



August 2012

italianamerican.com

Issue 468

Our Lions

By Bob Penna

For many years now, visitors to our club have been greeted with an assortment of lions...or at least by an assortment of *statues* of lions. Most recently, the familiar winged lion of St. Mark reassumed its rightful place atop our new LED sign. Given this singular honor accorded to only one member of the animal kingdom, many people, club members and visitors alike, might ask *Why? Why the lion, why a winged lion...and why do we have so many of them?*

The first answer is, throughout the world, the lion has come to symbolize strength, power, courage, and, most importantly, majesty. As with the eagle, long seen and depicted as supreme in the air, the lion's essential characteristics were viewed as not only traits that made it dominant on land, but also as reflecting qualities that kings and emperors should have, wished they had, or saw themselves as having. For example, Ancient Egyptian pharaohs used lions to represent their great wealth and were using the lion on tribal banners at the time when Moses took the Israelites out of Egypt.

The lion's popularity as a symbol ranged far beyond Egypt. In the ancient world, from the cultures of the Hittites, Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians through early Islamic cultures like the Umayyads and Abbassids, and as far to the East as ancient India, the lion was a symbol of power and royalty. According to the Book of Genesis, the Israelite Tribe of Judah had the Lion of Judah as its symbol.



Much if not all of this imagery would probably have been lost to the dust of history had it not been for a book, *The Physiologus*, which was an early Christian manuscript about animal symbolism, and which spread into many cultures and had great influence in Western culture. First written in Greek in the second century AD, the work was translated into Latin in about 400 AD, and then spread into many European and Middle-Eastern languages. It was here in *The Physiologus* that the lion was first styled as the "king of beasts", a notion that has continued to this day. Adopted over the centuries as a continued symbol of royalty and power, the lion appeared on the coat of arms of Kingdom of Bohemia (1198-1806), and is still to be found as a symbol of The Czech Republic, Finland, the city of Jerusalem, city of León in Spain, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, northern Ireland, Armenia, Belgium, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Iran, Denmark, England, Wales, Estonia, and on the merchant marine and naval flags of the Italian Republic.

As for the *winged* lion, that image owes its existence to its association with St. Mark the Evangelist, most probably because of a line in the account of the Apocalypse in the Book of

Continued on pg.4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's summer!

Some clubs and organizations take the summer off, not the IACC. That's when we kick it into high gear. We have Family Night at the Pavilion on Fridays, a Farmers' Market and brunch on Sunday mornings, bocce leagues on Monday and Tuesday nights, and let's not forget our pool. To that we are adding Friday Cruise-In. Classic cars will gather on the lawn in front of the pavilion each Friday. There will be a full-day car show on Saturday, August 25th. Added to all these activities, committees are currently meeting to plan the Fabulous Fall Festival, a concert at Troy Music Hall, and our Columbus Day Dinner Dance.

We have received many calls regarding our Festa Italiana. Earlier in the year we had decided to hold off this year's festa in order to focus on a number of other projects. I am happy to announce that we are already planning Festa Italiana 2013 and that it will be bigger than ever.

I'm sure you have seen the IACC sign has been returned to the property with a new LED sign installed in it. I'm hoping that by the time you read this, National Grid will have turned on the power, giving us a new way to promote our events.

George Urciuoli, President

August Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet
	Men's Bocce
Every Tuesday	Women's Bocce
Every Wednesday	Zumba
Every Friday	Family Night at the Pavilion
Every Sunday	IAHFi Farmers' Market
July 30 – August 3	IAHFi Camp 1 st Session
August 6 – August 10	IAHFi Camp 2 nd Session
August 9, Thursday	Women's League
August 21, Tuesday	Board Meeting
Save the Date	
September 10	Men's Club Meeting
September 23	Fabulous Fall Festival
September 27	Elementary Language begins
October 6 & 7	CIAO Columbus Day Festival
	Cook Park, Colonie
October 20	Columbus Day Dinner Dance
October 21	David Righeschi Concert
	Troy Music Hall

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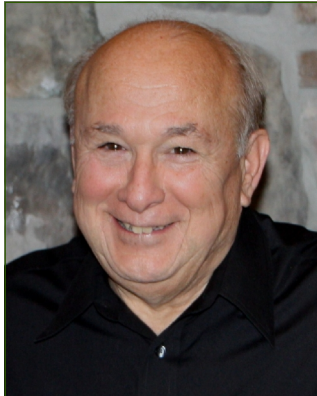
Editor's Note

In our July issue, we included two photos of the Celebration of Saint Anthony taken by *Times Union* staff photographer, Paul Buckowski.

Member Profile

By Rachel Cameron

Richard Ognibene



IACC's own Richard Ognibene recently published a college-level textbook consolidating several issues raised in Jonathan Kozol's twelve books concerning social problems in urban life and education. The text is entitled *A Persistent Reformer: Jonathan Kozol's Work to Promote Equality in America*. Not only did Dick coordinate contributions and edit *A Persistent Reformer*, he also wrote the Introduction and one of the chapters. Jonathan Kozol is a nationally-renowned educational and social reformer who has devoted his life to raising consciousness of educational problems associated with integration, poverty, literacy, homelessness, and unequal funding, offering possible solutions and a call to others to become activists.

At the start of his college teaching career, Dick became interested in Kozol's work while teaching a course called "Current Issues in Education," and somewhat later wrote an article based on Kozol's first nine books ("Jonathan Kozol's Search for Social Justice"). Joseph DeVitis, editor of the well-known Adolescent Cultures, School & Society series asked Dick to write a chapter about Kozol for his book, *Character and Moral Education*. DeVitis then encouraged Dick to submit his own book, *A Persistent Reformer* to Peter Lang Publishing Company. In the Preface, Dick thanks many people, but my personal favorite is his thank you to his wife: "Finally, I thank Elaine Ognibene, my wife of many years, for her encouragement, her willingness to read what I write and offer gentle criticism, and her tolerance of my distracted state during the long hours a project like this book requires."



Christopher, Elaine, Elizabeth, Richard, and Dick

Dick grew up in a close-knit Italian neighborhood in Rochester, New York. After college, marriage, and beginning a family, Dick moved from Rochester to Niskayuna with his wife, Elaine, and their children. During his professional career, he served as professor of education, department chair or dean at Siena College, at St Rose, and for seventeen years at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. While he was at Seton Hall, he commuted between Niskayuna and South Orange, New Jersey. In 2001 he left Seton Hall and returned to Siena College. He retired from Siena four years ago where he was a highly respected professor and administrator. Dick has authored numerous articles and chapters on various educational themes and regularly makes presentations at conferences across the country.

Beginning when they moved to Niskayuna, Dick and Elaine frequented the IACC, dining at the restaurant and attending occasional events. In 1995, they took their first trip to Italy with Rosanna Aiuppa. They have since travelled with Rosanna and other IACC members on two more adventures to Italy. During these trips, Dick and Elaine came to know some of our members quite well. In 2001, when Dick stopped commuting between New Jersey and home, he and Elaine joined IACC. In 2009, Dick joined the Board of Directors and served as Vice President in his last year. Dick continues to serve our club as a member of the Social Activities Committee and coordinator of Book Club.

Continued from pg 1

Revelation of St. John. The lion is one of four living creatures described in those verses as standing around the throne of the Almighty, images which were adopted by the early Church as symbolizing the four evangelists. For a variety of reasons having to do with how his gospel opens, St. Mark came to be seen as represented by the lion, the wings added later by artists to symbolize the saint's spiritual elevation, in a way similar to how halos were used to depict holiness. These two traditions, the lion itself seen as a symbol of royalty or state power, and St. Mark's association with the winged lion, combined when Mark was chosen as the patron saint of Venice and the winged lion began to appear as the symbol of the Republic of Venice, and today as the symbol of the city of Venice and the Veneto region of Italy.



As for why the IACC has three lions, we inherited the gold one by the front door from the old Vincentian Institute, and the one by the pool from the former Sons of Italy building downtown, both being, it was felt, too "noble" to simply be thrown away. The origin of the winged lion, that now graces

our new sign and will soon become part of the IACC's official logo, is something of a mystery. Several different people have differing memories of just where and how we acquired it.

It really doesn't matter. The lion represents nobility and stature... qualities we like to think of as associated with our club. The winged lion, recognized around the world as representing Venice, nicely captures our Italian roots. All of the lions add a special something to our grounds. We should all be proud to have them.

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and/or

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A Yen for the Yankees *By Sharon Patrei*

On Wednesday, June 27, IACC Yankee fans showed up at the Pavilion at 7:30 AM for bagels and coffee to kick off a day of food and fun with America's favorite pastime... baseball. We boarded the bus at 8:30 AM and headed down the Thruway, as it faithfully took us through New York's unique and historical countryside. True to its promise, the Thruway led us into the customary traffic jam as we approached the Tappansee Bridge. What always passes the time in this situation are the "death-wish drivers" who think they can rise above this dilemma by squeezing into non-existent spaces while practicing their "stunning" vocabulary punctuated with hand gestures. These antics entertained us for an hour while we fermented on the blacktop.

At last we arrive at the bus parking lot. Our bus driver showed great skill backing into a parking space no wider than a Volkswagen Beetle. We stood and stretched as we exited the bus and were greeted by scalpers and season ticket holders wanting to sell today's tickets. My friend and I opted for the exchange window inside the stadium. I am a believer in buying the most expensive ticket I can afford. My friend agreed. We purchased two tickets in the 20th row, right behind first base, in the shade. We had our own menu and waiter. We were having a great time eating, talking, and watching people. Then it happened....Andy Pettit takes a ball to his ankle that would fracture his tibia. Suddenly my cheese fries lost their appeal. The stadium went quiet for a moment as he hobbled back to the dugout. Our pitching legend is probably out for the season.

The Yankees eventually won the game. We all made it back to the bus that would take us to our next stop...Arthur Avenue for dinner and a little shopping. There were more "death-wish drivers" willing to take on the imposing presence of a bus. The bus won again. After a delicious dinner and fun shopping, we boarded the bus with leftovers, Italian coffee, and merchandise, settling in for our trip home. We arrived at the Pavilion at 10:30 PM. We want to thank Jim Sano for planning this most enjoyable trip. My yen for the Yankees was satisfied. I feel another one coming on...



A Labor of Love, For Love *By Jim Sano*

My dad was very much a romantic. He always thought the world of Joe DiMaggio, not because of his baseball playing skills, but admired him for the many years he sent fresh flowers twice a week to the grave of Marilyn Monroe, his former wife. The restoration project of the Lion by the pool is also a story of love. This Lion adorned the entrance of 24 Madison Avenue, the former home of the Sons of Italy Roma Intangible Lodge, which was sold in the early 1970's.



The money was used towards building the IACC. In 2001, during building renovations, the IACC was asked by Capital City Lodge #78 F&AM, the current owners, if we wanted the Lion. The Lion was removed and placed in storage. Finally, after eleven years, the funding and master craftsmen needed to restore the Lion were secured. It now proudly graces the entrance by the pool of the IACC. The entire project was paid for by a donation by my mom, Josephine Sano, in memory of my dad, Joseph S. Sano and the entire Sano family. Why? This was done to remember where and when my parents first met, at the Sons of Italy Hall at 24 Madison Avenue at the Columbus Day Dinner Dance in 1940. When you look at the Lion, stop and remember this story and think of the ones in your life you love the most and do something special with them.

Ho scritto una storia d'amore senza inizio e senza fine...per scriverla con te

Join us Sunday
Mornings at the
Farmers' Market
for
Brunch



Farmers' Market

By Anna Acconi

The Heritage Farmers' Market began on a very hot day on July 1. Twenty vendors attended and many consumers enjoyed a pancake breakfast and shopping experience. As the season continues, we encourage all members to participate and shop. A success for the Farmers' Market will be a success for all of us, since proceeds will go to the much needed repair of the pavilion.

The Heritage Farmers' Market presents a variety of fresh local produce, plants, food products and crafts. Following are some of the products that are available every Sunday morning from 9 AM to 1 PM.

- OUR MARKET HAS
- fresh produce
 - fresh local fruits
 - maple products
 - meats, beef, chicken, pork, rabbit
 - butter and cheese
 - fresh fish and seafood
 - eggs
 - bread and rolls
 - pies, tarts, turnovers
 - goat cheese and chevre
 - hot Mexican food
 - hot Mediterranean food
 - hummus
 - cheese spreads and sauces
 - peanut butter
 - mushrooms
 - honey
 - soaps and lotions
 - artwork
 - handcrafted jewelry
 - and much more....



What better way to spend a Sunday morning than to come to the pavilion area, possibly after church, have breakfast and browse through the many offerings available? Shopping at the market will provide the freshest, most nutritious menus for your entire week. Hope to see you every Sunday morning!



I Study Italian

By Mary Russo Demetrick

With thanks to Nancy Nicholson Simioni
Posted in La Bella Lingua by Dianne Hales

I study Italian
to understand my heritage
why I fly off the handle at the slightest nuance
the slightest rudeness
why tomatoes and basil
simmer in my blood
why the smell of espresso
brings back memories
too strong to ignore.

I study Italian
to understand my family
why silence was understood
but never called omerta
why my mother ran the house
why my father played the mandolin

I study Italian
to understand the words
my grandmother said to me
stai zitto, a chi,
piacere, stai bene

I study Italian
to understand my bond
to roll my tongue around
double consonants
to try out my new-found
Tuscan language
on my mother's Neapolitan ear

I study Italian
to understand who I am
in the world of spongy
white American bread
turkey and mayonnaise

I study Italian
to understand why I crave pasta
on Sunday at noon
the taste of good wine
with dinner
olive oil on my salad

I study Italian
to understand
to come home
to bind with past
to create a future
where my heritage
will not be lost
to my children
to keep alive
all that has gone before
I study Italian



Tri-City Valley Cats

Members who attended the July 18th Valley Cats game against Lowell Spinners saw an exciting game. The Valley Cats won 9 to 2,

with 2 home runs and tremendous fielding. After the game the fireworks were spectacular. There are still three opportunities to enjoy a fun evening with the IACC at the Valley Cats games.

We have arranged for discounted tickets for our IACC members, family, and friends to attend any of the Valley Cats games this season listed below (affiliates are noted in parentheses):

Fri, August 3 Italian Night & Fireworks vs. Batavia Muckdogs (St Louis Cardinals)

Wed, August 15 Halfway to Valentine's Day & Fireworks vs. Brooklyn Cyclones (NY Mets)

Sat, August 18 Star Wars Night & Firework vs. Staten Island Yankees (NY Yankees)

Tickets are available at the discounted rate by going to the Tri-City Valley Cats website and following these steps:

Go to: www.milb.com, go to Group Tickets\Picnics in the page menu, select Group Ticket Portal, follow the directions given, Password is: IACC.

Games start at 7 PM.

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Women's League

Hi Ladies,

Last month, we had our water aerobics class and it was really a great time. I only wish more of you participated in the class or came to be our "cheerleaders". We had our meal poolside and even had time for a dip in the pool before the end of the night. Loved it!!

This month we go back inside and we will have a guest teacher for a little "Senior Yoga." This will be easily done sitting. If you want to bring your mat, please do so. We will do this before dinner at 6:00 PM for about half an hour. We will then have our dinner and meeting.

If you haven't yet stopped by the Farmers' Market on Sunday mornings, you sure are missing a lot of great local, organic, produce and cheeses, and so many other delicacies. We have a great diverse selection of vendors. You may even treat yourself to a great breakfast in our pavilion! Be sure to put this on your calendar for Sunday mornings. The market is open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

I would like to see if there is any interest in water aerobics next year – possibly for 6 or 8 weeks in July and August on Saturday mornings. I think the cost would be minimal for members and a little more for non-members. Let me know what you think.

Our meeting this month is again on *Thursday* (in order to accommodate Zumba classes on Wednesday), August 9th at 6:00 PM. Our meal selections will be Oven-Baked White Fish, Sliced Sirloin, or Pasta Primavera, served with Salad and Family-Style Vegetables. Dessert will be Chocolate Mousse with Coffee or Tea. The price remains at \$20.00. Please email your reservations to Lynn Indelicato at domlynn@yahoo.com or call 479-3714 by Monday, August 6th. Cancellations must be received by Tuesday, August 7th.


Donna Zumbo - Women's League President.

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Kathleen Mailloux & Mark Babie
Albany

Sponsor: Jeanne Sacca

Renee Marois
Albany

Sponsor: Angelo Tarantino

Rocco & Mirela Pezzulo
Albany

Sponsor: Maria Marchio

Charlie Schmoegner & Steve Dupra
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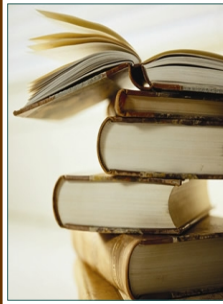
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Agatina Simeone
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Grazia Simeone
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Sponsor: Josephine Tirino



IAHFi Book Club

By Dick Ognibene

The first meeting of the IACC Book Club will take place on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the Boardroom. There will be three sessions this fall, all of which will be on Tuesdays. The next meeting will be on October 23rd, and the third will be on November 27th. Please mark your calendars.

On September 11th, we will discuss the first of Andrea Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano mystery series, all of which are set in the imaginary town of Vigata in Sicily. Of course, being Italian, the Inspector is a gourmet, a detective who solves crimes instinctually by trying to enter a criminal's way of thinking and then staying one step ahead until the capture. In *The Shape of Water*, a local big-shot is found dead and semi-naked in a seedy part of the town. Inspector Salvo Montalbano enters the case exhibiting his usual mix of humor, cynicism, and compassion. He takes on the powerful and corrupt community leaders who are determined to block his path to the real killer, a discovery that will embarrass all of them. The book is filled with eccentric characters including the victim's cool widow, an 82 year old teacher who shoots at people because he thinks they are trying to seduce his wife, Montalbano's attractive deputy who periodically tries to lead him astray with sexual overtures, and garbage collectors with graduate degrees. Montalbano is no melancholy brooder. He puts a comic face on the mystery genre, sorting through multiple layers of corruption Sicilian style while still finding time for a good lunch.

For our October 23rd meeting, we will read Anna Monardo's *The Courtyard of Dreams*. This book is a coming of age story whose main character, seventeen year old Guilia di Cuore, tries to become more independent against the wishes of her Italian-born father who is a successful physician in America. Guilia agrees to spend a summer with the di Cuore relatives in Calabria. She discovers the generous and gregarious members of her extended Italian family and a first love that alters her certainty about the future life she had imagined.

At our last meeting in 2012, November 27th, we will focus on Donna Leon's *Beastly Things*. Once again we follow the clever and urbane Inspector Brunetti in Venice who tries to solve a murder connected to the greedy underworld of a slaughterhouse where horrible conditions exist for animals and all those who work there. This is the twenty-first Brunetti mystery, and we again engage with Brunetti's admirable wife, Paola, his dependable sidekick, Inspector Vianello, and the chic Signorina Elettra, Brunetti's office assistant who discovers key information in ways Brunetti does not approve but uses to solve crimes.

For more information, contact Dick Ognibene at 372-4919 or at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com

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Kathleen Ryan
Benjamin Sano
Stephen Sano
Irene Scovello
Rebecca Tearno
George Urciuoli
Alice Wyld
Donna Zumbo

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966.8664 or aacconi111@aol.com



Summer Bruschetta (d'estate)

Pronounced BRU-SKE'-TA

By Maria La Morte

Using garden or farm tomatoes, dice to make 1-½ cups of chopped tomatoes. Add 3 cloves of minced or grated garlic, 1/4 cup finely diced red onion, salt & pepper to taste, and lots of chopped parsley and basil (all fresh, of course!) and drizzle with the best olive oil you can find to blend all together.

You have created basic Bruschetta. Add other ingredients based on your taste or the region of Italia you love, such as capers, chopped anchovy, hot pepperoncini, diced fennel bulb or spicy olives, cubed fresh mozzarella or parmigiano, or any fresh, raw vegetable you prefer. (While not strictly Italian, diced avocado is a wonderful addition.)

Allow to sit for a bit to marry all the flavors and then enjoy it over toasted Italian bread. In some areas of Italia, they leave out the garlic in the tomato mixture, and then they rub the toasted bread with a cut clove of raw garlic. Either way, buonissimo!!

Enjoy!!

Layout Editor Needed

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Approximately 25 individuals have been attending our first ever Zumba program held in the Heritage Pavilion. Even though the participants are of various ages and have a variety of Zumba skills, everyone is having a wonderful time. There is even interest in conducting a second Zumba program in the Fall. There are still 3 weeks remaining in the current program, which continues with classes on August 1, 8, and 15. Individuals who wish to attend these classes are welcome to do so. Class begins at 6:45 PM. Cost is \$7 for each class.



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