

The Italian Tribune

La Tribuna del Popolo

100TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Italian Tribune Publisher Marlene Baker Passes

Marlene Baker, born March 2, 1936, to Lena and Anton Vidusic, passed away at home April 19, 2009 after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Mrs. Baker enjoyed a long and successful career as co-publisher and later publisher of the *Italian Tribune* newspaper. At one time she and her husband, Edward Baker published a chain of weekly newspapers called *Reporter Publications*, serving nine cities and publishing over 100,000 copies per week. Later, they sold the papers to devote their full time to promoting and publishing the *Italian Tribune*.

Mrs. Baker, in the footsteps of her grandmother-in-law, Mrs. Vincent Giuliano, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Edward L. Baker, belonged to many organizations. She served as president of the American Italian Professional and Business Women's Club (AMIT) from 1973 to 1975 and from 1997 to



MARLENE BAKER

2000.

She, along with Ilio Benvenuti, served as the first co-chairman of the Italian Riverfront Festivals in downtown Detroit.

She worked with the Columbus Day Celebration committee for over 35 years and was the first woman president of the organization, elected to the post in 1992 for the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of America. She was also honored as the 2000 Columbus Day

Woman of the Year.

In 1995, Mrs. Baker and her husband Ed received the Distinguished Italian Americans of the year award from the Italian Study Group of Troy, and in 1994 they were honored by the Italian American community at a special banquet commemorating the Italian Tribune's 85 years of continuous publishing. The newspaper is now 100 years old as of May 1, 2009.

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DETROIT, MICH. SABATO 1 MAGGIO 1909

Celebrating 100 Years

We're excited to be kicking off our 100th Anniversary Year with this special commemorative issue of the Italian Tribune.

On May 1, 1909, the first issue of the Italian Tribune was published. The earliest office was located on Gratiot, between Chene and McDougall, specifically between Arndt and Benson. La Tribuna Italiana d'America was started by **Vincent and Maria Giuliano** and has survived five generations of family owned operations.

From its humble beginnings composed of type casts being set into place upside down and backward, then hot lead poured over them to create a page, to the modern day composition using pagination via computers, the Italian Tribune has survived decades of transformation.

However our mission and purpose have not changed. Our goals for the paper, like those of our forefathers will always be to serve as a voice for the Italian-American community and a record of Italian-American accomplishments. We take pride in promoting Italian heritage, education and culture.

In addition to this very special keepsake issue, our 100th Anniversary Project Manager, Pam White, is busy planning two events that you won't want to miss.

The first is the Italian Tribune's 100th Anniversary Memorial Golf Outing in honor of Edward M. Baker, Vincent Giuliano's grandson, who passed away in 2004. Over the past three years, the Italian Tribune and its readers have enjoyed Caribbean Italian-themed cruises to benefit the Ed Baker Scholarship Fund. This year, a special golf outing is set for June 12 at Sycamore Hills Golf Club in Macomb Twp.

The day will kick off with an 11:30 a.m. registration, followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The day will be followed by a 6 p.m. dinner. Cost for the day is \$100 per person and includes a round of golf, hot dog on the turn, banquet, prizes, and goody bags. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Call Jim Calderone at (586) 489-8306 for availability. For dinner tickets only the cost is \$25.

To reserve your team's spot, send your check to: Italian Tribune Golf Outing, P.O. Box 380407, Clinton Township, MI 48038. For more information, call Jim Calderone at (586) 489-8306 or email italiantribune@yahoo.com

The second major event will be the Italian Tribune's 100th Anniversary Banquet in honor of Marlene Baker, who continued to publish the newspaper after her husband's death in 2004, until last week, when she died following an eight year battle with cancer. The 100th Anniversary Banquet will be held Sunday, Aug. 23 at Palazzo Grande on Van Dyke south of 25 Mile in Shelby Township.

For more information on the history of the Italian Tribune, see pages 10-11.



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