

LITTLE ITALY NEWS MARCH 2010 EDITION

www.littleitalytroy.org

troylittleitaly@gmail.com



Happy St. Patrick's Day From The Irish Mist

Every Thursday open mic 8-11pm \$3 pint

Friday 3/12 Emerald Dawn 6pm

Saturday 3/13 St Pats parade day \$15 bus and breakfast trip (breakfast starts at 10 am)
music with John & Terry of Sound Spectrum at 4pm

Sunday 3/14 Irish brunch 10-2pm music with Frank Jaklitsch 5-8:30pm

Monday 3/15 we are open for pint specials and dinner

Tuesday 3/16 music by Lawson at 6pm

Wednesday 3/17

\$3.17 breakfast with Magic 5:30am Jay & Ben host

8-11:30 am music with Frank Jaklitsch

12-6 Dave Disisto playing all your favorites

6:30 pm Triskele (all female Irish band)

check out our updated website for new menu and other events

www.theishmist.com

City Wide Garage Sale

Every Saturday during the
month of May

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Limited spaces available

Call:

518-470-7369 for details

The above is in the planning stage. **Would you be part of the team?** We need help with spreading the word (signage) and help with overseeing and giving directions the day of the event.

If interested, call Andrea at the above number.

TROY CYO CENTER 237 4TH STREET 274-2630

PRESENTS

NITE AT THE RACES

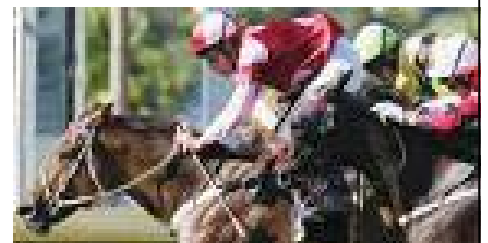
7:00PM

DONATION \$10.00

*LIQUID REFRESHMENTS ***HOT DOGS-PIZZA-POPCORN*

GAMES OF CHANCE

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM



HORSE PURCHASE

ANY QUESTIONS OR TO PURCHASE A HORSE CALL THE CENTER

February Neighborhood Watch Update

The last Neighborhood Watch Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 17th at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters. A general review of neighborhood code and police issues was given by Officer Chris McDonald.

As discussed in the meeting, it is everyone's responsibility to call in concerns to the proper city department. A major topic of concern this month was garbage. Concerns ranged from garbage not being placed out in a responsible manner, garbage not being picked up by the city and the dumping of garbage. Bill Chamberlain will be at our next monthly meeting along with Deb Carey from the Crime Victims Assistance program.

If you have concerns about garbage, please call DPW at 270-4579.

If you see any suspicious, drug related activity, it needs to be reported to the anonymous hotline at 270-5004. If you want to receive regular updates through email and get crime alerts, please send an email to sctroywatch@gmail.com. The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be on March 17th at 6:00 at the Freihofer's Race Headquarters at the corner of 4th and Washington. Bring a friend!

AT LIBERTY

The Saga of an Italo-American Family in South Troy

by

Frank LaPosta Visco

Book Two, Chapter 5: *Life at home.*

We called it the home-front, because, as I've said, it was everybody's war, not just those men and women in service who volunteered, were drafted and were committed to doing their part for the noble concept of freedom.

World War II was a war during which everybody did their part. It meant making sacrifices. Materials that were needed "over there" were rationed over here. Gasoline couldn't be bought without coupons. The same held true for anything made of rubber. If you were lucky enough to have a car, you had to make do with worn, patched tires and inner-tubes. Meat, butter and sugar were needed to keep our troops fit and fighting.

Every smoker saved the aluminum foil that lined cigarette packs, formed them into shiny round balls and donated them to the war effort.

Scrap drives were common, too. It seemed that nothing was wasted – if it was metal and no longer of use, it would be collected, melted down and turned into a weapon of war.

At 13 Liberty Street, the backyard garden was expanded, and even the venerable Italian custom of growing your own vegetables became support for the war – they suddenly became Victory Gardens, turning a tradition into an act of patriotism.

Eddie Case tried to enlist, but with a wife – Esther – and a child, me, and a heart murmur from his undernourished childhood, he was labelled 4F by the Selective Service, known as the draft board,

and so kept his job at Cluett, Peabody & Company, and joined the others in the Case clan in following the progress of the war on two fronts.

After dinner, the family would gather around the big console radio in the living room, and hear commentators like Edward R. Murrow, H.V. Kaltenborn and Lowell Thomas report from exotic locations, spewing names of places and battles that we had never heard before, but would become famous or infamous in future history books.

My father was an early graffitist – I told you earlier how he painted the romantic words of a song on our backyard wall to impress my mother when they were courting. Now, he turned the stone retaining wall into a kind of memorial of honor, listing the names and titles of our relatives who were serving overseas.

And as each of them came home – and as fate would have it, they all did – he would make a banner of letters that spelled out each name with a big "Welcome Home."

The children of the Case family followed the lead of our fathers and uncles, and put on our own fund-raising shows. I was pretty young, but the older cousins always found a way to include everyone of us kids in our USO shows. We'd learn dance routines, songs and poems. We'd perform our versions of the popular musical stars of the day, like Al Jolson. I'm sure we didn't raise a lot of money in those days, simply because there wasn't a lot of money to be had, but whatever it was, we felt like we were doing our part, and it was a good feeling.

Trains ran through Troy's Little Italy in those days, and passenger trains were given over to transporting troops to the various training camps and points of em-

barkation. Those troop train schedules were noted by the families, and the women would pool their resources and make sandwiches and whatever sweets they could bake with limited ingredients, and hand them up to the uniformed boys as they eagerly reached out of the train car windows. Of course, the USO was always there, with coffee and doughnuts, cigarettes and smiles.

Keeping up the morale was important, because as prevalent as the propaganda was, the news from the front was not always good. The Allies – Britain, the US, Canada, Australia and Russia – were playing catch-up in troop strength and war machinery. Factories in American became dedicated to turning out tanks, jeeps, airplanes, guns, rifles, bombs and bullets. Shipbuilders turned out battleships, tenders, PT boats and landing craft.

We listened in early June of 1944 as D-Day was launched, and despite the terrible losses of so many Allied soldiers, we felt that the might of our forces and the rightness of our cause would prevail. There was hope building for success in Europe, and in the Pacific.

One by one, the welcome home signs went up, and all our cousins returned to Liberty Street sound of body and limb, but forever changed by the experiences we could only imagine, and the stories they were so reluctant to share.

Things were never going to be the same again, even though an era of prosperity was on the horizon. Tensions in the Case family had been put on hold for four years. But when the last bomb had been dropped overseas, the battles on the domestic front were just being joined.

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Next: In Book 2, Chapter 6: *Peace in the world, war at home.*



"WE PLAY FOR FOOD"

To benefit Rensselaer County food pantries.

DATE: May 1 & 2

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Little Italy
Market Place

Thanks to the support of the following teams, last year, almost \$5,000 was raised in non-perishable food items. We plan to raise even more this year.

ARC	School 12 Faculty & Staff
Capital News 9 & Marissa Jacques	Tri-City Valley Cats
FLY92	Troy Boys and Girls Club
Hembold's	Troy Firefighters
Little Italy Bingo Committee	WXXA & John Gray
Fran McCaffrey & Siena	Basketball team



Enjoy a weekend of stickball and music highlighted with a performance from the area's favorite cover band, **The Refrigerators - Saturday, May 1st**. Bring your friends and family!

How can you participate? Just bring a donation of non-perishable food items to help our local food pantries. They are facing tough challenges today trying to support an increasing number of families with food for their tables. Your donation will make a difference.

We hope teams will sign up to play in a stickball tournament in the Little Italy Market Place from early morning to late afternoon on Saturday. Teams are also asked to make a contribution of non-perishable food items as entry into the tournament. Music and entertainment will be provided by some of the Capital District's best-known musicians and bands.

Local celebrities will be asked to compete in a stickball challenge to see who can raise the most donations.

In these hard times we realize money is tight, so we hope you will take a look in your cupboards and pantries to see what you can donate. If you're a college student preparing to leave for the summer, please consider donating non-perishable food items accumulated during the school year.

For more information contact Rocco DeFazio at 271-1111 or rdefazio@nycap.rr.com.

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Home run for area food pantries



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 Rourke 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 Kramanocker, with help from Michael Gruski, Principal Anthony DeFazio, and Pep. Donna Frank. The School 12 effort was coordinated by Janice DeFazio, Ann Agnecchia 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 Jubac), and DeFazio's. Also "at play" was FOX23 news

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

Marion Field organized our sidewalk neighborhood volunteers who set up, manned the tables, and cleaned up following the event. Rourke Center staff, Agnes Zink and Joyce Daniels, Tri-City Valley-Cats staff Vic Christopher and Heather Lavigne, Danielle Drews (Russell Sage College), City Council President Clem Campana and the ever faithful Tony De-Fazio assisted the Troy Little Italy group. Food and beverages were provided by our great partners, the ICC (led by Vince Mammone and Pete Tesai), the CYO (with Kelly Lorenzo selling Heimbold'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 Draman was our official photographer, DeCrescento 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 Pelage (Troy Wine & Spirits), Mike Russo of Sen. Kristen Gilliland'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 SHELVING ROCK, with Stephen Iachetta and T-Breeze Verdant, SIMPLE 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.

CYO-TROY YOUTH ASSOCIATION, INC

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

The 6th Annual William J. Pascarell

Person of the Year Celebration

HONORING

Marion Field, Rocco DeFazio & Michael Esposito

As well as the presentation of

The Humanitarian Award

To

Pat Miele

Thursday, April 29, 2010

6:00-8:00PM

At The Italian Community Center

1450 Fifth Ave, Troy, NY

\$40.00 per person (\$70.00 per couple)

(Tables of 8 available for \$250.00)

RSVP by April 22nd

Free Income Tax

Weed and Seed will be conducting their VITA Site again this year at the Italian Community Center, 1450 Fifth Avenue, Troy N.Y. Parking and handicap accessibility are available. The program runs from the beginning of February until the first week of April.

Last years program was very successful. Over a hundred people had their taxes done which returned a large sum of money to our area.

Hours of operation: Wednesday 12 to 5 pm, Thursday 6 to 8:30 pm, and Saturday from 10 to 2 pm. Call 270-4689 for an appointment.

Since the returns are filed electronically, refunds can be available within a week using direct deposit to one's bank account.



3 Story brick building in the Troy Little Italy business district. Storefront and 3rd floor artist loft are also available for lease. The asking price for the building is \$99,900, the lease prices are negotiable for details call Marion 518-266-1406.

Little Italy Real Estate For Sale

1 FAMILY

191 Second St. \$494,900 Karen
892-1326
164 Second St. \$249,000 Michael
813-6049
1023 Fifth Ave. \$119,900 Cindy
269-8278

2 FAMILY

42 Ida St. \$45,900 Patricia
885-9121
198 Hill St. \$118,500 James
857-5427
121 Adam St. \$104,900 Douglas
724-6871
62 Ida St. \$95,000 Kareem
542-3566
1045 6th Ave. \$35,900 Michael
466-6119

MULTI UNITS

191-193 Second St. \$849,000 Karen
892-1326
1465 5th Ave. \$169,900 Elise
339-7932
263 Fourth St. \$79,900 Douglas
724-6871
80 Havermans Ave. \$119,900 Sandra
858-8083

COMMERCIAL

199 Fourth St. \$119,900 Jay
961-3313

Apartments for Rent In Little Italy

Artist loft, northern light, third floor, located in the Little Italy business district. \$450 a month. Security and references. Call Jean @ 518-272-4972.

Advertise your Real Estate Here

To place an ad for an apartment

e-mail troylittleitaly@gmail.com

March Meetings

3/17 Neighborhood Watch 6:00 pm
Troy Little Italy 7:00 pm
233 Fourth Street (4th & Washington)

3/10 TNAC Vacant buildings workshop
6:00 pm
Troy Little Italy Visitor Center
39 Hill Street



Anna Marie (DelGiacco) Rossi with
Philomena Bizarro



Natalie (DelGiacco) Tutunjian & sister
Gilda (DelGiacco) Robsen looking East
on Hill Street. Circa 1960



Margretia Donato & Donna (Donato)
Hennessey. Picture taken at 43
Havermans Avenue, Troy. Circa 1955

I lived in the area in the early 60's and met my very best friends there the DelGiacco family. Your newsletter and pictures brings back many memories of the Casale, Piscatelli, and Riggione families and eating the wonderful pizza from Jerry's tavern. Life was simpler then, neighbors were friends and the neighborhood was the closest thing to family you could find. I applaud your group for trying to bring back those days, they should never be lost. *Submitted by Donna (Donato) Hennessey*

Troy's Little Italy, 1910

We are pleased to reprint Kevin Gilbert's column, This day in 1910, which was featured in The Record on February 10, 2010. It presents a positive view of the Italian-American community in Troy one hundred years ago.

Thursday, Feb. 10, 1910. In the early 20th century Troy's Italian-American community usually makes the news, in *The Record* at least, only when its members are involved in some sort of crime. In an important change of pace, today's paper features a positive profile of one of the city's fastest growing immigrant populations.

Troy's Italian population has nearly tripled in the last five years. Our reporter notes that the community numbered between 600 and 700 people in 1905, but has grown to more than 2,000 by 1910.

This population fluctuates on a seasonal basis. Many Italians return to their homeland during the winter and return to Troy when warmer weather brings more outdoor work.

"Within the next month the annual additions to the Italian colony of this section will have begun, and as is the case each year Troy will receive its share of the sons and daughters of Italy," our reporter writes, "and when they make their appearance everything will have been provided for them in their new home, this work being attended to in advance by

by relatives.

Everything but housing itself may be provided for newcomers by their relatives who've stayed in Troy. "Unable to secure lodgings in this city many Italians have moved to Watervliet," our reporter explains, "and that number has grown so large that plans are on foot for the purchase or building of a suitable church,"

Italian immigrants are spilling over into Watervliet despite efforts to develop more housing in Troy's Italian neighborhoods. "Houses in Italian settlements which have been idle are being rented by Italians," our writer notes. "The principal Italian settlements are located on Fourth Street between Washington and Adams streets, in Church and Earl street, Fourth street near Main Street and at Hill and Washington streets."

When our writer refers to a housing shortages, it's unclear whether it prevails in the city as a whole or only in those enclaves where Italians are welcome. Prejudice against Italians is still strong throughout the country, but our reporter portrays them as industrious people who dedicate much of their income to supporting extended families back home.

"A visit to a money order depot on a Saturday night would be an interesting one for residents of the city who have no idea of the way in which the foreigners provide for dependent brothers and sisters left behind in the foreign land," our correspondent claims.

"Within an hour after the closing hour of

money order places would disclose scores of men waiting for an opportunity to hand to the clerk a good part of their earnings, which finds its way to Italy, there to be turned over to those in waiting, here a dependent father or mother, there an anxious sweetheart or a brother who is awaiting the time to start to the land of plenty.

Troy is attracting more Italians because the city is a place where immigrants have "accumulated a competence through thrift and industry" after arriving in America "with no more money than was required to bring them over." Given their civic-minded participation in fraternal societies and their strong church going habits, our writer clearly thinks that more Italians should be welcomed to Troy.



L & S Garden and Produce
470 Pawling Avenue
Troy, New York

Now in stock, fresh seafood for **Lent**, blueberries and strawberries, black seedless grapes and home-made Hummus. We also carry an assortment of flowers and plants
A great place to shop!!!