



UPDATE

Italic Institute of America
“Italian Pride on a Classical Foundation”

September, 2018

www.italic.org



Some Observations

by John Mancini, Executive Director



Our Alternate Universe

As we commemorate our 31st year, I thought it important to explain how vital our Institute’s work is to discerning Italian Americans. We are noticeably different from other groups and cultural centers. Our perspective is insightful not celebratory. We were founded to make you proud of your heritage with facts, in-depth history, and critical thought, not with recipes, galas, or Scorsese movies. Admittedly, we have not swept the community by storm with our reality-based creed. Some find us downright depressing! But it’s part of growing up.

Our Senior Analyst Don Fiore monitors *Facebook* to gauge the on-going deterioration of the Italian heritage. The idiotic folks he encounters on the internet are too numerous to write off as not representative of our community. Being “Italian” has taken a frightful plunge. Frankly, we haven’t matured with the generations. We often hear that our classical perspective doesn’t ring true with the common knowledge our *paesani* grew up with. But therein lies the point: Better yourself! Heritage is something to immerse yourself in, not to wallow in. The Italic Institute has never lowered its standards to attract *cafoni*.

Same Message, New Formats

Many of you miss the old *Italic Way Magazine*; unfortunately, it was a major investment in time and resources. But the good news is our on-line Research Library is a treasure trove of information – including all our old magazines. No other group or Italian studies center in the nation has such an on-line research capability. Amazing that such a low-budget institute as ours can project such resources! And our weekly blogs

bring you current events as well as our unique perspective on community and world events. To paraphrase Lee Iacocca, “If you find a better organization than IIA, join it!”

Mazel Tov, Columbia!

All the evidence indicates that *La Casa Italiana* (aka Italian Academy) at Columbia University has come under Jewish supervision. That revered Italian American creation – one the Italic Institute has fought for singlehandedly, over ten years – is now a *defacto* Jewish operation.

With half its Board ethnic Jews, including its Director, and no Italian Americans, the Academy recently attracted a \$1.1 million donation from the Sydney J. Weinberg Foundation. The money also brought Ms. Sydney Weinberg to the Board. Notwithstanding its trappings as an Italian/European research center, the Academy has new ties to the Primo Levi Center (a Jewish lobby) and the Center for Palestine Studies (an Arab lobby).

The Italian government was part and parcel to this amazing conversion. Both Ambassador Varricchio and NY Consul General Genuardi treated us worse than Palestinians, if I may use the this apt analogy. “Cousins,” indeed!

About Our Finances

Each day the mailman delivers at least six solicitations to my home - for Catholic charities, animal shelters, and arthritis research. We have given to these charities in the past and they have now devoted tons of woodpulp to get more shekels out of us. I tell you this because we do NOT inundate you with solicitations every day nor even every month. Moreover, it’s a sure bet that my charities have major overhead and payrolls – the Italic Institute does not. We work from home, use our own computers, employ one part-time staffer, and plow everything into producing educational tools for the community. We have no debt and only one credit card. Our rainy-day fund is invested, so we need operating money to maintain our communications, website, and special projects. We are still a 501c3 tax-deductible nonprofit. Enough said!