



Italian Heritage Month? (Part 2 of 3)

As a follow up to last week's email where we noted how the media ignored Italian history during October, Italian-American Heritage Month, here are more notables that were overlooked...

Filippo Mazzei

Italian physician, diplomat and author...supporter of the American Revolution, whose writings led Thomas Jefferson to include "all men are created equal" in the Declaration of Independence.

James Ceasar Petrillo

Served as president of the American Federation of Musicians from 1940 to 1958. Initiated free summer concerts in Grant Park, a practice that has continued since 1936. Established the Music Performance Trust Fund which paid for free benefit concerts across the United States. In fact the fund still exists and to this day 2 cents from every form of music purchased, whether it be sheet music, records, tapes, etc. goes into that fund to provide the free music concerts enjoyed by attendees across the country.

Billy Martin

Born to Alfred and Joan Pesano.

Major league second baseman for the New York Yankees and went on to manage the Yankees on five different stints. Known for his feistiness and brilliant baseball managerial strategy.

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini

Born in Italy and migrated to the United States in 1889 by direction of Pope XIII. Founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is responsible for establishing 67 institutions consisting of hospitals, orphanages and schools for immigrants particularly in the United States. First United States citizen to be canonized a saint. Known as the Patron Saint of immigrants.

Guglielmo Marconi

Invented the first practical radio.

Created the first successful commercial wireless telegraph system.

Charles Joseph Bonaparte

The FBI was formed by the then United States Attorney General, Charles Bonaparte in 1908.

Roberta Guaspari

An American violinist and music educator. She is the subject of the film "Music of the Heart" which tells story of her struggle to keep music alive in the inner city of New York. All great role models whose influence and genius still affects American lives. However, the media didn't think they and those like them should have been talked about in October....Italian Heritage Month.

More to come from the Italian American Human Relations Foundation of Chicago.
Lou Rago