



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

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

President's Corner

Really? Is it May already?!?

This year is flying by, especially with the help of such fun events to look forward to! The Board of EFASCE di Philadelphia has been busy planning more events for our members – Guest Speakers, Picnics, our annual Festa, and Social Hours. Stay up to date with upcoming events by visiting our website and following us on social media.

While the weather may be reminding us of the rainy days of April, here are some Italian rhymes to help us think of *La Primavera* (Spring):

Terzo aprilante quaranta di durante -- as is the third of April so will be the next 40 days (a weather prediction)

Godere di un'eterna primavera -- Enjoy an eternal spring!

*A presto,
 Lisa A. Roman*



Notizie...

- ❖ Our condolences to the DeMayo family on the passing of Alba on February 24.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ EFASCE di Philadelphia has invited **Vanessa Lovisa Gambin**, from Toronto Canada, to speak about her thesis "*Hold on and Stay Connected. An Italian Immigrant Presence in Canada: Friulian Identity and Cultural Preservation, 1932-1990.*"
 Join us **Sunday May 18th** at the **Venetian Social Club** from **2-4 pm** to enjoy her presentation.
 Please be aware that the Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival is also that day, so parking may be tricky.
- ❖ Our annual Festa dei Friulani Dinner Dance, featuring The Tom Smith Trio, will be Saturday, October 5th, 2019 at the Sandy Run Country Club. Stay tuned for more info!
- ❖ 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. Please, connect with us on our new website, Facebook, and check your inbox / mailbox for our latest news!

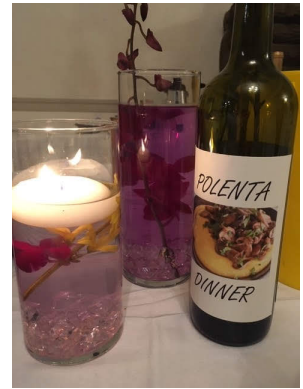
Eni & Leo Roman Memorial Polenta Dinner



Attendees enjoyed the music and dancing!



*Longtime friends
Rina Fesnak and Esther Colussi*



Beautiful Decorations

Grazie mille to all who came out and supported EFASCE di Philadelphia and the Venetian Social Club at the *Eni & Leo Roman Memorial Polenta Dinner*! This sold-out event filled both the Ballroom and the Founder's Room! Congratulations and Thanks to all the organizers and volunteers for such a wonderful evening.

It was such a success that EFASCE di Philadelphia and the Venetian Social Club have already scheduled Saturday, April 18th, 2020 at the Venetian Social Club for next year!!

Save the date!

**Photos courtesy of Maggie Colussi McGettigan and Lisa Roman*



Founder's Room Setup



The wonderful Heimat Klänge Band



*Lisa Roman, John Dearnaley, Joe Colussi
Jeanne Roman & Nancy Sabia-Rummel*

Check out our Facebook page and our website for more pictures!

Famous Friulans: The Story of Primo Carnera
Written by Vilma Mazziol – Member of EFASCE

Vilma's Father - Giovanni (John) Mazziol was born in Sequals and was first cousin to Primo

Primo Carnera was the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion from June 29, 1933 to June 14, 1934. Primo was born and raised in Sequals, Italy (Province of Pordenone). Primo was 6 ft. 6 in. tall and was given the nickname of the "Ambling Alp" and was also known as "Italy's Gentle Giant." He fought in 103 fights and won 89 fights with 72 wins in knockouts.

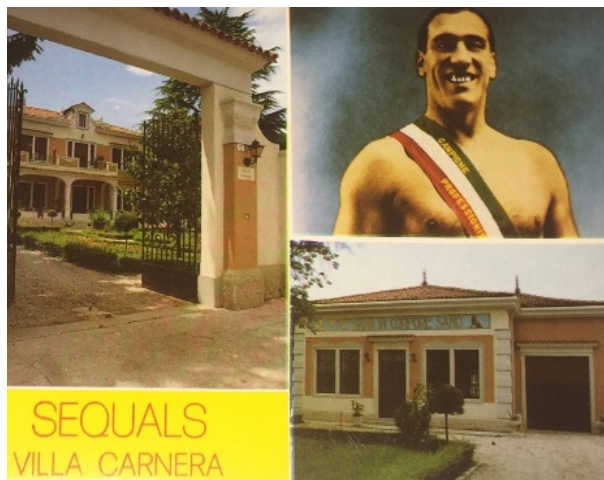


Primo was one of three children and his parents were Sante Carnera and Giovanna Mazziol. In 1939 Primo married Giuseppina Kovacic, from Gorizia, and they had two children, Umberto and Giovanna Maria. Umberto eventually went on to become an ER Physician and Giovanna Maria became a Counselor while both were living in Florida.



In Sequals, Primo had the Villa Carnera built along with a personal gymnasium next door. Both buildings still exist today and are open to the public.

During WWII, Primo feared that the Nazi's would come to Sequals in search of his prizewinning belt that held value. Primo asked his neighbor (Wilma's Great Aunt) if she would hide the belt in her house. In fear of the Nazi's causing her harm for hiding the belt, she initially said "No." However, Primo had the great idea of lifting the wooden floorboards in her house and placing the belt under the boards. Primo's neighbor eventually agreed and when the Nazi's went to the Villa Carnera and eventually to the neighbor's house looking for any valuables, the Nazi's never found the belt even after "standing on top of it" while at his neighbor's house.



Primo began his worldwide boxing debut in 1928 and fought four times in Philadelphia. During one of his visits to Philadelphia for a fight, a banquet was held in his honor. The picture below was taken at the banquet and it currently hangs in the Venetian Club in Chestnut Hill, PA.

The Picture reads – **"Banchetto Dato In Onore A Primo Carnera Dai Friulani in Philadelphia, PA. March 1, 1930."** Primo is seated at the back table to the right of vase of flowers under March 1, 1930.



In 1930 Primo moved to Los Angeles and in addition to boxing he was cast in a few films. In 1933 he was in the movie "*The Prizefighter and the Lady*" and in 1949 he appeared in the film "*Mighty Joe Young*." From 1939 to 1943, Primo also appeared in at least 10 Italian films. After his career in boxing and movies ended, he returned to Sequals and on June 29, 1967 Primo passed away in Sequals at the age of 60.

A video on the life of Primo Carnera can be watched at: <https://youtu.be/UZEEgw84I5o>

Learn Furlan

by Joe Colussi

In this newsletter we'll continue to present English translations of older Furlan rhymes & poems, while introducing an old children's game. I'm very grateful to Claudio Roman for his translation help, and Sergio Roman for donating copies of the book "La Valle del Colvera", where I found a Furlan listing of the children's rhyming game *Pugni-Cichi*. My Mother often played this game with us as kids, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, Nieces and Nephews. I hope you enjoy it and pass it on to the younger generations of your family.

First, the words of the game:

<i>Pugni – cichi</i> ,	[Fist – here]
<i>pugni – cichi</i> .	[fist – here]
<i>Ce ca l'è ca drenti?</i>	[What is here inside?]
<i>Pan di cassela</i> .	[Bread from the bread box]
<i>Chi cui prin rît</i> ,	[Who that laughs first,]
<i>a si tirâ l'urela!</i>	[the ear is pulled!]

In Italian:

Pugni – cichi
Pugni – cichi
cosa c'è qui dentro?
Pane di cassapanca.
Il primo che ride avrà,
una tirata d'orecchio.

After someone laughs:

Urela, musichine, cope di farina, si no tu dis 'beeeeh', I na ti mole in vita me! [Ear, small face, cup of farina, if you don't say 'beeeh' I won't let you go in my lifetime.]

Directions to play the game:

To play the game, the first player makes a closed fist and holds it out, vertically, saying '*Pugni!*'. The second player puts his closed fist on top of the first, making a column, saying '*cichi!*'. The players repeat with their remaining fists. After the column is formed, the first player removes his bottom fist from the column and using his index finger, inserts it into to top fist saying '*ce ca l'è ca drenti?*', to which the other player responds '*pan di cassela*'. Then the first player says '*Chi cui prin rît, a si tirâ l'urela!*' The players look at each other, making eyes and faces to make the other laugh. The one who laughs first gets their ear pulled, while the one pulling sings.....'*Urela musichine, cope di farina, si no tu dis 'beeeeh', I na ti mole in vita me!*'

Mom would not just give a little tug of the ear, she grabbed your ear and YANKED IT, while singing....."Urela mushichina, cope di farina, si no tu dis 'beeeeh', I na ti mole in vita me!" Well, you laughed so hard, you couldn't 'beeeh' (like a sheep), so she kept singing and pulling. I don't know who got more enjoyment, the child or Mom!

Some words to remember from the game:

pugni – a fist
drenti – 'old Furlan' for *dentri* – inside
cassela – a bread box
tirâ – to pull, as in "tiramisu" or "pull me up"
prin – first
rît – to laugh

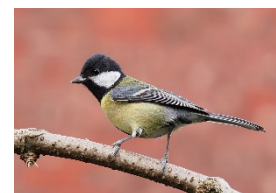
urela – an ear
musichine – a little face. Fa la musichine: a pout
cope di farina – cup of farina, like cream of wheat
molâ – to release or let go
in vita me – in my lifetime

Corrections and Comments from members -

In the last newsletter, we presented the Parussula poem. Claudio Roman, from Texas, sent me some information regarding translations of the Furlan. A *parussula* (*cianciallegra*, in Italian), refers to the Great Tit (*Parus major*), a bird with a black head, a prominent white cheek, a greenish back, a blue wing with a prominent white bar, and a yellowish belly. Claudio also informed me that pegula is a type of tar or pitch. Pine tar or pitch makes sense, since I heard that the men would put something sticky in trees to catch birds to eat them. Claudio also informed me that bird-lime, *visc* in Furlan, a sticky substance spread on to twigs to trap small birds, was made by the Italians with mistletoe berries, heated, mixed with oil. To make it water resistant, they added turpentine. They spread it on specially made twigs, called *viscjadi* in Furlan, to catch birds.

As always, we thank you for your comments, and encourage inputs from our readers.

Please contact us at newsletter@efasce.net.



Genealogy Research

by Joe Colussi

While speaking with other members of EFASCE di Philadelphia, I found that there are several people interested in researching their family heritage. In this new column of our newsletter, I hope to pass on information either found by me or others, to assist you in your genealogy research. Mention of any websites in this article is not made as an endorsement of them, or validation of their accuracy; just information on sites that have been helpful in our genealogy research.

Researching your family heritage is quite a daunting task and trying to sort through all the websites can be endless. In this edition of the newsletter we'll describe a few websites that might help you get started or dig deeper into your family records. Everyone has heard about Ancestry.com. But, if you're not quite ready to start paying for access to Ancestry's records database, we'll present some free alternatives. One place to start for free genealogy resources is to check your local library. My library offers free access to a 'library edition' of Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest and the Ellis Island Foundation records, along with genealogical resources from the Library of Congress Online Catalog. Some services, like the Ancestry Library edition, require that you use them at the library and are not accessible from home.

A great resource for records from the Friuli region is - <http://www.friulinprin.beniculturali.it/eng/WebAsud/>

This site provides information from the State Archives of Udine, and describes its ongoing project as:

"Friuli in prin' is a data bank which organizes registry documents, connects them to people and fixes important biographical events of generations of Friulians who lived between the second half of the 19th century and the 20th century. When it is finally finished 'Friuli in prin' will offer a solid and reliable structure to supply the registered data of any Friulian born between 1846 and 1930 in what are now the provinces of Udine and Pordenone."

What is most interesting is that these records include not only the family Surname, or *Cognome*, but, where available, they include the family *Sopranome* (in Furlan: *Soranom*), the name 'above', or 'on to' the Surname, used to distinguish between the various branches of large families. *Soranom* is similar to the Furlan word *sorecognon*, a nickname. The family *sopranome* is an invaluable asset in trying to find your family records and distinguish them from other families of the same name. Links to additional information about the website are at the bottom left of the page, and a link to the main page is found in the Friuli map at the top right of the page. Also of interest from the site is - <http://www.friulinprin.beniculturali.it/ita/WebAsud/template/StoricoComuni-Cognomi.html>. On this page, you can select the commune of interest, like Frisanco, to view a list of family names and the number of entries for that particular family, from 1860 to 1900, from that particular commune. As an example, there are 25 different Colussi *sopranome* listed in the Frisanco records. While there are a few female records, they are predominantly records of male births at this time in the project. I'd suggest checking the website regularly for new additions.

There is also a website from Hilversum, in the Netherlands, which lists information on common Furlan last names from the later 1800's. The site used to be open, but now requires a log-in registration, and I have not yet registered since they changed their policy. Without registering, the site seems to have expanded from my initial visits. In the past, they presented information similar to *Friulinprin*, but in a family tree type format, showing parents and children listed on official documents. If I remember correctly, this site also listed *sopranome*. The site address is - <http://www.hilversum.genwiki.net/login.php>. Don't forget to select English on the right side of the page.

For searching US records, the following sites may be of some help:

- **FamilyTreeNow.com** is a free genealogy search site. It offers information from various sources, mainly Census and Death Index records data, and gives lists of possible relatives to the person being searched.
- **TruePeopleSearch.com** for searches of living people. It gives addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and possible relatives/associates, though some of the information listed is outdated.
- **LocateAncestors.com** can be used to research information on deceased relatives. This site includes: birth and death dates, social security numbers, last residence and possibly photos which can be uploaded to the site.

I hope this new column for our newsletter is of interest to our members. We encourage anyone who is researching their family heritage to share their experiences and knowledge with this growing group by submitting their inputs to us at newsletter@EFASCE.net.

A Furlan Family Lunch

Back in December, a group of Furlans, all Colussis, got together to have lunch. We had a great time sharing stories and memories. We had 4 of the 5 Colussi families from the local area represented: Balut, Bianchini, Giaronit and Plan. Next time we need someone from the Colussi Mas family to join us. This got me thinking that we should try to organize an informal lunch gathering, where anyone who is interested in getting together with old friends and relatives can meet at a restaurant to chat. We can move the meeting place around to make it convenient for all who are interested in attending. **If you'd like to participate in a future lunch gathering, please contact us at newsletter@EFASCE.net.**



From Left: Esther Colussi, Rita Marino, Ceil Zbyszinski, Tom Colussi, Ceil's Husband John and Madalena Lorenzon at California Pizza Kitchen

Celebrating our Parents – I nostri genitori

- ❖ Father's Day, *La Festa del Papà*, is celebrated on March 19 in Italy, the feast of *San Giuseppe* (St. Joseph). A father is called a *Babbo* (Daddy) in some regions and a *Papà* (pronounced pa-PAH) everywhere else. *Il Papa* (PAH-pa) is the Pope or *Santo Padre* (Holy Father). Grandfathers (*nonni*) have a long tradition of spoiling their grandchildren (*nipoti*).
- ❖ Traditionally *la festa della mamma* in Italy fell on May 8. The current practice of celebrating Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May (*la seconda domenica di maggio*) started in 1957.

To help children of all ages express their love for *mamma*, Italian websites post "*auguri*" (best wishes) for *la festa della mamma*. Here are some examples:

- " *Le rose sono rosse, le viole sono blu, e tu sei la mamma migliore di quaggiù.*"
(Roses are red, violets are blue, and the best mom down here is you.)
- "*Sei la migliore mamma del mondo, ti abbraccio forte. Ti voglio bene!*"
(*You are the best mom in the world. I give you a strong hug. I love you!*)



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 McGlinn, Secretary

How to Contact Us

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 Membership: members@efasce.net

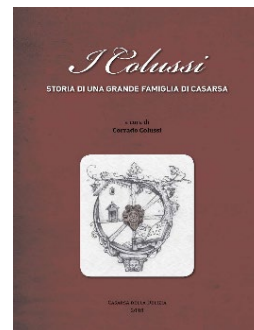
Directors

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

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.

❖ Last year the Colussi family of Casarsa della Delizia held a festival to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the family in the town. To document the event, Corrado Colussi authored a book, "*I Colussi, Storia Di Una Grande Famiglia Di Casarsa*" Joe Colussi has been in contact with the author and received an electronic copy of the book, along with the authorization to distribute it to interested persons. Anyone wishing to receive a copy can send an email to newsletter@EFASCE.net, to make their request. We congratulate Corrado Colussi on receiving the Italian Citizen of the year 2018 award for his efforts in researching and writing this book.



❖ AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, *at no cost to you*. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. 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.

**Welcome New Members**

EFASCE di Philadelphia welcomes our newest members, Claudio Roman. Claudio has family roots in Maniago, and lives in Houston, Texas. He speaks Furlan and is very interested in researching his Furlan ancestry. Joe Colussi and Claudio met thru a genealogy site and have been sharing family information and introducing each other to their relatives. Interestingly, Claudio visited the Philadelphia area in the 1970's and was introduced to a few of the local Furlans by Tini Marcolina.

Also new to EFASCE this year are Maximilian Broek of Washington state; the Romans from Maryland – Sergio, Joan, Anthony and Amanda; Grace Sorrentino of Texas; Samuel Harding, Joanna Stahl, and Kevin and Michael Trevisan of Pennsylvania.