



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFAFA Website: www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org

VOLUME 36

2017

No. 2

IFAFA Conference November 10 – 11, 2017

So far, 70 people have signed up to attend the conference in Rockford, IL, November 10-11, but it's not too late to join us! The registration form has been attached, with updated information about the workshops that will be offered.

The deadline has passed for online hotel reservations, but you may still get the \$99 per room price if **you phone the hotel** at 815-398-2200. To make reservations at the group rate, give the reservation clerk the group code "IFA" or just say that you are a part of the *Italian Folk Art Festival*.

The registration form is attached for sending your information and payment for the conference to *Amici Italiani*.

Update about the recommended Airport Shuttle, Van Galder: This bus shuttle will bring you to the bus station less than ½ mile from the hotel, but we do not recommend walking from the station because you must cross a heavily-trafficked street that is very difficult to cross. There is a free hotel shuttle from the bus station. When you arrive at the bus station in Rockford, contact the Hotel at 815-398-2200, or call Bea Ricotta at 815-520-1010 if the hotel can't be reached.

Friday afternoon, the host group, *Amici Italiani*, is planning a tour that would leave the hotel at 1:00pm and would include the Rockford Ethnic Heritage Museum (with collections about the five founding ethnic groups of Rockford) <<http://ethnicheritagemuseum.org/>>, the Graham-Ginestra House (now a museum) <<http://ethnicheritagemuseum.org/page/1290/graham-ginestra>>, St. Anthony of Padua Church (over 100 years old) <<http://www.stanthonyrockford.org/History>>, DiTullio's Italian Market (meat, deli, and gelato), and then return to hotel. If you would like to join this tour, sign up for it (Friday Afternoon in Rockford) on the attached form when you register for the conference. If you have already registered for the conference, but didn't sign up for the tour earlier, you can now return the attached form with a check for \$15 for the tour.

IFAFA will soon have a NEW website!!!

We have been working for several months now on updating and revitalizing the IFAFA website ----- so stay tuned for an upcoming announcement!

Social Media

IFAFA has had a FaceBook page for several years, but you can also now find us on other social media as well. Here's how to reach each page:

FaceBook: <<https://www.facebook.com/Italian-Folk-Art-Federation-of-America-IFAFA-266954346772587/>>

Instagram: <<https://www.instagram.com/italianfolkartfederation/>>

Twitter: <<https://twitter.com/ItalianFolkArt>>

Frank H. DiCristina ... and Gina

Frank DiCristina (1920 – 2015) took great pride in being Italian and, especially, Sicilian. A man rich in character and personality, Frank was extremely proud of his family and their Sicilian heritage, his Catholic faith, and his military service. His family was his most valued treasure, and he lived by the words "tutta la famiglia." Frank grew up in Atlanta, GA, in the Catholic Italian community, and his love of heritage and faith followed him throughout his life. While living and working in Fayetteville, NC, he was very involved in the Sons of Italy and was recognized for numerous achievements. Although he passed away in 2015 at the age of 95, he once had a love in his life that he cherished as much as his family. She



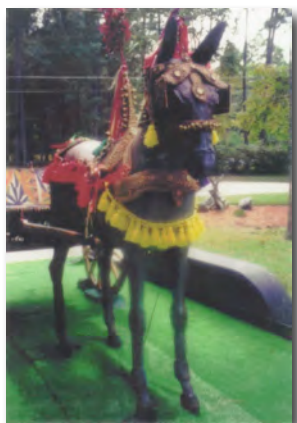
was a wooden donkey named Gina.

Frank frequently related the story of the *Carretto Siciliano* that was a long-time mystery in Fayetteville, NC. No one knew how the community came to own the cart. It was in a storage room, and most citizens of the town did not even know what it was or what it represented. They put it on display in 1980, not knowing the origin. In 1992, it was again on display at the Fayetteville Art Council. In 1995, it was back in storage, disassembled.

In June of 1995, the Sons of Italy, realizing the significance of the cart, wanted to bring it to life by making a donkey to 'pull' it, thus making a complete unit. It was to be shown in the 1995 Folk Festival Parade.



Frank decided to take things into his own hands. He was a retired salesman



who loved building things, especially model airplanes. He said, "After much research, I drew the plans for the donkey and transferred the information to actual size. Templates were cut out of plywood, creating the framework for the project. When the ribs were attached to the body, each rib section was covered by stapling with a piece of chicken wire. When everything was in place, the entire body was covered with burlap with a combination of stapling and gluing with a glue gun. The burlap was first painted with two coats primer followed by two coats of latex in the proper color. The eye sockets were made with rope, which gave depth to the eyes. The eyes were deer eyes from a taxidermist."

Frank labored for 30 days and delivered the donkey, which he named Gina. A harness was imported from Sicily and was accented with tassels and plumes by Italian Lodge member Rome Zahran. This was then attached to the donkey, and the donkey to the cart to make it complete.

The cart and donkey were placed on a float and shown in the 1995 Fayetteville Folk Festival Parade. Children rode in the cart dressed as a Sicilian bride and groom. After the Festival was over, Gina and the cart were supposed to be displayed in a city museum. When the museum decided they only had space for the cart, Frank took his lovely Gina to his own home where she held an honored place in his living room next to the piano.



IFafa Conference November 10 – 11, 2017

Workshops and Festa Folkloristica: Holiday Inn 7550 E State St, Rockford, IL 61108

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn at \$99 per night (not per person) plus tax for attendees (for either 1 King bed or two Queen beds per room). This price is good for Thursday through Saturday of the conference. Workshops as well as the Saturday night *Festa* will be held in this hotel. **The deadline has passed for online hotel reservations. Please phone the hotel at 815-398-2200 to make reservations at the group rate by using the group code: IFA or by specifically saying that you are a part of the *Italian Folk Art Festival*.** If you would like to share a room, please contact the numbers below, and *Amici* will help contact others also seeking to share. Conference attendees are not required to stay at the Holiday Inn and may book a hotel elsewhere if preferred. There are several in the area.

Recommended Airport Shuttle: Van Galder: This bus shuttle will bring you to the bus station less than ½ mile from the hotel, but we do not recommend walking from the station because you must cross a heavily-trafficked street that is very difficult to cross. There is a free hotel shuttle from the station. Contact the Hotel at 815-398-2200, or Bea Ricotta at 815-520-1010 if the shuttle can't be reached. **Price:** From Midway Airport - \$25 one way or \$50 r/t. From O'Hare Airport: \$21 one way, \$38 r/t. From downtown Chicago (Amtrak Station) - \$22 one way, \$38 r/t. Pricing is subject to change so please check with the following site for the most up-to date pricing: <https://web.coachusa.com/vangalder/ss.ohareairport.asp>

Friday

- 1:00 pm Afternoon Tour of Rockford: the Rockford Ethnic Heritage Museum (with collections about the five founding ethnic groups of Rockford), the Graham-Ginestra House (now a museum), St. Anthony of Padua Church (over 100 years old), DiTullio's Italian Market, and return to hotel.
- 4:00 pm Registration opens at the Holiday Inn
- 5:00 pm IFAFA Board and Executive Team meeting
- 6:00 pm IFAFA General Membership Meeting
- 7:00-10:00 pm IFAFA Reception and mixer! Members of *Amici Italiani* will be teaching a few simple dances

Saturday

Dance Workshops - a mix of dances will be taught varying in difficulty and region of origin

- **Dance to be determined** – taught by Bea Ricotta, Instructor of *Amici Italiani* (<http://www.griiaa.org/amici-italiani-adult-troupe/>)
- **I Sette Passi** – dance from the Veneto region of Italy, taught by Maria Chobany, Co-Director of *I Colori Italiani*
- **Dance to be determined** – taught by Mark DeSanctis, Instructor of *Tradizione Vivente*

Non- Dance Workshops

- **"IFafa Choir "** - Karen Cantele will be directing this year
- **Vestedde (little breads)** –presented by Joan and Colleen Gullo, and Rosie Scalisi Sheridan
- **How to make Briolatte Demo**- presented by Margaret Lattuca
- **How to start a Pappagallo magazine**-presented by Mike Doyle
- **Immigrant Histories** – Presented by Frank Perrcone
- **Origin of Pastas and their Sauces** -presented by Jody Perrecone and Mary Ann Feruggia
- **Learn to play Scopa** –presented by Anna Mirabile
- **The Italian Gift of Music to the world: From Italy to America** – presented by Jimmy Sartino
- **Italian Superstitions**- presented by Paul Torna
- **Italian Christmas Traditions** –presented by Rosaria Mercuri-Ford
- **Learn to Speak Italian** –presented by Tony Tarara

Festa Folkloristica: Dinner, Performances by IFAFA members, and live entertainment for enjoying and dancing

**Please complete one half-page form for each person who will be attending ANY part of the conference.
If more than one person is submitting a form from your group, you may total the registration fees onto one check
and submit the check together with all the registration forms for your group.**

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ Special dietary needs: _____
 Group Name (if applicable) _____

Breakfast, snacks and lunch (served at the Hoffman House) plus Saturday night dinner/Festa are included in Conference registration fee!

Please check appropriate category(-ies) below and carry out the dollar amount.

Entire Conference:

IFAFa Member Adult 21 or over	\$130	_____	=	\$ _____
Non-Member Adult 21 or over	\$145	_____	=	\$ _____
Students & or Under 21	\$115	_____	=	\$ _____
<u>Late Registration</u> FEE – all registrants (after September 10)	\$25	_____	=	\$ _____
Conference and New IFAFA Adult membership (\$10 off total)	\$140	_____	=	\$ _____
Conference plus New IFAFA Student membership (\$5 off total)	\$120	_____	=	\$ _____
Saturday Festa Folcloristica only (for guests of IFAFA members)	\$50	_____	=	\$ _____
Friday Afternoon in Rockford	\$15	_____	=	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED for this participant				\$ _____

Please mail forms and check **payable to IFAFA**, to:
 Bea Ricotta, 4638 Will Ann Dr., Rockford, IL 61101

**Questions: Email: BeaRicotta@gmail.com or call Bea at 815.520.1010 or
 Stephanie Ricotta at srcicotta2@gmail.com or 815.298.9652**

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In Memoriam: Alice Petta-Goldie

Some sad news from *Balliamo* in Sacramento. Many of you will remember Alice Petta-Goldie who attended several IFAFA conferences in the past. The following paragraph is from her daughter.



It is with heavy heart I want you and your organization to know that my mother Alice Petta Goldie passed away in her sleep in the wee hours of June 15, 2017. She had her last dinner with friends and family at her Sons of Italy club meeting. She had a wonderful life!

Sincerely,
Peggy Alexander

Here is part of her obituary published in *The Sacramento Bee* on June 18, 2017:

Vita Alice Petta Goldie was born in Sacramento on August 16, 1924 to Elena Sclafani Relles Petta and Rosario Petta. She was born into a large and loving Sicilian family. Wow-- what a life she lived!! She kept everyone striving to stay in shape and "keep walking" until the day she died. She was an athlete at Fruitridge Elementary, Sacramento High School, and UC Berkeley, and the last 25 years at the Senior Games and had plenty of medals to show for it. Thanks to her tennis partner, she played the last day of her life! After being a PE major she found her love in reading. She taught children to read for 40 years in Washington Unified School District, as a reading specialist, and tutored others well into her 80's for the fun of it!

She loved to dance: she even married a second time because John Goldie was a great dancer! She danced in her Sicilian costume with the Italian Dance group *Balliamo* for 25 years. She had wonderful friends she met all along the way in her various stages of life.



Alice Petta-Goldie (center) on the occasion of her retirement from *Balliamo* at the 2013 *Festa Italiana*

In Memoriam: Martha Trapani

Although Joe and Martha Trapani have not participated in IFAFA Conferences for a while, many of our members will remember this lovely couple from *Amici Italiani* in Rockford, IL. We're sad to pass along the news that Martha passed away at the end of June.

Here is part of her obituary published in the *Rockford Register Star* from July 3 to July 6, 2017:



Martha and Joe Trapani

Martha Louise Trapani, 74, of Rockford passed away Thursday, June 29, 2017. She was born February 1, 1943, in Carbondale, IL, the daughter of Earl Tippy and Polly Ann Rogers. She spent her youth in both Central Illinois and Phoenix, AZ. She graduated from Sterling High School in 1960. After graduating from Corner and Durand Beauty School, she moved to Rockford. She began her career as a hairdresser at the Rural Oaks Hair Salon. She married Joseph F. Trapani on August 21, 1965. After starting her family, she moved her practice into her own home. She was a talented, self-employed hairdresser that served the community for 40 years. She was a member of St. James Catholic Church of Rockford and was involved in various groups including the Verdi Club and the Sicilian Women's Club. She loved holidays, parades, travelling, American history, baking cakes, and everything chocolate. She embraced the Italian traditions of her husband's family.

Her favorite time of year was preparing for and celebrating Christmas with her family. She was generous and kind ... and so much fun to be around. She was an eternal optimist and always full of joy.

Regional Italian Folk Costume

We continue the series of descriptions of folk costumes taken from the book, now out of print, *Il Costume popolare in Italia*, by Emma Calderini, published by Sperling & Kupfer, Milano. In this issue, we highlight two costumes from the region of *Calabria*.



Ragazza di Nicastro in costume festivo

Girl of Nicastro in holiday attire

Very long blouse, with rather wide lower sleeves, adorned with embroidery on the chest and edged with lace at the neck and the wrist. For unmarried women, an ample cloth of brown linen wraps the body from under the armpits practically down to the ankle. Over this cloth, a snug vest of black silk adorned with lace attaches in the back with ribbons. The black sleeves attached to the vest, also by means of ribbons, are long and tucked in up to the elbow. The skirt, of cotton or wool, is embellished at the bottom with a pleated or gathered ruffle. It is rolled up and allowed to drape down the back. A fringed shawl of damask silk covers the shoulders and is tucked in the front of the vest. The apron of black silk is trimmed with a gathered ruffle. Black knit stockings. Leather shoes with buckles. The hair is parted down the middle from the forehead, combed back, and gathered at the nape of the neck in a large bun held in place with fancy hairpins. At the neck, gold chains with gold pendants.

Contadino di Cetraro

Peasant of Cetraro

Shirt of thick homemade cloth, with softly-turned collar, and with fine pleats on the chest. Black knee-length pants of thick rough wool, open at the bottom sides, with golden buttons, and lined down the sides with red trim. Double-breasted velvet waistcoat is embossed with small golden flowers, with small lapels and decorated with many gold buttons. Above that, a jacket of the same wool as the pants, with lapels of black velvet and gold buttons. The sleeves and the pockets are also decorated with black velvet. The legs are covered with coarse gaiters of the same fabric as the jacket, decorated with black velvet and blue glass buttons. On the feet, leather 'boots' similar to the *ciocie* of Lazio. The cap has the shape of a truncated cone, of thick felt, decorated with ribbons and small hatpins arranged in an attractive manner, to form a decorative pattern.



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Founder's Fund

The Elba Farabegoli Gurzau Founder's Fund was originally established as a living memorial to the founder of the Italian Folk Art Federation of America. Contributions for any intention, i.e. birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, as well as in memoriam, are used only for artistic endeavors.

Donations may be made payable to "IFAF A – Founder's Fund" and mailed to: IFAFA Treasurer, P. O. Box 25957, Philadelphia, PA 19128.

When sending a donation to commemorate an event, please: Identify the occasion and give the full name of the individual to be honored. Also give the full name and address to whom the announcement is to be sent. The contributor should also provide his/her name, address, and telephone number.

A special letter, announcing the contribution and naming the contributor, will be forwarded to the honored person or family, and an acknowledgement will be sent to the contributor.

FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

by Elba Farabgeloi Gurzau

Softcover book, 128 pages, including black-and-white and color illustrations. Seventeen dances with description and notated music, information about Italy, costumes, customs, etc. Comes with recorded music to accompany the dances, your choice of CD or audiocassette.

Price: \$25.00 plus \$3.95 for handling and postage.
Be sure to specify CD or cassette.

Please make check or money order
payable to IFAFA and mail to:
IFAF A Treasurer
P.O. Box 25957
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Contributors to this Issue of *Tradizioni*

The editor would like to thank the following people for contributing articles and/or information for this issue:

Peggy Alexander
Doris Beckert

Bea Ricotta
Stephanie Ricotta

The purpose of the ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA (IFAF A) is to preserve and foster interest in Italian folk art; to research Italian folklore, traditions, customs, costumes, dances, songs, instruments, etc.; to act as a center for gathering, storing and disseminating the information; and to bring together Italian folk performing groups and other interested individuals.

IFAF A is an outgrowth of the Italian Folk Art Project initiated at the Nationalities Service Center (NSC) of Philadelphia in 1977. With the assistance of NSC and the leadership and dedication of Cav. Elba Farabegoli Gurzau, IFAFA was incorporated May 7, 1979, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a non-profit cultural and educational organization.

Membership in IFAFA

You may also join online! <https://www.ifafa.us/modern/join-us/>

\$20 membership (adult, 21 and over)

\$10 membership (under 21)

Contributing to the work of IFAFA: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contributions are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to IFAFA Mail to:
IFAF A Treasurer, P. O. Box 25957, Philadelphia PA 19128