

IAHFONEWS



A CHRONICLE OF ITALIAN AMERICAN LIFE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY FOR 50 YEARS

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION • ESTABLISHED 1975 • FOUNDED AS NONPROFIT 1976

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MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Successful Gala

What a wonderful evening we had! The lovely Marilyn Messina graciously opened her beautiful and historic home to the Italian American Heritage Foundation for our 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Gala Fundraiser dinner. We were honored to have several family members of our original Founders in attendance.

The evening started with a tour through the house that belonged to Marilyn's grandmother that was built in 1935. A shaded path led the way through her orchard where many fruit trees, walnut trees and bees were among the scenery. At the end of the path, was the main house and the gardens where our evening was set. Fire4Hire was the catering company that provided an excellent meal for us, and Pierluigi Oliverio was our emcee for the evening. Our raffle was a huge hit, as always, with many wonderful baskets. Vintage Jukebox supplied the music that brought people out to the dance floor. The weather was perfect; the food was great and the company in attendance was even better!

Thank you to all who were able to attend, thank you to those who gave and a HUGE thank you to all our volunteers who gave of their time to help us with this very special event! Lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to Marilyn Messina for letting us invade her home for the weekend, with setting up on Friday, Saturday and late into Sunday evening and a final cleanup on Monday morning. And thank you to Ken Borelli, who helped turn my Gala idea at the beginning of this year into a beautiful reality. My heartfelt thanks to everyone!

Roof and HVAC

Exciting times as our construction will soon be starting! We have submitted our permit application to the City of San Jose for the work to start and hopefully will continue to fast track though the permit process. The entire project should take roughly six weeks, if all goes according to plan. Stay tuned for updates on the IAHF Facebook and Instagram pages.

The IAHF Travels to Italy

On October 16, a group of eight of us will be traveling to Palermo, Sicily for a 3-week tour. Giuseppe Marchese will lead us around the sights in Sicily and then make our way up North into Italy. I will be sharing our journey on the IAHF Facebook and Instagram pages, so be sure to follow us as we take you with us.

Thank you to everyone for your encouraging words. You are an amazing membership, and I am thankful for you, my Italian Family.

~~~ Dana Zuccarello Aguirre



L-R: Longtime member Rod Diridon, IAHF President Dana Zuccarello Aguirre, Supervisor Betty Duong and Vice President Ken Borelli

Articles of Interest

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Members Annual General Meeting - Page 2 Join our Board of Directors - Page 3 A Little Fellow film in Santa Cruz - Page 3 Golden Jubilee Gala - Pages 4-5 Changing of the Guard - Page 6 Festa Volunteer BBQ - Page 7 Down Sizing Sale - Page 7 Donor Recognition - Pages 8-9 Great Non-profits: Tell About IAHF - Page 9 Consul General of San Francisco - Page 12 Italian Lessons In Person - Page 12 SJ Opera Showcase - Page 13 Tribia Connection - Page 13

Columns

President's Message - Page 1 Book Corner and Italian Lesson - Pages 6 & 9 Cooking Corner - Cuccidati - Pages 10-11 Notes from the Library - Page 14 IAHF Board Meeting Minutes - Pages 15 Membership listing - Pages 16-19





Schedule Of Events

• October - Pardon our dust...Our Hall is closed for roof and HVAC replacement

• October 29, Wednesday* / Cena Fouri / 7pm -9pm / Giorgio's Italian Grill and Pizzeria, 939 West El Camino Real, Mt. View / \$50 per person - cash or check (payable to Ken Borelli) paid upon arrival. Cost \$50, check or cash payable to Ken Borelli at the site. / Reservations need to be in by October 27, or earlier if capacity is reached, at 42 people.

November

- November 06, Thursday / Cooking Class / see below for details.
- November 09, Sunday / Volunteer Appreciation BBQ / 11-2PM / At the Hall / details coming soon
- November 12, Wednesday / IAHF Members General Meeting / 7-8:30pm / At the Hall / Buffet Dinner will be available from 7-8pm, followed by the IAHF Members Meeting / Reservations required (no guests allowed) online or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122
- November 14-16, Friday-Sunday / Down Sizing Sale in the Hall / details coming soon
- November 20, Thursday / Regional Lunch / Veneto Region of Italy / Register online or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.
- No Cena Fouri in November and December
- December
- December 14, Sunday / Holiday Dinner Dance / 4-8pm / At the Hall / details coming soon

ONGOING LANGUAGE CLASSES

- Italian Language Classes / Conversational and Intermediate Online classes/ Weekly Monday and Wednesday / 6pm-7pm / Join with Meet up at https://www.meetup.com/san-jose-italian-language-meetup-group. Classes are taught by Marie Dalldorf, a native Italian. Classes are informal and free of charge, and we welcome people at all levels. We focus on conversational text and phrases to help you achieve more fluency, increase your vocabulary, and increase your confidence in speaking Italian.
- New in-person classes will begin soon. See page 12 for details

Upcoming Cooking Classes

- Nov. 6, Thursday / Cooking Class: Italian Holiday Cookies taught by master baker, Kathy Lohman. This class fills up quickly, so be sure to enroll early! / 7-9pm / At the Hall / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Make reservations online or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.
- Cooking classes resume in March 2026.

Calling all IAHF Members November 12 General Meeting & Dinner

All members of the Italian American Heritage Foundation are invited to attend our annual dinner and business meeting. Besides a delicious meal, our board meeting will provide you with the opportunity to hear a review of our 2025 accomplishments and plans for 2026.

You <u>must</u> register in advance to attend this important membership meeting.

When - Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 7pm-9pm

Where: At the Hall - 425 North Fourth Street, San Jose, CA 95112

Online reservations are required. No guests are permitted at this meeting







The IAHF is seeking members to fill 2026 Board vacancies caused by term limitations and incumbents up for re-election. This is an exciting time to be a Board member. We currently have an enthusiastic and varied Board that broadly represents the diversity of our Italian American Community.

The role of our governing Board is to provide oversight for the operations of the IAHF, make the necessary decisions that impact membership and activities in accordance with IAHF Bylaws, and provide the leadership to implement our common vision! It is also a great opportunity to work with a creative team to plan and promote our Italian Heritage and assist the IAHF to carry out its vision and mission statement of sharing our culture and values with the community. We welcome new ideas about things to offer the Italian American community or thoughts about ways to improve what we are already doing.

IAHF Board of Directors Applications Now Open

Board members are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, participate in events, chair committees, volunteer as needed and be dedicated to promoting and preserving our Italian heritage and culture. The time commitment is ~15 hours a month outside of the monthly board meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a Board member, you can read the qualification guidelines and complete the on-line application here: 2026

Board Application. Once you've completed your application, all applicants go through a screening process and meet with the Nominating Selection Committee for an interview. Selected Board members will be introduced at our November Membership Meeting and, depending on the number of applications, there may need to be an election.

Deadline for application submittals is October 26, 2025.

If you would like more information about becoming a Board member, please feel free to contact me at louie.lombardo@iahfsj.org.

LITTLE FELLOW

~~~Louie Lombardo / 4th Vice President

#### A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI -"BIS!"

A Little Fellow: The Legacy of A. P. Giannini by Italian director Davide Fiore will be shown on Columbus Day, Sunday, October 12, at 2 pm in the Colligan Theater at the Tannery Art Center located at 1010 River Street, Santa Cruz.

The film is sponsored by the <u>Dante Alighieri Society of Santa Cruz</u>. Members of the IAHF are cordially invited by Susan O'Leary, Event Chair. Susan visited the IAHF when we showed the film in July as part of our pre-Festa activities. Several people wanted to see it at that time and could not do so. The film explores the enduring legacy of A.P. Giannini, a first-generation Italian American who revolutionized banking and reshaped California's industries in the early 20th Century.

In many ways, he is a forgotten titan even in his native San Jose! This documentary is slowly changing perceptions about how relevant he was and still is today for the "little fellow" or common man. A.P.'s vision empowered working class Americans

and fueled economic recovery through some of the nation's most extreme and challenging times such as the rebuilding of San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake, the Great Depression and the post-World War II era.

The show will include a Q&A session with Director and Producer Davide Fiore and light refreshments after the show. Tickets can be purchased for \$12-15, at the theater or online at santacruzfilmfestivals.org.

This event is a collaboration between the Santa Cruz Film Festival and the Dante Alighieri Society of Santa Cruz to support Italian American heritage history and Italian culture. It is timely that the feature length documentary will be available in October. This is part of Italian Heritage month in America and a great opportunity for interclub networking!

~~~ Ken Borelli





Gala Photos

Paulina Perrucci Photography

Paulina took hundreds of photos throughout the Gala. If you want to see and purchase her images, contact Paulina at https://www.paulinaperrucci.com/











































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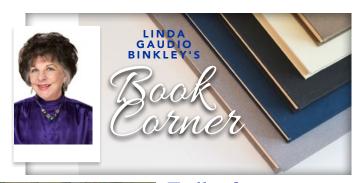


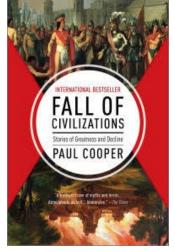












Fall of Civilizations

By Paul Cooper

As far as lengthy tomes go, Fall of Civilizations, Stories of Greatness and Decline is one of the very best! I have renewed it four times from the public library. It's a big one... 450 pages long! Keep in mind, each chapter reads like a booklet, so you can pick and choose what interests you.

The book is fascinating. So much information has been gathered and shared in colorful, descriptive language, the past comes to vibrant life. In this review of fourteen remarkable civilizations, we read

about so many heroes, so many accomplishments and ultimately so much loss. It's a magnificently edifying stroll through the history of civilization.

Fall of Civilizations is divided into three historical periods titled: The Ancient World, the Middle Age, and Worlds Collide. Some chapters you will want to read more than once. For the purpose of this Italian-themed column, I must recommend the chapter Roman Britain. It was fascinating. There were so many interesting forces at play during the Roman occupation of England. Author Cooper explains the dynamics, and we find that the Roman occupation of England was very different from the occupations in all other areas of the Roman world. Roman England was a unique situation, and its generals had unique power which they repeatedly wielded against the emperor and to the detriment of the islanders. It's quite a story. You won't forget it.

Each chapter was fascinating and much of the information does not match popular cultural information. The Easter Island chapter was a real eye-opener. All chapters are thoroughly and amazingly researched. The author's sources are impeccable. The bibliography is fifty pages! If you don't like to read heavy tomes, the author has a podcast which is well done and easy listening. Fall of Civilizations is available in the public library, and I highly recommend it.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley

### Linda's Language Corner - La Vendemmia

It is time to welcome autumn and with it is *La vendemmia*. *La vendemmia* is the Italian word that encompasses all that is good and beautiful about Fall in Italy. The word means the grape harvest. You can see the meaning in its Latin etymology. *Vinum* means wine and *demere* means to remove. So the grapes are removed from the vines and transferred to the barrels in the ancient dance of winemaking.

From north to south and throughout the islands, *la vendemmia* is a joyous occasion for friends and family to join together in the morning to harvest the grapes, crush them, put them into their fermenting barrels, and then feast together on a sumptuous luncheon enjoying vintage wines from previous years. It's a day everyone anticipates.

Of course, agribusiness has taken over the gigantic vineyards for international consumption; but there are thousands of family vineyards where the old traditions are still enjoyed by all the generations. See page 9 to test your knowledge of Italian related to vendemmia.

La vendemmia refers to the grape harvest, but it can also indicate the vintage of the wine produced in a particular year. It's a term you can find on wine labels, in wine discussions, and in the names of wine festivals. As an example, you might hear a sommelier say *la vendemmia di 2021 e`eccellente* ("The 2021 vintage is excellent"). The more common word is, however, *annata*. (2021 e`un ottima annata).

- Adoro il periodo della vendemmia, con tutti i suoi colori! I love harvest time, with all its colors!
- Nel mio paese si organizza una festa culinaria durante i giorni della vendemmia In my village, we organize a culinary fair during the harvest.
  - La vendemmia è un simbolo della nostra cultura contadina. The harvest is a symbol of our rural culture.







### Festa Volunteers & IAHF Kitchen Team Appreciation Celebration

Just a reminder that on Sunday, November 09, there will be a Festa Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Sausage BBQ for those who volunteered at this year's amazing Festa. Without you, our volunteers, none of this would have been possible. This is one way to say "thank you."

Online invites were sent out but we want to make sure all were contacted for this event. Contact the IAHF to sign up for our food and head count. Social from 12-12:30pm, BBQ and activities, 12:30-2:00pm.

The menu will include BBQ sausage, pasta with a ragu alla bolognese, Seasonal fresh salad, garlic herbed bread, dessert including gelato, beverages and of course, fun surprises.

We are also hoping to show the restored archival film about the 2nd Italian Family Festa at the Paseo de San Antonio in downtown San Jose. Literally a walk down memory lane.

To register, email or call the IAHF at 408/293-7122

~~~ Dana Zuccarello, Sharon McCray, and Ken Borelli. Festa Co-Chairs

A DOWN SIZE SALE AT THE IAHF -Save the dates Nov. 14-16!

What is a Down Size Sale you may ask? To promote expanded uses of the Foundation and enhance income during down times, we are exploring new and innovative usages/events for the Hall. One such event is being planned in November, and that is with IAHF member Frank LoCicero, who is organizing a "down size" sale of over 60 plus years of an arts and craft collection from his worldwide travels as a US Foreign Service Teacher.

The items range from rare Capodimonte artisan ceramics, wall hangings, designer holiday fare and treasured boutique items. The Down Size Sale will be November 14, 15 and 16 at the IAHF. Details will follow. And if you too are interested in utilizing the Hall resources, please contact the IAHF for further information. Incidentally, members also get a special discount for Hall rental usage for personal events.

~~~ Ken Borelli, VP Events & Azie Habib, VP Hall





Vote our Italian Family Festa as Metro's Best Festival of San Jose.

Now is your chance to help the IAHF and our Festa. Metro is holding their annual Best of 2025 voting. Please vote us for this year's Festa so we can hold onto our 2024 Gold Award for 2025.

Arts & Entertainment > Best Festival-San Jose > **Italian Family Festa** 

Voting closes October 05, 2025

See the IAHF homepage for detailed voting instructions



# Thank you to everyone who donated to the IAHF roof and HVAC replacement fundraisers

Nedra Abono Petty Joyce Allegro & Jerry Sheridan Claudia & George Anderson

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Michael J. Antonini, D.D.S.

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Nina Boyd

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Col. Bobby B. Moorhatch, USAF Ret.

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Sally Paolini & Don C. Erba

Marge Papp

Bob Paradiso & Patricia Pangrac

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Jimmy Pignone & Leslie Snow

Dolores Pioli

John Francis Maggio & Mary Pizzo

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### Thank you continues....

Saundra & David Rinde
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Nanci Arata Wilborn
Kathy & Karl Winkelman
Jan Wittman
Loren & Claire Wright
Dana R. Zuccarello & Andy Aguirre



### La Vendemmia continues with a matching game...

Besides the vendemmia, Italians now celebrate Fall with Halloween in the English style. It's becoming popular for kids to

1) bussare alle porte with their

2) costumi and

3) maschere, asking

4)" dolcetto o scherzetto?"

and people give them

5) cioccolatini and

6) caramelle.

Older kids may go to

7) feste to

8) ballare e

9) divertirsi.

A) to dance.

B) to knock on doors

C) masks

D) trick or treat

E) costumes

F) chocolates

G) to have fun

H) candies

I) parties

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.





### Lucia's Cooking Corner - Cuccidati Chefs Cero Anthony and Amy Blalock Castillo



What could be better than a cuccidati class taught by professional confectioners? In our September cooking class, we were honored to have two professional bakers in the house teaching us just that! Led by Cero Anthony and Amy Blalock Castillo (Kathy Tomasello

Lohman's cousins), from Cake Expressions Bakery, the art of cuccidati creation took center stage to a sold-out class. By the way, these cuccidati are no ordinary cookies, because the recipe was passed down from generation to generation in the Tomasello family. We were truly blessed to learn the family secrets!

But first, let's start with the history of this sweet confection. From my research and Cero's narration, I found that cuccidati have deep roots that reach all the way back to Sicily's Arab era, from the 9th to 11th centuries. Back then, figs were abundant, grown in orchards, folded into stews, and baked into sweets. Mixing figs with nuts and spices were already a staple of Middle Eastern desserts, and when those ideas landed in Sicily, they stuck. Over centuries, the tradition evolved, and now, for many Italian families, cuccidati are often associated with special occasions, especially Christmas.

The class began with Amy going over all of the ingredients for their exotic cuccidati recipe and showed how the filling was made using a meat grinder to process the dried fruit and candied citron. Next, with the help of a student, nuts, chocolate chips, honey and Grand Marnier were added to a bowl and combined with the filling mixture.

This was followed by the preparation of the cookie dough. Flour, sugar, Crisco, baking powder, and juice from an orange were lovingly mixed together, by hand, to form a ball of tender dough and rolled. Next, the filling was spooned into the center of the dough and formed into a log, resembling a burrito! After this step, the log was cut at an angle, transferred to a baking sheet and popped into the oven. Once these delicacies came out of the oven, Cero, with tray in hand, displayed these aromatic cuccidati. The combination of all the ingredients created an intoxicating scent throughout the hall.

But wait, the class didn't end there! Because the final step soon began. A glaze with a combination of egg whites and powdered sugar were blended together and brushed onto the cookies. Finally, rainbow sprinkles topped the cuccidati to give them a festive appearance.

At last, the class had the opportunity to sample the cuccidati. I would describe the outer crust light and flaky, the filling soft with a sweet fig taste, and just plain luscious!

So, as the class ended, our students boxed up their cuccidati to take home and enjoy later. Indeed, it was an evening of Sicilian sweet delight, laughter, learning, friendship, sharing and best of all, "la dolce vita"!

A heartfelt thank you goes to Cero and Amy for their delightful presentation and to Kathy Lohman for inviting her cousins to the IAHF to teach this class.

~~~ Article and photos by Lucia Clementi



Upcoming Class

The October class is cancelled because of construction on the IAHF roof.

- Nov. 6, Thursday / Cooking Class: Italian Holiday Cookies See page 2 to register for this class.
- 2026 Cooking classes resume in March.





Tomasello Cuccidati Recipe

Yields approximately 11 dozen



<u>INGREDIENTS</u>

Dough

- 9 cups Flour
- 2 cups Sugar
- 3 cups Crisco
- 2 tablespoon Baking Powder
- Juice from 1 Orange
- Mix with hands, slowly add 2 cups of water until it becomes a delicate dough. It will be very sticky.

- 1.6 lbs dried figs (I use 7oz California figs & 20oz Smyrna Figs).
- 1 bag (32oz) dates, pitted
- 6 oz golden raisins
- 20 oz California Raisins
- 375ml Grand Marnier
- 12oz Semi Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1/4 cup Orange Citron
- 6oz nuts, toasted
- Honey, 12oz as needed
- Bake at 350F for 15 to 20 minutes, until golden brown/

- Pasteurized egg whites, equal to 8 egg whites
- 3 cups of confectioner's sugar, you may need more
- Rainbow sprinkles

INSTRUCTIONS

Make the filling (I do this the night before).

- 1. Remove the tough stem from the figs.
- 2. Run dried fruit and candied citron through meat grinder. (Pro tip: Blenders or Food processors cause the mixure to clump around the blade).
- 3. Sprinkle in nuts, chocolate chips, honey, and Grand Marnier directly into bowl.
- 4. Stir occasionally until you have the consistency you like. Sticky but not liquid/wet.
- Place in refrigerator overnight.

Preparing the cookie dough

Put all dough ingredients together and mix by hand just until it sticks together.

Do not overmix.

This is a very tender dough.

Forming and baking the cookies

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350F. Line a baking sheet/tray with parchment or a silicone mat.
- 2. Grab a handful of dough and roll it on a floured surface into a rectangle roughly 12in x 3in. Cut off the edges so they are relatively straight.
- 3. Spoon filling into center on dough rectangle. End to End in the center
- 4. Roll back half of dough over the filling. Roll the entire cookie log forward till the two ends of dough meet. Cut off excess dough and toss it back in the bowl.
- 5. With a fork, poke holes down the entire log.
- 6. Cut cookies at an angle. Approx. 2in long.
- 7. Transfer cookies to the lined baking sheet and then repeat with the rest of the dough.
- 8. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, until golden brown Cool completely.

Apply Glaze

- 1. Once the cookies have completely cooled, mix glaze.
- 2. Sift the confectioner's sugar into a small bowl. Add the egg whites and mix/whisk until smooth.
- 3. Drizzle/spoon/brush a little of the glaze on top of approximately 6 cookies at a time, then apply sprinkles on top

before the glaze dries. Repeat with the rest of the batch.



Let cookies glazed cuccidats dry completely before packing in boxes.



Photo credits:

Previous page - Cero Anthony and Amy Blalock Castillo Top L-R: Cero, Amy with volunteer Jena Ballejos; glazing volunteers Stephane Procker and Pauline Golitz





CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Every two years, there is a rotation of staff at the Italian Consulate. Seems like just as we get to become familiar with staff, which takes about two years to do, then rotation begins. So, it is now time to say a fond "arrivederci" to Sergio Strozzi and his family. At the same time, we welcome the new Consul General, Massimo Carnelos – "benvenuto"!

The following is a special announcement from the Consulate in San Francisco. ~~~Ken Borelli

Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco August 20 at 12:59 PM

Congrande piacere annunciamo l'arrivo e l'assunzione delle funzioni del nuovo Console Generale d'Italia a San Francisco, Massimo Carnelos, lo scorso 18 agosto 2025. Il Console Generale Carnelos è onorato di rappresentare l'Italia in questa importante circoscrizione consolare e di servire la nostra comunità italiana con dedizione.

Segue un breve messaggio di saluto da parte del Console Generale Carnelos:

"Sono lieto di unirmi a questa straordinaria comunità italiana e di collaborare con tutti i partner e amici dell'Italia nella circoscrizione di San Francisco. Il mio impegno

sarà quello di rafforzare i legami esistenti e di costruire nuove opportunità di dialogo e cooperazione, promuovendo la cultura, i valori e le eccellenze italiane. Non vedo l'ora di incontrarvi e lavorare insieme per un futuro ricco di progetti condivisi."

Benvenuto, Console Generale Carnelos



Photo credit: Consolato General d'Italia a San Francisco

It is with great pleasure that we announce the arrival and the beginning of the tenure of the new Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, Massimo Carnelos, on August 18, 2025. Consul General Carnelos is honored to represent Italy in this important consular jurisdiction and to serve our Italian community with dedication.

A brief welcome message from Consul General follows:

"I am delighted to join this extraordinary Italian community and to collaborate with all partners and friends of Italy in the San Francisco consular jurisdiction. My commitment will be to strengthen

existing ties and to build new opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, promoting Italian culture, values, and excellence. I look forward to meeting you and working together for a future full of shared projects."

Welcome, Consul General Carnelos!

Introducing Mario Fusco, PhD - Italian Lessons
Good news! We have a new Italian language instructor in the person of Mario Fusco, PhD. To make him less intimidating, let's drop the formalities and simply call him by his first name Mario.

A Neapolitan (born and raised!), Mario completed his studies at the Liceo in Naples before immigrating to the USA and earning a degree in physics from UC Davis. As a native speaker of Italian, he taught Italian language for several years at Stanford and at Menlo Colege. He also launched and directed the Italian Language and Culture Institute (Istituto Educazione Italiana or IEI) on the peninsula in the early 2000's.

Mario, a resident of The Villages, has been a member and invited speaker at the Leonardo da Vinci Society in San Francisco, at the CO.MI.TES and at the Istituto di Cultura, also in San Francisco. Now retired, he proposes to teach Italian to members of the IAHF on a voluntary basis, simply for the love of his native country. Are you ready to sign up? Please contact the IAHF office @ 408/293-7122. ~~~ Stanley Olivar





Opera San Jose's Annual Artíst-ín-Residence Showcase at the IAHF



Nestled among major IAHF events was a special Opera San Jose Showcase September 17 at the Foundation. It was a two-part program that included both an in-person event at the Heiman Digital Studio at Opera San Jose as well as a viewing party concurrently of the livestream along with a mini live performance at the IAHF for members and Friends of Opera San Jose. The event was coordinated by Delia Schizzano who, like several of our members, is involved in many related organizations such as Opera San Jose.

Tara Branham from Opera San Jose was coordinating the event at the IAHF. It is also a reminder of our long-term partnership with Irene Dalis and Opera San Jose. The program offers great potential for other operatic venues at the IAHF. The showcase highlighted the young singers of the company. In addition, the program touched on the special Opera music workshop at San Jose State University.

Also present was a group from The Villages' Italian Club, coordinated by Frank LoCiciero who connected with Opera San Jose at the event to plan an opera program too.

Friends of Opera were also present to help prepare refreshments and decorations for this "freebee" activity. Those in the audience experienced listening to some amazing voices of young and up and coming Opera singers. Immediately following the program, there was a live performance at the IAHF. It was a timely

reminder of just how great the acoustics are at the Hall. The arias sparkled and the two young singers, whose specific task was to serve as back-up, an art form unto itself, were amazing.

There is nothing like live Opera. It was a thrilling jewel of a performance, and we look forward for more to come.

Bravi a Tutti,

~~~Ken Borelli

Photo above: Baritone Haoran Li

Photo left: Pianist Mark Wong; Soprano, Camryn Finn



#### THE TRABIA CONNECTION

One of the most valuable parts of the Italian Family Festa are the connections that are made. They have been directly responsible for IAHF workshops, lectures and activities throughout the year. One exciting connections this year was meeting Janet Hensely, at the Villaggio Culturale. She informed me of a Facebook group for descendants of Trabia Sicily. Trabia (Board created by Sal Campagna) along with Tricarico, Basilicata, constitute a considerable amount of our local Italian American Community. Its why we have dedicated an IAHF "storyboard" to each group. They were on display at the pavillion, where I met Janet.

Janet followed up with the following note that I wish to share with our members. Ken Borelli, Villaggio Culturale alla Festa

Buongiorno Mr. Borelli,

I met you at the festival in July, and you mentioned interest in the Facebook group that I have created for descendants of Trabia, Sicily. Here is the link to the group page. It is a private group, so potential members need to answer a few questions and agree to group rules. We are able to control the conversations this way, and are able to keep it as a fun, clean and politics-free group. The link to our Facebook group is shown below: Our Trabia, Sicily Roots, Una Granda Famiglia. Feel free to put this into your next newsletter. We have 2550 members at recent count, and would enjoy more to join in the conversation.

Grazie, Janet Piazza Hensley Our Trabia, Sicily Roots - Siamo Una Grande Famiglia! | Facebook



59

### **Our Library** Needs YOU!

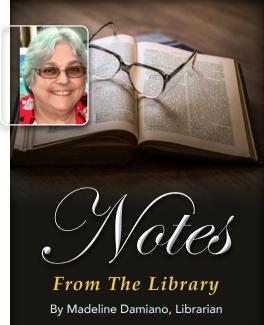
#### **Help Wanted**

Many donations have arrived over the summer. Unfortunately, I have not been feeling well for several weeks. As a result, there is quite a backlog of books that need to be processed and made available to our members.

Although there is a lot of work to be done, this big project can be broken down into several easy steps. Even if you only volunteer for two hours, you'd be amazed at

The accompanying photo was taken at a previous book sort in sorting all the boxes!

how much can be accomplished. early July. We made short work of



Our Library is a fascinating and valuable collection that has been an important resource for the Italian Studies Department at Santa Clara University as well as for several researching authors and our own Italian classes.

It offers a home to books and papers devoted to local Italian American history, many of which would be lost without our Library. That includes authors who have not been published and who want to share their personal family histories and photos.

And whatever your reading pleasure might be, just let me know what you like to read and I'll help you find it.

#### **Baby Steps**

These are the simple steps that need to be done:

- Sort into Italian and English/bilingual piles.
- Check online to see if we already have these
- Assign Dewey Decimal numbers (I will take charge of this).
- Prepare labels for the spines of the books.
- Enter the books into our card catalog.
- And then, they're onto the shelf!

#### **Donations Are Always Welcome**

Some have suggested we turn away most donations, yet every donation offers the opportunity to update and enrich our shelves.

#### **Stronger Together**

It's time to get those books out of boxes and off the floor, to make the Library beautiful once again. I can't do it alone so join me for an afternoon and let's get the job done!

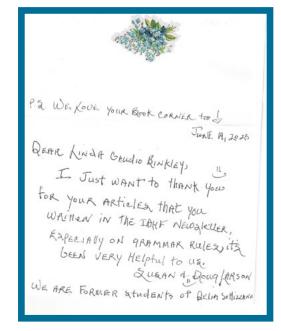
Feel free to drop me a line at <u>librar</u> ian@iahfsj.org.



Photo credit: Sharon McCray

#### Letters to the Editor and Personal Notes









#### IAHF Board of Director's Meeting Minutes September 12, 2025

In Attendance: Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Ken Borelli, Frank DeTurris, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Paul Greco, Joe Lucito, Steven Ricossa, Richard Stewart (v), Susan Monahan (v) Absent: Sharon McCray, Nanci Wilborn, Madeline Damiano, Tony Zerbo, Marie Bertola (u)

#### President, Dana Zuccarello Aquirre - Welcome, Roll call, Pledge of Allegiance.

- Review August Meeting Minutes approved without changes
  - Joyce Allegro has agreed to head up the Toy Drive
- IAHF participation in Christmas in the Park tree decorating \$150 to participate. Nanci and I have already purchased ornaments on clearance last year. They are already taking reservations for signups. Board voted to participate in the event. Ken reminded everyone the Don Lima started Christmas in the Park when his decorations outgrew his Lima Mortuary.

  • Sponsoring of Sicilian Sisterhood golf tournament \$250. Board approved the expenditure.

  - Still accepting raffle gala prizes from board members
  - Italy group trip travel dates October 16 November 6. Eight IAHF members will be on the trip.

#### **CFO Report, Frank DeTurris**

- FY2025 financial status. See handouts
- Festa 2025 Financial Summary

#### 1st VP, Ken Borelli

- New members came from the September cooking class.
- San Jose Opera will be using the Hall for a concert.
- Hearts Delight movie will be presented in Santa Cruz
- Gala currently has 180-190 guests, 25 tables. Ken needs to get the tables set up on Friday. Paul will help transport the tables on Friday morning. There will be a presentation Honoring the Founding Families with Stephen Ricossa
  - Feb 2026 Mission Chamber Orchestra will be back.

#### 2nd VP, Azie Habib

- 15 Hall rentals booked for FY25.
- Roof replacement should be underway by October meeting.

**3rd VP, Sharon McCray** - With Sharon out of town, we discussed the Festa Volunteer BBQ on November 09. Unsure what Sharon has done already to outreach to the Festa volunteers about the event.

Beginning with mailing October Newsletter (hard copy) it will be to paid members only.

#### 4th VP. Louie Lombardo

- Membership update 428 active memberships with 631 total members.
- Great non-profits does not have any stories from members or board members yet.
- Prep for November 12 Members Meeting & Dinner

#### Stephen Ricossa

- Honoring the Founding Families proposed offering their family a free membership.
- Specific ceremonies at the Jubilee
- Estimate how many are attending the Gala

#### **Newsletter, Mary Pizzo**

- Working on Gala program
- October Newsletter articles received:
  - Ken Trabia Connection
  - Ken 50th Anniversary Gala review
  - November General Membership dinner meeting announcement
  - Board position applications
  - A Little Fellow screening in Santa Cruz
  - Changing of the Guard -Consul General of Italy
  - 3-4 scholarship essays

#### **Adjournment 8:48pm**







### LEGACY CIRCLE

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS CHOSE TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IAHF TO THE COMMUNITY WITH A REMEMBRANCE IN THEIR ESTATES



- LINDA & BOB BINKLEY
   ALFRED L. CHIOTTI
  - ◆ ROSE CRIMI & TOM MUENCH ◆
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CONTACT LEGACY@IAHFSJ.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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  - Diane Rubino / <u>Hill View Packing Company, Inc.</u>
- Al & Diana Vallorz / Mangia Tutti Inc dba Tony & Alba's Pizza & Pasta

### • PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS •

- As of August 01, 2025
- Rosella & Charlie Blalock Marian Chiaramonte Mario Fusco \*
  - Genrikh Kleynerman Melissa Solorzano Sandy Stabile

#### 2025 Student Members

• Brianna Del Pozzo • Adrian Grantz • Lisa Matar \* • Ann Marie Mullaney

\* Indicates the member has shared their birth month with IAHF. † Indicates the member has shared their anniversary month with IAHF





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Rosetta is a full-time, professional real estate agent assisting in buying and selling homes in all of Santa Clara County. Throughout the years, Rosetta has earned many achievements and awards such as International Presidents Elite, Top Listing Agent, Top Buyers agent, one of Silicon Valley's Top 100 agents, and Top Producers with over 22 years of sales, marketing, trust, probate and negotiation experience. Rosetta takes pride in providing 100% quality service to all her clients and has earned an impressive reputation in the real estate community. She is known for her exceptional work ethic, effective communication skills, attention to detail, and fierce negotiating experience. With her clients' best interests at heart, Rosetta understands the meaning of commitment and dedication.

#### **EDUCATION**

Since obtaining her California Real Estate license, Rosetta has attended mandatory legal classes, completing various state-required programs, such as Real Estate Principals, Real Estate Appraisals, 1031 Exchange Reinvestment Plan, Senior Real Estate Specialist, Certified Probate & Trust Specialist, Pricing Strategy Advisor Certification, Short Sales & Foreclosure Resource Certification, Limit Liability Company for Reinvestments, Protecting the Fee, Due Diligence and Disclosures, Agency Fair Housing, Trust Funds, Ethics and Risk Management, Survey Course and Risk Management. Professional Philosophy Rosetta's passion and philosophy have always been to put her client's best interests first, provide every client with the highest of business ethics, commitment, and 100% excellent quality service. Building a lifetime relationship by earning the respect and trust of her clients, is her ultimate goal.

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