

*The Whole World is....*

# One World

*One World is a publication of Cultural Crossroads, Inc.*

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## **“Yankee Doodle Noodle” is a tasty success!**

Twenty-five persons attended *Yankee Doodle Noodle-A History of Pasta*, the first quarterly program offered by Cultural Crossroads on Sunday, July 18, 2004. The event began and ended with Harald and his Happy Accordion serenading all with music from around the world. Gina Valente, Sunday morning host of Classical KXTR’s *An Adventure in Italy*, conducted the afternoon at the Waldo Library starting with an explanation of the song *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, clarifying that calling oneself “macaroni” does not mean the food product we are all familiar with but rather was proudly proclaiming himself to be a country bumpkin, because that was how the English regarded most colonials at that time. (See Page 2 for Gina’s article for more information.)

While the attendees munched on pizza samples and sipped icy lemonade, Gina enlightened us about instances of noodle in the Bible, Chinese use of the food, Arab, Muslim and Christian uses, and, of course, Italy. Meanwhile, Chef Doug Eifert was busy in his makeshift kitchen tantalizing everyone with the smell of fresh Risotto with Shrimp. Everyone got a taste of that culinary delight followed by cheesecake for dessert. All of the food was generously donated by Buca Di Beppo Restaurant. Door prizes were awarded and many people stayed and chatted with old and new friends.



## “YANKEE DOODLE NOODLE”

by Gina Valente

### Could you be a “macaroni” ?

What exactly is a “Yankee Doodle” and how did the term come to mean so much to early colonists? The word “yankee” is a mispronunciation of the word “English” in the Dutch language and “doodle” came from a German word meaning “simpleton” – so, a “Yankee doodle” was, basically, an English simpleton! In colonial times, the term “macaroni” was given to a person in love with the fashions, manners and tastes of Europeans. In pre-Revolutionary War America, the British “macaronis” scoffed at the colonists and referred to them as “Yankee Doodles” in a snide manner. The colonists, in turn, used “Yankee Doodle” as a rallying cry for independence and the term entered into our history. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, George M. Cohan wrote the song “Yankee Doodle Dandy” and memorialized the colonial setting with the line, “stuck a feather in his cap and called it macaroni.”

### The “other” macaroni...

Some ancient sources state that the Chinese invented pasta and that Marco Polo introduced it to Italy in 1292 C.E., but its origins are even older. The ancient Romans gave the credit to the gods for their pasta and pasta-making tools were discovered near an Etruscan tomb.

The first recorded mention of a “noodle” was in the Jerusalem Talmud, written in Aramaic over 8000 years ago. The Jordan Valley was perfect for farming and wheat-growing began there, so it was there that the people first began to make and consume some form of pasta.

Pasta was known throughout the Arab countries where, still today, they speak of “makkaroni.” From the Arab world, pasta spread to Greece and Sicily, an Arab colony. Dry pasta was eaten by the Arabs in the Middle Ages, the word “maccheroni” being derived from the Sicilian word “maccarruni” meaning “made into dough by force.” By 1150 C.E., an Arab geographer reported that dried pasta was exported to many countries from the Italian peninsula.



### Pasta “loves” Italy...

The first documented pasta recipe dates from 1000 C.E. in a Sicilian cookbook. The Corp of Pasta Makers was founded in Genoa in 1574 and Rules for the Pasta Masters’ Art Corporation was founded in Savona in 1577. In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the spread of kneading machines and the invention of the mechanical press made it possible to produce pasta at a much lower price. Pasta became the food of the people. In 1740, the city of Venice issued Paolo Adami a license to open the first pasta factory. By 1840, Naples was the Pasta Capital of the World. Machines and presses made the process easy and, with new technology, came new shapes...as many as 150-200 shapes of pasta. The favored wheat is the “taganrog” variety, which is durum wheat, grown in Russia and shipped to Liguria and Naples. Italian-built pasta-making machinery soon conquered the world.

### ...and the world loves pasta.

From China to Italy, from the Arab countries to Naples and Sicily... from Jerusalem and the ancient Etruscans to Russian wheat farmers ...and probably many more. Almost every culture has a noodle or pasta product. Whatever the shape or form and whatever the sauce – or just plain butter! – we can all enjoy pasta as our heritage.

*Embracing our past... celebrating our future*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The primary goal of Cultural Crossroads, Inc. is the creation of a cultural center designed to celebrate the diversity of Kansas City's heritage and history and to serve as a forum for education, understanding and preservation of that diversity in a multi-faceted environment, with emphasis upon the common life experiences of all peoples, in every time and place.

We are dedicated to teaching respect for all cultures through family-oriented, interactive experiences. Our outreach programs are designed for presentation in libraries, schools, community centers, churches, and other accessible venues throughout the area.

**NEXT SCHEDULED PROGRAM:** The "Hello, World!" program will be presented at Waldo Library Teen Lock-In in October. Teens will learn how to greet people in many languages, then decorate T-shirts with personal artwork and learned greetings. The teens get knowledge of diversity in a fun atmosphere and a chance to show off their fashion-sense and artistic designs – and a new T-shirt!



*Cultural Crossroads, Inc.*

**MEMBERSHIP REQUEST**

**Individual (\$25.00)**

**Family (\$35.00)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed application and check to Cultural Crossroads at the address on the reverse side of this application.

# Kansas City Cultural Calendar

One goal of Cultural Crossroads is to publicize *all* cultural events. Attend these special events; have fun and learn about the many cultures that exist among us. Doing so will create the ever-widening circles of understanding and unity which will make The Whole World whole.

August 20-22	Ethnic Enrichment Festival, Swope Park, KCMO
August 28	Latino Summer Fest, Emerson Park, KCKS
September 3-5	Irish Fest, Crown Center, KCMO
September 17-18	U.N. Conference on the Rights of the Child See <a href="http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org">www.kcglobalconcepts.org</a> for information
September 24-26	Oktoberfest, Berkeley Park, KCMO
October 2-3	Missouri Town 1855 Festival, Blue Springs, MO
October 1-31	Polish Heritage Month, Strawberry Hill Museum, KCKS

**Cultural Crossroads general meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month through 2004 at the Waldo Branch Library, 75th Street and Grand, KCMO, from 7:15-8:45 pm. Cultural Crossroads meetings are open to the community. Come join us and share your ideas.**

*Cultural Crossroads, Inc. is a Missouri not-for-profit corporation with 501c3 status from the IRS.*

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