



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"These are the good old days." In 1971, Carly Simon wrote the song "Anticipation" while waiting for Cat Stevens to pick her up for their first date. The song is in the moment, there is no knowing what is to come, just anticipation. Made more famous by the Heinz catsup commercials of the late 1970's, it highlighted waiting as a virtue. When framed in this context, 2020 was about as virtuous as they come. For myself, I believe we are owed a mulligan, a do-over, 2020 should not count at all, not even for birthdays (except for Social Security!).

Anticipation breeds hope, and we find hope once again on the horizon. First, in the form of vaccines to bring much needed relief to our overstressed and over-worked health care providers, our first responders, and our vulnerable.

There is hope that the spread of the disease would be slowed to allow the roll-out to the general populous. There is hope that we may again dream of reuniting with our extended families, to give real hugs and get real kisses. And for those who have been through this alone, to unite with friends and share experiences again.

I find myself anticipating. Travel sites are teasing me with incredible deals, a \$699 Maldives Private Island vacation for 2; Hawaii under \$300 round trip; or several options to our beloved Italy! Do I dare start venturing out? After Thanksgiving and Christmas at home by ourselves, can we dare hope? How can we not pursue our dreams? We need to seize life while we can and venture forth yet somehow without throwing caution to the wind!

This new year may be like pulling the lid off a pressure cooker without releasing the steam. We have all experienced such an emotional build-up and the pent-up desire and rush for normalcy that may make us impatient with disastrous results. We have family to visit, a wedding to plan, missed travel to make up, things to do. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is the value of lost time and the need for social outreach.

While sheltering, I have perfected my focaccia, but it will never replace the morning drive Chiavari and the walk down "carrugio dritto," the historic covered sidewalk that leads me to my favorite focacceria then sitting in the piazza, and eating the hot focaccia fresh from the oily paper it is wrapped in. While I have a wood-burning pizza oven and can make pizzas in my back-yard, yet the smiles and giggles of family all around, drinking and overeating, lost in stories and tall tales pull at me. While I can watch Rick Steve's travel through Europe, quite frankly, I'd rather be there myself. The allure is there, the time is passing, the anticipation is real.

With hope on the horizon, we can once again start to plan our social gatherings, our regional lunches, our Cena Fuori, our cultural events and possibly even our Festa. Yes, they will not be the same, but they will be more intensely meaningful. We are in the moment, and believe it or not, these are the good old days. We must make the most of them. -- Felix Dalldorf / [president@iahfsj.org](mailto:president@iahfsj.org) 🌸



Tap Here To Watch  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NwP3wes4M8>

## ➤ CHANGING TIMES ➤

This year, we have some changes in the Board of Directors. Per the Bylaws, the Board elected new officers in December for the 2021 year. Felix Dalldorf will remain as President, and this will be his third year which means he will term out as President at the end of 2021. Marie Dalldorf will remain as Secretary. Ken Borelli has completed his third term and will term out to be replaced as 1st VP by Nanci Wilborn; and Nanci will term out in 2021 as well. Azie Habib will continue as 2nd VP. Diana Ayala will continue as 3rd VP. Dana Zuccarello will continue as 4th VP. Frank Deturris will continue as our CFO/Treasurer.

Chuck Gullo will be stepping down from the Board, and Susan Monahan and Steve Ricossa will be joining the Board starting in

January. While Ken and Chuck will not be on the Board next year, thankfully they both plan to remain actively involved!

Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about our Board or if you would like to be on our Bylaws Review Committee or learn more about our social media outreach or other programs.

2020 has been an interesting challenge to the Board maneuvering through all the unknowns of this past year. I truly want to thank my Board for their dedication and hard work. I heartily welcome our new members and look forward to serving another year as President to help carry out our mission and accomplish the goals and objectives of the IAHSJ. -- Article by Felix Dalldorf 🌸



## JANUARY

**Jan 5 / 7:00 PM / Epiphany program / A bilingual reading of the La Befana Legend by Marie Dalldorf** / Plan a family get together around the visit of La Befana

**Jan 16 / 4:00 PM / A genealogy program featuring how to access Italian parish records presented by [ItalianParishRecords.org](http://ItalianParishRecords.org)** / This will explore the history of Italy's Parish Records, the work IPP is doing to preserve them and how these records can help your family genealogy work. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6480123456789>

**Jan 19 / 7:00 PM to 9 PM / Master class on classic "antipasti" with Chef Umberto Pala of Vin Santo restaurant** / Several years ago Chef Pala did two similar classes when he was the Chef at Il Fornaio in San Jose. We will replicate the experience, sample the antipasti, accompanied by wines at his restaurant in Willow Glen. \$85.00 per person. Limited seating, and a great holiday gift for that chef in your life! Call the IAHF @ 408.293.7122 for reservations

**Jan 21 / 7:00 PM / Zoom Presentation by Richard DiGiacomo** regarding his research and book, *The Critics of Columbus, The Character Assassination of a Great Explorer* / This is a rescheduling of his October talk. The focus regarding Columbus will remain the same and explore some of the original source documents that Richard researched in developing his findings. While political correctness monument attacks may have started with Columbus, it "aint" ending there! A failure to reasonably assess history and teaching moments has resulted in an insane list of attacks on monuments, including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and even John Muir. Richard's book is on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. Call the IAHF @ 408.293.7122 to register for the program.

**Jan 28 / Cena Fuori / TBA** / Check [iahsfj.org/events](http://iahsfj.org/events) for upcoming details

All of our lecturers' books are excellent holiday gifts. In addition, several events are being finalized and knitted into the schedule, including:

- **Annual IAHF/Tricarico Club Polenta Dinner**
- **Day field trip to Rose Garden** and chat about pruning roses

• EXPERIENCE THE GLAMOUR!! •

## The IAHF Needs YOU to Design Two Issues of the IAHF NEWS

We are looking for that one incredibly creative, talented, deadline-oriented and patient member or friend of the IAHF to produce the April and May 2021 issues of the IAHF NEWS.

You'll get to work behind the scenes with the untiring and dedicated IAHF NEWS writers and editors and help magic unfold by bringing their stories to the printed page, mobile device, or desktop computer.

Experience with a digital page layout program is desired, as well as a working knowledge of creating interactive PDFs.

You don't have to be a Da Vinci or a Michelangelo - our expectations are realistic. Come on - you can do it - and we NEED you!

24-hour phone support will be available for consultation.

So be a hero and help us out - you'll feel good about yourself. And you'll be helping a bunch of folks get their favorite newsletter.

Interested designers should contact Editor-In-Chief Diane Ayala at [diane\\_ayala@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_ayala@hotmail.com) 🐣



# 2021

*Wishing you a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year - Diane Ayala, Editor* 🐣

# IAHF Scholarships

It's that time of year...

...when high school seniors have completed their last college applications and are waiting to hear from their chosen school. Finally, the big envelope arrives with much excitement and celebration until subdued by the difficult task of finding funds to cover the bill.

We at the Italian American Heritage Foundation want to help. Our scholarships, though small, do reduce total cost and, more importantly, give each winner an emotional boost in their educational pursuits. In 2020, we awarded scholarships to 13 very impressive students. The 2020 online awards ceremony can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmPhE3DLJN4>. Student essays describing their career goals and how they plan to achieve these goals were published in our IAHF Newsletter throughout the summer.

If you are looking to give back, consider starting a scholarship fund or supporting our program with a donation of any amount.

Your donations will help students in their future endeavors. You can honor a loved one by naming a scholarship after the person or form a funding group with a special type of student in mind. The Scholarship Committee is interested in hearing new ideas.

We appeal to our membership to make funds available for the next group of 2021 graduates. Remind students in your household and beyond to watch the IAHF newsletter for the announcement that scholarship applications are open for 2021. Forms and instructions will be available on the IAHF website: [isahsj.org/scholarships](http://isahsj.org/scholarships).

We are so grateful that you have taken the time to consider donating to the scholarship program that is part of the IAHF service-to-community mission. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Grazie a tutti!*

— Article by Marie Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair / Jan Prinzivalli, Co-Chair

## ≈ Request for Members to Join the IAHF Bylaws Committee ≈

The IAHF Bylaws call for an annual review. It has been a number of years since the Bylaws have been reviewed. At the September meeting, the BOD agreed to convene a Bylaws Committee to conduct this review. In amending a previously adopted bylaw, we want to inform our members so those who are interested in being part of this Committee can voice your input on proposed changes. If you are interested, please contact Marie Dalldorf at [mrdalldorf@gmail.com](mailto:mrdalldorf@gmail.com) or 408-239-1568 (mobile). Your involvement would require you to attend several review meetings to discuss and consider revisions to the Bylaws. Any revisions to the Bylaws will be guided by Robert's Rules of Order.

— Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf ≈





December saw two special Cena Fuori. During our normal dining out cycle, November and December are dark months due to holiday events. This year, everything was a lot different so we added two more Cena Fuori dining activities.

In November, we went to Florentine Restaurant in Saratoga. At the planning stage of this Cena Fuori and since we were approaching winter, we were going to eat inside with Health Department guidelines. That changed abruptly. So a quick call to those on the reservation list was made to learn if the guests were OK with dining on the patio. The Florentine staff, led by Raffaele Fiorenza, accommodated our guests in the courtyard, complete with holiday lighting and heaters! All of our Cena Fuori dining is now by reservation and seating charts with tables of 4 to 6 depending on individual parties. The days of casual dining are now long gone. Raffaele prepared a delightful meal including entrees of Grilled Salmon, Chicken Piccata, and a Pasta Scampi, all served with a house salad and dessert. On December 3rd, we went to Palermo's Restaurant, and it was a "last train out of the station" experience because two days later, all outdoor dining was suspended. Even so Renato and Diana Cusimano, long-

# CENA FUORI Update

## PALERMO



time friends of the IAHF and owners of Palermo's, prepared a delightful choice of entrees, including vegetarian Penne Contadina, Salmon Piccata, classic sautéed sausage with mushrooms and bell peppers and Chicken Scarpello, chicken diced and sautéed in a lemon garlic sauce; all enjoyed cannoli for dessert.

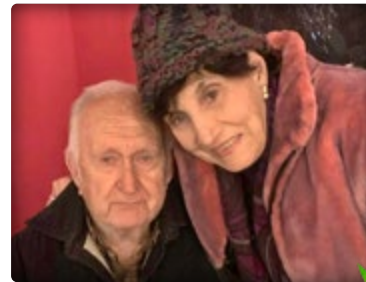
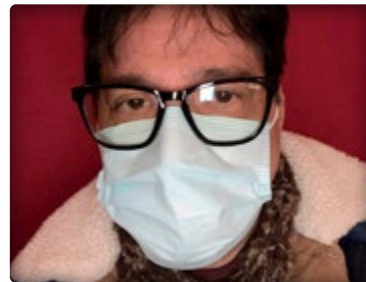
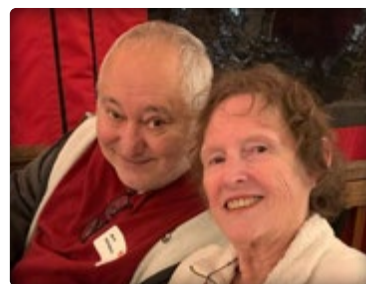
All of our menus include salad and dessert and are prix fixed, less beverages.

It has been a challenge to hold the Cena Fouri. We follow County guidelines and of course we are always subject to changing conditions. My heart goes out to many of the small businesses, including those in the food industry who are barely surviving these very difficult times. Since we started our Cena Fuori many years ago, now so many of

the owners and restaurant staff have become friends of the IAHF.

We are tentatively planning for a Cena Fuori in January yet will hold off on the location until we have the current Health Department guidelines; the date will be as always the last Thursday of the month. On the event calendar, too, is a special master class on "antipasti" at Vin Santo with Chef Umberto Pala.

-- Article by Ken Borelli





## A New Year, New Beginnings

In my recent seminar, I highlight some of the special and unique items you will find in our library, and demonstrate how to search our extensive online card catalog. (Click [here](#) to see it.)

If you have not already taken a look, explore the catalog at Librarika (<https://iahf-sj.librarika.com/>). You'll be able to search our book, video, CD, and DVD collection. And if you missed any of our recent seminars, you can search for "YouTube" to find the online videos available on the IAHF YouTube channel.

A lot of digital material has been added, including many IAHF newsletters. By the end of January, the very first IAHF newsletter from February 1976 and most of the 1977-1979 newsletters should be available in their entirety on the IAHF website. A quick search of our catalog for "newsletters" will pull up a list of available issues.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Santa Clara Valley Historic Grant Program, we will continually add newsletters as they are scanned and formatted for online viewing.

## 1976 Scrapbook

I am still finding treasures that have been stored away in closets or tucked away in high-up shelves. I was recently amazed to find pages from an original scrapbook kept by this organization. Many of you may know that the organization started in 1976, and was originally called the Italian American Bicentennial Association.

The scrapbook is a time capsule into our beginnings, documenting our events and accomplishments. Sadly, most of the people in the photos are not named; if you think you can help, please contact me. I can post photos to a folder in Flickr, where you can view them and leave comments if you recognize someone.

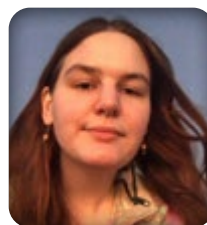
Some of our accomplishments are well documented. The San Jose Mercury News ran many articles and short items about us. It is clear that the IAHF was extremely active in the community.

Did you know that our members had a life-sized wax figure of A P Giannini made? A P Giannini was the founder of the Bank of Italy, which later became the Bank of America.

In July of 1976, the wax figure was flown in from Los Angeles, then donated to the San Jose Historical Park Museum, which at the time owned the Bank of Italy building in downtown San Jose.

I can't wait to uncover more of our history. I have already seen a lot that will help explain many unlabeled photos in our collection.

## New intern Ivy Marks



I also want to welcome Ivy to our team of library interns. Ivy has five years of experience working in the Los Angeles Public Library System and is looking forward to working with our wonderful archives. Although currently living in the Los Angeles area, she will be moving up to the Bay

Area before the next university quarter starts.

Because of the complexity and size of the library projects, our work will continue throughout the coming year. The work is very rewarding, so please consider joining our team.

## A Donation Thank-You

Thank you to Steve Decker, who will be donating a copy of his book *Cambridge Street* to our library. The novel relates the struggles of a recently immigrated family in 1917 Chicago. "They helped build our country, feed its people and fight its wars. Now, with the passing of years, their bravery and sacrifices are being forgotten. We must not let that happen." Mr Decker is from Chicago, and the book reflects his family's personal experiences.

Keep your eyes open: 2021 may hold a book review and an online seminar with Mr Decker.

Email me at [librarian@iahfsj.org](mailto:librarian@iahfsj.org).

## NEW on the IAHSJ YouTube Channel!



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## ARCHIVES ARE OPENING UP

It has been approximately 75 to 80 years since the World War II years. Aside from marking the tragic anniversaries and commemorations of the war years, it is also significant that national archives are beginning to open up. A treasure trove of documents that may solve historical puzzles and questions about the tragedy of the war, especially as it pertains to the Italian experience, will be available to scholars. Post-WWII immigration from Italy was the consequence of those war years. We as Italian Americans, along with the public at large, do not spend a lot of time trying to understand these dynamics. If you have a relative who may be alive and lived through those years, now is definitely the time to try to capture some of the family lore and connected it to the bigger historical picture.

While it may not seem of great importance to the average person, scholars and students of history are going to find this an amazing trove of material that will need to be researched and placed into a historical setting. There have been many unknowns associated with the war years. The significance of those times 75 years ago, in effect, shaped our times. Some of the State archives of several European countries, the United States, and interestingly enough too, the unique political entity is known as the Vatican, or "Citta Vaticano", located in the heart of Rome, are starting to be accessed.

Recently, for example, based on this archival material there have been a couple of fascinating TV documentaries that surfaced about the politics surrounding the Vatican's political navigation of the war years. While Rome may be several thousand years old, the Vatican itself is a product of the 1929-30 Lateran Accords between Mussolini and the Pope during the pre-war years. The concord guaranteed a neutral independent City State status for the Vatican. Being in a neutral position during the war also meant the Vatican was a hotbed of political intrigue and negotiations from all belligerent countries. One of the more interesting pieces I am reading on the subject, is the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Pope and Mussolini*, by David I. Kertzer. His book brings into play many of the historical documents that not only created the Vatican but changed the face of post-war Europe. Once I finish the book, I will be donating it to the IAHF's library to share.

What I gleaned from the book, is the nature of very "hardball" politics that was occurring throughout the period. "The elephant in the room" sort to speak for all scholars was trying to make sense of

the silence of the Pope's Pius XI and XII regarding the Holocaust, during five years of war. The new archival documents are disclosing the undisputed fact that so many counties knew exactly what was happening. Other pieces of archival materials touched upon the, once again, very hardball politics of the exodus of several million Italians from the eastern Italian provinces of Istria right after the war. Some of our IAHF members trace their roots to their refugee relatives who immigrated to the USA and specifically Santa Clara County.

And last month the Smithsonian Magazine wrote an article about what was labeled the second "Pearl Harbor", and a surprise bombing raid by the Germans on the port of Bari. It was assumed by the British command in charge of the city that the Germans had no air power left at that point in the war, but the surprise raid proved the assumption wrong and much of the British and Italian Fleet was devastated and the vibrant port all but destroyed, including a top-secret cargo of poison gas (Smithsonian, 9/20 "The Bombing and the Breakthrough", by Jennet Conant). Until I read this article based on the recently released secret documents, I had no idea of this second Pearl Harbor. And once again, we have members whose families immigrated from the area after the war (including my Uncle through marriage), what is equally fascinating and universal is how little the immigrant wanted to share with their families the reasons they wanted to leave. There is the generic, "wanting a better life" comment, but if you start to drill down, especially as these archival documents are starting to emerge, you will gain a greater appreciation of your immigrant ancestor.

And a relevant related matter is that the IAHF library and archive project partially funded by a Santa Clara County Grant is situating itself in a good position to capture some of these stories. Every year, minus this one, we have a celebration of the founding of the post-war Italian Republic. Some of our members have first-hand memories of those dates. Likewise one of our IAHF members Alfredo Chiotti, received a special medal from the Italian Government at a ceremony at the IAHF, for his war labor camp experiences. Those records are now a part of our IAHF Archives. Madeline Damiano, our Librarian, did a special video, available on YouTube, about our Library project available to all our members. It is a very meaningful coincidence that the IAHF's Library archive project and the emerging archival releases are occurring at the very same time. -- Article by Ken Borelli

It always amazes me to discover how rich and diverse our local talent is. I could go on and on about this subject. I want to focus on a world class drummer, Joe DeRose. His Italian American roots are deep in Santa Clara Valley. Recently, his Instructional drum book, "16th Note Possibilities," has become part of the world wide Hudson Music Series out of New York ([www.hudsonmusic.com](http://www.hudsonmusic.com)) That is quite an honor, and I wanted to share this information with our readers and the IAHF foundation ([www.JoeDeRoseDrums.com](http://www.JoeDeRoseDrums.com)).

Joe DeRose has been playing and educating for over 25 years. Joe is a Berkeley College of Music graduate, Magna Cum Laude. He studied the drums with such greats as Louie Bellson, Joe Porcaro, Freddie Grubbs, Lewis Nash, Kenwood Dennard, Mike Mangini, Karl Carter and many others. He has traveled all over the world with many great artists such as: Boston Blue's Diva, Toni Lynn Washington, Bay Area Hip-Hop artist, Kofy Brown and jazz vocalist, Yoshiko Oda accompanied by the Hristo Vitchev Trio, and now leads his own electric-jazz group Joe DeRose and Amici.



**Joe DeRose**



**World-Class Drummer from Silicon Valley**

Throughout the years, Joe DeRose has appeared on some of the most prestigious jazz stages all around the world, including: Monterey Jazz Festival (Monterey CA), Yoshi's Jazz Club (Oakland CA), Kuumbwa Jazz Center (Santa Cruz CA), San Jose Jazz Summer Fest (San Jose CA), Leopold Museum (Vienna, Austria), Okazaki Jazz Festival (Okazaki, Japan), Far Out Jazz Club (Yokohama, Japan), Herbst Theater (San Francisco CA), Montgomery Theater (San Jose CA), Moods Jazz Club (Zurich, Switzerland), Flavors of Jazz Concert Series (San Jose CA), Flint Center (Cupertino CA) and many more.

I know we will be hearing more from Joe, live, after the pandemic passes and look forward to those times. It has been particularly hard on those in the arts since so much of their art form and livelihood have been drastically restricted. So it is particularly exciting when this level of talent is able to succeed.

Encore (bis)!

-- Article by Ken Borelli ~

## Letter From A Reader



Dear Ken:

I listened to the whole presentation about Beneath A Scarlet Sky, but couldn't get any video. Even so, I found the program engaging.

As you know, I know many WWII stories from my mother. This particular presentation brought many thoughts to my mind from my mother's stories. My mother and her family go back before Mussolini. My mother's family hid their son in the house so the Germans couldn't find him and send him to a labor camp. A friend of my mother's family was picked up and sent to the labor camp.

He managed to escape the camp and the day he turned up in Naples was the day of my parent's wedding. Many

Neapolitans were sent to labor camps and were executed by the Germans in Naples. I know the stories of lack of food and much more from my mother. My mother said the war was terrible. There was much destruction by the British, Americans and the Germans. The British bombed logistical sites like what they did in Milan. The Americans bombed everything which included residential areas. What was left, the Germans blew up.

This presentation made me think about all these tragedies in Italy during the war and the rebuilding of Naples and many of the cities and towns in Italy. I remember when I went to Naples in the 1950s and early 1960s, seeing the destruction and rebuilding in Naples. My

mother still had many pieces of shrapnel from the American bombing in her leg to the very end.

War was terrible in Italy and throughout most of Europe. I heard many stories from war brides and their spouses.

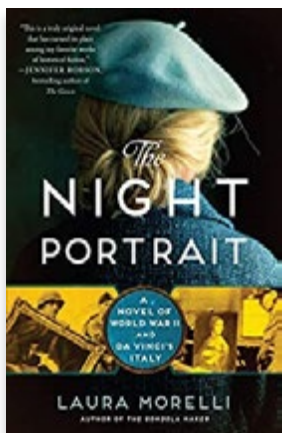
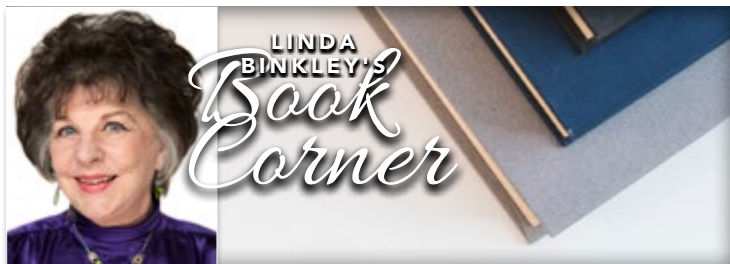
*[Note: Aside from being a member of the IAHF, Richard Stewart is active in the National War Brides Association. He has facilitated several presentations and exhibitions. Prior to the Covid lock down, it was planned to have a comprehensive War Brides Exhibit at the Cultural Village of the 2020 Festa. Those plans are on hold until a more opportune time. I am sure Michael Lella's presentation touched many members. Those memories are part of our collective lore.]*

Thank you, Richard, for your comments.

-- Ken Borelli ~







## The Night Portrait

by Laura Morelli 🌸

The Night Portrait by Laura Morelli is a book which will appeal to many readers. World War II is the backdrop for half of the chapters, and Renaissance Italy is the backdrop for the other half. The author employs a split timeline with chapters alternating between the 1400's Ducal Palace in Milan and the 1940's Germany. The scenery clashes fantastically.

The chapters revolve around a beloved painting by Leonardo da Vinci entitled "Lady with an Ermine." It is a remarkably lively visage of Cecilia Gallerani, the mistress of the Duke of Milan. Throughout the book, we are given an intimate look at Ducal life in Renaissance Italy as well as interesting insight into da Vinci's aspirations and disappointments. The author has done her research so the reading is edifying as well as entertaining.

In the German chapters, we travel with a fictional art historian and

restorer named Edith. Her expertise has come to the attention of the Nazi hierarchy who are intent on gathering all the works of art under one roof in the Führer's name. Much of the early chapters deal with Edith's awakening into the reality of Hitler's Germany. Hidden away in her restoration lab, it was easy for her to be blind to the horror around her. As she is called to travel to locations where art stolen from the Jews and stolen from the museums of conquered territory is located, she finally "awakes" and is thoroughly horrified.

In the war chapters, we travel with the fictional Domenic, a young soldier from Pennsylvania, newly married and homesick for his wife and baby. His hobby is drawing, and he sketches whenever he can. Ultimately, he comes to the attention of his commanding officer and he is assigned to guard the Monuments Men who are traveling in the aftermath of battles to seek out and salvage the millions of pieces of stolen art. This art is not just paintings but all items of great value. One cache discovered in a copper mine was the belongings of Charlemagne which had been housed in Aachen Cathedral. The details of these discoveries are well-researched and fascinating.

The writing is smooth and efficient. I was truly enamored by Ms. Morelli's motif of beginning each chapter with the same or similar sentence that ended the previous chapter even though the action was separated by 500 years.

The title, however, is a bit of a mystery. "Night" has absolutely no place in the story. The lovely Cecilia is carefully placed by the Master Leonardo near a window bathed in diffused daylight. I researched this, and found that the title was chosen by the publisher to elicit a sense of intrigue. It backfired for me because I kept waiting for something to happen under cover of darkness. It never did! 🌙

## Linda Binkley's Italian Word or Phrase of the Month **Figurati**

**Figurati** is an expression which is frequently used. You will also sometimes hear it as **figuriamoci**. It can be translated in many ways, so its meaning depends on the context.

1. **Figurati** is very often used in place of **prego**:  
*Grazie per l'informazione. (Thank you for the information.)*  
*Prego or Figurati. (You're welcome.)*
2. **Figurati** often expresses surprise or disbelief:  
*Sono divorziati. (They are divorced.)*  
*Figurati! (No way!)*
3. **Figurati** can express dismay:  
*Figurati, non ha nemmeno chiamato la mamma per il suo compleanno.*  
*(Imagine, he did not even call his mother on her birthday.)*
4. **Figurati** can express complete disregard for a statement:  
*Figurati! (That's ridiculous!)*





"I don't remember anything, I was eight years old, I don't remember anything. We came here in 1910 on a ship. There was my younger brother, younger sister, and my mother. My father was already here. He'd come earlier. He was in Chicago somewhere. The water (ocean) was bad and a lot of people were getting sick. My brother got sick. They (the crew) made us all go inside the ship where all these beds were."

The end of the 1800s to the beginning of the 1900s witnessed a mass migration out of southern Italy and

Sicily. The Italian government had moved manufacturing to the north of the country. Wine grapes and silk trees had become diseased, nearly eliminating the exporting of wine and silk. With fewer jobs available, families were looking for new opportunities. A steamship called Ducca Di Abruzzi became a means to a better future. It made regular trips between Naples and New York, transporting up to 3,000 passengers with a third of them packed into steerage - that's where third-class passengers went. Steerage was the lowest level of the ship and had rows of bunks. Passengers spent as much time as they could on deck because the air below was so foul. Further, the food was horrible, and there was no proper sanitation. Most passengers were sick during the two week trip. This is how Asunta, Carmel, and Anna Montegna came to America with their mom on December 8, 1910, leaving Asunta's two little siblings with relatives in Palermo, Italy.

"When we got to New York, they put everyone in little boats to take us to the land. They took our clothes and threw them in the ocean. Mama told them those were new clothes. Good clothes. But, they got rid of them. That's what they told us. They got rid of your things so you won't bring diseases with you. We were



## An Immigrant's Journey: They Come To America: Land of Opportunities

taken to this big room with a lot of beds because my brother was sick. Sick people had to be kept in this room for a lot of days. My brother didn't like being there. The doctors had to chase him around the room to give him a shot. After he was well, they let us leave, and we went to live in Chicago."

Third-class passengers were taken to Ellis Island where they went through medical and legal immigrant inspections, and children were given vaccine shots. Some immigrants were given new names - or shorter ones, if the inspector had a hard time

saying or spelling their given name. If you were sick then you were quarantined. Afterwards, a ferry boat took the passengers to Manhattan. Asunta, Carmel, Anna and their mom continued on to Chicago to meet up with Asunta's dad.

Soon after arriving in Chicago, the Montegna family suffered a loss when Asunta found Carmel dead on the train tracks. Carmel's head had been crushed by the train while he was trying to listen for it coming. He was killed right before his sixth birthday.

Author's Note: Quotes are direct from my great-grandma, my grandpa Tony Piccolo's mom, Asunta Montegna Piccolo who was born in 1902. Camie wrote this paper for a humanities program at San Jose State University in 1985. She is a lifelong resident of San Jose, retired now and a volunteer for the San Jose Public Library system.

If you would like to continue reading Asunta's story or others like hers, please check with our library. We are in the process of collecting stories of Italian Americans in Santa Clara County. One of our goals is to develop these oral archives. You may want to think of your own family dynamics and consider sharing these tales when we have the capacity to incorporate them into our archival materials.

- Article by Camie Piccolo-Nicholson



# Lucia's Cooking Class News

• The Latest from Lucia Clementi •

Buon Anno a tutti (Happy New Year, everyone)!!! Last month with Christmas in the air, we featured Italian cookies for our online cooking classes as part of our Italian Holiday Market. After all, what could be better than our sweet favorites while we celebrate Natale?

In mid-December, Marie Dalldorf taught a class in the art of making Strassi. Strassi is a traditional Italian cookie enjoyed during Christmas and Carnevale. They are also known by various names including bugia, chiacchiere and farfalle depending on the region in Italy from where they originated. They are often commonly referred to as Italian bow tie cookies. No matter what you call them, we know you will love them. These delicious cookies are light and airy, crispy and so addictive you won't be able to stop eating them! If you missed the class, no worries as we are including the Strassi recipe and the link to Marie's tutorial which explains how to

make these yummy treats: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwRVpDWvW0&t=346s>

The following week, I also taught a Zoom class on another favorite Italian cookie called Saviardi also known as Lady Fingers. These cookies have a light, cake-like texture and they absolutely melt in your mouth! They have a long history that dates back to the 1300's. In fact, they were named after the House of Savoy, Italy's last monarchs. They originated in Piedmonte, but they also arrived in areas where the Savoyes ruled including Sardegna and Sicily. They are perfect "dunking" cookies for your coffee, tea or hot chocolate. If you are interested in making these sweet biscuits, please refer to the recipe which follows and you can check out the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvwX-dE7ZM> 🌿

## Italian Saviardi Cookies

### Ingredients

- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups cake flour
- ½ tablespoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 large eggs (room temperature)
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 to 1 ½ tablespoon(s) vanilla extract

### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350o
- Grease 2 cookie sheets or line with parchment paper.
- Place sugar in a food processor or blender and process for about 10 seconds, until it reaches a fine consistency.

- Combine and sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt and set aside.
- Using a mixer, beat the eggs and sugar on medium speed for 8 minutes, until thick and a light yellow.
- Gradually beat in oil until incorporated. Beat in vanilla on low speed for 30 seconds.
- Add flour and continue to beat, until batter is smooth.
- Spoon half of the batter into a pastry bag or a zip-lock bag. If using a zip lock bag, snip a corner of the bag. Pipe about 3 inches of batter onto cookie sheet, at about 1½ inches apart. Continue with the second half of the batter in the same manner.
- Bake for 7-9 minutes, until they puff up, turn lightly brown at the edges and are still soft.

- Cool completely on the sheets on a rack. After cooling, remove the saviardi from the baking sheet and serve, or store between layers of wax paper in an airtight container. These cookies freeze well.
- Makes approximately 20 cookies.
- (Optional – If you prefer sweeter cookies, you can sift powdered sugar over the cookies before and/or after baking.)



## Italian Strassi Cookies

This recipe is from my mother's family in Liguria and the recipe we would make with my sister growing up. NOTE: During my video I doubled the quantities below to make more so I could give them as gifts.

### Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cup flour sifted
- 1 large egg at room temperature
- 1/4 cup butter melted

- 1 tablespoon sugar
- zest from 1 lemon or orange (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ to 2 shot glasses of brandy/marsala/rum or white wine

- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp vanilla (optional)
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Powdered sugar to sprinkle on top

continued > > >





## Directions

- Beat together eggs, add melted butter and sugar and beat well. Add lemon/orange zest, if using.
- Mix flour, salt, and baking powder; incorporate into the wet mixture, add liquor of choice and mix in bowl.
- The dough might appear to be a bit on the "dry" side, if unable to get dough to form a ball add a table spoon of water or liquor, but don't be tempted to add more liquid. Once the dough rests, it will become softer.
- Knead at least 6-8 minutes until the dough forms a ball. Once dough is well incorporated, wrap in cellophane and set aside at room temperature for at least one hour.
- Work in small batches, cut a piece of dough and keep remaining dough covered to prevent from drying. Begin passing dough through the widest setting of your pasta machine roller.
- Run the dough through several times at widest setting, then go to a narrower setting and run dough several times to make

dough increasingly thinner, Running the dough through multiple times will remove any air pockets and continues to "knead" the dough making it smoother. You may hear bubbles of air burst!

- Set the piece of flattened dough on a slightly floured wooden board and cut the dough into little 1 by 3-inch strips with a fluted pastry wheel (rotella).
- Here are some different shapes you can make. My preference is the simple 1x3-inch strips referred to as strassi or "rags".
- Put an inch or two of vegetable oil in a heavy-bottomed frying pan which I prefer to use. You can also use a fryer. Heat the oil over medium-high heat to a temperature of 375°F. Always exercise extreme caution when frying.
- Gently drop 2-3 pieces of dough in the hot oil. Do not overcrowd. Notice how the dough immediately puffs up. This will happen in seconds.
- With two forks, quickly turn cookies over for a few more seconds and remove as they turn golden brown.

- Line a baking sheet with paper towels and place fried cookies to absorb any excess oil (there will be very little as they cook in seconds) and allow to cool, once cooled dust with powdered sugar.

## Tips

- Keep dough covered to prevent it from drying out
- Heat canola or vegetable oil to 375 degrees
- Do not over flour the dough
- Don't over crowd when cooking
- Roll dough thin for best results
- Cool completely before dusting with powdered sugar
- Seal strassi in an airtight container for storing
- If strassi soften, place on a cookie sheet in the middle rack at 225 degrees for 10-15 minutes (the timing will vary), until the strassi is crisp again.



## *The Law Offices of* **RICHARD A. ARZINO**

**+1.408.287.7700** TEL

**[ArzinoLawOffices@aol.com](mailto:ArzinoLawOffices@aol.com)** EMAIL

**1570 The Alameda, Suite 250  
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**BENVENUTI New Family, Individual & Student Members As of October 2020**

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- Josephine Cancilla Delvey • Robert Doll • Greg & JoAnn Dumas • Steve Hallgrimson • Teodoro Vito Matozzo •
- Theresa & Danny Palmer • Liana Palmer • Camie Piccolo-Nicholson • Enrica Poggio • Maria Marja Pritchard •
- Christopher Rosina & Anne Fitch • Arthur & Josephine Testani •

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**LEGACY CIRCLE**

The following Members chose to honor the contributions of the IAHF to the community with a remembrance in their estates.

LINDA & BOB BINKLEY ♦ ROSE CRIMI ♦ MADELINE DAMIANO & GILDA DE SIMONE-GROCCIA ♦ STANLEY OLIVAR

If you would like to consider becoming a Legacy Circle donor, please contact [legacy@iahfsj.org](mailto:legacy@iahfsj.org) for more information.





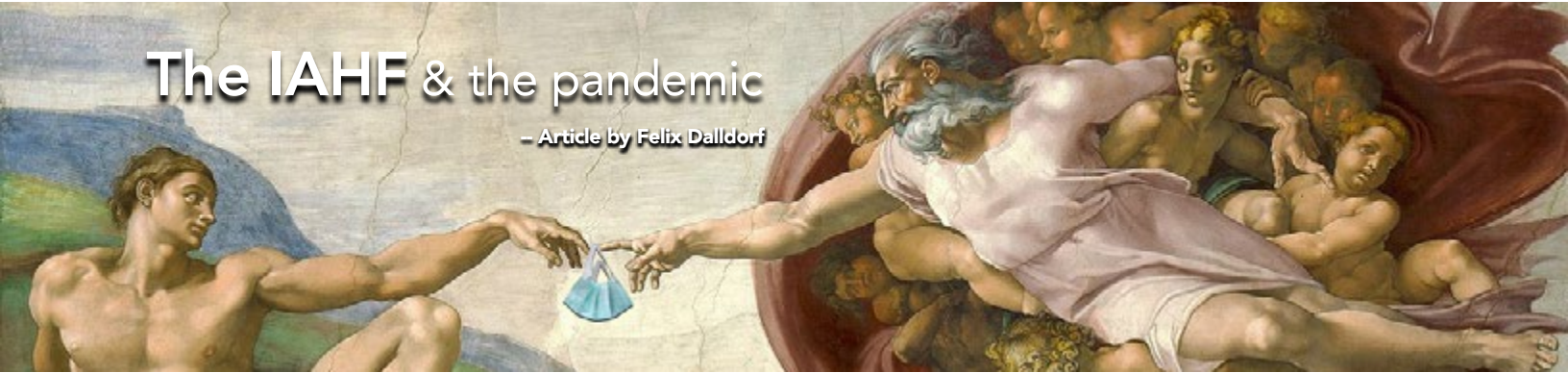


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## The IAHF & the pandemic

— Article by Felix Dalldorf



Our annual expenses for the IAHF hall run about \$75,000 per year. Our membership dues only cover about half this amount, with rental income making up the deficit and providing a modest surplus which we use to fund our scholarships and building funds. With the pandemic, our rental income was lost. The IAHF Board made significant cuts to our expenses to reduce costs and relief grants combined with some anonymous donations helped to make up much of our deficit. The Board considered many times to mail appeal letters to our members

asking for additional support, but there was a strong reluctance to do so, as so many other organizations are reaching out and our board did not want to overwhelm our members. This does not mean the IAHF is not in need of added funds, just that we recognize the impairment this pandemic has had on those with limited means. That said, for those who are in a position where they can provide added support, please consider upgrading your membership level to one of our new tiers, or by making a tax-deductible donation to our cause. ❄

## NEW IAHF MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE

By now you should have received your membership renewal letters in the mail. As the IAHF has been hit hard by the pandemic, we rely on the ongoing support of our members, and with the loss of our rental income, approved a modest increase in our annual dues, while also providing new support options for those who are more able to provide support. The new dues go into effect on January 1, and while we encourage for members to show their added support by renewing at the new rates, but any member for whom the new rates are a challenge may renew at the current rate.

For those members who are financially able to provide added support, we have new membership levels. These new levels include all the benefits of our Patron members but will also receive special recognition for their added support in our newsletter. There are three new levels of added support:

- Da Vinci level at \$250
- Medici at \$500
- Montessori at \$1,000

We have also introduced a lifetime membership (as opposed to the annual membership fees):

- La Dolce Vita at the \$3,000 level

We would like to acknowledge the generosity and support of the following members who have gone the extra mile to support the IAHF. These are difficult times for businesses to maintain financial strength. And as a non-profit business, this

extra help improves our financial standing and keeps our mission alive and well.---Thanks!!!

At the La Dolce Vita \$3,000 level we have:

- Ebe Frasse
- Felix and Marie Dalldorf

At the Montessori \$1000 level we have:

- Eugene & Christine Bernardini

At the Medici \$500 level we have:

- Jo Ann and Roger Bjornstad
- Juliana Severo
- Rose Crimi
- Ken Borelli

At the Da Vinci \$250 level we have:

- Cathy & Joe De Maria
- Joyce Allegro
- John & Marjorie Scandizzo
- Michael & Gail Paccioretti
- Jacqueline Pighini
- Sue Cancilla-Conde and Sal Conde
- Gwen & Rich Daulton
- Dana Zuccerello
- Frank Fiscalini
- Carmine Napolitano

-- Article by Dave Perzinski / Membership Chair 🌿





## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Now is time of year that we reach out to our members, past and present, to renew their membership. Your membership is much valued by all our board members and officers. All the work at the Italian American Heritage Foundation done by board members and officers is volunteered; no one on the board, including our president, our treasurer, or our committee chairs gets paid a dime. We rely

on your support through your generous donations and continued membership to keep our organization alive and well. Due to recent restrictions on getting together in large groups we have been not been able to generate the normal income through events and hall rentals. So please renew your membership and help us keep Italian-American heritage a proud statement for generations to come.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

## IAHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

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- Felix Dalldorf - *President / Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation*
- Frank De Turreis - *Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer*
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- Azie Habib - *2nd VP / Building Administration and Maintenance / Hall Rentals*
- Diane Ayala - *3rd VP / Marketing / Advertising / PR / Website / Newsletter / Social Media*
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- Nancy De Vincenzi Melander / *Former IAHF President, Daughter of IAHF Founder, Little Italy Liaison*
- Pierluigi Oliverio / *Former San Jose City Council Member, Community Leader*
- Professor Michele Santamaria Ph.D / *Italian Language Chairperson, San Jose State University*
- Rod Diridon / *Former County Supervisor and Public Transportation Leader*
- Vera Girolami / *National President of the Sons and Daughters of Italy*

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## INTERO

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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 19 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, 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 clients 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.

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- California Association of Realtors
- National Association of Realtors
- San Jose Real Estate Board
- Re-Infolink Multiple Listing Service

### PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Spending quality time with family and friends, exercising, running and giving back to the community.

It is my ultimate goal, as your professional real estate agent, to provide you with quality service, exceed your expectations and make your real estate transactions a positive and painless experience. My overall local expertise and extensive real estate experience will benefit you whether you currently are selling or buying a home, or are a returning client checking out the many homeowner resources I offer.

*Providing the Quality of Service You Deserve!*

