



IAHF NEWS



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

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

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MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summertime, already?

I know I always write about how quickly time flies, but can you believe the first half of the year is almost behind us? WOW!

As Summer approaches, we'll be celebrating Father's Day,

graduations, weddings, July 4th holiday and traveling for vacations and visiting family. I was able to speak to many who attended our Annual Polenta Dinner and you shared with me your summer plans. I wish all of you mercy travels and safety as you head out in all different directions! Take lots of pictures of the memories you're creating! Don't forget to treasure the time spent with family and friends. You'll never get those moments back.

Dedicating our 44th Annual Italian Family Festa

This year's Italian Family Festa will hold special meaning for the Italian American Heritage Foundation and the local community as well. We will dedicate that upcoming weekend in memory of longtime member, respected public figure and dear friend, Rod Diridon, Sr. For 50 years, Rod was a passionate supporter of our organization and a beloved presence within the Italian cultural community. His dedication, generosity and unwavering commitment that he invested in all he did have left a lasting impact on everyone who had

the privilege of knowing him. As we gather this year to celebrate Italian food, music, traditions and fellowship, we also pause to honor Rod's remarkable legacy and the many contributions he made to our organization and our community. We dedicate this year's Festa in his memory with gratitude, respect and affection. His spirit will continue to inspire us for years to come. May we celebrate this year with the same warmth, generosity and sense of community that Rod always brought to every gathering.

To let you know, Rod's memorial service and celebration of his public service will be on June 25th, 2-4 pm, at the San Jose Civic Auditorium. All are welcome, and no RSVPs are necessary.

July's upcoming newsletter

Just a reminder that the next issue of our newsletter will be entirely dedicated to all things FESTA! Events will be listed, schedules will be provided, foods, wines, vendors and entertainment will be at your fingertips.

With heartfelt gratitude

Every month I close with thanks to you, the IAHF membership, and somehow the words never feel big enough. Your encouragement and kindness continue to mean so much to me. I treasure all your friendships.

~~~Dana Zuccarello Aguirre



### **Articles of Interest**

Bocce Time & Flyer - Pages 2-3  
 Honoring our 2026 Scholarship Recipients - Page 4  
 Mountain View Multicultural Fair - Page 4  
 Regional Lunch; Sacco & Vanzetti Lecture - Page 5  
 More on Sharp Park - Page 6  
 April Cena Fuori The Pasta Market - Page 6  
 June Cena Fuori at Kalesa - Page 7  
 Tour Dates for Sicily and Italy - Page 7  
 Italia Pavilion Festa Schedule - Pages 8-9  
 Fratelli d'Italia - Pages 11-12  
 The Teresa Finds a New Berth - Page 13  
 Young Italians Living in the USA Survey - Page 14

### **Columns**

President's Message - Page 1  
 Schedule of Events - Page 2  
 Book Corner - Page 10  
 Italian Language Corner - Page 10  
 Personal Messages - Pages 12-13  
 Letter to the IAHF Board - Page 15  
 Board Meeting Minutes - Page 16  
 Membership Listing - Pages 17-20

# Schedule of Events

## • June

- June 11, Thursday / A hearty, herbed chicken stew from Veneto called "Polastro in Tecia" / 7:00 PM / \$25.00 Members | \$30.00 for Day Membership / At the Hall / purchase your tickets [online](#) by June 8.
- June 14, Sunday / 11th Annual Bocce Tournament / 11:30-2pm / Campo di Bocce Los Gatos / Purchase tickets and sign up your team [online](#) See flyer on page 3 for details.
- June 18, Thursday / Regional Lunch - Campagna / 7:00 PM / \$25.00 Members | \$30.00 for Day Membership / At the Hall / purchase your tickets [online](#) by June 15.
- June 25, Thursday / Cena Fouri / Kalesa - 1783 North Milpitas Boulevard, Milpitas / 7-9pm / \$40 per person / make your reservation [online](#) / see page 9 for details.

## • July

- July 22, Wednesday / Pre-Festa Dinner Event - Meet the Flag Throwers from Italy
- July 25-26 for Italian Family Festa at History Park San Jose.

## Weekly Italian Language

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

• In person Italian classes / April 08, Wednesday / 10:30-11:30am / Beginning-Advanced / Classes will be each Wednesday for 8 weeks / Check back for when the next session starts up. To learn more [online](#)

## Cooking Classes in the Hall

• Cooking classes are held on the second Thursday of the month from 7-9pm. The cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for a Day Membership. Purchase tickets [online](#).

## BOCCÉ TIME!

Since 2015, the IAHF has hosted annual bocce ball tournaments at Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos. Continuing our goal of bringing Club members and families together, this year's tournament is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, starting at 11:30 with playoffs

ending at 2. For those new to the game, come early and we will have a short instruction lesson.

The tournaments typically include eight teams of four players each. Any age is welcome, and we encourage families to come. This year, as in the past, we will provide equipment along with incredible appetizers prepared by the exceptional chefs at Campo. A full, no host bar is available to complement the pizza, antipasto, fruit and veggie trays included with your registration.

The member price to register is \$50, Day Pass Members \$60 and non-players and youth are \$30. Space is limited to play but it's not too late to call Stanley and reserve your space. Better yet, purchase your tickets [online](#) and register your team using the link from the flyer found on page 3 First and second place winners will each receive victory medals provided by Denise and Sal Campagna. So come and join us! A great time, fantastic food and friendship.



~~~Sharon McCray, Bocce Chair

Italian American Heritage Foundation

11th Annual Bocce Open Tournament and

IAHF Fundraiser



ALL ARE WELCOME TO PLAY!

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Games: start promptly at 11:30 AM.

Tournament Rules

- Please come early to register prior to game time. Tournament ends at 2:00 PM.
- Only Campo di Bocce's BALLS may be used.
- You may enroll your own team of 4 players, or we could assign you to a team.
- Time-limited rotation playing.
- The play will culminate in a "play-off" for the IAHF Championship.



Winners' Medals courtesy
of Sal & Denise Campagna

Bocce Co-Chairs:

**Sharon McCray
& Ken Borelli**

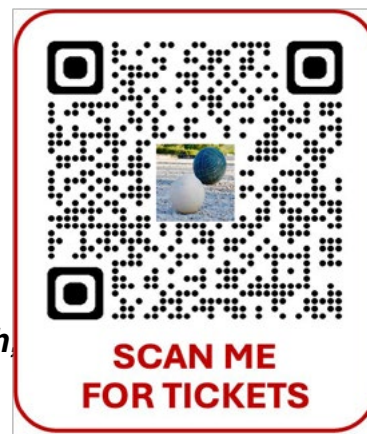
LOCATION: Campo di Bocce,
565 University Ave. Los Gatos, CA

PARKING: Complimentary parking at
Campo di Bocce, including street side, and
the Intero Real Estate lot.

**Included: Pizza, Fruit & Antipasto Trays, and Dessert
No-Host bar**

**COST: Players: Members: \$50 each; DAY Pass Members: \$60 each
Non-players and youth: \$30 each**

Non-players welcome. Root for your home team!



Method of Payment: All IAHF events may be paid online at iahfsj.org/events or scan QR code above

Your Name _____

() I have a team of four. They include:

() I'll join a team that will be selected for me.

() I prefer to socialize with friends and enjoy appetizers.

() Unable to come but want to donate to the IAHF Fundraiser _____

Make & send check payable to:
Italian American Heritage Foundation
425 N. Fourth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

HONORING OUR 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On Sunday, May 3, the IAHF Hall was filled with a deep sense of pride and community as we gathered for our Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. This signature event serves to honor the academic excellence of our youth while celebrating our deep cultural roots.

We were privileged to host several distinguished guest speakers whose inspiring remarks provided a backdrop for the afternoon's festivities. State Senator Dave Cortese, our keynote speaker, shared reflections on his own family's journey, reminding us of the vital link between civic engagement and the transformative power of education. As a long-standing supporter of the IAHF and the Italian-American community in Santa Clara County, the Senator's presence underscored the importance of our shared mission.

Professor Romeo Beccherelli, Scientific Attaché, Head of Scientific Office at the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco, offered a perspective on the history of Italian immigration. By exploring the nuances between our respective educational systems, he illustrated how a strong connection to Italy's academic and cultural institutions can inspire students as they embark on their professional journeys.

The leadership of Il Cenacolo—current president David Giannini, Jr. and former president David Cobb—further emphasized the value of higher learning. They spoke about the partnership and joint commitment of our organizations to foster the next generation of Italian-American scholars through the presentation of Il Cenacolo Scholarships.

After the luncheon and before the presentation of awards, the room fell silent for a stunning performance by scholarship recipient Nikola Mazzola. His masterful rendition of Stanley Myers' 'Cavatina' on the guitar was a true highlight of the event. It was easy to see the immense skill that earned him the Royal Conservatory of Music National Gold Medal, and his performance served as a beautiful tribute to the incredible talent thriving within our community.

These recipients represent an extraordinary group of students who demonstrate both exceptional merit and a deep appreciation for their heritage. Spanning a wide array of disciplines and aspirations, these young men and women are a testament to the hard work and dedication that the IAHF aims to support.

As these scholars prepare for their upcoming semesters, they carry with them more than just financial assistance; they take with them the support and encouragement of the IAHF and Il Cenacolo. We are immensely proud to be a part of their journey and look forward to seeing the incredible impact they will undoubtedly make on the world. In the coming months, we will feature their inspiring essays in our newsletter as they share their unique stories, academic goals and deep pride in their heritage.

~~~Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair

## MOUNTAIN VIEW'S MULTICULTURAL FAIRE

On Saturday, May 2nd, the IAHF was invited to represent the Italian community at Mountain View's Annual Multicultural Faire held at the Mountain View Civic Center Plaza. It was a beautiful day as we set up our booth, preparing for hundreds of kids and adults to stop by.

We offered two crafts for the kids to make and take: Carnevale masks to decorate for those who are 6 and older and a build your own paper plate pizzas for those 5 and younger. I'm not sure who had more fun; the youngsters or us who worked at the booth: Clay Brasuel, Mary Pizzo and myself. We even came dressed in our Italian costumes. We got the word out about our Italian American Heritage Foundation and invited them to our upcoming Festa. Looking forward to joining the Mountain View Multicultural Faire again next year!

~~~Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre





JUNE REGIONAL LUNCH - CAMPAGNA - WITH A GUEST SPEAKER

The regional lunch for June will visit the Province of Campagna. Like many parts of Italy, there is a dominant city (such as our last sojourn into the Veneto) and, of course with Campagna, it is "Bella" Napoli, rich in history and a crossroad to the Mediterranean world. Prior to Italian unification, it was the capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

In addition to the lunch, there will be a special guest speaker Ximena Romero, a sophomore from Presentation High School. She will share some of her personal research on the Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti trials of the 1920. The lecture will immediately follow lunch in deference to her academic schedule.

The Regional Lunch menu will draw on some classic parts of Campagna and include:

- Mozzarella in Carrozza
- Green Herbed Salad
- Ragu alla Napoletana with polpette and boneless pork ribs with pasta
- Pepperoni imbottiti alla Napoletana
- Melanzane e Fugiteille (Sauteed Eggplant mushroom style)
- Dessert

The luncheon will be held Thursday, June 18, at noon immediately followed by Ximena's presentation. Go [online](#) to purchase lunch tickets for Members \$25.00/Daymembers \$30.00. For lecture only, please call the IAHF office 408/298-7122 to reserve a seat.

Presentation about Sacco and Vanzetti

This is in collaboration with the IAHF Scholarship Program and Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair.

It is very exciting to welcome a student from Presentation High School, Ximena Romano, who will share her presentation about a subject that forever changed the Italian American landscape.



Marie notes that Ximena's research goes beyond standard textbook accounts. She not only conducted interviews with professors and community members knowledgeable about the case, she created an exhibit that traced the history of nativism in America, particularly the discrimination and mistrust faced by many Italian immigrants in the 1920's.

Ximena's research examines the lasting impact of the trials, including their influence on the Massachusetts court system. In addition, Ximena thoughtfully connects the experience of immigrants in the early twentieth century with the continuing conversation about immigration, prejudice and inclusion in America today.

Please join us for this compelling presentation when a remarkable young scholar sheds light on a poignant chapter of history that deeply shaped the Italian-American experience.

Walk-ins for the lecture only are free. To attend the lecture, free seating will be available after 1:00pm.

~~~ Ken Borelli

## MORE ON SHARP PARK

Earlier in the year, I wrote an article about the Sharp Park Detention Facility. It is located in Pacifica. The County of San Francisco is in the process of working on signage for the WWII facility which housed Japanese, German and Italian American enemy aliens. In addition to them, the facility also housed and processed enemy aliens from adjacent allied countries of the United States. For example, enemy aliens from Peru along with other allied nations to the United States were deported to Sharp Park.



This is a little known part of the detention camp process. I was fortunate to be a part of the Signage Review Committee last month. I will keep you abreast of any news about the project as it ties into the IAHF's own work in this field. We also label this topic, "La Storia Secreta" after Lawrence di Stassi's seminal work on the subject and the efforts of IAHF member, Chet Campanella, to seek some sort of restitution for these wartime deeds.

Through working on this project, I met Christina Olivolo Sauvageau of San Francisco whom I asked to share her story boards about Sharp Park, and she graciously agreed to do so. There are also some direct San Jose-related stories connected to the park. As soon as permission to share these stories is obtained, I will pass them on to our readers.

We are planning to exhibit the history panels in the Festa Cultural Tent. Generally speaking, this exhibit, which is among so many throughout the our Festa activities, highlights what is so special about our Festa. It is a multi-faceted Italian American experience in keeping with our mission statement to share our heritage with the general community. We need membership support to help keep this valuable event viable and fully staffed. Please consider donating or helping out at the Festa however you can. Meanwhile, be sure to check out the Cultural Tent at this year's Italian Family Festa.

~~~ Ken Borelli

CENA FUORI – APRILE 2026

A new adventure awaited Ken's Foodies this last April when we crossed the portals of The Pasta Market located in the San Jose Market Center on Coleman Avenue! Always fun to enjoy a "first" with the IAHF Cena Fuori crowd!



Casual and friendly, The Pasta Market is a restaurant that offers delivery and take-out meals. Highly recommended is the dine-in enjoyment where you can savor the aromas in this cozy and comfortable setting and be treated with efficient, friendly and conscientious service. There is also a "mini market" where one can purchase their delicious and renowned focaccia bread, cheese spread, a complete array of housemade pasta sauces and desserts.

The more than 45 of us began our evening with a fresh romaine salad with the offer of Creamy Italian, Ranch or Blue Cheese salad dressing – or some of each to create your own Continental Dressing! The round, focaccia style garlic flavored bread is like potato chips – can't stop at one piece – especially if you top it with the famed cheese spread - and so baskets and baskets of bread and cheese spread kept everybody more than satisfied.

We were offered a choice of entrée when we registered to attend: Linguine Vongole, Angel Hair Pasta Pomodoro with Pollo, Tortellini Primavera with mixed vegetables in an Alfredo Sauce or Tortellini Carbonara with cheese, prosciutto and green onions in an Alfredo Sauce. Each entrée was very generously portioned so, of course, "doggie boxes" were a hot commodity.

The pièce de resistance then arrived – a regular-sized cannoli that was hailed at the table as "the best I have ever eaten!" Generously filled with a smooth, sweet ricotta filling with hints of maraschino/almond flavors, a drizzle of chocolate on the crispy shell and a maraschino cherry on the end all mean that one can only say "WOW!"

Wine, beer and sodas were available. We enjoyed a welcome from the General Manager who assured us that ALL of the pastas are housemade, fresh daily. Established in 1982, originally as a part of Florentine Restaurants, there are also locations in Sunnyvale and Los Altos. Check it out and **mangia bene!**



June Cena Fuori - Kalesa

On Thursday, June 25, at 7 pm, we will be exploring new ground by visiting a Filipino restaurant known for its classical national cuisine. The name of the popular restaurant is **Kalesa**, and it is located at 1783 North Milpitas Boulevard in Milpitas.

While the names and spelling may be different, some of the foods are very similar to regional Italian dishes. This is because of the shared Latin heritage from the Spanish and South American side of the world, which also heavily impacted Italian cuisine. The menu is as follows:

Appetizer

Fried Breaded Calamari

Served Family Style

Sisig - Sauteed Pork with Herbs, Peppers, Onions and Calamansi
Miki-Bihon Pancit – Egg and Rice Noodles with Meat, Shrimp and Fresh Vegetables
Chicken Adobo, the National Dish of the Philippines – Tender Pieces of Chicken, Cooked with Soy Sauce, Vinegar and Garlic; Paired with Steamed Rice. (Steamed rice is served as a dinner staple instead of potatoes or bread.)

Dessert

Turon ala Moda –
Sauteed Sliced Bananas rolled in a Spring Roll Wrapper served with Ice Cream

Cost for the event is \$40.00 per person. Cash or checks payable to Ken Borelli are due upon arrival at the restaurant. Make your reservation by June 22 either [online](#) or call the office.

~~~ Ken Borelli

*Please note: there is no Cena Fuori in July due to the Festa and pre-festa activities, which includes a special welcome dinner for our visitors from Faenza, Italy. The schedule will be in the July newsletter.*

## Tour Dates for Sicily and Italy

I am so excited to announce that we have tour dates lined up! **Travel dates will be May 10 – 31, 2027.** I have had many people express interest in getting info for our next trips to Sicily and Italy.

Our tour guide, Giuseppe Marchese, is a native of Palermo and has been in the tourism industry for 30 years! He speaks Italian, Sicilian, English and Spanish. He is so knowledgeable, friendly, funny and personable. This will be my fourth trip using Giuseppe as my guide. He isn't just a tour guide; I now consider him my friend.

The planned itineraries are as follows:

**Sicily and Southern Italy** – Arrival in Palermo, visiting Castellamare del Golfo, Erice, Scopello, Palermo, Terrasini, Valle dei Templi, Scala dei Turchi, Cefalu, Monreale, S. Elia, Porticello, Pollina, Castelbuono, Piazza Amerina, Villa Romana del Casale, Caltagirone, Marina di Ragusa, Ragusa Ibla, Scicli, Donnalucata, Marzamemi, Tropea, Capo Vaticano, Lecce, Gallipoli, Ostuni, Alberobello, Bari, Polignano a mare, Matera, Amalfi, Minori, Pompeii, Positano, Ravello. Departing from Napoli.

**Italy, Central and Northern** – Arrival in Roma, visiting Arezzo, Firenze, Lucca, Pisa, Castiglion del Lago, Lago Trasimeno, Cortona, Treviso, Venezia, Verona, Ferrara, Padova, Sirimione, Lago di Garda, Mantova, Bergamo Alta, Milano, Cernobbio, Lago di Como, Spoleto, Scheggino, Cascata delle Marmore, Castelli Romani, Nemi, Castel Gandolfo, Spello, Rasiglia, Perugia, Assisi. Departing from Roma.

Please [click here](#) if you'd like to view our zoom meeting with Giuseppe and hear about these two fabulous travel opportunities.

# ...AND AT THE ITALIA PAVILION

## 44TH ANNUAL ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA

### JULY 25-26 @ HISTORY PARK SAN JOSE

We will be celebrating the diversity of the Italian American community in many of forms. The wide range of activities at the Italia Pavilion, from Culinary to Cultural, will pique your personal interest and indulge your experience. There will be two full days to partake of the mini programs. A descriptive outline is provided:

#### Saturday, July 25 - Festa Hours 10am-6pm

**12pm-1pm The Fratello Marionettes** will only be doing one show this year at the Italia Pavilion. In Italy, puppetry is part of an oral tradition that is embellished by the keen art of marionettes. While it can be found in all parts of Italy, the art form is also a rich part of Sicilian heritage in the form of animated legends. The Fratello Marionettes have a special program prepared for all ages so everybody can experience the living traditions of Italian puppetry.



**1pm-2pm A Meet the Author** series featuring Linda Thomas and the release of her new book, *A Table for Everyone*.



The book is a tribute to Linda's mother as well as to "La Famiglia." Linda is from Youngstown, Ohio and will be visiting us for the Festa to share her memories and excerpts from her book with our Festa attendees. There will also be time for questions and dialogue along with perhaps being able to purchase the book at the Cultural Tent next to the Italia Pavilion. **"Benvenuti Linda alla Festa Italiana qui a San Jose!"** From Faenza Italy to Youngstown Ohio, we will have a wide range of Festa goes this year!

**2pm-3pm Buca di Beppo** at the Pruneyard in Campbell is graciously sharing their recipe for their classic house "Caprese Salad." Their participation at the Festa came about after some discussion at our Cena Fuori earlier in the year. The dishes at Buca di Beppo are just too delicious to have to wait for another Cena....so in chatting about how to engage their culinary team at the Festa, the Caprese Salad, which is found throughout Italy, became an obvious choice - especially since you will be to use your summer fresh tomatoes and basil in this savory salad and "antipasto"!



**3pm-4:30pm Chef Mykleangelo** This will be a two-part lecture and demonstration by YouTube celebrity chef "Mykleangelo" about getting down to basics. The first part of the demonstration will be a talk about culinary knife work and technique which will be followed by the preparation of two classic traditional sauces, Carbonara and Aglio Olio. While they are typically used on pasta, they can also be used over steamed vegetables, rice and other grain dishes. This is Chef Mykleangelo's first time at the Festa Culinary kitchen. He has quite a repertoire of dishes. He noted that food prep is essential for a basic culinary foundation so the lectures will highlight the tools of the trade and then, with these tools, prepare the two classic sauces. We also want to have him back to the IAHF for some special classes!

## Sunday, July 26 - Festa hours 11am-5pm

**11:30am-12:30pm Rod Diridon Sr. Memorial Lecture** "Growing Up in Siskiyou County." Rod was Mr. Transportation in Silicon Valley among so many other of his achievements. He recently passed away, and the IAHF wants to remember him with this memorial lecture. It's a take-off from a lecture given by Chris Hudson in remembrance of her mother, Mary Hudson, and her mom's family growing up in Siskiyou County. Two years ago, Rod was at the lecture and as the world turns, he noted his own Siskiyou County roots. So take this opportunity to learn about the historic Italian American community under the shadows of Mt. Shasta, featuring IAHF member Chris Hudson.



**12:30 to 1:30 Youth Roundtable** This will be an IAHF Youth Roundtable "Our Next Generation" facilitated by our Scholarship Committee Chair, Marie Dalldorf. Learn about the Foundation's efforts to outreach to Italian American Youth. All youth are welcome to participate in the Roundtable as a panelist or member of the audience. At our 2025 Festa, the Roundtable provided a critical feedback loop as we transition to a new generation of Italian Americans. Join us at this rich and vital workshop.



**1:30 to 2:30 "La Tarantella"** Learn the steps to one of Italy's iconic folk dances with Giulio Ferrante. He is an internationally famed dance instructor and a native of Sicily. Giulio also teaches dance in San Jose, Italy and Spain, and he attends the national ballroom dance events in the United Kingdom. This is a "For all ages event."



**2:30 to 4:00 Italian Costume Show** Our 3rd Annual Italian Folk Costume Show will take place, highlighting the traditional regional dress of Italy and is hosted by Delia Schizzano. The Show will be followed by a Park stroll or "passeggiata" in full regalia! If our visitors have their own regional costumes, we encourage you to wear them to the Festa. Delia is also available for consultation if you would like information about traditional Italian dress, and she can help you prepare your "**costumi alla Festa.**" We also want to encourage the men and young children to dawn their Festa vest and accompany us on the stroll around the Park which will end at the Roma stage for the closing Tea Dance.

~~~ Ken Borelli



ITALIAN FAMILY
FESTA
 San Jose

SPONSORS

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

The following list reflects just the beginning of those who have made a financial commitment as a Festa Sponsor. Some have been helping us for years.

We are truly grateful to all our sponsors!

SOBRATO
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SOBRATO PHILANTHROPIES – ROMA STAGE

KIEWIT SHEA TRAYLOR
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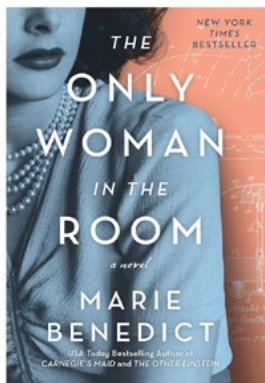
SAN JOSE GANTS



Made possible in part by a grant
 COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



The meetings become dramatically poignant when Mussolini is involved. Hedy's husband, a millionaire arms developer, has sided with Mussolini during the time Mussolini was attempting to remain free of Hitler's dominance. Through discussions, Hedy learns that Mussolini is weakening, and Hitler is firmly on the rise. To save his business, her husband must comply. Hedy fears for her Jewish family. In this harrowing time, Hedy gleans valuable information and determines to escape the clutches of her maniacally jealous husband and aid the Allies. It's quite an adventure.



The Only Woman in the Room

By Marie Benedict

Normally, I have little interest in the lives of movie stars, past or present. The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict is, however, a very worthy read for a variety of reasons. It is a mildly fictionalized story about the life of one of Hollywood's most stunning actresses, Hedy

Lamarr. This is a life of thrilling adventure, dramatic upheaval, political intrigue and ultimately, as we know, the American dream.

The first part of the book is the most engaging. It is set in Austria against the backdrop of Nazi Germany's encroachment attempt. Hedy is young, but an accomplished and respected actress and pianist. We quickly learn that her mind is as brilliant as her face is beautiful, and we come to recognize an amazingly strong and fearless character.

Hedy has much to fear. She is Jewish and married to a man literally financing Austria's struggle to remain free of Hitler. This puts her in contact with all the important men of the era. She is privy to all their intense dinner conversations; and because of her acting experience, she is able to utilize her ability to memorize important bits of conversation and take note of them.

She is finally able to successfully abscond with enough jewels and money to get her out of Austria with a first-class ticket on the SS Normandie where she meets Louis B. Mayer. The rest becomes Hollywood history.

In Part Two, we learn that Hedy, through her high-end Hollywood connections, successfully communicates with the US government. She shares important information she had gleaned as well as her ingenious invention designed to confuse and disrupt radio signals. This section of the book is interesting but lacks the luster and vibrancy of Part One.

The Only Woman in the Room refreshes our memory of Hitler's terrifying rise. It also fully demonstrates the power a beautiful woman can wield when all the men in the room see only her beauty. Fierce self-determination combined with fearlessness is the theme that drives the story of Hedy's life and ultimate success. Besides leaving us beautiful classic films, Hedy's complex scientific accomplishment is still utilized today.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley

## Linda's Language Corner

Today, let's look at the word **Poco**. We all know **poco loco**, a little crazy, Lets look as some other examples using **poco**.

- Vorrei solo un poco** / I would like only a little
- Vorei poco piu', per cortesia** / I would like a little more, please
- Dammi poco meno, per favore** / Give me a little less, please
- L'ho visto poco dopo la cena** / I saw him shortly after dinner
- L'ho verro` poco prima la nostra classe** / I will see him shortly before our class
- Vivo qui da poco** / I have been living here for a short time



## Fratelli d'Italia

by Ken Borelli

These are the opening words to the Italian National Anthem. Since we are fast approaching the June 2nd date of the founding of the Italian Republic or Festa della Repubblica, it is worth reflecting on the Hymn of the Poet Goffredo Mameli. His words and the music by Michele Novaro became the National Anthem of Italy when the Republic was declared in 1948.

The words and music are actually part of the historic struggles about the unification of Italy in the 1840's. I recall a fascinating lecture I attended about the lyrics of the Italian National Anthem. Space does not permit a detailed annotated explanation of them. Suffice to say, the words are quite significant. It also explains why this music was selected to be the National Anthem for the Republic although they were written in 1847.

During the struggle for Italian unification during 1840-1850, two opposite forms of government were being thrashed out, a monarchy or a republic. Initially the monarchy, under the Kingdom of Savoy, won out. Fast forward to when a defeated nation in World War II voted to establish a republic, which was just about 80 years ago. The dream from Roman days of a modern unified Italy is centuries old.

The stirring words of the first line of the Anthem are well worth noting. The hymn is addressed to "*Fratelli d'Italia*" and declares "brothers and sisters of Italy"; not "Kings, counts, clergy or royalty" of Italy; this is followed by "*L'Italia s'è Destra*," which means Italy has arisen (during the national revolts of the 1840's).

The poem goes on to cite the epic struggles to come together and form a common union that took place throughout the peninsula from the Alps to Sicily. The hymn concludes with Italy is calling you or "*Italia chiamo!*" It is addressed to all and tries to appeal to the common dream of the many people who were living under fragmented forms of government during those turbulent times.

The hymn was a very popular song. Even with the monarchy in control, there was no way to suppress the sentiments found in the lyrics. It is interesting to note the California connection with the Italian immigrants who were primarily from Liguria with their role in the goldfields of California.

The history of California excludes more than it includes, such as those Ligurian immigrants in the motherlode who sent back gold to the Italian revolution of the day to help bankroll the Unification movement. Funds were sent to the revolution occurring in Italy via Masonic Lodges. This is a little-known fascinating part of both Italian and California history because many of the 49er immigrants were Italian revolutionaries in exile. When gold was discovered in California, they went there from the eastern seaboard and even Argentina and South America. Revolutionary experiences were not forgotten. Those who were able found a way to send gold to their "*fratelli*" in the unification movement in Italy.

On your next visit to the California Gold Country, you can easily visit many of these historic sights. One is the Romaggi Adobe, built in the 1850's outside of Angel's Camp. The *Fratelli d' Italia* never forgot the call from Italia, and it's a part of our California history that should not be forgotten. It is something of which to be proud when celebrating the unification of Italy.



Editor's note:  
Artwork  
created by  
John Romano

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**44th IAHF Italian Festa  
History Park at the Wine Garden  
1650 Senter Rd, San Jose  
Saturday & Sunday, July 25/26**

# THE TERESA FINDS A NEW BERTH

Over the years, I have managed to gather a fascinating collection of Italian American memorabilia. One of my favorite pieces is a model fishing boat made by my Uncle Jim (Giralimo Cantatori). Uncle Jim was a native of Bari, Italy and married my aunt in San Francisco in the 1930's. When war broke out between the US and Italy, he became an "enemy alien" and eventually was placed under house arrest and not allowed to go out to sea to fish. Having a lot of time on his hands he made a model of his fishing boat (he had a financial stake in the boat). It was called **The Teresa**.

As a child, I remember the boat being in the basement of my aunt's and uncle's home in San Francisco for many years. As a child, I was always intrigued by the boat. It was a neat model. I asked my father about the boat and got more than I bargained for. He told me the story of how it was made, which was truly an educational eye opener. These subjects are just not taught at school. Years later when my uncle and aunt passed away, I became the caretaker. Now it's time to pass the boat on and it will be returning to its home in the City, from whence it originated.

While I feel fine with my stewardship of this piece of Italian American History, there is a certain bitter sweetness to the exercise and reminds me of some of our family's personal saga. This includes my grandmother being a registered enemy alien (I still have the card) while, at the same time, always having problems visiting her son, Bill (Baggio) at the Veterans Hospital because he was wounded for life in the only WWII battle fought in North America in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. That was never a topic you could bring up to my grandmother, without facing the consequences of her Calabrese temper.

One other tale from that epoch was that ironically Uncle Jim's brother, a merchant mariner with the Italian navy, ended up a prisoner of war in Mexico. When the Mussolini government declared war on the US, his ship was confiscated by Mexico. After Italy surrendered, he and his crew mates were returned to Italy.

I am sure every family has similar tales as part of their family's history. If you do not find a way to pass on these tales, they will be lost-not just to your family, also to the history of our society.

A special thanks to Gina Bardi, Reference Librarian, and the San Francisco Maritime Museum for welcoming **The Teresa** home to "the city." My zio would be happy!

~~~ Ken Borelli



Saint
Anthony
of Padua,
pray for us.

SRO



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- Ages 18-40
- Moved from Italy to the U.S
- Currently studying or working in the U.S



INTERESTED?
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Topics of Interest

A letter thanking IAHF for a donation to a scholarship fund.

Announcement about a fully immersive dome lecture about Leonardo da Vinci's Room of Knots.



March 25, 2026

Italian American Heritage Foundation Inc
425 N 4th St
San Jose, CA 95112-5257

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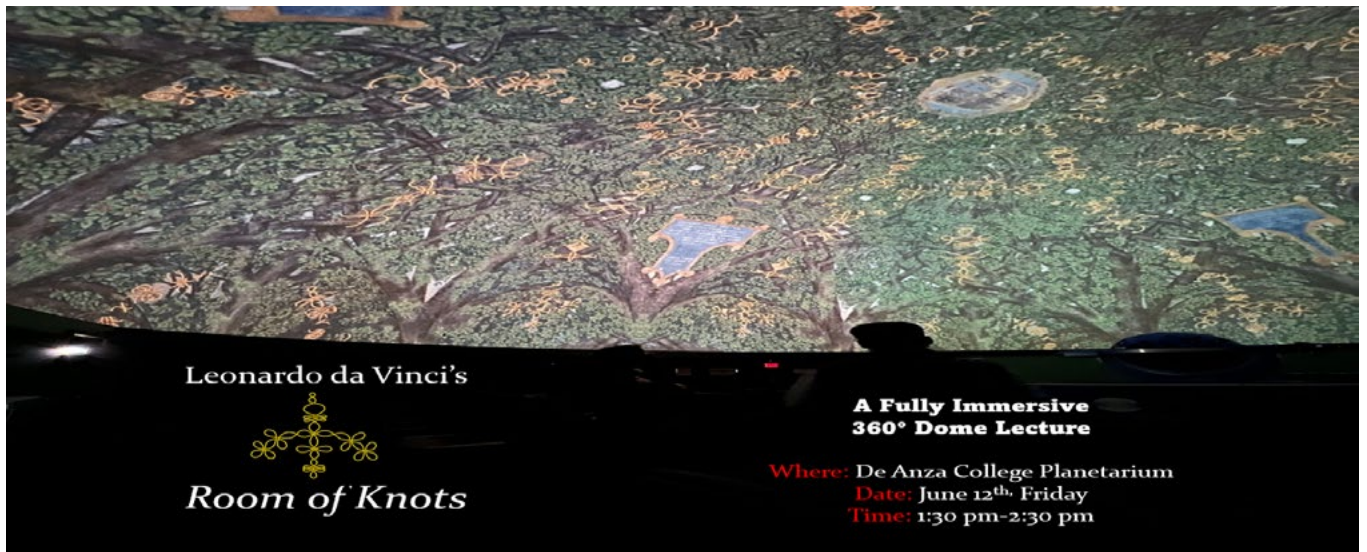
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IAHF Board Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2026

Attendees: Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Ken Borelli, Frank DeTurrís, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Paul Greco, Joe Lucito, Clay Brasuell, Marcus Barbera,

Absent: Steven Ricossa, Madeline Damiano, Nanci Wilborn, Sharon McCray, Susan Monahan

Guest: David Duckworth, Auditor

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

- Reviewed April meeting minutes; approved with correction of Kathy Lohman's name.
- Due to a misunderstanding about a member who passed away, it was decided that Dana or Ken must confirm the details before sharing the information with our membership.
- Mountain View Cultural Festival was a great success for introducing the IAHF to a wide range of people.
- 44th Annual Italian Family Festa will be named in memory of Rod Diridon. There will be a memorial presentation by Chris Hudson at the Festa (11:30, Sunday) about Rod Diridon Sr. Dina Duckworth has offered her marketing skills for the Festa.
- All board members are encouraged to donate either a prize for the Festa raffle, or money to go towards buying more prizes.
- Italy trip zoom meeting was recorded. Dana will put the recording on the website for people to go back and view. Several people never got the email because it went to their spam folder
- Looking into selling T-shirts and aprons at the Festa.
- IAHF sponsored a Golf Hole for the Sons of Sicily Golf Tournament.

CFO Report, Frank DeTurrís

- Frank presented the IAHF Budget review.
- He discussed the budget and YTD expenses for the roof replacement and new HVAC equipment.

1st VP, Ken Borelli

- Ken summarized the 2026 Scholarship event. High caliber scholarship recipients and speakers. We may have a scholarship recipient presenting a history of Sacco and Vanzetti at the June Regional Lunch.
- Signage regarding the founding of IAHF
- History behind the name of our Hall - The Lima Calvelli Hall in honor of their families.
- Festa update included a discussion on the efforts to have County parking spaces. This Monday the remaining balance for the 2026 SJ City Arts Grant will be proposed to the City for approval. All the entertainment acts have been finalized and promoted in the upcoming newsletter. Clay provided an overview of sponsorships pending.
- Polenta Dinner this Sunday.

2nd VP, Azie Habib

- Hall Rentals are at 20 YTD., and using the Hall Request
- Crab Feed required Azie to provide specific directions to place trash, compost, and recycling materials. We may need 2 cu yd for compost; 2 cu yd for landfill and 3 cu yd recycling outside bins.
- Azie is trying to get an update from Clyde about completing the roof inspection by SJ Fire.

4th VP, Louie Lombardo

- Membership Update 360 Active membership with 529 members.
- Renewal Membership calls log status.

Newsletter, Mary Pizzo - June Newsletter articles:

- Cena Fuori Review from Sam's BBQ
- Lima Cavalli Hall
- The Teresa Sailboat
- Fratelli D'Italia
- Italian Cultural Pavilion speakers at the Festa
- Sharp Park
- SJ Giants [Italian Heritage Night](#)

Adjourn 8:25pm



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

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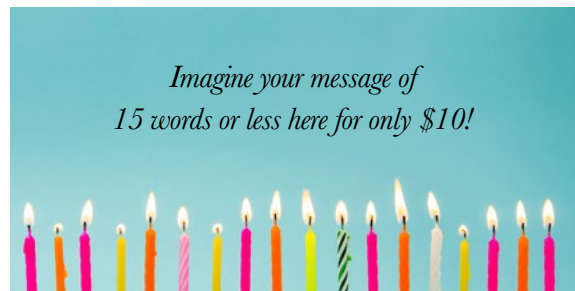
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San Jose Giants to Host 7th Annual Italian Night August 09, 2026 at Excite Park

The San Jose Giants' Italian Heritage Night for the 2026 season is scheduled for 5pm, Sunday, August 9, 2026, at Excite Ballpark.

Come cheer on our home team as they play the Stockton Ports.

The event features a celebration of Italian culture, food, and music. Further details regarding the game start time, theme jerseys, and special event tickets will be available in the July and August newsletters.

Save the date now!



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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.

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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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