



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MR) Millie Rahn. ()

Accession Numbers:

MR-04-05-FN- - -D- - -CS- - -M

Fieldnotes

Audio recordings

Photographic documentation

Additional materials

Initial Contact: _____ Contact Date: 6/24/2004Related Accession Numbers: - - - - -Individual/Group/Event: "A Taste of Italy" event in conjunction with Abbondanza exhibitAddress: [REDACTED]City: [REDACTED]

Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Contact person: _____

Title: _____

Location of Interview: above

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

County: _____

Special Needs (including translation): _____

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): Italian food and music

Traditions noted for follow-up: _____

Other Possible Contacts: see belowSummary Description: see attached

This event on Thursday, June 24th, was billed as "A Taste of Italy: An Evening of Italian Wine, Food, and Music," a ticketed event (\$35/\$30) to benefit the Abbondanza exhibit, oral history project, and the FHS. I made some great contacts there, most of which I was able to follow up.

A wine-tasting before the dinner was sponsored by Fifth Avenue Liquors, an Italian-run local wine shop. They had a variety of Italian wines and a handout (attached) showing what regions each wine was from.

Dinner was a veal and pasta dish from La Cantina restaurant (see later notes) in Framingham and an array of desserts from the Framingham Baking Company, both Italian-owned businesses. Individuals in the community also brought baked goods such as biscotti and anise-flavored waffle cookies called "pizelles". The centerpiece of the dessert table was a chocolate-frosted sheet cake with 2 crossed Italian flags and the word "Abbondanza" in white frosting.

The setting was festive, with a red, green, and white (colors of Italian flag) theme on the tables and similarly-colored balloons. The event had the air of a family reunion. Many people told me they miss the opportunity to have an evening with other Italians with whom they grew up, went to school, from same church parishes (St. Tarcisius and St. Brigid's), etc. One of the challenges most noted was keeping the momentum going after the exhibit closes, and also getting younger people involved in the Historical Society. Framingham's cable station 9 recorded the food and music.

The music was by the Peretta, a quartet on drums, 2 keyboard accordions, and clarinet. I talked to musicians afterwards, but they were extremely self-deprecating and didn't give me their names and all the leads I had to track them down were deadends: didn't get return calls, etc.

MC for the evening was FHS president Charles Garbarino Murphy who, in the context of the speaking about the exhibit, always emphasizes his Italian middle name, which was his mother's maiden name.

Other contacts:

Paul Morganti, president, Fifth Avenue Liquors "The Wine Sellers"

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cynthia Conigliaro, younger 3rd-generation woman married to 2nd-generation Italian. Also involved with trying to bring younger people into the FHS. Her husband, Greg, has lunch everyday at the Waverly Market, across the street from his office running the family business.

cell: [REDACTED]

Mary Casey. Her family has Italian roots and donated the Casey window at St. Brigid's. She's a retired English professor at Framingham State and said she taught many of the people at the dinner. She's also a former president of the FHS.

Gloria Cullotti. Had memories of Saturday nights at the old deli. Her father was in the restaurant business in Natick and Framingham, as are her husband and brothers.

Victor Galvani. Great resource. Has been taped as part of oral history project.

Elbert Tuttle, lawyer. Also good source for oral history.

Alma Turchi Hutchinson (wife of Dave Hutchinson, radio DJ who moderated Columbus Club oral history afternoon). Her brother is Lou Turchi, who was at the Columbus Club; and sister Fausta Turchi Stevens. Together the family were known as "the Turks."

[REDACTED]