



Il Notiziario

[The Newsletter]
of the

Friends of Isola delle Femmine, Inc.



<https://friendsofisoladellefemmine.org> email: Friendsofisola@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook

Volume 2, Issue 2

Editor: A.A. Grillo

Spring: April 1, 2021

News from our Executive Board

by Frank B. Bruno

Buon Giorno,

WHERE has the time gone? We have already completed the first quarter of 2021 and the terrible pandemic is still with us. It has forced us to change our Sicilian-American ways. Greeting friends without a big hug? Not inviting relatives for a pasta dinner? It's just not our style, but we've adapted to the need. By the time of this newsletter most, if not all of us, will have started or completed our vaccinations. We all look forward to this, our way back to feeling Sicilian-American again.

We did have to postpone, yet again, our "That's Italian" Dinner Show at the Colombo Club until October 2, 2021. We have reserved this date with the Colombo Club and we will have this event, God willing. Some more good news, former Sindaco Stefano Bologna, has expressed his interest in joining us in October along with five other Isolani. Won't that be great! We will have a spectacular event with great entertainment and food in a beautiful venue.

On February 19, we had a Zoom meeting with Sindaco Nevoloso, the new mayor of Isola, and a few of the city council members. More on this in the What's Happening section.

We are proud to announce the winners of our first Scholarship program. Our winners are good students and exhibit well how we are passing our heritage onto the next generation. More about our winners will appear on our website.
Antonia Cardinale, granddaughter of Pete Cardinale attending Cal State University Fresno
Giovanni Ferrante, son of Joseph Ferrante to attend San Francisco State University
Francisco Cardinale, grandson of Pete Cardinale to attend Cal State University Fresno
Angelina Shipe, granddaughter of Patrice Belleci-Shipe & Jimmy Shipe Sr. to attend UC Davis
Annamaria Cardinale Crone, daughter of Philomena Crone attending UC Berkeley
Anna Lucido, granddaughter of Mary Lucido attending Cal State University Monterey Bay

Since the last newsletter we have added 16 additional new members to our list, check out their names on the last page of this newsletter. Our website has expanded with more photo's, stories, genealogy, and videos. Check it out.

Help us expand our efforts, keeping us moving forward by renewing your membership and spreading word of what we are doing. Ask someone to join us. Have them go to www.friendsofisola.org -> Become a Member and sign up.

The Executive Board has been hard at work. Thank you to Mary Pappas Coniglio for her unwavering dedication to our cause, and to Vincent S. Di Maggio for his support & ideas for making our organization better, to Alex Grillo, our editor of this newsletter. Thanks to the newsletter contributors, Sal Coniglio, Vincent Ferrante and Vincent Malfitano for their participation in everything we do. Thanks to Cyril Bonanno for keeping us abreast of the status of the Colombo Club and participating in our scholarship committee. Thank you to Albert Seeno, Jr. for his generosity, expertise, and love for what we are doing for our heritage and for the citizens of Isola delle Femmine.

2021 will be a great year for FOI, for Isola delle Femmine, for America, for the world.

Grazie Mille Tutti!

To preserve, protect, and promote the Italian-Sicilian cultural heritage among the descendants, immigrants, citizens and friends of Isola delle Femmine, Sicily and around the world.

Co-founder & Chairman of the Board: V.S. Di Maggio, Co-founder & President: F.B. Bruno,
Vice-President & Secretary: M. Pappas-Coniglio, Treasurer: V.M. Malfitano D.M.D.,
Liaison to Isola delle Femmine: S.N. Coniglio, Advisor & Business Consultant: A.D. Seeno, Jr.,
Historian: V.S. Ferrante, Historian & Researcher: A.A. Grillo, Membership Advisor: C. Bonanno

News from Isola

by Frank B. Bruno

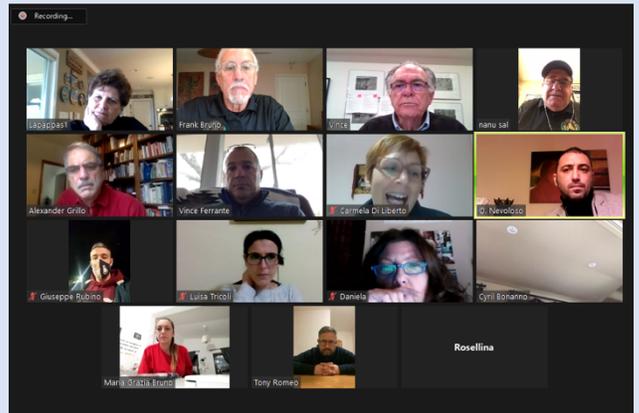
Meeting with Sindaco Nevoloso of Isola Delle Femmine - February 19, 2021

On Friday February 19, some of our Executive Board members met Sindaco of Isola, Orazio Nevoloso and a few members of the city council via a Zoom meeting. In attendance were the Mayor and his lovely wife Elena and their beautiful daughter Sveva. Also, joining were Maria Grazie Bruno, Tony Romeo, Carmela Di Liberto, Daniela Giambona, Luise Tricoli, Giuseppe Rubino. Rosalina Catania tried to join the Zoom meeting but couldn't connect.

Joining us from FOI were Vincent S. Di Maggio, Mary Pappas Coniglio, Salvatore N. Coniglio (who was our interpreter and who did a great job), Alex Grillo, Vincent S. Ferrante, Cyril Bonanno & Frank B. Bruno who moderated the event.

The meeting went well. Frank introduced the whole FOI board and Sindaco Nevoloso introduced his delegation who attended the virtual meeting. It was decided that the city will work with Stefano Bologna's group in Isola, which consists of Stefano, Rosa Bologna, Tonino Scala, Marco Mogavero, Martini Cina and many others.

Another meeting will be planned to discuss our relationships in more detail.



Gallery Picture of Those Who Joined the Meeting

Biography of Sindaco Nevoloso

Orazio Nevoloso was born on February 14, 1980, in Palermo into a family with strong fishing traditions. His father's name is Salvatore and, as a Municipal Councilman, was part of the committee that inaugurated the Sister City relationship with the city of Pittsburg in 1994. His grandfather's name is Orazio Nevoloso (known as "u zu' Zinuazzo"), and at the ripe old age of 96, he is one of the longest-living fishermen of Isola delle Femmine. His maternal grandfather was Francesco Vassallo (known as "u zu' Ciccio") and lived on via Di Maggio.

Orazio Nevoloso is married to Elena Rubino and has an 11 months old daughter, Sveva.

After completing technical studies at the Vittorio Emanuele III Institute, he graduated with the highest marks at the Engineering Faculty of the Palermo University in 2005. In the same year, he qualified as a computer engineer. In 2004 he visited New York, Boston and Cambridge during a university trip to the Boston University Metropolitan College (MET).

He worked for a short period in Milan (2005-2006) and then worked between Marsala (2006-2007) and Palermo (2007-currently). His focus is mainly on Software Engineering, Databases, Robotics and the Web.

Between 2002 and 2003 he was vice-president of the "Pro Loco of Isola delle Femmine", organizing many events to promote and enhance the status of the territory.

A lover of sport, he had an important role in leading the Isola delle Femmine football (soccer) team from 3rd category to the regional championship. However, in 2012 at the age of 32, he quit football to concentrate on swimming. In 2018, he competed in the "Italian Masters Swimming Championships", swimming the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle with good results. He also loves classical literature, psychology, painting and collects Dylan Dog since 1996!

In 2014, he was elected as a councilman and became leader of the local opposition group until 2020. In October 2020, he was elected Mayor of Isola delle Femmine.



Sindaco Nevoloso

What's Happening
by Frank B. Bruno

FOI Valentine's Day "Wine & Chocolate" Virtual Party - February 12, 2021, 6pm

Our event started right on time. We had 25 people in attendance. Mary Pappas Coniglio demonstrated how to make a Chocolate Martini. Nicky D entertained us with a couple of songs and Russ "Rizzi" Belleci spoke about the book *Italian American Country*-written by Paolo Battaglia as he followed the route of Ambassador Baron Edmondo des Planches for HIS book *Attraverso gli Stati Uniti (Across the United States)*. This is our story, the descendants of Isolani who settled in Pittsburg, Martinez and ultimately Monterey. The book paints a much larger picture of folks like us with Isolani descendants scattered all over the US from various regions of Italy. Our story is not unique.

Russ also touched upon the book *Una Storia Segreta* by Lawrence DiStasi. This book describes the terrible treatment of Italian Immigrants by the US government at the outset of WWII - the brunt of which was absorbed by Pittsburg Isolani, an

untold story about our forebears. Our grandchildren should know about this story especially in this time of increasing cultural awareness. This book and its companion prequel *Branded* available on Amazon Books site – both great reads that will make you sensitive to the plight of your grandparents. Thank you Rizzi Belleci.

Fun was had by all. In attendance were: Vincent & Midge DiMaggio, Vincent "Coach" Ferrante, Mary & Sal Coniglio, Alex & Jean Grillo, Joe & Caterina Ferrante, Grace Ann & Frank Verduzco, Mark Cardinale, Roselyn Malfitano, Vincent & Nicole Ferrante, Linda Haynes, Josephine Olney, Russ Belleci, Nicky D, Philomena Crone Cardinale, Cathy Bruno-DiMaggio and myself.



Gallery Picture of Those Who Joined the Party



We're thrilled that
Michael DiMaggio
has joined Guaranteed Rate Affinity!

Michael DiMaggio, Regional Manager
O: (408) 335-1009 C: (925) 683-9991
Michael.Dimaggio@grarate.com
1901 S. Bascom Ave., Suite 1600, Campbell, CA 95008

JOINGRAFFINITY.COM

guaranteedRate
AFFINITY

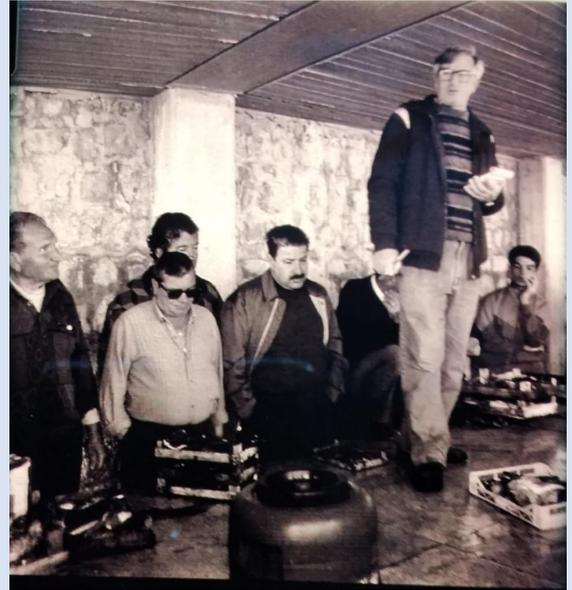
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS ID: 199847
Michael DiMaggio NMLS ID: 451955
Guaranteed Rate Affinity, LLC is an equal opportunity employer. (Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org)

I Ricordi d'Isola [Memories of Isola]

by Sal Coniglio

Pescheria Isola delle Femmine

Back in the day.....Isola's local fishermen would bring their catch every morning around 6 am to the Pescheria, the fish market. This Pescheria was located at the edge of the marina convenient to where the fishermen could tie up their boats and underneath what became the Piazza di Pittsburg. In those days, markets or restaurants wanting to purchase the freshest fish would come there and bid on what was brought in each morning as well as residents. The auctioneer would be in charge and he would put on a real show. It was fun to watch the faces of the fishermen who would try to influence the price of their catch with silent signals to the auctioneer. When I lived there, Vincenzo Crivello was the auctioneer. Then he passed the job on to his son Gaspare Crivello who is shown in the picture at above right.



La Pescheria Auction
Auctioneer Gaspare Crivello on the Platform
[Picture courtesy of Orazio Sansonini]



La Pescheria – Where It Used to Be
Piazza di Pittsburg on the Terrace Above

About 15 years ago, the fishermen decided to abandon the auction and began selling the fish themselves. They still bring their fish to the same place but negotiate the price themselves with prospective buyers. Residence can purchase their fish there directly from those who caught it or they can go later in the day to La Pescheria da Vincenzo across the street on Via Lungomare Eufemio.



La Pescheria da Vincenzo
[Picture courtesy of Orazio Sansonini]

Watch the Fish Market video on our website: www.friendsofisola.org

A Bit of History that Is Ours

by Frank Bruno

THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PITTSBURG AND ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE

In 1990, Vincent S. Di Maggio (Co-Founder & Chairman of FOI) traveled with his family to Isola to join the celebration of his Godparents', Mario and Kay Lucido, 50th Wedding Anniversary, which included renewing their marriage vows at the Santa Maria delle Grazie Catholic Church, with a reception at the Hotel Eufemia. While there, he met with Vincenzo Di Maggio, the then Mayor of Isola, and with Tonino Scala where they discussed the possibility of forming some alliance between Pittsburg and Isola delle Femmine. It was Tonino Scala who proposed a "Sister City" relationship between the two cities.

Upon Vince's return from Isola, he had occasion to call my Farmers Insurance office in Pittsburg. In talking together, we found that we were related, my mother being a Di Maggio, and both descendants of Isolani immigrants. Coincidentally, we were both planning to attend an upcoming fund raiser dinner for the Pittsburg Historical Society and decided to meet there in person for the first time.

At the dinner Vince asked me if Pittsburg had a sister city and if so, could they have an additional one. Even though Pittsburg had a sister city (Pohang, Korea), a sister city with Isola would be a more perfect fit given the long history of immigration from Isola since the late 19th century, such as my Nana Annie Belleci, Vince's great grandfather Giuseppe Di Maggio and Mary's great grandmother Angelina Di Maggio Cataldo, all immigrating near the end of the 19th century. I asked the then Mayor Joe Canciamilla and Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce Chairman Brad Nail if we could have another sister city and they both answered "YES". I relayed the answer to Vince and he said "let's do it." With that, we formed a committee of Mary Pappas Coniglio and Sal Coniglio, Rocco Battaglia, Vince "Rabbit" Coniglio, Sal Cacciaroni, Mike Troia, John Buffo, Vincent and myself.

Vince had taken note of the number of the FAX machine at the Hotel Eufemia when he was there earlier. With that communication path to Isola, he sent several messages back and forth between Pittsburg City Manager Tony Donato and Isola City Councilman Tonino Scala. Soon a connection was formed and things began to happen

The Isola delegation decided they would visit Pittsburg in October 1992 to make the Sister City relationship official. We had a lot of work to do. We secured agreement of the Pittsburg City Council to accept Isola delle Femmine as a Sister City. Mary Pappas Coniglio arranged all the details for the Isola delegation's 2-week visit and I raised funds to cover expenses. This first delegation from Isola delle Femmine arrived as planned in Pittsburg with then Mayor Giuseppe Mannino, Vice Mayor Stefano Bologna, City Councilmen Tonino Scala, Cosimo Pagano, and Gianni Impastato, and first Councilwoman Jolanda Bruno. They visited the State Capital,



The Original Fisherman Statue in Pittsburg
Decorated with the American and Italian flags for the visit of the
delegation from Isola delle Femmine in 1992.

Il Notiziaro
of the
Friends of Isola delle Femmine

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring: April 1, 2021

the cities of Monterey, Martinez, San Francisco as well as the city of Pittsburg. There were many parties and a huge welcoming reception at the Pittsburg Marina Center, attended by over 400 descendants from Isola delle Femmine, who visited with the Isola delegation. It was a historic and magical evening.

The Sister City relationship was officially established by a resolution of the City Council of the City of Pittsburg on November 16, 1992 and similar resolution by the city of Isola delle Femmine. Later, Monterey and Martinez followed becoming Sister Cities with Isola in 2017 and 2019 respectively.

During the Isola delegation's visit to Pittsburg in 1992, they saw the Fisherman Statue at the end of Railroad Avenue and 3rd Street, which Frank Vitale, also a Pittsburg descendent of Sicilian immigrants, had created years earlier in commemoration of Pittsburg's ties to Sicilian fishing. The delegation was adamant to have one for their new Piazza, which they named Piazza di Pittsburg in honor of our sister city relationship. In return the Pittsburg City Council approved and renamed a portion of Third Street from Marina Boulevard to Railroad Avenue, ending at the Fisherman Statue, "Isola delle Femmine" Boulevard.



Members of Our Committee in Front of the Fisherman Statue in Isola delle Femmine
From left to right: Sal Cacciaroni, John Buffo, Vincent S. Di Maggio, artist Frank Vitale,
Frank Bruno, Mary Pappas Coniglio, Rocco Battaglia and Vince "Rabit" Coniglio

Our committee agreed to have another Fisherman Statue built but I didn't know how we were going to raise the funds to build another statue or even if one could be made. First we asked the Fisherman Statue artist Frank Vitale if it was possible. He told us he still had the molds for the statue and graciously donated the only remaining mold of the original statue, as well as his time working on putting the sculpture together. We had to raise funds to pay for the materials, bronzing, and the foundry as well as the shipping costs.

With a lot of speeches to local Italian groups asking for donations and a little creative currency exchange financing, we were able to solidify the cost of making the statue and shipping it to Isola. We even had a little money left over to discount the trip costs for the travelers to Isola for the celebration of the Sister City union, the unveiling of the Fisherman Statue, and the dedication of the Piazza di Pittsburg in May, 1994. All the efforts were successful with the assistance and partnership of Mary Pappas Coniglio and Vincent S. Di Maggio. Their dedication and words of encouragement helped me do what needed to be done.

During our inauguration trip in 1994 for the dedication of the statue and Piazza, our committee members and their spouses were joined by 100 people from our community, mostly descendants of Isola. Many had never traveled to Italy or Sicily before. We all witnessed what was a wonderful heartfelt reception and dedication of the new Piazza di Pittsburg and the beautiful Fisherman Statue, which is now a symbol of our Sister City relationship as well as the symbol of the city of Isola delle Femmine itself. It was historic and a very emotional experience for everyone.

Il Notiziaro
of the
Friends of Isola delle Femmine

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring: April 1, 2021

There were follow-on Sister City trips in 1997, 2002, 2006, 2010, and in 2018 for the 25th Sister City Anniversary Celebration in Isola in which those attending also felt the magical experience of Isolani hospitality. While there in 2018, the City of Isola hosted an Immigrant's Celebration where 30 Northern California citizens witnessed the historic celebration of those Isolani citizens, who ventured to America, particularly to Pittsburg, in the late 1800's and early 1900's to make a better life for their families, our ancestors.

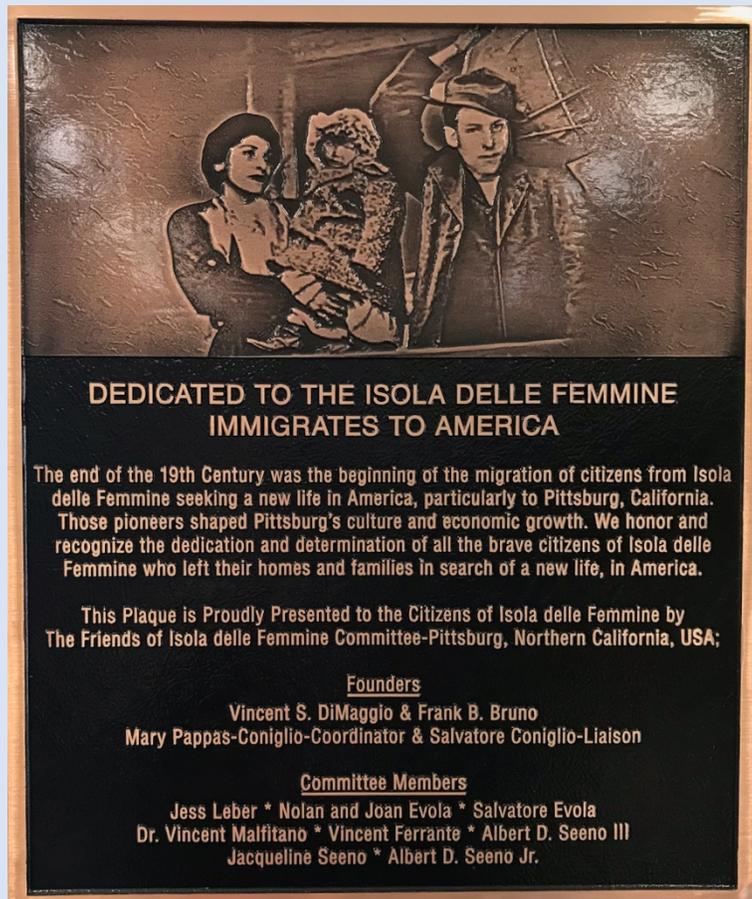
A plaque was presented to the City of Isola celebrating the historical event. It depicted a father, mother and a young child back in the late 1880's. The plaque was designed by Mary and myself. The face of the father was that of my father Ben J. Bruno, the mother that of Vincent S. Di Maggio's mother Stella Ann Verga, and the child that of Mary's mother Leonore Lombardo Pappas. The plaque was generously sponsored by Albert Seeno III. At the same time, the City of Isola honored Albert D. Seeno, Jr and his family as being the most successful and prosperous descendants from Isola delle Femmine. It was all an unbelievable experience and one we will never forget.

We have now formed The FRIENDS OF ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, to keep our culture and heritage alive for our children and families and we have expanded our efforts all over the USA and the World. We are especially proud of our organizations Board Members, who have generously contributed to two of our special programs, namely our Isola Relief Fund 2020, which is a direct financial support for those in need in Isola delle Femmine during the Covid-19 pandemic, and our First FOI Scholarship Program for 2021, which is available to students from any school district, who are our members, their children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, can meet the qualifications and applied before March 1, 2021.

All this came to fruition from the idea and pursuit of our own Vincenzo S. Di Maggio. Thank you, Enzo, for your vision, dedication, perseverance – your ancestors would be proud of you.

This was and is our adventure, our legacy, our calling, our time to continue the relationship started in the 1880's all the way to present times. *If not us, then who will keep the flame of our ancestors alive.* We encourage you to spread the word and keep our organization going by encouraging people to join The Friends of Isola delle Femmine organization. Go to our website to learn how, www.friendsofisola.org.

THERE ARE MANY EXCITING THINGS TO COME! WE CAN'T WAIT FOR THEM TO HAPPEN!
STAY TUNED!



Plaque Presented to the City of Isola delle Femmine
at the 25th Sister City Anniversary Celebration

Mangiate Bene Tutti [Eat Well Everyone]

by Mary Pappas-Coniglio “Mary’s Village Style” on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube
or on our Website: https://friendsofisoladellefemmine.org/food_travel/



Many women in the 1950's & 60's from Pittsburg, worked for Western California Cannery, in Antioch, California. The company was owned by Vincent A. Davi & Family. They processed locally grown crops, both tomatoes and asparagus. The company was a major employer in our community and supported many families. The women created many wonderful recipes that they shared with the other women in our community. This is one that my grandmother Virginia Cataldo, Lombardo, Costanza taught me. Both of my grandmothers worked in the cannery. My Mom, Leonore, worked in the office as a secretary/receptionist and she ran the switchboard. She also hired many of the local men and women who would come to the office in search of employment.

It was one of the largest employers for women in our community.

Cooking with Mary's Village Style Asparagus Patties

Ingredients

- 3 Bunches Fresh Asparagus (about 3 lb)
- 1 1/2 Cups Mary's Village Style Sicilian Style Homemade Bread Crumbs (recipe has been posted on my Facebook page)
- 1 Yellow Onion small (finely chopped)
- 3 Cups Parmesan Cheese (fresh grated)
- 2-3 eggs slightly beaten
- Canola oil enough for frying
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Directions

Cut asparagus in small rings one half inch in size and boil until tender with 1 teaspoon of salt. When asparagus is cooked, cool completely then place about 2-3 cups at a time in a towel and squeeze to remove all of the asparagus liquid that you can and discard. Sauté the finely chopped onion in a few tablespoons of canola oil until caramelized. If your asparagus is a little woody or your onion is cut too large, once it is all cooked you can put it all in the food processor and pulse it a few times. You want your asparagus mixture to be smooth with no woody or tuff pierces of asparagus or onion. Combine asparagus and onion mixture with Mary's Village Style Sicilian bread crumbs add cheese, salt and pepper to taste and mix well. Add slightly beaten eggs one at a time and mix well. Do not make the mixture too thin you may need less or more eggs depending on the size of the eggs or the amount of asparagus you have. You can always add more bread crumbs and cheese to thicken the mixture. Mixture should be thick but spoon-able like a thick batter... This recipe makes a lot of asparagus patties..... Use a hot fry pan (I like cast iron skillet) add about a half inch of oil to the hot pan. I use a 1/4 measuring cup of asparagus mixture to make one patty. Drop batter into hot oil and gently flatten with a spoon. When dark brown flip them over and press down and cook until golden brown. Drain on paper towels.

Note: I love the taste of the fried asparagus the darker the better, for me. This recipe makes a lot of patties so I always separate it in half before I add the eggs and freeze some of the mixture so it's ready for when I need an appetizer for guests. Enjoy!

Il Notiziaro
of the
Friends of Isola delle Femmine

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring: April 1, 2021

New Sustaining Charter Members of Friends of Isola delle Femmine, Inc.

Laura Traum	Michael V. Di Maggio	Catherine & Ersamo Aiello
Sal Sbranti	Daniel Pellegrini	Albert III & Mindy Seeno
Laura Young	Kathleen DiMaggio	Stacy O'Hara
Ernie Collins	Jackie Seeno	Santo Enea
Renee DiMaggio	Vincent Aiello	Philomena Cardinale Crone
Bartolo Cutino	Mary Goodman	Salvatore & Jennifer Ferrante
Michael DiMaggio	Pat Brookshire	<i>more to be published in future issues</i>

Sustaining members' dues for 2021 were due at the beginning of this year.
If you joined after July 1, 2020, your dues have been pro-rated for 2021.
We will appreciate this being taken care of soon if not already completed.

Ambassadors

Nicole Impagliazzo	Lou Esposito II	Vincent & Midge Di Maggio
Lisa Dondero	John Lineweaver	Vincent & Roselyn Malfitano
Ken Molinaro	Mike & Jan Fernandes	Salvatore M. Coniglio
Jim Coniglio	Albert & Sandy Seeno	Bert & Bella Cutino
Michael Orlando	Nicky D (DePaola)	Leandra Ramm Coniglio
Wolfgang Croskey	Frank & Robin Bruno	Virginia Simonian
Josie Esposito		

2020-2021 Sponsors



*To preserve, protect, and promote the Italian-Sicilian cultural heritage among the descendants,
immigrants, citizens and friends of Isola delle Femmine, Sicily and around the world.*