



EFASCE di Philadelphia
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
*The Friulan Entity for Social and Cultural
 Assistance to Emigrants*

EFASCE di Philadelphia
 P.O. Box 625
 Flourtown, PA 19031

President's Corner

*Grazie
 mille*

Nessuno può fermare la ruota del tempo.
 No one can stop the wheel of time.

The last four years has flown by. I have enjoyed getting to know more Friulans not only in the tri-state area, but around the world. I purposely seek out the Friulan Clubs when I travel in an effort to connect with more people who treasure their heritage and take so much pride in passing those traditions onto future generations.

It has been an honor to hear your family stories and learn how you keep your Friulan heritage prominent in your lives.

Grazie infinite to the Directors and volunteers I have served with that tirelessly help with so much behind the scenes of our organization, from talents, to donations, to time, I couldn't have made it through without you.

This is the last President's Corner message I'll be writing, as my term will come to an end at the next General Membership Meeting.

I look forward to remaining a part of the Board of Directors and will continue to be available for any questions, concerns, and just to continue our friendships.

Con tanto affetto,
 With great affection,

Lisa Roman, President

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **General Members Meeting** and election of your Board of Directors, **Sunday, March 1st, 2pm** at the Venetian Social Club. Please contact a Board member if you would like to be nominated for a position!
- ❖ The '**Eni & Leo Roman Memorial Polenta Dinner**' will be **Saturday, April 18th, 2020** at the Venetian Social Club.

YOU could be featured in the next newsletter!!
 Send information and/or photos to
 newsletter@efasce.net or our PO Box.

Have you ever wanted to be a star?

The Board was contacted by Twister Films in Rome, a production company that is making a television program on behalf of Mediaset Italia, entitled 'True Italians'. It will go on the air both in Italy and USA.

The broadcast wants to tell about the Italian communities around the world, and in this first season they will focus on the United States.

They are looking for interesting stories and characters to be able to host within the episodes, in which it would also be their intention to tell the places, events and landmarks for Italians in your city and in your state.

In particular, they would like to contact some families of Italians and Italian Americans who are willing to 'play' with them, to check how Italian culture and tradition are maintained in their homes and in their daily lives.

Their intention is to shoot in the United States between the end of March and the beginning of May. If you are interested in participating, please contact a board member for information!

Fasin Il Fen (We're Making Hay)

We dedicate this article in memory of Sergio Roman's Mother, in gratitude for his donation of her *codârto* EFASCE di Philadelphia. Sergio's Mother was Elena (Pellegrini), born at the Crociera in Pofavri. I am also sincerely grateful for the help provided by Sergio, Rosemary Maieron Norwood and Claudio Roman in writing this article. I knew absolutely nothing of the topic and had a difficult time with the furian references, which are noted at the end of the article. – Joe Colussi

Back when our parents and grandparents lived in Italy, much of their time was devoted to chores related to living off the land. Whole families worked together to complete the chores. One such chore was gathering hay to feed the animals which they kept to provide food for the family. Families owned plots of land where they would let the grass grow tall. Twice a year, typically in June and September, they would cut the *jerbe* (grass). A grass that was too fresh gave neither yield nor consistency. A grass that was too ripe was hard and was not pleasing to the cattle who rejected it, left it in the manger, and ended up in the litter as if it were *stranc* (straw). Cutting of the grass was the job of the *setôr* (grass cutter). The wives, children and elderly would then *spandi las solz* (rake the grass into low piles and move it into the sun to dry). Later, they would transport the *fen* (hay) to the *stali* (stable) where they would store it in order to feed their cow during the winter months.



The above fresco is the work of Mr. Romano, placed on the north facade of the terraced stables in Plan da Stali, in Cleulis. To the left of the fresco are depicted: the *zei* or *cosse* (a wicker basket carried on the back), the *falç* (scythe), the *riscjel* (rake), the *côt* (whetstone to sharpen the scythe or sickle), the *codâr* (horn or sheath for the *côt*), and the *saulins* (ropes to tie the hay bundles). To the right are depicted: the *louze dal fen* (sled for transporting hay), the *refa* (another type of backpack). These tools were used while working in the countryside or plots of land in the mountains, along

with the *sèsule* (sickle) and the *martello e batadòrie* (hammer and anvil), not shown.

While the *zei* and the *refa* were carried on the back to transport the hay, another method was to tie the hay into large bundles and carry them on the head. The photo below is of Rose Primus (Aunt of Rosemary Maieron Norwood) from Cleulis, in Carnia (northern Friuli in the Carnic mountains near the Austrian border), and shows the large bundles of dried hay ready to be carried to the stable, with a *riscjel* in hand, dressed in a *grimal*, which is what women traditionally wore to do chores.



Alternatively, one could use a *barele* (handcart), as depicted in the photo below. From the left are: sisters - Elia and Giuditta Colussi Plan, their neighbors - sisters Maria and Severina Tramontina Chianipers, and baby sister - Esther Colussi Plan, behind their house in the Plan di Pofavri (Sept 22, 1929).



Sergio Roman of Joppa, Maryland, has generously donated his Mother's *codâr* and *côt* to EFASCE di Philadelphia. A photo of this embellished version of the tool is shown below, engraved with the *Stel Alpina*. Sergio explained that this is a smaller *côt*, and was used to sharpen sickles, while a larger *côt* would be used to sharpen a scythe. The tool will be available for viewing at the General Members Meeting in March, for anyone wishing to see it in person.

The *côt* is a sharpening tool for the sickle or scythe. They were made from abrasive stones and had wooden handles attached to them. The *codâr* is more than just a sheath for the *côt* since it can hold water, into which the *côt* is dipped while sharpening the *lame* (blade) of the sickle or scythe. Claudio Roman explained that the *codâr* was usually made from a cow's horn, and was hung from the belt in back, like a *code* (tail), from which the name is derived. He further explained that *la sêsule* (sickle) was used mainly for cutting corn stalks, and that there were different sizes of scythes. The big ones, with a two-handed handle and a 3-foot blade, which were used for cutting hay, were called *la falč*. *Il falčut* or *falcet* (*falcin* in Campagna) were smaller in size, and the handles varied.



Above - Photo of the *codâr* and *côt* donated by Sergio
Below - another photo of stones used to make a *côt*.



Below is another photo of more hay making tools, showing the *martello e batadòrie* (hammer and anvil, which were used to form the coarse edge on the scythe blade). It also shows different versions of the *codâr*, two with a spike that could be stuck in the ground. Similarly, these are 'mountain' scythes with pointed ends so they could be stuck in the ground while



sharpening them.

This article had several Furlan words in it, so in place of a "Learn Furlan" section in this edition of the newsletter, I'll finish with some words of wisdom from my Father, which came to mind while writing this article.

Per la gole, a si piet la code – roughly translated, For the desire, you lose your tail.

References

<http://www.donneincarnia.it/musei/forniavoltri/mestieri.htm>

<http://tipana.mismotu.it/english/>

<http://www.nanos.it/attachments/article/69/La%20fienagione.pdf>

<https://cleulis.org/il-territorio-di-cleulis/i-borghi/suggerzioni-e-scorci/>

Events Update

Allegrie dai Furlans (Fun of the Furlans)
by Rosemary Maieron Norwood

Tombola!

Members and friends enjoyed an afternoon of Tombola at the Venetian Social Club on February 9th. Tombola is the Italian version of Bingo! In Tombola, only the horizontal rows can win a game. Rosemary Maieron was the *Tombolone*, or number caller, and announced in English, Italian, and Friulan! Fun was had by all!

The 5 rounds of a tombola game are:

1. Ambo: First person to cover 2 numbers in a row
2. Terno: First person to cover 3 numbers in a row
3. Quaderno: First person to cover 4 numbers in a row
4. Quinto: First person to cover 5 numbers in a row
5. Tombola: First person to cover all 15 numbers on the card



Upcoming Events



- *Polenta Night: Saturday April 18, 5:00 pm, at the Venetian Club*

Save the date! Tickets will go on sale March 9th and can only be purchased at the Venetian Club. Stay tuned for more information as this popular event sells out fast. We will be entertained once again by our beloved **Die Heimatklänge German Band** as we eat polenta and dance the night away.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the EFASCE Entertainment Committee and help plan our events, please email events@EFASCE.com.

Results of EFASCE elections in Pordenone

At their November 22, 2019 EFASCE di Pordenone meeting, new board members were announced. From that group, a new executive committee was selected on December 3, 2019:

- ❖ Consiglio Direttivo 2019 - 2022 (Board of Directors)
Gino Gregoris, Luisa Forte, Vera Turrin, Fernanda Colussi, Diego Comuzzi, Elena Marzotto, Gabriele Salamon, Alessandro Tracanelli, Angioletto Tubaro, Claudia Viol, Emanuele Zanon, Alessandro Moro, Mayor of the Comune di Pordenone, Presidente CCIAA
- ❖ Comitato Esecutivo 2019 - 2022 (Executive Committee)
Gino Gregoris - President; Luisa Forte - Vice President; Vera Turrin- Secretary-Treasurer; Fernanda Colussi, Elena Marzotto, Alessandro Tracanelli, Claudia Viol
- ❖ Collegio Revisori 2019 - 2022 (Board of Auditors)
Federico Borean (President); Alberto Bidin; Giorgio Zerio

In Other News

- ❖ EdP is getting our library of donated books organized to make them available for our members to borrow. If you'd like a list of available books or wish to borrow a book, please contact us at contact@EFASCE.net.
- ❖ AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. To participate, go to smile.amazon.com and select *Segretariato EFASCE di Philadelphia* as your charity or click on smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3457922 to make your online purchases, and EFASCE di Philadelphia automatically receives a donation from Amazon. In a year, we have received over \$45! Keep on shopping!



Membership Renewal

Please don't forget to renew your membership for 2020 and keep our membership committee up to date with your current contact information! Thank you to those that have already renewed their membership! **Dues were due by January 31, 2020 and are now in arrears.** Dues are \$35 per person or \$15 for youths 20 years of age or younger, Please visit our website for the Membership renewal form or, you may also pay on our website! Questions can be directed to Membership co-chairs: members@EFASCE.net Bob Roman at 215-233-4063 or Bob Henry at 610-940-0170



Connect with EFASCE!

WEBSITE: <http://www.efasce.net/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/efascediphiladelphia/>
Use #EFASCE or #EFASCEdiphiladelphia on social media!

Italian Classes continue at the Venetian Social Club on Monday nights. Visit our website or contact Madalena at 215-233-2687 for more information.

Officers

Lisa Roman, President
Laura Maxwell, Vice President
Madalena Lorenzon, Treasurer
Linda McGlenn, Secretary

How to Contact Us

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Directors

Frank Brandolisio	Robert Henry
Ellen Cericola	Robert Mack
Joseph Colussi	Rosemary Maieron
Dan Giacomelli	
Maurino Rossanese (Parliamentarian)	