

Penna e Calamaio Newsletter

January 2008

Volume XII, Issue 11

Publisher: Dino Cassar



**OUR
MOTTO:
YES, WE
CAN**

OFFICERS

President:
Aladino Cassar
Vice President:
Lee Wheeler
Treasurer:
Pam Spagna
Secretary:
Margaret Massey

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Italians Of Central Oklahoma

Founded 1997,
2 NW 11th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73103,
Tel: (405) 232-3375 or (405) 672-1821,
www.italiansofcentraloklahoma.com

From the President



Hello everybody. I hope you and your family had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next meeting date is scheduled for January 12th at 12:00 O'clock at #2 N.W. 11th St, Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Christmas Party was a great success. Fifty-five people including seven guests came to the party. The food and service was great. Mr. Asal of the Mediterranean Imports did a great job of preparing and cooking the food and

having everything ready and on time. Everybody enjoyed themselves eating, socializing and dancing. Even the weather cooperated by not icing out until the next day.

Four new members signed up with the club.

The membership gave Margaret a present in appreciation for all she does for the club.

Unfortunately all of the Christmas picture were accidentally erased from the computer and therefore we have no pictures of the Christmas party this year. Sorry. If somebody else took pictures of the party, please bring them to the

next meeting so we can put them in the next newsletter.

I hope you all recovered from the ice storm and are all okay.

The way I see it, if we want this club to continue to prosper, we need less talking and more action. Everybody has ideas but nobody wants to follow through with them. A lot of these activities are left to the same few individuals to carry out. We need individuals with a "CAN DO" attitude to start implementing them. Will you help?

2007/2008

Accomplishments And Goals

2007 was not only our Club's 10th year anniversary, but a big year for accomplishments.

In 2007 we created our first website, now with over 700 hits, we created our bylaws, published a directory, new newsletter format, audited our books, made almost twice as much from our annual festival and have the most we have ever had in our Club fund.

Although 2007 was a banner year for ICO, it is now time to turn to 2008 goals. We are in the process of establishing goals for 2008 and would like to get your input of what you would like to see our club accomplish for 2008. Please direct all goal suggestions to me.

Thank you for your input!

Let's make 2008 an even better year for ICO!

Treasury Vacancy

Pam Spagna is resigning her position of Club Treasurer as of January 1st 2008. A new election will be held at the January meeting. Members interested in this position will need to submit his/her name to the board for consideration.



Purpose: The purpose for the Newsletter is to keep YOU, the member, informed of the activities of the club. Don't trash it, READ IT!!!

COMMITTEES

Auditing:

Steve Long

By Laws:

Frank Wanto

Entertainment/Activities:

Vacant

Italian Festival:

Margaret Massey

Membership:

Vacant

Scholarship:

Margaret Massey

Club News

The next ICO

Membership Meeting:

The next club meeting is scheduled for Saturday January 12th, at 12:00 o'clock at #2 NW 11th St OKC, Ok. Directions to the club are listed on the last page of the Newsletter.

Membership Dues Now

Due: It's that time again. Please be ready to pay your membership dues at the January meeting. As you know the cost

of membership has gone up. Single \$20, family \$30.

A Social Evening:

A suggestion was made to have a social evening at the club from 6 to 9 pm once or twice a month, where members could come to play cards, watch movies, or just socialize. The club furnishes coffee, dounuts or cake, wine, beer and soft drinks. Money collected from the sale of the

above items will go to support this activity. Profits will go to our treasury.

Group Activity:

Members suggested that club members, one Friday night a month get together and go out to eat dinner together at different restaurants. This may help the club solicit the restaurants to advertise in our website and newsletter.

For Your Information

Letters From

Members: Here is a chance for you to express your opinions, ideas, suggestions, activities and etc to the club. E-mail your letters to

Dinsu2@aol.com or mail them to me at 2409 Glenn Ave, Del City, Oklahoma 73115. All letters must be signed. No anonymous letters will be published.

Do You Want To Be Famous And See Your Name In Print?

We are in the final stages of completing our Italian cookbook to sell at our next festival.

If you have one or two Italian recipes please bring them to the next meeting. You will be recognized in the cookbook for your recipe.

Money Crunch: Yes, we are feeling it too. We are trying to save money for the club. It costs 41 cents to mail each newsletter. If you are receiving the newsletter but do not wish to remain an active member of the club you need to notify us so that we can drop you from the mailing list. Please send your notification to Dino at Dinsu2@aol.com or call him at 672-1821. Thank you.

Last Year's Christmas Party Pics!



What did they put in this drink?



Oh Waiter

Italian Facts!

Languages

The official language of Italy is Standard Italian, a descendant of the Tuscan dialect and a direct descendant of Latin (Some 75 percent of Italian words are of Latin origin). The Tuscan dialect (or Florentine dialect) spoken in Tuscany was promoted as the standard in large part due to its literary heritage (Dante's *Divine Comedy* is often credited with the emergence of the Tuscan dialect as a standard). Pietro Bembo, influenced by Petrarch, also promoted Tuscan as the standard literary language (*volgare illustre*). The spread of the printing press and literary movements (such as petrarchism and bembismo) also furthered Italian standardization.

When Italy was unified in 1861, Italian existed mainly as a literary language. Many Romance regional languages were spoken throughout the Italian Peninsula (Italian dialects), each with local variants. Following Italian unification Massimo

Taparelli, marquis d'Azeglio, one of Cavour's ministers, is said to have stated that having created Italy, all that remained was to create Italians (a national identity).

The establishment of a national education system led to a decrease in variation in the languages spoken across the country. Standardization was further expanded in the 1950s and 1960s thanks to economic growth and the rise of mass media and television (the state broadcaster RAI helped set an Italian standard).

Some historic romance languages spoken in Italy are not considered Italian dialects, but are languages in their own right. These include Friulian, Neapolitan, Sardinian, Sicilian, Venetian and other Gallo-Italian languages of the north. These languages have given way to regional varieties of Italian. Variety is often used in idioms and folk songs.



Recipe of the Month

Risotto con carne mista

Mixed Meat Risotto

This recipe uses one of the best known Italian ingredients, Prosciutto. It has a delicate flavor and is perfect with pork and garlic flavored mortadella sausage.

Ingredients:

3-1/2 cups vegetable or pork broth
1-1/4 cups dry white wine. 1/4 cup butter
1-1/4 cups trimmed and cubed lean pork
1 Onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, sliced

2 cups of rice
Salt and black pepper to taste
1/3 cup prosciutto, cut into strips
3/4 cup quartered mortadella slices
12 sun-dried tomatoes in oil drained and cut into strips
2 tbsp chopped fresh basil
2 tbsp freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

Directions: Pour the broth and wine into a pan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a gentle simmer. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large skillet and gently cook the pork for two minutes until brown. Add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring until the

onion has softened but not browned. Stir in the rice and cook for 2 minutes, stirring, until the rice is well coated in butter. Add a ladleful of broth and cook gently until the liquid has been absorbed. Continue to add small quantities of broth until half of the broth has been used and the rice is creamy. Season well. Continue adding the broth for 20 minutes. Stir in the prosciutto and mortadella, sun dried tomatoes and basil. Cook for a further 5 minutes until the risotto is thick but not sticky. Stir in the cheese and serve.



Italian History

Early Italy

Excavations throughout Italy and Sicily have surfaced evidence of human activity dating back to the Paleolithic period (also called "Old Stone Age", referring to the period between 2.5 Million to 200,000 years ago), and the Mesolithic period. (Also called the "Middle Stone Age", the word Mesolithic usually refers specifically to a development in northwestern Europe that began about 8000 BC, and lasted until about 2700 BC.

By the beginning of the Neolithic period (the period following the Mesolithic period during which men became herdsmen and cultivators, and modifiers of their environment and the social structure became more complex), the small

communities of hunters of earlier times had been replaced by agricultural settlements, with some stock breeding and widespread use of stone implements and pottery. Painted vessels that seem to have been influenced by contemporary styles in Greece have been found at Castellaro Vecchio on the island of Lipari.

The Bronze Age

By 2000 BC, immigrants from the east had brought the art of metalworking to southern Italy and Sicily; while northern Italian cultures of the same period developed strong links with cultures north of the Alps.

During the Bronze

Age (c.1800-1000 BC), most of central and southern Italy had unified to a culture known as the **Apennine**, recognized by large agricultural and pastoral settlements.

Evidence found in Sicily and on the southeastern coast of Italy suggests the start of trading contacts with the Mycenaeans.

After c.1500 BC, in the northern Italian **Po Valley**, the terramare culture -known for building its villages on wooden piles, its new techniques of bronze workings, and its cremation rites- rose to prominence.

By the time of the introduction of iron into Italy (c.1000 BC), regional variations were well established.



Skyline of Comune di Napoli—See below.

Italian Cities—Naples

Naples (Italian: Napoli, Neapolitan: Nàpule) is the capital city of the Campania region and the Province of Naples. Its ancient name was Neapolis, that is "new city". Its metropolitan area is the second most populated in Italy and one of the largest in Europe. It is located halfway between the volcano, Vesuvius and a

separate volcanic area, the Campi Flegrei, both of which form part of the Campanian volcanic arc.

The city itself in the central area has a population of around 1 million, the inhabitants are known as *Neapolitans*, (Italian: *napoletani*) or poetically *partenopei*. It is rich in The traditions and gastronomy.

Historic Centre of Naples is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The Neapolitan language is the geographically most diffuse Italian language, similar variations of the Neapolitan dialect (*'o napoletano*) are spoken throughout most of southern Italy.

Between 1266 and 1861, Naples was the capital of the Kingdom of Naples (later of the *Two Sicilies*),

usually simply indicated as "the Kingdom", other Italian states having different denominations. This history, coupled with its size, has given Naples the unofficial status of being the capital of the Italian south (Il Mezzogiorno).



On the lighter side

Big Date

Martha and Edna, two senior Italian widows, are talking.

Martha: That nice George Johnson asked me out for a date...I know, you went out with him last week, and I wanted to talk with you about him before I give him my answer.

Edna: "Well...I'll tell you. He shows up at my apartment punctually at 7 pm and dressed like such a gentleman in a fine suit. He brings me such beautiful flowers! Then he takes me downstairs, and what's there but a beautiful car...a limousine, uniformed chauffeur

and all. Then he takes me out for dinner, marvelous dinner – Lobster. Then we go see a show...let me tell you, Martha, I enjoyed it so much I could have just died from pleasure! So then we are coming back to my apartment and he turns into an ANIMAL. Completely crazy, he tears off my expensive new dress and has his way with me two times!"

Martha: "Goodness gracious!... so you are telling me I shouldn't go out with him??"

Edna: "No, no, no...! I'm just saying, wear an old dress!"

My Son?

An old man was sitting on a bench in the park. A young man walked up to the bench and sat down next to him. He had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, blue and yellow. The old man just stared. Every time the young man looked, the old man was starring. The young man finally said sarcastically. "What the matter old timer, never done anything wild in your life?" Without batting an eye, the old man replied. "Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock. I was just wondering if you was my son."



The Godfather and Wife.

Laugh And Learn With Us!

Learn Italian

Lesson # 5

ARTICLES/PREPOSITIONS

Indefinite Articles:

Un - Uno (a - an) used with Masculine nouns.
Pronounced as: **oon - oo-noh**

Un - Una (a -an) used with feminine nouns.

Pronounced as: **oon - oo-nah**

Prepositions:

All of the following mean "Of The"

Del - Masculine/singular

As in Farmer in the **DEL**

Dello -Masculine /singular

Pronounced as: **DEL-LOH**

Dei - Masculine/plural

Pronounced as: **Day**

Degli - Masculine/ plural

Pronounced as: **DE(laware) +MI(LLI)ON**

Della - Feminine /singular

Pronounced as:

DE(LAWARE) +Musical note "LA"

Delle - Feminine/plural
Pronounced as: **DE(laware) + LE (LE)g**

All of The following mean "At The"

Al - Masculine /singular
Pronounced as the name "AL"

Allo - Masculine/singular
Pronounced as: **AL +LOH**

Ai - Masculine/plural

Pronounced as: **AH - EE**

Agli - Masculine/plural

Pronounced as: **A(pple) + "LLI"** as in **mi(LLI)on**

Alla - Feminine /singular
Pronounced as: **AL + the musical note "LA"**

Alle - Feminine /plural
Pronounced as **AL + LE(g)**

Preposition indicating possession:

Di - Meaning "Of" pronounced "Dee"

Preposition indicating origination "From":

Da - Singular form

Pronounced **DUH**

Dal - Masculine/singular

Pronounced as "DULL"

Dallo - Masculine/singular
Pronounced as: **DULL+ LO as in LO(go)**

Dai - Masculine/plural
Pronounced as: **DUH - EE**

Dagli - Masculine/plural
Pronounced as: **DUH + LLI as in mi(LLI)on**

Dalla - Feminine/singular
Pronounced as: **DULL + LA as the musical note "LA"**

Dalle - Feminine/plural
Pronounced as: **DULL + LE as in LE(g)**

Study these last five lessons as they will come handy when we start to put sentences together.



Queens of the Ball!



Articles of Interest

Dario Fo makes 'Genius' top ten

Source: *Italy Magazine*, October 30th, 2007

Dario Fo is the only Italian in a list of living geniuses published Monday in the Daily Telegraph.

The Nobel prize-winning writer came seventh in the roll-call of big names in the arts, sciences, technology and business, compiled by

50/50 Raffle

The raffle allows a 50/50 split (50% the winner) of the money collected from the tickets that the club sells at each meeting and 50% goes to

creativity experts after a British survey.

Joint top place went to Albert Hofmann, the Swiss chemist who discovered LSD, and World Wide Web inventor Sir Timothy Berners-Less.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros was third, ahead of the creator of the Simpsons cartoon show, Matt Groening, in fourth.

support our Scholarship Fund.

Buy a ticket. Help your club.

Nelson Mandela was joint fifth alongside British DNA researcher Frederick Sanger.

Fo, who won the Nobel for Literature in 1997, was joint seventh along with British physicist Stephen Hawking. Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, American composer Philip Glass and Russian mathematician Grigory Perelman filled out the Top Ten.

PA System for the Club:

Members suggested that the club purchase a PA system to be used at the Italian Festival as well as at the club meetings. Mr. Louis Santelli will be looking into it and will tell us what he found out at the January meeting.

Support the
Scholarship
Fund and
Your Club,
Play the
Raffle!



Birthday/Anniversary

The ICO club wishes happy birthday and anniversary to all those members who have birthdays/anniversaries in the month of December 2007.

New Members/Guests



A big ICO WELCOME to our new members and Guests:



Mr & Mrs Chiaf, Annalisa & Daniel Wilson, Mr. Craig Woodward and Mr & Mrs Tauzer.

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How to Join ICO

Joining the fun is easy. There are three easy options: contact our President, Dino, by phone at (405) 672-1821, email him at DinSu2@aol.com, or go online to our Website at:

www.italiansofcentraloklahoma.com. Annual Club dues for full membership are \$15 for single and \$20 for family. The only requirements needed to join the ICO are to have paid your yearly dues, and you have an interest in the Italian culture. This Club is available to both men and women. To find out more about joining the ICO, please feel free to contact our President.

2006 Christmas Party



Salute!



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.italiansofcentraloklahoma.com

ICO Club Directions

Coming from North OKC, take Broadway Extension and exit at 10th street. Heading West, at Broadway turn right and head North for approximately 200m yards and turn right onto 11th street heading East, continue for one block. The building is on your right, on the South side of the street immediately before the railroad tracks.

If you are coming from I-40 or

South OKC, take I-235 (Centennial Highway) and exit Harrison downtown. Take Harrison West to Broadway (first right after you go under the bridge). Continue North on Broadway to NW 11th street, turn right heading East. Continue for one block. The building is on your right before the railroad track. Be There, Dino.

Meeting Dates (second Saturday of every month):

Meeting time is always 12:00 noon unless otherwise specified in the Newsletter. Our next meeting dates are as follows Feb 9th, Mar 8, Apr 12th, May 10th, and June 14th. June 14th will be our last meeting date until September. The months of July and August are vacation months and the ICO club will not meet during those two months and you will not receive the Newsletter.

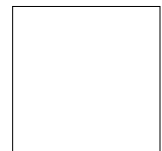
About Our Organization

Welcome to the Italians of Central Oklahoma (ICO)! Are you looking for friends to share your love of Italian culture? Or maybe you would like to learn more about the Italian way of life in

America and abroad. Then Italians of Central Oklahoma is for you! ICO offers a variety of benefits for both its Italian and English speaking members such as monthly newsletters,

and meetings. We are simply a community of Italians, Italian-Americans, and those who aren't of Italian descent, but love the culture and sense of community offered by ICO.

ITALIANS OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
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