



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

Un grant salût a ducj i nestris membrs di EFASCE! A big greeting to all our members of EFASCE!

The EFASCE organization was started by EFASCE di Pordenone to support Friulians that left their homeland, to form friendships and unite emigrants, and to help preserve their culture in their new homeland. Our Officers and Board of EFASCE di Philadelphia donate their cultural devotion, talent, and personal time to keep our organization alive and growing.

Throughout the year, we bring cultural experiences and traditions to you through our quarterly newsletters and its Friuli-focused content, Polenta Dinner, Festa dei Friuliani, and opportunities to unite through social events throughout the year.

We are expanding opportunities like our recent Friulian culinary experience with *Friulian MasterChef Luca Manfè*.

*We stay in touch with Italy. It takes a lot of work, and **we do it for you.***

We need your support as well to maintain a thriving organization. Please join us for our annual membership meeting on **Sunday, March 2, at the Venetian Club at 2:00.** Let's do what our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents did – come to the Club, form friendships. Let's honor them and our Friulian culture. At the meeting, I'd like to hear your ideas of what may be of value to members. Get involved with us in developing newsletter articles, planning events, or donating your special talents to a new initiative. Join our committees! Interested in becoming involved at the board level? Let me know at president@efasce.net or 215-800-9509

We are committed to helping keep Friuli alive in the Philadelphia area. Our goal is to manage a thriving and growing organization. But we need the help of our members to achieve that as well - and your Friulian friends and relatives that could participate with us. Bring them along to our meeting! Bring your children and young adults – they are our future.



*Master Chef
Luca Manfè*

*Details of this
event will be in the
next newsletter!*



I hope to see you on March 2 so I can personally say
Mandi (Man di Dio – in God's hand) to each of you.

Stâ ben (stay well).

Rosemary Maieron Norwood

President, EFASCE di Philadelphia

A Note from our Editors:

This year, we'll be featuring stories submitted by our members about their experiences in Friuli!

Please submit your articles to newsletter@efasce.net to be included!

Grazie a tutti who have submitted their experiences for this series! Keep sending in your stories!

Upcoming Events

- **March 2, 2025, 2pm:** General Membership Meeting and voting at the Venetian Social Club.
- **April 26, 2025:** Annual Polenta Dinner with Die Heimatklänge Band! Stay tuned for details!

Notizie...News

- *Buon Compleanno* to **Joe Rosa-Bian** who turned **90** years young in December!
- *Buon Compleanno* to **Dino Brandolisio** who turned **91** years young in December!
- *Buon Compleanno* to **Rina Fesnak** who turned **100** years young in December!
- *Buona guarigione:* A speedy recovery to Ace Cintron, Bonnie Rosa Cintron's Grandson.
- Our condolences to the Houseal, DePue, and Roman Families on the passing of Naomi.
- Our condolences to the Filippi and Longo Families on the passing of Neda.
- *Benvenuti* to our new members:
Nancy Konopka of Gettysburg, PA
Rusty Lorenzon of Wyndmoor, PA
Ellen Patton of Portsmouth, NH
Barbara Perin of Rockland, DE
- Send us photos and a description of your celebrations so we may include them in our next newsletter and share them with our members!



Tantissimi auguri di Buona Pasqua! (Italian)
Tancj auguris par une Buine Pasche! (Friulian)
 Many wishes for a Happy Easter!

2025 Membership Dues

Please don't forget to renew your membership for 2025 and keep our membership committee up to date with your current contact information!

If you have any updates to your address, phone number, or email address, please send those directly to membership@efasce.net or include the membership form from our website or a note with your mailed in payment as soon as possible to ensure you receive all future correspondence.

2025 dues payments:

General / Affiliate (Ages 21-89) = \$35 Junior Member (Ages 15-20) = \$15
 90 + = Complimentary

may be made in the "Annual Dues" Section of our website, www.efasce.net or please make out your check to "EFASCE di Philadelphia" and mail to
 EFASCE di PHILADELPHIA P.O. Box 625 Flourtown, PA 19031

If you cannot afford this payment, or have any questions, please contact:
membership@efasce.net or Lisa Roman at 215-740-9224.



Ongaro Trip to Cordenons, Pordenone. Submitted by Rich Ongaro

This past summer brought some new adventures, including a second “once in a lifetime” trip to Italy. In September, my wife Deborah and I had the privilege of travelling to **Cordenons, Pordenone**, Italy to visit relatives and attend a special wedding event. We were able to relive some of the history of my family as we were lucky enough to stay with relatives on the property which was home to my father.

During our stay in **Cordenons**, we were able to travel to several scenic locations, including **Udine, Aviano, Pordenone**, as well as **Padua**. Unusually warm weather did not hinder our enjoyment of the trip.

The wedding was held at **Villa Lupis in Pasiano di Pordenone**, an old monastery which was built here by the Camaldolite monks at the beginning of the 11th century. In the early 1800s, the monastery was owned by Napoleon and no longer served as a monastery. It is currently operating as a 4-star hotel, conference center and acclaimed restaurant.



Villa Lupis in Pasiano di Pordenone



Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua

One day was spent outside of Friuli, in the Veneto Region, with a trip to **Padua**. This very old city is beautiful and historic. It houses one of the oldest universities in the world, the University of Padua, which was founded in 1222. Many famous individuals, including Galileo Galilei, taught or studied there. If in Padua, one should not miss visiting the beautiful and historic **Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua**. Construction of the church began around the year 1232.

Local travel included a trip to **Aviano** and the **Aviano Air Base**. This is a base operated jointly by the American and Italian Air Forces and is located at the base of the southern Dolomite Alps. The base hosts the U.S. Air Force's 31st Fighter Wing and is located about 10 miles from Pordenone. After leaving Aviano, we visited **Udine** and saw the newly renovated stadium utilized by the soccer team of Udine. The team, known as “*Udinese*”, are part of the Italian top soccer flight (Seria A) and is one of the oldest soccer clubs in Italy. The team has been in Seria A for nearly 30 years without relegation to B.



Udinese Calcio

One of the most memorable visits was to the **Podere Gelisi Vineyard** in **San Quirino**. The vineyard, founded in 1961, is a family-run business owned by the Gelisi family. Antonio and Giorgina Gelisi were both from Istria, and following World War II, were transplanted to San Quirino when Istria became part Yugoslavia and later Croatia.



Pordenone City Hall

Our final day of the trip was spent in the city of **Pordenone**. With beautiful, warm weather, we were able to tour the historic parts of the city and enjoyed some of the wonderful Medieval architecture which is still in use and inhabited.

The most memorable and enjoyable moments of the trip were spent in the town of **Cordenons**, visiting family and experiencing daily life in a small town in Italy. Nothing compares to the taste of San Daniele prosciutto or Montasio cheese. Daily morning visits to the local bar (coffee shop) for espresso and small talk are indicative of the culture and the joy of life. Hearing many familiar family names and seeing old places in the town stirred memories of the tales my parents shared with us as children. These include such places as the town plaza (*Piazza della Vittoria*), the main church (*Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore*), and the bell tower (*Campanile*). Returning from such a trip acts to enhance my pride in being "furlan".



The Family Home in Cordenons

Notizie from our Members



Above is a picture submitted by
Linda Rosa-Bian McGlinn:

**Joe Rosa-Bian's
90st Birthday Celebration**



Above is a picture submitted by
Trish Brandolisio Remish:

**Dino Brandolisio's
91st Birthday Celebration**



Above is a picture submitted by
Joanne Fesnak Kearns:

Rina Fesnak's 100th Birthday Celebration

Rina celebrated with her family,
including 10 great-grandchildren!



Buon Lavoro to our 4 members partaking in
EFASCE di Pordenone's Online Italian Classes!

Rebecca Billman, Alessandra Cartelli,
Joanne Kearns, and Susan Sfarra

Keep up the good work!

Please reach out to contact@efasce.net if you
would like information on the classes.

2024 Essay Contest: "Why You Value Your Friulian Heritage"

The children and grandchildren of our EFASCE Members and our existing Youth Members are the future of our organization. We count on them to learn about our Friulian heritage and carry on our traditions.

In support of this, the EFASCE di Philadelphia Board of Directors is sponsoring a 2024 essay contest to provide opportunities for our youth to share and express their views and experiences with their Friulian roots and traditions.

We received three submissions for our Essay Contest!

The Board of Directors enjoyed these submissions, they voted to award each entry the \$100 prize! ***Grazie*** to each young writer for taking the time to share why you value your Italian & Friulan Heritage!

Alexis Broek

Granddaughter of Joanne Kearns, Great-granddaughter of Rina Fesnak,
Friulan Families Brun and Norio

Julian Norwood

Son of Rosemary Norwood,
Friulan Families Maieron and Primus

Grace Sorrentino

Granddaughter of Joanne Kearns, Great-granddaughter of Rina Fesnak,
Friulan Families Brun and Norio

Please enjoy their submissions on the following pages!



My Friulian Heritage

My name is Alexis Broek, and I am seventeen years old. I am the grandchild of Joanne Kearns and the great-grandchild of Rina Fesnak and through them have learned numerous things about my Friulian heritage. My great-great-grandparents immigrated from Italy to America in the early nineteen-twenties where they had my great-grandmother, Rina. Understanding the hardships of being an Italian immigrant at that time, such as persecutions and the Great Depression, has made me sympathetic and proud of my ancestors. They ventured to a new country, faced challenges, and overcame them.

One of my favorite things related to my Friulian heritage is pizzelles. Every year during the Christmas season my mother spends multiple days making these pastries for family, friends, neighbors, and teachers. She learned how to make them from her mother, who learned it from her mother and so on. I am so excited to get to pass this piece of my Italian heritage to my children.

Being Italian has impacted many aspects of my life from traditions to hearing the language spoken within my family. Celebrating my great-grandmother's one-hundredth birthday in November has made me realize how much knowledge she has of my Italian heritage and grateful for all of which she has passed on to my siblings and I. I look forward to learning much more about my Friulian heritage and cannot wait until I am able to see the land of Italy myself, which I hope is soon.



My Friuli Heritage – Proud to Be Friulian!

Submitted by:

Julian Maieron Norwood Age 22

Family Heritage from Paluzza and Cleulis, Carnia – The Maieron and Primus Legacy

I grew up surrounded by grandparents with accents and trips to Italy to spend summers at my grandparents' home full of people stopping in to visit beginning at 8:30 in the morning until after dinner. This helped shape my appreciation for people, relationships, a different way of life, and of course good food and wine.

Tracing my family roots leads to Paluzza and Cleulis, picturesque towns nestled in the region of Carnia in Friuli, located in the province of Udine, Italy. These small alpine towns of about 1,200 and 375 inhabitants are the last towns on the way to the Austrian border called Plockenpass or Passo di Monte Croce. My grandfather, Giulio Maieron, and my grandmother, Antonina (Antonette) Primus, grew up amid the rugged Carnic alps and rich Friulian and Germanic traditions of the area. Like many other Friulian areas, families passed down traditions, distinct Friulian dialects, and unique customs that give these regions their identity. I was really fortunate to have this passed down to me by my grandparents and my mother.

I learned that life revolves around a strong sense of community, helping others, and respect for nature. I learned that hard work is in my DNA, and that Friulians learn to be very resourceful. I learned how they lived with very little off the land, and how the Carnic Friulians survived through World War II and occupation by the Cosacks who came to take over and live in their homes. From my grandparents, I have learned much about a different culture and way of living that makes you honest, humble, and thankful for what you have.

In these alpine villages, families rely on each other and celebrate together through seasonal festivities...and food. Traditional Friulian dishes like frico and polenta are a staple in our area just like the rest of Friuli. My nonne, Antonina, also carried on the culinary traditions of Carnia. I was the best fed kid in Blue Bell! Her recipes were filled with the flavors of the region—cured meats, cheeses, and freshly gathered herbs. These foods are deeply tied to the land and seasons, embodying the spirit of the mountain life that my family embraces.

Today, even as my family is spread across different parts of the world, the heritage of Carnia remains a central part of who I am. Through stories of my grandfather and grandmother and the traditions they passed down along with my mother's ongoing annual trips and connection with Carnic family and friends, I continue to stay connected to the legacy of Cleulis and Paluzza, which I will pass down to my children as well. I am proud to be Friulian.

Why I Value My Friulian Heritage

Grace Sorrentino

My Friulian heritage is saturated in rich history, stories, and tradition that to this day shape who I am. After an immersion trip and learning more about my background, I have been able to embrace my roots and go about life differently.

I was always told about my extended family in Italy. Both sides of my family are Italian, so there were a lot of traditions and Italian culture in our family growing up. The family dinners filled with delectable foods, large family gatherings, and attending mass together are a few of the big traditions I remember doing. In 2019 is when I really got to immerse myself and learn about my background. I got the opportunity to go on the Efasce di Philadelphia high school heritage group trip with my grandparents and younger cousin. This was a huge deal for me considering I was going to learn parts of a new language, participate in activities and traditions within my culture, and even meet family members I've only ever heard stories of or seen in photos. I got to leave the country for the first time, indulge in authentic Italian food, and explore the wonderful nature the region has to offer.

My great grandma would tell me stories all the time about her parents and cousin in Pordenone and Maniago. The stories and photos were magical and surreal to look through so when I got the opportunity to see them I was so excited to visit. On this immersive trip, I was able to make friends with people from all around the world who have the same connection as me. I think that connection of

lineage really helped us bond on this trip.

Also, we got to participate in engaging activities together, practice the language of the region, and take part in religious practices. The things I got to experience in Italy and the overwhelming feelings of joy and amazement, I still carry with me today. The trip opened up my eyes to a world I never thought I would see, people I never thought I would meet, and a newfound love for who I am and where I came from. Being able to experience this with my own family made this experience even more incredible and eye opening.

If it was possible I would hope everyone could explore and immerse themselves in their roots, interact with extended family members, indulge in local cuisine, and educate themselves on the history. It truly is a life changing experience and provided more value and sense to my life. Something interesting I did notice was the difference in our daily lives from Texas and Italy. I think it's so fascinating how we go about our days differently, all the way down to the small details. It's something I enjoyed observing. In the end, what really brought us together (even though there was some of a language barrier) was being family and enjoying a good meal together!



Are you Interested in a Friuli Adventure in 2026?

EFASCE di Philadelphia Director Bob Mack organizes a Northern Italy/ Friulian tour. If interested, please contact Bob via email at Mack.robert.f@gmail.com. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest for 2025, but please keep this in mind for 2026 so we can plan early and hopefully take advantage of better rates!

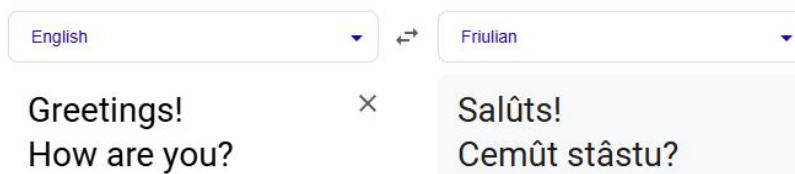
The itinerary will include the towns of: Maniago, Frisanco, Spilimbergo, Aquileia, San Daniele, Venzona, Gemona, Tolmezzo, Trieste/ Slovenia and Gorizia. Attractions include The Vajont Dam, Palmanova and the Villa Manin at Passariano.



Friulian is Now an option through Google Translate

With the addition of over 10 languages recently, you can now use Google Translate to convert English to Italian or Friulian, or vice versa! This is a great asset to translate those handwritten notes on the back of old photos, make sure you're using the correct accents on letters, or help keep up with current websites in Friuli and Italy!

<https://translate.google.com/>



In Other News *Altre notizie*

- EdP has a library of donated books which are 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
- **YOU** could be featured in the next newsletter! Send information to newsletter@efasce.net or our PO Box. Please, connect with us on our website, Facebook, and check your inbox / mailbox for our latest news!
- Please spread the word about EFASCE di Philadelphia to your family and friends and encourage them to consider joining our organization. As our president says, "There is no EFASCE without our members". For more information go to www.EFASCE.net. Also, please let us know if you have any ideas for improving our organization, or if you'd be interested in joining one of our committees.

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Use #EFASCE or #EFASCEdiphiladelphia on social media!

Officers

Rosemary Maieron Norwood, President
Lisa Roman, Vice President
Laura Lorenzon Maxwell, Treasurer
Linda McGlinn, Secretary

How to Contact Us

General Mailbox:	contact@efasce.net
President:	president@efasce.net
Vice President:	vp@efasce.net
Treasurer:	treasurer@efasce.net
Secretary:	secretary@efasce.net
Website:	website@efasce.net
Newsletter:	newsletter@efasce.net
Membership:	members@efasce.net
Events:	event@efasce.net

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