



# tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFafa Website: [www.italianfolkartfederation.org/](http://www.italianfolkartfederation.org/)

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## Letter From the President

Dear Members,

As I'm sure you're all aware, this year's annual conference for the Italian Folk Art Federation of America is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> in beautiful Las Vegas, NV. What you may not realize, however, is that this particular conference will fare as one of the most important events for IFAFA in its recent history. It will essentially pave the path towards our future, either providing for, or dissipating, the funds necessary to continue our current trend of revitalization.

One thing can be certain, however ... It can only be successful with your direct involvement!! If you haven't yet signed up for the 2009 conference, I strongly encourage you to continue reading.

Meri DeLorenzo Howard, the coordinator of this year's conference, has gone above and beyond to produce an incredible lineup of events. The location, timing, and cost are all reasons enough to attend, but add to that a packed schedule filled with must-see and must-attend workshops, and I might question what reasons you have NOT to attend! **Please visit our website at <<[www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org](http://www.ItalianFolkArtFederation.org)>> for more information regarding registration, costs, and hotel.**

Meri has also coordinated a FABULOUS 7-day Italian festival within the city of Las Vegas. She has planned it perfectly so that the ending of the festival coincides with the beginning of the IFAFA conference. This is a perfect time for you and your family to take a week's vacation and fully immerse yourselves in the Italian culture!! And where better than sunny Las Vegas?? **Please visit <<<http://www.celebrationofitaly.org>>> for more information.**

Finally, to help support the high costs of securing groups direct from Italy, Meri has setup an incredible raffle in order to raise funds. The grand prize is a 2010 Chevrolet Camaro 2-door Coupe LS EE37, or \$15,000 cash! Tickets are \$100 each, or 4 for \$300. You must be at least 18 years old to enter. There are only 1,500 tickets being sold across the entire country, so the odds of winning are GREAT! See below for entry information.

Please don't miss out on this opportunity, and register today!!!! IFAFA is at the forefront of Italian Folk Arts and, paired with Meri's incredible Italian festival, the conference provides an amazing chance to learn new and wonderful things about the culture we all hold so near and dear to our hearts ... the Italian Culture.

Even if you are unable to attend the conference, please consider purchasing a raffle ticket or two to help our cause, or send me an email direct at <<[MarkDeSanctis@gmail.com](mailto:MarkDeSanctis@gmail.com)>> to setup a donation.

Thank you and best regards,

Mark DeSanctis

President, Italian Folk Art Federation of America

### Win a 2010 Chevrolet Camaro 2-Door Coupe LS EE37 or \$15,000 Cash

All Proceeds go to benefit the IFAFA Conference and the "Celebration of Italy" Festival of Italian Folk Music and Dance. Raffle tickets are \$100 each or 4 for \$300. A maximum of 1,500 tickets will be sold. The drawing is Wednesday, October 14, 3:00 pm at Henderson Chevrolet, 240 N Gibson Road, Henderson, NV 89014. You do not need to be present to win.

**To purchase raffle tickets, please visit <<<http://www.italianfolkartfederation.org/files/CarRaffle.pdf>>>.** Raffle tickets may also be purchased by mailing a check or money order made out to "Celebration of Italy" to:



IFafa  
8174 Las Vegas Blvd. S.  
#109-400  
Las Vegas, NV 89123

### OSIA Italian Festival Directory

Each year, the Order Sons of Italy in America compiles their Italian Festival Directory. The 2009 directory lists festivals held in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Each year's directory supplies each festival's name, month, city, state and contact information. To see the 2009 directory, go to << [www.osia.org](http://www.osia.org) >> and click on the "View the FREE Sons of Italy 2009 Italian Festival Directory" link.

To add your festival to next year's directory, contact the OSIA headquarters in Washington, DC by mail, fax, or e-mail. No telephone calls, please. The deadline is December 31, 2009. Send the name of the festival, month held, city, state and a contact person or organization, with a phone number and/or email address to:

Sons of Italy Festival Directory  
219 E Street N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002  
Fax: 202/547-1492  
Email: [nationaloffice@osia.org](mailto:nationaloffice@osia.org)

## Celebrating an Italian Christmas

### Natale: la leggenda del panettone

Il nostro benamato panettone, dolce-simbolo delle feste natalizie, ha un'origine assai divertente. Il panettone, come viene inteso oggi, è una specialità gastronomica recente nella storia dolciaria italiana. Infatti, si dice che fu inventato solo alla fine del XIX secolo a Milano in seguito a un episodio davvero leggendario. Come augurio di Buon Natale e di Felice Anno Nuovo, ecco il simpaticissimo racconto del famoso "panettone"!

C'era una volta un panettiere che si chiamava Toni. Un bel giorno Toni s'innamorò follemente di una certa ragazza contadina di nome Lucia. Ora, Lucia andava al paese tutte le mattine per vendere le uova. Toni, ogni mattina, aspettava l'arrivo di Lucia con ansia ed entusiasmo e poi nel vederla, tanto erano forti i sentimenti che provava per questa fanciulla di campagna che non sapeva mai cosa dire e rimaneva ammutolito. Quanti sguardi d'amore scambiati, quanti sospiri e quante uova rotte proprio perché questo povero diavolo non riusciva a esprimere il suo amore. Finalmente, Toni ebbe una brillante idea: decise di preparare un dolce per la sua adorata Lucia, ma non un dolce qualsiasi, bensì un dolce speciale mai preparato prima di allora!

Così, Toni preparò un dolce a base di uova, burro e frutta candita, dalla pasta soffice e profumata. Ma Toni, tanto emozionato per l'amore intenso che provava per Lucia e tutto preso dalla lavorazione di questo dono, involontariamente mise una grande quantità di lievito nell'impasto senza accorgersene. Il risultato?... un pane dolce alto, alto, alto proprio a causa dell'esagerata lievitazione.

Ma "non tutto il male viene per nuocere". Lo sbaglio di Toni portò alla scoperta di un dolce davvero gustoso. Infatti, quando presentò il suo "pandolce" a Lucia avvenne un miracolo. Toni si rese conto dello sbaglio troppo tardi e, non avendo tempo per ricominciare un'altra ricotta, presentò il suo dono a Lucia quasi vergognato del suo lavoro mediocre. Lucia, invece, nel vedere l'apparentemente strano dolce dall'aroma quasi incantevole volle subito assaggiarlo e trovò che era di una squisitezza paradisiaca. A quel punto, improvvisamente Toni riuscì a parlare e subito chiese a Lucia di sposarlo. Vissero felici e contenti, e anche ricchi, poiché decisero di vendere l'invenzione di Toni battezzandola "Il Panettone" cioè, il "Pan de Toni".

### Christmas: The Legend of Panettone

Our well-loved *panettone*, symbolic sweet of the Christmas season, has a rather amusing origin. *Panettone*, as it is understood today, is a recent gastronomical specialty in the history of Italian sweets. In fact, it is said to have been invented only at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Milan, as a result of a truly legendary episode. As a wish for a Merry Christmas or Happy New Year, here is the very pleasant story of the famous *panettone*.

There was once a bread-maker named Toni. One fine day, Toni fell madly in love with a certain peasant girl named Lucia. Now, Lucia would go to town every morning to sell eggs. Toni, every morning, awaited Lucia's arrival with longing and enthusiasm, and then, when he saw her, so strong were the feelings that he felt for this young country girl that he never knew what to say and he remained dumbstruck. So many loving glances exchanged, so many sighs, and so many broken eggs, just because this poor devil was unable to express his love. Finally, Toni had a brilliant idea: he decided to prepare a pastry for his adored Lucia, not just any pastry, but a special pastry never made before!

So, Toni prepared a pastry made with eggs, butter and candied fruit, in a fragrant spongy dough. But Toni, so carried away by the intense love that he felt for Lucia and so absorbed in the making of this gift, unintentionally put a large amount of yeast in the mixture without realizing it. The result? A very tall bread, risen so tall because of the surplus of leavening.

But "every cloud has a silver lining." Toni's mistake brought about the discovery of a truly tasty sweet. In fact, when he presented his "sweet bread" to Lucia, a miracle happened. Toni noticed his mistake too late and, not having time to start the recipe over again, presented his gift to Lucia, almost ashamed of his mediocre work. Lucia, on the other hand, upon seeing the apparently strange cake with the enticing aroma, immediately wanted to taste it, and found that it was heavenly exquisite. At that point, Toni suddenly succeeded in finding his voice and immediately asked Lucia to marry him. They lived happy and content, and also rich, since they decided to sell Toni's invention, naming it *Panettone*, that is, the "Pan de Toni" or "Toni's bread."

### Natale

— Guido Gozzano

La pecorina di gesso,  
sulla collina di cartone,  
chiede umilmente permesso  
ai Magi in adorazione.

Splende come acquamarina  
il lago, freddo e un po' tetro  
chiuso fra la borrhaccina,  
verde illusione di vetro.

Lungi nel tempo, e vicino  
nel sogno (pianto e mistero)  
c'è accanto a Gesù Bambino,  
un bue giallo, un ciuco nero.

The ewe of plaster  
on the hill of cardboard,  
humbly asks permission  
of the Wise Men in adoration.

The lake shines like aquamarine,  
cold and a little gloomy  
closed in among the moss,  
green illusion of glass.

Far off in time, and nearby  
in dreams (weeping and mystery),  
next to the Baby Jesus there are  
a yellow ox, a black donkey.

### Great Gifts: Children's Books

If you're looking for gift ideas for children and would like to acquaint them with Italian cultural concepts, ask at your local bookstore for one of the following children's books with an Italian theme by Italian/Italian-American authors.

#### The Language of Doves by Rosemary Wells

An immigrant Italian grandfather passes on memories of his boyhood in Italy to his Italian American granddaughter on a Brooklyn rooftop.

#### Uncle Alfredo's Zoo by Judith Vigna

An Italian American granddaughter and her grandmother travel to Italy to visit the village where *Nonna* grew up.

#### The Crimson Elf: Italian Tales of Wisdom by Michael Caduto

The author draws upon his Italian ancestry to create these magical Italian folk tales for all ages.

#### American Too by Elisa Bartone

Set in Brooklyn's Little Italy and based on a true story, an Italian immigrant girl makes her American dream come true.

#### Antonio's Apprenticeship: Painting a Fresco in Renaissance Italy by Taylor Morrison

An Italian boy in Renaissance Florence learns the art of creating frescoes in his uncle's paint shop.

#### Toto In Italy by Biddy Stevens

A young boy's adventure in Rome gives children a taste of everyday Italian life and Italian words.

#### Danilo the Fruit Man by Amy Valens

Set in Sicily, this delightful tale for young children weaves Italian words and Sicilian folk-art into a magical story about life.

#### I Am Italian American by Ruth Turk

An Italian American child talks about aspects of her heritage.

#### Fire at the Triangle Shirt Factory by Holly Littlefield

This children's story describes the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire and the Italian immigrant women who worked there, based on a true episode in Italian American history.

#### Michael The Angel by Laura Fischetto and Letizia Galli

Humorous watercolors and this childhood tale of Michelangelo bring the Florence of his day to life.

#### The Thread of Life, by Domenico Vittorini

These twelve old Italian tales evoke the flavor and aroma of a lively Italian countryside: gnarled olive trees, guitar music, and a grand storytelling tradition.

### A Christmas Tradition: *L'Urna di Fortuna*

If you are not familiar with the *Urna di Fortuna*, it is something that my family has done for many years, and the children, young and old alike, look forward to it.

This is a simple tradition that can be easily established in any family. During the time of preparation and gift-buying, purchase several small items. They can be fun or of a more serious nature. Wrap them and place them in a large urn; a vase or decorated bowl will do nicely.

On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, whichever works best for you, have family and friends pass this container of gifts around the room. Everyone takes a gift and this continues until all gifts are gone. To make it more exciting, some empty boxes could be wrapped and added to the urn. (This however does not work very well if there are small children taking part.)

The children and grandchildren could always tell when Grandpa and I had been on vacation and where we had been because there were several wrapped boxes of soap, shampoo, shower caps, etc.

Patricia Civitate

*Il Trattenimento Italiano*, Des Moines, IA

### Italian Anise Christmas Cookies

Those who attended the 2008 IFAPA Conference in Sacramento will remember the tasty and colorful Italian Anise Cookies that Linda Coda Brigante (of San Francisco) contributed to the Friday lunch at the Italian Cultural Center. Several people asked for the recipe so ... enjoy!

#### Dough:

3/4 cup sugar  
1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted  
butter, melted  
2 large eggs  
1/4 cup milk  
1 tsp anise extract  
2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
2 1/2 tsp baking powder  
1/4 tsp salt

Glaze (recipe follows)

Decoration: multicolored nonpareils

1. Heat oven to 325 degrees F. Coat baking sheet(s) with non-stick spray.
2. Dough: beat first 5 ingredients in a large bowl with mixer until blended. On low speed, beat in next 3 ingredients, until blended.
3. Drop rounded measuring teaspoons of dough 2 inches apart onto the prepared baking sheet(s). (Linda's note: I used a **small** ice cream scoop to make a ball.)
4. Bake 8 to 10 minutes until bottoms are light golden. (Be sure to pre-heat oven. I baked the cookies about 15 minutes, gently lifting the cookie to check the bottoms. Be sure not to over bake.) Remove cookies to a wire rack to cool.
5. Dip tops of cookies in Glaze and, while wet, sprinkle with nonpareils. (Take a cookie, dip or spread glaze and then sprinkle. Do not glaze the batch and then sprinkle; the glaze will have already hardened.) Let set. Store airtight at room temperature up to 2 weeks or freeze up to 1 month.

Glaze: Whisk 1 cup confectioners' sugar, 4 to 5 tsp milk and 1 tsp anise extract in a small bowl until smooth.

Yield: Using a small ice cream scoop, this recipe makes 40 cookies.



### Soprani Inhouse Accordionist on the Online Don Giovanni Radio Show

The Don Giovanni Show, which is a "big old-fashioned Italian house party," is back on radio in Philadelphia via the world-wide-web. Although it originates live from Binghamton, NY, the broadcast can be heard at <<[www.680WINR.com/main.html](http://www.680WINR.com/main.html)>> every Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon throughout the world.



Don Giovanni (on the left in the picture with Joe Soprani), who is a great fan of the accordion, has featured some of the top accordionist in the country: Dick Contino, Angelo Di Pippo, Vito DiSalvo, Charles Magnante and others. Joe Soprani, who recently performed with the harmonica virtuosi Sgro brothers, will be his in-house accordionist. All of Soprani's solos have been especially recorded for the Don Giovanni Show. Joe Soprani will be publishing his accordion solos and they will be available on the AccordionsWorldwide website.. Keep a lookout for them. Visit <<[www.myspace.com/sopranimusic](http://www.myspace.com/sopranimusic)>>.

Using the online website, call in or write to Don Giovanni. He loves to hear from his listeners.

### Novel About Italians in DesMoines, Iowa

In *Treasure of My Heart*, by Christine Caligiuri, a naive, young Clerina is brought by her much beloved husband, Leonardo, from the towering, mystical mountains of Southern Italy to America's flat Heartland where there is promise of better livelihood. As she struggles to understand an alien culture, reels from deaths of children, and agonizes over bitter letters from her disapproving mother in Italy, her spirit gradually fades. The story mirrors the trauma of many immigrants to this country. It also faithfully depicts ordinary life in the Italian community of Des Moines, Iowa, early in the 20th century.

### Websites to Explore for Italian-Related Interests

These websites were still active upon publication of this issue of *Tradizioni*. It is always a good idea to visit the websites listed as soon as possible since, unfortunately, websites often fold within a short period of time. Publication in *Tradizioni* is for your information only; it does not imply a recommendation or endorsement of the sites or their products.

A fabulous site for Italian Folk Dance research and study, in Italian only: <<<http://www.taranta.it/index.html>>>

Italian Folk-Singing Groups: <<[www.italianfolkmusic.com/grplinks.html](http://www.italianfolkmusic.com/grplinks.html)>>

L'Associazione di Canti e Danze Popolari Città di Trapani (in Italian and English): <<[www.corocittaditrapani.org/coro.htm](http://www.corocittaditrapani.org/coro.htm)>>

Lyrics to "Lo Guarracino," a song with tarantella rhythm on the website of the town of Vico Equense: <<[www.itb.it/metroNA/english/vico.htm](http://www.itb.it/metroNA/english/vico.htm)>>

Italia Mia, a guide to Italy and Italian culture: <<[www.italiamia.com](http://www.italiamia.com)>>

Italy Fever, news and events of Italy, plus favorite books, music, movies, and destinations: <<[www.italyfever.com/](http://www.italyfever.com/)>>

Italian Trips, tips & tricks to Italy travel: <<[www.italiantrips.com/](http://www.italiantrips.com/)>>

Dream of Italy and Online store: <<[www.dreamofitaly.com/about.htm](http://www.dreamofitaly.com/about.htm)>>

Italian Art Museum: <<<http://www.italianpainters.it/musei/>>>

Italia Please, the Italian tourism connection (travel tips, accommodations, cultural info, etc.): <<<http://www.italiaplease.com/>>>

The Informer, an online guide to living in Italy: <<[www.informer.it/](http://www.informer.it/)>>

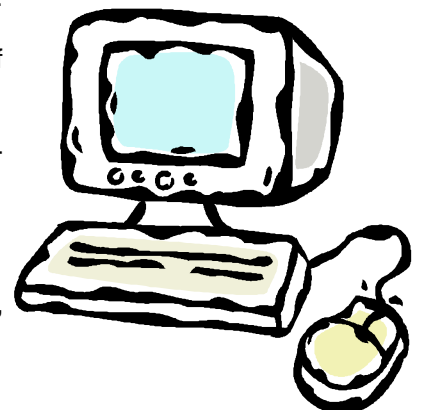
### Discovering Your Roots: Tips for Tracing Your Italian Heritage

If you are interested in locating your Italian ancestors, here are a few helpful hints to focus your search. Speaking with living relatives is one of the best ways to get started gathering information about your family. Your relatives can share information with you about a specific region, province, or town in Italy from which your ancestors came. To further define your search, make use of atlases, gazeteers, and historical maps. In addition, to find the naturalization records of your ancestors on-line, the U.S. Federal Census is a helpful tool. The website is <<<http://msn.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/usfedcen/main.htm>>><http://msn.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/usfedcen/main.htm>>>.

Once you have located a specific area where your family originated, you can begin to search various public records, including information about births, marriages, and deaths. Since 1563, Roman Catholic priests have been keeping records of baptisms, deaths and marriages, many of which can be found in diocesan archive offices or in the parish church which your ancestor attended.

During the time of the Napoleonic occupation in Italy, from 1809 to 1865, each province was required to keep civil and legal records. These records still exist today and are kept in Italian state archives. In the 1860s, the Italian government began keeping its own civil registration records. Records more than 75 years old are available to the public and can be obtained through the local registrar's office. Many of these documents have been transferred to microfilm and are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, or on-line at <<<http://www.familysearch.org/>>>. The website <<<http://www.ellislandimmigrants.org/>>> also offers an abundance of resources including surname searched and immigrant data from Ellis Island records.

— National Italian American Foundation (NIAF)



## 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 Liguria.



**ABOVE:** Fanciulla col *pezzotto* (da una stampa del XIX secolo) — Young woman wearing the *pezzotto* (from a 19<sup>th</sup>-century print)

The simple blue woolen dress is made up of a skirt, gathered at the waist, and a tight-fitting bodice. On her head, she wears a *pezzotto* (or *pesotto* in Ligurian dialect), a large white veil adorned with lace which covers the head and shoulders. White knit stockings. Black leather shoes.

### Saint Name Day

Name Day, or *Onomastico*, is based on the Feast Days for Saints. It has been traditional for Italians to name their children honoring a grandparent, choosing names from the father's side of the family first and then from the mother's side. Children are often named for saints, typically for the saint on whose Feast Day they were born, but sometimes for a saint for whom the parents feel a special connection.

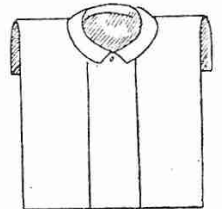
The celebration of the name day became popular during the middle ages, when many celebrated a name day instead of a birthday. Celebrating a birthday was often viewed as less than Christian, and many believed it was not right to elevate oneself to a status requiring honor. Celebrating a saint's name day instead put the focus on the particular saint and was thought to inspire people to the virtues of his or her name day saint.

Name Day is a reason to celebrate and often is as important as a birthday for many Italians. A name day may be celebrated very much like a birthday. People may have family or friends over for a special dinner, and the celebration can include cake, sparkling *Asti Spumante*, and small gifts.



**RIGHT:** Venditore di ricotta a Sanremo — Ricotta vendor of Sanremo

Shirtfront (or dickey) of homespun cloth with turned-down collar (detail at right). Dark green jacket of wool with buttons. Brown pants of thick wool, knee-length. At the waist, a multi-colored sash, woven, with fringe. White knit stockings. Shoes of common leather. Black felt hat with a ribbon of the same color.



### Traditional Italian Music Collection at UCLA

Luisa Del Giudice and her husband have donated their Italian traditional music collection to the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive. The Archive has made its contents available online, arranged by region. Search for the *Luisa Del Giudice and Edward (Fowler) Tuttle Collection 1950-2000* at << <http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt7870289c&chunk.id=dsc-1.2.6&brand=oac>>>.

For further information, you may contact Luisa at 310-474-1698, or <<[luisadg@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:luisadg@humnet.ucla.edu)>>, or at her P.O. Box address:

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P.O. Box 241553  
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1553

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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, c/o Anna Marie Fiori, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1192, Rockford, IL 61105.

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.

### This Issue's Contributors

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

Patricia Civitate	Mark DeSanctis
Linda Coda Brigante	NIAF
Luisa DelGiudice	OSIA
Meri DeLorenzo Howard	Joe Soprani

## FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

by Elba Farabegoli Gurzau

Softcover book, 128 pages, which includes black-and-white and color illustrations, 17 dances with description and notated music, information about Italy, costumes, customs, etc. Comes with recorded music to accompany the dances, your choice of audiocassette or CD.

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:  
 IFAFA Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 1192  
 Rockford, IL 61105

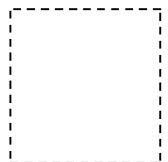
The purpose of the ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA (IFAF A) is to preserve and foster interest in Italian folk art; to research Italian folklore, traditions, customs, costumes, dances, songs, instruments, etc.; to act as a center for gathering, storing, and disseminating the information; and to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

- I am interested in:
- Annual Membership
    - Performing Folk Group \$25.00, plus \$5.00 per member address (if new, send for application)
    - Supporting Organization \$25.00 (non-performing)
    - Individual \$10.00
    - Student/Senior Citizen \$5.00
  - Contributing to the work of IFAFA \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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