

# **Great Outlook for the Future!**

**By Maria J. Falco, PhD**

**How does one ensure that we all (Americans, Italian-Americans, Citizens of the World) can achieve a great outlook for the future?**

**First, we start by ensuring that ALL children have the best education possible. That means starting when they are very young, reading them books, listening to music (yes, even opera!), showing them how to draw the things they see, giving them as much contact as possible with loving family members who do not speak English so they can learn that there is more than one code for communication; making them realize that they are loved unconditionally even when they do wrong or annoying things, and that nothing they do will diminish your love for them even when you ask them to rectify or apologize for those wrongs.**

**Second, formal education, including the best schools you can afford as parents, showing them what libraries and museums have available that schools do not, and having respect for teachers, even of subjects they may hate (Mathematics and Science, for example) and do not see the immediate relevance they may have in their own lives; urging them to strive for the highest form of education they can achieve, even in graduate school, if possible. The brain needs to be exercised even more than the body.**

**Third, physical education, learning to swim, to compete in as many forms of games and sports as they can possibly perform, so that they never have an excuse for sitting idly in front of the**

**TV or Computer for hours on end, and will always remain physically fit.**

**Fourth, having them take responsibility for helping to pay for some of the extras they want and that we all take for granted: amusements, clothing, pets, outings of one sort or another. No youngster was ever harmed by getting a decent part-time job, whether after school or during summer vacation.**

**Fifth, and most importantly, teaching them that their first responsibility is to themselves as conscientious individuals who can cooperate with others to create, serve and extend the families and communities they live in with honesty, integrity, decency and respect for their fellow human beings and for Nature itself..**

**And finally, above all else, teaching them to love God and one another without question or reservation, and to seek the best possible outcomes for all human beings to the best of their abilities.**

**AMEN!**