



SCENES FOR THE 7th ANNUAL SOGNA DINNER-DANCE • OCTOBER 27, 2008



FULL HOUSE at the SOGNA Dinner-Dance 2007!

The sold-out seating was limited to 100 guests. Everyone had a great time. Quoting Giacomo Reielli, the honored guest from Italy, "Clearly every one came because they wanted to participate and it shows how they all are enjoying themselves!"

The food was superb; but then, the Valley Regency is a genuine Italian restaurant. The music was also magnificent as virtually every guest rushed to the dance floor when the dinner was over. Giacomo Reielli and his lovely wife Rosanna are in the top-left picture. Below is a thank you letter that we just received from Giacomo, now back at work in Italy.

Cari amici,

Ho pensato di scrivere questo saluto e di affidarlo al caro amico Severino D'Angelo affinché possa pubblicarlo sulla newsletter di S.O.G.N.A. e raggiungere tutti. Il mio vuole essere prima di tutto un ringraziamento per la favolosa accoglienza avuta da me e da tutta la mia famiglia da parte di tutto il gruppo dirigente di S.O.G.N.A. Ho avuto la possibilità di rivedere ed incontrare tanti vecchi amici e di conoscerne tanti altri. Devo dirvi di essere rimasto positivamente

meravigliato dalla grande fraternità e collaborazione che ho notato in tutti voi, cosa che purtroppo nel nostro paese si va man mano riducendo. Purtroppo il tempo a disposizione è stato poco e non mi ha permesso di rendervi omaggio come avrei voluto, ma cercherò di farlo da qui lavorando sul sito Gioi.com che voi avete istituito in modo così lungimirante ed intelligente. Questo sito può essere, e sono sicuro che lo sarà, il punto di incontro tra tutti noi, tra voi ed i gioiesi e tra i gioiesi che si trovano in qualsiasi angolo del mondo, facendoci sentire tutti più vicini e più partecipi.

Come tutti voi sapete Gioi è stata interessata da tanti trasferimenti di cittadini gioiesi che, o per scelta o per necessità, si sono spostati nei più disparati angoli del mondo e questo patrimonio che potrebbe tendere a disperdersi può essere tenuto insieme proprio tramite il sito da voi creato che ben sostituisce quella che avrebbe dovuto essere una funzione istituzionale



Ho notato che anche chi tra voi non è nato a Gioi si sente legato a questo paese e lo sente un po' suo, di questo si deve dare merito a tutti coloro che pur iniziando una nuova vita in luoghi lontani hanno sempre tenuto in un angolo del proprio cuore la propria "gioiesità". Ho avuto dei favolosi ospiti e ciceroni nel mio soggiorno negli Stati Uniti. Avrei tanti nomi da fare e da ringraziare che non faccio solo perché il mio ringraziamento non sarebbe sufficiente a rendere merito a tutto quanto hanno fatto. Nella mia settimana di permanenza ho avuto la possibilità di visitare parte della California ospite del caro amico Severino; questo periodo di convivenza ci ha dato la possibilità di conoscerci meglio, di apprezzare ognuno i lati positivi dell'altro, tanto che in una delle tante email che ci siamo scambiati mi ha detto una frase che mi ha colpito tantissimo e mi ha riempito di orgoglio, mi sono sentito gratificato quando ho letto "Direi che prima del viaggio ci conoscevamo; adesso mi permetto di dire che siamo veri amici." Sento di poter dire la stessa cosa e non solo nei confronti di Severino, ma anche di Alberto Infante e sua moglie Carmelina, due persone, a dir poco, squisite. E che dire di Roberto Rizzo, diventato l'ottimo medico personale di Mauro, mio figlio, arrivato a New York con un febbre e della gentilezza e disponibilità di Annamaria, sua moglie. Di Roberto Parrillo sempre pronto e disponibile e di Mario Torraca, la nostra esperta guida newyorkese.



Poi c'è il favoloso Enzo Marmora, anche lui guida esperta di New York, e con un gusto squisito per ristoranti di prima classe. Io e la mia famiglia ci siamo sentiti a casa, circondati da affetto e simpatia e, particolare non da poco, abbiamo avuto l'opportunità di conoscere, anche se in minima parte, lo straordinario paese che è l'America.



Non vorrei che queste, che dovevano essere delle considerazioni ed un ringraziamento, diventino solo un lungo elenco di persone incontrate; tutte comunque squisite e meritevoli di stima. Ho rivisto vecchi amici, ed è stato un piacere immenso poterli salutare di nuovo, gli abbracci e le strette di mano date e ricevute erano piene di calore



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Dear Friends,

Publishing a newsletter like this one is not exactly an inborn talent and it does not come easily. I know that you were an ideal child and the teacher's pet; but, I was my parents' worst nightmare and my teachers' most challenging pupil. I hope then that you appreciate what it takes for me to put these eight pages together every three months. Actually, as hard as it is, I enjoy doing it; but, I am extremely thankful to Enzo Marmora for contributing so generously to every issue. In addition to being an excellent bilingual writer in Italian and English, Enzo is an inexhaustible wealth of information of facts and cultural events taking place in both USA and Italy.

SOGNA's new president, vice-president and treasurer. You must have noticed our staff's reassignment of responsibilities; with Roberto Rizzo the new president, Antonio Torracca vice-president and Angela Rizzo the new treasurer. Bice Del Galdo remains the corporation secretary. SOGNA makes these changes every two years to foster new ideas while keeping the organization fresh and dynamic. In addition, we encourage every member to propose new group activities and ideas on how to expand our membership. Please, write to us at staff@gioi.com. Merry Christmas to all,

SEVERINO D'ANGELO

An Appreciation--On everyone's behalf, I want to thank Severino (no last name needed) for the considerable amount of time and resources he spends with the SOGNA association to the benefit of his compaesani. His enthusiasm and tireless promotion are fueled only by his pride and affection for Gioi and the Gioiesi. For Severino it is a labor of love. I consider his quarterly publication the crown jewel of the association and I hope he continues to improve an already excellent product-Grazie and keep it up!

ENZO MARMORA

Dual Citizenship--Like everyone else, when I became an American citizen in the late 1960's, I had to forfeit Italian citizenship to comply with the laws of that time. When the laws were later changed allowing dual citizenship, I did not act with the urgency required; being busy at the time, falsely believing the Italian law allowing dual citizenship applications was permanent. However, when I finally went to the Italian consulate to pick up the applications, I learned that the time had expired 3 weeks earlier. Disappointed, I judged the decision illogical since they had allowed 2nd and 3rd generation Italians to obtain their Italian citizenship while denying it to Italians born in Italy.

The same thing happened to Severino D'Angelo. However, Severino was determined to regain it no matter how much hardship, and in the end his tenacity and patience paid off. Severino elected to navigate the same long application route of immigrants living in Italy who wanted to become Italian citizens. That necessitated from Severino several trips to Italy to expedite the bureaucracy, in addition to suffering the humiliating long lines along with Northern Africans, Eastern Europeans and people from the Orient, to finally regain his Italian citizenship.

Going back to my situation, after disembarking the plane in Rome, I will continue to walk towards the section signposted: "Passengers not citizens of the European Union" for passport control and will continue to feel an orphan in my heart.

ENZO MARMORA

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SOGNA Quarterly is published by SOGNA Inc. (Societa' Organizzata da Gioiesi in Nord-America), a non-profit organization engaged in charitable and educational work, including but not limited to: providing financial assistance to the needy, sponsoring scholarships and fostering awareness and interest in the Italian culture and Language. SOGNA is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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SOGNA New President--We congratulate Dr. Robert Rizzo and "First Lady" Anna Maria on his election as president of the SOGNA association. We are grateful that he has agreed to serve despite his numerous obligations and we all agree that the approachable and well respected Dr. Rizzo will be a SUPERB president.

ENZO MARMORA

The Ratzinger Effect--Who Knew?

When the charismatic Pope John Paul II died and Joseph A. Ratzinger (Benedict XVI) was elected pope April 19, 2005 nearly everyone said, "He'll never be like John Paul II" and some people in the press, possibly in a disrespectful way, referred to him as "the German Shepard." Now, with Benedict XVI almost 3 years in his papacy, the numbers are out indicating that religious tourism in Rome has increased 20%, hotel occupancy is up 25% and the number of pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square and at the papal audiences have surpassed even those of the beloved Pope Wojtila. Now observers are debating why this conservative pope has become so hugely popular and why nobody predicted it.

Call it the Ratzinger Effect. The Pope will visit New York and Washington from April 15 to April 20, 2008. the more people get to know this piano playing theologian the more the like him. WELCOME to America!

ENZO MARMORA

The Jersey City Rebirth—Jersey City, a city synonymous with Gioi's emigration having been their first home in America and a place where many Gioiesi still live and work, after several years of decline, has made an astounding comeback. In the late 1970s when manufacturing jobs started migrating south and the middle class in large numbers moved to the suburbs (all of which eroded the tax base of the city because they were the backbone of the city's economy), everyone feared the worst. Luckily in the early 80's, New Yorkers initiated the gentrification of many neighborhoods, rehabilitated brownstones and row houses, and converted manufacturing buildings into luxury lofts. PATH trains service 4 stations in Jersey City, making the commute to and from Manhattan short and convenient; that, added to a new monorail system traversing the entire city, contributed in transforming the vast industrial wasteland and abandoned rail yards near the Hudson River into magnificent riverfront communities comprised of countless luxury residential towers, hotels, and massive office tower. The area is now known as "Wall Street West" because these office towers provide office space for the expanding stock market and finance industries. The houses in the downtown area that many people (including Gioiesi) walked away from in the 1960s are now worth millions. A new state park

(Liberty State Park) was created nearby. It is comprised of approximately 1.212 acres and 2.5 miles of shorelines (www.njparksandforests.org) with a spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline and New York Harbor including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Just to the south of the park in the "Caven Point" area, an exclusive \$150 million (land not included) waterfront golf course has been constructed. The 200 memberships, which cost about half a million dollars each, were sold immediately. The Renaissance of Jersey City continues to accelerate, reviving a city that seemed as though it was slowly dying. Thank you geography and mass transit!

ENZO MARMORA

The wise decision on how to travel to Italy--If you are contemplating vacationing in Italy in the near future, but you are an inexperienced traveler, or you lack the stamina essential for the logistics of traveling independently, or you just want to avoid budget miscalculations (due also to the strong Euro), I recommend that you choose an all inclusive escorted tour package by reputable tour operators. In doing so, you will have a vacation without stress and anxiety, and return full of pleasant memories. The two most reliable and experienced tour operators to Italy are:

Perillo Tours
1-800 431-1515
www.perillotours.com

Central Holidays
1-800 935-5000
www.centralholidays.com

Proceed to request ASAP a brochure and after careful comparison and review, select and reserve the vacation tour that you desire, taking into consideration that July and August are uncomfortably hot. The next thing to do is to go to the travel section of a bookstore such as Barnes and Noble and pick the guidebooks related to your future trip so you can do your homework before departing. The best guidebooks are the British published Blue Guide Series. They are the most comprehensive, informed and up-to-date books. Another good idea would be to schedule your trip so that when the escorted tour is over, you can go to Gioi for a few days.

Note: In the June 2008 issue Severino and I will review and rate all the Bed and Breakfast and Agriturismos available in Gioi. On the other hand, if you have the experience, confidence and discipline to travel "freelance" I can only suggest restaurants in cities that may be part of your itinerary, where you can rest assured you will be served mouthwatering regional specialties. I recommend the following restaurant in Naples, Rome and Milan.

Naples:
Ristorante La Tavernetta
15 Via Loggia di Genova
phone – (081) 204435
The restaurant is located near the university and Via Nuova Marina. Here you will find Neapolitan specialties perfectly cooked using the freshest of ingredients, all at very reasonable prices.

In Rome, I recommend 2 restaurants that serve Roman specialties of consistent high quality.

Ristorante Fiore di Zucca
16 Via Donizetti, near Piazza Verdi (Parioli district)
Phone – (06) 84242417

Trattoria Monti
13 Via San Vito
(near Via Carlo Alberto and Piazza V. Emmanuel)
Phone – (06) 446-6573

In Milan, I recommend two restaurants that serve traditional Milanese dishes of high quality and sophistication.

Antica Trattoria Della Pesa
10 Viale Pasubio (near Cimitero Monumentale)
Phone – (02) 655-5747

Bebel Ristorante
38 Via San Marco (Brera district)
Phone – (02) 657-1658

Also, while in Milan, be sure not to miss Peck, the spectacular three story gourmet food store unlike any other in the world.

Peck
9 Via Stadari (near Piazza Duomo)
www.peck.it
Phone – (02) 802-3161
Closed Sunday and Monday mornings. The huge building is a mecca for food lovers where, besides purchasing high quality food products, you may also have a meal, an espresso or a drink. It may be expensive, but not out of line considering the quality it offers. Buon Viaggio!

ENZO MARMORA

New Address for Italian Consulate--For those of you who may not be aware, the Italian Consulate in Newark is no longer on Broad Street. The new address is:
1 Gateway Center, Suite 100, 1st floor
Newark, NJ, next to Penn Station.
Phone--(973) 643-1448

ENZO MARMORA

P.S.: In a related matter, I inform everyone who needs information or assistance regarding Italian pension, Italian taxes, translation of documents, power of attorney, etc, you can call Carla Mastropierro at the:

Italian Educational and Cultural Center--Casa Colombo
380 Monmouth Street, Jersey City, NJ-(201) 963-6332.

ENZO MARMORA

Progress of the A3 Highway--Work on the A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria highway widening and reconstruction has finally been completed in regard to the section of the road till Battipaglia that effects those who need to reach Gioi coming from Rome and the North and vice versa. We hope the Extra Lane available will alleviate the traffic for motorists. Work for the rest of the highway south of the Cilento area, will continue for many years, the job made difficult by the need to build tunnels and bridges through the mountainous terrain and the necessity to keep the road open during the expansion.

ENZO MARMORA

A couple with uncommon human qualities--It is common knowledge that Alberto and Carmelina Infante's house is the bed and breakfast, (lunch and dinner, etc.) of choice for Gioiesi visiting America. On behalf of the SOGNA family, I would like to express our gratitude and admiration for their hospitality and unselfishness.

ENZO MARMORA

The Loss of Two Giants--During the past months we have lost two giants of modern Italian culture. First Oriana Fallaci, the famous columnist and author, died of breast cancer. Then, in September, Tenor Luciano Pavarotti died of pancreatic cancer. Both lived a good part of the year in New York City, she in her townhouse on 62nd Street, he in his duplex on Central Park South near Columbus Circle. The *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* in Manhattan has recently commemorated both with retrospectives regarding their contribution to culture.

ENZO MARMORA

Death of a Young and Beloved Priest--Don Nicola Torraca, a Gioi native and the parish priest of Orriapiano Vetrale, died October 5, 2007 of cancer at his home in Gioi. Sadly he died when the town was in a festive mood celebrating the feast of the Madonna Del Rosario with the symphony orchestra in town. Our condolences go to his brother Don Marco Torraca, also a priest, the rest of his family and all those who loved him. Our condolences also go to his Ecclesiastic family, first among all, Don Guglielmo Manna, the Vicar of the Diocese. Don Nicola was only 48 years old.

ENZO MARMORA

In addition to Don Nicola, below is a list of other Gioiesi who have died in Italy in 2007:

Doctor Daniele Ferri
Pierina Maio
Giannino Iorio
Giannino D'Urso
Italo Grompone
Nannina Ciardella
Nicola Parrillo
Silvia Raimondo
Filomena Bruno
Elena Garofalo
Anita Nese
Carmelo Ferra
Loreto Torraca
Federico Marmora
Peppino Ferra
Carmela Grasso
Rinoccia Marmora
Giannina Nese
Linoccia Parillo
Giovannina Scarpa
Antonio Nese (Centisso)
Antonio Nese (Pelato)
Vincenzo Torraca
Antonio Salati
Felicedda Ferra
Ninnarella Reielli-Catino

Below are listed those Gioiesi who have died in the States in 2007:

Eva Rizzo
Tony Rizzo
Tony Santomauro
Carolina Santomauro
Antonietta Ventre-Scarpa
Caterina Ferra
Giuseppina Capozzoli

As you can see, 2007 has been a devastating year for Gioiesi both here in America and in Italy. The loss of 33 people all friends and relatives, is a staggering number. The SOGNA family extends its condolences to all the mourning families and surviving friends.

Enzo Marmora

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Italian film at Moma until December 30th.--The museum of modern art (MOMA) is presenting a retrospective on the acclaimed film director Giuseppe De Santis, to acknowledge his place in the Italian Neo-realism along side with Desica, Antonioni, Visconti, Rossellini, Etc. The films being screened are:

Riso Amaro (Bitter Rice)
Caccia Tragica (A Tragic Hunt)
Roma Ore 11 (Rome 11 O'clock)
Giorni Di Gloria (Days of Glory)
Non c'e' Pace tra gli Olivi
(There is no Peace among the Olive Trees)
Giorni D'Amore (Days of Love).
For film schedule call 212-708-9480.
www.mona.org
MONA is located at 11 West 53rd Street
New York City.

Enzo Marmora

50 Anni di Altruismo--Mi sento onorato di essere amico e di rendere omaggio ad Attilio Rizzo, un'icona della comunità Gioiese d'America da 50 anni. Attilio, nonostante numerose avversità incontrate durante la sua vita, tra le quali anni di dura prigionia in Africa durante la seconda Guerra mondiale, la prematura morte dei suoi sette fratelli minori e aver avuto l'amata moglie Maria invalida a letto per molti anni fino alla sua scomparsa nel 1993, e` sempre stato e rimane un ottimista. Attilio si sente più che ripagato con le molte soddisfazioni che la sua famiglia e l'America gli hanno concesso nella vita. Padre esemplare per i suoi figli, Attilio ha sempre trovato, tra molte altre azioni altruistiche, il tempo per assistere altri Gioiesi con la sfortuna di essere afflitti da gravi malattie. Altri sarebbero stati incapaci di affrontare il simultaneo arrivo negli Stati Uniti di 16 parenti da lui sponsorizzati (fu necessario noleggiare un autobus per il trasporto dall'aeroporto), invece Attilio, uomo di rara fede e coraggio, con la calma li ospito' tutti e successivamente procuro` loro lavoro e appartamenti. Ci auguriamo che Attilio sia premiato per le sue virtù con una lunga vita.

Enzo Marmora

In this festive season, the SOGNA family want to wish everyone a heartfelt Merry Christmas and Happy 2008. As it is customary to say in Gioi:

***"May all of you celebrate another 100 years!"
"NATI CIENTO!"***

**VIVA GIOI AND THE GIOIESI
EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD!**

vero e non semplici gesti di saluto. La sera della festa ho avuto occasione di apprezzare lo spirito che tiene unita tutta la comunità al punto da sentirmi come se fossi in un ambiente familiare tra vecchi amici. E' stata un'esperienza molto bella di cui siamo grati a tutti.

L'orologio che ci è stato donato in occasione del Dinner Dance è in bella mostra in soggiorno e segna l'ora di New York, questo è per noi un modo per sentire più vicini tutti voi e di sentirci vicini a voi. Non mi dilungo ulteriormente anche per dare la possibilità a Severino di pubblicare qualche altra cosa sulla newsletter senza occupare tutto lo spazio disponibile. Voglio concludere salutando tutti con affetto rinnovando il mio ringraziamento insieme a quello di Rosanna, Nicola e Mauro.

Buon Natale a tutti, Giacomo Reilli





BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO!
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SOGNA

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