

IAHF NEWS



ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2010 • FOUNDED AUGUST 5, 1975 • CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

President's Message

by Ken Borelli



Buon Natale, e Buon Compleanno Italia: A Shared Legacy



With these thoughts in mind, on behalf of the Italian American Heritage Foundation, I want to wish you a wonderful and special Buon Natale ed anche, un Buon Anno! The holidays begin this year with our Christmas Party, World of Italian Opera, and a very special holiday gift, an IAHF Christmas tree decorated with much love and pride in heritage at Christmas in the Park! Make it a point to see the tree when you visit the downtown festivities.

2011 also kicks off celebrations throughout Italy and the world, acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the modern Italian State, and its historic unification. For Italian Americans these celebrations and the legacy of Italian Unification take on special significance for two important reasons. First, the historical roots of Italian immigration to the United States predated independence. In fact, many of those early immigrants were political refugees, exiled patriots, and those trying to escape the political turmoil of the Risorgimento. Even one of the major founders of the Italian nation, Giuseppe Garibaldi was in exile in New York for a brief period of time. Those early immigrants helped establish the first Italian focused

organizations in the United States as patriotic lodges to help support the cause of Italian independence. Some of those famed California 49'ers of Italian origins sent funds to the cause, via the assistance of patriotic Italian Masonic Lodges and their support systems across the USA. Even the Italian community of old North Beach traces its origins to those historic times.

The other part of this legacy occurred once independence was achieved in 1861 in the form of a monarchy rather than a republic. The republic model was based upon the experiences of our own country, the United States of America, and created a series of hopes that was turned into aspirations for many Italians regarding "L'America". After Italian Independence, the new Italian government's emerging domestic and foreign policy contributed to a complex set of events which created an economic and political climate where literally millions of primarily rural contadini, our ancestors, felt the need to immigrate. This immigration process started during the turmoil of pre-independence and then into the 1880's through the early 1920's. Our ancestors immigrated not just to L'America (USA)

but also to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. Students of Italian immigration call this the "great migration"; others label it the "Italian Diaspora". In this issue too we have included a special historical map noting the march to unification. Note that is not the current map of Italy, but the largest expansion of a unified Italy which eventually was reduced after World War 2 to today's configuration.

This was a "rough and tumble" epoch, not just for Italians at home, but for the newly identified Italians abroad. Within this matrix, our history as Italian Americans emerged. Hopefully, as the year progresses, we as a community and foundation will engage in an on-going dialogue about unification. We will be lining up some lectures about this historical epoch for our members and friends. Interesting too, 150 years after unification, it still remains a relevant theme as we hope to establish a unified Italian Cultural Center right here in San Jose. We also hope you will be a part of this process of learning about the historic anniversary, as well as looking at the significance of today's realities for our community, as part of a common and shared heritage as Americans of Italian descent. 🍷

Una Storia Segreta

by Tony Zerbo, Forum Chairman



An open, public forum will be held at the IAHF on Sunday, April 10, 2011, to address and discuss the issues involved in the

World War 2 unjust treatment of Italian-Americans, many of whom were openly characterized as enemy aliens and interned in detention camps. Others endured family hardships, who were forced to move from the so called strategic war areas

some of which were San Francisco, Monterey, Martinez, Pittsburg, and Antioch, to name a few.

Everyone is invited to speak, discuss, and share their family experiences with the audience. This will be a follow up forum from the original historical forum held in San Jose in 1994, when, then, Una Storia Segreta, was released to the public from the Secret FBI files and made national headlines. Since then, both the California legislature and the US Congress, under former President Clinton, in 2000, have passed resolutions which made apologies to all those affected Italian-Americans.

Vocabolo

from Italian Notebook.com



Umbria - Once in a while, it is a good thing to spend a day driving through Umbria with the express intention of getting lost and exploring the back roads and smaller towns of the region. When you do so, you are likely to come upon signs that contained a fairly unknown word to many, although Umbrians will be familiar with it: *vocabolo*.

Vocabolo means "word". In Umbria however, vocabolo also refers to the tiniest part of a toponym, or place name,

that exists. The Italian word *frazione* refers to a town or geographical area that is a "fraction" of its larger neighboring town. Hence you have the town of Montebuono and the neighboring but much smaller *Frazione di Montebuono*.

In Umbria this concept gets taken a step further and the tiniest community or cluster of houses is called a *vocabolo*. Vocabolo is an archaic term, but is a charming one that can still be found with great frequency in the Umbrian countryside.

*The IAHF
Christmas In The
Park Committee
invites you to come
and see our beautiful tree!*



Insalata Caprese: Deceptively Simple

Naples, Campania - What's so special about a simple salad of tomatoes, mozzarella cheese and basil? Well, it does fly the Italian flag of red, white and green... and each ingredient has a story to tell.

Take basil: this pungent, sweet herb is revered throughout Europe and Asia. It is used to prepare holy water in eastern orthodox churches and was a passport to the afterlife for ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Hindus. The Greeks called it kingly - basilicon - and associated it with both mourning and hatred; the Romans confused the word with basilisk - a serpent or scorpion that killed with a single glance. By the middle ages people thought that bruised basil leaves could generate scorpions but also draw out their poison from a bite. Besides its culinary power we know its best use today is to keep mosquitoes away.



Real mozzarella is made from water buffalo milk in Lazio and Campania. Mozzare means to cut off; this is a soft cheese formed in large loops that are sliced away to form balls. The centre must be soft and smell of cool, fresh milk. Was it the Goths, the Normans or returning crusaders who introduced buffalo into Italy? Our thanks, whoever it was.

Finally the tomatoes. No-one who has tasted tomatoes raised on volcanic soil doubts that these are the most heavenly fruit on earth. Vesuvius devastates the landscape from time to time but she also imparts a mineral magic to anything grown around her. Whether you eat pomodori or pomodorini (the little ones) you are consuming history.

Put them together, therefore, with reverence, drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar and then... eat with joy and gusto. 🍷

Recipes for an Incredible Thanksgiving Feast



IAHF Board Director and Festa Chair Joe Rizzi was a Celebrity Chef at Cucina Bambini on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. Kevin Swanson, Producer of the local TV show *Willow Glen in Motion* teamed up with Joe to show the audience how to cook a delicious turkey. Joe gave some great tips on how to keep the rest of the meal simple and easy, but also very delectable, ultimately enabling you to create an unforgettable meal your family will rave about until next year when you do it again.



Joe Rizzi has always had a strong passion for wholesome food. He grew up in a family where sitting around the dinner table was a major daily event, and there was always a tasty meal to do so. Later in his life, after years of making the heirloom meals from his childhood for his own family, he decided to change careers and go into the personal chef business. He has completed the course study program at the Culinary Business Academy and has become a Primer Member of the United States Personal Chef Association. With these credentials, and years of experience, he has created a diverse repertoire of hundreds of dishes which he brings to The Chef Works, a personal chef business he is the creator and owner of. For more information about The Chef Works, go to: www.thechefworks.net. For more information about this show go to: www.wgnmotion.com, Fridays at 6:00pm on Comcast Channel 15. 🍷

Play Ball: Billy Raimondi Remembered & More

by Ken Borelli

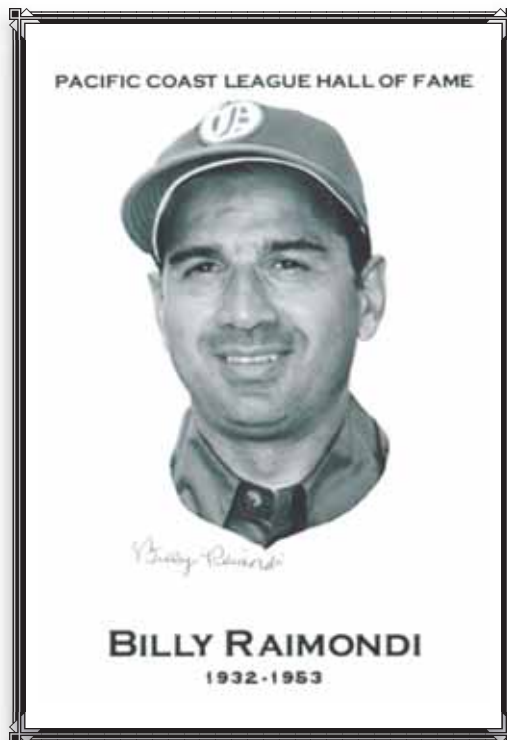
Amongst all the excitement about the SF Giants and the awesome World Series of 2010, my father called my attention to a friend of the family who passed away actually during the world series. His name was William "Billy" Raimondi. Billy played for the old Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League. Both San Francisco and Oakland had teams in the league until the Giants came to town. Billy was an All Star catcher for 16 years. He was a member of the Oakland Oaks for 22 years, and played on the 1948 pennant winning season under the teams manager Casey Stengel. His lifetime batting average was .274 and as a catcher he averaged 131 games per year. He was also one of the first catchers to wear glasses behind the plate (1930's and 40's), and managed to make a living playing ball during the Depression Years when it really was a home town sport minus the mega salaries of today. Billy was born in San Francisco and raised in Oakland and lived most of his 97 years in the East Bay. In fact several of his brothers also played Coast League ball, and a baseball field was named in his brother Ernie's honor in Oakland when he died serving his country in World War II.

And speaking of Oakland, Billy's life, too, was a poignant reminder of a generation of Italian Americans who excelled in local sports, as well as being a product of West Oakland's once vibrant Italian American Community. His career spanned a golden age of Italian American life that all but disappeared in Oakland during and immediately after World War II. We of course think of the historical roots of Italian American life in North Beach,

San Francisco, but actually Oakland had two major centers of Italian life, West Oakland and East Oakland, that focused on the north south

split in Italian immigration, with West Oakland being Southern Italian and West Oakland being more Northern Italian immigrants. Today what is left of the communities have pretty much blended around some of the local Italian clubs on the east side of town. There has not been much written about those communities and highlights why what we are trying to do in San Jose takes on such added importance in documenting our Italian American past and the impact upon our communities in the bay area. The war years (World War II) seriously impacted Italian

American Communities across the USA, and Oakland was no exception. Unique to the bay area however, was the influx of migrants from the Southern United States to the shipyards of Oakland and Richmond. That migration changed the demographics of the community for ever. What followed too was the accelerated migration of Italian Americans out of the old neighborhoods, and many finding their way to the south bay, including San Jose. Two of our IAHF members Richard Vanucci, and TeriAnn Bongiovanni are also members of the American Italian Historical Association, and worked on a special show entitled *Con le Nostri Mani* which attempts to photo document the Italians of the East Bay. We have had the show here before, and it serves as a timely reminder too, the wish to have a similar traveling show for the Italians of the South Bay area. With the right chair and an all star team hopefully 2011 will be the year to get this project off the ground! ☺



Cavour: The Risorgimento

by Ralph W. DiTullio

When one considers the various factions involved in the unification of Italy, it is a wonder it ever happened at all!

For instance, there were several nations involved; Austria, France, Spain, Russia and France, various political factions on the peninsula, and the conflicts among the leaders themselves.

Among them was a wide range of personalities, including the republican firebrand Mazzini whose leadership of the 1848 revolution failed and he fled to London; Garibaldi, the guerilla warrior who had been to America; Manin who escaped to Paris and Arseni the would be assassin of Napoleon 3rd.

Then we come to Cavour (Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour) who did more than any other statesman to bring about parliamentary government to a unified Italy.

Cavour was born in Turin, Piedmont, then a part of the Kingdom of Sardinia, on August 1, 1810, of an aristocratic family. He began his career as an army officer, but was compelled to resign because of his liberal and anti-clerical convictions. Turning to farming and his family estates, he made a fortune by applying the newest agricultural techniques, and then later branching into business and banking. He was a "modernist" vitally concerned with economics and scientific progress. Being a royalist, he believed that the monarchy was necessary for social and political stability. He was also an Italian patriot who longed for the establishment of a Kingdom of Italy under the House of Savoy. Politically, he was a "realist" - some would say an "opportunist". His ideal was the "golden mean", the avoidance of extremes.

He took office as the prime minister of the Kingdom of Sardinia in November 1852. Cavour

set out to prepare Sardinia for the roll it was to play in the coming unification of Italy. He cultivated close relationships with France and Britain. In Paris, Cavour achieved a significant moral victory, but his aim was a military coalition against Austria, which controlled most of Northern Italy at that time. With the help of the Emperor

Napoleon III of France, the Austrians were ousted from the peninsula, and most of Northern Italy was united under the

House of Savoy. In January of 1860,

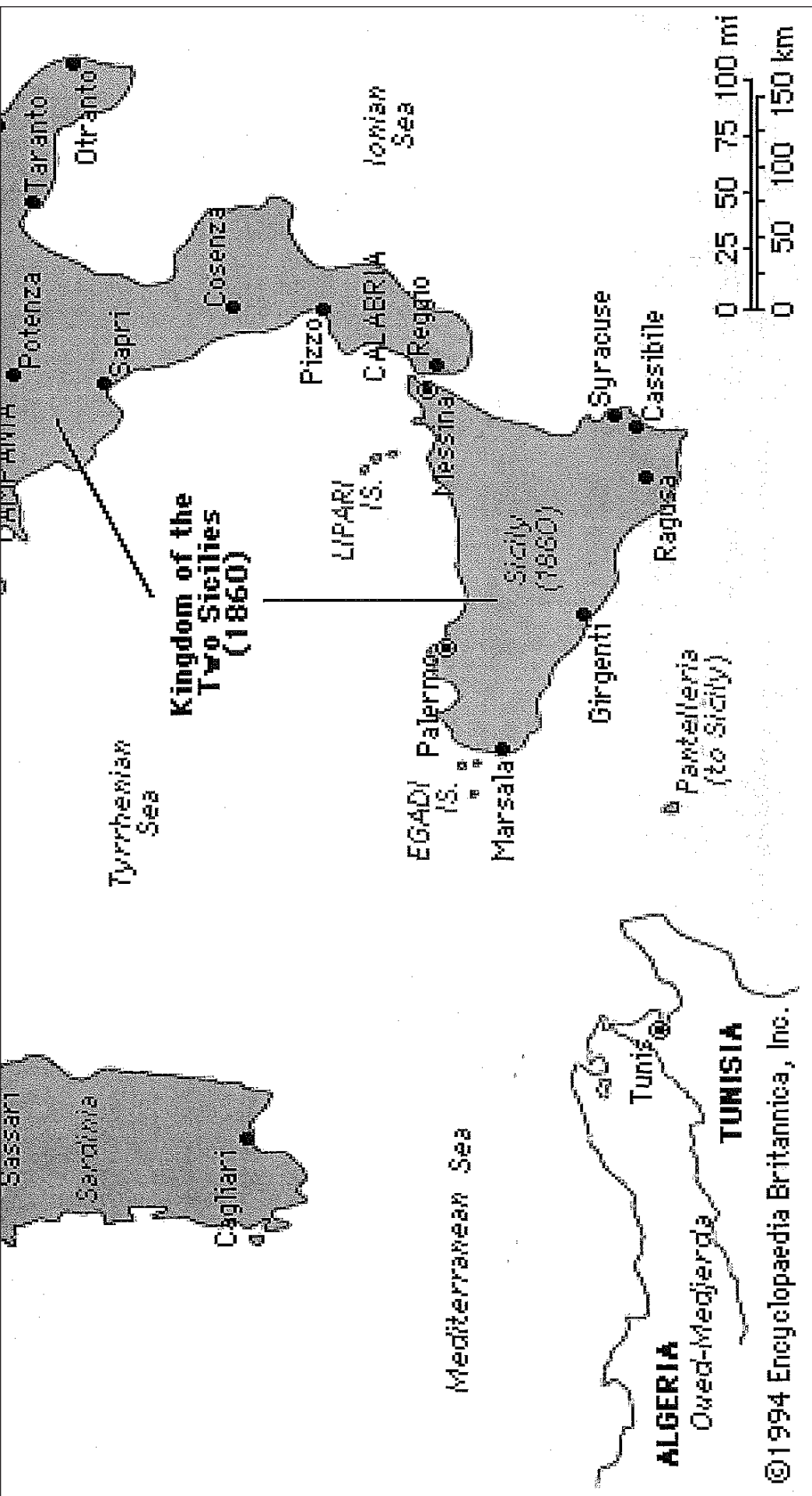
Cavour ceded Nice and Savoy to France as compensation. In mid-1860, Garibaldi came back on the scene, and with his band of "1000 men", landed in Sicily and unified the Southern region of the peninsula and marched north to Rome where he faced Cavour supported by Sardinian troops advancing southward. There was a threat of civil war over the issue of a monarchy or republic for the newly unified

Italy. A compromise was reached for the greater good of reunification, and, to avoid even more unrest and political instability, Garibaldi chose to yield to Cavour and went into voluntary exile to his farm on the island of Caprera. On March 17, 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed under the House of Savoy.

Cavour's diplomacy earned him the reputation of being one of the most skillful of European statesmen. His strenuous diplomatic and political efforts had taken a toll on his health, and three months later he died in Turin at only fifty-three years old.

Editor's Note: Kudos to IAHF Board Member Ralph DiTullio, "raconteur par excellence", for this article on Cavour and the quest for Italian Unification. Much of his research for this abridged article of a very complicated period of Italian history comes from his readings from the 2nd Volume edition of *A History of the Western World*, General Editor Shepard B. Colugh, Columbia University, Published by Heath and Company.





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*Please Join the Italian American Heritage Foundation
as We Celebrate the 150th Anniversary
of Italian Unification!
1861 - 2011*

Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta Receives The Medal of Honor



November 16, 2010 was a day we were all be proud as Americans and Italian-Americans of Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta. He received the Medal of Honor from President Obama in the East Room of the White House in a ceremony at one o'clock (Eastern Time). He is the first soldier since Vietnam to be alive for the award ceremony. The eight other award recipients from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars have all died from combat. - Submitted by Judy Verona Joseph

Play Bocce at Nonno's: It's Great Fun!

IAHF Board member Ralph Di Tullio will continue to host Bocce at Nonno's located in Redwood Estates throughout the season. The enthusiasts meet the first Thursday of the month around the noon hour followed by some post game "analysis" and refreshments at Nonno's Pizzeria. For more information contact Ralph directly at 408 -354-9449. Beginners to advanced, all are welcome and there are two courts going for all levels of play.



Have You Moved?

Please let us know if you have moved so we have your correct address on file to send the your copy of IAHF Newsletter each month. New Postal requirements do not allow for "Return To Sender" services. So, if you have moved, we would not have a way of knowing if you are receiving all your correspondence from the IAHF.

Please contact the IAHF if you have a new address.

Contact us at: 425 N. Fourth St., San Jose, CA 95112

Phone: 408-293-7122 • Fax: 408-293-7154 • E-mail: iahfsj@sbcglobal.net



Jackie Harris, Miss Redwood City!!

Jackie Harris is the godchild of IAHF Board Member Jo Ann Ghiggeri Bjornstad and her husband, Roger Bjornstad.

Out of 56 contestants, she received an academic scholarship at the Miss California Pageant this past July (only one gets this scholarship based on academics). Jackie is 20 years old and goes to the University of San Diego. She majors in biology, with chemistry as a minor. Jackie will be applying for medical school, and is considering cardiology. She is half Italian and half Irish.

Jackie is an Irish dancer. Her dance team, Greene Academy of San Jose, placed third at Nationals. She danced for her talent in the Miss California Pageant. 🍷



The IAHF is Now on Facebook!!

If you are on Facebook, please go to Italian American Heritage Foundation and click on "like" - you are then an instant fan of the IAHF. Over 500 million people are now on Facebook. A January 2009 study ranked Facebook as the most-used social network by worldwide monthly active users. It is definitely a social media

phenomenon! Once you are a "fan" you will get updates on all of the IAHF events and Italian happenings around San Jose. In addition, you will be able to view photos of the events and much more! So get onboard now! 🍷

Judy Verona Joseph

IAHF PR & Newspaper Editor

On The Town

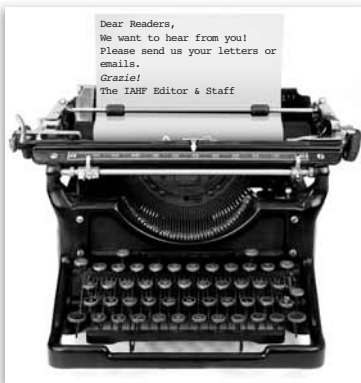
On The Town is a weekly show that airs on every Saturday at 5 pm on Comcast channel 15. The show focuses on cultural and community events. Several Italian events are included on the show, such as the Italian Family Festa and the fabulous Boss of the Sauce competition in North Beach, San Francisco. If you do not subscribe to Comcast you can view the show online. Just go to this website: www.creatvsj.org, and click on view for Channel 15 at 5 pm. Make sure to click on *On The Town*. For more information, you can go to www.onthetown15.com, and the show is now on Facebook (On The Town, San Jose)!

Judy Verona Joseph
Producer/Host
On The Town

Italian Men's Club Bingo



- Every Monday Night; Doors Open at 4pm
- Early Bird at 6pm; Regular Session at 6:45pm
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- Visit our website: <http://www.italianmensclub.com>



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ken,

I'm sure you understand why Irene is not writing this note of thanks.

Last night, I was able to spend a half-hour with Irene and she looks better then ever since the accident. They will be able to do the surgery on Monday. Thank you and all your membership for the gift. The IAHF has always been there for Opera San Jose!

Best regards, Larry Hancock 🐼

Domenico (Dominic) Catalano

We are saddened to learn that Dominic Catalano has passed away. Dominic was a long time IAHF member and a contributor to the IAHF newsletter. We will print one of Dominic's last articles in the next issue.

Joe Monaco

As we go to press with this issue, all of us at the IAHF are saddened to know that long time IAHF supporter, member and recipient of the 2005 Humanitarian Achievement Award, Joe Monaco, has passed. Joe was recognized by so many organizations and we will pay tribute to Joe in our next month's newsletter.

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IAHF NEWS

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Editor, IAHF NEWS
425 N. Fourth St.
San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: 408-293-7122
Fax: 408-293-7154
E-mail: iahfsj@sbcglobal.net
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We accept business card size ads, camera ready art or digital ads.

Ads are due in THE IAHF office by the 5th of the month prior to the month of publication.

Rates are payable in advance:

- \$75 for minimum of three months
- \$275 for twelve issues.

All advertisements must be in accordance with the rules and requirements as determined by editorial policy. Paid political advertisements are not to be interpreted as an endorsement by the Italian American Heritage Foundation or its newspaper, the IAHF NEWS. In addition, the newspaper reserves the right to reject ads based on the paper's editorial policy.

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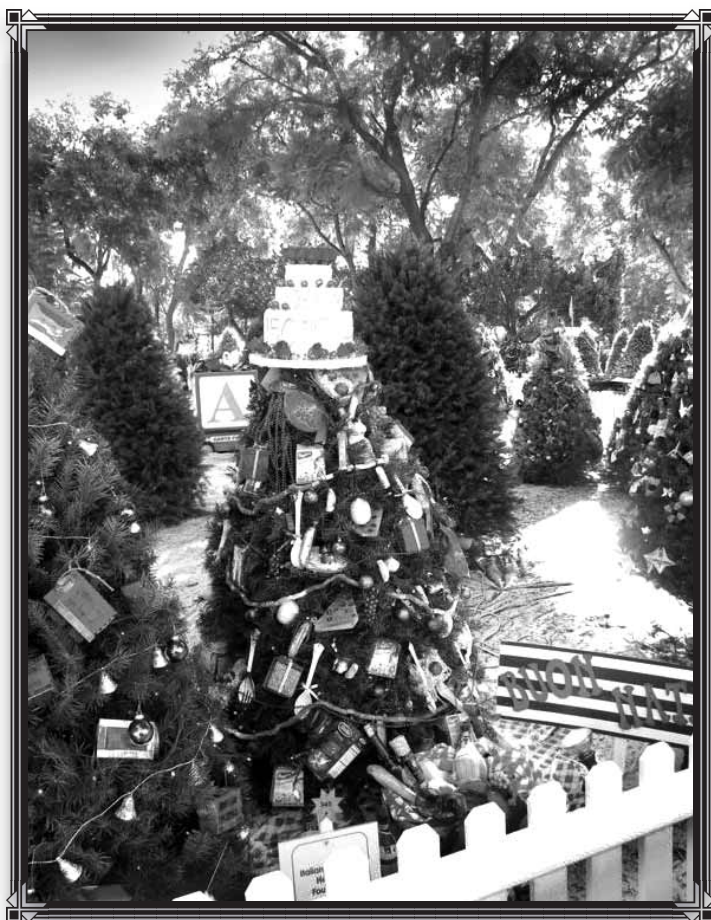
December, 2010

- 🍷 *IAHF Regional Lunch:*
Thursday, January 20, 2011
- 🍷 *IAHF Installation Event*
Saturday, January 29, 2011

New Service - IAHF NEWS via Email!

Would you like to receive the newsletter before it goes to press?
Send your email address to: iahfsj@sbcglobal.net and we will
send the IAHF newsletter to you via email! 🍷

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Christmas In The Park 2010

*With special "Grazie" to the
Christmas In The Park Committee
chaired by Linda Filice and including:
JoAnn Ghiggeri-Bjornstad, Rich & Gwen Dalton,
Sharon Saia, Kaky Harris, and Joanne Russo.
Their design and ornaments are the talk
of Christmas In The Park.*

*Others who helped decorate the tree
include Roger Bjornstad, Jackie Harris,
Judy Calegari and Ken Borelli. A special time
was had by all - in the rain - decorating the tree.
Many fantastic ideas were generated for
next year, too. Stay tuned for next year
and join Linda's Holiday Crew 2011!!*

*We hope that you can visit
Christmas In The Park and see the tree.*