



# 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 95112 • (408) 293-7122 • TAP HERE FOR [WWW.IAHFSI.ORG](http://WWW.IAHFSI.ORG)

MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Reflections*

#### **Patrons Dinner at Tomatina**

This past month, patron members of the IAHF enjoyed a wonderful evening together at Tomatina's, organized by Louie Lombardo. The food was great and the company was even better! I met several new members who recently joined at the patron level

and got to know a little more about them. I enjoy walking around and talking to as many people as I can during the events. A big thanks to Louie for organizing a wonderful evening!

#### **Festa Planning is Full Steam Ahead**

Our capos, capas and volunteers are working feverishly to bring another successful Festa to the Bay Area! Some of our committee members have been with us for years and some are brand new. But regardless of years, we can always use more volunteers. We have had a Vespa club reach out to us that they'd like to join us this year. That reminds me of the trip I took to Italy last fall. Vespas were everywhere! Definitely the major mode of transportation. New food and beverage items that we will be offering this year: arancini, with and without meat, lasagna, limoncello, orangecello and a variety of Italian coffees, both cold and hot!

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the office and leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you. The Sbandieratori will be returning to our Festa this year. Make sure the Festa is on

your calendar for July 25 & 26, 2026. You won't want to miss it!

#### **Solo Mio**

A new movie opened this past month called "Solo Mio" starring Kevin James. I won't go into too much detail because I don't want to spoil it for you. There is a quick scene in the movie where they attend the horse races in Siena, called Palio di Siena. It takes place in the Piazza del Campo, Siena's main square. Of the seventeen districts in Siena, ten are given the opportunity to participate. Seven districts are automatically chosen and the remaining three are selected via a lottery. Each district has their own beautifully colored uniforms and flags.

For a few seconds in the movie, you catch a glimpse of the flag twirlers, the Sbandieratori (like the group that will be coming in July to our Festa). I got so excited when I saw that clip in the movie! This is our culture. Not many people know about the races, or the districts, or the colors or the flags. I say all of this not only to recommend a cute, feel-good movie that takes place in Italy, but also to mention that a piece of our culture was featured in this movie.

That is our purpose at the IAHF: to promote our heritage and our culture. If we don't, who will? Who will our children and grandchildren learn our heritage and culture from? This is exactly why we do what we do! We're not just an area of town. We're not just a hall to be rented out. We are the Italian American Heritage Foundation! With our many events held monthly and yearly, we're able to share our culture with everyone.

Be sure to check out our webpage for a list of upcoming events.

~~~Dana Zuccarello Aguirre

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# Schedule of Events

## • March

- March 08, Sunday / After Glow Dinner Dance / At the Hall / 3-8pm / \$30 per person / See flyer on page 4 for details.
- March 19, Thursday / Festa di San Giuseppe / 10:30am, 11am Mass, 12pm Lunch / See flyer on page 7 for details.
- March 26, Thursday / Cena Fouri - Cafe Vitale Los Altos / 7-9pm / \$55 per person / See the article on page 3 for details

## • April

- April 9, Thursday / Cooking Class: We begin the cooking class season with a delicious, healthy, creamy Zucchini-Tomato Casserole, taught by Lucia Clementi. With zucchini season coming up, you won't want to miss this class! / 7-9 pm / At the Hall / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Make reservations [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.
- April 17, Friday / Crab Feed / Details coming soon.

## • May

- May 3rd, Sunday / Scholarship Awards Luncheon / 12-3pm / At the Hall / Make reservations online or by calling the IAHF at (408) 203-7122.
- May 14, Thursday / Cooking Class with chef Ken Borelli / A delicious Veneto style Chicken Stew, called Polastro in Tacia. The recipe was featured in the Jan-Feb edition of the IAHF News and served at a regional lunch about the cuisine of the Veneto region of Italy. / 7-9pm / At the Hall / \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members / Make reservations [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.

## • Save the dates

- June 14, Sunday / Bocce tournament / 11:30-1pm / Campo di Bocce Los Gatos
- July 25-26 for Italian Family Festa at History San Jose Park.

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## Weekly Italian Language Classes

Conversational and Intermediate - Online classes  
Monday and Wednesday / 6-7pm

Join with [Meet up](https://www.meetup.com/san-jose-italian-language-meetup-group) at <https://www.meetup.com/san-jose-italian-language-meetup-group>.

Classes are taught by Marie Dalldorf, a native Italian.  
Classes are informal and free of charge.

We welcome people at all levels. We focus on conversational text and phrases to help you achieve more fluency, increase your vocabulary, and increase your confidence in speaking Italian.



## Cooking Classes

This year our cooking classes will be held on the second Thursday of the month (instead of the first Thursday.).

Since March will be busy with the Afterglow party and St. Joseph's Day, we will be holding our first cooking class of 2026 in April.  
Please mark your calendar.

Cooking Classes are held the second Thursday of the month, 7-9 pm, at the Hall. The cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. Make reservations [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.

# MARCH CENA FUORI AT CAFE VITALE

Our "Cena Fuori" on Thursday, March 26, at 7pm will be at the charming [Cafe Vitale](#) in Los Altos. It will be a specially prepared cena by Chef Rubino and his staff for our IAHF visit.

The menu will be:

**Antipasto:** Bruschetta with cheese and olive plate.

**Salad:** Arugula/Beet and green salad served with fresh baked bread.

**Entree** (chose one):

- Spinach ravioli in a sun-dried tomato, cream sauce.
- Fresh made pasta, Lasagna Bolognese (tomato beef sauce).
- Chicken saltimbocca with prosciutto in a sage, rosemary cream sauce.

**Dessert:** homemade Tiramisu & mini cream puffs.

Coffee or tea



**Reserve your spot [online](#) and make your entree selection online by March 24.** Prices for the Cena vary from location to location and selection. The price for our visit to Cafe Vitale will be **\$55 per person**, including tax and service. I will collect at the door, cash or a check payable to me, Ken Borelli.

Please try to make the event. Last minute cancellations and no shows cause a lot of issues for the restaurants and me, since our prices, such as this one, are many times a special culinary creation based on a count that is called in 2 days before the event. Likewise, because space is limited, we usually do have a waiting list and we have had to turn people away, only to realize they could have attended if we knew of the cancellations earlier. Thank you for your consideration.

~~~Ken Borelli



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Don't let time run out – Renew today!

If you haven't already done so, please renew your IAHF membership for 2026.

2025 memberships expire on March 31, 2026 and you will no longer receive newsletters, upcoming event announcements, or discounted rates to all our events, cooking classes, hall rentals and more.

If you have already paid your 2026 dues, thank you for renewing promptly, your membership is good until December 31, 2026.

Thanks to each of you for your support, participation, and contributions to this wonderful organization which celebrates and promotes the rich Italian culture – Members are the heartbeat of our Foundation!

If you haven't renewed and would like to continue your membership, please renew online at the link below using your unique member id that was mailed to you. Visit our website at <https://form.jotform.com/iahfsj/renewal> or return your renewal form along with your check today.

**Grazie Mille**, your membership dues help keep Italian culture alive in our community.

~~~ Louie Lombardo, acting Membership Board Member



ITALIAN AMERICAN  
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

YOUR PASSPORT TO ITALIAN CULTURE



# VALENTINE **AFTERGLOW** CELEBRATION OF Love, Friendship, and Fun **DANCE PARTY**



Sunday, March 8, 2026

**\$30** General Admission

**\$15** Under 18

Children under 7 FREE



*Italian American  
Heritage Foundation*  
425 N. Fourth St., San Jose

**3:30pm Social**

**4:30 - 6:00 pm Dinner**

**6pm - 8:30pm Dancing**

**from Oldies to Modern Pop and  
favorite Line Dances**



**Door Prizes, Birthday Celebrations,  
& the latest DJ Eric Backdrops**

## Menu

Appetizer

Seasonal Greens Salad

Country French Bread

Designer Pasta (subject to availability) with a  
Calabrese style sauce with polpete (meatballs)  
and boneless pork ribs

Side of Sautéed peas and mushrooms

Dessert & Coffee

**Open Seating – No reserved seating**

**Tables of 6 or 8 can be accommodated**



**Music by DJ Eric**

**Chairpersons:**

**Delia Schizzano**

**& Ken Borelli**

**NO Bar Service except Soft Drinks & Water**

**BYO / Bottle**

**For Tickets:**

**Go online at:**

**<https://www.iahfsj.org/events>**

**or scan QR code**





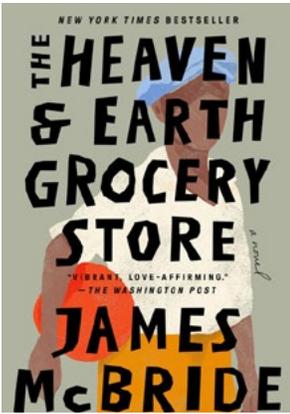
familiarize the reader with the scope and depth of this poor, rural Pennsylvania community and serves to introduce important contributing, colorful and quirky characters. Each chapter opens a window to the life and times surely replicated all over America. In this story, Jews and African Americans enjoy a satisfying bond on a hill near town; immigrants mingle in town with dangerously prejudiced people. Most notorious of all is the town physician who is a member of the KKK and grossly lecherous. His fate, though reached by accident, is well-deserved.

Midway through the book there occurs a horrible event. A young, orphaned, deaf, black child is captured from the black families who are protecting him and he is forced into one of the worst asylums in America. The description of his situation is the stuff of nightmares. Within this nightmare the dear boy develops a friendship with a severely disabled youth in the bed next to him. Together they devise a sign language which gives them both a bit of relief from the encompassing evil. This special relationship serves the theme of the book which is one of survival through team effort, in this case, a team of two desperate boys.

As word of this horrific miscarriage of justice and evil incarceration of a child reaches the ears of the community, both on the hill and in town, the diverse population begins to coalesce. Many ideas are discussed, passions are aroused, and finally a rescue plan is enacted. Author McBride skillfully leads the reader out of dysfunctional chaos into an area of hope and justice. Through their pro-active demand for justice, the community repairs itself.

The realism in The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store is, at times startling, and even off-putting, especially the name epithets like Dodo, Monkey-pants, Fatty etc. But realism drives the story and Author McBride leads us to a satisfying and rewarding and hopeful conclusion.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley



**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**  
By James McBride

While The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride is certainly not an Italian-themed book, it belongs in this column because it so thoroughly describes the type of community in which many poor Italian immigrants in the early 20th century found

themselves. It's not a beautiful place. In fact, it's sad and frightening and utterly depressing. Undoubtedly some of these immigrants must have felt they had jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire. Indeed, one notable character did head back to his European homeland. Everyone is fighting for existence; the lone Italian family in the story is typically fighting for control of a shady business. Society in that town, much like the book itself, at first appears to be disjointed, full of division. Even the robust Jewish community lacks harmony, divided by ancestral differences.

The only place where there is some semblance of accord is the neighborhood grocery store. It is somewhat of a peaceful haven for the townfolk of all races and creeds. Thus the title.

For those who enjoy a strong plot line from beginning to end, you may find this book challenging. In fact, the plot does not make itself evident until well into the story. Instead, each chapter of the first half of the book serves to

MARCH 19 —  
**ST. JOSEPH'S DAY**

St Joseph,  
Patron of our City and  
Diocese,  
pray for us.

sro

**IAHF Bocce Tournament**

**June 14 - Save the Date!**  
**Everyone Welcome**



# MISSION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH CLARINETIST FRANCESCO DARMANIN

Thanks so much to the many members and friends who came to enjoy a lovely musical afternoon with Mission Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Palacios. The hall looked beautiful and the soft drapery enhanced the acoustics and complimented the music. Special thanks to Eric Ancil for his work beautifying the hall.

After a brief, educational and often humorous introduction by Maestro Palacios, the musical afternoon began with a robust presentation of violins leading the performance of Antonio Salieri's Symphony in D Major called La Veneziana.

From Venice we were entertained by a delightful trio of Mozart fugues known as Clarinet Concerto in A Major. The suite was led by our guest soloist, Francesco Darmanin. The first, Allegro, was a happy piece just as its name implies. The second, Adagio, was relaxing and peaceful. The third, Rondo Allegro, filled the hall with festive dance-like music.

We then enjoyed a magnificent solo presentation by Clarinetist Darmanin. This fascinating artist treated us to his own composition, "Foglie di Narciso." The beauty of the music and the mastery of the instrument can leave no doubt that Francesco Darmanin is a music prodigy. Many thanks to Delia Schizzano for hosting the young musician during his stay.

The musical portion of the afternoon was brought to a close with the rousing Symphony in D Major, Di Bologna by Rossini. It was interesting to see an afternoon program featuring Salieri and Mozart. I had always heard that the two were highly competitive for court bookings and were not fond of each other. Whatever their history, they worked beautifully together for us and Maestro Palacios.

Ken Borelli and his hard-working kitchen crew treated us all to a lasagna supper following the concert and many lingered long afterward enjoying the food and conversation. Special thanks to Ken and the Board of Directors for arranging this fine event.

~~~ Submitted by Linda Gaudio Binkley



## LEONARDO'S KNOTS

Hot off the press from our local Leonardo scholar, Caroline Cocciardi!

She sent the following link to a video featuring a fresco created by Leonardo in Milano. This video was created by [Leonardo's Knots](https://www.leonardosknots.org) as a tribute to the mandalas of Leonardo da Vinci. The opening ceremony of the 2026 Milan Olympics draws inspiration from da Vinci's intricate mandalas without acknowledging the artist.



Caroline's homage to "*Leonardo da Vinci's Accademia Vinciana*" celebrates his stunning, extraordinary interlocking creations, designed 500 years ago with only his hand and mind. Please like and share this video to help raise awareness of Leonardo's genius.

Caroline writes:

*I hope you and your members will enjoy this video created by my team, featuring Leonardo da Vinci welcoming the Milano Olympics. Feel free to share it with everyone: <https://youtu.be/xLftBI-P1Rg>*

A presto,  
Caroline Cocciardi [www.leonardosknots.org](https://www.leonardosknots.org)

*“Evviva La Festa di San Giuseppe”*

## The Italian American Heritage Foundation

Welcomes Everyone to the

### **ST. JOSEPH'S DAY MASS & TABLE**

*Thursday March 19, 2026*

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

10:30 A.M. – Doors Open

11:00 A.M. – Mass

Celebrated by  
Father George Aranha

12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Lunch



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

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

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

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

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

Parking will be available on the street.

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

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



**SCAN ME  
To DONATE**

## Back in Business

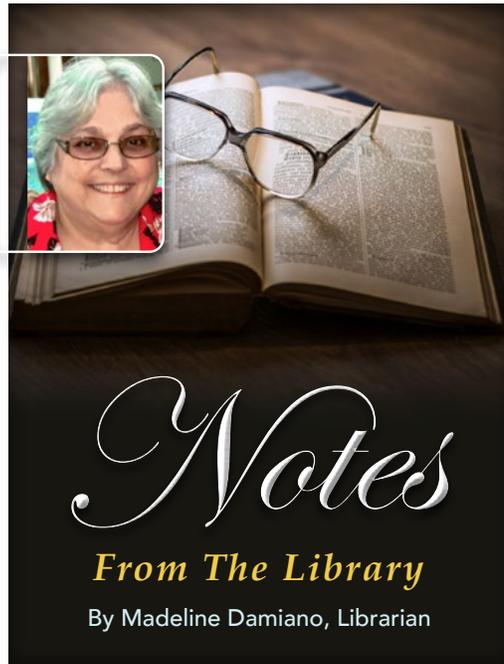
The roof is now leakproof, the plastic sheets are put away, and the library is back! There is still much work to be done, so if you're interested, come on in! There are many interesting projects that need attention.

### Volunteer Opportunities

One fascinating library project is translating the Post-WWII letters from Rose Crimi's family in Italy. These poignant and insightful letters detail their struggle to find normalcy after the devastation of the war. My thanks to Angela Di Berardino for helping to translate one of the most important letters. And also to one of the IAHF's newest members, Sestilio Testa, who spent a couple of hours helping me to translate part of another. If you can read Italian handwriting, you could easily get lost in their story.

The library received many donations over the summer and fall. Books need to be labeled and entered into the online card catalog.

If you like organizing, you can help set up library files for all of the interesting pamphlets and articles that are too small to go on the shelves with the books.



### Newest Donation

I want to thank Dr. Marie Britz, dermatologist, for her recent donation of some truly beautiful books about the culture and architecture of Italy.

Her late husband, Dr. Robert Masi, was an ophthalmologist who was enamored of Italy and collected many lovely coffee-table books about the beauty of Italian towns, architecture, and art. She has graciously donated the books to our Twila Venuti Library.

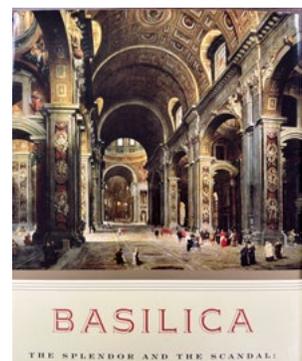
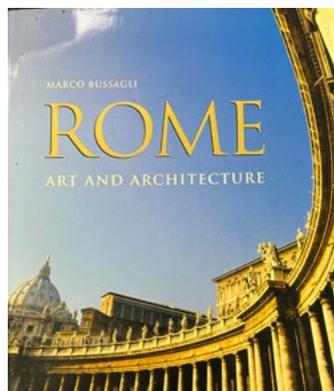
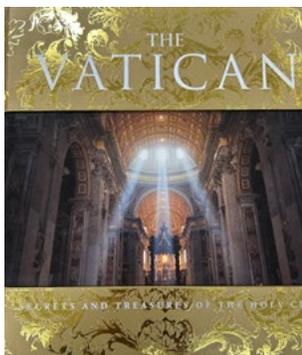
Some of these books are shown below; others include:

- The Hill Towns of Italy
- 101 Beautiful Small Towns in Italy
- The Art of Florence
- Italian Hideaways
- Books on Piemonte
- Cookbooks, including one by Mary Ann Esposito.
- The Food Lover's Guide to the Gourmet Secrets of Rome

I will be highlighting books at our events, as has been done in the past. Come take a look - you will certainly find some that speak to you!

Feel free to drop me a line at [librarian@iahfsj.org](mailto:librarian@iahfsj.org) to discuss how you would like to help in our library.

~~~ Madeline Damiano, IAHF Librarian



# The Classics at the IAHF

One of the cornerstones of our Italian heritage is our musical traditions. They have evolved from early Italian history through the Renaissance and beyond. As a Heritage Foundation, we have been in the forefront of presenting to the community live musical genres from pop, folk music to the classics.

While we have been proudly associated with Opera San Jose, we also have a varied and eclectic array of music types. We even put on an Opera premier, *Sicilian's of Monterey*, by composer Louise Canepa along with sponsoring a great variety of visiting musicians. Also some of our members are stellar musicians in their own right and have performed at the IAHF!

With that in mind, it occurred to me at the recent February *Italy By the Bay Concert* conducted by Juan Cristobal Palacios just how important it is to nurture this art form. Not only looking back at musical history, although that is important too, we should not forget today's vibrant music scene, including outreach and collaboration with the greater world of contemporary music.

Our musical collaboration with the *Mission Chamber Orchestra* and visit by composer/clarinetist Francesco Darmanin highlights this point. I asked IAHF member conductor and past director of the MCO, Emily Ray, if she recalls all the new and contemporary artists who we had the opportunity to hear at the current series of concerts. Emily put together quite an amazing list that I want to share with our membership. They included: John Corigliano, Romeo Cascarino, Joseph Curiale, Louise Canepa, Henry Mollicone, Jeremy Cavaterra, Alexander Goodhart and Marjan Mozetich. This year, we added Francesco Darmanin to the list and also the symphonic works of Pietro Mascagni, Ottorino Respighi, Ermanno Wolf Ferrari, Giacomo Puccini, Gioachino Rossini and Antonio Salieri. In addition, we also performed selections from our South American pisanos, Astor Piazzolla and Luis Gianneo. The Italian influence on parts of South American music is immense.

The neat thing about this experience is we were able to hear their works at the IAHF by a vibrant community orchestra and personally interact with some of the artists. Imagine, down the line, saying you were able to meet or even hear their works at one of our music events. Plus, as an organization, we can proudly say our Foundation, of which you are a member, is a supporter of the arts in the greater community. Now that is Italian American Heritage in action!

~~~ Ken Borelli

## Don't Forget About Italian Lessons

Let's look at the common expression **Lasciare stare** (also written and pronounced lasciar stare).

1. Forget about it! This phrase expresses strongly that it is time to move on, enough has been said or done.

~ **Lasciamo stare, è inutile continuare questa conversazione.** Let's let it be, it's useless to continue this conversation.

~ **Ma lascia stare!** Oh, just forget it! or Oh, just drop it!

2. To leave alone, to stop bothering someone, avoid involvement, to avoid touching.

~ **Lasci stare il cane.** Leave the dog alone!

~ **Lascia stare il piatto. È delicato.** Don't touch the plate. It's fragile.

~ **Lasciami in pace, per favore.** (without stare) Please leave me alone.

3. To not worry, to not bother about something.

~ **Lascia stare, lo faccio io.** Don't worry, I'll do it. (you don't have to).

4. To put aside for the time being.

~ **Lasciamo stare il lavoro per un pochino.** Let's put the work aside for a while.

## A Message from the Institute

JOHN D. CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

### The Pietro "Pete" Panto Italian Diaspora Labor Dissertation Fellowship



This year marks the second of six funded years of the Panto Fellowship prize. The fellowship is for graduate students who are writing their dissertation on any topic involving Italian emigrant and/or Italian ethnic labor and/or working-class life either in the United States or in the wider Italian diaspora.

Submissions may come from all relevant fields of study in the social sciences and humanities, including, but not limited to, history, literary studies, film studies, gender studies, and political science. The fellowship will run for six years with one award given each year. The fellowship award

is \$1,000 US per year.

The fellowship is named after dockworker and labor activist Pietro "Pete" Panto (1910–1939), who was murdered for leading rank-and-file stevedores in a struggle for safe and democratic working conditions on the Brooklyn waterfront, which had long been in the grip of mobsters and corrupt elements in the union.

Applications can be mailed to <https://bordigherapress.submittable.com/submit>.

**Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2026. The winner will be notified on Labor Day, September 7, 2026.**

If you have any questions, please write to the Calandra Institute at the following email: [calandra@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:calandra@qc.cuny.edu).



# GRAND OPENING!

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## Save the dates now for our 44th Annual Italian Family Festa July 25 and 26, 2026

We are looking for enthusiastic and organized individuals age 15-1/2+ to assist with our upcoming Festa. Take a look at the [Festa website](#) to see the types of activities we would need volunteers. [Volunteer registration](#) begins in May.

**Models** - Have you always admired Italian garments? What better way to experience Italian couture than modeling regional clothing at our Festa. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer as models and wear the clothing around the park.

**Historians** - How about sharing your knowledge about Italy, Italian history, even knowledge of Italian Heritage as it applies to our beautiful city, county, region or state. If you enjoy initiating conversations about all things Italian, we would love to have you volunteer for the Festa's Cultural Booth.

Please reach out to Dana Zuccarello, Ken Borelli or Sharon McCray for more details or to volunteer. The more interested people we have, the better these roles can be divided and shared among them.

What better way to divide and conquer?



# PLAY BALL WITH JAY PALMA --IN ITALY!



Play baseball that is, and with former IAHF member Jay Palma. Last week I was contacted by Jay after about a 10 year or so hiatus. It brought back a floodgate of pleasant memories. Jay was the recipient of an IAHF award for his work in promoting baseball in Italy. He played in the Italian Baseball league and moved up through the ranks of the organization to being a coach and promoter of the sports.

Some of you may also recall Jay, cooking the pasta at past festas in the 1990's, attending and working on many of our events. He is multi-talented in that regards, and grew up in the Valley, during the transitions from the Valley of Heart's delight to Silicon Valley, so his agricultural roots in Santa Clara run deep!

Regarding baseball in Italy, it is a product of post-World War II interaction between the American GI's and local communities, to the point that an Italian Baseball league developed. Players like Jay were in a way, pioneers in developing the sport. I recall in the 1990's we had a special program on the subject.

Fast forward to today, Jay sent me a flyer about a special baseball event he is putting together in Verona Italy. Jay currently divided his time between Palm Beach Florida and Verona, Italy (yes life is rough!!!). He will be taking three former MLB players with him to help coach a four-week baseball program. They plan to play games against the Italian National Team, along with a team from the Italian Baseball League.

With that in mind Jay is now focusing on getting the word out and searching for potential corporate and individual sponsors to promote amateur players. The cost per amateur player (ages 18–24) is \$4,500, which covers uniforms, equipment, field costs, umpires, travel, and full room and board. Jay also noted for individual sponsors, sponsoring one player covers that player's entire experience, no additional costs for the athlete.

Jay is also out scouting the area and looking at some local players and looking for recommendations from coaches who may know a player that could be a good fit for this opportunity. Ever the promoter Jay also noted "If the IAHF, (or for that matter, other organizations) wants to sponsor a player that would work too." How about our local San Jose Giants?

The summer workshops go from May 31st through June 14th. Jay will be hosting these players during the time they will be playing ball in Italy. For more information contact me at the IAHF, and I can get you in touch with Jay. The bottom line is this is a nominal amount for an amazing experience for a young adult who is at all into the "great American pastime"--Italian style in Verona.

~~~Ken Borelli

(PS--apropos of Valentine Day, Jay met his Italian wife at one of our Festa appreciation dinners--and yes, she is from the Veneto region!).

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# HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2026

The Patrons of Italian Culture, operating under the auspices of the Consul General of Italy, is proud to announce the 2026 Casola Prize — a college scholarship designed to support the study of the Italian language and the promotion of Italian culture.

This scholarship is open to full-time high school seniors who:

- Are currently enrolled in Italian language classes
- Have been accepted to an accredited college or university
- Demonstrate a passion for Italian language and culture

A commitment to pursuing a major or minor in Italian Language or Italian Studies is strongly encouraged.

Scholarships will be awarded in varying amounts based on merit and commitment. Funds will be deposited directly into the recipient's college or university account.

To apply, applicants must visit [PICLA.ORG](http://PICLA.ORG) to complete the online entry form and submit the following materials:

- A current resumé
- Documentation of academic standing
- A personal letter describing: your planned course of study, your interest in Italian language and/or culture and how you intend to use your degree to promote Italian language and culture in the future

~~~ Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf



Letters should be addressed to: Board of Directors, Patrons of Italian Culture and mailed to:  
P. Romano, President, Patrons of Italian Culture,  
P.O. Box 4720, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

## Scholarship Application for the Study of Italian Language and Culture ENTRY FORM

Please print and submit this entry form with your resume, academic standing and letter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: ( ) E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify your Italian – American lineage: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you learn about this Scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and address of College/University you have been accepted to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Your future Major or Minor Course of Study: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your minor (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that my entry becomes property of The Patrons of Italian Culture.  
 Winners will be asked to submit a photo and Social Security Number (required by law) prior to awards being given by The Patrons of Italian Culture.  
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Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_



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## IAHF Board Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2026

**Attendees:** Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Ken Borelli, Frank DeTurrís (v), Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Paul Greco (v), Joe Lucito, Nanci Wilborn, Richard Stewart (v), Madeline Damiano, Clay Brasuell, Marcus Barbera

Absence: Sharon McCray, Steven Ricossa, Tony Zerbo, Susan Monahan  
(v) virtual attendance

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

- The meeting was held in memory of Jo Macaluso.

Review January Meeting Minutes

- We will accept the invitation to attend the City of Mt. View's Multicultural Festival, Saturday May 2, 11-3pm at Civic Center Plaza. Mary, Dana and Clay will attend. A motion was made purchase a sponsorship of \$500 for the event.

- Report on Annual Meeting of Italian Associations and Italian American Community of the Bay Area. Ken and Dana made connections for Alfa Romeo's and Vespa's for our Festa.

- Dana was able to find vendors for Express/coffee; Risotto, Lasagna, Limoncello. Azie will need to amend the liquor permit.

**CFO Report, Frank DeTurrís**

- Financial status for January 2026
- Frank provided a comparison of the Roof & HVAC replacement to the actual costs.

**1st VP, Ken Borelli**

- Ken reviewed the Mission Orchestra event held on February 01, and how it is a collaboration with other organizations.
- Festa: we held the first Festa Planning session.
- Flag Twirler Visit from Faenza will be a special guest for the 2026 Festa and a welcoming event at the Hall.
- Ken explained how a former member of IAHF is seeking sponsorship from IAHF for American baseball players scholarships in Italy
- Ken is planning to combine the Festa della Repubblica with the Saint Joseph's Table event on March 19.
- March 8 is the After Glow dinner dance.
- Raffles are very profitable, however we need to expand our pool of donors for large gifts (eg. Vacations, Spa packages,...)
- Crab Feed will be April 17.

**2nd VP, Azie Habib**

- 15 Hall rentals booked for FY26.
- Roof and HVAC status - The final inspection for the roof will be the 1st week in March.

**3rd VP, Sharon McCray** (Report submitted by email) - Bocce tournament on June 14 at 11:30. The BOD should be fully represented.

**4th VP, Louie Lombardo**

- Board member agreement scorecard - missing 4 board members' agreements.
- Current membership 438 active with 641 members. Renewals are due by the end of March.
- Access to any IAHF Financial data requires the board member to log into their IAHF google email account.

**Librarian, Madeline Damiano**

- Update on filing for the Library Tax Exemption. Asked about current funds available for library projects
- Reported on the status of book donations.
- A student from SJSU will be a volunteer for the Library.
- IAHF will host a booth for Gunderson High School Multicultural Fair - March 27.

**Newsletter, Mary Pizzo** - March Newsletter articles received

- Casola Prize
- Mission Orchestra review
- Cooking Class dates
- Flag twirlers
- Italian lesson + Book Review
- Baseball in Italy Scholarships

Adjourn 8:45pm



# 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 ◆
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## • PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS •

### • SINCE DECEMBER 01, 2025 •

- Kristy Bonaccorso & Ben Collisson • Christopher Cossitor
- Michele Rumfola • Sestilio Testa • Brent Ventura

### 2026 Student Members

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

\* indicates Birth month shared with IAHF for March 2026.  
∞ indicates Anniversary month shared with IAHF for March 2026

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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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