Italian Language and Culture Lessons
See page 6

New County Event Plans Approved!
For details, see story and photos, page 5

New Events! Exciting Festival Area Changes!

Casino Night!
August 9

New soldier statue
For details, see page 2
Mercer County have agreed on an architectural plan that will create “a feast inside of a festival.” A designated area, named “Restaurant Row,” will have streets named after those from the Chambersburg area. For more detailed information and illustrations of this new layout, please see the article on page 5. The intent is to recreate the street-like atmosphere of the Feast of Lights. The food vendors will be surrounded by beverage tents.

The county has made an enormous contribution by building a beautiful, expansive amphitheatre. When I first saw it, I was overwhelmed by the size of this new performance area. In addition to the stage area, there will be two new main entrances. Also, the Cultural Pavilion (skating rink) is also being restored. Our market tent area is also being rejuvenated. We will continue to have our rides, bocce, bingo, petting zoo, and other amusements as well. Everything will be bigger, better and brand new!!

Inside our Cultural Pavilion, we will have special displays for military veterans this year. All areas of the military will be represented. Outside our Italian-American Heritage Center, we have recently installed a new military statue dedicated to all areas of our armed forces. (Please note the photo of the soldier statue on the front cover.) The display of this statue represents not only a public tribute to the military, but one of personal significance to me. Just as many families endured the hardships of war, I also experienced the loss of my brother who was killed in World War II.

The festival association recently added a new volunteer. Although he does work for food, my new dog Matto helps to pull me back when I start to run in all directions. At 6 months, he already weighs 80 pounds and seems to be growing as fast as the festival is expanding. We’re shown below on this page.

I’ve become aware of other Italian organizations struggling to continue, as well as newly-formed organizations. I invite them all to become part of the festival activities. Also, other Italian news media have taken an interest in the growth of our festival, and I encourage them to continue to support our mission.

I’m extremely excited about the new concept, and I’m sure that you will be amazed at the improvements when you attend our upcoming 2014 festival in September! As always, this festival would not be possible without the help of all our volunteers. Thanks to all of you.
During the months of July through early August, a replica of DaVinci’s flying machine will be on display at the Lawrence Library, located at the corner of Darrah Lane and U.S. Route 1 in Lawrenceville. The display will be part of the Mercer County Library’s Summer Reading Program for children.

Provided by MCIAFA member and festival artist Bill Plank, the flying machine has been a part of the cultural exhibit in the Cultural Pavilion of the Italian-American festivals for the past several years.

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**Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association**

**Free Associate Membership & Volunteer Form**

**Date**___________________________________

Come join one of the largest and fastest growing Associations in Mercer County!

Membership is **FREE** and you will be put on our mailing list automatically. We just ask that you help promote our heritage. If you would like to be active, here are some of the activities you may want to participate in:

Please check box/boxes if interested:

- Office Work
- Help with On-Site Operations at Festival
- Join a Committee
- Help at Monthly Dinners
- Help at Other Events at MCIAF Center
- Vendor
- 50/50 On-site sales
- Columbus Day Parade
- Maintenance Help at MCIAF Center

**Name:**__________________________________  **Address:**____________________________________

**Occupation:**______________________________  **City:**__________________  **State:**_______  **Zip:**_____________

**Telephone:** (home)__________________  (work)__________________  (cell)__________________  E-mail__________________

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL:** Cav. John Scarpati, President

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture.

Donations are **tax deductible** and are appreciated.

Website:  www.italianamericanfestival.com  email: buongiorno2000@optonline.net
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Festival 50/50: Gino Melone, Chair; Marion Bolton, Karen Coate, Co-Chairs; Donna Povia, Rita Capone, Mgrs.
Festival Layout Plans: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Ted Caruso, Bill Plank, Vic Russo
Festival Photographers: Paul Donini, Bill Plank
Festival Signs: Ed DiPolvere, Chair; Gus Perilli, Co-Chair; John Devlin, Lou Dorio, Asst. Co-Chairs
Fireworks: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Chair
Food Vendors: Joe DiPaolo, Chair; Joan Burkholdt, Admin. Asst.; Rocco Riccio, Dave Tallone
Grounds Maintenance - Portable Lighting, Hauling, Restrooms, Cleanup, Trash & Waste Mgmt.: John Scarpati Jr., Chair; Herman Ramos, Co-Chair
Honorary Festival Consultant: Anthony Massi
Information Tent: Sally Van Fleet, Chair; Frieda Santillo, Pat Terlecki, Co-Chairs
Mass: Msgr. Innocenzi; Cathy DiCostanzo, Chair; Joe Pica, Co-Chair; Anthony Chianese, George Dougherty, Procession/Music
Memorabilia: Anthony Chianese, Chair
Merchandising – In-House: TBA
Military & Veterans/Special Events: Kathi Adie, Chair; John Adie, Co-Chair
Military Medal of Honor: Dennis Bush, Chair
Off Site 50/50 Business Sales: Gino Melone, Chair
Parking: Wayne DeAngelo, Chair; Joe Povio, Co-Chair
Petting Zoo: Cav. John Scarpati, Sr., Chair
Photographers - In-House: Nina VanDeleur, Bill Plank

Columbus Day Parade/Ball Committee:
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Volunteers are needed. Any area of expertise is welcome to help with our festival activities, special events at our heritage building, and building maintenance.

Look for These New Festival Events
Cav. John Scarpati and Military and Veterans Co-Chair
John Adie are making arrangements for the famous boxer Vito Antufermo and other athletes.
If you have been to Mercer County Park lately, you may have noticed quite a few changes in upgrading of the park and the festival area. Because of these improvements, the layout of our festival will be different than in past years. We believe the changes will make the festival better than ever, for those behind the scenes, as well as those attending the festival.

The food vendor set-up will be reminiscent of the food and merchandise booths that lined the streets of Chambersburg (The Burg), where le Festa della Madonna SS. Assunta in Cielo, Protettrice di Casandrino, more commonly referred to as The Feast of Lights, first began in 1906. As festival patrons travel down the newly-created Butler, Elmer and Mott Streets, sampling the wonderful foods and desserts of the vendors, we hope to bring back the memories of years gone by and the feelings associated with the original Feast of Lights held in “the Burg.”

The new layout should prove to be an exciting change to the Mercer County Italian American Festival. We hope that everyone will enjoy a taste of both the older traditions, plus make way for a newer look and feel to attract even more people, not just those of Italian descent, but from many backgrounds.

It should be a wonderful experience for all!
The Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association will be supporting the following organizations with scholarships!

**Italian American National Hall of Fame**  
**West Trenton Italian American Club**  
**Princeton Pettoranello Foundation**  
**Amici Della Lingua Italiana**  
**Unione E. Fratellanza Sanfelese**  
**Coccia Foundation**

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association and the Columbus Day Parade Committee will be honoring the following students with scholarships: Jessica Giordano and Melissa Rufano from Steinert High School; Christopher Eckhardt from Nottingham High School; and Madison Eram from Hamilton High.

A special scholarship will be given to Lea Abreau, from Nottingham High School, who performed the American and Italian-American anthem at last year’s flag-raising ceremony and the Columbus Day Ball.

We also support other organizations that support our organization such as the Sunshine Foundation and Ryan’s Quest.

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**Italian Culture Classes Well Received by Students**

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association held two sessions of Italian Classes at the Italian-American Heritage Building in Hamilton NJ, which ended on May 14th. The outcome was successful and the students enjoyed this initial approach to the Italian Language and Culture. The President of MCIUSA, Cav. John Scarpati and the Italian Instructor Giulia Vallucci are looking forward to a new set of classes and invite you to visit our Heritage Building, 2421 Liberty St., Hamilton NJ 609-631-7544. If you are interested, please contact the office.

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Above, Italian Class photo includes, from bottom left, Christine Scarpati, Gianna DaBronzo, Elizabeth Millar, Beverly DiBenedetto, Joe Urbano, Instructor Giulia Vallucci, Sally Van Fleet, Jack Seire, Joan Burkholder and Siria Vallucci-Pirone.
Men’s Night A Grand Success!

Cav. John Scarpati, center, flanked by comedians Don Ippaletto, at left, and Pat O’Donnell, at right, made possible a terrific night of food, laughter and good time at the March 27 Men’s Comedy Night.
Upcoming Event
Save this date!

Casino Night!
August 9, 2014