

IAHF NEWS

425 N. Fourth St., San Jose, CA 95112 • 408.293.7122 • June 2010

Upcoming Events

July, 2010

July 18th

3:00 PM:

*Italian Hoe Down Dinner
with Bocce Ball, Line Dancing Classes,
Tarantella, BBQ*

5:00 PM:

Presentations

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Dancing

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ITALIAN AMERICAN FAMILY FESTA

PASQUALE ESPOSITO

SAVE THE DATE!

AUGUST 28-29, 2010

THE DON GIOVANNIS

BELLA SORELLA

THE RICCO DANCERS

ALFIO

BELLA CIAO

JUSTIN WADSTEIN

SILLY RICKY

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

30th Annual Italian American Family Festa

Saturday, Aug 28: 11AM to 8PM

- Grand Opening Ceremony at 12:30PM -

Sunday, Aug 29: 11AM to 6PM

Guadalupe River Park • Downtown San Jose
Between Julian & Santa Clara Streets

Free Admission

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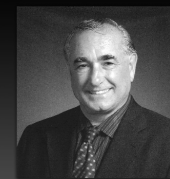
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IAHF NEWS

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

President's Message

by Ken Borelli



Relevancy

May and June have been busy months at the IAHF. In May I had the pleasure of meeting in person the hard-hitting editor of ANDIAMO, Colorado's Italian News Paper, Joe Aiello. We discussed common issues of the day relevant to our Italian American communities. In June, for those of you who were able to attend the Festa della Repubblica, we can attest to a very important keynote talk by Dave Cortese, Vice President of the SCC Board of Supervisors. We will be running summaries of Dave's remarks along with the Honorary Vice Consul of Italy, Silvia Raviola's remarks in the paper. If I were to sum up this entire experience and comments in a single word, that word would be "Relevancy". To frame this observation, and to some extent challenge us: "How is our Italian American Heritage relevant to who we are in today's world?" Of course, I am very biased when it comes to our heritage, and I am sure you are, too. Our heritage and culture are important parts of who we are, our live styles and how we interact within the greater community. Now that's the easy part of the question.

The second part of the question is, "How relevant are Italian American organizations to our heritage today?" It has been estimated that Italian Americans are the 5th largest ethnic group in the United States.

Likewise you can observe, your labors included, Italian Americans actively participating in all walks of life from the sciences to labor. What ever it is, the task is done with "gusto". On one level many of today's Italian American organizations are the preservers of our history and traditions. Without really realizing it, our organizations have gradually transitioned from "self help" benevolent societies to a part of our cultural network.

In many ways our Italian American organizations have a greater challenge in supporting and maintaining our common history and traditions than did our organizations of years ago. If you think about it, the relevancy of the older support groups were "out there", providing the hard services, supporting and nurturing the immigrant-rooted families. In fact, many other newer ethnic groups in our community are still at that stage. In contrast, we are in a transition mode where the role of nourishing that sense of "Italianita", which is a part of our sense of identity and community life, takes on added importance. The focus around physical communities is gone, and the challenge of how to stay connected to those core values we treasure as Italian Americans presents some exciting challenges. One of the critical roles our Italian American Heritage Foundation, as well as other valley organizations, can provide, is the forum or "special space" for our celebrations of Italian American heritage and pride.

Our events, the Festa itself, and many of our social and cultural

activities, are the glue to support our diverse intergenerational Italian American community. That is a big task, and thanks to the time, energy and labor of love of so many of our volunteers we are out there supporting our mission. Yes, our volunteer based structure is always going to be needed to get so many of the tasks done. Yet the goal is not the only end result; it really is the process that is equally important and vital to nourishing our sense of an Italian American community. That process is community participation and networking. In Santa Clara County, two major community initiatives whose time has come is the emerging development of a Little Italy neighborhood in San Jose, and establishing a firm foundation for a united Italian American Cultural Center. Both initiatives talk to and meet many needs in supporting and nourishing the realities of today's Italian American community in the valley.

These are exciting times for Italian Americans and their cultural friends in Santa Clara County. The expanded vision of our heritage is out there. Within this framework there is a great opportunity for engagement and growth. This opportunity, however, cannot happen without you and your commitment to these major initiatives. The process, too, is vital to the outcome in this case, a reinvigorated community building process that will be there to support your heritage as well as the generations to come.

Relevancy translates to commitment, so join us now as we build for the future!

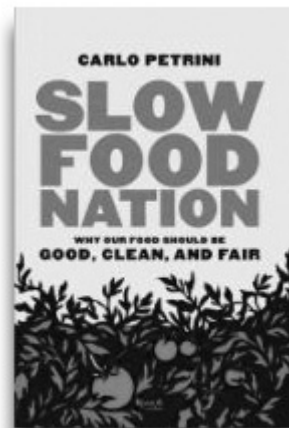
Who Is Carlo Petrini? By Ken Borelli



While Carlo Petrini is not quite a household word, to many people around the globe he has become synonymous with an important culinary statement and major philosophical movement about food.

As the story goes, the building of a McDonald's at the foot of the Spanish Steps in Roma was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. He not only took the large food chain to task for interjecting fast foods into this historical and sacred part of Roma, but his response launched what is today called the "slow food movement". For many Italian Americans they are really at home with the movement, as it describes much of what they are already doing in their food preparation.

Yet for the generations that have been raised by fast foods,



Carlo Petrini's comments have taken on new realities. These realities include the experience of cooking, taking the time, or making the time, to prepare a meal, cooking with the seasons, and buying locally grown foods. And if you have the energy, trying to grow your own food, too! You can see how this fits into a major philosophical change in life styles, and even locally in San Jose it has spawned a local network of Slow Food Advocates. Some of this information was shared at the Santa Clara County Diversity Day Event. 🌿

Coming in the August Issue of the IAHF Newsletter

The 2010 IAHF Scholarship Winners

The Italian American Heritage Foundation offers scholarships to outstanding students each school year. The scholarships encourage and assist young people in the pursuit of better educational opportunities and offer to help students meet their financial needs. An additional aim is to help stimulate more interest in Italian culture among young people. Our essay contests for high school students promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the positive contributions of Italian Americans. 🌿

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Please call the IAHF office at
408-293-7122 for more information.



Italian Class: Chefs for a Day

IAHF Italian language students had a great time preparing and serving the delicious food of Lombardia

On May 20, 2010, students learning Italian at the IAHF prepared and served a delicious regional lunch from Lombardia, Italy. The feast began with pizza from Nonno's Italian Cafe, bre-saola mista con arugula, and mozzarella. First course was a Minestrone Milanese with lots of vegetables and pasta, second course Manzo (beef simmered in a special sauce) alla Lombarda, asparagi marinati, Desert Pere (pears) with gorgonzola with briciola di panettone. Congratulations to the chairperson Joann Bjornstad and her assistants Ken Borelli, Judy Calegeri, Clare Cedolini, Tony Cedolini, Ralph DiTullio, Ruth DiTullio, Linda Filice, Sal Alini, Nancy Olea, Jo Minola Sobrina Magnisi, and Delia Schizzano. 🌿



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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: iahsf@sbcglobal.net
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Ad Rates & Deadlines

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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RICHARD ANDREW ARZINO ATTORNEY AT LAW

THE LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD ARZINO

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Festa Della Repubblica:

Greeting From Vice Consul Silvia Raviola Jercinovich

"Buon pomeriggio e Benvenuti al pranzo per la Festa della Repubblica."



"Welcome to all of you to this annual celebration of Italy's National Day. "The IAHF plays a vital role in keeping us, Italians and Italian-Americans, together as a group. It allows us a forum to share our common roots, our common language, and our common cultural heritage.

"Thank you to all the organizations and groups, such as Sons of Sicily, Sons of Italy, The Italian Catholic Federation, Calabria Club and the many others present here today for participating and demonstrating the unity that exists in the Italian-American community.

"Our goals as an Italian-American community are to celebrate our common heritage and to keep it alive for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren. We do so by uniting and by gathering as many Italian-American groups and organizations together as possible, at events such as this one.

"We hope to unite even further in Little Italy, which is now a reality thanks to the efforts of Joshua DeVincenzi Melander and his group of volunteers and advisors. In Little Italy, we can proudly showcase our heritage and culture.

"Thank you to Dave Cortese and the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, all the dignitaries, Ken Borelli, Corrado and Zina Russo, all of today's volunteers and the incredible kitchen staff for giving us the opportunity today to meet, eat and celebrate together."

Regional Lunch: Friuli Venezia Giulia



- ☞ Chef: Nancy Melander
- ☞ Date: July 15, 2010
- ☞ Social Reception: 11:30 am to 12:00 pm
- ☞ Lunch: 12:15 pm to 1:00 pm
- ☞ Members: \$10 / Non-members: \$12
- ☞ All lunches are open seating

Two High-Energy Board Members Get the Job Done

Here is a photo of our devoted Board of Directors members Ralph DiTullio and Joe Ponte hard at work painting the IAHF building. *Kudos, gentlemen!!*

Ralph and Joe are just two of the many IAHF members who volunteer their energy, time and talents to make the IAHF a great organization.

The IAHF welcomes its members to volunteer for a variety of office, kitchen and Festa tasks; please call the IAHF office at (408) 293-7122 or please email us at iahfsj@sbcglobal.net to find out how you can make a difference at the IAHF!



Come & Enjoy Bocce!

It's no problem if you don't know how to play bocce - we will be more than happy to teach you how to play! There's no heavy competition, it's just for fun and camaraderie. The cost is \$10 for the use of the courts and a delicious light lunch with a glass of wine.

Ralph DiTullio II will be your host at his Nonno's Restaurant in Los Gatos. Please call Ralph Sr. at 408-354-9449 for directions or more information.



Folding Metal Chairs for Sale

The IAHF has a collection of folding metal chairs for sale @ \$5⁰⁰ each. The chairs are in good condition. If you need some good, sturdy folding chairs, call the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 for information. They come in handy for a variety of uses, like big Italian parties!



Volunteering at the IAHF

- **Opportunities**
Kitchen help needed, banquet servers needed, hall management assistance, bookkeeper with QuickBooks experience.
- **Tables Needed**
Please see Joe Ponte if you have any contacts for purchasing long tables for the IAHF.
- **IT Manager-Computer Assistance**
We are looking for an IT Manager to manage the Heritage's Network of four computers.

Four Questions



At a recent community meeting to review a draft of the City of San Jose's Cultural Vision Plan, the following four questions were presented in the ensuing discussions by Clarissa Moore of Silicon Valley Faces and their "Camp Everytown Project" as a take off point their organizations use to discuss heritage and personally framing the issue for youth. It certainly is relevant for all ages and communities. If you're so disposed and want to begin a cultural dialogue amongst your family and friends, check out these four questions. How well can you respond to this cultural inventory?

1. Can you name some of the Italian Americans who have contributed to the United States of America, and the world?
2. Do you know the immigration and migration story of your people?
3. What are some of the holidays and traditions that you value and celebrate as Italian Americans?
4. What are some of the stereotypes about Italian Americans you wish to diffuse?

Obviously you can interchange the names of the ethnic group or heritage. Go on line to learn more about Silicon Valley Faces and their Camp Everytown project. We will keep a copy of the Cultural Vision for the City of San Jose on file at the Italian American Heritage Foundation, or you can go online to check it out at www.sanjoseculture.org/downloads/Cultural_Connection_Draft.

Artists' Retreat & Workshop in Tuscany



Develop your Creativity: Oct 2 - 9, with Optional Add-On Excursions to Florence on October 9 - 12 & Venice on Oct 12 - 15

Just 45 minutes from Florence, experience Tuscany in a luxury villa on a hilltop overlooking castles and a picturesque valley of farms in a small group limited to 6. We'll visit the Antiques Market in Arezzo, Siena, San Gimignano, Greve in Chianti and lesser-known hill towns and villages. We'll feast on fresh local cuisine.

7 nights including all meals and excursions are only \$1000 for a single room or \$700 each to share a room.

Develop your creativity in our optional photography and collage workshop for an additional \$700 for the week including most materials, suitable for beginners who think they have no artistic talent (we'll show you that you do) to professional artists who can get inspired by new techniques and new ways with photography. Then, you can choose to travel with us for optional tours of Florence and Venice at additional cost. By popular demand, we may also add another option of 3 days in the Cinque Terre.

For more information, please visit www.merartstudio.com, or you can contact Dotti by phone at 650-964-0494 or by email at: dotticichon@hotmail.com

Beautiful Venetian Masks On Display At The IAHF

An incredible collection of masks will be on display during the entire month of June at the IAHF.

Please stop by and enjoy the very beautiful art work of Kathy Winkelman and Carla De Quant.

For more information about Gioia please visit their web site at: www.gioiacompany.com



Tony Martino: The New President of IMC!

Congratulations to the new president of the Italian Men's Club, Tony Martino. Tony takes on the leadership of the group at an exciting time of transitions, but it is equally important to note the contribution his organization makes to the local community. We sometime fail to appreciate that, although our focus at both the Italian Men's Club and the IAHF, among other like organizations, is Italian Heritage and traditions, we also share with the entire Santa Clara Valley community in a variety of ways, including supporting local charities and other community groups. His background is as follows; our best to you and the club. - Ken Borelli, IAHF President



Tony Martino

I was born in Brooklyn N.Y on Sept 16, 1942. I attended and graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in 1960. I was in the same remedial math class with Bobby Fisher. Barbara Streisand, Neil Diamond and Billy Cunningham all attended or graduated in the 1959 to the 1960 time frame.

I served in the Air Force for four years after High School. I Attended RCA institutes after my enlistment was finished.

Married the love of my life, my wife Margie, on Sept 30, 1967. We have two great sons, Ricky and Tony.

I worked for 38 years in the aerospace industry; mainly classified programs. I can honestly say my work was important and I loved the work I did. I supported testing of the Space Telescope in Connecticut and in California.

My company moved my family and me from Connecticut to California in October of 1974. It was to be a 6 year assignment but it lasted 12 years. My work ended suddenly when our last product blew up on the launch pad in 1986. Margie wanted to stay in California so I went to work for Lockheed in June of 1986. Two years later we moved all our immediate families to California, as well.

I was lucky enough to get an assignment as Engineering Supervisor and then Site Manager with Lockheed, working 40 miles South of Munich. This afforded Margie and me our first opportunity to see some of Europe. I can remember the first time we drove across the border from Germany into Austria. I told Margie to get some change, I think we are coming to a toll booth. What a thrill this was for two kids from Brooklyn. We were a four-hour drive from Venice and made the trip at least once a month. I discovered the beauty, the artists, the engineering and the wonderful and friendly people of Italy. I also discovered that Italians do not like to build on flat land; give them the side of a mountain and they will build a city.

After I retired from Lockheed in 2005, a neighbor introduced me to the Italian Men's Club. It was at this club that I discovered the Italian community in San Jose. I joined the IMC after attending my first meeting. I have since been the Treasurer, Secretary, Business Consultant, and now President. I also joined the Calabrese Club and the Italian American Heritage Foundation.

Every Monday at noontime the IMC hosts a Sr. Lunch Program and in the evening we run an Adult Bingo program. The IMC has been supporting charities with donations since 1981. Profits from our evening Bingo program are used to supplement our afternoon Senior Lunch and provides us with funds to donate to the local food banks during the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also donate to local charities like Cancer, MS and Blue Star Moms.

My goals as IMC president are to:

- ☞ Raise more money so the IMC can donate more money to the local charities.
- ☞ Grow our Membership, I am 67 and I am one of the youngest members.
- ☞ Support and join the Italian Cultural Center of Santa Clara effort. This was a dream of one of our departed members Franco Gallo who I respected and grew very found of and I want to make this happen.
- ☞ Support the unification of all the Italian Organizations in Santa Clara through the Cultural Center effort.
- ☞ Support the Downtown Little Italy San Jose effort. ☞



IAHF Employment Resources

As a way to provide services to "IAHF members in good standing," the IAHF News will provide up to 20 words to list your skills, services or job interests to our members. Simply write a note to the IAHF and in 20 words or less describe your service and how to contact you. For example: "John Doe, house-painter, call (408)111-1111. Senior Discounts Given." (that is about 9 words). For larger notices, please consider our ads at very reasonable rates in the IAHF News. ☞

The IAHF is Proud to Present ALFIO at This Year's Annual Italian American Family Festa!



The Italian American Tribute

"This album is a legacy to the contribution that these great artists have made to our lives and a way for me to keep their memory alive as I rewind the classics of yesterday and bring them back to you today." – ALFIO

Highly charismatic with a devil-may-care attitude, Sydney native ALFIO is reminiscent of a young Dean Martin. With his old-world charm and his confident swagger, ALFIO offers a refreshingly cool and modern throwback to the legendary singers to which he is often compared.

While studying voice in Parma, Italy, ALFIO was on the road to becoming a tenor, but the constraints of that particular musical track clashed with his strong desire to sing contemporary and classic songs while still being able to compose his own music. As a result, ALFIO strayed slightly from becoming a tenor to become what he jokingly calls a "nine-and-a-half." But when it comes to ALFIO's deep commitment to his art and the passionate performances which that commitment evokes, he is a solid ten. As "The Voice of Passion," ALFIO carries a depth and sincerity in his music that might not have been as fully developed had he chosen a path that took him even slightly away from his own calling.

Following tours in the US, Europe, and Asia, as well as the success of his previous album, *Tranquillità*, released by Warner Music Australia, ALFIO is back with a new album, *Classic Rewinds*, paying tribute to the artists who influenced ALFIO and his passion for music. The 15 Italian-American artists recognized on this album are reminiscent of ALFIO's connection to Italian life outside of Italy. *Classic Rewinds* includes classic songs from Mario Lanza, Perry Como, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Frankie Valli, Bon Jovi, and more. Songs like "Papa Loves Mambo" and "Buona Sera" set the stage for a fun, feel-good collection, while tracks like "Where Do I Begin" and "The Impossible Dream" showcase ALFIO's vocal range from soft timbre to full bravado; and a modern classic like Bon Jovi's "Always" adds an element of mainstream sensibility for contemporary fans around the world.

Considered one of the great voices in contemporary music today, ALFIO is also an accomplished songwriter, musician and composer. In addition to paying tribute to the classics as the album's title suggests, *Classic Rewinds* also includes a few ALFIO originals such as "Voce Pura" written for Luciano Pavarotti. After meeting and dining with Pavarotti in late 2005, ALFIO penned this loving tribute to the Maestro and sent it to him early last year.

Whether sitting solo at the piano, backed by a band or an orchestra, or singing a cappella, ALFIO believes in connecting with his audience. An album like *Classic Rewinds* affords ALFIO and his audience the opportunity to celebrate songs they both know and love: "Singing your own songs is great, but watching your audience sing and clap along to the songs we all know and love is something that many artists have embraced. I love singing the classics." – ALFIO.

One of ALFIO's most appealing qualities in both his music and his life is his ability to entwine generations. This album is a testament to that and speaks to the sentiment for all generations to move forward while not forgetting to appreciate a classic rewind. For more information, please visit www.alfiomusic.com and www.myspace.com/alfiomusic. ☞

Little Italy Updates

It is not just the weather heating up in Little Italy San Jose. The coming months are going to be full of movement.

The building of Little Italy "brick by brick" drive for the piazza has come to an end. Almost 300 bricks were sold. Beautiful bricks remembering long forgotten businesses, honoring families and their roots as well as the Italian Clubs leaving their marks of remembrance. Over \$40,000 was raised for such projects as the Piazza Piccola Italia, banners of prominent Italians from San Jose, and murals under the 87 overpass. For those of you who did not get to order... do not fear, there will be a Phase 2 location to be announced by next year.

Sabatino Memorial School is bustling with the sounds of children playing and being totally immersed in our Italian culture and learning the language very quickly. Theresa Sabatino has the gift of hospitality and has hosted many events for families. Please find them on Facebook under Little Italy Kids San Jose, or www.littleitalykids.org and keep up with what is happening.

We have held two Wine Tasting Fundraisers. One at Tessoros Barra de Vino in the Pruneyard in May, which raised \$350 and the other at Enoteca La Storia in Los Gatos in June, which raised \$1,500. Not only have these been fundraising events, but we have watched a community form before our very eyes. A community looking forward to the Little Italy San Jose neighborhood being filled with restaurants, coffee shops, wine bars, shops and lots of music and laughter. Please join us for our July wine tasting event at A.G. Ferrari Foods in Sunnyvale on July 16th from 6-9. Please go to the Little Italy San Jose website at www.littleitalysj.com and sign up for the e-News and stay in the loop. ☞

Appear At The Balcony, My Love!

By Valentina Cirasola, Interior Designer (Visit: <http://www.valentinadesigns.com>)

Letter to Juliet is the latest film with Vanessa Redgrave and Italian actor Fabio Testi that every girlfriend of mine is talking about. The film is based on the question: “What if you had a second chance to find true love?”, and of course there is no better place to talk about love than from Juliet and Romeo’s famous balcony in Verona, Italy.



Hollywood’s ability to prompt women to dream still amazes me. The Italian sceneries in the film are so beautiful, the golden aura of the Mediterranean projected on ancient walls and stones contributes to the romanticism and fantasy. Juliet and Romeo’s balcony is the focus of the last scene that makes the story ending into “they lived happy forever after”. To a realist like me, it was just a nice few hours at the cinema. But what prompted me to write this article is the balcony, a piece of architecture that pushed me back in time, when I was a young girl, constantly in love with anybody who walked.

Yes, it all happened on the balcony of my mom’s house and when my mom was a young girl, most “seen and being seen” happened on the her mother’s balcony too.

In Italy a balcony is a lived space, an added space to the house, or apartment.

We Italians sit on the balcony to admire the view whether we have one or not and if we don’t have a view, we scrutinize our neighbors. We get to know them and all their family problems, somehow the balcony doors are always open.

We cultivate small orchards on pots and cultivate every possible cooking spice, along with flowers and a few produce. Colors, colors, colors. Among the few produce planted on balconies, tomatoes take first attention, they are a must in the Italian cuisine.

Balconies in Italy are also used to hang clean laundry to dry in the open air, as clothes dryers are not popular at all. Naples is one of the most renowned and characteristic city of Italy for its clothes hanging over the streets, leaving to the imagination of the passers-by observations and comments of who could wear those clothes. With a pulley, clothes span from one balcony to another, serving two different families on both sides of the same street.

On balconies Italians “mettono tavola” meaning they set an outdoor table and dine al fresco, mostly at night, when they can be refreshed in the cool night air, after a long day of Summer heat. It is an excuse to participating also to the people night strolling down below in the street. While all of that goes on in the street, up in the balconies, people carry on with their lives until the small hours of the night, as if nobody sees them. In fact, when the weather is really hot it is not uncommon to get a mattress and sleep on the balcony.



To cut down on their routine tasks, housewives drop a basket down below to the local family owned grocery shop, or drug store to get the small items needed for today’s cooking. The basket is always attached with a rope to the rail of the balcony ready to be dropped down at any request. On the other hand, women at home, regardless of the busyness of their lives, always have time to spend a few minutes on the balcony to pass along a recipe, or a gossip with the next balcony neighbors, or at best a taste of their cup of coffee.

On Italian balconies young women, who are learning the art of coquetry, show themselves off to potential boyfriends, almost like showing off what they have to offer. The young girl coming out of their shells and new at this game, do everything in their power to attract the young man’s attention they are interested in. They appear at the balcony at the same exact time the young man is passing by, because they have studied him and learned every move he makes.....Suddenly, something falls down from the girl’s balcony, just when he is passing through.....oh Heaven!....he is looking up....

In America we don’t socialize through our balconies. Actually only upscale homes have balconies, but nobody uses them, they are only there for beauty and to pay more taxes as exterior spaces. Some are even fake, no exit to it, only a rail attached to the walls as a suggestion of balcony. Our privacy is precious and guarded with sentinels, but when we go to Italy, funny, we like how everything evolves over there, even when people enter our lives through balconies without permission. My life in America is so different now, without that closeness to the neighbors and their lives. I truly miss my Italian balcony, a fabulous piece of architecture, that has been the protagonist of love stories through centuries. So, let’s ask ourselves that “What if?”. Ciao. 🍷

Please Welcome Our New IAHF Board Member Chuck Frascone

Someone once told me that “you have to decide to be Italian.” That could not be truer than in my personal situation. My father was 100% Italian and my mother was Heinz 57. As young boys, my brothers and I were raised and lived next door to my Italian grandparents, Giuseppe and Catherina, and my uncle Carmine and Aunt Anna Marie. Other Italian relatives lived in the neighborhood as well and there were many gatherings of the family for one event or another. These always involved good food and lots of homemade wine to be enjoyed. I never knew my mother’s family until I was older and never really made the connection with them like I did with my father’s family. So, like many Italian Americans of my generation and in my situation, I “choose” to be Italian.

Being a member of the IAHF allows me the opportunity to embrace my Italian heritage and the Italian culture “outside” of the family circle with others who want similar experiences. Through the IAHF, I am able to learn the Italian language, learn to cook regional Italian dishes, enjoy and participate in the annual Italian Festa, support the San Jose Opera, award educational scholarships to deserving students and to participate in the grassroots movement of establishing a “Little Italy” in San Jose, helping it to become a reality. In addition to all this, the dinners, dances, BBQ’s and other IAHF events are a great place for families to gather and just have fun.

The IAHF Board of Directors are constantly looking for ways to broaden the appeal of IAHF membership, lower the Foundation’s operating costs and increase revenues for the benefit of the membership, sponsors, supporters, their families and guests. However, this requires more than just ideas; it requires a lot of time and a lot of hard work on the part of many dedicated individuals. In order to create successful events and to guarantee our continued growth going forward, I urge all IAHF members to embrace your Italian heritage and culture by taking ownership of your IAHF by introducing other family members and friends to the Foundation, by volunteering your talents and services whenever possible or by making a financial donation if you are able. 🍷

by Chuck Frascone / IAHF Member / Board of Directors

Italian American Organizations Support Advanced Placement (AP) Italian Courses with Grants

May 25, 2010, Washington, D.C. - The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) commends the Columbus Citizens Foundation for their commitment to help reinstate the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture Program in Italian.

Following a \$1.5 million pledge by the Italian government, NIAF pledged \$500,000 for the reinstatement of AP Italian in April 2010. The Columbus Citizenship Foundation’s pledge brings the total raised to \$2.5 million, only \$500,000 short of the \$3 million goal for this important language program.

NIAF stands committed in its support to the study of Italian language and culture which is at the core of the Foundation’s mission to preserve and expand our rich heritage.

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the heritage of Italian Americans. www.niaf.org 🍷

by John F. Calvelli, Secretary of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) and Members of the Board of Directors

2nd Lieutenant Reese Williams



Reese Williams, grandson of former IAHF President Tony Zerbo, has graduated with honors from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., and has been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Reese is a graduate of Lynbrook High School and was highly recommended for admission as a cadet to the Air Force Academy by then U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, who was serving in President Bush’s Cabinet in Washington, D.C.

Reese was active in sports during his four years at Lynbrook High, as a member and captain of the wrestling team, and he also was an active member of the local Civil Air Patrol Squadron and participated in air reconnaissance search missions. Reese was lauded by the commandant of the academy for advising on computer technology and applications.

His lifelong childhood dream of being a jet pilot is about to become a reality with his acceptance into the Air Force pilot school in Pensacola, Florida, where he will undergo pilot training for the next year and a half. 🍷

Dave Cortese Address to the IAHF, June 3, 2010



Buon giorno. Good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you for inviting me to speak to all of you. Honorable Vice-Counsel, distinguished guests, colleagues.

I want to talk to you about three things.

Where we have been; where we are today; and where we should be going in the future... as a community of common heritage.

Or, should I say, common heritage but diverse opinions! (Its OK you can laugh!) It's true, you know it is true. If you want a lively business meeting just put a few Italians in the room together and watch the explosion of opinions that occurs. Who can control such a gathering? That may be the real issue!

So, back to the beginning. Where have we been?

Well today we celebrate the 64th anniversary of the Repubblica Italiana. That is the politics of our homeland, and the flag-raising event we had at the county was a very special tribute—as usual. We know the history of the Italian Republic.

But, what about our history here, as Italian Americans? That is the history so many of us want our children and grand children to be most interested in. We want them to be proud of A.P. Giannini and the Bank of Italy. We want them to stand up straight when they hear the names of the Italian Immigrants who came to this country, AND THIS COUNTY... as PIONEERS. The farmers, the doctors, the lawyers,

the architects and engineers, the chefs and the wine-makers, the authors and historians, the accountants and salesmen, the cops and firefighters - the teachers like Frank Fiscalini and Phil Barone, and the late John DeVincenzi, who went on to build entire schools districts and educational programs in this valley. And the businessmen and entrepreneurs who became Captains of Industry coming out of the Great Depression... when others were struggling to survive. The war heroes, our veterans, many of whom we memorialized last weekend (On Memorial Day). The mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers who became our real teachers---inspiring us to be Americans first, Italians always, and good, hard working citizens above all.

THIS IS OUR HERITAGE. THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE BEEN. THIS IS THE HISTORY WE WANT THE NEXT GENERATIONS TO REMEMBER AND BE INSPIRED BY. RIGHT? Am I right?

If I am right then that is our common goal.

I know when I was a young man, actually a boy, my grandfather used to say to me, "you are working for the next generation now, and you are working for your kids and their kids... not yourself." When he first started saying that to me I was only 14 years old. I could not really understand it. I did not even have children yet. It was not until he died at the age of 96 that I realized that he meant WE ARE ALL working for the next generation, and the one beyond that. And heritage and culture is part of what we need to keep teaching these next generations.

So how are we doing when it comes to working on our heritage for the next generation? Where are we now? Are we doing it? Honestly? I say, sometimes YES, sometimes NO.

As our great educators might ask, "How do we measure ourselves"?

How many of our youth speak Italian? How many have visited their homeland, or studied there? How many can dance the Tarantella or cook Grandma's recipes? Some yes, but I dare say not enough. How many can tell the stories of the Italian-American Immigrants who came here to Santa Clara County? Some can, many cannot.

So some will say, "WE are here TODAY with our proud heritage Dave, so don't be so grim, let us celebrate"....

But I would say to all of you, we are here as the

generation who remembers, not as the generation yet to be taught.

It is true, that we HAVE done a LOT! Opera San Jose, The Festa, the many clubs and organizations. The IAHF itself and its year round programs is something to be very proud of. The achievement awards dinner and now, of course, the effort to promote a Little Italy and the effort to open an Italian Cultural Center downtown. These are all good things...and today's annual flag raising event has literally been going on for generations now.

Nevertheless, I have been asked to speak on: The common goals of the Italian American Community?

Any successful politician will tell you that to galvanize people around common goals you need one of two things;

- 1) A threat; or
- 2) A profound objective that inspires an entire community to reach together.

The goal of our forefathers was not necessarily easy to quantify. It was, in short, a better life, and the betterment of their families. The philosopher Marcus Aurelius said, "Very little is needed to make a happy life." This has certainly been a common theme among many Italian-Americans here in San Jose.

From home to home, in Goose town or Northside, or in any Italian community, the common bond was the mutual desire for a better life, not just individually, but as a community of immigrants. Italians here in San Jose honored not just their fathers and mothers, but in a true sense, their neighbors and their community, as well. And many of them have lived without much, and without much needed. Especially those who lived here through the great Depression. They sought no handouts from government, no dollars from Wall Street. As a kid I remember the great festivals at Holy Cross Church. No greater community bond could be felt than simply mingling with those Italians congregated for a summer evening of fun and kinship.

You cannot recreate that feeling simply by having an event, or promoting a new membership drive. That can only happen by getting people excited about building that sense of community again. And that will need to happen soon because we are all getting older. And the history is in our heads. And the recipes and the language and the music, although still celebrated, must be passed down one person at a time continually. Not just celebrated one or two days a year, but passed on as values to those next generations.

Another thing I have learned as an elected official is that you cannot inform or pass any information along to people unless you know where they are and how to communicate with them.

I cannot tell you how many times as a candidate for office I have walked door to door only to find Italian-Americans who are no longer connected to the rest of the community. Often times they will say, "My father knew your father years ago from the Italian community. Or, my grandparents knew your grandparents. And then I will look at y precinct list and see that the household name is Smith, or Jones, or Kelly.

So let's think big. How can we find all the Italian American families who are interested in their roots but haven't been connected with our community in far too long? How can we build a campaign that promises not just bricks and mortar, and buildings and pasta feeds, but real deep connection among our people? We can do it by going back to the two points I made earlier:

- 1) By spreading the word that our heritage is at risk of being forgotten by much of the next generation. That is the threat. And;
- 2) By establishing a campaign to reunite every Italian-American family in our community that craves keeping their heritage alive and wants to continue to be part of this great legacy of ours.

Trust me; we are not alone.

Did you know that in the last two census counts the number of people who voluntarily identified themselves as Italian-Americans rose dramatically? This happened even though there is no actual place on the form to check-off "Italian-American".

There are tens of thousands of Italian-Americans in this county we call Santa Clara who want this deeper connection to their roots. But we need to go find them; they will not come to us on their own.

We can do all of this in Peace. Much like the Republic of Italy has now unified its various factions for 64 years, we will need to trust, and share, and convene together as individuals... and especially as the organizations that make up this community of ours. That is most important. We have the energy, so long as our own leadership does not fight amongst themselves.

We need to set aside the diversity of opinions I was joking about earlier, while we focus on re-uniting our Italian-American brothers and sisters.

I stand with you to help in any way I can.

God Bless all of you and thank you. 🙏