



Two Presidents' Messages

By Cleo Logan and Ken Borelli

AN EXCITING TRANSITION



by Ken Borelli

Anyone involved in community based organizations, and the IAHF is certainly community based, intuitively understands, "volunteer power". Also, volunteer power must have roots in the community. Transitions, i.e. the changing of the guard, mentorship, new ideas and the creative infusion of ownership and identity with an organization is the lifeblood of a foundation. So it is particularly exciting to experience this transition occurring at the IAHF. My special best wishes and support to our new President, Cleo Logan. Cleo is a registered nurse, educator and community person in her own right. In addition, welcome new 1st VP, Nancy Morreale who has worked on a number of projects for the IAHF, especially with the Festa, our websites

and the newsletter. She brings with her a wealth of technological experience the IAHF will be tapping into as we move into the "electronic age". Also much appreciation to Joe Ponte who has agreed to stay on as our IAHF 2nd VP which handles the office and facility. He has been a magician over these many years of service to the IAHF. Likewise our treasurer Frank DeTurriss, who also is a major asset in his own right in keeping our eyes on the fiscal prize of profitability, and our secretary Corrine Tomeo, who helps us keep our meeting minutes and correspondence in order along with sharing her rich knowledge of the law, and best practice with the board and the IAHF. Our new 2014 governing board has a great balance of experienced members and, collectively, a

very rich group of new board members along with the many new members to the IAHF will help us continue to build and grow our organization.

As I look back over my years at the Foundation, I realize that while our mission and vision is to promote our Italian American heritage, exploring our past and at the very same time, being a part of the process of this living history. Many of you who are current members already have this sense of belonging, some of you have roots in the Santa Clara Valley that go back to the early immigrant days of the 1880's others have migrated or found your way to this Valley of Hearts Delight quite recently. What is the common denominator of our member-

(Continued on page 4)

Our Mission Statement:

"The IAHF shall preserve and promote the rich culture of Italy, increase awareness of its history and recognize the achievements and positive contributions made by Americans of Italian descent."

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Benvenuto ai Nuovi Membri del Consiglio

by Mike Console

Benvenuto ai nuovi membri del consiglio. Welcome to the new board members.



Michael (Mike) D'Ambrosio has developed strong leadership skills and has been involved in planning, organizing, and managing many events for fun and charities. He is very active in his chosen profession of real estate. He is a member of local, state, and national realtors associations, and currently

serves as a director on the Santa Clara County

Association of Realtors as well as the California Association of Realtors. In addition, Mike has been a part of many organizations; former positions include president, vice president, and secretary of his fraternity in college, and former president of the River City Alumni Association. He is currently a member of the CA Freemasons, Archbishop Mitty High School Alumni Board, Young Executive Council Board Member of the Silicon Valley Capitol Club and the Willow Glen Business Association Member Relations Committee. Believe or not, he still finds time to volunteer for over 100 hours of community service every year. Mike is a certified negotiation expert, which will

(Continued on page 5)

SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY!

For more information visit the website at lahfsj.org

What's Going on at the IAHF...

Two Popular Events Return in 2014

POLENTA DINNER & DANCE

with Chef Tony Amato and the Tricarico Club!

Saturday, February 1 - doors open 6:00 pm, dinner 7:00 pm

Menu: Antipasto, salad, polenta, sausage, dessert and one carafe of red wine (per table) and coffee

No host bar opens at 6:00 - relax, socialize and enjoy a glass of wine or a nice cold beer.

Enjoy and dance to the sounds of Tom Volpi, "DJ extraordinaire", starting at 8:00 p.m.

Cost: IAHF members \$20.00, non-members \$22.00

RSVP by contacting the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 or iahfsj@sbcglobal.net.



CRAB FEED DINNER & DANCE

with Chef Ken Borelli and Rich Daulton in the kitchen!

Friday, March 28 - doors open 6:00 pm, dinner 6:30 pm

Menu: Fresh crab by the bucket! salad, pasta, dessert and coffee

No host bar opens at 6:00 - wine, beer and soda

Music and dancing starting at 8:00 p.m.

Door prizes - if you have something to donate, contact Nancy Morreale, events@iahfsj.org, 408-368-9094

Cost: IAHF members \$42.00, non-members \$47.00

Tables fill up fast so RSVP today!

RSVP by contacting the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 or iahfsj@sbcglobal.net.

CENA FUORI is BACK!!!

Dining out is every fourth Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted on our calendar of events). Join us as we visit some new, and some old favorite, local Italian restaurants.

January 23 - 7:00 p.m.

Paolo's Restaurant

333 W. San Carlos Ave, San Jose

Menu: 3 courses, choice of 2 entrees

Cost: \$35.00 includes tax and tip

February 27 - 7:00 p.m.

Tony & Alba's Pizza and Pasta

3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose

Cost: \$30.00 includes tax and tip

Seating is limited to approx. 30 persons.

RSVP by contacting the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 or iahfsj@sbcglobal.net.

La Divina Book Club

Join us for one of our upcoming La Divina Book Club discussions. Held at the IAHF every fourth Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted on our calendar of events).

January 23 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Book: Sacco and Vanzetti (see page 4)

Moderator: Madeline Damiano

February 27 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Book: Christ in Concrete

Moderator: Ken Borelli

March 27 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Book: Saving Italy

Moderator: Rich Stewart

RSVP welcomed but not required.

More information on page 7 or call Volunteer Librarian at 408-693-9250

Regional Lunches

Our regional luncheon series is kicking off this month on **January 30 with "Bella Napoli"**. Our new board member Rich Stewart will be hosting with special guest speaker, Francesca Stewart, Rich's mother, Napoli native and WWII war bride.

If that's not enough, you'll enjoy the beautiful sound of **tenor, Mete Tasin** singing a selection of Neapolitan repertoire.

Members \$12.00, non-members \$15.00.

RSVP by contacting the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 or iahfsj@sbcglobal.net.

Why not RSVP for February too!

February 20 "Valle d'Aosta" hosted by Nancy De Vincenzi Melander.



Linda and Bob Binkley, World of Italian Opera Night, December 6, 2013

Delia Passes the Bar...to Linda Binkley

We'd like to thank Delia Schizzano for her many years of service managing the IAHF bar. We will miss seeing her smiling face while she poured us our wine. You'll still find Delia teach Italian language classes, attending events and perhaps hosting an event or two herself. Grazie mille Delia!!

Benvenuta a Linda Binkley. Linda is an IAHF board member and now our new bar manager. Linda, and her husband Bob, first venture was opera night in December. They had specially selected wines that paired wonderfully with the menu, providing a wine list with tasting notes helped people pick the perfect wine. Linda will be personally selecting wines for each event that will compliment the menu and enhance the IAHF dining experience. Grazie Linda and Bob!!

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **JANUARY 23, 1:00 p.m.**
La Divina Book Club
- ♦ **JANUARY 23, 7:00 p.m.**
Cena Fuori, Paolo's Restaurant
- ♦ **JANUARY 30, 11:30 a.m.**
Regional lunch, "Bella Napoli"
- ♦ **FEBRUARY 1, 6:00 p.m.**
Polenta Dinner and Dance
- ♦ **FEBRUARY 20, 11:30 a.m.**
Regional lunch, "Valle d'Aosta"
- ♦ **FEBRUARY 27, 1:00 p.m.**
La Divina Book Club
- ♦ **FEBRUARY 27, 7:00 p.m.**
Cena Fuori, Tony & Alba's
- ♦ **MARCH 19, 10:30 a.m.**
Festa di San Giuseppe
- ♦ **MARCH 27, 1:00 p.m.**
La Divina Book Club
- ♦ **MARCH 27, 7:00 p.m.**
Cena Fuori, TBD
- ♦ **MARCH 28, 6:00 p.m.**
Crab Feed Dinner and Dance
- ♦ **APRIL 4, 7:00 p.m.**
Mission Peak Chamber Singers
- ♦ **APRIL 17, 11:30 a.m.**
Regional Lunch, TBD
- ♦ **APRIL 24, 1:00 p.m.**
La Divina Book Club
- ♦ **APRIL 24, 7:00 p.m.**
Cena Fuori, TBD

A complete Calendar of Events can be found on the IAHF website at iahfsj.org

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13		15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 BookClub Cena Fuori	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Regional Lunch 11am	31	

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Polenta Dinner
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16		18	19	20 Regional Lunch 11am	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 BookClub Cena Fuori	28	

ITALIAN FAMILY
FESTA
San Jose

SAVE THE DATE
August 23 and 24, 2014

Two President's Message—Dopo Il Anno Della Cultura Italiana?

(Continued from page 1)

ship? It is the determination to keep alive an appreciation of the Italian heritage and culture. What also makes the IAHF particularly relevant as a foundation is an especially welcoming focus. We are an organization that is open to all who love Italian culture and heritage, from the language, music, cuisine through its traditions. And as an organization we are equally richer by reflecting on the true constellation of Italian American life in today's Santa Clara Valley.

My personal goals during this transition time is to support our new president and work on some of the cultural projects I had to put on the back burner during my presidency. I want to conclude my transition article with another exciting note and "grazie" to Joe Catania, and his sister in Oregon, who going through their Dad's papers found this awesome article from a 1938 Newsletter called the Italo-American Crusaders Commentator. I could dust the articles off and they would be equally as relevant today as in

1938! I will writing more about this publication for the next edition of the IAHF News, but if any of our readers know about the Crusader, I would love to hear from you. My best for a creative 2014!

by Cleo Logan

On behalf of your new officers and Board of Directors, I want to wish you all a wonderful 2014. The Board is mindful of the IAHF mission statement, and will do its utmost to honor that mission. As always, The Board encourages your input and participation at the IAHF.

As your new President, I want to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our past President, Ken Borelli. Ken embodies the heart and soul of the IAHF. He cannot be replaced. Ken put in countless volunteer hours going above and beyond his duties. No one can repeat that type of dedication. Ken has the eternal gratitude of the Board and general membership. I will rely heavily on Ken's mentorship and counsel. He will remain active as the Cultural Chairperson, among other duties.

I certainly don't have a long history with the IAHF, as many of you long-time members. However, I want to assure you that I understand the sense of history and commitment within this organization. Many organizations cannot stay afloat for numerous reasons. The fact that we are here and solvent is a true testament of many dedicated members over many years.

To continue this wonderful legacy, I am asking each of you to bring in one new member during the coming year. You all know someone you could ask to join the IAHF. By growing our membership, we will continue this proud tradition. Membership dues are an essential part of our budget.

I invite you to become a more active member this year. If you did not attend an event in 2013, please attend one this year. If you did attend any events in 2013, thank you, and please attend more events this year. If we all do just a little bit more, together, we will strengthen the organization for generations to come.

From Our Library - a member's review of "Sacco and Vanzetti"

Submitted by Madeline Damiano

By Sacco and Vanzetti: The Men, the Murders, and the Judgment of Mankind, author Bruce Watson c.2007 Press

In April of 1920, a factory paymaster and his armed guard were brutally gunned down and robbed in broad daylight in Braintree, Massachusetts. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were soon arrested and became caught up in one of the most infamous trials of all time.

Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian immigrants who came to the New World seeking opportunities and enlightenment. Instead they found backbreaking labor for scant wages. Both became staunch anarchists, bemoaning the fact that the large factories easily discarded workers as they burned out in the unrelenting toil.

They found spiritual and intellectual outlets in local anarchist organizations, whose extremists orchestrated deadly bombings aimed those whom they felt had oppressed the working class. This association would be their undoing.

Before the story's end, Sacco tried desperately to starve himself to death to escape the hell he found himself in; Vanzetti poured out his frustration and anger in a pamphlet titled *A Proletarian Life* (available for free online).

The men were found guilty, but the drama surrounding the case only deepened after trial; the main witnesses

flip-flopped and voiced anti-Italian sentiment. The judge made similar comments, and the lead foreman opined that they should be hung whether or not they were guilty. When new facts disputed the ballistics evidence that was used to convict them, Sacco's gun was mysteriously dismantled and parts were switched before it could be retested. A signed confession from a convict stating facts that could be corroborated, exonerated both Sacco and Vanzetti, but was disregarded.

Like a prolonged nightmare, time marched relentlessly toward their execution in 1927. As he waited through several appeals in his cell near the prison generator, Vanzetti was forced to listen to the gruesome crackling of electricity as others were put to death before him, "and that noise cuts my being all over."

The book is a compelling emotional rollercoaster, bringing to life the highly-charged social and political atmosphere of the day. It is a heart-breaking tour through a turbulent history, and an eye-opener for anyone regarding the social environment that awaited many Italian immigrants.

On a personal note, my father was only 3 1/2 years old when Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested. As he grew up, the North End in Boston was blazing with fiery debates regarding this trial. Even in his eighties, the memory of these two men still brought tears to my father's eyes. After reading this book, there are tears in my eyes as well.



Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco (Dedham courthouse, 1923)

Benvenuto ai Nuovi Membri del Consiglio — continued

(Continued from page 1)

come in handy on the IAHF Board, especially when we get into one of our many heated, but important, discussions on various issues. He is also serving as the IAHF membership chair in addition to his board duties. Mike is a professional, has excellent communication skills, and a willing personality. He brings a fresh perspective to the board, is a lot of fun and has the goal of maintaining and respecting the current membership while reaching out and engaging new members to insure the legacy of the IAHF.



David (Dave) Perzinski has worked most of his life in the construction field, building homes throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. In 1993, David left the construction trade to pursue a college education. He graduated summa cum laude and then obtain his teaching credentials. Dave taught high school classes in world culture, law, American government, and economics for one year at Lincoln High School. During this experience,

Dave gained great respect for the difficult task teachers perform and young people for the challenges they face in growing up in today's world.

Although, he found teaching had its rewards, the construction field was a stronger calling for him, so he return to construction. He recently retired as a superintendent of new and remodeled construction which has provided him time to volunteer at the IAHF.

Already, Dave saved the IAHF a lot of money by repairing and replacing a broken exhaust fan in the kitchen, painting and replacing the floors in the restrooms (flooring materials were donated by him and his wife, Lucia Clementi). He also was the stage manager for Culinary Events and the Grape Stomp stages at our Italian Family Festa last year. He helped his wife put on the Abëreshë luncheon and has provided A/V assistance at several of our other events.

David is a "hands on" type of person, a team worker, and a person who wants to make the IAHF a more exciting and wonderful place for people to experience their rich

Italian Heritage.



Richard (Rich) Stewart is a teacher. He taught high school and adult education classes in: English as a second language, social studies, environmental science, and GED testing for obtaining a high school diploma. Rich is active and involved in several organizations, as vice president of the World War II (WWII) War Brides Association, president of the Spartan Keyes Neighbor-

hood Association and a member at large of the "Art Beat" Association (a group committed to promoting the arts and culture) which is close to his heart.

Rich's volunteer experience includes planning, organizing, and setting up a special display for the National Reunion gathering of WWII war brides. He also worked on the bylaws for the WWII War Brides Association. His war bride display was a part of our San Jose Library exhibit last year, and in our Festa cultural tent and generated great interest and excitement at both places. Richard is a Master Gardener and a "Tree Amigo" for Our City Forest Association.

One of Richard's main interests is the love of Italian history and culture and he would like to spread this interest throughout the Bay Area through film, displays, media, and other means of outreach to improve community awareness and the image of Italian Americans in the Bay Area.



Steve Cornaglia: Steve is a familiar face on the IAHF Board of Directors. He served on the board for six years and was termed out on December 31, 2012. He has sat out for a year, and now is well rested and ready to serve again, and we are happy to welcome him back!! Steve served on the nominating committee, and advisory board to keep himself involved and connected during his year hiatus.

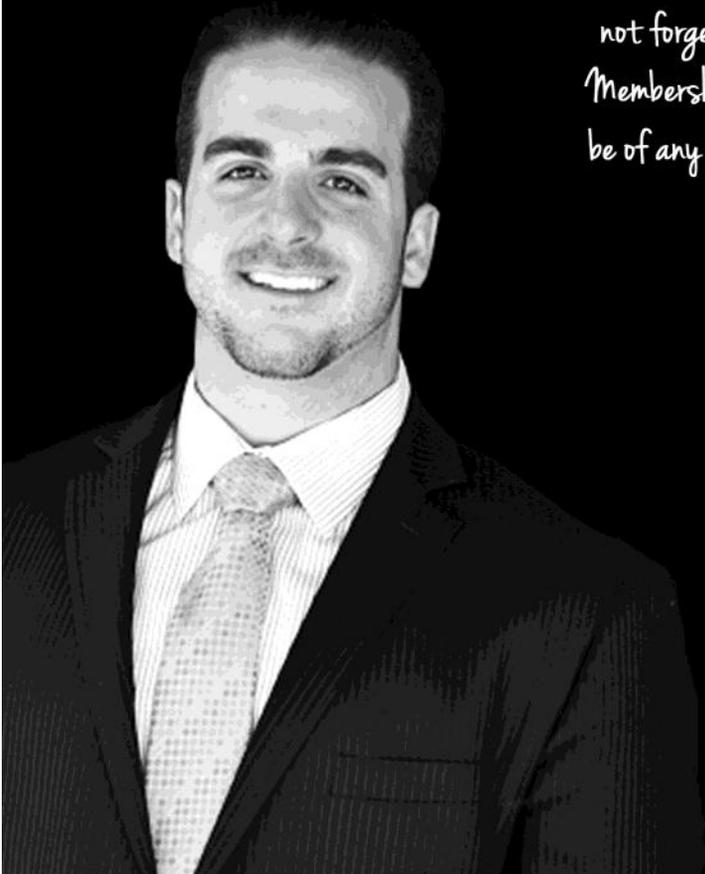
Steve is best known as the "crabman", he and his wife, Rose, planned, organized and set up the very successful IAHF Crab Feast, which has become a signature event that many people look forward each year. Bentornato (welcome back) Steve!!

Little Italy San Jose - It's not just a Dream

Little Italy San Jose has a lot of momentum with the opening of Bel Bacio Italian Café, the real estate purchase of two properties and land for an Italian Cultural Center, the remodel and sale of two historic homes as residences for two families (benvenuti De Bernardo family), and the groundbreaking of the Little Italy San Jose Arch in January. We have two historic homes that are being renovated right now on Almaden and are for sale as commercial or residential use. They obviously would love to get new Italian businesses to move in!! Give Josh DeVincenzi Melander a call at 408-394-2893 to discuss the potential purchase of the two homes in between Bel Bacio and Henry's High Life or the purchase of a vacant lot facing the Guadalupe River Park. To find out more about Little Italy San Jose go to www.littleitalysj.com

Make sure to visit Bel Bacio, Imported Italian Coffee, located on Almaden between Henry's Hi-Life and Paesano Ristorante. Relax and enjoy a delicious cup of real Italian coffee. Find out more at www.bel-bacio.com or call them at 408-645-7776.





"I am very proud of my Italian Heritage and my family's contributions over the years to Italian culture in the greater Bay Area. The IAHF is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to stay in touch with our roots and not forget where our families came from. I look forward to serving as Membership Chair and helping the organization improve. If I can ever be of any assistance to you, your family or your friends, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Grazie!"

-Mike D'Ambrosio

Realtor & Membership Chair of the IAHF-San Jose



Mike D'Ambrosio

Real Estate Broker

Contact Me!

Mike D'Ambrosio

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mdambrosio@InteroRealEstate.com

www.MikeSellsWillowGlen.com

DRE # 01841982

****For every closed transaction referred by IAHF members, I will donate a portion back to the IAHF general fund!****

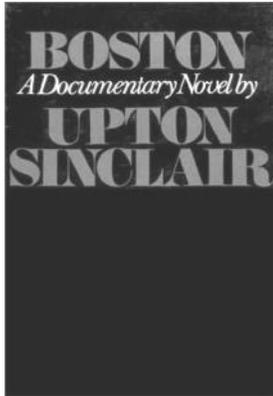


What's New at the Twila Venuti Library?

By Pamela Oliver-Lyons, Library Coordinator

A Banned in Boston book!

Boston by Upton Sinclair, a two volume set, copyright 1928 is available upon request at the library. Is it a documentary or one of first creative nonfiction books? You decide. Written



just a year after the Sacco and Vanzetti trial from first hand interviews with both of the accused, and the defense attorney, it is still considered one of the best accounts of that time and trial. It is controversial due to his research methods and the new genre he helped create. The books are an unmatched pair of a first edition set.

An Images of America book, The Italian-American Immigrant Theatre of New York City by Emelise Alean-dri is a small paperback with many

pictures telling the story of those comedians and performers who entertained the Italian mass migration immigrants of the 1870's and beyond. This book is a good entry point for research at the Library of Congress for source material of the actual radio shows and vaudeville acts. Names such as Mimi Cecchini, Guglielmo Ricciardi, Concetta Arcamone, Antonio Maiori, and many others appear.



Sillabario, a piccole letture of the La Libreria Dello Stato, is a historic children's school book brought from Italy. We have a digital copy of significant portions of this special book captured on DVD. The drawing are delicate and beautiful. The book also reflects a fascist programming of children's school books. It is a cultural jewel. Available upon request for viewing.

Artemisia Vuole Dipingere, Artemisia Wants to Paint is a book by our favorite bilingual publisher and author, Claudia Cerulli. This book was donated by her to the library. It is a children's book for Ages 5+ which tells the story of one of Italy's most famous woman artists as a child. A delightful well illustrated story which might be of interest artistically inclined grandchildren.

Pane Amaro (Bitter Bread) and Finding the Mother Lode: Italian Immigrants in California, are DVDs purchased for the library by a donor. These tell the story of the Italian experience from the East Coast to the West Coast. Finding the Mother Lode was shown at the IAHF and many had the opportunity to meet the producer Gianfranco Norelli and Suma Kurien.

Checking out at the Library

Currently, the library is preparing for a transition from a manual system to a digital one but in the meantime, we are using card catalogues. Each book has a card in it. Take the card and write your name and date of the day. This card goes in a blue plastic pencil box underneath the Verdi sculpture by the window. It's that easy!



Some books and media are either reference or historical and these cannot be taken out of the library.

If the book is on the shelf and has a card with does not say REF, than you can take it out.

Please remember to return all books.

If you have any questions call the Library Coordinator Pamela Oliver-Lyons @ 408-693-9250.

La Divina Book Club

La Divina Book Club February 27, 2013 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Christ in Concrete by Pietri di Donato - presented by Ken Borelli.

This book is available in the MLK library, and from Amazon for \$7.16 plus postage. It is in a Centennial Edition paperback from Signet classics.

A culturally and historically significant book about the plight of an Italian immigrant family who struggles to survive in the Great Depression the social economic realities of Italian immigration on Manhattan's Lower East side. The book is a moving plea for labor reform. Ken will bring in his first edition copy.

There is also a film noir movie, Christ in Concrete filmed in London, available on Netflix. Both the movie and the book are interesting in not only being groundbreaking looks at Italian immigration subculture but also in the reaction in America to both. The movie, produced by Edward Dmytryk in 1949 ten years after the book, was BLACKLISTED by Hollywood due to it's leftist message. Of note is that the movie does vary widely from the plot of the book. This movie is considered a masterpiece due to its camera work and relevance.

If you have questions or need assistance in finding the book or video contact Pamela Oliver-Lyons at 408-693-9250.

LA DIVINA BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

January 23 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Book: Sacco and Vanzetti

February 27 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Book: Christ in Concrete

March 27 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Book: Saving Italy

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Member Spotlight

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New Members:

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Renee Wright

New Student Members:

Carol Conti

Kristen Lipari

Orlando McCorkle

Joanna Phillips

Adriana Piazzi

LeGan Rosino

TEACHERS WANTED!

Calling all Italian Studies teachers. The IAHF and the Consul General of Italy wants to support your efforts to preserve and continue Italian language and cultural studies in our schools, both private and public, kindergarten through college, and adult education programs. If you are teaching Italian please join us, network, share ideas, get the support of the IAHF and the Consul General of Italy. Together we can make a difference and insure the study of Italian culture stays alive.

For more information or to donate to our Italian Studies Education Fund **contact: Linda Binkley at info@iahfsj.com**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!



Mail in your check or pay online at iahfsj.org

VOLUNTEERS - We need YOU!

We urge you to get involved. This is **YOUR** organization. We cannot survive without your participation and support. **ALL** of the programs the IAHF offers including lunches, opera night, language and cooking classes, the Festa, the newsletter and more **ALL** depend on volunteers. We need our IAHF community to come out and get involved.

- Everyone has a talent they can share.
- We have opportunities that you can do from home.
- Volunteer opportunities range from an hour or two a month to being a chairperson for one of our programs.
- Have an idea, share it with us.
- Sign up to volunteer today!

Contact Nancy Morreale, 408-368-9094, info@iahfsj.org



BRAVO! Dave Perzinski, Joe Ponte and Lucia Clementi!!

If you haven't already seen the new restroom flooring, please take notice the next time you're at the IAHF. Then make sure to give a big thanks to Dave Perzinski and Lucia Clementi for donating the wood flooring, also Dave and Joe Ponte for getting the installation done in time for Opera Night in December. And least we forget, they painted as well.

Dave is one of our new board members, his years of experience in construction was invaluable to the IAHF in fixing the kitchen exhaust fan and refreshing the bathrooms. We appreciate his commitment to the IAHF. His wife, Lucia Clementi, heads up the Arbëreshë Club and both are hands on volunteers at our Italian Family Festa.

MILLE GRAZIE Dave, Joe and Lucia!!



L Dave Perzinski, R new flooring in woman's restroom

If you know of a member that should be recognized please submit the information to Nancy Morreale, news@iahfsj.org.



a full service salon

Product Offerings

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**Don't wait this offer ends 2/28/2014
one discount per member**

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IAHF Officers

Cleo Logan, *President*
Joe Ponte, *VP Administration*
Open, *VP Promotions*
Nancy Morreale, *VP Programs*
Frank De Turrís, *Interim Treasurer*
Corinne Tomeo, *Secretary*

IAHF Directors at Large

Maria Bertola
Linda Gaudio Binkley
Mike Console
Ken Borelli
Miichael D'Ambrosio
Frank De Turrís
David Perzinski
Pamela Oliver-Lyons
Joe Rizzi
Richard Stewart
Corinne Tomeo
Tony Zerbo

IAHF Advisory Committee

Denise and Sal Campagna
Richard (Rich) Daulton
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Peter McHugh
Josh DeVincenzi Melander
Delia Schizzano

Founders

Domenic Cirincione*
Victor Corsiglia, Sr.*
John De Vincenzi, Ed.D.*
Joseph Di Salvo*
Charles Falcone*
Sal Flavetta*
Joe Guerra, Jr
Michael Guerra*
Carl Lepiane*
Don Lima*
Larry Marsalli
Rocci G. Pisano, Ph.D*
Murphy Sabatino, Sr.*
S. M. Sanfilippo*
Louis Solari*

Past Presidents

Don Lima (1975-1976)*
Murphy Sabatino, Sr. (1977)*
John De Vincenzi, Ed.D (1978)*
Rocci G. Pisano, Ph.D (1979)*
Richard Arzino (1980)
Pat Restuccia (1981-1982)*
Philip DiGiovanni (1983)*
Ned Ciccio (1984)*
Frank Bonanno (1985)*
JoAnn Cymanski (1986)
Joe Francia (1987)*
Nick Rizzolo (1988)
Marge Valente (1989)
Richard Bongiovanni (1990)*
Tony Zerbo (1991)
Tony Virgilio (1992)*
Nick Lickwar (1993-1994)
Sal Scrivano (1995-1996)
Nick Lickwar (1997)
Ed Foglia (1998-2000)

Past Presidents (continued)

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Sal Caruso (2004-2005)
Marge Valente (2006)
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Ken Borelli (2009-2013)
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Italian Opera's Grand Finale

excerpt from Newsweek Online, by Elisabeth Braw, December 31, 2013

Last month, staff at Catania's opera house staged a funeral in suitably operatic fashion, carrying a coffin through the center of the packed auditorium. The performance wasn't a dramatic staging idea: It was a funeral for the opera house itself.

That's because this stunning house, where opera has been performed since the late 1800s, is in deep financial trouble. The Teatro Massimo Bellini - named after the Sicilian city's most famous son, the bel canto opera composer Vincenzo Bellini - can't afford to pay visiting artists or even its own musicians.

At a recent international opera competition, the orchestra went on strike between the semifinals and the finals, reportedly because its members hadn't been paid for months.

And Opera Catania is not alone. Florence's Teatro del Maggio Musicale is seriously in the red, as are the opera houses in Rome, Bologna, Genoa, Parma, and Cagliari. In fact, reports Enrico Votio Del Refettiero, the influential writer who covers opera on the Luigi Boschi blog, only three Italian opera houses are currently able to pay their bills within two months: Milan's La Scala, Venice's Teatro La Fenice, and Turin's Teatro Regio.

"Our opera house system is already shutting down," he said. "It's gone, finished."

There's a simple reason behind the desperate financial plight of Italy's opera houses: Italy's economic crisis has forced the government to slash arts funding.

It is said that the opera isn't over until the fat lady sings. But will Italy's government wait that long?

Unlike American opera companies, which raise money from companies and individuals, Italian opera houses have always been supported by the state. Making their embarrassment worse, the temples to this largely Italian art - the standard opera repertory is Italian, Italy gave birth to Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, Vincenzo Bellini, Gioachino Rossini, and Gaetano Donizetti, whose works provide the backbone of op-

era worldwide, and composers like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote most of their operas in Italian - can't even borrow to keep themselves open.

"They've have been in financial trouble for a long time, but in the past they could simply go to the bank and get loans because the government would back it," explained Del Refettiero. "Now the banks' supply of money has stopped."

That has left opera managers unable to pay their singers and musicians. They haven't got enough resources to plan future seasons, a lethal handicap in an industry in which the talent is booked three to five years in advance. At the Cagliari opera house, performances are now announced just one month before they are staged. It's hardly a way to build an audience.

And for the past couple of years, managers have taken more drastic measures still, cutting the numbers of performances and reducing salaries. Even so, several houses, including the Florence opera, now face the prospect of having to close.

"The crisis [in opera] is very serious," acknowledged Salvatore Nastasi, state secretary at the Culture Ministry in charge of opera funding. "You have to consider that in the past 20 years our opera houses have accumulated debts of \$411 million. But, he argued, Italian companies "are still world class and that's why the government continues to fund them."

Jacopo Peri, the 16th century Roman composer who invented opera with his musical tale of the beautiful Daphne, would hardly recognize his country today, where managers squabble with labor unions while the top singers stay away for fear of not being paid.

Neither would Claudio Monteverdi, the composer and priest who popularized opera with his masterpiece L'Orfeo in 1607 - a work that is still performed today. And Italy's masters of the genre - Verdi, Rossini, Puccini, and the rest - would be shocked to find the bailiffs banging on Italian opera's door.

A line from Violetta in Verdi's La Traviata, the world's most-performed opera, comes to mind: "Folly! Folly! All this is vain delirium!"

To read more go to: www.newsweek.com, and search for Italian Opera

Mystery Photo Identified...Meet Twila Venuti

By Pamela Oliver-Lyons

This photo has been identified by Bill Venuti and his children as their beloved mother, Twila Venuti. Yes, that's the very same Twila Venuti as in our library's name. She was the one, who gave form to the original ideal of the IAHF founding fathers desire to have a significant library for the preservation of Italian American Heritage in Santa Clara County. Before her, it was just a room of loosely organized donated books. She wrote a library newsletter column to show members what new books were available and so much more!

But who was she? Born Twila Edith Black on December 12, 1921 in Clay Center Kansas, she joined the Army Air Force in 1943, got a degree in psychology from Geneva College, Beaver Falls



and met Bill Venuti. In 1955, Bill began teaching at San Jose State University in the new department of Engineering. They travelled to Thailand where Twila taught Thai students English. In 1969 inspired by her foreign teaching experiences (throughout Asia, the Middle East and Europe) she got a Masters in Special Education and a Teacher Certification. For eighteen years she taught special education in San Jose. She was a selfless volunteer wherever she lived. And after much worldwide travel, she came to the Italian American Heritage Foundation, where she dedicated herself to the library renewal. Her love of reading, teaching and joyous spirit so well described by those who loved her, is why the IAHF Library bears her name, the Twila Venuti Library, in the plaque above the door.