



## An Unlikely Pair

### A Canadian & a Tuscan co-author *An Adventure in Tuscany*

Canadian artist Dawn Angela Seeley and retired Anghiari born Giuseppe Dini, may seem like an unusual pair to have collaborated on Anghiari's first tour guide. But despite differences in culture, lifestyle and living in different countries, the two have proved simpatico in the recent launch of a book called *An Adventure in Tuscany*.

"Anghiari is a rare, unspoiled jewel, an amazing medieval village, set high on a hill, with a splendid view of the Tiber Valley and the Appenines." says Dawn Angela who has been bringing groups of artists to paint here for the last 6 years on her Artist's Get-Aways.

Giuseppe Dini and Dawn Angela relaxed in the garden of a 15<sup>th</sup> century country house in May of 2006, casually discussing their plans for their individual lives in the next few years and discovered that both wanted to write a book about Anghiari. Dawn Angela wanted to produce a tour guide of the day trips she took her painters on during her Artist's Get-Away in Tuscany illustrated with her own paintings.

"Me too, I want to write a book" said Guiseppe, "I want to write my life story, how it was as a boy growing up on farms around Anghiari in the difficult economic years of 1950 to 1960 when tenant farmers like my family had to give half of their produce to the count who owned the land they worked."

Dini began to record his memories, adventures and escapades, on a small cassette recorder and as he finished recording each recollection, Dawn Angela hungrily devoured the tales asking miriads of questions and transforming the stories into a legend that she believed would appeal to children. Beppino, the character of the wild but friendly Tuscan wolf was born and 15 charming parables with moral life lessons for children and adults were written for each of the excursion days in the tour guide. *The Legend of Beppino the Friendly Tuscan Wolf* was incorporated into the book *An Adventure in Tuscany*, for parents to read to children as a bedtime story.

Beppino and The Legend took on a life of their own as not only children loved the developing story, but also adults, visitors, vacationers as well as locals who also grew up in that era, often wanting to buy the book so that they could read it to their grandchildren to explain how it was in the olden days when Nona and Noni grew up.

*An Adventure in Tuscany* was written by Dawn Angela initially in Tuscany and also in Canada where she lives. It was co-authored and researched by Dini in Anghiari. The two met twice in Toronto, Canada early

2007 to secure a printer to produce the book and also to record an audio version of *The Legend of Beppino The Friendly Tuscan Wolf* on CD.

The twenty original paintings of Dawn Angela's which are printed in the book have been on exhibit in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Comuni di Anghiari, city hall in the Palazzo Pretorio from June 15 to July 17 and the book *An Adventure in Tuscany* was launched with a press conference and over 120 guests and visitors including the Anghiari Chief of police and Dr. Danilo Bianchi the mayor of Anghiari who said kind and complimentary words about the collaboration of the two in their joint venture to share and preserve Anghiari not only for visitors but also for its local citizens.

"Tourism means more jobs and more jobs give young people more options. I would like to see enough jobs for the youth to stay and work in Anghiari if they so choose, unlike when I myself was forced to leave and go to work in Florence at the young age of 12." Says Dini.

The book which is sold in Tourist Information offices, local businesses in Anghiari and from the Internet at [www.artifactsublishing.com](http://www.artifactsublishing.com), provides 16 complete daily excursions out of Anghiari to small villages like Caprese Michelangelo, the birthplace of Buonarroti Michelangelo and Citerna, but also to Perugia, Assisi, Florence and Siena. The concept of the suggested vacation through these excursions is opposite to the traditional itinerary where you would stay in the expensive cities and drive out, here you stay in the country, in a quaint unspoiled medieval village, relaxing in a country house and driving into a city for a day trip, to return again to the peace of the countryside in the evening. Anghiari is a marvelous hub not far from the highway and accessible to destinations ranging from 10 minutes to under two hour drives, such as Rimini and the beach. There are suggestions for dinner, helpful tips for traveling such as how to get gas when the gas station is closed, where to buy a phone card and how to make espresso. Also included in each chapter are suggestions for children's trips and activities for them to do, including *The Legend of Beppino*, *The Friendly Tuscan Wolf* which is illustrated with the *Beppino* character and also CD in the back cover to listen to in the car.

*An Adventure in Tuscany* was certainly an adventure for Dawn Angela and *The Friendly Tuscan Wolf* to co-author and self-publish and they have spared no expense in producing this high quality guide which has so much enabling a vacationer to take this trip to Tuscany on their own. There are sketching or scrapbooking pages in each chapter and also journaling pages so that you can personalise your own *Adventure in Tuscany* and the pair hope you will visit again and again taking different excursions from Anghiari because there are certainly more in the book than you could do in one vacation, piano, piano (which means slowly, slowly) in Tuscany.