

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF INDIANA

Founded in 1993

Mission Statement

The Italian Heritage Society of Indiana (IHSI) seeks to preserve, promote and share the Italian values and culture which its members inherited from their ancestors: Religion, family, history, art, music, food and camaraderie. It reaches out to everyone of Italian ancestry and welcomes others who share our appreciation of the Italian culture.

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www.italianheritage.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Silvana Martini Schuster

Cari amici, dear friends,

Three years have swiftly gone by and I am now at the end of my three-year term limit as your president of our Italian Heritage Society of Indiana. I feel very honored to have had this opportunity to share with you our mutual interest in the celebration of all things Italian in Indiana and the continuing learning about Italy, its history, culture and food! Since taking on this responsibility, I have tried to build on the achievements of the many dedicated and talented individuals who were the presidents, officers, board members and committee chairpersons before me and to promote and benefit our IHSI. I also hope that all our members and friends have enjoyed some of our traditions and events that we have sponsored: bocce leagues, book club luncheon meetings, picnics at Camp Atterbury's POW Chapel in the Meadow, Pasquetta picnics, Serata Italiana/Columbus Day dinners, the Festa di Natale (our Christmas party), etc., and some of the special events, such as our revival of the St. Joseph Day's dinners, the 25th anniversary gala in 2018 and the fundraising event hosting the television cooking show host, Lidia Bastianich this past August. All these events had talented persons organizing them and then participating in the event. That is what keeps our Society vital, l'amicizia, friendship, that develop among persons with common interests.

I will be succeeded as president by **Angelo Piga**, one of the founders of our IHSI and a stalwart backbone of our Society who has faithfully donated his time and talent. He and his indefatigable wife, **Caterina "Rina" Odorico Piga**, our current newsletter editor, have loyally attended almost all our IHSI events and have volunteered with their time and talent to make those events successful. Both Angelo and Rina have served often on our board of directors and Angelo will be a gracious and admirable leader for our Society. Both were born in Italy and came to States as young marrieds and have recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with their families. *Tanti anguri cari amici*, happy anniversary dear friends!

Since I have so enjoyed the camaraderie of the officers and members of the board of directors, I have agreed to be Vice-President for the coming year. I will be replacing **Claudia Collins Heck** in that position. Claudia has been a whirlwind of energy and has overseen our participation in the annual **Holy Rosary Italian Festival** one of the many tasks that she has taken on. Gratefully she will remain on the board and continue to help with our events, *grazie* Claudia!

Nancy Sandquist will continue in her position of treasurer as she seems to enjoy working with numbers(!). Good thing!! Grazie Nancy.

A recent new IHSI member will be our recording secretary, **Zeno Tutino**, another "real" Italian who recently settled in the area with **Amanda**, his Indiana born wife. He is currently the chairperson of the Indianapolis-Monza Sister-City Committee. Born in Rome, Zeno attended a school where British English was taught, and it stuck! When you will speak with him at our gatherings, you'll enjoy his impeccable Brit pronunciation, straight out of the BBC! *Ben venuto* Zeno, welcome!

David Page, another founder of our Society will also resign from the board as he contemplates more golf time and travelling with Rosemary. David has been the co-chair of the scholarship golf tournament with Matt Iaria and has often provided delicious main courses for our events. *Grazie*, thank you David for your dedication to our Society. Ashleigh Lazarus will also resign as she has relocated to another city. She has been our terrific computer whiz and has composed and sent out our many emails. We wish you well in your new endeavor Ash, grazie for sharing your skills with us. The position of computer "whiz" will be taken up by Kevin Pastore, a longtime member and wellknown to most of us, grazie Kevin. Joanna Milto Bergin, another well-known long-time member will rejoin the board, grazie, Joanna. We are fortunate that most of our current board memberswill remain "on board" and thus our IHSI will continue to benefit from their guidance: Carol Faenzi, Mimi Struriale Collins, Matt Iaria, Virginia Belletini Koss, Louis Mestichelli, Susan Santore, Phillip Kappes, Mauvene Borton and Maryanne Hawkins. Grazie tutti!

Since our last newsletter we had a few events at which those who did attend had a most delightful time. The **Walking Tour of the Italian Neighborhood** and visit to Holy Rosary Church took place on the evening of September 23. **Ray Brown** accepted the challenge and led the group, and past-president and IHSI historian **James Divita**, who lectured to the group the history of *La Chiesa del Santo Rosario*, Holy Rosary Church. About 30 persons participated and after the tour, which included a stop at Emilia's Bakery, most gathered at Iaria's restaurant. Since the tour was so well received, we repeated the tour on a beautiful morning, for the IHSI members who has suggested a morning tour. *Grazie Raimondo e Giacomo*.

On October 23 the **Serata Italiana** was held at the Willows on Westfield, the first time we had an event at that venue, and all who attended were very pleased. The highlight of the evening was the wonderful singing that was

provided by the **Indianapolis Opera** resident artists. The four singers, soprano, alto, tenor and base, sang beautiful opera arias and ensembles, and popular Italian tunes such as *Mambo Italiano* and *O Sole Mio!*

Kudos and *grazie* to **Ginny Belletini Koss**, and **Jim Koss**! Ginny again was the chairperson for our participation in the annual International Festival, which was held November 7, 8 and 9, at the state fairgrounds. Over 8,000 grade and high school students from across the state, and many others "visit" countries' informational booths that represent Indiana's immigrant populations. Ginny prepares the booth and gathers volunteers to help our booth. *Grazie* to those that volunteered!

On Sunday afternoon, November 10, the Cultural Committee hosted **Gaetano** "**Guy**" **Tedesco**, who is the artist son of one of the Italian POWs who was interned at Camp Atterbury during WWII. For many years, Guy had faithfully brought his mother and several of his brothers (there were 8 sons in the family!) to the **POW Chapel in The Meadow Mass and Picnic**. The very interesting presentation was well attended by our members and all were impressed by his artistic ability and ebullient and gracious personality. Also, *grazie* to **Susan Santore Lew** and **Carol Faenzi** who have arranged these interesting cultural lecture series. We look forward to more next year!

And now the holiday season will begin in earnest! **Thanksgiving** has arrived and the **Christmas** rush will descend. We hope that this **Advent** time will also be a period of reflection and that this will prepare us for the coming celebratio Our **IHSI Festa di Natale, Christmas Party**, will be held on **Sunday, December 15, 4:00 pm,** at **Holy Rosary Church Priori Hall**. More information is further in the newsletter. Come and be with your friends and make new friends. *Grazie di cuore e buone feste a tutti.*.. a heartfelt thank you and happy holidays to all ... *Wibrana*

Buon Giono di Ringraziamento Happy Chanksgiving

Buon Katale e Felice Anno Kouvo Merry Christmas and Kappy Kew Fear

ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF INDIANA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2020

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SECRETARY: Zeno Tutino

TREASURER: Nancy Sandquist

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

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Mimi Sturiale Collins

Carol Faenzi

Mary Ann Hawkins

Claudia Heck

Matthew Iaria

Philip Kappes

Virginia (Ginny) Bellettini Koss

Susan Santore Lew

Louis Mestichelli

Joanna Milto-Bergin

Caterina (Rina) Odorico Piga

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LA FESTA DEI SETTE PESCI THE FEAST OF SEVEN FISHES

The four weeks before Christmas are of part of the Advent season and it was a time of reflection and fasting. Christmas Eve was a time of abstaining from meat and thus fish was served. Especially in Southern Italy, the meal evolved into a grand dinner with a tradition of serving seven different types of fish dishes. Many homes got around this by making variation of a fish soup called *cioppino or brodetto*, in which seven, or less, types of fish or crustaceans were served in one pot.

For our *Pranzo di Natale*, Christmas Dinner, we encourage our members to bring as a side dish, a fish entry that may be traditional to your region or one of your choosing. Check on the internet for information about *la Festa dei Sette Pesci*, and try one of the recipes....it will be fun to try some of these traditional dishes.

See you on the 15th of December. And....email or call me if you wish to volunteer to help with the event or have any question about it.



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CHRISTIMAS IN ITALY NATALE IN ITALIA



Christmas in Italy is rich in traditions that have, for most part a religious history, with the celebration cen-

tered on the nativity scenes in churches and home. Italian customs and traditions add so much to the beautiful celebration of Christmas in America for families of Italian heritage had help teach the younger family members about the value of their Italian heritage.

The Christmas season in Italy includes is **Festa di San Nicolo'** which is celebrated on December 6th and la **Festa di Santa Lucia**, also known as "the Festival of Lights" which is celebrated on December 13th.



Il presepio is the nativity scene featuring the Holy Family, I pastori (shepherds), I Re Magi (the Three Kings), and angels that is seen in the homes

and churches in Italy on Christmas time. *St. Francis of Assisi* created the first *Presepio*.

Presepio vivente: On Christmas Eve many small towns of Italy celebrate with tradition of a live nativity scene to act out the birth of Jesus just as St. Francis of Assisi did in 123 A.D. Complete with live animals, children play the roles of the Holy Family with a newborn baby Jesus. Christmas carols originate in

Italy with St. Francis of Assisi. The classic Christmas carol of Italy include **Tu scendi dalle stelle**, and **Caro Gesu' Bambino.**

I zampognari and the shepherds who live in the mountains and come to town at Christmas time to play their traditional bagpipes and sing characteristic shepherd song. They dress

in traditional vests, leggings and leather trousers.

Ceppo is an old Italian tradition known as the "Tree of lights" also known as the Italian Christmas pyramid, the *ceppo* is decorated with candles and holds a small

mange, decorations, candy, fruit and greenery.

The meal of **la Vigilia di Natale** (Christmas Eve) is customarily meatless, popular known as the meal of **seven fishes** (for the seven sacraments), it typically consists of fish and seafood, and may include *eel, scungilli, calamari* (*squid*), *vongole* (*clams*) and *baccala'* (*salt cod*).

The Urn of Fate is an old tradition where people in Italy pick out gifts to family members from large ornamental clay jar.

Christmas Day, is an important religious holiday and an important family celebration in Italy and America. A tradition in some fami- This is a very popular Christmas lies has the youngest place the fig- song in Italy based on the poem urina of Baby Jesus in the presepio "Tu scendi dalle stelle' by Pope Pius to recognize the birth fo Gesu' IX (1846-1876) and set to the mel-Bambino. of Christmas includes Mass and 1787). traditional banquet. Traditional dolci (sweet) include panettone, pandoro, pizzelle, struffoli and torrone.

Capo d'Anno (New Year's Eve) is welcomed with optimism for the future and aspiration of prosperity and good health. Lentils are traditionally eaten on New Year's day in Italy as a symbol of good luck and prosperity. Zampone or cotechino is a symbol for abundance because is the foot of the pig, rich in fat! The celebration of New Year presents the opportunity to give the "old" by throwing old objects such as broken plate and pots out of the window on New Year's Eve.

La befana is the benevolent old woman with magical powers who brings gifts to the children of Italy on the eve of Epiphany on January 6th, to commemorate the visit of the Three Kings. La befana has been known to visit children of Italian heritage i n America and around the world.

These are a few customs of **Christmas in Italy.** We hope you enjoyed reading about them and perhaps will celebrate this special event in your family with Italian style.

ITALIAN CHRISTMAS SONG

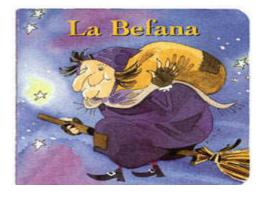
The family celebration ody by Alphonsus Liquori (1696-

TU SCENDI DALLE STELLE

Tu scendi dalle stelle O Re del cielo, E vieni in una grotta Al freddo e al gelo E vieni in una grotta al freddo e al gelo

O Bambino mio divino Io ti vedo qui' tremar, O Dio Beato! Ah quanto to costo' L'avermi amato

A te che sei del mondo il Creatore, Mancano I panni e il fuoco, o **Mio Signore** Caro eletto pargoletto, Quanta questa poverta' Piu" mi innamora, giacche' ti fece amor povero ancora.



La Befana is an old lady who bring toys to children in part of Italy Epiphany night. The Epiphany is when the Three Kings brought gift to baby Jesus.

The legend is that on their way to deliver presents to Jesus, the Three King came across La Befana. They asked her to come with them, but she refused, saying she had too much housework to do. She later realized it had been wrong not to go with them. So she ran off with her broom in search of the Kings, bearing her own presents for the baby Jesus. But she never caught up with them. It's said that La Befana is still searching for the baby Jesus.

In the weeks preceding the Epiphany, the children of Italy are busy writing to La Befana, telling her the presents they would most like to receive, they are on their She brings candies and many gifts! best behavior because they know that La Befana will leave a lump of coal instead of sweet and toys, for ill-behaved children.

On Epiphany night, January 6, Befana goes around leaving presents for children, in imitation of the Three Wise men bring gifts to Jesus. Befana looks like a friendly witch, with a mole on her face and tattered clothes. She flies on a broom and goes down chimney to deliver toys for girls and boys.

There is a little poem:

La Befana vien di notte Con le scarpe tutte rotte Col vestito alla romana Viva viva La Befana!!

Porta cenere e carbone Ai bambini cattivoni Ai bambini belli e buoni Porta chicchi e tanti doni!

The Befana comes by night With her shoes all broken With a dress in Roman style Up, up with the Befana!!

She brings ashes and coal To bad nasty children To the nice Good children

La Bellezza d'Italia.....November 2019

The Cultural Page of the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana

Submitted by Susan Santore Lew and Carol Faenzi



Italian Heritage Society Lecture Series

We will be announcing the 2020 Lecture Series in the January Newsletter!

Know someone who might want to deliver a lecture? Contact Susan Lew at 317-691-0139 or susan.lew27@gmail.com We pay an honorarium. The lectures are always free and open to the public.

Lidia Bastianich Event

Sophisticated Living has featured our event in their latest magazine! Pick up your copy at Barnes and Noble or where fine magazines are sold.



BOOK CLUB

Francesca Maria Cabrini was born in poverty in 1850 in an Italy torn



by civil dispute and conflict between Church and State. From childhood she was determined to be a missionary but her frail health prevented her from becoming a nun until she was nearly thirty, when she began her own missionary order. In 1889 she was sent to America by Leo XIII to work among Italian immigrants and from that time until her death in 1917 she devoted herself tirelessly to neglected and oppressed in ghettos throughout the United States, establishing schools, orphanages and hospitals.

Book: Immiogrant Saint: The Life of Mother Cabrini

Author:Pietro Di DonatoWhen:Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 12:00 NoonWhere;To be announced!Contact Silvana for more information;:silvams@comcast.net

Opera News!



Mozart's Masterpiece Don Giovanni March 20, 21, 22, 2020 The Toby Theatre at Cloves Hall

Www.indyopera.org

Beautiful Italian Phrase of the Month



Vi Auguriamo un Buon Natale e un Felice Anno Nuovo We Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Ciao Amici, Hello Friends,

Thank you, thank you, *grazie molto* for all your help in making this year's Festival a success.

Our volunteers were:

e: Rob Giacoletti Dean and Nancy Sandquist Elaine Bennett Erma Och Mimi Collins Matt Iaria Jerry Roland Colleen & Louis Mestichelli Zeno Tutino Ray Brown Silvana & John Baller Philip "Skip" Kappes

Special thank you to **Lois Jansen** a new member, for her creative help in setting up the booth and of course **Angelo & Caterina Piga** for extra support and help us always.....and **Mary Hawkins**

Grazie tanto! Many thanks! Buone feste di Natale!

Ginny (Bellettini) Koss and Jim Koss

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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 7-8-9, 2019



GUY TEDESCO, VISION AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

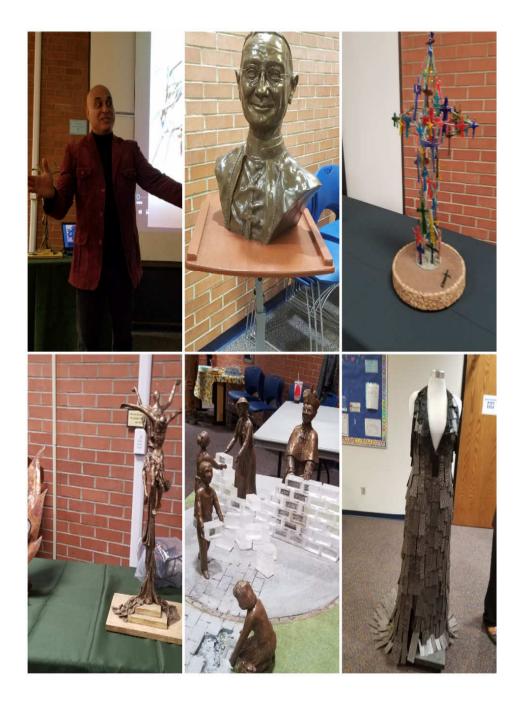
Guy Tedesco has an unusually varied wealth of experiences and works in a broad range of artistic fields, disciplines, and media in equally as many styles of interpretation . For the past 30 years the focus of Guy's work is in the form of monumental sculpture with a primary focus on cast sculpture in materials from bronze to glass and resin. Primarily specializing in realistic representations of historic or religious figures, Guy also creates works of contemporary form and function. The style and presentation are always dictated by the project, Guy doesn't like to limit himself in expression what is best for the client or the subject. Very often Guy mixes media, materials and style of presentation in monumental design to fully engage the audience and represent the true personalities and goals of the subject and the commissioning body. Art, representational and *realistic* to conceptual and fully abstracted is first and foremost a means of communication. From simple ideas to deeply philosophical and spiritual concepts, successful works of art should not only portray and represent thoughts, they should inspire thought and action in their viewers.

From early years in New York's fashion industry working for private clients and many of New York's top apparel designers, helping design and establish the first Planet Hollywood restaurant in New York City, unique custom furniture and interior design and fabrication, creating works of wearable art, theatrical costume and set design for stage and screen to deeply philosophical, theological works of spiritual art and worship space design, his works both here In the USA and abroad have served to entertain and inspire everyone who encounters them. He has painted murals for the New York Children's museum, was the chief sculptor for the Saudi Arabian Government, Prince Bandar, on a \$30 million project traveling the North American continent, has worked as far away as Japan, and has art pieces in the Phillipine Islands, France, Italy, China, and the Vatican. He has works in New York City, Washington DC Las Vegas Atlanta Los Angeles, San Diego, Montana

Washington DC, Las Vegas, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Diego, Montana, Florida and Washington State not to mention his many project in Kentucky and Indiana.

On November 10 the Cultural Committee hosted Guy, an IHSI member. In a lecture with his work. He is the son of the the Italian POW who was interned at Camp Atterbury during WWII. For may years Guy had faithfully brought his mother and his brothers to the POW Chapel in the Meadow Mass and Picnic,

Here are some of Guy works:



CONGRATULATIONS!



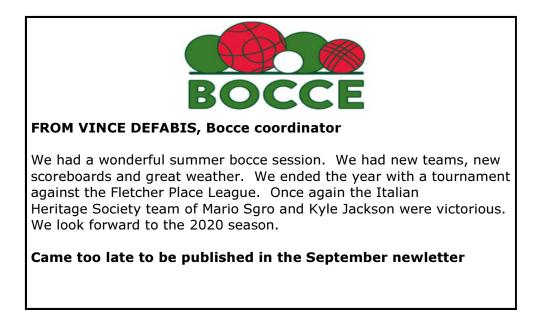
Past President and member of Italian Heritage Society Of Indiana. A graduate of the State University. A graduate of the State University of New York College at Brockport with a major in political science and participated in the Washington Semester Program interning in the congressional office of the late Cardiss Collins of Illinois, After graduation participated in the campaign of and served as an aide to New York State Senator Hugh Farley. Graduated from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law where selected to the Criminal Justice Journal Law Review, recognized by Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, and served as a law clerk in the criminal appellate division of the California Attorney Generals Office. In active practice in the State of Indiana for 35 years in both state and federal courts. Practice areas include criminal defense, family law and injury cases. Past president of the the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana, recipients of service awards, father of one son and grandfather to three.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Former IHSI Board member Andrea Bettini. Our newest U.S Citizen!



Andrea Bettini was born and raised in Mantova, Italy. His passion for food and music, and his desire to change his life let him to move from Italy to Indianapolis, Indiana. He started in 2015 Bettini Pasta is a Fresh Pasta Company.



SERATA ITALIANA OCTOBER 23, 2019 AT THE WILLOW



NEWSLETTER EDITOR Caterina "Rina' Piga

Share your news, award, birth, change of address or any articles that will be of interest to the members and also any comment you might have about the newsletter.

The newsletter is published by-monthly, email any articles in MS WORD format to:

catpiga45@gmail.com

Or

Mail to:

Rina Piga 373 Woodview Dr. Noblesville, In. 46060 317-773-6442

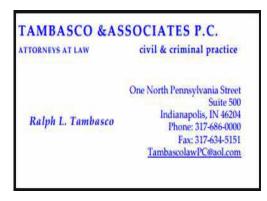
DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2020

BUSINESS ADDRESS PHONE LINE

Italian Heritage Society of Indiana 520 Stevens St. Indianapolis 46202

The IHSI has a voice mail for members to call and leave any messages or questions that you might have about the Society. Let us hear from you! The phone number is:

(317)767-7686





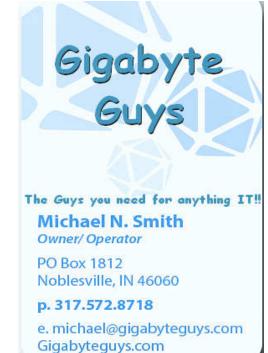


I-65 South to Exit 76B Next to Edinburgh Premium Outlets

IHSI Corporate Member

A Collector's Dream!

Edinburgh, Indiana





Italian Restaurant

THANK YOU TO OUR IHSI SUPPORTERS AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

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