

LITTLE ITALY NEWS DECEMBER 2008 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

troylittleitaly@gmail.com

VICTORIAN *Stroll* TROY

**Join the Fun and Festivities of the 26th Year of Troy's
Holiday Tradition Sunday, December 7th, 11 am to 5 pm**

Don't Miss the Neighborhoods of Troy at City Hall.

Troy's Little Italy will partner with the Italian Community Center and the CYO (Troy Youth Association) to share an Information Booth inside City Hall where you can view slides of the activities your community has been involved in during 2008. Treat yourself to fried dough and sausage and peppers, along with your drink of choice at the food booth outside City Hall.

More Events You Don't Want To Miss!!!

Flavour Café Victorian Stroll Hours 8am to 8 pm

Music:

11 am—1 pm "Too Late"
1 pm "Rust Pipes" RPI Vocal Ensemble
3 pm "Sagettes" Russell Sage College
Vocal Ensemble

Unique Gifts Available:

Art-work sold and displayed by many
artists throughout the day

Flavour Café Gift Baskets on Sale

Gourmet Chocolates
Gourmet Dog Treats

SPECIALS

Buy \$25 Gift Card, Get \$5 Gift Card Free
Buy 2 Retail Bags of Coffee, Get 1 Free

26 Cent small coffees in honor of the 26th
Annual Stroll

\$2 off all sandwiches between 2-5PM
Gingerbread/Candy Cane Lattes \$3

Silent Chinese Auction at the Troy Atrium Bingo Hall

Sponsored by the volunteers of St. Anthony of Padua and Troy Little Italy Bingo's to benefit programs at the Rourke Center, and the CYO (Troy Youth Association). The volunteers have collected donations from area businesses, bingo players and bingo organizations to make up the 25 baskets for the auction.

Doors Open at 11 am!!!

**Winners will be picked at 3 pm!!!
Sign up for Free Door Prizes!!!**

Stroll in!! Have some refreshments, buy tickets and come back for the Auction. You do not need to be present to win; we will call you if you are a winner.

Stop in and see us while you are out enjoying the "Victorian Stroll".

The bingo hall is located on the second level of the Atrium. Look for our signs.



Pictured above from left to right are the volunteers making selections for the baskets.

Frank Visco, Beverly Maloney,
Joe Popson, Sandra Anselement.

The Irish Mist Victorian Stroll

285 Second Street
Hours: 11 am to 8 pm

Music and "FREE" Soup all Day.

12 noon—4 pm Dave Disisto
5 pm—8 pm Frank Jaklitsch

Food and Toy Drive to benefit children of
Rensselaer County

Words Worth Repeating

The following essay was written in 1982 by Angelo Bianchi, Esq. Mr. Bianchi is a former President of the Order Sons of Italy in America. The Sons of Italy, established in 1905, is the largest and oldest group in America which helped to assimilate Italians and to preserve Italian and Italian-American culture. The OSIA maintains chapters throughout the United States.

I AM AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN
By Angelo Bianchi, Esq.

I am an Italian-American. My roots are deep in an ancient soil, drenched by the Mediterranean sun, and watered by pure streams from snow capped mountains. I am enriched by thousands of years of culture. My hands are those of the mason, the artist, the man of the soil. My thoughts have been recorded in the annals of Rome.

I am an Italian- American, and from my ancient world, I first spanned the seas to the New World. I am Cristoforo Colombo. I am Giovanni Caboto known to American history as John Cabot, discoverer of the mainland of North America. I am Amerigo Vespucci, who gave my name to the New World, America. First to sail on the Great Lakes in 1679, founder of the territory that became the State of Illinois, colonizer of Louisiana and Arkansas, I am Enrico Tonti. I am Filippo Mazzei, friend of Thomas Jefferson, and my thesis on the equality of man was written in the Bill of Rights. I am William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

I am an Italian-American. I financed the Northwest Expedition of George Rogers Clark and accompanied him through the lands that would become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. I am Colonel Francesco Vigo. I mapped the Pacific from Mexico to Alaska and to the Philippines. I am Alessandro Malaspina. I am Giocamo Beltrami, discoverer of the source of the Mississippi River in 1823. I created the Dome of the United States Capital. They call me the Michelangelo of America. I am Constantino Brumidi.

In 1904, I founded in San Francisco the Bank of Italy now known as the Bank of

America, the largest financial institution in the world. I am A. P. Gianni. I am Enrico Fermi, father of nuclear science in America. First enlisted man to win the Medal of Honor in World War II, I am John Basilone of New Jersey. I am an Italian-American, I am the million strong who served in America's armies and the tens of thousands whose names are enshrined in military cemeteries from Guadalcanal to the Rhine.

I am the steel maker in Pittsburgh, the grower in the Imperial Valley of California, the textile designer in Manhattan, the movie maker in Hollywood, the home-maker and the breadwinner in 10,000 communities. I am an American without stint or reservation, loving this land as only one who understands history, its agonies and its triumphs can love it and serve it. I will not be told that my contribution is any less nor my role not as worthy as that of any other American. I will stand in support of this nation's freedom and promise against all foes. My heritage has dedicated me to this nation. I am proud of my full heritage, and I shall remain worthy of it.
I am an Italian-American.

Putting a Book Together With Your - Help

By Mike Esposito

December 2, 2008 is the first of several important due dates in the planning process for the book, *Troy's Little Italy*. Since the old public market on Hill Street has been such an important part of our neighborhood's history and is the centerpiece of our neighborhood revitalization efforts, several vintage photographs of the market have been submitted as our selection for the book cover. Text for the back cover has also been sent as required by Arcadia Publishing. Our County Historian, Kathy Sheehan will review the text for the book to ensure historical accuracy. The next several weeks will be busy with work to be done on the final layout and many last minute details. With the able assistance of Arlene Bouras, Marion Field, Dan Lennon, and Frank Visco, the completed layout of the book – the images, the text and the layout planner will be sent to Arcadia by January 13, 2009. To all who have shared their treasured photographs with us, we are most thank-

ful. We have never been more convinced of the adage "a picture is worth a thousand words". The photographs tell the story of our wonderful, warm, colorful community.



Music of Little Italy Musicians Discovered!

A Troy Little Italy volunteer has unearthed a 1950's recording of the "Melody Men," a quartet that included three former residents of the neighborhood: saxophonist Ray Purificato, violinist "Cigar Willie" Verillo, and drummer Frank Visk, Sr. We believe the piano player on the tapes is Sammy Rounds.

We're hope to use some of the recordings in the DVD video that we'll be producing, based on Mike Esposito's forthcoming Arcadia book, and perhaps even as part of a soundtrack music compact disc, and we'd like to hear from relatives of the band members. If our productions make money, the musician's relatives may be entitled to performance royalties. And if you have pictures of the group, or memories of any of their area "gigs," we'd love for you to share them. If you have anything to share about the "Melody Men," please send an email to: flvisco77@yahoo.com

Just a Thought

By Beverly Traa

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get. When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

AT LIBERTY

The Saga of an Italo-American Family in South Troy

by Frank LaPosta Visco

Part Two – Egidio

Eddie Case had a secret. He loved his name. All of it. Never mind that his father and mother had named him Egidio on his baptismal certificate, from the “Italian” church, officially the Shrine Church of St Anthony of Padua. In its early years, the church was listed in the city directory simply as “The Italian Chapel.” By 1925, it would be run by the Franciscans and wouldn't even be a parish of the Albany Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church in America. South of Ferry Street, Mother Church was known as the “Irish Church.” Back then, Italians weren't welcomed at other parishes, and they didn't especially want to be.

As Egidio, Eddie was, after all, the eighth child and the fourth son of Antonio and Anna Caserta. But when the Irish-American census takers came around every ten years, they didn't try to understand the broken English, and wrote down “American-sounding” names. In this instance, he was not Egidio Caserta, but Eddie Case. No sense fighting those in power – hundreds, even thousands of years in the Campania region of southern Italy had taught the peasants what was futile.

The family took its name from Caserta, a once-great city in Italy, with what might have been an imitation of French royalty's Versailles Palace and gardens, except that Caserta's royal complex was even larger than the original. Although from peasant stock, the Caserta family had improved its lot a few years after the Bourbon rule ended with the complete unification of Italy in 1871, by sending Eddie's now deceased father Antonio into service with the Carabinieri, Italy's version of military police. Since the Carabinieri were viewed by his family and neighbors as laughably incompetent, Antonio endured the ridicule, saved his money, then joined the Southern Italian exodus to America.

This day, December 12, 1920, was Eddie's 9th birthday and he was ready. Vince and Mike, two of his older brothers, often sneaked Eddie into the neighborhood theater where they would catch vaudeville acts and silent movies, and then would come home and re-stage them for their widowed mother, often

trying to coax their four sisters into the act. Today, Eddie would surprise them with a recitation of a poem he had memorized in secret.

He was hoping that his nineteen-year-old brother, Joe, would show up at his party with his reclusive new wife Rose and her little sister, Modesta – now called Esther – Campobasso. The two babies of their families had met at their older siblings' wedding the previous year, and immediately began teasing each other. Eddie wanted to impress Esther. But that wasn't the only reason he would enjoy center stage today.

As the youngest of his large family, and with a mother sickly from child-bearing and a hardscrabble life, Eddie craved more attention than he could get. A handsome boy with sharp features and black, wavy hair, he loved his Americanized name because he could see it in lights – and especially on the silver screen. Eddie Case was a movie star's name, and inside he just knew that he could be as famous a child star as Jackie Coogan now, and grow up to be as swashbuckling as Douglas Fairbanks. Meanwhile, whenever he could find time alone, he would practice his recitation, complete with gestures, in front of the mirror in the little room he was forced to share with his brothers.

The poem he chose allowed him to express a wide range of emotions, from hushed tones to histrionic excitement. Here he would gesture dramatically, there he would run to the window as he de-claimed excitedly.

The poem, first published almost a hundred years earlier for the first time in the Troy Sentinel, had become an annual holiday favorite throughout America. But Eddie knew he could breathe new life into it, holding the entire family spellbound, and he did.

He announced the title and author, and began with a stage whisper, “'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.”

And as he approached the ending, he was pleased to see that his rehearsing had paid off with the reactions he had hoped for. Each appropriate gesture had earned him laughter, cheers, oohs or aahs. Finally, imagining what Saint Nicholas must sound like, he concluded in his most robust voice, “Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”

Amid the raucous appreciation of the families, Eddie's eyes met Esther's, and that exchange began a family saga.

©2008 Frank LaPosta Visco

Next: In part three, the Montagues and Capulets live again in Troy.

Neighborhood Watch Update

The last Community Police Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 19th at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters. Several topics were discussed and our Community Police Leader, Captain Sprague attended and offered updates from October's meeting.

There were a total of 4,001 calls in the month of October. The South Central Troy area had 381 or 9.5% of the total calls in the City of Troy. Just a reminder, if you need the police immediately, please call 911. If your situation is non-emergency, feel free to use the 270-4411 number. Captain Sprague indicated that illegal dumping issues are cited by DPW and if you have information regarding dumping (license plates etc.) you should email it to Officer McDonald and DPW can also be called at 270-4579. If the dumping is occurring before your eyes, call the police. Please use your best judgment in determining if your situation is an emergency or not. An update was given on current code situations and quality of life issues in the neighborhood. Officer McDonald has been on vacation and will be back on 12/5.

The next Community Police Meeting will be on December 17th at 6:00 at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters at the corner of 4th and Washington. Everyone is welcome to attend!



The Clock is Ticking

Get ready to decorate. The contest ends on December 20th. Win some cash! ! Pictured above is Margie's Tavern on Fourth Street from a previous year.



Christ Church United Methodist Angels

This Christmas Season stop in at the Christ Church located at the corner of State Street and Fifth Avenue to see the 12 flying angels. The church is sometimes referred to as the church with the red door. This picture was taken as the members of the congregation were installing the angels, when the job is completed it will be a breath taking sight to see.

Library Assistants to Visit Troy

In June 2009 the Capital Area Library Assistants' (CALA) will celebrate its 20th Anniversary by hosting the 31st New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) Conference in Troy. The conference center will be Russell Sage College. Thirty one workshops covering computer skills, genealogy, outreach, grants writing and other topics of interest to library staff are being planned. Little Italy and several other historic downtown neighborhoods are within walking distance of the conference site. Since much of the planning for the conference is being handled locally, members of the sponsoring group, CALA, have asked for our help in spreading the word about the event. If local merchants, shop and restaurant owners would be willing to donate nominal gifts or gift certificates to be used in raffles during the conference, their generosity would be most appreciated and would be acknowledged at the conference. Those interested should contact Mike Esposito at troylittleitaly@gmail.com

Sanctuary for Independent Media

www.MediaSanctuary.org

12/7 1-5 pm Digital Media Lab

12/14 1-5 pm Holiday Animation Workshop

12/20 7 pm "Crime Against Humanity"

Shop Locally at the Arts Center

Avoid the mall, and support your local arts community.

The Shop, located inside the Arts Center at 265 River Street in Downtown Troy, offers high-quality, hand-made, one-of-a-kind gifts made by local artists — all at a great price!

HOURS

Tuesday through Friday 11:30 am to 4 pm

Saturday—Noon to 3 pm

Sunday and Monday—closed

Volunteers Needed for Tax Season 2009!!

Your Neighborhood needs you!! Last year, our Weed and Seed committee prepared over 150 tax returns for residents of South Troy for FREE!! Thousands of dollars were brought back to our community. Additionally, residents got to keep all of their return and were not charged a processing fee. We need volunteers as greeters at our tax sit and return preparers. There is some formal training required for the preparers. If you are interested in donating some of your time to our community, Please, email troyweedandseed@yahoo.com

Little Italy Real Estate For Sale

1 FAMILY

191 Second St.	\$675,000	Karen	892-1326
96 Ida Street	\$25,000	Brian	640-4257
56 Havermans	\$174,900	James	724-2478

2 FAMILY

182 Ida Street	\$89,000	Jessica	346-8600
82 Ida Street	\$99,000	Jessica	346-8600
65 Hill Street	\$92,900	William	331-4755
337 4th Street	\$240,000	Ian	584-0743
120 Jefferson St.	\$124,900	Julie	248-8311
5 Franklin Place	\$58,600	Judith	821-7284
68 Jefferson St.	\$29,900	Jay	229-0369

MULTI UNITS

230 Second St.	\$139,500	Jonathon	279-1900
1 Irving Place	\$234,900	Richard	852-1365
278 Third Street	\$149,000	JoAnn	281-5764
295 4th Street	\$79,900	Dave	365-4469
183 Third Street	\$224,000	Maury	961-0060
193 Second St.	\$445,000	Karen	892-1326

COMMERCIAL

37 Ida Street	\$119,000	Paul	369-1914
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Rentals

236 4th St 1BR Storefront Apt--perfect for artist or someone with a small business out of the home. Very unique storefront space has HW floors tin ceiling, eat in kitchen, private access to fenced yard, gas heat. Pets ok upon approval. \$630 not including utilities. Call Judy, 339-4391

1 bedroom, 2nd fl MUST SEE!!

ALL NEW: appliances, furnace, central air, whirlpool tub, separate shower, double vanity, washer/dryer combo, dishwasher, microwave, southern exposure, fully insulated, new windows, bamboo and tile floors throughout.

First month's rent plus one month security moves you in. Call Terry for an appointment at 368-2516

1 br with office Carpet, hook-ups, no pets, non smoker. \$475 plus utilities. Phil @ 518-376-9724

Large 1st floor and 3rd floor apartments

For rent in Little Italy. Each apartment has open LR, DR, eat in kitchen, bedroom and den.

For single person or couple only. Non-smoking, no animals.

E-mail Dan at

dan.lennon.large.mail@gmail.com

Artist Space for Lease

39 Hill Street, across from Bocce Courts. Be a part of Little Italy. \$400 plus utilities. Call Marion for details. 518-266-1406 or mvfl406@aol.com

Albany Rental—Irving Street

\$1300, 3BR, Available now, newly renovated, Includes heat/hot water, no electricity. No pets or smokers. Many historic architectural details, close to the Capitol.

Nhg5@columbia.edu

South Central Little Italy News

The Record, November 28, 2008, p7. Cadets from LaSalle Institute gather food for Thanksgiving baskets at St. Mary's Church. Food for 100 baskets were provided. Photograph by Jeff Couch

The Record, November 29, 2008, p2. Five questions . . . William Montgomery interviewed long-time Little Italy supporter George Regan in his 11th year as race director of Troy's Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. George also provides meeting room space for the South Central Neighborhood Watch and Little Italy monthly meetings. Photograph by Tom Killips.

The Record, December 1, 2008, p15. Looking brighter. Andrea Daley representing Troy's Little Italy presents a check for \$1,000 to the Troy Senior Center for improved lighting at their gym. Funds were raised in an October 2008 Citywide Garage Sale organized by Andrea at the former Public Market on Hill Street. Photograph by Mike McMahon.

Channel 10 News, December 1, 2008. Rocco DeFazio of Troy Little Italy was interviewed regarding his views on the appointment of U. S. Senator Hillary Clinton by President-Elect Barack Obama to the position of Secretary of State. Senator Clinton has made several trips to Troy to show her support for the Little Italy neighborhood efforts.



A New Addition to Little Italy

Eleanor Anne was born on October 23rd. The proud parents are Victoria and David Baecker. Love the Hat!

It's Christmas Pizza Party Time

When: December 17th at 6 pm

**Where: Freihofer Run for Women at
233 Fourth Street, Troy, N. Y.**

Given By: Troy Little Italy

A short meeting of the SC Neighborhood Watch and Troy Little Italy will be held, followed by refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Off Beat Christmas Traditions and Trivia

In Italy they have no Christmas trees, instead they decorate small wooden pyramids with fruit, a Nativity Scene and wrapped presents, topped off with angels and candles.

In Armenia, the traditional Christmas Eve meal consists of fried fish, lettuce and spinach.

In Caracas, the capitol city of Venezuela, it is customary for the streets to be blocked off on Christmas eve so that the people can roller-skate to church.

In Austria the children leave a shoe outside their door that night so St. Nicholas can put fruit and nuts in them.

Christmas is not widely celebrated in Scotland.

When visiting Finland, Santa rides on a goat named Ukko.

In an effort to solicit cash to pay for a charity Christmas dinner in 1891, a large crab pot was set down on a San Francisco street, becoming the first Salvation Army collection Kettle.

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

England created the first Christmas card.

Worship and Advocacy In Little Italy St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third & Washington Sts. Troy, NY 12180
Weekend Masses: Sat. 4 pm. Sun. 10 am
Weekday Masses: Tues., Thurs., Fri 9 am
Soup Kitchen: Wed & Thurs, 4-5, ongoing
Volunteers needed.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Corner of 1st and Liberty Street
Sunday services at 8 & 10 am
The Basement Thrift Shop: Wed. & Sat.
9 am- Noon, on-going.

St. Anthony of Padua Shrine Church

28 State Street Troy NY 12180
Weekend Masses: Sat., 4:30 pm. Sun. 9
am, 10 am (Spanish), 12 & 5:30 pm
Weekday Masses: Mon. thru Thurs.
7:15am & 12 pm

Beth Tephtilah Synagogue

82 River Street
Saturday 10 am Service

Congregation Berith Shalom

167 Third Street
Friday Service 7:30 pm

United Ordained Church of Christ

Sunday: 10 am Sunday School

11 am Worship

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Bible Class

Redemption Church

Liberty & First Street, meets in St. John's
Episcopal Gym. Sunday School 10:30 am

Worship 12:30 pm

Wednesday and Friday worship 7 pm.

Check with your Church of Choice for A Holiday Schedule

Support Our Local Bingos

CYO Tuesday evening @ Bingo Green,
49 4th Street in the Atrium 7 pm

ST. ANTHONY'S Sunday Evening @
Bingo Green, 49 4th Street in the Atrium
7 pm.

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Monday evening at 7 pm

Wednesday evening at 7 pm

Located at 1450 Fifth Avenue

TROY LITTLE ITALY

Sunday Afternoon @ Bingo Green,
49 4th Street in the Atrium 2 pm.

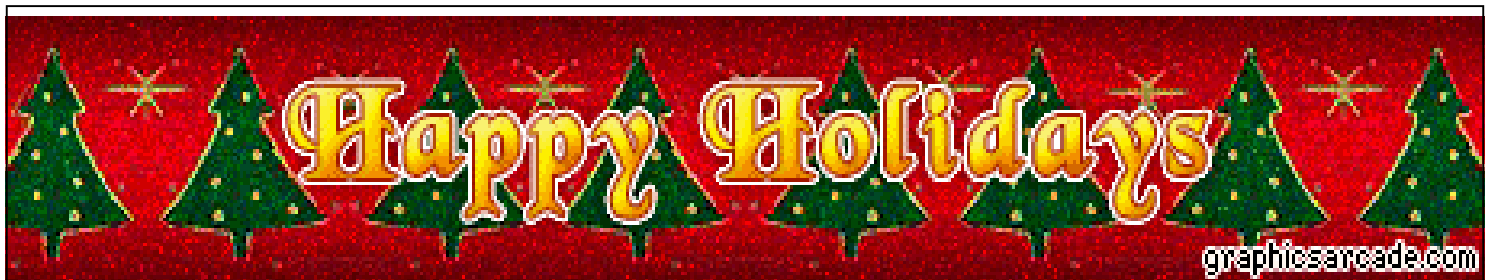
The popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was actually written for Thanksgiving. The song was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh".

There are 364 gifts mentioned in "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Memorial Wall Bricks have Arrived

Michael Centanni of Centanni Masonry Inc. and Joe Cavalero are pictured below installing the new arrivals. Mike and Joe have generously donated their time to prepare the wall in the Bocce Courts and recently to add the new bricks. Mike has his own company and if you ever need a mason, give him a call at 518-279-9453.

Troy Little Italy Thanks You



*From
South Central Neighborhood Watch and Troy Little Italy*