

Columbus Day Heritage News

September—October 2019



Spirit of Columbus to Reign in Branford Parade

Vincent Giordano and Betty Ann Cacace Donegan Grand Marshals

First Selectman James B. Cosgrove and the Columbus Day Committee welcome the parade back to the Town of Branford on Sunday, October 13th at 1:30 p.m. Sharing the role of Parade Grand Marshal will be Vincent Giordano Jr. and Betty Ann Donegan, Vincent is vice-president/secretary of the Giordano construction companies and a former Army Captain who served in Vietnam and earned the Bronze Star medal. He has been inducted into the Branford Sports Hall of Fame and is very active in veteran activities. Betty Ann was inducted into the Branford Education Hall of Fame and now has a cooking school of renown. She is an



active organizer volunteer for many charitable causes. Marchers, bands, and floats will step off at 1:30 p.m. on Main Street and continues past the reviewing stand at Town Hall and end at the High School. First Selectman Cosgrove stated "This great parade is one of the most anticipated events of the year as we celebrate our 375th Anniversary."

Heritage Dinner October 10th 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 Thursday evening, October 10th 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 Michael Nigretti. The banquet hall will be filled with the sounds of Italy and the beat of America. Tickets for the affair are \$55.00 and can be obtained from Selectman's Office, Branford Town Hall; Branford Recreation Department; Terri Valette (203) 444-4324 or email fasttrack822@gmail.com.

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 12th at 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Wooster Square Park. A prayer service and blessing of wreaths by Rev. Robert P. Roy will take place at Saint Michael Church followed by a procession 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 21st 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 Andrew Society Hall, 515 Chapel Street.

Italian American Cultural Event

On September 29th at the Branford Italian-American Social Club, 40 Hamre Lane, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. an Italian Cultural Lecture "Immigrants Who Settled in Branford" will be presented by Branford's Town Historian Jane Bouley. Sponsored by Columbus Day Committee of Greater New Haven and Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge #37, the event is free and open to the public and will include refreshments

Columbus Day Committee Celebrates Italian American Heritage Month

October 2019 marks the 43rd 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.