



IAHF NEWS



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

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MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you

From the bottom of my heart, I truly can't thank our membership, our capos and our volunteers enough for such a wonderful 44th

Annual Italian Family Festa! For one special weekend, we brought a little piece of Italy to the Bay Area—creating an opportunity for people to experience the sights, sounds, flavors, music, traditions and warmth of Italy. The entire weekend was centered around our mission statement: to promote and preserve our Italian culture and heritage. If we don't share it with the community, how will the next generation learn? An event like the Festa does not happen without the dedication, generosity and teamwork of an entire community. From the volunteers who worked countless hours behind the scenes, to our sponsors and donors who supported us so generously, to the vendors, performers, entertainers, community organizations and everyone who helped bring the celebration to life—we are truly grateful. The compliments keep coming in; from Festa goers, volunteers, and our membership. I can honestly say that this has been the most fun and engaging Festa since our return from covid. Attendance was up, sales were up, not only our own booths, but food vendors and craft vendors reported good sales for the weekend. Everyone was so kind and thankful. Many stopped me and asked to take pictures with me and Andy as we were dressed up in costume both days. That really added to the ambiance of the weekend.

Grape Stomp Stage

Little did I know when I started the Celebrity Grape Stomp competition 4 years ago, that it would have gained the momentum and growing popularity it has today! I thought for sure, our returning champion, John Paye, would reclaim his title and crush the competition. But, no! Former Atherton Mayor, Charles Marsala, stomped his way to victory, beating John Paye. Let me tell you, I did not see

that coming. Both Charles and his teammate, Sheri Sobrato, studied up on stomping the grapes and catching the juice. The studying surely paid off. Whether you were a local mayor, city council member, tax assessor, local baseball team president, retired football player, organization president, or even the Tomato King of America, everyone had a blast! It was amazing to see people from so many different walks of life come together, put their titles aside, and simply have fun. For a few unforgettable minutes, everyone was on equal footing—literally! The laughter, friendly competition, and enthusiasm made the Celebrity Grape Stomp a real grape success. After all, when it comes to the Grape Stomp, there's no need to wine about the competition—just put your best foot forward and stomp away!

A Gondola at the Festa

Did you happen to make it to the grape stomp area and see our gondola? IAHF Board Member Paul Greco and his wife, Jenna, made a gondola for a photo op and there were people lined up almost the entire time. Paul and Jenna took my vision from a year ago and made it into a beautiful reality. My husband, Andy, was the gondolier. I think he had just as much fun posing in all the pictures as I did hosting the grape stomp events. We'll see about having the gondola at a future event for people to get their pictures taken.

Upcoming Candlelight Concert

If you love the music of Ennio Morricone, then you are in for a treat! On October 29, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, you can enjoy a candlelit evening featuring a piano and string quartet playing Morricone's unforgettable movie scores: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, The Ecstasy of Gold, Cinema Paradiso, Gabriel's Oboe, Once Upon a Time in America, and The Untouchables. IAHF members will be able to purchase tickets at a 10% discounted rate. Please see our website for more details.

Thank you for being such a wonderful membership and for your friendship!

~~~Dana Zuccarello Aguirre

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# Schedule of Events

## • August

• Aug 27, Thursday / 4pm-7pm / Pedro Night at the IAHF with the Duckworth Family / Pedro is an old California card game popular with Italian Americans / see the article on Page 7 for details.

## • September

• Sept 10, Thursday / 7-9pm / Cooking Class - Melanzanza Parmigiana / Eggplant Parmigiana, a delicious family recipe taught by IAHF board member Clay Braswell / The cost is \$25 for members, and \$30 for day pass members. Purchase tickets [online](#) /

• Sept 13, Sunday / Volunteer Appreciation lunch BBQ (by invitation only)

• Sept 17, Thursday / Regional Lunch - revisiting Campagna / 11:30-1:30 / Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for day pass members / Purchase tickets online [here](#)

• Sept 24, Thursday / Cena Fuori - Al Castello Ristorante, 2083 Camden Avenue, San Jose / \$50 per person payable in person by cash or check / see page 13 for more details about the menu and reservations.

• Sept 29, Tuesday / Visiting author, Natalie Galli, presenting her book, The Girl Who Said No / 6-8pm / The event is co-sponsored by the Sicilian Sisterhood of Santa Clara County / See article on page 3.

## • October

• Oct 8, Thursday / Cooking Class / 7-9pm / Traditional Italian Tortes: chef Nedra Petty's Almond torte "Torta di Mandorle", and chef Nora Monette's Torta di Mele (Apple torte with and without pine nuts) / Purchase tickets [online](#).

• Oct 13, Tuesday / General membership meeting and dinner / 7-9pm / RSVP is required (no walk-ins). RSVP [online](#) -

• Oct 29, Thursday / Cena Fuori - Tomato Thyme Restaurant, 1560 Hamilton Ave, San Jose / Cost per person is to be available soon / Make entree selection and reservations online beginning October 1.

## • Save the dates

• Nov. 12, Thursday / Holiday Cooking Class - Holiday Cookies with Kathy Lohman / 7-9pm.

• Nov. 19, Thursday / 11:30-2pm / Regional Lunch- Sicily / IAHF Hall / register online by Nov. 16

• Dec. 06, Sunday / Holiday Dinner Dance to the music of Laurent Fourgo and his Quartet / 6-9pm / IAHF Hall / Details to follow..

• Dec. 10, Thursday/ Holiday Lunch and IAHF Raffle drawing / Details to follow.

## 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.

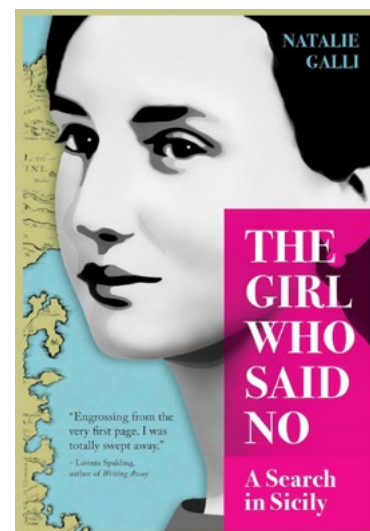
• In person Italian classes / April 08, Wednesday / 10:30-11:30am / Beginning-Advanced / Classes will be each Wednesday for 8 weeks / Check back for when the next session starts up. To learn more [online](#)

## Cooking Classes in the Hall

• Cooking classes are held on the second Thursday of the month from 7-9pm. Our first cooking class of 2026 was held April 9. The cost is \$25 for members\*. Purchase tickets [online](#). Oct. Pre holiday Raffles with drawing at holiday lunch on Dec. 10th Donations greatly solicited!

# THE GIRL WHO SAID NO

On Tuesday, September 29, at 6 PM at the IAHF, we will have a special presentation by Bay Area author Natalie Galli regarding her book about Franca Viola. Franca when a young lady, was raped when she spurned her suitor. From a medieval tradition, if the girl marries the assaulter, Italian law of the time (up until the 1970's) drops the rape charges. Franca refused to marry her rapist despite much pressure to do so. This courageous statement by Franca, made worldwide attention in the 1960's. For Natalie, as a young Sicilian American growing up in San Francisco, it also made a profound impression when she read the small "filler" article in the San Francisco Chronicle. She never forgot the story and when Natalie had the opportunity to visit relatives in Sicily, she took it as a personal quest to meet Franca.



Natalie's efforts to meet Franca is the framework of this engaging book. Trying to contact Franca was no easy task. She gave no interviews after the high-profile court trials which rocked Sicilian and Southern Italian traditional society. Instead, Franca married her fiancée and raised her family in the privacy of her hometown. the trial itself was covered by the international press in many parts of the world and galvanized public opinion, including the arrest and conviction of her abductors and legislative changes in Italian penal code law. Her marriage was also blessed by the Pope!

The article that captured this incident for Natalie Galli in the San Francisco Chronicle, back in the Spring 1966, was the nucleus for the book and her own private journal of exploration, which she entitled The Girl Who Said No. It went to print in 2019.

The story itself is compelling, likewise is Natalie's journey searching for Franca. The book is very well crafted. It reads exceedingly well, and there are so many images, both Bay Area and Southern Italy, that one can relate to. All this action takes place within my lifetime. As I am sure are many others, like myself, were unaware of this incident. I discovered this story and book at the Museo Gift Store in San Francisco last year, and ultimately met Natalie and her family at a Museo event.

## Meet the Author



This amazing story needs to be shared and for that reason, we are so fortunate, and excited to present both the book and the author at a special event at the IAHF. This special presentation will also be co-sponsored by the Sicilian Sisterhood of Santa Clara County.

Keeping Franca's tale of courage is an ongoing obligation. Less you think this is a tale back in history, the San Francisco Chronicle on August 2, 2026 published an article about California State Assemblymember Ash Kalra's proposed legislation to secure restraining orders in California to prevent abusive suitors from victimizing a perspective partner, stemming from an incident in San Bernadino County!

An evening with Natalie Galli, Tuesday September 29, from 6-8pm, at the IAHF Hall 425 North 4th St. San Jose. There will be a \$10 donation to cover refreshment cost. Please RSVP by September 26 by calling 408-293-7122. There will be a chance to

purchase her book and have it signed at the event. THE GIRL WHO SAID NO, By Natalie Galli, Travelers' Tales publishing house in Palo Alto. Also check out some of Natalie's other books [online](#). She is a very engaging author.

~~~ Ken Borelli

THE SBANDIERATORI RETURN: A TRIUMPHANT VISIT TO THE BAY AREA!

The vibrant art of Italian flag throwing brought centuries of Renaissance tradition alive across the Bay Area as the **Sbandieratori** captivated audiences with a dynamic series of performances since their last visit in 2019. Blending athletic precision, dramatic flair, and deep cultural heritage, the troupe transformed community gatherings into unforgettable celebrations of Italian history.

The journey began in **Morgan Hill**, where there was an initial stop at **Guglielmo Winery** where all received Italian hospitality and a tour. Afterwards, it was off to the historic **Villa Mira Monte** that served as the breathtaking backdrop for the group's very first official performance. Set against the sunlit grounds, the troupe launched their flags high into the air, their banners swirling against the sky. The rhythmic beat of drums and the flourish of bold colors enchanted the crowd, marking a triumphant debut for the ensemble and establishing a powerful local presence.

The Sbandieratori carried their high-energy showcase north to San Francisco for a special event at the **Museo Italo Americano**. Surrounded by fine art and cultural archives dedicated to the Italian-American experience, the performers thrilled attendees with complex synchronized tosses and delicate maneuvers. The performance highlighted historic traditions and modern community life, solidifying the group's role as cultural ambassadors.

Community spirit was on full display at **St. Frances Cabrini** where the **Italian Catholic Federation (ICF) Branch 191** hosted a celebratory barbecue where all shared fantastic food, laughter, and *amicizia*!

Sbandieratori took center stage during **Italian Heritage Night** at the **San Francisco Giants** baseball game. The group delivered a dazzling pre-game performance to the fans. Then, Capo Ivan Samori and his daughters, Jessica and Elisa were honored on the field and where Ivan threw out the ceremonial first pitch to massive applause—a proud, memorable capstone to a remarkable series of performances celebrating heritage, family, and community spirit.

The 44th Annual Italian Family Festa served as the centerpiece of the festival, with their dynamic daily performances that amazed crowds of all ages, bringing traditional flag-throwing history vividly to life to attendees.

Between performances, local host families generously opened their homes and hearts, guiding their Italian guests to unique attractions and providing unforgettable experiences to the Bay Area's iconic points of interest. The bond formed between the hosts and the Sbandieratori was immediate and profound—making departure morning emotional with heartfelt farewells. There was not a single dry eye in sight. This tour was a resonant celebration of heritage, friendship, and community that will be remembered for years to come!

~~~Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf; Photos provided by Maureen Susino





# A SPECIAL VISIT TO NICHELINI WINERY

The IAHF was invited to join in the celebration of the 136 years of the founding of the Nichelini Winery on Saturday, October 17, in Napa, off the Silverado Trail. It is one of the oldest continually run wineries located in the heights of the Napa Valley.

If you need an excuse to visit this premier wine growing region, this is a great opportunity by attending the Festa della Vendemmia. If you are of Italian Swiss heritage, it is a must. What a great legacy. They will have a fully restored replica of a traditional Roman Press at the site.

Saluti a tutti!

~~~Ken Borelli

NICHELINI
Family Winery

Festa della Vendemmia

Saturday, October 17, 2026 11am-4pm
2950 Sage Canyon Rd St Helena, CA 94574
nicheliniwinery.com • 707.963.0717 • mail@nicheliniwinery.com

Join us as Nichelini Family Winery celebrates
136 years of winemaking heritage!

- Tastings are \$15 per person and include a glass to take home
- Tours of the property
- Wine Specials
- Pre-purchase online

We are child and picnic friendly and there is no cost to attend if you are not tasting.

More on Rod Diridon From the Festa

From the Villaggio Culturale at the festa IAHF member Chris Hudson gave a special talk about the Italian American Community in Siskiyou County and both Chris and Rod 's hometown of Dunsmuir, California.

Recently, a part of that talk was picked up by the Siskiyou News. It is a very rich article and I wanted to find a way to share this tale with our readership. Due to space limitations we are unable to share the actual article; however, we are attaching the link to the [Siskiyou News article](https://www.siskiyou.news/2026/08/02/butterfly-avenue/) for your review. We are also hoping to replicate parts of the lecture at a forthcoming regional lunch.

Congratulations Chris for the article. The link has some great photos of the town and environment. As Chris pointed out in her talk about Rod, the area had two major industries timber and the railroads, so I don't think its wrong to speculate, Rod's keen understanding of public transportation had roots growing up in a hometown with its unique rail transportation history.

The link is as follows: <https://www.siskiyou.news/2026/08/02/butterfly-avenue/>

~~~ Ken Borelli

## On Your Next Visit to IAMLA!

The [Italian American Museum of Los Angeles](https://www.iamla.org/) (IAMLA) has just created a stunning show called "**MANGIA**" --the evolution of Italian Food in the U.S. It will run from June 2026 to Summer 2027, so it will be up for about one year.

I was able to glimpse parts of the opening night activities, thanks to my friend at the museum, Rich Ferrante's audio-visual skills. The show explores the evolution of Italian Food in the United States from its roots from a marginalized immigrant community through today's integration into a mainstream culinary fare. The show included original exhibitions of food product and material as well as its role in an evolving part of an American lifestyle identity and diet.

While on the surface in today's world, the concept of an Italian American cuisine is taken for granted. It wasn't always so, which of course makes for a fascinating subject and exhibition. It also reminds me of another transitional moment in Italian culinary identity, from a favorite movie, directed by Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci--**The Big Night**, which traces yet one more important transition: the foods of Italy from a contadini (peasant) and immigrant perspective through the "*haute cuisine*" of more formal Italian dining.

IAMLA is always worth a visit to see its permanent collection. When you add the "MANGIA" show, it is a must on your next visit to LA. The museum is in Italian Hall, at 644 North Main St. LA, Ca 90012; telephone number 213 485 8432. The museum is housed in the Pueblo Historical District, where many early Italian immigrants settled.

~~~ Ken Borelli



From our Archives

Permanent

As time permits, I have slowly been building an online archive of our holdings. I've chosen **Permanent.org**, which offers free archive space, secured by private funding. File types will be routinely upgraded from obsolete formats to current standards while retaining original file formats. Permanent also maintains five data hubs scattered across the country, ensuring redundant backup copies should an electrical grid fail.

Permanent offers ongoing **Legacy Labs** that provide structured guidance to build a comprehensive archive. I've taken the Lab several times to keep up with site improvements and brush up on archive basics, and am enrolled in the current Lab.

I recently debuted our IAHF archive to the Lab members. An assignment went out that afternoon highlighting well-designed sites as inspiration to new members. Our site made the list! I will be developing the site further over the next couple of months to make it ready for its debut to our members. If you would like to help with this online project, let me know!

The site can also be used, free of charge, by individuals who want to preserve personal stories or family history. If you're interested, contact me for information.

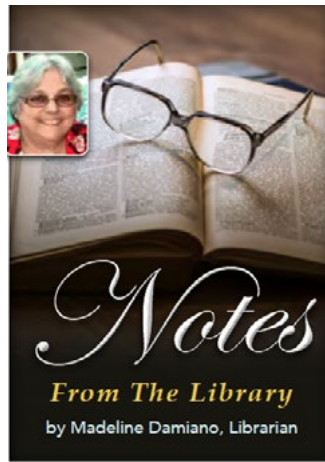
I am also exploring **Al Larvick Conservation Fund** as a source of grants to further our digitization of library materials. We just missed this year's award, so I will have several months to identify appropriate items and prepare our application.

I promessi sposi / The Betrothed

"*I promessi sposi*" written by Alessandro Manzoni and published in 1827 has been called the most widely read work in the Italian language. According to William Amelia, "It is considered the greatest Italian novel of modern times and its author, Alessandro Manzoni, the principal novelist of 19th-century Italy . . ." as noted in *The Wall Street Journal*. ("The Great Italian Novel, a Love Story", 12 February 2011).

We now have the English translation in our Twila Venuti Library!

It is a story of enduring love, set in the Italy of the 1600s. Renzo and Lucia are the couple, and they eagerly plan for their marriage. But when they arrive at the church, the priest suddenly refuses to marry them. They learn that Lucia has caught the eye of Don Rodrigo, a local Spanish



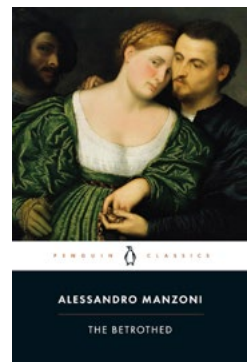
baron, who has threatened the priest if the marriage occurs. It becomes clear that it is not safe for Lucia to remain.

Renzo and Lucia are forced to separate. The book details the winding journeys of each, incorporating many curious and mysterious characters along the way. It describes the famine and war of that time as well as the oppression of living under foreign rule since that was when Spain ruled Lombardy.

Several chapters of note depict the devastating bubonic plague, which struck Milan full force in 1630 and killed nearly half of the city's inhabitants. In their panic, citizens were highly suspicious of

foreigners because they were convinced those were the people who were purposely spreading the plague around Milan; innocent people were accused, and some lost their lives.

Manzoni's descriptions are fact-based and historically accurate, relying on the documentation of two health officials of the time and on eyewitness accounts. This includes the scene where an elderly man is pulled from a church service under suspicion of being an "anointer," a foreign agent who is thought to purposefully spread the disease to decimate Milan; on suspicion alone, the angry church members drag him from the service and savagely beat him to death.



This ugly incident was witnessed and documented by Dr Alessandro Tadino, deputy to the Chief Medical Officer of Milan. Dr. Tadino was also a member of the Tribunal of Health, which sadly disregarded some of his recommendations and failed to contain the spread of the disease.

I will let you discover the rest of the novel for yourself and leave you with a recommendation. In the course of my research, I came across an online blog that drew fascinating parallels between the denial, public panic, blame of foreigners and conspiracy theories from that plague with our own experience with COVID-19.

The blog can be found [here](https://tinyurl.com/48k66z8x) (https://tinyurl.com/48k66z8x), and is a fascinating read on mob mentality. You can also find it through a simple search on "Plague, Pandemic, and Human Nature"; look for the entry by dispatchesfromtheformernewworld.com.

~~~Madeline Damiano, [librarian@IAHFSJ.org](mailto:librarian@IAHFSJ.org).



# 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 PHILANTHROPIES – ROMA STAGE



KIEWIT SHEA TRAYLOR JV – ROMA STAGE



JP DINAPOLI CO – CULTURAL VILLAGE



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ZANOTTO'S



COUNTY OF  
SANTA CLARA

# GRAZIE MILLE

## Donatori della Festa

***Thank you to all of our generous donors and a special thank you to the Sbandieratori and their Host Families!***

*Serena Amadei  
Ron Avanzino  
Gianluca Baldani  
Mimi Barkley  
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Ken Borelli & Dan Burns  
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Delia Schizzano  
Karen & John Van der Pan  
Joya & Jeff Whitford  
Dana R. Zuccarello & Andy Aguirre*



## Pedro 101 - just for fun!

On Thursday, August 27, from 4pm to 7pm, an introduction to the classic Pedro Card Game will be hosted by the Duckworth Family, David, Dina and Kathy Cademartori Mark. This card game is making a resurgence and to help us reconnect with this California classic, the IAHF will host a Pedro party. This is a free event.



The IAHF has scheduled a fun, late afternoon Pedro Card Party to introduce you to this engaging card game. It was very popular in the day. A game of Pedro would typically follow a traditional holiday or a Sunday meal. Pedro is usually played with teams of two so we will pair you when we organize the games. The only requirement is enthusiasm and/or curiosity about the card game.

We have scheduled this in a timeframe that hopefully accommodates those coming home from work and those who are retired. This should provide a broad opportunity for some introductory lessons. At the end of the event, we will decide how best to proceed with future scheduling.

August 27 - two sessions:

4:00pm - Instructions begin then play 2 games People can stay for the 2nd session, too.

5:30pm - Instructions are repeated for new arrivals, then play 2 games.

Simply call the IAHF (408-293-7122) by August 25 to let us know if you wish to join the game so we can plan accordingly.

~~~ Ken Borelli

Wanted...Needed... Much Appreciated - - - Raffle Prizes



In December the IAHF hosts a pre-holiday raffle drawing during our regional lunch. Your generosity helps fund IAHF events such as Regional Lunches and dinner dances.

We gratefully accept donations of gift certificates to restaurants, theater tickets, sports events and spa treatments. Items such as wine, oils, and gourmet foods and wine are wonderful.

Get away vacations, both near and far, are especially great raffle prizes.



If you have attractive baskets, bowls or gift boxes, we could use them to display the raffle items.

Drop off your donations at the IAHF office Tuesday through Friday between 10-4.

Gratiz ~~~ Nanci Wilborn



Empowering the Next Generation: Highlights from the 2nd Annual Youth Roundtable

On Sunday, July 26, community members gathered at the 44th Annual Italian Family Festa for the 2nd Annual Youth Roundtable. The energy was palpable as our next generation of leaders brought remarkable passion, thoughtful insights, and creative vision to the table.

This year's discussion centered on two timely and deeply personal themes. The first, navigating identity in a multicultural world. Participants shared candid perspectives on balancing their heritage within today's diverse cultural landscape. The second, bridging generational gaps. Panelists brainstormed practical ways to strengthen community connections, boost youth engagement, and preserve time-honored traditions while keeping them relevant for the future, proposing several event ideas tailored specifically for their age group at the IAHF.

The depth of dialogue throughout the panel proved that these young leaders are not just the future of our heritage—they are actively shaping its present. Keeping our culture vibrant requires honoring tradition while creating dedicated space for fresh voices.

To build on this momentum, panelists were invited to serve as Youth Advisory Members on the IAHF Board of Directors, giving them a direct role in helping to guide future programming, event planning, and community outreach.

A heartfelt thank you to our four outstanding panelists—Alec Grantz, Anna Polino, Ximena Romero, and Dylan Lawhead—for sharing their time, leadership, and vision. We look forward to building the future of our community together!

Get Involved with the IAHF Youth Advisory Board!

Are you—or a young person you know—interested in serving as a Youth Advisory Board Member or volunteering for upcoming IAHF events? Contact Marie Dalldorf at mrdalldorf@gmail.com to get started!

~~~Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf



Pictured L-R: Marie Rose Pierano Dalldorf, Alec Grantz, Anna Polino, Ximena Romero, Dylan Lawhead, Ken Borelli

# COOKING CLASS NEWS

In June, our resident chef, Ken Borelli, treated us to a wonderful cooking class centered on a classic favorite from the Veneto region: Polastro in Tecia.

Here is Ken's narrative, recipe and instructions on this dish:

Adapted from Ada Boni's classic Italian Regional Cooking, Polastro in Tecia is a hearty Venetian chicken stew that's perfect for chilly winter days. This slightly modified version captures the rich, distinctive flavors of Northern Italy and yields 5 to 6 generous servings.

## Ingredients:

Chicken: 3 lb, diced. You can use a cut-up whole chicken or boneless pieces.  
1 ¼ T olive oil  
4 T butter  
1 diced or sliced onion  
1 large carrot, diced  
1 stalk of celery, diced  
1/4 cup chopped Italian Parsley  
1/2 cup of dry white wine  
10 oz Italian peeled tomatoes (for this dish I substituted pureed tomatoes)  
2 cloves (I used ½ teaspoon ground clove powder)  
1 teaspoon cinnamon, to taste  
1 teaspoon sage, to taste  
1 lb. fresh button mushrooms

## Instructions

Begin by making a "*soffritto*" by sautéing the onions, carrots and celery in a medium heat with oil and butter until slightly wilted (about 5 minutes or so). Add chicken pieces and brown lightly, which seals in the meat. Mix with parsley.

Then add the wine, tomato sauce and season to taste with salt, black pepper, sage, cloves and cinnamon. I used clove powder and ground cinnamon. I also added sage. Cover and let simmer over medium heat for 45 minutes until chicken is done. This was the first time I used cinnamon and cloves in a chicken dish so, I was conservative on its application.

Note: Chris Hudson, an IAHF member, recalled a more pronounced cinnamon taste when her family made the dish so that becomes a matter of taste. The herbs must blend in the casserole. Interestingly, by putting the powdered cloves, sage and cinnamon into the mixture, there was a distinctly brown hue to the dish as well as a certain richness in the flavor.

Finally, put the diced mushrooms into the casserole and continue cooking on medium heat, uncovered, for about 20 minutes. The mushrooms provide additional liquid.

In a survey of the recipes, it is served as a soupy casserole rather than a drier dish. You could add additional chicken broth or wine and tomato sauce to get to the consistency you prefer. It's also a dish I will be replicating at home soon! The herbs from the Venetian spice trade were very evident as the flavors and aromas filled the room while cooking. You can serve with rice, polenta or good French bread. I am sure it will taste better the next day when the flavors all blend, yet there were no leftovers to try that!

The question came up about serving this with pasta, and I am sure it would be fine. It's just that pasta is not used much in this region; polenta and risotto are the preferred grains.

~~~Article by Ken Borelli

~~~Photos by: Lucia Clementi





### The Vatican Princess

By C.W. Gortner

C.W. Gortner is one of our finest authors of historical fiction. It's hard to put his books down. His writing immerses the reader in all aspects of the era involved: art, architecture, fashion, religion, and of course, politics. The life of Lucrezia Borgia is shrouded in mystery and

distorted by calumny. Author Gortner has clearly done his research, and he creates an interesting approach by making Lucrezia the narrator, thus offering us a distinctly feminine perspective of a life utterly dominated by men.

We read through the disastrous events of Lucrezia's life beginning with her relationship with her adored father who became the infamously corrupt Pope Alexander VI. From early on Lucrezia recognizes her father's enormous power and understands the disdain much of the peninsula, clergy and laymen, hold toward the Borgia family... and rightfully so. The Borgias seem to encapsulate every sin and break every commandment without regret or rancor. Despite her youth and purity, Lucrezia is inevitably and quickly sucked into the Borgia quagmire, a

Spanish dynasty now ruling the Papal States from Rome and greedy for properties beyond their realm. This is where lovely, little Lucrezia comes in handy.

Readers travel through Lucrezia's life and from her first arranged marriage at 12 years of age, which was an attempt to secure property for her father. We realize that this poor girl has absolutely no control. She is forcefully dominated by her greedy father and her incestuous, psychopathic brother, Cesare. Both are vividly portrayed as abominable human beings. Lucrezia is abruptly yanked out of marriages and thrown into new ones as politics demand. She's just a pawn and she knows it.

Lucrezia sees and experiences disgusting things at a very young age. Be aware that these descriptions are indeed prurient. Of course, these scenes are fiction and most certainly a nod to the extreme immorality of the Pope's court and, in fact, the era. The author describes the Bonfire of the Vanities led by the monk Savonarola in Florence who is verbally and physically fighting the dissolution of moral standards throughout the peninsula.

Gortner's prose is vivid, never repetitive, and the reader will appreciate his sympathetic treatment of Lucrezia. The last line of the novel, spoken by Lucrezia after the deaths of her father and brothers is "I am not a Borgia anymore." And, in fact, Lucrezia d'Este, Duchess of Ferrara led an exemplary life as a wife and mother using her wealth in support of the arts and charities. She died at 39 after giving birth to her tenth child.

~~~Linda Gaudio Binkley

Linda's Language Corner

Un Fastidio (a bother, an annoyance)

Italian has the perfect word to complain about everything: **un fastidio**

1. **Fastidio** is the word to describe an annoyance:

Non poter usare il celular quando manca il wi-fi e' un gran fastidio.
(Not being able to use the cell phone when you don't have wi-fi is a pain.)

2. When you are bothering someone the word **a** is needed:

Non dare fastidio a tua sorella. (Don't bother your sister)

3. In a question: **Ti da fastidio?** (Does it bother you?)

4. As an exclamation: **Che fastidio!** (What a pain! Or, How annoying!)

5. And there is the polite phrase: **provare un senso di fastidio** (to feel a sense of discomfort)

Ho provato un senso di fastidio entrando in quella stanza, non so spiegare perché.
(I felt a sense of discomfort as soon as I walked into that room, I can't quite explain why.)

Spero che questa lezione non vi dia fastidio!

11th Annual Bocce Tournament



Oh, my what an afternoon! June 14 at Campo di Bocce, when a jovial group of IAHF members, their friends and family joined together for our Annual Bocce Tournament.

Laughter and serious tosses ensued. The four inside courts were filled with winners as everyone joined together in celebration of this, our Eleventh

Annual Tournament got underway. In retrospect, the winners and those that did not place are irrelevant as FUN was the order of the day, plus exceptional food and camaraderie.



The Cedolini Family once again took first place with the Duckworth family a close second. We also had the honor of celebrating Sal Campagna's 90th birthday with a delicious cake. Both Sal and Denise were beaming being surrounded by such a happy group of friends.

We are grateful for the generous gift of the time of our bocce referees led by Marsha Jones. Each of the four long-time volunteers were rewarded with a nice jar of local raw honey, courtesy of Robert and me.

Everyone is looking forward to next year's event.

~~~Sharon McCray



**Photo Top-Bottom:** 1st Place winners Cedolini Family - Antonia, John, Clare and Anthony; 2nd Place Duckworth Family - Dina, Chloe, David and Heather; Sal and Denise Campagna

## *September Cena Fuori - Al Castello Ristorante*

A **Cena Fuori** is your chance to try a new restaurant and share a meal with members and friends of IAHF. This September, we will be dining at **Al Castello Ristorante**, which is under new management. Located in the Cambrian Park neighborhood of San Jose, you will be pleasantly surprised at the comfort and romantic atmosphere of this restaurant.

Ken Borelli, our VP of Events, has worked with the owner and chef to put together a wonderful meal that showcases the best of their menu.

**Insalata della casa** – Italian dressing

### **Choice of Entrees**

- Penne Bolognese - Pasta with beef, pork, mushrooms and marinara sauce
- Capellini Margherita (vegetarian) Pasta topped with fresh tomatoes, basil and garlic
- Pollo alla Montanara - The Chef's favorite! Chicken breast sautéed with artichokes and green onions in a white wine sauce, served with side of fettuccine.

**Dessert** – Mini Cannoli

Coffee and soft drinks included. Cocktails and wine are extra (\$10/glass white or red wine)

Deadline for making your [reservation online](#) is September 22, includes choosing your entree. The cost is \$50 per person, payable by cash or check to Ken Borelli when you arrive at the restaurant.

## IAHF Board Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2026

**Attendees:** Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Ken Borelli, Frank DeTurris, Sharon McCray, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Paul Greco, Joe Lucito, Nanci Wilborn, Clay Brasuell, Marcus Barbera, Madeline Damiano

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

Review June meeting minutes. Corrected the title and voted to approve the minutes.

1. Last minute Festa topics. Banners will be hung on the fencing at History SJ Park.
2. Dana applied to participate in the Santa Clara Art and Wine Festival again this year which will take place on September 19 & 20. 10 am - 5 pm. She will be able to work the table all day Saturday (Steve and Mary volunteered to help on Saturday). Dana would like another volunteer or two to work with her. Two or three people will be needed for Sunday.
3. Dana will be signing up again for a tree in Christmas in the Park.
4. October 29 at St. Joseph's Basilica, there will be an event, Ennio Morricone piano and strings, a candlelight concert. The group is from Prague touring the US. Dana asked about a group discount for our org. He will be sending the breakdown discounts. The larger the group of tickets purchased, the larger the discount will be. Also discussed collaborating in the future for upcoming events. He's looking into a Christmas concert, logistics unknown at this time.
5. Post Festa workday on July 27, 10 am to 2 pm. We need a crew for a quick cleanup this year due to an event that week/weekend. Donuts, bagels, juice and coffee will be provided.
6. Festa monetary donation update. We are behind compared to last year. Louie will issue an e-blast go out regarding Festa donations.
7. Look into other cities' art and wine festivals. Get them on the calendar for the rest of this year and next year. Dick Duckworth will check into USC Wine Festival to determine if IAHF could host a booth.
8. Dana will be sponsoring the Sicilian Sisterhood's Golf Tournament.

### **CFO Report, Frank DeTurris**

- Financial Reports covered income, expenses and a statement of financial position.
- Funds from the Building Revitalization Fund totaling \$9668 must be transferred the roof fund to cover unplanned expenses, contingent on change orders from Clyde. After a discussion, Paul and Azie need to see the change orders from Clyde to detail the difference between the Quote and the Update. A motion was made and seconded to transfer the \$9668 funds. The motion passed by the full board.
- Festa financial update covered income and COGS/expenses.

### **1st VP, Ken Borelli**

- Festa activities
- Flag Twirler activities planned for 2-weeks (July 20-30). The host families are providing transportation to the outing.
- Cena Fuori was cancelled in June due to Festa focus. The next one will be in September.
- Bocce event was successful.
- September 13, the Volunteer Thank You event is scheduled.
- Storage space for story boards, including purchasing storage units.
- The Duckworth family will help teach people to play Pedro (August 27).
- World Cup Watch Party (7/19 12-3pm)
  - A cabinet was purchased to store the history boards. A motion was made (Ken Borelli) and seconded (Nanci Wilborn) to no more than \$1000 to covered the cost of the cabinet. Motion was approved.

### **2nd VP, Azie Habib**

- 19 rentals for FY26 which is more than last year.
- Three new garbage cans to address compost; recycling; landfill.

### **3rd VP, Sharon McCray**

- Lodi Italian Festa on June 7, costs \$15 for entry. She is proposing a bus trip from our members up to that festival.
- No registrations for Bocce players as yet.

#### 4th VP, Louie Lombardo

- Membership Update 370 active memberships.

#### Librarian, Madeline Damiano

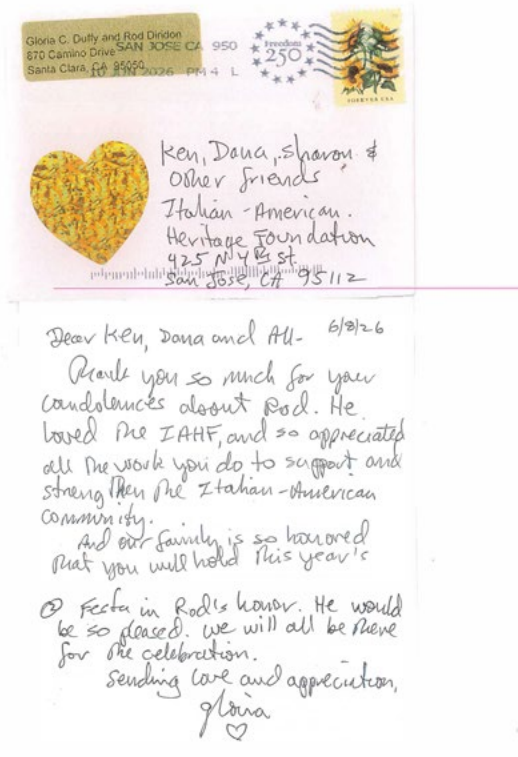
- Online archives: Permanent.org. The IAHF's site is used as an example of a well laid out archive.
- Honorable mention at the Legacy Lab
- 2027 Al Larvick grant to digitize audio visual material
- Use of the archive room for storage - please coordinate with me. Unexpected storage interrupts my work with volunteers.

#### Newsletter, Mary Pizzo - Aug-Sept Newsletter

- Bocce review with photos
- Pedro Card Game



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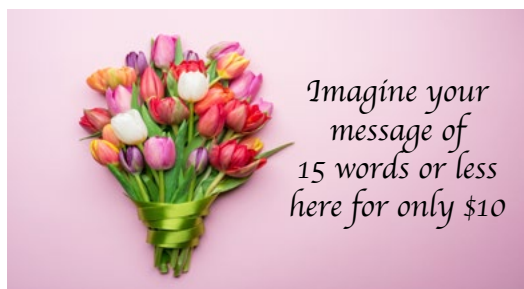
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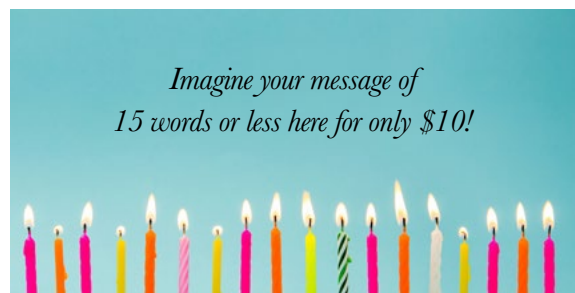
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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rosetta is a full-time, professional real estate agent assisting in buying and selling homes in all of Santa Clara County. Throughout the years, Rosetta has earned many achievements and awards such as International Presidents Elite, Top Listing Agent, Top Buyers agent, one of Silicon Valley's Top 100 agents, and Top Producers with over 22 years of sales, marketing, trust, probate and negotiation experience. Rosetta takes pride in providing 100% quality service to all her clients and has earned an impressive reputation in the real estate community. She is known for her exceptional work ethic, effective communication skills, attention to detail, and fierce negotiating experience. With her clients' best interests at heart, Rosetta understands the meaning of commitment and dedication.

### EDUCATION

Since obtaining her California Real Estate license, Rosetta has attended mandatory legal classes, completing various state-required programs, such as Real Estate Principals, Real Estate Appraisals, 1031 Exchange Reinvestment Plan, Senior Real Estate Specialist, Certified Probate & Trust Specialist, Pricing Strategy Advisor Certification, Short Sales & Foreclosure Resource Certification, Limit Liability Company for Reinvestments, Protecting the Fee, Due Diligence and Disclosures, Agency Fair Housing, Trust Funds, Ethics and Risk Management, Survey Course and Risk Management. Professional Philosophy Rosetta's passion and philosophy have always been to put her client's best interests first, provide every client with the highest of business ethics, commitment, and 100% excellent quality service. Building a lifetime relationship by earning the respect and trust of her clients, is her ultimate goal.

PROVIDING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE YOU DESERVE!

**INTERO**  
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate