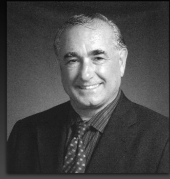


IAHF NEWS

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2012 • FOUNDED AUGUST 5, 1975 • CELEBRATING 36 YEARS

President's Message

by Ken Borelli



OUT & ABOUT, ITALIAN AMERICAN STYLE

As previously noted in my column January is suppose to be a slow month, not so on the Italian American art scene. For instance our IAHF field trip to the De Young proved more than to be expected. To see these great works of art by Titian, Tintoretto, Giorgione, Veronese and Mantegna was a humbling experience. Because our field group was small we caucused and decided to go to the *Museo Italo Americano* where we caught the tail end of the John Grillo show. John Grillo, son of Sicilian immigrants, worked in San Francisco in the 1940's, and he is now in his 90's and painting in Cape Cod. He is considered one of the founders of the modernist style of abstract painting in American art, and many of his paintings pre-date what was considered the New York school of expressionism by several years. *Il Museo* has several books of his works at their book store, and some of his painting in their museum collection. So in one short mile we went from the grand tradition of renaissance paintings to the wild world of American expressionism!

In the meantime, we collected some exciting news about "Italian Americana" in the arts. One of the most fascinating shows is going on right now at the San Francisco Airport. It is entitled *MOTO BELLISSIMA* -- Italian motorcycles from the 1950's and 1960's. The exhibit is in the lobby of the international main terminal and is free and

accessible to all. The show runs to April 2012. An interesting note, too, is that the airport museum is an extension of San Francisco's museum network, and the shows are first rate and innovative, utilizing the public space at the terminals. The sleek lines and stylish products are as much for looks as riding, but given the price of gas today, these bikes are becoming very economically attractive. Check it out at www.SFOMuseum.org.

Returning to *Il Museo*, they will be developing another show stopper in March 1-to June 3, "The Imaginative World of Carlo Marchiori". Carlo was born in Bassano del Grappa, near Venezia. He is known for his neo realistic magical murals and painting. He is currently working in Calistoga at "Ca'Toga" painting his villa designed in the style of the Venetian architect Andrea Palladio. Ca'toga houses many of Carlo's works which not only includes paintings but furniture, sculptures and base relief stone plaques. The Venetian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio defined the neo classical look, and his stark, stunning designs have never gone out of style.

Not to be outdone, the Legion of Honor has been able to secure the loan of the world famous bust of Gian Lorenzo Bernini's "The Medusa" from the Capitoline Museum in Roma. It is a priceless masterpiece and it is on display at the Legion in one of the main salons. Shortly, too, the Legion will be host-

ing an other major exhibit The Cult of Beauty, The Victorian Avant-Garde, and like the Grillo show and the birth of expressionism, one of the "avant garde" artist to be featured will be Dante Gabriel Rossetti. In fact Rossetti, who actually was not "avant garde", rather looked back to the paintings of Raphael, hence founded a school of painting and design called pre-Raphaelite, or looking back to the paintings and art prior to Raphael (1483-1520), considering anything after Raphael not worthy to following in style. I guess the law of unintended consequences kicked in and an avante garde movement was founded.

Given article limitations I have not even touched on the vibrant Italian American theater and music scene. Yet one fascinating observation about this awesome array of

exhibits, is not so much about consistency in style, but a common denominator of intensity and passion reflected in all these exhibits. I

imagine too there were those who told these artistic titian's to drop the vision, "get on with earning a living", "a kid can do this", etc. I am sure you have heard it all, too, but there was a countervailing driving force in all these artist to follow their muses and not their detractors. And thankfully, we are all the beneficiary of their collective vision. Creative travels to you. 🍷



PUGLIA REGIONAL LUNCHEON



Please join us at the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF) on Thursday, February 16th, for our monthly regional luncheon. This month we will explore the food and culture of Puglia, and we are very pleased to have Valentina Cirasola as our speaker. The cost is only \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members. The social hour is at 11:30 AM, lunch is 12:00 PM and Valentina speaks at 1:00 PM. Please call the IAHF at 408-293-7122 for information and reservations.

About Valentina: Valentina Cirasola is Italian-born, a native of the region of Puglia. She is an Italian interior designer and former fashion designer, in business since 1990. She blends fashion with interior design and colors the world of her clients. She has been described as “the colorist” and loves to create the unusual. She is also the author of two published Italian regional cuisine books available on Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, through her publisher and her books’ websites:

<http://valentinaexpressions.com/> • <http://outskirtspress.com/ComeMiaNonna> • <http://outskirtspress.com/SinsOfAQueen> 🍷

BUBBLY & BINGO

Le Donne d'Italia, San Francisco's new Italian Women's club, cordially invites The Italian American Heritage Foundation members to join us, Sunday, February 26, 2011, for a fun filled day of Bubbly and Bingo at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club: 1630 Stockton St., San Francisco, CA 94133.

Lunch is at 11:30 AM with pasta and meatballs, salad, dessert and *Prosecco*. Bingo games start at 1:30 pm with special paper games, regular games, and one coverall/blackout game. Cash prizes and extra chances to win with our Raffle prizes.

The price of the event is \$30 Advanced Sale, which also includes two free bingo cards. For more details and tickets, please contact Antoinette (415-931-4810) or online at www.ledonneditalia.com. Please join us!

Le Donne d'Italia is a nonprofit charitable organization of Italian-American women promoting preserving and celebrating the Italian Culture and their Italian Female Heritage. 🍷



THE ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW

The IAHF was contacted by Joseph Sciorra, Editor, of the publication of the bi-annual journal *Italian American Review*. The publication is from the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute located at Queens College (CUNY), New York, New York. The review will feature articles about the history and culture of Italian Americans and embrace a wide range of professional disciplines and thoughts. The Institute had published a journal several years ago, and now they are instituting this publication as part of their vision and focus. The IAHF plans on subscribing to the journal, and we will have some of the subscription cards at the office. You can also get more information from the journal web site at : www.qc.edu/calandra/italrev Their telephone number is 212-642-2094.

As we go to press, Joseph Sciorra will be presenting at the University of California on Thursday Feb. 9th. Several of our IAHF Board members are planning on attending the event. He will lecture on his edited volume, *Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian American Lives*. The event is sponsored by the UC Berkeley Department of Italian Studies, and the Italian American Studies Association's Western Regional Chapter, formerly known as the American Italian Historical Association. More to follow on these exciting developments in our future IAHF paper. 🍷

POLENTA! POLENTA!! POLENTA!!!

Italy - Winter's cold is an ugly thing, especially when the houses are built to stay wintry cool in the summer heat rather than the other way around. The Romans might have invented central heating 2000 years ago, but little has been done to improve the system since. Enter *polenta*....

The quintessential winter meal, this dish is the caloric transfer workhorse. Preparation, done communally, of course, together with one plate per person, will keep everyone warm through the night. How so?

First, the fine-grain *polenta* (3-4 oz.s per person) needs to be stirred continuously for about 45 minutes over a medium flame. All but an Olympiad's arm muscles will tire after 5 minutes, so *polenta* is a group meal for this reason alone, requiring frequent changes at the wooden dowel's stirring helm.

Add the fact that the 1-2 sausages and 1-2 pork spare ribs per person also need to stew in their tomato *sugo* for a while and the kitchen begins to resemble Florence in August. (Sauté the oil, garlic and onions first, then add the meat until browned, then the tomato and let simmer for 45 mins.)

What really packs the heat punch, however, is the meal itself, served on individual (or occasionally a large shared) wooden board. This is stick to your ribs winter food *per eccellenza*... careful though, *polenta* served two inches high and submerged by equally hot pork and *sugo* has an ability to retain heat that seems to defies basic thermodynamics. With food like this? Pssht! Central heating indeed... 🍴



DID YOU KNOW?

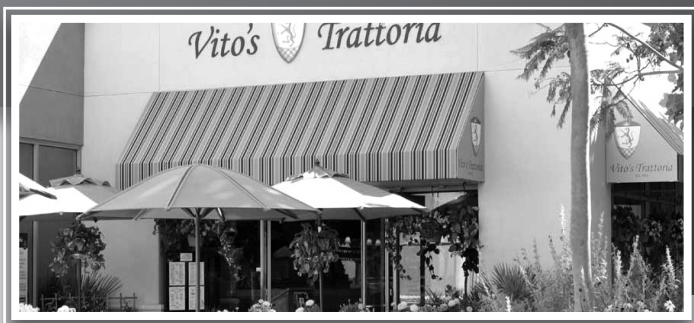
Did you know that country singer Tim McGraw has Italian roots?

With a name like McGraw, you wouldn't think that he's Italian. but he has a strong Italian heritage, from his great-grandfather DONATO AUGUSTO D'AGOSTINO, his grandpa GIOVANNI GIUSEPPI D'AGOSTINO, and his Mom teaching him to make pasta and spaghetti sauce, which is one of his specialties! -- Judy Verona Joseph 🍴

SAVE THE DATE!

THE ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA
RETURNS TO GUADALUPE RIVER
PARK & GARDENS
ON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25
AND
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012



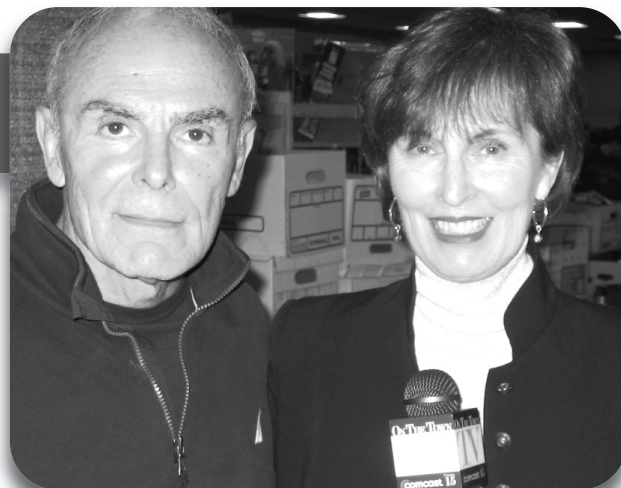


VITO'S TRATTORIA

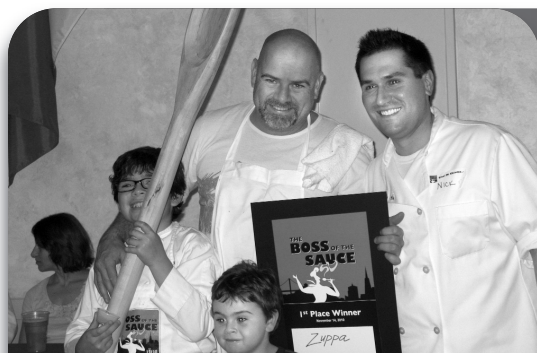
*Welcome new IAHF business member
Vito's Trattoria in San Jose.
Look for more info, photos and story
in the March issue!*

THE DETECTIVE WORK CONTINUES

Earlier in the year, I included in our dues renewal letter the importance of searching out our Italian American roots as a way of appreciating our contributions to this great land. It is not so simple however, to explore these roots given the "de rigueur" (defined as: required by good form), demands of pop culture to pretty much homogenize every ethnic name associated with pop stardom. I cited the great singer Francesco Paolo Lo Vecchio aka Frankie Lane as an example. In Judy Verona Joseph's article and interview with Carmine Orrico aka John Saxon in *L'Italo Americano*, and reprinted for us, is a fascinating discussion with one of Hollywood's great action stars. Less you think this re-branding of pop stars is a thing of the past consider, are you familiar with Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, aka Lady Gaga, or Madonna Louise Ciccone, aka Madonna? Perhaps it's understandable in terms of pronouncing words and having catchy names to market, but there is also the down side of the "cultural pasteurization process" that makes it difficult for Italian American youth to relate to our common heritage as reflected in today's world... oh well, at least we have *Jersey Shore* (just joking!) -- Ken Borelli, IAHF President 🍷



Judy Verona Joseph of On The Town interviews actor John Saxon. John Saxon, born Carmine Orrico, has starred in over 80 films and several TV series, such as The Unforgiven, The Plunderers, and Warhunt, Appaloosa, Winchester 73, and The Bold Ones and Melrose Place TV series. In 1973 John co-starred in Enter the Dragon, with Bruce Lee, a film that has achieved cult classic status.



Joseph Manzare of Zuppa Restaurant wins Boss of the Sauce!! Also pictured are Joseph's sons and Nick Figone, President of FIERI in SF.

MAY I HAVE THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

Many kudos to our very own IAHF News Editor, Judy Verona Joseph, also of Primo Public Relations and On The Town, for being a finalist at the Annual CreaTiVe Awards. Modesty aside, I want to personally acknowledge Judy for this wonderful achievement. I am very proud of her accomplishment and appreciative of her continued editorship of our newsletter. *Grazie, Judy!* The sold-out event was held at the California Theater on January 7. The annual CreaTiVe Awards has evolved into a prestigious trade awards night for the state's ever-expanding media industry. Judy's nominated entry was for her episode, "Boss of the Sauce," from her popular show, *On The Town* on Comcast Channel 15. It documented a "very intense" sauce competition held at the Italian Athletic Club in San Francisco. Out of several entries selected for the CreaTiVe Awards, Judy's show was one of the five finalists.

In honor of her nomination, her efforts to promote our community and our heritage, we will show "Boss of the Sauce" at one of our upcoming IAHF culinary events. To further compliment the evening, we will also conduct a search for our very own "sauce boss", so I hope a few of our members will step up to share their "secret sauces." Now, I wouldn't even think of judging who (or what) makes the best sauce or, as we Meridionale sometimes say, "gravy." We just want to have some good fun, good conversation and good sauce for everyone to sample after enjoying the show so leave ALL egos at the door! Judy will discuss the actual event, the video production process and the path to the Awards. After, we will sample some of the awesome sauces! Buon appetito!

Look for more information soon! In the meantime, please contact Rosa at the IAHF to volunteer your sauce. -- Ken Borelli, IAHF President 🍷

UN GRAZIE DI CUORE!

Heartfelt Thanks to All Who Helped Sponsor This Wonderful Festa
With Much Appreciation -- The Festa Planning Committee



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PRIMO PUBLIC RELATIONS

FROM THE IAHF CULINARY SCENE

For members and their friends, the IAHF is planning to institute a series of culinary adventures. They include:

1) "UNA CENA FUORI", As a foundation we will visit and explore some of our local restaurants, meet with the chefs and sample a fixed price dinner. We are in the process of scheduling the mid-week dates now. Stay tuned for more info.

2) Likewise plans are underway to some cooking classes and share some Italian American home cooked dishes in small classes. A definite repeat is the very popular Cuccidati program and we are trying to have it before the Easter events. Likewise we will be having a Boss of the Sauce event, sharing the Award nominated video "Boss of the Sauce" by Judy Verona Joseph and sampling some of your favorite sauces.

3) Last year at the Festa we inaugurated a culinary demonstration and intend to do so this year too. We would also like to feature some of our wonderful Italian American culinary establishments, and welcome your suggestions and contacts,

4) Our regional lunches are going strong. Last month we visited Liguria with Nancy De Vincenzi Melander, and in February we will be off to Puglia, and also be having book author Valentina Cirasola as a guest speaker. We will not have a regional lunch in March due to *La Festa di San Giuseppe*, which in itself is a Lenten treat. Incidentally, for vegetarians, the Lenten faire is primarily a vegetarian experience, since historically no meat was served during the Lenten Period. Many a pious family following this tradition still did wonders with preparing fabulous Italian vegetarian meals which is a cuisine in itself (*una Festa della magra*).

All of these activities welcome your participation, as attendees and presenters. We are searching out the "signature dishes" of our members to share, along with a favorite cafe or restaurant. It's a great way to pass on our wonderful culinary traditions with friends and family and a time to meet new friends too. Contact Rosa at the IAHF if you would like to share a dish and plan for a culinary visit to a region of Italy or promote a favorite restaurant. We will be including more information as we proceed with planning in our newsletter and website. -- Ken Borelli, IAHF President 🍷



2012 - 2013 IAHF SCHOLARSHIPS

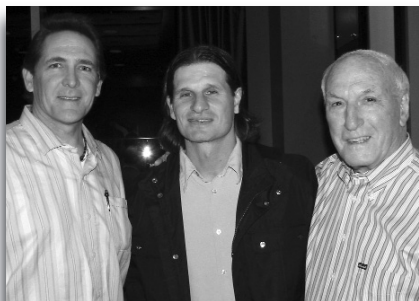
The Italian American Heritage Foundation is proud to offer college scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic school year. The scholarships are being offered to help students meet their financial needs in higher education. An additional aim is to help stimulate more interest in Italian culture among young people of Italian heritage.

Scholarship applications are open to senior students of Italian descent. In addition, a change in the criteria will now allow more students to apply. It is no longer mandatory for the family of the student to be a member of the IAHF. They must either be attending a high school in Santa Clara County or be a child or grandchild of an IAHF member.

Interested applicants can find the application form on the IAHF website at www.iahfsj.org. It is also available at the IAHF office at 425 North Fourth Street, San Jose, CA 95112 or telephone 408-293-7122. Applications are due no later than May 4, 2012. Winners will be presented the Scholarship Award at the Sunday Family BBQ on June 24, 2012.

Members are needed to serve on the Scholarship committee. The Scholarship Committee is responsible for the selection process of applicants, and in helping with the Sunday Family BBQ. If interested, please contact Christine Hudson by leaving a message at the IAHF office. Volunteers are needed!

And especially important is a need for new Sponsors to the Scholarship program. Please consider sponsoring an individual scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. It's a wonderful way to not only assist a deserving student achieve their dream of college, but it would be a legacy or tribute to a family name or family member. Help keep the traditions and culture of Italian Americans thriving by becoming a sponsor today. -- Christine Hudson, Scholarship Chairperson 🍷



CELEBRITY BARTENDER NIGHT

San Francisco Giants pitching coach Dave Righetti (left), former SJ Shark Mike Ricci (center) and former Vice Mayor of San Jose Frank Fiscalini (right) all poured wine for Little Italy and donated all their tips for the Little Italy San Jose Foundation. Over 300 people attended the event which was held at the beautiful and newly renovated Silicon Valley Capital Club in San Jose. For more information about Little Italy San Jose visit: www.littleitalysj.com or at Facebook.

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IAHF NEWS

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Rates are payable in advance:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🌹 *Thursday, February 12*
Installation of Board Directors with speaker
Allesandro Baccari
Call 408-293-7122 for reservations
- 🌹 *Sunday, February 16*
Regional Luncheon: Puglia
With speaker Valentina Cirasola
Call 408-293-7122 for reservations
- 🌹 *Saturday, March 10*
Crab Feed
More information to follow
- 🌹 *Monday, March 19*
St. Joseph's Day

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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*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

FROM
THE IAHF