

SOGNA

"Societa' Organizzata per Gioiesi in Nord America"

Tredicesima Edizione

Natale 2005

**Merry Christmas to all.
May 2006 be the best year of your life!**

Carissimi Amici e compaesani,

Our five-year-old organization is expanding and changing as it matures. By glancing at the column on the right, you will notice an expanded list of trustees, a new president, a new vice president and a new secretary. The change of SOGNA's leadership is the result of the new rule of "rotating presidency" enacted by the trustees earlier this year. With this new rule, the organization's president and vice president are elected by the trustees every two years, bringing SOGNA periodically, fresh ideas and broader participation by all the members. The presidential and vice-presidential election results were announced at the annual dinner dance in September. **Bice Del Galdo** was elected Corporation Secretary at the general meeting of November 18, 2005. She replaces in that position Lou D'Angelo who until now had been both Treasurer and Secretary. Recently elected councilman to the city council of Totowa, Lou is very busy; but, he still finds time to be our treasurer. **Lou, Congratulations! for winning the election and thank you for all the hard work that you have done and continue to do for SOGNA.**

SOGNA's new president, Alberto Infante is the kind of nice guy who always speaks from his heart and sees silver linings surrounding even the darkest of clouds. Born in Gioi in 1948, Alberto moved to New Jersey in 1970. That same year, he married the equally good natured and superb cook, Carmelina Rizzo. In Italy, Alberto studied with the *Saveriani* (a Catholic missionary order), at the *Ginnasio* (High School) and at the *Ragioneria* (accounting school). That accounting training must have come in handy starting in 1988 when Alberto, in partnership with his brother Luciano, started his own business, A & L Body Shop, downtown Jersey City.

Doctor Roberto Rizzo was born in Jersey City, December 9, 1955 to Attilio Rizzo and Maria Miranda who had moved to the USA from Nicaragua that same year. Inspired by his mother, a Nicaraguan nurse, young Roberto decided to join the field of medicine and to improve his Italian language at the same time. He went to study at the University of Naples where he earned his M.D. Degree in 1986. The following year, Roberto married a girl from Gioi, the delightful Anna Maria Scarpa. Anna Maria and Roberto have two children, Claudia, 16 and Christian, 12 years-old. A doctor of internal medicine, Roberto has been in private practice in partnership with his cousin Doctor Antonio Rizzo, since 1991. Roberto is an optimist with a contagious upbeat attitude toward life. Hard working and creative, full of new ideas, he shares with Alberto his enthusiasm to see SOGNA flourish and expand.

Bice Del Galdo is one of those type A personalities. Bursting with energy and organizational skills, Bice knows how to get things done. She was born in Gioi and came to the US at the age of 15. She is the daughter of Giovanni Del Galdo and Anna Ferra. Both grandfathers immigrated to Jersey City around 1905-1912. Gerardo Ferra stayed, living his life in Jersey City. Pietro Del Galdo returned to his family in Gioi after a short stay in America. Bice is married to Roger Lentz and has 2 daughters, 2 step-sons and 1 grand-son. For the past 20 years Bice has worked in the Human Resources field for a broad range of industries and presently is Vice President of Human Resources at Kirusa, Inc. a high technology start-up company. Bice holds a BS in Business Administration, MA in Counseling from Montclair State University and an MBA in Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

*Buon Natale e Felice Capodanno a tutti,
Severino D'Angelo*

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The Sogna Dinner-Dance September 24, 2005 was a smashing success; Indeed, we had one of the largest participations including our regular members and first time participants. La Reggia, where the event was held, is a beautiful place. Visiting from Italy were MariaTeresa Scarpa, president of Gioi Proloco; Fernando Scarpa, the movie maker, currently filming his new creation in New York City, and his brother Giannicola, assisting in the production.

Future events (Please look for location and time announcement in your e-mail):

- **Members Meeting** Friday, February 3, 2006
- **Picnic** Saturday, June 10, 2006
- **Dinner-Dance**, Saturday, September 23, 2006

JERSEY CITY SCHOOLS NAMED AFTER GIOIESI

You may have read about these two schools before. With this follow-up I wanted to give you more details and include some pictures of the school buildings. Unfortunately, because of a recent computer crash, the pictures got lost, but I still have my notes.

Doctor Michele Conti School is Public School Number 5, located on 182 Merced Street, downtown Jersey City. When the good doctor was alive, he lived near the school. He was a member of the Board of Education and an outstanding member of the community. As a doctor during the depression, he was seeing a lot of his poor patients at no charge or he would charge a nominal \$2 per visit. Born and raised in Gioi, he served in the Italian Army during WW I. While in the military, he fell in love and had a baby with a nurse from Napoli. The unwed mother moved to Gioi intending to marry the father of her child; but Michele's parents did not permit the marriage. Caterina Ferrà, who told me this story, does not know why Conti's parents objected to the marriage of their son. The Conti's were a noble family in Gioi; but the girl came also from a noble family. Perhaps, devastated by his parents' disapproval and having failed to marry the girl that he loved, the young Conti at the age of 27, moved to America in the early 1920's. Here, he married an American and had twins, a boy and girl. Doctor Michele Conti died in 1970.

Anthony Infante School is Public School Number 31, located on 3055 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City. The grandson of Antonio Infante who immigrated from Gioi, in 1907, Anthony was born in Jersey City January 29, 1935. He died November 9, 1994. A physical education teacher and coach at the school later named after him, he was much involved with rehabilitating handicapped children. His love

and dedication to the school and his students was recently rewarded by giving the school his name. Anthony's wife, Dolores currently lives in Little Harbor, New Jersey. I want to thank her for calling me back and helping me gather this information. Anthony's grandfather, Antonio Infante was born in Gioi in 1880. He came to America at the age of 27 with his wife.

HOLIDAY MESSAGES

From Alberto Infante:

Natale 2005 porti a tutti I Gioiesi e le loro famiglie, felicità e amore. Buon Natale e felice Anno Nuovo!

ALBERTO E CARMELINA INFANTE

From Roberto Rizzo:

To all the Sons and Daughters of Gioi, in Europe, the Americas and across the globe, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year. Thanks to the SOGNA organization, we can continue to share a bond of our traditions that makes this time of year more special.

Buon Natale e Prospero Anno Nuovo a tutti!

ROBERTO RIZZO

From Lou D'Angelo:

A tutti i Gioiesi in Nord America, in Italia e nel Mondo auguro un sentito e sincero Buon Natale e Felicissimo Anno Nuovo.

CATHY, PETER, LOUIE E LOU D'ANGELO

From Mario Grompone:

On behalf of the Grompone family in the USA, I wish all the Gioiesi happiness, peace, prosperity and health for the coming New Year. Sincerely yours,

MARIO GROMPONE

From Nick D'Agosto:

As this Christmas season is upon us, let us all keep the spirit of not only Christ, but also Gioi, alive in our heart. Buon Natale.

NICK

VIVA GIOI!