

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

Summer 2012

Dates to Save

Polenta Picnic, Founders Lodge

September 16

Festa Italiana, Seattle Center

September 29-30

New Location and Date for Polenta Picnic

By popular request, the date for our 2012 Polenta Picnic has been moved to September 16, avoiding conflict with vacation time for many and with the All-Italian picnic which is held in August. We will be moving to a new site as well -- the newly-renovated Founders' Lodge at Des Moines Beach Park. There is seating space for 65 persons indoors, as well as a functioning kitchen and restrooms. The building has just been treated to new carpet, floor coverings and countertops, and the walls have been refinished as well. It is situated in the middle of the park, which features hiking trails, access to a lovely Puget Sound beach and lots of open green space, as well as play equipment for the kids.

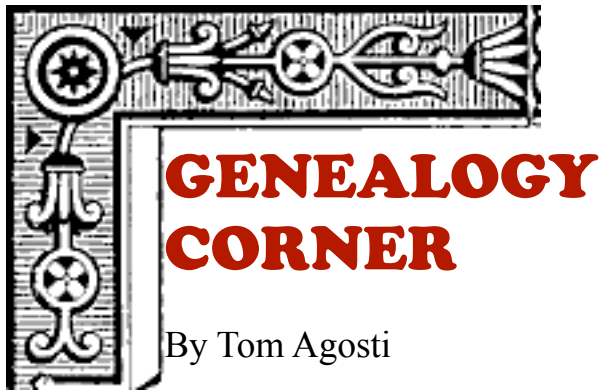
The details can be found on the flyer sent with this newsletter.

Because this date is so close to Seattle's Festa Italiana, we will not have a booth at Festa this year, but will work toward a plan for doing so next year.

Hope to see all of you at the picnic!



Carol and Gus Zadra enjoying food, wine and friends at the 2011 picnic.



Here are some more links to help you trace your Trentino heritage. Anyone wishing to share and swap links, please contact me at tagosti@autov.at

First, a gentleman named Sal Romano has a very informative web site called Trentino Heritage. If you find this interesting, be sure to sign up to receive updates by email. <http://trentinoheritage.wordpress.com>

One of the most important pages there is a listing of all the genealogy research done by descendants of Trentino emigrants: <http://trentinoheritage.wordpress.com/2011/09/15/genealogy-databases-ancestors-from-trentino/>

Genetic Genealogy: Part 1 Overview

You may have heard the term genetic genealogy and wondered what all the fuss was about. This is the first of a series of genealogy corners that will touch on the very basics of genetic genealogy and DNA tests.

First, realize that there are two different types of DNA test for genealogical purposes: Y-chromosome DNA and mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA. The genetic heritage of each individual is transmitted from one generation to another through the mechanisms of genetic inheritance. The nuclear DNA is transmitted by parents in equal parts. However, the Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA are inherited in a different manner. We will delve into the specifics of each, but the primary thing to remember is that Y-DNA is used to trace the paternal ancestral line exclusively, and conversely mtDNA is used to trace the maternal ancestral line.

Happy hunting!

Your dues help support STC

Thanks to all the 31 households who have paid their dues for 2012. ITTONA is looking for us to build on this number. In addition, we have had cash contributions and donations of prizes and other items from members. We are happy that we have been able to get such a good start with our club. We do have quite a few expenses, however, and encourage those of you who have not paid their dues yet, to do so.

Postage and printing costs are considerable. We want to reach out to all those who are interested in their Trentini heritage. However, if you are receiving the newsletter by U.S. mail and would prefer not to, please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list.

Are you receiving Filò?

As was mentioned in a previous issue of our newsletter, *Filò* is a new quarterly magazine created by Louis Brunelli and dedicated to Trentino customs, history and lore. It is written in English and the subscription is free, including mailing, at least for the time being. To look at the first two issues of the magazine online, to register as a subscriber, or to contribute material to *Filò*, go to the web site at <http://filo.tiroles.com/index.html>

Copies of the first issue will be available at the Polenta Picnic for you to take home for yourself and/or for friends and family.

2012 ITTONA Convention

Insight into the life of a miner -- and music!

My grandfather was a miner -- maybe yours was as well -- it was a common line of work for emigrants from Trentino. In the past, I've thought what it would be like to work in the dark tunnels with all the attendant dangers and discomforts, but attending this year's convention in Range Iron, Minnesota, made me think about other aspects of the life of a miner, and probably many other working men, in those days.

One of the exhibits we visited was a collection of old buildings -- a bunkhouse, a hotel, and a miner's boarding house. Outside one room was a sign that said "One room -- three tenants". I looked inside, expecting to see three beds, but there was only one -- a sort of three-quarter size bed. I tried to imagine three guys sleeping in that small bed, but couldn't. Then I saw a reference to the fact that since the mines ran 24 hours a day, the roomers slept in shifts. It gave me a new appreciation for all the hardships suffered by my grandparents.

We didn't suffer any hardships, though. Our hotel and our hosts, the Minnesota Trentini Tirolesi Club, made sure that our every need was met -- it's called Minnesota "Nice". Those of us who represented our local clubs spent most of one day in meetings, but the next day we went on tours to the mines and to the wonderful Minnesota Discovery Center which fills so many roles in that region. My tour went into one of the open pit mines that have replaced those underground tunnels. We saw the monster trucks with 12-foot diameter tires and which are rated to carry 240 tons of ore. They have an LED gauge on the side that shows what their actual load is. One that I saw was carrying over 250 tons.

We had a scrumptious banquet. The entrée I chose was walleye pike. It was excellent -- I'm so glad I had a chance to eat it in its native territory. We also enjoyed a wonderful wild rice cream soup -- another local delight. The temperature that day had been 92°F with high humidity -- during dinner a storm swept through with 60 mph winds and torrential rains. I thought that would cool things off as it does here, but when we left the banquet for the hotel around 11 p.m. it still felt like it was in the 90s only the humidity was close to 100%.

Mass on Sunday morning was celebrated by the visiting Archbishop Luigi Bressan of Trento, whose English is quite good. The choir director had gone to great pains to provide appropriate music for our group. He had set hymns to the tune of *O Sole Mio* and *Santa Lucia*, and had translated *Amazing Grace* into Italian. I guess the music was what I liked best at the convention -- there was Abies Alba, a visiting group from Trentino who play mostly very old traditional songs of the region, and I Cantatori, a local group of musicians who specialize in Italian music. My favorite, though, was the spontaneous *a capella* singing of Trentino folk songs that happened each night in the hotel lobby, after all the activities were done and just before retiring. Those Trentini really know how to sing -- and they *love* to sing. I knew the words to some of the songs, the rest I tried to read from the lips of those who grew up singing them. I'm going to try to learn more songs before the 2014 convention in Ogden, Utah. I hope you will be there.

Joan Barker

Convention Pictures



Above: On the church steps with the Archbishop after the beautiful Mass -- that's me partly hidden to right of the top of his mitre.

Right: Mostly West Coasters. I'm on the right. Giuseppina Alvarez of San Francisco (center) was my roommate. She's even shorter than I am -- and one of the really good singers.



Enjoying a glass of wine and some chuckles with ITTONA President Ben Maganzini (left of me in the photo), Giuseppina and others.

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

Application for Membership

Name of Trentino/a _____

Name of partner _____

Names and ages of children in household:

Street address _____

Telephone(s) _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Relationship to emigrant(s), their names and the town(s) from which they emigrated, if known:

We are collecting stories of the emigration and subsequent histories of our members' families. We hope you will share this information with the group. Please use the back of this page.

Please send completed Application for Membership with \$25/household 2012 membership fee to:

Seattle Trentino Club
c/o Joan Barker
700 S 282nd Street, #742
Des Moines, WA 98198
For info call: 206-878-4502