

## LITTLE ITALY NEWS • DECEMBER 2006 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

# *The Stroll Guide*

*December 3, 2006*

*Noon to 5 p.m.*

## EVENT CALENDAR

### **Carmen's Café 8 am to 8 pm**

Eclectic Home Cooking  
Caribbean Specialties

### **Vanilla Bean Baking Co. 7 am to 7 pm**

FREE: Coffee, Donuts, Cookies

### **The Irish Mist 11 am to 10 pm**

FREE SOUP ALL DAY  
Tomato Bisque, Crab Corn Chowder  
Full menu available all day  
Live Entertainment 3 pm to 9 pm

### **Red Front 11:30 am to 10 pm**

Full Menu Available  
Italian American Cuisine  
Family Friendly Restaurant

### **Allblues Sewing Service 11am to 8 pm**

Decorative Sewing Alterations  
Hand Made Items  
Refreshments: Tea & Hot Chocolate  
Entertainment: Flutist 1 to 3 pm

### **Flavour Café 8 am to 10 pm**

Small Coffee 24cents "All Day"  
\$1.00 off All Sandwiches  
Artist Margaret Weinland 1 to 3 pm  
Cards by Sharon  
High Spirit Singers 2 to 3 pm  
Sagettes 3 to 4:30 pm  
Book drop Bee's 4:30 to 5 pm  
Bone Yard barking dog treats 4 to 7 pm  
2 Late 5 to 7 Kelly Ballard 5 to 7 pm  
FREE: Psychic Readings

### **Italian Community Center 5 pm to 8:30 pm**

Ziti & Meatball Dinner Inc. Salad & Desert  
Adults \$6.50 Children (under

### **Washington Park Open House's Noon to 4 pm**

**3 Washington Place** Caroling around the piano  
**7 Washington Place** Billy Gurmaer from  
Gumaer Farms (from the Farmer's Market) will  
be offering hot chocolate and egg nog  
**206 Third Street**  
Entertainment by Elizabeth Kasuis and  
Jonathan Green, Dessert by Alan Danforth

### 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.

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### SPECIAL THANKS

To all the participants of the Stroll Events. \*\*\*\*\*  
St. Anthony's Shrine Church and Father Julian for the donation toward the newsletter. \*\*\*\*\*  
Victoria and David Baecker for bringing refreshments to the neighborhood watch meeting \*\*\*\*\*  
George Regan for decorating his windows for the Stroll and the candy canes for the info table at the Atrium \*\*\*\*\*

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### ITALIAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Little Italy resident Mike Esposito and Jim Corsaro presented a program on basic resources available for Italian-American genealogy research at the November 18<sup>th</sup> program of the Capital District Genealogical Society meeting in Colonie. A future issue of the newsletter will list information sources helpful in getting started doing family genealogy.

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### VISIT THE TIFFANY'S FOR THE HOLIDAY

Regardless of faith or creed, you are invited to discover or revisit the exquisite Tiffany art glass windows which are within St. John's Episcopal Church at First and Liberty Streets right here in Troy. Come by to enjoy the cultural richness of our neighborhood. The works of stained and painted glass were commissioned, made and installed in the last half of the 19th C. and bear witness to the opulence of Troy's Victorian era. St. John's is open for Sunday services as well as other scheduled times during the week. The church will be open this December 3 for those who would like to visit during the Victorian Stroll. St. John's is also open for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship. Come and enjoy the beauty.

### 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

### ST. ANN'S MARONITE

184 Fourth Street

Mass: Saturday 4 p.m. (except 1st sat. of month)  
Sunday 11 p.m.

### BETH TEPHILAH SYNOGOGUE

82 River Street

Saturday 10 a.m. Service

### CONGREGATION BERITH SHOLOM

167 Third Street

Friday Service 7:30 p.m.

### UNITED ORDAINED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Worship

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Bible Class

**CHECK WITH YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP  
FOR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

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### HOW TO REACH US

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George Regan: george@usatfadir.org

**HAPPY HOLIDAY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BURGLAR ALERT**

**There have been a number of break-ins in this neighborhood in the past few weeks.**

**Keep your eyes open for people casing houses or acting suspiciously. If you see or hear anything, do not hesitate to call the police:**

**270-4411 or 911**

**Let's catch these criminals!**

**GOOD NEWS!** Chris McDonald our Community Police Officer along with the City of Troy Code Enforcement have successfully closed down three problem properties located in Little Italy.

**REMINDER!** We can not help solve problems if we do not have the information. Try to attend the meetings or contact Chris McDonald at 270-4789, e-mail [chris.mcdonald@troyny.gov](mailto:chris.mcdonald@troyny.gov)

## **Community Police Update**

The last Community Police Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters. Several topics were discussed and our Community Police Officer, Chris McDonald attended and offered updates from October's meeting.

An effort is being made to invite "out of town" landlords to attend these meetings. The Little Italy group has crafted a letter that will be mailed to all absentee property owners in the area letting them know that the neighborhood is dedicated to maintaining a safe environment and a high quality of life. Additionally, new property owners will receive a similar letter welcoming them as owners and encouraging their participation.

The meeting's guest speaker was Officer Colleen Goldston an expert in the Weed and Seed grant process. There is approximately \$175,000 in this program with half of the money going to "weed" projects and half to "seed". The grant monies are appropriated for prevention and law enforcement efforts as well as restoration and economic development. Neighborhood groups are encouraged to submit grant applications for projects in their neighborhoods. The Weed and Seed committee meets the third Thursday of each month at the Rourke Center 5:30 to 7:30. Officer Goldston graciously offered assistance in grant writing. The next deadline for an application is January 9<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the grant are available at the Troy Public Library and the Little Italy Headquarters.

The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## LITTLE ITALY IN THE NEWS

*Compiled by Mike Esposito*

### **Friends, family bid farewell to Pascarell**

*The Record*, Nov. 25, 2006, p6. Lifelong Little Italy resident, former councilman and community activist William Pascarell laid to rest. Bill had a longtime commitment to many local institutions especially the CYO.

### **Working for a happy “Turkey Day”**

*The Record*, Nov. 22, 2006, p8. Photos of LaSalle and Catholic students packing food baskets and delivering food to St. Mary’s Church; also St. Jude’s students delivered food baskets to Joseph’s House.

### **Italians unite for conference**

*The Record*, Nov. 19, 2006, p4. Statewide conference of Little Italy neighborhoods being planned for Endicott, NY, June 2007. New England counterparts being invited to participate. First conference was held in Troy two years ago. Members of Troy’s Little Italy will help organize event.

### **Mentor continues a tradition of helping**

*Times Union*, Oct. 31, 2006, pB5. Around the region article about former Little Italy native John Santora who has participated in the Capital District Center for Independence mentoring program for several years Santora, an accountant, traces his volunteerism back to his grandfather, who was the first president of Spring Little League in Troy in the 1950’s.

**Discover Capital Region-2006-2007** *Times Union*, Oct. 28, 2006, Community Guide, p29. Full page advertisement of Troy’s Little Italy supported by Troy Pork Store, Patricelli’s Deli, Northeast Pest Control, Wm. J. Fagan & Sons Insurance, Testo Kitchen & Countertops, Italian Community Center, Lusco Paper Co. and DeFazio Pizzeria.

### **The Daily Historian Photos:**

**1952** Frank Furciniti, Jean (DeBonis) Delaney, Jim Larkin and Jackie Dundon, submitted by Joan Furciniti, Nov. 6, 2006, p 16

**1974** “Twin sets” Theresa & Catherine Cioffi and John & Pat Pastore, submitted by Catherine Cioffi, Nov. 22, 2006, p16

**The Record’s Historian** photos, Nov. 21, 2006

**1927** The Uzzo Sisters, Mary (Cioffi), Dee (DeRusso) and Ann (Mucci), submitted by Theresa Cioffi

**1930** Wedding of Anthony Cioffi Sr. and Mary (Uzzo), submitted by Theresa Cioffi

**1938** Nicky, Nick and Kate Cristiano and Josie, Mike and Gene Cuozzo family, submitted by Nick Cristiano

**1949** LaSalle Institutes’ The Melody Notes, submitted by Nick Cristiano

**1950** Tony (Abner) Cavallo, Toni Terrible LaValley, Mary Maloney, Kay Calosessano, Nick & Geraldine Bevevino, submitted by Mary G. Maloney

**1964** St. Mary’s School, graduating class with Fr. Markham, submitted by Jerilyn Welling

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## ITALIAN TRADITIONS

Christmas trees are decorated in Italy, however, the most focal point in many homes is the “Presipio” or Nativity Scene. Italians take great pride in the creation of the manger, created in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. Churches have contests in Italy on the preparations of their Nativity Scenes.

Christmas in Italy is celebrated with a large meal that includes seafood and vegetables but does not include meat. The meal marks the end of a 24 hour fast.

The Christmas Eve meal in Italy is known as the meal of the seven fishes ( for the seven Sacraments). It includes fish and seafood such as baccala (salt cod caption (eel), calamari (squid), scungilli (conch meat). vongole (clams), smelts and shrimp.

Sweets with nuts and almonds are common at the Christmas Eve meal. They include biscotti, torrone (nougat), panforte (gingerbread) made with hazelnuts, honey and almonds pandoro and as always Panettone (fruit cake).

One of the more unusual sounds of Christmas in Italy is the sound of bagpipes. The Zampognari (shepherds who play the bagpipes) come from their homes to perform in the market square’s in Calabria, Abruzzo and Rome.

## LA NOSTRA STORIA (OUR STORY)

By Mike Esposito

The collection of Troy City Directories continuous from 1829 available at the Troy Public Library is an important resource in locating information on Troy residents. It was a starting point in identifying one of the city's earliest Italian born residents. First listed in the 1853 Troy City Directory, Augustus Ametrano was a clerk boarding at 170 Third Street. In the 1857 directory he is listed as a cutter working at the Troy House (a hotel located at the corner of River and First Street) and as a boarder at the American House, another Troy hotel. According to the 1861 directory, still working as a cutter, he is sharing quarters at 235 Second Street with Antonio Ametrano who is listed as a bartender at the Troy House. By 1864 the directory also lists Fernando Ametrano, a member of the 125<sup>th</sup> Regiment and Joseph Ametrano, a clerk working in the Troy House. Both are boarding with Augustus once again at 170 Third Street. From 1865 through 1880 the residence at 170 Third Street is home base for the Ametrano family which also includes Mrs. Antonio (Mary) Ametrano. Over the years Joseph Ametrano progresses to a position as clerk in the office of the city chamberlain. Augustus works for several merchant tailors including David Bastable at *Lyman J. Rundell & Co.* at the Troy House Building, with Theodore and Joseph Byrams at 10 Broadway and eventually with Charles Cook in *Ametrano & Cook Tailors* at 240 River Street where Augustus remained for many years as a mercantile tailor. The 1880 federal census lists August "Amatrana" (surname misspelled) age 40, mercantile tailor residing at 286 Congress Street. The last entry in the city directory listing Augustus Ametrano is in the 1897 edition, forty four years after he first appeared in the 1853 directory. The entry simply says "removed (moved) to New York".

The 1880 federal census also lists an Ametrano family residing at 48 Vail Street in the Thirteenth Ward. "F. P". Ametrano, age 44 lives with his wife Rose, age 31 and their three children – Bartholomew, age 9; Clara, age 6 and "Ferdi L", age 9 months.

The entry records that his father was born in Italy and his mother was born in Portugal. He lists his occupation as an agent in real estate.

The 1990 federal census lists the "Avettraro" family (surname misspelled again) residing at 3283 6th Avenue in the Thirteenth Ward. The head of the family is listed as Ferdinand (age 56), occupation, real estate salesman; his wife Rose, age 49 and sons Barton, age 48, employed in a laundry and Ferdinand, age 20 employed as (collar) helper. The daughter Clara was not listed with the family in the 1900 census

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## THE RECORD'S five questions...

Nov. 25, 2006, p2. Tom Hoffman, Troy police officer, former Little Italy native and band member of "343" named after his mom's Fourth Street address. *I'll bet Tom likes Dante's pizza with sausage and extra cheese!*

Nov.19, 2006, p2. Ken MacNamara, manager of Dante's Pizzeria (14 Spring Ave.) was interviewed. Dante's owned by Ray Hoffman, originally located at 70 Jefferson St., is now well into its 25th year. Kenny's favorite pizza? Dante's pizza with sausage and extra cheese. Sounds good to me too(with a side of chicken wings!)

Nov.12, 2006, p2. Anthony, Josephine and Rocco DeFazio at their Fourth Street store now in its 55<sup>th</sup> year. In responding to the question "What was the main idea behind founding of the Friends of Little Italy?", Rocco's reply: "Trying to curtail the deterioration in the neighborhood.

to use its ethnic history to revitalize the neighborhood". *The DeFazio's and other neighbors, friends and local business people devote a generous amount of time and effort in revitalizing our neighborhood.*

Oct. 30, 2006, p. 2. Joe Riley, Fifth Avenue resident who organized last years successful Public Market Reunion held at the ICC was interviewed regarding the fundraising campaign for the Troy Boys & Girls Club. Joe is chair of the campaign. *Efforts on behalf of this dynamic organization benefit Troy's youngsters. Contributions can be sent to the Club at 1700 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Troy, NY 12180. Please indicate ONE Campaign on checks.*

## ARTISTS DECORATE FOURTH AND DIVISION STREET WINDOWS

When you pass **Allblues Sewing Service** at Fourth and Division St., take a minute to look at the shop windows. The work of Troy artists Chris Harvey, Elizabeth Zois and Lynn Palmiter are featured in this year's holiday displays.

**Chris Harvey**, Washington Place resident, created the Fourth St. window scenes, Mr. and Mrs. Bear, anticipating the holidays and dreaming of the joy and wonder of this year's season. He built twisting cyclones of light that spiral above the bears' sleepy head and tucked them in with exotic embroidered silks from far away. They're kept company by a throng of toy cats and puppies that nestle into the warm covers. Look closely to discover other hidden treasures to delight and entertain young and old. Everything in the windows is for sale.

**Elizabeth Zois** and **Lynn Parmiter** of the Pottery District, display 'artistamps' (artist stamps) in the Division St. window. The artistamp is an art form which can depict or commemorate any subject the artist chooses. Artistamps are intended for envelopes or anything else sent through the mail in addition to, not instead of, U.S. Postage stamps. The artwork on the stamps can be hand-drawn, painted, lithographed or offset-printed, photographed, xeroxed, rubber stamped, or drawn by computer. Be sure to notice the framed Pottery District commemorative stamps. 'We often create unique or limited editions for individuals, businesses and groups,' Says Elizabeth. If you have a special order you may contact Elizabeth and Lynn at [zo.is@verizon.net](mailto:zo.is@verizon.net). Most of their

## LITTLE ITALY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR FOR RENT

### 1 FAMILY

160 2nd Street \$295,000 Tom 391-2494

### 2 FAMILIES

120 Jefferson St \$120,000 Jason 828-7147

72 Hill Street \$49,900 Tom 885-3941

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

201 4th Street \$169,900 Chester 399-5958

217 4th Street \$119,900 Jim 588-6755

### COMMERCIAL

1049 5th Ave. \$85,000 Jim 464-0870

219 4th Street \$69,000 Jim 588-6755

198 1st Street \$330,000 Jonathan 423-3510

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 you would like us to print your info e-mail [mvf1406@aol.com](mailto:mvf1406@aol.com)

## REMINDER

Troy Little Italy has decorated a window for The Stroll, Thanks to Joely Johnson and Will Gill for donating their time and talent The window is located at the Times Union office on River Street. If you plan on attending The Stroll stop by our Little Italy table located in the Troy Atrium. Buy an Italian flag, pick up a list of the Post Stroll events or just stop and say hello. **Support our neighborhood! Shop, Dine and spend locally!**

## LITTLE ITALY QUIZ ANSWERS

**APPLEHEAD** Jim Piscatilla

**WEB** Frank Furniciti

**RABBIT** Bob Riley

**DADA** Al Bruno

**TWEED** Tony Carnevale

**2 MINUTE CHARLIE** Charlie Martone

**BEEFY** Dom Pasinella

**BROW** Jack Stapleton

**BUSTER** Pat Martone

**SLUG** Nick Teta

**SUPERMAN** Joe Ryan

**JOE THE SHEIK** Joe Valenti

**BROW** Jack Stapleton

**CHICO** Joe Cavallo

**TINY** Mary (Casale) Valenti

**GIGI** Louis Abrunza

**JUMBO** Angelo Buccerio