

LITTLE ITALY NEWS • OCTOBER 2006 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

THE FRIENDS OF LITTLE ITALY MISSION STATEMENT

"The Friends of Little Italy (FOLI) is a volunteer grass roots non-profit organization whose purpose is to develop and maintain a healthy and vibrant community in the south side of Troy, New York. As residents and businesspeople we believe that the strength of our past and diversity in people, cultures and businesses will enable us to make Little Italy a destination point to which people will come to live, work and visit.

TROY COMMUNITY FOOD CO-OP

The Capitol Region's newest food cooperative will be coming soon to 77-81 Congress Street in the former Pioneer Market. The market will carry 70% natural and organic products and 30% conventional grocery items. Local produce will be carried, when available. A variety of freshly prepared take-out foods, cheeses and a salad bar will be available.

A group of seven individuals, working with Cooperative Development Services in Minneapolis has been planning the food co-op since September 2006, when a series of community meetings were held to assess interest among Troy's residents. An influx of new residents and the absence of a full-service grocery store in the downtown area led to this initiative.

The Troy Community Food Co-op will be owned by its members, who will purchase an investor share in return for discounts and special shopping promotions and an opportunity to serve on a democratically elected board of directors. Customers need not be members to shop at the co-op.

The membership drive, "OWN IT" was kicked off at the September 27th ribbon cutting ceremony. The goal is to have 500 members by the scheduled opening on October 27th. Based on figures from Cooperative Development Services, it is estimated that the 7,500 sq. ft. Pioneer Market

HOW TO REACH US

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on October 18th, 6:00 p.m. at 233 4th Street. Community Policing through Neighborhood Watch can make our community a better and safer place to live. Keep your eyes peeled, stay informed and join us at the next meeting.

Volunteers needed

Saturday October 28th an area cleanup is scheduled for Little Italy. Starting time is 9 A.M. at the Bocce Courts. Bring your weed eaters, gloves, bags, brooms, shovels, clippers and a lot of energy. Tell your neighbors, clean the front and back of your property, lets make a difference. Sign up NOW, call Marion Field at 266-1406. The City of Troy and the Department of Public Works are partnering with us in this endeavor.

ATTENDENCE AT OUR MEETINGS IS GROWING MONTHLY. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

VICTORIAN STROLL

Little Italy is working with several neighborhood businesses to provide a venue for the Victorian Stroll on Sunday December 3rd. We have comfortable places for strollers to gather after the stroll for fine dining and entertainment and plan to have holiday decorations to view also. We need volunteers to assist us. Look for more information on our plans for the stroll in upcoming newsletters. Lets be a part of this fine holiday tradition.

150+ years of **African Heritage**

As of September 23, 2006, now standing proudly on the corner of Liberty Street and Church Street, in the "Little Italy" district of Troy, NY, is a commemorative sign that reads: 1840-1963

SITE OF
**LIBERTY STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(AFRICAN)**
1ST PASTOR, HENRY H. GARNET
1840 – 48: LOCAL, STATE AND
NAT'L ABOLITIONIST MEETINGS,
DRAFT RIOT SITE 1863
BETA PSI BOULE, SIGMA PI PHI

Many local residents came out, along with the rain drops, to celebrate the importance of this site. It was the Liberty Street Presbyterian Church and the associated churches in the area of Troy, that helped the African-Americans gain freedom. This site is where history was made! Thank You to Larry Kagan for donating the land.



From left to right: Rev. Beth Illingworth, Ms. Marilyn O'Dell, Mr. William "Billy" Harrell, Mr. DeWitt T. Murray, Ms. Kathy Sheehan, Ms. Juanita Stenhous, Ms. Bernice Morehead, Mr. Leroy Twiggs, Mr. Stephen J. Tyson, and Mr. Carl Trantham.

EMERGENCY NUMBER	911
NON EMERGENCY	270-4411
CODE ENFORCEMENT	270-4404

BOCCE TOURNAMENT

Sunday, October 8th. The First Annual Columbus Day Weekend Bocce Tournament. The tournament will be held at the Troy Little Italy Bocce Court's located in the Market Place. If you would like to enter the tournament your team must consist of four player's. The winners of the tournament will receive the "Golden Pallino." To enter the tournament you must be signed up by Friday, October 6th and there will be an entrance fee of \$20 per team. If you wish to sign up for the Bocce tournament you must speak to Rocco DeFazio. We hope you all have been practicing.

ROCCO GOES TO WASHINGTON

Senator Clinton invited Rocco DeFazio to her "Annual New York Farm Day Event" held in the Senate Russell Caucus Room at the Crest of Capitol Hill on September 20th. The event's attendee's included Members of Congress, Congressional committee staffs, legislative chefs of staff and top area restaurant and fine wine shops. New York Farm Day has become one of the most popular receptions on Capitol Hill. Senator Clinton hosts Farm Day annually to show Congress, the Administration, and others that New York is a major agricultural state. Rocco met with the Senator and updated her on the upcoming state wide Little Italy conference to be held this spring in Binghamton, NY. The Senator expressed she will do all she can to help make the Little Italy conference a success. It was the Senator who brought along with her the Italian Ambassador to the first conference held in Troy three years ago. Rocco also spoke to wineries from across New York state about participating in next years Taste of Little Italy event, which will be held in the spring.

WHEN YOU HAVE A MOMENT

Vinny Reda from Vinny's Garage in Troy has started a Troy bulletin board for sharing of anything you'd like (fortunately including recipes, as he's a great cook!) Please check it out at <http://troyforum.com>

LITTLE ITALY IN THE NEWS

HE DIFFERENCE A DAY MADE

An article by Chet Hardin in *Metroland*, Sept. 7, 2006. p.12. Troy neighbors Carmen Gonzalez, Ty Austin, Jerry Ellis and Anthony Aversano relate how the World Trade Center *Compiled by Mike Esposito*

The art of dance meets architecture

Capital District Home & Style, Sept. 2006

A review of Ellen Sinopoli's new dance project "Spill Out" performed at the historic Gasholder House.

ICC plays host to Italian festival

The Record, Sept. 5, 2006, p.7 Insight into the events and planning that preceded the 18th annual Shrine Festa Italiana.

Troy keeps its title as real party town

The Record, Editorial, Sept. 8, 2006, p.12.

Festa Italiana and Uncle Sam Parade & Festivities equal a good time for Troy area residents.

Italian cuisine and culture highlight Italian festa

By Danielle Sanzone. *The Record*, September 10, 2006, p. 4. Another successful festa for all who volunteered and all who attended.

The Record's Historian and Daily Historian Photos:

1911 Frank Pesanello & Mary (Passanello) Pesanello on their wedding day. Submitted by Ann Ferris, Sept. 17, 2006, p.16.

1942 St. Mary's School Graduation Class. Submitted by Joan Phoenix Fontaine, Sept. 19, 2006, p.28

1942 Parella Family. Submitted by Connie Ligato, Sept. 19, 2006, p.28

1943 Mary Anne Tornincasa. Submitted by Mary Anne Grogan, Sept. 19, 2006, p.29

1945 Ann Comerford, Theresa Bove, Theresa Zullo & Jean Ciccarelli. Submitted by Vito Ciccarelli, Jr., Sept. 19, 2006, p.29

1947 Cabin at Camp Barker. Submitted by Carlo Valenti, Sept. 2, 2006, p.16.

1948 LaSalle Institute football squad. Submitted by Al Palladino, Sept. 12, 2006, p.16.

1950 Louis & Florence Tornincasa. Submitted by Mary Anne Grogan, Sept. 19, 2006, p.30

1964 Dominic Marro, Tina (Marro) Zek, Patti (Marro) Owens, Francie (Marro) Horton, Debbie (Marro) Berlino. Submitted by Theresa Marro, Sept. 19, 2006, p.32

1968 Uncle Sam Flag Day Parade color guard Dom Bevevino, O'Neil Valenti, Bill Baur & Vito Ciccarelli, Sr. Submitted by Vito Ciccarelli, Jr., Sept. 19, 2006, p.32

October Meetings:

Neighborhood Watch 10-18-06 @ 6:00 PM

Little Italy 10-18-06 @ 7:00 PM

233 4th St (Corner of Washington and 4th)

LA NOSTRA STORIA (OUR STORY)

By Mike Esposito

Information from the 1880 U. S. Census enumeration has been faithfully transcribed on to the *Connors Troy Genealogy* website,

www.connorsgenealogy.com The website is the source of information regarding the several dozen Italian immigrants and their families who lived in Troy in 1880 referred to in this article. Working with official U. S. Census publications available at the Troy Public Library and the *Connors* website, pieces of our story, the story of Italian immigrants in Troy, begins to fall into place. In 1880 Troy was the 29th largest city in the country, with a population of 56,747. 39,809 were native born residents, 16,938 were foreign born. The Census reports 26 Italian born residents in all of Rensselaer County in 1880. During the individual enumeration process 23 people living in Troy stated they were born in Italy. In addition 26 individuals were members of the fifteen families residing in Troy in 1880 who reported either one or both of their parents born in Italy. Fourteen men were listed as the head of household: 6 worked as hucksters (fruit peddlers), 4 were barbers, 3 were peanut vendors and 1 worked for a real estate agent. No women were listed as working outside the home.

The fifteen families lived in just five of Troy's thirteen wards:

First ward: 16 people. Family names listed were Bosino (118 River St.), Gainnetta (86 River St.), Marsicon (4 Ferry St.), Susna (118 River St.) and Winters (103 Third St. alley)

Second ward: 15 people. Family names listed were Cirage (114 Williams St.), Gamway (111 Williams St.), Pomfeniallia (192 Congress St.), Seiortino (105 Congress St.) and Sola (109 Congress St.).

Seventh ward: 11 people. Family names listed were Cadone (63 Green St.), Ellamiain (78 Green St.) and Stallon (66 Green St.).

Tenth ward, 2 people from the Just family (2 Jay St.).

Thirteenth ward, 5 people from the Ametrano family (48 Vail St.).

Each of the forty nine individuals can be identified in the 1880 U. S. Census of Troy now that their surname and ward is available. It may be difficult to identify the very first Italian immigrant to settle in Troy but we are at least close to identifying those who were among the earliest. Unfortunately most of the 1890 U. S. census records were destroyed in a fire but later records report that by 1900 there were over 400 Italian born residents in Troy and by 1910 there were over 1,400. The story continues!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The Friends of Little Italy recently issued a business directory for the South Central Troy neighborhood. The guide is organized by type of business or service and helpful for new residents and incoming students as well as a reminder for all residents of neighborhood of the diversity of places to shop and dine in South Central. If a neighborhood business in the categories we are including is not in the directory let us know. The brochure is available at local businesses and on the Little Italy website www.littleitalytrroy.org

LITTLE ITALY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR FOR RENT

2 FAMILIES

46 Ida Street	\$82,900	Leon	727-7493
103 Hill Street	\$89,900	Deb	640-4537
294-296 3rd St.	\$119,900	John	798-2819
120 Jefferson St	\$120,000	Jason	828-7147
1016 5th Avenue	\$122,000	Jane	640-4127
230 1st Street	\$124,900	Joe	286-2903

MULTI UNITS

263 4th Street	\$69,900	Leon	727-7493
144 Hill Street	\$89,900	Ray	640-4020
319 4th Street	\$139,900	Jim	588-6755
177 4th Street	\$289,900	Barbara	424-5291
1465 5th Avenue	\$159,900	Robert	279-3700
201 4th Street	\$169,900	Chester	399-5958

Storefront for rent 165 4th Street \$750 util inc.
1 bedroom with office, non smoker, no pets \$450
plus utilities. For more info Call Marion 266-1406.

If you have an apartment for rent and would like us
to print your info e-mail mvf1406@aol.com

BUSINESS LONGEVITY

The May 2006 issue of the newsletter contained the names and addresses of three dozen Fourth Street retail stores that were fixtures on the street for twenty years or more. How then could we have forgotten the following “great good places” that supplied us with everyday conveniences.

50 years and more:

Apt Dry Goods (Max and Fagela “Feggy” Apt) (165 & 175)

30 to 39 years:

Pasqua Ciannamea, Dressmaker (198)

Muscatello’s Market (Anthony Muscatello) (201), DeMaria’s Gas Station (Louis DeMaria, Sr.) (at Liberty Square & 4th)

20 to 29 years:

Dominick Patti Fruits & Vegetables (165 & 171), Goodyear Service Store (191-193), Heelan’s News (James and Edward Heelan) (271)

Our thanks to faithful readers for the gently reminder. Please contact us with the names of additional Fourth Street businesses we may have inadvertently left off the 20 year + “honor roll”.

LITTLE ITALY TRIP

Trip to Little Italy in Providence, RI. Saturday. November 4th. Price will be \$49 per person. Providence RI has a beautiful Little Italy neighborhood in the heart of Federal Hill. This neighborhood has been revitalized by the residents of it’s Little Italy. Bus will depart at 7:00 a.m. in front of the CYO Center and will depart from Providence at 6:30 p.m.. Our first stop will be to visit the famous Chef Walter Potenza at his very successful Walter’s Restaurant. To find out more about Chef Walter and his restaurant you can go to www.chefwalter.com. There are many fine Italian restaurants and stores located on Federal Hill to visit. Call Rocco DeFazio at 271-1111 or e-mail him at rdefazio@nycap.rr.com to make reservations.

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

The Troy Boys & Girls Club a Positive Place for kids, runs a After-School Program with a weekly fee of \$35.00 from 2:30—5:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. for more information or any questions call 274-3781 ask for Michele Zillgitt– Unit Director.

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

For over fifty years the C R A B Garrison 1954 our neighborhood veterans post at 16 Liberty Street, has been faithfully honoring the memory of our local heroes. The post is named for Sgt. Carmine **Ciccarelli**, Corporal John **Rea**, PFC James **Agars** and Master Sgt. Bruno **Bevevino** four among many from the neighborhood who died in combat. To all who served and are serving, to the memory of those who died in combat or were missing in action, to those who returned wounded — a grateful neighborhood joins with the C R A B Garrison in remembering and paying tribute to our veterans not only on Veteran's Day, November 11th, but every day.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

Submitted by Heather Hamlin

There was a good turnout for the Neighborhood Watch meeting; it was attended by Mayor Tutunjian, Bob Mirch (DPW), Jeff Buell (PR), and Officer Haskins (Community Police Officer).

One of the topics discussed was the need for Block Captains in our neighborhood. The function of a Block Captain, as I understand it, is to work with residents in gathering information and sending this information to the police in summary form. I agreed to take on the task of block captain, provided I get a cape (ha ha).

ST.MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Third & Washington Sts. Troy, NY 12180
Weekend Masses: Sat. 4 P.M. Sun. 10 A.M.
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 A.M.

THE BASEMENT THRIFT SHOP: Wed. & Sat.
9 A.M.– Noon, on-going.

ST.ANTHONY OF PADUA SHRINE CHURCH

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

SANCTUARY FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA 3361 6th AVENUE

Movies/Screenings/Dinners/Music:

- 10/3 "My Country, My Country" 7 P.M.
- 10/5 "Witches In Exile" 7 P.M.
- 10/7 "Darshan, "The Embrace" 7 P.M.
- 10/11 Mansour Farhang on Iran 6 P.M. reception
- 10/13 The Billy Bang Quartet 8 P.M. \$10
- 10/18 Amy Goodman
- 10/21 The Kamikaze Hearts 8 P.M. \$10
- 10/25 "Urban Renewal" 7 P.M.
- 10/26 "Prison Action" 7 P.M.
- 10/28 "Notes Against The Threshold of Dreams"
(11 P.M. to 9 A.M.) \$10
- 10/30 "The Other Side" 7 P.M.

The Sanctuary has asked Little Italy to host an information booth on the night of the screening of the "New Edit" of: *What Do You Tear Down Next?* *Bring a cake frosted with the face of your favorite building and impress the forks off everyone. Potluck at 5:30 pm, screening at 7 pm.*

A panel discussion will follow the screening, presented with TAP, the RCHS, Rensselaer County Historical Society, and the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Michael Esposito for gathering information and publishing a Business Brochure for South Central.

To Troy Yoga for sponsoring our October Newsletter.

To Mario and Joe Dinova, Neal Pennick, Phillip Chiefari and Mike Centenni for the wall and Bocce Courts

TRASHION

(Recycled Materials)

To Benefit the Gallery and Rourke Center

A showcase of wearable art, performance and installations using recycled materials will be presented Sat. 10-7-06 @ Revolution Hall (425 River St, Troy) Tickets are \$18.00 at door/ \$15.00 in advance at Flavors Café or All Blues.

Trashion designs will be on display at 10-8 through 10-21 @ Fulton Street Gallery (408 Fulton St). Silent Auction, reception and live music Fri.10-20-06; 5:30 – 9:00PM. For more information: trashion@gmail.com.

ICC Festival

September 2006

A good time for all!



A TIME FOR SHARING MEMORIES

The cordial environment of the Festa Italiana was a perfect opportunity for the Friends of Little Italy to meet with over a hundred visitors who stopped by our information station to ask questions, view vintage photographs of neighbors and the neighborhood, sign up for the newsletter, chat informally about our efforts in the neighborhood and plans for the Marketplace but most important of all to share memories of our good neighborhood. Copies of the September newsletter and the recently released South Central Business Directory were distributed. Marion Church Field did a terrific job of organizing the information table and “worked the crowd” each of the three days of the festa with back up support from George and Rich Regan, Jean Krueger, Joely Johnson and Mike Esposito.

