



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

425 N. 4TH STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95112 • (408) 293-7122 • TAP HERE FOR WWW.IAHFSJ.ORG

MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving!

I love November! It's a time when we focus on what we're thankful for, though I am reminded everyday what I am thankful for. Family, friends, the memories we make and the blessings we enjoy day to day. I remember as a teenager, we'd go to my grandparents' house. My grandmother would get up early in the morning and prepare the turkey. The aroma that wafted through the house was simply unforgettable! And to wake up to that smell. In fact, I can smell it right now as I prepare this article. When the turkey was finished and it was brought out of the oven prior to serving, I'd go and pick me off some crispy skin. My grandpa would always tell me not to eat too much as it's not good for you. I always reminded them that the only time I was able to enjoy the crispy skin was at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I love memories like that. Treasure the memories you'll create this year. Not just for you, but you're creating lasting memories for your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. You'll be glad you did and so will they!

Welcoming our Newest Board Member

Last month, we held our General Membership meeting. This is an annual meeting where the current and future Board of Directors are present and voted on for the coming year. We also discuss the current state of the IAHF. I am happy to announce that we have a brand-new board member, Paul Greco, joining us for 2024. He was endorsed by the current board and voted in unani-

mously. He joins us with a vast array of volunteer experience and organizing events while his children were still in school. Welcome to the Board of Directors, Paul!

Thanksgiving Food Drive

We kick off November with our Thanksgiving Food Drive! Once again, we are partnering with Our Daily Bread and collecting food to be dropped off at their location in Sunnyvale. Thank you to those who have already brought in food towards this more than worthy cause! You may bring food in during any of the events this month, as well as drop by during our normal business hours and leave the food with Stanley.

Christmas Toy Drive

We have partnered with Family Giving Tree for a very worthy cause! In this issue is a very detailed article written by Joyce Allegro, about the history of FGT and how you can participate. You may choose a gift tag from our tree containing the child's name with their 'wishes', or by going online to make a financial donation. Please let us consider how we can be a help to others who may be struggling this year.

Thank you to those who constantly are an encouragement to me. I am thankful for you and your friendship!

-- Dana Zuccarello Aguirre, President 



EVENTS

AT

A GLANCE

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **SOLD OUT!** November 2, Thursday / Cooking Class - Holiday Cookies / 7 PM / At the Hall
- November 16, Thursday / Regional Lunch & 3rd Annual Pre-Holiday Donation Raffle / 12 PM / At the Hall
- November 29, Wednesday / Luisa Giulianetti at the IAHF / 6:30 PM / At the Hall
- December 3, Sunday / Holiday Party / 4 - 8 PM / At the Hall

ONGOING CLASSES

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



NOVEMBER

- **SOLD OUT!!** November 2, Thursday / Cooking Class - Holiday Cookies / 7 PM / At the Hall / This extremely popular class returns with delicious Holiday Cookies / \$25 members and \$30 non-members / To be added to the waitlist, call the office at (408) 293-7122
- November 16, Thursday / Regional Lunch & 3rd Annual Pre-Holiday Donation Raffle / 12 PM / At the Hall / For tickets; <https://form.jotform.com/230336762361150>
- November 29, Wednesday / Luisa Giulianetti at the IAHF / 6:30 PM / At the Hall / We are asking for a \$5.00 donation to cover the cost of refreshments / Let us know if you are interested in a Zoom link / Call the IAHF to make a reservation at 408 293-7122

DECEMBER

- December 3, Sunday / Holiday Party / 4-8PM / At the Hall / Dinner and Dancing to Millennium Sounds / \$50 members, \$55 non-members / See Holiday Party flyer on page 9 for details: <https://form.jotform.com/203106047691147>

ONGOING LANGUAGE CLASSES

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

IAHF 2023 HALL IMPROVEMENTS



Our Hall is invaluable to our members and as a source of revenue for IAHF. Upkeep is crucial to maintaining the banquet facilities, offices, as well as the parking lot and landscaping. 2023 saw major efforts to improve the hall which included:

- New chairs with custom dedication plaques on the back.
- In the banquet hall, we removed the old carpet and replaced it with new flooring.
- Painting of the foyer and banquet ceiling.
- New canopy over the front entrance.
- Deep cleaning of the banquet walls from the ceiling to baseboards.
- Parking lot bumpers were added.
- Hired a landscaper to provide weekly clean-up service of the front planters and throughout the parking lot.
- Replaced water damage to the walls of the men's and women's bathrooms.

All building maintenance efforts are researched and overseen by the 2nd VP (me) with outstanding help this year from Dave Perzinski and Louie Lombardo. If you would like to help with improvements planned for 2024, call the office to speak with Azie Habib (me). --- Article by Azie Habib and Mary Pizzo

3RD ANNUAL PRE-HOLIDAY DONATION RAFFLE

Our 3rd Annual Pre-Holiday Donation Raffle will be on Thursday, Nov 16, at the Monthly Luncheon. Winners need not be present to win. Prizes are being gathered, and a prize list will be published soon. Members have been mailed a book of tickets which are selling for \$2 each or a book of 20 tickets for \$15. Additional tickets can be purchased by calling the IAHF office. -- Article by Nanci Wilborn



◆ CENA FUORI ◆ SETTEMBRE

The real validation of a “good find” is returning – and 53 of Ken’s “foodies” did just that in September!

Café Vitale welcomed us into their private dining area reserved just for us with the same congenial and gracious hospitality that we enjoyed on our first visit.

Located on Fremont Avenue, Café Vitale is nestled in a strip mall, and if you don’t make the right turn, you end up back on Foothill Expressway – so be alert to the signage!

As soon as you cross the portal, you are greeted with wonderful aromas, the attractive full bar and a warm smile from the staff who have conveniently set up a table inside our private dining area from where wine could be purchased, by the glass or by the bottle; if you chose to enjoy a cocktail, the efficient bartenders were more than happy to mix your libation!

Our menu for the evening included a house-mixed green salad, platters of Arancini Siliciana that melted in your mouth, a choice of



Penne Nonno Francesco accompanied with house-made sausage in a fresh tomato and mushroom sauce; Pollo Piccata, Gnocchi Pomodoro with a Gorgonzola cream sauce or Fettuccini Francesca with prawns and zucchini in an olive oil and tomato sauce – difficult choice at best! – and, we finished with homemade pistachio ice cream!

Announcements were shared about all of the wonderful upcoming events being

presented by the IAHF in the months ahead – from cooking classes to regional lunches and the Halloween Dinner – being a member of the IAHF ensures that you eat VERY well!

Special note of thanks to IAHF members Sharon and Glenn DeBella for their initial recommendation of Café Vitale! And, as always, grazie mille to Stanley for his photographic expertise and to Ken Borelli for being Ken, leading us on these wonderful epicurean excursions!

– Article by Cathy De Maria / Photos by Stanley Olivar 📷



Besson EST 1925
FAMILY VINEYARDS

A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A
WINE TASTING
AT BESSON FAMILY VINEYARDS



Photos by Stanley Olivar

B U S I N E S S A D S



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



San Jose Chamber of Commerce

SAN JOSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOURCES

Did you know San Jose Chamber of Commerce offers access to many resources. From online learning opportunities to their monthly Breakfast with the Chamber events. Visit their website to take advantage of The Chamber's outstanding resources for personal and business benefits. <https://www.sjchamber.com>



ROD DIRIDON SR.



Diridon Trolley Barn. It is located at the right side of the main entrance as you enter the park.

Then, who among us is not aware that there is a San Jose Diridon Station? It is a major transit center for VTA bus & rail depot in Silicon Valley – with expansion to include BART and High-Speed Rail. Quite a feat. How many friends do you know have a train station named after them?

Rod shares his Santa Clara home with his wife Gloria Duffy (another interesting achiever!). He has a son (Rod Jr), a daughter (Mary), and four grandchildren.

What keeps him busy nowadays? For the last 10 years, he has been a volunteer with various organizations. His primary focus, however, is sustainable transportation and fighting climate change. He is the co-chair of the US High Speed Rail Coalition.

What advice would he offer the community at large?

“Science tells us that we have less than 10 years to eliminate warming of the planet, primarily due to combustion of fossil fuels.”

He adds, “My advice to the next leadership generation is to completely shift to sustainable energy, i.e., electric, solar, wind, geothermal and so on. Purchase only electric cars, install solar panels on your roof, or purchase only sustainable electric energy, and make no compromises. Your future, and certainly that of your children, will depend on your sustainable leadership.”

“Thank you for coming to the US,” he said as he escorted me to the driveway at the end of our two-hour conversation. No one before had ever thanked me for coming to this country..

Photos: 1) Rod Diridon Sr. today; 2) with the SCC Transit District; 3) with Senator Diane Feinstein and his wife, Dr. Gloria Duffy, Undersecretary of Defense during the Clinton Administration; 4) relaxing by his pool; 5) In his library; 6) with his grandchildren.

– Article by Stanley Olivar

What else is there to say about Rod Diridon Sr? I struggled with this thought for quite some time because so much has been written about his long, illustrious career, both in public service and in the private sector.

When I arrived at his Santa Clara home, he ushered me to the patio where we started talking. I mentioned to Rod that I would not write what could look like a long list of his accomplishments. Primarily, I wanted to see the person behind the name and reputation. His wide-ranging accomplishments, however, are available for reading on Wikipedia.

Having said that, it is difficult not to mention some of his notable achievements.

Years ago, his story appeared in the IAHF News (see the October 1981 issue, available in our Library archives). In 2001, he was given the IAHF's Life Public Service Award in 2001, and in 1989 he received the National Italian Heritage Foundation's President's Award.

Probably one of the most well-rounded Italian Americans of his generation. Rod (birth name Rodney John) has always been a high achiever, despite dyslexia. Yes, he admits to being dyslexic, but he owes his success to his grade schoolteacher Henry Bellinger. Mr. Bellinger helped Rod overcome this learning disability, at a time when dyslexia was unheard of.

Rod worked his way through college. He became a student leader at SJSU where he majored in accounting, and later earned a master's degree in Statistics. He served two combat tours as a naval officer during the Vietnam War. As some of you may know, in 1971 he won election as the youngest city council member in Saratoga, at age 32. When he termed out, he served in the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors until 1995.

At History Park San Jose, where we hold our annual Italian Family Festa, there is a trolley barn called Rod



Lucia's COOKING CLASS NEWS

JOE LUCITO'S SOUTHERN ITALIAN SAUSAGE & SPINACH BREAD



If you were at the Festa this year, you may have seen Joe Lucito's demonstration of his Southern Italian Sausage and Spinach Bread. Since there was such an interest in this delicacy, we decided to have Joe teach a class on how to make it. So, on October 5th, Joe taught this class to thirty eager students who were ready to dig in and prepare this savory bread.

Joe set up all the ingredients on the culinary table and invited students to volunteer to work. Preliminarily, the dough was left to rise overnight, the sausage was sauteed, the spinach was blanched, onion and garlic was chopped and mixed together. Next, the students rolled out the dough, covering the dough with olive oil, onion and garlic, sausage, spinach, and lastly, cheese, to top off the filling. The top half of the dough was then folded



over the filling and crimped at the edges. To complete the process, an egg wash was brushed over the bread before baking it in the oven. To me, these loaves of sausage spinach bread resembled Calzones.

Once the loaves came out of the oven, the class had the opportunity to taste the scrumptious, hot, flavorful sausage spinach bread. And to everyone's delight, they each took the delicious bread home to enjoy later.

It was yet again a night filled with friendship, teamwork, camaraderie, and delicious Italian food!

Our next class on November 2nd features our Holiday Cookie Class. Because of the popularity of this class, it is sold out. However, a waiting list is available. 🍪

SOUTHERN ITALIAN SAUSAGE & SPINACH BREAD

Ingredients:

- 1 loaf Bridgford Ready Dough (frozen)
- 1 onion
- 5 cloves garlic
- ½ lb. Italian Sausage
- 8 oz. bag of fresh prewashed spinach
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- ½ cup of Romano or Parmigiano Cheese
- salt, pepper
- 1 egg

Instructions:

1. Let the dough rise overnight. Next morning you can roll out when ready after preparing the filling.

2. Sauté the sausage and then drain the extra oil.
3. Pour boiling water over the spinach in a colander to blanch it.
4. Chop the onion and garlic and mix together.
5. Roll the dough out to about ¼ inch thickness.
6. Spread a thin layer of olive oil on the bread and on the onion and garlic.
7. Place the sausage on the lower half of the dough and then place the spinach on top of the sausage.
8. Put cheese over everything.

9. Fold the top half of the dough over the bottom half and use a fork to crimp the dough together.
10. Mix an egg wash and brush it over the dough.
11. Bake at 375° for 30 to 35 minutes.

-- Article and photos by Lucia Clementi 🍪

UPCOMING CLASSES

SOLD OUT! November 2, Thursday – Holiday Italian Cookies / This will be the last class of 2023. Classes will resume in the Spring of 2024.



Building An Online Archive

Permanent.org

Since receiving the generous grant from the Santa Clara County Historical Grants program in 2020, I have been searching for an affordable web host for the IAHF archives. While attending a genealogy webinar, I learned of the Permanent Legacy Foundation (Permanent.org).

I quickly went to their website to see if it would be right for our collection. I learned it is "proudly non-profit" and funded through an endowment.

Permanent's Mission

Their Mission Statement looked to be right on target:

To preserve and provide perpetual access to the digital legacy of all people for the historical and educational benefit of future generations.

But they do much more than simply provide online space. They have a friendly and accessible staff ready to assist, as well as a library of "how to" guides.

The site offers limited free online space and resources for archives. Additional space is available for a very reasonable one-time fee. If you're looking for a safe place to house your own family archives, I recommend you consider this site.

Permanent's Promise

Permanent is geared toward preserving archives for future generations. We know that file formats become obsolete as software continually evolves. Permanent has a staff dedicated to monitoring this



evolution, and when necessary, converting old formats into newer ones to keep them accessible. The original format is also preserved, so nothing is lost.

Multiple backups are a necessity, and Permanent provides this service as well. It even uses facilities in several parts of the country, so if one server goes down the files will still be available.

Byte4Byte Grant

Permanent has a grant program that awards extra file space, guided overview, and experienced interns to help recipients develop their archives. I immediately applied on behalf of the IAHF, and I am pleased to say that we have been awarded one of the six grants for this period, worth \$1,000 towards online storage.

We are part of a diverse group, including representation by Native American, Jewish, German, and Polish organizations, as well as a New York organization that empowers children with serious illnesses and health challenges.

Work Has Begun!

Work is in the very early stages, so please be patient as the IAHF archive takes shape. I will announce when the archive is available for browsing. If you are comfortable working with digital files, please consider being a part of this exciting project - just drop me an email.

On behalf of the IAHF, I am honored that the library has been chosen as a Byte4Byte recipient, and plan to make the most of this opportunity!

-- Article by Madeline Damiano / librarian@iahfsj.org 

Luisa Giulianetti Poet & Author To Speak At The IAHF

Save Wednesday, November 29th for a visit with Luisa Giulianetti at the IAHF. Luisa will be sharing readings and images from her new book *Agrodolce*. The work is a poetic reflection upon a collective life experience that pulls together family lore, early Italian immigrant experiences, Sicilian roots, and a sense of discovery, as an educator, parent, and "seeker" in contemporary society. For all of us, life is a balancing act of activities and competing challenges. For the poet, there is something more, to try to reflect and make sense of these daily experiences, and origins rooted in a not-so-distant past. For me, I call it "trying to connect the dots", stepping back and reflecting upon the so-called, everyday experiences 'della vita'.

Agrodolce provides a similar reflection and poetic journey. During our visit with Luisa, she will be reading from her book, and sharing anecdotes and insight as to part of her motivational journey. The book will be available for purchase and signing at the event. We are also exploring a Zoom capability to reach our members who are unable to attend the reading in person.

Luisa was born in San Mateo and is a graduate of Santa Clara University. Many her extended family members live Santa Clara County. She is an educator with the University of California and an undergraduate program director. Along with being a mother and raising a family, she has published her works in many journals and has now embarked upon her first book, which will be shared at the event.

"Luisa Giulianetti at the IAHF", Wed. November 29th, at 6:30 pm, Call the IAHF to make a reservation at 408 293-7122. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation to cover the cost of refreshments served at the event. Let us know if you are interested in a Zoom link.

-- Article by Ken Borelli 



OCTOBER DECLARED

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Last month it was noted in Cathy De Maria's article regarding the Festa's opening ceremony, by the Hon. Consul General of Italy in San Jose, Sal Caruso, and the Mayor of San Jose, that October would be recognized as Italian-American Heritage Month. In addition, Nancy Federico from San Francisco shared an article about a delegation led by Basil M. Russo from the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian-American Organizations being hosted by First Lady, Doctor Jill Biden. This was a historic first-ever meeting at the White House with representatives of the Italian American Community. It was also a personal celebration of the First Lady's Italian roots, on her paternal side. Her grandfather, Dominico Giacoppo, emigrated from Sicily in the 1900s with his parents, Gaetano and Concetta. The President and first lady also shared a special proclamation regarding Columbus Day and the Italian-American contributions to the social fabric of this great land.

— Article by Ken Borelli ↪



2 HOURS 45 MINUTES: Italy Launches New Rome-Milan High Speed Train

This information and [travel article](#) were provided by Nancy Federico, an IAHF fan from San Francisco. While this is great news for your next visit to Italy, I am feeling a bit of envy, since we have nothing approximating this experience between SF and LA yet.

I recall taking one of the high-speed trains between "Firenze, a Roma" for a day outing several years ago, and now the Pompeii run – wow!

-- Article by Ken Borelli ↪

GIORGIO NAPOLITANO: 1925 - SEPT 2023

News from Italy: In September, the Italian Republic's longest-serving president, Giorgio Napolitano died, at age 98. He was a parliamentarian in a political climate where governments are precarious at best. It was an amazing phenomenon to have a President of Italy elected for two consecutive seven-year terms. In reading the tributes from around the world, including a first-ever visit by a Pope to the Italian Senate to sign the book of condolences, I became very curious as to who was he and most importantly, how he survived the Italian political scene.

Napolitano grew up in pre and post-World War Two Italian politics. He was a partisan and opponent of Mussolini and witnessed firsthand the horrors inflicted upon Naples in particular, and Italy in general during the war years. He was a communist and sat on the party's central committee, he also navigated a more common market approach with the decline of communism in Europe and became a member of the Democratic Party of the Left. As President of the Republic when the Italian economy went into a tailspin after Burliscone's resignation, he managed to provide moral leadership to rebuild the national economy within the European Union.

While I am no expert on the subject of the Italian political system, I did attend Professor Bill McGraw's lectures this and last year and was able to appreciate Giorgio's moral leadership and craftsmanship. The role of the President in the Italian system is mostly moral, ceremonial, and symbolic, with the real power in the hands of the premier, and his/her government coalition. Yet within those parameters, Giorgio Napolitano helped to navigate Italy out of some very serious economic and political challenges. The current President of Italy is Sergio Mattarella. He too noted Napolitano's genius and ability to bring people together, and one poignant comment across the board was "he was straight talking", and his communication skills cut across all classes. If there is interest in Napolitano, perhaps we can ask Bill to give us an update on the Napolitano years. For students of Italian current affairs, I am sure it would prove fascinating. — Article by Ken Borelli ↪



Italian American Heritage Foundation Holiday Party

Festive Holiday Event — Family Dinner Dance

Catered by Risotto's Italian Kitchen and two choices will be available

- * Chicken Marsala with Pasta
- * Gnocchi Creamy Pesto

Both served with green salad, bread, antipasti, coffee and dessert

**Sunday
Dec. 3, 2023**

4:00 to 8:00 PM
IAHF Hall, 425 N. Fourth St.
San Jose, CA 95112

Buon Natale
All are Welcome!

*Wine, Beer and Soda will
be sold at the Bar*



**Dance to the Fabulous Music of
Millennium Sounds Orchestra
19 Piece Band
Swing — Jazz — Latin**

We need your Entrée Choice by November 28

4:00 Social time, 4:45 Dinner, 5:30 TO 8:00 Music and Dancing

RSVP below or call 408-293-7122. Or sign up using the QR code or this link:
<https://form.jotform.com/203106047691147>



Choice of Entrée: Chicken Marsala = _____ ; Gnocchi = _____

() IAHF Member(s) at \$50 = _____ | () Non-Members at \$55 = _____

() Minors under 16 at \$25 = _____ | Total no. of persons = _____

Name(s) _____

Please seat me/us with: _____

**Checks to: Italian American Heritage Foundation
425 N. Fourth St.
San Jose, CA 95112**

EVENT CO-CHAIRS: KEN BORELLI, LUCIA CLEMENTI AND DAVE PERZINSKI

SAVE THE DATE!

I'd like to personally invite you to attend the upcoming

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL at my church, North Valley Baptist Church.

This is a free event and will take place in the evening, on both
Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10.

I will count it an honor if you'd consider being my guest and coming to
listen to our full choirs, full orchestra and other special music groups.

More details will be provided in December's IAHF Newsletter
advertisement section. Hope to see you there!

~ Dana Zuccarello Aguirre

ABRUZZO REGIONAL LUNCH

& Pre-Holiday Raffle Extravaganza!

Save Thursday, November 16, for our regional lunch and pre-holiday raffle. While you do not need to be present to win, why not join us as we explore the culinary fare of the Abruzzo.

Our September regional lunch saw us in Molise, which prior to post-war Italy was the combined province of Abruzzo. After the war years, the region was divided into two provinces. Since we visited one part of the old region, Molise, we want to continue with our exploration into the Abruzzo. These are very historic and traditional parts of the Italian heartland. It also ties into the holiday spirit. Part of the Italian holiday tradition and celebration of the Festa di Natale, especially in Roma, are the shepherds who come to Rome with their zampogna (Bagpipes). They perform along the streets of the capital and especially at the Piazza Navona, where you'll be sure to hear the classic Christmas melody "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle".

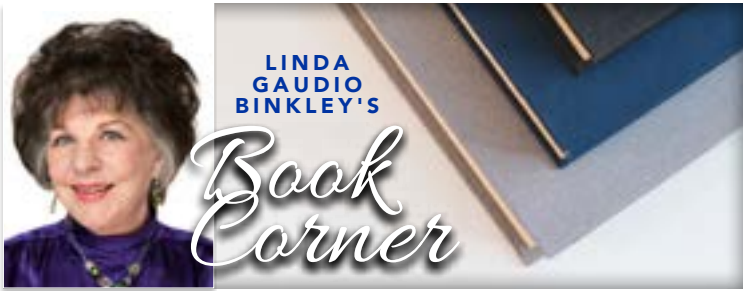
Does anyone know of an Italian Bagpiper? Let me know and perhaps we be able to get them to perform during our luncheon!

One thing about our regional luncheons, is we're always full of "show and tell surprises." In addition, we have already collected an amazing array of raffle prizes thanks to the generosity of our member donors, and of course we welcome more prizes to share. They include special gift certificates to Eataly, Antipastos, Cafe Vitale and Italian Brothers, along with gourmet food baskets, selections of wines, and many more quality items. We assure you there will be over 30 items included in the raffle.

All raffle prizes are ready to share with your friends or simply enjoy yourself! Tickets are \$2.00 each, or a book of 15 tickets for \$20.00. Books of raffle tickets were mailed out to IAHF members in October; however, you may call the IAHF for additional tickets/books.

You may make a reservation for the regional lunch, donate prizes or recommend a Bagpiper by calling the IAHF office by November 14 at 408 293-7122. --- Ken Borelli and Nanci Wilborn, Raffle Co-Chairs.~





Bartali's Bicycle

by Megan Hoyt / Illustrated
by Jacopo Bruno

With thoughts turning toward a gift-buying season, I am happy to recommend a beautifully illustrated book for young people, I would say 6th grade and above.

Bartali's Bicycle tells the true story of Gino Bartali who won the 1938

Tour de France. Of course, shortly after, history shows us Germany trying to take over the world with their armed forces and annihilation plan for the Jewish people. Gino was recognized internationally as a world-class champion sportsman. Until his death, no-one knew of his truly greatest secret achievement.

In fact, this young man cycled through Italian war zone after war zone, never questioned by the Nazis or Fascists because of the assumption that he was training for the next cycling competition. In reality his bike handlebars delivered exit visas to 700 Jewish Italian families! And once, after a calamitous bombing which damaged his bike, his mission was almost revealed. It's quite a story.

If you are interested in an adult version, the library offers a DVD entitled: **My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust**. It is directed by Oscar-nominated Oren Jacoby and narrated by Isabella Rossellini.

Bartali's Bicycle artfully tells the historical episode in language any youngster can understand, and the accompanying illustrations are vivid and colorful.

Italian Word or Phrase of the Month

from Linda Gaudio Binkley

La storia

La storia is much, much more than its English cognate **story**. The most common translation of **la storia** is **history**.

When someone **passa in storia**, he or she **goes down in history**.

Mi interessa molto la storia di Sicilia. I am very interested in the history of Sicily.

We study history:

- **La storia moderna** = modern history
- **La storia dell'arte** = art history
- **La storia naturale** = natural history
- **La storia antica** = ancient history
- **La storia mondiale** = world history

La storia can also refer to a **story in a book**.

- **Ti ho già letto quella storia tre volte!** I have already read you that story three times!

Like in English, **la storia** can mean a **falsehood**, like a lie, **una bugia**, but in a narrative fashion.

- **Quel ragazzo me ha dato una bella storia**. That kid gave me quite a story or also 'excuse'.

Una storia is also the word used to describe a **romantic relationship**.

- **Loro hanno una storia**. They are in a relationship.

Lastly, **storie** (plural) can mean a **fuss**:

- **Mio bambino non a fatto storie nella macchina**. My baby did not make a fuss in the car.



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

This year the Italian American Heritage Foundation is partnering with Family Giving Tree (FGT) to do a toy and gift drive. FGT is a non-profit organization, started as a master's degree project in 1990 by a student at San Jose State, Jennifer Columbine. The first year, approximately 4000 gifts were given at Christmas time to low-income children. In 2018, 78,000 gifts were given - mostly to needy children, and some for needy adults. The pandemic resulted in fewer gifts as so many businesses closed down. Even so, in 2019 more than 61,000 gifts were distributed.

In addition to the Holiday Wish Drive, in 1996 a back-to-school drive was started to give filled backpacks for needy children. In the 33 years of its operation, FGT has given 481,110 filled backpacks and 1,627,778 gifts at Christmas time. It is the largest holiday gift and backpack donation organization in California, and consistently receives a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, which means most donations go to gifts, not expensive administrative costs. FGT only has 17 full-time employees. To reach as many people as possible, it takes 1500 drive leaders (like me), over 500 nonprofit agencies, and more than 8500 volunteers to make this all possible.

I was on the Board of Directors of FGT for 6 years and chair for 3. While there are many toy drives at Christmas time, the thing that really sets Family Giving Tree apart is they partner with social service agencies. The children tell the agency what they would like to receive for the holidays. The information is given to FGT, and wish cards are prepared



with the child's first name, age, the gift they wish for and an alternative gift. These wish cards are distributed to many organizations throughout the Bay Area - all sorts of businesses and groups take part. Walking into the warehouse when it is filled with thousands of gifts, either wrapped or waiting to be wrapped, is truly a heart-warming experience. The social service agencies pick up the wrapped gifts and distribute them to the children in time for the holidays.

IAHF will have 50 wish cards on a Christmas tree at our hall starting November 1. The tree will be in the office but will be moved out for any events. We will also have a Virtual Giving Tree. The VGT is an online way to buy a gift for a child or needy adult. You pick out the person you want to help and donate the amount of money to purchase the requested gift. FGT does the rest. By buying in bulk, they can get many gifts more efficiently. Many people prefer to use the online donation process. Watch for more information about this coming in early November.

All gifts must be delivered to IAHF by December 3. I will pick them up and bring them to FGT warehouse so they can be wrapped and picked up by the social agencies which will distribute them to the recipients.

I hope you will be involved in this wonderful project. If you have any questions, please contact me at jallegro@yahoo.com. You can also check out the website for FGT at familygivingtree.org for lots of photos and interesting stories.

Buon Natale! --- Article by Joyce Allegro 🍷

PERSONAL NOTE



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

Through a serendipitous set of circumstances on Saturday afternoon, September 23, I found myself in the living room of Mary Canepa Klevan in Stockton, California.

It all started with a reporter contacting me about a replica of my Uncle Jim "Girolamo's" fishing boat. My "zio" carved the boat while under house arrest during World War II since he was considered an enemy alien. He was a fisherman prior to the war. I was telling this story to Louise Canepa, who in turn told me about how the war years seriously impacted the lives of so many Italian Americans in Monterey, including her and her cousin Mary's family. One thing led to another, and Louise said her cousin would be interested in sharing her story.

So, it was off to Stockton with video camera in hand to try to document this tale. Mary was born in Liguria and immigrated as a baby with her parents to Monterey. Her family was part of a large colony of primarily Sicilian and Ligurian fishermen living in Monterey and coastal fishing communities. The fishing industry during 1920-1940 was composed of primarily Italian-American fishermen. Since the fishermen worked long and hard hours at sea, the idea of getting one's citizenship papers was not considered a priority. When war was declared between Italy and the United States, Italian-born registered aliens were then considered "enemy aliens".

Along with that designation came severe restrictions including not being able to go out to sea to fish and having to move away from the ocean. Mary noted whole neighborhoods of fishermen and their families were uprooted. Wage earners, along with losing their jobs, needed to relocate. Throughout the area relocation and internment became a "Diaspora" for the Italian American community. If there was a US citizen adult in the family one could keep a house: however, enemy aliens could not live with them. All of this was complicated because, in the same family, a US citizen son could be drafted, which happened in many instances, including in Mary's case.

Consequently, Mary had to relocate to a cabin in the backcountry of Monterey County with a child and her parents.



AN AFTERNOON WITH
MARY
CANEPA
KLEVAN



Sadly, whole neighborhoods suffered these separations. Within a couple of months, many family and neighborhood systems in Monterey and elsewhere were reshuffled, economic livelihoods were lost and savings depleted. Mary also noted that, unlike today, roads and communication systems were not the same and a twenty-mile trip through poorly paved roads was a true hardship.

Talking to Mary, she was able to magically transport you back in time to those hectic days as if it were yesterday! She also shared a photo of her father's boat. When I saw the photo I was quite surprised since it seemed very small in comparison to the larger ships my uncle worked on. Mary noted that on that small boat, her father and crew would fish all the way to San Diego. Fishing not only was hard work but also not as lucrative as it is today so the loss of a job and income to pay the rent was always a major concern. As Mary told her story, the thought came that "no man is an island". Mary noted how people helped each other out as best they could. It was doubly so for the Italian American community since extended families were the only safety net available.

It is hard to make comparisons between what happened to Italian Americans and the internment of Japanese Americans, especially since US citizens of Japanese descent were also interned. Each community suffered differently and navigating the conflict really became a challenge. I was also intrigued to learn that Mary's daughter Janette wrote an A-plus college paper at San Jose State, "An Italian Family in America" is about growing up in Monterey. The paper is in her personal storage, and when she finds it she promises to share a copy with the IAHP archive collection.

I was in awe of Mary's storytelling skills and tales of love and survival. I forgot to mention that Mary is now 102 and has an amazing recall of those life-changing moments for so many Italian American families. We are working on a video of the program to share and are very appreciative of Mary's recollections.

— Article and photos by Ken Borelli



A PEEK INTO THE BOARDROOM

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes / October 10, 2023

- On October 10, 68 IAHF members gathered at the hall for an amazing spaghetti and meatball dinner and to elect our new Board of Directors. Dave Perzinski opened the meeting by inviting everyone to relax and enjoy their dinner and camaraderie and before desert we would proceed with the formal meeting.
 - At about 7:45 PM, Dave introduced our President Dana Zuccarello. Dana highlighted the many improvements to our facility including the cement bumpers in the parking lot, upgrades to the restrooms, new flooring and chairs and most recently, the washing of the walls inside the building. Also, earlier this year, the ceiling was covered with a product that will prevent the popcorn from raining down on guests. Work is also coming along on the back patio area and should be ready for use before year's end.
 - Dana mentioned our ongoing food drive and toy collection programs for the needy people in our community and asked for your generosity in donating these items.
 - Ken Borelli shared the successes of our 41st Family Festa along with highlighting the ongoing and special events we have sponsored during this year, including monthly regional luncheons and Cena Fuori night outs. Upcoming events include the December 3rd Christmas Party along with monthly cooking and language classes.
 - Frank DeTurris provided a brief summary of our financial condition which included budget projections and the current status of our finances status. A full financial report is available in the office.
 - Louie Lombardo thanked all the volunteers that have stepped up to help serve lunches, provide help at the FESTA and during our daily operations. There are a lot of special dedicated volunteers that can always be counted on, and for that we are all grateful.
 - Dave once again took the microphone and asked for a vote for the current slate of Directors to be re-elected for another year. The motion passed unanimously. A second vote was called to install our newest applicant, Paul Greco, which was also passed without opposition.
 - The new Board of Directors will begin their respective terms on January 1, and under the terms of the by-laws, a slate of officers will be elected by the Board before the January meeting. As a reminder, the position of Third Vice President remains vacant.
 - The evening was capped off by a magnificent presentation of fresh canolli. Members were invited to take leftovers from the meal as several "no-shows" caused an abundance of food. Everyone was happy for the opportunity.
 - The next meeting of the Italian American Heritage Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 at 7 PM.
- Respectfully submitted by Sharon McCray / IAHF Secretary / October 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 APRIL 2023 •

- Kathy Akiba • Karen Ardizzone • Jena Ballejos • Marcus Barbera • Katherine Bayless • Ira & Lizzie Bletz •
• Gregg Catanese & Mary McGregor • Sylvia & Jason Cathy • Peter Ciotta • Mary Ann & Tim Gee •
- Sandy Gordon • Veronica Greunke • Alessio & Teresa Korzenko • Jack & Diane LoVerde • Jae & Matt Marcus •
• Rachel Mattioli • Scott Miller & Melanie Starz • Lydia Norcia • Zelda Oghigian • Kristy Pasquin •
• Stacie & Kevin O'Kane • Clorinda & Samuel Sammis • Sara & Mike Schulte • Nicholas Serio •
• Gabriella ShinerTony & Shirley Silveria • Maria DiLeva Smith •

• GRAZIE 2023 BUSINESS MEMBERS •

- Diane Ferrara / [Hillview Packing Company, Inc.](#)
- SDS NexGen Partners & Mulcahy Family / [SDS NexGen Partners LP](#)
- Myrlin & George Taddie, Jr. / [Tadco Supply \(Janitorial, Paper, Lighting Supplies\)](#)
- Kathy & Karl Winkelman / [Gioia Company](#)
- Stephen Tritto / [The Villages Italian Club](#)
- Kenneth & Leslie Newington / [Serenity Studios Skin & Body](#)
- Jim & Janice Jones / [Custom Pad & Partition Inc.](#)
- Al & Diana Vallorz / [Mangia Tutti Inc dba Tony & Alba's Pizza & Pasta](#)

• GRAZIE 2023 PATRON MEMBERS •

- Sal Alini & Soly Paterson
- Maria Cancilla-Bandy
- Linda & Bob Binkley
- Joseph Bogusky
- Nina Boyd
- Carl & Norma Brannon
- Ruby Brooks-Domino
- Robert Brower & Mary Reynolds
- Dorina Teresa Cereghino
- Lucia Clementi & Dave Perzinski
- Tina & Paul Coghlan
- Walter Cook & Patricia Del Gavio
- Vince & Colleen Cortese
- Franca Cozzitorto & David Lovelace
- Rosita D. De Luca
- Glenn & Sharon DeBella
- Maryann & Jim DiBona
- Robert and Valerie Facchino
- Sandra & Brian Faircloth
- Cornelius Fiocco
- Anthony & Pamela Galano
- Judge Al & Vera Girolami
- Paul & Jenna Greco
- Emilio Guglielmo Family Winery
- Charles P. Gullo, Jr.
- Mark & Andrea Kenter
- Kathy & Larry Lohman
- Peter & Norma LoPresto
- Tony & Lorraine Maciejowski
- Jae & Matt Marcus
- Susan & Steven Minor
- Sue & Chris Monahan
- Nora Monette
- Kimberly & Jeffrey Moore
- Col. Bobby B. Moorhatch
- Rebecca Morici
- Maryanne Nola
- William J. Palley & CJ Liang
- Bob Paradiso & Patricia Pangrac
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- Tony & Martha Piazza
- Camie Piccolo & Michael Nicholson
- Jackie Pighini
- Jimmy Pignone & Leslie Snow
- Michael & Emily Ray
- Francois & Beth Rodigari
- Paul Romano
- John & Marjorie Scandizzo
- Joseph & Leslie Santomieri
- Virginia M. Sincich
- Janis & Butch Stumhoffer
- Joan & Mary Taft
- Al & Diana Vallorz
- Karen Vanderpan & John Dods
- Anthony J. Zerbo



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

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A LEGACY CIRCLE DONOR.
CONTACT LEGACY@IAHFSJ.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

• SUPER IAHF MEMBERSHIP •

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 / \$3,000 LEVEL

- Mike Console
- Felix and Marie Dalldorf
- Ebe Frasse

MEDICI / \$500 LEVEL

- Eugene & Christine Bernardini
- Jo Ann & Roger Bjornstad
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- Peter & Marjorie Gaudio
- Maria Gloria
- Janet Muscio & Bill McCraw
- Marilyn Payne
- Joe & Judi Rizzuto

DA VINCI / \$250 LEVEL

- Joyce Allegro & Jerry Sheridan
- Anthony Barajas
- Leslie & Jay Berger
- Lisa & Robert Blickenstaff
- Ken Borelli
- Agostino Burzio
- Sal & Denise Campagna
- Sue Cancilla-Conde & Saul Conde
- Dr. Anthony & Clare Cedolini
- Rene & Michelle Celsi
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- Gwen Benassi & Rich Daulton
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- Stephen & Katherine Ricossa
- Richard & Genevieve Rolla
- Lance & Michelle Sandri
- Janice & John Travis
- Nanci Arata Wilborn
- Catherine Wittig
- Dana R. Zuccarello & Andy Aguirre

-- Membership Listings by Dave Perzinski / Membership Chair *



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GIVING TUESDAY



GivingTuesday is November 28

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Join the movement and give – each Tuesday and every day – whether it's some of your time, a donation, or the power of your voice in your local community.

Consider giving to IAHF this November 28!

Please call our IAHF office (1-408-293-7122), go [online](#), or scan this QR code to donate on GivingTuesday. We have listed projects and programs that would benefit from your generosity. -- Dana Zuccarello Aguirre



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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.



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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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