



IAHF NEWS



A CHRONICLE OF ITALIAN AMERICAN LIFE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY FOR OVER 45 YEARS

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

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MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IAHF Celebrates 50 years

As you know, 2025 marks our 50-year anniversary. How exciting! We are working on our Golden Jubilee Gala that will be held on September 14, 2025, at the historic Messina

Family Ranch. Marilyn Messina has graciously opened her home to us to hold the fund raiser to benefit the HVAC work for our hall. The menu has been selected, and Ken Borelli is working on securing entertainment for the evening. If you are interested in helping Ken and me plan this highly anticipated event, please let me know.

Annual Meeting at the San Francisco Italian Consulate

At the end of January, there was a meeting held at the SF Consulate for all Bay Area Italian Organizations. Ken and I were in attendance and represented the South Bay. We were able to meet many new people from a wide variety of Italian organizations. Each organization was able to get up and speak about what was going on in their own groups. The one commonality amongst all organizations in attendance that night was the challenge of engaging the younger crowd, getting

them to become members. When I joined the IAHF, my dad had recently passed away and I missed being around my Italian family. I had volunteered at a couple of Festas, but I wanted more. It was after his passing that I joined, became more involved and I have made so many new friends and consider some like family.

Patrons Dinner

The IAHF Patron Level Members recently met at Tomatina's for the 2024 Annual Patrons Dinner. They had a wonderful buffet dinner prepared for us. Despite the rain and wind, we had a lovely time. I had the privilege to meet many members that I've never met before. If you are not a Patron Level Member, there is still time to upgrade your membership. Simply reach out to the office and

inquire about the different levels available or email membership@iahfsj.org.



50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE
1975 - 2025

Group trip to Italy

We recently held a meeting with my tour guide, Guiseppe, and we had a great group in attendance. Currently we have 4 people confirmed who will be joining Guiseppe, Andy and myself on our group tour. If there are others who are interested that couldn't attend, please sign up here <https://form.jotform.com/233543720855155>. I will arrange another zoom call with Giuseppe. Tour dates are October 10-31, 2025.

~~~Dana Zuccarello Aguirre, President

### **Articles of Interest**

St. Joseph's Table - Page 3  
Spotlight on Felix and Marie Dalldorf - Pages 4-5  
2025 Scholarships - Page 6  
Membership Renewal - Page 7  
Mission Chamber Orchestra - Pages 8-9  
January Cena Fuori - Page 10  
Ardeatine Cave Massacre - Page 11  
Bocce Tournament - Page 14

Christopher Columbus and Walt Disney's - Page 15  
Crab Feed Flyer - Page 16  
Patron's Dinner - Page 17

### **Columns**

President's Message - Page 1  
Notes from the Library - Page 12  
Book Corner and Italian Lesson - 13  
Membership listing - Pages 18-21  
Board Meeting Minutes - Page 22

Editor Note: Look for the 50th year anniversary icon indicating articles which support the IAHF's mission.



# Schedule of Events

## March

- Mar. 06, Thursday / Cooking Class - Italian Rum Cake / 7-9pm / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122
- Mar. 19, Wednesday / Festa Di San Giuseppe (St. Joseph Day Celebration) / see flyer on page 3 for details.
- Mar. 28, Friday / Crab Feed / 6-9pm / \$75 for members, \$80 non-member/guest, \$35 children under 13 / IAHF Hall / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.

## April

- Apr. 03, Thursday / Cooking Class / 7-9pm / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122
- Apr. 17 / Regional Luncheon / more details to follow
- Apr. 24 / Cena Fuori / more details to follow

## May

- May 01, Thursday / Cooking Class / 7-9pm / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122
- May 04, Sunday / Scholarship Awards Luncheon
- May 15, Thursday / Regional Lunch / more details to follow
- May 18, Sunday / Bocce Tournament / Campo di Bocce / see page 13 for more details.

## SAVE THE DATE

- Jun. 01, Sunday / Festa Della Repubblica Dinner with the Aurora Mandolin Concert
- Jun. 02, Monday / Festa Della Repubblica Flag Raising Ceremony
- Jun. 22, Sunday / Polenta dinner with Tricarico club / The Hall
- July 05, Saturday / SJ Earthquakes vs NY Red Bulls / 7:30pm @ PayPal Park
- July 26-27, Saturday and Sunday / 43rd Italian Family Festa @ History Park San Jose
- Sep. 14, Sunday / IAHF 50th Year Celebration Gala / Messina Ranch and Orchard San Jose

## ONGOING LANGUAGE CLASSES

Italian Language Classes / Conversational and Intermediate - Online classes/ Weekly Monday and Wednesday / 6pm-7pm / Join with [Meet up](https://www.meetup.com/san-jose-italian-language-meetup-group) 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.

## COOKING CLASSES

Cooking Classes are on the 1st Thursday of March, April and May, then break for Festa della Repubblica and 4th of July. Monthly classes resume in August and end with the ever popular Holiday Biscotti Class in November.

## EVENT SEATING POLICY

While all IAHF events are open seating, some of our events can accommodate reserved seating for groups of friends sitting together. **Reserved seating must be arranged in advance.** Our round tables seat 8 guests comfortably, and up to 10 people in a pinch. For larger parties of 10+, or for those with mobility issues, we will use a larger rectangular table.

When you register in advance, let us know how many people you expect at your table - or if a guest has mobility considerations. We try to accommodate all advance requests. Please check with a table host **prior** to making your request to sit with that person or party.

When people request to be added to a full table, it impacts the comfort of the diners and the ability for our volunteer Servers to meet everyone's dining needs. Besides, open seating can be a lot of fun, because it offers an opportunity to make new friends.

~~~ Ken Borelli



"Evviva La Festa di San Giuseppe"

The Italian American Heritage Foundation

Welcomes Everyone to the

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS & TABLE

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

425 N. Fourth Street, San Jose, 95112; 408-293-7122

10:30 A.M. – Doors Open

**11:00 A.M. – Mass
Celebrated by
Father George Aranha**

**12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Lunch**



THIS EVENT IS FREE - Benvenuti a Tutti / All Are Welcome

The St. Joseph's Altar is Sicilian in origin. During a terrible famine, the people of Sicily prayed to St. Joseph, their patron saint, for relief. St. Joseph answered their prayers, and the famine ended. In gratitude, the farmers honored St. Joseph by filling an altar with their most prized possession, food.

Present day Italian families have for many decades celebrated St. Joseph's Day during Lent on March 19th, both in their homes and at the Italian American Heritage Foundation where there is a beautiful and bountiful altar, a Catholic Mass, and a meatless dinner, followed by more desserts than one would have ever imagined they would see at one meal.

In the tradition of sharing with the poor and hungry, this celebration is free to all who come through the door. Each person is given a "take home bag" containing a prayer card to St. Joseph, an orange, a bread item, and three fava beans which symbolize the Holy Trinity. The fava beans are often kept on a kitchen cabinet shelf and considered representative of good luck.

Lunch will include Pasta Milanese or Marinara, frittata, orange salad, and many more traditional dishes prepared entirely by volunteers. Dessert will feature homemade Italian pastries such as cakes, cookies, biscotti, cuccidati, and much, much more. Join us for this Lenten (no meat dishes served) culinary treat!

Parking will be available on the street.

Donations for the St. Joseph's Altar and Table are gratefully welcomed by using the QR code to the right.

For questions call the event chairpersons: Kathy Lohman and Larry Lohman at 408 238-4467 or leave a message at the IAHF with Stanley Olivar at 408 293-7122 or, Email to: IAHFSJ@IAHFSJ.ORG



**SCAN ME
To DONATE**

Spotlight on Felix and Marie Dalldorf

It's a pleasure to highlight exemplary IAHF members Felix and Marie Rose Dalldorf. I was honored to serve with these fellow Commissioners on Santa Clara County's Florence Commission for several years. This is an entity that promotes interaction between Santa Clara County and our sister county, the Metropolitan City of Florence, Italy. I was impressed with their thoughtful and thorough contributions to the commission. I quickly recognized what an asset they would be to our organization and invited them to join the IAHF. Felix applied and was accepted to the IAHF Board of Directors. At the same time, Marie Rose volunteered to be the IAHF Board corporate secretary. Two family members cannot serve together on the Board; since the secretary need not be a Board member this was a perfect fit. The IAHF was rewarded with a dynamic and proactive couple.



Felix is an all-American boy, born in Pocatello, Idaho. He moved to California at the age of 9 and attended Wilcox High School in Santa Clara and San Jose State University. His deep love and understanding of Italy's culture, history, and food began when he met and married Marie Rose.

You may remember the entertaining articles Felix published in his President's newsletter about his experiences in Italy. After serving on the Board, he was elected and served three years as IAHF President at the beginning of COVID-19, a challenging time. We were rewarded by Felix's fiscally sound decisions and his keen ability to reduce expenses and obtain funding when we had no income from hall rental. In fact, Felix raised over \$300,000 in grants and services during his tenure as an IAHF officer! We also appreciate his success in creating on-line events so the foundation could move forward through the pandemic.

On the fun side, Felix and Marie Rose were also successful in bringing the Millenium Sounds Orchestra to the IAHF for several dance events, and a notable New Year's Eve party where they organized, prepared, and served a prime rib meal for over 200 attendees. We need to do that again!

Felix also recruited and worked with dozens of intern students from the San Jose Works program. They helped improve the IAHF website, graphics, events, and programs. The IAHF was recognized by Mayor, Sam Liccardo for the IAHF exceptional involvement with San Jose Works interns.

Felix and Marie Rose are La Dolce Vita members of the IAHF and are still active commissioners on the Florence Commission.

Marie Rose Pierano comes to us from the magnificent Italian Riviera in the region of Liguria, Italy, an area of exceptional beauty and delicious gastronomy. Her family immigrated to California when she was six years old. She immediately started the first grade not knowing a word of English. She arrived in a new country without the ability to read or write, not only in English but also in her native language. As a result, she was greeted with teasing, social isolation, and bullying from her classmates. This first experience of America is something that certainly contributed to Marie Rose's strength of character.

Over the years Marie Rose never lost sight of her Italian heritage and culture. The Genovese dishes she learned from her mother, traditions such as ravioli at holidays, and the importance of family are part of who she is. Every visit back to visit family in Liguria is a familiar embrace. Her Italian heritage is a proud part of her identity, and volunteering with Italian organizations has been a way to honor her roots. Marie Rose continues to spread Italian culture by offering online Italian classes two evenings a week. These classes quickly became popular and now include individuals from several states throughout the US, including Canada, Japan, and Mexico.

Marie Rose has served the IAHF well beyond her role as IAHF secretary. Her contribution when updating our by-laws was tedious and particularly appreciated. She also initiated a Wellness call to our members during COVID to check on them and provide help if needed. Most importantly, Marie Rose has chaired the Scholarship Committee for over nine years and brought the entire application process online and into the 21st century. This allows the scholarship committee members to more easily participate via online meetings rather than attending evening meetings downtown. For applicants, the online process is more convenient, providing greater accessibility, increasing our reach, and reducing the costs and delays of mailing documents. Last year, 19,000 was awarded to nine worthy students!

Marie Rose additionally helps the younger generation by co-chairing the "La Zona di Ragazze e Ragazzi" kids' area at the annual Italian Family Festa. In 2021 Marie Rose was honored and featured in the Italifornian, the online Almanac of the history of Italians of California, as one of the women celebrated for contributions to the local Italian community.

Beyond the IAHF and the Florence Commission, Felix and Marie Rose have busy lives. Felix is a successful businessman still working full time as a Sr. Computer Systems Architect at Northrup Grumman for the past 41 years. He graduated from SJSU with a dual major in Marketing and Computer Sciences. Marie Rose graduated from SJSU with a master's in education and two teaching credentials. She taught business at Foothill College and was the Director of Education at a private Medical, Nursing, and Dental college. She was also part of an evaluation team for two national accreditation agencies (the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools (AICS). During the ten years on these committees, she participated in more than 160 site visits to schools in the western US. During the same time, she worked at AIR, a non-profit organization as a Senior Research Scientist and retired after 38 years.

Felix and Marie Rose celebrated their 40th anniversary and both are dedicated parents. They raised two sons, Joseph Pierre and Johnathan Lawrence who both attended SJSU and graduated in 2014 and 2016. During their senior year at SJSU, each was selected to attend a six-week internship in Hong Kong at Crown Worldwide. They are both currently working at Applied Materials. Joseph is a Software Engineer and Johnathan is a Financial Analyst. Both sons live in downtown San Jose.

Robust family get-togethers include Marie's extended Ligurian family and, thanks to the wood-burning pizza oven Felix insisted was needed in the backyard, the culture and comradery of family and friends are well preserved.

The IAHF is thankful for their hard work, contributions, leadership dedication, and passion. Felix's ability to secure grant money during his tenure's most challenging times helped position the organization for the future. Marie will be continuing her work as scholarship chair, so please consider volunteering or setting up a named scholarship!

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## IAHF and Il Cenacolo Scholarships are now closed, as we prepare to honor winners

The deadline for applicants to submit their scholarship applications was February 21, 2025. Fourteen applications were received.

Scholarships help ease the financial burden of educational expenses, allowing students to focus on their studies and personal growth. They are designed to support students of Italian descent who excel academically and demonstrate leadership. It encourages them to stay connected and take pride in their Italian heritage.

Beyond financial assistance, scholarships offer recipients recognition within the Italian American community, networking opportunities, and a connection to their cultural roots. Past recipients have credited these scholarships and highlighted them as important on their academic journey.

The Scholarship Committee will convene and begin a comprehensive review process to carefully evaluate and score applications ensuring a fair and unbiased evaluation. Top candidates will be selected, final decisions will be made through collaborative discussions, and recipients will be chosen based on merit and eligibility. The committee will inform applicants of the committee's decision by the end of March.

Scholarship recipients will be officially announced in the April IAHF newsletter. The scholarship awards ceremony luncheon on May 4th at the IAHF Hall in San Jose will celebrate their academic excellence, dedication, accomplishments, and the rich heritage of the Italian community.

The success of the IAHF Scholarship Program would not be possible without the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and community members. Your support allows us to continue fostering educational opportunities and preserving our rich Italian heritage.

We invite family and friends to attend the awards ceremony to show support and encouragement and help celebrate the scholarship recipient. Past ceremonies have been deeply inspirational for both students and donors. For students, the event is a powerful affirmation of their hard work and potential with stories of successes and challenges they overcame. For donors, the ceremony provides a firsthand look at the impact of their generosity. Seeing students share heartfelt testimonials about how the scholarships have changed their lives is a moving experience, reminding them that their contributions are not just financial but transformational.

For more details about the event or how to support the IAHF Scholarship Program, visit [iahfsj.org/scholarship](http://iahfsj.org/scholarship) or call Stanley at 408.293.7122.

~~~ Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair



DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT – RENEW TODAY!



If you haven't already done so, please remember to renew your membership for 2025. Membership keeps you active in the Foundation to receive newsletters, upcoming event announcements and entitles you to discounted rates to all our events, cooking classes, hall rentals and more.

If you have already paid your 2025 dues, thank you for renewing promptly, your membership is good until December 31, 2025. Thanks to each of you for your support, participation, and contributions to this wonderful organization which celebrates and promotes the rich Italian culture – Members are the heartbeat of our foundation!

If you haven't renewed and would like to continue your membership, please renew on-line at the button below, visit our website at www.iahfsj.org/membership or return your renewal form along with your check today. Grazie Mille, your membership dues help keep Italian culture alive in our community.

[Click here to renew your Membership today](#)

Letters from our Friends

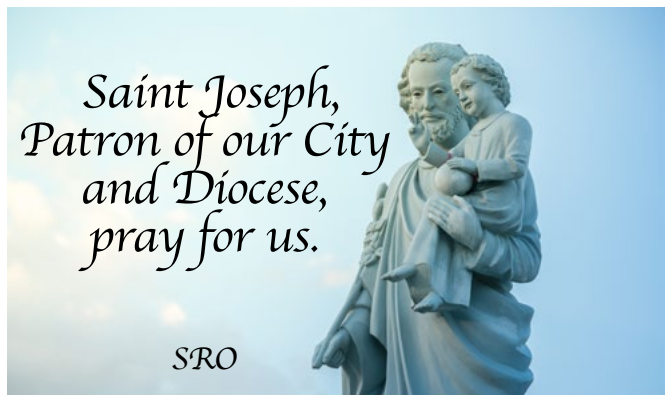
From: Juan Palacios
To: KENNETH BORELLI
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Subject: Thanks!!!!

Dear Ken,

I hope you are doing well. Just a line to thank you and the whole Italian community for a fantastic experience last Sunday. The orchestra, Mission Chamber Orchestra, played wonderfully and the audience was really engaged. I'm so happy we did this concert and I hope we can schedule it every year. Al. musicians and me were honored to play and be part of your 50th anniversary.

Warm regards,
Juan Cristóbal

PD. I will send you the information about our next concert on March 1st. I would love to see you there accompanied by the Italian community.



| | |
|---|--|
|  | Bob Basso |
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| San Jose State Graduate | Cell (408) 691-4586 |
| | Office (408) 264-0871 |
| | (email) bassorjp@aol.com |
| I will donate \$1000 to the IAHF for any referrals and a \$1000 referral fee to the member who makes the referral. | |

MISSION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PROGRAM A CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE

Sunday, February 2nd was the date for a very special celebration of Italian and Italian American Heritage. The IAHF hosted the Mission Chamber Orchestra at the Foundation for the third year, in an all Italian and Italian American theme program.

Included in this program is a special piece in honor of North Beach Native, musician and composer Vince Guaraldi. I was indebted to Chicago Author, Bill Dal Cerro (Bebop, Jazz and Bella Musica) for pointing out that 2025 will be the 60th anniversary of A Charlie Brown Christmas. The IAHF Concert will be a timely venue to recognize this important Italian American artist. In fact, it really is a long overdue recognition of his contribution to not only Jazz but American music in general. We now want to set our sights for promoting a star in his memory, in the newly formed Star Walk that is going up in North Beach. More updates as those efforts unfold.

Our program was part of a special community outreach program that was set up about 3 years ago by IAHF member and Orchestral Director, Emily Ray. This year there was a transition to a new music director Maestro Juan Palacios. Juan is the product of an amazing classical music tradition in Venezuela, called "La Sistema". We welcomed Juan to the IAHF with a Coffee and Biscotti Reception. The program was especially designed to offer a wide sampling of "music from the boot!"

The program started with an operatic piece by Gioachino Rossini, Overture to L'italiana in Algeri. This was pure and joyful Rossini at his most dazzling, followed by part of the modern classical repertoire with Ottorino Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite no. 3. The first half of the program ended in a spectacular piece of virtuosity by oboist Robert Scott, performing Alessandro Marcello's Oboe Concerto in D minor.

The second half of the program began with a contemporary selection from LA resident, Jeremy Cavaterra and his composition, "Lost Coast", which was basically an engaging musical tone poem of images from a lost coast. Followed by the Vince Guaraldi, arr. Moore, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, which was a stirring reminder of how both Jazz and classical music compositions truly merge in artistry and scope of sounds.

The program concluded with a surprise classical piece from Operatic composer Gaetano Donizetti's Sinfonia for Winds and the Overture to Il matrimonio segreto by Domenico Cimarosa. Which led me to wonder why this piece is not done much? Surely the operatic powers that be can forsake just one performance from the standard repertoire in favor of these lesser accessed selections. A constant wonder, of mine.

The reception was also indebted to Nora Monette and Maria Bandy for the homemade baked goods. Likewise, the event afforded everyone time to meet the musicians, Juan Palacios and just enjoy the musical vibes.

Speaking of which, one of our IAHF members Mary Moreno's granddaughter was in the audience, and she is studying musical composition at UC Santa Cruz. She is currently working on a piece, so who knows perhaps it will be ready to perform in 2026!

"Allora, bravi tutti" per un pomeriggio magico!"

~~~ Ken Borelli, Photographs by Stanley Olivar

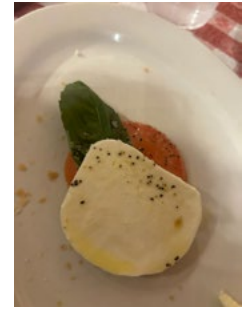






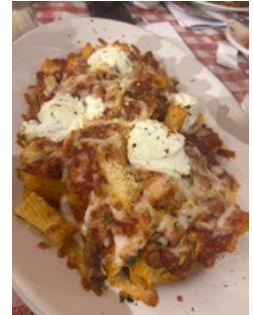
# JANUARY CENA FUORI AT BUCCA DI BEPPO

Wow, wow and WOW! Cena Fuori at Bucca di Beppo was really among the best of all time. Many of us arrived early to stroll a bit indoors because the walls of the restaurant are a feast to the eyes with framed portraits and pictures throughout every inch. We took time to enjoy the entertaining display.



The group was large tonight... 60 people! We filled two rooms which are connected by a wide archway. The spectacular meal was served family style. The bread loaves were hot out of the oven and the table offered cruets of olive oil and balsamic vinegar as well as butter. Next, we were treated to two bowls of salad, one was dressed with apples and cranberries and gorgonzola, the second was a traditional Caesar. Portions were bottomless.

The pasta offerings were amazing. Again, we were offered two recipes, one was homemade ravioli, large and soft and filled with a creamy ricotta and topped with a light marinara sauce. The second was a rigatoni dish covered with a spicy tomato sauce and topped with dollops of burrata. These pasta dishes were really superb.



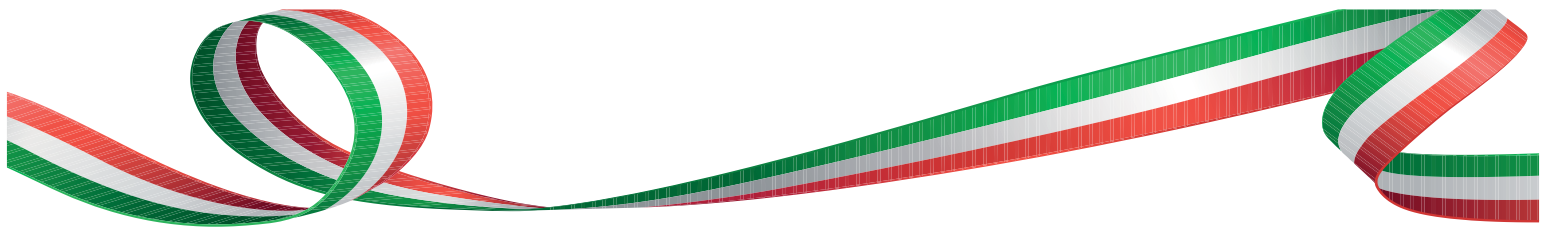
The meat dish was chicken ala marsala and topped with an ample amount of mushroom gravy. The portions were very large and the restaurant distributed take home boxes to everyone without asking. Many of us had a day off from cooking the next day!

Desert was again wonderful and a fitting end to a divine meal. The cannoli were small, the crunch was exquisite, and they were served on a plate scored with chocolate sauce. The cheesecake was one of the best I ever tasted, with its hint of lemon. Coffee was served afterward and many sat and mingled for a while enjoying the friendly ambience of the surroundings and the staff. It was an extraordinary evening.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley, Photos by Stanley Olivar



Top row: Bob & Linda Gaudio Binkley; Chris and Sue Monahan; Gerry & Alfio Crema; Marge Papp with Stacey and friend; Mary Ann Scrivano. 2nd row: Michael & Janice Cronaglia; Nanci Willborn, Judi Rizzuto & John Lamantia; Rebecca Morici; Richard & Janet Hanley; Roger & Jo Ann Bjornstad. 3rd row: Sharon & Glenn DeBella; Vicki & James DeVitto; Ken Borelli, Diana Tome Adams. Bridget McKay, Marca Lombardo, Vicki DeVitto.



THE ARDEATINE CAVE MASSACRE MARCH 24, 1944, REMEMBERED

The Eternal City, Roma, holds many special sights and experiences. One of them for me was visiting the Ardeatine Caves. While it is hardly a tourist destination, it is still worth the effort to visit the monument on the outskirts of Roma, and pay respects to one of the many senseless atrocities of World War II, the reprisal massacre of over 335 people, many plucked from the streets of Roma by the Nazi's and Italian Fascist in reprisal for the raid and attack by a Partisan group on a Nazi patrol in the city.

Even today, as we approach the 81st anniversary of the massacre, I can still recall a visit to the caves. How I ended up visiting the caves, was an interesting IAHF story too. One of our former board members and Sister County Commissioner Corrado Russo, had lived through the German occupation of Rome, and recalled the event vividly, as probably many Romans did who lived through those terrible times. He periodically used to check out the same book in our IAHF Library about the "Fosse Ardeatine" so Corrado's recollections finally piqued my interest, and I read the book. Regretfully we do not have an oral history from Corrado to include in the IAHF's collection and highlights the significance of that project.

It truly harkened to a trying time for Roma, and colors many stories and tales of Nazi/Fascist occupation of Central and Northern Italy. As I talked to Corrado about those terrible times, I began to appreciate how the Italy of today emerged from the ashes of the war. He was quite emphatic in recalling the war years in Roma, and as time went on, I could not forget his stories, so one day talking to his wife Zina, a contact was made with Corrado's nephew in Roma, so on one of my last trips to Roma, met with him and we were able to drive to the outskirts of the city to visit this sacred monument. The 335 massacred victims were put into a final resting place in a mausoleum in one of the caves. The caves themselves have become an Italian National Monument, and even today holds sway over Roman consciousness, while at the same time remains a polarizing experience for many Italians especially of the far right.

While this article does little justice to the dynamics of the experience, checking out the book at the IAHF library or going online can give you some appreciation of the significance of the Fosse Ardeatine for many Italians.

~~~ Ken Borelli



Entrance to the Ardeatine Caves. Retrieved from Wikimedia Commons.

## Status of the Library

### Shifting Focus

By now, you have seen the notices to help raise funds to fix the roof and air conditioner. If you've passed by the library, you've seen that most of the books have been covered in protective plastic sheets. We want to be on the safe side and protect our books and other materials, many of which are out of print.

Books are still available for loan by request. I can offer suggestions if you like a particular author or genre.

For now, I am shifting my focus from working in the library to doing more online digital work. Vanessa and I are doing oral interviews designed to supplement our archival collection.

### Florence Barbano Sordello

Our first interview was at the lovely home of Florence Sordello, the grandmother of my library intern, Vanessa Sordello. Florence is 100 years young and happy to share her memories with us.

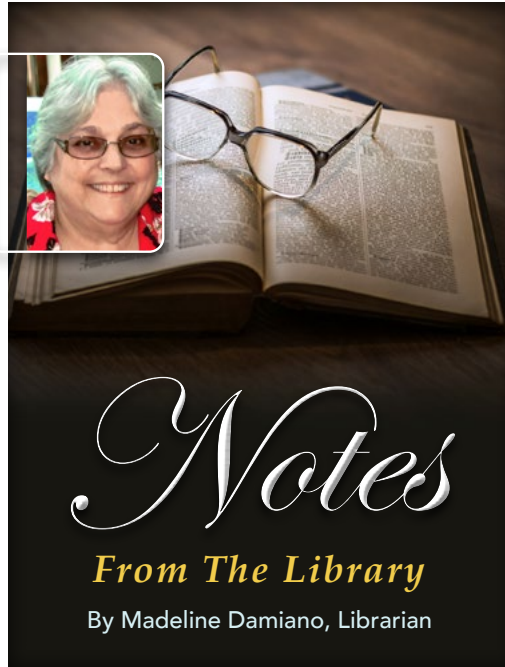
Florence was born into the Barbano pioneer farming family of Campbell (more on that family later) and married George Sordello, a member of another large farming family.

The image accompanying this article is of a large painting of the Sordello buildings and drying yards, which today hangs in Florence's den.

### Maria Cancilla Bandy

Next, we sat down with Maria Bandy to talk about the St. Joseph Tables as they were celebrated in her neighborhood by local families. Maria brought in dozens of photos that I have been hoping to digitize for over two years!

Vanessa worked the video camera while I asked Maria a few questions. And what a terrific interviewee! Maria has wonderful stories from her childhood. She made the point several times that "we all have stories to tell" and urges other people to pass on their own stories. A summary of her interview will be available shortly.



### The Barbano Collection

Two and a half years ago, the IAHF received a call asking us if we were interested in a few boxes of memorabilia belonging to Josephine Barbano, who sang with the San Francisco Opera for over ten years.

I was thrilled to get the material, and what a treasure trove. It turns out that the Barbaros were one of the "pioneering farmer families" who settled in Campbell, and there is a good amount of newspaper articles supplementing the photos. But I couldn't find relatives who could help me connect the bits of information or identify the people in the photos.

Until now! By sheer luck, I found out that Vanessa's grandmother, Florence, was first cousin to Josephine and her three sisters. We are planning to sit down and go through the photos to talk about her childhood with her cousins and the extended family. This collection is about to get some important context that will help us tell their story.

### Other interviews

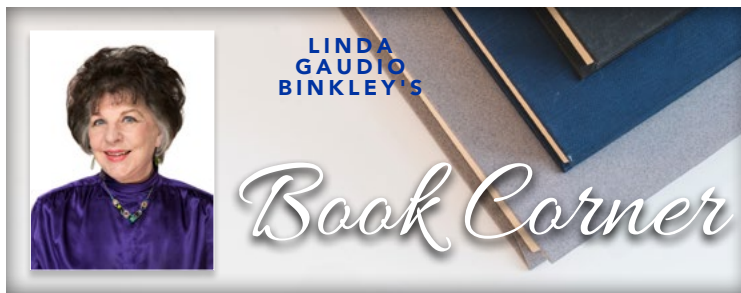
While using the video camera, the memory card became full. I removed it and found other oral videos that Ken Borelli has done. I am currently converting and uploading them for viewing, so stay tuned for more information on these. They include an interview with Mary Canepa Klevan about how the Italian internments of WWII affected her family and John Bargetto talking about the history of the Bargetto and Regan Vineyards.

Once again, our thanks to the Santa Clara County Historic Grants Program, who provided the funds for the camera.

If you'd like to tell YOUR family's story, contact me at [librarian@iahfsj.org](mailto:librarian@iahfsj.org)

~~~Madeline Damiano





Now, Sicilians all over the world celebrate their gratitude to God for relieving the famine on March 19th, the feast of St. Joseph. The celebration includes a lavish table replete with delicious Sicilian specialties that always includes a bowl of fava beans in recognition of the important role the lowly but nutritious fava bean had in staving off starvation.



Giovanni and the Fava Beans The Story of the St. Joseph Altar

By Joseph Ruli

Giovanni and the Fava Beans by Joseph Ruli is written to educate children as to how the St. Joseph's altar came to be a beloved Sicilian tradition. This sincere and holy

tradition began in the medieval ages and endures to this day in Sicilian neighborhoods throughout the world.

Author Ruli speaks through Giovanni, a young boy, whose eyes and heart are opened while enduring the drought and ensuing famine that has beset the island. Through his encounter with a victim of dire poverty, young Giovanni grows from being a petulant and selfish child into being a warm-hearted and generous young man. Children will appreciate this beautiful transformation which is an underlying theme of the book.

After weeks of earnest prayer guided by the village priest, rainfall at last begins on the Feast of St. Joseph ending the disastrous drought. Young readers are comforted that the drought ends, and the village rejoices with the celebration of Mass giving thanks to God for answering their prayers.

The language is simple enough for elementary school readers and little ones will love the full-page artwork in warm colors. The book is 10 by 14 inches and would make a lovely gift.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley



Photos from IAHF 2024 St. Joseph Table event

## Italian Lesson

Be aware of false friends!!!!

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Attualmente   | _____ To occur  |
| 2. Rumore        | _____ To claim  |
| 3. Sensibile     | _____ Currently |
| 4. Succedere     | _____ Noise     |
| 5. Morbido       | _____ Relative  |
| 6. Parente       | _____ Farm      |
| 7. Testo         | _____ End       |
| 8. Pretendo      | _____ Possibly  |
| 9. Eventualmente | _____ Bookshop  |
| 10. Libreria     | _____ Soft      |
| 11. Fine         | _____ Text      |
| 12. Fattoria     | _____ Sensitive |



Answers: 4, 8, 1, 2, 6, 12, 11, 9, 10, 5, 7, 3

## You know what else is 50 years old? Our HVAC equipment!

As property owners we have to keep up with maintenance on our building and equipment. Patching and propping up becomes insufficient after a while. That's the position we find our HVAC equipment today.

For our 50th Anniversary we have launched a fundraiser to replace the heating and cooling system. We know this will be very expensive but necessary to ensure your comfort and safety when attending events in the Hall.

We mailed all our members a letter in February outlining our fundraising objectives. We are asking each member to contribute \$50 to our HVAC Fund. Your \$50 for 50 will fund the purchase of an energy efficient and robust HVAC system. For members and sponsors that are able to contribute more funds, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Donate [online](#) or mail your **HVAC Fund** donation to 425 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

~~~ Mary Pizzo



Bocce Tournament 2025 - May 18!

Nothing like a little friendly competition between friends and family is there? With that said, we are excited to announce our Annual Bocce Tournament on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 11am-2:30pm at Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos.

For those of you that are new to bocce, please know that this is a fun and friendly game, and no experience is needed. Before the "tournament" begins there will be a short training session explaining the rules and special techniques needed to master this age old traditional Italian game. Eight teams of 4 players each will challenge each other for the Vincitore title.

As always, as part of your registration fee, appetizers will be served including those incredible tastes prepared in the Campo kitchen. A no host bar is also available. The winning team will receive a ribbon and metal thanks to Sal and Denise Campagna. It's a fun way to spend a Sunday with family and friends. There are no age restrictions for bocce in this tournament. You will need to use equipment provided by Campo.

Space is limited. You can sign up for a full team of four or let us connect you with a team in need of your exceptional talents. Open [this link](#) to purchase your tickets and register your team. Member price is \$50 and non-members \$60. All non-players pay \$30 each which includes the food.

Hope to see you there! ~~~ Sharon McCray



Remarkable Connection Between Christopher Columbus and Walt Disney

Much notable effort has been dedicated to restoring and preserving the birthplace of Walt Disney in the Hermosa District of the city of Chicago. Many folks who are casual fans, may not realize that he was born in Chicago, Illinois.

And, with a bit of a stretch, it can be observed that Christopher Columbus, having sailed to the New World just over 400 years before Walt Disney's birth, had an impact on where he was born. It all starts with the celebration of Columbus' first voyage.

The World's Columbian Exposition, also known as the Chicago World's Fair, was a world's fair held in Chicago from May 5 to October 31, 1893, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World in 1492. The centerpiece of the Fair, held in Jackson Park, was a large water pool representing the voyage that Columbus took to the New World. The exposition was an influential social and cultural event and had a profound effect on American architecture, the arts, American industrial optimism, and Chicago's image.

Dedication ceremonies for the fair were held on October 21, 1892, the 400th anniversary of Columbus' Voyage, but the fairgrounds were not opened to the public until May 1, 1893. The fair continued until October 30, 1893. In addition to recognizing the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the New World, the fair showed the world that Chicago had risen from the ashes of the Great Chicago Fire, which had destroyed much of the city in 1871.

In the early 1890's, Elias Disney, Walt's father, needed employment, and construction workers were needed for the massive project to build the Columbian Exposition. So, Elias, his wife Flora and family moved to Chicago so that Elias could find employment as a construction worker for the Exposition. And Elias built the now famous and preserved house in Chicago where Walt was born. It should also be noted that Roy O. Disney, Walt's older brother and lifelong business partner, was also born in Chicago, in the year of the Exposition itself of 1893.

There you have it: Christopher Columbus' original voyage touching the life of Walt Disney 400 years later, although only to the extent of determining where Walt was born.

~~~Steve Ricossa



# Grazie Milie to our Patrons



*If this looks like we are having fun, you're right.*



*Consider becoming an IAHF Patron Level Member this year and enjoy the extra benefits these membership levels provide.*



*To learn more about the membership levels, look on our website under [Membership](#) for details.*



Photos provided by Soly Paterson from the 2025 Patron's dinner.





# Italian American Heritage Foundation

## Annual Crab Feed!

Location:  
Italian American  
Heritage Foundation  
425 N. Fourth Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

Friday, March 28, 2025

Social Hour: 6:00 PM  
Dinner: 7:00 PM

Reserve Tables  
Available

### Menu

*Fresh Northern California &  
Oregon Crab by the Bucket*  
*Salad*  
*Penne al Ragu alla Bolognese*  
*Garlic Bread*  
*Dessert*

**The Bar will be Open  
for Beer, Wine, &  
Soft drinks**

**Price:**  
\$75 per Member  
\$80 per Non-Member or  
Guest  
\$35 per Child under 13

Enjoy music from  
**Duke Mantee and the  
GOLD MONEY BAND**



**Event Chairs:**  
**Paul Greco, Nanci Wilborn & Ken Borelli**

Purchase Tickets online via the IAHF website, by using the QR code below or fill out this bottom half and return with your checks made payable to the IAHF.

Add to memo line: 2025 Crab Feed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) # of Members @ \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

( ) # of Non-Members or Guests @ \$80.00 \_\_\_\_\_

( ) # of Children under 13 @ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please seat me with: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Day to purchase tickets is: **Saturday, March 22**

Pay online at: [www.IAHFSJ/EVENTS](http://www.IAHFSJ/EVENTS) or use QR code to the right

Note: online charges include a small transaction fee.



Note: Limited parking will be available at the Salvation Army lot for this event only.





## 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 ◆  
◆ MADELINE DAMIANO & GILDA DE SIMONE-GROCCIA ◆  
◆ STANLEY OLIVAR ◆ MATILDE & ITALO OLIVERIO ◆

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A LEGACY CIRCLE DONOR.  
CONTACT [LEGACY@IAHFSJ.ORG](mailto:LEGACY@IAHFSJ.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## • 2025 PATRON LEVEL MEMBERSHIPS •

*We would like to acknowledge the generosity and support of the following members who have gone the extra mile to support the IAHF. These are difficult times for businesses to maintain financial strength. And as a non-profit business, this extra help improves our financial standing and keeps our mission alive and well.---Thank you!*

### LA DOLCE VITA / \$5,000 LEVEL

DR. ANTHONY & CLARE CEDOLINI \* › MIKE CONSOLE › FELIX & MARIE DALLDORF  
› EBE FRASSE › DELIA SCHIZZANO

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- Anthony Barajas & Sydney Thomson
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### • AS OF DECEMBER 2024 •

- Betty Baker & Leon Cozzo • Adrian Grantz • Robert Iacopi • Nino & Ellen Petrone

### 2025 Student Members

- Adrian Grantz • Dylan Lawhead • Ann Marie Mullaney • Luca Ratra

\* indicates the member has shared their birth month for March with IAHF.  
† indicates the member has shared their anniversary month for March with IAHF

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- Arline Veteska
- Sharon Vignato
- Kathy Vita
- Nadine A. Weil
- Davide West
- Jan Wittman
- Barbara D. Woodmansee \*

**Attendance:** Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Frank DeTurris, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Joe Lucito, Steven Ricossa, Madeline Damiano, Nanci Wilborn (v), Paul Greco (v)

**Absent:** Ken Borelli, Sharon McCray, Richard Stewart, Tony Zerbo, Susan Monahan, Marie Bertola

**President, Dana Zuccarello Aguirre** - Welcome, Roll call, Pledge of Allegiance. Reviewed January Meeting Minutes which were voted into the record with the various changes submitted.

- 50 for 50 letter going out this week. Mary and Madeline agreed to help mailing. Louie will need to perform the mail merge to customize each letter.

- Gala planning interest. Dana asked Madeline to create a slide show - IAHF through the years.
- Recent meeting in SF for Bay Area Italian Organizations. Dana and Ken represented IAHF. She discussed our challenge of recruiting younger members - which all the other organizations have the same issue.

- All but 2 IAHF board members have renewed membership for 2025.
- 2025 IAHF board photo in March newsletter issue.
- Good news! An anonymous member has agreed to loan (interest free) the cost for the VHAC equipment. The IAHF will pay back 50% of the loan and the remaining balance will be a gift from the member.

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

- Presented summary of FY2025 limited financial report.
- Frank explained how our Bank detected and prevented fraudulent activity. He cancelled the compromised credit cards and confirmed we will get a refund. He has updated the system passwords and security measures. We have insurance for covering loss from cyber fraud.

- Frank discussed future projection of income. He listed 5-6 ideas for board members to take on and investigate revenue.

**1st VP, Ken Borelli** - was unable to attend this meeting, so he sent a list of calendar events.

#### **2nd VP, Azie Habib**

- 11 Hall rentals booked for FY25.
- Ice Machine has been replaced, with a 3-5 year warranty
- Salvation Army has been asked to rent us parking space for St. Joseph's table.
- Roof and HVAC replacement is the long term goal. Azie is getting quotes for roof replacement - engineering, plans, construction and permits.

#### **Librarian, Madeline Damiano**

- Water damage to the library. Short term solution is needed immediately.

#### **4th VP, Louie Lombardo**

- Membership Update - 476 active memberships with 709 members.
- Orientation date is on hold awaiting bylaws proposed changes

#### **Mary Pizzo**

- March Newsletter articles received.
- Goiya sales at Mission Orchestra event netted \$55. Remaining merchandise will be used for 50th Anniversary raffle prizes.

Adjournment at 8:45pm



COMMEMORATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS WITH

# Personal Notes: *Only \$10 each*

## COMMEMORATE YOUR FAMILY'S EVENTS WITH A SPECIAL NOTE

Select one of twelve 3.5" x 2" designs and send us your message of 15 words or less.

We will print your message in the following newsletter.

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- \$10 / 1 Issue
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CLICK HERE  
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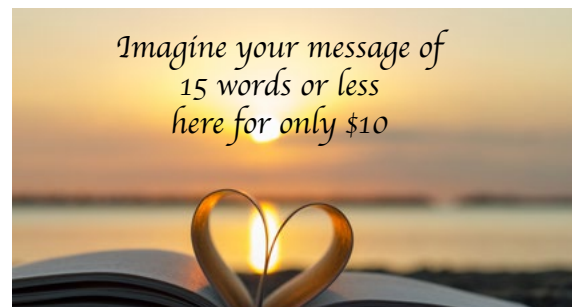
Sharing smiles

You can request other images for your personal note.

We have access to a large quantity of Adobe's high quality Stock Images.



Friends for Life



Heart and sunset



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AND DON'T FORGET OUR

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## IAHF NEWS readers like to patronize IAHF advertisers!

- See chart for size and prices per running time.
- The price for a business card size ad starts at only \$20 for one newsletter issue.

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CLICK HERE TO  
PAY FOR YOUR  
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| SIZE: W x H             | Number of Issues |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                         | 1                | 3     | 6     | 12    |
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| 1/3 page: 7.75" x 3.5"  | \$60             | \$160 | \$300 | \$500 |
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- Business Ads must be formatted in hi-resolution PDF, JPG, or TIFF to size specifications in RGB color mode
- Members Business Discount: 10% each category

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Rosetta is very proud to be an Italian American. She is very committed and passionate about supporting the Italian American Heritage Foundation. Rosetta will be generously donating \$1,000 for every referral or closed transaction coming from any member of the Italian American Heritage. This Contribution goes toward enriching and helping our IAHF thrive.



**Thinking of buying or selling? Or have any Real Estate Questions?  
Call Rosetta Today for a Free Professional Market Analysis.**



**ROSETTA DE LUCA**

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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.

PROVIDING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE YOU DESERVE!

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