

IL POSTINO

VOL. 8 NO. 7

APRIL 2007/APRILE 2007

\$ 2.00



IL POSTINO • OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

www.ilpostinocanada.com

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 04564405

PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NUMBER: 40045533

Publisher

Preston Street Community Foundation
Italian Canadian Community Centre
of the National Capital Region Inc.

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Winchester Print & Stationary

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Next Deadline

April 22nd, 2007

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Subscription rates

In Canada \$20.00 (includes GST) per year.
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Letters Recieved

Gentile Signor Angelo,

Le invio un saluto cordiale dalla mia terra di adozione: il Malawi dove già lavoro da 33 anni. Al saluto aggiungo il grazie più sincero per la generosa (500\$) al mio lavoro missionario in questa zona dell'Africa tropicale.

Io faccio da coordinatore dei Missionari Comboniani che lavorano non solo in Malawi, ma anche in Zambia. Per questo devo spesso spostarmi da un paese all'altro. La nostra opera si svolge sempre a fianco della gente e con la gente; la popolazione locale è sempre invitata a svolgere il ruolo di primi attori sostenuti da noi.

Il nostro lavoro viene chiamato "Evangelizzazione" che è annuncio del Vangelo di Cristo. Ma questo è solo un aspetto del nostro intervento a favore della gente. all'annuncio del Vangelo si accompagna il lavoro di promozione integrale della persona umana e poi i progetti di sviluppo. Alla periferia di Lusaka stiamo terminando una scuola elementare capace di 1.200 bambini; nelle periferie delle città tanti bambini non vanno a scuola per mancanza di mezzi e di strutture.

Alla periferia di Lilongwe il giorno 28 di Aprile, sarà inaugurata una scuola primaria per 600 bambini. Sarà il sindaco di Roma, Walter Veltroni che verrà a presiedere la cerimonia di inaugurazione.

A Chikowa nella valle del Luangwa, stiamo costruendo un ponte per mettere fine all'isolamento al quale è condannata la gente dei villaggi che si trovano dall'altra parte del fiume Kasenengwa. Nello stesso tempo dirigiamo una scuola per artigiani con 90 alunni tra ragazzi e ragazze = nel sud del Malawi. Nella stessa zona, abbiamo da poco inaugurato un = orfanatrofio per 80 bambini, essendo i loro genitori morti di AIDS.

Ora con un gruppo di Vicenza stiamo iniziando un progetto di sviluppo agricolo sempre nella valle del Luangwa. Ho in mente di procurare alle popolazioni della stessa zona 10 pozzi artesiani perché la gente possa bere acqua non inquinata. Ogni pozzo costa circa 5.500 \$ Statunitensi. Ce la farò!

Come puoi ben capire, tutto il mio tempo è occupato per gli altri, proprio come capita a tutti i Papà e a tutte le Mamme di famiglia. Siamo tutti sulla stessa barca della vita e il grande fiume della esistenza e della fede ci porta avanti incessantemente. Ho saputo della morte di Tony mio cugino. Avrei avuto tanto piacere essere con la famiglia Casagrande in questa occasione; verro' a pregare sulla sua tomba di Tony quando ritornerò in Canada.

Prima di lasciare Ottawa l'Ottobre dello scorso anno, ho pregato con Tony nella sua stanza e gli ho dato la Benedizione che per me è stata la benedizione dell'addio. Carissimo, mi fermo qui. Ti chiedo di salutare tutti gli "amici" che ho ad Ottawa. Un saluto speciale alla tua Signora e ai tuoi figli. Un saluto tutto particolare a Paul, Buffone, Pradal, a tutti i collaboratori del CHIN e alle loro famiglie. Vi ricordo nella preghiera con tanta stima e affetto.

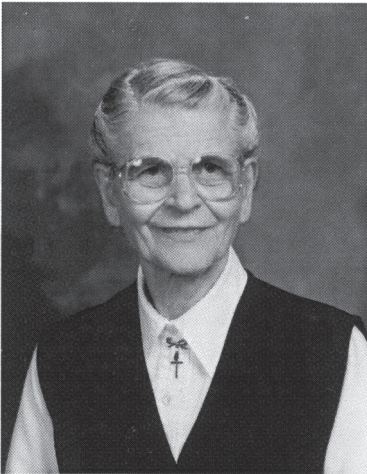
A risentirci.

P. Luigi "un Casagrande in Africa"

SUOR M. (Michelina) IMELDA dell' Eucarestia

di Luciano Pradal

Molte, sincere e profonde, sono state le riconoscenze per Suor Imelda Bortoletti che, con il crocefisso in mano, cristianamente rassegnata al Volere Divino, ci ha lasciati. Suor Imelda, nasce il 22 giugno 1920 a Isernia. Resta orfana a 7 anni. Si consacra al Signore il 12 febbraio 1949. Suor Imalda ha studiato ad Isernia, è stata Educatrice, Priora alla Casa Madre di Nocera, Economa Generale, Legale della Congregazione, nel '69 desidera dedicarsi alle missioni e si reca a Rio Branco in Brasile, nel 1972 ottiene il beneplacito di recarsi in Canada.



Infaticabile lavoratrice, sarta, amministratrice, Suor Imelda ha svolto tutti i ruoli con rigore morale, competenza professionale e grande imparzialità. Suor Imelda, donna amabile dal cuore misericorde che coniugava la bontà con la fermezza. Che non ricorda di Suor Imelda per il bene che ha fatto? Il Rosario tra le mani, quale strumento di pacificazione per coloro che, nello sconforto e nel pianto, sono accorsi al suo animo sensibile perché si facesse voce orante di implorazione e speranza nella fatica di vivere.

Al momento dell' ultimo saluto a Suor Imalda alla Chiesa S. Antonio c' erano i Sacerdoti Servi di Maria con il Parroco Padre Paul Mc Keown che hanno concelebrato la S. Messa, c' erano tutte le Sorelle Serve di Maria, le Suore di Londra, la Corale Parrocchiale di S. Antonio della quale Suor Imelda ha fatto parte per molti anni e molti amici ed amiche che per molti anni hanno apprezzato lo sguardo ed il sorriso di Suor Imelda. Suor Imelda, ora che contempi con occhi stupiti la luce del Cristo Risorto, sia lieto il tuo giorno eterno e in Lui possa tu avere riposo in pace. Arrivederci, carissima e accompagnaci.

Dott. Osman P. Gialloreto sarà onorato alla prossima Cena dei Soci del Centro Abruzzese Canadese

di Frank Ricci

There is a dimension to immigration that has often been neglected. While we are prone to celebrate the sweat and toil of our forefathers who beat the path of our current success, often forgotten are the migratory wave of trained professionals who transformed the Canadian landscape with their expertise. Dr. Osman P. Gialloreto trained as a doctor in Italy before traveling extensively in Europe and America before settling in Canada. Having settled in Montreal, Dr. Gialloreto quickly established himself as a highly respected, prominent, and honored cardiologist. From his first posting as Senior Resident in the Cardiology Department of Notre-Dame Hospital, to Director of the Hemodynamic Department at the Montreal Heart Institute, as Cofounder of the Villa Medica Rehabilitation Hospital, to Director of the Department of Medicine and Head of Cardiology Unit at Santa Cabrini Hospital, Dr. Gialloreto's contributions to his adopted Canada have been substantive and motivated by a love and passion for his fellow man.

Noi del Centro Abruzzese Canadese siamo fieri di poter onorare un nostro coregionale che non solo premia la nostra terra con il suo lavoro ma che serba in sé un profondo amore per la Sua terra natia. Invitiamo la comunità in piena ad aiutarci a dimostrare la nostra gratitudine per il Suo dedicarsi al lavoro di medico e per la compassione, rispetto, e amore che ha sempre serbato per i suoi pazienti.

La cerimonia di premiazione si terrà il 21 aprile 2007 presso la St. Anthony Soccer Club durante l'annuale Cena dei Soci del Centro Abruzzese Canadese con inizio alle 18:00. Biglietti sono disponibile presso la sede Casa Abruzzo su 705 Gladstone o telefonando al Presidente Nello Scipioni, 613 733 9996, Delio D'Angelo, 613 234 4640 o 613 727 5570.

Giungono al Dott. Gialloreto doverosi sensi di stima e di apprezzamento per aver onorato l'Abruzzo in Canada.

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City-Wide

Canada Won't Allow Italians to Vote Abroad Ottawa to withdraw its consent to foreign elections on Canadian soil

Italians in Canada, News,Arts, & Sports
By Angelo Persichilli

The current Italian Parliament will be the last one where Gino Bucchino or any other MP from Canada will sit. Corriere Canadese/Tandem has learned that the federal government has decided not to renew its authorization for the election of a Canadian resident to the Italian Parliament. Rumours had been circulating for some time, but last week they were confirmed by reliable sources during a mission of a Canadian delegation to Milan. The cabinet led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper has already made this decision, and according to our sources the official announcement will come in a matter of weeks or even days.

The same sources claimed, “the Canadian government has great respect for Italy, the Italian Parliament and all Canadians of Italian origin. Unfortunately, there are some situations within Canada that must be addressed and that led us to adopt such a decision.” Our sources did not give details on these “situations”, but most likely this expression refers to other national communities that would be ready to request to be allowed, like the Italians, to cast votes in their native countries’ elections. However, some of those communities have politically delicate situations at home, and if those issues were transferred to Canada, this could engender problems and dangerous diatribes.

At present, the government seems unanimous in denying any repetition of last year’s election. There seems to be a split, though, between those who would simply forbid Canadian residents to run for a foreign Parliament but allow the simple casting of ballots, and those who would prefer blocking everything altogether. Apparently, Canada’s about-face could be followed by other countries, in particular Australia and possibly even the United States. We are unable to confirm whether Canada’s Foreign Ministry has discussed this position with any other country. Permission had been very reluctantly granted to Italians in Canada to vote and eventually elect a representative to the Italian Parliament on November 24, 2005. Then-PM Paul Martin granted the authorization under pressure from several MPs of Italian origin and especially from then-Foreign minister Pierre Pettigrew. Pettigrew represented Montr9al’s Outremont ward, which includes many voters of Italian heritage. He was afraid of negative impacts on his re-election bid. In the end, Pettigrew was defeated alongside the Liberal government.

The reasons for the great reluctance in allowing Italians to vote were the same that are now leading PM Harper to withdraw the authorization. Martin’s Liberal cabinet had granted authorization for one election only, reserving to review its decision in future. Disappointed but not surprised Gino Bucchino comments Ottawa’s change of heart. Mr. Bucchino, were you surprised by the news? “Certainly not, as there had been warning signs.” Such as? “For instance, the Canadian ambassador to Rome never called, invited, contacted me. Of course I am an Italian

citizen, but I am also a Canadian citizen who sits in the Italian Parliament.”

Were your colleagues from other countries treated differently? “Sure. Salvatore Ferrigno and Renato Turani were invited by the U.S. ambassador. The same goes for the others, from Switzerland and other countries. The Canadian government, on the other hand, simply acted as if the election had never taken place. This happened even with the Liberals, which confirms my opinion that their last-minute decision to authorize the campaign and the election in Canada was forced. Then-Foreign minister Pierre Pettigrew was trying to shore up his political career. However, that kind of gamble did not pay off.” Unsurprised, then, but surely disappointed? “Of course. Not just from a personal standpoint, but for other very important reasons as well. I think that Canada has something to teach the rest of the world. I believe in multiculturalism, a policy that goes beyond integration and brings enrichment and interaction among the various communities. I still envision Canada as the country of the future, a globalized future. In a small way, I think I might have given a contribution; I might have made myself useful. To date, however, my presence has been ignored.”

Will you continue in your action anyway? “Yes, I think I will manage to contribute to rid Italy of a certain provincial attitude, precisely because I come from Canada.” What do you mean? “For instance, right now I’m trying to explain that immigration must be addressed with solidarity and tolerance. We need to stop calling all immigrants by first name and convince ourselves that immigrants bring warmth to our way of living. Immigration will help us grow even from the demographic point of view, and open our country to the world.”

How do you intend to go on with your work? “Now I’m trying to focus on this aspect, facilitating the integration of immigrants with the acquisition of civil rights and therefore advocating the concession of citizenship after five years of residence; the immediate recognition of Italian citizenship for anyone born on Italian soil; grant the right to healthcare, something that is now only on paper; and give more protection to women in the workplace, prevention expulsion during pregnancy regardless of legal residence and up to one year after birth. I would like to pressure Italy to sign conventions with countries of emigration, such as Morocco and the Philippines, on the issue of social security. Italy did this for its own citizens living abroad, for instance with Canada. I would like Italy to execute conventions signed, such as the 1994 one with Morocco, and not yet ratified.”

What about Canada? “There’s a lot we can do. Just one example: I submitted an official Parliamentary question on double taxation, to clarify the rules on where people are supposed to pay their taxes. There is an agreement between Italy and Canada, signed in 2000, which Ottawa

ASSOCIAZIONE RAPINESI In Assemblea Generale

di Luciano Pradal

Domenica 28 gennaio i membri e simpatizzanti della Associazione Rapinesi di Ottawa si sono riuniti in Assemblea Generale a Casa Abruzzo per eleggere il nuovo direttivo.

Tutto si e’ svolto molto bene in una gioviale, amichevole e costruttiva atmosfera durante la quale e’ stato fatto un bilancio delle attivita’ svolte durante l’ anno passato, si e’ anche parlato dei programmi a venire; i presenti hanno riletto all’ unanimita’ il comitato uscente e questo ci fa’ capire che i membri e simpatizzanti hanno molta fiducia e rispetto per il loro direttivo. I rieletti sono:

Pres. Lorenzo Micucci V/P Franco Marrongelli Tes. Antonio Cellucci Sec. Roberto Marrongelli Cons. Camillo Micheli Lorenzo Ferrante Cristoforo Ferrante Renato Marinelli Dominic Marinelli Luciano Di Nardo Brent Francis Antonio Ferrante Antonio Ferrante. Comitato Donne: Gina Marinelli Anna Marinelli Romana Ferrante Maria Michelli Elisa Di Nardo Alice Ferrante Yolande Colasante Denise Micucci Lucia Francis Gaetana Michelli Gianna Franco Maria Ferrante

E da notare che, sia nell’ esecutivo e sia tra i membri e simpatizzanti ci sono molti giovani di seconda generazione di Italo-Canadesi e questa e’ garanzia di un buon futuro.

Altro fatto molto importante da notare e’ che l’ Associazione Rapinesi ha, nel direttivo stesso, le rappresentanti del Comitato Donne, ed esse hanno il loro posto e voto nel Direttivo dell’ Associazione Rapinesi.

Dopo le elezioni e membri e simpatizzanti hanno passato il resto del pomeriggio a socializzare attorno a tavole ben imbandite di cibi e vini tipici dell’ Abruzzo che erano serviti dal personale di Casa Abruzzo sotto la direzione di Nello Scipioni, Presidente del Centro Abruzzese di Ottawa.

Come si e’ potuto capire, l’ agenda delle attivita’ per i mesi a venire sembra molto carica, infatti alcuni membri del direttivo si sono attardati nel partire perche’ hanno parlato, in maniera molto informale, di alcune interessanti varianti al programma....



Italy's Stromboli Erupts, Tourists Told to Quit Coast

Spectacular eruptions from the volcano on the southern Italian island of Stromboli may cause tidal waves, and all locals and tourists should stay away from the coast, emergency services said on Wednesday.

Two big lava flows burst out of Stromboli’s side on Tuesday, sending up vast plumes of steam as they plunged into the Mediterranean waters below. Authorities said there was no immediate risk to people living on the island, off the coast of Sicily. “The eruption (lava flows) are very well fed,” said Enzo Boschi, head of Italy’s National Institute of Geophysics and Vulcanology. “But there’s no reason to think that anything extraordinary will happen in the short term. The population is not at risk.”

Locals fear a repeat of the events of December 2002 when a similar upsurge in volcanic activity caused a massive chunk of rock to drop



into the sea, causing a 10-metre (33 foot) tidal wave that ruined houses close to the shore. Emergency sirens sounded on the island when the new eruption began and local authorities ordered all residents to move to at least 10 metres above the water line. The lava is flowing down an uninhabited part of the island and the risk, either of a greater eruption or of a tsunami, have not been deemed great enough to prompt a full-scale evacuation.

In winter only a few hundred people live on Stromboli, but the population swells to several thousand in the summer. Tourists are drawn to climb to the 924 metre (3,000 ft) summit of the live volcano and peer down into its crater as the volcano blasts molten rock high into the sky. The island was the setting for a 1950 movie starring Ingrid Bergman and in recent decades has, along with other islands in the Aeolian archipelago, become a favourite location for holiday homes for the rich and famous. Designers Dolce & Gabbana, writer Umberto Eco and Italian President Giorgio Napolitano are all reported to have homes on Stromboli

Looking Back

The Two Sides of The Godfather

By Renato Rizzuti

There are two sides to the term godfather. One side is the original religious meaning of the word. The other side is the definition of The Godfather meaning "mob boss."

First of all, let us explore the religious meaning of the word. According to Wikipedia, the encyclopedia on the internet: "In Christianity, traditionally, the godparents were counted informally responsible for ensuring that the child's religious education was carried out, and for caring for the child should he/she be orphaned. Today the latter duty is the most commonly recognized duty of a godparent, and the word "godparent" often no longer has religious overtones. The modern definition of godparent is an individual chosen by the parents to take a vested interest in raising a more complete human being. However, godparent is not a legal position, and should the parents seriously intend the godparents to act as foster parents case of their death, this must be legally specified through the usual means (such as a will). At least in the Anglican Church, prospective godparents must be at least before they can take on this responsibility. The Roman Catholic Church also requires that the godparents have undergone Confirmation. A godparent may, or may not, be related to the child. In the Roman Catholic Church, only church members are accepted as godparents. Someone who belongs to another Christian denomination cannot become a godparent but is known as a Christian Witness, with most of the regular role of a godparent. Non-Christians are not at all eligible to any religious role formalized by the Church. This is based on the view that the godparent-godchild relationship is not something which is just between the persons and God, but a whole-Church event wherein the Holy Spirit dwells. A godparent is regarded as a patron saint on earth, who prays for the newly baptised, looks after them spiritually and gives them guidance. The Catholic Church sees Baptism as an entry into the Kingdom of God, and entry into the Church."

Obviously this is a very important role that a godfather plays in a child's life. First of all, he is to ensure that the child gets a religious education. This is of utmost importance to all Christians. Then there is the notion that the godfather would take over the responsibility of raising the child should the child become orphaned. This is certainly not a role to be taken lightly. I am not sure how many parents actually have this stipulation noted in their wills but the fact that the notion exists even on an informal basis stresses the importance of the godfather. While this duty may be the most modern version of the responsibility of a godfather, the term still has religious overtones amongst Roman Catholics. Since the vast majority of any large population of Italians is predominantly Roman Catholic, it is this religious connotation of the word godfather that most concerns this discussion.

The fact that godparents must have had their confirmation in

order to be godparents in the Roman Catholic Church stresses the fact that their positions must have a faith based background. Add to that the fact that non-Christians are excluded from performing any role in the Church and you can see how important a religious Christian background is for the role of a godparent. The Roman Catholic Church views the role of a godfather as a "patron saint" on earth who is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the godchild. Thus the role of godfather is a very sacred and holy position.

How, one may ask, does the name of a sacred role become the name of a profane role?

The answer is simple when you look at that hugely successful film entitled "The Godfather." According to Wikipedia, the encyclopedia on the internet the film is described as follows: "The Godfather" is a 1972 crime film directed and co-written by Francis Ford Coppola, based on the novel of the same name authored by the screenplay's co-writer Mario Puzo. The film starred Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, and James Caan. The film was subsequently followed by "The Godfather Part II" in 1974 and "The Godfather Part III" in 1990. The film's story spans ten years from late 1945 to late 1954 and early 1955, as the leader of a New York Mafia organization hands his family business over to his reluctant son. It is ranked as the third best American film in history by the American Film Institute.

Obviously the term "Godfather" existed before the film came out but it was that film that etched the term "Godfather" meaning "Mafia Boss" into the consciousness of the public. Once more we turn to Wikipedia for some insight into the origin of the word "Godfather;" "Although it is widely reported that Puzo was inspired to use "Godfather" as a designator for a Mafia leader from his experience as a reporter, the term "The Godfather" was first used in connection with the Mafia during Joe Valachi's testimony during the 1963 Congressional Hearing on Organized Crime."

The film has been criticized in some circles as being responsible for portraying Italian stereotypes in that the Italians in the film are portrayed as mobsters. While there maybe some validity to the complaint, it is important to realize that the screenplay was written by two Italians namely Mario Puzo and Francis Ford Coppola. I am quite sure that if you had asked them in an interview if it was their intention to portray all Italians as mobsters their answer would have been a resounding, 'No!' They are obviously focusing on the criminal element in the film. The film "Moonstruck" also portrays Italian stereotypes in that the Italians in the film are emotionally irrational and overly expressive. Perhaps one should be even more offended by those stereotypes

since the screenplay for "Moonstruck" was written by an Irishman named John Patrick Shanley. Somehow the fact that two Italians wrote about other Italians does not seem as bad as a person who is non-Italian writing Italian stereotypes. It is like an Italian comedian telling that old joke: "How do you gag an Italian?" The answer is "You tie his hands behind his back." The joke would certainly not seem as if told by a non-Italian comedian. Of course there will be a group of people that will be offended by the joke no matter who tells it. It is important to remember that in that in both films mentioned we are watching "fictional characters." When a writer writes purely "fictional characters" does he have any responsibility to base the characters in reality? It is our job as viewers of the films to not confuse fiction with reality.

Nonetheless, "The Godfather" was responsible for giving an enormous career boost to Italian actors like Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro. It seems that playing so called "Italian stereotypes" is certainly good for an actor's career. In 1972 Marlon Brando won a best actor Oscar for portraying the title role of the Godfather in "The Godfather." In 1974 Robert DeNiro won a best supporting actor Oscar for playing the younger Godfather in "The Godfather Part II." It was the first time in Oscar history that two Oscars were handed out for the same role to two different actors. Cher won a best actress for her role of an Italian woman in "Moonstruck" in 1988. Whether we like them or not it seems that Hollywood loves "stereotypes."

Not only did the "Godfather" films popularize the term "Godfather" as meaning "Mafia Boss" the films were also responsible for popularizing certain expressions. When Marlon Brando uttered the phrase "I'm going to make him an offer he can't refuse," little did he know how often that phrase would be repeated in everyday conversations. What the Godfather meant by that phrase is "either he complies or he's dead." The expression became wildly popular and people were inserting the phrase into their conversations whenever they got a chance.

In first episode of the series "The Sopranos," the character of Silvio Dante says, "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!" which is a line from "The Godfather Part III." It was "The Godfather" films that broke the ground for a modern series like "The Sopranos." There is a scene in Mario Puzo's novel "The Godfather" where Tom Hagen is talking to Jack Woltz and says, "Italians have a little joke, that the world is so hard a man must have two fathers to look after him, and that's why they have godfathers."

There you have it, the two sides of the term "godfather." It is really amazing how some fictional films can affect the meaning of a term, that in reality, that started off as a very sacred religious term. From the sacred to the profane: that is the story.

Locks of love craze has Rome leaning on a lamppost

The Age, Australia

From Associated Press/March

IN ROME, breaking the chains of love requires a hacksaw — literally. Sweethearts in the Italian capital have adopted a new ritual as a symbol of undying love: hanging a padlock on a lamppost on the city's most ancient bridge and throwing the key into the Tiber. The craze has drawn hundreds of couples in the few months since it started, causing city officials to wonder whether the ancient Roman bridge is suited for such an overwhelming display of passions. "The rite has reached a dimension that will be difficult to cope with. We must guarantee the bridge's decency while preserving this beautiful practice," said Marco Perina, a city official. Some couples write their names or a message on the lock. They throw the key into the river over their shoulders to avoid seeing where it falls. It's quite a change of scenery for a bridge that has seen more war than love since it was built in the second century BC. Ponte Milvio served as the battlefield between rival emperors Constantine and Maxentius in 312; and it was the backdrop of the Italians' struggle for independence in the 1800s.



Youths read love locks smothering a Ponte Milvio bridge lamppost.

Today the pedestrian bridge is near the Olympic stadium — a soccer battleground — north of the city's historical centre. The idea of the love locks is not new in Italy. But Ponte Milvio owes its new reputation mainly due to two novels depicting the love of Roman teenagers. The books have sold a combined 2.5 million copies and were both made into movies. The padlock ritual has spilled into a music video and inspired a prize, The Golden Padlock, awarded to the best love message on Valentine's Day. It has started drawing tourists to an area that is usually off the beaten track. Such huge attention also caused some undesired consequences.

Hundreds of locks were stolen last week although they were found the following day and are to be put back in a ceremony expected to draw the city's mayor.

A check ordered by city officials showed the locks posed no threat to the stability of the lamppost. But officials are looking for an alternative site amid fears the bridge may be damaged. One possibility is to put up a "lovers' lamppost" in a square near the bridge. "We want to keep this tradition alive. It's becoming like tossing a coin in the Trevi fountain," said Perina.

St. Anthony School

by John Dörner

St. Anthony School today, just as at its beginnings as the Dante Academy, is a Catholic School that serves a high proportion of children from immigrant families living in the Somerset West area of Ottawa. It has always enjoyed a close partnership with St. Anthony Church and the Italian community of the area. This partnership continues today as the school has evolved into a community blessed with a rich tapestry of cultures. Many of the students are multilingual, learning both English and French at school while maintaining their heritage language in the home. The school's motto, "We help each other" serves to focus on our common humanity in a highly diverse population. In recent years the school has received local, national and international attention for its successful schoolyard naturalization project. The result is a community that shows love for God through respect of God's creation and love of one's neighbour.

St. Anthony School was founded as the Dante Academy in 1925. On June 8, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported on the official opening of the school as follows: "The official opening of the Dante Separate School for Italian children took place yesterday morning, and a special Mass honoured by the presence of Monsignor L.N. Campeau, representing the Archbishop, was celebrated by Rev. Father L. Larocque at the Church of St. Anthony. Luigi Scarcella, chairman of the organizing committee, thanked the School Board, stating that 'an opportunity has been given for preserving our tongue and for our progeny to retain our native individuality while training them to become good citizens and lovers of their country, which has adopted them.'" Following the Mass, an imposing and beautiful bronze statue of Dante, executed by Ruotolo was blessed and unveiled by Monsignor Campeau. Mayor Balharrie spoke of the dedication to Dante, "whose name is synonymous with patriotism, religion, devotion to excellence and poetic inspiration." The Dominion horticulturalist, Mr. W.T. Macoun, responded with a promise to provide a generous donation of trees to serve as a background to the statue. Catholic education in this area of centretown Ottawa pre-dates the opening of the Dante Academy.

St. Agnes School on Louisa Street existed as early as 1890-91 as indicated by the Ottawa city directory of that time. St. Agnes School later had an annex on Booth Street near the current site of St. Anthony School. This is how early Catholic education in the area was delivered. At around the turn of the century, approximately 300 people from Italy had settled primarily in an area that eventually would be the home both to St. Anthony Church and the Dante Academy.

In 1908, Capuchin priest Father F. Fortunato responded to the needs of this growing Italian community by holding religious ceremonies at a rented chapel on Murray Street. This continued until the completion of St. Anthony Church at the corner of Booth and Gladstone in 1913. The Servite Fathers, beginning with Father Aurelio Prosperi, became responsible for the parish in 1914. The burgeoning Italian population in the neighbourhood convinced the Ottawa Separate School Board to build a school next to the new church. In addition to English and French, the school also provided instruction in Italian. It appears that at first the school was a part of the French-Catholic school system thanks to two early Italian teachers, Gino Tiezzi and Louise Guadagni.

The school was originally named after the famous Italian writer, Dante Aleghieri who ranks as the one of the greatest writers in Western European Literature and whose epic masterpiece *the Divine Comedy* was completed in 1307. A bust of Dante graced the entrance of the school until the Academy was renamed in the late 1940's at the request of Father James Ferraro, Pastor of St. Anthony Parish. St. Anthony of Padua is the patron saint of the poor and oppressed. During these early years of the Dante Academy and later St. Anthony School, there was a close association of the area with St. Agnes School as well, as the schools served the same community and students flowed between the two schools at times. In recent years and even to this day, St. Anthony School continues a close connection with the parish including the Servite Priests and the Servite Sisters of the Addolorata, as well as parish groups such as the Ladies' Aid and the Knights of Columbus.

Over the years the school has witnessed many special events. On January 12, 1928, his Excellency Monsignor Cassulo, the Apostolic delegate to Canada and Newfoundland, together with other distinguished visitors including the Consul-General from Italy were received as guests of Dante Academy by Sister Vincent Ferrier on behalf of the staff. Six-year old Albert Constantini and students Ernest Dilabbio and Rose Fusi welcomed the newly appointed representative of the Vatican to Canada.

In the early years of St. Anthony Church, the students of Dante Academy did their part to help pay off the debt associated with the building of the church. One event reported was a concert presented by students under the direction of Mrs. Richards. Winter carnivals were part of the life of the school for decades. On February 20, 1950 the *Ottawa Evening Citizen* reported, complete with photograph, on the carnival festivities that took place on the school rink with students of both St. Anthony School and St. Agnes School in attendance. John Curran and Eleanor Romani of St. Anthony's were selected as king and queen of the carnival with Raymond Verdon and Judy Larocque of St. Agnes serving as the prince and princess.

March 15, 1955 was a significant date in the life of St. Anthony School as it was the day of the blessing of a new six-room addition, as well as the opening of a school library. The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception were responsible for the school at that time, with Sister Mary Ida as principal. Father Prosperi, who laid the cornerstone for the original school in 1925, was present at this ceremony. There were also 30 altar boys and 15 teachers present in addition to various dignitaries.

In recent years, St. Anthony School has received national and international recognition for its schoolyard transformation project. In 1998, the students, parents and staff were determined to plant trees in the schoolyard. At one time there had been trees on the property, but they had died or had become a safety concern and had to be taken down. The school, along with

dozens of others, applied to win the "Ugliest Schoolyard Contest" sponsored by Earth Day Ottawa-Carleton, the Canadian Biodiversity Institute and Nortel Networks. St. Anthony School won the contest, which was held to encourage schools to take positive environmental action. The Honourable Christine Stewart, federal Minister of the Environment, was present when the school received the award on Earth Day 1998. By winning the contest, St. Anthony School received \$5,000 to help plant trees and make the schoolyard greener. This award, as well as the recognized need, resulted in outstanding parish and community support for the project. The students of St. Anthony along with some from nearby Cambridge Public School, and other youngsters called the Willow Street Angels, received many local awards and even national and international recognition for the impact of the project on the school and the community. Awards were received from the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Harbour Environmental Foundation, and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. In its publication, *Real Leaders*, the Caledon Institute of Social Policy highlighted the work done by the children, citing the difference this had made in the community.

Cambridge Public School students and parents participated in the project, helping with the planting of shrubs. They were involved because students were enrolled in the St. Anthony summer day camp program. The Willow Street Angels, a group of young children in the St. Anthony area, were led by community activist Angela Ierullo, who regularly donated their spare time to pick up litter in their neighbourhood. In helping with the schoolyard improvement project at St. Anthony, the Willow Street Angels realized that they could improve the neighbourhood not only by picking up litter, but also by planting flowers, shrubs, and trees.

Because of this project, St. Anthony School has been featured in a variety of publications, including *The Green Teacher and Greening School Grounds - Creating Habitats for Learning*, *A Guide to Transforming School Grounds*, and *Asking Children, Listening to Children*, a guide which includes a video. In 2002, Duke and Northwestern Universities in the United States, as part of a special project, sent teachers to St. Anthony School to learn about the reasons for its success in serving an ethnically diverse population.

Present Principal: Theresa Swanson, Past Principals: Sister Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the school's first principal. Sister Bertha Bradley Sister Francis Morris Tap Sister Ann of the Cross Sister Mary Ida Margaret Wallace Mary Meagher Doug Goodwin Francesco Lipari Georges Bouliane Clifford Foley John Dörner.

First Teachers and Support Staff: Gino Tiezzi Louise Guadagni Miss Desormeaux Mr. Belanger Miss McCarthy Miss O'Dare.

Former Staff and Students One teacher of note at the school was Claire Fox who taught Grade 2 for a period of 37 years, followed by an additional three years as a substitute teacher in her retirement, totalling 40 years teaching at St. Anthony. Dennis Boucher won the CAPHERD (Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) award in 1998 for his work in creating playground materials and activities for students. John Dörner, who was principal of St. Anthony School from 1997 to 2003, received the Capital Educators Award in 2002 and the For the Love of Children Award in 2003 sponsored by Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa in 2003.

Principal Sister Mary Ida was well known for making donuts to be sold at school to raise funds for necessary school items. She also sent students to the school board with donuts, requesting funds in return. Jean-Yves Paul, the coordinator of the St. Anthony after-school program, won a Community Builder Award from the United Way of Ottawa-Carleton. Bob Chiarelli is the past Mayor of the City of Ottawa and a former chairperson of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. He has also served as Provincial MLA for the riding of Ottawa West. Mary Ierullo, a former student of Dante Academy, was recognized by the Italian-Canadian Women of the Village for her lifetime of service to the people of the Preston Street area. The award is now given annually in her name. Mary and her daughter, Angela Ierullo, also a former St. Anthony student, opened the doors of their home to the children who became known as the Willow Street Angels.

In 1992, Marina Molinari, received a Terry Fox Humanitarian Award for exemplary volunteerism in a variety of settings serving children and the aged. Angelo Sgabellone is an internationally acclaimed creative director and art director with Maclean's Magazine. Dr. Aurelio (Fred) Sirianni, is a prominent scientist who developed technology that aided the Allied forces during the Second World War. Patsy Guzzo, a student of the Dante Academy, played for the RCAF hockey team that won the Olympic Gold Medal for hockey in 1948. Jennie Prosperine, a student of the Dante Academy, has served in a leadership capacity with Ladies' Aid of St. Anthony Parish, and has been consistently generous to the school. Frank Nasso was the first Italian Canadian lawyer in Ottawa. Tony Lecari is a well known hockey player. A right winger, he played nine games for the Detroit Red Wings in the 1946-47 season. He was known as a reliable scorer in the minor and senior leagues and in Great Britain. He played in both the American Hockey League, with the senior RCAF squad and with the Harringay Racers in Britain where he scored 134 goals in three seasons. Johnny Ostipic became a notable swimmer. Ivy O was the primary speaker at the Citizenship Reaffirmation Ceremony held at the National Arts Centre in 2002 with many dignitaries present. She is the daughter of Vietnamese Canadian parents who were among the Vietnamese Boat people who settled in Ottawa, one of the more recent immigrant groups to make their home in Centretown. John Chiarelli became a trustee with the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board and then the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board. Sister Emelia Testa, a former student, is now a strong supporter of St. Anthony School. For years she has provided day care to the children in the neighbourhood. Italo Tiezzi is a former student who is a well known supporter of the arts in Ottawa.

www.ottawaitalians.com

General Interest

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL with Giovanni

Birth Place and Parents' Roots? My birthplace is in Queen's New York, my parents are Italian Americans, there parents are from Italy(Naples,Bari,Sicily,Catania).

Horoscope sign and Birth date: I am a Leo, my birthday is august 23, 1986

How many brothers and sisters do you have? I have one sister she is 12 years old (younger than I)

The ultimate concert attended?I went to see nickelback and live at the Scotia bank center is was amazing

What do you fear about fame?I fear that money could change me(my passion and drive) and affect how I play the game of hockey.

What is your favourite movie? Any Given Sunday

Favourite Reality TV show? Real world

Favourite childhood TV show? Saved by the Bell

Favourite car? Bentley continental Gt two door coup

Favourite Designers? Why? Kenneth cole suits because there classy and very sharp looking, I like where lucky brand jeans because there my styel, steve madden shoes because there made well and feel comfortable,

If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would it be? Australia....because I heard they have the best beaches and biggest waves around

How would you spend a typical day off? I would sleep in till one in the afternoon....get up eat some breakfast, shower, and go rent movies from blockbuster...just sitting at home relaxing in bed all day and talking on the phone to my friends back home.

What is your greatest fear? Not knowing what I'm going to do after hockey

Favourite male singer? Justin timberlake

Favourite female singer? Jessica simpson

Favourite music group? 3 doors down

If you could only keep one household appliance, what would it be?Microwave because you could basically heat up any meal in there and also because I love to eat food

Something the world would be surprised to know about myself? I used to play the drums and want to learn how to play the guitar

Least favourite food? Sausages

Favourite item of clothing? Lucky jeans

Do you enjoy cooking? What kind? I enjoy cooking steak, and of course Sunday meal, pasta and meatballs



Your greatest achievement? Making making the all rookie team in college hockey my freshmen year

Your best quality? The ability to listen to other people

Your pet peeve? When people leave a mess and I got to clean it up

Your biggest regret? Disappointing a person I love

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? No particular place as long as I am near the ocean and it's a warm climate and lots of sun.

Your greatest love? Hockey

Qualities you like the most in your mate? She loves me for who I am, honest, trustworthy, ability to communicate and understand each other, and I love when we can just sit around and do absolutely nothing and have fun

The best words or the shortest phrase to describe yourself? Passion

If you are to become one of the characters in a TV show for a month, who would it be? Vinny chase from Entourage

Noise that annoys you the most? Nails on a chalk board.

If you could go back in society, what would you change? Poverty and world hunger.

If you had ONE wish, what would it be? It would be to play in the NHL and to have a great family at the same time I say this because if you have someone you love and your doing something you love then my life is complete

What is it that you treasure the most? Family

Your most embarrassing moment? Sitting down on a chair that had a chocolate brownie on it....and getting all over my jeans...and having to walk around school all day like that

What would make you see "RED"? if my girlfriend cheated on me

What do you dislike the most about your appearance? I wish I had a smaller nose

Magical powers you would like to have? The ability to read people minds

Who is your hero? My dad

Most important lessons learned with your career? That nothing ever comes easy things just don't get handed to you, you have to work hard every day it's a process

What advice would you give others, starting out in your industry? If you don't truly love the game...then its not for you.

New immigration law

Fast Track for Italian Speakers. Bossi-Fini law reformed: no more residence contracts. Immigration flow mechanism will now have three-year time horizon.

Dino Martirano

ROME – The bill for the reform of the Bossi-Fini law on immigration will be on the agenda of the Council of Ministers next week. The eight-page text, drafted by the legal offices of the Interior and Social Solidarity ministries, is finally ready. It will introduce a series of fast tracks for hiring home helps, carers and those with special skills, such as engineers and university staff, but entry will also be open to unskilled foreign workers. And to all those who already speak Italian.

The final stumbling block was CPTs (immigrant reception centres). The Interior and Social Solidarity ministers, Giuliano Amato and Paolo Ferrero, have conflicting visions but managed to reach an agreement. Yet as Communist Refoundation's (PRC) Mr Ferrero, acknowledged, the CPT system can be circumvented but not eliminated entirely: otherwise Italy will find itself excluded from the Schengen system.

The solution the two minsters eventually found was procedures that differentiate between illegal immigrants who end up in prison and those who collaborate and identify themselves. Nevertheless, the bill will have to overcome considerable opposition, especially in the Senate, where the House of Freedoms will be doing all it can to block the measure. If the bill should be approved, the government will have twelve months to exercise the delegate powers by issuing a legislative decree to modify the consolidation act on immigration.

Part of what the government wants to do, as Interior Minister Amato said in Florence again yesterday, is to reach the invisible immigrants and combat evasion by employers, who often take advantage of the rigidity of current regulations. "It is not acceptable, for instance, that there should be illegal rent contracts for twenty-five square-metre flats with ten immigrants paying three

hundred euros each". Mr Amato added on the subject of illegal employment: "We are facing a trend that has to be stopped. I know it would also stop a lot of building work but we must do it and we are already doing it".

The immigration flow mechanism will now have a three-year horizon, explains Mr Ferrero in his introduction to the book "Viaggio nell'Italia dell'immigrazione" (Journey into the Italy of Immigration). "If we assume a requirement of 250-300,000 immigrants a year, then a decree for a comparable inflow has to be in place". In other words, about one million workers every three years. Mr Ferrero added that immigration was a structural phenomenon and that immigrants should be directed towards legality using every possible means. "I stress this point because there are three million immigrants living in Italy today and eighty per cent of them were illegals at first".



McGarry Family Chapels
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry
Funeral & Cremation Services
Servizi di Cremazione e pompe funebri

ANNOUNCEMENT

The McGarry Family is pleased to welcome Peter Vallee to McGarry Family Chapels/Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral and Cremation Services. Peter served 33 years with a previously family owned funeral home in Ottawa. Peter will now continue his career with the McGarry Family who maintains the 82 year tradition of Charles Hulse and Keith Playfair: offering senior employees shareholdings in a truly Canadian Institution. The McGarrys and colleagues welcome Peter Vallee to our family firm, founded in 1925.

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Peter Vallee, Senior Funeral Director

Local

Hulse, Playfair & McGarry: A Local Institution for Over 80 Years

By Julie Polisen

In 1925, Charles and Percy Hulse purchased a small, struggling funeral home called “Woodburn’s”. Since the funeral home was insufficient to support both families, Percy left for St. Catharines, Ontario to start his own business, and Charles remained in Ottawa. Eight years later, Charles invited Keith Playfair, a manager of a leading funeral home at the time, to join him as a partner. In the early 1960s, Charles Hulse and Keith Playfair commenced a tradition by inviting their employees to become shareholders in the company. Current owners, Sharon McGarry and Brian McGarry, were employees who took advantage of this opportunity and still continue the tradition with their employees.

Today, Hulse, Playfair & McGarry feels very privileged to have gained the confidence of the families they serve and have been doing so for over eighty years. The funeral home has received numerous awards from the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau to name a few. Hulse, Playfair & McGarry serves over 1,500 families annually of all faiths and cultural backgrounds as well as all social and economic sectors of our community and is able to accommodate all arrangements for cremation and traditional funeral services at any of their full service locations throughout Ottawa and the Gatineau. In addition to the existing locations, three property developments are planned for Kanata, Barrhaven and Cumberland in the near future to meet the needs of the growing communities.

Hulse, Playfair & McGarry is fully owned and operated by the McGarry Family, a phenomenon that is becoming rarer in Ottawa and the Gatineau. The McGarry’s believe that local ownership allows the organization to better serve its community due to its proximity to the local people and greater flexibility to respond to their needs in a timely manner. In fact, staff members are very involved in the Ottawa Community, through club, social and professional associations.

Family-run funeral homes are currently being challenged by large corporations locally and across North America. The McGarry Family believes that given the choice, people will select the services of a firm that is committed to its area and pledges that monies invested with them will remain in the local region and not be transferred out of Ottawa or indeed Canada.

Sharon McGarry and Brian McGarry want to preserve the local family enterprise and protect their employees whether they become shareholders or have no intentions of ownership. They are in the process of relinquishing more shares to the present employee ownership through “McGarry Family Chapels”. It is their expectation that Hulse, Playfair & McGarry will continue to carry out the Charles Hulse and Keith Playfair tradition of local ownership and longstanding employee involvement in Ottawa and Gatineau’s community life, while providing their clients a satisfying customer experience.

The funeral home is also proud of its strong ties to the Ottawa Italian Community. Numerous members of the McGarry Family were raised on Preston Street and are members of the Canadian Italian Business Professional Association in Ottawa (CIBPA-Ottawa). Furthermore, the organization recently welcomed its newest member, Peter Vallee, who is a funeral director with over 33 years of service at another previously family owned funeral home in Ottawa. Peter is very knowledgeable and has extensive experience with Italian traditions in our community.

Hulse, Playfair & McGarry is a Canadian institution true to its creed, “To alleviate the sorrow of parting is to render a service to mankind. To this, our service is respectfully dedicated.” For more information, please visit their website at: <http://www.mcgarryfamily.ca/>.

Funeral Prearrangement: No-Cost Peace of Mind for You and Your Loved Ones

By Patrick McGarry, Vice President of Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral and Cremation Services

Funeral planning is, without a doubt, a sensitive subject. Nobody likes to think about their own death or the death of someone close. Yet when we avoid thinking about our funeral, we are simply leaving it for our loved ones to handle at a time when they may be least able to do so. Given emotional stresses and compressed time frames, what can result is not the kind of funeral you and your family may ultimately want for how you are to be remembered.

Anyone who has arranged a funeral knows how difficult the task can be. There are over 100 questions that need to be answered. Will it be burial or cremation? Who is to be involved? Who needs to be notified? What should the newspaper notice say and who writes it? Will there be music at the service; who makes the selection? And so on. Having these questions answered ahead of time by prearranging affords one’s

family peace of mind so that they can focus on what a funeral should truly be about: celebrating one’s beliefs, remembering the deceased in the personalized manner they wanted, and beginning the grieving process.

While funeral prearrangement is an important part of estate planning, we need to distinguish between preplanning a funeral and prefunding it, since many people assume that a prearranged funeral must be paid for in advance of need. This is not the case. A prearrangement plan details the way a person wishes his or her funeral handled. There is no cost to arrange final wishes with a funeral director nor does it cost for them to be recorded. A prefunded funeral plan takes place only as an optional next step. Prefunded plans offer a range of services that are affordable, tax-sheltered, transferable and secure.

Most people try to plan ahead for life’s major expenses such as a home purchase, children’s tuition, vacations and retirement. Prefunding one’s funeral should fall into these plans for several reasons. From an emotional point of view, it alleviates the financial burden of survivors. From a financial point of view, it is a sound and secure investment that protects against inflation by locking in today’s funeral costs against tomorrow’s prices.

Two prefunding options are available: an insurance vehicle and a trusting vehicle. Both offer purchase choices and are fully transferable and redeemable. Interest earned on a prefunded funeral is not subject to income tax. Accrued interest growth is applied to any funeral cost increase until the funeral service is required. At that time, any excess interest is returned to the estate, where it is declared as interest income. Any shortfall between the cost of the funeral and the value of the prefunded plan is absorbed by the

funeral home.

Trusts are open to everybody, meaning that they have no age or health restrictions, and monies are placed in a GIC at a financial institution under the purchaser’s name. Trusts must be paid within a one-year time period. Insurance, a relatively new product for prefunding funerals, is now the most popular because of its flexible payment options. While no medical is required, there can be health questions that affect coverage. It can offer a range of incentives depending on how frequently one opts to make payments.

Regardless of how one chooses to prefund a funeral, it’s important to note that the services are guaranteed, that monies are protected in law by *compensation funds*, and that the maximum one can prepay on a tax-free basis is \$15,000. Once money is invested in a prefunded plan, it remains the purchaser’s money, not that of the funeral home. If you are to move in the future, it can be moved with you. If you decide to redeem, you can. The choices you made and paid for in your plan can be changed at any time.

At the very least, when it comes to funeral preplanning, one should discuss and document wishes with family members and executors. It is not recommended that final wishes be contained solely in a Will, since many Wills are not accessible at the time of death and also lack sufficient funeral arrangement details. A recent national survey showed that 70% of the people asked believe in the importance of prearranging their final needs. Preplanning and prefunding your funeral isn’t morbid – it’s just good sense.

Providing information to the community about funerals is both a privilege and a responsibility of the funeral services industry. Should there be questions related to this topic which might not have been answered above, please contact me via email at patrick@mcgarryfamily.ca or write c/o Hulse, Playfair & McGarry, 315 McLeod Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1A2.

Central Chapel - Gladstone Ave.



Central Chapel - McLeod Ave.



Brian McGarry, Patrick McGarry & Sharon McGarry

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A Filò: The 5th Annual Ottawa Italian Women’s Filo



by Trina Costantini-Powell

From the romantic strains of “Come Prima”, played wonderfully by Laurino(Larry) Pagliarello on the keyboard, to the energetic melodies sung by some new, emerging talent within the Ottawa Italian community, did over 300 women of all ages gather at St. Anthony’s Soccer Club the evening of Thursday, March 1 to once again honour their peers within our community. It was a wonderful evening, filled with song, merriment, a delicious meal , followed by the recognition of two very well deserved women within our midst.

The origin of the Filo: Women gathering together, back in Italy, during long evenings, telling stories and sharing tales, singing songs and socializing. Skip ahead to the year 2003, here in Ottawa, and , behold, the first Filo dinner was held, organized by two energetic and wonderful women, Anna Chiappa and Ariella Hostetter. The first 2 women honoured: Maria Ierullo and Jennie Prosperine, pioneers in their own right. And the tradition continues , year after year.

The Maria Ierullo and Rosa Tiezzi awards speak to two very special women, who played a large role, for many years, within the Ottawa Italian community.We thank their families for generously donating an award in their memory and honour. This year, the Filo committee received six nominations. These special women were Antoinetta Avanzini-Kondrat, Maddalena Iannitti, Rosaria LaRiccia, Fulvia Marcantonio, Paolina Violante and Eleanor Romani Wildman. Our independent selection committee eventually decided upon Maddalena Iannitti as the recipient of the Rosa Tiezzi award, presented by Rose Arnone and Elda Allen, representatives of the Tiezzi family , and Antoinetta Avanzini-Kondrat, the recipient of the Maria Ierullo award presented by Mary’s daughter, Angela. Needless to say, both were very surprised! Also in attendance were some of the past recipients, women like Maria Bonacci, Rita Costantini, Giovanna Panico and Olita Schultz.

Just a note to remember: The Filo Dinner Committee receives nominations for the two awards. Criteria can be found on our website at [www. Filo.ca](http://www.Filo.ca) . A candidate can be renominated again. There is no time restriction. As mentioned earlier, this year’s Filo Dinner gave an opportunity to many to see the Larochelle sisters, Stephanie and Melissa , as well as Alexandra Beraldin and Alyssa Radulescu sing their hearts out. These four young girls will be performing this summer at DisneyWorld .

The Filo Dinner Committee was honoured to have this year as its’ Master of Ceremonies, Rita Celli , of CBC’s Ontario Today show and as its’ guest speaker, Maria(Armilotta) McRae, City Councillor, River Ward. Coincidentally, both these women attended the same high school in Sudbury , Ontario , and at the same time. A very complimentary letter was also sent by our guest speaker of two years ago, the Honourable Sandra Papatello, with her regrets for not being able to attend this year’s function.

When you look around the Hall and see the multi-generational mix of women, it leaves one with encouragement that this event will go on for many years. It also gives the younger generation a sense of their roots and shows that ones’ service to the community can be very fulfilling.

An evening like this takes a great deal of preparation and planning and as the Chair for the last three years, I would like to take this opportunity to thank such a hard working group of women who make up the Filo Dinner Committee. Some of these women I have known for many years, and others, I have come to know and call my friends so, please take a bow Enza Baiamonte, Cathy Bourguignon, Anna Chiappa, Bonnie Favilla, Ariella Hostetter, Angela Ierullo and Silvana Timpson. To those who have never attended a Filo, please mark your calendar for next March and stay tuned. You will be in for a wonderful evening!



Community Events

TONY CASAGRANDE

di Luciano Pradal

Non posso dire d'aver veramente conosciuto Tony Casagrande, posso solo dire che ho passato alcune piacevoli ore con lui in occasione della visita in Ottawa, qualche anno fa' di padre Luigi Casagrande missionario in Malawie (Africa). Durante questo breve incontro ho potuto apprezzare la grande personalita' di quest'uomo che mi aveva allora raccontato, cosi', molto casualmente e con molta umilta' la sua vita, i suoi successi e la sua professione che ancora amava tanto.

La prima importante qualita di Tony Casagrande sia come Chef, professore, padre o marito, era che Tony Casagrande ha lasciato una marca indelebile su tutti quelli che l'hanno conosciuto e questo specialmente per quanto riguarda la professione dell'arte culinaria ove eccelleva insegnando come si pratica la professione con maestria. Nello Bortolotti ricorda ancora quando i fratelli Tony ed Angelo Casagrande partivano da Preston Str. per andare a lavorare come lavapiatti al Chateau Laurier, l'allora piu' famoso albergo della Capitale del Canada, era una lunga camminata che dovevano farla ogni giorno mattina e sera, per quel umile lavoro avevano dovuto mentire sulla loro eta', erano troppo giovani per lavorare.

Tony Casagrande ha sempre eccelso in tutti i lavori che li venivano affidati sino a quando un giorno, giovanissimo, e' diventato Vice-Chef per poi divettare Chef con la compagnia Canadian National che lo ha nominato Chef nei migliori alberghi in Canada, e' stato in quel periodo che Tony Casagrande preparava i menus dei ristoranti delle linee ferroviarie della Canadian National sulla quale viaggiava l'aristocrazia della socieata' Canadese.

Nel 1963 Tony Casagrande e' stato uno dei membri fondatori della prestigiosa Federazione Canadese dei Chefs che ora vanta piu di 1.800 Chefs attraverso il Canada e che ha al suo conto dei bellissimi trofei riconoscimenti ed encomi a livello Internazionale.

La culla: invenzione moderna contraria alla natura

di Graziella Labocchetta

Sono felice!! Un mese un evento speciale è accaduto nella mia vita: una creatura bellissima, dolce come il miele, dagli occhi neri come due olive, di nome Bianca Maria è entrata a far parte di questo mondo e del mio in particolare. Non avevo previsto l'emozione profonda e la gioia che sento a tenerla tra le braccia. Certo è mia nipote, ma questi sentimenti cosi' intensi mi hanno colto di sorpresa, il che accresce la bellezza. Mi sento benedetta. Quale purezza e tenerezza ispira un bambino!

Mettendo da parte la poesia, mi piacerebbe condividere con voi un'osservazione. Siccome mio figlio e mia nuora vivono con me, ho modo di seguire da vicino il loro cammino di giovani genitori. Due aspetti mi hanno colpita. Il primo, ch enon riesco neppure a prendere in considerazione, è che loro lasciano il cane non solo dormire accanto alla piccola, ma addirittura lasciano che la leccchi. La pediatra ha detto che questo leccare del cane ha un effetto immunitario; praticamente aumenta le difese immunitarie della bambina. Spero che sia vero.

L'altra cosa molto più importante riguarda la culla. La bambina ne ha due. Una nella sua camera, una più piccola nella stanza dei genitori. L'aspetto più interessante è che questa bambina non dorme nella culla, ma nel letto con mamma e papà. Ora, questo comportamento dei genitori negli anni passati e, soprattutto quando crescevano i miei figli, era impensabile. Secondo gli esperti in psicologia, il bambino doveva imparare ad essere indipendente.

Quale cretinata! Io noto che questa bambina non piange mai. E sapete perchè? perchè è sempre vicina alla sua mamma, al calore naturale di un seno materno. Lei si sente al sicuro. Del resto cosa fa una gatta quando dà alla luce i suoi piccoli? Rimane immobile con loro. Si alza solamente per i suoi bisogni e per mangiare. Il resto del tempo lo dedica ai gattini. La stessa cosa vale per i cuccioli di una cagna che, tra l'altro li lecca con amore. La mia conclusione è che lasciare dormire un neonato assieme alla sua mamma è la cosa più naturale che ci sia. Il legame intrinseco e bellissimo del ventre deve prolungarsi almeno per alcuni mesi. A me, oggi, sembra ovvio. Vi assicuro che è bellissimo sentire il respiro ed il battito accelerato del suo curicino sul mio petto, senza tener conto del profumo di innocenza. Io voglio incoraggiare tutti i genitori ad adottare questo modo di crescita. È molto rilassante.

Nel 1971 Tony Casagrande lascia la professionedi Chef e si ritira nella natia Ottawa ove, con il suo talento ed esperienza va' ad insegnare l'arte culinaria all' Algonquin College. Rick Reid che e' ora nell' esecutivo della sezione alberghiera e culinaria dell' Algonquin College, ricorda

Tony Casagrande come un maestro che offriva con effusione tanta esperienza ai suoi allievi e questo era dovuto alla sua personalita' ed alla conoscenza profonda dell'arte culinaria presente in tutto il Canada.

Nel 1986, durante la riunione annuale della Federazione Tony Casagrande e' stato riconosciuto come "Chef of the Year". Lo scorso giugno la stessa Federazione li ha offerto un riconoscimento d' apprezzamento a vita.

Tony Casagrande era sposato da 67 anni con Pauline ed era il fiero padre di 4 figli ed ora ci sono anche 8 nipoti e nove pronipoti! L'amore per la famiglia era la sua priorita'. Tony Casagrande amava tutti ed era amato da tutti. Tony Casagrande era d' ottima salute sino a due anni fa', poi la salute si e' deteriorata, la moglie ha voluto prenderne cura sino all' ultimo giorno, anche se confuso trovava sempre la maniera, guardandola negli occhi, di mormorarle una canzone d' amore. Le figlie, il figlio, otto nipoti e 9 pronipoti ricorderanno per sempre e con grande affetto la persona del loro amato Tony



Tony Casagrande mentre crea una scultura di ghiaccio.

Casagrande.

All' ultimo arrivederci alla chiesa S. Antonio in Ottawa, tra i tanti famigliari ed amici spiccava il Pichetto d' onore di 12 Chefs della Federazione Culinaria Canadese vestiti con l' uniforme dei Chefs, erano venuti a dare, con molto rispetto ed ammirazione, gli onori all' ultimo Membro Fondatore della Federazione.

DEDICATA A TUTTI I NONNI E D A TUTTE LE NONNE!

La culla: invenzione moderna contraria alla natura


di Graziella Labocchetta


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Jim Watson, MPP

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“Posso aiutare?”

General Interest

L' UOMO HA IMPARATO MOLTO MA BEN POCO E' CAMBIATO!

L'uomo e' una incredibile macchina non sempre perfetta!

Alfredo Maiolo

Non c'e dubbio che nel corso dei secoli, l' uomo ha fatto notevoli passi avanti, sia nel campo scientifico, tecnologico, che in quello economico e politico.

Con le varie Istituzioni Democratiche, in quasi tutto l' emisfero terrestre ha raggiunto quella liberta tanto aspirata, affiancata da leggi Sociali ed Economiche e quel che si chiama "HUMAN RIGHTS" (Diritti Umani).

Questi miglioramenti hanno dato a milioni di noi un tenore di vita piu' alto di tutti i tempi, ma l' uomo, non credo, sia cambiato molto.Oggi moltissime persone, soprattutto i politici, sono ancora riluttanti ad imparare, per evitare di ripetere gli errori del passato, dove l' umanita' ha subito e continua a subire tremende ingiustizie; gli orrori delle guerre, il dilagare del terrorismo che generano morte e distruzione sono gli esempi piu' recenti (New York, Madrid, Londra, Iraq, ecc.).

Come mai, nonostante tutto il genio e la cultura dell'uomo, siamo ancora alle prese con un mondo pieno di violenza e brutalita' dove la nostra stessa sopravvivenza su' questo pianeta oggi sembra in pericolo? Le cose cambieranno mai? Una domanda che fa' riflettere, ma ancora oggi non c'e' risposta!Ad ogni modo, scienza e tecnologia continuano a progredire, pertanto l' uomo dovrebbe imparare come aquisire delle espoerienze per come rendere il mondo piu' felice e sicuro; a tutt' oggi non e' cosi'.

Comunque, per continuare sull' imperfezione di questa incredibile macchina, vorrei esprimere una opinione personale, che penso, forse non e' del tutto esatta.Infatti, se diamo uno sguardo ai tanti doni preziosi che Dio ha dato all'uomo, notiamo che primeggia l' intelletto, il quale ci da' la facolta' di " discernere" cioe' di distinguere il bene dal male, l' ordine dal disordine, il giusto dall' ingiusto. L' uomo, facendo uso di queste facolta', si distingue dagli animali i quali sono dotati del solo intuito. L' uso di questo dono, l' intelletto, molte volte non e' tanto agevole per l' uomo, soprattutto per le responsabilita' nel decidere e per la sue innate debolezze.

Questo stato, (debolezza) e' evidente nell' essere umano e risale all' origine, spesso la notiamo per gli errori e quando viene sopraffatta dalle forze del male, che l' uomo pur conoscendole, non riesce a debellare. Quindi, con la facolta' del "discernere" l' uomo, molte volte, ha delle difficolta' a distinguere il bene dal male ed il giusto dall' ingiusto, pertanto, egli rappresenta un rischio per se stesso e per l' umanita' che purtroppo ne supporta le volute conseguenze.

Questa battaglia interiore che l' uomo combatte in questa societa', e' per il trionfo della giustizia e per l' amore verso il prossimo, ma spesso la perde in favore di quelle cause che provocano distruzione, ingiustizie, crudelta' ed odi. (Iraq, Asfganisatan, Medio Oriente ed anche in seno alle nostre societa' e nelle famiglie) Questa e' una storia antichissima come il mondo, cioe' da quando l' umanita' ha iniziato a governare questo pianeta e ancora oggi, ahime', ben poco e' cambiato!

Inoltre se si considera l'uomo nel suo rapporto con la sociata' di oggi, dovrebbe rappresentare l' ordine, la pace nel mondo, il bene, la giustizia ma sovente le sue azioni sono in contrasto con il prezioso "discernere" (distinguere). Con l' avvento della "Democrazia", nel puro significato del termine, la quale dovrebbe infondere fiducia nei popoli (Nazioni Unite) e di piu' quella promessa di stabilire un nuovo mondo pacifico e sicuro. Purtroppo oggi nella sociata' che l' uomo vive, o meglio che viviamo, c'e' disordine, in moltissimi casi Egli lotta per la sopravvevenza ed e' circondato anche dalla morte.

Questi concetti sociologici e realistici che ho scritto accordo la mia opinione, hanno della sostanza, e credo, che l' uomo non puo' nascondere. Guardiamo per un solo momento cosa succede nel mondo: Guerre, violenza in molte forme, morte, odio, ecc. Il tutto causati da questa "Macchina Umana" non tanto perfetta, la quale appare come una realta' bella e completa, ma indiscutibilmente debole e limitata.

Sweet Life is Back for Fiat

The Australian

Richard OwenRome

It was the unlikely transport of the Latin lover: a symbol of exhilarating freedom and romance to a weary post-war generation of Italians. Now, half a century after the iconic Fiat 500 — the Cinquecento — was introduced, an updated version has been unveiled to an outpouring of nostalgia and national pride. Like the Mini and Volkswagen Beetle — which have also been given a new lease on life in modern versions — the Fiat 500 is not so much a car, more a myth, said one enthusiast.

For Italians preoccupied with economic woes, political instability and scandals, the 50th anniversary celebrations of Europe and the Cinquecento recall the optimism of the country's post-war economic boom and heady days of the dolce vita. A Fiat 500 featured in Fellini's film that gave the era its name.Renzo Arbore, a veteran Italian singer and entertainer, said: "For our generation, the Cinquecento was the courting car of the Latin lover. It was a kind of mini bachelor pad on wheels."

Like the Vespa, the Fiat 500, the brainchild of the designer Dante Giacosa, symbolised Italians' newfound freedom and mobility and featured frequently in classic films of the 1950s and 60s. "Perhaps Fiat could issue a car blanket of the kind we used to take along for romantic purposes," Mr Arbore said. He said the original was "compact, not to say small, but there always seemed to be plenty of room. It was not just a car, it was an object of passion".

According to Silvia Depaoli, the head of the Fiat 500 Club at Garlenda in Liguria, which has 10,000 members and holds a rally every summer, the old Fiat 500 remains a symbol of "freedom of movement" for many Italians. Ms Depaoli — who owns six 500s — said she hoped the new version would "appeal to the young, just as the original did to us in the 1960s".

Nothing, however, could replace the classic Cinquecento, which "achieved an immortal place in our hearts ... it was part of our youth, our loves and our life". Four million of the originals were made in 18 years and about one million are thought to have survived. The new version will be greener and faster than the original, which had a top speed of only 95km/h. It is wired up for satellite navigation, iPods and Bluetooth, but retains the circular dials and white-leather steering wheel of the 1957 version.



Canada, che guaio

Il governo canadese ha deciso di vietare l'elettorato passivo agli italiani

Il Viceministro Danieli sottovaluta il problema. Tremaglia, ci manchi!

Gian Luigi Ferretti

Il Viceministro Danieli l'8 marzo: "Non ritengo opportuno commentare voci ma solo fatti. Per quanto riguarda il voto in Canada posso solo confermare che sia il Ministro degli Esteri che il sottoscritto hanno a più riprese espresso al Governo canadese la posizione del Governo italiano. Da ultimo, ho personalmente proposto all'ambasciatore canadese a Roma la costituzione di un tavolo tecnico per fare una valutazione comune alla luce della prima esperienza di voto e dell'accordo tra Italia e Canada fatto in occasione delle elezioni".

Sei ore dopo l'Ambasciatore italiano a Ottawa in una conferenza stampa conferma che ormai il governo canadese ha preso la decisione anche se le comunicazione ufficiale sarà fatta solo nei prossimi giorni: i cittadini italiani residenti in Canada non potranno più candidarsi per le elezioni italiane.D'altronde, in occasione delle prime elezioni, il permesso era stato accordato a determinate condizioni. La campagna elettorale avrebbe dovuto svolgersi esclusivamente all'interno delle associazioni italiane o via propaganda inviata per posta. Invece è stato fatto largo uso di annunci radio-televisivi e si sono svolte manifestazioni pubbliche fuori dai luoghi consentiti.

Avevano avisato le autorità canadesi: Attenti, faremo un monitoraggio e un eventuale nuovo permesso sarà dato solo se avrete rispettato le nostre condizioni.Chi è causa del suo mal pianga sé stesso? Davvero strano l'atteggiamento di Danieli, che ha sottovalutato il problema. Ha forse pensato che bastasse nascondarlo sotto il tappeto per neutralizzarlo.

Quale abissale differenza da Tremaglia, che sul voto in Canada è sempre stato sul pezzo, non ha mai abbassato la guardia. Non so quante volte ha convocato l'Ambasciatore canadese, non so quante telefonate ha fatto a quello italiano. E ha sempre interessati, direi pungolato, l'allora Ministro degli esteri Fini perché la questione venisse posta, in maniera prioritaria, in ogni occasione d'incontro con il suo omologo canadese.La fortissima, incessante pressione del governo italiano ha dato suoi frutti.

Ora non è tutta colpa di Danieli. Se ha difficoltà persino a farsi ricevere dal Ministro D'Alema, in parte sarà anche colpa di quest'ultimo.Certo che non ha fatto una gran bella figura a cercare di negare quello che evidentemente già sapeva. Solo un ambasciatore impazzito avrebbe fatto le dichiarazioni che ha fatto senza aver preventivamente, e con buon anticipo, informato i suoi superiori.

Il Viceministro avrebbe dovuto prendere il primo aereo per il Canada invece di andarsene in Germania come se niente fosse. Poi dice che uno è prevenuto.Oltretutto c'è il rischio gravissimo che altri Paesi seguano l'esempio. L'Australia non è mai stata entusiasta del voto degli italiani. Corre voce che gli stessi Stati Uniti starebbero ripensando la loro posizione. Certo che non ha aiutato l'elezione al Senato di un "comunista" dell'Unione di Prodi, fatto che non giova neppure alla reputazione della comunità italiana.

Che fare? Pare che la situazione politica in Canada potrebbe portare presto a nuove elezioni. Bisogna far capire ai partiti al governo che non hanno alcuna convenienza ad inimicarsi la comunità italiana.Gli italiani del Canada,con le loro associazioni e con i loro mezzi di comunicazione, battano su questo concetto.E si impegnino al massimo, tutti uniti senza distinzione di partiti, per conseguire l'obiettivo. Come fu vinta la battagli di Rai Internationa in Canadal, anche questa battaglia può e deve essere vinta.

Lifestyles

LE ULTIME DI PIERINO

Il direttore di Rai International Badaloni deve riconoscere l'esattezza delle informazioni da noi pubblicate su convenzione, budget, palinsesto e qualità

GIAN LUIGI FERRETTI

Ho letto il comunicato finale della prima commissione del Cgie a conclusione di due giorni di lavoro. Poi l'ho riletto. Mi sono andato a lavare la faccia, mi sono stropicciato gli occhi, mi sono pulito gli occhiali, ho ingoiato delle pastiglie al fosforo e l'ho riletto un terza volta. Niente da fare, mi arrendo: non lo capisco.

Non tanto perché sia scritto in gergo (burocrat-politichese), ma perché non corrisponde a quanto ho visto con i miei occhi e sentito con le mie orecchie. Io non appartengo alla prima commissione, ma il regolamento del Cgie mi ha consentito di partecipare ai suoi lavori.

Ho presenziato solo all'audizione del direttore generale di Rai International, che, nel documento citato è sintetizzata così: *La Commissione ha concentrato il dibattito su quattro punti fondamentali. Primo su tutti, Rai International, con la Convenzione ancora da firmare dunque con risorse ancora incerte nel loro ammontare su cui poter fare riferimento, ma con la consapevolezza di migliorare un servizio che da praticamente da sempre non soddisfa i nostri connazionali.*

Ora vi racconto cosa invece è successo davvero. Badaloni ha ammesso che la convenzione fra la Presidenza del Consiglio e la Rai è di là da venire. Lui non sa, nessuno sa, quando verrà, non dico firmata, ma discussa. La Rai non ha neppure ancora preparato il documento con le sue proposte da portare al tavolo delle trattative. È quindi tuttora in vigore la vecchia convenzione.

E per fortuna, hanno detto Cretti ed altri, così anche il Cgie potrà essere coinvolto e dire la sua. A mia precisa domanda su quale sarà la cifra della convenzione, Badaloni ha risposto testualmente: "Spero che non sia inferiore a quella di prima". Quella di prima era 38 milioni di euro inclusa Iva.

La Rai girava a Rai International circa 18 milioni. Non sarà comunque più così, ha ammesso il direttore, perché la Rai ha deciso di decurtare del 15 per cento i budget di tutte le reti e tutte le testate. Esattamente come avevamo scritto noi su queste pagine. Come sia possibile migliorare notevolmente un servizio, come si va promettendo, con risorse molto inferiori, rimane un mistero di fede. "I soldi non sono tutto" mi ha replicato Badaloni. "E non fanno la felicità" gli ho risposto per contraccambiare una banalità con un'altra. Meno risorse, ma migliore qualità.

È da tempo che sentiamo sia il viceministro Danieli che Badaloni annunciare che non ci sono più gli emigrati con la valigia di cartone, che gli italiani nel mondo sono ora più evoluti e quindi è ora che Rai International non si occupi più di folklore e canzonette. Che sia nell'ambito di questa visione che Rai International ha regalato ai connazionali all'estero una full immersion sanremese, una vera e propria orgia festaiola? Se proprio si volevano inondare gli italiani nel mondo di canzonette, si potevano mandare in onda le trasmissioni Rai sul Festival, a costo zero.

Ma nossignori: Sanremo su Taccuino Italiano (intervista di Badaloni a Pippo Baudo), Sanremo su Notturmo Italiano, Sanremo su Itlica, ma soprattutto Sanremo su Sanremo International, trasmissione di Gigliola Cinquetti, da lei stessa condotta dal 27 febbraio al 2 marzo; la serata conclusiva è affidata a Daniela Massetti. Non mi è stato possibile sapere quanto è costato tutto questo, in particolare quanto ha percepito Gigliola Cinquetti. "Molto meno della Hunziker" è stata la risposta di Badaloni e, malgrado la mia insistenza, non si è schiodato da lì. In questo aiutato dal Segretario generale del Cgie intervenuto per dire: "Andiamo avanti, questo non ci interessa".

Al buon Carozza non interessa che Rai International, servizio pubblico, avendo a disposizione meno risorse, le sprechi in programmi di folklore e canzonette. Ma torniamo all'audizione, anzi ripartiamo daccapo. Piero Badaloni si è presentato puntuale ed ha sciorinato quello che io ho chiamato "Il libro dei sogni". Che musica per le orecchie sentirlo illustrare un futuro meraviglioso fatto di quanto tutti gli italiani all'estero hanno sempre desiderato da Rai International.

Affascinante davvero. Ho capito come gli eletti all'estero siano andati in brodo di giuggiole quando lo hanno sentito in occasione del loro incontro. Probabilmente non si erano accorti che

Badaloni parla al condizionale, che peraltro usa benissimo, senza scivolate. "Si potrebbe fare", "potremmo realizzare". Anch'io "potrei uscire" con Naomi Campbell o "potrei ereditare" l'impero di Berlusconi. Ma dal dire al fare... Perdipiù il boy scout (ha detto lui che gli piace essere chiamato così) fa il furbetto. Per esempio ha assicurato che "la questione del raddoppio del canone in Canada è in via di risoluzione".

Pressato con domande precise ha tirato fuori un pezzo di carta: "Ho qui un fax arrivato il 26 febbraio alle ore 1 e 53". Per farvela breve, pressa che ti pressa, sapete di che si trattava? Cristiano De Florentis, un collaboratore di Rai International in Canada, scriveva al vicedirettore Luigi Ferrari di aver avuto un incontro con il distributore e che questi gli aveva detto che il prezzo del canone era troppo basso e andava adeguato e che inoltre tutti gli abbonati erano già stati informati del nuovo importo con una lettera. Punto, tutto qui. Questo in badalonese significa essere "in via di risoluzione".

Il povero Badaloni era venuto con il proposito di lisciare il pelo al Cgie promettendo quello che lui pensava fosse tanto desiderato. Ma, come ha parlato di Rai International anche in Europa, si è beccato un fuoco di sbarramento da tutti i consiglieri del vecchio continente: "Non ci interessa. Noi vediamo i canali italiani". Neanche il suo discorsetto sull'informazione di ritorno è riuscito a convincere l'uditorio. A differenza di altre occasioni, questa volta non mi è sembrato molto entusiasta di parlare di palinsesto, anzi ho avuto l'impressione che ne avrebbe proprio fatto a meno volentieri. A quanto pare sta facendo effetto l'ondata di proteste da tutto il mondo per le ventilate chiusure di programmi. Tanto che ho assistito ad una clamorosa retromarcia per quanto riguarda Sportello Italia

Badaloni aveva annunciato di volerlo chiudere per far nascere Italia On Demand, la cui conduzione aveva dapprima proposto ad Oliviero Beha, che però pretendeva troppo, e poi a Marina Natoli, che ha declinato. Aveva addirittura già avviato le pratiche burocratiche per la chiusura. Ora pare non voglia più chiudere. Tramontata anche la sua idea di sdoppiarlo in due programmi, uno di informazioni su problemi burocratici, previdenziali e quantaltro ed uno sull'informazione circolare e di intrattenimento, che, a suo dire, ora sarebbe alquanto pasticciata.

Nella commissione tutti gli hanno chiaramente espresso la valutazione che è meglio tenere uniti i due aspetti e il direttore ha convenuto essere una buona idea. Morale: Sportello Italia non verrà più chiuso, continuerà a chiamarsi così, sarà grosso modo strutturato come adesso, ma, dice Badaloni, sarà da vedere se la conduttrice dovrà essere l'attuale o un'altra. Bah, ci sarà un fatto personale.

Per ultimo il boy scout ha lanciato la notizia bomba. Si sa, dulcis in fundo. Quale sarebbe? Il cambiamento del nome da Rai International in Rai Italia. Geniale, no? Ecco finalmente un bel segno di discontinuità dal predecessore che aveva pensato a Rai Mondo.

Tirando le somme dell'audizione, Badaloni non sa quanti soldi avrà a disposizione (senz'altro meno di prima, come abbiamo visto); sa che vorrebbe fare una televisione di qualità, ma comincia dal Festival delle canzonette; forse ha capito che non è il caso di chiudere i programmi che più piacciono.

Non è sembrato felice. In un paio di passaggi gli è scappato un "Io vorrei fare così, se non sarà possibile verrà un altro al posto mio". Probabilmente intendeva affermare di non essere un uomo per tutte le stagioni e che, se si renderà conto di non poter conseguire risultati soddisfacenti, si dimetterà.

Già il fatto che lo pensi, lascia trasparire che si stia trovando in grave difficoltà. Tuttavia, con una scrollata di spalle, ha promesso che dal 21 giugno avremo la nuova Rai International. Una bella frase ad effetto per un'uscita di scena con applausi (che non ci sono stati). Poi, sposato, il povero Badaloni si è trascinato fino a Saxa Rubra e si è messo in ferie fino al 12 febbraio.

Court: ‘Oscar’ May be Generic Term in Italian

Hollywood Reporter
By Leslie Simmons, THR, Esq.

Is "Oscar" a generic term? It may be in Italian, a Los Angeles judge has found in a decision to deny summary judgment in a case brought by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which organizes the world's most prestigious movie awards. The Academy, which aggressively protects its "Oscar" name and image, filed suit against Italian broadcaster RAI International for trademark infringement over its broadcast of several awards programs using the word "Oscar." Among the programs: Wine Oscars, Fashion Oscars, TV Oscars and Music Oscars, according to AMPAS' attorney, David Quinto. RAI International is distributed by satellite firm EchoStar Communications Corp., which is also named as a defendant in the lawsuit. According to the suit, RAI broadcast the "Oscar" shows to U.S. subscribers as well as those in Italy. In denying AMPAS' motion for summary judgment, U.S. District Court Judge Audrey Collins wrote that there is no question that the Oscar mark is strong in the English language and, "The use of 'Oscar' to describe an award or awards program is arbitrary or fanciful and deserves maximum protection. However, EchoStar has presented evidence showing that the word 'Oscar' could be considered generic in Italy and in the Italian language." The awards programs were shown in the United States, but were broadcast in Italian. And the Academy, Collins concluded, didn't object to EchoStar's evidence that RAI programming is aimed at Italians

living abroad.

"EchoStar presents evidence that the meaning of 'Oscar' in the Italian-language programs is quite different than the meaning of 'Oscar' in English," Collins wrote in the March 6 opinion. The shows also used words in their titles besides "Oscar" and appeared to focus on achievement in Italian industries other than entertainment. But Quinto said non-Italian citizens watch RAI in the United States, including Americans who want to brush up on their Italian. To them, there is no confusion as to what "Oscar" means, Quinto said. "The Academy has already requested that EchoStar produce its complete customer list, and we'll engage a customer market expert to gauge whether there is actual confusion," Quinto said. "It doesn't end the case. The court has simply said on the record before it (that) the evidence was insufficient to grant the motion." EchoStar's Los Angeles attorney, Kathy Jorrie, said the decision by Collins was significant because the court recognized that words have different meanings in different languages. "In our case, because 'Oscar' means 'award' to the Italian language, it is not likely that an Italian viewer would confuse Italian titles such as 'Oscar del Vino' (Wine Award) or 'La Kore — Oscar della moda' (La Kore Fashion Award) to have any connection with (AMPAS) simply because of the inclusion of the word 'Oscar' in the title of such foreign-language programs," she said.

Entertainment

When Being Italian was a Crime

Part I

During World War II, some 10,000 Italian immigrants in America were displaced. Another 50,000 lived under curfew. Others spent months or years in internment camps.

The Village Voice
by Sarah Goodyear

This is the way my grandmother tells it: On a quiet day in March of 1942, two strange men walked through an unlocked door into the house in Mamaroneck where she lived with my grandfather and my mother, who was not yet six months old. These men, dressed in suits and fedoras, did not knock. They did not ring the bell. They came right in and proceeded up the stairs and into the room where my grandfather was working. They asked him, “Are you Ezio Pinza?” He admitted he was. They pulled out their FBI badges. One of them said, “In the name of the president of the United States, we place you under arrest.”

They searched his house. They put him in a car. They drove him down to the Foley Square courthouse in Manhattan. They fingerprinted him and interrogated him and then they took him to a detention center that was ready and waiting on Ellis Island—the same place he had first entered the country 15 years earlier. They took away his belt, his tie, and his shoelaces. He was to remain there in a crowded dormitory for most of that spring.

He was not told the substance of the charges against him. He was not allowed an attorney in the hearings on those never-revealed charges. His offense was being an Italian national, four months shy of his U.S. citizenship, in a country that had just declared war against Japan, Germany, and Italy. People who did not like him were whispering about his sympathy for his native land and his alleged Fascist tendencies. That was enough for J. Edgar Hoover.

My grandfather was a famous man, the leading basso at the Metropolitan Opera, and his arrest was reported prominently in the national press. He became Hoover’s trophy. “FBI’s Been Watching Him: Pinza, Met’s Basso, Jailed as Duce’s Pal,” read the headline in the Washington News. “Pinza, an Italian and therefore an enemy alien, played the wrong role; he boasted of his friendship with Mussolini.” Another paper published a cartoon of him dressed as the devil for his upcoming role as Mephisto in Faust, being led away by a stony-faced G-man under the caption “Appearances are against him.” As bewildering as his situation was, my grandfather was lucky. The same fame that got him noticed by the FBI also led to his release after 11 weeks. Thomas Mann wrote a letter to the feds in his support, as did New York Italian anti-Fascist leader Carlo Tresca.

Other Italians in America didn’t have such important friends. A few spent months and even years in internment camps in places as isolated as Montana. On the West Coast, Italian nationals were forbidden to enter neighborhoods or entire towns that were deemed to be of military importance, and some of them lost their jobs and their homes as a result. Some 10,000 people were displaced; another 50,000 lived under curfew. Fishermen were barred from their boats. Families were separated. Businesses failed. Yet while most Americans now know about the wartime internment of the Japanese, who won reparations and an apology from the government in 1988, few are aware that Italians—the largest immigrant group in the country at that time, with some 600,000 Italian resident aliens in the United States—were affected at all.

In an effort to bring the story into the national consciousness, two New York Congressmen, Democrat Eliot Engel and Republican Rick Lazio, are sponsoring a bill that would force the government to publicly acknowledge what happened to the Italian American community during World War II. The legislation does not ask for remuneration, or even an apology. Instead, it would force the government to open its files and publish a list of all who were detained, interned, arrested for curfew violations, or otherwise persecuted under the executive order. The legislation also calls for “[a] review of the wartime restrictions on Italian Americans to determine how civil liberties can be better protected during national emergencies.” And it calls for government financial support of documentaries and exhibits that would tell the story.

“We’re trying to write history correctly,” says John Calvelli, administrative assistant to Representative Engel. “It’s a vindication of what happened to Italian Americans during the war. I

think it’s an important story to be told.”

[Let me Preface the next three Paragraphs by Stating that Prof Philip Cannistraro, who recently passed, spent most of his life focusing on Italian Fascism, that continued to remind people of a period of Italy’s past that reflects negatively. Below When Italians are asking for something like the Jews, the Japanese, and the Germans asked for, Cannistraro is opposed. It makes you wonder about his Motives.

We in the Jewish community First ask: Is it good for the Jews? And act according to our best Interests!!! Cannistraro, Jerry Krase, Joe Scorria, among others all affiliated with the Calandra Institute, and/or the American Italian Historical Association, seem to do just the opposite: “Is it Negative for the Italians? Then Lets do it ! SAD!”]

Not all Italian Americans are convinced the bill is meaningful or necessary. “I’m not a believer in that legislation,” says Philip Cannistraro, a historian and professor of Italian American studies at Queens College. “I believe it’s a lot to do about not very much. It’s not in the same category as what happened to the Japanese. I’m not defending what happened, but you have to see it in the context of the times.” Cannistraro points out that intense political pressure from the New York Democratic and labor establishments convinced President Roosevelt to lift the enemy-alien designation from Italian Americans on Columbus Day, 1942. Germans, Japanese, and other nationalities bore the label, and its restrictions on their civil liberties, until the end of the war.

“Roosevelt’s entire reelection to the presidency was based on the big-city ethnic vote,” says Cannistraro. Immigrant-controlled

Tammany Hall was the key to New York’s support for the Democrats. Roosevelt had already lost ground with New York Italians when, before the 1940 election, he called Italy a back-stabbing nation for entering into an alliance with Germany. He didn’t want to risk the 1944 election as well.

What Cannistraro calls “reverse prejudice” against Italians also played a role on the easing of restrictions. “There’s a famous Roosevelt quote,” he says. “‘We don’t have to worry about the Italians. They’re not a dangerous people, they’re just a nation of opera singers.’” To the descendants of those who were wrongly imprisoned as enemy aliens, however, the bill’s aims sound modest enough. But bureaucracy moves slowly when national security is not perceived to be at stake. The legislation, introduced in 1997, just passed the House last November. Now, 58 years after my grandfather was removed from his home and thrown into captivity, it awaits action in the Senate.

Supporters of the bill say it’s worth waiting to set the record straight. “Was there one act of sabotage by an Italian American? No,” says Calvelli. “Legally, what we did is we put people in jail for something they may have done in the future. The simple fact that the leadership of the United States Army considered interning 600,000 resident aliens is incredible. I think it’s a precursor to the House Un-American Activities Committee. And as you start looking at the story, it becomes even more obscene.” identity crisis Why has this story been hidden for so long?

In my own family, it was a dark chapter that was rarely discussed. Although I was encouraged to take pride in the musical accomplishments of my grandfather, who died several years before I was born, it was not until I was in my teens that anyone told me how his nationality had affected his life, and the life of his wife and daughter, during the war.

My grandmother, I eventually learned, had spent much of her time traveling back and forth to Washington in an effort to free her husband. She left my infant mother in the care of a nurse; my mother became gravely ill and had to be hospitalized, while her father was locked away and her mother’s attentions were deeply divided.

Continued In Next Issue April 2007



Leave the Bun Thit Nuong. Take the Cannoli

Any Wedding Planning has it’s challenges, near nervous breakdowns, and battles!!! But then their is the Multi Cultural one.

The Sydney Morning Herald
Anh DangMarch

You’d think planning a wedding would be fun - choosing the wedding gown, cake, flowers and colour schemes. Not fun at all if you’re planning a multicultural one. I’m a Vietnamese girl about to marry an Italian boy. We haven’t set a date yet, but already, it’s turned out to be a war between the pho eaters and pasta lovers.

The biggest battle so far is the one over food; both cultures are fiercely proud of their national cuisines. My soon to be in-laws refuse to have their friends eating out of small bowls and using chopsticks. It’s uncivilised.

My family has adopted a more subtle war strategy. They’ve said to me, “Darling, you can do what you like. It doesn’t matter if our friends and family don’t eat.” The vast majority of older Vietnamese people have never eaten pasta or cheese and won’t want to try them just for me. Friends have suggested taking a middle ground - we could serve Indian food or Western food and make everyone miserable. I like the sound of that.

There’s also the minor battle to have a traditional Vietnamese tea ceremony before the church one. The fiance’s parents were aghast at the thought; it’s just too foreign. Without their

support, it can’t happen. Score: Italians 1, Vietnamese 0.

The battle for the priest has been waged and won. We’re having a priest who speaks both Vietnamese and English, if not fluent in either. Italians 1, Vietnamese 1.

The battle over the number of people to invite ended in a draw. If both sets of parents had their way, they’d invite everyone from their villages in Kinh Be and Randazzo. My fiance and I put our foot down - 100 people for each set of parents and 50 people for us. Italians 2, Vietnamese 2. Even the dance floor has become a battlefield. The Italians love their Dean Martin, the Vietnamese their karaoke. If we don’t find the right balance, it could turn bloody.

This might sound drastic, but let me tell you there are many mixed marriages out there, and I don’t think it’s smooth sailing for any of them. Compromises must be made, battles are lost and won on both sides, and more often than not, it’s the bride and groom who lose the war. By now, I imagine many of you are willing me to elope. But not this girl. The guilt I would be subjected to from both sides, whose only common ground is that they’re both Catholic, would make my life not worth living. After all, the wedding is just one day but the guilt trip could last a lifetime.

Announcements

Italian Classes

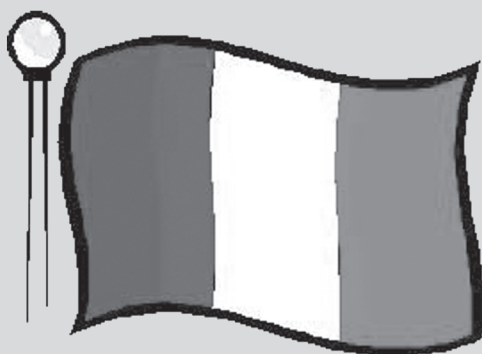
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Pat Adamo - 10:00 venerdì

Sharon Buglione - 11:00 domenica

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2007

April/Aprile

15th

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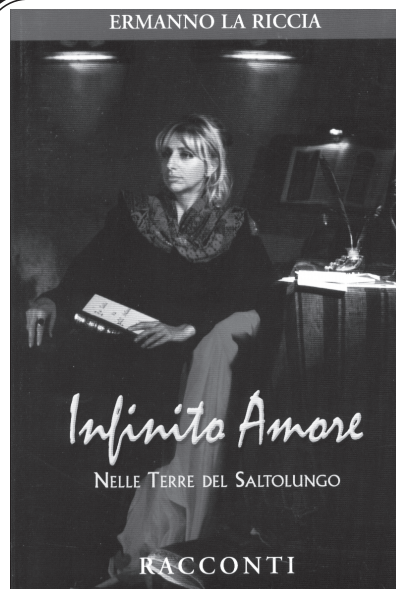
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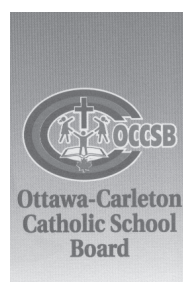


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