

IAHF NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS AUGUST 2011

- August 18
Regional Lunch: Lazio
- August 27 & August 28
Italian Family Festa!
- September 29
Tomatoes! A Lecture by Massimo Chisessi
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

It's one of Italy's most iconic foods. But did you know that this ubiquitous ingredient is not even native to the Mediterranean? In this panel discussion, 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, traditional and innovative preservation techniques and IAHF members will relate their memories of how immigrant parents and grandparents taught them to grow and prepare this delicious fruit.

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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See You at the Festa!!



IAHF NEWS

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2011 • FOUNDED AUGUST 5, 1975 • CELEBRATING 36 YEARS

President's Message

by Ken Borelli



FESTA TIME!

"EVVIVA LA FESTA ITALIANA!" A special weekend to celebrate our Italian Heritage, and share our traditions with friend, neighbors and community. Above all, it is a family-centered party where everyone becomes a *padrini* or, in dialect, *compare*, or in English, godparent, and loosely translated, as an honorary family member, in this case to our fun-filled Italian Family Festa. The weekend also feels, in part, like a Thanksgiving celebration, in that we have so many people to thank for making the 31st annual event a reality. We at the IAHF are very appreciative of the support and generosity of our members and friends. The Festa truly is a tribute to the love and pride in heritage that we all share. It seems, too, like there was very little "down time" from our last Festa. Chairperson Joe Rizzi's Festa committee has not really taken a breather from last year, and planning for the Italian Family Festa at the Guadalupe River and Gardens Park has been a continual flow from last year's historic event at the emerging site for San Jose's own Little Italy!

The Festa committee has lined up a great weekend of events, of course, including music, food, culture, arts and crafts, and new this year, a culinary venue, marionette show, and Renaissance tent. The Cultural booth will also feature a genealogy section along with other information about our Italian American roots. On a more person-

al note, the Festa provides a unique experience to connect with the greater Italian American community throughout the Bay Area and beyond. The dates also coincide with one of Italy's oldest traditions and national holiday, The Ferragosto, or the month-long national holiday that technically is in mid-August, associated with the Feast of the Assumption. In reality, it is the whole month of August, and is a tradition who's origins are as old as Rome itself, and the Fair of the Roman Emperor Augustus.... p.s. - if you ever visit Italy in August make sure you have your reservations secured!

This year our Festa takes on added significance because we are also part of world wide celebrations among Italian American communities, acknowledging the 150th anniversary of Italian Unity. We have run several IAHF articles about the event, its history and significance. In a very real sense, our Festa exemplifies the hopes and aspirations of this sense of unity among our own community in Santa Clara County. That is part of a legacy we need to pass on to our future generations, and what ever part of their Italian heritage they will be celebrating. As our own community becomes even more diverse as we become mainstream Americans of Italian descent when you "come home" to our Festa, along with the great experience you will have had, we also hope you will take back from the Festa that sense of pride and

unity. Remember, too, the Festa also supports our scholarship activities. This year we had a very special event in July acknowledging seven young scholars, and they will also be recognized at the Festa, so be generous with your donations, as the Festa is our main source of funds to support the IAHF scholarships, and one of our bridges to the next generation of Italian Americans. Consider too, if you are not already a member of the IAHF, of joining the IAHF, and if you are already a member consider being a *padrini*, or godparent to a special event or project. *Allora, ricorda, sei tu il festeggiato* (its your party!). 🍷

SAVE THE DATE
ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA
AUGUST 27 & 28, 2011
GUADALUPE RIVER
PARK & GARDENS



31ST ANNUAL ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA
 SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 & SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011
 GUADALUPE RIVER PARK & GARDENS • BETWEEN JULIAN & SANTA CLARA STREETS

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH

- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Opening Ceremony
- 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Pasquale Esposito
- 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Fratello Marionettes
- 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm West Bay Opera
- 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm Trio Davide
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Bella Ciao

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH

- 12:00am - 12:45 am West Bay Opera
- 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Fratello Marionettes
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Chris Gardner as
Dean Martin
- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm The Don Giovannis

THE WINE GARDEN
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

- 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Reno Di Bono
- 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Claudio Melega

THE SOUTH PICCOLO STAGE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

- 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm The Silicon Valley
Accordion Club
- 3:00 pm Grape Stomping

ROAMING THE PARK PLAYING HIS ACCORDION
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

- 1:00 pm to 4:00pm Michael Zampiceni

GUADALUPE RIVER PARK & GARDENS IS LOCATED TWO BLOCKS FROM SAN JOSE DIRIDON STATION

HOW TO GET THERE

Caltrain

Caltrain provides train service from Diridon Station going north to the Peninsula and San Francisco, and south to Gilroy. Please note that the last northbound train departs Diridon Station at 10:30 pm on Monday-Saturday and at 9:00 pm on Sundays.

Light Rails

The VTA Vasona Light Rail also serves the HP Pavilion in San Jose with a light rail station near Diridon Station and on San Fernando Street at Delmas Avenue.

The Vasona Light Rail service connects Campbell to HP Pavilion in San Jose and beyond to downtown, north to Mountain View, and south to Santa Teresa. Please check <http://www.vta.org/> for full VTA light rail schedules.

In addition to Caltrain, VTA (Valley Transit Authority) buses also services Diridon Station.

PARKING

There are over 6,000 parking spaces located within a ½ mile radius of the HP Pavilion at San Jose. Approximately 1,500 spaces are located on-site in the large parking lot next to the building with entry from either Santa Clara or Julian Streets. There are another 500 spaces in the lots less than one block from the building off Santa Clara Street at Autumn, Montgomery and Cahill Streets. There are many other parking lots located throughout the area, usually opening 2.5 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the event. The charge for parking ranges from \$3.50 - \$15 for most events.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC MASS
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011 • 11:00 AM • PIAZZA PICCOLA ITALIA, LITTLE ITALY, SAN JOSE
 MONSIGNOR JOSEPH MILANI, CELEBRANT • ALLELUIA FOLK GROUP, MUSIC MINISTERS

SPONSORED BY LITTLE ITALY SAN JOSE FOUNDATION

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- Delia Schizzano, *VP Programs*
- Corinne Tomeo, *Secretary*

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- Nancy DeVincenzi Melander
- Joe Rizzi
- Conrad Russo
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- Tony Virgilio
- Tony Zerbo

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PAST PRESIDENTS

- Don Lima (1975-1976)*
- Murphy Sabatino (1977)*
- John De Vincenzi, Ed.D (1978)*
- Rocci G. Pisano, Ph.D (1979)*
- Richard Arzino (1980)
- Pat Restuccia (1981-1982)*
- Philip DiGiovanni (1983)*
- Ned Ciccio (1984)*
- Frank Bonanno (1985)*
- JoAnn Cymanski (1986)
- Joe Francia (1987)*
- Nick Rizzolo (1988)
- Marge Valente (1989)
- Richard Bongiovanni (1990)*
- Tony Zerbo (1991)
- Tony Virgilio (1992)
- Nick Lickwar (1993-1994)
- Sal Scrivano (1995-1996)
- Nick Lickwar (1997)
- Ed Foglia (1998-2000)
- Phil Barone, Ed.D (2001-2003)
- Sal Caruso (2004-2005)
- Marge Valente (2006)
- Nancy De Vincenzi Melander (2007-2008)

*Deceased

IAHF MEMBER BUSINESSES

- Blevins Realtors/Coldwell Banker
- Adami Bonfiglio Real Estate Team
- Borelli Investment Co.
- Campo di Bocce of Los Gatos
- Charles Gagliasso Trucking, Inc.
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- Jose Mezzetti
- Robert Mezzetti Law Firm
- Robert Mezzetti Law Office
- Oak Meadow Dental Center
- Oliwell Corporation
- John, Eric and Diane Paulson
- Mark Rindge, D.D.S. and Barbara Rindge
- See Spot Run Dog Walking (Rochelle Migliore)
- Steve Sgarlato

IAHF NEWS

Send your letters, comments and articles to:

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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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ITALIANS & THE MOB

You would have thought this title would have come from a B-rated hollywood movie, but the following incident occurred in the California State Assembly on June 20th, 2011. Tony Zerbo sent a letter to the San Jose Mercury News about the incident, of which they declined to print. Likewise did IAHF member Chet Campenella. I am sharing the letter with you since it was also read at the IAHF June Board meeting.

If you remove the partisan politics from the issue, you get some idea of how ingrained this stereotype is, and for many Italian Americans who are professionals or even in the trades and services, you never know when the "mob card" gets played. Perhaps it's a losing battle to change perceptions on this one, given the history of the media assault on our heritage, but as I have said quite recently "If we don't do it, who will?" I don't think we can roll over and ignore these matters. Tony and Chet need to be commended for taking the time to write their letters of concern.

The final punchline in the matter was that the Assemblyman would only apologize to those Italian Americans who were not members of the Mafia! So how do you prove something like that? It's a no win game, save to express your concerns when these slurs, sometimes very unconscious, surface. (As we go to press with this story Assemblyman Wagner did eventually issue a message of apology). Even so, this was an underreported news item, and highlights how little our Italian American Experience is deemed news worthy by mainstream media. It is also why it's very important to stay connected to your own sources. Tony's letter is noted as follows:

Letter to the Editor -- Subject: California State Assemblyman Stereotypes All Italians as Mafia Members

In yesterday's California State Assembly's floor debates on eliminating Redevelopment Agencies (FDA's), Assemblyman, Don Wagner, (R), Irvine, made racial slurring remarks against those who objected to passing this bill, "as a Tony Soprano shake down or else sort of legislation", and inferring by his remarks that all Italians are members of the Mafia. That caused Anthony Portantino, (D), L.A. County, to object to Wagner's prejudged remarks, and asked Wagner to make an apology to all the Italian-Americans in California...Wagner's response was that "he would only do that for the Italians who are not members of the Mafia", which brought Portantino's colleagues to his defense, resulting in a brawl of pushing and shoving. There is no place in our State Assembly for this type of racial discrimination. -- *Tony Zerbo*



The 31st Annual
ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA
 SATURDAY, AUG. 27, 2011 - 12 PM TO 9 PM • SUNDAY, AUG 28, 2011 - 12 PM TO 6 PM
GUADALUPE RIVER & GARDENS PARK
 SAN JOSE LITTLE ITALY SITE AT JULIAN & ST. JOHN



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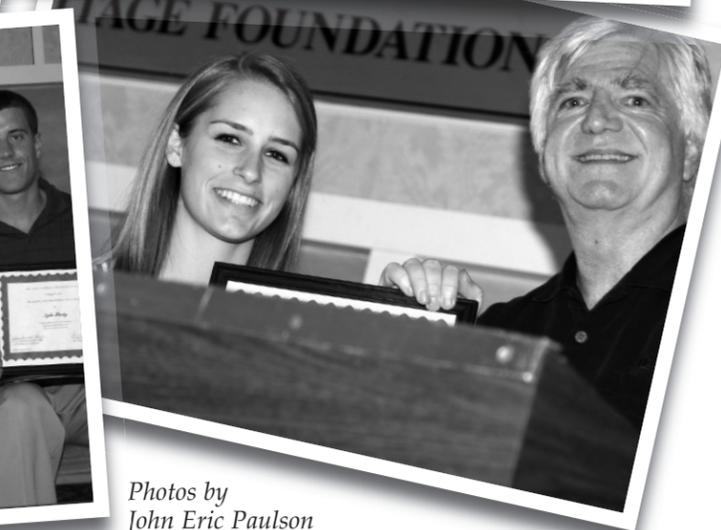
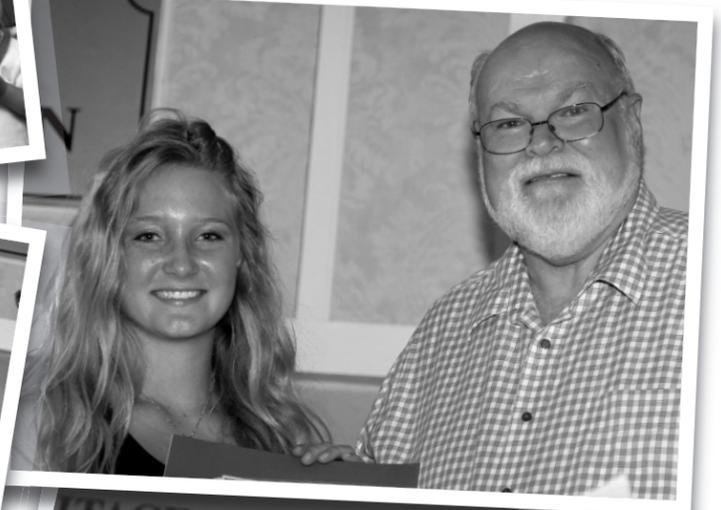
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THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: HONORING OUR 2011 IAHF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations!!!



Photos by
John Eric Paulson

"AHOY THERE, PAESANI, THERE'S VACANCIES ON BOARD!"

We want to invite you "on board", or to be more exact, consider being an IAHF Board Member. APPLICATIONS FOR NOMINATION FOR THE 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE NOW AVAILABLE. There will be several vacancies for the 2012 Board due to term limitations and some incumbents are up for re-election. It is an exciting time to be a Board member. It is also a great opportunity to work with a creative team to plan and promote our Italian Heritage and assist the IAHF to carry out its vision and mission statement of sharing our culture and values with the community. The Board meets monthly for about two hours, in addition to some volunteer work related to projects of your interest. We currently have an enthusiastic and varied Board that broadly represents the diversity of our Italian American Community. The role of the Board is to provide oversight for the operations of the IAHF, make the necessary decisions that impact membership and activities in accordance with IAHF by-laws, and provide the leadership to implement our common vision! We hope you will consider helping out and nurturing our heritage in today's Silicon Valley. Mike Console is the chair of our Nomination Committee, and he has summarized Board guidelines as follows:



- Must have an interest in Italian history and culture and also have a general knowledge of the purpose, goals and achievements of the IAHF.
- Must be available to attend Board Meetings and be willing to accept assignments related to IAHF committees and activities
- Must have an interest in and be willing to work to further the constructive image of Italian Americans in Santa Clara County and the Bay Area (Community Relations)
- Must have some experience as a volunteer worker through an organization, or company that provides services for the betterment of the community.
- Must be a paid member of the IAHF in good standing for one year or more.

In addition there will be a mentorship program set up for new board members to "Welcome them on board". If you wish to discuss details regarding the Board application process further, you can contact Mike or me for further details. We welcome your input, experience and vision as we continue to advance our heritage, traditions and values in Santa Clara County. -- Ken Borelli