

**ONLINE:**  
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**Area Activities**

**Monday, August 22**

**KENDALLVILLE CHESS CLUB**  
5:7-30 p.m. Aug. 22, 29 and Sept. 5. Meets every Monday, Kendallville Public Library, Kendallville.

**Wednesday, August 24**

**LUCKEY HOSPITAL MUSEUM**  
Aug. 24, 27, 31 and Sept. 3. Call 635-2490 to schedule a tour. Lucky Hospital Museum, U.S. 33 and S.R. 109, Wolf Lake.

**THREE RIVERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
7 p.m. meeting, 8 p.m. break, 8:15-9 p.m. featured program. Science Central, 1950 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne.

**Friday, August 26**

**FARMERS' AND ARTISANS' MARKET**  
4-7 p.m. Aug. 26 and Sept. 2. Every Friday through Oct. 7. Space is free on a first-come basis. Produce, crafts, baked goods welcome. Call Nancy Shambaugh at 854-2577 for information. Miller's Super Valu, Washington Street, Rome City.

**MAGIC SQUARES DANCE CLUB**  
8-10 p.m. Early rounds 7:30 p.m. YMCA of Steuben County, 500 E. Harcourt Road, Angola.

**Saturday, August 27**

**FARMERS' MARKET**  
7 a.m. to noon Aug. 27 and Sept. 3. Every Saturday in downtown Howe. Howe Town Square, S.R. 120, Howe.

**ANGOLA FARMERS MARKET**  
8 a.m. to noon Aug. 27 and Sept. 3. Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola.

**FARMERS' AND ARTISANS' MARKET**  
8 a.m. Aug. 27 and Sept. 3. Every Saturday. No charge to vendors. Call Pam Morgan at 347-9733 or Don Gura at 347-3276 for more information. Downtown Kendallville, Kendallville.

**MUSEUM TOURS**  
1:30-4:30 p.m. Aug. 27 and Sept. 3. Open every Saturday through Sept. 15. Group tours can be scheduled by calling 636-3929. Old Jail Museum, West Main Street, Albion.

**Saturday, September 3**

**MIAMI INDIAN HERITAGE DAYS**  
1-4 p.m. Features local artists, performers, and representatives from the Miami Indians and other Native American groups demonstrating aspects of their lasting heritage for the public to enjoy. Admission for each Saturday event is \$7 adults and \$5 students and seniors. History Center members and children ages 5 and under are free. Admission also includes the opportunity to visit the Chief Richardville House. Chief Richardville House, 5705 Bluffton Road, Fort Wayne. For more information, contact the History Center at (260) 426-2882 or visit the website at www.fwhistorycenter.com.

**Monday, September 5**

**LABOR DAY FESTIVAL**  
St. Mary of the Assumption parish in Avilla annual Labor Day Festival. Raffle tickets being sold. Chicken or ham dinners. Carry-out available. Bingo and children's games. Cake Walk and dancing with live music. Silent Auction with more than 10 baskets of items to bid on. Pre-Labor Day Garage Sale/ Flea Market Sat., Sept. 3. Will rent a table to anyone who has something to sell. Proceeds of the sale is theirs to keep. Call the St. Mary's parish office at 897-3261 for more information. St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla.



Grace Housholder accepts a hand-lettered plaque created by Rina Boggetto-Bianco of Levone, Italy. On her return to Kendallville, Housholder presented the friendship certificate to Kendallville Mayor Suzanne Handshoe. It is on display in City Hall.

TERRY HOUSHOLDER

# CIAO!

Italian village, Kendallville embrace new friendship



DIEGO REYES LOPEZ

Levone Mayor Maurizio Giacometto presents gifts of friendship to the city of Kendallville. Accepting them are Grace Housholder (in hat) and Terry Housholder. Partially

covered by Grace Housholder's hat is Gloria DeFilippi, one of the founders of CIAO. Also pictured at left in the dress is Cathy Linsenmayer, another founder of CIAO.

BY GRACE HOUSHOLDER  
graceh@kpcnews.net

On Sunday, July 3, a group of travelers, mainly Americans, gathered in the town square of Levone in northern Italy for an official welcome by the mayor. Most of the residents of the small village, including the mayor, spoke no English. And the visitors (30 Americans, one Chilean, one Norwegian and one Norwegian/American infant) spoke no Italian. But then a universal language took over. The town band struck up the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Knowing they would be greeting Americans on the day before the Fourth of July, Levone's band members had Googled America's national anthem on the Internet. Weeks prior to the Americans' arrival Levone's band members started practicing.

It was an emotional moment at this rural setting in the foothills of the Alps, northwest of Turin. A few tears were wiped away.



TERRY HOUSHOLDER

CIAO participants Peter Stolz of Rockville, Md. (in sunglasses) and Paul Housholder of Kendallville (behind the flowers) helped transport the statue of the Virgin Mary during the celebratory procession that was one of the highlights of the village of Levone's feast day July 3.



TERRY HOUSHOLDER

Residents of the village of Levone created religious displays to mark their community's July 3 feast day honoring the Virgin Mary and Saint James, the village's patron saint.



**CIAO: Program created by AFS volunteers to provide cultural exchanges between U.S. and Italy**

FROM PAGE C1

Then another form of universal language took over — smiles.

Our day in Levone was orchestrated by Roberto Marietta and his wife, Gloria Defilippi, residents of nearby Ivrea, Italy, who also have a family home in Levone.

Gloria helped to found CIAO (Creating International Adventure Opportunities) with her friend Cathy Linsenmayer and me. Gloria, Cathy and I are longtime AFS volunteers who a few years ago asked "Why do the kids have all the fun?"

Gloria speaks excellent English because as a teen she was an AFS exchange student in California. She still keeps in close contact with her AFS host family and donates hundreds of volunteer hours each year to AFS in Italy, as does Cathy. Both of them have hosted AFS students from around the world in their home, as have my husband Terry and I.

That simple question — Why do the kids have all the fun? — gave birth to CIAO

which has resulted in four Italy/U.S. exchanges, each lasting about 10 days. The first CIAO was in April 2007 when 13 Italians came to Kendallville and northeast Indiana; CIAO II was in the summer of 2008 when Americans went to Ivrea; CIAO III was in 2009 when Italians went to Washington, D.C. (hosted in Rockville, Md., by my sister Sally Stolz and her husband Richard) and CIAO IV was in early July. CIAO IV included 33 people, ages 5 months to over 80 years. Most were from northeast Indiana or have very close ties to northeast Indiana.

The idea of CIAO is to create a two-way bridge between cultures. Very often the people who host CIAO participants in their homes then travel to the homes of their visitors. The emphasis is on getting to know people and their way of life. For example, when the Italians came to northeast Indiana in April 2007 our experiences ranged from lunch on an Amish farm to a tour of Steel Dynamics in Butler. The Italians and their Hoosier hosts attended Easter services at the chapel at Notre Dame in South Bend and, in a few cases, went to work together.

My friend Cathy Linsenmayer is an American who married an Italian. She has lived and worked in Italy, for more than 20 years. During many of those years they have hosted AFS students. Several years ago Cathy and her husband Antonio Lauriola moved back to Kendallville and presented to Mayor Suzanne Handshoe a large platter, crafted by artisans in Levone, a hand-lettered friendship certificate and a gift box. All are on display in Kendallville City Hall.

The lady that hand-lettered the certificate from Levone is Rina Boggetto Bianco," said Cathy. "She is the mother of Pierluigi Boggetto, who is the town historian. He was very involved in organizing the day and setting up the historical exhibition that was in the Town Hall Council Room."

Kendallville and Levone will informally call themselves "Friendship Cities." Because of the small size of the two communities they are choosing to not, at



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Participants of CIAO IV, mainly from northeast Indiana and the Rockville, Md., area, posed with the mayor of Levone and other local residents in Levone's village square following a welcoming ceremony.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

CIAO IV participants and residents of Levone enjoyed a long, leisurely and beautiful luncheon prepared on July 3. In front, at left, are Simon and Dorothy (Householder) Dankel of Bergen, Norway; and Antonio Lauriola and Cathy Linsenmayer of Ivrea, Italy, and Sylvan Lake, Rome City. At right is Peter Stolz of Rockville, Md., and Steve Linsenmayer (with the beard) of Fort Wayne.

through the village to a church on the edge of town, Mass, a festive meal served at the community center by local volunteers, historical displays and a tour of the village which has about 490 residents.

At the welcoming ceremony, Mayor Maurizio Giacioletto and townspeople presented gifts to the city of Kendallville and also the city of Rockville, Md., site of CIAO III. I transported back to Kendallville and presented to Mayor Suzanne Handshoe a large platter, crafted by artisans in Levone, a hand-lettered friendship certificate and a gift box. All are on display in Kendallville City Hall.



TERRY HOUSHOLDER

July 3, the feast day of Levone's patron saint, included a procession with the Virgin Mary from the center of the village to a church on the edge of town where Mass was celebrated. Many villagers were part of the procession; others chose to watch from their doorsteps and balconies.

this time, participate in the official Sister Cities International program. (Online: sister-cities.org)

We hope that next summer a CIAO group — including Mayor Giacioletto — comes to northeast Indiana. In addition to me, my husband Terry Householder and our son Paul, the CIAO IV participants from this area were Jim and Julia Nixon, of Kendallville; Susan Anderson of Wolcottville; Janel Rogers

of Whitley County; Dr. Doug and Barb Morrow of Auburn, Steve Linsenmayer and his wife Ellie Bogie of Fort Wayne, and David and Susan Rowley of Bristol.

**Letter from Mayor Handshoe**

(Read in English by Grace Householder and translated to Italian by Gloria Defilippi.) Dear Mayor Maurizio



TERRY HOUSHOLDER

Beautiful, centuries-old churches are a focal point of many Italian communities.

Giacioletto, Ciao and thank you for hosting the CIAO group from our community as they travel to your city to learn about your culture and history. We are so grateful for the experience. May it be wonderful for everyone!

Kendallville is located in the northeast corner of Indiana. We are 25 miles from Ohio and approximately 30 miles from Michigan. We are the largest city in Noble County. Our population is 9,645. Our city was formed in 1863 and elected its first mayor in 1866. I am the 24th mayor and the first female. (The Italians applauded when this sentence was read.)

While our history does not compare with yours, we feel that we have done an excellent job at retaining the historical buildings in our downtown. There are several businesses that have been here for 100 years.

Our community is rich with immigration history. Our seventh mayor was from Germany. Italians laid the beautiful tile floor in the Embassy Theater in Fort Wayne, a nearby city.

I look forward to exchanging communications and learning more about your city and hopefully making friends.

My dream is to someday visit your city with my husband. We would love the opportunity for you to visit with us and share in our local experiences.

Kind regards, W. Suzanne Handshoe

**Message delivered by Mayor Maurizio Giacioletto on July 3**

(Read in Italian, and translated into English by Gloria Defilippi.)

Today is Levone's feast day for our city's patron saint, Madonna della Consolata, for

the celebratory procession and time around the tables to share food with relatives and friends.

Levone is a small rural village with approximately 490 residents. At the end of 1800s and until the first half of 1900s it was a small town with a little over 1,000 citizens who made their living crafting ceramic pottery and farming the land. In that period many people left our village to go to America, the Promised Land, the Eldorado.

The citizens made big sacrifices, taking the time and saving the money to earn their passports and pay for their voyage, traveling across the Atlantic by ship and waiting for 40 days after arrival quarantined in their boat. Regardless, the new world was the hope for a job in the mines.

Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania were the preferred destinations for our fellow villagers. They quickly found jobs in the mines, already knowing the mining skills Americans looked for from their experience in Canavese, our land.

Some of those who left never came back to Italy, deciding to remain in America, while others came back only for their "last trip." Some others also returned after learning a new vocational skill, and their grandchildren are still living with us here today.

With joy and pleasure and in memory of our emigrants, today we give gracious hospitality to this group of new friends from Indiana. Levone is not a rich village from the economical point of view, but for sure it is friendly, rich in solidarity and always ready to give a warm welcome to new friends.

For this reason, we welcome you and send our greetings to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, to all the citizens of Kendallville! Welcome to Levone!!!!

**Crossword Puzzle Answers**

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