



# The Officers' Log

Tel: (516) 488.7400

email: [ItalicOne@italic.org](mailto:ItalicOne@italic.org)

Website: [Italic.org](http://Italic.org)

## JOHNSONVILLE FELT OUR PAIN

Last May, our President Bill Dal Cerro published a letter in the *Chicago Sun-Times* berating the meat processing giant Johnsonville for a national television ad that featured a stereotyped gangster in a sausage ad. The company reached out to us as a result and asked for our advice in future advertising. Executive Director John Mancini suggested Johnsonville support *The Italic Way* magazine with an appropriate ad. They agreed. We have inserted that ad with a \$1-off coupon so our members can see if Johnsonville's Italian Sausage is worthy of its name. Let us know.

\*\*\*\*

## ACADEMIC DOUBLE-DEALING

Shades of La Casa Italiana



Imagine if a wealthy individual wanted to donate \$20 million to a small college only if the school changed its name to that of the donor. The problem is, the school was created and named "forever" by one donor in 1937.

That's what's happening in Upstate New York to Paul  
cont'd on p.4

## AN ITALIAN AMERICAN STANDARD?

### Would Muslim or Arab Americans Accept Our Media Image?

The Western World is going through major crises pitting fanatical Muslims against our secular societies. Both government and the media reject characterizing these horrific acts as a "war of civilizations." We are urged to treat Islam and Muslims with respect lest we provoke anti-Muslim hate throughout our nation.

Our President Bill Dal Cerro and Executive Director John Mancini exchanged thoughts on America's obsession with political correctness which still seems to exempt Italian Americans. Their comments are satirical in part but the

cont'd on p 3



## RE-UP TIME!

This month begins our 29th year of unique services to the Italian American community. You fuel our work!

Your annual \$50.00 membership dues can be mailed in the enclosed envelope. Please continue your participation in our Classical Italian Movement, with the bi-monthly *Officers' Log* and *The Italic Way*. Issue XLII will be mailed in February. The cover story is "Raising Hell! The Italic Troublemakers," a fascinating look at how our people continue to make waves.

Continue sharing this complex and amazing heritage with us...and bring in a friend or relative.

\*\*\*\*

# YOUR GENEROSITY

## Benefactors of the Institute (\$15,000 +)

Steven Napolitano & Lisa Carcaterra

## Sustainers of the Institute (\$100 +)

Kenneth Breglio  
Gennaro Pupa

## Supporters of the Institute (\$50 +)

Joel Catania  
Mark De Rocco  
Gerard T. Savoretti

## Friends of the Institute (\$25 +)

William Cerruti

# LOMBARDI AND THE SUPERBOWL

by Anthony Vecchione



On February 7, 2016, Super Bowl L (that's 50 in Roman numerals) will be played in Santa Clara, California.

The winner will receive the Lombardi Trophy, awarded each year for the National Football League's championship game. The trophy honors legendary NFL coach Vince Lombardi who remains not only an iconic figure in the sports world but is highly regarded as a teacher, philosopher and motivational strategist.

The first Super Bowl was played on January 15, 1967 in Los Angeles Memorial, and the second was played in Miami – Lombardi's team, the Green Bay Packers, were victorious in both.

Lombardi, who died in 1970 at the age of 57, was known as a deeply religious and moral man who preached discipline and perseverance but also fair play and ethics. In an America where citizens of Italian ancestry have been rarely elevated to hero status, outside of sports and music – Lombardi remains a source of pride and dignity as well as an All-American role model.

So as we celebrate a half-century of Super Bowl memories – let's take a moment to remember the man from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, the son of Enrico Lombardi and Matilda Izzo, the man with the gap tooth, infectious grin who helped elevate professional football to the new America pastime and remind our fellow Americans that champions and role models can have vowels at the end of their name.

\*\*\*\*



## Coming in February

*The Italic Way* - issue XLII - will feature a variety of original articles to stimulate thought and satisfy the curious mind.

This issue celebrates Italic people who have provoked change and shed light on some dark corners of society.

## LET US UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE!

Have you been locked into a one-dimensional view of your Italian heritage? We can open your vistas.

### We are the Alternative!

\_\_\_\_\_ Enroll the person below as a member (\$50 check enclosed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Renew my membership for 2016 (\$50 check enclosed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Italic Institute of America, PO Box 818,  
Floral Park, NY 11002  
516.488.7400 www.italic.org**

## Arab/Muslims, from p.1

underlying message is not.

**President Bill Dal Cerro (BD):** In Chicago recently, a black female professor at a conservative Christian college made national headlines by wearing a hijab (head covering) to show “solidarity” with Muslims. She obviously meant well. But, to me, this is a classic example of how “political correctness” is fogging up simple common sense. This same female professor, who may soon be fired, should use her free time to go live as a Christian woman in a Muslim society. With the exception of Jordan, she would be treated as a second-class citizen—or, worse, sexually violated. We saw what happened to *CBS News* reporter Lara Logan in Egypt, as well as the recent

occurrence of women being molested in Germany. The Muslim religion does NOT promote womens’ rights.

**Exec Dir. John Mancini (JM):** If the big problem we face is how to stop ISIS from “radicalizing” American Muslims, shouldn’t there be a media campaign to make ISIS unattractive to recruits? It doesn’t have to mention religion. The media has plenty of experience with Italian Americans. We used to be the worst Anarchists, Fascists, and Mafiosi. Now we are the most docile ethnic group in the nation.

**BD:** Docile? You would never know that from the media. What I find astonishing—not to mention disquieting—is how casually Italian criminals are still considered a national problem by American law enforcement. Jimmy Breslin once wrote that the FBI was tailing mob guys when Al Qaeda executed 9-11.

**JM:** Right! Eighty-year old gangsters are being paraded by the FBI like they are still dangerous. After the 9-11 attack, President George W. Bush compared Al Qaeda to “the Mafia.” Now reporters are describing ISIS as “a mafia organization”—kidnapping for ransom,

shaking down citizens, murdering for intimidation. Maybe ISIS should be treated like gangsters in the news, forget their religious ravings.

**BD:** That would take the heat off Islam. ISIS is a mafia and part of Arab culture. Who says you can’t criticize an ethnic group? Nobody in the media or politics has ever conceded Italian bashing. It’s fine with everyone!

**JM:** Instead of calling them Islamic terrorists they can be “reputed members of the Arab Mafia.” Can Arab Americans live with that, like we do?

**BD:** The word “mafia” is, I believe, of Arabic origin. It was introduced to Sicily with the Saracen invasions. Talk about ironic! Arab Americans could enjoy a movie called *The Jihad-Father*, especially if it’s all about Arab culture. Maybe it could

have a beheading scene juxtaposed with a ceremony in a mosque. In *The Godfather*, that scene was done during a Latin baptism and the critics loved it, they called it art – not anti-Catholic.

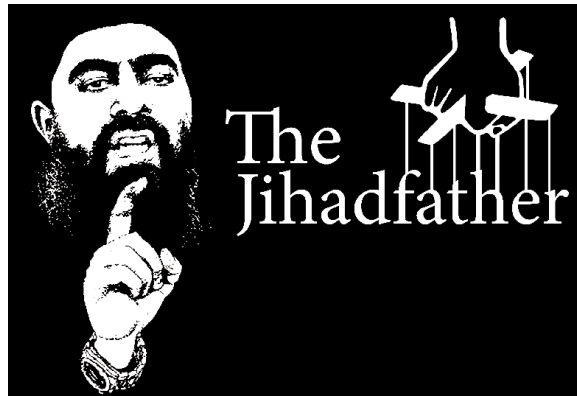
**JM:** That’s the key word. There is no hate or defamation when something is “art.” Arabs have to admit ISIS exists. Just like Mario Cuomo was crucified for questioning the word Mafia, famous Arabs like Marlo Thomas, John Sununu, and Tony Shaloub will just have to get used to being in the media gutter with Italian Americans.

**BD:** Can you see a cable show called *ISIS Wives*? Or *Married to the Jihad*?

**JM:** We have “Men of Honor.” They can have “Men of Allah.” You know, the word “fella” is Arabic for a laborer, so, they can

enjoy Arab-American mobsters in *GoodFellahs*!

**BD:** If Hollywood and TV ridiculed ISIS and Arabs as much as they do Italians I’m sure recruitment for ISIS would fall to zero. And we wouldn’t have to worry about offending Islam. \*\*\*\*



**Arab Americans have the saga *Lawrence of Arabia*, we have *The Godfather*. Wanna switch?**

## Academic, from p.1

Smith's College. But the school is only too happy to change its name for the money. Only, some students and alumni brought suit claiming the original founder's wish still has priority. And the state court agreed - no name change.

This new case might be the first time a court has ruled that a college cannot violate the donor's original intent. All previous cases like this have been settled out of court, or, in the case of the Italic Institute's lawsuit against Columbia University (La Casa Italiana) thrown out for lack of standing.

"You will recall," says Institute Executive Director John Mancini, "that La Casa Italiana was created by Italian Americans and donated in 1927, functioning as the premier center of Italic studies in the United States until it was sold to the Italian government in 1990 and converted into a restricted research facility devoid of Italian Americans. We had all the historical documentation."

Our Institute lost that case in 2010 because the court did not accept the Italic Institute or the Paterno Family, who donated the building, as plaintiffs.

Here is a sample of what *La Casa Italiana*, under Director David Freedberg, is being used for today. Perhaps Italian culture makes an appearance at the musical events, but Italian Americans and their important issues and needs are nowhere to be found at the house they created.

### Note the Largely un-Italic Programs:



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
**THE ITALIAN ACADEMY**  
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICA

#### Upcoming Events

**Symposium**.....Tue, Jan 26, 2016  
Jordi Savall: Building Bridges: East and West  
– Old World and New

**Symposium**.....Thu, Feb 4, 2016  
To Be a Child During the Holocaust

**Concert**.....Wed, Mar 2, 2016  
Jay Campbell, cello

**Conference**.....Fri, Mar 4, 2016  
The Law and the Ethics of Robotics



# GUIDO PANZINI HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

by Anthony Vecchione

Pat Harrington Jr., an Irish-American actor who played the stereotypical Italian immigrant "Guido Panzini" on television in the 1950s and 1960s, died on Jan. 6, 2016 at the age of 86.

The comedic Panzini character ("The head of the Italian Bovine Commission") was first introduced to American audiences on *The Jack Paar Show* in the early 1960s. Harrington resurrected Panzini in episodes of *The Man From Uncle*, *McHale's Navy* and in an episode of *One Day At A Time* in the 1980s. He developed his accent after visiting the homes, and immigrant parents, of his Italic classmates. Like Chico Marx, he launched his career with ridicule.



While pale in comparison to other more recent negative portrayals of Italians and Italian-Americans, Harrington's Panzini is a sad reminder that stereotyping and mocking "Italians" has a long history in the American entertainment industry. While we mourn the loss of Mr. Harrington, we're glad to see that another blight on the Italian image and character has been put to rest.

\*\*\*\*

—**Roundtable Discussion, Film**....Mar 23, 2016  
The Holocaust: "What the Allies Knew"  
Co-sponsor: Centro Primo Levi.

**Concert**.....Wed, Mar 30, 2016  
Momenta Quartet with Marcy Rosen

—**Concert**.....Wed, Apr 20, 2016  
Derek Lee Ragin, countertenor & Mark Markham, piano