

Novita' JUNE 2022



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See Pg 4 for Activity Coordinators

Novità



Volume 6

www.italianamericanclubofvenice.com

GIUGNO 2022

Parola del Presidente

Buon Giorno a tutti! It's June already and many of us are traveling back north to visit friends and family we left behind when we moved south to Paradise. Some of our members will also travel back to Italy for the same reason. For those of you who will be traveling, please have safe journeys and remember to come safely back to us at the Club. We'll think of you often while you're gone.

Thank you to all the Moms and families who attended to celebrate and to the volunteers who helped out during our Mother's Day breakfast earlier this month. Also thank you to those of you who pitched in during the VHS awards dinners. It's wonderful to see such professionalism; after all, we're all just volunteers!

It will be the Dad's turn to be pampered on Sunday, June 19th. I can't wait to see you all there!

Ciao, Josephine



La Spezia



Murano Island viewed from Venice



Palermo Sicily

Overheard in the kitchen.

Steam table server: Hey where did that last piece of cake go?

Sheepish pasta server: Are you kidding me? I ate that an hour ago.

Steam table guy: You know you aren't supposed to eat in the kitchen!

Pasta guy: I know, I took it outside.



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Novità

Your Cultural and Social Newsletter

Italian American Club of Venice, Inc.

1375 Ringling Dr., Venice, FL 34285

George Palmer & Lina Decrescenzo,

Editors

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Italian American Club of Venice, Inc.



Luce del Sole Get well soon!

Alan Amaral, Johanna Giordano and Marie Kaps

Note: Please call **Donna Sherman 587-1058** if you know of someone needing the support of the members through cards, calls & prayers. Email : creationcardsbydj@gmail.com



Condolences to: Kathy Carbone on the loss of her father, Doreen Palucci on the loss of her father, and Karl Schmitz on the loss of his wife, Carole.

Buon Compleanno!

June Birthdays!



Tom Acardi 6th, Michael Alexandratos 2nd, Phyllis Angelastri 5th, Bettine Brusca 30th, Eric Buck 11th, Anthony Capparella 28th, Paul Carlo 9th, Sandi Chance 14th, Sharon Criscuolo 13th, Connie DiMarco 29th, Annette DiPietro 15th, Carl Galanti 1st, Dan Germaine 6th, Tony Greco 22nd, Carol Karakashian 4th, Marlene Koshgarian 18th, Philip Marcon 1st, Janice Miller 24th, Jean Nicastro 13th, Mark Oldani 2nd, George Palmer 28th, Antonio Pastori 15th, Lillian Patti 24th, Francis Provino 2nd, Barbara Rao 23rd, Norman Rao 22nd, Louise Robinson 22nd, Rocco Santurri 30th, and Frank Tortora 4th.

Contact **Membership Chair Kathy Carbone** to update your info if you were missed.



Free small carafe of wine during your birthday month

June Facts

June is named for Juno, the Roman Goddess of youth. The Summer solstice (the longest day of the year) occurs on June 21st. Famous June birthdays include: Marilyn Monroe and Salvatore Ferragamo.

General Meeting A to M please bring a dessert to share, store bought or homemade.

GIUGNO 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13		15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Notable June Dates

- June 2nd - General Meeting 7pm
- June 9th - BINGO 7pm
- June 12th - Birthday/Anniversary celebration 4pm
- June 14th - Flag Day
- June 16th - Movie Night 7pm
- June 19th - Father's Day Breakfast 10am
- June 30th - Executive board meeting 6pm

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEETING 1st Thursday 7pm

BOCCE Mondays and Tuesdays 8am Thursdays and Fridays 9am

MAH JONG Wednesdays 1-4pm

POKER Wednesdays 7pm-11pm

BINGO 2nd Thursday 7pm

CULTURAL EVENTS 3rd Thursday 7pm

July - Save the Date

- July 7th - General Meeting 7pm
- July 14th - BINGO 7pm
- July 21st - Movie Night 7pm
- July 28th - Executive Board Meeting 6pm



Member of the Month



Tony Greco

This month's featured member, Tony Greco, comes to us from a career in writing about the financial community including stints at Bloomberg Radio and TV. A native New Yorker who was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Queens and on Long Island, Tony met his

bride, Dianne, at a New Year's Eve party arranged by mutual friends. They began dating and married two years later. They settled in Cornwall, NY, about 50 miles up the Hudson from Manhattan. They have a son and two grandchildren.

All of Tony's grandparents were Sicilian and Tony quips that it's clear that with the surname Greco he should be able to follow his lineage all the way back to ancient Greece and Alexander the Great.

Twenty-four centuries is a lot of looking back but we're convinced he's right.

The Grecos chose Venice after friends convinced them to visit. Tony says that after disappointment with other communities they saw, Venice stood out as a great place to call home. They bought a home here but didn't become locals until two years ago. They were drawn to the IACV by the lure of camaraderie and became members last March.

An active volunteer, Tony is the Chair of the Cultural Committee and puts his heart and energy into setting up events that celebrate the Italian heritage.

"Working on the Cultural Committee is an opportunity to explore the richness of Italian history and culture with our members. I may be biased, but I believe Italian music, art, food, and movies represent some of the greatest accomplishments in world history. We're hoping to bring more fun and interesting events to the Club so our members can enjoy and appreciate the different aspects of our shared heritage."

The thing he likes most about the Club is the Family atmosphere, the warmth of the Members and feeling of *eredità*.

Editor

ACTIVITY & SPECIAL EVENT COORDINATORS

Appreciation	Donna Sherman	587-1058
Bocce	Marino Roncari	735-1071
	Lou Piazza	577-6303
	Patsy Santaguida	475-0584
BINGO	Linda Falco	323-4214
Mah Jong	Ralph Maccarone	234-0300



Second Thursday of the Month

June 9th at 7pm

Doors open at 6:45

10 Games

Info: Linda Falco

LGFalco1120@gmail.com

Father's Day Breakfast

Sunday,
June 19

Come & Celebrate with Us
The Italian American Club of Venice

10:00am
to Noon

Our Special Menu of the Day Includes:

Egg Casseroles
Scrambled Eggs
Bacon
Sausage
Pancakes
Muffins
Banana Bread
Croissants
Fruit Salad
Juice & Coffee

No Charge for Member Fathers

Tickets: Members \$15 Guests \$20

To purchase, call or text Dee at (941) 468-9029

Tickets on sale through 6/10/22 No refunds



Lina's Chili

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 small onion diced
1 green bell pepper diced
2 garlic cloves minced
2 pounds lean ground beef
2 cups beef broth
8 ounce can tomato sauce
15 ounce can dice tomatoes, undrained
15 ounce can pinto beans
15 ounce can kidney beans
3 Tablespoons chili powder
1 Tablespoon oregano
1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon cayenne

Directions

In a large pot add the olive oil over medium high heat. Add the onion, bell pepper and garlic, sauté until almost tender. Add in the ground beef and cook and crumble until brown.

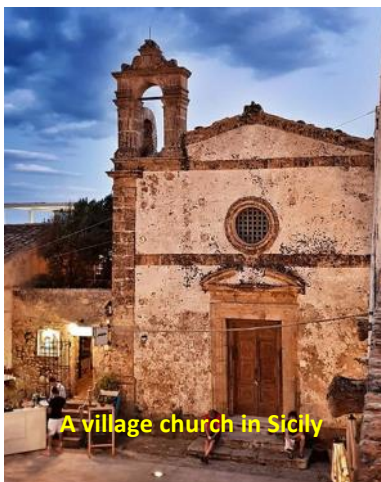
Add in the beef broth, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, pinto beans, kidney beans, chili powder, oregano, cumin, salt, and cayenne.

Bring to a boil, then simmer until it starts to thicken, for about 40 minutes.

Add any of the above spices as desired.

Dynamite chili! Giorgio tested and approved!

When making reservations for Friday night dinners, for parties of 9 or more, contact Sandi Prunty at 724-584-1109 or Dee Galante at 586-726-8786.



A village church in Sicily



Happy 89th Tom!

CONGRATULATIONS TO IACV'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR 2022



Jaden Schwabach



Sophia Burns



Thea Janes



Elizabeth Waring



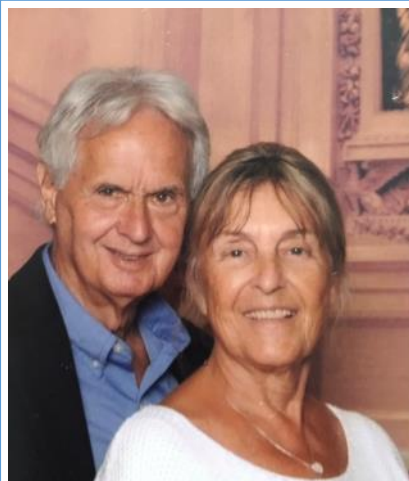
Dante Talarico



Josephine and Marion posed with five of our six scholarship awardees outside the club on Thursday, May 5th. Our \$3,000 Heritage Friday Night Workers award went to Jaden Schwabach and \$2,500 dollar scholarships went to: Sophia Burns, Thea Janes, Dante Talarico, Elizabeth Waring and Juliana Courville. Juliana was unable to attend because she was at her State College of Florida graduation.



Second in our series of interviews with longstanding Members



An Interview with Ralph Maccarone

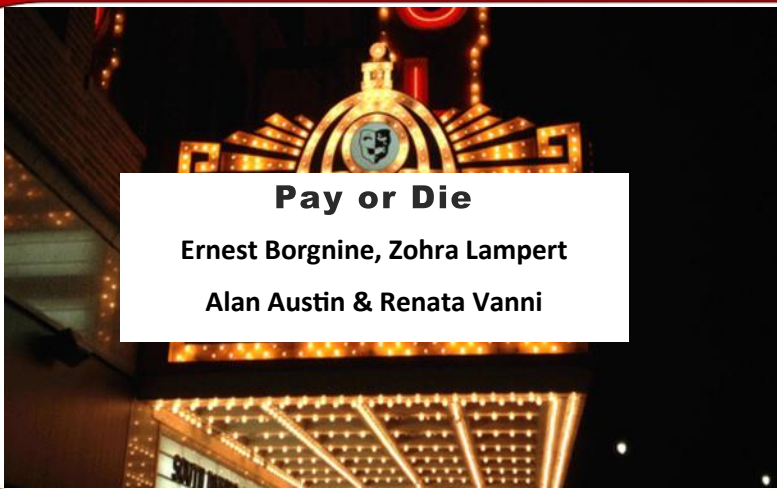
Lured by subtropical living, Ralph and Carol Maccarone moved to Venice in 2008 from Cranston, RI. Members of their extended family lived in Venice, and Ralph and Carol knew that this was the place to be.

Ralph was a CPA who was working at a national firm in RI when he and Carol met. For 35 years he owned his own firm. Ralph and Carol have been married for 41 years and have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

Ralph's first association with the IACV was through an article in the local newspaper announcing Italian lessons. He immediately signed up, and gradually he and Carol became more involved in the workings of the Club. His background as a CPA was a natural match with the position as Treasurer, but he admits that he'd seldom built a budget or paid bills before being sworn in to the office.

He thinks the best thing about the Club is the people. Other Rhode Islanders, like the Anticos, became their fast friends. He can even remember while serving during one of the Friday night dinners when someone pointed out a guest, another Rhode Islander. He was amazed to recognize a member he'd been in high school with fifty years before! For Ralph the IACV means camaraderie and warmth. He says the people may have changed and some were lost along the way, but the Club remains a haven for friends and family.

Editor



Pay or Die

Ernest Borgnine, Zohra Lampert

Alan Austin & Renata Vanni

Movie Night

Thursday June 16th at 7 pm

This 1960 crime drama set in 1906 tells the story of NYPD LT Joe Petrosino, a Sicilian immigrant, who battles the Black Hand as they preyed on their countrymen who had settled in New York's Little Italy. Some violence but not graphic. Tony Greco hosts.

Free snacks provided, BYOB

The Armchair Traveler visits: Lake Como

Located in Lombardy Province only forty miles from Milano, Lake Como is the third largest lake in Italy. Its beauty is a constant draw for tourists, the most famous, of course, being the Pontiff whose "Summer Vatican" is used very heavily during August.



Thanks to Gloria Ross for these great photos from our May 19th Mother's Day breakfast!

33rd ANNUAL VENICE ITALIAN FEAST & CARNIVAL APPRECIATION LUNCHEON MAY 14TH 2022

It was an afternoon dedicated to our volunteers who donated their time to help make the 33rd Annual Venice Feast and Carnival a success. Volunteers enjoyed a delicious luncheon catered by Darrell's. The Captains were acknowledged along with their teams with chairperson Ann Brozosky thanking everyone for their hard work and dedication. For the four days of the feast from February 24th through the 27th, 169 members volunteered equating to 494 shifts or 1,976 volunteer hours served. This herculean effort contributed to the feast's success and our pre-tax net profit of **\$62,596.56**.

A portion of feast profits is distributed locally to our community. The feast provided \$7,000 to the Venice High School Music Boosters for their assistance in mapping out the airport parking lot, picking up garbage, and providing shuttle services during the feast. Also, \$4,478 in collected feast tips were placed in the 2022-2023 Venice High School scholarship fund.

(See Page 6 {ed,})

Anyone wishing to receive a 2022 Feast expense and income summary sheet, please text Ann at 609-744-6899 or email her at: abrozosk@yahoo.com.

Photos taken during the luncheon



See many more online at: <https://venice.smugmug.com/IACV/Feast-Appreciation-Dinner->



Joey Amalfitano didn't play a single game in his first two years as a New York Giant due to his "Bonus Baby" status.

Joey Amalfitano is a former utility infielder, manager and coach who played a combined 10 seasons with the New York/San Francisco Giants (1954-1955, 1960-1961 and 1963), Houston Colt .45s (1962) and Chicago Cubs (1964-1967). He managed the Cubs from 1979-1981 and is best known as the Los Angeles Dodgers' third base coach for sixteen years from 1983-1998, which included a World Series championship (in 1988). He is currently a special assistant for player development for the San Francisco Giants, primarily working in their farm system.

As told to Ed Attanasio, This Great Game

We recently returned from an 8 day trip to Sedona, AZ. We had an interesting encounter at the Catholic church while waiting for mass to begin last Sunday. I heard a man behind us talking baseball & coaching. Turns out he played for the Giants coming up in 1954 as a utility infielder. His name is Joey Amalfitano. Joey played for Durocher, knew DiMaggio & was Tommy Lasorda's 3rd base coach for 14 years. I said, "You must have a great many stories of Tommy Lasorda" & he told us how for 14 years he & Lasorda never missed a Sunday mass on the road. He went on to tell us how in St Louis they would go to the Cathedral on Sundays & Tommy became friends with the Cardinal. Remember I'm talking about the Archbishop not the St. Louis Cardinal organization. They became so friendly that after mass Tommy & Joey would eat breakfast with the Bishop. Mr Lasorda, Joey said, would share stories but he always cleaned them up when speaking with the Bishop.

Joey said he started playing ball at age 12 and never thought this passion could become a career. He said when he went to sleep at night looking forward to sunrise because baseball was never a job to him. Unfortunately, he left mass after communion but I checked out his career & he even managed the Cubs. Mr Amalfitano is now retired & 88 years old.

The next day I played golf in Sedona at a great Robert Trent Jones designed course & the guy I played with pointed out Maury Will's home adjacent to the 10th Tee. Although a Yankee fan I always thought the Dodgers were a great organization. How could you not like guys who were known as "Dem Bums".

Supplied by Tony Marchesano



Send in your captions to these photos and win our next contest. Send your entries to Lina at: carefor.you@aol.com

There was no winner in our last caption contest so I'm claiming the prize myself for my entry: "Serenading Sandi on her birthday".

Creating an Iconic U.S. Coin: The Italian American Connection

Italian immigrant Anthony de Francisci holds a special place in the history of U.S. currency. While his most famous design, the iconic U.S. silver Peace Dollar is widely known and highly sought after by coin collectors worldwide, de Francisci's name is relatively unknown to all but the most devoted collectors.

Born in Palermo, Sicily, in July 1887, de Francisci immigrated to the U.S. in 1905 and became a naturalized citizen in 1913. He was a talented sculptor who was widely regarded as among the best working artists at the time of World War I, having sculpted the design for the Maine Centennial half dollar in 1920 commemorating the 100th anniversary of Maine's admission to the United States.

Following the end of World War I in 1918, coin collectors began to pressure the U.S. Treasury to issue a new silver coin to commemorate the peace and replace the old Morgan Silver Dollar that U.S. citizens had given up to help the war effort. After a lengthy bureaucratic process, a government commission announced a competition in mid-November 1921 for the design of the new silver "peace" dollar. The commission invited eight prominent sculptors, several of whom had already designed coins for the U.S. Mint, to compete. At age 34, de Francisci was the youngest of the eight.

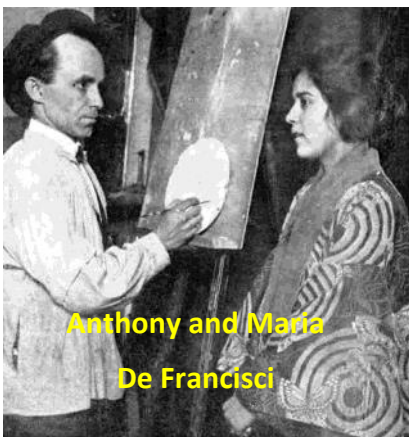
The commission specified that the coin must show the head of Liberty on the obverse (front of the coin) and an American eagle on the reverse, as well as including the words "Peace," "In God We Trust," and other requirements. On Dec. 13, 1921, the commission reviewed the submissions and unanimously selected de Francisci's design.

Given the short deadline to submit his design, de Francisci did not have time to hire a model to pose for the image of Liberty. He instead used his wife, Maria Teresa Cafarelli de Francisci, herself an Italian immigrant from Laurenzana, a small town south of Naples, as his inspiration for Liberty. Later in life, Maria recalled that when she was five years old and came to the U.S., the ship she was on passed through New York harbor. She said she was struck by the majesty of the Statue of Liberty and posed as Miss Liberty in front of her family on the deck of the ship. De Francisci would later say the image of Liberty was not meant to be an exact portrait of his wife but a representation of what he saw as a face of America.

The iconic Peace Dollar bearing de Francisci's design was minted from 1921 to 1928, and then again in 1934 and 1935. The U.S. mint reissued the Peace Dollar in 2021 to commemorate the centennial of its original issue. According to the USA Coin Book Estimated Value, a 1921 Peace Dollar in average condition sells for about \$115, while a highly graded, extremely rare proof version of the coin is valued at more than \$84,000.

De Francisci's fame grew following the issuance of the Peace Dollar and he went on to design other medals and insignias for the U.S. government, but he – and his wife, Maria – two Italian immigrants, will forever be at the heart of one of the most famous coins in U.S. history.

Thanks to Tony Greco for this interesting story about another Italian American who helped shape the America of today.



**Anthony and Maria
De Francisci**



**Overlay of Maria with the
head side of the dollar**



The Peace Dollar

head & tail

Un Volo Dinamico

A volte, un volo può trasformarsi in una strana avventura, essendo il costo di prima classe costoso, volo nella classe economica ma cerco di ottenere un posto nel mezzo dell'aereo, mi fa sentire più sicura. Qualcuno potrebbe dire che non importa dove ti sieda, in caso di un incidente, non farebbe alcuna differenza! Lo so, ma preferisco avere un posto nel mezzo!

Durante il mio ultimo volo mi sono sentita così fortunata di avere il posto 4 B, nessun passeggero sull'A, e la maschera opzionale 'che bello! Quasi quasi è come viaggiare in prima classe!'

Cominciai a leggere il libro comprato in aeroporto, arrivata alla terza pagina sono stata distratta dal trambusto della signora nel sedile C, che essendo troppo larga non riusciva ad allacciare la cintura di sicurezza. Dopo ogni tentativo, diventava più nervosa, le sue guance più rosse e le sue mani tremavano come foglie al vento. L'avviso finale d'allacciare le cinture di sicurezza' le fece risolvere il problema, con una mano, mantenne la cintura di sicurezza sulla pancia e con l'altra la coprì con un libro. L'aereo decollò. Ritornai alla mia lettura.

"Boss, come è andato il mese scorso?" i passeggeri nel sedile di fronte a me erano impegnati in una seria conversazione d'affari. "Abbastanza bene ... ho assunto una nuova segretaria",

"Oh sì, ho notato, quella bionda ... che bellezza! " "Sì, molto!"

Il suono del tossire-vomito-pianto di un bambino proveniente da uno dei sedili in fondo all'aereo fece indossare a tutti la mascherina. L'assistente di volo aiutò la mamma.

Ancora 55 minuti! Riprovai a leggere il mio libro; ero ancora a pagina 3.

"Signora, le dispiace di cambiare posto?" mi chiese l'assistente di volo. "Mi dispiace chiedervelo, ma c'è una mamma e il suo bambino che hanno bisogno di cambiare posto."

"Certo" mi alzai e mi diressi al posto nuovo, passando lungo i sedili 17 C e D notai che erano schizzati con, indovinai, il vomito della formula.

"Grazie mille", disse l'assistente di volo.

Il nuovo sedile situato prima del bagno dal quale evaporava l'odore di quei passeggeri che, mi sembrò, erano saliti sull'aereo solo per il piacere del 'to go'.

Ancora 30 minuti! Continuavo a leggere la terza pagina del mio libro.

"Che bella collana!" commentò la signora seduta accanto a me, "dove l'hai presa?... È d'oro?"

La conversazione andò avanti all'infinito. "Compro i miei gioielli a ooh la-la ... sono brillanti, alla moda ... bla bla bla." 'Non un minuto di pace su questo aereo!' decisi.

L'assistente di volo ci serviva da bere. avevo bisogno di una bevanda alcolica ma chiesi un bicchiere d'acqua. Un'improvvisa vibrazione dell'aereo mandò il bicchiere ad atterrare sul mio grembo!

"Mi dispiace molto" continuava a scusarsi l'assistente di volo mentre cercava di ritrovare l'equilibrio.

"Non è colpa sua!" La rassicurai.

Finalmente, l'avviso di allacciare le cinture di sicurezza e prepararci per l'atterraggio fu annunciato!

Ancora 3 minuti! La signora accanto al mio sedile tacque mentre atterravamo sani e salvi.

All'uscita dall'aereo, l'assistente di volo e la madre con il bambino mi dissero, "Grazie mille signora!"

Risposi loro con il segno della pace mentre procedevo fuori dove incontrai mia figlia, che era venuta a prendermi. Prima che potesse dire qualcosa,

"No, non mi son fatto la pipì addosso." Ci abbracciammo con una grande risata.

"Allora, com'è andato il volo? "

"Uh ... Dinamico... Umm ... è stato un volo dinamico!"

A Dynamiting Flight

Sometimes, a flight can be challenging, since first class is too expensive, I fly economy hoping to get a seat in the middle of the plane, it makes me feel safer. Somebody may say that no matter where you sit, in case of a crash, it would not make any difference! I know it, but I do prefer to sit in the middle!

During my last flight from Newark to Fort Myers I felt very lucky to get seat 4 B, no passenger in A, and masks were optional 'great! almost like the first class!'

I started reading the book bought in the airport, at page 3 I got distracted by the fussing of the passenger in seat C, she couldn't fasten her seat belt, she was too large. At each try, she would get more nervous, her cheeks redder, and her hands trembled. On the final alert 'secure your seat belt' she solved the problem, with one hand, she held the seatbelt across her belly and with the other a book on top.

The plane took off. I went back to my reading.

"Boss, how did we do last month?" the passengers in the seats in front of me were engaged in a serious business conversation.

"Not bad at all ... I hired a secretary,"

"Oh yeah, I noticed, the blonde one ... such a babe!" "Yeah, she's hot!"

The sound of a coughing-vomiting-crying baby coming from one of the back seats made everybody wear the optional mask. The flight attendant went to assist the mom.

55 minutes to go! I tried to read my book; still on page 3.

"Ma'am, do you mind changing seats?" the flight attendant asked me "I am sorry to ask you that, but there is a mom and her baby who need to change seats."

"Sure" I got up and went to the new one, passing by I noticed the seats 17 C and D splattered with, I guessed, vomited formula.

"Thank you so much," the flight attendant said.

The new seat was just before the bathroom exhaling the smell of those passengers who, it seemed to me, boarded the plane just for the pleasure of the 'to go'.

30 more minutes! Still reading page 3 of my book,

"Beautiful necklace!" the lady next to me commented, "where did you get it?... It's gold?"

The conversation went on and on. "I buy my jewelry at ooh la-la ... you know that brand they are shining, fashionable ... bla bla bla." 'Not one minute of peace on this plane!'

The flight attendant served us a drink. I needed a stiff one but opted for a glass of water. No luck in that choice, a sudden big bump sent the glass landing on my lap!

"I'm so very sorry," the flight attendant kept saying while trying to regain her balance.

"Don't be sorry, it's not your fault!" I assured her.

Finally, the alert to fasten our seat belts and get ready for landing went on!

3 more minutes! My companion shut up as we landed safely.

In exiting the plane, the flight attendant and the mother with the baby said, "Thank you so much"

I sent my welcome to them by making the sign of peace as I proceeded outside.

At the curbside, I met my daughter, who came to pick me up. Before she could say anything,

"No, I didn't pee myself." We hugged and laughed.

"So how was your flight?"

"Uh ... Dynamic ... um ... it has been dynamite!" Ciao Lina



Our Italian Adventure

Episode 7: At last, a place to call home!

The lady in the housing office showed us many photos of available apartments and villas. We chose a villa about fifteen kilometers outside the city that came with an orchard and space for a garden. Landlords were eager to rent to American Navy people because the rents were regular and the properties would be well cared for.

Ours was a white, stucco Mediterranean-style building surrounded by a tall security wall and an iron gate. *Villa D'Orta* had two bedrooms, a bath, kitchen, a huge marble-floored living room, dining room and den and a spacious guest suite. It rented for £ 500,000 (around \$600 then) and for a mere £ 30,000 extra we'd enjoy *protezione*, wink, wink (read *Mafiosi*). We moved in a week before Thanksgiving and found there were no closets, hot water, or electricity. Closets were easy; we bought wardrobes and armoires from others who were headed back to the States. Loading the bulky furniture on top of Gail's car was the hardest part.

We were told electricity wouldn't be available for months. But by using my best Neapolitan dialect, the alias *Giorgio Palmeri*, and waving my hands a lot, the electricity guy arrived the next day. He installed a transformer in our wall and we got little ones for the kitchen and the girls' room. Our appliances ran a little slower on European power, but they ran.

Our new gas stove worked off a propane bottle (*bombola*) fed by a hose through the window. Gail still remembers trying to bake our Thanksgiving turkey with fifteen Italian hot water heater "experts" lounging around her kitchen while one real guy ripped out the old heater above her cabinets and put in the new one. We never found out whether the crowd was all relatives or just trying to get in on the turkey.

Telephone was an issue that even a faked Italian name couldn't resolve. The soonest we could get one was right after we were scheduled to leave Italy. But our nearest neighbors (about a block up the road) would let us use theirs. We learned to live with it and I made most of our calls from my office.

It took us a little while to get used to the neighborhood but we settled in fairly well. I paid our rent in cash every month to *Signore D'Orta's cognato*, Tony, who ran the *Agip* station just up the road from our villa, and *Il Signore's zio*, Gennaro, patrolled the neighborhood on his bicycle with a double barreled shotgun strapped to his back. Lots of other Americans experienced burglaries and auto thefts ... but we didn't.

Ciao for now. Next month: Our first New Year's in *Napoli*. Giorgio

