

# AIHA Newsletter

A Publication of the *American Italian Historical Association*

*An interdisciplinary association to promote understanding of the Italian experience in America*



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*The American Italian Historical Association*

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*Executive Council - Term*

Frank Alduino (2005)  
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Bruno Arcudi (2003) Mario Aste, Past President  
Mary Jo Bona (2005)  
Frank Cavaioli (2003)  
Teresa Cerasuola (2003)  
Maria Elisa Ciavarelli (2005)  
Joseph M. Conforti (2005)  
Louise DeNaro Bender (2005)  
Dawn Esposito (2003)  
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Luicano Iorizzo (2005)  
Richard Juliani (2003)  
Jerome Krase (2003)  
Salvatore LaGumina (2003)  
Stefano Luconi (2005)  
Edward Maruggi (2003)  
Elizabeth Messina (2005)  
John Mitrano (2003)  
Adele Negro (CA President)  
Ernest E. Rossi (2005)  
John Paul Russo (2005) Lydio Tomasi (2003)  
Janet Worrall (2003)

*Founding President*

Rudolph J. Vecoli

## President's Message

I am both flattered and humbled at being elected president of the American Italian Historical Association. I understand that this was the first contested election in some time. I ran against a friend, Mario Aste, whom I have known and respected for many years, as we both negotiate – in addition to Italian/American studies – the waters of modern and contemporary Italian literary and cinematic studies.

I have been involved with the American Italian Historical Association since the middle to late 1980s. Since then, I have seen the organization grow in various ways that are always, to a certain extent, inevitable as they follow a natural pattern. The growth has been successful, I would submit, and accompanied by much productive, animated debate. As a member, I saw this as a good sign, and I believe it augurs well for the future. Indeed, constructive debate, not restrictive debacle (*to bar from*, in its etymological sense), is the cornerstone for growth; and I look forward to much more positive, animated discussions over the next two years.

Now, where do we go from here? Part of AIHA's further development has created, what I would metaphorically call, "growing pains." The appointment of an executive director was, to be sure, the greatest move AIHA has made in the past few years. A clear movement toward centralization, it proved to be a correct appointment, both the con-

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# Minutes from Fall 2002 Executive Council Meeting

Minutes of the Executive Council meeting of the American Italian Historical Association which took place at the Inn of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois on October 24, 2002

President Aste called the meeting to order at 3:25 pm. Present: Mario Aste, Carol Bonomo Albright, Angelo Tripicchio, Paul Giaimo, Dominic Candeloro, Angela Danzi, Lawrence DiStasi, Teresa Cerasuola, John Mitrano, Gloria Nardini, Salvatore LaGumina, Ed Maruggi, Bruno Arcudi, Frank Alduino, Fred Gardaphe, Anthony Tamburri, Paolo Giordano, Frank Sorrentino, MaryJo Bona, Dawn Esposito, Maria Elisa Ciarvarelli, Josephine Hendin, Louise Calio, Suzanne Branciforte. President Aste welcomed those present, thanking Candeloro and Giordano for their efforts in bringing the conference to Loyola University and to the city of Chicago.

Minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2002: No action taken.

Treasurer's Report: Candeloro reported that there is approximately \$50,000 in bank CDs in New York. Additionally, there are two local accounts in Chicago in the amounts of \$12,000 for conference, of which AIHA should clear \$5,000; and \$6,000 in a working account. Obligations include funding of the proceedings for the Las Vegas conference, \$250 for shipping books to the Italian Cultural Center and the \$5,000 refund of the essay prize money.

Motion: by Albright, seconded by Ciarvarelli, that there be quarterly treasurer's reports per year. Discussion. Motion amended by Esposito that the reports be issued as of March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st of every year. Passed unanimously. With reference to the question as to whether there had been an audit, Aste replied that there had been one audit during his tenure as treasurer.

Curator's Report: Tripicchio reported on his task regarding the archiving of the proceedings. There are various problems in using the articles or abstracts of articles. A possible cost of \$14,000-18,000 for one method was rejected as too expensive. Discussion ensued as to utilizing other methods. Tripicchio will continue investigating the matter in order that the material shall always remain in print.

Newsletter: Editor Giaimo reported that assistant Debra Starewich has not been working on the newsletter for the past 18 months. Sam Fiorenza has taken on her duties and has changed the format working alongside the executive director and the private press Candeloro had selected to replace Purdue University. Costs: printing-\$1,400, mailing-\$500+\$100 extra for mailing outside US; with a total cost of \$2,000 per issue. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that bulk mailing is usually used, excepting the last issue, which went out first class. This was due to the lateness of submissions to the editor. Cutoff dates for contributions to the newsletter are March 15th and August 15th. A committee is being considered in order to secure paying ads for the newsletter.

AIHA at a glance: Executive Director Candeloro reporting: There are 403 members as of 2002, which is up from 320, when he took over his post. \$12,000 was realized this year from the various categories of members. \$500 was gained from the consultation on the 32pp book, "Passage to Liberty". The AIHA website is provided gratis by Dom Tassone and receives 1,000 hits per month. Two hundred sets of books @\$100 per set were sold. Remainders have been contributed by members, with LaGumina cited as having given the AIHA the largest donation of books for sale. Candeloro urged publication of more proceedings since OSIA and NIAF are big customers. He noted that book sales constitute almost all the \$10,000 currently paid him as Exec. Dir. And that AIHA credit card miles help defray the cost of his traveling. He is aiming at a 500-person membership and suggested that in future, the conference be held the second week in November. Motion by Maruggi to accept Candeloro's report was seconded by Arcudi and passed unanimously.

International Study Center for Italian Emigration, Genoa: Suzanne Branciforte made a presentation detailing its objectives as a museum of the Italian immigrant experience and as a study center for collecting and housing materials. It is envisioned as a counterpoint to Ellis Island with data access via the Internet. The promoters of this project would welcome AIHA assistance and collaboration in the form of materials and as a possible venue for a future conference. The center is slated to open in late 2004. Discussion took place regarding an AIHA conference there in 2005, since Italian regions contribute funding for such meetings. It was suggested that a formal relationship of some sort (Gemellaggio) between the AIHA and the

developers should be seriously considered immediately. In lieu of a conference, it was also put forth that a meeting or tour could be sponsored by the AIHA for its members and others.

Proceedings: No. 31 - The Calandra Institute is paying for publication. Galley proofs are corrected and are in the possession of Cannistraro. There is no conclusion at this time. No.34 - Worrall is the editor and reports cost of \$6,000-6,500 for volumes consisting of eighteen articles. Bonomo Albright reports in an emendation that this figure was for 700 copies. The Executive Council has approved 1000 copies at Dom Candeloro's recommendation, so the cost is re-estimated to be \$8000 for 1000. No.33- Aste reported his university will pay the cost, but a snag has held up progress. After resolution of this question, Aste is ready to mail all material to Tamburri before the end of 2002. A question was posed as to how to obtain ISBN numbers for proceedings. Tamburri clarified the process and will convey AIHA list of these numbers to Albright.

Conference 2003: November 6-8, Florida Atlantic Univ., Boca Raton, FL, "Italian Americans and the Arts and Culture". Conference to be held at The Holiday Inn, Boca Raton, 33431. Deadline for proposals and sessions is May 31, 2003. A Friday night event will be held at the university. Tamburri is coordinator. Hotel rooms are \$79 and \$99.

Conference 2004: Alduino reported the conference will be in Annapolis, Maryland in November, but not during the Navy football game weekend. It is too far in advance to quote prices. He has \$3,000 committed, with possible contributions from the university.

Committee Reports: Publications Committee. A discussion ensued regarding the format in publications prior to 1996, which will require scanning. Gardaphe is charged with getting information as to which publications are, or are not, in digital.

Elections: LaGumina reported for Chair Worrall. For Pres. - Aste and Tamburri, Vice Pres.- Albright and Bona, Treasurer-Sorrentino, Secretary-Danzi, Curator-Tripicchio. Exec. Council-Alduino, Bender, Conforti, Fazio, Gesualdi, Giaimo, Iorizzo, Luconi, Rossi, Russo.

Question arose as to whether candidates can run simultaneously for positions as officer and Exec. Council member. For the following discussion, Aste ceded the chair to Albright. By-laws are silent on this specific situation. Motion made and seconded: that candidates be allowed to run for 2 positions and if elected to one, the candidate with the next number of votes take the vacant position, as in the past. Discussion, resulting in a counter motion made and seconded that motion be tabled. A vote was taken.

There were 11 votes against tabling, and 4 ayes. The motion was not carried; after additional discussion, another motion was made and seconded, as stated: That AIHA allow one person to run for Officer and Exec. Council member. If he/she wins both positions, he/she relinquishes the Exec. Council post and the procedure for filling the vacancy be invoked by determining numbers on elections list. Further discussion. Question called and seconded. Vote taken, motion carried.

Scholarship Committee. Bona reported: In the past, AIHA has awarded two \$500 scholarships to graduate students. Call for proposals was publicized and appeared in Newsletter. No proposals were received this year. The committee solicited past applicants to reapply, to no avail. Bona asks members for help in inviting graduate students to apply and to be more active in recruiting applicants. Prior years saw as many as 6-9 proposals, with difficulty in making choices. The committee will consider whether to expand the award to include undergraduates or to award one prize to graduate and another to undergraduate students.

H-ITAM: Ben Lawton was announced as the new moderator. There will be a lunch session at this conference to discuss the workings of the list.

Web Page: A suggestion was made that the illustrations on the site be rotated periodically, from a nostalgic theme to a more modern one, or that it be "rented" for a sum of money to various artists who would like to display their work.

Essay Contest: Committee members: Albright, Kruse, Aste, Danzi. After reading the five submissions, the committee determined that no award could be made. The donor of the \$5,000 prize requested his money be refunded and Candeloro will do so. After discussion, it was decided that LaGumina will contact the donor to discuss future donation plans. Members of the essay contest committee will submit their comments and suggestions for clearer guidelines to be used in a future essay contest.

California Chapter: DiStasi reported on recent programs, work on *Una Storia Segreta* and a planned November event in Richmond, i.e., a panel of survivors from forced relocation during WWII. Also planned, is an exhibit "Enemy Alien Files". He noted errors about the Italian American internment in the new book, circulated at this meeting by Parini and Ciongoli. (See earlier mention by Candeloro of this book.)

# Results of the 2002 AIHA Election

Members of the Elections Committee (Janet Worrall, Frank Sorrentino, Sal LaGumina) report the following results of the 2002 Election.

A total of 213 ballots were cast. Five officers were elected to a two-year term and 10 members of the Executive Council were elected for a three-year term. Note that 10 rather than 9 are named because Frank Sorrentino (whose term on the Executive Council expires in 2003) was elected as Treasurer and thus moves from the Executive Council to an officer position.

President: Anthony Tamburri  
Vice-President: Carol Bonomo Albright  
Secretary: Angela Danzi  
Treasurer: Frank Sorrentino  
Curator: Angelo Tripicchio

#### Executive Council:

Frank Alduino  
Mary Jo Bona  
Maria Louisa Ciavarelli  
Joseph M. Conforti  
Louise DeNaro Bender  
Luciano Iorizzo  
Stefano Luconi  
Elizabeth Messina  
Ernest E. Rossi  
John Paul Russo

The Elections Committee would like to thank all candidates who volunteered and all members who exercised their right to vote.

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cept and the person. Dominic has done an excellent job in these past two years, demonstrating, in addition, the long-term need for such a position. But the duties of this position now need to be more clearly defined, since Dominic, in my opinion, has had to take on some responsibilities that should be the province of others. This is something that surely may be expected during the first years of a newly created position. We now need to define more precisely the various positions.

This said, we need to examine more closely some past practices of the Association – when fiscal rules and regulations were more lax, if not yet in existence – and the more stringent rules and regulations that have evolved since AIHA's inception, much stringency now due to the aftermath of September 11, 2001. After some discussions with our new treasurer, Frank Sorrentino, it seems there may be four critical financial areas that the Association has not addressed in recent years and that presently need to be examined: 1) The Association may need to adhere to possible audit requirements for Not-for-Profit organizations chartered in New York State by the Attorney General's office; 2) The Association may be required to file an annual IRS return; 3) The Association may need to file a 1099 for the executive director, his financial relationship to the Association in need of clarification; 4) If the Association desires to pursue grants, an audited financial statement may be required. As Frank so eloquently stated in a recent conversation with me, "... finances are central to any organization [and] need to be in accordance with the law and with the membership's desire for accountability." I couldn't agree more!

With an eye toward AIHA's future, the Association needs to set up some sort of mechanism that aims specifically at recruiting those new members who are now the alumni of undergraduate and graduate programs in Italian/American studies. Since the early 1990s especially, graduate curricula in Italian Americana have sprung up in various colleges and uni-

versities, some of which involve departments such as Comparative Literature, English, European Studies, History, Sociology, and Italian Studies. The graduates from these and other fields, as well, constitute the intellectual future of what AIHA has created and so wonderfully developed over the past four decades. It is our responsibility to be sure that these new graduates are aware of what AIHA is and that they should indeed feel welcomed to participate in charting its future.

The regularization of conferences is also something the Association might address. In 2002 the annual conference was in the Midwest (Chicago); this year it is in the Southeast (Boca Raton); next year it is in the central eastern part of the United States (Baltimore); all of which constitutes a nice alternation of localities. We need to be sure that future conferences do not geographically disenfranchise the membership. Given the Association's growth, and what I hope is its ever-present desire to expand, we might be more aggressive in recruiting organizers able to commit a few years in advance to hosting a conference. It is also true that some of the work in organizing a conference can be done elsewhere by others, especially some preliminary planning of the program, etc. Finally, in this regard, those of AIHA who have had experience in organizing these and other conferences might draft a pamphlet, a basic guide, for future organizers.

Another area that needs to be addressed is the publication of the proceedings. It is clear that AIHA, through Dominic's aggressive actions, has successfully dealt with the distribution and selling of past and present proceedings. What needs still to be addressed are the following: (1) A seemingly simple question of formatting for each annual (font type & size, footnotes or endnotes, etc.); (2) The relationship between the yearly editors and the Association (e.g., Should the Publications Committee have some oversight in this area?); (3) Should AIHA contract with a distributor for a said amount of copies. This is something all publishers do; (4) In addition to what Dominic has done thus far, what other avenues

should AIHA explore? (e.g., Should not the three journals [*Italian Americana*, *Italian American Review*, *VIA*]) that AIHA supports provide, in return, advertising space in each issue?).

In moving into new territory, it seems AIHA may explore developing greater relationships with other cultural organizations. I have in mind, for example, an association with the Modern Language Association similar to what now exists with the American Historical Association. Literature and cinema are two significant areas of interrogation within AIHA, and I see no reason why AIHA should not have an analogous association. The benefits are numerous, the first two being (a) exposure to more potential members and (b) the possibility of organizing a session of two at its annual conference. As an organization, we might also revisit the possibility of interacting with any or all of what one might call the big three: NIAF, OSIA, UNICO. Can we benefit in any way from some form of association with these organizations? I have already had some very fruitful discussions with some people at NIAF, who are interested in assisting us in various ways in some of our ventures. I see this as a building block to a greater Italian/American community, one that can present itself in a unified manner, as other communities sometimes do, yet without the risk of the various parts losing their individuality.

I look forward to discussing all of the above and more. A believer in the old adage, "nothing ventured nothing gained" – for *satis verborum et labor omnia vincit* – I am hopeful we can discuss and initiate much of this during our Spring 2003 Executive Council meeting, and I look forward to our continued efforts and discussions in subsequent meetings with the general membership when we are all together in Boca Raton, Florida at the next annual conference.

*Arrivederci a novembre!*

Anthony Julian Tamburri

# In Memoriam

## George L. Graziadio Jr. (1920-2002)

Reprinted with permission of Los Angeles Times

George L. Graziadio Jr., the feisty, risk-taking shopping center developer who co-founded his own bank out of frustration with the poor service that large banks offered entrepreneurs like himself and in the process built one of Southern California's largest financial institutions, has died. He was 82.

Graziadio, who was also a major donor to charities and universities, particularly Pepperdine, died of cancer Thursday at his home on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

He was chairman of Comerica Bank-California, which until last year was Imperial Bancorp, the Inglewood-based financial institution Graziadio founded with long-time partner George Eltinge in 1963 to serve small and medium-size businesses. Detroit-based Comerica acquired Imperial Bancorp for \$1.3 billion in stock.

By specializing in loans to niches of key Southland industries such as entertainment and technology, Imperial had grown into one of the region's biggest banks, with \$7.4 billion in assets and 15 branches.

In 1996, Graziadio gave \$15 million to the business school at Pepperdine University in Malibu—at the time one the largest gifts ever to a business school. Pepperdine later named the school for him.

Born in Vernon, Conn., to Italian and Irish immigrants, Graziadio grew up living above his grandfather's Italian grocery. He began working for his father, a real estate auctioneer, at 14.

Graziadio settled in California after World War II and met Eltinge, who was already involved in commercial real estate development, in the early

1950s.

Graziadio impressed Eltinge by luring a prime tenant to an Eltinge shopping center at Crenshaw Boulevard and Imperial Highway in Los Angeles. Their partnership evolved from that experience. They went on to build about 100 shopping centers in California and elsewhere in the West, mostly for Kmart stores.

The “two Georges,” as they were known in business circles, appeared a strange match. The wiry and soft-spoken Eltinge was often described as the dreamer, while Graziadio, a heavyset 6-footer, referred to himself as “the nuts-and-bolts guy.” Eltinge died in 1994 at age 76.

In 1963, after years of frustrating encounters with cautious lenders, they founded Imperial by collecting \$1.25 million from family and friends.

The bank's lending policies catered to the underserved “middle market” of small and medium-sized companies and created a lucrative business by making loans to targeted niches within California's changing industrial mix, from risky tech start-ups to local garment makers and movie projects.

Indeed, the bank's entertainment division grew to be the largest financer of feature films in the world, and Imperial was an early lender to a fledgling Web portal that became Yahoo Inc.

Imperial also earned a reputation within the industry as a super-aggressive “go-go” lender that often made deals with customers whom other banks would have turned away as bad credit risks.

Graziadio would brush off such criticism, saying his bank tended to think more about business

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# In Memoriam

## Angela Militello Marrantino (1925-2002)

Angela Militello Marrantino, President of the American Italian Cultural Roundtable, 1994-1997, and Chairman of the Board from 1997 until the end of a long and productive life, died on November 25, 2002, of complications due to diabetes at the Village Nursing Home, New York City.

Born September 21, 1925 in St. Louis of Sicilian parents, Angela received early training at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. A mezzo soprano with an extensive repertoire, she came to New York City to continue her singing career and had her debut recital at the age of 20 at what is now Town Hall in 1946, with early Italian arias by Handel, Scarlatti, Torelli and Pergolesi, Sicilian folk tunes, songs by Guarnier and Respighi, Puccini's *Vissi d'arte* and *Pace, pace, mio Dio* from Verdi's *La Forza dell Destino*.

Ms. Militello's singing was reviewed as having "warm and ingenuous qualities." Her voice coach at that time was Thomas Philip Martin, then conductor of the City Center Opera.

Angela Militello married businessman, Anthony Marrantino and made her home in New York. She went on to a career in banking, as Operations Officer at the Bankers Trust Company, retiring in 1982. Angela was V.P. Treasurer for 5 years of World Education Fellowship and represented them at the U.N. as an N.G.O. In 1984, together with Dr. Michael R. Cioffi, an educator in the New York City Public School System, she founded the American Italian Cultural Roundtable, a group dedicated to the promotion of a positive image of Italian American culture and whose motto is "Understanding Through Culture." Angela managed to cultivate, during her tireless travels around New York City, a large list of members and subscribers.

Angela Marrantino made it her business to attend as many cultural events as possible, acquiring an extensive knowledge of the Italian American community and all its most prominent

members and organizations. She was a Board Member of several organizations: the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the American Italian Historical Association; the African-American, Italian-American dialogue groups under the National Conference, and the Italian Heritage and Culture Month Committee. Most recently, Angela enjoyed serving as a volunteer to the Little Orchestra Society at the Metropolitan Opera, where she was a faithful operagoer. Ever a presence in the Italian American community and with extensive knowledge of all of its redoubts, Angela never forgot a name or a face and was tenacious in her dedication to getting to know everyone who attended Roundtable programs.

Perhaps even more important than Angela's skill was her utter selflessness. Indeed, the support that she was able to attract from many quarters came from what everyone immediately perceived as the complete lack of any personal agenda. It was quite evident from the outset to all of the many people who worked with Angela that her dedication to the Roundtable was flawless and completely disassociated from personal gain of any sort. For the entire Italian American community in New York and indeed for everyone who knew her, Angela Marrantino will remain an example of how much good can be done for many, many people for a long, long time. The loving sister of Mary Chirico, William and the late Leo and Felix Militello, Angela is survived by many nieces and nephews and is buried in St. Louis.

Obituary provided by Dr. Emelise Aleandri, Artistic Director, Frizzi & Lazzi: The Olde Time Italian-American Music & Theatre Company  
Website: <http://www.FrizziLazzi.com>  
140 Riverside Drive NY 10024-2605  
email: [ealeandri@aol.com](mailto:ealeandri@aol.com)

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than image.

"I'd prefer to make 10 \$10,000 loans than one \$100,000 loan," Graziadio told *The Times* in 1997. "That way you have 10 customers who go tell 10 other businesspeople about you."

Graziadio and his partner had a lot of fun, especially in the early days of running the bank.

For one bank opening, they brought in a full-grown lion (which was the bank's mascot). Another time, they dropped \$1 bills out of a helicopter.

Ever the effusive businessman, Graziadio refused to retire even after he entered his 80s.

"The thrill of the chase is more important than getting to the goal," he told the *Los Angeles Business Journal* in 1996. "Retirement, quite frankly, has never been a goal of mine."

Immensely proud of his Italian heritage, Graziadio donated more than \$650,000 to Cal State Long Beach to create a Center for Italian Studies, which also bears his name, and a chair of Italian language studies. The boardroom at Imperial Bancorp's headquarters on La Cienega Boulevard was probably one of the few in America where there was a constant smell of garlic coming from the executive kitchen, observers have noted, because Graziadio served Italian food at company meetings.

An aviation buff, he paid about \$25,000 to join 30 other aficionados on a 24-hour trip around the world on the Concorde to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Western Hemisphere.

But it was his contributions to others that may have more lasting value.

His donation to Pepperdine allowed the busi-

ness school to increase the size of its faculty by 30% and help it become the biggest such school west of Chicago.

At the time, Graziadio praised Pepperdine's "resourcefulness," which he said appealed to him as an entrepreneur.

"His vision and leadership propelled the Graziadio School to a preeminent position among business schools worldwide," Pepperdine President Andrew K. Benton said in a statement Friday.

Over the years, Graziadio was honored for his charity work by dozens of organizations.

He was named the Muscular Dystrophy Assn.'s humanitarian of the year in 2000.

He was also a founding director of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center Health Care Foundation and a member of several local boards, including that of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles.

Two months ago, he received the Horatio Alger Award in Washington. Other recipients have included President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

Graziadio is survived by his wife of 59 years, Reva; daughters Mary Lou Area and Alida Calvillo; son G. Louis Graziadio III; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Pepperdine's Firestone Fieldhouse.



Don't forget to visit the AIHA website at

[www.mobilito.com/aiha/](http://www.mobilito.com/aiha/)

and the AIHA listserv at

[www.h-itam.h-net.msu.edu](http://www.h-itam.h-net.msu.edu)

Thank you for your support of AIHA!

## Roundtable Launches New TV Series on MNN Channel 34

The American Italian Cultural Roundtable will launch the first of a continuing series of television specials, produced by Dr. Emelise Aleandri, to air on Channel 34 of the Manhattan Neighborhood Network. Air dates are repeated: Thursday, February 13, 2003 @ 7:30pm; Saturday, February 15 @ 1pm; Friday, February 21 @ 12 noon and Sunday, February 23 @ 8pm. Future episodes will also reach the other New York City boroughs. Future specials will feature the cultural programming of the Roundtable events throughout the year. The first episode will introduce the members of the Board of the Roundtable, and its mission and goals. Viewer will also see clips from past Roundtable events and hear about the most recent celebration on February 11, 2003, Love Sicilian Style (Amuri a la siciliana), a benefit which was held at and cosponsored by the Players Club. The distinguished honorees were NBC TV Journalist Roseanne Colletti; Dr. Antonino Parisi, President of the Città del Ragazzo di Messina (Boys Town of Messina, Sicily), Educator Prof. Ingrid Rossellini and Special Posthumous Honoree, Rose Riso, heroine of 9/11, represented by her brother Peter Riso. This episode will also do a short tribute to the late founder of the

Roundtable, Angela Marrantino, who passed away last November. The next episode will broadcast the February 11 Awards Ceremony as well as the musical and theatrical entertainment for that evening provided by the Players Club and Frizzi & Lazzi, the Olde Time Italian-American Music & Theatre Company. Almost 20 years ago, the American Italian Cultural Roundtable was founded by Dr. Michael Cioffi, as a not for profit cultural and educational organization to promote an appreciation of Italian and Italian American culture in collaboration with educational and cultural organizations in the tri-state area. This TV show is new effort by the Roundtable to expand the audience for its cultural programs. The Roundtable motto is: "Understanding Through Culture. Each year, the Roundtable holds an Annual Awards Dinner to honor individuals for their contribution to Italian-American culture. The current Roundtable Board includes: Cavaliere Ufficiale Aldo Mancusi and Leasa Mancusi of the Enrico Caruso Museum, Cavaliere Elsie Cardia of Beatrice Restaurant; Dr. Emelise Aleandri, actress, producer and author; our President, educator Dr. Richard Sorrentino; writer Joann Sicoli, Dr. Joseph Perricone, our liaison with Fordham University at Lincoln Center, our Treasurer Maria Severini and Secretary Nancy Caminiti. *Contact:* AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE, INC. Dr. Richard F. Sorrentino, President 620 Conover St. Long Branch NJ 07740 Info: 212 769 8920 or 732 229 5877.

### Executive Council Meeting Agenda

The next Executive Council Meeting is on Saturday May 10, 2003 at the Calandra Institute in Manhattan, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please RSVP by May 1 to help us to plan for a box lunch for EC members. All members of the AIHA may attend, but active participation is limited to Executive Council members.

The Standard Agenda is as follows:

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Curator

NL Editor-Paul Giaimo

Ex. Dir. Report—

Forthcoming Proceedings

- vol 31 Cannistraro, Krase
- 33-Mario Aste
- 34-Bonomo Albright, Worrall
- 35-Mormino

Future conferences—Boca Raton 2003—Tamburri

Annapolis 2004—Alduino

Committee reports—publications-Gardaphe

Elections-Bonomo Albright

Membership- Candeloro

Scholarship—Bona

Memorial fund—Iorizzo

Webpage-Candeloro

- H-ItAm—
- Local Chapter reports—LI, NY, CA
- AIHA support for journals
- Dues structure
- New Business

If you are an officer, committee chair, editor of a volume of the proceedings or a local chapter president, it is your duty to make a written report if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Anyone wishing to add items to the agenda should

contacted President Anthony Tamburri  
atamburri@fau.edu by early April 2003.

Please review all AIHA info on the website and in the Newsletter before the

meeting to facilitate informed discussion. Web site <http://www.mobilito.com/aiha>

**MESEA**  
**(The Society for Multi-**  
**Ethnic Studies: Europe and**  
**the Americas)**  
***Call for Papers***

Fourth MESEA Conference  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece  
May 20 - 23, 2004  
Ethnic Communities in Democratic Societies

Proposals for workshops and papers may engage the following topics, among others:

Negotiation of culture, language, religion within (non) territorial communities / Parochialism and globalization / Community and fragmentation in global cities / Communitarianism vs. rights / Literary and artistic productions within transnational democracies / Aesthetic concerns of ethnic subjects in democratic societies / How literature reflects democratic concerns / Negotiating ethnic exceptionalism and participation in a larger collectivity / Nation states and imagined communities / Nationalism and transnational loyalties / Nativism and racism in democratic contexts / Ethnic Press and transnationalism / Ethnic community vs. local law / (Il)legal immigration / Transnational identities / Fragmented identities / Political agency, political choices / Balkanization of mentality / Bastions of ethnic tolerance / Citizenship and ethnopolitics / Civis and civility / Ethnic anxieties / Ethnic discrimination and affirmative actions / Ethnogenesis and ethnostasis / From Confrontation to cooperation / Internal colonialisms / Mythologized nationalisms / Xenophobia/xenophilia.

Deadline for proposals: December 20, 2003.  
Send a one-page proposal and a one-paragraph bio on the same page as e-mail submission to:  
raphael-hernandez@mesea.org  
Dr. Heike Raphael-Hernandez  
University of Maryland in Europe  
Im Bosseldorn 30126 Heidelberg  
Germany

Only members of MESEA or MELUS may present papers at this conference. For membership information please visit [www.mesea.org](http://www.mesea.org).

Continued from page 3

Long Island Chapter: Danzi reported that the May, 2002 luncheon drew 120 persons. Events currently planned are: December 13th, panel about family memoirs; March 16th, discussion of book to be read by members and others; May 31st, annual luncheon. Currently, 325 people on mailing list, with about 100 making donations and contributions to cover newsletter, mailing and printing costs. The chapter recently supported a conference at Nassau Community College under the direction of LaGumina who is Director of the Center of Italian American Studies there.

AIHA Support for Journals: Motion was made, seconded and carried to donate \$500 to the following: VIA Italian American Review, Italian Americana. Candeloro requested that we get advertising for AIHA in VIA. He will send materials to Tamburri.

Dues Structure: Candeloro suggested that dues be raised to \$40, to eliminate or raise senior membership to \$35 or \$40, which would mean an additional \$2,000 per year in revenue. It was suggested that dues reflect costs per member for mailings, newsletter, proceedings, etc. Discussion, Motion made, seconded and carried, that membership fees for next year would be as follows: \$40 regular, \$30 seniors, \$20 students, no change in life or family memberships.

New Business: Renewal of Candeloro Contract: Fee for last two years has been \$10,000 per year. After discussion, Motion was made, seconded and carried that his contract be renewed for one year at a salary of \$12,000.

Ed Maruggi volunteered to coordinate any research the organization may need, for example, assessing interest in a Genoa meeting. He asked that the membership provide him with some direction. Motion made, seconded and carried that he will be called upon in this capacity.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm  
Submitted by Teresa Cerasuola and Angela Danzi.

**Please send all submissions for the Fall 2003 edition of the AIHA newsletter by September 15, 2003 to Paul Giaimo at [paul.giaimo@highland.edu](mailto:paul.giaimo@highland.edu). Submissions must be sent in Microsoft Word format (.doc), or text format (.txt) for inclusion. *Grazie!***

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

“Italian Americans and the Arts & Culture”

6-8 November 2003

Florida Atlantic University • Boca Raton

**Papers dealing with all aspects of Italian Americans and their contributions to the Arts are welcome. By “arts” one should assume all of those performances – written, visual, aural, corporal, etc. – that engage Italian Americans and their artistic craft. In addition, one should assume that any and all interpretive approaches to the “arts” are welcome: aesthetic, historical, ideological, political, sociological, theoretical, etc.**

Writing • Singing • Dancing • Painting  
Sculpture • Cinema • Storytelling • Theatre

Proposals for papers should include title and abstract (250 words) with email and postal addresses. Proposals for sessions should include participants, titles, and email & postal addresses of chair and participants. Both paper and session proposals should be sent to:

Anthony Julian Tamburri, Chair  
Department of Languages & Linguistics  
Florida Atlantic University  
777 Glades Road  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431 USA  
Email: atamburri@fau.edu  
Phone: (561) 297-3860; staff line  
Fax: (561) 297-2657

Deadline: 1 August 2003

Sessions will be held at the HOLIDAY INN Boca Town Center

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# Reviews

## Review of Ken Lonquist's Old Befana

"I liked that, Daddy, but why did you say  
it was Italian?"

by Paul Giaimo, editor

I went to see the performance of Ken Lonquist's "Old Befana" at St. Dennis Catholic Church in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday night, January 4, 2002. It was a great musical performance. Four very talented vocalists/musicians acted out the entire show, moving effortlessly from comic acting to playing Lonquist's original score on guitar and upright bass. Several children, including my own 6-year old Clare and 1-year old toddler Michael, enjoyed this festive Epiphany celebration.

One must note, however, as Clare did, that this performance was not intended to be, nor did it come off as an authentic rendition of the Italian legend of La Befana. No particular signs of Italian culture were clearly present, though the characters reside in a seaside town and Lonquist, who performs in and narrates the show, portrays a fish peddler bantering with a fruit and vegetable seller who also appears in the performance. In an interview, Lonquist commented that his company does not "make mentioned of any other nations or cultures. . . we've attempted to make the show as "universal" as we could. . . striving to ensure that the beautiful message inherent in the story would reach across not only cultural and national boundaries, but religious ones as well. We're gratified that families from a wide spectrum of belief—from atheists to Wiccan, Fundamentalists, Catholics and Unitarians—all embrace the presentation, and feel comfortable and happy with it."

"Old Befana," in my opinion, retains much merit as an original American musical for children and parents alike. This is due in large part to Lonquist's excellent musical score.

## Book Review of Stella's *L'orda*

By Stefano Luconi  
Faculty of Political Sciences "Cesare Alfieri"  
University of Florence, Italy

Gian Antonio Stella. *L'orda: Quando gli albanesi eravamo noi*. Milan: Rizzoli, 2002. 283 pp.  
ISBN 88-17-87097-8

In the last two decades, Italy has definitively turned from an emigration into an immigration country. Mostly unwanted newcomers have arrived from former Communist countries, Africa, and Asia in order to take up niche jobs that Italians refuse to perform nowadays and have progressively replaced cherished sojourners from the United States and western-European nations as the prevailing alien presence in Italy. Consequently, immigration has become a matter of public concern and has sparked periodic outbursts of xenophobia especially at hard times for the economy. Oblivious of the experience of their destitute ancestors who went abroad to make a living and ended up confronting ethnic bigotry and discrimination, many Italians have made immi-

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Originally conceived as a radio accompaniment to a Madison WI storyteller's performance, the music is an entertaining mix of American folk-rock, gospel and popular influences. The show's message, that any child can make the world a better place, is cast in beautiful melodies, and achieves Lonquist's universalizing goals. Furthermore, Befana's poignant quest features a haunting intervallic theme, which is gentle and meaningful. The lyrics to one variation on "O Little Town of Bethlehem" say it all: "The angels over Bethlehem/ Sing rock and roll tonight" Much wholesome family fun can be had, though the theatrical piece does not acknowledge Befana's Italian heritage significantly.

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grants subject to the same nativistic prejudices, racism, and hate crimes that had harassed their grandparents and great grandparents in foreign societies.

The purpose of Gian Antonio Stella, a well-known editorialist for Italy's leading daily *Corriere della Sera*, is to show the Italian people how short their historic memory is. Drawing almost exclusively on a wide array of secondary sources, *L'orda* makes a comparison between Italy's current response to immigration into her national territory and the unwelcoming of Italian emigrants to western Europe, northern Africa, and the Americas in the 19th and 20th centuries. In particular, Stella stresses the similarities of these experiences. Italian immigrants to the United States have been usually identified with the "Mafia" and perceived as naturally prone to crime to such an extent that President Richard M. Nixon could claim that "you can't find one that's honest" as late as 1973. Likewise, Italian nativistic movements such as the Northern League party maintain nowadays that almost all Albanian newcomers are gangsters and bandits. On this and analogous ground, Stella suggests that the descendants of yesterday's victims are today's offenders.

Yet Stella does not yield to filo-pietism. He also makes a point of reminding xenophobic Ital-

ians that their own people are not as sinless as they contend. Against this backdrop, for instance, Stella argues that if Northern League leader Mario Borghezio exploited the 2001 al-Qaeda attack on the World Trade Center in order to lash out at "Arab terrorists" allegedly pouring into Italy, he probably forgot that it was an Italian anarchist, Mario Buda, who took part in a conspiracy to blow up Wall Street eighty-one years earlier.

Presentism and polemics obviously loom large in Stella's volume. To find a more scholarly and interpretative outline of the xenophobic attitudes that Italian emigrants faced in their adoptive lands, one has to refer to an essay that Stella himself has recently written with Emilio Franzina ("Brutta Gente: Il razzismo anti-italiano," in *Storia dell'emigrazione italiana: Arrivi*, ed. Piero Bevilacqua, Andreina De Clementi, and Emilio Franzina [Rome: Donzelli, 2002], 283-311). Nonetheless *L'orda* is a well-informed, though emotional, overview of past anti-Italian prejudice and discrimination worldwide. Even if Stella's book adds next to nothing to our knowledge of this disgraceful phenomenon, it aptly summarizes the findings of previous studies and helps popularize them for a much larger readership than the Italian Academia.

## Editor's Corner-Spring 2003

by Paul Giaimo

There is an old Chinese curse that says, "May you live in interesting times." The past two years as Editor of the newsletter have certainly been interesting. This column dropped out of our last issue as the agenda became too hectic and that last newsletter was late. We have had a few problems haunt us recently, and we hope that a more focused and shorter circulation will help both cut cost and improve our efficiency. With the departure of Deb Starewich, a new assistant was needed, and my colleague Sam Fiorenza has filled the bill extremely professionally.

Yet we are still in need of some reorganizing. At the time of my writing, the newsletter

makes three stops from email through Freeport, Illinois, and finally to Chicago Heights on its way to you. Also, there is a need to decide on a focus. Frequently we reprint information featured on H-Itam. Does this serve your needs as an AIHA member? We are in constant need of news items, but please also inform me of your purpose when submitting your news. Finally, we welcome former newsletter editor Anthony Tamburri to the Presidency of AIHA. We firmly believe his leadership will revitalize the organization and this publication. Thank you for your patience during our time of change.



## VIA

*a literary and cultural review*

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*Florida Atlantic University*

Essays, fiction, and non-fiction should not exceed twenty pages, poetry five pages, typewritten and double spaced. All materials must be submitted in triplicate and follow the *MLA Style Manual* (1985). Manuscripts returned with SASE.

All editorial communications to: Fred L. Gardaphé, Department of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures; SUNY-Stony Brook; Stony Brook NY 11794-3359; 516-632-1215; fax 516-632-7421. Inquiries for subscriptions, advertising, and books for review to: Anthony Julian Tamburri, Languages and Linguistics, Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton FL; 561-297-3861; fax 561-297-2657; VIA1990@aol.com

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*WOP: A Documentary History of Anti Italian Discrimination.* Sal LaGumina, 1973, 319 pp \$14  
*Boundless Lives: IAs of Western Pennsylvania.* Hist. Soc. of W. Pa. 1999. 213pp. \$35  
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