
NOTIZIE. . . an email newsletter for

Italian Americans, Italians and Italophiles

agosto 2009

Proverbio: La prima acqua d'agosto rinfresca

il mare e il bosco

Ferragosto. Ferragosto began in ancient times as *feriae augusti*. (Augustus was the nephew and heir of Julius Caesar and the first emperor of Rome.) For Roman women *feriae augusti* meant a time to worship the goddesses relevant to their own interests, deities such as Diana and Juno. Later in the sixth century, the Church absorbed the pagan tradition into the already existing belief in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The feast was designated for 15th of August.

Tourists flock to Italian towns and cities in August, but Italians leave for their own celebrations and vacations. Where do they go? To the many mountains, beaches and lakes of Italy. They have a wide range of choices: Italy is about 70% mountainous. There are two main chains of mountains in Italy, the Alps, running east-west, and the Apennines running down Italy about 718 miles from north to south. The Apennine ranges are present in every region—there are the Northern Apennines, Tuscan Emilian Apennines, the Umbrian Apennines, the Central and Southern Apennines. The highest point of the Apennines is 9,554 feet at Corno Grande near Abruzzo. Italy has two volcanoes: Mount Vesuvius near Naples, 4,202 ft. and Mount Etna in Sicily, 10,912 ft.

Italy has two principal rivers: The Po runs from west to east from the Alps to the Adriatic sea for 405 miles; the Tiber River runs for 252 miles from Mount Fumaiolo through Rome and into the Tyrrhenian Sea at Ostia. Italy has hundreds of lakes, the most famous being Lake Garda and Lake Como in northern Italy. Italy has 7600 miles of shoreline with inviting beaches and resorts. (from italygeography.com)

Ferragosto for ICC members. I soci dell' ICC sono invitati a partecipare alla Festa di

Ferragosto per gustare agnello allo scottadito, buon vino italiano , birra e, naturalmente, non mancherà il tradizionale cocomero. La festa sarà allietata da musica italiana e per i bambini saranno organizzati speciali divertimenti. Venite per il buon cibo, per incontrare gli altri soci ed avere una conversazione in italiano o in inglese.

Siamo lieti di offrire tutto questo come un'occasione per ringraziare i nostri soci che ci aiutano a realizzare la missione di promuovere la lingua e la cultura italiana nelle Twin Cities. Chi vuole diventare socio può farlo qui. Per ogni informazione potete contattare Stefano Follega.

Wheels of Italy. Join wheels—cars and motorcycles—enthusiasts at the annual Wheels of Italy gathering. The group celebrates the technology and artistry of Italian cars and motorcycles with exhibits, events, food and fellowship. Meet at the Lake Calhoun Exhibition Center, 3033 Excelsior Blvd., Sunday, August 23, from 10-4 pm. For complete information: www.wheelsofitaly.com.

500 Years Ago. Galileo was one of the first people to use the telescope to observe the sky. Based on sketchy descriptions of telescopes invented in the Netherlands in 1608, Galileo made one with about 8x magnification, and then made improved models up to about 20x. On August 25, 1609, he demonstrated his first telescope to Venetian lawmakers. His work on the device also made for a profitable sideline with merchants who found it useful for their shipping businesses. He published his initial telescopic astronomical observations in March 1610 in a short treatise entitled *Sidereus Nuncius* (Sidereal Messenger).

On January 7, 1610 Galileo discovered three of Jupiter's four largest satellites (moons): Io, Europa, and Callisto. Ganymede he discovered four nights later. He determined that these moons were orbiting the planet since they would occasionally disappear; something he attributed to their movement behind Jupiter. He made additional observations of them in 1620. (from Galileo's Anniversary)

Hawaii Statehood: 50 Years. The Italian Connection. Among the first Italians to visit Hawaii was Paolo Emilio Botta, who came in 1828 aboard the French ship *Heros* for a two-month stay. Some years later, Captain John Dominis, an American of Italian ancestry, sailed into Honolulu, bringing with him his New England wife and small son. His son John Owen Dominis grew up in the elegant home his father had built and took his bride, Princess Liliuokalani, there to live. It was her personal home for the rest of her life. and after her death it was purchased by the Territory of Hawaii as the governor's mansion.

John Owen Dominis, a businessman of prominence, received King Kalakaua's appointment as governor of the island of Oahu, and then, upon his wife's ascension

to the throne, became Prince Consort of the Kingdom of Hawaii. He was a quiet man, living comfortably in the shadow of his royal wife, who relied heavily upon his counsel. He is one of the few non-Hawaiians to be buried in the Royal Mausoleum in Nu'uuanu Valley. Only about 1.8% of Hawaii's non-indigenous population is Italian. (Italians in Twin Cities (2000 Census): 2.2%; Italians in Minnesota (2000 Census): 2.3%. (from Hawaii's Statehood.)

Traditional Foods Minnesota. It's summer and time for fresh, traditional foods and time to relax and talk of vacation food. Come to visit, eat and shop here in south Minneapolis and you'll find the freshest foods and ideas. Daniela Ruggiero and Traditional Foods Minnesota, Via Scarlatti, LLC, Italian Cultural Services, 302 W. 61st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55419. 612-9281; 612-861-0097.

www.web.me.com/willwinter/traditionalfoodsmn.mac.com/Welcome.

Trentini's Scampagnata Celebrates 14th Anniversary. I Trentini Tirolesi del Minnesota's annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 15, at 1 pm. at Loretta Seppi's cabin on Dewy Lake. Dewy Lake is located about 8 miles north of Chisholm. (Directional signs will be posted along US Hwy #73 north of Chisholm.)

This year's picnic celebrates the club's 14 year history of sharing the cultural heritage of Italian Americans who can trace their ancestry to the Trentini region of north central Italy.

I Cantatori, the popular singing group, will provide Italian music for entertainment. The Trentini Tirolesi club and its great cooks will provide their famous polenta and sauce. All Trentini members, their families and friends are welcome. New club members will be welcomed. For more information, call Deb Krall, 218-741-2853 or Loretta Seppi, 218-258-3769 by August 10.

Medical Sales Position in Italy. Minneapolis based manufacturer of Interventional Cardiology Products has immediate openings for sales representatives in Italy and Spain. The ideal candidate: will have 1-3 years sales experience and willingness and freedom to travel overseas extensively; will be an excellent communicator with a strong independent work ethic; goal oriented and self-starter. Current Minnesota residents preferred; proficiency in Italian or Spanish required. Contact: Fabio Sabbione at fsabbione@cardia.com and/or Pete Buonomo at pbuonomo@cardia.com. See also

Modenese Student Seeks Apartment/Room Rental. Modenese student Stefano

Barozzi will be doing research under the direction of Julian Z. Schuster, Dean of the School of Business at Hamline University from the 6th or 7th of August to the 6th or 7th of November this year. Stefano is looking for housing that is either close to Hamline University or on a major bus-line which would allow him to take the bus to Hamline. Please contact Jane Calabria McPeak a jcm4@comcast.net or 651-645-0588 with any leads for Stefano. Grazie mille!

Aquila Update: L`Aquila, July 16. Rehousing efforts in quake-hit L`Aquila are on track, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi said in the Abruzzo capital Thursday. Berlusconi said all the people left homeless by April`s devastating earthquake will be rehoused by the end of November.

Many homes damaged in the quake have already been repaired while new homes are being built. However, Berlusconi noted that many residents are wary about setting up home in the area again amid frequent aftershocks. "We can`t force things along. Let`s hope this seismic activity stops, once and for all," the premier said. But he voiced confidence that the homeless will start getting into their new or repaired homes by the end of September.

"We`ll hand over 2,267 prefabricated villas in September and we`ll have all of them rehoused by November," he said, adding that the reconstruction effort had "broken all records. We`ll deliver homes furnished with domestic appliances, furniture, sheets, duvets and even sponges," the premier said. Thursday`s visit to L`Aquila was Berlusconi`s 17th since the April 6 quake that killed 299 people and left 60,000 homeless. (NIT)

Leggi e Impara: Ferragosto.

Ferragosto e parola di origine latina, deriva in fatti da "Feriai Augusti"che signific"riposo di Agosto"ed in fatti non era limitata al giorno 15 ma durava tutto il mese. La festa maggiore era il 13 con le celebrazioni religiose della Dea Diana, legata ai boschi, alle fasi lunari alla maternità.. Era la festa dell'unificazione sociale infatti ai riti partecipavano tutti. Le donne durante tutto l'anno appendevano sulle pareti del tempio, tavolette votive e consacravano le loro vesti per ottenere parti facili e felici.

Il 15 Agosto era la festa dell'agricoltura. Nel giorno di Ferragosto i lavoratori ricevevano una mancia dal padrone, gratifica che nel Rinascimento venne resa obbligatoria per decreto pontificio. Già a Roma esistevano i Consualia, periodo di festa e riposo in onore di Conso, divinità protettrice dell'agricoltura. Nel 18 a.C., con l'inizio dell'età imperiale, i Consualia divennero Augustali, in onore dell'imperatore Ottaviano Augusto. Fortemente radicata nella tradizione pagana, la festività del Ferragosto fu poi riciclata dalla Chiesa, che, come per altre feste

pagane, provò prima a sopprimerle per poi ammantarle di cristianità. Ferragosto oggi è per definizione la giornata della vacanza e la festa dell'Assunzione della Vergine Maria. In ogni paese o contrada c'è una processione religiosa.

Solitamente la statua della Madonna viene portata in processione attraverso le stradine dei centri storici, sul mare o monti, tra colori, suoni, fuochi e balli notturni sotto i cieli stellati del folklore regionale. Da un lato quindi, la sacralità del 15 agosto dall'altra le scampagnate e i pic nic fuori porta per chi non è in vacanza. Dovunque siate, buon Ferragosto!

Casa Italia: Private & Small Group Lessons. Private and small group private language lessons are specially tailored to meet the specific needs of the student and they are scheduled according to the availability of the student. Lessons are conducted in St. Louis Park. Contact Casa Italia: info@casaitaliaus.com or call ph. 612 203 2350. Casa Italia, 6311 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 224. St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

Hamline University in Italy. Hamline University School of Business MBA Students in Italy. In April Hamline University School of Business Professors Rob Routhieux and Jane Calabria McPeak accompanied a group of MBA students to Modena, Italy for a course in International Human Resource Management with a focus on Italy and the European Union. Teaching also in the course were several professors from the University of Modena-Reggio Emilia School of Economics and Business. Both Universities have signed a cooperative agreement which provides for faculty and student exchanges, joint programming and collaborative research. While in Modena, the students visited several businesses, one of which was SITMA, S.p.A. whose U.S.A.'s headquarters is located, as a result of the Modena-Saint Paul Sister City relationship, in Empire Builder Park in Saint Paul. Aris Ballestrazzi, one of its owners, and the Director for the U.S. market and the Human Resource Director spent an entire morning touring the establishment, meeting with and hosting at lunch the students and professors.

The Italian American Network. (www.italianamericannetwork.com) showcases Italian and Italian-American culture—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—with entertaining English language programming that features the style and culture of Italy and the heritage of Italian America. Online, the IA Network presents videos, interactive programming, breaking headline news and unique stories about all things Italian. This family-oriented network will be coming to TV soon in high definition. Currently it is available on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace.

Italian Americans Online. It begins with Alan Alda, (Anfonso d'Abuzzo,) talking about his Italian identity. The Italian Americans II: A Beautiful Song celebrates the Italian way of understanding life and explores what it means to be Italian in

America, examining the ideals of generations and the icons of the culture from Dante to Sinatra. This one-hour tribute is a sequel to *The Italian Americans* seen on PBS. To view the video: enter in Google: *Italian Americans: A Beautiful Song*.

Raccomandabile.

Sweet Honey, Bitter Lemon: Travels in Sicily on a Vespa, by Matthew Fort. “Replete with authentic Sicilian recipes culled directly from the out-of-the-way island stores and café kitchens that cook them. . . connects the history of the food and local way of life in Sicily.”

The Italian Summer: Golf, Food and Family at Lake Como, by Roland Merullo. “. . . a charming narrative of a hole-in-one trip through Italy. . . a glorious summer of golfing, eating and learning how to slow down and enjoy life.”

The Last Judgment: Michelangelo and the Death of the Renaissance, by James A. Connor. “Uncovering the secrets behind the fresco, Connor relates engrossing stories of conspiring kings, plotting popes, and murderous rivalries between noble families—all who were vying for control over Michelangelo and his art.”

Come Vi Chiamate? Historically, many Italian last names were based on where a person lived or was born. Leonardo da Vinci's family was from Vinci, a town in eastern Tuscany—hence his last name, meaning "from Vinci." Ironically, during his lifetime, he was referred to solely by his first name. The sculptor Andrea Pisano, best known for his panels on the bronze south door of the Florence Baptistery, was originally named Andrea da Pontedra since he was born in Pontedra, a village near Pisa. He was later referred to as "Pisano," indicating the town famous for the Leaning Tower. The single-named Perugino was from the town of Perugia. One of the most popular Italian last names today, Lombardi, is tied to the region of the same name.

Ask most people to name a work of art by Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi and they'd be hard-pressed to name even one. But mention some of his famous works that hang in the Uffizi, such as *The Birth of Venus* or *The Adoration of the Magi*, and they'd probably recognize Botticelli. His name was derived from his elder brother Giovanni, a pawnbroker, who was called *Il Botticello* ("The Little Barrel").

Another Florentine artist from the fifteenth century with a colorful last name was Giuliano Bugiardini, which literally means "little liars." Maybe his family was known for their story-telling skills. There are many other richly imagined, descriptive Italian last names, such as *Torregrossa* (big tower), *Quattrochi* (four eyes), *Bella* (beautiful), and *Bonmarito* (good husband).

Some Italian last names are related to a person's occupation or trade. Domenico Ghirlandaio, an Early Renaissance painter noted for his frescoes, probably had an ancestor who was a gardener or florist (the word *ghirlanda* means wreath or garland). Another Florentine painter, also famous for his frescoes, was known as *Andrea del Sarto*, but his real name was *Andrea d'Agnolo di Francesco*. His moniker *del sarto* (of the tailor) was derived from his father's profession. Other examples of Italian surnames related to jobs include *Contadino* (farmer), *Tagliabue* (ox-cutter or butcher), and *Auditore* (literally meaning "a hearer, or listener" and referring to a judge).

Piero di Cosimo, an Early Renaissance painter, adopted his last name as a patronym—that is, his last name was based on his father's name (*Piero di Cosimo*—Peter son of Cosimo). *Piero della Francesca*, whose masterpiece fresco cycle the *Legend of the True Cross* can be seen in the 13th-century church of San Francesco in Arezzo, had a matronymic surname. That is, his last name was based on his mother's name (*Piero della Francesca*—Peter son of Francesca).

Italian last names typically arose from geographic location, description, patronym, or trade. There's one other source that deserves mention, though, especially considering how prevalent the last name is. *Esposito*, literally meaning 'exposed' (from the Latin *expositus*, past participle of *exponere* 'to place outside') is a Italian surname commonly denoting an orphan. Typically, abandoned children were left on church steps, hence the name. Other Italian last names derived from the practice include *Orfanelli* (little orphans), *Poverelli* (little poor (people)), and *Trovato/Trovatelli* (found, little foundling). (from About.it)

Top 20 Italian Last Names throughout Italy: 1-10: Rossi, Russo, Ferrari, Esposito, Bianchi, Romano, Colombo, Ricci, Marino, Greco. 11-20: Bruno, Gallo, Conti,

De Luca, Costa, Giordano, Mancini, Rizzo, Lombardi, Moretti.

Genealogy Resource. The May-June issue of *Communes of Italy* is available. The issue features Provincia di Padova/Padua in the Veneto region. It also has a number of great articles sure to be of interest to all. Anyone interested in more information about the magazine, visit: www.ItalianAncestry.com/coi or email:

graceolivo@comcast.net or comunesofitaly@comcast.net.

ICC Website. The Italian Cultural Center has an extensive website that provides full information about classes at the Center and all other activities, programs and events. www.theitalianculturalcenter.org

News--Italian Cultural Center. Immerse yourself in a small piece of Italy close to home in Minneapolis, MN. Italian Cultural Center, Hennepin Center for the Arts, 528 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 211, Minneapolis, MN 55403, Tel. (952) 920-3056. info@theitalianculturalcenter.org.

Language School. Children's Language School. For information, contact ICC.

Adult Language School. For more information, contact ICC.

Volunteers Needed. The ICC is currently looking for volunteers to assist with ongoing

projects. Contact enews@theitalianculturalcenter.org, for information or to volunteer.

ICC on Facebook. The ICC is now on Facebook. Please join our group and invite all your friends to join as well, Visit us on Facebook today.

The Dante Alighieri Society at the ICC. The Italian Cultural Center is proud to announce that it is now a part of Società Dante Alighieri (DAS). By becoming a member of the ICC, an independent chapter of the prestigious Società Dante Alighieri (DAS), you are supporting the cultivation of Italian culture and language in the Twin Cities as well as enjoying a wide range of unique benefits both locally and internationally. For more information: www.theitalianculturalcenter.org/membership.html

Italian Language Learning. Professor Emeritus Walt Blue offers a flexible schedule

of day, afternoon or evening classes for individuals or groups—informal conversation, detailed grammatical work, tourist needs; culture—poetry, short stories, Dante, folk songs, opera. Classes are relaxed (i.e. non-threatening) social occasions. For more information: wblue@hamline.edu or walt.blue@hotmail.com. Call: 651-646-3355.

Italian Language Learning Opportunities and Resources. In addition to the Italian language classes listed above, the following list of resources may be helpful:

Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/Saint Paul. For current information:

952-920-3056; www.theitalianculturalcenter.org.

Minneapolis Community College. For current information: 612-659-6500 or

www.minneapolis.edu/cect/index.cfm

University of Minnesota, College of Continuing Education. For credit courses, www.onestop.umn.edu; For continuing education courses, www.cce.umn.edu.

Community Education Programs. St. Paul. 651-793-5455.

Minneapolis. 612-668-3939.

Minneapolis Italian Language Meetup. www.italian.meetup.com/65. If

you'd like to take part in a discussion, contact: Cinzia Gallia Schlicksup, 612-203-2350. www.italian.meetup.com/65/boards.

Italian Lessons. The following teachers offer private/small group classes:

Walter Blue, wblue@hamline.edu; walt.blue@hotmail.com , 651-646-3355.

Alycia Honeck, ahoneck01@gw.hamline.edu

Josephine Mangano, 612-374-2828

Cinzia Gallia Schlicksup, 612-203-2350

Elizabeth Teefy, teefy002@umn.edu, 612-237-9044.

Calendario. For more information on events listed below, see issues of Notizie.
Send information about events to raspanti1@comcast.net.

First Monday of the Month Italian language Meetup, Dunn Brothers, Golden Valley.

Second Tuesday of the Month UNICO monthly meeting.

Tuesdays Italian language conversation group, Barnes and Noble, Edina.

First Thursday of the Month Minneapolis Italian American Club, Rushford Hall

First Fridays of the Month UMN Italian Conversation classes

First Fridays of the Month Italian Cineforum, ICC, Minneapolis

Thursday Evenings UMN Italian Conversation Club

Thursdays and Saturdays Daniela Ruggerio at Traditional Foods Minnesota

First Week in October Casa Italia Italian language classes begin

Monthly ICC Cinema Club for Young Adults, Minneapolis

August 15 Festa dell'Assunzione di Maria; Ferragosto

August 15 I Trentini Tirolesi Picnic, Dewy Lake

August 23 Wheels of Italy, Lake Calhoun Exhibition Center

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