

MISSISSIPPI



(L. to R.) OSIA's David Gratta, Gov. Barbour, state legislator Lee J. Davis and Consul General Colognato discuss Italy-US economic initiatives.

OSIA at-large member **David Gratta**, consular correspondent for **Gianfranco Colognato**, Italy's Consulate General in Miami, attended a three-day meeting in the Magnolia state that brought together leading Italian corporate, industrial and government representatives, who met with **Gov. Haley Barbour** to discuss business initiatives. One of them involves Alenia, an Italian firm building portions of the international space station, which is considering establishing a facility in Mississippi.

VIRGINIA

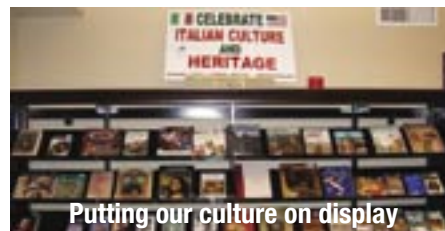
About 750 children in rural Ashburn now know more about Italy, thanks to **Lorraine Moffa**. When she learned her children's elementary school was having a Cultural Arts Day last October, she wanted to set up a booth on Italy, but had no materials. She contacted OSIA National in DC who gave her bookmarks, fact sheets, posters, a video of Sicily and even a Sons of Italy T-shirt (as her "uniform"). Now Lorraine plans to start a lodge in her community.



Lorraine Moffa: making a difference!

PENNSYLVANIA

All who visited the Hanover Public Library last October learned about Italian Americans' literary contributions through a dramatic display mounted by the **Buoni Amici Lodge #2772**. "Subjects ranged from history and biography to the arts and theater," says member **Bob Massa-**



Putting our culture on display roni. "And the display was up the entire month."

MARYLAND



OSIA's Sam Culotta, Esq., 84 (R) has marched in Baltimore's Columbus Day parade for 60 years, but gondoliere Gabe Contrino has for "only" 37!

For decades, the **Grand Lodge of Maryland** has supported Columbus Day activities in Baltimore, including a festival, mass, wreath-laying ceremony, and, of course, a parade which features an authentic gondola. Baltimore hosts the oldest continuous Columbus Day parade in the nation.

A HELPING HAND

The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) scholarship fund received a generous donation *and* his co-workers learned more about Italy with help from at-large member **Antonino Pollaro** last September.

When his employer, **BP Lubricants USA, Inc.** in Wayne, NJ announced it was sponsoring "Cultural Awareness Days" to celebrate the diversity of its many employees, Antonino volunteered to head an Italian team.

He and 10 co-workers set up a booth with Italian books, a bocce display, a map, Italian music on CDs and a raffle, which raised more than \$200.00. The team donated the money to the SIF and BP matched the donation. Grazie Antonino and friends!

Does your company match charitable donations? If so, remember the SIF and the CSJ are both eligible as non-profit organizations. Contact OSIA National at 202/547-2900 if you need more info.



The Italian Team's Arlene Orfino during BP's cultural awareness event that raised nearly \$500 for the SIF.

NEW YORK

Forget the sausages and peppers! For Italian American Heritage Month, **Centennial Lodge #2828** in New York City showcased talent with its first performing arts series, *OSIA: On Stage Italian Artists* October 6 and 8, 2006.

Playing to packed houses both nights were 12 singer/songwriters, whose music ranged from Country to Pop to Opera and actors reading a play followed by a panel discussion on Italian culture.

The event was co-produced with **Bob Leone**, formerly of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. In the audience was **Chazz Palminteri**. The enormous success prompts Lodge President **JoAnn Robertozzi** to make this an annual event.



(L. to R.): Allison Scola, Theresa Sareo, JoAnn Robertozzi and Michael Castaldo perform in their lodge talent show.

COLORADO

Congratulations to the **Denver Lodge #2075** on a successful open house that was launched by a dynamic marketing campaign (see Italian America, fall 2006). Seventy-five prospective members attended the event that featured a bocce tournament and a moon bounce for the kids. By the end of the day 15 new members, most with young families, signed up and many more took applications home.



Even kids had fun at the Denver Lodge Open House.

OF NOTE

- **William D. Bucci**, president, Grand Lodge of Pa, was appointed to the Court of Judicial Discipline by Gov. Edward Rendell Oct. 5, 2006. Hon. Bucci will bring his skills from the brokerage and securities industry to the court in the non-lawyer elector seat on the bench.
- Chef **Bert Cutino** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Chefs Oct. 8, 2006. An OSIA at-large member, he is co-founder/COO of The Sardine Factory Restaurant in Monterey, CA.
- Five years after losing his son on 9/11, Peter A. Gay, OSIA National President **Peter B. Gay** (1973-75) unveiled a monument to him and to the police and firefighters, who also died during terrorist attack. The monument was unveiled Sept. 10, 2006 in Taunton, MA's Memorial Park. Funds raised for it were also spent to clean and landscape the park where Peter A. Gay used to play as a child. The SIF contributed to this cause.



- **Michael C. Rainone**, of the Commonwealth Lodge #1949 in Philadelphia, was awarded the 2006 Cesare Beccaria Award, the highest award presented annually by the Justinian Society of Philadelphia and the Criminal Justice Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
- OSIA National Past President **John G. Spatuzza** (1975-1977) of Chicago has been made an Emeritus Trustee on the Board of the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, having previously served on the Board of Trustees for a decade. Joining him as emeriti trustees are Sen. Bob Dole, Joan Mondale and Charlton Heston, among others.

GOT A GOOD STORY?

Send details with your lodge's name and number (photo optional) to: *ITALIAN AMERICA* Magazine, 219 E Street NE, Washington, DC 20002 or E-mail ddeanctis@osia.org. **Include a daytime telephone no.** Entries not acknowledged and photos not returned unless requested.