



# CiaoDC!



## **Festa Italiana Feature & Schedule of Events**

*Interview with 2010 Festa Italiana Entertainment Chair, Joe Onofrietti*



**CDC: How long has Festa Italiana been celebrated?**

**FI: Festa Italiana: This one day event was originally celebrated in the Little Italy section of Washington, D.C. in the early 1920's. The annual tradition was revived in 1999, so it is billed as the 12th Annual Festa Italiana.**

**CDC: What is your role with Festa Italiana?**

**FI: For the past six years, my titles are Hospitality Chairman for the Italian Cultural Society and Entertainment Chairman for the Festa Italiana of Washington, D.C.**

**CDC: Who are the organizations involved in producing the event? Is this a volunteer-based event?**



**FI: The Italian Cultural Society, Fieri International and the Holy Rosary Church are the founding organizations. Since this is an all volunteer-based event, this past year the Festa Board has made efforts to bring the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society into the mix in order to strengthen and expand our resources. For example, we are featuring the cultural contributions and historical landmarks of the Molise**

**region at this year's Festa Italiana.**

**CDC: Do Festa Italiana proceeds benefit a charity?**

**FI: The Festa Italiana Foundation is a 501(c) non-profit organization. There is no guarantee that any profits will be made on any given year we host this wonderful event; however in the past, proceeds have gone to renovate the 95-year-old Holy Rosary Church and to the ICS college scholarship fund.**

**CDC: My Father and I always went to the Festa together. Dad loved, as he would say, "the feast." He recently passed away, so this year my family and I are celebrating Father's Day at Festa Italiana -- in honor of Dad.**

**CDC: What food will you have at this year's Festa?**

**FI: Italians are known for their food, aren't they? We will serve pizza, three types of Molise style pasta, truffles, sausage and peppers, Toscana Cafe will roast a pig over charcoal, fruits, baked goods, wines, Moretti beer, soft drinks, water, cannolis, gelato, cookies, sfogliatelle and espresso. Also, Chef Antonio of Il Fornaio will put on a live cooking show in the Casa basement from 2 PM to 5 PM featuring Molise delicacies.**



**CDC: Any special attraction entertainers performing this year?**

**FI: As Entertainment Chairman, I strive to introduce at least one new act to the Festa Italiana every year. This year there are two sensational new acts.**

**Frizzi & Lazzi Entertainment is a five-piece band which will teach instructional Italian dances like the Tarantella and Quadrille line dance from the Lido Club main stage. In between those two sets, Dr. Emelise**

**Aleandri of Frizzi & Lazzi will provide a free lecture and book signing of her book *The Italian-American Immigrant Theatre of New York City*. Also, direct from Lanciano, Italy we have a 25-piece medieval re-enactment entertainment company called Il Mastroggiurato.**

**These costumed street performers will parade around our Festa Italiana grounds with flag throwers, trumpeters and drummers.**



**CDC: Will there be kid-friendly activities?**

**FI: Yes, there will be a special children's magician doing a show in the Casa Italiana basement from 1 PM - 1:50 PM. Afterwards, the children's magician will be outside in the designated children's area where there are games, arts, crafts and a soccer kick challenge. The Flying V's family circus have interactive games for children in front of the church between 2:30 PM - 3 PM. Also, children are welcome to play bocce and briscola games throughout the day.**

**CDC: CiaoDC is thrilled to have a table at this year's Festa. At the CiaoDC table, we will have a local Commedia dell'Arte Troupe, *Faction of Fools* performing on the street and also teaching mask making for children. We will also be hosting a cooking demonstration by local Food & Wine Diva, Summer Whitford, travel to Italy advice, giveaways and more!**



**CDC: Is the Festa Free?**

**FI: Yes, the Festa Italiana is free, open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend.**

**CDC: Rain or shine event?**

**FI: Absolutely!**

**CDC: How many attendees do you anticipate?**



**FI: We expect anywhere from 2,500 to 5,000 people for the Festa Italiana.**

**CDC: Where do you park, and is there nearby transportation?**

**FI: Street parking is free on Sundays. The Judiciary Square Metro is one block from our party. We are located between Capitol Hill and the White House in the heart of the nation's capital. I'll be behind the main stage and welcome your feedback. We hope everyone can join us and keep the tradition alive!**



**[More on the History of Holy Rosary Church at CiaoDC.com.](#)**

***Festa Italiana Schedule follows.***



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## **FESTA ITALIANA SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2010**

### **CIAODC ACTIVITIES AT FESTA ITALIANA**

**11:00 am – 5:30 pm**

CiaoDC Giveaways and Information

Mask Making by *Faction of Fools*

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Cooking Demo -Umbrian Dessert/Author Meet & Greet

**12:00 pm & 2:00 pm**

Street Performance by *Faction of Fools*

**2:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

Umbria Villa Promotions and Travel Advice



# FESTA ITALIANA SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2010**

## **LIDO CLUB MAIN STAGE**

12 PM – 12:45 PM	MASS
12:45 PM – 1:15 PM	CHURCH PROCESSION TO WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	M.C. OPENING REMARKS & DUAL NATIONAL ANTHEMS
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	FRIZZI & LAZZI MUSIC AND THEATRE CO. <b>INSTRUCTIONAL DANCE</b>
2:15 PM – 3 PM	THE MONALDI BROTHERS
3 PM – 4 PM	FRIZZI & LAZZI MUSIC AND THEATRE CO. <b>INSTRUCTIONAL DANCE</b>
4 PM – 5 PM	THE MONALDI BROTHERS
5 PM – 5:30 PM	FESTA RAFFLE



## **CASA ITALIANA UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM**

11:30AM – 2 PM	MOLISE VIDEOS AND DVDs
2:15 PM – 3 PM	DR. EMELISE ALEANDRI WILL GIVE A LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING OF HER LATEST BOOK, <i>THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN IMMIGRANT THEATRE OF NEW YORK CITY</i> , PUBLISHED BY ARCADIA
3 PM – 5:30 PM	MOLISE VIDEOS AND DVDs

## **CASA ITALIANA BASEMENT**

1 PM – 1:50 PM	CHILDREN'S MAGICIAN MATT NEUFELD
2 PM – 5 PM	CHEF ANTONIO OF IL FORNAIO LIVE COOKING SHOW WITH MOLISE CUISINE

## **STREET PERFORMERS**

2 PM – 3 PM	IL MASTROGIURATO PARADE AROUND FESTA GROUNDS
2 PM – 5 PM	CHILDREN'S MAGICIAN MATT NEUFELD PERFORMS
2:30 PM – 3 PM	FLYING V'S FAMILY CIRCUS INTERACTIVE JUGGLING CLASS
3 PM – 4 PM	FLYING V'S FAMILY CIRCUS PERFORMS
4 PM – 5 PM	IL MASTROGIURATO PARADE AROUND FESTA GROUNDS