



# *The Founders' Log*



No. 2

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October 1997

## Memorandum

Founders of the Italic Studies Institute, 1987

*Stefano Gristina*

*John Mancini*

*Carl Pescosolido*

*October, 1997*

### **Re: Struggle at the United Nations**

Dear Member,

On September 16th, the Institute was invited by NIACA (National Italian-American Coordinating Association) to join their efforts to reverse the Clinton Administration's current plan to expand the U.N. Security Council. That plan would sponsor Germany and Japan as new permanent members (joining the UK, U.S., France, China and Russia). Italy, the 5th largest contributor to the U.N. budget, and a key participant in peacekeeping expeditions to Somalia, Bosnia, Lebanon, Mozambique, and Albania, would effectively be shunted to a second-class status.

In light of our Institute's recent celebration, in May, of Italy's new global peacekeeping role (we honored U.N. Ambassador Francesco Fulci), the Council of Governors asks your support of the NIACA initiative by signing the attached petition.

Please call on your friends and family to sign the petition, an appeal to the U.S. government. Return completed petitions to our office as soon as possible.

Italian-Americans, the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States, should honor Italy's global peacekeeping record. Who has been a more dependable and loyal ally of the United States?

All the major Italian-American organizations are committed to this cause. Let us be heard too.

Warmest regards,

The Founders

**Send your comments to:  
The Council of Governors,  
in care of the ISI Office.**

*We welcome your participation. Please send us job opportunities, new employment, personals or any other news items of interest.*

*Fax the ISI office at: (516) 488-4889*

*or mail to:  
Italic Studies Inst.  
PO Box 818  
Floral Park, NY*

## ***Website Gains Popularity***

Our website ([italic.org](http://italic.org)) has received an average of 400 visits a week. Quite a lot, considering we have not yet started to seriously advertise it. We hope to have an E-mail component within a month.

## **Institute Films to be Broadcast**

CUNY TV has scheduled two of our videos for cablecast on the following days:

***Italian-American Visions***: Thurs. Oct. 23rd, at 9:30 A.M., 3:30 P.M., 9:30 P.M.

***America: The Italian Legacy***: Thurs. Oct. 30th, at 9:30 A.M., 3:30 P.M., 9:30 P.M.

## **ELLIS ISLAND EXHIBIT**

Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has funded a special exhibit at Ellis Island, for the month of October, which spotlights 44 years of Italian immigration. Utilizing films, artifacts and a database, the exhibit is a remarkable look at our struggle for a better life. Information can be obtained at (212) 684-6063.

## **City University of New York is Dragged into Court.**

ISI Advisor, Dr. Joseph Scelsa of the Calandra Institute at City University, is holding CUNY (CUE-knee) to a higher standard—a legal one. It all started a few years ago when the Italian-American faculty at CUNY complained of discrimination in hiring and promotion policies. To avoid a lawsuit, the university made an agreement to mend its ways. Unfortunately, the mending was more imaginary than real.

Scelsa and his attorneys have recently forced the issue with a court summons. The court has since rejected CUNY's appeal to dismiss the case.

## **Fratti Debuts Another Stage Play**

ISI Advisor Mario Fratti had yet another of his plays, *Sister*, produced off-Broadway. Because of late notice we were unable to inform our readers of the time and place. Unfortunately, the limited performances finished on September 21.

Congratulations Mario!

## **Youth Program to Expand....**

On September 13th, there was a training session for the new Aurora teachers. Current plans call for two locations in the Bronx, two on Long Island, one in Staten Island and one in Brooklyn. Recruitment of students (5th and 6th graders) will begin in local schools in early October. The first classes will begin November 1st. Call (516) 488-7400 for information.

## **Picnic a Huge Success**

President Michael Romano reports that over 500 adults and children attended the Plenary Council annual picnic on Saturday, September 13th, in Rockland County, New York. The weather was exceptional. Among the organizers were Michael Romano, Vice President Patrick Grecco, Governor Michael Carbone, former President Mary Ann Minucci, and former Governor Louis Mantia.





## Gift Catalog Making A Splash....

Only 6,000 catalogs have been mailed out thus far and the orders have exceeded expectation. Some 50 new members have joined and we have had to backorder a few items. Another 20,000 catalogs are scheduled to be “piggybacked” with magazines and newsletters of various Italian-American organizations in October. Hopefully, consumers will consider the catalog for holiday gift-giving.

## Joseph Fay Honored

Plenary Council member Joseph Fay was awarded the Order of The Sons of Italy’s highest honor, the Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award, in August, for his service as a state president, national treasurer and a trustee of the Sons of Italy Foundation.

We are proud that many of our members have distinguished themselves in other organizations in the cause of *italianita*.

### MOVING UP IN THE WORLD....

**Member:** Mick Carnevale

**Name of Business:**

Alliance Elevator Group

**Years in operation:** 22

**Number of employees:** 165

**Profile:** Mick is co-owner of Alliance Elevator Group, a company he formed with five other partners, to purchase two independently operated elevator maintenance companies—Republic Elevator and Knudson Elevator.

(Both will continue operating as separate entities.) These acquisitions put Alliance among the top five independent elevator companies in the country.

The group provides maintenance on over 3,000 elevators, as well as repairs, installation and modernization. Their licensed Inspectors also conduct annual inspections, in coordination with the NYC Dept. of Buildings. Among the company’s recent major undertakings were the 245 Park Avenue, 1290 Sixth Avenue and 275 Seventh Avenue conversions.

Mick says that Alliance is looking to stress a personal relationship with its clientele, and provides one-on-one service in a large scale market. Contact them at 33-42 9th St., Long Island City, NY 11106. (718) 956-1111.

—If you would like to be profiled in future newsletters, call our office at (516) 488-7400—



From left to right: partners John DiCapua, Dave Talcott and Mick.

## OCTOBER ALMANAC

Formerly the 8th month of the year, until the Romans moved New Year's from March to January.

**Oct. 6** - World Champion wrestler **Bruno Sammartino** was born in Pittsburgh in 1936.

**Oct. 9** - **Candido Jacuzzi**, inventor of the whirlpool bath, died in 1986, at the age of 83.

**Oct. 10** - Composer **Giuseppe Verdi**, composer of *Aida*, *La Traviata*, et. al., is born in 1813.

**Oct. 12** - Italian navigator **Cristoforo Colombo** lands in the New World. His voyage was partly financed by Italian merchants in Spain as well as the Spanish government.

**Oct. 15** - On this day in 1764, standing amid the ruins of ancient Rome, the English historian **Edward Gibbon** was inspired to begin writing the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

**Oct. 23** - Capt. **Carlo Piazza** became the first aviator to fly a combat mission in war, during the Italo-Turk war of 1911.

**Oct. 25** - Heavyweight champion of the world (1933-34) **Primo Carnera** was born in Italy in 1906. The huge fighter was nicknamed "The Ambling Alp." He lost his crown to Joe Louis.

**Oct. 28** - In 1922, the King of Italy invited **Benito Mussolini** to form a new government to restore order in that strife-torn nation.

**Oct. 29** - Pioneer bodybuilder **Charles Atlas** was born Angelo Siciliano in NYC in 1892.

**Oct. 31** - Italian physicist **Galileo Ferraris** was born in Livorno in 1847. His research made possible the alternating current electric motor.

***Italic Studies Institute, Inc.***

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