



EDICOLA

September 2011

Monthly Newsletter

Peninsula Italian-American Lodge

Newport News VA

Letter From the President

Cara Amici,

With summer almost over, it's time for all of us to concentrate on our fall fundraising activities. Yes, it's that time of year again! Our busy season begins with the Italian Street Festival in Virginia Beach on September 16th and 17th. Next comes the Richmond Italian Festival on October 1st and 2nd and last but not least the CIAO Festival in Williamsburg on October 8th and 9th.

If you missed the last meeting (which many of you did) and can help out with any of the festivals, please give Jim DeLucia or Susan Yungbluth a call. They can really use your assistance. I believe they will have an additional sign up for the two October festivals at the meeting in September. Also remember that for the CIAO festival we sell Italian cookies. If you were not at the August meeting and can make cookies please contact Brenda Wrightington and let her know you can bake.

After all the hard work is over, we will celebrate with our annual Columbus

Day celebration which will be held on Friday, October 14th. Everyone should have received the information about the party plus your raffle tickets and a list of food pantry items. I've already received replies from five members. Remember the deadline is Friday, September 30th. Also, please remember to purchase your raffle tickets even if you can't make the dinner. This raffle brings in the money we use to fund our Christmas charities.

I look forward to seeing you all again in October since Bob and I will not be at the September meeting. We'll be in Rhode Island attending our nephew's wedding.

I look forward to a great fall season and hope you do too. Remember to stay involved. Together we can make our lodge even better!

Con affetto,
Bev Amante, President

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Peninsula Italian-American Lodge #2145



Roman Amphitheatre, Siracusa, Sicily

Siracusa is on the southeastern coast of Sicily. The city is divided into Mainland Syracuse and the Island of Ortigia, the historic area. The province of Sicily stretches along the coast from the Augusta peninsula on the North to Capo Passero on the South. It extends inland to Monte Lauro. The area to the north of Syracuse is an area characterized by caves eroded by water. The southern coast is full of marshlands and inland the terrain rises to the Hyblean Mountains (c. 1000 meters).

The remains of huts found on Ortigia indicate human presence from the 14th century. In 405 BC Dionysius I conquered the town and turned Ortigia into a fortress. The area has been ruled by the Romans, the Byzantine Empire, the Arabs who were responsible for the town plan characterized by lanes and courtyards, and later the Angevins and Aragonese. Most of the classic Greek and Roman monuments can be found in the Parco Archeologico della Neapoli. The park was opened with funding from the Southern Italy Development Fund in the early 1950's. Some points of interest are the Alter of Hieron built for public sacrifices; the Roman amphitheatre, the Greek Theatre built between 238-215 BC. Classical performances began again in the theatre in 1914. The Ear of Dionysius is an artificial grotto in the shape of an ear. It has the feature of increasing any sound or noise made inside.

The Island of Ortigia is less than a square mile in area. The Ponte Nuovo connects it to the mainland. The Piazza Duomo is in the upper part of the island and was originally the agora of the Greek city. In about the 7th century AD the ancient Greek temple was turned into a basilica. After it was damaged in the 1542 earthquake, it was reinforced and in the 18th century the Chapel of the Sacrament was added. A pretty place for a stroll is the Adorno promenade

which links the fountain of Arethusa and the Porta Marina. At the southern most point of Ortigia is the Maniace Castle built. Each side is 51 meters and on each corner there is a cylindrical tower. The small 18th century church is now used as an army storehouse.

The city of Noto provides a wonderful view of the Ionian coast. The original town was destroyed by the 1693 earthquake. The new town was rebuilt in another location. In the second half of the 18th century the town took on its particular baroque style which gives it a very different appearance from other towns in Sicily. The infiorata is one of the most typical celebrations in Noto and is part of the baroque spring, a series of events in May. The Via Nicolaci is adorned with fresh flower petals that form patterns that follow religious, mythological and popular traditions. Each floral picture is a true work of art. The street slopes slightly so that it is possible to have a full view of all the floral patterns.

The marshlands of Vendicari, between Eloro on the north and San Lorenzo on the south are a great nature reserve. The marsh is a well known spot for bird watching because about 200 kinds of winter migratory birds either pass through or winter there. Some of the rarer birds found there are the glossy ibis and the black ibis with red hues. The shelduck is depicted in the logo of the reserve. The area also has a long tradition for salt production that dates back to the 16th century. There are still about ten pools where salt was collected after seawater was evaporated and stone canals from which sea-water was collected.

By Madeleine Conway

IMPORTANT DATES

Sep Meeting - Sep 18, 4:00 PM - K of C Hall

**Board Meeting - Sep 28, 6:30 -
The Vineyards**

Virginia Beach Festival Sep 17-18

Richmond Festival - Oct 1-2

CIAO Festival - Oct 8-9

Columbus Day Party - Oct 14

(Ticket Deadline - Sep 30)

BASIC MICROWAVE RISOTTO

3 tablespoons butter
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 onion, chopped
 1 1/2 cups vegetable broth

(Substitute other broth for the vegetable)

1 cup uncooked Arborio rice
 3/4 cup white wine
 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

(Use margarine or olive oil in place of the butter, and you can use apple juice or white grape juice in place of the wine.)

1. In a 3 quart, microwave safe casserole dish combine butter, garlic and onion. Place dish in microwave and cook on high for 3 minutes.
2. Place vegetable broth in a microwave safe dish. Heat on microwave until the broth is hot but not boiling (approximately 2 minutes).
3. Stir the rice and broth into the casserole dish with the onion, butter and garlic mixture. Cover the dish tightly and cook on high for 6 minutes.
4. Stir wine into the rice. Cook on high for 10 minutes more. Most of the liquid should boil off. Stir the cheese into the rice and serve.

TRIVIA: The first World Sudoku Championship was held in Lucca, Italy, from March 10–12, 2006. The winner was Jana Tylová of the Czech Republic.

The rules of Sudoku are that you should fill a number in to every cell in the grid, using the numbers 1 to 9. The restriction is that you can only use each number once in each row, each column, and in each of the 3x3 boxes.

We can continue the fun with the puzzle seen here. It is good exercise for our brains. So even though the answer appears below, no peeping!

7	8	3	6	4	1	9	5	7
5	7	1	2	8	9	4	3	6
4	6	9	3	7	5	1	2	8
4	9	5	6	1	7	2	3	8
1	7	8	3	2	5	6	4	9
2	6	9	8	9	4	5	1	7
9	1	6	4	5	8	7	2	3
5	4	2	7	3	1	8	9	6
3	8	7	2	6	9	4	5	1

Sudoku #087 (Easy)

Sudoku #087 (Easy)

3				6	9	4	5	
		2				8		6
	1		4				2	3
2		3		9		5		7
	7		3	2				9
	9						3	
8			5	7	3			4
6	3							
7			1	4				

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