



IAHF NEWS



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

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

425 N. 4TH STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95 • (408) 293-7122 • TAP HERE FOR WWW.IAHFSL.ORG

MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another Successful Italian Family Festa

Grazie to all

From the bottom of my heart, I'd like to thank everyone who not only volunteered at the Festa, but also to those

who were in attendance. To those who weren't able to come, but donated financially, I thank you, also! It was a wonderful weekend packed full of Italian culture! To top it all off, we were blessed with incredible weather for the entire weekend. I know there were hiccups along the way and we worked together to bring an incredible Festa for the Bay Area to enjoy. I have thought a lot about our Festa lately and I have compared it to a puzzle. There are many different pieces that fit together to make a puzzle complete. If just one piece is missing, it's not pleasing to the eye. But with all the pieces together, it truly was a beautiful sight! In the center of that puzzle, are the volunteers. We could not have done it without them.

Gala and it is coming along very nicely. It is an event that you won't want to miss! All funds raised that evening will go towards our roof and HVAC project. With the very generous donations we've received thus far, we are not only able to start the roof project, we are also able to upgrade our HVAC system.

Please pardon our dust!

At August's Board meeting, we met with our General Contractor. His team is preparing the plans to submit for the necessary permits. This is a dream come true for me. Four years ago, when I became President, I had 3 major goals for our building in order to preserve it for the next generations to come:

1. Get rid of the carpet that was old and an eye sore.
2. Replace the existing roof.
3. Explore the possibilities of a new dual purpose rest room that is ADA compliant that can also serve as a family rest room.

Come September, we're hoping to get started on our roof and HVAC project. Please be patient as this construction takes place. Our General Contractor has estimated that this project will take approximately 6 weeks to complete. How exciting that this project is now becoming a reality! Thank you all, once again!

Golden Jubilee Gala

We are putting the finishing touches on our upcoming



~~~Dana Zuccarello Aguirre, President



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# Schedule of Events

## • August

• Aug. 20, Wednesday / Hearts Delight - An Orchard Story documentary / 7-9pm / At the Hall / Free of charge / Advanced reservations are required either [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122

## • September

• Sept. 14, Sunday / **IAHF Golden Jubilee Celebration** / Social starts @ 3:30, Dinner served @ 4:30, Program and Dancing @ 6pm / Make reservations [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122 - see page 3 for more details

• Sept. 17, Wednesday / Opera San Jose Artist in Residence Showcase / 3:30-7pm / 4-6:15 Livestream and live performances 6:15-7pm Reception / Reservations are required Opera San Jose / Look [online](#) for more details.

## SAVE THE DATE

• November 09, Sunday / Volunteer Appreciation BBQ / 11-2PM / At the Hall / details coming soon

• November 12, Wednesday / IAHF Members General Meeting / 7-8:30pm / At the Hall / Buffet Dinner will be available from 7-8pm, followed by the IAHF Members Meeting / Reservations required (no guests allowed) [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122

• December 14, Sunday / Holiday Dinner Dance / 4-8pm / At the Hall / details coming soon

## ONGOING LANGUAGE CLASSES

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

Classes are taught by Marie Dalldorf, a native Italian. Classes are informal and free of charge, and we welcome people at all levels. We focus on conversational text and phrases to help you achieve more fluency, increase your vocabulary, and increase your confidence in speaking Italian.

## Upcoming Cooking Classes

• Sept. 4, Thursday / Cooking Class: Cuccidati taught by Cero Anthony and Amy Blalock Castillo of the Cake Expressions Bakery, will be teaching the Tomasello Cuccidati. Come and learn how to make this specialty from the experts! / 7-9pm / At the Hall / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Make reservations [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.

• Oct. 2, Thursday / Cooking Class: TBA

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

## Join the IAHF Board of Directors

The IAHF is seeking members to fill the 2026 Board and Committee vacancies. This is an exciting time to be a Board member or committee chair. As you read in the President's Message, and can see from our list of upcoming events, there are many opportunities for you to guide IAHF operations and activities.



The role of our governing Board is to provide oversight for the operations, make necessary decisions that impact membership and activities in accordance with IAHF bylaws. Board members are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, participate in events, volunteer as needed, and be dedicated to promoting and preserving our Italian heritage and culture. The time commitment is 15 hours each month, outside of the monthly meeting.

To become a Board member, read the [qualifications guidelines](#) and complete the online [IAHF Board of Directors Application](#).

All applications go through a screening process and interview with the Nominations and Election committee. If you would like more information about join the Board of committee member, contact me by email at [louie.lombardo@iahfsj.org](mailto:louie.lombardo@iahfsj.org)

--- Louie Lombardo

## SAVE THE DATE

*IAHF  
Golden  
Jubilee*



50 YEARS OF SERVICE  
1975 TO 2025

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

**THE HISTORIC MESSINA ORCHARD**

**781 N. CAPITOL AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CA 95133**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [www.IAHFSJ.org/Events](http://www.IAHFSJ.org/Events)**



THE BEAUTIFUL & HISTORIC MESSINA ORCHARD

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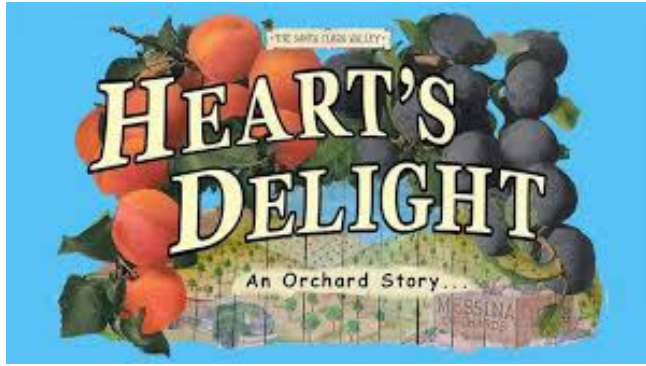


# Festa Photos

Smiles, laughter, friends, family, food and games were on display throughout our 2-day Italian Family Festa. Demonstrations, performances, speakers, and displays provided insight into all things Italian. Vote our Italian Family Festa the best festival again in the 2025 Metro survey.







## Pre-Gala Screening of *Hearts Delight -* *An Orchard Story*

The IAHF is soon to celebrate its 50th anniversary as a foundation with a Golden Jubilee at the historic Messina Orchards. Invites have been sent, and we are asking our members to spread the word out about our Golden Jubilee.

In addition, a pre-gala event is being planned for Wednesday, August 20, at the IAHF. It is a special complimentary showing of a documentary about the Messina Orchards called "Hearts Delight" and features the history of the Messina Orchards, the unique setting for our 50th anniversary gala.

The film also highlights an iconic way of life that symbolized the "Valley of Hearts Delight." Within the lifetime of many of our members, Santa Clara County has transitioned from a legendary agricultural community to today's high tech, Silicon Valley. Very few communities in the nation have experienced such a transition. What a "wild ride" it has been, and for fifty years the IAHF has been a part of this transition.

All are invited to this special showing as we prepare for our Golden Jubilee Gala. While this is a free event—please call to make a reservation so we can have a count for some light refreshments that will be served at the screening. Join us for a precious walk back in time and salute to the future! Social time from 6:30 pm to 7:00, film starts promptly at 7pm. After the film there will be some time for discussion. IAHF- 408-293-7122. Also please contact the IAHF for additional information about the 50th Anniversary Gala at Messina Orchards.

~~~ Ken Borelli



Golden Jubilee Raffle

On Sunday, September 14, the IAHF will be celebrating its 50th year Golden Jubilee at the historic Messina Orchard in San Jose. And of course, we have just finished our Annual Italian Family Festa, so this has been and is, "quite a ride"!

Part of the Golden Jubilee celebration will include a special raffle with the drawing to take place at the conclusion of Sunday's festivities. This raffle will be in lieu of the pre-holiday raffle that we normally have during the Christmas season.

The prizes will be in the form of 12 or more large gift baskets ranging from regional specialty items to gift certificates and/or a combination of both. All proceeds will benefit the IAHF's Hall Improvement Fund. You do not need to be present to win. All mail-in tickets must be received by September 9, and tickets will be available at the Golden Jubilee Gala. Please contact the IAHF if you would like to "construct a theme basket" on your own -- the more the merrier!

We look forward to your participation in the Golden Jubilee Raffle and joining us for the IAHF Gala. More information about both activities can be obtained online or by contacting the IAHF.

"Grazie tante e buona fortuna." We hope to see you at the Golden Jubilee Gala!

Nanci Wilborn, Delia Schizzano, and Ken Borelli, Raffle Committee Co-Chairs

ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA San Jose

SPONSORS

Our Annual Festa is a massive event
that takes time, talent, dedication and money.

The members of the Italian American Heritage Foundation are
extremely grateful to these sponsors for supporting our
2025 Italian Family Festa.

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County of Santa Clara
Made possible in part by a grant
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Line Dancing Debuts at the Italian Family Festa

This year at the Italian Family Festa under the Cultural Tent, I had the opportunity to teach a line dance class for the first time at the event. The dances were set to Italian music to fit the theme of the Festa.

I kicked off the class with a bit of tradition, the Tarantella Pulcinella, an easy, lively Italian line dance that set the mood. The energy was contagious and soon, dancers of all ages were movin' and a-groovin' to the joyous sounds.

Next, I taught two dances that I choreographed myself, "On an Evening in Roma" (sung by Patrizio Buanne) and "Mambo Italiano" (sung by Rosemary Clooney). The group was enthusiastic, quick to catch on and not afraid to add their own flair. The inspiring music drew more people over who joined in the fun by dancing outside of the tent. In fact, the Line dancers were literally dancing in the street!

Our DJ, Dave Lemley, from Good Times Unlimited did a great job spinning the music, which helped keep everyone excited and dancing. After mastering the three featured dances, we kept the energy going by dancing a couple of line dance classics, The Electric Slide and Cupid Shuffle with DJ Dave joining in with his own stylish swagger.

Not only was it a fabulous way to celebrate the joy of music and dancing, line dancing was a fabulous way to work off some of the pasta, polenta, cannoli and gelato we had consumed!

~~~ Lucia Clementi

## IAHF Launches Youth Engagement Committee

The Italian Family Festa proudly hosted its first-ever Youth Roundtable, an exciting new addition that sparked meaningful conversation and set the stage for future youth engagement in our community. The event was facilitated by Marie Dalldorf and Ken Borelli.

Three participants, Clara Palik, Dylan Lawhead and Medha Rudrarajo, shared thoughtful insights on the unique challenges faced by blended families in today's multicultural and multi-heritage world. They also discussed strategies for encouraging the younger generation to embrace their Italian heritage and become more involved with community-based organizations. Their voices reflected the passion and fresh perspectives that youth bring to the ongoing story of Italian American culture.

Building on the energy and success of the roundtable – as well as growing interest from siblings of this year's scholarship recipients – Marie Dalldorf brought forward a proposal to the IAHF Board of Directors to establish a Youth Engagement Committee. The Committee will explore the creation of a Youth Advisory Group and/or a Youth Ambassador Program to provide meaningful pathways for young people to connect with, contribute to and lead within our organization. The motion passed by unanimous BOD approval, and Marie Dalldorf confirmed that she will serve as chair of the Engagement Committee.

Invitations will go out to invite the youth of our community to encourage them to join the Youth Engagement Committee to help shape the role, structure and benefits of the two initiatives. Updates on the status of the Committee will be shared with membership as their work progresses.

Article by: Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf

## Calling all IAHF Members - November 12 General Meeting

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

**You must register to attend this important membership meeting.**

**When** - Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**Time:** 7pm-9pm

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

([Online](#) reservations are required . No guests are permitted at this meeting)





# 2025 REGIONAL COSTUME SHOW

The Regional Costume Show, started last year at the Festa, and this year it was a dazzling experience. This has become part of the iconic moments of both Italian Family Festas.

It is truly living history and accentuates Italian regional creativity. Many of the models researched and crafted their own costumes. The outfits themselves have interesting histories, and are quite diverse, ranging from normal village wear to ornate festive outfits for special occasions. The clothes are part of a person's legacy, handed down from parent to child.

The costumes that were modeled were primarily those for women while those for the men were shown to complement and accompany the women's. One of our goals for 2026 is to focus a bit on the men even though the splendor belongs to the ladies, especially during festivals. In addition, we want to make sure each region is represented. That's 20 regions of Italy and 9 provinces of Sicily.

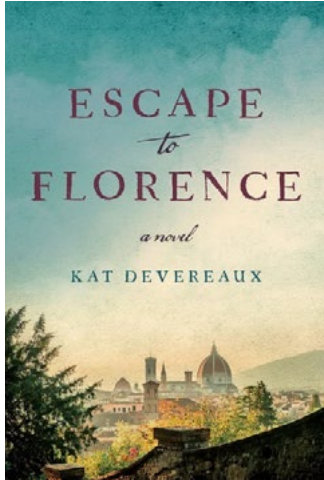
It was so exciting to see the costumes coming together on Sunday as the participants came, some already dressed in costume while some changed that day. Together, there was a jammed pack show with a "passagiatta" or stroll for a photo opt. The photos here are fun-filled images which highlight so much of what the spirit of the Italian Family Festa is all about.

Special kudos to Delia Schizzano and her assistants, Marie Dalldorf and Lucia Clementi, who took up the challenge of becoming the seamstresses for so many by designing, sewing and personally helping to fit some of the costumes for our amazing models. The models represented all walks of life and backgrounds, and their latent modeling talents blossomed on the "runway." As it is said, "A photo is worth a 1000 words" so these photos speak for themselves.

We hope to compile a special Newsletter supplement about the costumes and models. A special "grazie" to all who made the Regional Fashion Show such a moving and brilliant visual experience. You gave us the gift of memories!

~~~ Ken Borelli





Escape to Florence

By Kat Devereaux

Escape to Florence, the debut novel written by Kat Devereaux, is a delightful summer read. Like many first-time novels this is a dual time- line narrative. We meet Tori, a young, married woman who exists in the present tense in Scotland; and Stella, a

teenager who is a young partisan in a small village during the Nazi occupation of Tuscany. The two are juxtaposed, but circumstances are so different that any comparison between the two protagonists is a stretch.

Tori leads a privileged upper-class life. She is a citizen of the UK who has left her native London to marry and take up residence with a country squire in Scotland, the man of her dreams. Her life on a country estate soon become a disappointment. The relationship disintegrates and Tori flees to Florence, a place she grew to love when she was a child visiting there with her beloved and influential grandmother. There she hopes to regroup and start and new life. It's a bit over-the-top that the first man she meets in Florence becomes The One!

Author Devereaux makes it quite clear that the husband, unwilling to let Tori go, is truly an undesirable individual. He is quite present in the Tori chapters either in conversation or in person

and is quite an annoyance. Equally annoying are Tori's mother and sister. Perhaps conversations with the sister could have benefitted by some editing as they were a bit tedious. One can only wonder at the level and extent of disharmony and disfunction of Tori's family life. Especially baffling was the disrespect demonstrated toward the grandmother. It was left unexplained.

Stella comes of age during WWII in a small town in Tuscany. Her older brother is an energetic and committed partisan. He and his group daily risk their lives employing subversive action against the Nazis. They are well acquainted with death among their ranks and have suffered the loss of dear friends. Encounters with German police at the train stations and public areas unnerve them, including Stella, but they are never dissuaded from being activists.

At home Stella is treated as a drudge by an unaffectionate mother. This oddity is also never explained. The mother and father are not aware of Stella's involvement with their son in fighting fascism. Author Devereaux emphasizes the passionate attachment of the parents to the son and their dismissiveness regarding Stella. We know that Stella is deeply hurt. As soon as the war is over Stella flees her parents and starts and new life in Florence just like Tori does. Thus, the title.

In the end, through a bit of unlikely events, we see Tori unite with Stella's descendants via the grandmother's enormous treasure trove of kept mail revealing her unique history in Florence.

You will find Author Devereaux's book to be a relaxing read with interesting attention given to life in rural Tuscany during the occupation. Unfortunately, though, the bulk of the verbiage is dedicated to Tori. You will find this novel in the IAHF library.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley

## Italian Lesson - Refrigerio

**Refrigerio** is a great late summer word to know. You see the cognate in the word refrigerator, and it means coolness or relief from the heat.

**Refrigerio** from the Latin refrigerium, a cool place. **Refrigerio** is a masculine noun, and its plural is **refrigeri**. **Refrigerio** is the lovely sensation you feel when entering a cool place after enduring the hot sun, or by drinking a cold drink after a sweaty work-out.

*Abbiamo apprezzato la vista e il refrigerio della brezza.*

We enjoyed the view and the refreshing coolness of the breeze.

*Abbiamo apprezzato un po' di refrigerio dopo tanti giorni di caldo soffocante.*

We enjoyed a little relief many days of suffocating heat.

# Cooking Class - A Night of Pasta Sauces

On a warm August night, twenty-five eager students gathered for a fun and tasty cooking class focused on pasta sauces. Three instructors led the evening, each teaching a different classic Italian sauce.

I started the class by demonstrating how to make a traditional red meat sauce. My recipe was passed down through family generations with a few flavorful additions. I began the class by going step by step through the ingredients, mixing, stirring and finally simmering the mixture. As the onions, garlic and beef cooked and simmered, the kitchen was filled with a delicious, hearty aroma.



Next up, Nora Monette, accompanied by a student assistant, introduced us to the vibrant flavors of Sicily with her Agrodolce sauce. This sweet and tangy treasure, blending tomatoes, golden raisins, capers and a splash of vinegar, brought an inviting scent to the room. Nora explained her method of balancing flavors as she stirred, letting the sauce bubble gently.

Finally, Ken Borelli, with the help of a student, took to the stove for a lesson in a Northern Italian specialty, the classic white cream sauce. The combination of butter, cream, mushrooms, prosciutto and cheese created a smooth and comforting aroma. Ken showed how to cook the sauce, so that it was perfectly creamy and just the right thickness.

Once all three sauces were ready, they were served over seashell pasta so everyone could try each one. The group enjoyed tasting the different sauces and talking about which were their favorites. Before leaving, everyone took home samples to enjoy later. It was a wonderful night of learning, good food and great company. This class was a reminder of the joy found in cooking together and the magic of a warm August night at the Italian American Heritage Foundation.

~~~ Lucia Clementi, Photos by Dave Perzinski

Lucia's Red Meat Sauce Recipe

Ingredients

- ¼ C. Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 medium onion – diced
- 1 clove garlic – whole
- 1 lb. ground beef
- ½ C. Red wine
- 4-15 oz. cans of tomato sauce (I used Contadina)
- ¼ C. fresh basil leaves - chopped (or 2 t.. dried)
- ¼ C. fresh cilantro – chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- ¼ t. oregano
- ½ t. Calabrian pepper sauce
- ½ t. maple syrup (or any sweetener)
- 1 t. salt
- ½ t. pepper
- ¼ t. cinnamon
- ¼ t. allspice

Instructions

1. Sauté onions in olive oil in a large saucepan for about 10 minutes until translucent, on medium to low heat, stirring frequently.
2. At the same time, cook the ground beef in a skillet, stirring frequently, breaking up any large pieces until the meat is no longer pink (about 10 minutes) and drain fat from meat.
3. Add the meat to the onion mixture.
4. Stir in red wine, garlic clove, bay leaf and cook for about 2 minutes.
5. Add tomato sauce and the rest of the ingredients and bring to a boil.
6. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 1-2 hours and stir occasionally, making sure that the sauce does not burn on the bottom of the saucepan.

This sauce is best when it rests in the refrigerator overnight. Buon appetito!



Sicilian Pasta with Agrodolce Sauce Recipe

Sicilian Pasta with Agrodolce Sauce Agrodolce is a signature flavor in Sicilian cooking and is part of a traditional Italian sweet and sour sauce that's usually served with meat, fish, or vegetables.

Ingredients

- 9 oz to 1-pound tomatoes, diced
- 1 shallot, diced
- 1 garlic clove, sliced or pressed
- red chili flakes, to taste
- extra virgin olive oil
- 2 Tablespoons capers, rinsed
- 2 Tablespoons golden raisins (soaked in warm water)
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- optional: anchovy fillets
- Salt and pepper
- 2-3 Tablespoons toasted pine nuts
- parmesan cheese
- basil leaves (or mint)
- 8 ounces short pasta, such as Casarecce or Busiate

Steps

1. Prep (wash vegetables first)
Finely chop the shallot. Slice the garlic (or use garlic press). Finely chop the tomatoes. Finely chop the anchovy fillets (if using). Pick the basil leaves. Place the sultanas (golden raisins) in warm water to plump.
2. Start cooking by heating several tablespoons of olive oil in a medium frypan over medium heat and cook the shallot, garlic, chili flakes or Calabrian chili paste (to taste) and a little salt and pepper for 3 mins or until softened. Add the tomatoes and 1 Tbsp or so of water. Cook, partially covered for 3-4 mins until the tomatoes are softened.
3. Finish sauce by stirring in the anchovies (if using), rinsed capers, sultanas (drained), white wine vinegar and sugar into the sauce and cook for an additional 5 mins or until the sauce is thickened. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Start pasta water and toast pine nuts.
Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil over high heat for the pasta. Heat a frying pan over medium heat and toast the pine nuts for 2-3 minutes until golden--tossing regularly as the nuts will burn quickly. Finely grate the Parmesan.
5. Add the pasta to the boiling water and cook according to directions or until al dente. Drain the pasta, saving about a cup of the pasta water to loosen up the sauce, if needed.
6. Finish cooking by stirring the pasta into the tomato sauce and heat through for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Transfer to bowls and serve topped with the toasted pine nuts, Parmesan and torn

basil or mint leaves.

Based upon: [Marley Spoon.com](http://MarleySpoon.com) *Sicilian Pasta and Agrodolce Sauce*



Basic Italian White Cream Sauce (Alfredo or Bechamel) Recipe

Ingredients

- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup butter
- 3-4 tablespoons flour
- 3 tablespoons parmigiano, grated
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 cup of mushrooms
- 1 ounce prosciutto (finely sliced then shredded, optional)
- 4-5 minced green onions
- ½ cup white wine
- dash salt & black pepper

Directions

1. Heat oil, sauté green onions and mushrooms.
2. Melt butter in a small saucepan cooking over low to medium heat, stirring for about 5 minutes. Blend into sauce with ½ cup of white wine.
3. Add flour and stir until the butter and flour are well combined. Pour in cream & remaining ingredients, stirring constantly as it thickens.
4. Add more cream or flour depending on desired consistency.

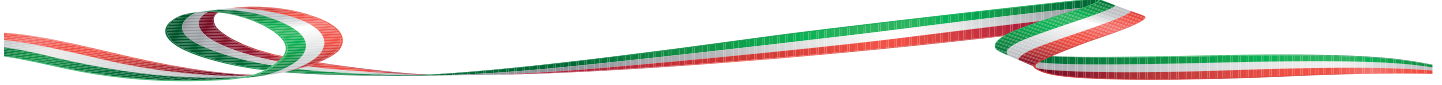
Modified by Ken Borelli from Food.com recipe.



Register for cooking classes [online](#) or by calling the IAHF.

See page 2 for details of upcoming cooking classes.

Grazie Volunteers & Festa Capos



One hundred seventy amazing registered volunteers showed up for our 43rd Italian Family Festa in July. They committed to 787 hours and they worked much longer than their shifts. There were 23 different assignments. Every facet of the Festa was made possible because of these generous volunteers.

They represented IAHF members, family, friends and a cadre of enthusiastic students, seniors, adults, all coming together for a common cause - a celebration of all things Italian. Every ethnic group was represented, working in harmony and good spirits.

Of those registered, we had thirty persons who did not show up for their shift BUT, amazingly and without provocation, 55 unregistered volunteers showed up at random, rolled up their respective sleeves and got to work filling voids in the Kids Zone, cannoli booth and every place in between. It was a extremely long weekend for some and a long shift for others.

Maryland University Independent Sector estimates the hourly value for each volunteer at \$34.79, up three percent from last year. Considering the projected total volunteer hours for the two-day Festa, this calculates to over \$32,000 in value to the IAHF.

Thirty-seven CAPOs on the other hand, attended seven three-hour meetings plus all the behind-the-scenes duties, including securing sponsors, vendors, entertainment, food, security as well as parking and facilities rentals. Together we worked a conservative estimate of over 2,000 hours which equates to one full-time employee. Yikes!

Altogether, the value of these volunteers equals over \$100,000. To say we are grateful for all the willing volunteers, sharing their most valuable asset of time, cannot be overstated. Thank you everyone. Our Festa was a success because of all your efforts, time and enthusiastic contributions, and we are forever grateful.

Festa Co-Directors: Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Ken Borelli, and Sharon McCray



Vote our Festa as Metro's
Best of Silicon Valley 2025

Arts & Entertainment >

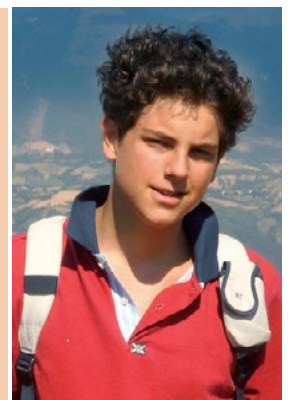
Best Festival-San Jose >

Italian Family Festa

Nominations due Aug 24
Voting begins Sept 08

*San Carlo Acutis,
prega per noi.*

SRO



See the [IAHF homepage](#) for detailed voting instructions

Editor's Note: San Carlo Acutis will be canonized on
September 07, 2025

ITALIAN CULINARY & CULTURAL PAVILION AND FIRST EVER YOUTH ROUND TABLE

The Italian Culinary and Cultural Stage at the Festa is quite a unique forum. It is an opportunity to highlight an eclectic mix of "Italianita." There were special lectures and hands on experiences, you were able to learn the art of the pizza toss with legendary John D'Ambrosio, a delicious demonstration by Joe Lucito on the traditional Sicilian St. Joseph's Day pasta sauce and Italian gardening talks with Master Gardener Sharon McCray and me. There even was a special class on line dancing that had people literally dancing in the street with Lucia Clementi and we enjoyed the iconic Italian Costume Show on Sunday which had quite a lot of pageantry. There will be articles throughout the newsletter about these fabulous events.

All of this is what makes the Festa so special.

In addition, this year we had a first ever "Youth Round Table" which featured three young people talking about the challenges of engaging younger adults in the life of the IAHF. At the same time, youth participation is very much evident at the Festa. It should be noted many of our Festa volunteers were high school and college-age youth. Without their "energy," it really would have been challenging to get all our slots filled. A nod, too, to our Internship Program at Santa Clara University, facilitated by Board Member and instructor Marie Bertola (we hope to have her run again for 2025-26).

The Youth Round Table was chaired by Marie Dalldorf, who also chairs the IAHF Scholarship Committee. While it was a challenge to recruit the panel participants, those who were there were excellent and were pretty much multi-ethnic. Quite a few ideas were discussed by the panelists and the audience. There will be an on-going dialogue emerging from this Round Table. A special thanks to our Youth Round Table participants, Clara Palik, Dylan Lawhead and Medha Rudraarjo.

Marie shared with the Board an interest of having a youth officer position/project associated with the Board to encourage more youth participation. That idea was also suggested by Alec Grantz, who is the brother of IAHF Scholarship Recipient Adrian Grantz. This will be discussed at an IAHF Board meeting.

The exciting result is the energy and brainstorming of an array of ideas and action items that the Round Table, along with the Italia Stage activities, generated. We now move on to the incubation stage.

~~~ Ken Borelli



Dear Dana, Ken and Sharon,

My heart overflows with gratitude to you, as directors of the 43rd Annual Italian Family Festa, for the recognition bestowed on me at this year's Opening Ceremony - a total surprise to say the least which caught me completely off guard and overwhelmed!

Thank you, Dana, for your "disguised" sleuthing to learn that I have chaired the Opening Ceremony for the Family Festa for eleven years and coordinated the Festa Mass for fifteen years. Admittedly, I didn't realize those were the tenured years of

doing something I enjoy for this annual festive occasion for our Santa Clara County community. Thank you for your more than kind complimentary sentiments.

I am humbled to have had the Opening Ceremony and the weekend of this year's Annual Festa dedicated in my honor. This accolade and public display of acknowledgment are distinctions that I will always treasure – thank you for the deference – and thank you for the beautiful flowers too!

~~~ Gratefully, Cathy De Maria



IAHF Board of Director's Meeting Minutes August 12, 2025

In Attendance: Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Ken Borelli, Frank DeTurris, Sharon McCray, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Paul Greco, Joe Lucito, Nanci Wilborn, Madeline Damiano (v), Marie Dalldorf (v)

Guest: Project Manager - Clyde Hammond

Absent: Steven Ricossa, Richard Stewart, Tony Zerbo, Susan Monahan, Marie Bertola

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

- Review July Meeting Minutes - approved unanimously
- Raffle donations for the Gala by board members and theme baskets are encouraged. Louie Lombardo will provide a list of members by milestones for the Gala (5 years, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 years).
- Sicilian Golf Tournament - we have been asked that the IAHF be a potential sponsor Sicilian Sisterhood golf tournament on September 22 @ the Villages. We agreed to run an advertisement at no charge in the upcoming newsletter.
- All Festa receipts need to be turned in now for Frank to reconcile the Festa.
- Pam Davis has offered to continue to do social media posts for us. She will do publicity for the Gala, the Hearts Delight Movie.
- There will be an Estate Sale by Frank LoCicero running Oct. 31-Nov. 2. Explore the possibility of a Rummage Sale in early 2026.

HVAC/Roof Contractor - Project Manager, Clyde Hammond chosen to provide the work to replace the roof and HVAC equipment provided an overview of the project, including the estimate to complete this work.

- Contractor with an Architect have reviewed the scope of work. They believe the project will take 6-7 weeks starting in September - October. Demolition of the roof will take 1 week, removal of any dry rot.
- They have not chosen the HVAC equipment because it's dependent on the weight of the unit and roof construction.
- He recommended contacting PG&E for advice and possible discounts; and the City of SJ and County for grants.
- Not needed to notify neighbors but it would be a good neighbor gesture.

Gala Chair - Nanci Wilborn

- Gala Raffle will be mailed out after tonight's meeting. The cost is \$5 per ticket or a book of seven for \$25.
- Nanci will be unable to attend the event. Mary Pizzo volunteered to help make up any baskets that come in after Nanci leaves town.

Scholarship Chair - Marie Dalldorf

- We have some video of the Youth Council discussion that happened at the Festa.
- Marie proposed establishing a Youth Ambassador program that reports to the BOD, and a Youth Advisory program to recruit high school students to work with the IAHF board. An Engagement Committee would require Marie as the IAHF Member Leader to define the role, scope of responsibility, and establishing social media outreach. After discussion the movement was revised to be: Move that the Board approve the development of a Youth Engagement Committee, headed by Marie Dalldorf, to explore the establishment of a Youth Advisory Group, a Youth Ambassador Program, or both. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Pioneer High School has asked IAHF participate in their upcoming Cultural Fair.

CFO Report, Frank DeTurris

- FY2025 financial status. See handouts
- Hall Rentals are down this year which is why revenue is lower than last year.

1st VP, Ken Borelli -

- Upcoming schedule of events
- Hearts Delight movie will be shown free of charge at the Hall.
- Cooking Class, Cena Fouri in November
- Volunteer BBQ moved to November 9.
- Dec. 14 - Holiday Dinner Dance

2nd VP, Azie Habib

- 15 Hall rentals YTD - 4 are booked through the end of FY25.
- Roof replacement affects the availability of the Hall.

LOOKING FORWARD Very Good News

Many of you are aware of the leaking roof over part of the Hall. The problem has been most evident in the Library, and we have worked hard to protect our collection from harm.

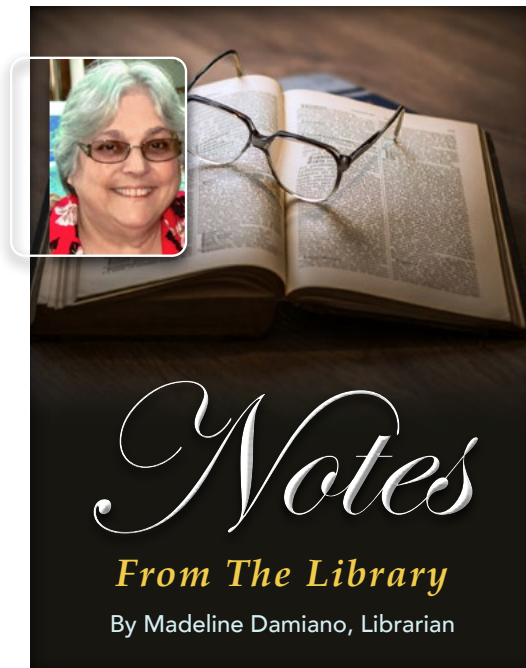
We are now moving forward with roof replacement! It is a complex problem that will not be easily fixed, but we should be looking good by mid-autumn. Of course, unforeseen problems are always a possibility. Once the roof is replaced, I will be able to work in the Library again and get our collection back into shape.

WANT TO HELP? We can always use extra hands!

In the meantime, the books are still available for loan. Browse our online catalog under the [Library](#) tab on the IAHF website or email me (see below). I am always happy to offer suggestions.

Donations, Donations, Donations!

Many of us remember Chef Umberto and his fabulous food at Vin Santo Restaurant. He and his family generously donated about 15 boxes of cookbooks, representing high-end restaurants, chefs and many types of cuisine and cooking techniques.



We saved some for the library, but there are more to look through. Please let me know soon if you are interested in seeing them.

Maria Gloria's Gift

Maria Gloria was a strong promoter of Italian-American culture. She made it a habit to encourage authors and support them by buying their published books. Although I never had the chance to see it, I was told she kept a very impressive collection at her home. She previously donated about 200 high-quality books that greatly enriched our own Library. (See IAHF January 2020 newsletter)

With her recent passing, her family has donated about ten boxes of books. I have not been able to review them yet, but I can confidently say that they will

also add great value to our Library. Look for details in a future column.

Italian-Language Books Coming

Georgina van Horn has offered one box of Italian-language books, many of which are contemporary novels. That section of our Library needs some updating, so this is good news! I will provide details when they arrive.

Feel free to drop me a line at librarian@iahfsj.org.

BOD Meeting Minutes continues....

3rd VP, Sharon McCray

- Volunteer BBQ on Sunday, November 9.
- Mailing Newsletter (hard copy) to paid members only.
- Tony Zerbo's recommendations to increase membership: Increase efforts to get more new memberships by more intensive marketing at all social events by having a new membership sign up table at each table should last 15 minutes.

4th VP, Louie Lombardo

- Festa brought in 18 new members; 427 total members
- Planning for General all membership dinner meeting. Selected November 12 for the meeting. We need announcement in Newsletter to meet 30 day notice.
- Board Agreements - response summary and agreement reminders on emails
- Move the General Meeting to be Wednesday, November 12.
- Encourage members to vote for our **Italian Family Festa** as the Metro's Best of Silicon Valley 2025. Go to the [IAHF home page](#) for detailed instructions. Deadline is August 24 for nominations, then voting begins on Sept 8

Librarian, Madeline Damiano

- Marie Gloria has donated 10+ boxes of high quality books.
- Madeline needs a volunteer to help go through the boxes. Ken Borelli and Mary Pizzo both offered to help.
- We have 1-2 boxes of books to give away at Volunteer BBQ.

Newsletter, Mary Pizzo

- Newsletter articles due August 15. Mailing scheduled for August 20.
- Adjourned 8:58pm



LEGACY CIRCLE

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



◆ LINDA & BOB BINKLEY ◆ ALFRED L. CHIOTTI

◆ ROSE CRIMI & TOM MUENCH ◆

◆ 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.

• GRAZIE 2025 BUSINESS MEMBERS •

- Rob & Karin DiNapoli / [DiNapoli Specialty Foods](#)
- Jim Jones / [Custom Pad & Partition, Inc.](#)
- SDS NexGen Partners & Mulcahy Family / [SDS NexGen Partners](#)
- Diane Rubino / [Hill View Packing Company, Inc.](#)
- Al & Diana Vallorz / [Mangia Tutti Inc dba Tony & Alba's Pizza & Pasta](#)

• PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS •

• AS OF MAY 01, 2025 •

- Candi Aliotti • Ron & Annastasia Allard • Linda & Ron Asti • Eric von Barloewen • Catherine & Bill Hageman • Andrea & Brent Cisneros • Jay & Natalie Cook • Luca D'Oria & Joywolf Mellott *
- Richard DiGiacomo • Joshua Franchini • Joan R. Halperin • Joshua Lamario Hurst • Cathy & Wally Kozacky • Danielle & Jason Lebeouf † • Leticia Maldonado & Alvaro Cotroneo † • Lisa Matar * • Dan Orloff
- Sandy Plewa • Carlo Rivetti & Carly Rivers •Carolynn Roncaglia * & Andrew Sikic • Peter & Mary Schembri
- Eliseo Segura * • Laura & Dan Winter

2025 Student Members

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

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

† Indicates the member has shared their anniversary month with IAHF

2025 PATRON LEVEL MEMBERS

LA DOLCE VITA

*Dr. Anthony & Clare Cedolini * • Mike Console • Felix & Marie Dalldorf
• Ebe Frasse • Delia Schizzano*

MONTESSORI

- John Francis Maggio and Mary Pizzo

MEDICI

- Jo Ann & Roger Bjornstad
- Ken Borelli & Dan Burns
- Ann & Ricardo Cerniglia
- Alfio & Gerry Crema
- Frank DeTurris Sr. & Karen Hamilton
- Louie & Marca Lombardo †
- Jo Macaluso
- Janet Muscio & Bill McCraw †
- Sally Paolini & Don C. Erba
- Marilyn Payne
- Jackie Pighini
- Joe & Judi Rizzuto
- Lance & Michelle Sandri
- Dana R. Zuccarello & Andy Aguirre

DA VINCI

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SalSal Alini * & Soly Paterson | Robert Facchino | William J. Palley & CJ Liang |
| Joyce Allegro & Jerry Sheridan | Anthony & Pamela Galano | Marge Papp |
| Maria Cancilla-Bandy | Peter & Marjorie Gaudio | Richard & Linda Parola |
| Linda & Bob Binkley | Judge Al & Vera Girolami | Joe & Linda Pfahnl |
| Lisa & Robert Blickenstaff | Paul & Jenna Greco | Tony & Martha Piazza |
| Nina Boyd | George & Jan Guglielmo | Camie Piccolo * & Michael Nicholson * |
| Ruby Brooks-Domino | Mark & Andrea Kenter | Mario & Karen Piergallini |
| Elizabeth Burgio & Adrien Bishop | Steven & Alma Landi | Jimmy Pignone * & Leslie Snow |
| Agostino Burzio | Kathy & Larry Lohman | Michael & Emily Ray |
| Sal & Denise Campagna * | Peter & Norma LoPresto * | Stephen & Katherine Ricossa |
| Sue Cancilla-Conde & Saul Conde | Joe & Kaye Lucito * | Joseph & Leslie Santomieri |
| Michelle & Rene Celsi | Sharon McCray & Robert Martinez Jr. | John & Marjorie Scandizzo |
| Dorina Teresa Cereghino-Hewitt | Marilyn Messina | Joan & Mary Taft |
| Frank & Theresa Cetani, Jr. | Susan & Steven Minor | Janice & John Travis |
| Lucia Clementi & Dave Perzinski | Sue & Chris Monahan | Al & Diana Vallorz |
| Rose Crimi * & Tom Muench | Nora Monette | Karen Vanderpan & John Dods |
| Gwen Benassi & Rich Daulton | Bonnie Montgomery | Nanci Arata Wilborn |
| Joe & Cathy De Maria | Col. Bobby B. Moorhatch, USAF Ret. | Kathy & Karl Winkelman |
| Glenn & Sharon DeBella | Carmine & Stacey Ann Napolitano | |
| Maryann & Jim DiBona | Maryanne Nola | |
| Al & Kathy DiFrancesco | Michael & Gail Paccioretti | |
| Janice & David Down | | |

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- Claudia & George Anderson
- Linda & Ron Asti
- Susan & David Bacigalupi
- Betty Baker & Leon Cozzo
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- Toni & Carroll Blackstock †
- Ron & Mary Bocciardi
- Andrew Boyle & Kathryn Hogan
- Joseph Bradley & Peggy Palma
- Marie * & Victor H. Brancati
- Clay & Carolina Brasuell
- Kathy & Gary Buob
- Pam & Bill Loyst
- Carolyn & John Cardinali
- Ronald & Bernadette Carlini
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- Catherine & Bill Hageman
- Vince & Mary Catalano
- Rosemarie Chiovani & Craig Artherholt
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- Andrea & Brent Cisneros
- Rosanne & Robert Compitello
- Jay & Natalie Cook
- Dave & Pattie Cortese
- Tom & Linda Costanza
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- Madeline Damiano & Gilda DeSimone-Groccia
- Rose Marie * & Jean Damiano
- Mary Lee De Gennaro
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- Charlotte Delaplaine & Alan Clawson
- Susan DeRosa & Harold Echevarria
- James & Vicki DeVitto
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- Neil & Denise Kruse
- Frank & Roberta La Ducca
- Richard Langone & Dianne Hidalgo
- Douglas & Susan Larson
- Jeanne & Mark Lazzarini
- Danielle & Jason Lebeouf
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- Stephen & Cathleen Lencioni
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- Darlene & James Marshall †
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- Seth & Carole Michelson
- Scott Miller & Melanie Starz
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- Kimberly & Jeffrey Moore
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- Suzanne Goodwin & Edward Wang
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- Laura & Dan Winter

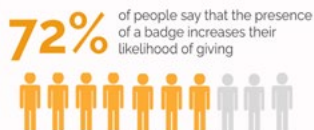
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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.

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