

LITTLE ITALY NEWS MAY 2009 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

troylittleitaly@gmail.com



Second Annual Stickball Tournament April 25, 2009

"Thank you" from Little Italy

By Rocco DeFazio

Our successful stickball tournament, billed as "We Play for Food", resulted in the largest single donation of food ever received by the Roarke Center according to Sr. Linda O'Rourke – three to four months supply valued at approximately \$5,000. We have many thanks to offer for this team effort.

The logo was designed by Questar III New Vision students including Maria Drost and Zoe Krumanocker, with help from Michael Gerrish, Principal Anthony DeFazio, and Peg Danner-Frank. The School 12 effort was coordinated by Janice DeFazio, Ann Appicella and Tom Carroll. Teams included Sharon Smith and the Troy Boys & Girls Club, Lt. Dave Paul, Ryan Ring and Troy firefighters, Siena Coach Fran McCaffery, the Siena Saints Basketball Team and Siena President, Rev. Kevin Mullen, South Troy Hooligans, Channel 9 News (with players Marisa Jacques and Ken Jubie), and DeFazio's. Also "at play" was FOX23 news

anchor John Gray with Steve Teeling, and FLY 92's "Tanch". Matt DeFazio, George Regan and Bruce Vanderwater, coordinated the tourney play action.

Marion Field organized our stalwart neighborhood volunteers who set up, manned the tables, and cleaned up following the event. Roarke Center staff, Agnes Zink and Joyce Daniels, Tri-City Valley-Cats staff Vic Christopher and Heather Lavine, Danielle Drews (Russell Sage College), City Council President Clem Campana and the ever faithful Tony DeFiglio assisted the Troy Little Italy group. Food and beverages were provided by our great partners, the ICC (led by Vince Mamone and Pete Testa), the CYO (with Kelly Forenzo selling Hembold's hot dogs provided by Mark Joseph Kelly), and neighborhood businesses, Flavour Café and Lisa's Gelateria. Andrea Daley did the extraordinary face painting; Mike Dzaman was our official photographer, DeCresente Distributing provided signs and banners, and John Daniels, L&P Media, designed our tournament website. The Record reporters and photographers and Steve Van Zant (WROW) were gen-

erous with their publicity for the event. Troy Little Italy Bingo and CYO Bingo donated food, money and organized teams. Special efforts in coordinating food donations included RPI chef Jackie Baldwin, Browns Brewing Co., Mike Palage (Troy Wine & Spirits), Mike Russo of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's office and Troy firefighters. Jim Blessing and volunteers from ARC provided a truck to collect and distribute the food donations and organized a stickball team as well.

Entertainment was provided by SHELIVING ROCK, with Stephen Iachetta and T. Breeze VerDant, S I M P L E Theory with Maurizio Russomanno, and The Refrigerators with Dave Cerrone. Sound coordinator Pat Parvis did a great job. Heather Hamlin organized our Earth Day effort which cleaned the area earlier in the day with assistance from Community Policewoman Colleen Goldston and youngsters from the DEFY program. We appreciate the efforts of Mayor Harry Tutunjian, the DPW crew and the Troy Police Department. A special thanks to the individual stickball players, volunteer workers and all who attended and donated food.



Michael Dzaman specializes in people photography for all occasions with a strong emphasis on wedding photography.

He has over twenty years of award winning professional experience producing photography on an international level

You can view samples of his work by going to the following website: www.dzamanphoto.com

To contact Michael, send an e-mail to: Michael@dzamanphoto.com

There are 416 pictures of the event on the website. To view pictures, go to www.prints.dzamanphoto.com/food

Another Success Story

If you were out and about on Earth Day, I'm sure you noticed all the activity in our neighborhood. Heather Hamlin our chair of the neighborhood watch did a great job of organizing the day. Colleen Goldston, a community police officer, brought rakes, shovels and a group of DEFY (Drug Education For Youths) kids and their counselors who did an outstanding job. Even Mayor Harry Tutunjian who worked along with the group worked up a sweat, as they cleaned an alley behind Hill Street.

There was a large resident turnout this year which helped us in covering a larger territory. **Thank You to all Who Helped.**

Ron Kellar our "Street Maintenance Coordinator" works Monday thru Friday from 8 am until noon, if you are aware of an area that needs attention, please contact us by phone or e-mail. You can leave a message at the Little Italy Visitor Center @ 518-326-0415 or contact Marion @ mvf1406@aol.com



Quadricentennial celebration planning begins

By Mike Esposito

The City of Troy is joining other communities along the Hudson River in a year long celebration of the 400th Anniversary (1609-2009) of the founding of the Hudson River, with a schedule of events and programs planned during the week of September 21st to September 27th, 2009. Troy Little Italy has agreed to the city's request to be involved in this historic Quadricentennial celebration.

Our program theme, Troy's ethnic and immigrant population in the neighborhoods in 1909 will specifically celebrate the Irish, German, French-Canadian, Russian, Polish, Afro-American, Syrian, Italian and other groups who settled here. It is significant that our area has been the center of a number of worship sites for ethnic and immigrant groups – including several parish churches, St. Lawrence (German), St. Jean de Baptiste (French), St. Ann (Syrian/Lebanese), Liberty Street Presbyterian (Afro-American), St. Mary's (predominately Irish), St. Anthony (Italian), St. John's Episcopal, as well as Beth Tephilah Synagogue and Berith Sholom Synagogue.

We are extending an invitation to churches, ethnic organizations, and cultural groups who continue to celebrate their unique part in the history of our community, asking them to share their traditions – their history, religion, music, dance, foods, etc. – by assisting us in organizing a mini "festival of nations". Our event will be centered at the former public marketplace on Hill and Liberty streets on Thursday, September 24, 2009 between 3 pm and 9 pm. We are envisioning some people in native costume or dress, tables for ethnic foods, music and dance performances, historic exhibits, information stations on current activities of the various ethnic groups or churches – these and other suggestions – to honor those who made Troy and in particular our downtown neighborhood such a rich, culturally diverse area.

We need volunteers to formulate a plan of action. Please contact us at troylittleitaly@gmail.com or by phone at 266-1406. The Troy Little Italy Visitor Center, located at 39 Hill Street across from the former public marketplace is the headquarters for Troy Little Italy, Inc. and could be the site for planning meetings. We hope you will join us in planning for this historic event.

Time to Make the Float

Our own Joe Mancino of Flavour Café will be designing this years float and he needs your help. Anyone interested in helping can contact Joe by stopping in at the café or contacting Marion Field at 266-1406 or mvf1406@aol.com

Heather Hamlin and Jim Martin are doing their share with the loan of their utility trailer, garage and they are willing to drive and pull the float in the parade.



**FLAG DAY PARADE
SUNDAY, JUNE 14th, 1 pm**

GRAND OPENING MAY 20, 2009 3 P.M.

We're back! In two short weeks the Troy Neighborhood Farmers Market will return to Troy Little Italy. Held at the historic Market Place, on Hill Street between Washington and Liberty Streets, the farmers' market conveniently offers fresh produce, meats, poultry, eggs, gourmet cheeses, baked goods, fresh herbs, plants, and Italian specialties. The Wednesday market starts May 20th with the hours of 3pm-6pm.

What's new this year? Look for more vendors, more community activities and longer hours in the summer months. Responding to the consumer comments, the market will offer extended evening hours of 3pm - 7pm during the summer months (July 1 - September 2), giving customers more opportunities to stroll down, catch up with neighbors and shop leisurely. Events for the longer markets days are being planned to give the market a festive air.

What hasn't changed is the market's commitment to bring fresh foods to the neighborhood. The market participates in the Farmer Market Nutrition Program, and also has produce vendors servicing the new WIC Fruits and Vegetable program. The market accepts EBT/credit/debit cards making shopping at the market even more convenient.

Opening Day in Troy Little Italy is May 20th, a perfect time to shop for the Memorial Day weekend. Altamont Orchards, Duncan's Farm, Krug's Brookside Farm, and Pleasant Valley Farm will have bedding plants and hanging baskets for your gardens. You will also find lettuce, spinach, radishes, asparagus, and other produce from these vendors. Whimsy Acres Farm will be back with their delightfully colorful eggs. Frog Hollow Farm will also have eggs and hopes to have poultry at the market too, perfect for the holiday grills. Troy's own resident cheesemaker, Sean O'Connor returns to Little Italy with fresh gourmet cheeses and yogurt. New to the market is Palatine Valley Dairy with a variety of cheddar cheeses, fresh cheese curds, and cheese spreads. The Bentz' Ridvan Bakery is back at the market with fresh breads and of course, those cookies. Country Comfort Foods and Our Daily Bread will also be bringing baked goods to the market. No time to cook? No problem. Lori Doyle, our favorite personal chef, will have ready-to-go dishes for your convenience. Adam of Oliver's Naturals has plans of moving to the Little Italy Neighborhood. He hopes to attend the market with his products. And what's Little Italy without DeFasio's Italian specialties? Mangia!

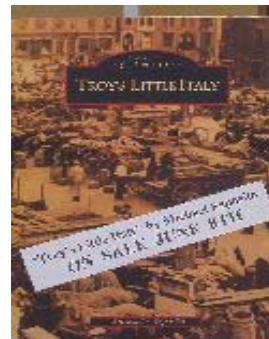
Join us opening day at the Market. We will have plants to give away to the first 50 shoppers, Italian Ice for the kids, and a Vespa demonstration from Vespa Schenectady. Stop by, check it out, see your favorite vendors, talk to neighbors; its all good at the Troy Neighborhood Markets - Little Italy.

For more information about Troy Neighborhood Farmers Markets - Little Italy, visit www.troyneighborhoodmkt.com or call Jean Krueger, 518 272-4972, or Donna Mullen 518 793-2032.



Little Italy goes to market!

Marion Field, Frank Visco and Mike Esposito, volunteers with Troy Little Italy, will alternate at our Information Station when Troy Neighborhood Markets re-opens its farmers' market on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at Hill and Liberty streets. We enjoy chatting with the regulars at the market and meeting newcomers, sharing the latest news on neighborhood activities, and events and programs. We always have a supply of our monthly newsletters on hand, and look forward to going down memory lane with residents of the neighborhood. The occasion often prompts information for subsequent newsletter articles. There is hardly a week that goes by when we don't find out something interesting about the old neighborhood. The market, and in particular our info station, becomes a social gathering place for casual conversation. You have an open invitation to stop by and chat every Wednesday. By the way, we will bring along photos that haven't been returned to neighbors who were kind enough to loan them for scanning for our neighborhood history project. When Mike Esposito's book, *Troy's Little Italy*, is available in June, we will be selling copies. All royalties from book sales will be donated to the Troy Public Library.



AT LIBERTY

The sage of an Italo-American Family In South Troy

By Frank LaPosta Visco

Part 7: Curfew for Esther.

It didn't take long for Francesco and Maria Campobasso to hear of their youngest daughter's offstage antics with Eddie Case. *La via vecchio* – the old way -- would never allow Esther to be in the company of a young man without a chaperon. And even with a chaperon, there would be no hand holding, no kissing, no contact of any kind.

But specifically, they didn't want this daughter anywhere near that young man. They had seen how Eddie's older brother Joe treated their older daughter Rose, and they didn't like it. They rarely visited the Campobassos, even though they lived only a few blocks away, on Liberty Street. Consequently, four-year-old Anthony Joseph Case, the Campobassos' first grandson, was practically a stranger to Francesco and Maria.

But if they had looked closer, they might have seen that their resentment against Joe wasn't justified. The problem was with their daughter Rose, although they were unable or unwilling to see it. Always a private person, Rose now rarely left her home, even to visit her mother-in-law Anna Caserta, who lived in one of the downstairs flats at the Liberty Street home.

It's strange how the same environment can affect siblings so differently. When Rose and Esther were babies, Maria and Francesco worked so hard to scrape together enough to start their business that it left them little time for their daughters. The effect on Rose was to make her more withdrawn, and so she grew up looking for a reclusive life without challenges. The effect on Esther was just the opposite – she became stronger, more independent and daring.

Even so, she had no choice but to accept the new, strict rules that her parents imposed on their errant daughter. With another year of high school ahead of her, Esther was now forbidden to engage in any after-school activities. When the last school bell rang, she was not allowed to linger and engage in the banter that sustains schoolgirls and helps them formulate a picture of the grown-up world and a way to enter it.

She was to be home immediately, with no side trips. Homework first, household

chores second, and then helping out with the thousand and one details it takes to run a retail store.

The new curfew didn't sit well with a young woman as feisty as Esther. But it did give her time to plan her future. If she had anything to say about it, she would be out of the house the day after graduation. Meanwhile, Eddie, spending his second year as a high school senior, was trying to plan his future. He knew he had the looks and the talent to entertain, but his requests to leave the nest after graduation and seek his fortune in Manhattan were vehemently opposed by his mother Anna.

In her limited command of English, she adamantly refused to consider anything but his “obligation” to work and contribute financial support to the family. There weren't many jobs available in the early thirties, and the few that were demanded long hours over a six-day week for very little money.

Eddie's sister Josie worked as a collar-attacher at the Cluett Peabody shirt factory uptown on River Street, and since the balding foreman was smitten with her, Josie turned on the Case charm and made the clownish married man promise to find her brother a job when Eddie received his CCHS diploma.

Between classes, Eddie would console himself by tracking down Esther. He knew her daily school routine better than his own, and whenever he could he used his wiles to escape from the confines of his classes and appear in Esther's.

Despite her parents' warnings not to see him, Esther cherished the rebellious rush every time Eddie appeared. Even though her lunch time preceded his, they often managed to share a few intimate conversations in the cafeteria, when she would volunteer to stay later for extra clean-up, and he would arrive early.

They even managed to sit together during an afternoon production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, presented by a touring group of actors. Although the message of the play was lost on Eddie and Esther, the passion underscored their own.

As in the play, neither parents would have condoned the plans that the twentieth-century star-crossed lovers were hatching.

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Next: In part 8, prosperity isn't the only thing around the corner.

The BookCellar needs volunteers

The BookCellar was organized in 1990 by The Friends of the Troy Public Library and is maintained and operated by volunteers. Its mission is to stock clean, gently used, interesting, moderately priced books for the community; raise money to support the Library's public programs and to fund special gifts; encourage and support literacy and the joy of reading; and supply area non-profit organizations and agencies with books when possible. In order to operate this special place, volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts, either 10 am to 12 noon or 12 noon to 2 pm each Wednesday or the first Saturday of the month. If you are a dependable, responsible adult and enjoy working with books and meeting people, this may be just the volunteer assignment for you. Schedules are flexible – you need not work every week and may work as a team with a friend. If you haven't visited The BookCellar, please do so. It's a pleasant environment, located in the lower level of the Troy Public Library at 100 Second Street. If you have any questions regarding volunteer work at The BookCellar, please contact Mike Esposito at troylittleitaly@gmail.com.

Historic Restoration Open House Sunday, May 10th 1: to 3: pm

151-153 Madison Street was completely restored by Troy's Judy Meyer in '06. The current owners, Mike and Linda Bullock, and John R. Pattison, Realtor, are inviting members of the community to stop by and have a look at this 1860's “makeover” before it changes hands again. Since Mike has completed his graduate work at RPI, they will be moving this summer, and the house is currently on the market

This Italianate style duplex was remodeled with emphasis on keeping as much of the old world craftsmanship as possible while adding new craftsmanship for comfort and efficiency.

We hope many of you will come to see this worthy example of how we can improve neighborhood property values in our city.

Get more info from the website:
www.151madisonst.com.



MOVING SALE
MAY 16, 2009
9 AM TO 4 PM
EVERYTHING MUST GO
ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED
326 4TH STREET, TROY N.Y.

Remember Mom this Sunday on Mother's Day, May 10th

Stop in and see Stephen at L & S Garden Center, 470 Pawling Avenue, Troy, N.Y. for your shopping needs. He has plenty of fresh flowers, rose bushes and hanging baskets. While your there check out his fresh fruits and vegetable such as broccoli rabbe, escarole, chicory and fresh locally made mozzarella cheese.

Italian Humor

An old Italian lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described the predicament:

Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over.. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. Love Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop, Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son:

Dear Pop, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you, Vinnie

ITALIAN TOMATO GARDEN
 Submitted by Richard Herrick

Little Italy Real Estate For Sale

- 1 FAMILY**
 191 Second St. \$599,000 Karen
 892-1326
 261 Liberty St. \$69,900 Harvey
 466-1303
 1033 6th Avenue \$79,900 James
 724-2478
 190 1st Street \$299,900 Anne
 272-6400
 29 Jefferson St. \$79,900 Teri
 371-4677
2 FAMILY
 186 Hill Street \$20,000 John
 798-2819
 121 Adams Street \$118,000 Thomas
 618-8249
MULTI UNITS
 326 4th Street \$129,900 Marion
 266-1406
 78 Hill Street \$109,900 William
 331-4755
 401 Washington St \$164,900 Al
 441-4353
COMMERCIAL
 37 Ida Street \$109,000 Paul
 369-1914

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.

RENTALS

Washington Place, 2 bedroom with office. No dogs, hardwood floors, free laundry on premises. Security and references required. \$1,000 heat and hot water Included. Call 266-1406 or 961-0590

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

Four Bedroom

1517 5th Avenue, first floor, off street parking. 1400 sq. ft. \$1000.00 monthly plus utilities. Across from family court and adjacent to the Congress Ferry Street Corridor. Call Marion at 518-266-1406 or mvf1406@aol.com

May Meetings

- 5/20 Neighborhood Watch 6 pm
 Troy Little Italy 7 pm
 5/21 Weed and Seed 5:30 pm
 Roarke Center, 4th and State

Mark your Calendars!



**City-Wide Garage Sale
 August 15th, 9 am to 3 pm**

**To be held in the
 Troy Public Market**

**Sign up before July 1st
 to receive the site of your
 choice & receive free en-
 tries into a drawing all for
 \$20.00**

**Contact Andrea at 470-
 7369**

or bdaley5@nycap.rr.com