

Columbus Day Heritage News

September—October 2009

“Riches don't make a man rich,
they only make him busier.”

Christopher Columbus

Spirit of Columbus to Reign in East Haven Parade Nina Pane Sanseverino Named Grand Marshal

Mayor April Capone Almon and the Columbus Day Committee welcome the parade back to the Town of East Haven scheduled for Sunday, October 11th. Renown singing diva, Nina Pane Sanseverino, the honored Grand Marshal, will lead the marchers, bands, and floats down Coe Avenue to Hemingway Avenue at 1:00 p.m. heading past the East Haven Green to Main Street. The parade continues past the reviewing stand at Town Hall and ends at Forbes Place. Sections of the parade route will be lined with the American flag along with Italian flags and banners.

The Columbus Day Committee of Greater New Haven moved the parade seven years ago on a rotating basis to surrounding towns. The change was made to develop and promote the parade into a regional event. North Haven, East Haven, Hamden, West Haven and New Haven hosted the six previous events and had great success in attracting large crowds from all parts of the state and involved more people in the celebration of Columbus Day. This will be the second time around for East Haven.

Heritage Dinner October 9th at Anthony's Oceanview Annual Affair is a First Class Event

Italian-Americans and citizens from all walks of life in the Greater New Haven community will gather at the annual Columbus Day Heritage Dinner on Friday Evening, October 9th at Anthony's Oceanview, 450 Lighthouse Road, in the Morris Cove section of New Haven.

The festive evening gets underway with a cocktail hour and a wide assortment of hors d'oeuvre beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. There will be an open bar all evening. The flags of both the United States and Italy will be honored. A souvenir journal book will be distributed at the event.

Third District Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro will head up a list of area city and town dignitaries who will attend the affair. Music, featuring some of the best of Italian and popular songs, will be provided for listening and dancing by the Sound Alternative ensemble. The banquet hall will be filled with the sounds of Italy and the beat of America. Tickets for the affair are \$65.00 and can be obtained from the Mayors Office at the Town of East Haven.

www.columbusdaynewhaven.org



Classic United States Commemorative Coin (1892—1893) World's Columbian Exposition

The first United States commemorative coin was the Columbian half dollar designed by Olin Lewis Warner. Charles E. Barber engraved the obverse, showing the bust of Columbus; and George T. Morgan engraved the reverse, a representation of Columbus's flagship the Santa Maria above two hemispheres. The coins were sold for \$1.00 each at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago during 1893.

Wreath Ceremony Takes Place at Columbus Statue

A "Wreath" ceremony at the statue of Christopher Columbus will take place on Saturday, October 10th at 11 a.m. at Wooster Square Park. A prayer service and blessing of wreaths by Rev. Ralph Colicchio will take place at Saint Michael Church followed by a procession, led by the Milford Volunteer Fife & Drum Corps, to the historic statue. The wreaths will be placed at the statue by members of Italian Societies, civic organizations, Mayors and Selectman from the Greater New Haven area.



Wooster Square Walking Tour

Around 1840, leading New Haven industrialists evolved a gracious living space in the then predominant Italian Villa style. A new era in the history of Wooster Square began in the 1890's when the area became the epicenter for New Haven's burgeoning Italian population. A walking tour of the square bounded by the General David Wooster Park will take place on Saturday September 12th at 1 p.m. Tour guides Christopher Wigren and Robert Grzywacz and the Columbus Day tour committee will meet at the statue of Christopher Columbus. A reception will be held immediately following the tour at Saint Michael Church Angel Hall on Greene Street.

Cultural Night Scheduled October 3rd

The Knights of Columbian Squires will host the Columbus Cultural Night on Saturday, October 3rd at Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall on Foxon Road Route 80. Festivities get underway at 6 p.m. with a pasta dinner. The voice of Rich DiPalma will echo the hall with Italian music. Italian Folk Dancers (Cuor d'Italia) from Hartford will perform dances from Sicily, Sardinia, Val D'Agosta, Aviano, Napoli, Abruzzo Puglie and other regions of Italy. The dancers have performed at Italian Festas, colleges and a benefit performance for the earthquake victims of Central Italy. Tickets for the event are \$10.00 and can be obtained by contacting Tony 467-1236.

Columbus Day Committee Celebrates Italian American Heritage Month

October 2009 marks the 33rd Anniversary of Italian American Heritage Month. Many of the dreams of Italian immigrants who crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the past one hundred years to start a new life in America have been realized. They came enduring many hardships and discrimination paving the way for their children and grandchildren. Today we look back at the many contributions that Italian-Americans have made in all fields. Government leaders, doctors, nurses, lawyers, scientist, authors, teachers, religious, law enforcement, firefighters, construction, engineering, inventors, artists, musicians, reporters, bankers, realtors, restaurateurs, bakers, military and many other areas that help make America the most prevailing free nation in the world.