

IAHF NEWS

Italian American Heritage Foundation Newsletter • March 2015 • Founded August 5, 1975 • Celebrating 39 Years



President's Message

Dear IAHF members,

Now, after two months in office, I am just beginning to appreciate all the effort and knowledge that goes into the operation of this organization. We have so many wonderful talents here in our organization. There is always something new and exciting going on here. I saw firsthand, the organization of the Spring Fling by Marge Valente and Cathy De Maria and others. The mailings, the selection of prizes, the choice of table arrangements was all very cooperative and orderly. Then the Polenta dinner chaired by myself and Mike D'Antonio (Tricarico Social Club) and supported by Ken Borelli and Tony Amato (TSC). Also, this past month we had a wonderful luncheon honoring the region of Molise. Ken and all the wonderful volunteers made a fantastic pasta with mushrooms. John Romano made a great PowerPoint presentation on the culture and history of Molise. Then we saw video clips of famous Italians with Molise ancestry, Robert De Niro and Mario Lanza. It was a truly great occasion made even better by the spirit of belonging and connectedness that Italians do the best.

Our future is looking bright too. At our last board meeting we discussed many new ways that we want to improve our look here on 4th St. We will be painting the building this month. We have plans to remove the old trailer and make room for a Bocce Ball court. We talked about making some gardens and perhaps a fountain out front. Already donors have come forward to help us meet our goals of beautifying and fixing our building. Frank De Turrus and Ken Borelli have donated to insulate our office attic. That project has already been accomplished and energy savings are on the way. Richard Zamer donated for the new handrail at our front entrance. Lucia Clementi donated the new Italian and American flags at the front of our building. This year we will see many new improvements yet to come. Be sure to see the list of projects that you might want to sponsor at the back of this newsletter.

I am also amazed by how many donors and volunteers we have here on a daily basis and especially on our St Joseph's Day event that is chaired and co-chaired by Gene and Joanne Sanfilippo, and Larry and Kathy Loman. I am constantly being asked to sign letters of appreciation to all the wonderful donors that contribute to our organization. Then, of course, all the hard work put in by all "boots on the ground" people deserves our recognition. All of our volunteers who work without pay to offer great meals, establish a stellar library (thank you, Richard Stewart), and get out the mail make being president here an incredible joy.

Thank you all,

David Perzinski

President, Italian American Heritage Foundation

PROJECT LIST TO BEAUTIFY & IMPROVE THE IAHF BUILDING

We have started a list here at IAHF to improve and beautify our building. In case you haven't noticed, we have been pretty busy here. Last month thanks to generous donors we have installed insulation in our office attic. We also installed a new handrail at our front steps. And, check out our new flags in front of the building. We intend to keep improving our building and we are giving our members a chance to participate in these improvements. Take a look at the list below. If you would like to contribute to one of these projects either in dollars or labor, give us a call.

Projects needing donors

- New planters, roses and flowers for front entrance / \$250.00
- Replacement of parking bumpers / \$750.00
- Bocce Ball court in back of building / \$850.00
- Exterior Painting of building / \$1050.00
- Motion Detector Switches for bathrooms / \$130.00

Finished and donated projects

- Insulation of office attic
(Thank you Ken Borelli and Frank De Turrus) / \$1,000.00
- Hand rail at front steps
(Thank you Richard Zamer) / \$250.00

All IAHF members who have a registered email address with the IAHF will only receive the IAHF Newsletter by email beginning with the April 2015 Newsletter.

All IAHF members who don't have a registered email address with the IAHF will only receive the IAHF Newsletter by U.S. Postal Mail beginning with the April 2015 Newsletter.

If you have registered email address with the IAHF, and only want the IAHF Newsletter through the U.S. Postal Mail, please let me know between March 22 and March 31 by phone at 408-821-4260 or by email at richardstewart60@gmail.com ☺

IAHF Library Volunteers in Action! By Pamela Oliver-Lyons



Clockwise from top left:

- Beppo Severgnini was delighted when I (as a representative of the book club) told him our IAHF book club started with his book *Ciao, America*.
- IAHF Library volunteer and member Bill Venuti presents a historic photo from the IAHF library archives to the Picchetti Winery Open Space Reserve's Manager Mattie Pantling. Photo reads "The Italian American Heritage Foundation San Jose, California 95112 June 2014" with a Translation of the Italian caption dated 4 July 1915: Remembering the happy time when our families were guests of Mr. Picchetti. Bill Venuti had recognized this photo while volunteering in organizing our collection and then worked with the Picchetti Winery and the IAHF to make this donation possible.

- The very talented IAHF Member Maria Bandi performing the well loved Sicilian comic character Nofrio at the 2014 IAHF Festa library's Little Theater.
- IAHF Library volunteer and member Pam Hollenbaugh shows her work representing our new signage in the library. Pam designed all the signs you can now see in our library, replacing our paper signs with this new creative look.
- La Divina Book Club's volunteer guest speaker Principessa Francesca Nicolina Toamasina Sorvillo Stewart, mother of Richard Stewart, spoke at our book club about life in Naples during the four days of Naples, when the people of Naples, inspired by the rebellion started by the street children, drove the Nazi out of Naples in four days. Francesca Stewart lived in Naples throughout the war years and gave us a first hand account. ☺

Fiavè

Life on Stilts *by Tom Weber*

January 30, 2015 / Art & Archaeology

Fiavè, Trentino Alto-Adige

Long before Amsterdam, Venice and the Kingdom of Paeonia, but sometime after the Flintstones of Bedrock, a small prehistoric tribe near Fiavè, in the Trentino area of northern Italy, drove lengthy wooden piles down into Lago Carera and constructed one of mankind's very first above-water communities.

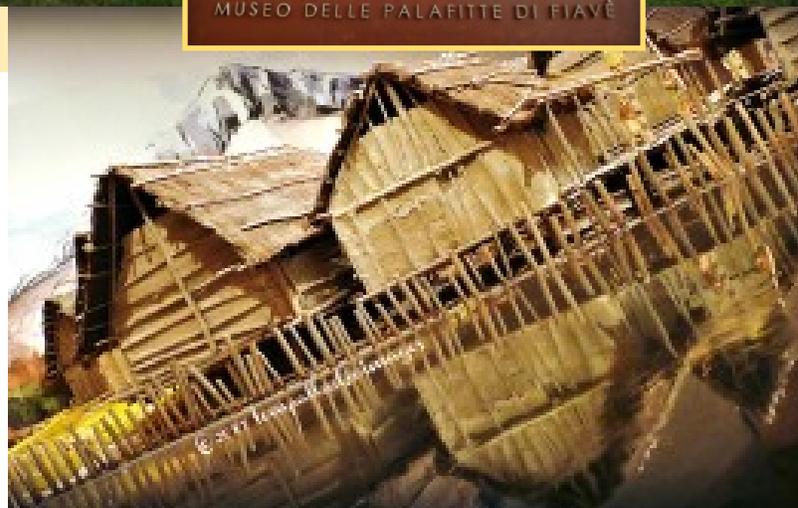


They don't call this part of Europe "old as mud" for nothing, as evidenced by the remains of those 7-9 m long wooden stilts peering back at me just above the surface of the now glacial basin-turned-peat bog.

Looking around at this little speck of history really got my Vespa running. I needed to do some digging of my own and get to the bottom of this story about life on prehistoric stilts, so I headed over to the nearby Il Museo delle Palafitte di Fiavè (Pile Dwellings Museum of Fiavè).

Flashing my press credentials, I'm immediately handed off to Angelo Parisi who serves as my guide on a private, in-depth tour of this brand new, three-story, state-of-the-art facility that occupies the old Casa Carli in the center of Fiavè.

Devoted entirely to those ancient "holes in the ground making history," the museum is laid out to illustrate — via plenty of in-



teractive audio-visual screens, colorful static displays and glass cases filled with precious artifacts — the seven stages of the three prehistoric communities that lived around the glacial basin between the late Neolithic Age and the recent Bronze Age.

The Lake Carera finds are part of an overall 111 locations of prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps fully recognized by UNESCO and designated as World Heritage sites.

On the third floor, and the last stage of the tour, visitors can experience "A day in a pile dwelling." It's a complete, scale mock-up of this community constructed on stilts some 3,400 years ago.

Following the tour, I took a stroll around the museum's park-like grounds with the impressive bird house sculpture out back and the angled, symbolic stilts that front the museum's entryway.

I give Il Museo delle Palafitte di Fiavè and the archeological site at Lago Carera "two thumbs" way up; or, in the words of Fred Flintstone, Yabba-dabba-doo! 🍷

Tom Weber is a veteran print-broadcast journalist and resides in Vicenza, in the Veneto region of northeastern Italy. He hosts the eclectic travel-food and wine-photography blog [The Palladian Traveler.com](http://ThePalladianTraveler.com), is a regular contributor to Los Angeles-based TravelingBoy.com, and is a member of the International Travel Writers Alliance. Feel free to follow Tom as he "meanders along the cobblestone to somewhere."
-- Submitted by Ken Borelli

Molise Italy's Undiscovered Region



Molise is a region on the eastern side of south-central Italy. Until 1963, it was part of the region of Abruzzo e Molise, alongside the region of Abruzzo. The division of the one region into two separate regions began in 1963 and was finalized in 1970, making Molise the newest region in Italy. Molise is the second smallest region in Italy, covering 1,714 sq miles, and has a population of approx. 300,000 *Molisani*.



Molise is subdivided into two provinces that are named after their respective capitals: Campobasso and Isernia. Molise constitutes less than 1.5% of the Italian territory and less than 1% of its population. Molise is bordered by the regions of Abruzzo to the north, Apulia to the east, Lazio to the west and Campania to the south. It has a short but beautiful coastline to the northeast, on the Adriatic Sea. More than 50% of Molise is mountainous, and makes up part of the National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise. Many of Europe's rarer species of flora and fauna still find a home in this heavily forested and relatively untouched region.

Molise has a small but pretty coastline along the Adriatic Sea. The largest town along the coast is Termoli, an ancient fishing village, situated on a small outcrop. Within the imposing walls towering above the sea, there is the Svevo Castle, of Norman origin, thought to have been built during the reign of Federico II, and the 13th century Cathedral. Thanks to its large

sandy beach and crystal clear bathing waters that are consistently awarded the European Blue Flag designation, Termoli has developed into a real tourist magnet, further attracting visitors with its picturesque seafront promenade where one can see fine examples of the traditional *trabucchi* fishing vessels. It's logical that seafood forms the basis of Termoli's excellent cuisine.



Tourism is growing as a result of the international flights from other European countries and North America which enter Pescara not far to the north in Abruzzo. Tourists are attracted not only by the National Park which offers great skiing, hiking and rock climbing, but by unspoiled beaches, antiquities, excellent food, salt-of-the-earth people, and the gentle pace of life.

Here are a few dry historical facts: Molise has been inhabited for over 700,000 years. The original inhabitants were the Samnites and Frentani, and they lived and prospered in this region

until the arrival of the Romans. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Molise was invaded by the Goths and the Lombards. In 860 AD, the Saracens destroyed many towns in the region. By the 10th century there were 9 countdoms in Molise: Venafro, Larino, Trivento, Bojano, Isernia, Campomarino, Termoli, Sangro, and Pietrabbondante. In 1095, Bojano came under the rule of the Norman Hugo I of Molhouse, who gave his name to the region. Okay, enough dry facts.

Campobasso, the capital of Molise, consists of a new town and an interesting old town, with stepped streets and alleys, dominated by the imposing Castello Monforte. Campobasso was founded by the Romans as a base camp for conquering the resident Samnites. It took the Romans 200 years to conquer the Samnites so their presence is still evident. Isernia is another ancient town, once the capital city of the Samnite people, with history dating back to the beginnings of civilization. Most of Isernia was destroyed in World War II, but the city was lovingly rebuilt. *continued >>>*





My family is from Vinchiaturò, a small mountain town in the Province of Campobasso. Vinchiaturò has a population of approx. 3,000 and an area of about 13.5 sq miles. It's pretty mellow. I still have a few relatives living there from my father's side of the family. Vinchiaturò was established by the Romans over 2,000 years ago as a place to imprison captured Samnites. To this day, the crest of Vinchiaturò pictures a tower and chains. My take on the meaning of the word Vinchiaturò is *tower of the vanquished*.

Molisan agriculture produces notable wines, excellent olive oil (prized since Roman times), vegetables, grains, fruits and dairy products. Two very traditional products are grass pea (*cicerchia*) and *faro*. Molise's signature grape is *Tintilia*, which has been re-discovered during the last ten years.

Though there is a Fiat plant in Termoli, the industrial sector of Molise is dominated by stone quarries servicing the construction industry, and by small and medium-sized farms spread widely throughout the region. An important industry is food processing, as pasta, meat, milk products, olive oil and wine are traditional products of Molise. There is a small services sector that supports the industries and tourism. With very few exceptions, firms are small in all sectors, limiting the marketing of Molisan products on an international and even a national scale. For example, Molisan olive oil is widely recognized as some of the best in Italy, but production is small so it rarely goes outside the immediate region. But in a case like this, smaller might be better.

There is a lot of seismic activity in the mountainous parts of Molise and that has taken its toll on the region's

buildings and its inhabitants. After the earthquake of 2002 some of the communities in Molise adopted a state-policy to rebuild their homes. Larino, near Termoli, has been beautifully transformed. Part of the policy is to return the houses to their historical colors and, based on careful research, the structures were painted in a range of soft pastel tones. Now Larino is an important center for tourism, and scores of expatriates from all over the world are returning to live there.



Molise is home to many Arbëresh since the 15th century. As a result, the Molisan dialect is heavily influenced by the native languages of the Arbëresh living there. Molisan Croats speak an old Dalmatian dialect of the Croatian language. Molisan Albanians speak Arbëresh, a variety of Albanian, which is very different from the Albanian spoken in Albania itself. The Province of Campobasso has four towns with significant Arbëresh populations: Campomarino (*Këmarini* in Arbëresh), Montecilfone (*Munxhufuni*), Portocannone (*Portkanuni*), and Ururi (*Rùri*).

Molisan Cuisine

There is a lot that can be said about food in Molisan society, but I don't think I need to dwell here on the importance of food to an Italian. Basically, the flavors of Molise are dominated by the many aromatic herbs that grow there - marjoram, for example. My mother and grandmothers used marjoram as a seasoning more often than oregano. And lots of basil and parsley, too. Molisan foodstuffs are generally locally produced or even grown in home gardens.

Molisan family meals are usually two-courses, with a first course of either pasta or soup, and a second course of fish or meat and vegetables accompanied by a big green salad dressed with local olive oil and red wine vinegar. Wine (often home-made) is usually on the table. Even the kids get a few small sips. And bread. It doesn't matter if you are eating pasta - heck, some Molisians eat bread with their pasta. You always need a crust of bread to wipe the ragu off the plate after you finished the pasta - my father called it *scarpett'*. Or you might want to place a thick slice of crusty bread into your bowl of lentil soup or escarole soup, both Molisan traditions.

Pasta is an absolute mainstay of the Molisan table. Traditionally, you have pasta with tomato sauce and meatballs, sausage and/or braciola as *primo piatto* three days a week: for dinner on Tuesday and Thursday, and for lunch on Sunday. But there is often pasta in the soup on Monday night and just maybe on the table again on Friday night instead of *baccala*. When I was growing up, we would have eaten pasta every night if my father and grandfather had their way. Those guys were Italian through and through.



Molisan after-dinner desserts vary but often focus on local fruit and cheese. Figs and pears, widely grown in Molise, are very popular fruits in season. Or there might be *pignoli* cookies (yum!!) or *pizzelle* and espresso with a little home-made anisette or *centerbe* or Fernet or Sambuca added - solely for digestive purposes, of course. *Torrone* is another traditional dessert but usually reserved for special occasions and holidays. Some sweets and desserts have an ancient tradition in Molise and are linked to the history of the territory and to specific religious feast days and family festivities. >>>

When company stops by after dinner, fresh or dried figs, nuts, olives, lupini, roasted garbanzos, biscotti, wine, and espresso are usually on the table. And maybe a little anisette.

Molisan Wine

Molise is Italy's smallest wine region but it is up and coming. Molise is still an obscure region, because although excellent wines have been made in Molise as far back as 500 BC with influences coming from the Samnites, Etruscans and Romans, it only gained its independence as a wine region in the last half of the



20th century. Molise gained two of its own DOCs, Biferno and Pentro di Isernia, in the 1980s. Biferno and Pentro di Isernia wines include reds, whites and roses. In 1998, these two DOCs were joined by the newer Molise del Molise DOC, which encompasses the whole region and also makes sparkling spumante. Several grape varieties reign in this area, including Aglianico, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Falanghina, Montepulciano and the native Tintilia.

Old Ways Live On in Molise

Molise is known for its *tratturi*, a network of ancient grassy paths still in use today. From 6 B.C. to only a few decades ago, countless Samnites / Etruscans / Romans / Italians walked these trails from season to season, herding sheep and goats, the principal mainstay of the southern peasant. The *tratturi* provide a rigorous journey from the cool mountain pastures of Abruzzo to the warm and humid Apulian plateaus. Many of the *tratturi* run next to ancient stone-paved Roman roads. Essentially, the *tratturi* cover the entire territory of Molise and offer trails that unite the Gargano National Park to the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise. Some shepherds still move their herds along this old network of paths to graze, evoking the rhythms, sounds and traditions of a very early time.

Molisan religious holiday observances tend to have many ancient aspects, perhaps more so than in the rest of Italy. For example, in Castelnuovo del Volturno, one very old pre-Lenten tradition centers around *l'oumo cervo*, the deer man, a man in a deer costume complete with antlers, who struggles with a masked man as a symbol of man against nature, man triumphing over his baser instincts, man achieving spiritual purification. This tradition has its roots in pre-Christianity and was practiced widely across much of Europe in ancient times. During *carnevale* in the villages of Carpinone, Forli del Sannio, and Roccasicura, a puppet known as Fantoccio is put on trial and burned at the stake. In the village of Sant'Agapito, his smoldering corpse is thrown off a cliff.

In Tufara, the devil is put on trial and is marched through the streets accompanied by several figures dressed in white who keep him in chains before being burned. In many Molisan villages and towns, *carnevale* centers around a puppet dressed in black, with flax in his hand and a potato bottom with seven chicken feathers sticking out

of it. The puppet is often suspended from balconies or from wires hanging in the yards. In Vinchiaturu, other ancient traditions involve couples jumping over a wood fire on the Feast of St. John, and men rolling large rounds of cheese down the street, like in Etruscan days, during Easter festivities. During the summer in Vinchiaturu, some young women wear a sprig of basil behind their ears to get a kiss from their sweetheart. This tradition of "kiss me, Nicholas" or *bacia nicola* dates back to ancient Greek and Etruscan times. Traditional Christmas Eve bonfires bring the *Molisani* out into the freezing mountain night to sing traditional Christmas songs. And that's when a little sip of anisette comes in handy.



There is so much more that I could write about Molise,

but perhaps you would prefer to experience it first-hand. Molise isn't far from Rome. Trains run to Campobasso every few hours. It's easy to drive there, too. Like most of Italy, it is a wonderful place. Check it out when you want some down-home Italian peace and quiet. -- John Romano 🍷



Click [here](#) to view a video about Il Diavola di Tufara

Funiculi, Funicula!

February 6, 2015 / Local Interest / Mount Vesuvius, Campania

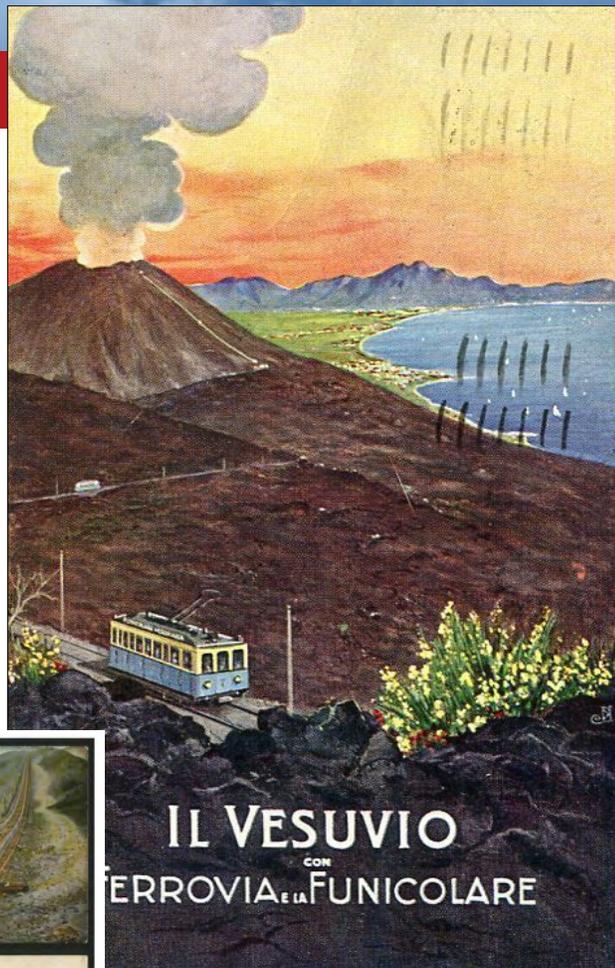
Submitted by Ken Borelli

From the days when British Ambassador William Hamilton wore through his shoes (and those of his long-suffering servants) upon the hot slopes of Vesuvius, the volcano has been a magnet to visitors. Up until the 1870s the only alternative to trekking up on foot was a horseback ride or a sedan chair. But in 1878 the Hungarian entrepreneur Ernesto Emanuele Oblieght obtained permission to construct and operate a funicular railway up the slopes and in 1880 he and colleagues celebrated the new venture with a champagne reception.

That year one of the song entries in the Piedigrotta Festival, Funiculi Funiculà, written by Peppino Turco and Luigi Denza, burst upon the scene, becoming in effect a kind of promotional jingle for Oblieght's railway.

It was not all plain sailing, or indeed, raiing; from the very beginning local guides were incensed that their livelihood was under threat. Though Oblieght bought them off to some extent, subsequent owners of the line, including Thomas Cook & Son, who took over control in 1888, had to contend with sabotaged rails and carriages.

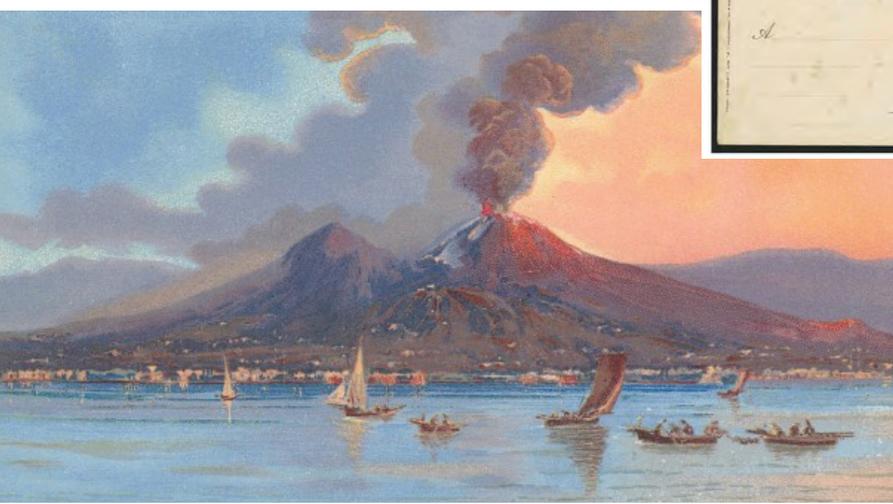
As if this wasn't enough, eruptions in 1906, 1911 and 1928 wrought enormous damage to the system and the 1944 eruption put an emphatic end to this convenient method of reaching the summit. A pity, since, as the song says, you can see Procida, France and Spain from the top! ...allegedly.



This note is an amuse-bouche for the Napoli Unplugged Guide to Naples, into which Bonnie Alberts, Barbara Zaragoza and Penny have poured their passion for the city.

More at naplesnapoliguide.com and [facebook.com/NUGuideToNaples](https://www.facebook.com/NUGuideToNaples).

Dear friends, please join me in congratulating Barbara Zaragoza and Penny Ewles-Bergeron (contributors who have submitted copious high-quality notes over the years to ItalianNotebook on Naples) as well as Bonnie Alberts. Knowing them and their love for Naples, I personally can't wait to get my hands on a copy. – ed. 🍷





COMITES Election *Reinstated*

Dear Friend,

First let me apologize for intruding into your daily routine, but as you may know by now the election for the new Committee of Italians Living Abroad (COMITES) of the San Francisco Consular District, which had been initially cancelled, have been reinstated. Now it will be held this coming April 17. This is a good news. The Italian community of the Greater Bay Area of San Francisco and Silicon Valley--which could provide a defining contribution to the success of "New Italian Resurgence"--risked to be muted by the absence of such an organism.

Rete Italia Mondo Democratico--a non-partisan alliance of Italian citizens willing to work to get our country out of the doldrums promoting Italian talents and innovation worldwide--which had presented a list at the previous contest, is again in the running. Unfortunately the signatures we had collected during the past round are not longer valid.

We need to collect and authenticate them anew. As during the

previous round the Italian Consulate is kindly providing us with the assistance of a Consular Officer to validate the signatures at a number of public events we have been organizing. Please see below for the list upcoming appointments.

Signatures however can be authenticated also in person at the Consulate. To do that please go to the Italian Consulate at 2590 Webster Street, San Francisco, Tel. 415-292-9200 during business hours (Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 12:00 pm) --no appointment necessary just ask for dr. Aldo Mura. You need to be an Italian Citizen and registered to AIRE (Anagrafe Italiani Residenti all'Estero) for at the least 6 months. Please bring a valid US or Italian ID.

We're working against a deadline though, this coming February 16, please make a note of it and remember to sing to support Rete Italia Mondo Democratico before then.

Please check our facebook page -- <https://www.facebook.com/ComitesNordCalifornia> -- for updates and new locations.

Should you need further information please do not hesitate to email Paolo Pontoniere at pmpurpont@aol.com. Thank you very much for your time and your attention. ☺

-- Submitted by Ken Borelli

Test Your Italian: *The Family*

Leggere e Fare un Test

La famiglia è un'istituzione e un valore molto importante nella società italiana. Attualmente la famiglia italiana tipica è diventata piccola, in genere ha solo uno o due figli. Ma IL padre, LA madre, I fratelli (naturali, acquisiti o amici fraterni), I cugini, GLI zii... rimangono figure importanti. Così importanti che quando gli italiani parlano di MIO padre, MIA madre, MIO fratello, MIA sorella, MIO cugino ecc. non usano l'articolo (che invece in genere usano sempre!) E tu? Hai una famiglia grande o piccola? Hai fratelli naturali, acquisiti o amici fraterni?

Read and Test

Family is a very important value and institution in Italian society. Currently the typical Italian family has become small. In general it has only one or two children. But THE father, THE mother, THE brothers (natural, stepbrothers/sisters or close friends), THE cousins, THE uncles... They are all important figures. So important that when Italians speak of MY father, MY mother, MY brother, MY sister, MY cousin, etc. they do not use the article (that in general they always use!) How about you? Do you have a large or a small family? Do you have natural brothers/sisters, stepbrothers/sisters or close friends?

Not sure where to start learning or improving your Italian?

Take online lessons with CyberItalian at www.cyberitalian.com

- *If you wish to practice with the guide of an experienced teacher take a Tutored Course.*
- *If you prefer to learn at your own pace, take a Self-Study Course.*
- *If you wish to have a dedicated teacher, with a schedule that accommodates your needs, take the Private Lessons.*



Both articles on this page submitted by Ken Borelli

A Second Diaspora by KEN BORELLI

The term "diaspora" refers specifically to "The dispersal of the Jewish people after the Babylonian exile". In today's jargon the term also refers to the dispersal of, or sowing after an unraveling of a community. I recently read two fascinating articles that directly relate to this concept. One in *Italica Way*, a magazine from New York, edited by the Italic Institute of America (XL 2014) entitled, *Old San Francisco*. The second article

hard on our migratory ancestors. That was usually our grandparents, and great parents generation. To some extent it was, and is, a traumatic experience, all immigrants deal with. One way to mitigate the trauma is the creation and building of ethnic enclaves or communities. They sometimes even followed the actual immigration patterns from a village in Italy to a town in the USA. For Italian Americans In San Jose there were

Over the years, and I am referring to the late 1880's through the WWII years, many of our families grew up in these ethnic neighborhoods, and the rough edges of "campanilismo" blended into what we today call Little Italy or the Italian neighborhoods, of a community. There are many fascinating accounts of those times that have been knitted into many a family lore, as much as "tales from the old country". The post WWII years eventu-



is from the *San Francisco Chronicle* (1/25/15) in Nick Nolte's column, *Native Son*, entitled "Last of the old-time Italians". Both articles touch upon the demise of famed North Beach as an Italian American Community, like so many others around country. In many ways, as Italian Americans of a certain generation, the "old neighborhoods" are a part of our legacy too. For the new immigrant and many are the "techy" generation, the concept of a Little Italy does not have the same resonance as those who trace their roots in the boot via the various "old neighborhoods" (That said, it would be great to hear from the new Italian immigrants and their experiences and impressions too!).

The first "diaspora" of immigrants from many regions of Italy was particularly

several Italian neighborhoods such as by Holy Cross Church (the North Side), the downtown area now known as "Little Italy" and of course the mythical "Goosetown". Likewise, in San Francisco, there were several Italian American communities beyond North Beach, the same for Oakland, West Oakland and East Oakland, and in Northern California, the Weed/McCloud area, along with communities in Santa Rosa, Stockton, the motherload and Sacramento too. I read a humorous account of a small Italian community in Alaska composed of six homes, and basically two communities since the families in the 6 homes stopped talking to each other, (reminds me of the two major restaurant families of Occidental California. I hope they are talking now)!

ally saw the neighborhood bonds beginning to unravel to the point that over the years, yet one more "diaspora".

Even so, the immigrant neighborhoods have become a part of our roots too. Many people vaguely refer to a region of Italy but specifically refer to a part of town they grew up in. In my family's case, my father could give a walking tour of North Beach and Bernal Heights, and likewise my mother could do the same for West Oakland, (not East Oakland, that's for sure!). These sorts of tales regale many a family dinner, when talking about the old neighborhood, even down to a particular deli, or pastry shop. One other purpose these neighborhoods tended to foster, "piu o meno" was a sense of "Italianita". Our families may have migrated into the old neigh- >>>



borhoods as Sicilian, Calabrese, Genovese, or whatever, and amazingly over the course of proximities and intermarriage became Italian American. A friend, Louise Canepa, wrote an opera about that phenomenon, called "The Sicilians of Monterey", and the marriage of a Sicilian and Genovese couple. We actually preformed the opera at the IAHF in the 1990's. *continued >>>*

Today many an Italian American, and likewise their organizations, such as the IAHF, are interested, in these local roots. For us (per noi) this history is a part of our rich legacy! Consider, there were not a lot of blue prints around to create these communities. They were true organic entities built from the ground up and were vibrant communities for many years. In many ways it is that vibrancy that we as Italian Americans also celebrate as a part of our heritage.

Locally, the San Jose's Little Italy initiative reflects that same pull., Sadly the recent fire at Holy Cross Church in the North Side was a symbolic trauma for many of the families that trace their roots to that community. Today's realities and the transient nature of modern American life represents new challenges for our heritage. The tenacity, to keep this knowledge alive is perhaps the "new story" of our collective history. Its exciting to see the progress made in San Jose's Little Italy, likewise visiting San Diego, and their new bustling Italian American com-



mercial zone. Many other institutional activities also exist intent on maintaining a presence in the "old neighborhoods", as a living tribute to the areas where our grandparents and parents grew up and became solid citizens of the new country. We also need to acknowledge that this is an exciting "hybrid tradition". We may want to get nostalgic about it, but this is really a relatively new and unique experience and celebrates the special treasure of being Italian American, and yes, even as a way to deal with the trauma of the "second diaspora". 🌿



Little Italy San Jose Arch Unveiling Ceremony

Friday March 27th at 6:00pm • Little Italy San Jose
(W. Julian and North Almaden Blvd / Paesano Ristorante)

Join us and celebrate this great achievement and new Landmark in Downtown San Jose. We will acknowledge the many volunteers and contractors that helped us achieve this milestone and will celebrate with the local Italian American and Downtown San Jose communities.

The following Contractors will be acknowledged for their contributions to the Arch:

- Maggetti Construction • Acadia Architecture • S&S Welding • J.A. Antuzzi Concrete •
- Best Electrical • Ruth and Going • Frank Cozzitorto P.E. • General Lighting Services •
- Agnoletti Masonry • Peninsula Building Materials • Sherwin Williams •
- Biggs Cardosa • Valentina Interior Designs • South Bay Bronze •

-- Submitted by Ken Borelli

How I Met My Husband: A Special Visit on Saint Joseph Day

by WWII Italian War Bride

Francesca Sorvillo Stewart



WWII Italian war bride Francesca Sorvillo and Captain Clarence Stewart (Stefano), 1945 Mount Vesuvius, Italy. The dog, Wolf, was a wedding gift.

➤ I am from Naples, Italy.

Naples is a beautiful city. But October 1, 1943 when the American troops finally came in the city, Naples was a big gigantic mess. No electricity, no gas, no water and no food, just garbage everywhere. You see, when the German troops left they blew up and destroyed whatever was left. Anyway, I've barely started to tell my story.

My story is very romantic! It was March 19, 1944 at six o'clock in the evening; my family and I were in the dining room having dinner. Somebody knocks at the door. My brother went to open. After a few minutes, he came back to the dining room and said, "In the foyer is an American officer and he speaks LATIN!" My father, who spoke English, said "I better go talk to him. I think he's lost. Evidently, he is looking for someone in the building." He got up from the table and went to the foyer. After a minute, he escorted the officer into the dining room and said, "It's not a mistake, this officer comes for a visit." At this point, the officer introduced himself. "I'd like to pay my respects to you and your family. My name is Stefano Edwardo Stewart. I am stationed at Capodichino. I live not too far from here and share an apartment with Captain Moore who is very fond of you and gave me your address." (Captain Moore was my brother's friend.) At the same time, he was looking at me and said to himself, (she's really beautiful. She has beautiful long and very black hair, green eyes and an alabaster skin.) At the same time I looked at him and said to myself, "he's tall and pretty handsome. He's not so bad." Well, he stayed until 10 o'clock talking about various things,

especially the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and all of the ash and how the ash covered the wings of B-52s and bent them. He talked about the lava coming down the mountain and how fortunate it was that the lava was going in the other direction and how fascinating everything was. Finally, when he decided to leave he said, "Thank you for this beautiful evening, and with your permission, I'd like to come back tomorrow if you allow me. My father answered and said, "You are very welcome. Come back anytime you like." Well, he came back tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow, and every day thereafter.

One night, he invited me to go dancing. With my parents' permission, I went. What a strange dance. I never had seen anybody dance like that. The name was "boogie-woogie". I couldn't dance the boogie-woogie, so we sat at a table. Stefano had a martini, and I had a strange drink I didn't like. The name was Coca Cola, and I still don't like it.

Easter Sunday was around the corner, and by now, we called him Stefano. My mother invited Stefano for dinner, which he accepted without hesitation. Now, how do you cook dinner without gas or electricity? The Neapolitan people are very resourceful. They invented some kind of barbecue using a garbage can and sold them for a few thousand lire. We bought one and cooked on the balcony. How about charcoal? None available. The same people were collecting wood from bombed buildings like furniture and doors, etc. Cutting up and selling it in small bundles. The smell from the wood was not very pleasant.

We know Stefano pretty well by now, and he told us quite a bit about him-

self. We know he graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. After he joined the Army Air Force, he was sent to M.I.T. in Boston where he got his Masters Degree in Meteorology. After Boston, he was sent to a fighter bomber Group staff. From there, overseas to Africa, then Italy. Now he was Base Weather Officer at Capodichino with the 12th Weather Squadron.

By now Stefano was spending all of his free time at my house. We used to play games, especially checkers, which he usually won. We talked with him in Italian. Stefano translated from Latin into a new kind of Italian language. Sometimes there were words I can't repeat. We really had lots of fun. Sometimes we went for a walk at the park. Sometimes we went to the seashore in his Jeep. Always in company of someone else. We discovered that we had a lot in common and really liked each other.

Every time Stefano went for a trip he brought me a present. Not too expensive or too extravagant just something to show he was thinking of me, but the gifts were always beautiful.

In August, he went to Cannes, France on R & R (Rest and Recreation). When he returned, he gave me a beautiful box with Chanel No. 5 perfume, plus a letter. A very special letter telling me how much he loved me, and how he would like to marry me.

I took a piece of paper, and I wrote, "When?" Soon as I talk to your father he answered.

They have a long discussion. Finally everything was all right. Stefano wrote to his parents to let them know his decision. His parents congratulated him and sent an engagement ring plus a >>>

double wedding ring. We had a very nice engagement party with champagne included, which was rare to get. We decided to marry by October.

In the meantime, he tried to apply for permission to marry. Surprise! He can't marry anyone until the war was over. Why? He knows too much. (You are in operations which is top secret so you are top secret. You brief the pilots before they go on their mission. This is sensitive. Whatever you know is sensitive. So, when the war ends, if you still want to get married, submit the application, and after an investigation it will be approved or denied, because even if the war is over you are still in operations.) Finally, May 17, 1945 the war ended. Stefano submitted his application. After two weeks, he received the answer. Capt. Clarence Albert Stewart congratulations, permission is granted. "Who is Capt. Clarence Albert Stewart", I asked. Stefano answered, "That's me, my name." "Your name? You said it was Stefano Edwards." "Yes, a sergeant who knows Italian told me so." I say, "Wrong, Clarence doesn't exist in Italian".

Anyway, forget about Clarence Albert, his name is Stefano forever.

Now we concentrated on our wedding. How about a wedding dress? Forget buying one – none available. How about material to make one. No luck. So, my mother decided to use a brand new linen bed sheet. A bed sheet? I didn't like the idea period. A lady friend of the family came to the rescue. We can dye it any color you want. Her family owned the plant where they dyed material in bulk. She suggested for me to pick a color, which I did – Sky Blue. The plant was closed for the war, but her husband opened it and called a worker to come in and dye the material. This was her wedding present to me. How about announcements and invitations? Again, another present from a family friend who was a director of a newspaper. How about the veil? We had a piece of tulle left over from a curtain, and we made a veil. And now a big surprise! The 12th Weather Squadron gave us the wedding. A wedding with all the trimmings, plus a week honeymoon at the Isle of Capri. The wedding was performed at the Hotel Eremo on

the top of Mt. Vesuvius. All the military free from duty attended, including the squadron commander, his aid, and the press photographer. After the ceremony, everybody wanted to kiss the bride. The commander congratulated Stefano and said, "Stu, how did you manage to make such a good catch". A magnificent dinner followed the ceremony. My father was

able to buy a very special wine called "Lacrima Christi". This wine is made from grapes grown on Mt. Vesuvius. We spent the night at a hotel, and next morning left for Isle of Capri where we stayed in a beautiful villa with a splendid view of the Faraglioni rocks. (Rocks which stick out above the water) We had a car with a chauffeur who drove us all over the island. We had a very good time. We were fortunate to have the right weather to go into the Blue Grotto. You have to lie down in the rowboat to get in. When inside it's spectacular. After a beautiful week, we returned to Naples and started our married life.

This year we are going to celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary. We have four children, two boys and two girls. We also have 4 grand-

children, two boys and two girls. In 60 years we have met a lot of interesting people. We spent one year in Cairo, Egypt and two years in Madrid, Spain. Gloria, our second child was born in Madrid. Our first child was born in Naples, Italy. In 1950, we came to the United States and lived 13 years in New York where George and Richard were born. From New York, we moved to Mt. Holly, New Jersey for 10 years. From New Jersey, we moved to Spokane, Washington where we currently live. After my husband retired, we spent the winters in San Jose, California. Spokane is too cold in winter and we are not "spring chickens" anymore.

We still play checkers, but Stefano doesn't win all the time. I don't let him.

This is my story and I am very lucky.

Francesca Stewart

P.S. "I am the lucky one", said Stefano. 🌸

Written and Copyright © 2005 By WWII Italian war bride
Francesca Sorvillo Stewart



Our wedding took place in 1945 at a hotel under United States requisition on Mount Vesuvius after permission was granted to marry by the United States Air Corp Commanding Officer.

All wedding pictures were taken in Kodak Kodachrome color by General Mark Clark's press photographer during the Italian Campaign. General Mark Clark was unable to attend but sent a large bouquet of white flowers to the bride.

For more information about WWII war brides, please click here >> uswarbrides.com/WW2warbrides/1945act.html

Life of Italian Nobility for Sale Complete with Regulations & Taxes

Submitted by Richard Stewart

The Chianti hills are visible from the Torre a Decima castle in Tuscany. >

Photo by Gianni Cipriano for The New York Times

By GAIA PIANIGIANI

January 27, 2015

PONTASSIEVE, Italy — Nestled on a gentle Tuscan hill near this town just east of Florence, and caressed by the morning fog, sits a medieval castle that was once home to the few prominent noble families who plotted against the Medicis' rule during the Renaissance, some of whom are believed to have taken refuge here.

For centuries after, the descendants of the nobles and the peasants who served them lived sheltered by the fortress's crenelated walls or in the nearby country houses, and went to Mass in a rose stone church.

"I remember a procession of over 25 farmers' families to the Sunday's Mass here up until the late 1960s," said Franco Viliani, 80, a former manager of the estate. "It might sound strange for a pseudo-feudal system, but that was a form of inclusion. Afterwards, we have seen some owners once or twice a year."

Today, the entire estate is deserted and up for sale, castle, church and all. While that might seem an exceptional circumstance, increasingly for Italy, it is not.

The deserted castle and the estate on which it sits are for sale, along with a number of other historic Italian properties.

While castles and historic mansions in Italy have long been family inheritances, today dozens of them are for sale, even in one of the most conservative real estate markets in Europe.



In recent years, Italy's well-rooted inherited wealth has withered from a potent combination of factors. They include the increasing costs of living and services, the shaky finances of owners in a time of lingering economic trouble, cuts in government subsidies to maintain historical properties and, not least, mushrooming property taxes.

"The Italian market is mostly historical — mansions pass from generation to generation," said Dimitri Corti, chief executive at Lionard, an exclusive real estate company based in Florence whose portfolio includes about 70 castles in central and northern Italy.

"It is not necessarily true that the owner is a millionaire, like one can assume in countries like the United States or England," he added. "Some do need liquidity."

Moreover, those with the money to buy are frequently not Italians, a worrisome

circumstance to some here who bemoan the loss of historical and family patrimony to a newly moneyed global elite.

The bulk of Lionard's sellers are Italians, Mr. Corti said, while a majority of buyers



ers are foreigners. They predominantly seek villas or mansions in Tuscany, and are ready to spend an average of 6 or 7 million euros (about \$6.75 million to \$7.85 million).

"It is no longer reasonable to think that the owner of a neighboring castle would buy yours," Mr. Corti added. "It's most likely to be a Russian, or a Chinese.">>>

Indeed, more than 50 percent of Lionard's clients come from Russia and the former Soviet Union, while the rest mostly live in North America. Other luxury realtors, like Sotheby's Italian branch, have a more diverse clientele, ranging from the Arab countries to China, plus Russia and North America.

"No historical owners would like to get rid of their properties, but they might be in the condition to do it," Moroello Diaz della Vittoria Pallavicini, president of the Italian Historic Houses Association, said in his vaulted office in a 17th-century complex on the Quirinal hill in central Rome.

"And we fear that foreigners will be less attached and caring of their property," he added. "They didn't grow up there; that mansion doesn't belong to their family's history."

Despite relatively low incomes, Italians have historically inherited properties and benefited from low property taxes, helping them to afford their housing or to invest in more real estate.

In 2011, as the financial crisis deepened and the government came under pressure to balance its books, the technocratic prime minister, Mario Monti, raised property taxes and started a review of the land register's assessment of home values.

On historic buildings, where owners used to pay little as compensation for the elevated costs of maintaining centuries-old structures, the taxes increased by 20 or 30 times, depending on the property's location.

On some buildings, taxes spiked from 3,000 euros (about \$3,400) in 2011 to 75,000 euros (about \$84,000) by 2013. That might be a small figure for castle dwellers in the United Kingdom, but it is a burden for Italian pockets, especially

in regions where the property's market value or tourism interest is low.

The trends, to many here, are indicative of Italy's place as a country caught between its past glory and its modern difficulty in producing an innovative climate capable of ensuring its future.

Landowners' attempts to navigate the changes have often fallen short.

Some Italian owners who bought properties as an investment transformed



them into luxury hotels, hoping to offset the steep costs of maintaining ancient frescoed walls and immense Italian gardens, often including acres of olive groves and vineyards. Yet demand for luxurious holidays has not boomed in recent years, and some resorts have registered few guests.

Once, the 4,600 square feet on five floors of the Tavolese castle, about 19 miles south of Florence, housed the noble Uberti family, mentioned in Dante's "Divine Comedy," and then the Canigiani family, whose daughter Elena gave birth to the illustrious Renaissance poet Francesco Petrarca.

The 14th-century castle was turned into a lavish bed and breakfast and wedding venue. But today, the fruits of the estate's 5,000 olive trees have not been picked for years, and the newlyweds' bed from last summer remains unmade. Buyers can make it theirs for 18 million euros (just over \$20 million).

But buyer beware: Living a nobleman's

life in Italy comes at a cost, even for many tycoons. New owners face the same onerous bureaucracy as Italians to make even minimal changes to many older properties.

Under Italian law, the owner of a historic building is its custodian, bound to maintain it and grant its security and, in some cases, its use to the public. Many buyers give up on properties of great historic value, but in bad condition, for this reason, brokers said.

"This is a problem for possible investors, who want to have modern comforts like a spa, air-conditioning or a lift," said Mr. Pallavicini, of the Italian Historic Houses Association.

"We no longer live like in 1800," he added. "But 99 percent of those changes are either impossible or extremely bureaucratic and complicated in an Italian historic building."

At the same time, many of the association's 5,500 members would prefer never to sell their property, he said. "They have an umbilical cord to that building," he said. "They were maybe raised there. Selling is not an option, as long as they can resist."

But while selling may be hard to swallow, too often the only other option is abandonment, especially for castles and monuments not located in tourist regions.

"If a Tuscan owner who sells his mansion can hope in a Russian, British or American buyer to restore his family's finances, we can't," said Francesco Scardaccione, the owner of a historic palazzo and two country estates, and president of the Italian Historic Houses Association branch in the southern region of Basilicata.

"What is going to happen," he asked, "the day we will no longer be able to afford it?" ☞

Rich Santoro: The Bulb Guy



The Bulb Guy opens his amazing spring garden to viewing

By Joan Morris / jmorris@bayareanewsgroup.com

Story submitted by Richard Stewart

In 1985, Rich Santoro became fascinated watching his sister-in-law (and neighbor) planting bulbs in her garden.

Santoro, who works with concrete in his professional life, didn't do much gardening and knew nothing about bulbs, but the idea of planting something that looks like an onion and having it bloom months later seemed nothing short of miraculous.

"She told me bulb gardens were very difficult to do" Santoro says, "and she had me come over to her yard to show me."

What he learned -- dig a hole, drop in the bulb, kick dirt over the hole, give it a stomp -- changed his life.

Almost 30 years later, Santoro is known as San Jose's Bulb Guy. Each year, he transforms his backyard into the center of a bulb universe. And for nine days every spring, Santoro



opens up his garden gates and welcomes the world to see his bulb-aganza.

This year, Santoro planted 5,951 bulbs in plots and pots,

and the garden features some other kinds of plants, too. From now through April 7, visitors are welcome to stop by, noon to 5 p.m., for a free tour.

"I started out putting 100 here, 200 there, 500 here," Santoro says. "In 2007, I had about 2,000 square feet of grass, and I thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to put 100 yellow tulips right in the middle?' And I did. Next year, I converted the whole yard to bulbs."

In addition to tulips, paper whites, hyacinth, muscari, daffodils, anemone, ranunculus, California and pink Shirley poppies, asylum and blue *Salvia greggii*, another of Santoro's cultivated talents is on display -- storytelling.

Santoro fervently denies being a gardener. To be a gardener, he says, you need to know about plants. He couldn't grow vegetables to save his life, his says. All he knows are bulbs.

But being a guy with the gift of gab -- that's a title he owns.

He takes off work to greet his guests, and even though about 400 people came through the garden last year, he tries to talk to all of them and share his stories.

One of his favorites is about Conrad the Tulip. The short version -- Santoro will tell you the longer version if you ask -- is that in 2011, a tulip popped up where it hadn't been planted, in the middle of a pathway. This actually happens to Santoro quite a bit as he tends to spread the bulb love around.

Santoro had no idea what kind of tulip it was, so he waited anxiously for the misplaced bulb to show its bloom.

About the same time, a class of gifted students from Kennedy Elementary School in San Jose came for a tour. Santoro shared information about the bulbs, showed them around the colorful beds and pointed out the errant tulip, now almost ready to bloom. He told them to be careful walking on the path.

One of the students, a third-grader named Conrad, was fascinated by the lone bulb and asked all sorts of questions. He even asked the bulb's name, and Santoro told him it was George.

The students were great, Santoro says. They were respectful and interested in all of the flowers, but two hours into the visit, Conrad came up to Santoro. He held something cradled in cupped hands and he was near tears.

"Someone killed George," Conrad moaned, and held out his hands to show the cleanly snapped head of the tulip.

"I thanked Conrad for bringing me my most precious tulip and assured him that George would come back next year even stronger."

In January the next year, George began peeking through the gravel. When Conrad and his class came for another visit, Santoro had a surprise for the boy. George, who had bloomed canary yellow, had been renamed Conrad.

The stories are as important as the flowers, Santoro says, because they make the plants personal; not just things of beauty, but objects of lore.

In each of the beds are small plaques that bear names of people who influenced or inspired Santoro. One of those has the name of Holly Hayes, the late Mercury News Home and Garden editor. Hayes had written about Santoro's garden a few years ago, and Santoro credits her with giving him the nickname the Bulb Guy.

continued >>>

As he walks with visitors through the garden, he tells stories about the people. He also shares jokes, many related to bulbs, and occasionally breaks into song, favoring Frank Sinatra and Bobby Darrin.

He wants people to enjoy his spring bulb garden and become inspired.

"My agenda is to promote bulb gardens," Santoro says. "I want people to see what they can do, get some ideas and then go home and do it."

This year's garden is almost exactly what Santoro envisioned when he decided to devote his entire backyard to bulbs. But he's loved every version of his garden and has been amazed at what nature does with his plans. Many of his favorite successes were his biggest goofs, and his greatest lessons come from trial and error.

One year he planted 300 tulip bulbs, not realizing the plot was full of Shirley poppy seeds. When the poppies bloomed, they overshadowed the tulips. Now he has planted the poppies behind the tulips so both plants show at their best.

Another time he planted 1,200 anemones, and an unseasonal heat wave cooked all but 50. He raked the hillside, unknowingly spreading thousands of calendula seed that had dropped on one side. When they bloomed, it was stunning,



and he has named it "Calendula Hill."

"Whatever blooms, well that's God's work," Santoro says. "But it's all good. It's all good." 🌱

The Bulb Guy's Garden Tour

Through: April 7, noon-5 p.m. Where: 850 Gateview Court (Berryessa Road exit from I-680), San Jose

Admission: Free

Follow Joan Morris at [Twitter.com/AskJoanMorris](https://twitter.com/AskJoanMorris)

Click here to visit The Bulb Guy web site >> <http://the-bulbguy.com/>

Click here to view The Bulb Guy on YouTube >> <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yDGtnMb0e0E>

Learn to Speak Italian in Delia's IAHF Italian Class



-- Submitted by Richard Stewart



IAHF Italian Family Festa 2015 Update!

As many of you may or may not be aware the Festa planning process is a year round activity of the IAHF's Festa Planning Committee. This year the IAHF's Italian Family Festa is August 29th and 30th, 2015 in beautiful Guadalupe River Park and Gardens for our fifth year. As our newsletter goes to print every month we will be providing you with updates in the form of articles and relevant news items about the Festa's activities. This year we want to continue to highlight the FAMILY LEGACY PROJECT at the Cultural Tent. Last year was the first time we featured this project in displaying three local families developed by the family's themselves. The displays were a very creative and a popular attraction in our Cultural Tent. They also demonstrated the rich diversity of our members and their extended families. At last year's event we focused on presentations by the following three families; The Sprugasci, Stewart, and Chiamonte families.

Each family shared tales from their local Santa Clara County roots, history and Italian heritage. They developed engaging displays through old photos, props, heirlooms and rare family documents. They were all very special exhibits, and highlighted Italian American Family life in all its diversity and creativity. This year we want to continue the project and are actively recruiting three to four families to feature at the Cultural Tent. The requirements to share a family exhibit are quite simple, first we want to explore and pay tribute to your family's legacy, learning about their personal experiences and how they contributed in their way to their community. It's always amazing to learn about how and why people decided to settle in the Santa Clara Valley, where they first worked, why they decided to enter into a business or how they formed larger extended families in the community. These are the tales that are the fiber of our community network and in essence composes the diversity and contribution of Italian American life in this valley.

The IAHF's Cultural Committee is able to help you with technical assistance for your family's display, but since it is a family project your family is the "creative source" of the exhibit. The surprising thing about the displays is how families come together to work on the project, they will have some challenging decisions as to what photos to include or what to share and how to present the material. The bottom line is its a fun and a rewarding project that connects your family to life in Santa Clara County past and present. This is a legacy the IAHF wishes to honor and if you are interested in working on a Family Legacy Project Display please contact Ken Borelli, Cultural Chair, or Richard Stewart, Library Curator and 3rd VP, at the IAHF.

It is never too early to think about volunteering and supporting the Festa by simply going on line at www.italianfamilyfestasj.org and click onto the volunteer sign-up link or by calling the IAHF direct at 408 293-7122. -- Ken Borelli 🍷

La Festa di San Giuseppe Thursday, March 19th

SAVE THE DATE!

There are very few traditions in the USA whose roots go back over the centuries. One of them is the Festa di San Giuseppe. Steeped in Southern Italian lore, The St Joseph Day Festa, recalls a climatic disaster when a terrible dry spell, engulfed medieval Sicily. After much suffering, it was alleviated when life giving rains finally brought relief from the drought. Obviously the parallels to today's situation in California can give you some appreciation of how devastating a drought is and how dependent we all are on water. Sicily has always been an agricultural land, once called the "Bread Basket of the Roman Empire" and was very dependent on the winter rain patterns. Most of traditional agriculture is depended on this critical weather pattern. You get your crops planted before the rains, and you literally pray for water. Once a good harvest comes you usually try to save for a bad year. If the rains do not come, or come in time, after a years worth of reserves and saving go, you and your family were in desperate circumstances. When the rains finally came in this particular instance, in appreciation to their Patron Saint, Joseph, a ceremony of sharing emerged and over time evolved into what we call La Festa di San Giuseppe.

There are many themes regarding the Festa, but it commences with the making of an altar, decorated with specialty dishes and fruits, followed by a Mass, and then sharing of foods and some sort of donation to those less fortunate in the community. The feast itself because of Lent, does not include meat dishes, which for vegetarians ends up as an incredible display of delicious meatless dishes. The other cornerstone of the event is it is a community wide celebration open to all to share in the festivities. In many small towns and villages today wherever the Feast Day is honored, this is a community wide event, free and

welcoming to all. And recalling its origins, a symbolic fava bean is given for a reminder of the importance of rain and nurturing. A fava bean is a traditional "dry crop" planted in late October/November, and grows with the winter rains, and when you have a good crop adds to the family food supplies to help carry a family over to the next year. By the way, "How are your fave doing this year?"

For many of us growing up in this tradition, there are fond memories of preparing for St. Joseph Day, and while we have our celebrations at the IAHF on 425 North 4th St. I also recall a time when the feast was celebrated at home and in garages. Growing up in San Leandro, I recall taking dishes my family would donate to the St. Joseph Day Altar to a lady who collected donations to send to a village in Calabria to support an orphanage. Frankly, I use to grumble as I rode my bike to this ladys house with packages of foods from my grandparents, it was 2 or 3 days of preparation. I didnt realize the connections until I was much older, and a little wiser. One excellent book on the subject is entitled St. Joseph Day Altars by Kerri McCafety, and features the range of home altars, and dishes in New Orleans. New Orleans has the largest by far, community celebration of the feast day, and is now considered part of the traditions of this fascinating city. Today too, perhaps we should re-frame this Festa, in terms of taking care of our natural resources, ecology is an relatively new term, but the consequences of drought are as old as agriculture itself.



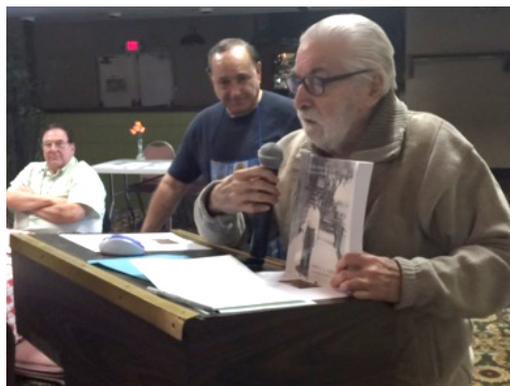
We at the IAHF are fortunate to be able to carry on with this special traditon. First of all, its a lot of work, a weeks preperation, plus planning of a couple of months. Many volunteers are needed, including donations of food, decoration and labor. This year our two co chairs are Gene and Joanne Sanfilippo, and Larry and Kathy Lohman, along with a cast of many dedicated voluteers. we will acknowledge our special volunteers after the feast day as soon as our list are developed, many of them have been long time supporters and without this labor of love, we could not do La Festa di San Giuseppe. On going volunteers, donations of foods, and financial support are always welcomed and if you wish more information on how to help, contact the chairs at the IAHF. We hope to see you at the festa, and participating in this living tradition. The doors open at 10:30 am, Mass starts at 11:00am, followed by our community lunch and sharing at the altar table. There will also be special prayer petitions to St. Joseph presented at the offertory of the Mass.

Foods will include Pasta Milanese, and or Marinara, a varitety of frittatas, lentels, peas and mushroom, orange salads, along with a dessert table featuring homemade biscotti, cuccidati, cakes and cookies and many more homemade specialty dishes. It literally is a "movable feast". "Allora, Evviva La Festa di San Giuseppe!" -- Ken Borelli, VP Events ☺



Molise Regional Lunch

February 19



Photos by Richard Stewart, John Romano and Madeline Damiano

Community Events of Interest to IAHF Members

Submitted by Richard Stewart



The Magic Flute

By Mozart

April 18-26, May 1 & 3, 2015
California Theatre
San Jose, CA

Mozart's fantastical and comical tale draws you into a world of magic fantasy, complete with a giant serpent, a secret brotherhood, and a lovesick bird catcher. Sung in German with English supertitles.

Performances and ticket information: [Click here](#)



In the Mood

1940's Big Band Musical Revue

March 19, 2015
Center of Performance Arts
San Jose, CA

Come listen to the music

Special Feature in Lobby: Italian WWII War Bride Display

Performances and ticket information: [Click here](#)

Cantor Museum Stanford



500 Years of Italian Drawings from the Princeton University Art Museum
May 27, 2015– August 24, 2015 • Pigott Family Gallery

Nearly 100 dazzling and rarely seen drawings dating from the 15th through the 20th centuries will be on view in 500 Years of Italian Master Drawings from the Princeton University Art Museum. Beyond demonstrating the chronological and stylistic sweep of the history of Italian drawings, this thematically organized exhibition examines the pivotal role played by drawing, or "disegno," in the Italian design process. *IMAGE: Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Naples, 1598–1680), Seated Male Nude, c. 1618–24. Red chalk heightened with white chalk on buff laid paper. Princeton University Art Museum, Museum purchase, Laura P. Hall Memorial Fund and Fowler McCormick, Class of 1921, Fund*

Piranesi's Paestum: Master Drawings Uncovered

August 19–November 30, 2015 • Ruth Levison Halperin Gallery

The exhibition presents 15 stunning drawings by the celebrated Italian printmaker, Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720–1778). Regarded as landmarks of 18th-century Italian drawing, this suite of large-scale renderings constitutes Piranesi's most extensive body of work devoted to a single topographical site. The drawings depict the three ancient Greek temples, originally dedicated to Poseidon, Hera, and Athena, at Paestum, south of Naples. *IMAGE: Giovanni Battista Piranesi (Italy, 1720–1778), Paestum, Italy: Exterior of the Basilica, 1777. Black chalk, pencil, brown and grey washes, pen and ink. Sir John Soane's Museum.*



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / Requiem in D minor

and

Antonio Salieri / Requiem in C minor

Presented by San Jose Symphonic Choir / Leroy Kromm, Director

With Mozart-Salieri Orchestra • Nancy Wait Kromm, Soprano • Liliane Cromer, Alto • Jimmy Kansau, Tenor • Joshua Hollister, Baritone

Sunday, March 22, 3:00 PM • California Theatre • 345 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

TICKETS: \$30 General Admission • \$25 Seniors / Students / Military

Available at: Symphony Silicon Valley Box Office, 408-286-2600 Ext.23 or email bmchenry@symphonysiliconvalley.org

For more information, contact our office at 408.995.3318 or visit our website at www.sanjosesymphonicchoir.org

Submitted by Richard Stewart and Pamela Oliver- Lyons



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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 14 years of sales, marketing 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.

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- National Association of Realtors
- San Jose Real Estate Board
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- ♥ *Amo solo te* - I love only you
- ♥ *Luce mia* - My light
- ♥ *Tesoro mio* - My treasure
- ♥ *Amore mio* - My love
- ♥ *Vita mia* - My life
- ♥ *Anima mia* - My soul
- ♥ *Immamorata mia* - My beloved,
my lover
- ♥ *Per sempre* - Forever
- ♥ *Per sempre tua* - Forever yours
- ♥ *Mai soli* - Never alone
- ♥ *Per sempre insieme* - Forever
together
- ♥ *Senza fine* - Never ending
- ♥ *Pazza di te* - Crazy for you



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