#### **SEPTEMBER 2023**





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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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### And That's A Wrap!

IAF

Thank you all for a successful 2023 Festa! Thank you all for the emails and the kind words. Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave their time over the weekend; maybe it was just one shift, maybe it was a day, maybe it was all three days. Regardless of your time spent volunteering, a huge THANK YOU from the IAHF and the Festa Committee!

If you were able to attend, you'd have noticed a few changes around History Park this year. We had several new sponsors and Barilla Pasta, our presenting sponsor, was a wonderful addition. We had new entertainment, which everyone enjoyed. Our Celebrity Grape Stomp that featured three local mayors was a hit! I had several guests come to me and tell me that this was the most fun they have had at our Festa during their previous years of attendance.

We spent additional monies for advertising and even hired a social media liaison who did a fabulous job promoting the Festa and all of our sponsors! Since the Festa, we have had several people and organizations reach out for future collaborations, which is also great news.

Thank you also to our own IAHF membership who gave financially towards the Festa. The Festa is not an inexpensive event to put on. In fact, we are still receiving donations in the mail, so if you've not yet had an opportunity to give, there is still time! You can drop by or mail a check today to go towards the operating costs. Thank you, again, to all who gave and volunteered.

#### Upcoming food and toy drive

During the months of October, November and December, we will be partnering with Our Daily Bread to collect canned goods for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will also be partnering with a local charity for a toy drive in December. Items can be brought during regional lunches, cooking classes, other events, as well as during normal business hours. Please consider how you can be a blessing to others who are less fortunate during these upcoming holiday months.

#### Do you own a classic car?

On October 8, 2023, the Italian Heritage Festival and Parade in San Francisco will be held and the IAHF is looking for someone with a classic car as an entry to ride through the Parade. Last year, we made many connections and made ourselves known in the San Francisco area, many of whom did not know we existed. If you have a car you'd like to drive and carry around a few Board members, please feel free to email me dana\_zuke@yahoo.com and let me know.

#### Group trip to Italy?

I have been contacted by a travel agency that operates out of Italy and Los Angeles to see if there would be any interest in a group trip to Italy. If you are interested, please email me dana\_zuke@yahoo.com for more information.

Thank you!

-- Dana Zuccarello Aguirre, President 🤛

#### EVENTS

#### A GLANCE SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Wednesday, September 6 / Memorial Birthday Party Celebrating the Life of Kay Virgilio / 5:30 to 8:00 / Free and all welcome
- Wednesday, September 13 / Whiskey Tasting / 5:30 to 6:45 at 10th Street Distillery
- Thursday, September 21 / Regional Lunch: Molise / 12 PM / Members \$25 and non members \$30
- Thursday , September 28 / Cena Fuori / Cafe Vitale, Los Altos / \$45 per person
- September 7, Thursday / Caponata with Lucia Clementi / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM / At the Hall /Members \$25 and non-members \$30
- October 5, Thursday / Spinach Sausage Bread with Joe Lucito / 7:00 PM / At the Hall / Members \$25 and non-members \$30
- November 2, Thursday / Holiday Italian Cookies / 7:00 PM / At the Hall / Members \$25 and non-members \$30
- Sunday, December 3 / IAHF Family Holiday Party / Dinner at 4:00 PM / At the Hall

#### **ONGOING CLASSES**

AT

- Italian Language Classes / Conversational and Intermediate / Online classes
- Cooking Classes / Come to the IAHF for cooking, eating and good times!!

### SCHEDULE OF



#### SEPTEMBER

- Wednesday, September 6 / Memorial Birthday Party Celebrating the life of Kay Virgilio / 5:30 to 8:00 / Free and all welcome / Refer to the article in the newsletter for details
- September 7, Thursday / Caponata with Lucia Clementi / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM / At the Hall / Lucia will teach how to make her Sicilian Caponata which she served at the St. Joseph's Day celebration / Members \$25 and non-members \$30
- Wednesday, September 13, Whisky Tasting / Back by popular demand / 5:30 to 6:45 at 10th Street Distillery, directly across from the IAHF / Refer to article below for details
- Thursday, September 21 / IAHF Regional Lunch exploring the ancient land of Molise yet one of Italy's newest regional government / Lunch at 12 noon / Members \$25 / non members \$30 / Call in your reservations by Sept. 19th.
- Thursday, September 28 / Cena Fuori / Cafe Vitale / Los Altos / \$45 per person check to Ken Borelli or cash at the door / Seating is limited, sign up soon, final cut-off date is Sept 26, subject to space

#### OCTOBER

 October 5, Thursday / Spinach Sausage Bread with Joe Lucito / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM / At the Hall / Joe will teach how to make his Spinach Sausage Bread that he demonstrated at the Festa. Yummy! / Members \$25 and non-members \$30

#### NOVEMBER

November 2, Thursday / Holiday Italian Cookies / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM / At the Hall / This extremely popular class returns with delicious Holiday Cookies / You don't want to miss this class, so enroll early / Details to follow / Members \$25 and non-members \$30

#### DECEMBER

 Sunday, December 3 / IAHF Family Holiday Party / Dinner at 4:00 PM / Dance and listen to the big band music of Millennium Sounds (19 piece orchestra) / At the Hall / Details to follow

#### **ONGOING LANGUAGE CLASSES**

- Monday and Wednesday / 6 PM / Marie Dalldorf teaches Italian Language Online Zoom classes / Zoom Link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84929597554</u>
- Intermediate Italian Conversation / 10 to 11:30 AM / Every Wednesday, with Delia Schizzano / In-person class

Due to the popularity of the March Whiskey tasting, the IAHF has scheduled another visit and whiskey tasting at the 10th Street Distillery, which is actually right across the street from the IAHF on 442 North 4th St. The date is Wednesday, September 13th, from 5:30 to 6:45. Since moving to the neighborhood, the distillery has remodeled the 4th St. facility. They moved the distillery from their previous 10th St. location to the N. 4th St. location but kept the name since they had gleaned nationwide awards under their original name. The CEO is Virag Saksema, a scotch whiskey aficionado.

The 10th Street Distillery is part of a growing trend in craft liquors. I had to sample the goods prior to planning the event (a difficult task). Many of the materials come from Scotland, so it is a Scotch-like whiskey. They make several blends ranging from a light Scotch malt to a smokey-flavored range of blends. The 10th Street Distillery REPEATING A GOOD NEIGHBOR FIELD TRIP & WHISKEY TASTING! has won several competitive awards, including recognition from Forbes, the Whiskey Advocate, and the SJ Mercury News. In 2021 they received "Best in Show" from the NY Spirits Competition, as well as Best Single Malt Whiskey. If you are a Scotch drinker or just plain curious about the product and designer whiskeys this is a very effortless field trip, plus they make great unique gifts. We will also sample two 10th Street Distillery cocktails.

The cost is \$43 for a tasting of their various blends, 2 cocktails, tour of the distillery followed by some coffee, nonalcoholic refreshments, and snacks at the IAHF before and after the tasting. You can park at the IAHF lot and walk over. Make your reservation now as space will be limited. To sign up you can go online at https://form.jotform.com/223096163321045 or call the IAHF with a credit card or cash. Sign up cut off is Tuesday Sept 12, or when capacity is reached. -- Article by Ken Borelli



# ∼KAY VIRGILIO ~





#### **BIRTHDAY MEMORIAL DINNER SEPTEMBER 6**

Kay Virgilio, a long time member of the IAHF, passed away during our 41st Festa Weekend. While she was getting on in age, we were also making plans for her to visit the Festa. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be, and she was hospitalized at O'Connor and passed away during the weekend. She died just short of her 98th birthday, hence our reason to have a memorial birthday celebration on September 6 at 6pm. Her actual birthday was September 3 (during Labor Day Weekend).

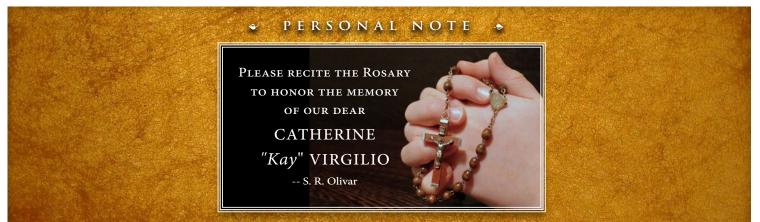
The August IAHF Board meeting was opened in her memory. Kay, along with her husband Tony, were very active in the life of the IAHF since its founding. Combined, both Kay and Tony did it all. Kay was a Board Member, chair and co-chair of many events, volunteer coordinator, co-founder of our Opera events, chair of our cultural committee as well as other task-oriented committees, hall monitor and the St. Joseph Day event. Up to the early part of this year, she was a kitchen volunteer with the regional lunches and dinners. Upon her husband's death, she founded a memorial scholarship in his memory.

To say she was a hard worker would be an understatement. Along with her husband, they managed three pizzerias, and the last one, Golden Mushroom, was closed just precovid. Upon Tony's death, she helped her son with Golden Mushroom. Tragically, her son also became ill and passed away, which is when the business closed.

Kay was also a volunteer with the O'Connor Auxiliary that specialized in early natal hearing tests until the program was disbanded. She even worked as a support person for a battered woman shelter among other endeavors. She and her husband Tony also ushered for Opera San Jose at the Montgomery Theater. In fact, we actually have on video both Kay and her husband in cameo performances when we did Louise Canepa's opera, Sicilians of Monterey. I can go on and on, and I am sure our readers can too since she spans so much of the activities of the IAHF. I don't think she ever missed a Festa, and her husband co-chaired several of the early Festa events.

As an IAHF tribute to Kay, we will be having a special birthday celebration and dinner on September 6. Kay would have been 98, and I am sure she will be with us in spirit to enjoy the party! It will be a traditional spaghetti and meatball dinner; the kitchen team will prepare her special salad along with dessert and many stories to share. The event will be free and welcoming to all Kay's friends. Share your stories, photos and come and enjoy the birthday party! Just call the IAHF at 408/293-7122 to make a reservation so we can plan accordingly. It will be an open seating event.

-- Article by Ken Borelli ~



The views expressed in Personal Notes are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the views of the IAHF or its members



Emily Ray, IAHF member, founder and conductor of the Mission Chamber Orchestra was recently honored at her retirement in July with several commendations from both local and professional organizations as well as city and county governments. You may recall that in January of this year, she brought the orchestra to the Foundation for an all-Italian American program. It was a powerful statement of Italian heritage and pride in the accomplishments of so many Italian American composers (both in North and South America).

In addition to that performance, Emily has been a champion of music in the community and has enriched the local scene as an advocate of new composers and musicians during her entire career with the Orchestra. It is such an artistic boost for young and upand-coming musicians and composers to have a forum where they can share

their talents, especially for composers who really do not have many forums where they can perform their compositions with an orchestra. In that sense alone, her programming and concerts have transcended our local scene and provided national exposure to her guest artists. Both city and county resolutions noted, "For over 27 years, Emily conducted over 40 world premieres and 24 West Coast premiers, along with special local commissions and three commercial albums."

<image>

In addition to those amazing achievements, she was a founding member of the Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts Association and the Silicon Valley Arts Coalition. Also, as a high school music teacher and educator, her influence upon the young and next generation of artists is immeasurable and such a powerful legacy for all in our community. The retirement celebration was held at the salon of the Portuguese National Church, Five Wounds, where she was also honored by the Consul General of Portugal for her promotion of many, little-heard, classical music composers from Portugal. For several years, she has hosted a concert at the church featuring an array of composers from Portugal. In addition, the IAHF as a group attended concerts with the orchestra playing at Petit Trianon, including a special concert with Pasquale Esposito. She was also awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Italian American Heri-

tage Foundation for her contributions to the arts.

With this sort of track record, it is hard to imagine Emily really "retiring" and enthusiastically looking forward to the next level of her accomplishments. I wanted to share with you the contributions of IAHF member Maestra Ray thus far and offer a special congratulations to her for greatly enriching our local cultural and musical scene. "Brava, Maestra!"

-- Article by Ken Borelli <



#### **2023 ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL LINE UP ANNOUNCED**

Our North Bay friend, Lido Cantarutti, has just announced his line-up of contemporary Italian Films which will be screened at the Film Festival. This is the 46th anniversary of this Marin County cultural institution! The Festival runs from September 30th through November 4th. It is held at the Angelico Concert Hall on the Campus of Dominican University of California in San Rafael.

There are six films being shown that highlight contemporary Italian life and culture. In the past several years, Lido shared some of his films with the IAHF and has spoken to our group about his now "46 year Labor of Love." It would be wonderful to reestablish this event at the IAHF but a film festival such as this requires a long-term membership commitment and access to a professional theater.

In the past we used the Camera Cinemas and Santa Clara University. Are there any interested parties willing to work on this venture? Detailed information about the films, as well as ticket sales and directions to the University, can be found at <u>www.dominican.edu/</u> <u>boxoffice</u>. For Italian film buffs it's well worth the trip north to San Rafael to check out a show in addition to visiting the beautiful campus of Dominican University which is off of Highway 101.

— Article by Ken Borelli <



The long-standing tradition of showcasing an Opening Ceremony for the Italian Family Festa is alive and well and always promises to be a time-honored custom that overflows with pomp, song, a prayerful blessing, honorable presentations, distinguished community luminaries, compliments, smiles, good humor and wit!

This year was no exception!

Twenty plus community leaders took their assigned seat on the Roma Stage Saturday morning to a captive and attentive select audience. Daniel Burns sang our American National Anthem and Bianca Vallorz Amato sang the Italian National Anthem (of course, in Italian)

- both a cappella -Father George Aranha, pastor of Santa Teresa Church, blessed the IAHF and the Festa – also in Italian!

As Event Coordinator, I emceed the ceremony, introducing each community leader to have mircrophone honors! Representatives from the offices of Senator Dave Cortese, Assemblymembers Alex Lee and Evan Low, County Supervisors Cindy Chavez and Otto Lee each came forward with their congratulations, salutations and presentations, eagerly accepted by IAHF President Dana Zuccarello. Our San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan was joined by Coucilmember Arjun Batra – both making their premier at the event in their respective elected positions. We also heard from our (favorite) County Assessor Larry Stone (who



was welcomed to a chorus of "boo's" – which is music to his ears!), Bill Schroh, our "host" as the CEO and President of History Park San Jose and Sal Caruso, Honorary Consul of Italy for San Jose, serving Santa Clara and Monterey Counties.

Sal made the front-page news announcement that this coming month of October will be "Italian Heritage Month" as will be proclaimed by Mayor Matt Mahan – this collaboration that Sal made possible in conversations with Mayor Mahan on behalf of the Italian American community is validating and affirming to all Italian Americans and a benchmark for Italian culture

and heritage pride.

The Ceremony ended on a very celebratory note thanks to the creative thinking of Ken Borelli! A special added treat was made available for all Ceremony participants on stage and in the assembly through the generous in-kind sponsorship of Martinelli's . . . Bottles were popped, glasses were filled, and I was honored to raise a glass to toast "Here's to all of our IAHF volunteers – each and every one of them – to our financial and in-kind sponsors – to History Park San Jose – to all who support and validate the efforts to provide a Little Bit of Italy for our weekend guests – thank you God – thank you, everybody. Salute e auguri!" – Article by Cathy De Maria ~

### A CELEBRATION OF IAHF SCHOLARSHIP & ITALIAN CULTURE



If you stepped into the Cultural Center at the Festa, you would notice several large posters of students who received IAHF scholarships over the past eight years. Since 2015, IAHF has awarded close to \$150,000 in scholarships to eligible students of Italian descent pursuing higher education. Scholarships not only offer financial support to students, they further the core values of IAHF's mission to preserve, promote and share the Italian heritage and culture with today's youth.

It was inspiring to see Clara Palik, a 2023 scholarship recipient, who chose to generously give back to the IAHF community by volunteering at the Festa and serving as the IAHF Scholarship Ambassador. Clara also brought other family members to volunteer, Megan Ferrito and Marco Palik.

We encourage you to consider making a scholarship donation in any amount or establishing a scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one to reach out to the IAHF at <a href="https://www.iahfsj.org/">https://www.iahfsj.org/</a> or call 408-2937122. – Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair .~



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ITALIAN FAMIL

Our Annual Festa is a massive event that takes time, talent, dedication and money. Lots of money. The following list reflects just the beginning of those who have made a financial commitment as a Festa Sponsor. This list will continue to grow. Some have been helping us for years, some are brand new. We are very grateful to all our sponsors.



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SAN JOSE



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Phil Scalia

Mary Segura

Consuelo Serray

Connelee Shaw

**Terence Shaw** 

Sara Sink

Marc Snow

Linda Sorbi

Paul Stabile

Bria Sterling

Maria Rodrigues

Bianney Rosas Ruiz

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#### **ZONA DI RAGAZZE E RAGAZZI**

- Marie Rose Dalldorf
- Jan Prinzivall



Special shout out to LJ Lombardo for bringing us the 2023 Festa Venue App



# Have photos of the 2023 Festa to share?

Please click on this link to upload: https://forms.gle/m41ikrHTqhehVWyc6

Thank you! -- Louie Lombardo / 4th Vice President



#### SEE YOU NEXT YEAR ON AUGUST 3 & 4 FOR FESTA 2024!























# Zona di Ragazze & Ragazzi

The large Oak tree provided a cool and shady canopy for kids to enjoy all the activities at the Zona di Ragazze e Ragazzi. Every seat around the two 6' by 7 1/2' tables were consistently filled with kids ready and anxious to create their own special and unique artwork.

Activities included face painting, mask making, and multi-colored macaroni/bracelet stringing. The kids' imaginations produced special and unique projects and smiles on their parents' faces. Also available were hands-on Italian word and art learning games as well as coloring pages of iconic Italian images such as pizzas and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The younger kids were drawn to the wooden pizza puzzles to "bake" and serve pizzas with various toppings.

Many volunteers used their skill and talent at face painting images as requested by the kids. Three special volunteers were Clara Palik, a 2023 IAHF Scholarship recipient and IAHF Ambassador, Emily Juliette Leyva, a former San Jose Works intern, and Ebe Frasse, a lifetime IAHF member.

This year, we were fortunate to have a 'professional' face painter, Ramrz, who spent two entire days hand-painting amazing designs of specific characters or elaborate images on the faces and arms of kids and sometimes adults.

There was also a magic show by Satvik the Magician who once again performed Saturday and Sunday using his sleight of hand to cause things to disappear and reappear. He captivated and mesmerized the audience with his tricks and evoked screams of joy and laughter as he interacted with the kids.

Anthony Barajas and his crew from the Italian Swordsmanship Academy were also on hand and entertained everyone by demonstrating various Italian fencing techniques (some swordsmen are trained in Italy). The kids enjoyed teaming up for lessons and games.

A shout-out and thanks to all the volunteers who made the Zona di Ragazze e Ragazzi successful. A special thank you also to Satvik and the Italian Swordsmen for an exceptional job entertaining the kids. Lastly, a thank you to Felix Dalldorf for his help with setup and all the many other tasks thrown his way. Thank you all for generously volunteering your time at the Festa. Your support of the IAHF allows us to continue to fulfill our cultural mission and the Italian Family Festa.

Millie Grazie a tutti!

-- Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf and Jan Prinzivalli, Co-Chairs Zona di Ragazze & Ragazzi 🗱



# RAMRZ FACEPAINTING

The Zona di Ragazze e Ragazzi had an unexpected and very pleasant surprise when Ramrz "Maggie" walked up and offered her talent at face painting. After setting up her station, she engaged with the kids and began by creating intricate and very detailed designs on the faces of very excited kids. She designed wonderful images of superheroes, animals, fantasy characters and elegant flower designs.

Maggie's backstory is unusual. Facepainting is not her day job. She received her training by volunteering at her kids' school events doing face painting which is when she found her passion. She started when her daughter was in kindergarten and her daughter just started her senior year in high school. To continue with her craft, she identifies community events such as the IAHF Italian Family Festa where she volunteers so she can continue to delight kids and adults with her art. Shortly after setting up her station, she had a line of kids anxiously waiting to have their faces painted. The smiles and the joy on the little faces were priceless as they saw their image in the mirror.

A huge thank you to Maggie for spending two days with us at the Zona di Ragazze e Ragazzi, creating beautiful art and especially for donating her time and materials. The IAHF is extremely grateful! Maggie is available to perform her art at events, and we highly recommend her if you are looking for a face painter for an upcoming event. To reach her call 408-204-9699 or follow her on Facebook at Ramrz facepainting where you can also see her face painting art.

-- Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf and Jan Prinzivalli / Co-Chairs Zona di Ragazze e Ragazzi ~

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Remember this opening line from the May Cena Fuori review? "The beauty of our monthly adventures which fulfills Ken's mission of shepherding his loyal foodies to enjoy "cena fuori" is to 'explore the offerings of restaurants, enabling you to decide if you are going back.' "

Well, June's adventure glistens as a shining beacon that most certainly is beckoning us to return!

The owners, Mary and Eddie Zencirci, call their new venture "An Italian Restaurant and Bar Experience," and the 54 of us who gathered in this recently opened eatery on Meridian Avenue (remember where Fratello's was located?) definitely enjoyed a magnificent "Italian restaurant and bar experience"!

We were collectively seated in an elegant banquet room with a lovely ambience that paired so well with the satiating foods and drinks we eagerly anticipated. The room has just been finished and even provided an adjacent, smaller banquet room to accommodate our over-sized crowd.



The staff was attentive, eager to please and very efficient as they took the cocktail and wine orders from the early bird arriving guests, many of whom also ordered scrumptious appetizers on their own while sipping their drink of choice as the restaurant does have a full service bar.

Our feast began with a beautifully presented Insalata Tricolore which consisted of raddichio, Belgian endive, arugula, crispy guinoa, guanciale and pecorino in a light honey mustard dressing. We had three entrée choices: ricotta and parmesan dumplings served with wild mushrooms, broccoli di rabe and a garlic cream sauce (Gnudi e Fungi); slowbraised lamb shank served with turnips and soft polenta (Osso Bucco di Agnello); Calabrese marinated chicken served with roasted Cipollini onions, baby kale and pan-seared gnocchi (Polla alla Diavola).

The finishing touch appeared in the form of a mouthwatering housemade Tiramisu.

Little white boxes went home with just about everybody as the portions are most generous!

Savoring the success of their other renown restaurant, A Bellagio in Downtown Campbell, the Zencircis certainly know their "stuff" when it comes to providing our community with a beautiful and memorable culinary experience.

Grazie tanti to them and grazie tanti to Ken for leading us - and our tummies - on these pleasurable gastronomical journeys! Thank you to Stanley for sending the invitations, taking our orders and memorializing our fun evening with great photography! Auguri a tutti! — Article by Cathy De Maria *s* 





What a enjoyable and yummy evening! We truly were "la famiglia" gathered inside this quaint and intimate restaurant, unas**CENA FUORI** en Piccata – we wished we could have ordered one of each! All were plated very appealingly, and the foods were hot and delicious.

sumingly tucked away in a shopping center at the corner of Curtner and Union Avenues in San Jose.

The owner, George, was so excited to welcome all forty-plus of Ken's foodies to his restaurant -we were his exclusive guests for the evening! He and his staff were more than attentive to the usual thirsty crowd while we socialized and shared vacation stories, Festa planning stories and of course - health-related stories!

We began our supper experience with a fresh crisp Caesar salad that was garnished with shaved parmesan cheese and - to everybody's delight - George himself passed amongst the tables baskets of piping hot housemade focaccia bread crusted with caramelized onions as a special treat - "more please" echoed throughout!

The entrees started coming, and we all start ogling each other's plate while waiting for our own - and with the choices we were offered: Eggplant Parmigiana, Baked Rigatoni, Fresh Grilled Salmon and Chick-

Both the salmon and chicken entrees were paired with a healthy serving of sautéed fresh spinach and pasta aglio olio.

Needless to say, boxes for just about everybody!

Riștorante da Maria

· LUGLIO ·

For those who still had room, huge slices of tiramisu were devoured for dessert.

George – who is Greek – has been in the food industry for many years. Opening this restaurant fulfilled his lifelong dream and allowed him to embody what he learned from his mother and grandmother, both of whom loved to cook and share their hospitality with others. Like him, his staff is very hospitable and efficient - making our evening a memorable and satisfying experience.

As always, thank you, Ken, for introducing us to this home-y neighborhood gem! And thank you, Stanley, for your photographic skills and receiving our dinner orders! -- Article by Cathy De Maria ~



#### The Role of History in Genealogy

#### No-Show at the Festa

Unfortunately, Gilda and I had a death in the family that called us away. But you can reach me in the Library with your genealogy questions or email me at <u>librarian@iahfsj.org</u>.

I also encourage you to explore the Antenati website (<u>antenati.cultura.gov.it</u>). It's a free, government-maintained site that lists birth, marriage and death records for Italy. It's best to search by town and then explore the town's records.

#### **Genealogy in Perspective**

Many people jump into genealogy, excited to find new names to populate their tree. If this is your only goal, you will soon compile a simple list of names and dates that lack context. How do you get a glimpse of what their lives were like? Italian history can provide much-needed background.

#### **Historical Perspective**

Some questions you might consider:

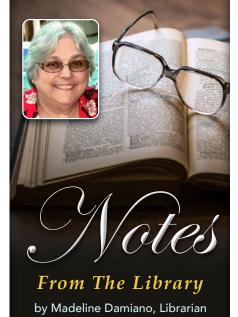
- Where was my family living during the struggle for unification?
- When and how would it have affected their lives?
- Were there major disasters or epidemics in their area?

This last point is best answered by a trip to your family's hometown if you can manage it. That is where I found a memorial honoring those who died from two cholera pandemics in the mid-1800s. (See photo.)

#### History and DNA

Many people who have done their DNA have been surprised at the results. I am one of them. I have traced my family back to the late 1700s, all having been born in what we now call Italy. So I expected my DNA to be 100% Italian, right?

Many of you know that to be wrong, as I now know.





One look at the cultures that have swept through Italy gives us a clue as to the origin of "foreign" DNA: Barbarians, Lombards (Longobards), Bourbons, Etruscans and Prussians. How do we associate these with those we know today, such as the Greeks, Spanish, French, German and Austrian people?

We turn to books on the history of Italy.

#### Available in Our Library

Few of us have the desire to conduct extensive research on the complicated history of Italy. Fortunately, there is a selection of books to give us a decent summary, including the following books from our library:

- A Pictorial History of the Italian People, (945 SAL) by Massimo Salvadore Includes a nice chronology at the beginning of the book. Many photos and illustrations.
- A Short History of Italy, (945 HEA) by Harry Hearder and Daniel Philip Waley A concise history from Roman times through 1960
- A Short History of Sicily, (945 COR) by Santi Correnti

"Seen in the light of Sicily's people and the places that have formed them. . ."

- A History of Sicily: Modern Sicily After 1713, (945 Mac, Vol. 2) by Dennis Mack Smith
  - " . . .a brilliant, monumental and definitive study . . . "

#### Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

Unfortunately, we were not able to participate in the Santa Clara County Fair this year due to its proximity to our own Italian Family Festa. But if you have photos or other mementos from previous IAHF events held at the Fairgrounds, I invite you to share them with me and Marcella Gullman, the Fairgrounds archivist.

-- Madeline / librarian@iahfsj.org

A D S



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I will donate \$1000 to the IAHF for any referrals and a \$1000 referral fee to the member who makes the referral.

# The San JoseChamber of Commerce

works to connect local business to each other and the broader community, to advocate for local business before government, and to promote San Jose as the best place in the world to start and grow a business. <u>https://www.sjchamber.com</u>



# MCM'S COOKING CLASS NEWS

#### CAPONATA CLASS COMING ON SEPTEMBER 7



As we stated in the last newsletter, we had to postpone our Caponata class due to the multitude of preparations for the Festa. Now that the Festa is over, the Caponata class will be held on Thursday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Some of you mentioned that you liked the Caponata that I served at our St. Joseph's Table and that inspired me to put this Sicilian appetizer (or side dish) on the Cooking Class schedule. And, although it has many ingredients, it is not difficult to make.

#### **UPCOMING CLASSES**

- September 7, Thursday / Caponata with Lucia Clementi / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. At the Hall / Lucia will teach how to make her Sicilian Caponata which she served at the St. Joseph's Day celebration / Members \$25 and non-members \$30
- October 5, Thursday / Spinach Sausage Bread with Joe Lucito / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM / At the Hall / Joe will teach how to make his Spinach Sausage Bread that he demonstrated at the Festa - Yummy! / Members \$25 and non-members \$30
- November 2, Thursday / Holiday Italian Cookies / 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM / At the Hall / This extremely popular class returns with delicious Holiday Cookies / You don't want to miss this class, so enroll early / Details to follow / Members \$25 and non-members \$30

Signup and pay online for any of the listed classes at this link: https://form.jotform.com/212754933891061



The IAHF is seeking members to fill the 2024 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.

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 meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a Board member, you can read the qualification

guidelines and complete the on-line application here: 2024 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 October Membership Meeting and, depending on the number of applications, there may need to be an election. Deadline for application submittals is September 3, 2023.

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

-- Article by Louie Lombardo



# $\sim$ IAHF Scholarship Winner Essays $\sim$

CONTINUED FROM THE JULY ISSUE OF THE IAHF NEWS

#### **CLARE ROWDON**

Being Italian and coming from that heritage has taught me many things in life. I grew up in an Italian family which we were always with and connected with. Growing up I was with my whole extended family a lot and that started to teach me the importance of family. This is only one of the things that I have learned from having an Italian family.



Growing up Italian, work ethic was something that was always so important to me. Because of the background of my great-grandparents being farmers and moving from Italy to the USA, this showed me hard work and perseverance. My great-grandparents wanted to make sure they were giving the best opportunities to their kids and in turn grandchildren which also passed down to all the generations after that. My great-grandparents were the first example I saw in my life of working hard to make things possible.

Seeing my mom coming from an Italian heritage, she has taught me so much about the importance of work ethic and always trying your best in everything that you do. She has continued to show me so many examples of this over the years of watching her be my mom. This wouldn't have happened though without my grandparents pushing her to be this way. They always wanted her to try her best in everything and never give up even when it got hard. This also goes back to my great-grandparents who instilled this into my grandparents. Without the hardship of moving from Italy to the USA, there would be many things that I wouldn't know about.

Because of growing up in this family, my work ethic has always been very good. I always want to succeed in everything that I do from doing my school work to doing my very best in a championship field hockey game. The work ethic that has been instilled in me by my parents has helped me so much and shaped me into the person I am today. Without the work ethic I have, I would not have been able to do all the things that I want to do in life and be as successful as I am today. Being of my work ethic, field hockey has been something that I worked so hard for and was worth every moment of. If I didn't have the work ethic I wouldn't have gotten the awards that I have or the recognition that my coaches gave me.

Everything that I have done in life and been successful in has been a result of my work ethic which came from my Italian heritage. It shaped me into the person that won't give up when things get hard and not to back down from a challenge. Even when I struggle in school because of my learning disabilities, I don't let it control me and my work ethic

makes it possible for me to succeed. My Italian heritage has taught me a lot but the most important lesson and characteristic it gave me was the work ethic that I will have for the rest of my life.

Field hockey has been a prevalent part of my life since I was 11. At the beginning of my field hockey career, I looked up to people who I considered leaders and tried to follow in their footsteps. As those people left, I found myself becoming a leader more and more, especially in my junior and senior years. Leadership has always been something that came easy to me in all areas of my life, and field hockey gave me a place to channel that with a dedicated group. As an elected captain, I was someone people could trust and rely on, facilitating an environment that made my teammates enjoy coming to practice and playing games together.

In my high school team, I was voted team captain among two others in my senior and junior years. Being a leader in field hockey helped me connect with others on the team on a personal level which allowed me to help people with any problems they were facing. I always made sure to put together team bonding so everyone would be able to connect on a deeper level. Because of this, our team dynamic grew stronger every time we had team bonding which I made sure to have every week. I was someone people could confide in, which allowed people to trust me. This allowed me to have a positive influence on the team and for my teammates to enjoy coming to practice and playing games together.

Being a captain of the team made me feel like I was making a difference on the team and helping for the better. Being a captain in field hockey, made me realize I want to be a leader in all aspects of my life. The impact being a captain gave me was to be there for people, work hard no matter what, and make sure to accommodate everyone. This relates to school because I can take the skills I learned in being a captain in field hockey to help in school and other aspects of my life. Because of the skills I learned while being a leader in field hockey,

I've been able to use it in other aspects of my life. Throughout all the time I spent as a captain, it taught me a lot of valuable lessons that I wouldn't have learned without it. One of which was that everyone learns differently and sometimes activities need to be switched to help people. This really taught me how important it is to be able to compromise and listen to other people. If I didn't have the experience of being a leader my relationships in life would be so different because it taught me to really listen to people and it made me go outside of my comfort zone. Without having these skills in my life, I wouldn't be able to communicate with my family and friends as easily and get along with them. The impact the leadership role had on me was one I won't forget because of all the valuable lessons that I learned.

#### **MIA ROWDON**

Being Italian is a huge part of my life and it has only had a positive impact on me. From experiencing the endless recipes for food and desserts to going to the annual Italian festival with my entire family, being Italian has been nothing short of extraordinary. My mom's side of the family is Italian, so we spend a lot of time with them and spend all the family holi-



days with them. Helping out in the kitchen is one of my favorite ways to show my gratuity to the family. Our mostly annual Italian cookiemaking days and making fresh apricot pies every year help to keep us connected and close-knit. The 13 of us coming together to celebrate and cook and enjoy each other's presence is always a highlight in my life.

By having close-knit relationships with all of my family and spending quality time with them, it has made me so much more personable towards everyone. My Italian heritage means that I can share my culture with others through food and traditions and bring that to anyone that may want or need it. Growing up like this will make me forever appreciate quality time and doing things for others. I will continue to bring it to others by cooking, being loud, and spending time together. Being friends with me means bringing my background with me and I believe that it makes me all the more appealing. Although my family has been a blessing, everyone has their occasional woes. Through drama and grief, my family and culture have taught me that I can be an independent individual, but I will also always have the love and support of my family. Being Italian has influenced and shaped me by allowing me to try new things and decide for myself what and who I want to be when I get older. Having the opportunity to visit Italy and explore my heritage as a 5-year-old and go back as a teenager has helped me to expand my horizons. I'm lucky enough to have a Nana and Poppie that have immersed me in everything Italian over the years. We got to meet cousins that live in Italy and try traditional foods like bolognese with different types of pasta and fresh olive oil at grape and olive orchards. All of this has refined my sense of self into something that will always crave Italy and my Italian family and roots.

I'll admit that I've been spoiled over the years by everyone in my family. The constant love, support, and presence in my life have been a blessing and showed me that I will never be alone as long as I have family. It has also shown me that I should be grateful for everything that anyone has done for me. The need to thank everyone for everything they do for me is overwhelming because of how reassured and comforted I have felt throughout my life. I owe my stability to everyone that has contributed to my life and my heritage is a huge part of that, so I am very grateful.

I have a twin sister and there is a complex set of emotions that comes with being a twin. The constant comparisons between her and I and certain jealousies that come with that are some of the more disappointing factors of having that forever bond. But the truth is, there are many more positive emotions that I have readily experienced over the years. Knowing that there is always someone in my corner when I'm stressed out and having a built-in best friend has always comforted me. Also, being able to share a life and friends with someone that is very special to me is definitely a positive experience.

However, when we were kids I had trouble with the prospect of sharing my toys and always having a shadow following me around. It was daunting to share a life with someone and know that there wasn't an end to it. It reminds me of a video of us as toddlers; I threw a tantrum over a toy ball that she had taken from me. I grew into a mindset that everything I had was mine and I couldn't share or it would be taken from me. My friends. My possessions. My life.

As I got older, that manifestation made me selfish with my things and money and stingy with my friends. But I couldn't be happy when I was tearing her down with me. So I changed. I was there for her when she asked for help and didn't turn her away when she wanted to keep me company. I started to share my friends and choose to be with her instead of leaving her alone. I grew figuratively and

literally, and the new perspectives that came with age helped me accept the fact that we would always be together. I let her into my life and that has been my most important moment to date. I stopped starting fights. I stopped being worried about what was mine and what was hers. We shared and we thrived together.

Even though I was callous towards her for years, I was able to find myself and grow into a more loving, caring, and generous person by staying by her side and her staying by mine. When my relationship with her progressed, all of my other relationships thrived. From friends to family, I was more accepting of everyone and put aside my differences to reach the common goal of happiness.

When I accepted this relationship, I took a big step from an inconsiderate friend to a sister who cared very deeply for everyone. That's when I began to seamlessly form connections with the people that would stick by my side and not give up on me. Through the years, I have learned that being rigid and closed off to people will never get me where I want to go. Being open and inviting makes friendships flow and come easier than ever before. Without my sister, I wouldn't have the relationships that I have today and I wouldn't have grown as a person. In more ways than one, I've immensely opened up my heart to new people and experiences and I owe it all to her.

🗢 More Essays Will Be Published In The October Issue 🗢



In response to an article about the founding of the San Francisco Opera (June 2023), IAHF member Maria Gloria of San Francisco and reporter for the Italo Americano wrote a letter and "back story" from an article she wrote several years ago about the Italian roots of the opera company. At the time, it was 80 years ago and she explained why the plaque is there. Part of her fascinating letter is as follows:

"Caro Ken: "Grazie" for sharing the 100th anniversary SF Program (from a concert I attended) and also, the reminder regarding the Museo exhibit about the opera. I was good friends with the late Joe Brucia who wanted to make sure the Italian founders of the SF Opera were not forgotten, after they lost some previous plaque, never to be found. He, in 2002 paid to have the plaque produced and installed in the opera house with a luncheon because the story was starting to get de-Italianized."

She then referred me to her Italo Americano story after the success of the opera. Many of the Italian founders were Sicilian fishermen. She enclosed her article from 20 years ago which I will include in our archives. -- Ken Borelli



#### **Italian Catholic Federation**

Santa Clara Valley District www.icf.org

August 9, 2023

Italian American Heritage Foundation 425 North Fourth Street San Jose, CA 95112

To the Italian American Heritage Foundation,

Thank you very much for providing a booth to the Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) at the Festa on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We enjoyed the Festa and we were able to provide information about ICF to the many festival goers who stopped at our booth. It was a very productive day for us. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Jos Lan

Michael Rossi President ICF Santa Clara Valley District

CHET CAMPANELLA. 2376 CASTILE COURT SAN JOSE, CA. 95125 JULY 12, 2023 (408) 266-7825 clc21@sbcglobal.net

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION 425 NORTH FOURTH STREET SAN JOSE, CA. 95112 DEAR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, I AM WISHING YOU THE VERY BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR FIESTA. WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS A WONDERFUL THING FOR OUR COMMUNITY. TWO WONDERFUL DAYS OF HISTORY, GOOD FOOD, GATHERING WITH FRIENDS, ENTERTAINMENT AND HAVING GREAT FUN. I AM SO PROUD TO BE AN ITALIAN. TO YOU AND ALL THE IAHF MEMBERS I WOULD LIKE TO SAY STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, AND STAY HAPPY. GOD BLESS YOU. WARM BEGARDS,

et ampanelle CAMPANELLA AND KATHY TOO

Letter to the Editor

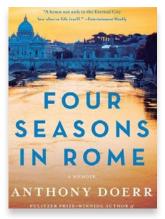
Festa appreciates very much the donation of Syd Geraghty—a friend of Ebe Frasse who lives in The Villages. Syd provided the mirrors that the kids used to look at themselves while having their faces painted.

We do appreciate Syd's thoughtfulness and generosity with this contribution of the hand-held mirrors.

IAHF

Ebe Frasse Festa Volunteer Face Painting





### Four Seasons In Rome

by Anthony Doerr 🔊

Anthony Doerr's book All the Light You Cannot See won the welldeserved Pulitzer Prize for fiction a few years ago and is one of my favorite works of fiction. So, when I heard about his book Four Seasons in Rome I immediately decided to read it for our IAHF Italian-themed book

column. The book recounts Mr. Doerr's year in Rome which was a result of his winning the Rome Prize for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was given an apartment and an office at the American Academy to work on his novel. Accompanying him were his wife Shauna and their newborn twin boys. I'm sure that any of you who love Rome will enjoy Mr. Doerr's reminiscences. Mr. Doerr has a way with words which is remarkable for their clarity. He fully appreciates the grandeur of Rome and you might want to take notes to accompany you on your next visit to the Eternal City. The author doesn't get much done on the novel he is supposed to be writing. Instead, he becomes immersed in Rome's fabulous history, culture, art, and food. He spends more time reading the works of ancient Romans than he does researching his novel. So, his writing adventure in Rome becomes a memoir of his year spent there with his family instead of a novel.

I can fully appreciate the difficulty Shauna endures, quite alone in Rome with no knowledge of the language, and caring for frequently cranky twin babies. I was very disappointed at how little his wife, Shauna, is developed in his memoir. She is frankly neglected. We don't get to know her at all. This is supposed to be a memoir of a family in Rome. In fact, it is hugely egocentric. This is not a misjudgment, because in one "season" Shauna, whom we barely know, alone with the babies, collapses from exhaustion and dehydration. Where has Mr. Doerr been?

Anthony Doerr's descriptions of the places he visits and the artwork he sees are truly masterpieces of writing. His infrequent description of the twins is always light-hearted and humorous. Even though he is pretty full of himself, and hardly a family memoir writer, he is a talented wordsmith who appreciates the splendor of Rome.

# Italian Word - Phrase of the Month

from Linda Gaudio Binkley

Allora

Allora is one of the most frequently used words in the Italian language.



When *allora* is used as an adverb, it usually translates in English as *back then, at that time, in that moment, in those days.* 

- Allora non capivo perche Maria non voleva andarci. At that time, I did not understand why Marie did not want to go.
- Allora usavo floppy disc. Back then I was using floppy discs.
- L'allora capo della polizia. The then chief of police.

Some common expressions featuring allora used in this sense:

- da allora (in poi) = from that moment on, since then, ever since
- di allora / d'allora = from that time, in those days
- per allora = for that time
- fino (ad) allora = until then

Allora, when used as a conjunction, can translate in many ways: *so*, *then*, *in that case, well then, therefore, for this reason.* 

- Allora ci vediamo venerdi. Well then, see you Friday!
- Se vuoi venire anche tu, allora preparati. If you want to come too, then get ready.
- Le scuole erano chiuse e allora sono rimasto a casa. The schools were closed, so I stayed at home.

In colloquial Italian, *allora* is often used to begin a discussion. It calls the listener to attention.

Allora, incominciamo. Now then, let's begin. 🤛



# A PEEK INT® THE BOARDROOM

#### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes / August 8, 2023

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by President Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre. In attendance were: Ken Borelli, Frank DeTurris, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Sharon McCray and Nanci Wilborn. Attending via Zoom were Marie Bertola, Elise Habra, Joe Lucito, Sue Monahan, Tony Zerbo and Lucia Clementi. Although some attendees arrived at 7 PM, there were enough in attendance at 6:05 for a quorum. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from July 11 were approved with a correction from Madeline.
- There was a great deal of important business to conduct and the meeting progressed according to the Agenda.
- Ken informed the Board of the passing of Kay Virgilio on Saturday, August 5. Together with her husband, they were an intrigal part of the IAHF. Ken is proposing that we host a celebration of Kay's 98th birthday later this month. The BOD concurred so dates are being researched. (Note: Date for this dinner is September 6)
- Dana spoke about the proposal by the Santa Clara County Election Board to use our Hall for the upcoming election in March 2024. The Board unanimously agreed that we support this proposal for a reasonable charge.
- There are six BOD positions open. As written in our Bylaws, a selection committee will have a slate of proposed members at the October 10 General Membership meeting for election.
- There was no financial report at this time. Still much unsettled since FESTA time.
- Other items of discussion included:
  - Food Drive: Lucia is working with Our Daily Bread again this year for a Food Drive in October/November.
  - Toy Drive: Looking for organization to partner with. November through Christmas
  - Costume Party: proposed date of October 29
  - San Francisco Parade: no decision was made October 8. We need a vehicle and participants

- Festival of Champions is October 7. No decision on our participation.
- Holiday Party scheduled for December 3 at 4 PM. Nanci needs empty baskets for raffle prizes
- Cooking class is November 2. We are looking into the possibility of hosting a Kids Cooking Class.
- Linda Binkley and Marie Dalldorf are looking into a possible New Year's Eve party
- Marie is hoping to have a Scholarship Recipient Reunion this year
- Ken is looking into another whisky tasting at Tenth Street Distillers
- Ken suggested we secure our \ 2024 FESTA dates ASAP. (Note date is August 3 & 4, 2024)
- Lucia/Dave pointed out that the walls in the hall are looking rather shabby and would like to have them cleaned. A motion was made and passed stating that they should get two quotes each for cleaning and for removing existing wallpaper and painting the walls.
- Azie reported that we have 22 rentals so far this year which is better than 2022.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is November 9 and CAPOs would be serving the volunteers as a way of thanking them for their support. During the FESTA, we received eight new family memberships and five individual ones.
- Lucia will be editing the September newsletter.
- Ken scheduled the Patrons Dinner for December 6. Everyone is hoping it can be at Giorgio's in Milpitas.
- Madeline mentioned that several members have old, historic and valuable books that they would like to donate. It was suggested that we purchase a locking cabinet.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.
- -- Respectfully submitted by Sharon McCray / IAHF Secretary / August 10, 2023

### IAHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

#### IAHF OFFICERS

- Dana Zuccarello President / Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation
- Ken Borelli 1st VP / IAHF Events (including Annual Italian Festa) / Cultural Activities / Grants
- Azie Habib 2nd VP / Building Administration and Maintenance / Hall Rentals / Bar
- VACANT 3rd VP / Marketing / Advertising / PR / Website / Social Media
- Louie Lombardo 4th VP / Human Resources / Volunteer Development / Library and Archives / Succession Planning
- Frank De Turris Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer
- Sharon McCray Secretary to the Board
- Dave Perzinski Membership

#### IAHF Directors at Large

- Marie Bertola Board Member
- Madeline Damiano Board Member & Librarian
- Elise Habra Board Member
- Frank Locicero Board Member
- Joe Lucito Board Member
- Susan Monahan Board Member
- Mary Pizzo Board Member & Newsletter Editor
- Steve Ricossa Board Member
- Nanci Wilborn Board Member
- Tony Zerbo Board Member



# • PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

#### • AS OF FEBRUARY 2023 •

- Kathy Akiba Ardizzone Jena Ballejos Marcus Barbera Katherine Bayless Ira & Lizzie Bletz •
- Gregg Catanese & Mary McGregor
   Peter Ciotta
   Catherine & Janette Fulde
   Mary Ann & Tim Gee
   Sandy Gordon
  - Veronica Greunke 
     Alessio& Teresa Korzenko 
     Katie Marzullo 
     Rachel Mattioli 
     Scott Miller & Melanie Starz
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