General Meeting, Dinner Thursday May 9th, 2013 6:30pm Mount Virgin Church Hall

MAY 2013 Canaso OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ITALIAN CLUB ESTABLISHED APRIL 26TH 1920



THIS ISSUE

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The White Caps are Coming, the White Caps are Coming

By Martin Nigrelle – Event chairperson

The giveaway item for this year's seventh annual Mariners Italian Heritage Night will be a white baseball cap customized for the event. The cap will feature the Mariners "S" in red & green on the front, an Italian flag on one side & the words "Italian Heritage Night" on the adjustable strap at the back of the hat.

Tickets will continue to be available on a first come first served basis through the Mariners. Ticket prices are \$43 for field level (\$17 discount) & \$20 (\$13 discount) for seats in the upper deck. To purchase tickets directly from the Mariners, please visit the web site dedicated to the event: http://Mariners.com/italian.

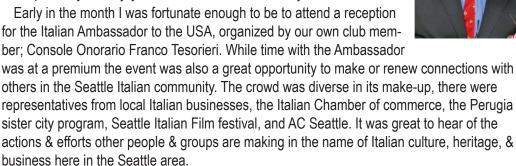
Italian Heritage Night is 7:10pm, Friday June 7th, 2013. Alex Liddi is still listed as a member of the 40 man roster, let's hope the only Italian born player in the MLB today makes Active on the Mariners roster in time

(Continued on page 5)

Message from the President

Ciao! Comments, questions or concerns about the club? Feel free to contact me directly by phone: (206) 310-7689 or e-mail: martin.nigrelle@hotmail.com.

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Easter holiday.



Thanks to Vincent Ferrese for the great article about his family heritage in last month's newsletter. I am looking forward to more family heritage articles in the newsletter, I'll have to dig up my own and share it too. If anyone else is interested in sharing your Italian family heritage, please send your submissions to our Editor; Nick Grossi.

It's never too early to think about Festa Italiana, Seattle's Italian Festival or the opportunities to contribute to Festa. I want to reiterate and renew my enthusiasm regarding Joe Galluccio & Tom Grossi as co-chairs of the Festa Sausage booth. I think this year may be one of the most fun and most productive on record. If you, your family, or your friends are interested in participating in this year's Sausage Booth please let Joe or Tom know.

It seems to be the year of the co-chair, thanks to Linda Madrid & Audrey Manzanares who are going to organize the Adults Christmas Party this year. Thanks also go to Joanne Marchese for her work chairing the party the past few years, I've heard nothing but good stuff about the past events.

New chances to get involved with the club:

- Do you know a young lady interested in representing the Italian Community? We need a new candidate.
- Children's Christmas party, this event needs a new chair or co-chairs.

I'm still interested in opportunities for the club, related to community service, community awareness & scholarship fund raising. Please let me know if you have any interest or information regarding such actions.

Martin Nigrelle, President Italian Club of Seattle



il Ficcanaso

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Official Bulletin of the Italian Club of Seattle Established April 26, 1920 www.italianclubofseattle.org

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Adult's Christmas Party......Linda Madrid & **Audrey Manzanares** Bylaws.....Barbara Peretti Crab Dinner.....Anna Popovich Children's Christmas Party ??? Day at the RacesJoe Galluccio Festa Sausage BoothJoe Galluccio & Tom Grossi Golf TournamentBrian DiJulio Halloween Party.....Andrea Petrone Health.....Gemma Thielges Luncheons Audrey Manzanares Mariner Baseball Night...... Martin Nigrelle Miss Italian Club..... Audrey Manzanares New Membership......Diane Kaczor Parliamentarian.....Lou Cella PicnicRon Roletto Scholarship Diane Kaczor

Famous chef, TV personality traces his family tree through Black Diamond



Pictured above is Dana Batali, Leonetta Merlino Batali, Mario Batali, and Armandino Batali. Leonetta passed away in 1994.

(Submitted by Armandino Batali, Past President of The Italian Club of Seattle)

Mario Batali, celebrated chef, writer, restaurateur, and media personality, was born in Seattle in 1960, one of Armandino and Marilyn Batali's three children. But did you know that his grandmother, Leonetta Merlinoperhaps the one person who most influenced his cooking—was born right here in Black Diamond in 1902?

Mario's father–a man who's experienced a great deal of success in his own right, first at Boeing and then as the owner of Salumi Artisan Cured Meats in Pioneer Square–did. Leonerra was his mother.

According to Armandino, family patriarch Angelo Merline arrived in Black Diamond in 1896 from Italy, to work in the coal mines. His first wife joined him six months later in 1897. Ubaldo, their first child, followed by Carmella in 1900, and Leonetta. Attilio and Annie followed in 1904 and 1908, respectively.

Angelo, however, soon tired of not being able to eat good pasta, meat, and salami, so he moved the family near Seattle's International District where he opened the Metropolitan Grocery. In the 1920s. He moved the business, then known as Angelo Merlino & Sons, strategically across the street from the old immigration building.

"A lot of people came through there and the first thing they found was an Italian store importing Greek and Jewish and Turkish products, plus Italian," said Armandino. "[Angelo] had instant access to people coming into the county. Smart guy. He built up quite a business."

In fact it was a business that Angelo operated for half a century until his death in 1957, and one that his sons continued to run into the mid-1970s. And though Merlino Imports is no longer associated with the family, it's still in business today.

Food, you see, has always played an important role in the Merlino and Batali families.

"We were a family of cooks," said Armandino. "My mother and father, Armando Batali–who too was born into a coal mining family in Montana–were great cooks... together" he added.

"The memories the kids have is going to grandma's and all the food that was always on the table: some antipasto, some salami, and cheese and bread. You went to the first course—maybe a soup, probably a soup—because she loved soup. The second course would be pasta. You thought dinner was over and then you had four more courses of meat and everything else! They remember that.

"They remember the fun, the bantering around (Continued on page 5)

il Ficcanaso

A book review by Italian Club Member, Joel Patience

Belzoni - The Giant Archaeologists Love to Hate

University of Virginia Press

There are various accounts of Italians making history and how their efforts may impact the present. But to the story of Giovanni Belzoni (1778-1824) is a person that made history by bringing antiquity to our futures. Romance of long lasting love is the binder for this story. It is a mix of detective work as well as personal torment as an added spice.

Belzoni spent much of his early life as a circus performer. But it was the circus of politics and his acquiring and selling of international treasures from Egypt that made him famous.

Giovanni had personality which made him comfortable with everyone and he was inspired by the upper crust contacts presented to him through acting. His ingenuity and lust for discovery lead him to engineer and successfully sell a hydraulic machine that he designed. However, diplomatic patrons encouraged Belzoni to use his location and personal skills to acquire items of antiquity for them and their countries. Giovanni Belzoni was at a time and in a place where Egyptian relics were being sought after with the locals in support for profit. Giovanni made himself into the go to guy for anything at any price – including his and his wife's own personal safety.

Sarah, Giovanni's wife, followed him into the deserts of Egypt and they lived in constant danger, during a period where no European dared travel there. Competition for these artifacts was fierce and ran as deep as the ancestral rivalry between the money families of Europe. Dealers in the field were used to out-gun and out-collect each other at any cost. However, the results of his efforts are timeless installations in major museums. There is every reason to believe that Belzoni was sharp thorn in the sides of anyone not patron. If there is any common sense why in cinema the Italian and French language almost never appears together, Belzoni may be a contributing factor.

This writer had the great pleasure of being in the British Museum one year ago September. I was overwhelmed to see the enormity of Belzoni's work and his distinctive mark he scratched into every pieces to insure he would be paid for each piece he delivered.

The book appears with many of Belzoni's own drawings and is a delightful escape to a time we may never know again.



Bio: Joel Patience is a local watercolor artist and writer, traveling to Italy for inspiration and writing about all things Italian. He is a member of the Italian Club of Seattle, Board member of the FESTA Italian and the Seattle Perugia Sister City Association. Joel can be reached at hello@joelpatience-watercolors.com. In addition to his many talents, Joel Patience is also a glass blower with a glass blowing shop in his home.

Seattle Sounders – New Price Points!! By Martin Nigrelle -President

Based on availability there are three price points available for the Seattle Sounders FC own Italian Night. Tickets that would normally cost \$29.00 for seating in the area known as the Hawks Nest, the north end of the field behind the northern goal are available in limited quantities for:

- \$17.50
- \$20.00
- \$23.00

Simply use the link below for an online purchase, code word: ITALIAN

https://oss.ticketmaster. com/html/go.html?l=EN& t=seattlemls&o=8767517 &g=501

These new prices are FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, act fast for the best prices. The Sounders will be hosting F. C. Dallas at 7:30pm Saturday May 18th in Century Link Field.

Chris Carra from the Sounders has generously offered to personally guide a stadium tour 60 minutes before the match starting by NW box office entrance for the first 100 people who participate in this event. Anyone who is interested in sitting together please let Martin Nigrelle know before buying tickets. Or if you have your own group of 10+ people you would like to sit with, you can arrange for Special block group seating, Contact Chris Carra: Chrisca@SoundersFC.com | 425.203.8319

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Health & Welfare

by Gemma Di Julio Thielges, Assistant Angela Di Julio Wright

Members Ron Alia and Bill Picchena served as pallbearers at the funeral of their Aunt Edith Carlson who passed away on 3/29/13 at the age of 90. Dorothy Oberto (wife of Art) passed away on 4/1/13 and her service was on 4/13/13. Dorothy was 80. Lucille Schweitzer passed away at age 89, on 4/4/13 and her funeral was on 4/16/13. Our sympathies to all these families.

Margaret and Monti Marchetti spent nine days in the Phoenix area looking at retirement homes. Phil Segadelli was also there as he already owns a home in the area. Bill Picchena, daughter Jacqui and 16 y.o. grandson Roy spent a week (Roy's Spring break) at The Phoenician in Arizona in 90 degree weather which made it tough to return home. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that they, too, looked at homes to purchase, in Peoria (baseball spring training territory) and in the Scottsdale area.

Linda Madrid and Don Gulden celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary at Canlis on the 14th of April. They've enjoyed several trips over the past year and look forward to more travel ahead - they'll be in La Jolla next month - to be with a brother who is turning 76 and they'll be taking a trip to Italy in September.

Rosa Facciuto reported that their "girls and boys club" ventured north to Mt. Vernon on Sun. 4/7 on a very cold and rainy day to see the Tulip Fields. Joanne McDaniel was the driver and guide on this adventure. In spite of the rain, they enjoyed the lovely scenery, the gorgeous colors - some which they hadn't seen before. They took a trolley ride out into the fields to take pictures - the trolley was pulled by tractor because of all the mud! After the trolley ride, they stopped for lunch in the huge barn. There was an unexpected bonus for Rosa. Her daughter-in-law Jennifer, who lives in Anacortes, is the artist that painted the murals in the barn. She has just one more panel to finish. It's been 10 years in the works. Jennifer didn't know Rosa was there so it was a total surprise. The rain stopped on the way back home (of course!) A good trip enjoyed by all.

Marissa, 16 y.o. daughter of Audrey Manzanares, participated in the first competition of the season in April and came in 6th place out of 24 riders in the Taylor Harris Medal class. She got a score of 64 in the Derby (not sure exactly what that means but it was good and she did not fall off her horse!).

Last month Tom Grossi and wife Nancy rented a motor home and headed out with their family for a week's trip around the State of Washington. In spite of some cooler weather, they had a wonderful time seeing highlights of our beautiful state.

Wondering if anyone has visited the recent exhibit at the Museum of Flight with the set-up of the Space Shuttle Trainer. The Italian Caproni Ca 20 (World's first fighter plane) hangs there too. Our Club has been very generous over the years and it recently came to our attention that in the late 1980's we donated \$20,000 to the Museum of Flight. This was confirmed by an employee at the museum who told me that the money was used

(Continued on page 5)

Italian Club Investments By Barbara G., Financial Advisor

When Italian Club lost Tino Lazzaretti a few years ago, we all lost far more than a good friend. He had served us all so well for many years as an extremely knowledgably, intelligent and honorable financial advisor. Joe & I usually sat with the Lazzaretti family and other friends during the monthly meetings. Tino & I often discussed the club's investments and how to get the safest returns. We all miss him a great deal.

Tino had recommended to the board that I follow him as financial advisor. My work experience has always been in protecting investments: first in New York in commercial banking, then as a corporate treasurer handling bank accounts, profit sharing & pension funds, and finally in my job in Seattle as a US Treasury investigator.

When I took over as advisor for the club, there were two critical problems to resolve. The first was the fact that banks were paying negligible income on \$200,000+ remaining income that we had in certificates of deposit. Many people wonder why the Federal Reserve is holding interest rates so low. It hurts all savors, especially senior citizens & institutional investors such as pension funds & charities. The main reasons are to keep loan rates low enough for businesses & homebuyers to borrow to help the country grow out of the recession and increase employment. Another reason that it saves the Federal Government, and thus the taxpayers, billions in interest payments on the Federal debt.

The second more serious problem was the earlier loss of \$100,000 due to the Mastro (Continued on page 5)

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Health & Welfare (continued)

to help build "the great gallery" at the current location. We can be proud of our Italian heritage but can also take pride in being contributing members of our community.

Wishing all the Moms a very Happy Mother's Day on May 12th. Memorial Day is on May 27th - a day when we remember those who have died for our country.



Gemma & Angela (the sisters)

White Caps (continued)



for the game. As has been done the past few years, the Mariners will be donating \$2 per ticket to Festa Italiana Seattle's Italian Festival. Come on out to the ballpark for a great night out with fellow Italian-American friends & family.

Investments (continued)

debacle. It was nearly one third of our savings. I realized we had to choose other investments.

I decided to invest with Vanguard Funds. We have invested our personal retirement accounts with them for more than thirty years. Vanguard is well known for quality customer service, a great variety of investments and the lowest fees in the mutual fund industry. I examined the available options & selected from among the safest funds.

The primary investments were the GNMA fund, Wellesley Income (a balanced fund of 60% bonds & 40% blue chip stocks), & Inflation Protection Securities (TIPS). In the first year we was able to earn \$16,934 on the \$222,000 we invested.

The second year bond funds continued a strong rally & we earned an additional \$16,416 totaling \$33,350. The bond funds stalled with the rapid growth of the stock market in 2013. I cautiously moved half of our GNMA & TIPS funds to two conservative balanced funds: Wellesley & Wellington. This gave a limited exposure to Blue Chip stocks. We have earned \$10,684 year to date in 2013 totaling \$44,034 since we began investing with Vanguard in 2/2011. My hope is to earn back the full \$100,000 within three more years.

My long term plan is to return a large portion of the our investments to bank CDs when the banks begin to pay interest once again. Comments & suggestions are welcome.

Batali (continued) the table. The whole social life was around the table."

Mario, in an interview on PBS's Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., said that his grandmother's ravioli "were amongst the greatest single things that were ever experienced in our lives. And she had a count. And it's legendary among my entire family. You got, and I'm not sure.... I don't remember the number anymore. It was eight, nine, or eleven—and that was all you got."

Armandino remembers. "She would limit each to nine. If they are one more than nine they

Wouldn't eat anything else. That's a great memory for the kids."

The ingredients for her ravioli included Swiss third and sausage, and it was often served with oxtails.

"When our neighborhood friends would come over and hear what we were having, they thought we were the weirdest people in the world because they were still buying sliced turkey and putting it on white bread," Mario told Henry.

Armandino's job at Boeing took the family to Spain in the late 1970s. During vacations, the family traveled throughout Europe and learned about enjoying food, the quality of food, and service.

"Everything relied on food in our family."

And so it only seems logical that Mario would become a chef, a craft he honed while living in Italy for three years. But in the early 1980s cooking still wasn't "hip"...yet.

"Cooking was kind of the last thing you did when you got out of the military before you went to jail," Mario joked with Henry. "It was the lowest-commondenominator job. Everybody could peel potatoes."

And so the family tradition lives on.

"He [Mario] always remembers his grandma-all our kids do. They talk about grandma and grandpa and their food,— said Armandino.

"Whenever we get together, we always light a candle for grandma and grandpa in the corner so that the memory is not forgotten."

Reprinted with permission of Ken Jenson, Black Diamond Historical Society



2013-14 Scholarship - Application Form is Available

By Diana Kaczor – Scholarship Chair

The Italian Club of Seattle is awarding up to three individual \$500.00 scholarships. The scholarships for the 2013-2014 school year will be awarded to students who are selected based on meeting or exceeding the scholarship criteria (noted below). As in years' past; the better the GPA, the better chance of scholarship award.

Next steps in the scholarship process:

- May 2013 Application submission window closes, application verification
- June 2013 Award Recipients determined in the June board meeting, all applicants notified of their status
- September 2013 Award Recipients published in the il Ficcanaso and presented @ General Meeting
- October 2013 Scholarship payments made to the schools on behalf of the recipients

The qualifications each recipient needs to meet or exceed are:

- 1. A parent of the applicant (student) must be in good standing in the Italian Club for at least three years. (Grandparents are not included).
- 2. The parent(s) of the applicant must attend at least three club meetings during the year.
- 3. The applicant (student) is enrolled in high school (grades 9 through 12) for the 2013-2014 school year, in the greater Seattle area
- 4. The applicant (student) must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher (with official transcript) and take part in extracurricular activities, community service, etc.
- 5. Each applicant must write a letter telling about themselves and activities in which he/she is participating.
- 6. The application and transcript must be post marked no earlier than April 15th 2013 and no later than May 10th 2013.
- 7. Applications that are incomplete or missing a transcript will not be considered.

2013/2014 Italian Club of Seattle Scholarship Application Form

Applicant's name:		
Applicant's Parent(s) (Italian Clu	b Member(s) in good standing):	
	ending in the 2013/2014 School year:	

The Application form must be accompanied by:

- 1. Official Transcript, from the Middle or High School the applicant is currently attending (2012-2013 school year).
- 2. Letter detailing the applicant's participation in extra-curricular activities & community service.

Applications are to be sent to: Italian Club of Seattle - Scholarship

c/o Diana Kaczor P.O. Box 9549

Seattle, WA 98109-0549

il Ficcanaso

ITALIAN CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Meetings:

 Dinner (\$10.00 charge) followed by meeting at 6:30PM

May 2013	
2nd	Trustee Meeting
9th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner 6:30PM

July 2013	
4th	Independence Day
	No <i>il Ficcanaso</i> in July or August

September 2013	
10th	Festa Volunteer Meeting, Mt. Virgin Church, 6PM
12th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner 6:30PM
14th	Mass in Italian at Mt. Virgin Church, 5PM
24th	Festa Downtown Luncheon, 11:30AM
27th	Taste of Italy, Armory, Seattle Center, 7PM
28-29	26th Annual Italian Festival, Seattle Center (10AM)

 Meeting on SECOND Thursday of the month, Mount Virgin Church Hall

Trustee Meetings:

First Thursday of every other month

June 2013		
7th	Seattle Mariners' Italian Heritage Night (NY Yankees)	
13th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner 6:30PM	

August 2013	
4th	Italian Heritage Day Emerald Downs
6th	Festa Volunteer Meeting, Mt. Virgin Church, 7PM
18th	All Italian Community Picnic Royal Arch Park, Maple Valley
22-24	Festa Italiana, Portland, OR

October 2013	
10th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner 6:30PM
12-13	Festa Italiana, Reno, NV

New Membership By Diana Kaczor, Chairman

There are two new applicants to vote on at the May meeting. The first is Cathymarie Baroletti who lives in the Seattle are and is a CPA at Bancroft, Buckley, Johnston, & Serres. Cathymarie has two children, Cathy & Jon. Her grandparents emigrated from the city of Trento in Italy. The second applicant is Margaret Ward (DiJulio). Margaret also resides in the Seattle area.

Do you have friends or family interested in joining our club? The club continues to offer a great deal for those interested in joining: The \$75.00 initiation fee is waived for new applicants. New applicants can join for \$50.00 instead of \$125.00, well under 50% of the normal cost to join the club. Please have them use the Application button found on the club's web site: http://www.italianclubof-seattle.org.

On-Line il Ficcanaso

If you would like to receive the *il Ficcanaso* via e-mail rather than have it mailed to you, let us know. Send an e-mail to Dennis Caldirola (denniscaldirola1@gmail.com).

The il Ficcanaso is available online at: http://italianclubofseattle.org/newsletter/ilficcanaso.pdf.



il Ficcanaso The Italian Club, Inc. P.O. Box 9549

Seattle, WA 98109-0549

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

WINNERS

Drawings were conducted by Ron Roletto. The Birthday Winner for April was Mike Troiani.

Spirits, Coffee Cards and Dinners: were won by Mike Lazzaretti, Judy Seth Collins (2x), Monte Marchetti (3x), Marty Nigrelle, Delores DeVitis (2x), Carole Bishop, Dick Whitney (2x), Marie Dahlgren (2x), Margaret Ward, Barb Peretti, Linda Madrid, Mike Troiani (2x), Sr. Mary Lou, and Anna Popovich.

Progressive Prize: Of \$50 would have been won by Louise Pietrafesa had she been present. Jackpot now goes up to \$75.









Nancy Grossi

Opera singer/Entertainer
Available for Parties, Weddings,
Funerals, Anniversaries, etc.
Call: 425-765-5007 or email
Nancylgrossi @hotmail.com

General Meeting,
Dinner Thursday
May 9th, 2013
6:30pm
Mount Virgin
Church Hall



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