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Ciao! History Center to Host Italian Heritage Day

–All children ages 17 and under will receive free admission to this family-friendly event–

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 24, 2014 – October is National Italian Heritage Month, and to help kick off the festivities in Pittsburgh, the Senator John Heinz History Center will host the inaugural **Italian Heritage Day**, a fun and family-friendly event on **Sunday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Italian Heritage Day at the History Center will be filled with interactive activities designed for the entire family to enjoy while learning more about Italian American history and culture.

Visitors to the event are encouraged to:

- Sample Italian foods from Pittsburgh vendors such as The Common Plea, Mercurio's, Mancini's Bakery, The Olive Tap, MixStirs Café, and more;
- Taste fresh ingredients from traditional Italian American fare as part of educational demonstrations with Slow Food Pittsburgh in the History Center's Weisbrod Kitchen Classroom;
- Learn basic Italian vocabulary with La Scuola d'Italia Galileo Galilei;
- Record family histories with Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh;
- Build a family tree and learn the meaning of their Italian family name in the History Center's Detre Library & Archives;
- Test their skills on the bocce court with help from Major League Bocce;
- Experience farming techniques used in Old World Italy, such as sorting bean seeds, making gnocchi, and more, with the Italian Garden Project; and
- Enjoy the sweet sounds of roaming musician Edwardo the Accordionist.

Italian Heritage Day will also feature an Italian American bazaar in the History Center's fifth floor Mueller Center with vendors and outreach tables with local Italian heritage groups, including Roots in the Boot, University of Pittsburgh's Italian Nationality Room, Lucchesi Nel Mondo, Mondo Italiano, Societa Dante Alighieri, Ciao Pittsburgh, Mosites Motorsports, Animal Friends of Pittsburgh, and more.

As part of this special event, all children ages 17 and under will receive FREE admission to the History Center on Sunday, Oct. 5. Regular admission rates apply for adults ages 18 and older: \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (age 62+), and \$6 for students.

Sponsored by **Mascaro Construction**, the event is presented by the History Center's Italian American Program, which is dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Italian Americans in Western Pennsylvania. Founded in 1990, the Italian American collection is one of the largest in the country and home to artifacts, archival materials, and oral histories that document the pivotal role Italian Americans play in shaping our region.

For more information about Italian Heritage Day or the Italian American Program, please contact Melissa Marinaro at 412-454-6426 or memarinaro@heinzhistorycenter.org.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region's remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



Children can learn how to play bocce as part of several family-friendly activities at the History Center's inaugural Italian Heritage Day on Sunday, Oct. 5.



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