

Feast of the Seven Fishes Reception on Capitol Hill

On December 12, NIAF hosted a Christmas reception on Capitol Hill celebrating the Italian American Christmas Eve tradition of the “Feast of the Seven Fishes.” Held in conjunction with the Italian American Congressional Staff Association, the reception welcomed young professionals working on and off Capitol Hill, and members of the NIAF community. Italian wines accompanied seven different seafood finger foods, and guests left with bags of pasta as a Christmas gift from the Foundation.

— Lisa Femia



NIAF Congressional Fellows Amanda Coker, Sarah Meo and Adrianna Tomasello with NIAF Public Policy Manager Lisa Femia (in front)



(Right) NIAF Public Policy Manager Lisa Femia welcomes guests to NIAF’s Christmas reception on Capitol Hill; (left) The buffet included seafood and fish pasta dishes, eggrolls and other finger foods.



White Truffle Auction in Philadelphia

On November 13, Enoteca Regionale Piemontese Cavour and Regione Piemonte hosted the World Alba White Truffle Auction that took place simultaneously at the Union League in Philadelphia and at the Grinzane Cavour Castle in Piemonte, Italy.

As guests here savored a gourmet luncheon at the Union League, the largest event in the world dedicated to the prized Alba White Truffle took place in a unique international competition among cuisine experts, renown chefs, entrepreneurs and philanthropists, bidding to win extraordinary auction lots of truffles and wines from Barolo and Barbaresco, with a portion of the \$60,000 raised in the United States donated to NIAF. The prize item that had bids flying worldwide via live satellite was a 1,170 gram (more than 2.5 pounds) Alba White truffle won with a bid of \$105,000 Euros by Beijing chef and restaurateur Dong Zhenxiang.

“We are overwhelmed by the tremendous response to the auction...,” said NIAF Chairman Joseph V. Del Raso, who attended the auction luncheon. “We are happy that we were able to raise money through luncheon tickets and the auction to support the wonderful work of NIAF.”

Also attending was Italy’s Ambassador to the United States Armando Varricchio, and NIAF Board member Frank Giordano, who the next week attended a dinner with Del Raso and their wives at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, D.C., where the chef used truffles from the auction.



NIAF Chairman Joseph V. Del Raso and wife Dolores Del Raso, Ambassador Armando Varricchio and wife Micaela Barbagallo, singer Deana Martin, and NIAF Board member Frank Giordano and wife Dottie Giordano at the truffle luncheon and auction.

Photos by Bachtrach Photography



The Union League in Philadelphia



Executive Sous Chef Denny Santiago presents one of the prized truffles up for auction to Dolores Del Raso.



Some of the white truffle and wine lots on display for auction (top); while potential bidders took a closer look (middle); and guests dined on pasta with shaved Alba white truffles.

On December 14, NIAF's annual Christmas Open House once again combined the spirit of the season with the tradition and taste of Italy as more than 300 invited guests celebrated an evening of music, food, open bar, Christmas décor and rousing karaoke. Besides NIAF officers and Board members, many foundation members and friends, as well as Italy's Ambassador to the United States Armando Varricchio, were on hand. And, once again, Warrior Catering provided a bounty of Italian appetizers and dishes!



Photos by Don Oldenburg

Christmas Open House at



NIAF Public Policy Manager Lisa Femia welcomes arriving guests.



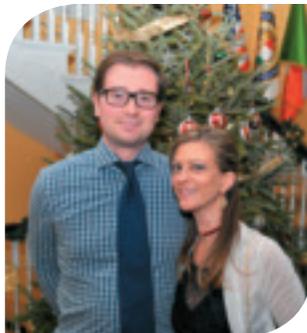
NIAF President John M. Viola and Italy's Ambassador to the United States Armando Varricchio



Robert Donofrio and Katie Valianti-Collins with Samantha and David Chandler



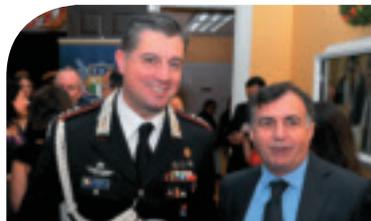
Elena Valeriote, David Mazaheri and Yasmin Hilpert



James Henderson and Lisa Comento



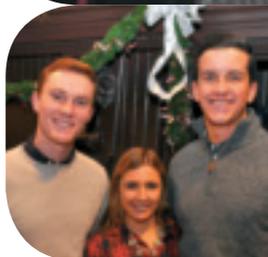
NIAF Congressional Fellows Sarah Meo, Adrianna Tomasello and Amanda Coker with NIAF Board member Anita Bevacqua McBride, co-chair of the Foundation's Education and Grants Committee



Carabiniere Bramati Luigi with Enzo Bruni



Radio Kings Orchestra's Robin and Rick Gordon



Jackson Tovar, Nicole Valente and Stefan Lapcevich



Italy's Ambassador to the United States Armando Varricchio (center) and other guests at the holiday buffet table



Macarena Dagnino, Lara Gabriele and Faride Zahirpour



Karaoke is a Christmas Open House tradition at NIAF Headquarters!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NIAF is offering the following special events in the coming months. For more information, visit niaf.org.

MARCH 2017 Italian American Leadership Council (IALC) Summit

Date: March 22
Time: 2 - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Pepper, Hamilton LLP, New York Offices, 620 Eighth Ave., 37th Floor, New York, N.Y.
Contact: Alex Benedetto at 202-939-3119 or abenedetto@niaf.org

APRIL 2017 NIAF-Frank J. Guarini Public Policy Forum

Date: TBD
Time: 12 - 1:30 p.m.
Location: TBD
Contact: Jerry Jones at 202-939-3102 or jerry@niaf.org

NOVEMBER 2017 NIAF 42nd Anniversary Awards Gala Weekend

Date: November 3 and 4
Location: The Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Contact: Jerry Jones at 202-939-3102 or jerry@niaf.org

NIAF New York Spring Gala

Date: March 22
Time: 6:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception; 7:30 p.m. Dinner
Location: Cipriani 42nd Street, 110 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.
Contact: Jerry Jones at 202-939-3102 or jerry@niaf.org



NIAF President John Viola addresses the guests, alongside NIAF Board member Anita Bevacqua McBride and NIAF Vice Chair Gabriel A. Battista

Right: Mark Letenzi, Larry Pugliese and Jason Perezzo



Left: Andrea DeFelice and Jason Melton

Below, left to right: Roger Cochetti and Ginger Ingalls; Joe Moeller, Anita Bizzotto and Larry Pugliese; Buddy Vagnoni, Adriana Barbieri and Frank Van Riper; Guests are sent home with gifts of Nutella, Ferrero Roche chocolates and Bauli Panettone



Long Island Students Tour NIAF HQ

On Friday, February 24, NIAF hosted a group of 39 students from the Italian Club at Lindenhurst High School, in Lindenhurst, N.Y., that was on a two-day excursion to the nation's capital. But, as the Club's advisor John Rossillo explained, the usual tourist sites in Washington, D.C., weren't the Club's primary focus.

"The idea of the trip was to see the Italian Embassy, and what it does, and to see what NIAF does," he said, "...and then we'll also see the nation's capital."

While at NIAF Headquarters, NIAF President John M. Viola addressed the group and introduced them to some of the artifacts in the NIAF Italian American Museum exhibition. The students also received NIAF gift bags and watched a brief preview segment of the PBS film "The Italian Americans."

Following the NIAF stop, the group was heading to Georgetown University to tour the campus, and take in some of the famous monuments after dark. But what they were equally excited about was on the way back to the South Shore of Long Island, they were stopping in Baltimore's Little Italy for dinner.

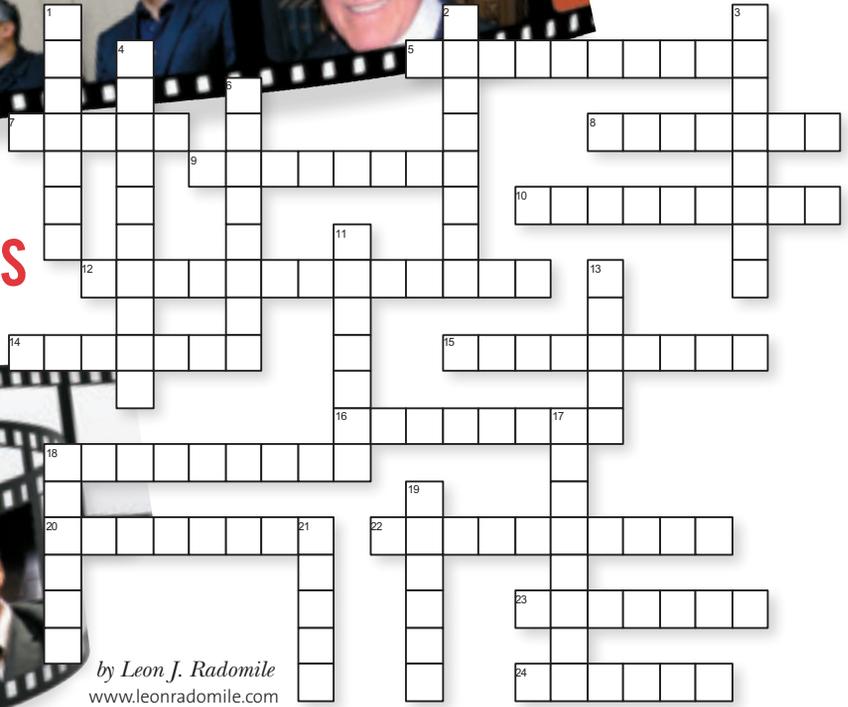
Photos by Don Oldenburg



Clockwise from above: Italian Club students arriving at NIAF Headquarters; NIAF President John M. Viola welcoming the students; and with Lindenhurst High School Italian Club advisor and students.



BEHIND THE SCENES IN CINEMA



by Leon J. Radomile
www.leonradomile.com

ACROSS

- 5 The first woman nominated for an Academy Award for directing "Seven Beauties." Also known for directing such films as "Love and Anarchy" and "Swept Away."
- 7 He persuaded Dino De Laurentiis to build a movie studio in Wilmington, N.C. A studio executive, he later became president of EUE Screen Gems Studios in 1984. Largest such facility east of California.
- 8 Responsible for instituting the film-rating system which protects and informs the public on the content of films. A past president of the Motion Picture Association of America.
- 9 Filmmaker and screenwriter best known for directing such movies as "Harry Potter," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Home Alone." He also wrote "Gremlins," "The Goonies" and "Young Sherlock Holmes."
- 10 Composed and arranged scores for more than 400 film and television productions. He received an Honorary Academy Award Oscar in 2007.
- 12 Dynamic team directs Marvel Comic superhero films. They are collectively known by their last name.
- 14 Actor and film director has starred and supported a bevy of successful films and TV series including: "Reservoir Dogs," "Desperado," "The Sopranos," "Fargo," "Boardwalk Empire" and "The Big Lebowski."
- 15 This filmmaker and screenwriter is famous for his nonlinear storylines, excessive violence, ensemble casting and movie soundtracks primarily containing songs and score pieces from the 1960s to the 1980s.
- 16 A San Francisco native, he is the president of Lakeshore Entertainment. Worked with Clint Eastwood to produce the 2004 Oscar Winning Best Picture "Million Dollar Baby." This esteemed CEO is also president of the Producers Guild of America.
- 18 Italy's largest film studio complex founded in 1937 and has been dubbed Hollywood on the Tiber. The HBO series "Rome" was filmed there from 2004-2007.

- 20 First female to direct a motion picture ("Big," 1988) that grossed over \$100 million, along with "A League of Their Own." Her brother was also a major TV director and writer. Birth surname was Masciarelli.
- 22 Highly regarded writer and film director who brought Shakespeare and grand opera to the masses. His film version of "Romeo and Juliet" received an Oscar nomination and had huge financial success.
- 23 Director, producer and writer whose career spanned 40 years. Known for his psychological thrillers and suspense filled crime films. Among his successes are: "Carrie" and "Mission: Impossible."
- 24 Four of his movies won Oscars as Best Foreign Language Film. One of them, "Two Women," based on the novel by Alberto Moravia, won Sophia Loren an Oscar for her performance.

DOWN

- 1 Best known for his work and contributions to the first two X-Men movies. Also produced "Transformers" for DreamWorks and Paramount.
- 2 He has produced and written for such shows as "The Rockford Files," and "Northern Exposure." Best known for his critically acclaimed HBO drama, "The Sopranos." What is David Chase's Italian surname?
- 3 This screenwriter and film producer won an Oscar ("Gladiator") for Best Original Screenplay in 2001. His best known screenplays include "King Arthur," "Gladiator," "Amistad" and "Jumpin' Jack."
- 4 His film "The Last Emperor" won nine Academy Awards in 1987, including Best Movie, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screen Play.
- 6 He was the producer of all but one of the first 17 James Bond movies.
- 11 A director, she also received an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for the comedy-drama "Lost in Translation" in 2003.

- You may also have heard of her father.
- 13 Formed a production company with Dino De Laurentiis to produce a number of major films, including Fellini's "La Strada," and "The Nights of Cabiria," both winners of Best Foreign Language Film Oscars. Husband of Sophia Loren.
- 17 Of Sicilian heritage, his movies have garnered 80 Academy Award nominations. Of those, 20 were Oscar winners. Simply put, he is widely regarded as one of the most significant and influential filmmakers in cinema history.
- 18 "The Deer Hunter" received nine Oscar nominations and won five, including best picture. Its director won two of them for co-writing and directing. Who was he?
- 19 Cofounder of Jersey Films. The production company is known for films such as "Pulp Fiction." Actor, director and producer, he gained prominence for his TV character Louie De Palma on "Taxi."
- 21 Italian film director, producer and screenwriter, credited as the inventor of the "Spaghetti Western." Think Clint Eastwood.

SOLUTION

- ACROSS**
- 5 Lina Wertmüller
 - 7 Brian DePalma
 - 8 Jack Valenti
 - 9 Chris Columbus
 - 10 Ennio Morricone
 - 12 The Russo Brothers
 - 13 Anthony & Joe
 - 14 Steve Buscemi
 - 15 Quentin Tarantino
 - 16 Gary Lucchesi
 - 18 Cinecittà
 - 20 Penny & Gary
 - 22 Marshall
 - 23 Franco Zeffirelli
- DOWN**
- 1 Tom Desanto
 - 2 David De Cesaré
 - 3 David Franzoni
 - 4 Bernardo Bertolucci
 - 6 Albert Broccoli
 - 11 Sofia Coppola
 - 13 Carlo Ponti
 - 17 Martin Scorsese
 - 18 Michael Cimino
 - 19 Danny De Vito
 - 21 Sergio Leone
 - 22 Franco Zeffirelli

Franco Zeffirelli by Alexey Yushenkov, Steve Buscemi by siebbi, Sofia Coppola by Siren-Gom (CC BY-SA 2.5), Russo Brothers by Andy DeGiudice, Jack Valenti by NIAF Archives, Jack Valenti by NIAF Archives, Brian De Palma by Festival Internacional de Cine en Guadalajara (CC BY 2.0), Ennio Morricone by Olivier Strecker (CC BY-SA 3.0), Martin Scorsese by The Peabody Awards (CC BY-ND 2.0), Quentin Tarantino by Loren Javier



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