not been returned. To ensure that the mailing addresses are still valid, we will be sending out a final test mailing. Based on that mailing, we may have to delete names from our membership file. If you have forgotten to return your response card or have lost it, please contact us. Remember, you do not have to donate to respond.

March Almanac

Named for Mars, the Roman god of war.

March 1 - Matronalia, the Roman celebration of marriage and motherhood. The classical Italians were the first to establish the social equality of women. On this day, husbands gave gifts to their wives.

March 6 - Renaissance artist and sculptor **Michelangelo Buonaroti** is born in 1475.

March 12 - American singer **Liza Minelli** is born in 1946.

March 14 - In 1861, **Victor Emmanuel II** is proclaimed King of Italy by the first Italian Parliament.

- Eleven Italian-Americans are murdered by a New Orleans mob in 1891. It is the largest mass lynching in American history. The U.S. Congress refuses to pay reparations to the families and the President has no choice but to pay a modest settlement from a secret account.

March 15 - Caius Julius Caesar is assassinated in 44 B.C. in the Roman Senate by opponents who wish to end his dictatorship. Italy is thrown into another civil war.

March 16 - Communist Red Brigades murder former Italian Prime Minister **Aldo Moro** in 1978. The atrocity galvanizes the nation and leads to the defeat of the Red terror.

March 18 - Antonio Salviati is born in 1816. He establishes the island of Murano in Venice as the center of Italian glass manufacturing.

March 19 - St. Joseph's Day, when the birds fly back to **Capistrano**, CA. The city was named by the Spanish for an Italian saint.

March 22 - The cornerstone is laid for the **Victor Emmanuel** Monument in Rome in 1885. It is also the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

March 28 - Wealthy Roman senator **Didius Julianus** "buys" the emperorship from the Praetorian Guard in 193 AD. He is later beheaded when a Roman general from North Africa demands the imperial purple.

March 31 - American race-car driver **Ralph DePalma** dies in 1956. In 1919, DePalmas broke the record for one mile at 149.875 mph. He won 2,557 races out of 2,889 during his lifetime.

Italic Studies Institute, Inc.

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