

## LITTLE ITALY NEWS NOVEMBER 2008 EDITION

[www.littleitalytroy.org](http://www.littleitalytroy.org)

[troylittleitaly@gmail.com](mailto:troylittleitaly@gmail.com)

### *SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE*



#### **OCTOBER 11, 2008**

Troy Little Italy held a city-wide garage sale to benefit the Senior Citizen Center of Troy. Andrea Daley, chairperson, and her entire family worked tirelessly to make this event a success. There were over thirty vendors present with merchandise that ranged from new to treasures from attics, garages, and cellars. Andrea was able to present the Senior Center with a check for \$1,000. Get ready for the next one!!!! The feedback for this event was so positive that Andrea is starting to plan another sale. No date has been set as of yet. Past or present the Market is a great place to gather.

## **Troy Public Library Propositions on the Nov. 4 Ballot**

When you go to vote on Election Day, look up at the top of the ballot to find the two propositions pertaining to the Troy Public Library. Proposition #2 asks whether or not a Special Library District should be created. Proposition #3 asks whether or not the library should be granted an annual budget of \$800,000. Both propositions must be answered with a "Yes" vote for the proposal to pass.

The library is currently chartered by New York State as an association library, which is an older form of library charter. An association library is a charitable organization that provides library services to the community but is not a truly public library directly responsible to the voters. The propositions on the ballot will establish a public library to serve the City of Troy with an elected board of trustees and an annual budget voted on by the electorate.

You can find much more information about the propositions, the library's budget and programs, hours, and resources at:

[www.theTroyLibrary.org](http://www.theTroyLibrary.org)

#### **RICK VIELKIND FUNDRAISER**

Family and friends of Rick Vielkind who is suffering from liver and pancreatic cancer will be hosting a spaghetti dinner 4 to 8 pm, Saturday November 8, 2008 at the Italian Community Center, 1450 Fifth Avenue to offset expenses. Tickets are \$10.00 prepaid and are available from Ned Fitzgerald at 518-283-6703. Make your checks payable to the Rick Vielkind Fund. Donations may be mailed to Linda Montagne, 98 Wolf's Den Road, East Nassau 12062

#### **GRAND OPENING**

##### **Lisa's Gelateria**

We are planning to open the Gelateria on or about November 15. We will be offering Gelato, Semi-Freddo, Gelato pies, Coffee, Herbal Teas, Hot Mulled Cider, Pastry and Soup. We will be taking orders for Pumpkin Gelato Pies for Thanksgiving. Stop in and see us. Located at the corner of Liberty and Hill Street

## SOUTH CENTRAL/LITTLE ITALY NEWS

The Record, October 6, 2008, p1, 3, 8  
Fund-raiser a real tummy warmer by Tom Caprood, photos by J. S. Carras.

The fourth annual Empty Bowls fund-raiser for local food pantries was held on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at the Italian Community Center in the heart of Troy's Little Italy neighborhood. Community support came from local potters, chefs of area restaurants who donated delicious soups, area bakeries who provided bread and desserts, staff of the ICC, volunteers who set-up, served, and cleaned up, and Emma Willard students who washed the bowls for patrons. All pitched in to benefit local food pantries and organizations.

The Record, October 12, 2008, p1, 3.  
Italian customs, food fill (Albany's) Washington Park by Tom Caprood, photos by Tom Killips. Among Tom's photos is one of long-time Little Italy native Jo (Rae) Smith dancing with Ralph Lourinia of Wynantskill at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Italian Festival following Albany's Columbus Day Parade.

The Record, October 14, 2008, p4. Columbus Day marked by Kathryn Cagianelli, photo by Mike McMahon. Anthony DeFazio a long time member of the Knights of Columbus is photographed at the Columbus Monument flag raising ceremony at Columbus Square in Troy.

The Record, Wednesday, October 22, 2008, p14. Become actively involved by Merle Farnham in a Pulse of the People letter reports that participation in neighborhood activities is beneficial and cites our Little Italy group as one that has excelled in promoting the neighborhood and by example all neighborhoods.

The Record, Thursday, October 23, 2008, p4. Dueling charters presented at Troy forum by Tom Caprood. A well attended crowd greeted candidates running for local offices and presenters speaking on ballot initiatives at the CYO Center. The program was co-sponsored by TRIP and T-NAC and moderated by the League of Women Voters.

Daily Historian, The Record, Tuesday, October 21, 2008, p16. Jean and Vito Ciccarelli, Sr. bench sitting in front of 7 Havermans Avenue. Photo submitted by Vito Ciccarelli, Jr.



### PUTTING A BOOK TOGETHER – WITH YOUR HELP!

By Mike Esposito

Here's another photograph from the past that will be among the many we will add to our book on Troy's Little Italy. It is appropriate for the season. Thanksgiving Day dinner in 1947 at the apartment of Edith and Alexander Novak is shared with family and friends. Seated from left to right is Ronnie Crowley with John and Mary Krupa, Parosha Novak, Erminia Riggione, Ernest Marro, Luigi and Lee Riggione, Charles and Mary Renna and Christopher Emperor on the right. Standing is Philomena Marro, Jerry Riggione, and Edith and Alexander Novak. At the time, Alex owned and operated The Tavern on Broadway in Troy. Edie tells us that this was her first Thanksgiving in their new home. Photograph courtesy of Edith Novak

**If anyone has a photograph of Troy's famed jazz sax player Nick Brignola, Jr. we would appreciate an original copy to scan for our book.** Contact us through our email address [troylittleitaly@gmail.com](mailto:troylittleitaly@gmail.com) or call Marion Field at 266-1406. To all who have shared their treasured photographs with us, we are most thankful.

### NOVEMBER MEETINGS

11/19/2008—233 4th Street  
SCNeighborhood Watch 6 p.m.  
Troy Littly Italy 7 p.m.

11/20/2008  
Weed & Seed 5:30 p.m.  
Rourke Center—corner of 4th and  
State Street

Troy Neighborhood Action  
Council (TNAC) 1/28/2009  
The meeting time and place will be  
announced at a later date.  
See you next year!

### ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 4

If you voted at the CYO Center last year,  
the polling location has been changed to  
the Italian Community Center at 1450  
Fifth Avenue.

REMEMBER TO VOTE

*HAVE A  
HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING*

## AT LIBERTY

### The Saga of an Italo-American Family in South Troy

by

Frank LaPosta Visco

#### Introduction:

*First and foremost, this is a work of fiction, based on experience. You may find similarities to people you knew; you may be convinced that I'm talking about a specific person. Not so. Although I will be using memories of events – writers use everything – please be aware that my memories are flawed by time, colored by intent and rearranged to suit a dramatic purpose. What is true is not always what is factual.*

*I intend this continuing story to be one primarily of entertainment, and secondarily of enlightenment -- about the customs, traditions and attitudes of the past that add up to who we are now, and how we got here.*

#### Part One: Modesta

Modesta Campobasso hated her name. Her first name, that is. As for the last name, it sounded like poetry to her. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1920, as she anticipated the celebration of her sixth birthday at dinner, she remembered her shy older sister Rose telling her stories of that proud name. Lost in the shrouds of time and the constant retelling of the family's oral tradition, it was no longer clear if Campobasso, the largest town in the province of Abruzzi e Molise, was named for the family or the family was named for the town.

Whichever it was, the daughters knew that despite the dire circumstances that forced their father Francesco and mother Maria to emigrate to America as children twenty years before America's entry into the War to End All Wars, they were descendants of artisans who forged iron implements used in war and peace by generations of Italians, and of Romans and the Samnite tribes that resisted the Roman Legion before that.

Working with iron and steel imparted spiritual as well as physical strength to the Campobasso family – a fortitude that Francesco, Modesta's father, needed in the prejudicial American society he struggled against.

Unable to utilize his skills in Hartford's cutlery factories where he first sought employment in the late 1800's, he joined others of his town and traveled to Troy, New York, where laborers were needed in the bustling city that was a manufacturing

and transportation hub as the 20<sup>th</sup> century began. But everywhere he and his *pae-sans* looked for work, they found they were paid less than other “races.” It didn't stop them from taking back-breaking jobs of lugging iron, barrels of scrap, and of loading and unloading boxes, crates and bales from trains, barges and horse-drawn carts. The point? Survival, providing for their families.

When Francesco arrived home to the family's sparse but neat third floor walk-up flat near the *Piazza Mercato* – Troy's Public Market -- he was exhausted and exhilarated. It was his *bambina's* birthday – this strong-willed youngest child who was so much like the cousin he named her for. He hid an extra sweet in his pocket for her, to add to the celebration that included this American custom of blowing out candles on a cake.

Rose, now married, was making one of her rare visits outside her home to help prepare her little sister for her entrance into the spotlight. As Rose put the finishing touches on Modesta, the birthday girl made up her mind. She would no longer allow anyone to tease her about her name, calling her Mod, or Modesty or any variation. Already an accomplished reader, she had thumbed through the family bible, and discovered a book in the Old Testament with a woman's name she liked. She was special, thought Modesta. Her name will be my new name.

Dinner was over, the relatives were there, the lights went out, the cake was brought out, ablaze with six candles. The singing stopped, she took a breath and suddenly her 10 year old brother moved forward and blew out her candles. In a second, a range of emotions flashed across Modesta's face – anger, revenge, hurt, the welling of tears – and then – resolve. She didn't cry. She didn't complain. She even pretended not to notice her brother's mischief and need for attention. After all, she realized, she had their attention – they were applauding her.

She took it all in, looked around and made her planned announcement, “From now on, my name is Esther.”

They looked at each other and smiled, thinking this was a whim that would pass. But as the days and weeks went on, and she unflinchingly refused to respond when addressed as Modesta, they realized just how much Campobasso steel she had in her spine. She left them no choice. Soon everyone called her by the biblical

queen's name she had chosen -- Esther.

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*NEXT: In part two, meet 9-year-old Egidio, as he prepares to impress his family and a strong-willed six-year-old girl.*



## The Stroll December 7, 2008

Troy Little Italy, the Italian Community Center and the CYO are joining together to bring a little taste of Italy to the Stroll. Our menu isn't completed yet but you can count on trying our fried dough and sausage and peppers. After you've had your fill, stop in at our information table located in the lobby of City Hall and view our slide shows of pictures we collected over the past year and neighborhoods of Troy. Maybe you, a family member or friend are in the show.

### If Your Free on Wednesday

Stop in at the Troy Little Italy visitor center located at 39A Hill Street between Liberty and Washington. We will be open every Wednesday from 1 pm to 4 pm. Listen to music, play a game of scrabble, watch a video or just chat. Bring a friend.

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Sadly we had to say good bye to the Farmer's Market for this year. Thanks to the market coordinators Jean Kreuger and Donna Muellen for bringing us this successful event. Everyone had a great time shopping, tasting, listening to music, looking at old pictures, seeing old friends and having lively conversation.

The vendors offered a great variety of fruits, vegetables, bread, cheeses, eggs, plants and last but not least tasty desserts. We look forward to next year

## Celebrating Our Heritage



### Puccini's 150 Birthday Gala & Concert

By Renee Johanna Taliana & Frank La-Porta Visco

Outside of Albany's Palace Theatre, a raging storm of operatic intensity challenged the Puccini lovers trying to make it inside. It's been 150 years since Giacomo Puccini was born and the Albany Symphony Orchestra was paying homage. The wonderment of people coming together in the capital district in order to participate in world renowned culture and music is phenomenal. From the moment that the lights went up and the music began to flow it was heaven on earth. The best part was that even if you didn't know much about opera, it was classically gorgeous and tactile in a way that only the Italians can pull off. Biased as I may be, it's evident that I am not the only person to think that Giacomo was a genius.

It's refreshing to see our ASO strut it's stuff and pull off almost liquid miracles of emotion and music.



### A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Joseph DeFazio, Anthony DeFazio Sr., Anthony DeFazio Jr., David Allen Miller (Conductor), Dr. Anthony Tartaglia and Assemblyman Ron Canastreri

**Waltja Center for Healing Arts**  
 is open---157 1st Street, Troy, NY 12180  
 The website went online today!  
 You may visit and learn about Troy's  
 newest healing arts community-access  
 center, go to [www.waltjacenter.com](http://www.waltjacenter.com)



Monday November 17, 2008 at the  
 Bush Memorial Hall at the Sage Colleges  
 45 Ferry Street, Troy, New York  
 5:30—6pm Registration and networking  
 6:00-8:15pm Forum  
**Speakers**  
 Mayor Harry Tutunjian  
 William P. Leitch III  
 Michael Uccellini  
 If you would like more information,  
 please contact Catherine Volk, Troy 100  
 Coordinator, at 518-271-7000 or  
[catherinevolk@kjcg.com](mailto:catherinevolk@kjcg.com)

**AN ITALIAN THANKSGIVING**  
 By Marion Field  
 Growing up in an Italian family around  
 the holidays was always a treat. Everyone  
 was always so festive.  
 I didn't have a traditional Thanksgiving  
 dinner until I became a young adult.  
 Every year my grandmother would cook a  
 turkey. Of course no one ate any. It sat on  
 the buffet in case any company came and  
 didn't like our menu. What was not to  
 like, homemade ravioli, meatballs, sau-  
 sage, pork, lamb and beef braciolo,  
 antipasto and regular salad topped off  
 with lots of bread and no butter. We never  
 used butter. We had so many other things  
 to use the bread for, like dipping and  
 cleaning your plate. Then came the  
 roasted chestnuts, dried fruit, Italian pas-  
 tries from New York City (someone al-  
 ways made the trip to pick them up) and  
 of course my grandfather's homemade  
 wine. The meal always ended with Italian  
 coffee.  
 The preparation for this feast started  
 three days prior to the holiday. Clothes-  
 lines were strung across the dining room  
 and the dough was hung up to dry until it  
 was ready to be cut for the ravioli.  
 I have a lot of fond memories of those  
 days and I miss them.

**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, ongo-  
 ing 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.  
**St Ann's Maronite**  
 184 Fourth Street  
 The Parish is moving to Watervliet. Look  
 for an update in the next issue.

Linda Chandler, Development Manager Capital  
 District Community Loan Fund, Inc.  
 255 Orange Street, Albany, NY 12210  
 phone: 518-436-8586 fax: 518-689-0086  
[www.cdclf.org](http://www.cdclf.org) *financing community development  
 throughout the region since 1985 with capital pro-  
 vided by socially concerned donors and investors*

**Sanctuary for Independent  
 Media Events**  
 7 PM 11/5  
 Filmmaker Matt McCormick  
 7 PM 11/18  
 "The Narcotic Farm"  
 7 PM 11/13  
 Abel Raises Cain w/ Alan Abel  
 7 PM 11/14  
 Phantom of the opera with  
 Alloy Orchestra  
 7 PM 11/15  
 Be Local Bash!  
 7 PM 11/16  
 Eliza Gilkyson and Robert  
 Jensen  
 8 PM 11/22  
 Ras Moshe

**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.

**Art Center**  
**265 river street, Troy, N.Y.**  
**518-273-0552**  
 Check out the Art Center web  
 site for information on classes  
 and events.  
[www.artcenteronline.org](http://www.artcenteronline.org)

**Please Curb Your Dog!!!**  
 Residents in our area are complaining  
 about people not picking up after their  
 dogs. It is unsightly, smells and could  
 contain diseases. If you ever stepped in a  
 mess you know what it feels like. Please  
 carry a bag with you when you walk your  
 dog, pick it up and dispose of it properly.





## **TRIP & RCHR November 2008 Calendar**

For More Info and to Register Call (518) 690-0020

Or visit <http://www.triponline.org>

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Homebuyer Programs Orientation – Pioneer Bank -- 6:00 PM  
Nov 15<sup>th</sup> Homebuyer Education (Part 1) – The Arts Center - 10:00 AM  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Homebuyer Education (Part 2) – The Arts Center - 5:30 PM  
Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Troy Landlord Training – RPI Heffner House - 5:30 -9:30 PM  
Volunteer Opportunities – Community Surveys –  
Call 272-8289 x214 for dates and to volunteer

## **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](mailto:troyweedandseed@yahoo.com)

### **LITTLE ITALY REAL ESTATE**

#### **1 FAMILY**

64 Washington St. \$169,500 Judith 821-7284  
113 Hill Street \$134,900 Marion 266-1406  
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**

50 Ida Street \$19,900 Leon 727-7493  
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 \$62,500 Judith 821-7284  
68 Jefferson St. \$29,900 Jay 229-0369

#### **MULTI UNITS**

230 Second St. \$149,800 Jonathon 279-1900  
1 Irving Place \$249,900 Richard 852-1365  
278 Third Street \$149,000 JoAnn 281-5764  
295 4th Street \$90,000 Dave 365-4469  
183 Third Street \$229,000 Maury 961-0060  
193 Second St. \$445,000 Karen 892-1326

#### **COMMERCIAL**

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

#### **FREE LANDORD SCREENING**

Attention Landlords located in the Weed and Seed area. (Glen Avenue to the Menands bridge), Trip offers free credit and landlord checks to make sure you get the best tenant. For more information you can contact Hilary at 518-272-8289 Ext. 214 or [hilary@trionline.org](mailto:hilary@trionline.org)

**TROY LITTLE ITALY endorses this FREE program. Please take advantage of it. There are a lot of great rental units available in our area. If your not looking maybe you know a friend who is!!**

### **RENTALS**

**236 4th St.** 2 BR--Spacious, bright, HW floors, large LR & DR, eat in kitchen, full bath, great for couple, pets allowed upon approval, fenced yard, gas heat. \$730 not including utilities. References and 1 mo security req. Call Judy, 339-4391

**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.

#### **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. Call Phil at 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](mailto:dan.lennon.large.mail@gmail.com)

**Furnished 2 bedroom** large yard \$600 plus utilities. Perfect for students. Contact Marion at 518-266-1406 or [mvf1406@aol.com](mailto:mvf1406@aol.com)

#### **Commercial Space for Lease**

39 Hill Street, across from Bocce Courts. Be a part of Little Italy. 1600 square feet. Owner willing to sub-divide into 2 spaces. Ideal for light manufacturing. For inquires and price call Marion at 518-266-1406 or [mvf1406@aol.com](mailto:mvf1406@aol.com)

#### **IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR**

Get out your plans and decorations. Our Christmas decorating contest will be held again this year. Last year it was hard to make a decision there were so many creative designs. We will be giving cash prizes again this year and adding a new category for businesses. The judging will be the weekend of 12/20, the winners will be notified and the prizes will be awarded at our January meeting. GOOD LUCK.

#### **COMING THIS SPRING**

More banners for the side streets, a new look for our Memorial Wall, a fence in front of the Bocce Court and a new look for our building at 212 Fourth Street. It would be nice if summer were longer.

#### **COMING THIS WINTER**

Plans for a Winter Carnival are in the talking stage. If anyone has any ideas we would like to hear from you. Contact: Marion Field at 518-266-1406 or [mvf1406@aol.com](mailto:mvf1406@aol.com)