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Happy New Year!**



**The Olympic Torch reaches the
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**La Torcia Olimpica arriva alla
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Letters to the Editor



From your MPPs Desk: Yasir Naqvi, Ottawa Centre New Year Starts with Tax Cut for 93% of Ontario Taxpayers

Tax change package means more jobs, more investment in Ontario

Starting New Years day, 93 per cent of Ontario income taxpayers are getting a permanent tax cut. It's part of a comprehensive tax plan that will help create 591,000 jobs, cut personal income taxes and make our province more attractive for new business investment.

As of January 1, the McGuinty government is cutting the first income bracket tax rate by one percentage point, from 6.05 per cent to 5.05 per cent. As a result, Ontario will have the lowest tax rate of all provinces on the first income bracket. An additional 90,000 lower income Ontario taxpayers will no longer pay any provincial personal income tax.

Ontario's comprehensive package includes \$10.6 billion in direct payments and permanent tax relief for the people of Ontario. It also includes a new, permanent Ontario Sales Tax Credit, an enhanced Ontario Property Tax Credit, cuts to corporate income tax rates and merging two sales taxes into a single harmonized sales tax to strengthen our economy.

To find out more about Ontario's comprehensive tax change package, visit www.ontario.ca/taxchange.

QUOTE

"Starting today, 93 per cent of Ontario tax payers are getting an income tax cut. That means more money in the hands of low and middle income Ontarians and seniors on fixed income. But the greatest benefit is that these cuts are part of a package experts confirm will create investment and jobs when our province needs it most," said Yasir Naqvi, MPP Ottawa Centre.

QUICK FACTS

This announcement is part of a comprehensive package that includes \$10.6 billion in direct payments and permanent tax relief for the people of Ontario over three years:

- Starting in August, 2.9 million low- to middle-income Ontario families and individuals will receive a new, permanent Ontario Sales Tax Credit of up to \$260 for each adult and child per year – one of the most generous in Canada;
- An additional \$270 million in annual property tax relief, through enhancements to the Ontario Property Tax Credit, will benefit 2.3 million low- to middle-income homeowners and renters;
- \$4 billion in Sales Tax Transition Benefits to 6.5 million Ontario families and individuals – totalling up to \$1,000 for families (including single parents) and up to \$300 for single people – in 2010 and 2011, to ease the transition to the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), starting in June 2010; and
- More than \$2.4 billion a year in corporate income tax cuts.

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COMMUNICATO

Collette fondi in seguito al terremoto in Italia

QUASI 900 000 \$ RACCOLTI PER GLI SFORZI DI RICOSTRUZIONE

Montréal, 26 ottobre 2009 — La direzione e la solidarietà del gruppo SOS Abruzzo, creato dal Congresso Nazionale degli Italo-Canadesi (Regione del Quebec), hanno permesso di raccogliere 860 000 \$ per sostenere gli sforzi di ricostruzione gestiti dalla Croce Rossa Italiana in seguito al terremoto avvenuto in Abruzzo. "Sin dall'inizio volevamo collaborare con la Croce Rossa per aiutare le vittime e siamo fieri del lavoro realizzato" ha dichiarato l'Avvocato Antonio Sciascia, presidente del Congresso.

I doni raccolti sono stati destinati alla costruzione di alloggi provvisori nel Comune di Onna. Situada a pochi chilometri dal capoluogo abruzzese, Onna e' diventata uno dei simboli della devastazione lasciata dal sisma in quanto 40 su 350 abitanti hanno perso la vita e la maggior parte dei palazzi sono stati distrutti.

La Protezione Civile del Governo Italiano ha domandato alla Croce Rossa Italiana di farsi carico della realizzazione del progetto degli alloggi provvisori nel Comune di Onna. Il 15 settembre scorso, grazie al sostegno di numerose Croci-Rosse del tutto il mondo, tra cui anche quella canadese, la popolazione di Onna ha potuto utilizzare i nuovi alloggi temporanei e abbandonare le tende montate il giorno seguente al sisma.

Mentre la costruzione delle case permanenti avrà tempi lunghi, la Croce Rossa continuerà a sostenere la popolazione offrendo altri tipi di servizi: alimentazione, beni di prima necessità, organizzazione comunitaria, appoggio psicosociale, attività sociali, appoggio per le attività educative e per programmi di inserimento e di formazione professionale. "In tutto il mondo, la Croce Rossa ha il ruolo di sostenere alle autorità pubbliche con servizi creati per i sinistrati oltre ad offrire l'aiuto alla popolazione grazie alla nostra azione sostenuta dal pubblico", ha concluso il direttore generale della Croce- Rossa canadese, divisione del Quebec, Michel Leveille.

Continued on next page with pictures...

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Local SnapShots

Italian Canadians from Quebec rebuild Onna Abruzzo

Continued from previous page...

PROJET DE CONSTRUCTION DE LOGEMENTS TEMPORAIRE DANS LE VILLAGE D'ONNA EN ITALIE

Le 17 juin 2009, une entente a été signée entre le Commissaire délégué par le Gouvernement, la province autonome de Trento et la Croix-Rouge italienne pour la construction urgente de logements temporaires dans les zones sinistrées de l'Abruzzo.

Coût du projet : 6 millions Euros

- 5 M Euros du Mouvement international de la Croix-Rouge (contributions des Croix-Rouge d'Autriche, des États-Unis, de la Grande Bretagne et du Canada)
- 1 M Euros de la Ville de Rome

Construction de 94 logements temporaires et d'un centre social en collaboration avec un comité mis sur pied par la population de Onna pour la configuration des plans des maisons et du village.

Les maisons sont de dimensions différentes

- 45 m²
- 57 m²
- 74 m²

Les maisons sont destinées à des familles

- de 1-2 personnes
- de 3-4 personnes
- de 5-6 personnes



Earth Quake Destruction



Tents in Aquila



New prefabricated houses in Onna partially paid by the Italian Canadians of Quebec , Canada



International

Messaggio di fine anno del presidente della Repubblica

Napolitano: "Un augurio agli italiani di ogni generazione e provenienza e a chi saluta il nuovo anno lontano dall'Italia ma con l'Italia nel cuore". I commenti delle più alte cariche istituzionali e del mondo politico

ROMA - "Il nuovo slancio di cui ha bisogno l'Italia, per andare oltre la crisi, verso un futuro più sicuro, richiede riforme, richiede convinzione e partecipazione diffuse in tutte le sfere sociali, richiede recupero di valori condivisi". Con queste parole il presidente della Repubblica Giorgio Napolitano si è rivolto agli italiani in patria e all'estero nel tradizionale messaggio di fine anno trasmesso dalle televisioni e su YouTube.

"Abbiamo vissuto mesi molto agitati sul piano politico, - ha ricordato Napolitano - ma ciò non deve impedirci di vedere come si sia operato in concreto da parte di tutte le istituzioni, realizzandosi, nonostante i forti contrasti, anche momenti di impegno comune e di positiva convergenza. Nello stesso tempo - ha proseguito il capo dello Stato - nel tessuto più ampio e profondo della società si è reagito alla crisi con intelligenza, duttilità, senso di responsabilità, da parte delle imprese, delle famiglie, del mondo del lavoro. Perciò guardiamo con fiducia, con più fiducia del 31 dicembre scorso, al nuovo anno".

Napolitano ha anche parlato della crisi da cui "deve e può uscire un'Italia più giusta" che nasce dalla guida dei grandi valori del nostro paese come "solidarietà umana, coesione sociale, unità nazionale". "Le condizioni più critiche si riscontrano nel Mezzogiorno e tra i giovani. Sono queste le questioni - per il presidente della Repubblica - che richiedono di essere poste al centro dell'attenzione politica e sociale, e quindi dell'azione pubblica". Secondo Napolitano l'Italia deve "dare una risposta ai giovani che s'interrogano sul loro futuro". Non si può "correre il rischio che i giovani si scoraggino, non vedano la possibilità di realizzarsi, di avere un'occupazione e una vita degna nel loro, nel nostro paese. Ci sono nelle nuove generazioni riserve magnifiche di energia, di talento, di volontà: ho fiducia delle nuove generazioni che stanno crescendo". Dunque, "più crescita, più sviluppo nel Mezzogiorno, più futuro per i giovani, più equità sociale. Sappiamo che a tal fine ci sono riforme e scelte da non rinviare".

Riforme economiche e sociali ma anche "riforme istituzionali" che "non possono essere ancora tenute in sospeso, perché da esse dipende un più efficace funzionamento dello Stato al servizio dei cittadini e dello sviluppo del paese. La Costituzione - precisa Napolitano - può essere rivista, come d'altronde si propone da diverse sponde politiche, nella sua seconda parte. Può essere modificata, secondo le procedure che essa stessa prevede. L'essenziale è che, in un rinnovato ancoraggio a quei principi che alla base del nostro stare insieme come nazione, siano sempre garantiti equilibri fondamentali tra governo e Parlamento, tra potere esecutivo, potere legislativo e istituzioni di garanzia, da poter essere usati, come d'altronde si propone da diverse sponde politiche, nella sua seconda parte. Può essere modificata, secondo le procedure che essa stessa prevede. L'essenziale è che, in un rinnovato ancoraggio a quei principi che alla base del nostro stare insieme come nazione, siano sempre garantiti equilibri fondamentali tra governo e Parlamento, tra potere esecutivo, potere legislativo e istituzioni di garanzia, e che ci siano regole in cui debbano riconoscersi gli schieramenti sia di governo sia di opposizione".

Il capo dello Stato ha inoltre evidenziato come oggi il paese si univa più di quanto emerge dalle tensioni della politica. "Tensioni" ha precisato Napolitano - che è mio dovere sforzarmi di attenuare. E' uno sforzo che mi auguro possa dare dei frutti, come è sembrato dinanzi a un episodio grave, quello dell'aggressione al presidente del Consiglio: si dovrebbero ormai, da parte di tutti, contenere anche nel linguaggio pericolose esasperazioni polemiche, si dovrebbe contribuire a un ritorno di lucidità e di misura nel confronto politico".

Napolitano si è inoltre detto pronto "a perseverare nell'impegno per una maggiore unità della nazione: un impegno che richiede ancora tempo e pazienza. Anche perché nulla è per me come presidente di tutti gli italiani più confortante che contribuire alla serenità di tutti voi". "Tutti i cittadini - ha aggiunto - in tempi difficili come quelli attuali hanno bisogno di maggiore serenità: e a questo bisogno debbono corrispondere tutti coloro che hanno responsabilità elevate nella politica e nella società". Il presidente ha concluso il suo messaggio augurando serenità e speranza "a voi italiane e italiani di ogni generazione e provenienza che salutate il nuovo anno con coloro che vi sono cari o lo salutate lontano dall'Italia ma con l'Italia nel cuore".

Il discorso di Napolitano è stato elogiato dalle massime cariche dello Stato e dalle principali forze politiche. "Questo autorevole parole - ha commentato il presidente del Senato Renato Schifani - richiamano tutte le forze politiche ad una maggiore etica nei comportamenti al fine di favorire una più forte coesione del Paese". "Condivido le parole del capo dello Stato - ha detto il presidente della Camera Gianfranco Fini - volte ad auspicare l'avvio di una nuova fase politica, e di riforme istituzionali, basata sul civile e democratico confronto delle opinioni". Di "contributo al di sopra delle parti" ha parlato il presidente dei deputati del Pdl Fabrizio Cicchitto che ha sottolineato come Napolitano abbia affrontato nel suo discorso i grandi problemi dell'Italia". Dal canto suo il segretario del Partito democratico Pier Luigi Bersani ha evidenziato come nel suo messaggio del capo dello Stato abbia ancora una volta posto l'accento sull'esigenza di riforme sociali e istituzionali. "Il richiamo al lavoro dei giovani ed alle condizioni del Mezzogiorno - ha aggiunto Bersani - non può restare inavuto". Apprezzamento per l'invito contenuto nel discorso di Napolitano a lavorare con impegno comune in favore dell'occupazione e delle famiglie è stato espresso dal leader dell'Udc Pier Ferdinando Casini. "Quello del presidente - ha detto il ministro per la Semplificazione Roberto Calderoli, (Legg Nord Padania) - è stato un discorso di pace e bene e di tanta speranza". Di parole condivisibili ha parlato il leader dell'Italia dei Valori Antonio Di Pietro che ha però invitato il capo dello Stato a non firmare provvedimenti "ad personam" per quanto riguarda la riforma della giustizia. (Inform)

2. QUIRINALE

Il testo integrale del messaggio di fine anno del presidente Giorgio Napolitano

ROMA - Nel rivolgermi, mentre sta per concludersi il 2009, il più cordiale e affettuoso augurio, vorrei provarmi a condividere con voi qualche riflessione sul difficile periodo che abbiamo vissuto e su quel che ci attende. Un anno fa, molto forte era la nostra preoccupazione per la crisi finanziaria ed economica da cui tutto il mondo era stato investito. La questione non riguardava solo l'Italia, ma avevamo motivi particolari di inquietudine per il nostro paese. Oggi, a un anno di distanza, possiamo dire che un grande sforzo è stato compiuto e che i risultati importanti sono stati raggiunti al livello mondiale: non era mai accaduto nel passato, in situazioni simili, che i rappresentanti degli Stati più importanti, di tutti i continenti, si incontrassero così di frequente, discutessero e lavorassero insieme per cercare delle vie d'uscita nel comune interesse, e per concordare le decisioni necessarie. Proprio questo è invece accaduto nel corso dell'ultimo anno. L'Italia - sempre restando ancorata all'Europa - ha dato il suo apprezzato contributo, con il grande incontro del luglio scorso a L'Aquila, e ha per suo conto compiuto un serio sforzo.

Dico questo, vedete, guardando a quel che si è mosso nel profondo del nostro paese. Perché, lo so bene, abbiamo vissuto mesi molto agitati sul piano politico, ma ciò non deve impedirci di vedere come si sia operato in concreto da parte di tutte le istituzioni, realizzandosi, nonostante i forti contrasti, anche momenti di impegno comune e di positiva convergenza. Nello stesso tempo, nel tessuto più ampio e profondo della società si è reagito alla crisi con intelligenza, duttilità, senso di responsabilità, da parte delle imprese, delle famiglie, del mondo del lavoro.

Perciò guardiamo con fiducia, con più fiducia del 31 dicembre scorso, al nuovo anno. Non posso tuttavia fare a meno di parlare del prezzo che da noi, in Italia, si è pagato alla crisi e di quello che ancora si rischia di pagare, specialmente in termini sociali e umani. C'è stata una pesante caduta della produzione e dei consumi; e ce ne siamo sollevando; si è confermata la vocazione e intraprendenza industriale dell'Italia; ma ci sono state aziende, soprattutto piccole e medie imprese, che hanno subito colpi non lievi; e a rischio, nel 2010, è soprattutto l'occupazione. Si è fatto non poco per salvaguardare il capitale umano, per mantenere al lavoro forze preziose anche nelle aziende in difficoltà, e si è allargata la rete delle misure di protezione e di sostegno; ma hanno pagato, in centinaia di migliaia, i lavoratori a tempo determinati i cui contratti non sono stati rinnovati e le cui tutele sono rimaste deboli o inesistenti; e indubbia è oggi la tendenza a un aumento della disoccupazione, soprattutto di quella giovanile.

Vengono così in primo piano antiche contraddizioni, caratteristiche dell'economia e della società italiana. Dissi da questi schermi un anno fa: affrontiamo la crisi come grande prova e occasione per aprire al Paese nuove prospettive di sviluppo, facendo i conti con le insufficienze e i problemi che ci portiamo dietro da troppo tempo - dalla crisi deve e può uscire un'Italia più giusta. Ebbene, questo è il discorso che resta ancora interamente aperto, questo è l'impegno di fondo che dobbiamo assumere insieme noi italiani.

Ma come riuscirvi? Guardando con coraggio alla realtà nei suoi aspetti più critici, ponendo mano a quelle riforme e a quelle scelte che non possono più essere rinviata, e facendoci guidare da grandi valori: solidarietà umana, coesione sociale, unità nazionale.

Parto dalla realtà delle famiglie che hanno avuto maggiori problemi: le coppie con più figli minori, le famiglie con anziani, le famiglie in cui solo una persona è occupata ed è un operaio. Le indagini condotte anche in Parlamento ci dicono che nel confronto internazionale elevato è in Italia il livello della disuguaglianza e della povertà. Le retribuzioni dei lavoratori dipendenti hanno continuato ad essere penalizzate da un'alta pressione fiscale contributiva; più basso è il reddito delle famiglie in cui ci sono occupati in impieghi "atipici", comunque temporanei.

Le condizioni più critiche si riscontrano nel Mezzogiorno e tra i giovani. Sono queste le questioni che richiedono di essere poste al centro dell'attenzione politica e sociale, e quindi dell'azione pubblica. L'economia italiana deve crescere di più e meglio che negli ultimi quindici anni: ecco il nostro obiettivo fondamentale. E perché cresca in modo più sostenuto l'Italia, deve crescere il Mezzogiorno, molto più fortemente il Mezzogiorno. Solo così, crescendo tutta insieme l'Italia, si può dare una risposta ai giovani che s'interrogano sul loro futuro. C'è una cosa che non ci possiamo permettere: correre il rischio che i giovani si scoraggino, non vedano la possibilità di realizzarsi, di avere un'occupazione e una vita degna nel loro, nel nostro paese. Ci sono nelle nuove generazioni riserve magnifiche di energia, di talento, di volontà: ci credo non retoricamente, ma perché ho visto di persona come si manifestino in concreto quando se ne creino le condizioni.

Ho visto la motivazione, ho visto la passione di giovani, tra i quali molte donne, che quest'anno mi è accaduto di incontrare nei laboratori di ricerca; la motivazione e l'orgoglio dei giovani specializzati che sono il punto di forza di aziende di alta tecnologia; la passione e l'impegno che si esprimono nelle giovani orchestre concepite e guidate da generosi maestri. E penso alla motivazione e alla qualità dei giovani che si preparano alle selezioni più difficili per entrare in carriere pubbliche come la magistratura. Certo, sono queste le energie giovanili che hanno potuto prendere le strade migliori; e tante sono purtroppo quelle che ancora si dibattono in una ricerca vana. Ma ho fiducia nell'insieme delle nuove generazioni che stanno crescendo; a tutti i giovani la società e i poteri pubblici debbono dare delle occasioni, e in primo luogo debbono garantire l'opportunità decisiva di formarsi grazie a un sistema di istruzione più moderno ed efficiente, capace di far emergere i talenti e di premiare il merito.

Più crescita, più sviluppo nel Mezzogiorno, più futuro per i giovani, più equità sociale. Sappiamo che a tal fine ci sono riforme e scelte da non rinviare: proprio negli scorsi giorni il governo ne ha annunciato due su temi molto impegnativi, la riforma degli ammortizzatori sociali e la riforma fiscale. La prima è chiamata in particolare a dare finalmente risposte di sicurezza e tutela a coloro che lavorano in condizioni di estrema flessibilità e precarietà. La riforma annunciata per il fisco, è poi assolutamente cruciale: in quel campo, è vero, non si può più procedere con "trattoppi", vanno presentate e dibattute un'analisi e una proposta d'insieme. E in quel dibattito si misurerà anche una rinnovata presa di coscienza del problema durissimo del debito dello Stato. Intanto, il Parlamento si è impegnato a riordinare la finanza pubblica con la legge sul federalismo fiscale e a regolarla con un nuovo sistema di leggi e procedure di bilancio. Due riforme già votate, su cui il Parlamento è stato largamente unito.

E vengo alle riforme istituzionali, e alla riforma della giustizia, delle quali tanto si parla. Ho detto più volte quale sia il mio pensiero; sulla base di valutazioni ispirate solo all'interesse generale, ho sostenuto che anche queste riforme non possono essere ancora tenute in sospeso, perché da esse dipende un più efficace funzionamento dello Stato al servizio dei cittadini e dello sviluppo del paese. Esse dunque non sono seconde alle riforme economiche e sociali e non possono essere bloccate da un clima di sospetto tra le forze politiche, e da opposte pregiudiziali. La Costituzione può essere rivista - come d'altronde si propone da diverse sponde politiche - nella sua Seconda Parte. Può essere modificata, secondo le procedure che essa stessa prevede. L'essenziale è che - in un rinnovato ancoraggio a quei principi che sono alla base del nostro stare insieme come nazione - siano sempre garantiti equilibri fondamentali tra governo e Parlamento, tra potere esecutivo, potere legislativo e istituzioni di garanzia, e che ci siano regole in cui debbano riconoscersi gli schieramenti sia di governo sia di opposizione.

Ho consigliato misura, lentezza e ricerca dell'intesa, per giungere a una condivisione quanto più larga possibile, come ha ed recente e concordemente suggerito anche il Senato. Voglio esprimere fiducia che in questo senso si andrà avanti, che non ci si bloccherà in sterili recriminazioni e contrapposizioni.

Il nuovo slancio di cui ha bisogno l'Italia, per andare oltre la crisi, verso un futuro più sicuro, richiede riforme, richiede convinzione e partecipazione diffuse in tutte le sfere sociali, richiede recupero di valori condivisi. Valori di solidarietà: e il paese, in effetti, se ne è mostrato ricco in quest'anno segnato da eventi tragici e dolorosi, da ultimo sciogliendo alluvioni. Se ne è mostrato ricco stringendosi con animo fraterno alle popolazioni dell'Aquila e dell'Abruzzo colpite dal terremoto, o raccogliendosi commosso attorno alle famiglie dei caduti in Afganistan, e come sempre impegnandosi generosamente in molte iniziative, quelle del volontariato, della fatica e affettuosa vicinanza ai portatori di handicap, ai più poveri, agli anziani soli, e del sostegno alla lotta contro le malattie più insidiose di cui soffrono anche tanti bambini.

E' necessario essere vicini a tutte le realtà in cui si soffre anche perché ci si sente privati di diritti elementari: penso ai detenuti in carceri terribilmente sovraffollate, nelle quali non si vive decentemente, si è esposti ad abusi e rischi, e di certo non ci si rieduca.

Solidarietà significa anche comprensione e accoglienza verso gli stranieri che vengono in Italia, nei modi e nei limiti stabiliti, per svolgere un onesto lavoro o per trovare rifugio da guerre e da persecuzioni: le politiche volte ad affermare la legalità, e a garantire la sicurezza, pur nella loro severità, non possono far abbassare la guardia contro razzismo e xenofobia, non possono essere fraintese e prese a pretesto da chi nega ogni spirito di accoglienza con odiose preclusioni. Anche su questo versante va tutelata la coesione, e la qualità civile, della società italiana.

Qualità civile, qualità della vita: aspetti, questi, da considerare essenziali per valutare la condizione di una società, il benessere e il progresso umano. Contano sempre di più fattori non solo di ordine materiale ma di ordine morale, che danno senso alla vita delle persone e della collettività e ne costituiscono il tessuto connettivo. E' necessario che si riscoprano e si riaffermino valori troppo largamente ignorati e negati negli ultimi tempi. Più rispetto dei propri doveri verso la comunità, più sobrietà negli stili di vita, più attenzione e fraternità nei rapporti con gli altri, rifiuto intransigente della violenza e di ogni altra suggestione fatale che si insinua tra i giovani.

Considero importante il fatto che nel richiamo alla solidarietà e ai valori morali incontriamo la voce e l'impegno di religiosi e di laici, della Chiesa e del mondo cattolico. Così come nel discorso su una nuova concezione dello sviluppo - che tenga conto delle lezioni della crisi recente e dell'allarme per il clima e per l'ambiente - ritroviamo l'ispirazione e il pensiero del Pontefice. Vedo egualmente sentita da quel mondo l'esigenza dell'unità della nazione italiana.

In realtà, non è vero che il nostro paese sia diviso su tutto: esso è più unito di quanto appaia se si guarda solo alle tensioni della politica. Tensioni che è mio dovere sforzarmi di attenuare. E' uno sforzo che mi auguro possa dare dei frutti, come è sembrato dinanzi a un episodio grave, quello dell'aggressione al Presidente del Consiglio: si dovrebbero ormai, da parte di tutti, contenere anche nel linguaggio pericolose esasperazioni polemiche, si dovrebbe contribuire a un ritorno di lucidità e di misura nel confronto politico.

Io posso assicurarvi che sono deciso a perseverare nel mio impegno per una maggiore unità della nazione: un impegno che richiede ancora tempo e pazienza, ma da cui non desisterò.

Anche perché nulla è per me come Presidente di tutti gli italiani più confortante che contribuire alla serenità di tutti voi. Mi ha toccato le parole del comandante di un contingente dei nostri cari militari impegnati in missioni all'estero. Mi ha detto - dieci giorni fa in videoconferenza per gli auguri di Natale - che lui e i suoi "ragazzi" traggono serenità dai miei messaggi quando gli giungono attraverso la televisione. Sì, hanno bisogno di maggiore serenità tutti i cittadini in tempi difficili come quelli attuali, lavoratori, disoccupati, giovani alle prese con problemi assillanti, quanti sono all'opera per rilanciare la nostra economia, e quanti servono con scrupolo lo Stato, in particolare le forze armate chiamate a tutelare la pace e la stabilità internazionale, o le forze dell'ordine che combattono con crescente successo le organizzazioni criminali.

E a questo bisogno debbono corrispondere tutti coloro che hanno responsabilità elevate nella politica e nella società.

Serenità e speranza sento di potervi trasmettere oggi. Speranza guardando all'Italia che ha mostrato di volere e saper reagire alle difficoltà. Speranza guardando al mondo, per quanto turbato e sconvolto da conflitti e minacce, tra le quali si rinnova, sempre inquietante, quella del terrorismo. Speranza perché nuove luci per il nostro comune futuro sono venute dall'America e dal suo giovane Presidente, sono venute da tutti i paesi che si sono impegnati in un grande processo di cooperazione e riconciliazione, sono venute dalla nostra Europa, che ha scelto di rafforzare, con nuove istituzioni, la sua unità e rilanciare il suo ruolo, offrendo l'esempio della nostra pace nella libertà.

Questo è il mio messaggio e il mio augurio per il 2010, a voi italiane e italiani di ogni generazione e provenienza che salutate il nuovo anno con coloro che vi sono cari o lo salutate lontano dall'Italia ma con l'Italia nel cuore. Ancora buon anno a tutti. (Giorgio Napolitano)

Inform

International

American Military Assistance to Italy in WWI- One Regiment Pretending to be a Hundred

Italy had been a unified country only 45 years, and since 1870 had been undergoing political convulsions as different factions vied for power. Italy did not have the Military or Armament to fight in WWI.

Italy had stayed out of World War I, starting July 30, 1914, even though it was a member of the Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Germany. Italy claimed that it was under no obligation to honor the agreement because Austria-Hungary had not gone to war in self-defense.

Britain and France BEGGED Italy to join them and made HUGE inducements in the form of a Secret Treaty. On May 1915, Italy entered World War I on the side of the Allies who promised to give Italy "The Irredenta", territories inhabited by an Italian majority but retained by the Austrian Empire after 1866 (hence 'unredeemed' Italy). These included Trentino and Trieste, Istria, Gorizia and Gradisca, Dalmatia. and Rijeka (Fiume). The ideology was then extended to Former Italian territories of Corsica, the Ionian islands, Malta, Nice, and Ticino. Plus German Colonies in Africa, etc..

The Italians, led by General Luigi Cadorna, hammered away at Austria-Hungary for two years in a series of battles along the Isonzo River in Austria-Hungary. Italy suffered enormous casualties. Italian Infantry had to scale mountains against deeply entrenched Austrian artillery, that rained death on the Italians below in icy Freezing Blizzards. ("Farewell to Arms" by Ernest Hemingway)

Italy suffered more combined Military and Civilian Deaths at 1.2 million than did Great Britain at 1.1 million, and TEN times as many as US . France suffered 1,8 million. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties

The Treaty of Versailles, June 28, 1919, was a galactically stupid document, that sowed the seeds of WWII. Britain was the most content, having kept its empire and control of the seas. France had succeeded in imposing harsh terms on Germany -- its traditional foe. Promises to Italy were largely ignored, and created so much resentment in Italy that Mussolini was able to exploit the anger of the War Veterans, that formed the core of the Fascist Party, that took control in Italy in 1922. Germany was so harshly punished in so many ways that Hitler was likewise able to exploit the resentment, and took control in Germany in 1932.

=====

American Warfare in Italy, 1918
Wired; By Bruce Sterling, Editor, January 2, 2010

..It's back to the writer's-notebook aspects of BEYOND THE BEYOND. Get this: it's World War One. After many titanic massacres in ghastly frozen mountain landscapes, the Kingdom of Italy is finally breaking and permanently destroying its worst and most bitterly resented national enemy, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The climactic battle is at hand: the Vittorio Veneto offensive.

*Then the Americans show up. Yes, Americans are Over There. On the bloodstained front, with their allies, the Italians. And what do these American doughboys do in Italy? They deceive the enemy by walking around in many different beautiful uniforms.

American Expeditionary Force in World War I: <http://www.worldwar1.com/itafront/dbsitaly.htm>

"The Yanks Come to the Italian Front" ... "The 332nd Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division, with attached medical and supply units, was sent to the Italian front in July 1918 in response to urgent requests from the Italian Government. Its principal missions were to build up Italian morale and to depress that of the enemy by creating the impression that a large force of Americans had reached that front and was preparing to enter the battle line and to take an active part in the fighting.

"The regiment was first stationed near Lake Garda, where it trained in methods of warfare suitable for the difficult mountain terrain which comprised the greater part of the Italian theater of operations. Early in October it moved to Treviso, behind the Piave River Front, where it was assigned to the Italian 31st Division. From there, for purposes deceiving the enemy, it staged a series of marches in which each battalion, with different articles of uniform and equipment, left the city by a separate road, circulated during daylight hours in exposed positions for both the Italians and Austrians to see, and returned after nightfall to its station at Treviso in as inconspicuous a manner as possible."

((So that's what the Americans were doing in the awesome bloodletting on the Italian front: walking around playing dress-up where they were sure to be seen. There's a kind of genius to this strategy. Obviously the fighting 332nd had immediately gone native. They must've been the most Italianized American military unit to date, short the many Italian regiments who fought in the American Civil War (on both sides). Furthermore, one can't doubt that this was by far the most militarily effective use of one meager American regiment. Make them look like a hundred regiments, and try to make sure nobody shoots at them.)))

((Not their fault, mind you", these wartime impostors were as keen to kick ass any other Yankee unit in the Great War.)))

"Early on November 4th the 2nd Battalion crossed the river on a narrow footbridge and after a brief struggle captured the Austrian position on the far side. Continuing to move forward along the Treviso-Udine railroad, the 2nd Battalion occupied the town of Codroipo where it took possession of large stores of munitions and supplies. In this, their only offensive operation, the 332nd Infantry had one man killed and four wounded. At 3:00pm, November 4th, when the armistice between Italy and Austria-Hungary became effective, the leading American elements were at Villorba" ...

((That wasn't the only American contribution to the Italian war effort.))... " 54 airplane pilots also served with the Italian Army. The American pilots, as members of Italian bombardment squadrons, engaged in bombing raids behind the Austrian lines, being especially active during the progress of the Vittorio-Veneto offensive."... http://www.wired.com/beyond_the_beyond/2010/01/american-warfare-in-italy-1918/

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*Presentation of the Rosa Tiezzi, Maria Ierullo and Jennie Prosperpine Awards
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Saint Anthony Italia Soccer Club
523 St. Anthony Street, Corner of Preston Street

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Thursday, March 4, 2010

Reception: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Cash Bar
Dinner Tickets: \$40

Deadline for ticket purchase February 26, 2010

For tickets call committee members:

Enza Baiamonte	613-820-5462	Anna Chiappa	613-867-1941
Ariella Hostetter	613-261-3804	Angela Ierullo	613-828-1807
Bonnie Favilla	613-733-2585	Silvana Timpson	613-831-1298
Irene Martin	613-798-5111		



Join us for a celebration of women in our community, a delicious meal and silent auction.

General Interests

Up Close with Daniel "DoWop" Celebre

Interview by Giovanni / photo Laura Mainella

Daniel Celebre his last name is pronounced Cel-e-bre, born in Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada and raised in Nobleton, Ontario, Canada. Parents are both from Italy, his father's from Calabria, and his mother is from Naples.

Daniel is a principal dancer for Micheal Jackson in the movie "This is it", he was recently in Ottawa giving dance work shops at Capital City Dance, located at the Westgate Shopping Mall in Ottawa, Canada!

1 Giovanni - What is one word to describe your experience as a principal backup dancer for Micheal Jackson?
Daniel - Love

2 Giovanni - How difficult was it to emotionally deal, as backup dancer, with the recent death of Micheal Jackson?
Daniel - It was difficult, but I'm aware of the reason I was there and what I am to do... I must carry on Mikey's message of Love and help Heal The World.

3 Giovanni - Did you as a child ever dream that you would be a backup dancer for Micheal Jackson, and other famous performers?
Daniel - Yes. My whole life. A few other performers include James Brown, Stevie Wonder and Prince, that'll be next.

4 Giovanni - What advice would you give young kids trying to get into the entertainment world?
Daniel - Stay true to yourself. Do what feels best to yourself personally, rather than what seems best. Have faith in yourself, know your art and what you believe in before you enter in the entertainment world.

5 Giovanni - What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome in your career, now after the death of Micheal Jackson?
Daniel - Obstacles are illusions, they are always present but I don't give them attention, just pass by.

6 Giovanni - How does it feel to be able to dance, and get paid for your talents? What pushed you to become a dancer?
Daniel - It feels Like a blessing handed down from The Almighty God to be paid for dancing. Dancing is a natural instinct for all people. First and foremost it was the Music that pushed me to dance. I was able to commit my whole energy into dance with the support of my family and our lifestyle.

7 Giovanni - In the entertainment world, what was the hardest thing for you to learn and why? (a certain skill, personality conflicts that had to be overcome, etc...)
Daniel - The hardest thing I've learned in being part of the entertainment world is that my job presently as an entertainer is 24hrs a day. Eventually I will be able to slow down but while the ball is rolling I have to be alert and guide it in the direction I want.

8 Giovanni - What makes you a great dancer, cuz Micheal Jackson wanted you as one of his principal dancer?
Daniel - The fact that dance is my life makes me a great dancer. I live, learn, relay and Love through dance. Dance is my spirit.

9 Giovanni - How have your friends and family reacted to your success has there been any issue or problem, what changes in your life have you made.
Daniel - I am blessed with family and friends who have been behind me my whole life. They have supported my every decision, even if at times it didn't seem right. The only real changes I've made are physical, I now live in Los Angeles. Other than that I am still living the same way with the same goals, just moving. Elevating everyday.

10 Giovanni - Who has been the biggest influence in your life?
Daniel - The Almighty God. Jah Praise!! I am thankful everyday to The Lord. Blessing me and making his angels visable to me. I am grateful for life and our mother earth.

11 Giovanni - What sacrifices have you had to make, if any to get to where you are today in your career?
Daniel - Many sacrifices are made everyday, like not being able to see loved ones in times of need and being without family on a regular basis.

12 Giovanni - I would never walk out of the house without
Daniel - My music. Thats easy.

13 Giovanni - Best gift you've ever received?
Daniel - The best gift I've ever recieved is The gift of Life, music and dance.

14 Giovanni - What do you do to unwind and Relax?
Daniel - To unwind I put on some Funky, funky, slow jams, R&B or reggae, Prince, D'Angelo or Bob Marley. Light some candles and sit outside while admiring the natural mystic, the beauty's of the earth.

15 Giovanni - What was your first Job?
Daniel - A fashion show for a Corporate Company.

16 Giovanni - What is your favourite nickname, and Who gave it to You?
Daniel - DoWop, givin to me by Da FunkMystic.

17 Giovanni - Is it everything u expected it to be, what suprizes you about ur career?
Daniel - My career is everything I expected it to be, and it has just begun. What surprises me is that I'm not surprised. Once your in the dream its not as farfetched as it once seemed.

18 Giovanni - Ur Annoying habit?
Daniel - Believe it or not my annoying habit would have to be dancing. I can't stop, sometimes people get annoyed in stressful situations, because while people stress I dance. LOL

19 Giovanni - What would be on ur to do list in 2010?
Daniel - My to do list for 2010 is to travel the world and reach as many children possible. Resurrect real music and dance and the messages they are supposed to relay. Help the youth to see their future and help them to create it into Love.

20 Giovanni - What is the highlight of your life, and your career?
Daniel - One of the highlights in my life is confirming myself in Gods Name. Being put in Rhythmic 2000 as well as being a part of the Electric Boogaloo Family. My career is definitely highlighted by dancing with The King Micheal Jackson and becoming part of his family.

21 Giovanni - Everyone has a good luck charm, what is yours?
Daniel - I Dont have a good luck charm. Just have my Faith!

22 Giovanni - What would the readers be surprized to know about you?
Daniel - People would be surprized to know that I could be a "bum" on the street and be as happy as I am now.

23 Giovanni - What is your favourite food?
Daniel - Italian food is one of my many favorite foods. Pasta is key to Life.

24 Giovanni - How many siblings do you have?
Daniel - I have one sibling, my big little brother Dave aka DaveHed. My biggest driving force to fly beyond the stars!!!

25 Giovanni - What is your favourite food?
Daniel - Italian

26 Giovanni - What meal do you crave the most?
Daniel - The meal I crave most changes daily. At the moment, oxtail and curried chicken with rice and plantains, Jamaican Style sound beautiful.

27 Giovanni - What is the most important thing, you need at a concert that you preform at?
Daniel - Performing in a concert the most important thing I must have is my music and any magic box I can listen to it from, preferably an Ipod.

28 Giovanni - What is your daily routin?
Daniel - My Daily Routine begins with a Prayer to give thanks for my Life, Workout, Poppin drills, Eating breakfast. Then follow the wind and where it takes me after completing the list of things to do, which was written the night before!

29 Giovanni - What has been your most embarrassing moment in your career, so far?
Daniel - I don't really get embarrassed.

30 Giovanni - What age did you start dancing?
Daniel - I started dancing while chillin in my mama's womb. I was 4 when I started taking classes.

31 Giovanni - Any Regrets in life?
Daniel - No such thing as regrets.

32 Giovanni - Do you collect anything?
Daniel - I collect Funk!!

34 Giovanni - Any fashion must-have?
Daniel - A fashion must have to me is a hat, many different styles, and make sure your shoe game is on point!!!

35 Giovanni - What can people expect when they see you in the movie "This is it"?
Daniel - When you see "Michael Jackson's This Is It" people can expect to witness 120 mins into my dream which started Apr 13, Easter monday and is still going. They will also be able to see how grateful I was while watching Mikey perform a private concert everyday. I'm always right in

front losing my mind.

36 Giovanni - What went through your mind, when you heard the news of Micheal Jackson?
Daniel - That God's will has been done and Micheal had done all he can to Heal The World. It is now OUR responsibility as a people to do God's will as Mikey did.

37 Giovanni - What's a best part of being on tour?
Daniel - Knowing that you will be surrounded by the best of the best in music, celebrating everyday until the tour is done with friends and family while dancing for The King Micheal Jackson!!!

38 Giovanni - What do you love about your job?
Daniel - I love that my job has the ability to reach people around the world. Dance is a universal language!!!

39 Giovanni - Who is the most unforgettable person you have meet in your life?
Tell me about the moment?

Daniel - The most unforgettable person I've met in my life is Skeeter Rabbit of the Electric Boogalooos. Skeets ora and energy of Love and truth was enormous. To hear him speak and understand his perspective on life was enlightening. After conversing with Skeet, we acknowledged the understanding of each other. I was blessed to see Skeet dance, mesmerised by his passion and flawless ability to Funk I was inspired!!! Then being able to dance for him and him telling me "Mang, Family, you better be coming to visit me at the crib so we can train!!! Brother you have to travel the world and spread the word of this right here, this dance". That was one of the most honorable interactions I've had with any human being. He was a big part of the many reasons I got to Michael Jackson.

40 Giovanni - Who has impacted your life the most?
Daniel - My parents have impacted my life the most. Through my mother Sandra and father Carlo I've been able to experience and be guided down many different avenues and ultimately my own path which I chose through their example. I am grateful for them giving me life.
Daniel - Besides my parents would be my big brother Farnk Boogie BoogaLuisi.

41 Giovanni - Which moments stands out the most for you in your career?
Daniel - Some moments hat stand out for me in my career are performing on stage with one of the biggest influences Jazzy Jay SoulFire at the World Famous Apollo Theater in Harlem New York. Being blessed to be part of the "3 Kings of the North Star" with my biggest inspirations and guiding forces in life, King Frank Boogie BoogaLuisi and King Tone 3Dem Thompson. Being hand picked by The People's King Michael Jackson to be part of his family and dancing with him.

43 Giovanni - What is your New Years reSolution?
Daniel - To Heal the Music and Dance World one person at a time!!

47 Giovanni - Where were you born and raised?
Daniel - I was born in Etobicoke Ontario Canada and raised in Nobleton Ontario Canada.

48 Giovanni - What are your parents roots?
Daniel - My parents are both from Italy. My father from Calabria and my mother from Naples.

49 Giovanni - where do you now call home?
Daniel - Los Angeles is currently my home but my home will always be Nobleton!!!

50 Giovanni - Can you share with the readers a special moment you had with Michael Jackson?
Daniel - There were many little moments, from exchanging dance sets to speaking to him everyday on the side about love to understanding and relaying the language and importance of love, music and dance which Mikey said I understood.



BARZELLETTA DELLA SETTIMANA

Natale in una famiglia povera. Il padre la notte di Natale esce di casa, spara un colpo di pistola e poi, finendo rammarico, rientra dicendo: "Babbo Natale si è suicidato!"

General Interests

Lori Ierullo the Olympic Torch Bearer for the Italo-Canadian Community of Ottawa

by Lori Ierullo

I applied to RBC in about February to be a Torch bearer. You were asked to fill in a "Pledge" on how to build a better Canada and how you could contribute within the community. I wrote it around my 29 years teaching the Kinder gym Program at the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre and the importance of providing children with a healthy and active start to life. My focus was around the belief that if children learned to enjoy sport and activity early in life they would hopefully make it part of their everyday routine throughout life. I stressed the importance of learning in a positive environment with lots of emphasis on building not only physical health but also confidence and self esteem and having fun at the same time.

I didn't really think it would be accepted but I believed strongly in what I wrote so felt comfortable that I would always honour my pledge anyway. I received a call in May to say I was pre-selected (first set of selection process) and was quite surprised and thrilled. I only found out when I was on the shuttle to my starting point that there were 12,000 torch bearers selected from the 2 million applicants! I couldn't believe what a great honour and privilege it was to have such a special moment. I held the torch high and proud for every step of my 300 metres as my family and friends and people I had never met cheered me on!

Lori



BENVENUTO IN CANADA.

by Luciano Pradal



Il Dottor Giovanni Maria De Vita dal 19 ottobre 2009 e' il Consigliere Capo della Cancelleria Consolare presso l' Ambasciata d' Italia in Canada.

Il Dott. De Vita ha una grande esperienza nella Carriera Diplomatica che ha esercitato un po' in tutto il mondo, e' stato Tenente di Complemento del Corpo della Guardia di Finanza (1992) ed e' stato insignito Cavaliere dell' Ordine al Merito della Repubblica (2002) (Fine intro)

Ci siamo intrattenuti con il Cons. De Vita, che gentilmente ha accettato di riceverci tra un impegno e l' altro, nel suo ufficio al 21.mo piano dell' edificio ove ha Sede l' Ambasciata d' Italia in Canada. Dopo le presentazioni ed un caloroso : > Benvenuto in Ottawa » abbiamo chiesto al Cons. De Vita D.

D. Perché si trova in Canada:

R. Mi trovo in Canada perché ' il posto di Consigliere Capo e rimasto vacante ed e' cosi' che mi si e' presentata questa bellissima opportunità per riempire questo posto, trovo che il Canada e' un Paese meraviglioso che presenta molte opportunità, il Canada e' protagonista a livello Internazionale dello sviluppo dei valori umani che ci ha dimostrato anche come sviluppare e mantenere i rapporti con i Popoli delle Prime Nazioni ed attualmente anche nel contesto multietnico, e multiculturalmente con gli immigranti.

D. Qual' e' il suo mandato e quali sono i suoi progetti in (seno) a questo mandato ?

R. Il mio mandato e le mie aspirazioni sono quelli di rappresentare nel miglior modo possibile, attraverso i 3 Consolati, gli Italiani e gli Italo-Canadesi ; e' da



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New Year's at St. Anthony's Soccer Club



Gino and Lena Buffone



Denise and Lorenzo Micucci



Nello and Margo Bortolotti



Angela and Mario Sicoli



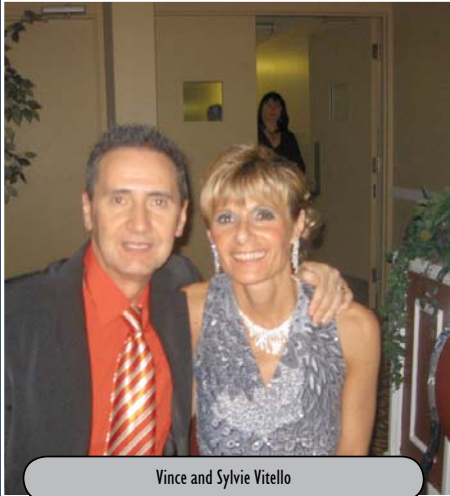
Rina and Angelo Filoso



Party Time Entertainment Group with Vince Vitello



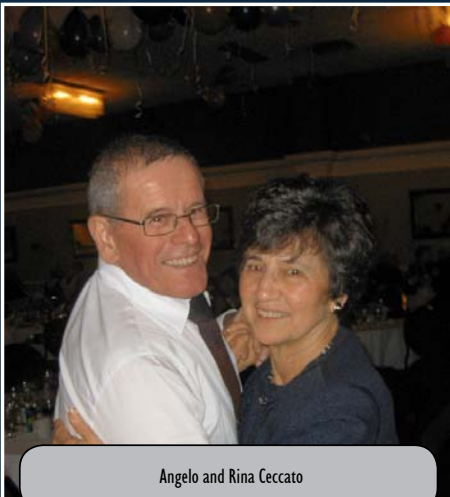
New Year's at St. Anthony's Soccer Club



Vince and Sylvie Vitello



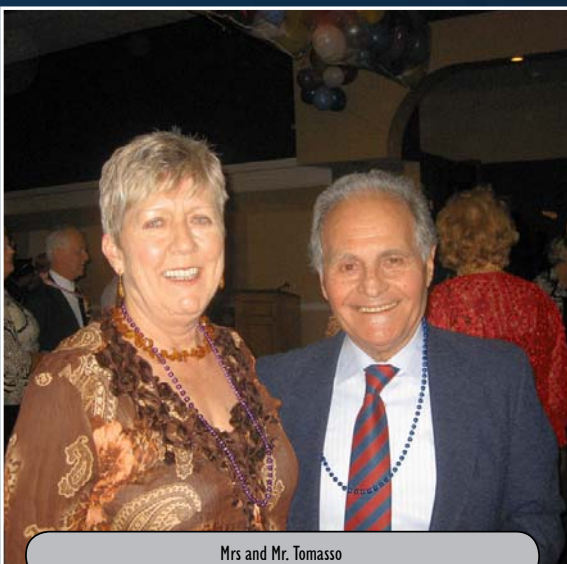
Guests Dancing



Angelo and Rina Ceccato



Nello and Maria Scipioni with Giovanni and friends



Mrs and Mr. Tomasso



Natalino and Michlyn Giust with Joe Ierullo

International

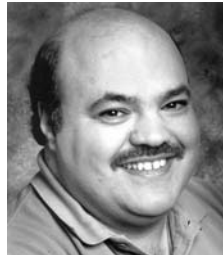
It's Time to Renovate Yourself!

By Renato Rizzuti

It is the start of a New Year! You have probably thought about renovating your home this year. Perhaps it is more important to renovate yourself!

There are many things that you can do as part of your "self renovation." There is always ways to making yourself into a better person. Things that you can focus on as part of your renovation include: your appearance, your money earning power, your personal power, your interpersonal relationships, your knowledge of your ethnic group and your personal happiness.

Let's start with your appearance. If you renovate your home, you obviously would want to improve the appearance of your home. Just as there are drastic ways and subtle ways to change and improve the appearance of your home, there are both drastic and subtle ways to change and improve your personal appearance. Subtle ways to make subtle changes are much less daunting to yourself and your significant others. Simply get a subtle make over to improve your appearance. Get a haircut, buy some skin cream, change your make up application and exercise to tone up your body. Both men and women can get a more modern and hip hairstyle which is a way to look younger instead of that "old" hairstyle. Skin care products are available for both sexes. Nice clear and smooth skin can be achieved through diligent use of these skin care products. For women, perhaps it is time to get rid of that baby blue eye shadow from the Sixties and go for a more elegant smoky tone look. Of course we can all benefit from a little more exercise! Get out and take walks. In the winter "mall walking" is a popular indoor "sport." Go ahead; get a fresh new appearance by giving yourself a subtle make over!



Your money earning power can be increased if you take the time to really analyze it. Your "day job" may be your only and most important source of income. Think of ways to increase your money earning power within the parameters of your "day job." Upgrade your skills and knowledge by taking courses or getting additional training. With more skills and knowledge automatically comes increased earning power. Additional formal education would enable you to change careers to a much higher paying career. Additional income can also be earned from one of your hobbies. There are many people out there that have turned their hobbies into very lucrative full time careers. Think of what you just love to do and then find ways to earn money from it. If you love to fix and repair old watches as a hobby, think about selling some of your refurbished watches for some extra income. Basically if you think in unlimited ways, your earning power will also become unlimited!

Personal power is the perhaps the most important element for achieving success in life. It all starts with your belief in yourself. Once you are thoroughly convinced that you have personal power then it shall be. There are ways to "psych" yourself up in order to achieve this state of mind. One way is through positive affirmation statements that you can repeat to yourself. An example would be, "I have the power to produce successful positive results!" You should reinforce this statement by repeating it to yourself when you wake up in the morning, during the day and at night before going to sleep. You can even send yourself emails with these affirmation statements. Use your own words so that they resonate deep within your conscious and subconscious mind. Pump yourself up and go out in the world with megawatts of personal power to light up your way!

Your interpersonal relationships can be improved or completely "renovated." Let's say that you have a very good relationship with somebody. In this case, no major "renovation" of the relationship is required. However, you should work to maintain

or perhaps slightly improve things. People in a relationship need constant reassuring. It is important to show that you care about the other person. Special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries should not be forgotten but rather, acknowledged and celebrated. Send a card, make a phone call, bring or send a gift. Find a way to say that you have not forgotten and that you care. It is also very important to show you care without any special occasion to prompt your caring words. Call a friend for no reason other than to say, "You are a good friend and I value our friendship." Tell your significant other that you love them. Tell your children that you love them. Tell your parents that you love them. Spread the love!

Some of your interpersonal relationships may be in need of "repair" and "renovation." In a bad relationship there is tremendous friction between personality types. You may perceive the other person as being "difficult" and wish that they would change. It is almost impossible for you to change another person's personality. You have probably tried and failed. Even severe behaviour modification techniques do not work on certain people so how do you expect your constant verbal requests for a change in the other person to work? You do not have control over the other person. They will continue to do whatever pleases them. You do, however, have control over your self. Rather than trying to change the other person, you can change your attitude towards that person so that there will be less friction between you. You can learn to accept certain faults in others and become more tolerant. Of course, in the case of a really toxic relationship, the best thing to do is literally and figuratively, "divorce" yourself from that person. You chose who you want in your life. Keep your close relationships closer and end those toxic relationships! It is your life and your choice who you want to have an interpersonal relationship with!

While you increase your knowledge of your ethnic group, you will be increasing knowledge of yourself as a person. You can start to answer the philosophical question, "Who am I?" by stating your ethnic origin. I am Italian. There is no denying that being Italian is an essential part of who I am. There are cultural and genetic elements that define me as Italian. What is your ethnic make up? Study your ethnic origin. Learn to speak the language of your parents and grandparents. Plan a trip to your birth place or country of origin. Immerse yourself in your culture! Explore the music, art and literature of your culture! We live in a multicultural country so wave that Canadian flag and also wave the flag of your country of origin!

Personal happiness is an emotional state. It is dependant upon your way of thinking and your attitude towards life. If you simply choose to be happy right now based upon the things that you already have, and then you will be happy. We have to learn to be grateful for what we have. Rejoice in the fact that you have a family that loves you. Rejoice in the fact that you have a comfortable place to live. Rejoice in the fact that you have good health. Learn to live in the moment and to be happy in the present moment. The past is not worth worrying about and tomorrow is yet to come. So be happy right now!

Make a plan to renovate yourself. I wish you all a very Happy New Year and Happy Renovating!

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General Interests

Food Phenomenons

By Maria Rizzuti

Back in the late Sixties, most kids my age were watching "The Flintstones" a Stone Age version of "The Honeymooners" and Don Adams the inept Maxwell Smart or better known as Agent 86. His sidekick, Agent 99 (Barbara Feldon) both worked for CONTROL and would get there secret missions from the "Chief" to fight crime against their nemesis KAOS.

Or on Sunday nights, some kids were watching TV Westerns like "Bonanza," which focused more on the Cartwright family, the owners of the Nevada ranch. Pa Ben played by Canadian actor Lorne Greene had been widowed three times, and was left with three sons - well bred eldest brother Adam, darling sweet Hoss and the volatile Little Joe played by Michael Landon whose difference of opinion and personal lives kept the patriarch busy.

My curiosity with food really began when I found myself glued to the TV not only watching the aforementioned TV shows that had nothing to do with food at all but instead watching one of the first influential cooking shows on television called the "French Chef."

This strange sounding woman by the name of Julia Child created and produced a live to videotape from start to finish cooking series and introduced French food to viewers. I am not really sure why I was so drawn to watching her, but leaving little room for mistakes the culminating erratic accidents became a popular trademark of her on air presence and it left audiences wanting more of this food television sensation.

Child's emphasis on whole, fresh ingredients often led to markets running out of whatever particular meat, fish or vegetable was featured when an episode aired. But Julia Child did more than unpretentiously instill methods for making the perfect Beef Wellington or soufflé, we have Julia Child to thank as she set the stage for the creation of the Food Network. This icon set the consummate stage for other chefs who now resemble rock stars on a television channel strictly devoted to all things tempting and appetizing, there is simply no better place for wannabee chefs or food lovers to get their fix at any time of day or night but on the Food Network channel. I have learned quite a few tips and tricks watching various types of cooking styles since its inception.

The Food Network's success is exceptionally associated with its first major personality Chef Emeril Lagasse, who, on his show "Emeril Live," jammed packed audiences and was taped live in New York. The show featured the music played by Doc Gibbs and the Emeril Live Band. Emeril Lagasse nourished viewers with his infectious energy and trademark "bam!" "Emeril Live" was a big hit and was one of the first breakout shows to take cooking to a whole new level. Who would have thought that watching a cooking show could be so interesting and to savour for hours at a time? Well it was, not only for women but for men too.

Men also tuned into the Food Network to watch Britain's alluring and divine domestic diva, Nigella Lawson who series "Nigella Feasts" and "Nigella Express" have made her a household name as well. Quick dinners are always in demand for the working moms out there as shows like "30 Minute Meals with Rachael Ray" who has made us addicted to and who has coined the phrase EVOO, extra virgin olive oil.

Then you have the exuberant and lively personality of Giada De Laurentiis, the granddaughter of famed film producer Dino De Laurentiis. Giada creates hearty Italian fare on her show. "Everyday Italian" which focuses on traditional Italian cuisine but with an American flair. Her other show takes you on the road with "Giada's Weekend Getaways" indulging in food-inspired travel around the US for "3 day weekend adventures."

Some of my favourite programs on the Food Network are the reality based type programming. "Iron Chef America: The Series" is where food is sport and world-class chefs battle the legendary top chefs like Iron Chef Mario Batali, BBQ King Bobby Flay, Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto and Chef Cat Cora who, in only 60 minutes, with the use of the secret ingredient have to prepare five dishes in a culinary showdown. Then there's "The Next Food Network Star," where several chefs vie for their own food show battle it out under harrowing circumstances.

The Food Network has even released "Cook or Be Cooked," a video game for the Wii console. The game simulates real cooking experiences using motion controls to imitate specified tasks in the kitchen and the result is a game that makes it fun to learn the fundamentals of cooking various recipes.

The Food Network with over a staggering 90 million viewers they are at the top of their culinary game, tapping into and embodying our love affair with food on our television screens.

Another food phenomenon is the Fast Food phenomenon. One of the principal reasons for the cause of fast food and the appearance of fast food chains is the one big factor which is the convenience and speed. "Fast Food" is literally fast food. Many people in this modern day are too busy to cook and Rachel Rays 30 minute meals just won't cut it, which causes them to choose a one minute prepared meal instead. The convenience includes a myriad of fast food restaurants. This allows easy access for a hungry person who is in a rush to get food quickly. So the liberty of eating in or taking out at a fast food joint is one great contribution to the "Fast Food" phenomena's success.

More and more, we're feeling that the Internet holds the solution to every problem known to man, well, every problem of no significance. The latest one I have stumbled across is Fancystartfast.com, a photo-recipe blog that reveals how to convert fast food into haute cuisine. There are step-by-step instructions for methodically taking apart a fast-food staple like a Big Mac, Whopper, Tim Hortons' Canadian maple doughnuts and rearranging it to resemble a gourmet-quality dish.

An unusual little niche has popped up in the blogosphere: the food blog. Written by "foodies" people simply blog about what they eat everyday. Some post recipes, or share specialty meals, like vegan or gluten free, but most are just an online food journal, with multiple posts daily of absolutely everything that enters the foodie's mouth. If they are at a restaurant, the movies, in the car, at parties, at home, anywhere, they snap a picture before they bite and post it on their blog. Most of these are health-minded blogs, meant to show healthy meals and snacks, and talk about little else besides food.

Diet food, local food, processed food, organic food and junk food are other examples of food phenomenons. There are many more food phenomenons out there; my intention was simply just this, food for thought and in the famous words of Julia Child and her closing line at the end of every show: "Bon appetit!"



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Dosi's Corner

Is this the year to keep those New Year's Resolutions?

By Dosi Cotroneo

Yes Virginia, this year is going to be different. A new year - and with it, the opportunity to incorporate positive changes into our lives. Out with the old and in with the new has become my new mantra. The making of the New Year's resolution has been around for centuries and according to some dismal statistics, humans barely maintain their resolutions past the third week of the New Year. In order to break from that dismal tradition, this reporter has decided to compile a list of "intentions" versus "resolutions" in the hopes of really following through on them this year.

I never did find the time to mail out last year's Christmas cards. No time like the present for a trip to the post office. Those cross-country skis that have been sitting on the porch since last winter are just begging to be taken out into an open field on a mild day, maybe this weekend the forecast will be plus 5. I don't like to do anything outdoors unless it's above 5 degrees. The circulation in my feet is that of a 90 year old.

I've always wanted to be a blood donor. Might as well share this Italian blood with the world. Maybe I'll go to the next blood donor clinic. I don't really like needles though, and I do have poor circulation. I'll have to think about that one.

I'd really like to tackle writing another book. Perhaps a sequel to the first book, but first, I should really focus on promoting that first book. I guess I could start the second book, or should I wait until the family is talking to me again. I keep telling them the first book is a work of fiction.

Going to the gym sounds like a great idea, especially after all of the holiday Italian dinners. According to my low-rise jeans, I should no longer be wearing low-rise jeans. Of course, walking around the block is free and I wouldn't have to pay for parking or gas.

I suppose I have no choice but to stop chatting on the cell phone while I'm driving since that is now the law, and the next resolution on my list is to stop breaking the law.

I really want to attempt to spend more time with my parents and stop tattle tailing on my sisters, but after the annual big fat Italian family Christmas fiasco dinners, lunches, indigestion and guilt, I really and truly don't want to spend more time with my parents and I am certain I will never stop tattle tailing on my sisters.

I know I want to stop impulse shopping, especially since the doctor warned the husband about his high blood pressure, high cholesterol and bulging vein in his right temple whenever I even mention the words Winner's or Home Sense. I will definitely try to not bring home



any more art deco lamps, black and white animal print rugs, or zebra-striped furniture.

On that note, I vow to put an end to using plastic and will implement a cash-only lifestyle. Does this mean I have to revert to essential purchases only such as food and fuel? I just don't see the fun in that.

Attending church regularly has been on my list of resolutions for the past decade. I suppose this is where waking up earlier would come into play. Perhaps I could group some resolutions together like spending time with my parents by taking them to church on Sunday - there's no way I can get scolded while we're in church is there?

I would love to return to a daily yoga regime. It has been about five years since I took a yoga class, and I think Madonna is still doing yoga and she looks darn good for 50-something.

Eating less chocolate, drinking more water, scraping the dead skin off the old elbows and heels, and pushing back the cuticles sounds like a plan, however, what good could ever come out of eating less chocolate. That one is will be scratched off the list for sure.

According to Martha Stewart, I should break out the good china and crystal as often as possible. Being married to an Italian I break the good china and crystal as often as possible. On that note, practicing patience would be a good plan, as well as easing up on the car horn.

Ironing the mountain of ironing while watching a sexy foreign film with English subtitles sounds perfectly productive.

In lieu of the abscessed molar and root canal, I vow to stop eating chocolate at bedtime, after the flossing routine. One must eat chocolate first, floss later.

Breaking open the 2010 calendar and appointment book could really help with those missed family birthdays and doctor's appointments. Could starting to wear a watch and purchasing a clock for the hallway lead to a life of punctuality? There's just no telling where all of these resolutions might lead. Could 2010 really be the year of organization in my disheveled life? Could organization take priority over my love of Italian leathers and frivolous spending? Perhaps this will be the year I will finally declutter, get into shape, cook the husband a decent meal, clean the gutters, vacuum the lampshades, prepare tax season before March 30th, buy a filing cabinet, locate the key to the mailbox, visit the mailbox daily, and last but not least, finally make those Italian parents proud.

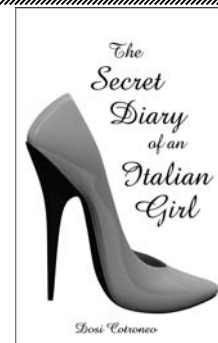
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The History of Santa Maria Goretti

Maria Goretti (16 October 1890 - 6 July 1902) is an Italian virgin-martyr of the Catholic Church, and is one of its youngest canonized saints. She was martyred after dying from multiple stab wounds, inflicted by her attempted rapist after she refused him because of love of Jesus and her loyalty to the Ten Commandments.

Early life

Goretti was born "Maria Teresa Goretti"[3] on 16 October 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Province of Ancona, then in the Kingdom of Italy. She was the third out of six children. [4] By the time she was six, her family had become so poor that they were forced to give up their farm, move, and work for other farmers. Soon, Maria's father Luigi became very sick, and died when Maria was just nine.[5] While her brother, mother and sisters worked in the fields, Maria would cook, sew, and keep the house clean. It was a hard life, but the family was very close. They shared a deep love for God and the faith. She and her family moved to Le Ferriere, near modern Latina and Nettuno in Lazio, where they lived in a building, "La Cascina Antica", they shared with another family, the Serenellis.[6]

Maria's martyrdom

On 5 July 1902, finding eleven-year old Maria alone sewing, Alessandro Serenelli came in and threatened her with death if she did not do as he said; he was intending to rape her. She would not submit, however, protesting that what he wanted to do was a mortal sin and warning Alessandro that he would go to Hell.[7]She desperately

fought to stop Alessandro, a 20 year old, from abusing her. She kept screaming, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" Alessandro at first choked Maria, but when she insisted she would rather die than submit to him, he stabbed her eleven times. The injured Maria tried to reach for the door, but Alessandro stopped her by stabbing her three more times before running away.

Maria's little sister Teresa awoke with the noise and started crying, and when Serenelli's father and Maria's mother came to check on the little girl, they found the bleeding Maria and took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno. She underwent surgery without anesthesia, but her injuries were beyond the doctors' help. Halfway throughout the surgery, Maria woke up. She insisted that it stay that way. The pharmacist of the hospital in which she died said to her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise." She looked to the old man: "Well, who knows, which of us is going to be there first?" "You, Maria," he replied. "Then I will gladly think of you," said Maria.[9] The following day, twenty hours after the attack, having expressed forgiveness for her murderer and stating that she wanted to have him in Heaven with her, Maria died of her injuries, while looking at a very beautiful picture of the Blessed Mother.

* From Wikipedia.com.

See continued story on next page.

Local City and International

Visiting Santa Maria Goretti's Town and Family

Una strana coincidenza o un segno del cielo?

Mi trovavo a Roma e stavo pensando di acquistare un libro su Maria Goretti.

Veramente era un po di tempo che mi proponevo di farlo, Una di questi episodi capitano a tutti. Allora, mentre stavo, appunto, pensando al libro, un'amica m'invita ad andare a Nettuno ed aggiunge, la si trovano le spoglie di Maria Goretti. Non ci potevo credere! Ero molto felice e io dissi alla mia arnica.

Dopo aver visitato il santuario e pregato davanti alla Santa, comprai alcuni ricordini per gli amici. Chiesi ad un sacerdote di benedirli. Quando fini mi disse: " Domani, va a messa?" Il giorno dopo era domenica ed avevo gia programmato di andare a San Pietro. Glielo dissi e lui, in tutta tranquillita mi rispose: " No, no. Domani lei tomara qui, perche verra celebrata una messa speciale: ci saranno presenti tutti i parenti della Santa." Non potevo dargli torto. L'occasione era particolare. A San Pietro ci sarei potuta andare il mercoledì seguente per l'udienza del papa. Il giorno dopo ritomai a Nettuno e fu un'esperienza spirituale molto sentita.

L'atmosfera era intima ed invitava al raccoglimento. Ero felice.

Un semplice caso mi aveva portata in quelluogo benedetto per provare la dolce sensazione della gioia. L 'ho

By Raffaella Plastino - Reporting Live from Italy!

considerato un regalo di Dio. Quei momenti resteranno per sempre nel mio cuore.

Si fece uccidere per conservarsi pura

Maria Teresa Goretti

a cura di Raffaella Plastino

Nata a Corigliano, nelle Marche il 16 ottobre 1890, era la terza di sette figli.

Maria Teresa Goretti conduceva una vita semplice tra casa e lavoro nei campi. Ebbe una vita brevis sima perche, come È noto, tentò di resistere ad uno stupro. Il suo assassino la ferì con un punteruolo. Maria non morì subito; il giorno dopo in ospedale in seguito ad una complicazione dell'intervento senza anestesia, si aggravò e morì di peritonite.

Si narra che prima di spirare, perdonò il suo carnefice. Era il 5 luglio del 1902.

Alessandro Serenelli venne condannato a trent'anni di reclusione. In carcere cominciò il suo cammino di pentimento. Dopo aver scontato una pena di 27 anni, fu messo in libertà. Chiese il perdono ai familiari della famiglia Goretti. Trascorse poi il resto della sua vita come lavoratore in un convento di Cappuccini. Morì il 6 maggio del 1970 all'età di 88 anni.

Durante il Fascismo, Maria Goretti veniva additata come esempio di virtù morale. Dopo il 1950, con l'affermazione del nuovo molo femminile, veniva celebrata come modello di vita tradizionale della donna.

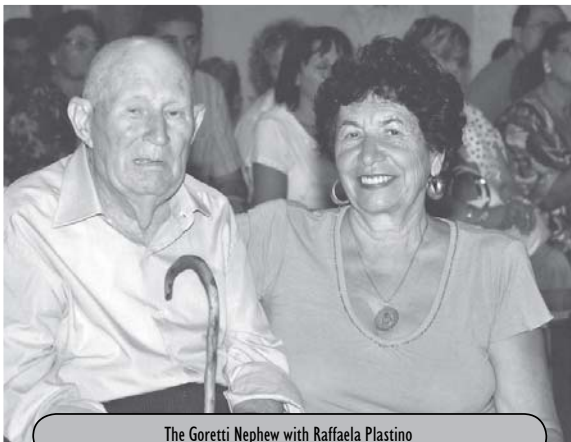
Fu canonizzata il 24 giugno 1950. Le sue spoglie si trovano a Nettuno.



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The Family of Santa Maria Goretti



The Goretti Nephew with Raffaella Plastino



Ms. Plastino in front of House where Santa Maria was killed



Father Giovanni speaks to the Goretti Family at the hospital where she died



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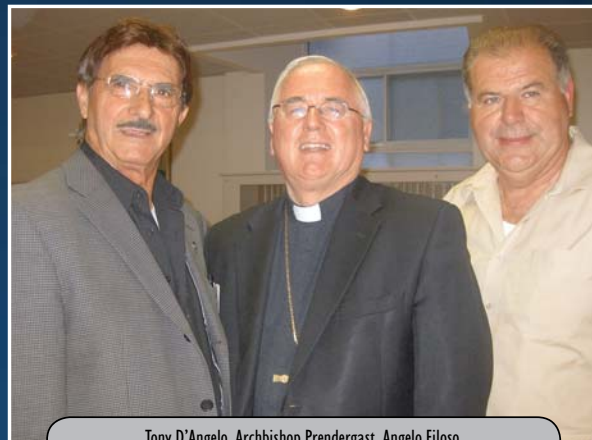
Paul Casagrande receiving the Villager Special Award



Limpido Ruscello Dancers



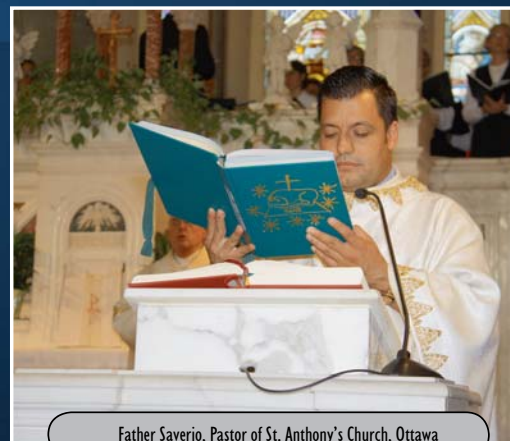
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