



NOTIZIE

della Famèe Furlane di New York

20-08 127 Street College Point, NY 11356

SEPTEMBER SETEMBAR SETTEMBRE 2010

OPINIONE

Ida Corvino Miletich

As the Famèe Furlane celebrates its 81st Anniversary, the issue of identity continues to remain a dominant theme in our on-going dialogue. Every “fogolâr furlan” (and there are more than two hundred in the world today across the continents), is tied to the homeland in Friuli by an invisible umbilical chord. Nevertheless, in a global society where culture is subject to homogeneity, the survival of a minority culture and regional ethnic identity becomes highly problematic without the support of institutional resources. The issue is intensely debated in Friuli today where a friulan identity faces absorption by other, stronger identities: “friulgiuliana, triveneta, padana, italiana, globale.” It is primarily for this reason that a strong movement for an autonomous Friulan state has emerged in recent years.

To understand the complexity of the issue, one must possess more than a superficial knowledge of Friulan history and geography and the changes that have taken place over time. A wealth of information on the subject is found in a collection of essays edited by Federico Vicario in a tiny volume published in Italian in 2005 by the Societat Filologjiche Furlane entitled *Lezioni di Lingua e Cultura Friulana*. The work serves to provide cultural content to support instruction in the Furlan language, widespread throughout Friuli now, since legislation passed by the Parliament in Italy in 1999 and the legislature of the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia in 1996, for the protection of minority languages, went into effect in the early years of the present decade.

In an essay dedicated to “Identità”, Raimondo Strassoldo examines the many factors associated with the word, including knowledge of language, geography, landscape and literature, the arts, architecture and popular traditions. In a single paragraph, Strassoldo gallops through centuries of history from the early

Roman conquest, through the spread of Christianity from Aquilea, the Lombard settlement in Forum Iulli, (598) the establishment of the Patriarcate, the emergence of a distinctive friulan language and culture, the “Patria del Friul”, (1077-1420) recurring invasions, pestilence, unrest, centuries of Venetian and Austrian domination, (1420-1797) Napoleonic rule, the Risorgimento and annexation to Kingdom of Italy, (1866) persistent economic hardship, massive immigration, (1880-1970), the devastation of two world wars, the earthquake of 1976, economic rebirth and integration into a New Europe. Each historical moment warrants in-depth attention.

There are many resources available to us today to inspire and guide us in our efforts to establish a “Friulan identità” in the cosmopolitan society of New York. To begin, we need only examine the excellent collection of books in our own library. Thanks to the support of EFASCE, we have begun the study of the Italian language. It is only a first step...to be continued.

Italian Heritage and Culture Month October 2010

A Salute to Italian and Italian American Women
Honoring Dr. Maria Montessori:
An Internationally Renowned Educator & Physician

For a calendar of events, visit: www.italyculturemonth.org

Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York

Columbus Day Parade

Fifth Avenue, From 44th to 79th Street

Monday, October 11

For more information, visit: www.columbuscitizensfd.org

Columbus Citizens Foundation

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ralph Cefalo, Gina Dosso Crimani, Richard De Marco, Justin Dell'Aglio, Mark Dell'Aglio, Anthony Fraraccio, John & Josephine Giannasco, Diana Toneatto Giordano, Debra Mayo, Steven J. Pavaglio, Arturo Ressi di Cervia, Mark Rosa, Marina Belcic & Renato Scherbi, Mark F. Sesti, Richard M. Sesti, Robert A. Sesti, Anna M. Toneatto Tartara

IN MEMORY - SERGIO ROSA

Dear Grandpa: Whatever happens, I hope you know that I love you with all of my heart. I know that you've been struggling for so very long and that things are coming to the final stretch. But Grandpa you do not need to worry because when something does happen, I know you will be in a better place. Do not worry Grandpa, they will still have Direct TV in heaven and plenty of candy. I love you Grandpa. We all do. - *Deanna Mayo*

* * *

The loss of Sergio has been felt deeply by everyone especially his friends at the Club that always remember his love for them and the humor that he used to convey and share that love. When I think of my father-in-law, Sergio, I can't help but smile because he always treated me with respect and kindness; and he always made, me a Cuban, feel like a genuine Friulano. I am proud to say that I knew and loved Sergio, and I see a little bit of him in all of the members of the Furlane Club. - *Mike Mayo*

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IN MEMORY - ROSETTA SAMAROTTO

The death of Rosetta Scrosoppi Samarotto, a lifelong member of the Famèe Furlane and personal friend, has deeply saddened us all. Rosetta served as the Recording Secretary of the Famèe in the late Eighties and early Nineties. She also was instrumental in recruiting me as a member in 1989, the result of many persistent phone calls!

Rosetta left San Daniele in the early years of World War II. A highly cultured woman, she became a governess for the Principessa Colonna di Stiliano and her family and later for the Baronessa Elena Nisco. After some time, she entered the service of the British Ambassador to Italy, accompanying the family in their travels throughout Europe. Eventually, she came to the United States when the same Ambassador was transferred to a post in Washington, D.C. Rosetta told stories of having visited thirty-two states in the Union during this time.

Rosetta met the late Alessandro Samarotto, a native of Piedmont, in Washington, D.C. in 1949. For many years, they were both regulars at the Famèe. Our condolences are extended to her daughter, Alexa, Deputy Director of the Department of Civilian Employees, NYC Police Department and the family of her son Frankie, a Professor of Music at the University of Indiana. - *Ida Corvino Miletich*

SEARCH FOR LOST MONEY

You may be entitled to receive some of the over \$10 Billion in unclaimed funds in New York State.

Unclaimed funds are monies that have been dormant or forgotten about and are now under the supervision of the New York State Comptroller. Examples of unclaimed funds include uncashed checks, mortgage insurance refunds and old bank accounts.

If there are unclaimed funds, in your name or that of a deceased relative that you may be an heir to, you may be able to recover them by filing a claim with the New York State Comptroller's Office.

To see if there are unclaimed funds in your name or the name of a deceased relative, you can perform a free search by visiting the website,

<https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/>

THE FAMÈE FURLANE NEWSLETTER

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To contribute to the Notizie, please email:
newsletter@fameefurlane-ny.com

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PRESENTING FROM THE PROVINCE OF UDINE, CRISTIAN MIOLA AND ALBERTO BUSETTINI

We are looking forward to their Christmas Concert at the Clubhouse during which they will present their new CD. Popular Italian and Holiday songs, as well as famous arias will be performed by Cristian Miola with Alberto Busettini on the keyboard.



Cristian Miola, a young tenor from Udine, only recently discovered his beautiful voice and a passion for singing and opera. He began his musical journey studying under Maestro Alberto Busettini and at the Conservatory of Music in Udine, under the famous mezzosoprano Mirna Pecile and the soprano Liana Tarussio. He has performed in Italy, Austria, the Netherlands and Hungary.

Alberto Busettini, a harpsichordist from Udine, specializes in early music. Acclaimed also as a soloist, he is highly accomplished and renowned throughout Europe for his ensemble performances. He performs in Italy and abroad, and is the founder of the ensemble “Le Stravaganze Armoniche”.

Alberto has conducted, as Maestro al Cembalo, L’Orfeo by Claudio Monteverdi and Dido & Aeneas of Henry Purcell. He also works as continuo player with the internationally-performing Junges MusikPodium Barocque Orchestra. Alberto Busettini is also known for his teaching skills and as a choir director and since 2009 has been the conductor of the “Le Humane Virtù” orchestra. Alberto studied at the Conservatorio “A. Steffani” in Castelfranco Veneto, and at the prestigious Accademia Chigiana of Siena.

**The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, New York, October 19 - 23, 2010**

The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, enthusiastically announced the American debut of “**PINOCCHIO The Italian Musical**” for one week only October 19 - 23.



“**PINOCCHIO The Italian Musical**” is based on the most popular Italian fairytale, “The Adventures of Pinocchio,” written in 1881 by Carlo Collodi. This modern musical adaptation features a diverse genre of music, including music from *I Pooh* – and is ideal for children and adults of all ages.

Tickets are \$87, \$70 and \$47. To Purchase Tickets please contact The Kaye Playhouse Box office at (212) 772-4448 (M-F 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

The Kaye Theater at Hunter College is located at: 695 Park Avenue (E 68th St btw Park and Lexington Aves.).

For more information please visit www.pinocchio.musical.it.

FAMÈ FURLANE CLUB SIZZLES WITH A SUMMER BARBECUE!

Christina Maddalena

On Sunday, August 8th, the Famè Furlane Club held a fun-filled afternoon Summer Barbeque.

The preparation and cooking were done by Robert Filippi, Elaine Peressin Leist, Linda Peressin Zulic. Marcello Filippi, Hugo Peressin, Cynthia Paveglio Tomasi and Christina Maddalena also assisted them with serving the buffet-style fare. Hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, roasted potatoes, barbecue, lemon chicken, potato salad, and corn, along with refreshing vanilla ice cream for dessert, provided for a satisfying meal.

To spice up the afternoon, music was provided by Marty of Extasy, as well as baskets/raffle drawings organized by Cynthia Paveglio Tomasi, Linda Peressin Zulic, Pat Patrizio Summers and Ida Corvino Miletich. A special thanks to our friends at Riviera Ristorante for donating a gift certificate.

UPCOMING EVENT

COMEDY NIGHT - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

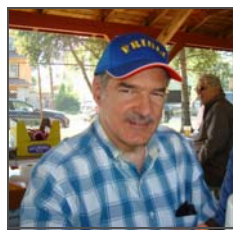
Linda Peressin Zulic

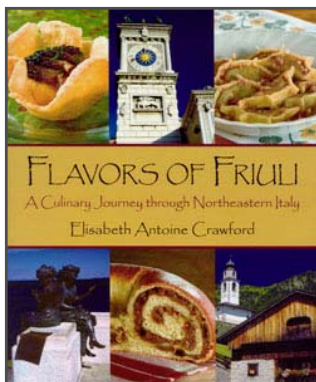
The Famèe Furlane Cub of NY held their annual picnic at Manorhaven Park on September 19th. It was attended by members, their families and friends.

The menu consisted of cotechchino, polenta, spare ribs, hot dogs and salad. The food was prepared by volunteers **Linda Peressin Zulic** and her husband **Silvio**, and **Elaine Peressin Leist** and her husband **Joe**. Also lending a hand were **Robert Filippi** and **Paul Petovello**.

Ida Corvino Miletich serenaded us with her accordion and 11 year old **Carly Sesti**, granddaughter of Marie and Frank Sesti, entertained us with a song.

It was a fun time for everyone; especially for the children with games, relay races and a scavenger hunt.





THE AUTHOR HOPES TO VISIT
THE FAMÈE FURLANE CLUB

FLAVORS OF FRIULI - A CULINARY JOURNEY THROUGH NORTHEASTERN ITALY

Source: Elisabeth Antoine Crawford

In *Flavors of Friuli: A Culinary Journey through Northeastern Italy*, **Elisabeth Antoine Crawford** has compiled eighty of Friuli's traditional recipes—including *frico* (Montasio cheese crisps), *cjalsòns* (cinnamon-laced ravioli), and *gubana* (dried fruit and nut spiral cake)—and presents them with clear instructions that any home cook can easily follow. Much more than a cookbook, *Flavors of Friuli* explores the region's history and intermingling of cultures that have contributed over centuries to its unique fusion of cuisines.

Flavors of Friuli is beautifully illustrated with 450 color photographs, including one for each recipe. The book offers a magnificent voyage through the snow-capped mountains of Carnia, the rolling hills of Friuli's wine country, and the dramatic Adriatic coastline.

To order online, visit www.flavorsoffriuli.com

ABRUZZO EARTHQUAKE

Cynthia Paveglia Tomasi

A check for the \$2,000.00 collected was presented by **Cynthia Paveglia Tomasi**, on behalf of the Famèe Furlane Club, to **Ornello Capannolo, Consigliere Nazionale of the Alpini in Italy (ANA)**, during the Adunata in Bergamo, Italy, on May 9th. ANA presented the check to Don Antonio, pastor of the church of San Giacomo, Aquila. San Giacomo is a small village of 1,200 inhabitants. The earthquake severely damaged about 40 percent of the buildings in the village and most of the population is living in two tent cities set up by the Protezione Civile. Don Antonio is committed to helping the youth overcome the hardships the earthquake caused and was very happy to receive the funds.

Pictured: Luigi Covati, President of the Associazione Nazionale Alpini Sezione New York, Cynthia Paveglia Tomasi, Financial Secretary of the Famee Furlane Club, and Ornello Capannolo.



IN MEMORY - ANGELA SPERANZA

During the last days of November, 1947, the year of the great storm, the Italian Liner Vulcania brought Angela to New York City. She established herself in the well-known Frulana Pensione, La Paulocia, located at 301 1/2 East 33rd Street. She worked as a seamstress sending most of her income home to support her ailing mother. On our first trip to Italy, her brother expressed his great appreciation, "Angela is the only one of my three sisters who helps support her mother and niece."

We met in July, 1953 and on December 4, 1954 we were married. The best move I ever made during my life. When you wed and receive the sacrament, God takes two souls and joins them into one: "Go, live together and multiply. Honor, love and respect one another until death do you part." At death, God taketh away and takes back one soul into His bosom and returns them to Heaven. My hope when I die is that I receive a place in Heaven that I may watch over her and love her like Dante loved his Beatrice, "pure and chaste from afar." We were wed for 56 years.

Angela, for what you gave me: our wonderful, loving and devoted daughter, Ilya, the love and respect given to my mother and father whom you graciously accepted to live with us until their death, 56 years of happiness, love and devotion, I say well done, Angelina, well done. Ti Bacio le mani. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the expression, it literally means "I kiss your hands" - it is only given to one held in very high esteem, devotion and love. Ti bacio le mani, Angelina, Goodbye. - **Umberto Speranza**

Cena alla Casalinga

tutti i venerdì sera da settembre a giugno

Per le prenotazioni telefonate a
Marcello Filippi: (718) 335-7382
o ad

Ines Peressin: (718) 886-6842

Email: reservations@fameefurlane-ny.com

To order fruit directly from Friuli contact:



Daniela Scandiuzzi at info@friulfruct.com

FESTA DEGLI EMIGRANTI - 2010 – RESOUNDING BUT POLITE MESSAGE: MAKE ROOM FOR US!

Source: *Messaggero Veneto* (Translated by Gina Paveglia)

The VII Annual Conference hosted by Friuli nel Mondo was held on July 31 and August 1 in Majano del Friuli. Friulani emigrants and their descendants from around the world gathered for the event. While the theme of the convention focused once again on building bridges with the younger generations, this year's meeting went further. The message sent to the "elders" was "Dateci Spazio...Make room for us!"

The conference was anything but a meeting to build bridges. It reflected the problem of Italian politics: the lack of generational change and a style of management entrusted to a kind of gerontocracy.

The newly elected president of Friuli nel Mondo, Piero Pittaro, promised to focus on better communication and expressed support for new ideas and suggestions. Christian Romanini of the China Fogolâr reminded all the speakers on the dais that he had heard the same rhetoric last year! Marco Macorig of the Fogolâr of London, added that to have a leadership role in a Club or have access to the council, one must be at least 70 years old! Silvano Maran, representing the Fogolâr of Monaco, challenged the members of the committee by demanding that they allow a younger person to take each of their places.

A survey conducted at the conference revealed that many of the younger generations have an archaic image of Friuli and they believe the Fogolâr is merely a place where one goes to play cards. Why would the presidents of the Clubs and Fogolârs want to pass the helm to the younger generations when it would require giving up related perks and benefits, including subsidized trips to Italy?

The weekend prior, July 24 and 25, EFASCE held their 33rd meeting in Maniago. The conference shared a similar theme, "A Bridge to the Future." The Assessore (of the Region FVG) Roberto Molinaro also stressed the need for a generational change within the ruling classes of the Fogolârs. The young people in leadership roles, already engaged in global communication via the internet, would greatly stimulate social, cultural and economic exchange for all the communities everywhere.

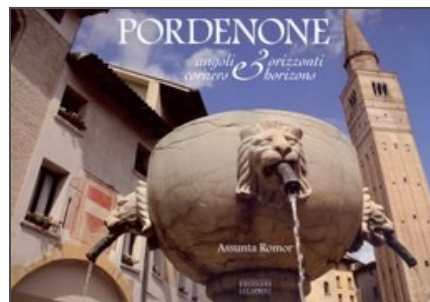
The theme for both conferences this year is a reoccurring one. However, the reaction from the descendants was resounding in Majano. The message was a strong one, indeed. If the Fogolârs do not make room for the younger generations in significant leadership and decision making roles, the activities will continue to be limited to playing cards and eating inexpensive meals and the "Bridge to the Future" will lead nowhere. There is much food for thought in the on-going debate.

VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT FVG REGION

While visiting Friuli this past July, **Marcello** and **Joyce Filippi** and **Marie Sesti** met with the president of the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, **Renzo Tondo**.



PORDENONE ANGOLI & ORIZZONTI



PORDENONE CORNERS & HORIZONS

We have a new edition to our library collection, *Pordenone Angoli & Orizzonti*. The book is a gift from the mayor of the Commune di Pordenone, Sergio Bolzonello.

A photographic collection that tells the story of the past and present. The book is on display in the Peter J. Vissat library and available for borrowing.

ITALIAN LESSONS

A conversational level Italian class will begin this fall. The Famèe Furlane will partially fund the classes, so there will be a small fee for the lessons. Anyone interested in attending the class should contact, Giovanna Czander at gczander@gmail.com

EFASCE has approved financing for the spring 2011 Italian classes.

SOGGIORNO IN FRIULI

Gina Paveglio

This past summer in Friuli, I noted places that offered quality, value, fun or simply a special memory for me.

EATING

Eurobeer, Via Colle 6, Maniago: Great for panini, töst, and primi piatti at reasonable prices.

Osteria al Cacciatore, Via Piave, 40, Maniago: Primarily serves the 'operai'; therefore, one knows they will eat well at a good price. Prix fixe lunch specializing in 'pesce' and 'cacciagione'. Ask for Giulia and let her know you are from New York!

Il Grappolo d'Oro, Piazza IV Novembre, 14, Colle di Arba: Typical osteria friulana with a fogolâr. A favorite of Enzo and Kathy Ombramonti (their cousin is the owner).



Al Giardino, Via Circonvallazione Nuova 3, Fanna: Great food and comfortable lodging. Passed a rainy afternoon with friends at the restaurant enjoying a memorable plate of gnocchi.

Prosciutterie DOK Dall'Ava, Via Gemona, San Daniele del Friuli: Recently opened restaurant adjacent to the actual factory. A menu of creative recipes with the common ingredient: prosciutto.

Gelateria Cellino, Via Cavour 4, Spilimbergo. A favorite of Franco Di Bernardo's.



Franco Di
Bernardo at
Gelateria
Cellino

EXERCISE

Maniago Nuoto, Via Marco Polo 31, Maniago: Newly opened facility with indoor lap pool, open swim area and spa. Upstairs is a fitness area. Outside is an area for sun-bathing, tennis, basketball and beach volleyball. Construction of the outdoor pool will be completed for next year.

ESTETICA

Nuova Estetica Anna, Via Roma 40, Maniago: For facials,

massage, manicure, pedicure, skin treatments, waxing.



The courtyard of
Nuova Estetica
Anna

Angela Rusconi is the owner. Set back in a courtyard, the setting is as special as the services.

FESTE

Brocante: Artistic circus and festival held in various towns of the Valcolvera. The performers utilize each and every part of a town as their stage; transforming the streets, villas, piazza into an intimate theatre setting. Typically takes place the last week in July. www.brocantiere.net



Navarons in Festa, Navarons di Meduno: The weekend before ferie agosto. Navarons, its antique setting, and the mountains are perfect back drops for this festa. Very well organized, good food with chioschi Birreria and Enoteca, both with an impressive selection of quality beer and wine. Music (generally an orchestra) for dancing that appeals to all ages. Over this 3-day festa, there are multi-themed shows and contests. In the event of rain, organizers put up the tents.

SHOPPING

Coltellerie Del Ben, Via Selva, 104, Maniago: Factory open to the public. *Excellent* quality knives that are truly works of art with prices at least 50% less than retail.

WORTH SEEING

Museo dell'arte fabbrile e delle coltellerie, Via Maestri del Lavoro, 1, Maniago: Well curated, interactive exhibit documenting the history of knife making in Maniago.

Da li' mans di Carlin, Museo, Frisanco: A work of art in miniature. With patience and skill over about a 30-year period, Carlin reproduced a working village of the Friuli from generations past.

Mostra Storico-Culturale di Cimeli Militari, Meduno: A privately curated collection (by my good friend Ilaria's father) of military articles from the Napoleonic period to the second World War.

YOUNG ADULT TRIP TO FRIULI (EFASCE 2010)

Rosa M. Jordan

Rosa, one of our youngest members, is the great granddaughter of Clemente Rosa, former president of the Famèe Furlane of N.A. Club, NY, and daughter of member Irene Rosa.

The Young Adult trip was organized by EFASCE with support from the Region of FVG.

When I'm in Friuli I feel a strange sense of belonging. This feeling goes beyond an intellectual recognition; I know that my grandfather and my great-grandparents were born there, where they lived, what they did, and who they're related to. I know some Italian and even a few words in Friulian. This feeling of belonging transcends simple blood ties. The way the mountains jut up suddenly from the plain, the cypress trees lining the fields, the *paese* with their old stone houses, *nonne* riding bicycles in high heels, or the scent of polenta and *bis-tecca* wafting through the air from a *grigliata* are all strangely comforting and familiar. In the novel *Middlesex*, Jeffery Eugenides suggests that the recollections of our ancestors are encoded in our DNA, that memories of places we may have never visited are sleeping somewhere deep inside us. Maybe he's right. Even if he isn't, going back to Friuli is an emotional experience.

This year, thanks to EFASCE and the Famèe Furlane, I got to spend two weeks travelling all over the region with nine other young adults. I was ecstatic to return to Friuli, but nervous about spending so much time with strangers in a foreign country. My fears were misplaced. By the time we had settled down in the Casa della Madonna Pellegrina in Pordenone, new friendships had been made, roommates chosen, and possible familial relations discovered. We spent almost every moment of the two weeks together, exploring the countryside in buses and on trains, taking pictures every 30 seconds, and playing jokes on each other.

The schedule we followed was bursting with lessons, tours, museum visits, and encounters with dignitaries. Our mornings were split into two parts: Italian language, and Italian culture with an emphasis on Friulian culture. We struggled with idiomatic expressions and strange constructions with our teacher, Albarosa, who was so infinitely kind and patient that we affectionately referred to her as Zia Albarosa. Learning a new language is always difficult, but she eased us gently into the intricacies of Italian and patted us soothingly each time we sputtered,

“But what does it mean *in English?*” Our culture lessons were taught by *professori* from the local *liceo*. We covered topics like Italian political organization, farm culture and industry, the environment and geography of Friuli, the history of the Romans in the region, and emigration, all in Italian. It sounds daunting, and several times we resorted to sign language, but I think something is lost by teaching Italian history and culture in English, and we had more fun than can be had in any university classroom. I still wish I had recorded us singing a song about a rooster in Friulian.

Our afternoon trips took us from the seaside in Trieste to mountains around Vajont, from the Maghredi to Venezia, from museums to pastry shops, from libraries to vine nurseries. At every stop there were photos to be taken, art to be admired, history to be learned, and important people to meet. Each time we entered the office of an official, our teacher jokingly said, “Non fa la brutta figura!” Although we joked and laughed, there were always little moments that reminded us of the reason we were there: because this was where our families came from, and to some extent our culture. Touching the mosaics in Splimibergo, looking for pictures of our grandparents or great-grandparents at the Emigration Museum in Cavasso Nuovo, or viewing the rubble from the dam at Vajont were all emotional experiences. Things like walking down the street in San Vito or in Pordenone, or peering into the vibrant blue water at Polcenigo, or standing respectfully in a tiny chapel in Cividale triggered a rush of recognition.

It's imperative that members of the Friulian diaspora have the opportunity to return, not only to feel that emotional connection to the region, but also to learn its languages, culture, and history. Although the Friulian people are scattered around the world, they share both common roots and common traditions. For people like me, who grew up in America, returning to Friuli to see the places our families lived, to learn about their way of life and touching the things they touched is an important way to maintain our connection with our heritage and to reawaken the Friulian part of us.

* * *

YOUNG ADULT TRIP*Rosa M. Jordan*

Back row: Emily Bolan, Alex Vendramini, Marc Giordano, Danielle Giordano Caldwell
 Front row: Christina Ayana, Desiree Rosa, Rosa Jordan, Dana Adamkiewicz (glasses), Kathryn Crimani



Lago di Barcis



Villa Manin: Emily Bolan, Rosa Jordan, Desiree Rosa

LANDSCAPE IN PHOTOGRAPHY - SUMMER STUDY (EFASCE 2010)*Gina Pavaglio*

This past July, I participated in the summer study program, The Landscape in Photography, organized by Ente Friulano Assistenza Sociale Culturale Emigranti (EFASCE) with support from the Region of the Friuli Venezia Giulia. It was a 5-day photography workshop in theory and practice at the highly regarded Centro Ricerca e Archiviazione della Fotografia (CRAF) located in Lestans.

This opportunity for study was open to emigrants and their descendants of the Friuli region. We were a group of 8 from New York, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay of various professions and ages (i.e., educator, lawyer, electrician, engineer, administrator—from ages 22 to 55)—all with an enthusiasm for photography.

The 5-day workshop consisted of 2 days of history and theory followed by 3 days of practice and critique with the award-winning photographer, George Tatge. Interspersed were visits to photography exhibi-

tions, Aida Muluneh, Glimpses of Africa in San Vito al Tagliamento and Elio Luxardo, the Power of the Human Body in Spilimbergo.

The week concluded in Maniago with our participation in the 33rd Incontro dei Corregionali all'Estero, an annual meeting of emigrants and their descendants from around the world. This year's theme focused on 'a bridge toward the future'. From Friday through Sunday, the agenda was filled with presentations and discussions about the importance of connecting with and building a future with the descendants of friulani emigrants. On Sunday, the activities concluded with a 'pranzo sociale' bringing the hundreds of participants together for an afternoon lunch and an exchange of ideas.

It was a wonderful experience to further my knowledge of photography. CRAF presented a well-organized and rich program enhanced by the highly accomplished instructors and the mix of the participants. To be in Friuli and to con-

nect with Friulani from these other countries was truly marvelous. My gratitude extends to the Region of the Friuli Venezia Giulia for their support, Gina Fasan, presidente, EFASCE, as well as, Michele Bernardon, segretario, EFASCE, and CRAF.

www.efasce.it

www.craf-fvg.it



Gina Pavaglio: Taking a break from class

15 - 18 YEARS OLD TEEN TRIP (EFASCE 2010)

Amanda Belcic

This summer I went to Italy with twenty eight other students from Canada, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Florida. I am very grateful that the trip was paid for by Ente Friulano Assistenza Sociale Culturale Emigranti (E.F.A.S.C.E.). We went all over the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia because we all are descendants of Friulani.

Each afternoon we visited a different city. We saw churches and other sights. We also had free time to roam around and do as we pleased. We shopped and we ate gelato, which, I must say, I ate three times a day and I rarely ate the same flavor.

My favorite place to visit was Trieste where we saw Miramare, a castle with stairs leading to the sea that is protected by the World Wildlife Fund (W.W.F.) so we couldn't go down. But we could see the coast of Slovenia about twenty kilometers away. The castle's windows looked out to the sea and to flower gardens with butterflies.

Even though we had classes in the morning on the basics of the Italian

language, it was still difficult to understand many things because not all of us could understand Italian. For example, our plans were fouled up our last weekend when a dinner was organized but we didn't know about it because of the language barrier. We also found that when we went out to dinner, the cuisine was almost all meat and some of us are vegetarians. How could we tell the chefs that we couldn't eat the food when they were kind enough to prepare it for our group?

All in all, the entire experience was a lot of fun. We would go out for ice cream, and walk around town in the evenings. At night we would do each other's hair and argue about shutting off the lights. I made a number of new friends. Next year, maybe you will say, "Ciao" and hear, "Benvenuti in Italia"!

Gina Fasan, president of EFASCE, with **Amanda Belcic** and **Marcello Filippi**.



Amanda with her certificate of achievement



MEMBERS IN FOCUS

CONFERIMENTO DELLA LAUREA

Nadia Tomasi, was born and educated initially in Italy before moving to the United States with her parents at the age of eight. In New York, she continued her studies taking advantage of educational opportunities both in her new country, as well as in Italy, including an introductory course in mosaic art through Friuli nel Mondo. At university, Nadia concentrated on studies in business administration and finance. Her educational training included an internship (lo stage) with Campari in Milano, Italy and a semes-

ter of study in Rome with Programma Ponte. On May 16, 2010, she earned a dual degree with honors, a Bachelor of Science in business administration and finance, from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. In reflection, Nadia noted, "My nonno Duilio Paveglio left Navarons to improve his prospects. He believed higher education led to better options and more opportunities. I wish he was here with me on this important day."



Nadia Tomasi with her parents, members **Cynthia Paveglio Tomasi** and **Mariano Tomasi**

ALESSANDRINI JR. MAKING HIS MARK AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Source: Southampton Press, August 5, 2010

Paul Alessandrini Jr., grandson of members **Paul and Anna Maria Alessandrini**, and a senior at St. Anthony's High School in Huntington, went 3-1 in the 189-pound weight class for Team New York, at the Junior National Dual Meet in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, earlier this summer. Alessandrini Jr. then went 12-0 for Team New York at the Dirty South Duals in Virginia and 2-2 at the Junior National Freestyle and Greco-Roman Championships in Fargo, North Dakota.

In the Dirty South Duals, Alessandrini Jr. raked up 11 pins and a 9-1 victory to go an impressive 12-0 throughout the tournament.

The nationals in Fargo is perhaps the toughest individual tournament in the country for wrestlers. State champions from every state go to Fargo to try and become the best in the country. Alessandrini Jr., who coasted through the Catholic High School Athletic Association's New York State Wrestling Championship in February to become champion of the 189-pound weight class, lost his first match. Worried he was going to go 0-2 and make an early exit. He rebounded though with wins over last year's seventh place finisher and an All-American from Wisconsin, which he called the biggest win of his career.

"I didn't think it was going to be that tough," Alessandrini said. "I just went in and did the best I could and won all the matches. It was a good tournament for me."

NICK ALESSANDRINI HELPS RESCUE PASSENGERS OF DOWNED SEAPLANE

Source: The Easthampton Star, June 17, 2010

Two passengers who were aboard a seaplane that had a forced landing in Little Peconic Bay off North Sea were rescued by **Nick Alessandrini** and friends who happened to be nearby.

Nick Alessandrini, grandson of members **Paul and Anna Maria Alessandrini**, was at his family home on the inlet at the time. Acting quickly, Nick took the family's 26-foot powerboat out to the

plane fighting gusty winds and choppy waters.

The plane was foundering, sinking off to the left and leaking fuel. Nick found the passengers on the plane's pontoons where they were able to board his boat safely.



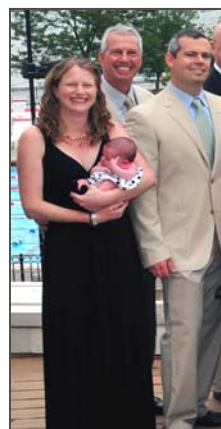
Nick Alessandrini in the center with downed seaplane in the background

CONGRATULATIONS TO I NONNI



Congratulations to **Linda and Silvio Zulic** on the birth of their granddaughter, Alexa Marie Hilos, daughter of Linda's daughter Erica and her husband Angelo.

Alexa was born on June 20, 2010, weighing 8 pounds, 12 ounces, 21 inches long. She joins big brother Michael and cousins John and Alex Giannis.



Congratulations to **John and Nancy Magnan** on the birth of their granddaughter, Campell Amelia. Their son John and his wife Heather are the proud parents. Campbell Amelia was born on July 23rd at Cornell Presbyterian Hospital.

AUGURI!

From Marie Sesti:

Robert Sesti, son of Marie and Frank Sesti, celebrated his 50th birthday on September 15th.

Happy Birthday, Robert.

From John Magnan:

Our mom, **Nelsa Pia (Coletti) Magnan**, celebrated her 90th birthday on August 20, 2010. A party was held on Sunday, August 22nd at The New York City Athletic Club in Pelham, New York.



Nelsa with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

There were over 90 family members and dear friends present to honor her birthday. Nelsa is doing extremely well and is constantly in the kitchen preparing a meal for one of her children, grandchildren or great grandchildren. She stays active doing her daily ritual of watering and caring for her garden. May God keep her healthy.

I NOSTRI GIOVANI**ASHLEY PAVEGLIO**

Ashley Paveglio, daughter of **Stefano** and **Linda Paveglio**, is studying in Firenze, Italy, for the fall 2010 semester. Ashley is in her junior year at Marist College where she is majoring in education, psychology and special education.

While in Italy, Ashley's studies will focus on language, history and culture.

PETER SESTI

Peter Sesti, grandson of **Marie** and **Frank Sesti**, started his freshman year at Fordham Prep.

DANTE SESTI

Dante Sesti, grandson of **Marie** and **Frank Sesti**, started his Freshman year at St. Anthony's in Huntington, LI.

**UP CLOSE: MARC LUPINACCI**

By Irene Rosa



Marc Lupinacci is a member of our Club, who has studied in Italy and currently works in the finance industry. You can meet him at some of the Friday Cenas, but the best place to catch him is while he is teaching the Italian classes at the Club.

Can you tell us about your Italian heritage?

My grandfather came to the US from Friuli some years before my grandmother. He stowed away on a boat and didn't have a passport, but there were many people in his village with the same last name and one of his 'paisans' gave him his passport, he just had to switch the photo.

My father's family is from Calabria so my dad understands Calabrese and Italian pretty well, but didn't really speak it. My mom's parents went to night school to learn English when they came to the US and only spoke English to my mom and her sisters. Times were different back then and my grandparents wanted to assimilate. Speaking English was a way for that to happen.

Do you visit Italy?

I visited Friuli for the first time when I was 13. I went with my grandmother. She would go back to Italy every 5 or 7 years to visit relatives. I decided I wanted to go and finally after begging my mom and grandmother for months, they decided to let me go with her. I think my mom may have thought that I was young and probably would not want to go when the time came, and money was of course a factor. My grandmother paid the first time and when I decided to go back I worked every summer and saved my birthday money.

I can't think of a reason why I wanted to go to Friuli, I just knew I wanted to go! I was very close to my grandmother and am sure that had a lot to do with it.

I actually didn't speak Italian. I borrowed some Italian language tapes from the local branch of the library so that I would know the basics, but It didn't help much my first trip, all my relatives spoke to my grandmother in Friulan, so I was dazed and confused. I don't even think I realized that the Friulan language existed before that trip. I spoke to my grandmother in English and luckily I had a cousin who spoke pretty good English.

Now that I work I try to go back to Italy at least every two years. Luckily I was able to go both this year and last year for weddings.

But you are fluent in Italian now?

Yes, I've spent many years studying Italian. I have an undergraduate degree in Italian. I've also studied abroad in Rome for a semester at John Cabot University and attended a great summer program in Rome called Pro-

gramma Ponte. I also attended a summer Italian and Friulan language program at the University of Udine.

You got your bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut, but you got your master's at MIB School of Management in Trieste, Italy. Why did you decide to do your masters in Italy instead of the US?

I was attending a program at MIB School of Management called Origini. Our members might be interested in the program: www.mib.edu (click on 'programmes,' then 'specialization courses'). I had expressed interest in the program and they offered me a scholarship so I decided to attend the Master program.

Would you like to study there again?

I think I probably will at some level, maybe for a course at the Scuola di Mosaicisti in Spilimbergo...who knows... maybe I'll hit the lotto and will be able to spend a few months each year there! I'd love to do research on minority languages in Friuli or Calabria. I'm not sure I'll ever get to though.

Is the ability to finance study in Italy the only factor?

It's a reason...but not the only reason. I have limited vacation with my full time job and in this economy I am hesitant to rock the boat by asking for extra vacation (which I know would be shot down).

I work in Finance. I think there are some finance jobs that can be very gratifying. When I began my career, I hoped to work as a consultant for third world countries helping them to initiate financial reform as a way to create stability and improve the lives of their citizens. The current work I do doesn't allow me to do that, but it pays the bills! My current position will not evolve, but I could move into different areas, where there may be more of an opportunity to learn.

Would you suggest that young members of our club study in Italy?

Yes, definitely, our club has this great resource because we have access to a whole Region of Italy and over the past 3-4 years Friuli Nel Mondo, EFASCE and the Region have offered fantastic educational programs. I wish more students would attend. It's a tremendous learning opportunity and opens you up to a new world. I also think you can never really know Italy until you speak the language. Hopefully we (the club) can reciprocate and host some Friulian students here in the US in the future. I would certainly do my part to help!

Can you tell us about the experiences that you had while living and studying in Italy?

On a personal level it's been a blessing. I've met some great people in Italy and have met some friends for life. Living and studying in Italy has opened my eyes to a whole different culture and given me a better understanding of the world we live in. On a professional level, experiences equal knowledge and I have so much more knowledge today after having studied in Italy then I would have if I hadn't studied

in Italy.

For example, I now speak Italian. It's really difficult to learn a language when you're not immersed in it every day, and learning Italian has allowed me to read books that aren't printed in English. There is definitely a part of my brain that now thinks 'in Italian' because I learned in Italian. There is of course a tremendous literary tradition that just makes more sense when you read it in Italian. I don't think you can really understand a culture or a people if you don't speak their language!

Growing up I thought of myself as Italian-American, but that was before studying in Italy and Friuli and before I could really speak Italian. I don't really identify myself as Italian-American anymore. I guess if someone asks in light conversation I will say I'm Italian-American, but I grew up American with hints of Italian tradition and accents of Italian culture.

You have a love for the Italian literary tradition, you appreciate your ability to read original works in Italian, and you harbor an affinity to study minority languages. How did you end up working in Finance?

I picked finance because it was more difficult than marketing. I attended some marketing classes and the professors were saying ridiculous things like "the customer is always right" and "whatever the customer wants". But I wholeheartedly disagreed while the rest of the students were eating it up, I wanted to be able to measure results to know an answer was correct because we had concrete data. When I read that finance was one of the higher paid careers, I decided to stick with finance.

I still think teaching is my calling and I think what I'm doing now is temporary and there will be more interesting opportunities for me in the future.

Are you interested in opportunities overseas?

I think my progression in finance will gain international flavor. I do hope to work abroad and London has a large banking industry.

What is it about Friuli that is so important to you?

I head to Friuli because it is home for me. I've spent many months there when I was a young adult and it's very nostalgic for me. There is something unique like the sweet smell of grappa lingering in a coffee early in the morning or the unique accent that Friulani have when they speak Italian that brings back fantastic memories. I think, in a way, I go back to Friuli not because I have to, but because I need to.

ORIGINI

Irene Rosa



I imagine that the picture featured above is the classroom where my mother studied at the Famèe Furlane clubhouse on 34th Street when she was a girl. I found the picture in the Souvenir Journal for the 1939 Grand Annual Ball. My mother was always very proud of the fact that she had studied Italian at school and that she could enjoy Italy's cultural heritage. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) explains that *cultural heritage is not limited to material manifestations, such as monuments and objects that have been preserved over time. This notion also encompasses living expressions and the traditions that countless groups and communities worldwide have inherited from their ancestors and transmit to their descendants, in most cases orally.* Certainly, my cultural heritage has drawn me to become a member the Famee Furlane Club. And just as certainly, it pains me that I do not fully benefit from my membership because I do not speak Italian.

My parents were fluent in both Italian and English. Yet, they loved me and provided discipline and guidance in Italian. Interestingly, I have a B.S. in Spanish since those classes were, and still are, readily available. Since Spanish-speakers assume that I am a native speaker, it is as if I cheated. Spanish just sounded so familiar as I sat in class as a teenager. I could easily roll the letter *r*, recognize tons of vocabulary, and found that Spanish grammar was similar to the *italianate* grammar that my family combined with English vocabulary— *close the light* instead of *turn it off*, for example.

Yet considering that I felt cherished when my parents spoke to me in Italian and merely instructed or directed when they spoke in English, perhaps I was instead cheated. I've lived

longer without my parents than with them, so I can't verify the accuracy of my memories. Still, I must have spoken some semblance of Italian as I clearly remember answering "tonno" in kindergarten and then being sent to sit facing the corner. Many times in that corner, I remember pondering how I would figure out which words the teacher liked and which she didn't. As a language teacher myself now, I realize that my five-year-old mind hadn't yet created a distinction between Italian and English. As the academic instruction that I received relegated Italian to the corner of the room where I was punished, as well as the Special Education classes where I learned shame and ridicule, my fragile identity alienated me from my family and from my right to my own cultural heritage. I learned to hate my *Italianess*, and I hadn't yet even begun to notice my *Friulianess*. I learned that I ate weeds instead of salad, that playing the cello wasn't cool, that I had a big nose, that I was darker than my classmates, that I talked funny, thought funny, etc....

Would it have been different if I had the benefit of institutional supports such as a native language school like the one my mother attended at Famèe Furlane? UNESCO recognizes that the most crucial factor for maintaining linguistic identity is *the attitude of the speaker community toward its own language, it is essential to create a social and political environment that encourages multilingualism and respect for minority languages so that speaking such a language is an asset rather than a liability.* I wish that there had been a movement counter to the educational policy that insisted that I favor English so strongly that my development in the language of my family was obliterated. Obviously, I had the capacity to have learned both simultaneously since I am now fluent in Spanish instead of Italian. For example, one of my cousins speaks Friulian, Italian, Spanish, and English.

But, she lives in Italy which has an official policy of fostering multilingualism and cultural diversity. Since Friulian, with only 600,000 speakers worldwide, is classified by the United Nations (U.N) as an endangered language because children no longer learn the language as mother tongue in the home, the Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia-Giulia enacted *Legge 15 dicembre 1999, n.482 Norme in materia di tutela delle minoranze linguistiche storiche* which supports bilingual Italian/Friulian instruction beginning in elementary school. Meanwhile in 2000, the United States Census Bureau reported that *Italian, the second-most frequently spoken non-English language in 1980 (after Spanish), had a net decline of about 800,000 speakers (50 percent decline). It is now the ninth-ranked language on the list of languages other than English spoken at home.* Ital-

ian, as a minority language in the U.S, has no such support from the federal government, nor any other governing body for that matter. Instead it is taught as a foreign language, even to students whose families speak it at home as their first language as my family did when I was a child.

According to UNESCO, *languages are threatened by external forces such as military, economic, religious, cultural or educational subjugation, or by internal forces such as a community's negative attitude towards its own language.* I may have little control over those external forces, but at least I can benefit from our community's positive attitude. Therefore, I would like to thank Famèe Furlane Club of N.A. and EFASCE for providing an Italian class comprised of professors that shared our cultural heritage as Friulian of the diaspora. Although none of the students, as descendants, had ever lived in Friuli, our professors relied on our shared heritage to conjure up lessons and exercises that were engaging and motivational. Learning Italian now, even though I am middle aged, has been an opportunity for me to honor our culture and to learn more about it, all the while feeling closer to Friuli. I can only hope that our class will continue and that the program can expand. It is our mission as a club, after all, *to organize and promote cultural, educational and social activities and share the language, culture, history, and creative arts of Friuli with friends/associates.* It would be wonderful if we could provide language and culture classes for children, expanded classes for adults with relevant cultural activities, and continued opportunities to study in Friuli. Perhaps, a club member might even be willing to teach us Friulian!



The spring Italian class sponsored by EFASCE. Classes will resume this fall.

GRAZIE EFASCE PER LE LEZIONI

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those who made the Italian lessons possible this past spring. It has always been my wish to speak Italian; and thanks to the Club, EFASCE and our teachers, it's happening!

A special thanks to Ida, Giovanna, and Mark for making the classes interesting and fun, and for being so patient with this "studente con la testa dura".

While taking the classes I couldn't help thinking that when the Club was first formed it helped newly arrived Furlani to speak English and here 80 years later, another generation is learning Italian. This is a wonderful example of how the Famèe Furlane has grown and changed from one generation to the next.

Looking forward to the next session. Again mille grazie a tutti. - **Maria Vallar Steinmetz**

I cannot begin to express how much I enjoyed the Italian lessons sponsored by EFASCE. Not only did I learn so much but, at the same time, the class had a wonderful time together. Each of the teachers were wonderfully different and made the classes something I looked forward to each week. I learned new vocabulary, renewed my forgotten conjugation of verbs and other things too numerous to name. But the one humorous thing I will never forget is learning what "tocca a me" meant when waiting in a line – good thing I now know in case I'm ever in line in Italy! I am very grateful for and enormously enjoyed the opportunity. Mentre imparavamo, ci divertivamo; abbiamo passato delle belle mattinate insieme - **Paula Cimator**

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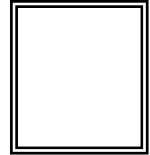
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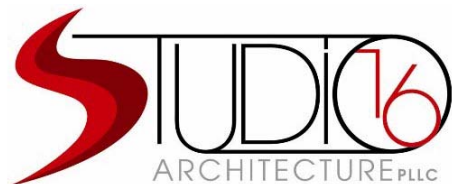
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Riviera Ristorante

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The recently opened Riviera Ristorante in Whitestone occupies the site of the former Il Fagiano, which locals enjoyed for many years. Riviera continues the tradition of good Italian food and good service in a family friendly atmosphere. The new owner, Danny, worked at the former restaurant for many years, and brings his experience to the table.

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