

BRISCOLA NEWS[©]

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briscolaUSA[©]

Circolo della Briscola[©],
Washington, DC Chapter



THE MIRACLE ON THIRD STREET, N.W.

Just as in the famous Christmas movie starring Natalie Wood and Maureen O'Hara, we believed, and—Lo! And Behold!—we got our miracle: **MORE PARKING SPACES!**

Well . . . they're not yet available. So, *pazienza*; they're very much in the works.

The miracle-maker—**JOE NOVELLO**—whom we must all recognize as our very own **Santa Claus** (or, if you prefer, *nostro Babbo Natale*) started the ball rolling. No specific details are forthcoming, except to say that JOE had originally written a letter to the then **Mayor Adrian Fenti**, which was delivered personally at the time, but nothing further was heard until recently when, somehow, as I heard if from an independent source, **Father Lidio Tomasi** was involved in a special meeting, and . . . **VOILA!** The parking time restrictions in front of the Holy Rosary Church and its parking lot will soon be reverted back to **free parking** on the street after 6:30 P.M., instead of 10:30 P.M. Not so small a victory, but the ball doesn't stop rolling there, as other measures are hoped to be taken.

So, we now have an excellent occasion to award a special Certificate at our annual Awards Luncheon in April: **The Circolo della Briscola Hero Award**. Of course you all know who that will be for 2011!



TRACKING THE SCORES and THE STANDINGS (Le CLASSIFICHE)

CASA ITALIANA GROUP:

Dennis has compiled the December *partita* scores, so that you shall each receive the results ASAP—either attached to this newsletter or possibly by e-mail. We shall continue to report the Standings for each of the three different games played—*briscola*, *tressette* and *scofone*, the latter for the first time in the 20-year history of the *Circolo*.

Remember two important things: (1) The fiscal year will end on March 31 this year, so that we have fully three more months of competition; and (2) Several of you have asked to play make-up games, and we can arrange for that with some notice.

I will coordinate any such make-up games with Joe Novello. We will try to schedule some of these games during a regularly-scheduled *partita* date (January 11, February 8 and March 14). However, I would also recommend having at least two additional *partita* dates before March 31. (Dates to consider, all Wednesdays: January 25, February 22 and March 28. These dates will need to be confirmed with the Casa Italiana activities secretary. So, answer soon, if possible.)

A more convenient suggestion for those needing make-up games: Since many of our *soci* also participate in the bi-monthly *briscola* games in Fairfax (see next column), those of you who are in need of make-up games could formulate foursomes in each of the three games of *briscola*, *tressette* and *scofone*, if this would be permitted by the leadership of the Fairfax Briscola Group. If so, these foursomes should first alert Ricuzzo at least 24 hours before any scheduled games in Fairfax. I imagine that those scores would also be counted for the Fairfax Group Standings.

FAIRFAX BRISCOLA GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

At last count, 16 *soci* of our Casa Italiana *Circolo* participate in the Fairfax Briscola Group twice monthly during the daylight hours. **Dennis Santoli** has advised me that there will be no objection to our posting those monthly scores in the body of *Briscola News* beginning with this month's edition, once Dennis has all those scores. They will not bear any weight on ranking for the Casa Italiana *Classifiche*.

What Dennis has done is to create a combined *Classifica* ranking the players by their **PPG Ave** (Points Per Game Average). It is intended to convey information only, and does not affect the Casa Italiana *Classifiche* at all. (**Note: Comments are encouraged and welcome. Call me on my cell phone (703-795-5187) or write me an e-mail message with your thoughts. Thanks for your trouble.**)

CASA ITALIANA STANDINGS (Le CLASSIFICHE)

On a separate sheet (or as an additional attachment to an e-mail) you can easily see where you personally stand, and just how much you need to do during the next three months in order to "catch up."

In the *briscola* tournament, **Joe Novello** & **Pino Cicala** are still #1 and #2, each having played in 8 games. But look who's suddenly and quietly ensconced in the #3 spot breathing down Joe's and Pino's neck? A true "dark horse," **RAY BERNERO**, who is a mere 2 points out, yet he has played in only 6 games, & could easily surpass Joe & Pino by completing 2 make-up games. **Let's try to do it, Ray!!**

Roberto Severino is leading by only one point over **Rocco Caniglia** in the *scofone* tournament; and **Eus Tortorelli** is well ahead of Joe Cavallo in the *tressette* tournament.

Ricuzzo wrote this!