

# The NIAF 33rd Anniversary Gala and Convention Weekend



Guests at the Hilton Washington & Towers enjoy NIAF's 32nd Anniversary Gala in October 2007.

Photo by Chris Hays.

Join us as we celebrate the 33rd Anniversary of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) with our annual Gala and Convention Weekend, held this year from October 17-18, 2008 at the Hilton Washington & Towers in Washington, D.C.

As you know, NIAF's annual two-day convention in the nation's capital includes a number of special receptions, entertainment, and conferences. If you attended in past years, you were treated to electrifying shows by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Neil Sedaka, and Jay and the Americans as well as our Piazza d'Italia expo of Italian goods and services. The Piazza d'Italia will be back again this year, as will NIAF's first-class entertainment.

On Friday, October 17, NIAF will host a public policy conference discussing "The Presidential Candidates' Perspectives on the Future of Health Care in America," while on Saturday, October 18, a second policy conference will examine "Energy: America's Challenge of the 21st Century." Also on

Saturday, a third conference will examine "From Dante to Benigni: Italian Language and Culture in American Schools."

On Friday evening, NIAF's Annual Salute to the Martini will pay special tribute to Frank Sinatra with some surprise performances.

As usual, NIAF's convention weekend culminates with our annual gala dinner. The 2008 gala honorees include president of Aetna **Mark T. Bertolini**; legendary actress **Gina Lollobrigida**; president and CEO of 7-Eleven, Inc. **Joseph DePinto**; CEO of the Humane Society of the United States **Wayne Pacelle** and CEO of Autogrill S.p.A. **Gianmario Tondato da Ruos**. Additional honorees and special guests will be announced shortly. We also anticipate the attendance of the 2008 presidential candidates.

If you were with us in last year, you joined some notable friends including: former New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi**, **Ellen Pompeo** of ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," **Connie Stevens**, Academy Award-



Photo by Keith Jewell.

NIAF's 2007 Gala Honorees included Academy Award-winning director Martin Scorsese, actress Ellen Pompeo of ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," former New York City Mayor and presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, actress and singer Connie Stevens, and CEO of the AARP William D. Novelli.



Photo by Keith Jewell.

Legendary actress Gina Lollobrigida at NIAF's 32nd Anniversary Gala.

Photo by Keith Jewell.



Ellen Pompeo walks the red carpet during the NIAF awards gala.

winning director **Martin Scorsese**, **Yogi Berra**, **Dion**, **Gina Lollobrigida**, General **Peter Pace**, Supreme Court Justices **Antonin Scalia** and **Samuel Alito Jr.**, **Susan Lucci**, **Tony LoBianco**, **Dick Vermeil**, **Vince Papale**, **Jerry Vale** and **Maria Bartiromo**. Additionally, the convention weekend is attended by a variety of NIAF-affiliated Italian American groups, including the National Italian American Bar Association (NIABA) and UNICO National.

Your participation guarantees that NIAF will continue to help our young people experience a higher education, mentor programs, youth retreats and other efforts that instill a sense of pride in our wonderful heritage. You will also be supporting the Ambassador Peter F. Secchia Voyage of Discovery program in Italy and our Students to Leaders and Graduates to Leaders programs, which help young Italian Americans develop effective leadership skills.

Early registration for the October NIAF Gala will ensure your attendance at one of the nation's premier events. If your plans change, you may cancel your reservation up to 10 days prior to the dinner with a full refund. If you have never attended our annual gala or have missed attending in recent years, 2008 is a year you will not want to miss. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Please note that pricing for individual tickets are scaled from \$400 to \$2,500 based on location. These seats are proportionally discounted for early registration. To register online today, visit [www.niaf.org/events/gala\\_2008.asp](http://www.niaf.org/events/gala_2008.asp). ▲

## For more information on the 2008 NIAF Gala and Convention:

### Gala Dinner Tickets:

Carolyn Laurenzano, [carolyn@niaf.org](mailto:carolyn@niaf.org)

### Piazza d'Italia:

Kristi Pappalardo, [kristina@niaf.org](mailto:kristina@niaf.org)

### Youth Gala/Conference:

Giuseppina Spillane, [gspillane@niaf.org](mailto:gspillane@niaf.org)

### Luncheon and Friday Night Entertainment Tickets:

Kelli DiPietro, [kelli@niaf.org](mailto:kelli@niaf.org)

### Conferences:

Jerry Jones, [jerry@niaf.org](mailto:jerry@niaf.org)

Or call 202-387-0600 or fax 202-387-0800.