



Newsletter

Volume 2 – No. 02

June 15, 2009

Message from the President

We are now only three months away from the tenth anniversary edition of the Festival and our monthly status meetings are abuzz with committee reports about the work being done to prepare for the **2009 Festival**.

We are maintaining the best of the features that people liked and making improvements in those areas that we found lacking. We have engaged a full lineup of entertainers; we have secured the participation of the Most Reverend Bishop Smith and Monsignor Innocenzi at the Sunday Mass; we have added some new food vendors, enlarged the festival grounds, completed our plans for the Culture Theatre, expanded the Memorabilia display and the display honoring Veterans (for which we are still seeking items that the public may want to donate), and secured the return of the replica of the Fountain of Trevi that was so admired last year.

Our commitment to growing and improving the Festival is unflagging and last year's weather has not put a damper on our enthusiasm.

We are hoping that you will reward our efforts with your attendance and full participation in the many events we have scheduled for your enjoyment.

(continued next column)



While the Festival is our main event for the year, soon after, in keeping with **our mission to promote and enhance the heritage and culture of all Italian Americans**, we will be busy celebrating October as **Italian-American Heritage Month**.

A number of activities are centered around Columbus Day, such as our **Columbus Day Ball on October 9**, and **on Saturday, October 10, the Raising of the Italian flag at the Hamilton Municipal Building at noon, followed by our Columbus Day Parade 1PM**.

Other cultural events are still being considered.

As you can imagine, all the above events require a lot of effort and therefore we are always in need of volunteers to help us carry out our goals, and so you are invited to join us, but if you cannot volunteer to help, we hope you will want to attend these events to show your pride in our heritage.

Cav. John Scarpati, President

The Mercer County Italian American Festival Association.

PLEASE NOTE : NEW Email for MCIAFA

Email to: buongiorno2000@optonline.net

People said....

"Build it and they will come".....

And they do, by the tens of thousands.

Festival 2009 dates are Friday thru Sunday, September 25, 26 and 27, 2009

Three days of great Food, Rides, Super Entertainment, so much more... plus Cultural and Veterans exhibits.

Mercer County Italian-American Association Executive Board

Title	Name	Chair	Contact
President	Cav. John Scarpati		631-7544
Vice President	Frank Cirillo		396-7619
2nd Vice Pres.	Michael Rossetti		977-0921
Trustee	Gary Carbone		223-0892
Trustee	Ed DiPolvere		586-2684
Trustee	Danielle Scarpati-Carbone		223-0892
Trustee	Gus Perilli		695-1849
Trustee	Joe Urbano	(215)	295-6322
Treasurer	Phil Vecere		882-6638
Secretary	Louise Konjushok		586-0696
Attorney	Anthony Massi		890-2273

Committee Representatives

Amusements	Ted Caruso	Co-CP	631-8647
Amusements	Rich DeVito	CP	586-3808
Bocce	Ron Ungarini	CP	883-7948
Cultural Court	John Prunetti	CP	771-0687
	Jeff Prunetti	Co-CP	439-3000
Cultural Theater	Gilda Rorro-Baldassari	CP	587-7000
Entertainment	Ann Lennon	Co-CP	499-1532
Entertainment	Nina VanDeleur	Co-CP	298-1356
Entertainment	Cav. Carl Carabelli	CP	586-9010
Entrance Ticket Sales	RoseAnn Cofone	CP	208-0468
Festival Photography	Paul Donini		658-7940
Festival Merchandise	Joan Guido	CP	540-7774
Food Vendors	Bill Hillman	Co-CP	585-9310
Food Vendors	Frank Cirillo	CP	396-7619
In-House Publicity	Nina VanDeleur	CP	631-7544
Ital. Heritage Memorabilia	Anthony Chianese	CP	586-0312
Local Fundraising	Gino Melone	CP	396-3412
Local Fundraising	Vince Colletti	Co-CP	989-1298
Local Fundraising	Marion Bolton	Co-CP	396-2944
Mass	Caty DiCostanzo	CP	396-6226
Pasta Dinner Fundraising			
Signs & Banners	Ed DiPolvere	CP	586-2684
Site Operations	Wayne DeAngelo	CP	586-6877
Sponsorship & Marketing	Barry Chiorello	CP	695-5007
Volunteers	Christine Scarpati	Co-CP	396-7040
	Danielle Scarpati-Carbone	Co-CP	223-0892
Waste Disposal	John Scarpati Jr.	CP	584-8907
Website	Michael Rossetti	CP	977-0921
Website Developer	Mike Aregnano		713-2670
Admin. Assistant	Nina VanDeleur		631-7544
Beer / Wine Sales	Christine Scarpati	Co-CP	396-7040
Heritage Memorabilia	John Ricco	Co-CP	586-7724
Signs & Banners	George Mirabelli	Co-CP	396-1064
Signs & Banners	Gus Perilli	Co-CP	695-1849
Site Operations	Joe Povia	Co-CP	587-4524
Newsletter	Cav. Frank Gargione	Editor	883-4778
	Joe DeFelice	Co-Ed	841-5427
	Jack Beiger	Print	890-2638
	Lucy Gargione	Distribution	

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 OFFICE MAIL: MCIAFA – 2421 Liberty St. - Hamilton, NJ 08629
 PHONE: 609-631-7544

FROM The ITALIC INSTITUTE June Almanac

1st - Enrico Dandolo is elected *Doge of Venice* in 1192 at age 85. An instigator of the 4th Crusade to recapture the Holy Land from the Muslims, his forces begin by sacking Constantinople, a Christian city. Among the booty brought back to Venice were the bronze horses that adorn the Piazza San Marco today.

2nd - In 1946, the Italian people vote out the monarchy and establish a republic. This date is a *National Holiday*. - Freedom fighter *Giuseppe Garibaldi* dies in 1882 in self-imposed exile on the island of Caprera. He never forgave the government of Italy for trading off his birthplace of *Nizza (Nice)* to the French during the *Reunification of Italy*.

5th - In 1625, the Dutch fortress of Breda falls to a Spanish army led by *Ambrogio Spinola*. The surrender is immortalized in the *Velasquez painting, Surrender of Breda*.

6th - Famed Italian aviator *Italo Balbo* is born in 1896. He helped found the Italian air force under *Mussolini* and capped his career with a flawless mass flight of seaplanes from Italy to the United States in 1933.

7th - Pope Gregory XIII (*Ugo Bencompagni*) is born in 1502. Under his direction the Gregorian calendar that we use today was instituted in 1582. Many Protestant countries refused to use it for 150 years because it was a Catholic development.

- *The Vatican City State* established by treaty with Italy in 1929.
 - US Congressman *Peter Rodino*, famed for chairing *Watergate* hearings, is born in 1909.

8th - Astronomer *Gian Domenico Cassini* is born in 1625. He and his descendants made France preeminent in astronomy.

11th - Vince Lombardi, coach of the champion Green Bay Packers football team, is born in 1913 in Brooklyn. Under his leadership the team won five NFL titles and two Superbowls.
 - Superbowl great quarterback *Joe Montana* is born in 1956.

(see continuation)

MCIAFA Planning Calendar

Monthly Scheduled Events- On-going

1st Monday MCIAFA meeting 7PM
 Last Thursday ... Dinner Buffet Fundraiser 6-8PM

June

22nd Golf Tournament

September

15th Special FESTIVAL EDITION Newsletter

25, 26, 27, Annual Festival Weekend

October

(Italian American Heritage Month)

9th 6:30 PM Annual Columbus Day Ball – Angeloni's

10th Noon -Flag Raising Hamilton Municipal Bldg.
 1:00 PM- Hamilton Columbus Day Parade

12th Columbus Day Festivities at Our Lady of the Angels

LADIES NIGHT

The Heritage Building held a Ladies Night on Thursday, May 7, featuring a buffet dinner followed by performances of comedienne Sandy Ehlers, Kendra Cunningham and Mary Dimino, each of whom had very entertaining routines.

The event, attended by well over 100 ladies, also featured a Tarot card reader who delighted many of them with her predictions, and probably worried some.

The fun and good times of the evening, which we hope will become a yearly event, are shown in the pictures.

We wish to express our thanks for the successful event to the Event Chair, Louise Konjushok, and her committee, composed of Nina VanDeleur, Marion Bolton, Sally Van Fleet, Joan Guido, Rose Pinto, Jennifer Ferrazzano, Erin Indelicato, Ann Di Nola and Christine Scarpati.



Cav. John Scarpati, President-MCIAFA, with comedienne

June Almanac CONTINUED from Page 2

16th - Basketball All-American *Hank Luisetti* is born in 1916 in San Francisco. He was the first player to score 50 points in a college game (1938). He introduced the one-handed shot.

17th - *Civil War hero Col. Louis Di Cesnola* awarded *Medal of Honor* for action at Aldie, VA in 1863. He later became an Ambassador, and then director of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

19th - *Bandleader Guy Lombardo* is born in Canada in 1902. He symbolized New Year's Eve.

21st - *Galileo Galilei* is found guilty by Church authorities of solar-centrism in 1633, [for saying] that the earth revolves around the sun and not the other way around.

22nd - The mentor of Italian Reunification, *Giuseppe Mazzini*, was born in Genoa in 1805.

24th - Explorer Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) of Gaeta (between Rome and Naples) lands in Newfoundland, establishing the English claim to North America. He also plants the flag of his adopted city, Venice.

28th - World Pocket Billiards Champion *Willie Mosconi* is born 1918. World champ 15 times, he set a record of 526 continuous balls 1954.

30th - *Leonardo Da Vinci* begins his masterpiece, The Last Supper, in 1497 in Mila

The 2009 Columbus Day Parade

A press conference was held on June 2 at the MCI AFA Heritage Center to announce the Grand Marshals for the 2009 Columbus Day Parade which will be held October 10 at 1:00PM on Nottingham Way in Hamilton Township

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the 2008 Marshal Honorable John Bencivengo, Mayor of Hamilton, who thanked the committee for the honor afforded him last year. Also, the new Co-Marshals for 2009, Neil Bencivengo, Hamilton School Superintendent, and Bob Immordino, the official historian of Lawrence

Township, both of whom felt very honored and proud to be chosen to lead the 2009 Parade.

Other attendees included. Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D, Italian Consular Correspondent in Trenton, representing the government of Italy, and Cav. Carl Carabelli, President of the Italian-American Hall of Fame as well as the Mercer County Cavalieri Society.

The event was covered by the local television station WZBN and broadcast on its News program.



From left: Mayor John Bencivengo, School Superintendent John Bencivengo, Bob Immordino, Cav. John Scarpati, Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Cav. Carl Carabelli, Frank Cirillo, MCI AFA VP, and Cav. Frank Gargione



Cav. John Scarpati in the 2008 Parade



2008 Grand Marshal Float with Mayor John Bencivengo.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE PARADE
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FESTIVAL
Please step up..... and VOLUNTEER

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association

Proudly Presents Its 5th Annual Columbus Day Ball
Honoring this years Grand Marshalls:



Neil Bencivengo
Superintendent, Hamilton Township Public Schools

Robert Immordino
Mercer County Historian

Angeloni's Cedar Gardens
Route 33, Hamilton Township



Friday, October 9th 2009
Cocktail Hour 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:30pm

\$65.00 Donation Per Person which includes:

Red and White Pasta, Choice of Chicken Français, Flounder and Roasted Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables, Salad, Coffee and Tea
Authentic Tuscan Table and Venetian Dessert Table
"Unlimited Red & White Wine"
"Cash Bar"

Music by: Fulvio Ranni

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!
Limited Seating

For Tickets, Please Call the Italian-American Heritage Center at 609-631-7544

MCIIFA is a non-profit 503-C organization dedicated to promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture
Donations are tax deductible and are appreciated.

Once again we are publishing a Commemorative Souvenir Program with advertising and sponsorship opportunities for distribution at our events. Book size is 5.5"wide x 8.5"high.

Rates are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page* | (5"x 8") | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Back Page | (5"x 8") | \$150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Inside Cover | (5"x 8") | \$125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Page | (5"x 4") | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page | (5"x 2") | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Ad (Name) | one Line | \$ 10.00 |

NAME : _____

CHECK # _____ CONTACT _____

We invite you to advertise your Business, Profession, or Organization in this important sponsorship function.

Please check one of the AD sizes, Attach your AD or Business Card, include your check, sign below and send to.....

MCIIFA
P.O Box 2862
Hamilton, NJ 08629

REGIONS of Italy - ABRUZZO

<http://www.initaly.com/regions/abruzzo/abruzzo.htm>

This month's featured region, [Abruzzo](#), is rarely on the itinerary of foreign travelers. That makes it one of Europe's best kept secrets.

This region offers a staggering array of [delicious home-cooked food](#), some of which you may never have seen before.

Abruzzo's little-known capital, [L'Aquila](#), is a beautiful city in an even more picturesque mountain setting. **UPDATE:Earthquake May 2009 destroyed much in the city.**

High mountains, broad valleys and a strategic location: it's the ideal recipe for castle country. [Tour Abruzzo's many stunning castles.](#)

When you're invited to an Abruzzo *panarda*, the more friends you bring, the merrier. (Note: see accompanying personal account).

Abruzzo's jewel is the *Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo*, an unparalleled haven for wild animals, trees, flowers and the travel-weary .

Few parts of Italy are better organized for [camping](#) than Abruzzo. There are some camp sites which provide facilities, as well as others for more independent camping.

Take a 2 or 3 day itinerary through charming villages surrounding [Maiella National Park](#), Italy's newest protected nature area.

Kids will love the thrill of tracking [a spectacular underground river](#) in Abruzzo's Stiffe Caves.

Whether you like the seashore or the mountains, hill towns or river valleys, you're bound to find something that pleases you on a [driving tour through eastern Abruzzo](#).

Abruzzo is studded with [convents and monasteries](#). Some are works of art, others have a world-class location and others offer an interesting alternative to staying in a hotel. One easy way to enjoy the panoramic scenery of Abruzzo is a ride on the [Treno della Valle](#).

As always, there is a recommended [assortment of hotels](#) you might like to stay at, and they range from the inexpensive to the extravagant.

A year-round calendar of the colorful [festivals and pageants](#) held throughout the regions of Abruzzo follows (*next column*).

Partial list of local festivals, fairs and costumed events in the Region of Abruzzo.

Cocullo: Snake Handlers' Procession: a statue of the town's patron, St. Dominic, is carried through the town covered with live serpents (first Thursday in May).

Francavilla a Mare:Carnival Festivities (February).

Città Sant'Angelo: Carnival Parade of Floats (February).

San Valentino: Frittata Festival (Good Friday).

Picciano: Traditional Befana Festival (January).

Lanciano: Medieval Pageant and Horse Race (September).

Cappelli Sul Tavo: Palio del Pupo Costumed Races (August).

Villamagna: The Turks and St. Margerite Historical Re-enactment (July).

Cepagatti: Historical Parade with Floats, Fireworks and Celebrations (August).

Rivisondoli: Living Nativity Scene: hundreds of costumed figures re-enact the arrival of the Three Kings at the manger (January).

Loreto Aprutino: Procession of the Ox: this beautifully costumed procession culminates when a sumptuously outfitted ox kneels before the statue of St. Zopito (Monday after Pentecost).

Scanno: Bonfire Festival: enormous bonfires are lit on the surrounding hillsides to commemorate St. Martin (November).
Traditional Wedding Ceremony: re-enactment of the unique local wedding customs (August).

Popoli: Trout and Shrimp Festival (August).

L'Aquila: Pope Celestino's Pardon Ceremonies (August).
Good Friday Procession (sunset, Good Friday).

Sulmona: La Madonna in Piazza: medieval folklore event culminating in a staged pageant (Easter Sunday).

Fara Filiorum Petri: Farchie Festival: giant torches illuminate this festival for St. Anthony (January) (right).

Celano: Costumed Procession and Fireworks (late August).

Cappelle Sultano: Palio of the Puppets: giant puppets form a procession through the town, then explode in a shower of fireworks (August).

Rocca di Mezzo: Daffodil Festival: folklore dances, presentations and a parade of flowery floats to celebrate the arrival of spring (last Sunday in May).

Plowing Festival: re-enactment of a 17th-century custom, culminating with a race to plow the most perfect furrow (last Saturday in August).

Pacentro: Festival of the Madonna of Loreto, with a traditional bare-foot "gypsy race" (first Sunday of September).

Bucchianico: Flower Festival: re-enactment of a 13th-century military stratagem that saved the town from destruction, with costumed parades, flower-bedecked carts and exquisite miniature flower floats worn on the local ladies' heads (third Sunday of May).

Villa Santa Maria: Culinary Festival: world-famous chefs who hail from the region gather for a three-day demonstration of their skills, based on techniques and recipes that date back over centuries (October).



Mercer County
Italian American Festival Association



Free Associate Membership Application Form

Come join one of the largest and fastest growing Associations in Mercer County!

Membership is FREE and you will be put on our mailing list automatically.

We just ask that you help promote our heritage and events.

If you would like to be active, here are some of the activities you may want to participate in:

Please check next to where interested:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Office Work | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help with On-Site Operations at Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Maintenance Help at MCI AF Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Join a Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ 50/50 On-site sales | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Columbus Day Parade |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help at Other Events at MCI AF Center | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Vendor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Help at Monthly Dinners | |

Name: _____ Address: _____

Occupation: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ E-mail _____

FOR FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL: Cav. John Scarpati, President
MCI AFA 2421 Liberty St. Hamilton, N.J. 08629 – phone 609-631-7544.

Website: www.italianamericanfestival.com E-mail: buongiorno2000@optonline.net (CHANGED)

We are a non-profit 503-C organization dedicated to promoting Italian-American Heritage and Culture
Donations are tax deductible and are appreciated.

*Wont you please help to fulfill the mission of MCI AFA.....
"To Preserve and Promulgate our Italian Heritage and Culture"
Don't... "do nothing and Let it Disappear" ----- Volunteer*

?	<u>MERCER COUNTY ITALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL SURVEY</u>		?
<u>Importance to you</u>		<u>Compare to similar events</u>	<u>COMMENTS - SUGGESTIONS</u>
<i>Rank 1 to 13.</i>		<i>Rate (1 lo to 5 hi).</i>	
1.	Entertainment	___	_____
2.	Food Service	___	_____
3.	Amusements	___	_____
4.	Vendors	___	_____
5.	Veterans Court	___	_____
6.	Cultural Court	___	_____
7.	Cultural Theatre	___	_____
8.	Sunday Mass	___	_____
9.	Parking	___	_____
10.	Beer and Wine	___	_____
11.	Raffle	___	_____
12.	Italian Market Tent	___	_____
13.	Ticket Entry	___	_____
<i>Your Ranking</i>		<i>Your Rating</i>	<i>Your suggestions for improving our festival.....</i>



2009 Festival Entertainment Teaser

Joe Piscopo Show HEADLINES Saturday Night with other acts.... **Ray Massa's Eurorhythms**, an 8 piece Italian band who wowed us last year, will open for Joe Piscopo, and will HEADLINE the Friday night show.

2009 will also feature some popular favorites such as **John Carelli, tenor** with beautiful voice who has performed 4 previous years. **Boheme Opera** will also be there. Also **Joe Scanella Orchestra** as well as **Len Enourato's Orchestra**. Also....**Joe Polito** oldies singer, impersonator....**Fulvio Rani**....Italian band....**Abbott & Costello Show**, a regular at the festival....**Vivaci Italian Dance Troupe**, returning again. Several other acts including newcomers **Martin & Lewis comedy act** and by request of the 40- something crowd **The Nerds" a rock band!!**

See our website for entire list of great entertainment
Heritage Center phone **609-631-7544.**

Mercer County Italian Nostalgia Night

Co-chairs Gino Melone and Cathy DiCostanzo are busy planning an evening of fun, food, and dancing to favorite Italian music **at the Nottingham Ballroom, 200 Mercer Street in Hamilton Square on Friday July 31.**

The evening will start at 7 PM with delicious dinner catered by Rosa's Restaurant, and will feature the dance music of Anthony Bradley (don't let the name fool you!) during dinner and for dancing until 11 PM. **More information in the 50/50 Raffle mass mailing or call Marion Bolton at 396-2944.**

50/50 Raffle

This year's Festival will again feature a 50/50 Raffle, for which tickets will be mailed to our current mailing list early in July. They will also be available for purchase at the Heritage Center, according to **Co-Chairs Gino Melone and Marion Bolton**. **For ticket information, or to volunteer to sell tickets either before or during the Festival, please contact Marion Bolton at 609-396-2944.**

Bulk ticket sales to business concerns, coupled with special advertisement packages, will be handled by **Joe Sensi**, who can be contacted at **the Heritage Center, 609-631-7544.**

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Mercer County Italian-American Festival
Association
Italian-American Heritage Center
2421 Liberty Street
Hamilton, NJ 08629



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