

# IAHF NEWS

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2011 • FOUNDED AUGUST 5, 1975 • CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

## President's Message

by Ken Borelli



### The Forest for the Trees

As the old proverb goes, you really do have to step away from the trees to see the forest, and so it is regarding the vitality of Italian American life in the Santa Clara Valley. This observation was brought home to me this month when I was recently contacted by the President of the Patrons of Italian Culture, Paolo Romano, from the Los Angeles area. There is a news release in this edition of the IAHF Newspaper giving you some of the details of their forthcoming event. Their Board will be holding their 2011 meeting in November in the San Jose area. Their mission is the promotion of Italian culture and heritage primarily in the Los Angeles area, but The Patrons also engage in regional efforts underpinning the importance of a broad base Italian American vision. The Patrons are attempting to connect their mission to our greater Western United States Italian American Community. They also work with the Italian Cultural Institute and Consul General's office for the Los Angeles/ Southern California area.

In our discussions, and, based on their news of our local Italian American community, they have decided to visit San Jose. And there lies the moment of awareness. In talking to Paolo, I had to do this mental inventory of Italian American life in our community. The Italian American Heritage Foundation's mission dovetails nicely with their goals. For many of us "in the trenches", sort of speaking, you never stop to realize where you are at, in this case, as an Italian American community, because you are frankly too busy with so many tasks that you fail to see the forest for your particular group of trees. My conversations with Paolo

served as an unintended "time out", as I attempted to outline some engaging activities for their board to experience on their visit to Silicon Valley. After several e-mail exchanges, it soon became obvious with the growing list of activities and opportunities, that we really needed to limit our Santa Clara Valley Italian American experience to something doable for this four day visit.

I started to list artistic institutions, such as Opera San Jose and San Jose Rep, and went on to visits with local Italian American artists and authors. I then went through the very long list of Italian American organizations that would love to engage and dialogue with the Patrons, along with many of the cultural establishments, and initiatives, such as the emerging Little Italy, the Sabatino Family Memorial Resource Center, the unique history of our Italian American community, a walk through the historical heart of old San Jose, the Casa Italiana at Santa Clara University (the University itself was founded by two Italian Jesuits and is the oldest institution of higher learning in California), along with the opportunities available in each of the various Italian American organizations such as The Italian Catholic Federations, Sons of Sicily, Italian Men's Club, Civic Club, Florence Sister County

Commission, and on and on, including a visit to historic Holy Cross Church, St. Joseph's Cathedral, and some of the South Santa Clara County's Italian Family wineries and agricultural ventures, and not to single out one, so many wonderful and special Italian eating establishments. Paolo had to keep reminding me that they only had four days to engage our community! I did not even begin to tap into the special events and activities that each organization undertakes during their normal yearly schedule of events, each one worthy of an observation and comment, but the lesson was not lost on me.

As we are working on our particular activities, projects and events, try to take time out and reflect upon the bigger picture, in this case the interconnections and networks that make up our vibrant Italian American community in Santa Clara County. I think you will be very pleasantly surprised! I would be negligent, however, if I did not remind you of one of our own very special community event in my comments, our annual Crab Feed, on Saturday, March 26! This fun-filled culinary experience helps support our foundation and hall

improvements. I hope to see you there, and, if you're unable to make it and want to donate to our hall improvement fund, "grazie tante" ...for a healthy forest you have to have healthy trees, so as we reflect on the big picture one is never far away from our particular program (as it should be). *Sto bene, allora ci vediamo al Crab Feed, il 26 di Marzo! CIAO.*





## *The Patrons of Italian Culture to Visit IAHF San Jose!*

From November 10th to the 13th, the Italian American Heritage Foundation will be hosting The Board of the Patrons of Italian Culture on their visit to Santa Clara County in the Fall of this year.

The Patrons of Italian Culture is a fifty year old, non-profit organization headquartered in Los Angeles operating under the auspices of the Consul General of Italy, whose charter is to promote the Italian cultural experience in the Italian-American communities in Southern California. The Patrons offer many major cultural events each year, which are open to members and their guests. Previous events have included numerous opera recitals and ballet programs, short plays, lectures on Italian art and architecture, and supporting Italian cinema. The Patrons have long standing collaborations with the Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles, The Getty Museums, as well as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Last year in November, the Board of Directors held their 2010 Retreat in San Diego's Little Italy, and came back full of wonderful memories and terrific experiences. The 2010 retreat culminated a year long collaboration with the San Diego Italian Film Festival and was timed to participate in the SDIFF's Gala cinema program held Nov. 4 to 7. The Patrons were 'honored guests' at the SDIFF's Nov. 5 Gala reception held in the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. Prior to the screening, a reception attended by more than 200 invited guests was held featuring Italian delicacies prepared by the finest chefs in San Diego. An assortment of fine Italian wines complimented the reception. Italy's Consul General, Nicola Faganello was on hand for this special event, as was San Diego's Vice-Consul, Roberto Ruocco.

The Patrons have selected San Jose as the host city for their 2011 Retreat and hope to continue their long standing practice of collaboration with the local Italian American community, reports Paolo Romano, Patron President. This interaction with other Italian-American organizations includes participating in the host cities events and festivals and thereby share our mutual heritage and history. Over the past years, the Patrons have made many great friends across the southwest U.S. and have referred many of their members and their families to these Italian-American organizations in order to further their experiences and promote their valuable resources. IAHF President Ken Borelli noted that "this experience in collaboration highlights so much of what our organizations are all about, and of promoting a common vision regarding heritage, culture and 'Italianita'. We look forward not only to meeting our friends from Southern California, but also the equally important dialogue with the Patrons and our local Italian American community." More information will be forthcoming as event date unfolds. 🍷



### *IAHF has the Best Crab Feed in Town!!*

- Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the IAHF Cultural Center
- 6:30 PM No Host Bar / 6:30 PM Dinner
- 8:00 PM Dancing (DJ: Gino Popolizio)
- Door Prizes!
- \$38 for IAHF Members / \$40 for non-members / \$17 for children under 12
- Call *now* for reservations at 408-293-7122
- Chaired by Steve and Rosie Cornaglia & Friends

### *Have You Moved?*

Please let us know if you have moved so we have your correct address on file to send your monthly IAHF Newsletter.

New Postal regulations do not allow for "Return To Sender" services.

So, if you have moved, we would have no way of knowing if you are receiving all your correspondence from the IAHF.

If you have a new address, please contact the IAHF at: 425 N. Fourth St., San Jose, CA 95112

Phone: (408) 293-7122 • Fax: (408) 293-7154 • Email: [iahfsj@iahfsj.org](mailto:iahfsj@iahfsj.org)



# Possible Congressional Gold Medal for Giuseppe Garibaldi

## U.S. Congressional Joint Resolution Recognizing Italy's National Hero and Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy

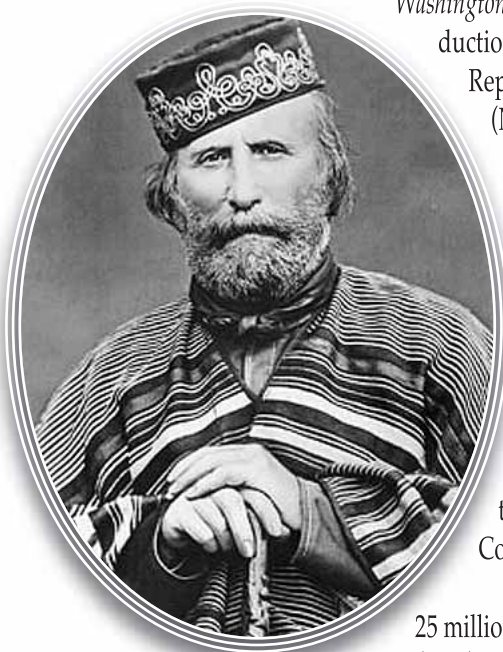
Washington, D. C., February 22, 2011 - The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) announces the introduction of a special Congressional joint resolution by Senator Mike Enzi (WY) in the U.S. Senate, and Representative Mike Grimm (NY), Representative Peter King (NY), and Representative Bill Pascrell (NJ) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Upon passage, the joint resolution will posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Italian national hero Giuseppe Garibaldi and officially recognize the Republic of Italy on the 150th Anniversary of its unification. NIAF has been the cooperating organization to develop this resolution with the U.S. Italian American Congressional Delegation (IACD) of the 112th Congress, of which the Foundation has served as an extension for over 30 years.

"Every American shares great pride in the culture and heritage of Italy. Its richness is an important part of what we are as Americans today. This joint congressional resolution honoring Italy of Today is an appreciation for the values we have as Americans. Giuseppe Garibaldi was central to modern-day Italy from which we all have benefitted," said Hon. Frank J. Guarini, a former Congressman from New Jersey and NIAF chairman emeritus.

NIAF serves as the voice for Italian Americans, the nation's fifth largest ethnic group of nearly 25 million individuals, in Washington, D.C. while working closely with the IADC and the White House. We trust that this important resolution will be swiftly passed and honor the outstanding contributions that Italians and Italian Americans have made throughout history and continue to make today.

The IADC also will host with NIAF an official congressional reception celebrating the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification on March 17, 2011, in the historic Mansfield Room (S-207), U.S. Capitol. For more information, contact Johnny Strada, manager of government relations and public policy, at [jstrada@niaf.org](mailto:jstrada@niaf.org).

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the heritage and culture of Americans of Italian descent. Visit [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org).



## Save The Date: The Una Storia Segreta Forum

On Sunday, April 10th, the IAHF will be presenting an open public forum to re-address the secret story, which became to be known as, "Una Storia Segreta," which tells the story about the Italian-American's evacuation and internment during World War II, in co-sponsorship with the American Italian Historical Association, Western Regional Chapter (AIHA/WRC). Lawrence DiStasi, the AIHA/WRC's, Una Storia Segreta's project director and curator and distinguished author of the book, Una Storia Segreta, will open the program with a preview of this secret wartime story and will also narrate and answer questions from attendees throughout the afternoon.

Joe Simitian, California State Senator, will be attending and giving his discussion on C A State Senate Resolution, SCR 95, which was passed in August 2010, that acknowledged the injustices suffered by thousands of Italian-Americans who were classified by the FBI as "enemy aliens" and sent to detention camps located throughout California and the the United States.

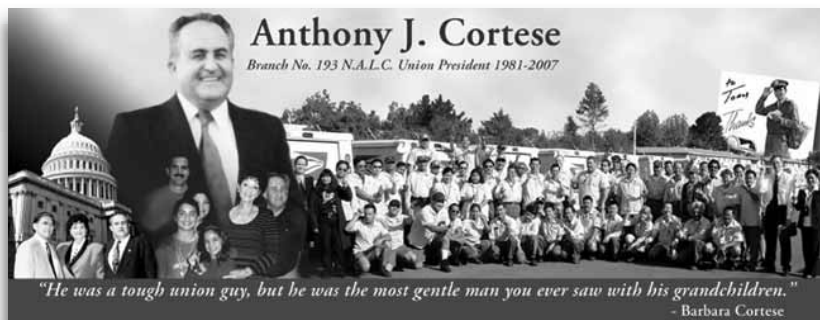
Other notables such as, US Congressman Mike Honda, Congresswoman, Zoe Lofgren, Former US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, and US CIA Director Leon Pinetta, are also being invited to attend.

Victims of the internment and others who were affected will be given the opportunity to share their experiences with the audience, and answer questions. The forum will take place at the IAHF Cultural Center, 425 N. Fourth St., San Jose 95112, from 2 PM to 5 PM. Admission will be \$10 for adults with free admission for children 15 and under and free for students from grades 1 to 12. The enclosed flyer has further details for your planning convenience.

The original 1994 exhibit, Una Storia Segreta, which made national headlines when the FBI released it's secret files in 1994 on this war time's best kept secret, will be on display for the public's viewing, free of charge, in downtown San Jose at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, located at 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose, from April 1st to April 30th. - Tony Zerbo / Forum Chairperson







## Tony Cortese Honored

Washington, D.C. – Today, Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) and Mike Honda (D-Campbell) celebrated the renaming of Westgate Post in San Jose after local labor leader Tony Cortese. Mr. Cortese, a graduate of San Jose's James Lick High School, served as President of the National Association of Letter Carriers

(NALC), Branch 193, for 27 years before his passing in 2007. Mr. Cortese is also widely known as the founder of the NALC Santa Clara County Food Drive, which served as the model for the NALC's national food drive. Over 18 years, letter carriers have collected over 1 billion pounds of food to feed the nation's hungry, and it all started with Tony.

"I was honored to have introduced the bill to rename the post office building after Tony," noted Rep. Zoe Lofgren. "Tony was a mediator and a leader who had the amazing ability to bring people together and was deeply respected by both management and his fellow letter carriers. While he is greatly missed, his name and legacy and commitment to his community will live on at the Anthony J. Cortese Post Office and the NALC's food drive."

"Having stood on the House floor in support of legislation to designate my district's Westgate Station Post Office in memory of my friend Tony Cortese, it is an honor to see it come to reality," noted Rep. Mike Honda. "Tony's tireless advocacy for letter carriers, and his four-decade legacy at the Postal Service, will never be forgotten; this naming ensures that. Serving as the President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193, Tony accomplished much on behalf of San Jose's working families, expanding health benefits, procuring buildings and providing open forums for union members, community advocates, and local elected officials. This Post Office naming is the least we can do to honor Tony's countless contributions to our community."

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren is serving her ninth term in Congress representing most of the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County. Congresswoman Lofgren is Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation consisting of 34 Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives from California.



Golden Sight Productions Presents

# The Sinatra Show

Comes to Maggiano's Little Italy

## Featuring John Michael

Sensational Vocalist & Entertainer  
with the dynamic band **Essence**  
Performing Sinatra's Signature Songs

**Friday, April 29, 2011**  
**3055 Olin Avenue, San Jose**  
**Doors Open @ 7:00 PM**  
**Show Starts @ 8:00 PM**  
**Dinner • Dance • Show**  
**RSVP (408) 423-8678**  
**\$65 per Person**





## Italian Movie Night at the IAHF!!



Wednesday, April 6, 2011 • 7:00 PM

### Vincere

106 minutes • 2003 • \$5 with popcorn • A variety of beverages available

**Come join us for a Special Jackpot!!!**

This powerful political award winning 2009 film starting Giovanna Mezzogiorno and Filippo Timi is based on the life of the first wife of Benito Mussolini. The movie relates the tragic story of Ida Dalser, who married and bore Mussolini a son, Benito Albino, before the outbreak of World War I. Upon separation during the war Mussolini married another woman Rachele Guidi who bore Mussolini a daughter. Mussolini suppressed the information about his first marriage and he (through the Fascist party) persecuted both his first wife and oldest son and committed them forcibly to asylums. Ida Dalser died at the age of 57 of brain hemorrhages and the son at 26 from repeated coma-inducing injections.

Italian Movie Night is sponsored by the IAHF Language Program • 425 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA • For more information, please call 408-293-7122



### Il Gattopardo (The Leopard) Sunday, May 22, 2011 at IAHF

In recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the unification of Italy, there will be a special showing of *Il Gattopardo* (The Leopard), at the IAHF. This is a film classic set in the Sicily of the 1860's and those revolutionary times known as *Il Risorgimento*, including the origins of the famed March on Rome, by Giuseppe Garibaldi, starting with his "band of 1000" as they land in Sicily from Genoa, and completed the struggle for Italian unification. The movie is from the book by Giuseppe Tomasi, *Principe di Lampedusa*. The film features an international cast including Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale and Alain Delon.

Based on a 1958 novel by Giuseppe Lampedusa, which is still one of the all-time best-sellers in Italy, "The Leopard" is the story of a Sicilian count, Prince Don Fabrizio Salina (Burt Lancaster), who realizes his way of life is doomed during the outbreak of revolution in the 1860s that would unite the Italian provinces into one country, and begins planning for his family's survival. He adopts his nephew Tancredi's credo, which is: "For things to stay the same, everything must change." Part of that change is marrying off the pragmatic and ambitious Tancredi (Alain Delon) to Angelica (Claudia Cardinale), the beautiful daughter of a local official (Paolo Stoppa) whose newfound wealth and importance are a direct result of the new order. Visconti (1906-76) was born into aristocracy - his full name was Count Luchino Visconti di Modrone, and he came from one of Europe's oldest families. But in his 30s he became a Marxist; his ideology was in full force in one of the key films in the Neorealist movement, "La Terra Trema" (1948).

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### Bar Volunteer Appreciation

Thanks to the great Bar Attendants on Opera Night, March 4, 2011:

Erik Beans, Mary Anctil, Niki Mc Mahon, Laura Kachelmeyer, Linda Filice, Mike Console, and Richard Zamar.

If you would like to be part of this Great Bar Team, call the IAHF office at 408-293-7122

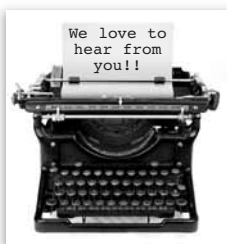


## Vacancies and Volunteer Help Needed at the IAHF

As noted last month for 2011, we are actively recruiting a cadre of people to get our mailings out, work on the many events we produce and support our culinary events in the kitchen. Please contact the IAHF if you are interested in helping out.

There is also one vacancy on the IAHF Board due to a resignation. Per Article V of the By Laws, the requirements include being a member in good standing for eleven months, demonstrating an interest in Italian heritage, attending Board meetings approximately once a month and occasionally participating in special retreat meetings. Applications for the position can be obtained by contacting the IAHF office. Your interest and commitment is actively solicited. We particularly want to invite newer members to consider coming on the board. This is in many ways a historic time for our organization and our community. This is your opportunity to play an important roll in the decision making process of the foundation.

We are also actively recruiting a Treasurer for the IAHF. The Treasurer shall oversee receipt of all funds, record this information on a now automated Quick Book system, and oversee the safekeeping of all funds of the corporation and / or applicable government recording forms, as noted on Page 8 of the IAHF By Laws. The Treasurer attends Board meetings once a month and, as an officer of the Board, attends the Executive Board meeting. The Treasurer shall also ensure that financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with standard accounting procedures and present this information to the Board and membership. This, too, is a dynamic position, of course requiring some special experience and knowledge base, although some mentorship on Quick Books can be arranged if you have the basic understanding of the process. It is a critical task to the financial health of our organization and if you possess the skills, time, and desire to be of service to the organization, we would love to talk to you. We estimate approximately a couple of hours every two weeks in addition to board meetings. For more information on any of these positions, please contact the IAHF Office at 408 293-7122. 🍷



### Letters to the Editor

Dear Ken,

What a wonderful evening of remembrance and arias! Our family would like to thank all those that participated in the IAHF Benefit for Opera San Jose which also included aria tributes to our mother, Walda Lenore Hamilton Bradley. San Jose Opera and Friends of San Jose Opera will always hold a special place in our hearts as well as Ms. Dalis and all the wonderful supporters, students and performers who have placed San Jose on the map for artistry and enlightenment into the world of opera. We had many new comers to this world last night and I know the evening will hold lasting memories as well as renewed vows to embrace this magical world our family has been blessed to be a part of for so many years.

Again, on behalf of the family of Walda, please relay our many thanks to all those that participated in the successful and enchanting evening of opera and memories that will last a lifetime. Blessings and kind regards, Jennifer Craig & The Family of Walda Lenore Hamilton Bradley 🍷

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Dear Ken and the IAHF:

Opera night was very special. I am so pleased! More than pleased, I am thrilled that the children really did amazingly well! I adore them, I really do, and to know that, even though they had stage fright, they pushed through it - to do what they knew was important - made me so happy! I knew in my heart they would do it. They LOVE the Italian language & culture already - and THAT is why we are here. I wanted them to be happy they accomplished it - and they are.

I have a photo of you - taken by a parent - that needs to go into the newsletter. You are beaming during the kids performance, and that says it all. I will forward it, once I get it. And of course, please feel free to mention the children any time. For me, this was so special. Coming home after so many years, having such a difficult first year getting started, and then having such a beautiful night in the place where I used to go with my family (unde Murphy had me waiting tables too!) when I was a kid. It meant so much to me. We succeeded in spite of everything. With a lot of help from "above". Music is everything to me too, and after studying years in San Francisco and New York and singing in front of Broadway directors, and Met directors, last night meant just as much to me, as those times meant.

Thanks to the IAHF for inviting us, and supporting the Sabatino Memorial Family Resource Center, (the first business in Little Italy!) It means so much.

- Theresa Sabatino 🍷

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Dear Ken,

Regarding Opera Night, I just want to say that tonight was truly one of the best nights i've had in years! I really regret that I had to leave early because of the kid but I did catch the first two opera singers and what really touched my heart is seeing my kid sing in the beginning. You, Little Italy School, and the staff of the IAHF truly have my deepest respect for all the work you do to really bring our community and wonderful Italian culture alive and thriving for future generations. (It is safe to say the children did steal the show!) Grazia mille and salute!

-Lawrence DeSantis Jr, Project Designer 🍷



## *"Italo-Argentino" February Regional Lunch & World Travels by Ken Borelli*

February's regional lunch featured the fascinating culture and flavors of Italo-Argentino. The Republic of Argentina has one of the largest and most vibrant Italian communities outside of Italy itself. It is estimated over 25 million Argentinos have some degree of Italian descent, which come to about 60% of the total population of Argentina. Italo-Argentinos are an integral part of modern Argentina and their immigration pattern to Argentina predated the mass migration of Italians to the United States. The migration started in the 1850's, responding to the political turmoil in the pre-unified Italy of the times. More than an integrated experience, the culture has blended to become a part of the Argentine national character. At our lunch we had many IAHF members who's roots also included the Argentine connection. Our consultant for the afternoon, Beatriz Campal, lives in both worlds. She is an IAHF member, as well as a member of the Circulo Argentino, and as we networked at the luncheon, there was a lot of enthusiasm to plan for a joint IAHF and Circulo Tango Night for our members! Stay tuned as these events unfold and let me know if you would like to work on such a project (the other side of the coin). Also at the event was our friend Joe Cozzotorto, and his wife, Rose. Joe, who played the accordion at the luncheon, also shared tales about his own migration to Argentina after World War II. All of those present who lived in Argentina talked about *La Boca*, the name of a section of Buenos Aires that is the center of the Italian community in the capitol city. From all reports, Buenos Aires is truly one of the great world class cities, and definitely on my must visit list.

The meal itself included Argentine empanadas, salad, pasta Boglanese, sausage (chorizo) with chimichurri sauce, fruit and flan, all with a Valentine Day theme, courtesy of Norma Mestice and Carmella Gullo. And speaking of Chimichurri, a sauce used throughout Argentina, Uruguay, and now throughout South and Central America, is a blend of chopped parsley, minced garlic, olive oil, vinegar and red pepper flakes. There are many variations of the sauce and also included minced red bell peppers, tomatoes, lemon juice and other spices. You can check it out on the Internet, but this basic sauce is one of those legendary condiments with many variations. Interesting too, the name itself may have come from a concoction made by a Jimmy McCurry, an Irishman. Jimmy McCurry soon became localized to "Chimi-churri", at least that's how the legend of this signature dish goes.

**EAST AFRICA, TOO:** Our regional lunch tour now takes a month off for St. Joseph Day, March 19th, and continues on April 21, with a special East African Lunch that highlights the cuisine of Ethiopia and Eritrea, followed by a discussion of Italian East Africa and former Italian Colonies. As far as I am aware this is a first time discussion of this part of Italian history at the IAHF. We will begin to learn about this little known part of our Italian legacy and the luncheon will feature the blends of Italian and East African culture and foods. If you wonder about how Italy's colonial past influences us today consider, first of all that most of those former colonies are certainly in the news today, especially Somalia, Libya and the Eritrean Ethiopian conflict. Interesting too, a friend sent me a copy of a book *La Paura di Verbicaro – storia di una rivolta nel sud: The Fear of Verbicaro*, by Felice Spingola. Verbicaro is my family's ancestral village located in Northern Calabria. The book talks about the draft riots of the early 1900's when many young Southern Italians were being drafted to fight in the new country of Italy's "catch up race" to have colonies in Africa. The only problem was many of these villagers, or *contadini*, dealing with life threatening issues such as starvation and cholera, did not particularly want to leave their families and livelihoods to fight in these sort of colonial wars. Draft riots throughout the south ensued and the central government in Rome came down hard on these *contadini*. Such was the case in Verbicaro. The book actually had the draft trial records, which included a who's who of immigrants from that particular part of Italy who migrated to San Francisco! Those immigrant experiences were replicated throughout the south of Italy. But history is what it is. We should know a little about this not too distant past. And of course, as we check out this part of our Italian history, we will also sample one of the more enjoyable byproducts, the foods of the region. Make your reservation now for this very interesting luncheon. 🍷



### *Scholarship Drive Campaign*

The Italian American Heritage Foundation is proud to offer 7 Scholarships this year to graduating high school seniors in the Santa Clara County. These students come from family members of the IAHF. Every year deserving students are struggling financially to meet their college needs. Last year 26 excellent candidates applied but unfortunately only 5 could be given a Scholarship. This year with the generosity of our members we are giving 7 scholarships:

- Two \$3,000 Gerald Boccardi Scholarships
- One \$2,000 Diana Hurst Scholarship
- One \$2,000 IAHF Endowed Scholarship
- One \$1,000 Joseph and Frances Borelli Scholarship
- One \$1,000 Delia Schizzano Scholarship
- One \$1,000 Richard Zamar Scholarship

Lets hit the big 10!!!! Help us achieve this goal with your sponsorship of a deserving student to fulfill their college dream. Thank you!!

- Delia Schizzano, IAHF VP 🍷

*And don't forget: the IAHF has a collection of folding metal chairs for sale @ \$3 each for IAHF members and \$5 each for non-members. The chairs are in good condition and useful for a variety of purposes, like those big Italian parties. So, if you need some good, sturdy folding chairs (and who doesn't?), please call Rosa at the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 for more information. 🍷*





## A Renaissance Evening: April 2, 2011

### Save The Date!! Only \$65 per person

The County of Santa Clara/Province of Florence, Italy Sister-County Commission cordially invites you to "A Renaissance Evening" dinner and entertainment on Saturday, April 2, 6:00 PM, at the Italian American Heritage Cultural Center, 425 North 4th Street, San Jose.

Guests will enjoy a dinner created from Renaissance recipes prepared by Santa Clara County native, Chef Peter Cedolini. "A Renaissance Evening" will feature exciting, young, local talent. Italian soprano, Gloria Acerboni will sing and a gala of Renaissance dress, music and theater will be showcased and performed by students from the Santa Clara University Music and Theater Departments.

The Italian Renaissance Banquet was a long and lively affair with soups, roasted or braised meat and game, salads, breads, savory tarts, pastas and risottos, cheeses, cakes, puddings and sweet-meats. The Renaissance palate called for local, seasonal foods prepared with strong flavors and spices. Food was presented in spectacular displays and theater and entertainment were part of the meal. Dining was communal, the fork and china were not yet invented and food was eaten on slabs of stale bread called "trenchers". In the Papal and noble

courts of Italy, the Renaissance banquet hall could also be a place of political intrigue with rivals dispatched at table with a few discrete drops of arsenic called "The Liquid of Succession".

"A Renaissance Evening" is \$65 per person; reservation deadline is March 23, 2011. Space is limited; reserve early. For reservations, contact Marge Valente 408-292-7556 ([margevalente@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margevalente@sbcglobal.net)). Checks should be payable to the, Italy Sister County Commission and sent to "A Renaissance Evening", 1429 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, 95125.

For more information, please contact Delia Schizzano at 408-250-7527 (phone) or [caradelia@yahoo.com](mailto:caradelia@yahoo.com) (email), or Cathy Lazarus at 650-255-2020 (phone) or [cathyrlazarus@gmail.com](mailto:cathyrlazarus@gmail.com) (email). ☛



## Bigné di San Giuseppe

### Here is yet another sign that spring will soon be here!

Although this sign is neither a change in temperature nor return-ing migrating birds or early blooming flowers. To the joy of all those with a sweet tooth, this sign can be eaten.

These are *zeppole* in other parts of Italy, where they are usually of made of denser dough and are occasionally prepared savory, too. In Rome, however, they are called *bigné di San Giuseppe*, light, puffy, wee clouds of... sheer gluttony that begin to appear in most pastry shops a few weeks before March 19th, the Saint's day.

Step 1: deep-fry some sugared butter and egg-based batter. Remove from oil once they puff up.

Step 2: fill to the gills with pastry cream (butter, sugar, and egg-based). Then, because they're light on sugar and still too low on calories, cover with powdered sugar before serving!

When you eat your first one during those few weeks that they're available, it is hard not to have a "Why aren't you made year-round!?" moment. Given their nutritional value (!?), good thing they aren't, actually. By the time San Giuseppe actually rolls around you'll have eaten so many (a bigné binge?) that 48 weeks of bigné-abstinence is the absolute minimum.

But what a treat! "Un altro bigné con il cappuccino?" ("Another bigné with your cappuccino?") says the *barista* with a devilish smile.

Oh well, it'll be easy to work them off soon... spring's coming, right? ☛



## Culinary Programs at the Italian Cultural Center

Beginning in April, IAHF will present an exciting series of programs featuring the food and wine of Italy. Curated by Massimo Chisessi, the programs include lectures, demonstrations, tastings and actual cooking experiences that will explore a variety of regions and food traditions. Most programs will take place on the third Thursday of each month at the Italian Cultural Center and are \$15 for IAHF members and \$18 for non-members. Make a reservation by calling the IAHF or purchase tickets online at [iahsj.org](http://iahsj.org).

Beginning the series on Thursday April 14, from 7:30 to 9pm, author Mark Leslie shares his charming book *Beyond the Pasta: Recipes, Language and Life with an Italian Family*. In this very special evening, Mark will tell us about the year he left his job as a theatrical producer and moved to Italy to completely immerse himself in the Italian way of life. Each day, "Nonna" showed him how to prepare age-old Italian recipes while her daughter taught him colloquial Italian. We will sample some of Mark's Italian cookies and sweets, paired with a sparkling dessert wine.

Viola Buitoni, a member of Italy's famed Buitoni pasta-making family, is a noted chef and expert on the history of Italian food. On two consecutive Thursday evenings, May 5 and 12 from 7:30 to 9pm, Viola will present the historical and healthful aspects of the Mediterranean diet and discuss the principle elements of the Italian larder now available in California. As the mother of a six year-old, she knows first hand how to cook meals that are

quick, healthy, delicious and ITALIAN—she'll illustrate the many tasty variations that can be inspired by these ingredients. Each evening, you will have the opportunity to taste one of her creations, and you'll bring home Viola's list of pantry items for future reference. This two-session series is \$24 for IAHF members and \$30 for non-members.



On Thursday June 9, from 7:30 to 9pm, Massimo Chisessi will teach a one-night course on how to produce Limoncello that's easy, fun and addictively tasty. Participants will learn his personal "secret" recipe, gain resources for the basic materials and begin production on their very own bottle of one of Italy's favorite drinks. They'll also go home with one of Massimo's liquores in a decorative bottle, perfect for gift-giving or a special evening at home.

The tomato is one of Italy's most iconic foods. But did you know that this ubiquitous ingredient is not even native to the Mediterranean? On Thursday, July 14, from 7:30 to 9pm, you'll learn about the history and mythology of the tomato. We'll discuss the selection and cultivation of heirloom varieties that flourish in our microclimates as well as traditional and innovative preservation techniques. IAHF members will relate their memories of how immigrant parents and grandparents taught them to grow and prepare this delicious fruit. We'll end the evening with a tasting of 10-12 types of heirloom tomatoes to illustrate the versatility of one of our favorite foods. 🍅

IAHF members, you can take part in our culinary program on the history and cultivation of the tomato! What types of tomatoes did you grow up eating? What methods of cultivation did your parents and grandparents bring from Italy? What special recipes were made when tomatoes were in season? Do you have interesting tomato production photos or artifacts from Italy or from Santa Clara Valley's heyday as an agricultural center? If you can contribute to this exciting program, call the IAHF office at (408) 293-7122 to register your interest or email Massimo Chisessi at [mc@anothersicily.com](mailto:mc@anothersicily.com).

## 2011 Italian Family Festa News

*Ciao a tutti,*

As promised, we would like to share the on-going progress regarding the 2011 Italian Family Festa. This year's event will be held on August 27-28, once again in Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. Our new hours will be Saturday 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Sunday 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

We are in the process of booking entertainment for this year's event with a wonderful roster of performers and some new surprising additions. Returning will be Festa favorites: Pasquale, Bella Ciao, and The Don Giovannis, just to name a few. There will be great music to energize the dance crowd on Saturday night, and the fantastic Fratello Marionettes will entertain the *bambinos* during the afternoon. Popular activities such as the Bocce Ball Court, Wine Tasting in the beautiful Little Italy courtyard, and children and adult Face Painting will again be part of the wonderful Festa festivities.

Mark your calendars for this wonderful annual event. Hope to see you all there again in *bella* Guadalupe River Park and Gardens Park! *Mille Grazie,*

Joe Rizzi / Festa Director / 2011 Italian-American Family Festa / Italian American Heritage Foundation of San Jose



## Sponsors of the 2010 IAHF Family Festa

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- Check our website: <http://www.italianmensclub.com>



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\*Deceased

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### IAHF NEWS

*Send your letters, comments and articles to:*

Editor, IAHF NEWS  
425 N. Fourth St.  
San Jose, CA 95112  
Phone: 408-293-7122  
Fax: 408-293-7154  
E-mail: [iahsj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iahsj@sbcglobal.net)  
IAHF News is published monthly by The Italian American Heritage Foundation.

**Editor: Judy Verona Joseph**

**Design: John Romano**

### Ad Rates & Deadlines

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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
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## Upcoming Events March 2011

- 🍷 March 19, 2011  
St. Joseph's Day Table  
11:00 AM Mass; 12:00 PM Lunch
- 🍷 March 26, 2011  
Crab Feed  
6:00 PM No Host Bar; 6:30 PM Dinner;  
8:00 PM Dancing
- 🍷 April 2, 2011  
Renaissance Fair
- 🍷 April 10, 2011  
Una Storia Segreta
- 🍷 April 21, 2011  
Regional Luncheon

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send the IAHF newsletter to you via email! 🍷

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## John Turturro's *Passione* a Big Hit at Cinequest 2011!!

Italian American actor and director John Turturro was on the Red Carpet at Cinequest's opening night. His film *Passione* was a big hit and enjoyed by many!

John's family is originally from Sicily and his father was from Puglia. "Most of the Italians in New York are from Naples, Sicily and Calabria - the south" said John. "Neopolitans have their own language and, most importantly, the people are unbelievably musical." This is his fourth film as a director and his first documentary, and is a loving homage to the Italian city of Naples - a city of music, of culture, and most of all, its extraordinary people.

The stunning and evocative music of Naples takes center stage in Turturro's fourth directorial outing with magnificent results. Turturro immerses us in the rich culture that lies within the complex city, exploring the dynamic music which continues to define its traditions. Richly textured and layered, *Passione* vibrantly combines archival footage with astonishing musical numbers on the streets, inside the sites and within the hearts of its people. 🍷 Photo by Frank Anzalone • Article by Judy Verona Joseph