

IAHF NEWS



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

President's Message

by Ken Borelli



For A Joyful 2011!

Reflecting a bit on 2010, and the many activities and accomplishments of the IAHF, I first have to say, "where did time go?" I think I said that last year too....*mama mia*. On behalf of the Foundation, a deeply appreciated word of *grazie* to all those who made last year so enriching. Our volunteers and their commitment to the Foundation is truly our strength as an organization. Our editor reminds me I have only so many words to type on a page, so I can not go into great detail about our past activities, suffice to say each year builds upon the other as we outreach to our members and community in keeping warm the glow of Italian Heritage in the Santa Clara Valley, and beyond.

To remind you of a few of these events: the Festa, for example, is "history in the making"; our lecture series really have served to connect our traditions with today's realities; and our new and long time partnerships with other San Jose organizations are a collaboration we can all be proud of sharing. As a foundation, we are excited about our new members and welcome their support with open arms. Our regional lunches will start up again in January as we sample and learn about Italy's diverse regions. New, too, will be our 150 anniversary programs regarding the founding of the modern state of Italy, a new film series at the IAHF in conjunction with our language classes, and we will also begin our search for new students to provide support and celebrate our schol-

arship program. More about these events in our paper as we proceed throughout the year. And speaking of our paper, a word of thanks to our Editor Judy Verona Joseph and graphic and layout artist John Romano, for their commitment to the publication. More than one person has commented on the quality, new format and layout of the paper. Electronic media aside, our members look forward to getting their monthly newsletter -- but if you want, we can send it to you electronically as well. I want to make a plug, too, if you have articles of significant local heritage events, and Italian Americana, pass them on to our editor. That is what makes this news letter unique, and of course fills a major gap missing in mainstream media, our Italian American heritage!

Returning to the theme of this article, I came upon the following quote from Julianne Davidow's book *Outer Beauty/Inner Joy—Contemplating the Soul of the Renaissance*. Julianne, you many recall, spoke at the IAHF in October, and we have a copy of the book in the library for your review. I did my first reading of the book over the holidays, and will soon go back for a second reading. Sharing a quote from the Renaissance philosopher Marsilio Ficino, Julianne writes, "Live joyfully day by day in the present moment. For worry about the present steals it from you, and steals the future too. Worry about

the future turns it into the past. Therefore I implore you, live joyfully" (p44).

The quote came as a surprise to me not just because of its relevancy for today's realities, but how it was an example of a living part of a very extensive philosophical experience that Julianne calls "the soul of the Renaissance". By the time I finished reading her book, I started to realize why there is so much public beauty in the Italy of today. The community places com-



mon to so many sites in Italy, its great cathedrals, piazzi, public art, festivities and palaces were quite an intentional evolution of Renaissance thought, much of it done at great intellectual hardship and personal cost. It is not so much as by accident of geography, nor in the genes or bloodlines that these places of great beauty exist; rather it is part of a 300 year conscious evolution of thought, that Julianne Davidow masterfully documents in contemplations, quotes and photos from the Italian Renaissance. It is a legacy we all share as a part of Western thought and civilization. It is also not just a history lesson but an on-going part of how one views the world, and still so vital for what can only be described as today's "quality of life." Her book is quite an inspirational piece and I hope you can share in the joy of it. Check it out at the IAHF (as well as at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or her own site at <http://www.juliannedavidow.com>) and, of course, make time for a joyful new year augmented by this observation by Ficino!

"Tante belle cose."

Cosentino's Market in San Jose is Closing

Cosentino's Market original and final location will be closing. Started in 1948 by Dominic Cosentino Sr and also ran by the four Cosentino Brothers pictured above (Phil, Dominic, Marino, and Sal). Cosentino's Market started out as a fruit stand and grew into a major Grocery Market that had three locations in the South Bay. They were also known as the most authentic Italian market around and the best place to buy produce. Brother Phil Cosentino is known as "Mr Produce" and had his own show "The Produce report" on KLIV 1590. Starting today items will be marked down 25% off. So let's support the Cosentino family on their last few weeks and say thank you for all the memories and being an icon in the Italian community.



Irene Dalis

At this year's World of Italian Opera, a very large card designed by IAHF Board Member Linda Filice was passed around to those in attendance and rapidly filled up with good wishes to Irene Dalis for a speedy recovery. It was presented to Irene the following day. By way of an update, Virginia Perry, Senior Director of Marketing, shared the following comment: "Irene Dalis welcomes the New Year, is recovering beautifully, and greatly appreciates her friends at IAHF, the BIG CARD and all the letters by well-wishers. Many thanks and looking forward to seeing all of you in the New Year!"

We at the IAHF look forward to seeing Irene soon! 🍷



Avanti

Dear Readers,

New Year, 2011, is a new chance. A chance to try something new. A chance to bring a smile to someone's face. A chance to be a part of something wonderful and exciting. A chance to remember old quotes in Italian and English and try to infuse their essence into our daily lives: *Fa male e pensaci, fa bene e scordati.*

"I expect to pass through this world but once, any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." (Attributed to E. de Grellet, 1773- 1835). Make the world a bit more beautiful and better because you have been in it in 2011...

Avanti means forward. Please play our Italian Heritage forward with the *bambini* in your lives because never before has our Italian Heritage been so grossly distorted, via Tony Soprano-type depictions, Jersey Shore Guidos and Guidettes on TV, and Mafia video games for young people.

Avanti is not easy, especially these days, when it is uphill all the way, but, please, take the time to do your bit.

- by Maria Giora, *L'Italo Americano* 🍷



A Night At The Opera

IAHF • December 10, 2010

Photos by John Eric Paulson



The Mediterranean Diet: Declared a World Patrimony! by Ken Borelli



The Italo-Americano Newspaper (Nov. 25, 2010) reported that the "Mediterranean Diet" has been declared a special world heritage treasure by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). For many of us who have grown up with variations of this diet, prepared with food from the seasons, and who intuitively ate a balanced meal composed of fresh fruits and vegetables, it is a timely recognition of the importance and dynamics of this declaration. Italy leads the world in UNESCO World Heritage Sites and this recent declaration supports a unique concept - a way of life that integrates the quality of food as part of the life experience of many Italians. The average life expectancy in Italy is way above the European average for men at 77.2 years and for woman at 82.8 years. The diet is now considered a "gift to a healthy humanity". The old adage "you are what you eat" may not be 100% true; however it still remains a major factor in living a quality life. While southern France, Spain, and Portugal share in this legacy, the unique balance of fresh greens, fruits, pastas, wine, small amounts of meats (usually as a condiment or to embellish a meal) along with olive oils and herbs, place Italy at the center of this now "gastro-nomical treasure trove". You may recall in October we had a Sunday family dinner on the Slow Cooking Movement, also founded in Italy in the 1980's, which reinforces the concern about the importance of food preparation in our daily life.

The Mediterranean diet itself offers a great variety and diversity of culinary fare, and to some extent, so ingrained is this cuisine into our persona that it has become a part of the Italian National Character, and a strong part of our heritage as Italian Americans. Food and its preparation is also the subject of many a heated discussion around the dinner table and at Italian American organizations too, especially if the food does not live up to expectations, particularly in the area of freshness and flavor. Where the differences lie sometimes between the Italian palate and the Italian American palate is in terms of quantity and presentation. We in the US serve much larger portions which is not always a good thing, and the presentation can make for some interesting blends. I have

never experienced an entire meal served on one dish in Italy. In addition, we in the US, and especially in California, are constantly adopting and preparing new and different food types, which in itself is fine and fun. It gets a little crazy, however, especially around the holidays, when a traditional American holiday meal is just added to an Italian American menu, making for a somewhat overwhelming tidal wave of culinary experience within a "short" three to four hour meal. It used to be a culinary joke to visit an Italian American household during Thanksgiving, starting with antipasto, a typical Italian table et al, followed by turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and all the trimmings!

Yet the roots of the Mediterranean diet can be found on both sides of the Atlantic, and interesting enough, the cooking traditions that our immigrant ancestors brought over sometimes has all but disappeared from the "old country palate". For me, that was an interesting revelation when I did my research for *Flavors from a Calabrese Kitchen* back in the 1980's and then visited the region, as well as relatives in Italy. Most of the schools in Italy have a class akin to home economics, which promotes a more generic national cuisine, along with the regional traditions. Interesting too, back in the 1930's, Filippo Marinetti and his quasi-Fascist group issued a *Manifesto of Futurist Cooking* (Turino 1930). It caused a scandal when it was published, in many ways attacking the traditional Italian diet in favor of a strange and abstract grouping of foods that was designed to promote the "New Italians" under Fascism. Some of the food combinations in the Manifesto were novel indeed and that could be the subject of a separate article or line of research. Even so, the citizenry did not embrace the Manifesto and suffice to say, the Mediterranean diet was not in much danger by the Futurists, although it did open up a form of nouvelle cuisine and culinary dialogue way before its time. The UNESCO Declaration is a timely reminder, though, to return to our roots and explore our culinary heritage for those quite simple aspects of a healthy diet that truly is life saving. The UNESCO World Heritage Official Site is on line and available for your perusal.

Buon appetito! 🍷

Felice Anno Nuovo a Tutti!

The new year is here and the groundwork for the 2011 Italian-American Family Festa is being laid for another successful event. The Festa will be held this year on August 27th and 28th, and many of the same family focused activities as in past years will be included. You will again experience the Italian local history and culture, great food, top notch entertainment and a few new surprises! The 2010 event was attended by twenty thousand or more satisfied guests which was a wonderful gift considering it was our first time at the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. In the months following the event we have received so much positive feedback from both our members and the community proclaiming what a wonderful experience it was at the new location. Based on last years' success and response, we are considering this venue as being a good fit for our Festa with potential for the foreseeable future.

In the coming months I will be providing you with Festa progress reports to keep you informed of the Team's efforts. There are many activities required to produce a quality event, and the support that is needed from our members can not be emphasized enough. It is my feeling that the membership should be privy to the process so they can better appreciate how much time and effort goes into the planning, execution, and the cost of producing an event of this proportion. Stay tuned.... *mille grazie!*

Joe Rizzi

Festa Director / 2011 Italian-American Family Festa Committee



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Two American Women of the Risorgimento



As part of the Italy @ 150 series of Bay Area Events, the Museo Italo Americano and The American Italian Historical Association, Western Regional Chapter, will present a lecture on Sunday, March 6, 2011, 2:30 PM, at Il Museo Italo Americano, Building C, in Fort Mason, San Francisco, on Anita Garibaldi and Margaret Fuller. Novelist Dorothy Bryant, author of *Anita, Anita: Garibaldi of the New World*, 1993, will speak on the life and times of Ana Ribero. Ana was born in Southern Brazil. When Giuseppe Garibaldi, exiled from Italy,

arrived in Brazil and helped the revolutionaries there fight for their independence, she eloped with Giuseppe and literally fought at his side in several battles for the cause of Uruguayan inde-

pendence. In 1848, she joined her husband in his return to Italy and continued the struggle once more for Italian unification. Lawrence DiStasi, author of *Una Storia Segreta*, will speak on Margaret Fuller Ossoli. A woman very much ahead of her time, in the 1840's she was part of a New England intellectual establishment that included Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne. She realized a life dream of visiting and traveling in Europe, and she was assigned to write travel articles for Horace Greeley of the New York Times. When she arrived in London she met Giuseppe Mazzini, and he motivated her to take up the cause of Italian Unification. She traveled to Italy and became a "war correspondent" and chronicled the struggle for Italian independence for the NY Times. Her articles and observations of the Italy of the times are moving, riveting, and news classics of time.

There is so much to their rich lives that are part of the fascinating tales of Italian Unification, so if you want to learn more about these two ladies, plan a trip to Il Museo. For more information and RSVP call Il Museo at 415-673-2200.



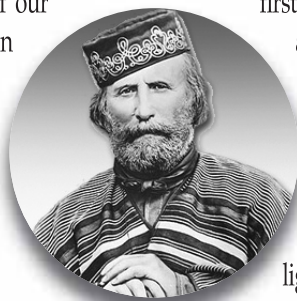
The Famed March of 1000: Dominic Catalano's Final Article

As noted in last month's edition of the paper, one of our members steeped in the history of Italy and especially Sicilian lore, recently passed away. It was a sad and shocking note since we had recently received an article we were planning to edit and run during the months around the 150th Celebrations. So in memory and appreciation of Dominic, the following is a special mini-article and Dominic's note:

Dear Editor of the IAHF Paper:

Being this year, the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy, I would like to cite an item that I came across in the history of Sicily (from *Leggende di Sicilia e la loro genesi storica—Legends of Sicily and their Historical Genesis* by Santi Correnti). It is included here and I send "tanti cari saluti." - *Affettuosamente*, Dominic Catalano

The selection from the article is as follows and discusses the famed March of 1000 from Genova to Sicilia and on to Roma—unification and history! Garibaldi, with his Thousand, left from Quarto near Genoa on May 5, 1860, with 1089 patriots, among whom were 49 Sicilians. Garibaldi landed in Marsala on May 11. He was soon joined by teams of Sicilian *picciotti* and so reached the number of ten thousand. On May 14, from Salemi (Trapani) he launched a proclamation through which he declared dictatorship on behalf of Vittorio Emanuele II (and so, in effect Salemi was the



first Italian capital). The article goes on in detail about the several battles and eventual defeat of the Bourbon Generals, which ruled the Kingdom of the Two Sicily's until its final defeat, the capitol being in Napoli, the last Bourbon hold out in Sicily was the impregnable citadel of Messina which surrendered to the "Red Shirts" with the fall of the Kingdom. The famed movie, *The Leopard*, directed by Visconte, highlighted this historical epoch, and we hope to show it at the IAHF this year. *The Leopard* is from the book *Il Gattopardo*, by Giuseppe Tomase di Lampedusa.

Editors Note: Coincidentally, in connection with the March of 1000, the Bay Area Celebration Committee had printed a small red "Garibaldino" bandana with the names of the organizations, including the IAHF, as a remembrance of the of the 150 year Celebrations locally. We are charging \$5.00 each for the red bandanas, and proceeds will support the IAHF's anniversary event. Contact the IAHF for more information regarding them. We were also able to present one of the bandana's to Dominic's family, and I am sure Dominic would have been actively involved in the various historical events, both locally and those being televised from Italy. With much appreciation of Dominic's interest, support and in memory of him, *grazie*, Dominic, *affettuosamente*. - The Editorial Staff



Installation of the IAHF Board of Directors

- Saturday, January 29, 2011
- Enjoy delicious food cooked by Chef Joe Rizzi
- Entertainment by Trio Davide of San Francisco's Caffe Trieste fame!
- Social hour 6:00 PM / Dinner at 7:00 PM
- Music and dancing from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- This great evening is only \$25 for members and \$30 non-members
- Call 408-293-7122 for reservations

Volunteers Needed for 2011!

We are actively recruiting members to help out with the IAHF mailings. Our core mailers, Norma Mestice and Carmella Gullo, need some help getting our newsletters and correspondence out. Depending on the number of volunteers, we estimate it to be about 2 to 3 hours a month. It really is a fast and fun operation with four or five volunteers. If interested, please contact Rosa at the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.

As we plan for our 2011 events, we are soliciting your assistance with in-kind and labor to assist the IAHF to put on both new and on-going events. There are a number of areas we need help in, especially in set-ups, food preparation, serving, bar, and kitchen work. Also, let the IAHF know of areas you may be interested in working on and we definitely will be contacting you. We are in the process of preparing our calendar of activities and updating our volunteer list, and are actively soliciting your help and unique talents. As a reminder, as a foundation our volunteers are our strength and a vital resource from our Festa to hall support. Our volunteer pool takes on added significance as we manage our resources during today's economic realities. Our activities are not only doable but stimulating, fun, and very rewarding, especially with adequate volunteers. Thanks for your consideration and sharing your skills and talents with your Italian American Heritage Foundation!



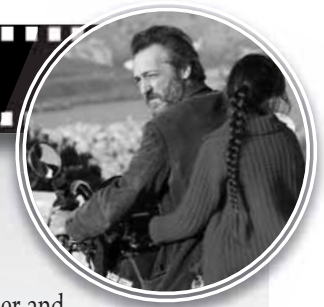
Italian Movie Night at the IAHF!!

Wednesday, February 2, 2011 • 7:00 PM • \$5 with popcorn

The Sicilian Girl (*La Siciliana Ribelle*)

A 2009 film inspired by a true story of Rita Atria.

A 17 year-old girl from a Mafia family tries to denounce the Mafia system after watching her father and brother be assassinated. As she tries to avenge the murders she puts her own life in danger and becomes the next target.



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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

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



On Sunday, April 10th, the World War II secret story of the Italian-American evacuation and internment; known as *Una Storia Segreta*, will be re-introduced in a public forum to be sponsored by the IAHF, which will discuss these unknown issues during this war time saga.

California State Senator Joe Simitian, prompted by his constituent, Chet Campanella of San Jose, introduced State Resolution SCR 95, which was later passed in August of 2010, that acknowledged the injustices suffered by thousands of Italian-Americans who were classified as enemy aliens. As a result of this, Chet's parents were subjected to curfew restrictions and had their home searched without a search warrant being issued.

Una Storia Segreta became public information in 1994, when the FBI released all of its secret files. Then in 2000, under President Bill Clinton, the U.S. Congress passed The War Time Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act which made apologies to all those affected Italian-Americans who were interned and treated unjustly.

Also in 1994, *Una Storia Segreta* gained national headlines when all of the injustices suffered by Italian - Americans became public through the efforts of the *Una Storia Segreta* Project Exhibit which was displayed nationally by the efforts of the Historians of the American- Italian Historical Association, Western Region.

State Assemblyman Dominic Corteses and the IAHF, at the time under the chairmanship of John De Vincenzi, sponsored the first in a series of these forums to inform and educate the public of all of the above-mentioned World War II injustices to Italian- Americans.

This upcoming IAHF forum has drawn enthusiastic support from City of San Jose Council Members Pierluigi Oliverio and Sam Liccardo, along with Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese.

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- For more information, call Co-Chairs Cathy Lazarus @ (650) 255-2020 or Delia Schizzano @ (408) 250-7527



News from Little Italy, San Jose

Paesano Ristorante Grand Opening • December 5, 2010

350 W. Julian Street, San Jose, CA 95110 • Ph: (408) 217-9327 • Check out Paesano Ristorante on Facebook!!



We want to send a big thank you to the following groups who have supported Paesano Ristorante in the first few weeks of operation, and we already have a lot of great regular customers. Thank you to the HP Pavilion, County of Santa Clara Building, YA Tittle and the Mortgage Outlet, Axis Condos, and all those from the Italian American community who are supporting us. Happy New Year!

- Josh DeVincenzi Melander 🍷

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IAHF NEWS

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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:
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 - \$275 for twelve issues.

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Upcoming Events

January, 2011

- 🍷 *IAHF Regional Lunch*
Thursday, January 20, 2011
Massimo Chisessi of Another Sicily
- 🍷 *IAHF Installation Event*
Saturday, January 29, 2011
- 🍷 *The Cuisine of Italo Argentina*
Thursday, February 17, 2011
- 🍷 *Benefit for Opera San Jose*
Friday, March 4, 2011

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Italy Celebrates 150th Year Anniversary of Unity of Italy with Two Titles for Italian Football TIM Cup in 2010/11

by Anna Italia

Special celebration for the 150th anniversary of Italy. An initiative to celebrate the 150th anniversary this year, but celebration starting now with Italian football honoring the anniversary of the country. The Italian football will give a second title to the TIM Cup. The winners of the 2010/11 competition will be crowned Coppa Italia and Coppa Unita d'Italia champions.

The announcement was made today in a press conference at the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza before the Italian Super Cup match between Inter and Roma to unveil the initiative. In attendance were Italian defence minister Ignazio La Russa, Inter president Massimo Moratti, Roma president Rosella Sensi, Lega Serie A president Maurizio Beretta and Telecom Italia president Gabriele Galateri di Genola.

A video named *Nata per Unire* (Born to Unite) was presented during the press conference. The clip will be played in stadiums on the occasion of all TIM Cup matches this season.

"This is a nice idea that gives prestige to the TIM Cup," commented Massimo Moratti. "And the theme of the Unity of Italy is important. The Born to Unite video was very nice. Compliments for this initiative." 🍷

