



# The Officers' Log

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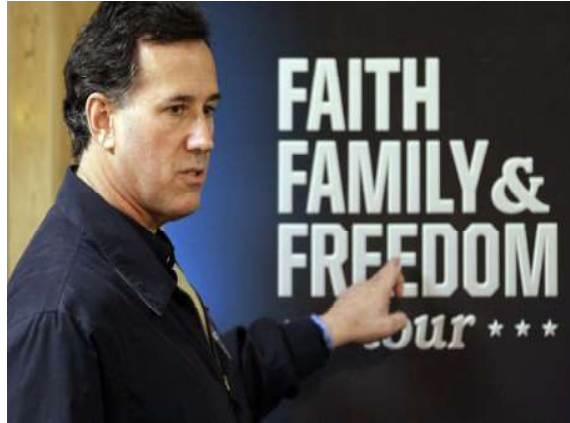
## DUES TIME

We officially call for membership dues in January. Some of you have already responded with your \$50. Others await an invoice. We ask that you send your \$50 now so we can save the postage and overhead on invoices. Dues are payable to Italic Institute of America, PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11002. Your dues are not feeding a bureaucratic beast. Best of all, we actually produce something.

## \$10,000 GIFT

We are happy to report that one of our long-time members donated \$10,000 to our cause, in addition to a previous \$10,000 gift. That member wishes to remain anonymous. But in making the donation, the donor was quite eloquent in comparing our movement with a little-known fact in the wine industry. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a major disease destroyed France's great vineyards. Root stock from America was imported and grafted onto the surviving French vines. The French wine that is so well loved throughout the world today comes to us from American roots. Our donor sees the Italic Institute as root stock that will carry the classical Italian heritage into the future. It is an apt analogy. Such gifts can make things happen.

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## INNER SANTORUM

We have little good to say about Italian American politicians, in general, as they relate to supporting our common heritage. But Rick Santorum, Republican primary candidate, is a paradox wrapped in an enigma when it comes to his relation with our community. We have tried a number of times to contact his campaign with some basic questions about his heritage. We have been stonewalled. Imagine, *The Italic Way*, the leading chronicle of all that is Italic, is of no interest to Santorum's staff. But a few weeks ago it all became clear that Mr. Santorum was hiding something.

During his campaign, Santorum pandered to his audience with tales of his grandfather fleeing Fascist Italy in 1930 for "freedom" and to avoid "indoctrination." What raised our brows was the novelty of such motivations. The vast majority of Italian immigrants came for money. The only people "fleeing" Italy in 1930 were mafiosi and Communists. Even more absurd was that

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## TRUE GRIT AT 25

John Mancini, Co-Founder

The Italic Institute has reached its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We remain the lone organization bearing the Classical Italian Heritage.

While other groups happily measure their success in raising money and giving it away we have been more self-critical, sharing our concerns and frustrations with you, our valued members. Anyone who thinks that the future of our Italian heritage in America depends on galas and charitable giving hasn't been paying attention.

Add to this the tide of intermarriage, which makes "Italian" a mere footnote of genealogy, and a younger generation that is mesmerized by vacuous images of Italian Americans in absurd shows like *Jersey Shore* and *Mafia Wives*. Soon, a biopic of mobster John Gotti, starring John Travolta and Al Pacino, will be in production. America takes its ridicule of us seriously. There really is a Mafia-Media Axis.

Of course, much of this could change with a few million dollars. William F. Buckley nursed the modern-day conservative movement (pre-

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# ECONOMIC REALITIES

“So far, so good.”

Many businesses and some nations can hardly say that in these times. Here at the Italic Institute we are pressing ahead as best we can. While we have put our cherished *Aurora Heritage Program* on ice we continue to publish *The Italic Way Magazine* and carry on our efforts to put the Italian heritage on a more intellectual plane. We are proud to be debt-free and functioning with the lowest overhead of any business.

We are able to do these things because we kept to our founding principles. We were founded in 1987 to bear the Classical heritage. We were not founded to mimic the other major organizations. Regardless of their founding principles they have turned into professional fundraisers and party planners. One of them was lucky enough to receive a \$2 million bequest from a gala attendee a couple of years ago. They need \$2 million each year just to pay the staff and overhead used to keep their fundraising going. With this sort of juggling it isn't a mystery why our heritage doesn't function well outside a ballroom.

You have been reading of the serious difficulties Italy is experiencing within the euro zone. Italians actually wanted the discipline of the euro zone in 2002 to rein in their profligate multi-party state. Instead of changing their ways they relied on others to solve their problems. Now Italy must cope with Berlin.

Perhaps the message is to be true to yourself. If we get sidetracked as we pursue money, we can only end up in a place we never intended to go. And what is the point of going nowhere?  
JLM

## Find the Deep End

Do you know someone who is stuck in the shallow end of his/her heritage? Give him/her a membership in the Italic Institute!

### We are the Alternative!

- Enroll the person below as a member (\$50 check enclosed)
- Renew my membership for 2012 (\$50 check enclosed)
- Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Italic Institute of America, PO Box 818,  
Floral Park, NY 11002**

# PET PEEVES



Pres. Bill Dal Cerro

My pet peeve is the lack of concern that Americans have in correctly pronouncing Italian words...even though they go our of their way to pronounce other languages correctly!

It has happened too many times, especially in restaurants: I hear people at the next table pronounce the names of French wines or French food effortlessly, yet then they turn around and order “brew-shetta.” (That Tuscan bread appetizer is pronounced “brew-SKEH-tah”, with a hard “che/k” sound). Why so precise when speaking French or Spanish, yet so sloppy when speaking Italian?

Italian Americans, by the way, are also guilty. Who hasn't heard the words “gobbaghoul” (instead of “*capicolla*”) or “pasta fazool” (instead of “*pasta e fagioli*?”). We cannot lead by example when we accept a coarsened version of Italian brought over here by so many poor, illiterate Italian immigrants and tell others that it's “real” Italian. That's a bit like taking urban street slang and passing it off as the American tongue.

There is no reason why ignorance should prevail when it comes to something as simple as pronouncing Italian words correctly. So the next time someone tells you “Arredaverci” or “Grazia,” smile and teach them the proper way. Dante Alighieri would be proud.  
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Chairman Rosario A. Iaconis

Why is Italy perennially derided as a failed state bereft of unity?

In a new book, *The Pursuit of Italy: A History of a Land, Its Regions, and Their Peoples*, author David Gilmour's contempt for Europe's third largest economy expunges much of the Magic Boot's ancient history.

This boneheaded Brit ought to consult his more learned countrymen when it comes to *Alma Mater Italia*.

For all its regionalisms, Italy is the birthplace of the Pax Romana, capitalism, modern science and the Renaissance. Moreover, these accomplishments flow from a unity that predates the *Risorgimento*. By 222 BC, according to historian Will Durant, “From the Alps to Sicily, Italy was one.” What Garibaldi, Cavour and Mazzini achieved in 1861 was the rebirth of that classical polity—not “a 19th-century invention” or Mettemich's “geographical expression.”

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# MUSEUM INVITATION

In previous *Logs* we reported on our unsuccessful attempts to reach the director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan. Our purpose was to correct the lack of information on Italian success in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. As a major institution supported by taxpayers it is important that this museum, as well as others throughout the country, inform the general public of Italy's protection of upwards of 300,000 European Jews before and during the Second World War.



Last November, member Joseph Graziose informed us of a book presentation at the Glen Cove Museum of the Holocaust on Long Island (pictured) by author Elizabeth Bettina (*It Happened in Italy*). Bettina's book documents survivor stories of foreign Jewish internees in Fascist Italy who praised Italy's humanitarian treatment of them from 1939 – 1943. Attending the presentation with Joseph Graziose were Institute Chairman Rosario Iaconis and Executive Director John Mancini. The mostly Jewish audience had not generally known about the history in Bettina's book. To rectify this, Director Mancini suggested that an exhibit be mounted at the museum. Museum officials later contacted us and agreed to provide a room for a temporary exhibit on Italy's role in saving European Jews. We hope to prepare the necessary material by the spring. We ask our members to help defray the costs of mounting this first-ever exhibit. It can eventually be shared with Holocaust museums across the country. \*\*\*\*

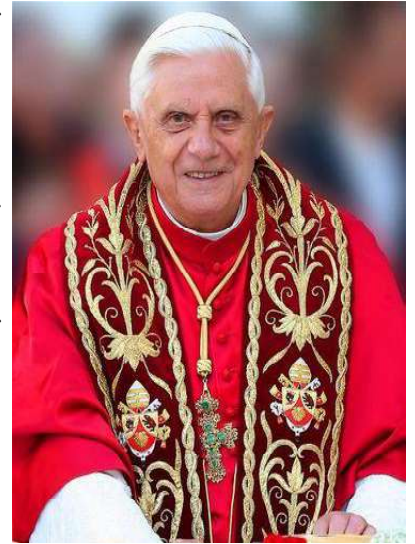
**President Bill Dal Cerro (l) and Vice Chairman Don Fiore (r) attended an Italian American Chamber of Commerce dinner at the Drake Hotel in Chicago last October. The guest of honor was Princess Maria Gabriella di Savoia. The princess, related to Italy's former royal family, was promoting her new book on jewelry. The Chamber is headed by our Institute's former president Robert Allegrini.**

# A PAPAL VERSION

Last year, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Italy's reunification, Pope Benedict XVI sent a congratulatory message to Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, giving him the Vatican version of Italian history.

According to Vatican historians Italian unification "began in the Middle Ages" and the Church was the prime mover. So much for Roman Italy, Greco-Roman civilization, and such anti-cleric founding fathers as Giuseppe Garibaldi.

Sadly, the Vatican version of Italy's Roman rebirth (Renaissance) and resurrection (*Risorgimento*) is, to put it charitably, incomplete. For those of you who fully read *The Italic Way*, you will know that, beside Italy, the Church itself was a product of the Roman Empire: in its organization, in the Nicene Creed, in the communion of saints, in its wealth, and even its official language -- Latin. Whereas the Greek Orthodox consider Roman Emperor Constantine a saint and the "13<sup>th</sup> Apostle" for establishing christianity as we know it, the Vatican shies away from such homage. Nevertheless, expunging our history should not be part of Catholic doctrine.



(Ed.- We thank our New England representative Joseph Dalelio for providing us a copy of the Pope's message to Italian President Napolitano.)





The “Mafia-Media Axis” in action as actor John Travolta (r) pals it up with John Gotti Jr.

and-post Goldwater) via significant direct mail contributions and generous subsidies from big-time donors. *National Review* magazine was founded in 1955—paving the way for Ronald Reagan and today’s Republicans—and kept solvent thanks to the financial backing of wealthy ideological bedfellows. Like Buckley’s benefactors, any one of the thousands of rich Italian Americans could save our heritage.

It takes true grit, that combination of courage and persistence, to defend Italic honor. The Italic Institute has survived political turmoil, a debt crisis, and a host of economic traumas. Yet, we have always remained true to our founding mission. We continue to publish *The Italic Way* and to challenge defamation as well as historical revisionism.

As you read the rest of this *Log*, you will realize that we have a wide range of issues, whether it’s this year’s assortment of U.S. politicians or how the Italian heritage is being treated in the “sacred” halls of academia or government. Americans of Italian stock can no longer let others define them or write their history. It is unbecoming a classical people.

The year 2012 will hopefully be the fulfillment of many of our initiatives. The passion still drives us. May we have the resources to continue our mission. \*\*\*\*

*nonno Santorum* “fled” to the United States only three years after the infamous electrocution of Sacco and Vanzetti, is quite a leap of faith in American freedom. His grandfather ended up working in a Pennsylvania coal mine. What Rick Santorum failed to tell the public was that his grandfather was a card-carrying Communist. No doubt, *nonno* lied on his visa application in 1930 because the USA was not accepting Anarchists or Communists.

“Comrade Rick may pretend to be to the right of the Pope,” says Institute Vice Chairman Don Fiore, “but he is a bit too slippery to be presidential material.”

“Santorum’s antics fall between self-loathing and social climbing,” according to Institute President Bill Dal Cerro. “Despite his surname he is not holier than the rest of us.”

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## FEBRUARY TO REMEMBER

**Feb. 19, 1942** – President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fearing Axis sabotage, issued Executive Order 9066 in 1942 which forced some 10,000 Italian Americans from their homes and jobs along the Pacific coast and placed restrictions on 600,000 Italian citizens across the United States. Four elderly Italian Americans committed suicide rather than endure the shame.

*Nota bene:* It’s been 70 years, and unlike the Japanese-Americans, we have never received an apology for this injustice. \*\*\*\*

Such facts have eluded even Italy’s Cultural Institute in New York, which recently invited French professor Manlio Graziano, author of *The Failure of Italian Nationhood*, to spew his stereotypical assertions. Also present was Long Island’s Prof. Stanislaw Pugliese, whose antipathy to Italian exceptionalism borders on outright loathing. In addition to distorting Italy’s historic role among the nations, Pugliese has worked with the Primo Levi Center to tarnish the Italian people’s valiant role in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust. \*\*\*\*



Vice Chairman Don Fiore

A few days ago, I stopped by a local Italian produce/grocery store I regularly patronize (they’re one of the few Italian specialty stores left near me) and I noticed that they set up this big

rack of Italian-themed t-shirts for sale. The ethnically conscious can chose a shirt emblazoned with any one of these tri-colored expressions of “authentic” *italianita*: **The Sopranos** , **Badda Bing Forgeddaboutit!**, **You Lookin’ At Me?**

These things never seem to go out of style. There are not enough hours in the day to complain about such inane things.

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Executive Director John Mancini

Many Italians and Italian Americans aren’t bothered by negative media images. They see Mafia movies as an art form. But when they dine at an Italian restaurant they are appalled if anyone uses a spoon to twirl spaghetti or has the effrontery to use cheese on a fish dish. To them cuisine is more sacred than image.

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