



The Founders' Log



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Brian Schiavo, Editor

Memorandum

Founders of the Italic Studies Institute, 1987

Stefano Gristina

John Mancini

Carl Pescosolido

September, 1998

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.
P.O. Box 818
Floral Park, NY

Dear Member,

The summer is now behind us and once again it is time to redouble our efforts. Our goals are quite clear for the coming seasons: open our Manhattan office, double our *Aurora* classes, and expand *The Italic Way* circulation and advertising.

The national appeal we launched in our last issue of the *Log* has gotten off to a good start, but many members still remain to be heard from. Please consult the list of contributors inside and join them, if you haven't already. We need full mobilization to accomplish our goals.

We are pleased to announce that the New York Plenary Council has a new Vice President-Vincent Pizzulli. Vince is a popular and persistent individual who makes things happen. He will serve in this post until the February, 1999 elections. As a former Governor of ISI, Vince is well-qualified to take up this new leadership role.

Your Institute is currently pursuing many larger goals, both political and social, all ultimately serving education. It is a sometimes rocky road, but with persistence and a supportive membership, our success will continue.

Noi andiamo in avanti!

Warmest regards,
The Founders

GREAT GOLF OUTING

July 27th saw our first golf outing in two years. The turn-out was good and the course superb. The weather and the food were both excellent. Our grateful thanks to chairlady Elizabeth Polizzi and her able assistants Mary Ann Minucci and Monica Polizzi. The Hempstead Country Club on Long Island always gets raves from our golfers.

PIZZULLI ACCEPTS NY VICE PRESIDENCY



Vincent Pizzulli has accepted the position of Vice President *pro tem* of the New York Plenary Council. This post was formerly held by Robert Allegrini, whose business career has taken him back to his hometown of Chicago. Allegrini will now serve as our MidWest VP.

Vince Pizzulli is a long-time member of the Institute who has been a mainstay of our Gala committee and many fundraising efforts. As a former Governor of ISI (1994-1996), Vince earned a reputation for his uncompromising loyalty to the founding principles of the Institute.

Vince is currently a consultant in the environmental and facilities management fields, and was formerly a Senior Vice President of Ogden Services Corp. He also held the position of President of Ogden's environmental services company. He resides on Long Island with his wife, Josephine, and has four grown children and 5 grandchildren.

Mafia! Protest

We had the opportunity to join a number of other Italic organizations in protesting the premiere of a movie spoof entitled *Mafia!* This adolescent film is geared to young people and the gags are all at the expense of Italian heritage and culture. Under the guise of mocking the "mob," Sicilians clearly take a beating. It is the sort of propaganda that erodes pride of heritage among our youth. Moreover, it holds them and their families up to ridicule by the rest of the American mosaic. Actor Tony LoBianco appears in the film as a mobster don. This is LoBianco's fifth "mafia movie" role that we know of.

The New York State Sons of Italy and its Commission for Social Justice have both requested LoBianco's resignation as National Spokesman of the Sons of Italy Foundation for his degrading acting roles.

The protest was called by FIERI and attended by the Sons of Italy's Commission for Social Justice, City University of NY, a number of labor organizations and social groups. The event was reported on three local television news channels. The producer of the film is Touchstone, a subsidiary of Disney -- a sad commentary.

Aurora Plans In Development.

Last year, we expanded our 12-week language program to six sites on Long Island, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Some 200 multi-ethnic children attended the courses. This year, under the guidance of *Aurora* director Tony De Nonno and developer John Mancini, the plan is to have 11 centers including another in the Bronx and four in Westchester. Tony estimates 400 children will be granted *Aurora* scholarships to attend this year.

Our Institute is the ONLY organization with this kind of pre-packaged expandable program. It is not a vision, but a reality that needs everyone's support. The concept is simple: offer a fun-filled Italian language course free of charge (as scholarships) to the pre-teens of America and they will create the demand for programs in middle and high schools. We are already receiving requests from public schools to obtain Italian subsidies for new Italian teachers.

Unfortunately, the logistical and administrative demands of expansion cost money. Our Institute is sacrificing in order to carry out this mission, utilizing what few part-time staff and volunteers we can muster. Such a program and strategy have never been attempted before.

You and any Italic organizations or clubs you belong to should seriously consider underwriting this tremendous effort. With enough funding, *Aurora* could be established in your city or suburb.

Major donations will be designated as perpetual scholarships in the name of the family or individual.

We Get Letters...

My sincere thanks to everyone at ISI for a most memorable gala. I'm grateful for the Altar of Peace Award. I will always cherish it.

A.C. Zinni, General, U.S. Marine Corps, MacDill AFB, FL

The Image Award plaque ISI presented me is very nice. I thank the Institute. This is an honor. My warmest regards,

Peter Falk, Van Nuys, CA

Thank you for the prestigious Roman Law award. I am truly honored and privileged to receive it. My family and I had a wonderful evening at the gala. Seeing the *Aurora* children marching with the regional flags was very touching.

The work all of you are doing at ISI is enormously important. Let me know how I can be of further help to you in the future.

Daniel M. Petrocelli, Esq., Los Angeles, CA

I must compliment John and Steve for their interview in the March newsletter. We support you and all your Agenda!

John Luigi Chiappe, San Mateo, CA

The Founders' interview in the March newsletter was indeed welcome reading. I am so glad to hear that the purpose of the Institute is to promote Italic culture and not Italic people. The culture is so much larger than all of it put together. If we only inspire our young people with pride and the successes of our heritage we will accomplish our goals. I commend your efforts.

Gina Abruzzi Bodor, Warren, OH

NATIONAL RESPONSE

In our last issue (July) we made a National Appeal to our membership for a \$50 donation, a new member, and a catalog order. This appeal was made to fund our expansion. Here are the generous members who responded. IS YOUR NAME MISSING?? Maybe you just didn't get around to it. We hope you realize that the Institute is an "engine for change" and not just another club or magazine subscription. PLEASE SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT NOW! Our *Aurora Youth* expansion alone will require \$16,000.

We purposely asked for token support, something easily affordable to all of our members. ITALIC PRIDE MEANS ITALIC SUPPORT [*indicates a donation greater than requested].

RESPONDING MEMBERS

John A. Pancetti
George P. Ricci
John L. Mancini
Judge P.F. Ludovici
Edward A. Riguardi
Frank R. Litterio
Joseph Geraci
Cesidio Tallini
Joseph P. Avveduti
Otello
Charles T. Gabriele
Charles Sclafani
Carmella Panico
D. Frigo
Vincent A. Cipollaro
John Storino
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Richard A. Pline
Anthony DeBiase
Janet Andrews Piwowarski
Maria Gloria*
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Frank Guida*
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John T. Luna
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Judith Mazziotti
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Anthony Latona
Alfred Bevilacqua
Richard J. Vannucci
Maria Peluso
Alfred Cardone
Francis J. Camerini
Thomas A. Adamo
Nicholas Montesano
Joseph Montesano
C. Pescosolido
Stefano Gristina
Rosario Iaconis
Graziella Reed

SEPTEMBER ALMANAC

- Sept. 1 - Educator **A. Barlett Giamatti** dies in 1989. This multi-talented Italian Renaissance Scholar was President of Yale University and later, America's Commissioner of Baseball.
- World heavyweight boxing champion **Rocky Marciano** (Rocco Marchegiano) is born in 1923. He won all of his 49 professional fights, 43 by knockout.
- Sept. 2 - The sea battle at **Actium** (off the coast of Greece) in 31 B.C. is won by Octavian against Anthony and Cleopatra. Octavian later established the Roman Empire and received the title of Augustus.
- Sept. 3 - Probably the last Italian pope of the 20th century, **John Paul I**, is installed in 1978. He died later that year.
- Sept. 4 - Mets catcher **Mike Piazza** is born in 1968. He was the first rookie to drive in 100 runs in a season.
- Sept. 8 - French general **Joseph Gallieni** mobilizes a last ditch effort to defend Paris in 1914 against invading German troops. His unorthodox means of transport became know as the "taxicab army." His troops stopped the invaders at the Marne River.
- Sept. 9 - **Luigi Galvani** is born 1737 in Bologna. This genius demonstrated how electrical impulses energized muscles. The word "galvanize" was derived from his work.
- Sept. 10 - French designer **Elsa Schiaparelli** is born in Rome in 1896. She introduced "shocking pink," accessories, and padded shoulders to the world of fashion.
- Sept. 13 - In 1941, baseball's Joltin' **Joe DiMaggio** hits successfully in his 56th consecutive game, a still unbroken record.
- Sept. 14 - **Dante Alighieri** dies in 1321. Italy's greatest poet after Vergil established Italian as a standard language with the writing of *The Divine Comedy*.
- Sept. 16 - British peer, **Sir Anthony Panizzi**, is born in 1797. As a director of the British Museum he established its library as a world-class research facility.
- Sept. 18 - Italian actor **Rossano Brazzi** is born in 1916. He is remembered for the 1950's movies *South Pacific* and *Summertime in Venice*.
- Singer/actor **Frankie Avalone** is born in 1940. He is famous for rock songs like *Venus*, and beach movies co-starring Annette Funicello.
- Sept. 20 - **Sophia Loren** is born in 1930 at Naples as Sofia Scicolone.
- In 1519, Portuguese navigators set sail for the first around-the-world trip with Italian crew member **Antonio Pigafetta**, who will chronicle the voyage for posterity.

Italic Studies Institute, Inc.

PO Box 818
Floral Park, NY 11001

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