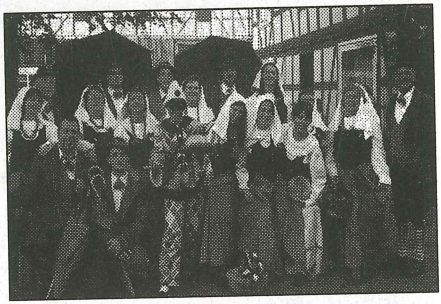
Columbus Day Parade and Italian Festival



Italian folk group Arlecchino.

This October, celebrate Italian culture and the Columbus Day holiday in grand display in the beautiful fall weather at the shore. The three-day celebration will begin with a special singing and dancing performance by the internationally acclaimed folkloric group *Arlecchino* on Friday afternoon at 1:00pm at the Toms River branch of the Ocean County Library.

Arlecchino (Harlequin), from Bergamo, Italy, was founded in 1949 by Sir Alfonso Orlando and is currently directed by his descendants. Thirty musicians and dancers belong to this talented troupe that has performed in over 20 countries. Wearing elaborate, colorful traditional costumes, the artists sing each of their songs in dialect, and provide an explanation of their meaning, many of which center around the figure of *Arlecchino*, the group's namesake and inspiration. The group delights in sharing the cultural traditions of Bergamo, Italy using the traditional wooden "bitonale" instrument, accordion and tambourine. This program is open to all, free of charge, on a first come, first seated basis.

The Festival in Seaside Heights will begin on Friday at 4:00pm at Grant Avenue and the Boulevard (4:00pm – 10:00pm), and will continue on Saturday from 10:00am – 10:00pm, and Sunday from 10:00am – 8:00pm. The festival will feature performers from Italy, delectable Italian specialties, artists and crafters. The Parade will be on Sunday at 1:00pm. For a map of the Parade Route and more information, visit www.oceancountytourism.com/columbus or call (732) 914-0351.