



# NOTIZIE

*della Famèe Furlane di New York*

20-08 127 Street College Point, NY 11356

SPRING VIERTE PRIMAVERA 2011

## OPINIONE

*Ida Corvino Miletich*

The year 2011 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the unification of Italy in 1861. Although the official celebration is designated as March 17, commemorative events will be scheduled throughout the year, as the theme of “l’unità d’Italia”, otherwise known as the “Risorgimento”, has been selected for the celebration of “Il Mese della Cultura Italiana” in October. Polemic associated with the anniversary celebration has surfaced because of the fact that Italians seem to be looking at their past, not as a repository of a common history and culture, but by focusing on regional differences in history and traditions.

As Italian Americans, many of us understand that the primacy of our regional ties is indisputable, but we must also remember that Friulan patriots participated passionately in the Risorgimento, often with great personal sacrifice. They were joined by patriots from other regions of the Italian peninsula. There is no doubt that it was a collective effort, directed by the effort of an elite, considered a minority at a time when only 20% of the population of the Italian peninsula was literate!

A knowledge of the history of the Risorgimento is vital to an understanding of our Italian American heritage and is also fundamental to the acquisition of “italianità. Deeply rooted in the civilization of ancient Rome, the Italian soul had found expression for centuries through the voice of its poets, Dante and Petrarca; its men and women of letters, Boccaccio, Tasso, Ariosto, and Machiavelli; as well as its artists, architects, explorers, scientists, philosophers—too many to mention here. In a cultural context, the music of Giuseppe Verdi and the literary works of Ugo Foscolo, Giacomo Leopardi and Alessandro Manzoni contributed significantly to the spirit of the Risorgimento.

Thus, Italy existed for centuries before acquiring an institutional and political identity as a nation. Democratic aspirations, nurtured in Europe since the time of the American Revolution, took hold gradually and reached maturity in the middle of the Nineteenth Century. The heroes or “founding fathers” of the Italian nation were: Giuseppe Mazzini (the soul), Camillo Cavour (the brain), and

Giuseppe Garibaldi (the sword). Their energies coalesced, despite differences in personal charisma and a clear sense of mission. The reigning monarch of the House of Savoy, Vittorio Emanuele II, also played a prominent role.

It is interesting to note that although the leaders of the Risorgimento had similar objectives, they did not follow a definitive strategic plan, but were compelled by circumstances to take action. Their temperaments, personalities and methods of operation also often clashed. The important thing however, is that they never lost sight of their goal.

Thus, the dream they shared came to fruition in 1861 with the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy. Piedmont and Sardegna—under the House of Savoy—were joined by Lombardy, Tuscany, other adjacent duchies, and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, which Ferdinand II was forced to abdicate. Friuli—included in the Veneto—remained under Austrian rule until 1866; the Papal States were annexed in 1870. Shortly afterwards, Rome became the capitol of the new nation.

Giuliano Amato, a former Prime Minister of Italy (1992-1993) and (2000-2001), currently Chair of the Committee for the celebration of 150 years of unification, delivered the first Gaetano Salvemini Lecture at the Italian Cultural Institute of New York on February 17. Entitled “Italy: an Old and Unfinished Nation”, Amato emphasized that a national identity is not only provided by common history and an association with national heroes, but by a group of men and women who make a decision to build a future together. Amato maintained that a constitutional monarchy under the house of Savoy was the only real possibility for Italy at that time. Unfortunately, both economic resources and experience in government administration were limited and mistakes were made.

Problems continue to this day, he noted, particularly with the emigration of professionals unable to find employment at home; the question of the Mezzogiorno also remains unresolved. Whereas both culture and innate creativity have enabled a nation deprived of natural resources to achieve the fifth or sixth place among the G20, Amato asked “what could be achieved”, he said, “if we could cease the polemic and focus on shaping a common future?” He invited all Italians who live outside of Italy to demand that the politicians in Italy stop bickering and focus on the task at hand. Indeed, words that could be directed almost universally in today’s world!

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

David L. Businelli, Sergio Centa, Alida Centa Carito, Marco Ciriani, Sandra De Bernardo, Jack & Palma Di Donna, John & Josephine Giannasco, Giovanni Iocco, Johanna Iurillo, Jim Leff, Gloria Lo Schiavo, Laura McMichael, Rose Paterno, Antonina Ragusa, Drin Asllani, Arlene Sergenti, Nadia Tomasi, Antonio & Nicole Valenzano

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH / APRIL 2011**  
**SUNDAY EVENTS AT THE CLUB**

**MARCH 27TH – 2:30 PM**

Eligio Clapcich, of the Associazione Giuliani Nel Mondo will present:

**WITH OUR ROOTS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

A Travelling Exhibition of the Emigration of Italians from Trieste, Venezia Giulia, Istria, Fiume and Dalmatia.

**A Story Neglected by History that Must be Told**

This extraordinary exhibition documents the little known story of the emigration of Italians from those areas that were once part of Italy.

The exhibition consists of photos and films in memory of the persecution of native Italians, the mass killings of innocents in the “foibe”, and of those forced to leave their homes.

**APRIL 10TH – 2:30 PM**

Prof. Luigi Bonafini of Brooklyn College will present:

**The Poetry of Pier Paolo Pasolini**

Pier Paolo Pasolini was a poet, intellectual, filmmaker and playwright, journalist, actor, painter, and a political figure. He demonstrated a unique and extraordinary cultural versatility and became, during his lifetime, a highly controversial figure.

Although Pasolini moved many times during his life (his father was an officer of the Italian Army), the years he spent with his mother's family in Casarsa della Delizia, Friuli, inspired his poetry and writings.

Pasolini was murdered in 1975 and is buried in Casarsa, Friuli.

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Cash Bar and Refreshments available at events

Please RSVP:

Linda Zulic 718-961-2542

Ida Corvino 516-708-1537

**CLUB BYLAWS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

[www.fameefurlane-ny.com](http://www.fameefurlane-ny.com) (under Membership)

**THE FAMÈE FURLANE NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Gina Pavaglio

Contributing Editors: Ida Corvino Miletich, Irene Rosa, Cynthia Pavaglio Tomasi

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To contribute to the Notizie, please email:

[newsletter@fameefurlane-ny.com](mailto:newsletter@fameefurlane-ny.com)

**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](mailto:reservations@fameefurlane-ny.com)

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**WINE NIGHT AT THE FAMÈE FURLANE**

On Sunday, January 23, the Club hosted the **Ducato dei Vini Friulani**, who were in New York City for the **Vino 2011** convention. It was a fun and special evening dedicated to Friulian wines.

The group arrived in colorful costumes, representative of the Middle Ages. A highlight of the evening was the investiture of Marcello Filippi and Rudy Magnan with the title of Nobile del Ducato dei Vini Friulani, a tribute to their efforts in the promotion of Friulan wines in America. È stata una bella sorpesa per tutti i presenti!

Founded in Cividale del Friuli in 1972, the Ducato of Vini set out to elevate the status of wines produced in Friuli. Through important promotions and initiatives, the Ducato brought the excellence of Friulano wine (especially the white wine) to public awareness. After almost 40 years, the Ducato, still counts among its members many influential restaurateurs, vintners and a multitude of professionals who occupy themselves with wine and culinary fineries. The Ducato dei Vini continues their initiative of "educazione al bere (e al mangiare)". For more information, see [www.ducatovinifriulani.it](http://www.ducatovinifriulani.it)



**FANCIULLA DEL WEST**

In celebration of Halloween last October, member **Terry Marangiello** attended Friday Cena in costume. Thank you, Terry, for always bringing smiles, joy and great jokes.



**VENDOR NIGHT**

Some of the members who showcased their products at vendor night are (left to right) **Christina Maddalena, Amanda Belcic and Sandra Sena.**

Thank you to all members who supported the event and Cynthia Paveglio Tomasi for organizing the evening.



**FAMÈE FURLANE CLUB SELECTED AS FILM LOCATION**

On February 11th, a film crew turned the Clubhouse into a movie set for a scene in the upcoming feature film, *Price Check*.

The film stars Josh Pais, Parker Posey, Annie Parisse and Eric Mabius (see photo at right); director Mike Walker and producer Dolly Hall. The location manager, Tony Flynn, knows of our Club through members, and some may know him from St. Mel's.



Members Gina Paveglio and Enzo Ombramonti with Parker Posey



Members Natale Lovisa and Franco Centa stopped by to observe the filming



**81ST ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND DANCE***Christina Maddalena*

On Sunday, October 17, 2010, the Famèe Furlane Club celebrated 81 years with a dinner and dance hosted at the Clubhouse.

Marcello Filippi, Club president, welcomed members, guests; and announced the appointment of Robert Filippi and Cynthia Pavaglio-Tomasi to the positions of vice president.

It truly was an enjoyable event—the food, the dancing, the camaraderie. Collectively, it made for a festive celebration filled with a great deal of history, memories and good times.

**TIERE FURLANE**

Rivista di cultura del territorio

Download at:

[www.regione.fvg.it/tierofurlane](http://www.regione.fvg.it/tierofurlane)**REUNION OF FAMILIES***Email from Harley Cassan; submitted by Linda Cartelli Russo*

*Fabrizio Cartelli and Harley Cassan of Calgary, Canada, are planning a "Reunion of Families", near Chievolis in 2012 and are compiling family information for a number of families from the Chievolis area of Italy - Cartelli and Cassan being two of about 8 different families.*

Below is the email message from Harley Cassan:

Hello

I am hoping to find members of your Club who originate from Chievolis and Postplata - Northern Italy. The towns are located approximately 2 hours north of Venice and about 30 minutes north of Pordenone. These two towns are part of the district related to Tramonti di Sopra. The town of Postplata is now abandoned.

The names of people I am hoping to meet are **Cassan, Mongiat, Vallar, Rovedo, Ronzat, Canderan, Minutti, Cartelli, Titolo**. These families have all lived in the area of these two towns and many are related through marriage.

I have come to know many people interested in knowing

more of their heritage. In the past 7 years I have begun doing genealogy and in the process of finding information regarding my family CASSAN, I became interested in knowing the history of all Cassans. This interest gave me the opportunity to meet many people whose family originates in these little towns in Northern Italy. I have created a web - site and photo gallery for my research, in hopes of sharing information and finding others who might help by sharing family information.

[www.cassanworld.com/Cassans\\_of\\_Italy.html](http://www.cassanworld.com/Cassans_of_Italy.html)

<http://threshold.3tech.ca/gallery/Home-to-many-Italian-Cassan>

Also I have created 4 separate family trees on Ancestry.com - each of these family trees consists of Cassans and Mongiats and includes many of the other families mentioned above.

Chievolis is a very small town and so knowing so many people named Cassan and Mongiat who originate from this town, I cannot understand how no one seems to be related. One fellow I talked with said that so many Mongiats and Cassans exist / existed in Chievolis that nicknames were given to distinguish families.

One nickname shared was Pinocolo - this is for one of the Mongiat Families.

A friend in Texas recently shared with me the name of your Club. Daniele Rovedo living in Texas was born in Meduno and in a few months will return home. I met Daniele through my genealogical research of the family Cassan.

I am hoping that you might be able to introduce me to members of your club whose name is listed above and whose family originates from Chievolis.

I am also hoping you could share with me addresses of other Fogolar Furlan Clubs around the world. Beyond Canada and the USA I am particularly interested in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. Many Cassans living in those countries originate from the Friuli area.

Thanks so Much,  
Harley Cassan—Calgary, Canada

To contact Harley Cassan, email:

[cassan.world@gmail.com](mailto:cassan.world@gmail.com)

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## HISTORIAN UNRAVELS HOLOCAUST MYSTERY

Source: cantonrep.com; submitted by Tina Centa

*Jordan David Sommers is the son of Claudia Leschiutta Sommers and Lorin Sommers and grandson of the late Virgilio Leschiutta and Nelda Brum Leschiutta both of Maniago. Jordan and his parents currently reside in Louisville, Ohio.*



Historian Jordan Sommers probably never imagined that his friendships with survivors of the Nazi Holocaust would enable him to solve a 71-year-old mystery.

The Hoover High School graduate and University of California at Santa Barbara alumnus was interning at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum archives earlier this year when he heard the story of Dr. George Wittenstein, a wealthy German medical student who helped saved a pair of Jewish siblings in 1939.

Sommers, 27, learned through mutual friends, Dr. Stan and Edie Ostern, that Wittenstein, who now lives in Santa Barbara, was seeking information on the fate of Esther and Nathan Berkowitz.

Shortly after Adolf Hitler invaded Poland, Wittenstein booked passage on the “Hansa,” a German ship headed for Holland. One of only a few non-Jews onboard, he befriended the Berkowitz siblings, 17 and 12. They had been dispatched by their parents, who remained behind in Berlin.

Wittenstein, 20, had plans to emigrate to the United States. Leaving Germany cost him 50 percent of his entire worth through a tax called “Reichflusteu.”

But the “Hansa suddenly was ordered to return to Hamburg to avoid the British Navy. “Jews were pulled off the ship,” Sommers said.

Quick-thinking, Wittenstein bribed an official to off-load his car, and personally transported the Berkowitzes back to Berlin.

“His family was very moved by the plight of Jews in Germany,” Sommers said. “He had friends and some mentors who were Jewish. His family shuttled Jews from Germany to their estate in Switzerland.”

Because Wittenstein delivered the Berkowitz children, he missed his own chance to escape Germany. “He didn’t get out until 1948,” Sommers said.

Wittenstein continued his medical studies in Germany, eventually becoming an Army medic and a secret member of the resistance group known as White Rose. “What they sought to do was awaken Germans to what was happen-

ing,” Sommers said.

In 1943, five White Rose members were caught and beheaded. They were among 16,500 people decapitated by the Nazis. “Hitler decapitated more people than were beheaded during the French Revolution,” Sommers noted.

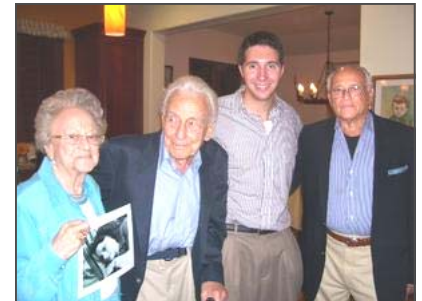
Meanwhile, the Berkowitz children were transported to Belgium and eventually sent to family in the United States. But their father was detained in Germany for military service and their mother opted to stay with him. Both parents died in concentration camps.

With help from two staff archivists Sommers began to track down any possible information on the Berkowitzes. Wittenstein could only remember the name “Esther,” but his wife, Dr. Christel Bejenke, acquired the original passenger list from the “Hansa,” on which it was discovered that the children’s surname was originally spelled “Berkowicz.”

“If we hadn’t had that, it would have been impossible,” said Sommers, who credited improved record-keeping and archiving, due to advances in technology.

On Wittenstein’s 91st birthday, Sommers learned that the siblings were alive. Both live in New York City.

This past summer, the three were reunited at Wittenstein’s home in Santa Barbara. Sommers attended the event. “I was humbled to be a part of it,” he said.



Though he isn’t Jewish, Sommers has an affinity for Jewish history, faith and culture, adding that a great-uncle in the Italian Army was a prisoner in the Mauthausen and Dachau concentration camps.

Sommers said Wittenstein’s reasons for helping the Berkowitzes was one echoed by many who helped Jews during the Holocaust. “He said in essence, he had no choice in doing what had to be done,” he said.

Because his job was to field information requests from Holocaust survivors and scholars, uncovering the mystery was a natural fit for Sommers.

“My supervisor allowed me all the time I needed,” he said. “Of those 6 million who went to their deaths, every story is entirely unique. The survivors have incredible tales to tell...In 10 to 15 years, there won’t be any survivors, just history. It’s important that people learn their stories; not just for the Jewish community, but for all of us.”

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**ITALIAN LANGUAGE THREATENED IN NYS SCHOOLS***Ida Corvino Miletich*

The Italian language is once again threatened with being excluded from the curriculum of schools throughout New York State should the recommendation of the NYS Board of Regents to abolish the Italian Regents exam goes into effect in 2012. After years of advocacy in favor of the development and inclusion of Italian language programs at all levels of instruction, the number of students studying the language has increased significantly, both at national and state levels. In 1958, the year in which national data was first collected, there were 22,733 students enrolled in Italian language classes. The number rose to 64,098 by 2000. At the state level, there were 5,605 students taking the Regents exam in 2000. By 2009, the number had risen to 8,250. The Italian Proficiency exam, administered in 2001 to junior high school students, was taken by 6,907. That number increased to 9,278 by 2009.

The Board of Regents cites budgetary constraints in adopting a policy that would retain the Regents exam in both Spanish and French, but eliminate it in Italian. The situation presents a real threat to the demise of the Italian language in public schools. Students will not have an incentive to register for Italian language classes if there isn't an Italian Regents exam. They will choose, instead, to pursue the languages offered in the curriculum that lead to a Regents Diploma. Can this be happening today?

The Italian American Committee on Education and the American Association of Teachers of Italian have launched a campaign to create public awareness in a policy that is blatantly discriminatory. Italian must be treated as on par with the other languages; either all exams are administered or none at all.

What can be done? First and foremost, local legislators must be contacted and pressured to intervene and reverse the present situation. Anyone can pick up a phone or forward an email. Those who have contact with schools—namely parents and grandparents—can inquire about the status of Italian language programs, lobby for their retention and where none are in existence, lobby for their inclusion. Everyone can become a member of IACE, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1977 that is in part financed by the Italian government to support Italian language programs in local schools. The address is 686 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10021. Dues are \$30.00 per year. All contributions are used to support the development of Italian language programs in public and private schools.

The community as a whole, however, must support the election of individuals qualified to serve on the Board of Regents. Openings occur annually. Only in this way can we be certain of an assured advocacy.

To contact the New York State Education Department:

<http://usny.nysed.gov/contact.html>

**COUNTER SPACE: DESIGN AND THE MODERN KITCHEN****SEPTEMBER 15, 2010–MAY 2, 2011**

The Museum of Modern Art in New York is currently showing an exhibition of 20th-century kitchen design. Entitled Counter Space: Design and the Modern Kitchen, the exhibition explores the twentieth-century transformation of the kitchen.

Featured in the exhibition is a 1968 mobile fold-out unit designed by Virgilio Forchiassin of Moruzzo near Udine and manufactured by the Italian company Snaidero.



Virgilio Forchiassin and his son, Tommaso, will be visiting New York during the period of March 7 - 17th.

The Museum of Modern Art  
11 West 53 Street, New York City  
(212) 708-9400  
[www.moma.org/](http://www.moma.org/)

**NIAF'S ITALIA 150 ESSAY CONTEST**

With 2011 celebrating the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy, NIAF proudly announces its essay contest open to all high school students (grades 9-12). The 750-word essay topic: What does it mean to be Italian American in 2011? Why is your Italian heritage and culture important?

Prizes include \$1,000 for first place. The deadline to submit an essay is April 30th. For details visit:

[www.niaf.org/education-and-culture/essay/index.asp](http://www.niaf.org/education-and-culture/essay/index.asp)

**Middlebury College** in Middlebury Vermont is offering a scholarship to support graduate students pursuing a Masters degree at the Middlebury College Language Schools and the C.V. Starr-Middlebury School Abroad in Florence, Italy. The Scholarship will fund the complete Masters program for one student per year for the next three years. See the website for more details.

[www.middlebury.edu/ls/finaid/fellowships/fede](http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/finaid/fellowships/fede)

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2011.

**LA GIORNATA DEL RICORDO***Ida Corvino Miletich*

L'importanza dell'impegno dimostrato dal Consolato italiano nell'organizzazione della commemorazione della "Giornata della Memoria" del 10 febbraio 2011, merita il riconoscimento di tutta la comunità italiana di New York. Un interesse particolare si rivolge agli Italiani ed i loro discendenti costretti ad emigrare dai territori passati all'ex Jugoslavia dopo la Seconda Guerra Mondiale che costituiscono centinaia di migliaia di persone emigrate dall'Istria, Fiume e Dalmazia, ora sparsi per il mondo, lontani dalla terra nativa.

Nel suo caloroso saluto di benvenuto ai Giuliani nel Mondo, il Console Generale Francesco Maria Talò, ha ribadito che la sede del Consolato è in effetti "la casa di tutti gli Italiani". L'ingegnere Eligio Clapcich, presidente Giuliani nel Mondo-NJ, ha elaborato il tema, indicando che la parola italiana in inglese ha due significati, sia "house" che "home". La "home" è dove abita mamma (Italia). Si è compiaciuto dello spirito di collaborazione che ha portato al successo dell'evento e ha dichiarato sinceramente "ora mi sento veramente a casa!"

Coloro presenti alla manifestazione, hanno potuto rivivere momenti di storia sepolti in un passato doloroso, diventando al medesimo tempo, testimoni e partecipi di un importantissimo traguardo storico che si basa sul riconoscimento delle "foibe" come esperienza umana profondamente vissuta e che ci costringe a costruire sui sepolcri di tanti morti un avvenire caratterizzato da rispetto reciproco, amicizia e solidarietà.

La "Giornata del Ricordo", costituita ufficialmente dal governo italiano nel 2004, è un riconoscimento della tragedia delle "foibe". Da allora, la commemorazione annuale si svolge a livello nazionale sia in Italia che all'estero. Una mostra itinerante, allestita dai Giuliani nel Mondo che racconta la storia del popolo giuliano è stata esposta durante il programma, illustrato da una serie di proiezioni video e calorose testimonianze personali.

Due testimoni di tale tragedia, Ferruccio Gerin (di Capodistria) e Fides Monti in Gerin (di Santa Domenica d'Albona), hanno rivelato, con non poca emozione, i lugubri particolari sull'infoibamento dei loro padri e di altri sette membri delle loro famiglie in quelle voragini istriane.

Le emozioni suscitate dall'evento svolto al Consolato Italiano di New York ci costringono ad impegnarci per una maggiore diffusione di pagine storiche, appartenenti al confine italo-nord, incontro di tre grandi civiltà: latina, tedesca e slava, ora perfettamente integrate nella visione di un'Europa senza confini.

**EFASCE** has selected the Famèe Furlane of N.A. Club, New York, as one of their North American liaisons. The Famèe Furlane will serve as a representative of the organization in their outreach efforts.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE REGION**

**EFASCE**—Ente Friuliano Assistenza Sociale Culturale Emigranti—will be granting scholarships to study Friulan Culture and Italian Language in Friuli. Two programs will be held; one for young adults 18 and over, the other for teens 15 to 18 years of age. Includes Italian language and culture lessons, guided visits in Friuli. Must be of Friulan origin. Participants in the young adult trip are responsible for airfare. For the teen trip, there is a US \$1,400 contribution.

Deadline to apply: April 30th

**Ente Friuli nel Mondo** with the **Scuola Mosaicisti del Friuli** and the **Comune of Spilimbergo** for the third year is offering an introduction to the Art of Mosaic at the world-renowned Scuola Mosaicisti del Friuli in Spilimbergo (PN). Introductory level mosaic lessons in Italian are held 9.00 to 16.00 daily. Students will visit the major cities of art in Friuli and will meet with the protagonists of the cultural, economic, and social scene of contemporary FVG. Students will be lodged 2 per room in a hotel in Spilimbergo. The program includes round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, health insurance, guided visits in Friuli, and all mosaic class materials. Participant's Contribution: Euro 200

Deadline to apply: April 29th

To apply, contact Marcello Filippi 718-335-7382 or Kathy Ombramonti 718-347-5016 (immediately, if interested)

The **MIB School of Management** together with the **Region of FVG** will be offering scholarships for an intensive course on entrepreneurial development at the MIB School of Management in Trieste, Italy.

This four-month certificate program, geared for graduate students with degrees in business and economics, comprises intensive course work, corporate visits, and workshops during July and August followed by a two-month internship with a Friulian company. Course work is conducted in English and students also attend classes on Italian culture and language. The program includes round-trip airfare, tuition, room and board.

Eligibility: Students with undergraduate degrees, ages 23-35 years, descendants of emigrants from FVG, resident outside of Italy, with a good knowledge of the Italian language. Work experience is preferred. Participant's Contribution: none. Application Deadline: April 15, 2011

For further information and application see [www.mib.edu](http://www.mib.edu) (under "Programmes" tab, "Specialization Courses", "Origini") or [info@fameefurlane-ny.com](mailto:info@fameefurlane-ny.com)

**Friuli nel Mondo's** 8th Annual Convention of Friulani around the world will be held August 6 - 7, 2011. This year's convention will be held in Spilimbergo.

## FROM AFGHANISTAN TO FRIULI — NEWS FROM ANGELO DECECCO

Angelo DeCecco



Julie at her office in Afghanistan

**Lieutenant Colonel Julie Long**, spouse of **Lieutenant Colonel (US Army -Retired) Angelo DeCecco**, has completed eight months of a 12-month deployment in Afghanistan. Lieutenant Colonel Long works as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate of the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A). The mission of NTM-A is to support the Government of Afghanistan in developing the Afghan National Security Force in coordination with NATO nations and partners, international organizations, donors and NGOs. See NTM-A: [www.ntm-a.com/home](http://www.ntm-a.com/home)

Julie enjoys working with her NATO counterparts in this very important mission which also includes a strong Italian contingent including Carabinieri Brigadier General Comitini, Commander of the NTM-A Combined Training Advisory Group-Police, which trains the Afghan National Police.

Lieutenant Colonel Long has served in a variety of positions in several different countries throughout her 20+ Army career. In fact, she and her husband Angelo, met in Vicenza, Italy! Their oldest daughter, Katherine, was born in Vicenza and now is a freshman at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Their, younger daughter, Anna, 11, was born in Rome and lives with her Dad in Springfield, Virginia.

Julie looks forward to completing her assignment in Afghanistan and then being re-assigned to the US Embassy Sending States office in Rome, Italy late this summer. The DeCecco Long family pass their regards to the rest of the Club and look forward to joining them for a Friday Cena once she returns from her deployment.

#### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR, ANGELO DECECCO

My father was also **Angelo DeCecco**. His parents were **Romano DeCecco (della Dina) & Catherine (Cheli) DeMarco** both of Fanna. My grandmother is a cousin of **Mario Rosa**—a long time Club member and the person who introduced me to the Club (I have been a member for 3-4 years). My father came to the US with my grandparents in the '30s and they lived/worked in the Schenectady, NY, area. I grew up in the Philadelphia area with my 7 brothers and one sister. I joined the Army in the early-80s and was assigned to Italy where I met Julie in the late '80s. We were married in 1990 and have been moving with the Army ever since. I retired from the Army 2005 while Julie still serves. I now work for a company called SAIC working on demilitarization projects in Russia. We live in the Washington, DC, area (until this summer when we will move back to Italy).

I would add, besides serving in Italy for 5 years, I also attended the Senior Italian Military College in Rome, Italy. We really enjoy vacationing in Italy particularly in the Friuli and the Dolomites. My grandfather (Romano) was an Alpini during World War I, and we also enjoy touring his battlefields in Northern Italy.



In Rome: Julie, Anna, Katie and Angelo



The open air museum of Pal Piccolo and Friekofel, Carnia. During the First World War the Alpini fought many fierce battles in the area. Angelo, Ana, and Kate explore the remains of caves and fortifications that were used as shelter.



## DAVID BUSINELLI ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NYS AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Leo L. Businelli



**David Businelli**, RA, AIA, has been elected President of the New York State American Institute of Architects. In this capacity he leads the New York State Architects in promoting the interest of the architects and the health and safety of the public. He will work to insure New York lawmakers protect and promote the health and safety of the public and make known what architects really do and how their services are of value to both public and private projects. He also works with the National Society on policy issues that are promulgated by the federal government and national legislatures.

David recently published two articles, "The Art and Science of Building" and "Need More Space?" These can be found at [www.examiner.com/home-design-in-new-york](http://www.examiner.com/home-design-in-new-york)

David is the principal of Studio 16 Architects in Staten Island.

Visit his web site, [www.S16A.com](http://www.S16A.com) to see examples of his work.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO I NONNI

Congratulations to **Silvana** and **Andrea Toffolo** on the birth of their grandson, Dylan Louis Toffolo. Their son Louis and his wife Miranda are the proud parents. Dylan Louis was born on November 7, 2010. (Weight: 6 pounds, 9 ounces and 18 inches long).



Silvana and Andrea Toffolo with baby Dylan Louis.

## DISCOVERING FRIULI BY BICYCLE



Friuli Venezia Giulia  
**BY BICYCLE**

Cycling Routes for everyone



At a recent Board meeting, member **Irene Rosa** proposed organizing a bicycle tour of Friuli as part of the itinerary for a Club trip. The response was enthusiastic and we are now in the planning stage for either August or September 2011.

The selected itinerary level is easy and covers 175km over 3 to 4 days. The itinerary links to a bicycle-track (a former railroad line) and crosses the region from North to South, offering a very wide range of different nature, urban, landscape and cultural environments: the valleys and the peaks of the Carnic and Julian Alps, the Canal del Ferro, riding along the rivers Fella and Tagliamento, gliding among the hills to cover the Friulian plains and eventually reaching the lagoon and the Adriatic Sea.

The track is primarily downhill and any level of bicycle enthusiast can participate from young to old. Additionally, there are plenty of short day trips that the participants can choose to ride in the afternoons while other participants can choose to relax at the hotel.

These are organized tours with options to rent bicycles. The scenery is absolutely beautiful and there are cultural sites that could be the basis for interesting Italian lessons.

If you are interested, please contact **Gina Pavaglio** at [gpavaglio@optonline.net](mailto:gpavaglio@optonline.net) or **Irene Rosa** at [irene10028@gmail.com](mailto:irene10028@gmail.com) or **Marcello Filippi** 718.335.782 as soon as possible.

The official Web site of the Tourism Board, Friuli Venezia Giulia: [www.turismofriuliveneziaitalia.it/bike/](http://www.turismofriuliveneziaitalia.it/bike/)

**UP CLOSE: ENZO OMBRAMONTI***Irene Rosa*

Enzo Ombramonti was born in Friuli but came to New York when he was a boy. He grew up in Piccolo Friuli in Manhattan and can recount wonderful memories of that time, if you just ask him. He can also tell you about the history of our Club as his family had been active in it since he was a boy. He now serves as the executive vice president of the Famèe Furlane Club of N.A., Inc., with an incredible sense of dedication fostered by his lifelong involvement in the Club along with his strong ties to the Friuli of today.

**Can you tell us about growing up Friulian in New York City?**

In the summertime, we didn't have air conditioning. Most of the people would either be downstairs in front of the building or up on the roof to get fresh air. The people in the buildings were mostly Friulian. They carried on a lot of traditions from the old country. It was like a neighborhood within a neighborhood.

**Like you, both of my parents lived on the far eastside of Manhattan between 28<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> street as youngsters. Why was it called "Piccolo Friuli"?**

We lived in a small area at the time and we were first generation Friulians. We ate, played and grew up together. Now, mostly everyone has moved away from the city to the outskirts or to Long Island.

**What formed Piccolo Friuli's bonds?**

When the men worked, they worked together. I remember when I first went to work on Ward's Island, your grandfather (Clemente Rosa) was there. Not everyone, but most of them were all Friulians speaking Friulian. Then as time went on, people moved away.

**And the women?**

Most of the women at that time were 'stay at home moms'. They took care of the children, when the men came home dinner was waiting for them. In the early days, some young men went to college but very few women. I think mostly because of the language barrier. As time progressed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of women went on to college.

**Communities are often sustained by a shared language. Some of my cousins in Friuli speak Friulian, but others don't. What about you?**

When I call Italy, we all speak Friulian. Today in Italy the children speak Italian because that is what they are taught in school. After three years of Italian in high school, the little Italian I know is from working in Terrazzo as an apprentice.

**Did Friulians in Piccolo Friuli return to Friuli often?**

When they did go back they went originally by boat. Years later they started flying. My brother was born here and went back to Italy – I don't know how many times – with my father when he was a little kid. In fact, the first time that I went back I went on the Queen Elizabeth. I think we made it in 5 or 6 days. When we landed in Cherbourg, France, we had to take a train to Paris, then Paris to Udine. I was fifteen at the time and I didn't go back for another 23 years.

After my mother passed away, we brought her back to Italy to be buried. My father always said that when he retired he wanted to go back to Friuli to live. At the time my mother wouldn't go because of my younger brother, he was single and she didn't want to leave him by himself. When my mother passed away it made sense to bury her in Italy since my father would be there. My father died in December of 1999. We visit them when we go to Friuli every year.

My great-grandfather was raised in an orphanage. He got his name because they found him wrapped up in a blanket near the bottom of a mountain. My cousin did a little background check and she thinks that my great-grandfather was the illegitimate son of a count. After they found him they brought him to the orphanage and gave him the name of Ombra (which means shadow) and Monti which means mountain) He settled in Colle. The original Ombramonti house was the house next door. I was born in the house that my father left to me and enjoy going back to my heritage.

We travel a little and enjoy the mountains. Since 1992, I've been going there every year. I usually go the month of August; however, last year we stayed till September because my cousin's daughter got married. My daughters have been there quite a few times. But it's difficult now with their children and their work, etc.

**Our Club has organized trips to Friuli for our members with the help of Ente Friulano Assistenza Sociale Culturale Emigranti (E.F.A.S.C.E.) and Ente Friuli nel Mondo. What do you think of the trips?**

Two of my daughters have been on previous trips. They always said it was a great experience. They were taught in the morning and then traveled in the afternoon. They enjoyed the culture and meeting new people. My grandsons have been to Italy with us. They hope if they have another sponsored trip they would be able to go with the club. My granddaughter is anxious to go this year with us.

**Visiting Friuli with your own children and grandchildren has helped them stay connected to Friuli. How does that bear on the future of the Club?**

In the earlier years of the club, the sons and daughters took part in the club and took over. I see Robert Fillipi, Gina and Cindy Paveglio, Linda Cartelli Russo, Elaine and Linda Peressin at dinners and meetings. My own daughter was on the board of directors for a couple of years, but now she has

small children and it makes it difficult to be there. I feel with the likes of Cindy, Gina, Robert, Linda, Elaine and Linda Peressin, we will survive. You have to donate a lot of time to the Club. Marcello Filippi (president) does all the shopping for the cenas, I take care of the bar, doing the ordering of the liquor and shopping for supplies. I can donate a lot of my time because I don't work; someone that works has limited time. It's understandable, that's the reality of it.

### Is the current reality different from those earlier years?

Things have changed since then. Men and women both go on to further their education today. Whatever their field is, they are more apt to mingle with people in the same field. The neighborhood feel and the closeness of years ago is diminishing.

### Can the members sustain the club in the future since the costs of maintaining the building are constantly going up?

As a non-profit organization, we cannot just up and sell the club. We had an office before we bought this building. We would only have get-togethers once or twice a year, like the picnic and dinner dance. You need a place for members to come and see each other to talk and interact.

### What if the Famè Furlane Club of N.A. ceases to exit?

I hope I am not around when that happens. It would be a great loss for the Friulian heritage in New York. Canada is still a viable club because most of the members there are first and second generation – not like ours which are third and fourth generation. We are the oldest Friulian club in America; it would be shame if we had to close our doors. Hopefully, the young members that are involved will keep it going. They have my full support.

\*\*\*



Did you know that Enzo designed and crafted the heater cover located in our Clubhouse...and the wine rack at the bar? These are just two of his many contributions to our Club.

### ITALIAN LESSONS

The club is looking into holding Italian lessons again this spring. Interested individuals should contact:

Marc Lupinacci  
Telephone: 203-539-0359  
Email: [MarcLupinacci@gmail.com](mailto:MarcLupinacci@gmail.com)

### L'ULTIMA NOVITÀ

From Gino Franco

*Se paradiso non c'è...  
che bella fregatura*

### TRAVEL TIP

From Stefano Paveglio

On our recent trip to Italy, my wife and I travelled between three major cities, Rome, Firenze and Venezia by TrenItalia. We also did a day trip from Venezia to Pordenone. TrenItalia is a fantastic way to travel within the country! Friendly, helpful staff, clean efficient trains and a very safe atmosphere. Our daughter, who lived in Italy for close to four months, also travelled extensively on TrenItalia. We recommend it to all Club members who plan to visit Italy. Website: [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)

### AUGURI!

From Paula Cimador

My mother, **Lena Cimador**, is celebrating her 90th birthday on April 13th. The family will be celebrating at Punta Dura in Astoria.

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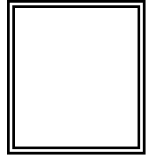
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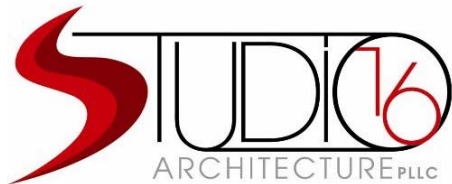
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The recently opened Riviera Ristorante in Whitestone occupies the site of the former Il Fagiano, which locals enjoyed for many years. Riviera continues the tradition of good Italian food and good service in a family friendly atmosphere. The new owner,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

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