

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF MAUI  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
KAUNOA SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER  
MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

I need to dispense with the usual commentary about our *mangiare* [though it met up to the usual culinary brilliance of which our members are entirely capable] – in order to comment on our fearless leader's *intrepido*, the very stuff of which Caesar's legions were made as they subdued the Gauls and made them eat quiche.

But I digress ... There he was – painfully hobbled by a fall from the precipitous heights of his living room couch. Casting aside efforts to assist him and eschewing the comfort of wheelchair or crutch, Doc limped to the podium [Okay, so it's just a table!] and presided admirably, although wincing in silence as he covered the agenda ... item by item.

Verily, lesser men would have chosen to retreat to their homes, to the comfort of an ice pack [or three] ... but not James Vitale – the same man whose vision has seen the IACM through countless potlucks, not a few highway cleanups, and substantial scholarships for Maui's worthy.

All of the above, however, causes us to focus on an obvious irony: that of the podiatrist who broke his foot.

**PERSONAL NOTES:**

-- The Club welcomed Maria and Anthony Campagna, Maui veterans who left for Florida and find themselves aching to return to our island permanently [Please note that Anthony was once Doc's barber ... and, yes, Doc tipped handsomely.]

-- Maria and Anthony are staying with the Rawes' neighbor, another Mariya, with whom the Rawes share a garden [from eggplants to arugula].

-- We were also blessed by the presence of Giovanni Vito and Sharon Bennett, whose lives here and abroad are enviable. They spend each Fall in Italy ... Wouldn't you?

-- Frank Fiorentino's friend, Laura, has decided that Frank's predilection for Costco pizza has come to an end. She will, therefore, prepare an original potluck dish next time. Our concern, however, is that she may have to warm it in Frank's stove ... unused as it has been since Thanksgiving, 1996.

-- The Club's resident "Mighty Mite" – Slater -- is graduating from Kindergarten soon. To celebrate, he applied some unnamed *pomade* to his hair, the effect of which would make Fonzie envious.

-- Kathleen Biros has a weekly schedule that ranges from belly dancing to water aerobics to zumba [No, that's not the name of a now-defunct East German sedan.] Whether in Kihei or Sprecklesville or Pukalani, Kathleen moves and grooves ... while John, her chauffeur, ensures that she gets where she's going.

-- John, for his part, is rapidly finishing a den ... and it can't happen too soon. With his recliner chair, his 52-inch LED High Def television, and a dead-bolt for a lock, John only needs a slot in the door through which his meals can be served.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1) The Highway Cleanup is set for Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) The Summer Picnic will take place on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am until 4 pm, at Villa di Vitale.
- 3) The Flatbread Fundraiser is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) Our IACM Beach Party is on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> ... from 9 am until 3 pm, at Kamaole III.
- 5) The next IACM meeting will be at Kaunoa Center, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **MOMENTO ITALIANO [Two-Part, this evening]:**

- 1) Fred recounted his courting days at the Maria Maniaci household – when drinking espresso “straight up” endeared him to the sundry relatives at the dinner table. Even Uncle Pasquale Prestopino – resplendent in pinstripes and a fedora – shared some of his homemade *vino* with the young *straniero*.
  
- 2) Shortly afterward, Maria Campagna, one of this evening’s guests, launched into a monologue that began with her Sicilian connection to Maria Rawe [nee Maniaci] in the village of Brolo, and ended with ... well, no one is quite sure HOW it ended. Suffice to say, that the length and breadth of the account caused not a few eyes to glaze over, as we listened and forgot to listen ... then dozed and picked up the thread of the storyline, only to toss it aside, confused as we were by the several digressions and subplots that developed. As our narrator’s account mercifully wound down, Fred concluded that – despite being Irish-German -- he is a second cousin, thrice removed, to Victor Emmanuel III. Sort of!

## **LOTTERIA:**

There were winners and losers ... and then there was James Vitale, the Younger ... still trying to figure out how the “Italian Moment” seemed a “lifetime.”