

Outlook

Vicenza and Darby Military Communities

Dec. 18 2014 | Vol. 47 | Issue 39



VMC READY FOR HOLIDAYS

**SKY SOLDIERS
COMPLETE MISSIONS**

**F2F HOLDS
HOLIDAY DINNER**

**HOLIDAY SAFETY
INFORMATION**



U.S. Army Europe Commander
Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

U.S. Army Africa Commander
Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Williams

USAG Vicenza Commander and Publisher
Col. Robert L. Menist Jr.

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Officer
Paul J. Stevenson

Editor
Julie M. Lucas

Photojournalist
Laura Kreider

Social media manager
Vacant

Staff writers
Anna Ciccotti
Anna Terracino

Darby Military Community
Chiara Mattiolo

The Outlook is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1. All editorial content of The Outlook is prepared, edited and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza. Public Affairs Office Unit 31401, Box 10, APO, AE 09630, located in Bldg. 109 on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. The office's DSN number is 634-7581, off post at 0444-71-7581 or via email at usarmy.vicenza.imcom-europe.mbx.usag-vicenza-pao@mail.mil.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of The Outlook are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Dept. of Defense, Dept. of the Army, Installation Management Command-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza or U.S. Army Africa.

CONTENTS

- 4** Good locks, neighbors deter burglars
Pickpockets target shoppers at Christmas markets
- 5** Stay healthy during the holiday season
- 6** Knowing customs policies when sending packages stateside
- 7** Vicenza preps for Net Zero move
- 8** F2F brings Italian and American female military together
- 9** What makes chaplain assistants unique
- 12** Learning Italian holiday traditions
- 13** Holiday treats
- 14** 173rd Airborne conducts rapid deployment exercise in Slovenia
- 15** U.S., Romanian paratroopers complete allied Exercise Rubicon
- 16** 173rd Airborne joins Danish, British forces in Exercise White Sword
- 18** U.S. Army Africa year in review
- 20** Community news briefs
- 22** Family and MWR
- 24** Chapel activities
- 26** OUT & ABOUT - Outside the gate
- 34** Think local for last-minute holiday shopping

On the cover

Santa Claus encourages youth of the Vicenza Military Community to follow him to the library following the annual Tree lighting ceremony Dec. 5.

Photo by **Laura Kreider**, USAG Vicenza PAO

Freedom 6: Army Strong! Strong Europe!



By Lt. Gen. **Ben Hodges**
Commander, U.S. Army Europe

Team,

In the few short weeks since I took command of this outstanding organization, I can truly say that this holiday season I am absolutely thankful for the professionalism and dedication of United States Army Europe Soldiers, civilians, Families and allies.

As I have traveled around our area of responsibility to countries like Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, and throughout Germany, I have seen firsthand the relationships, capabilities, infrastructure, and exercises that assure access for U.S. forces, enables early entry versus forcible entry, and builds capacity in Partnership for Peace and Allied nations.

To me, all of those are examples of the U.S. Army's contribution to what NATO and U.S. European Command are trying to do over here, support a "Strong Europe".

The Strong Europe concept aims to create beneficial opportunities, improve interoperability and capacity in Partners and Allies and facilitate U.S. and NATO logistical infrastructure, resulting in ease of movement between member nations.

In this respect, Strong Europe is USAREUR's main contribution to NATO and its Allies and Partners, as we act as the main enabler for NATO land forces on behalf of U.S. European Command.

When I see U.S. Army Soldiers in the Baltics and Poland on Thanksgiving, working and training as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve to assure our Allies and deter Russia; that is Strong Europe.

Strong Europe is our forward station presence enabling open intelligence cooperation with our Host Nation, Allies and Partners, allowing us to contribute to a common secure environment.

Strong Europe is everything we do to support the success of our Regionally Aligned Forces from reception, staging, onward movement, and integration to exercises at our great Joint Multinational Training Command.

I am convinced that U.S. Army Europe is playing an essential role in facilitating interoperability throughout NATO and Partner land forces and will enable the Alliance wherever possible to face its threats and challenges.

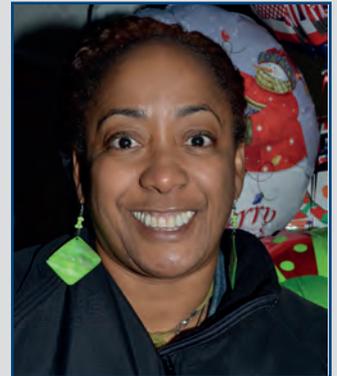
Team, I want to thank you for all that you are doing here every day in support of our mission and in support of our Allies. You make the Army Strong and you contribute to a Strong Europe!

I wish you all the very best this holiday season! As you celebrate with your Families, friends and loved ones, please remember our Teammates deployed around the world; whether it's in the mountains of Afghanistan, the sands of Kuwait, the valleys of Kosovo, or on a cold mountain top in Turkey. Let's keep our Soldiers in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy Holidays!

Speak Out

What are your plans for the Holidays?



Lystra-Ann King

ACS

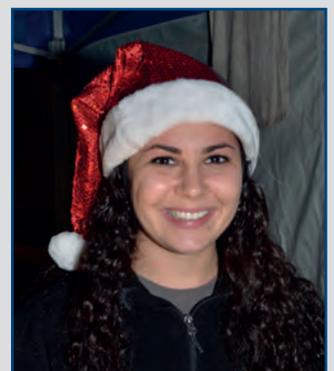
"I will visit Paris, France."



Glenn Gibbs

USO Vicenza

"I will be working at USO, to make the holidays a little more like home away from home. The entire community is invited to USO."



Haley Carroll

Family member

"My husband and I will be celebrating the holidays by having a delicious home-cooked meal with friends."

Good locks, neighbors deter burglars

U.S. Army Europe

WIESBADEN, Germany – The Fall Season is a time when burglars become more active. As the days get shorter and darker, the number of home break-ins goes up.

“Many thieves will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home,” said Joseph Day, Chief of Law Enforcement at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal. “Good locks and good neighbors who watch out for each other can be big deterrents to burglars,” he added.

“Did you know that in almost half of all completed residential burglaries, thieves simply breezed in through unlocked doors or crawled through unlocked windows?” Day said. He recommends people lock their doors whenever they leave their house, apartment or barracks room, even if it is only for a short time.

Day recommends you inspect your doors and locks and ask your landlord or housing office for assistance if your apartment or quarters need improvements.

- **If your doors don't fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them.**
- **Every external door should have a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock.**
- **Instead of hiding keys outside your home, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.**
- **Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights connected to a motion sensor.**
- **If your front door has a peep-hole, always use it before opening the door.**
- **Make a list of your valuables – DVD players, stereos, computers, jewelry. Take photos of them, list their serial numbers. Check with law enforcement about engraving your valuables.**
- **Ask your MP Station for a free home security survey.**

“When you travel, leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions and have a neighbor pick your mail up,” Day advised. He also suggests you create the illusion that you're at home using trusted neighbors or timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house. He also offers the following tips:

- **Don't advertise that you will be away from your home. Give the information only to people who need to know such as your landlord or trusted neighbor.**
- **Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you will be away for a specific time. Say “I'm not available right now.”**

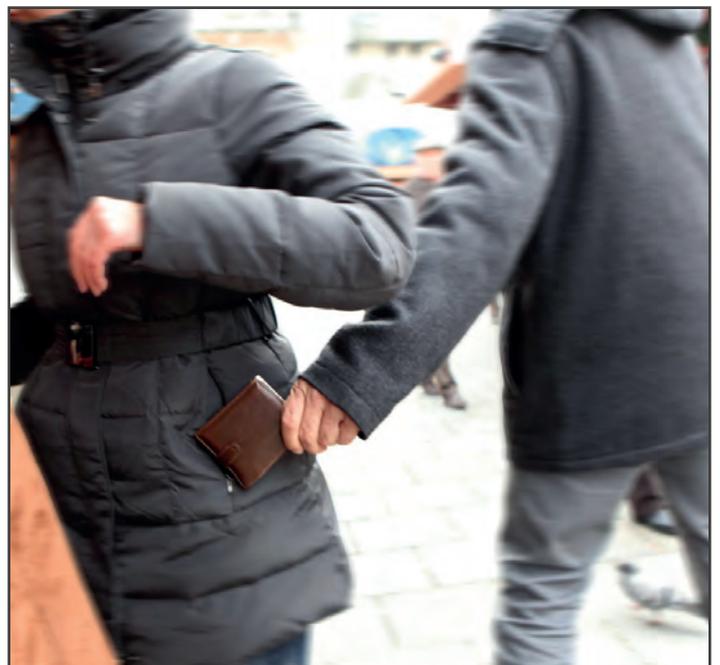
More tips on home and neighborhood safety are available from the National Crime Prevention Council at www.nccpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety.

Pickpockets target shoppers at Christmas markets

U.S. Army Europe

Christmas markets around Europe appeal to many Americans because of their unique old-world charm. Pickpockets love them too because they attract people with money and the crowds make it easier for them to steal your cash and get away. Within a few seconds, your purse, credit cards or car keys can disappear.

“Pickpockets work mainly in groups,” said Joseph Day, chief of law enforcement at the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal. One distracts the victim, another steals the loot and passes it to a third person, who then merges into the crowd, he added. This trick works best in large gatherings of people - like Christmas markets.



Most cases are never solved because the victims often do not immediately notice the theft. But if you are aware and follow these tips, you can save yourself a lot of cash and trouble.

- **Only take as much money with you as you actually need.**
- **Carry money, credit cards and identity documents in various closed inside pockets of your clothing, as close as possible to your body.**
- **Keep the bags you carry closed.**
- **Carry your hand or shoulder bag with the lock side facing your body.**
- **Never leave your handbag or coat unattended.**
- **When in a crowd of people, pay extra attention to your valuables.**

Pickpockets are usually professionals who are active all over Europe. You can sometimes recognize them by the way they look for victims: they avoid direct eye contact with victims and rather look for loot. They observe their victims closely for a long time, bump into them, engage them in a conversation with specious questions, are excessively helpful or may even spill something onto a victim's clothing to come into contact with them.

According to German police statistics, **136,000** pickpocket cases were reported in Germany in 2013, over 15 percent more than in the year before. The money stolen in 2013 was a staggering **39.4 million euros**.

For more information on thwarting pickpockets and thieves, go to the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal website, at www.eur.army.mil/opm/default.htm.

Stay healthy during the holiday season

By **Alison Cuccia**
U.S. Army Public Health Command

The holiday season can be a time of great celebration, gratitude and joy. While it is important to appreciate and enjoy good fortunes, the holiday season can also have a negative effect on health. High stress levels, lack of time for sleep and physical activity, and the overabundance of unhealthy food and alcohol often overpower us during this time, and can lead to negative health effects down the road. In order to remain ready and resilient, Soldiers, family members and civilians should aim to enjoy the holiday season while preserving their health and well-being.

Between overcommitted schedules, financial burdens, and family, friends or religious expectations, the holidays can be an incredibly stressful time. Military families often face added anxiety from worrying about loved ones on deployment this time of year. Even traditions that are meant to bring joy can feel stressful, chaotic and lonely to Soldiers and their families. Many people do not realize the physical toll stress can take on the body. People with high levels of stress



are more likely to use tobacco and eat unhealthy foods. These choices can lead to diseases such as cancer, obesity and other chronic diseases. Stress does not only change behavior; it also changes levels of certain hormones in the body. These hormone changes suppress the body's immune system, making it harder to fight off diseases. Stress has been linked to illness ranging from gastrointestinal distress to headaches to depression. Stress also increases fatigue, which can decrease performance and readiness among Soldiers.

While some stressors during the holiday season may not be avoidable,

there are ways to minimize the level of stress and, in turn, improve health. First, it is important to acknowledge when you are feeling stressed. Talk with a support network about your feelings as it may help ease your burden. Recognize activities that re-energize you, and schedule time for those important activities. Whether it is reading, running, yoga, watching TV or spending time with friends, these activities can help you remain balanced and happy in this busy time.

Exercise has proven to be an extremely effective stress reliever. Make

exercise a priority during this time to help improve stress levels and to offset holiday weight gain.

Holiday weight gain is extremely common in the United States. The National Institutes of Health conducted a study demonstrating that Americans gain significant weight between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, and have a difficult time losing this weight gained over the course of a year. Excess weight from the holiday season can accumulate over time, leading to obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Holidays are particularly detrimental to waistlines for a variety of reasons. Often holiday celebrations involve large amounts of unhealthy food and alcohol. For example, holiday parties almost would not feel complete without some seasonally favorite high-calorie snacks, desserts and al-

cohol. While these events are a way to celebrate, it's important to make smart choices and always remember moderation. An easy way to avoid overconsumption at a holiday event is to eat before the party. It is easier to avoid consuming large amounts of unhealthy food when your stomach is already full with a balanced meal.

There are also some quick tips to avoid overconsumption when at a holiday party. First, avoid socializing near the food and drinks. When hovering next to a snack bowl, it is easy to eat mindlessly, which can cause you to eat more calories than needed without even realizing it. It's also useful to use the smallest plates available when getting food. Studies have shown that individuals who use smaller plates eat fewer calories and still feel satisfied. Further, avoid liquid calories, including sugar sweetened

beverages and alcohol. These beverages do not keep you full as long as food does, yet they can add many calories to your diet. Remember, you can always bring a healthy dish to a holiday party. You may be surprised at how many people are grateful for a healthy option!

The holiday season is often the busiest season of the year. This can leave little time to focus on well-balanced meals. Holiday parties filled with tasty and nostalgic treats, busy schedules and stress can take a toll on physical well-being. Enjoy your holidays, but do not allow the season to derail your health. As always, remember that moderation is the key to a balanced lifestyle. It can help you remain happy and healthy during this holiday season and beyond.

Knowing customs policies when sending packages stateside

By **Robert Szostek**

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal

WIESBADEN, Germany - Mailing packages to the U.S. from Europe involves many prohibitions, restrictions and import duty rules. That's why it's important for members of the U.S. forces community to get the facts before sending parcels stateside, say U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

"Many people do not know that Customs and Border Protection may fine you at least \$100 if you mail meat or any meat products to the states," said Scott Sanner, U.S. Department of Agriculture advisor at the CBCA. Banned products include canned meats, pâté, salami, sausage and soup mixes containing meat. It is also illegal to mail handguns, alcoholic beverages and many other items to the United States. Some articles may require the sender to get a special import permit.

A customs declaration must be fixed to every parcel going to the States and falsifying it is a federal crime.

"You must also realize that foreign-made goods sent to the United States may be subject to the payment of duty," said Mike Dean, director of the CBCA, cautioned. "Even if you mail the items to yourself or buy them in a military exchange, the recipient may still have to pay duty and the customs user fee," he said. U.S. re-

sidents may receive up to \$100 worth of foreign-made goods per day, but have to pay duty on the total value of gifts exceeding that amount.

U.S. forces personnel can avoid the pitfalls by getting the "Know Before You Go" pamphlet from any military customs office or checking the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website at www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/kbyg/gifts.xml.



Vicenza preps for Net Zero move

USAG Vicenza PAO

Sustainability and energy self-sufficiency continue to move forward with the Net Zero Energy Installation plan at the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza. The most recent event to take place was the NZEI workgroup visioning session Dec. 3 at Caserma Ederle.

Goal leaders and key team members from across the installation convened to start brainstorming ideas and innovative approaches on how to achieve the Army's mandated goal of becoming a community that produces as much energy as it consumes by 2020.

Col. Robert L. Menist Jr., U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza commander, said the diverse groups are necessary to take a well-rounded look at the ambitious task of achieving the goal of Net Zero.

"We want to get the entire installation involved so that we get an installation perspective," Menist said during the opening remarks. "It can't just be a DPW (Directorate of Public Works) effort, it can't just be a garrison effort; it's got to be something where everyone has buy-in, so that's why you're all here."

Robert Clarke, director of Public Works, added his encouragement before the workgroup sessions started.

"Here in Vicenza we are building on very positive foundations on the success of the Del Din construction with the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation, as well as on the two energy plants and the multiple renewable energy projects such as the photovoltaic."



Photo by George L. Hargreaves, Corps of Engineer

Directorate of Public Works director Bob Clarke, center, speaks the Net Zero Energy Installation plan at the NZEI workgroup visioning session Dec. 3 at Caserma Ederle. Vicenza was chosen to participate in the Army's Net Zero plan development program in 2014, and the plan should be in place by early 2015.

Clarke invited participants to work together and identify future planning issues and goals through a participatory process that involved the entire community and will be important to fine-tune the program's implementation and measure its effectiveness.

To help that process along, USAG Vicenza awarded a contract through the Army Corps of Engineers Europe to a team of consulting experts (Parsons) tasked to work closely with installation management in pursuit of Net Zero goals. These include also reduced water consumption and waste generation and aim at increasing efficiency, conservation, and behavior change.

During the visioning session, workgroups were formed to review and validates priorities that will help define vision and go-

als for Caserma Ederle, Del Din, Villaggio and the community of Darby. While discussion included implementing proven and emerging best practices and technologies, focus areas were infrastructure, transportation pedestrian areas and green.

The Parsons team will be in Vicenza and later in Camp Darby between Dec. 1-19. During this time they will interview technical staff, conduct building audits and full-day planning workshops to ensure the future development options are supportive of the garrison communities priorities.

Vicenza was chosen to participate in the Army's Net Zero plan development program in 2014, and the plan should be in place by early 2015.



MAIL BOXES ETC.

Spedire, Ricevere, Comunicare: Lo Facciamo Bene®

Worldwide Shipping

- Import - Export
- Express and Economy Services
- Wine, Food, Personal Items, Etc...

Packing Services

- Paintings, Porcelains, Glasses, Electronics Parts, Etc...

MBE 114 • Viale della Pace 286 VICENZA In Front of The EDERLE BASE, GATE 2 (CHAPPEL GATE) • Tel **0444 540850**

Mail: mbe114@mbe.it • Skipe: [mbe114_it](https://www.mbe.it/114) • www.mbe.it/114

Open From Monday To Friday From 9:00 am To 7:00 pm • Saturday From 9:00 am To 1:00 pm

F2F brings Italian and American female military together



Story and photos by **Anna Ciccotti**
USAG Vicenza PAO

Garrison Commander Col. Robert L. Menist Jr. greets members of the Italian and US military during the annual F2F holiday dinner Dec. 4. This year the groups learned about holiday traditions among the two countries.

The second annual Home for the Holidays multicultural event dedicated to Italian and American female military was held at the Golden Lion conference center on Caserma Ederle, Dec. 4. 33 Italian female military from six different headquarters throughout the Veneto region joined American colleagues from Caserma Ederle, Del Din and the Air Force base of Aviano for a Female to Female evening of fun networking organized by the Vicenza garrison Army Community Service.

"F2F is an initiative that aims to create a positive and welcoming environment for newcomer military and civilians to Vicenza," said Julia Sibilla, director of ACS, and it's primary audience is the female newcomer junior grade officer, enlisted and civilian.

Within these initiatives, the spirit of the holiday event was to connect Italian and American military women so that they could exchange thoughts and talk about their experiences in a profession that has unique challenges, Sibilla said.

One of the special guests to the event was Col. Robert L. Menist Jr., U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza commander.

"I am thankful for your presence with us this evening and I welcome every op-

portunity where we can share ideas and make new friends," he said in his welcome remarks. He encouraged participants to interact and exchange contact information which will help them build on and fortify the important relationships between the two military communities.

Breaking the ice with a Christmas song, a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner kept the conversations going at the tables. Discussions included work information, mentoring, future plans and cultural differences.

"This is an amazing initiative and I am thrilled to be here. When I received the invite I called the other girls who were here with me last year and we RSVP'd immediately," said Caporal Maggiore Sara Galliolo, a native of Camisano who ser-

ves in the 7th Alpini Rgt. based in Belluno. Galliolo, already a veteran of Kosovo and Afghanistan, has had several positive experiences working shoulder to shoulder with American Soldiers downrange and she said at Ederle she feels between friends.

"This F2F initiative began what I am certain will be a continuing and fruitful dialogue on numerous areas of interaction," Menist said. He added that this is especially important as "we train and mentor younger generation of Soldiers who face the challenges of a multicultural environment and can stand proudly together as friends and partners as we are doing here tonight."

In attendance was also Col. Frances Hardison, G1 USARAF Vicenza, who arrived



Tables at the F2F Home for the Holidays dinner each have a theme from the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" and sang their part as an icebreaker. A traditional meal followed and a discussion about holiday traditions.

to Vicenza four months ago. She is enthusiastic about the F2F initiatives, and sees the value of reaching out to foreign national female military.

"Mentoring of women in the military is one way that could assist in integrating other services where we can help them avoid the mistakes that we (U.S.) have learned from years past," she said. "USARAF hosts an annual event "Gender Integration" on the African continent where we exchange best practices and obstacles that impact integration in their services."

Besides mentoring, relationship with male colleagues was another topic of discussion.

"From my experience of 29 years, one of the challenges the U.S. Army faces is having a basic understanding of the value of teamwork; male or female," Hardison said. "Stereotypes still exist however the Army's Profession of Arms is a way to address it. The value that each of us as individuals brings to the fight is equally important."

Capt. Ola Odunaike, U.S. Army Africa, said that genders make no difference to her. Referring to her enlisted team members, both male and female, she said "I work well with anybody who is willing to work and keeping it professional."

Maresciallo Capo Teresa Di Benedetto, from the Comando Forze Difesa Interregionale Nord based in Padova, shared a table with two Army officers and one Air Force, an Army civilian employee and an Italian local national. Comparing her experience to the American colleagues, she said that the Italian army is a relatively new army especially for women.



Garrison Commander Col. Robert L. Menist Jr., center, poses for a photo with female members of the Italian forces at the annual Female2Female dinner Dec. 4 at the Golden Lion.

She has several years of experience at international level and said that, "Italians have a lot to learn from the Americans when it comes to passion, work attitude and willingness to engage diversity."

Federica Nicoletti was one of the 16 Caporal Maggiore Scelti who attended from the Multinational NATO CIMIC Group from Motta di Livenza.

"These meetings are very important as they help us grow professionally and personally," Nicoletti said. She was also here last year and just returned from an English full-immersion course in Ireland. "Interaction among different cultures is key to making significant contributions to one's organization. Actually we should meet more often and build on these experiences," she said.

Other Italian Army female military came from the 32[^] Rgt. Trasmissioni Padova; airmen arrived from 3[^] Stormo of Villa-

franca, Verona and a female Carabinieri attended from the Center of Excellence of Stability Police Units, Vicenza.

Commenting about the success of the evening, Sibilla said to be "thrilled with not only the great turnout but especially the enthusiastic participation of both the Italian and American attendees."

"It was really great to see the interaction between the Italian and the American military females," said USO manager Glenn Gibbs, honored to be part of the event.

To address the several requests for more frequent interactions, Sibilla promised that ACS plans on hosting a sporting event with the Italian military in spring similar to the "Pink Bowl" series that they have started with the female airmen at Aviano AFB.

"There is no better way to interact and bond than through sports," she said.

What makes chaplain assistants unique



By Sergeant Major **Pamela A. Wilson**

U.S. Army Installation Management Command Chaplain Sergeant Major

SAN ANTONIO - As the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Chaplain Assistant Sergeant Major, I am proud of all the chaplain assistants supporting our Soldiers, Families and Civilians.

We are celebrating 105 years since the Army officially introduced this unique Military Occupational Specialty.

The Army officially created the position of chaplain assistant On Dec. 28, 1909, for the first time authorizing an

enlisted Soldier to provide full-time religious support. The War Department's General Order No. 253 simply read, "One enlisted man will be detailed on special duty, by the commanding officer of any organization to which a chaplain is assigned for duty, for the purpose of assisting the chaplain in the performance of his official duties."

Every day, chaplain assistants are responsible for helping Soldiers exerci-

se their constitutional right to practice their faith, whatever it is, wherever they may be. Chaplain assistants do not have an easy MOS. There are no other military occupational specialties in the military blending so many capabilities.

We are leaders. From the beginning, chaplain assistants learn skills that enable them to step into a battalion or installation and perform leadership tasks. Leadership is developed at the United States Army Chaplain Center and School. After graduation and arrival at the first duty station, chaplain assistants quickly integrate into the battalion staff, where they interact with the command sergeant major and other staff sections to coordinate religious support.

The chaplain assistant's job becomes much more important in a combat environment. The chaplain is not allowed to bear arms, so the chaplain assistant, as the other half of the unit ministry team, emerges as a leader by providing force protection for the chaplain. This is a core responsibility of the chaplain assistant.

Every day, the chaplain assistant provides religious support to the unit, assesses its overall morale and provides proper referral, counseling sources and spiritual outlets for the troops. Chaplain assistants deliver variety to the unit ministry team because enlisted personnel tend to be more comfortable approaching another enlisted Soldier with a personal issue. The chaplain assistant, therefore, serves as a unit ministry team multiplier. The chaplain assistant allows troubled Soldiers the option of confiding in someone who can offer understanding while also maintaining the strictest confidence – as dictated by the charter of privileged communication that all chaplains and chaplain assistants must adhere to.

We are also logisticians. Property and supply acquisition is a normal task. Chaplain assistants account for religious supplies and equipment, en-

suring communion wafers, wine and hymnals are on hand, properly stored and presented in respect for each worshipper.

We are accountants and contract managers. Chaplain assistants assigned to some of our garrisons hold the position of fund managers. They manage an annual operating fund of \$24 million Army-wide. They receive two weeks of special training for this arduous task. Many of them manage contracts over \$500,000.

We are project managers. Chaplain assistants participate in and manage all phases of chapel construction and renovation. I have witnessed chaplain assistants totally remodeling state-of-the-art conference facilities or accounting for property with huge price tags.

We are caregivers. Chaplain assistants serve as master resilience trainers and suicide prevention leaders, and assist in the care of those experiencing trauma in any way. We provide research on world religions, enabling

the chaplain to assess military conflicts for the commander.

We are battle staff trained. Brigade chaplain assistants receive specialized training that allows them to work in tactical operations centers at all levels of the command. On installations, we provide world-class religious support to the senior commander. We integrate and coordinate religious support in cooperation with all tenant units.

We are trainers. We help teach Strong Bonds - a unit-based, chaplain-led program to help commanders build individual resiliency by strengthening the Army Family through relationship education and skills training. Your chaplain assistant, whether assigned to garrison or another unit, is a valued resource and force multiplier for any command. Take the opportunity to thank them for their service to our military and for providing 105 years of religious support to our Army. Pro Deo et Patria! For God and Country!



Soldiers from the Vicenza Military Community work together to complete obstacles set up by the Vicenza chaplain's assistants during their anniversary celebration. Awards and breakfast were given out after the events

Photos by **Julie M. Lucas**, USAG Vicenza PAO

New Mobile App OTG Outside The Gate



Where?

- Just Outside the Base
- Just Outside your Home
- Vicenza on your Phone

What's happening?

- In English and Italian
- Merchants & Restaurants
- Services & Groups

Find?

- Google Maps, Bus & Taxi

How Much?

- **FREE**

What's Next?

- **Outlook** Newspaper Integrated
- International Orders Online

OTG APP can be downloaded from



APP Store (iPhone, iPad): Outside the gate
<https://itunes.apple.com/it/app/otg-outside-the-gate/id892325012?mt=8>
and look for the circular logo.

If in your smartphone is installed the application for reading QR codes is sufficient to read the code below to directly enter the download area.



Play Store (Android): Outside the Gate
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.solus.otg>
and look for the circular logo.

If in your smartphone is installed the application for reading QR codes is sufficient to read the code below to directly enter the download area.

Learning Italian holiday traditions

Story and photos by **Chiara Mattiolo**
DMC Public Affairs



Paola Ghiomelli displays a typical table set up for Christmas meal in her plant and flower shop.

As Christmas is quickly approaching, we put up our Christmas tree, we open boxes we stored last year with all the nice decorations, and we start eating in those red and green decorated Christmas plates, using those tablecloths that just come out on special occasions.

All countries, regions, and even families have their own different Christmas traditions and even the food changes during the Christmas festivities.

Being in Italy is nice to learn and share some of the local traditions.

Christmas in Italy is very much a time for family and friends and the preparations, with a very deep attention to details which is typical of special occasions.

Certain recipes are prepared only during the Christmas season, *cotechino*, a fresh pork sausage normally accompanied by mashed potatoes or lentils or *cappone*, a type of chicken, are seen on Italian tables only in this period.

Sweets take the reign of the Italian Christmas tables Panettone is and Pandoro are the traditional Christmas holiday cakes. While Panettone is traditionally made with "uvetta" raisins and candied citrus orange lemon and lime

citrus peel, Pandoro with no fruit in it, but covered with vanilla flavored icing sugar.

The Tuscan region in particular the city of Siena has a very strong tradition in cakes made with candied fruits and almonds.

Siena is the center of Tuscan sweet production and "*Panforte*", a huge, round and flat cake based on a mixture of candied fruits, nuts and honey covered with icing sugar is the masterpiece.

Christmas season in Italy is traditionally celebrated Dec. 24-Jan. 6, or Christmas Eve through Epiphany.

Lights and decorations are normally put up on December 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception; they will be taken away right after the Epiphany.

Many stores feature beautiful displays of fancy decorations, lights and Christmas trees, as well as nativity scenes ready or details like miniature bricks, water pumps, and fire light bulbs to make your own nativity scene.

"We normally are specialized with plants and flowers," said Paola Ghiomelli, owner of one of the main flower shops in the area. "When it comes the holiday season, all the shop is transformed in a huge display of decorations".

Ghiomelli said it became a tradition for people living in the area to go visit their shop to buy or only to let the children fall in a fairy tale dimension.

Italy has a very strong tradition on *presepe*, Nativity scene.

Every church has a presepe and they are often found outdoors in a piazza or public area, while each family has a *presepe* corner.

It is an incredible experience for children and adults as well to visit some of the *presepe* in the area.

The Artistic Nativity Scenes in Cigoli (San Miniato Pisa) *Presepe artistico di Cigoli*. From Dec. 6-Jan.11 in the Pieve di San Giovanni Battista in Cigoli (PI) the thirteenth display of the Artistic nativity scene. This is one of the bigger nativity Scenes in Tuscany. The Church can be visited daily from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30-8 p.m.

More information can be found at: www.madrebimbicigoli.it.

At Camp Darby, as a tradition, the Comune di Abetone donated the community Christmas tree as a sign of friendship and solidarity. The Tree lighting ceremony took place Dec. 5.



A view of the Nativity scene in Cigoli (Pisa)

Holiday treats



Photo by **Chiara Mattiolo**

Jane Spencer, Army Community Service financial Readiness Program Manager displays boxes of cookies at the ACS Front desk for service members to pick up. Darby Military Community Volunteers along with Army Community Services ensured that all single and unaccompanied service members had something sweet and festive for the holidays. Any cookie or home baked traditional favorite goodies were greatly enjoyed and appreciated. ACS accepted cookie donations Dec 9-10. At noon on Dec 10, Livorno Middle School students joined at ACS to assemble and complete the boxes for delivery later that afternoon to ensure freshness.

"Cookies were delivered but still have a few boxes left should anyone want a box," said Spencer. "It was wonderful and the community once again rallied together to fill them with various holiday cookies and sweets; all in all we delivered 60 boxes to the single and unaccompanied service members here at Darby," continued Spencer.

The Student Council from the School decorated the boxes and helped to fill them over at ACS.

Speak Out

What are your plans for the Holidays?



Maj. Charles Broomell

Livorno Health Clinic

"I will do a pre-Christmas trip to Germany, then I will stay here and take care of Soldiers with four organizational winter parties."



Luca DeFedericio

Carabinieri

"I have no plans, this year I will be working through the holidays."



Jaida Plant

Family Member

"I will unwrap my presents."

advertising

MORE THAN SNOW

Promotional OFFER
Valid from January 7th - 31st

...



RECOARO MILLE on back cover

173rd Airborne conducts rapid deployment exercise in Slovenia

By Maj. **Michael J. Weisman**
173rd Airborne Brigade PAO

VICENZA, Italy — Approximately 150 paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment conducted a night airborne operation into Pocek, Slovenia, Dec. 1, as part of a brigade Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise.

The exercise tests the paratroopers' ability to plan and execute full-spectrum operations on short notice, as the U.S. Army Contingency Response Force, or ACRF, in Europe. As such, the brigade provides ready troops to deploy within 18 hours anywhere in the U.S. European, Africa or Central Command areas of responsibility.

Paratroopers were alerted early Dec. 1, for the mission, requiring leaders to efficiently prioritize time and requirements.

"Eighteen hours goes by very quickly," said 1st Lt. Dustin Lawrence, the company's executive officer. "Despite all the preparation for assuming ACRF in the weeks leading up, we still had to move quickly and deliberately to make the deployment time."

For this exercise, the unit marshaled here before moving to Aviano, where they conducted final preparations, rigged parachutes and equipment and boarded U.S. Air Force C130 aircraft from the 86th Air Wing, for the hour flight to Slovenia. Once over the drop zone, the paratroopers jumped in to seize the airfield from an opposing force and hold it as a base to bring in follow-on forces.

"No matter how much you plan, nothing can truly prepare you for an exercise like this, except doing it," said 1st Lt. John Hernandez, a platoon leader in "Chosen" Company, the executing unit, in describing going from garrison to seizing an airfield in 18 hours. "For many Soldiers, this was an eye-opening experience. They lan-



Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, issue ammunition Dec. 1, 2014, at Aviano Airbase, Italy, in preparation for a rapid-deployment exercise into Slovenia. Approximately 150 paratroopers from the brigade's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, conducted an Emergency Readiness Deployment Exercise, planning and conducting a parachute assault into Slovenia with same-day notification.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson

ded hearing the sound of the enemy. EDRE's (Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises) like this prepare us for the ACRF mission, because they expose us to many of the experiences we may encounter them in a real-world scenario."

Prior to the notification, paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, were already making preparations for a separate exercise in Slovenia. The addition of the EDRE onto the exercise added to the overall effect of the training.

"Our unit has conducted several training exercise with the Slovenians this year," said Capt. Hugo Manzo, an operations officer assigned to 2nd Battalion. "Chosen Company conducting an airborne infiltration onto a Slovenian airfield tested our ability to project combat power anywhere in the world, on no-notice alert."

Manzo explained that the EDRE continued to develop the relationship between 2nd Battalion, and the Slovenian Army's 1st Brigade.

"These exercises improve our relationships with the Slovenian military professionally, by developing leaders on both sides and capturing lessons learned during partnership training," said Manzo. "These training events are a powerful instrument for profes-

sional development, and leader education."

In October, the brigade conducted the first in the series of EDREs, alerting and deploying within 24 hours the Grafenwoehr, Germany-based 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, for an airborne operation into Romania, followed by several days of long-range patrolling alongside allied troops. "Technically speaking, there's no difference in the concept of why we're doing the EDRE," said Sgt. Maj. Craig Jeffrey, the brigade's operations non-commissioned officer in charge. "A different battalion is assuming (primary ACRF duties), and it's important to get them started on the right foot, focusing them toward what the commander expects in an 18-hour sequence."

Jeffrey explained that conducting EDREs is important for training at all levels of the brigade.

"The brigade staff has had a large turnover of officers and non-commissioned officers, including myself," said Jeffrey. "Just learning the tactical operations center layout and what individual staff members have to stay on top of during the 18-hour sequence were things that we came away with as lessons learned."

The brigade recently returned from its six-month deployment to Poland and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The "Sky Soldiers" of the 173rd transferred responsibility for that portion of the Atlantic Resolve mission to Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Chosen Company deployed twice to Operation Atlantic Resolve, including the initial short-notice notification to deploy to Estonia, in April. When that alert came, the company was finalizing its preparations for a battalion exercise in Slovenia.

"In April, Chosen Company deployed to Estonia with six-day's notice," said Lawrence. "Chosen Paratroopers came into work prepared for Slovenia and instead were told to prepare for a deployment to the Baltic States.

The company hit its timelines then, just as they did during the EDRE."

Lawrence said the unit came away with invaluable experience from the exercise.

"Experiencing the rush to get out the door helps us to understand how much time we have to develop a plan

once notified," said Lawrence. "While we knew how little time we would have, experiencing the compressed timeline forces leaders to develop internal mechanisms to cope with time constraints."



Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade and Soldiers from the Slovenian Army's 10th Infantry Regt., 1st Brigade, participate in a sniper range at Pocek Range in Postonja, Slovenia, Dec. 3, 2014. Rock Proof is a series of exercises between 2nd Battalion and the Slovenian Armed Forces 1st Brigade, focused on small-unit tactics and building interoperability between allied forces.

Photo by Davide Dalla Massara and Paolo Bovo, TSC Vicenza

U.S., Romanian paratroopers complete allied Exercise Rubicon



A Romanian 6th Special Forces Brigade soldier gives guidance to a paratrooper from Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, on the operation of a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, prior to a combined-arms range, Nov. 18, in Cincu, Romania, as part of Exercise Rubicon. Rubicon is a bilateral exercise designed to increase NATO interoperability between allied forces as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Story and photos by Sgt. **AM LaVey**
173rd Airborne Brigade

CINCUI, Romania — American and Romanian paratroopers wrapped up the two-week-long combined training Exercise Rubicon here Nov. 23.

Rubicon was designed to increase NATO interoperability between the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade and Romanian Army's 6th Special Operations Brigade, while also increasing mutual training opportunities.

"Anytime you get to shoot, move and communicate with someone new, you are able to learn from, and form a bond with them," said 1st Lt. Matthew Van Arsdall, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne's operations officer for the exercise. "The more time you can spend with each other, the better you're going to work together. You're going to learn their customs and culture, and the way they do things."

While the brigade recently completed two other exercises with Romanian forces, this was the first time for

the paratroopers of 1st Battalion, to train with the 6th Special Operations Brigade.

The exercise began with a combined airborne operation, with both forces aboard Romanian aircraft but using the American T-11 parachute system. The second phase was combined

marksmanship training, where the two forces trained on each other's weapons systems.

"This is great training," said Pfc. Garret Matthews, an infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion. "We don't get to come out and shoot all sorts of different weapons very often. The Roma-

nian soldiers are absolute professionals, very proficient in what they do and it's interesting to see how they use their equipment. Both sides are getting a lot of out it."

The third phase incorporated the pre-

vious training into a combined field training exercise.

"This exercise is the first step in developing the relationship between our two units," said Romanian Army Col. Doru Tocila, the exercise director. "Starting with baby steps, we began with weapons ranges and then built up to small unit tactics and parachute operations, which led up to a combined field training exercise."

Training in the hills and valleys of Ro-

mania provided the American paratroopers a new environment to train in, different from their home station in Italy and the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, in Germany.

"At any point in time, the 173rd Airborne can be called up to go anywhere in the world in 18 hours," said Matthews. "So if we do get called up, we will be better prepared to adapt to the environment and any situation."



Romanian 6th Special Forces Brigade Soldiers and paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, conduct a patrol together, Nov. 20, 2014, in Cincu, Romania, as part of Exercise Rubicon. Rubicon is a bilateral exercise designed to increase NATO interoperability between allied forces as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

The Romanians concurred with the importance of the combined training. "This is our job, to be prepared to act together with our allies. No one knows what will happen in the future, but we will be ready," said Romanian Army Col. Dan-Micea Suta, commander, 6th Special Operations Bde.

The exercise was part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, an increase in the frequency of allied exercises to demonstrate U.S. commitment to European collective defense.

"We are part of the NATO alliance and I think sometimes we don't know what that means," said Capt. Teddy W. Borawski III, commander, Company C, 1st Battalion. "Our nations can form an alliance, but can we create results? That's the biggest thing that we have been working on here these last few weeks. We came together and showed that we can provide those results. In future operations, I am confident that we will be successful -- this alliance works."

The two units are planning for additional training together next year, both in Italy and Romania.

173rd Airborne joins Danish, British forces in Exercise White Sword

By 2nd Lt. **Steven R. Siberski**
173rd Airborne Brigade

OKSBOEL, Denmark – U.S. Army paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade joined the Danish Army's 2nd Brigade and the Queens Company of the British Army's Grenadier Guards for the start of Exercise White Sword here, Dec. 5.

The battalion's participation in the exercise is intended to assist with the validation of the Danish eaction Battle Group, incorporating two companies from different nations, the U.S. and Great Britain. The exercise starts here in the Oksboel Training Area prior to moving to the South Zealand region of Denmark.

"This is the final exercise before we become a part of NATO Response Force 2015," said Brig. Gen. Jens Garly, 2nd Danish Brigade commander. "Being a part of multinational operations and having the ability to plug in units from other nations during our training gives us an incredible opportunity to participate in major combat operations, as well as stability operations."

The training also allows paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne to exercise their own quick-response procedures. As the Army's Contingency Response Force in Europe, the battalion maintains the ability to deploy on short notice to conduct the full spectrum of operations across the U.S. European, Africa and Central Command areas of responsibility.

"Being a part of (U.S. Army Europe)

we have a unique opportunity to participate in multinational exercises with our allies when they are right next door," said U.S. Army Capt. Nicholas Salimbene, "Legion Company" commander. "We can certainly learn a lot from each other and having this opportunity is great for NATO."

This is the second time paratroopers from Legion Company partnered with the 2nd Danish Brigade this year. Both units worked together during Exercise Saber Strike in Lithuania in June, where Legion Company was deployed for training as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

"This can be the start of a great relationship between Legion Company and second brigade," added Salimbene.

By continuing to work, train, and learn from each other, both American, and

Danish forces continue to towards the goal of improved interoperability between the Allied Nations.

“We need to speak the same language so we can fight together,” said Garry. “We need a partner when we go abroad and we need somebody who can be integrated into our operations. Working together gives us the capabilities to understand each other and effectively utilize our resources,” White Sword also broke new ground for each nation involved. The operation will take U.S., Danish and British

forces throughout towns and villages in South Zealand, interacting with civilians participating in the stability operations portion of the exercise. Allied forces conducted reassurance patrols by communicating with the Danish population and gained intelligence by speaking with civilian role players, who provided American paratroopers with valuable mission related information.

“This is brand new for us,” said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. David Dzwik. “We are usually constrained to military trai-

ning areas and including the civilian exposure creates a whole new dynamic for us.”

Throughout the rest of the exercise, allied forces will continue to execute scheduled missions, working together, effectively communicating, and learning from each other to enhance training goals and to send a message that NATO is dedicated to enhancing security throughout Europe.



Paratroopers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, shake hands with British soldiers from Queens Company, Grenadier Guards, during Exercise White Sword in Denmark, Dec. 8. Exercise White Sword is a multinational exercise involving more than 1,500 NATO troops from Denmark, the United Kingdom and the U.S., and designed increase interoperability between allied forces and certify the Danish 2nd Brigade RBG for the 2015 NATO Reaction Force.

U.S. Army Capt. Nicolas Salimbene (seated, center), commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, directs British soldiers from Queens Company, Grenadier Guards where to attack the opposing force during Exercise White Sword Dec. 3.

Photos by Sgt. Benjamin John

Members of the Alpini choir sing to participants at the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony Dec. 5.

Photo by **Laura Kreider**
USAG Vicenza PAO



2014 banner year for U.S. Army Africa

Compiled by **Rich Bartell**
U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs

It was a big year for the U.S. Army's smallest Army Service Component Command. There is rarely a dull moment for U.S. Army Africa, a unit that has an area of responsibility encompassing a whole continent comprised of 54 countries. USARAF became part of an African-led Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR known as MINUSMA.

In January, USARAF supported joint military operations in Central African Republic. Additionally, USARAF just coordinated airlift to hundreds of French forces deployed in support of security assistance across Mali. Multiple nations joined together to ensure peace remains a reality for Mali residents.

The COIC synchronized all messages going out as well as the operations on the ground. USARAF coordinated for airlift supporting the French peacekeeping mission in Mali.

In February, USARAF coordinated instruction for Burkina Faso Armed Forces personnel with the third phase of unit movement training. USARAF was involved assisting and coordinating training for several partner nation soldiers during 2014.

Training troops in Chad, Guinea and Malawi is an example of the impact USARAF's training is making on the continent to prevent atrocities and provide a stabilizing influence.

2014 was also a year of recognition for USARAF civilians.

For Scott Plymesser, being chosen as the best in his field is a source of pride and humility. Recently, Plymesser was awarded the U.S. Army's Kenneth C. Raymer Memorial Award. The annual award honors the top foreign dis-



Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Williams assumes command of U.S. Army Africa in June on Caserma Ederle. Williams led the coordination efforts in Liberia to establishing Ebola treatment units and was named by President Barack Obama to lead.

sure officer in the U.S. Army intelligence community.

"I'm excited, proud and humbled to receive this award," Plymesser said. "It means a lot to me when my peers and leaders tell me that I have earned and deserve the Raymer award -- it's almost overwhelming."

USARAF continues to assist partner nations with military education programs.

Two of USARAF's top noncommissioned officers spent more than three months working with Malawi Defense Force senior enlisted advisors at the Malawi Sergeants Major Academy, a pilot program with USARAF being the first to receive funding for the program.

As with all U.S. Army units, commanders begin and end assignments. In June, USARAF said farewell to Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Donahue II and welcomed Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Williams.

On June 3, Williams took command of USARAF in ceremony on Hoekstra Field. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commanding general of U.S. Africa Command presided over the ceremony.

Medical readiness training exercises known as MEDRETEs allow both U.S. and our African partner nation medical teams to learn and train together.

USARAF takes part in coordinating several of these exercises every year.

In partnership with the Chad Armed Forces, U.S. Army Africa and a team of Army medical professionals conducted Medical Readiness Training Exercise 14-5 at the Hospital Military D'Instruction in N'Djamena, Chad, June 2-12.

In an ongoing partnership, the U.S. along with 16 countries participated in Exercise Western Accord 14 in Dakar, Senegal from June 16-27.

At request of Namibia Defense Forces, USARAF sent a gender integration team to Namibia in June, to assess and share integration implementation programs, policies and projects as well as discuss the possibility of hosting a regional gender integration conference.

"We met a small dedicated team of four women and two men -- their size does not even compare with their competence and compassion -- that lead NDF integration efforts throughout the force," said Col. Sara Simmons, former chief of personnel at USARAF.

This year was exceptional on many levels, foremost was the mission to assist the U.S. Agency for International Development to respond to an Ebola

outbreak in Liberia. Known as Operation United Assistance, or OUA, the mission was led by Williams, who had recently taken command of USARAF. By October, more than 50 personnel from U.S. Army Africa had traveled to Monrovia, Liberia in response to a request from U.S. President Barack Obama to assist in the fight against an Ebola outbreak in the region.

USARAF personnel worked under the direction of the U.S. Agency for International Development and through U.S. Africa Command in an international humanitarian during the OUA mission. Williams explained his command's involvement in Operation United Assistance.

"We are partnering with the Armed Forces of Liberia and they're eager to help their fellow countrymen. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, are working side by side with our Liberian host and build on our already special relationship," Williams said. During the initial phases of OUA, USARAF was instrumental in establi-

shing the construction of three Ebola treatment units, two mobile laboratories as well as creating a foundation leading to construction of up to 17 ETUs. Additionally, USARAF was key in setting up a hospital to be used in the event health care workers became infected with the Ebola virus in the course of treating patients.

Mobile labs allowed for quicker turnaround time between testing a patient for Ebola and getting the results back. The time, on average, was shortened from approximately two days to about four hours.

Construction of Ebola treatment units provided another weapon in the battle to stopping the spread of the disease. ETUs dramatically increased the patient care capability and were a

direct result of USARAF coordination efforts.

USARAF transferred authority of OUA to the 101st Airborne Division Oct. 26 in Monrovia, Liberia.

Photos courtesy of **USARAF PAO**



U.S. Army Africa coordinated with the 1st Infantry Division on efforts in Africa during the year. USARAF was involved in several exercises in Chad, Guinea and Malawi.



Photo by **Laura Kreider**
USAG Vicenza PAO

For the second year in a row the Vicenza High School Basketball team hosts the Liceo Quadri, an Italian team from Vicenza as part of the annual school exchange program, at the post fitness center Dec. 10.

The teams played two games and they plan on meeting for the return match at the Italian school downtown Vicenza on Jan. 14.

Community news briefs

VCC Scholarships

The Vicenza Community Club awards more than \$25,000 annually through three scholarship funds. One is for graduation seniors and two for continuing education. The deadline for applications is Feb. 27, 2015. The forms can be downloaded at www.vccitaly.org.

Wellness Center move

Starting Jan. 5, the Army Wellness Center will operate out of their new location on the 2nd floor of the Health Center, building 2310. Be aware that for the remainder of December there will be limited appointment availability and no walk-in body composition assessments (Body Fat Friday).

The AWC will be closed from Dec. 22-Jan.4.

UMUC Classes

The Spring session of classes run Jan. 12-March 8. Classes in Vicenza include Elementary Italian I & II, American Government, Western Civilization, College Math and Organizational Communication. Registration needs to be completed by Jan. 7. For questions call 634-8927 or email vicenza-europe@umuc.edu.

CTC Classes

Term 3 for Central Texas College registration is due Jan. 8 for classes starting Jan. 20. Offerings for this semester include Criminal Investigation, Setting Goals and Objectives, Historical Principals of War, EMT Basic/Clinical EMT and Homeland Security Emergency Communication. For more information, call 634-654 or email vicenza@europe.ctcd.edu.

ADPASS

Do you have family in the Philippines that you need assistance in con-

tacting them after the Super Typhoon Hagupit? The Army has a system that can help. The Army Disaster Accountability Assessment Personnel System (ADPASS) can be accessed at: <https://adpaas.army.mil/> If you need assistance locally, Army Community Service will be there to assist at 0444-71-7500.

Holiday mailing deadlines

On Dec. 20, the postal service center will only be open for pick up 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Feline Fridays

The Vicenza Veterinary Clinic presents Feline Fridays the last Friday of every month from 8-11:45 a.m. and 1-3:45 a.m. Make an appointment for your feline friend to receive their annual vaccines and other exams with no dogs in the facility. To make an appointment or for more information call 0444-71-4841.

Safety recalls

The Consumer Product Safety Commission publishes product safety recalls to <http://www.cpsc.gov/>. Salsa Cycles recalls Bicycle Forks due to risk of fall hazard. Horizon Hobby recalls HobbyZone Super Cub S Radio-Controlled Aircraft due to fire hazard. Daikin recalls Air Purifiers due to fire hazard. Felt Bicycles recalls Cyclocross Bicycles due to risk of injury. Graco recalls 11 models of Strollers due to Fingertip Amputation hazard. Leatherman recalls Children's Multi-Tool due to laceration hazard. Goal Zero recalls Battery Packs due to fire hazard. Call Garrison Safety with questions or concerns at 634-8109/8023/7045.

Vicenza Cub Scouts

Do you have a child interested in joining Cub Scouts? Email pack295chair@gmail.com

Eco Center Hours

The Eco Center is open Mondays-Fri-

days, 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and closed Sundays. Prohibited items include tires, vehicle batteries, auto parts, motor oil, paint, classified materials and government equipment.

Medical Benvenuti

Every Tuesday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at building 300A, next to the Mensa.

AA meetings

Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fridays 5:30-6:30 p.m. at building 395, room 5, behind the Mensa. This meeting is open to anyone interested in the 12-step process. Call 634-7554 for more information.

IACS office hours

The Pass and Badge office located in Building 4B near the MP station on Caserma Ederle is open for service workdays from 8:30 a.m. till noon and from 1-4 p.m. Call 634-7053 or 634-6754 for assistance.

Del Din parking closure

The western parking garage on Del Din, building 14, will be closed for approximately 30 days while pigeon netting is installed and it is cleaned. No vehicle will be allowed to be parked while this is taking place.

Drivers Testing Class

The Driver's Orientation class will be conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m.

The change in schedule will allow personnel attending the orientation be given the opportunity to take the Driver's License test the following day.

Vehicle Registration hours update

The Vehicle Registration Office is open Monday through Friday continuously from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 637-7820/7822/7823 for assistance.

Del Din GCU accepts check deposits The Caserma Del Din Global Credit Union ATM located in the in the Community Mail Room can now accept check deposits if the bank card being used is either a GCU debit or ATM card; participates in the AFFN

network or participates in the Accel/Exchange network. Call 0444-71-7470 or 634-7470 for details.

New TMP location

TMP service will no longer be provided at the industrial complex at Torri di Quartersolo. The new garrison TMP will now be located at building 272 on Caserma Ederle. Building 272 is near the POL point and the Hall of Heroes on Ederle. This relocation moves non-tactical services closer to customers serving on Ederle and Del Din

Snow chain use

The Italian "Codice della Strada" allows local jurisdiction/road owner to require vehicles to have snow chains on board or equipped with winter tires. These requirements apply to all the Autostrade and some local roads. The ordinances are available at the official web site of Polizia di Stato: <http://www.poliziadistato.it>

The ordinances are typically valid from Nov. 15-April 15 (even if snowfall is not in progress). However, weather

conditions or local requirements may warrant their use as specified in the ordinance.

Traffic police enforce compliance with all road ordinances for the time frame/conditions indicated by the requirements. Police will check for snow chains on board or winter tires with the MS insignia. Fines for non compliance range from €84-335.

At the movies



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 3

Larry (Ben Stiller) sets out on an epic quest to save the museum's magic from disappearing forever. This movie is rated PG and will be shown in 3D.

Admission: 3D first run (*), adult, \$8, under 12, \$5.25; 3D second run, adult \$7.50, under 12, \$5; first run (*), adult, \$6, under 12, \$3.25; second run, adult \$5.50, under 12, \$3.

Advance tickets: On sale Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the PX Food Court entrance, except on federal holidays. Up to 50 percent of seats will be on sale; the remainder go on sale one hour before show time at the theater box office.

Film ratings and reviews are available at www.imdb.com

Ederle Theater

Dec. 18	7 p.m.	The Hobbit 2 in 3D (PG-13) *
Dec. 19	7 p.m.	Night at the Museum 3 in 3D (PG) *
	10 p.m.	Annie (PG) *
Dec. 20	3 p.m.	Night at the Museum 3 in 3D (PG) *
	9 p.m.	The Hobbit 2 (PG-13) *
Dec. 21	3 p.m.	Night at the Museum 3 (PG) *
	6 p.m.	Annie (PG) *
Dec. 24	11 a.m.	Annie (PG) *
	7 p.m.	Night at the Museum 3 (PG) *
Dec. 25		CLOSED
Dec. 26	7 p.m.	Into the Woods (PG)
	10 p.m.	Unbroken (PG-13)
Dec. 27	3 p.m.	Into the Woods (PG)
	6 p.m.	Unbroken (PG-13)
Dec. 28	3 p.m.	Into the Woods (PG)
	6 p.m.	Unbroken (PG-13)
Dec. 31	11 a.m.	Interstellar (PG-13)
	7 p.m.	Big Hero 6 (PG)

advertising



BELLINI Canella



Happy Holliday on page 38



Family and

Vicenza Military Community



Holiday Surf and Turf Night

Make your reservations for the Holiday Surf & Turf Night at the 5:01 Bar on Dec 18 and enjoy a lovely 8 oz. bacon-wrapped filet mignon steak, grilled shrimp and all the fixins! Call 634-7685 to reserve by December 16.

Teen Center Bowling Night

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join the Teen Center for a night of bowling at the Arena on Dec 15, 6-7 p.m. Youth will meet at the Teen Center (Bldg. 373) and then walk to the Arena for some awesome bowling and pizza.

CYSS Parents Advisory Group Meeting

Your voice matters, make it heard. All parents of children registered for CYSS are encouraged to attend the Dec 15 meeting, Noon-1 p.m. in the ACS large conference room.

Agenda will include:

- Results of CYSS Customer Service Survey
- Hourly Care availability
- Parent Participation Points and volunteer opportunities at CYSS
- Winter CYSS activities
- Discussion of parent concerns & questions

BOSS Christmas Dinner

BOSS and the Warrior Zone are hosting the 2nd Annual Christmas Flying Buns dinner; a full meal will be provided to all Single Soldiers at the Warrior Zone on Christmas Day, 6-7 p.m. Don't miss this fun and interactive dinner experience!

Introduction to Framing

Learn how to do your own matting and framing at the Arts & Crafts Center on Dec 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please bring a 5"x7" photo or smaller with you to class to frame. All other materials are included in the class. Register at the Arts & Crafts or on WebTrac.

Around the World New Year's Eve Party

Join the Warrior Zone for a trip around the world on New Year's Eve. Ring in the New Year every hour on the hour in a different country with food and drink specials, 6 p.m.-2 a.m.

BOSS Bowling Night

BOSS Bowling is right up your alley! Enjoy free bowling and pizza on December 16 for all Single and Geo-bachelor Soldiers 7-8 p.m. at the Arena.

ODR Trips

- Dec 17 Wine Down Wednesday
- Dec 20 Salzburg & Kufstein Christmas Market Express
- Dec 20 Kronplatz Ski & Snowboard Trip
- Dec 21 Brixen and Trento Christmas Markets
- Dec 21 Paganella Ski & Snowboard Trip
- Dec 24 San Martino Santa Suit Ski & Snowboard Trip
- Dec 26 Magic Christmas at Gardaland
- Dec 26 Sledding
- Dec 27 Rome Express at Christmas Time
- Dec 27 Obereggen Ski & Snowboard Trip
- Dec 28 Visit to a Venetian Palazzo in Venice
- Dec 31 Ljubljana, Slovenia for New Years

For more info about these trips, contact ODR at 634-7453.



Register using MWR Online Services for:

Vicenza Trip & Classes

Vicenza CYSS Activities



Darby Military Community



CYSS Christmas Gardaland Trip

Come enjoy a chilly day at Italy's biggest amusement park on Dec 23. Fun, friends and rides are all you need to ring in the holidays.

Trip includes:

- Transportation
- Supervision
- Lunch

Youth must register and pay at the Youth Center by Dec 19. Minimum of 5 persons required. For more info, contact 633-7629.

Youth Center Christmas Party

Youth in grades 4-12 are invited to the Youth Center Christmas Party on Dec 19, 6 p.m.-midnight. Christmas cheer guaranteed with food, games and lots of fun! Sign up and pay by Dec 17 at the Youth Center.

Dine on a Dime

Dine on a Dime is a monthly financial readiness and budgeting course offered to single and unaccompanied service members interested in saving money on groceries, planning meals and learning how to eat healthy on the cheap. Drop by for a free meal on Dec 15, 4:30-6 p.m. at the Darby Community Club.

CYSS Sports Basketball & Cheerleading Registration

Register youth by December 6 for Basketball and Cheerleading at Parent Central Services. For details, visit www.darby.armyMWR.com

BOSS Holiday Celebrations

For 25 years, the BOSS program has helped support the military community by enhancing the quality of life and morale of the single service member. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary, the Darby BOSS program is hosting numerous holiday celebrations. Be sure to check out all the special offers for BOSS members for the months of December, and January. For details, visit www.darby.armyMWR.com

Outdoor Recreation Culture Trips

- Dec 21 Gardaland Magic Christmas
- Dec 27 Rome Trip
- Jan 3 Outlet Shopping Trip
- Jan 10 Tuscan Ceramic Trip

Outdoor Recreation Ski & Snowboard Trips

Hit the slopes in January with Outdoor Recreation and head off for Abetone and Cimone every weekend! If you don't have ski equipment, no worries! Drop by Outdoor Rec and check out our wide selection of skis and snowboards for rental.

- Jan 3, 17, 31 Abetone Ski & Snowboard Trip
- Jan 10, 24 Cimone Ski & Snowboard Trip

Contact Outdoor Recreation to register at 633-7775/7589

BOSS Ugly Sweater Holiday Party

'Tis the Season to celebrate! Get in the fun and competition while enjoying a festive evening with your friends on Dec 24 at the Bowling Center for potluck dinner, ugly sweater contest, white elephant gift exchange and holiday movies! Fun begins at 7 p.m.



Register using MWR Online Services for:

Darby Trip & Classes

Darby CYSS Activities



Darby Facebook Page

Chapel activities

Vicenza

Sunday Services

9 a.m.: Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation following Mass or during duty hours

11 a.m.: Protestant worship

1:30 p.m.: Gospel service

5 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

Tuesday

9 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

6 p.m.: PMOC and PWOC Bible study. Dinner provided; no watch care

Thursday

9:30 a.m.: St. Mark's Catholic Women

7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

**Call 634-7519
or 0444-71-7519 for
information on Vicenza
Chapel activities**

Camp Darby

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m.: Protestant worship and children's service

Catholic Mass: Call the Chapel at 633-7267 to confirm times

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

For DMC activities call 633-7267

Chaplain Crisis Line

To reach a Chaplain after duty hours, call **634-KARE (634-5273)**

The Outlook Religious Activities page provides announcements and may offer perspectives to enhance spiritual or religious resiliency in support of Army Comprehensive Fitness programs. Comments regarding specific beliefs, practices or behaviors are strictly those of the author and do not convey endorsement by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Army, Installation Management Command or the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza.

VMC faith group contacts

Bahá'í Faith: Call 348-603-2283

Church of Christ: Call at 388-253-9749 or 324-623-7921 or send email: vicenzaitalychurchofchrist@gmail.com

Jewish: Call 634-7519, 0444-71-7519 or 327-856-2191

Latter Day Saints: Young Men/Young Women meeting is every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Spiritual Fitness Center. Sunday services, 9:30 a.m. in Vicenza. Call 634-7897, 380-431-7633 or email: lescall@gmail.com

Muslim: Call 634-7519 or 0444-71-7519

Trinity Church Vicenza: An International Presbyterian Church congregation. Call 328-473-2949 or email: trinitychurchvicenza@gmail.com

Vicenza Hospitality House: A good place for anyone — single Soldiers, men, women and couples — to enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

Friday: Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. with Walk in the Word following. Call 0444-581-427 for more information or if you need transportation.

MUSIC ACTIVITIES AT THE CHAPEL

Tuesday, 5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

Wednesday, 6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.: Gospel choir rehearsal



Vicenza Military Community Chapel Holiday Worship Schedule

14 DEC-Mass with Cardinal O'Brien

16 DEC-Hanukkah begins (no service at this time)

23 DEC-Caroling, 1200

24 DEC-Children's Mass, 1700

24 DEC-Protestant Candlelight Service, 1900

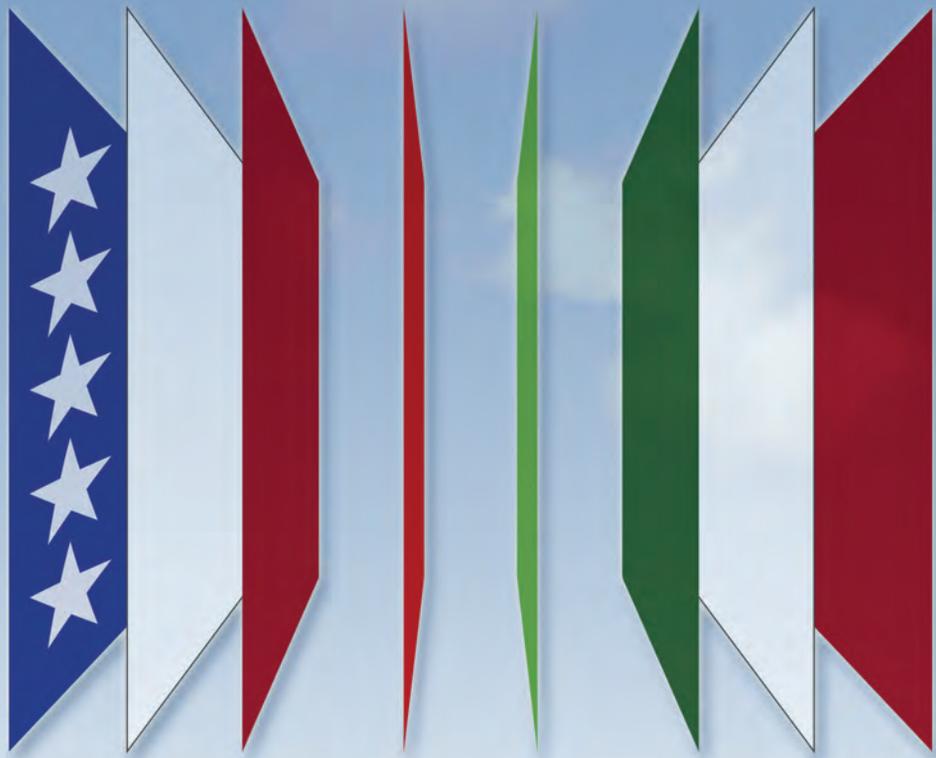
25 DEC-Christmas Mass, 1000

31 DEC-New Years Mass, 1700

*Location for all services: Caserma Ederle Chapel

OUTLOOK is printed

**COOPERATIVA
TIPOGRAFICA
OPERAI**
degli Società Cooperativa



OutsideTheGate

FUORI dal CANCELLO



follow us



<https://www.facebook.com/OTG.Italy>



https://twitter.com/OTG_Vicenza



Corri Babbo Natale Corri - Run Santa Claus, Run

VENETO

MERCATINI ED EVENTI DI NATALE CHRISTMAS MARKETS AND EVENTS

VICENZA

Corri Babbo Natale Corri **Run Santa Claus, Run**

The Vicenza Military Community is invited to participate in the Run Santa Claus, a charity event. This ninth annual run will be held on Dec. 20 in support of "Villaggio SOS Vicenza", and a local Association for Cardiopathic Children; the event runs from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., starting and ending at Campo Marzo, the park near the main train station; registration will be held at Villaggio SLS, Via G. Silvestri, Vicenza; the €8 participation fee includes a lightweight Santa running suit, hot chocolate and pandoro cake at the finish; the participants are encouraged to donate food to the organization, because this year they collect it for the poor of Vicenza; individuals of all ages and groups are welcome; special recognition for the largest group, awards for the youngest and oldest Santa Claus, and for the most

creative Christmas outfit; the course is under two kilometers and may be easily completed walking; participants may pre-register to receive their outfit before race day, or may sign-up and pay the day of the event at 9 a.m.; the €8 entrance fee includes a lightweight Santa running suit, hot chocolate and pandoro cake at the finish (€3 if you already have a Santa suit or want only a Santa hat, others can join in the hot chocolate and cake for €2,50); to register and/or more info, call Beatrice Giometto, 634-7901 or 0444-7901.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/vicenza/eventi/evento.php/116158>

I Mercanti del gusto e delle tradizioni **Merchants of flavors and traditions**

Dec. 19-21, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. in Piazza Castello; exhibit and sale of typical products and wines from each of the 20 Italian regions.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/>

Weekend in Piazza Castello

Dec. 20 and **27**, in Piazza Castello, gospel choir; Santa Claus will hand out sweets and candies; **Dec. 21**, and **28**, live piano music.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/>

Magico Natale **Magic Christmas**

Through **Dec. 30**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Via Cesare Battisti and

Corso Fogazzaro.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/vicenza/eventi/evento.php/117280>

Through **Jan. 6**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Corso Palladio, right across Coin commercial center.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/vicenza/eventi/evento.php/117283>

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/>

Mercatino Vintage ed artigianato **Vintage and Craft exhibit and sale**

Dec. 20-21 and **Jan. 3-4**, in Piazza delle Erbe

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/>

Mercatino di Natale **Christmas market**

Through **Dec. 21**, Mondays-Fridays, 3-5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9 a.m.-noon and 3:30-6 p.m., at the Bertesinella Church Center, Via Marco da Montegallo 2.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/vicenza/eventi/evento.php/117001>

Mostra del presepe missionario **Missionary Nativity sets exhibit**

Through **Jan. 11**, 9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m., Viale Trento 119.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/>

Capodanno in Piazza dei Signori **New Year's Eve in Piazza dei Signori**

Dec. 31, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.; music from the 60's to now; dancing and entertainment.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/>

Fiera e Mercato dell'Epifania **Epiphany Fair and market**

Jan. 4-6, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. in the main squares downtown Vicenza.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/vicenza/eventi/evento.php/117546>

Free classic music concerts:

Dec. 21, 11 a.m., SS. Felice e Fortunato Church, Corso SS. Felice e Fortunato 219

Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., Santa Corona Church, Contrà Santa Corona 2



Dec. 24, 9 p.m., Chiesa di Santo Stefano, Contrà Santo Stefano 6

ASIAGO

I Giardini di Natale **Christmas Market**

Dec. 20 to **Jan. 6**, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Carli and surrounding streets, about 34 north of Vicenza; food booths featuring local specialties and typical Christmas sweets and craft.

http://www.asiago.it/it/eventi/art_giardini_di_natale_i_mercatini_di_natale_di_asiago/

BASSANO DEL GRAPPA

Through **Dec. 28** in Piazza Libertà, about 22 miles northeast of Vicenza; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Saturdays 2-7:30 p.m. Through **Jan. 8**, In Piazza Garibaldi, daily 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (closed on Monday mornings).

Tutti in piazza aspettando il 2015 **New Year Celebration**

Dec. 31, Piazza Garibaldi, live music, dancing, hot spiced wine, spumante and free panettone (typical Christmas cake) for everyone at midnight.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/12/31/11933/-/tutti-in-piazza-aspettando-il-2015>

Bassano Città della Befana* **Bassano - Befana's city**

Jan. 6, from 2:30 p.m.; fairy tale characters, Befana and the three Wise Men; entertainment, free sweets and chocolate for children.

**The Befana is a kind, ugly and old hunchback witch. She is dressed in rags and travels straddling a flying broomstick, carrying a self replenishing sack full of presents for children.*

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2015/01/06/11934/-/bas>

BOLZANO

through **Jan 6**; Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sundays 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; closed **Dec. 24-25**; in Piazza Walther, about 120 miles north of Vicen-

za; more than 80 stallholders in their typical little huts offer traditional seasonal gifts (handmade wooden, glass and ceramic products along with Christmas tree decorations, delicious seasonal pastries and many original gifts), plenty of food specialties available plus mulled wine; children's Christmas market where kids can take an active part baking Christmas cookies and make small Christmas decorations and presents.

<http://www.mercatininatale.com/italia/bolzano/date-orari/>

BRESSANONE

through **Jan. 6**, Mondays–Saturdays, 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m.; on Sunday and holidays, 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m.; In Piazza Duomo, about 154 miles north of Vicenza; food booths; live music, exhibits and carnival rides.

<http://www.weihnacht-brixen.com/cs.asp?st=775&sp=it>

BUSSOLENGO (VERONA)

through **Jan. 15**, 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m.; closed on **Dec. 25** and **Jan. 1**; Natale Flover Village, Via Pastrengo 16, about 42 miles west of Vicenza; entrance fee: €1 only on Saturday and Sunday from **Nov. 3–Dec. 15**; free entrance on weekdays.

<http://www.natale-mercatini.it/mercatini-di-natale-del-veneto/#>

CASTEGNERO

Natale in Piazza... Mercato Christmas in Mercato Square

Dec. 21, in Piazza Mercato, 9 a.m.–7 p.m.; entertainment and gadgets.

FARA VICENTINO

Dec. 21, in Piazza Arnaldi, from 3 p.m.

GALLIO

Dec. 21 and **Dec. 24–Jan. 6**; 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 3:30–7 p.m., in Piazzetta Giardini, about 40 miles north of Vicenza; wooden outdoor booths featuring local holiday sweets, hot chocolate, mulled wine local crafts and gift items; entertainment with jugglers, musicians, fire-eaters, street artists, gnomes, elves, and acrobats; shows and work-

shops for children.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/12/06/11948/-i-mercatini-di-natale-di-gallio>

LUSIANA

Dec. 20, 2:30–6 p.m. Christmas market; 3 p.m. dance show; 4:30 p.m. roasted chestnuts for everyone; **Dec. 21**, 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Christmas market; 2:30 p.m. meet Santa Claus; 4 p.m. holiday decoration workshops for children; 5 p.m. Gospel choir.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2014/12/12/12118/-natale-a-lusiana>

MALCESINE (VERONA)

Il Castello di Babbo Natale Santa Claus Castle

Dec. 20–21, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., about 93 miles northwest of Vicenza; Christmas market; food booths and entertainment for children.

<http://www.natale-mercatini.it/mercatini-di-natale-del-veneto/#>

MAROSTICA

Natale con noi Christmas with us

Through **Jan. 6**, in Piazza Castello; Christmas hut with free popcorn and hot chocolate; Christmas caroling; entertainment and ice-skating ring.

http://www.occhi.it/scheda_agenda.php/id_rub=2/id_sez=9/id_sottosez=0/id_annuncio=248275/regione=Veneto/data_inizio=18-12-2014/data_fine=12-01-2015

SAN PIETRO IN GU (PADOVA)

Presepe Vivente Live Nativity Set

Dec. 25, 26, and **28, Jan. 4, 6, 11, 18, 25**, 5:45–7 p.m., at the city playground, Via Mazzini.

<http://www.sanpietroingu.net/home/index.html>

PADOVA

Through **Jan. 6**, in Piazza Cavour, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

http://www.occhi.it/scheda_agenda.php/id_rub=2/id_sez=9/id_sottosez=0/id_annuncio=256721/regione=Veneto/data_inizio=18-12-2014/data_fine=12-01-2015

THIENE

Mostra di Presepi Nativity sets exhibit

Through **Jan. 11**, Nativity sets exhibit, Via Montello 13; Saturdays–Mondays, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 4–7 p.m.; Tuesdays–Fridays, 4–7 p.m.; free entrance.

Festa del Buon Natale – pianoforte in Corso – Suona con noi

Christmas Party – pianos downtown – Come and play with us

Dec. 20–21, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–7 p.m.; main squares and streets downtown; piano players from the local Mu-



Natale Gallio



Capodanno Vicenza

sic School will perform, but everyone will have a chance to play one of the many pianos that will be at the public disposal; free entrance.

TRENTO

Through **Jan. 6**, Piazza Fiera and Piazza Cesare Battisti, about 92 miles north of Vicenza; Mondays–Fridays, 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m.; closed on **Dec. 25**; more than 60 wooden huts feature traditional holiday decorations, crafts, sweets, local products, original gift ideas, and gourmet specialties. <http://www.mercatinodinatale.tn.it/news>

VERONA

Through **Dec. 22**, in Piazza dei Signori, about 36 miles west of Vicenza ; Nuremberg Christmas market, Sundays–Thursdays, 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, and holidays' eves: 10 a.m.–11 p.m.; wood stands feature holiday gift ideas, vin brulè (hot spiced wine), holiday sweets, typical German bread and sausages.

Through **Dec. 22**, Cortile Mercato Vecchio and Cortile Ex-Tribunale, Sundays–Thursdays, 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, and holidays' eves: 10 a.m.–11 p.m. <http://www.tuttomercatinidinatale.it/mercatini-natale-verona.html>

Tutankhamon Caravaggio Van Gogh . La sera e i notturni dagli Egizi al Novecento **Tutankhamon Caravaggio Van Gogh. Evenings and nocturnal from the Ancient Egyptian to the 20th century**

Dec. 24–June 2, Mondays–Thursdays 9 a.m.–7 p.m.; Fridays–Sundays 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; **Dec. 25**, 3–8 p.m.; **Dec. 26–30**, 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; **Jan 1**, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; **Jan 2–5**, 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; in Vicenza, Palladian Basilica, Piazza dei Signori 1; entrance fee: €12; reduced €9 for students (ages 18–26) and senior citizens older than 65; €6 for people 6–17 years; free for children younger than 6; buy your ticket online at <http://www.lineadombra.it/ita/index.php>. <http://www.vicenzabooking.com/en/events/298-caravaggio-van-gogh-and-tutankhamen-the-evening-and-night-by-the-egyptians-to-900>

Capolavori che ritornano Returning Masterpieces Exhibit

Through **Feb. 8**, in Vicenza, Palazzo Thiene, Corso Palladio 13; Fridays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; free entrance. http://www.popolarevicenza.it/bpvi-web/data/bpvi/en/financial-Data/Annual-Report-2013/Download-Annual-Report-2013/allegato/Annual_Report_2013.pdf

Real Bodies Exhibit of plastinated real human

Dec. 26–Jan. 6 open daily; **Jan. 9–May 3**, Fridays–Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; the exhibit offers a new and informative view into the human body; entrance fee: €18; reduced €16 for students and senior citizens older than 65; €13 aged 6–12; free for children younger than 6. <http://www.realbodies.it/orari-e-tariffe/real-bodies-informazioni-su-tariffe-e-orari.html>

Antique markets Dec. 20–21

Verona: Dec. 20, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., in Piazza S. Zeno, about 38 miles west of Vicenza.

Asiago: Dec. 21, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Via Trento e Via J. Scaiaro, about 34 north of Vicenza Godega di Sant'Urbano: Dec. 21, 8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Via Roma, about 78 miles northeast of Vicenza

Montagnana: Dec. 21, 8 a.m.–sunset, in Piazza Maggiore 150, about 27 miles south of Vicenza Padova: Dec. 21, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Prato della Valle, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza

Soave: Dec. 21, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., in Piazza Antonio Marogna and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, about 23 miles west of Vicenza

Antique markets Dec. 28

Belluno: 8 a.m.–7 p.m., Piazza Duomo, about 103 miles north of Vicenza

Dolo (Venice): 8 a.m.–7 p.m., about 37 miles east of Vicenza

Piazzola sul Brenta: 8 a.m.–6 p.m., in Via Camerini, about 16 miles east of Vicenza

Recoaro Terme: from May–October, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., in Piazza Dolomiti

Spresiano (Treviso): 8 a.m.–5 p.m., in Piazza Luciano Rigo, about 43 miles northeast of Vicenza

Treviso: 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m., Via San Liberale, about 56 miles east of Vicenza

Antique markets Jan. 5

Marostica: 8 a.m.–7 p.m., in Piazza Castello, about 18 miles north of Vicenza

Noventa Vicentina: 8 a.m.–6 p.m., in Piazza IV Novembre, about 20 miles south of Vicenza.



Montepulciano - Christmas Village

TUSCANY

MERCATINI ED EVENTI DI NATALE CHRISTMAS MARKETS AND EVENTS

FLORENCE

Winter Park

open daily through March 1, in Florence, in Florence, Ohihal Center, Lungarno Aldo Moro; ice skating ring, a snow tubing track and a downhill ski; all necessary equipment can be rented on site; Christmas markets on **Dec. 20-21, 27-28** and **Jan. 3-4**.

<http://firenzewinterpark.it/index.php/costi-delle-attivita>

GUARDISTALLO (PISA)

Natalissimo Super Christmas

Dec. 21 and **Dec. 28**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; holiday market and local products and wines in the main squares and streets downtown.

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=7&city=&date=12&page=1&post=1532>

LIVORNO

Suoni, colori... profumo di Natale

Sounds, colors... smell of Christmas

Dec. 20-21, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Christmas market, Piazza XX Settembre

<http://www.lanazione.it/livorno/livorno-si-tuffa-nei-mercatin-di-natale-1.463295>

Artisti di Strada Street Artists

Through **Dec. 24**, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m., in Via della Madonna; demonstration of glass, wood, and ceramic craftsmanship.

<http://www.lanazione.it/livorno/livorno-si-tuffa-nei-mercatin-di-natale-1.463295>

MARRADI (FIRENZE)

Dec. 21, 28, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., in Piazza Le Scalelle.

MONTECATINI TERME (PISTOIA)

La Fabbrica di Babbo Natale Santa Claus Village

Through **Jan 6**; at the Terme Tamerici Castle; Christmas market and holiday ornaments workshops for children, pony rides, food booths; entrance fee: €8; reduced €7 for children younger than 12.

www.lafabbricadibabbonatale.it

MONTEPULCIANO (SIENA)

Through **Jan 6**, 2015; visit the Christmas Village in Piazza Grande, Piazzetta Danesi and Via San Donato; games, workshops, and entertainment for children.

<http://www.natale-mercatin.it/mercatin-di-natale-della-toscana/>

PALAZZUOLO SUL SENIO (FLORENCE)

Dec. 21, in Piazza IV Novembre; holiday market and local products exhibit and sale.

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=1&city=&date=12&page=1&post=954>

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=7&city=&date=13&page=1&post=216>

Pisa

Through **Dec. 24**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Christmas market and Nativity set display in Largo Ciro Matteotti and Logge di Banchi

Antique Christmas Market

Dec. 22-24, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Via San Francesco and nearby streets.

<http://www.provincia.pisa.it/interno.php?id=40399>

CONCERTS



Harlem Gospel Choir

Spirit of New Orleans Gospel Choir – Dec. 22 in Castelnuovo di Garfagnana (Lucca)

Harlem Gospel Choir – Dec. 23 in Bologna

Romeo and Juliet – Ballet of Moscow – Dec. 25 in Verona

Gran Concerto di Natale – Christmas Concert – Dec. 27 in Padova

The Original USA Gospel Singers and Band – Jan. 11, in Bolzano

Antique markets Dec. 20-21

Certaldo (Florence): Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Boccaccio and Via 2 Giugno

Lucca: Dec. 20-21, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antelminelli, Piazza S. Giovanni, Piazza San Giusto, Via San Giovanni, Corte Bertolini

Marina di Grosseto (Grosseto): Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via XXIV Maggio

Quarrata (Pistoia): Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Risorgimento

Antique markets Dec. 27-28

Castiglion Fiorentino (Arezzo): Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Piazza del Municipio

Cecina (Livorno): Dec. 28, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. in downtown Cecina (Livorno)

Montevarchi (Arezzo): Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-7 pm. Via Isidoro del Lungo, and Via Poggio

Ponte a Egola (Pisa): Dec. 28, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Rossa

Prato: Dec. 27-28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza San Francesco

Antique markets Jan. 4-5

Carmignano (Prato): Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m.-7p.m., Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II and Piazza Matteotti.

Cascina (Pisa): Jan. 4, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Corso Matteotti, first Sunday of the month (except July and August), 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; vendors 115.

Orbetello (Grosseto): Jan. 4-5, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Corso Italia.

Pietrasanta (Lucca): Jan. 4, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Duomo, about 50 vendors.

San Miniato (Pisa): Jan. 4, 9 a.m.-8p.m. Piazza del Popolo

San Giuliano Terme (Pisa): Jan. 4, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Shelley and Piazza Italia.

HOLIDAY SEASON AT AMUSEMENT PARKS

Magic Winter at Gardaland

Dec. 20-24, Dec. 26-31; Jan 1-6; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; in Castelnuovo del Garda, Via Derna, 4, about 45 miles west of Vicenza; Christmas market and food booths; entrance fee: €23, reduced €20, for children younger than 10, and senior citizens older than 60.

<http://www.gardaland.it/resort/>

Rainbow Magicland

Dec. 20-23, Dec. 26-31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., it closes at 11 p.m. on Dec. 31; Jan. 2-6, open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Via della Pace, Valmontone, Roma; entrance fee: €22; reduced €19; free for children under 39.37 inches tall.

<https://www.magicland.it/>

Italia in miniatura Italia in miniature

Dec. 20-21, entrance fee: €10; reduced €7; Dec. 26-31, entrance fee: €12; reduced €8; 9:30 a.m. to sunset; Viserba (Rimini); Via Popilia 239; this park display hundreds miniatures of famous Italian and European buildings and offers special entertainment and attractions during the holiday season.

<http://www.italiainminiatura.com/en/prices-and-info/prices/individual-prices.html>

Venice TOURS

An American who's lived in Italy since 1967 gives interesting tours of Venice including some history, important landmarks, a 2 euro gondola ride, glassblowing demo, mask making and Master forcula sculptor all when open.

Of course a lot of walking **Venice Tours 348 854 2505**

Venice Tours

Signed, Stacey W. Bronwyn Collins and Brit Stones. Australia

<http://seeitalytours.com/>



di Mirko Gastaldello

Cask Wine
Bottle of wine and local products
Gift baskets

Bussines hours
9:00am/12:00am
3:30pm/7:30pm
Closed Monday

Viale della Pace, 272 VICENZA
GATE 2, EDERLE BASE
Tel. 349 0021859



ETTORE

ETTORE PIVATO VICENZA

USED CARS - CARS REPAIR
ELECTRIC BODYWORK
MECHANIC - TIRES BALANCE

PIVATO S.R.L. **0444 300173**
VIALE DELLA PACE, 74 36100 VICENZA (VI)
WWW.ETTOREPIVATO.COM/

CHINESE RESTAURANT HONG KONG 2

A corner of the East on the outskirts of Vicenza!
The Hong Kong restaurant welcomes you in a quiet and elegant place where you can swim and enjoy the best dishes of traditional Chinese cuisine.

HONG KONG 2

Strada Del del Pasubio 343 - 36100 Vicenza (VI)

Tel. 0444 980316 guodichao@yahoo.it

Various Glass wine DEMIJOHN

I have several wine damigians from Venice and the surrounding Islands. I have sold them in the US for up to \$150 each. If you are interested I will take a picture with your keg and a gondola to add to it's value. They are mostly 54 liter green kegs for only \$40 each. 3 for \$100.

Call 348 854 2505

Old Pub

Beer House

OldPub - Via Pascolone, 24
ZELO (Rovigo)

Tel. 348 1274841



STEAK-HOUSE

BILLABONG

GRIGLIERIA ITALIANA

BILLABONG | Via Monte Grappa, 70, Costabissara VI | **Tel: 0444 557550**



The hotel and restaurant are located along the local road that connects Vicenza and Padova, just beyond the Piramide Shopping Center in Torri di Quartisolo, in the direction of Padova on the right. There is ample parking, outside and underground. Wifi service is available throughout the structure.

Hotel Giada, in over 25 years of outstanding service, has become an institution for locals who flock there to enjoy quality Italian cuisine at a reasonable price. The hotel, with 80 comfortable clean rooms, prompt service, and proximity to the highway, also makes Giada a choice hotel for travelers and businessmen.



If you have got picky eaters, the restaurant pleases just about any palate, from Naples style pizza, seafood, meat, pasta to vegetarian dishes.

The restaurant is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year, except for Monday at lunchtime.



Tel. +39 **0444 580057**
Email: info@hotelristorantegiada.com

ITALIAN RESTAURANT, PIZZERIA & HOTEL

Opening hours: 12:00am 2:30pm - 6:00pm 11:30pm

WITH THIS COUPON:

10% DISCOUNT IN OUR RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

We do also **TAKE AWAY** and **SEPARATE BILLS**



By Susan Hedblad

Think local for last-minute holiday shopping



Valter Casarotto

This year I've decided to buy local and stay low-tech for my Christmas shopping, while supporting small business owners. It's a s bit embarrassing, as I do live here, but I didn't have much more than a slight notion of what kind of locally crafted products I could find, except for my first passion, wine!

I decided to contact **Valter Casarotto**, President of Confartigianato for the Vicenza district. He invited me for a visit to their temporary store, **VIART**,

Our Christmas issue is dedicated to Vicenza and its artistic craftsmen, who uphold centuries of tradition through their creations. The materials they work with range from ceramics, leather, gold, glass, woven fabrics, wood, stone, iron to paper and print. In the Vicenza province, luxury designers from around the world bring their designs to life in the able hands of many of the world's best.

right next the Basilica, opposite Piazza Signori, where we had a chance to talk, and see first-hand what Vicenza has to offer.

Valter can you please give me some background? What is "Confartigianato"?

It's not really an equivalent, but Confartigianato could in some ways be compared to your Small Business Administration in the United States. We are a non-profit organization that represents the thousands of small and medium sized businesses that are craftsmen of one kind or another. They are the backbone of our economy, providing not only artistic crafts, but also food, wine, restaurants, fashion, construction, woodwork, furniture, wellness and beauty, and a number of other indispensable products and services.

National statistics tell us that 99% of

businesses are small or medium in size! It's an unusually high percentage for any advanced economy.

What is VIART?

Within our organization, we created the VIART project (Vicenza Art), to promote and support local artistic craftsmanship. Many of the artisans have their workshops outside of town and don't have the resources to rent downtown shops. They are passionate people that are keeping alive skills, techniques and know-how, passed down from generation to generation. We have people coming from around the world to learn and study these skills with our master craftsmen, yet their products have little or no visibility in the shopping districts and we risk losing a piece of our heritage.

So this is why you opened the VIART temporary store?

Yes, we encourage Vicenza's residents

and visitors to discover these artisans by first visiting our temporary store. We've selected a representation of the best that the Province has to offer. Our limited space doesn't permit us to display many large pieces, such as furniture, but we can put customers in touch with the workshops. Many craftsmen make personalized pieces.

I've walked past here before, but never imagined such an incredible selection. Can you tell me a bit more, with the holidays in mind?

There are so many ways to create a warm Christmas atmosphere: blown glass centerpieces, hand carved wooden bowls to fill with nuts and fruit, ornaments, candle holders, cresses. Then there are other gift ideas. Some examples are: handmade jewelry, wooden toys, "cuchi" ancient ceramic whistles, tea sets and accessories, hand loomed linens, clothing accessories and art prints. Our store manager Elena speaks English and can tell you the heritage and workmanship involved in each product.

Can you give me an idea about prices?

Well, at 5.000 euro, the most expensive piece is this small chest of drawers carved from a single trunk of pine! *(Me: It's really stunning.)* Then there are several small pieces, jewelry, ornaments, ceramics and more, starting



from as low as 4 euro. Most of the items run under 40 euro.

You mentioned students from around the world. Are they here in Vicenza?

Not in the city of Vicenza, but in Thiene. It's about a 30 minute drive from here. A European Center for Heritage Crafts and Professions has recently opened in collaboration with the Villa Fabris Foundation. Students learn crafts, from metal forging to creating hand-loomed fabrics. Anyone can participate in the intensive courses, but there are also fun short courses

where you come away with a piece that you make during the session. A complete list of the courses can be found on our website:

www.villafabris.eu/en/

Valter, thanks for taking the time to speak with me. Any other thoughts or news you'd like to share?

I'm happy to have the chance to talk about what Vicenza has to offer with the American community.

I hope this will be one of many occasions to connect with Americans living here. We have so many interesting events coming up next year, as the next World Expo will be held in Milan. Confartigianato is busy planning some fantastic dinners and tours for International visitors, to which the Ederle community is very welcome to participate.

We'll be in touch in January and until then, Merry Christmas to you and your readers!



Piazza delle Erbe, 13 - 36100 Vicenza VI
Phone: 349 326 5551 - www.viart.vi



Magnifica Campiello

Light, elegant, refined and chic, these are the words that better describe the Magnifica campiello collection. Produced also today by mean's of 1800's looms, and made even more precious by hand-made embroideries.

Using tablecloth underneath, preferably a dark one, you will for sure enhance the qualities of the precious laces.

This collection offers important large tablecloths (ut to a 6 meter long version), as well as doilies in rectangular, oval, round and square shape.



Intarsi Collection

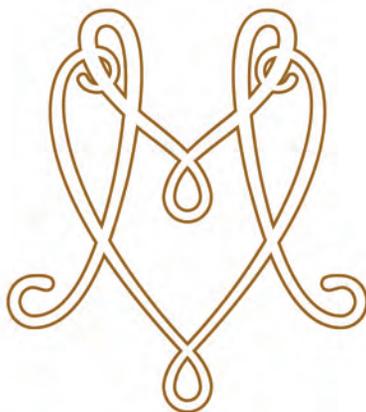
Defining the diamond standard in bed linens with eloquent simplicity, lustrous White linen or cotton sateen, 600 thread count.

Designed and made in Italy, with the extravagant care and details that are worthy of 24-karat elegance, this look transcends gender and décor.



Alpi jacquard Collection

100% pure linen, jacquard weaving In the effect is now that of a gauze that is so finely woven that at times seems transparent. An open weave, light, elegant. Total luxury to your decor fine cuisine.



SHOWROOM

Via San Mauro 307, 308, 309, 337
Burano Venice - Italy

MARTINA VIDAL

V E N E Z I A

il Sogno

If you've walked around Vicenza, you've noticed many jewelry stores. Vicenza is known as the world's capital of gold jewelry artisans, and hosts the world's largest gold jewelry trade show. The first sign of gold artisanship dates back to the 7th century B.C., and the first documented gold consortium of 150 artisans was founded back in 1300!

Nadia and Maurizio are a part of this secular tradition, with over 30 years of experience as artisans who create personalized jewelry and make precise repairs for their clients. A piece of jewelry reflects the personality of the person who wears it, whatever their style may be. So whether, you'd like to design a piece for yourself or to create a truly unique gift, **Il Sogno**, is the first place to shop.



il Sogno

Surprise someone special with a precious, lasting gift.

Create your own distinctive jewelry in our workshop.

Repair your gold or silver jewelry and watches.



il Sogno Jewellery

Via Durando 93 - 36100 Vicenza

Opening hours: 9.15-12.30 am / 3.30-7.30 pm

Closed Mondays

Tel: 0444 922199

Web site: www.il-sogno.it

Email: il-sogno@il-sogno.it



Happy Holidays



Canella



BELLINI

BELLINI



BELLINI

Canello[®]
since 1947

Recoaro Mille is a winter sports resort, in Recoaro Terme, a town well known for its thermal bath facilities. At just an hour's trip from Vicenza, it's a great choice for a day of downhill or cross-country skiing. Families with small children will appreciate the teaching facilities and the beginner's slopes.

The ski slopes are located on the plateau overlooking Recoaro Terme, and are accessible from the gondola that leaves from the town center. The 630 meter long, 28° downhill slope on Monte Falcone, is unrivaled within the Venetian Pre-Alps. A modern chairlift, conveyor belt boarding and an intermediate lift, make it ideal for intense workouts, with a lift time at just 3.5 minutes.

The Pizzegoro basin, at the foot of Monte Falcone, is the beginner's slope, served by a chairlift and a ski lift. Extending westward from the Pizzegoro basin is the picturesque Montagnole area, looking toward the ridges of the small Dolomites. It's ideal for cross-country skiing: several rings of track, varying in difficulty, are carefully maintained for cross-country enthusiasts.

The resort is complete with a large, convenient parking area, hotels, bars, ski school, and ski equipment rentals.

RECOARO 1000

NON SOLO NEVE

2015

Promotional OFFER Valid from January 7th - 31st

Weekend Promotional Rates

1 Day

1 day Skipass: Euro 20 instead of 25

1 day ski rental: Euro 18

2 Days

2 day Skipass: Euro 38

2 day ski rental: Euro 33

Hotel with breakfast included – hotel Rifugio Valdagno: Euro 35 per person

Weekday Promotional Rates

1 Day

1 day Skipass: Euro 16 instead of 21

1 day ski rental: Euro 15

2 Days

2 day Skipass: Euro 30

2 day ski rental: Euro 27

Hotel with breakfast included – hotel Rifugio Valdagno: Euro 30 per person

WWW.RECOARO1000NSN.IT

Recoaro 1000 Non Solo Neve Soc. Coop.
Via Recoaro Mille, 60 - 36076 Recoaro Terme (Vicenza)

Tel. **0445-77022** | **334-9044221**

E-Mail: info@recoaro1000nsn.it