

IAHF NEWS

March 2017 • ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION • ESTABLISHED 1975 • FOUNDED AS NONPROFIT 1976 • CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

IAHF OFFICE #: (408) 293-7122 • TAP HERE FOR WWW.IAHFSJ.ORG

RICHARD STEWART | IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Italian American Heritage Foundation,

Last Sunday we had our St. Joseph's Day event. It was a truly beautiful event. The stage was decorated with lilies and palm leaves. A statue of St. Joseph holding the baby Jesus was set up under a beautiful arch. In front of the stage were lots of tables with gifts of pastries, cakes, cookies, pies and snacks in great abundance. A beautiful mass was celebrated by Father Paolo Gobbo and Deacon Willy Agbayani. Dan Burns sang some absolutely wonderful songs; his "Lord's Prayer" was enough to make one cry. And then there was a fabulous meal of real Sicilian dishes. Many thanks to Joanne Sanfilippo and all her helpers that made this event outstanding.

There is really something to be said about the volunteers that made the St. Joseph's Day event special. I was able to sit in on a couple of their planning meetings and I can tell you first hand that the level of cooperation there was extraordinary. It is rare to see such positive spirit and cooperation working together in such fashion. Ideas were shared and decisions were made with a spirit of harmony and good will toward their common goal. This truly is what makes this organization one of a kind. These generous, loving people who do the work that brings us together are truly appreciated.


And we have many other events planned for this Spring. On April 23rd, we will have an afternoon luncheon with the Sicilian entertainers "Terra, Sangue, Mare." The lead singer, Michela Musolina, will sing traditional Sicilian folk songs and teach us some original Sicilian folk dances. I encourage you to go on Youtube and search "Terra, Sangue, Mare." Musolina's performance of "L'Innu alla Ficurinnia" is beautiful and haunting. Music such as this can move emotions on a level that is rarely experienced. This event is scheduled for a Sunday afternoon, a perfect time to bring your friends and family to share real Italian culture.

On April 20, we will have our Thursday Luncheon featuring the region of Calabria. Come and enjoy great food and socialize with friends. You will be treated to a lunch by our main chef, Ken Borelli, a man of Calabrian descent who knows how to cook in the traditional style.

It is amazing to see all of the cooperation, spirit and love that goes into these events. Italian Culture is such an amazing thing. With all the art, architecture, music, food, and dance that is so outstanding, we sometimes forget the Italian spirit of working together and of participation. This love of people and celebration of culture that is shared by our members benefits us all.

Grazie Mille,

David Perzinski / President, Italian American Heritage Foundation 

The IAHF Newsletter apologizes for an error in the March 2017 issue. In the article *Made Into America: Immigrant Stories Archive*, the man shown in the top photo is not Vincenzo Cortese. Unfortunately, the IAHF Newsletter does not have a replacement photo of Vincenzo Cortese at this time. We sincerely regret this error. 

• Volunteer Coordinator Needed •

The IAHF is in need a Volunteer Coordinator. We have many events staffed by volunteers.

We need someone to coordinate and to keep in contact with our volunteers, particularly at our annual Festa. We already have a software program in place with volunteer names and info that help track and organize volunteers.

If you are interested, we will of course help you get started.

We need to get going on this right away so please consider being our Volunteer Coordinator.

If you can help, please call the office at 408 293-7122 and ask for Dave Perzinski.

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Member SPOTLIGHT

Benvenuti New Members as of March 2017

☞ Dylan & Adelina Boldt	☞ Denise & John Hildenberger	☞ Stanley R. Olivar
☞ Caitlin Carro	☞ Carmen M. Johnson	☞ Elizabeth Binkley Park
☞ Sue L. & Virgil D. Clark	☞ Frank & Roberta LaDucca	☞ Mary Perzinski
☞ Karen J. Corlett & Chuck Loney	☞ Anthony Lazzarini	☞ Lucy Quacinella
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☞ Joseph A. Fasano	☞ Bob Mirolo & Leigh Taylor	☞ Al & Diana Vallorz
☞ Zerelda del Fiugo	☞ Nuria Mora & Miguel Mora	☞ David Venuti
☞ Karen Marie Gidlund-Gibson	☞ Martha Muzi	☞ Sandra Williams
☞ Amber Lynn Hallett & Stefano Gallinaro	☞ Jo Ann Marie Morgese & Matt Constantino	

Grazie 2017 Patron Members

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☞ Dr. Tony & Clare Cedolini	☞ Maria Gloria	☞ Kevin & Aurelia Pezzaniti	☞ William Venuti
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IAHF Memberships

As your Membership Chair, I want to thank all of you for your support, participation and contribution to this wonderful organization. As you may know, you don't have to be Italian to become a member of the Italian American Heritage Foundation. All you need is an interest in the rich culture. With that in mind, if you know of friends and/or family who might be interested in becoming members of the IAHF, please invite them to join by calling the office at (408) 293-7122 or by going to our website at www.iahfsj.org and select "Membership".

Gracie mille, Lucia Clementi 🌻



IAHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

IAHF OFFICERS

- David Perzinski - *President / Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation*
- Ken Borelli - *1st Vice President / IAHF Events (including Annual Italian Festa) / Cultural Activities / Grants*
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A Message from Richard Stewart

IAHF Newsletter Editor

It's always great to get stories from members of the IAHF for the Newsletter. It adds vitality, diversity, and a sense of family and community. I'll be looking forward to your contributions.

Please send your proofread entries to Richard Stewart at news@iahfsj.org

Please check the Submission Guidelines on page 30 of this issue for more information. Thank you! 🌻

Be **IAHF Green**
and **go paperless!!!**

Please [click here](#)

or call 408-293-7122.

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Help Our Neighbors Recover!
Help our neighbors get back on their feet

Rock Springs Neighborhood Update

As many of you have probably heard, extensive flooding took place along Coyote Creek inundating our neighboring residents and businesses. While there has been significant destruction, **History Park and the History San José Collection Center were not harmed.** Unfortunately our neighbors were not as lucky. Our sincere thanks go out to the San Jose Fire and Police Departments for all of their brave work evacuating residents and ensuring safety.

Our hearts go out to those who have been devastated by this flooding. For those wishing to help, we ask that you donate to American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter or the San Jose Flood Victims Relief. Click below to donate and find other ways to get involved.



Silicon Valley Community Foundation has setup the [San Jose Flood Victims Relief Fund](#), will support nonprofit organizations providing immediate and long-term relief and recovery assistance to flood victims in San Jose.
[Learn More](#)



**American
Red Cross**

For those wishing to help, the [American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter](#) has set up a volunteer station to register to volunteer, and is accepting donations to aid flood victims.
[Learn More](#)

Tap Here For Other Ways To Get Involved



Still basking in the enjoyment of the St. Joseph's Day festivities, I am scrabbling to get this article out. **The Festa of San Giuseppe** underscores the importance of community, and several people who came from afar to join in the festivities noted this vibrant sense of community that was displayed last Sunday, March 19th. There will be a separate article on the Festa next month. Building upon the last event, I want to highlight some exciting forthcoming activities.

After our **Crab Feed** in April will be a very special folk event entitled **Terra, Sangue, Mare**. That will be on Sunday, April 23, 2017, and will feature **Michela Musolino and Fabio Turchetti** performing the traditional songs and dances of Sicily. There will also be a time for instruction and seeing the dances preformed. This is a great opportunity to bring your families and friends and welcome our guest to the IAHF. The musicians are visiting the SF Bay area as part of an international folk festival at St. Mary's College in Moraga, and we were able to take advantage of a great set of cultural circumstances!

We are beginning our **Casalingua Culinary Programs** in April and on April 13, we will feature the classic *Piemontese Vitello Tonotto*, with Tino Burso. We call the series *casalingua* because one of the goals of the culinary program is to search out our home talent right here among the IAHF members. This is not a commercial program, we have *Cena Fuori* for that, but we want to try and preserve family dishes and practices. For example, a suggestion was made about how to do certain dishes and breads associated with the St. Joseph Day altar, so we are taking up the challenge and looking for a knowledgeable person for that program. On May 4th, our IAHF Festa Chairperson, Joe Rizzi, will be teaching a culinary program on the art of braising. Joe is a personal chef, and provides gourmet meals for small groups, so this will give us an opportunity to learn some great techniques.

April 20th will have the **Regional Lunch** featuring Calabria, along with our plant sale presented by the Prusch Park Foundation. Many of the plants they will sell are heirlooms, and are not found in nurseries. Our chef for the event will be Joseph Fasano and this will be a special event and tribute dedicated in memory of his parents Antonio and Carolina, who, had they still been alive, would have been celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. The lunch will feature *bracirole* from the region of San Sosti, Prov. di Cosenza, Calabria. Joseph also prepares one of the traditional pasta sauces for our St. Joseph Day event.

May will see many of us at **Campo di Bocce** for our IAHF fundraiser and team games. This is a great way to help the IAHF out, along with some fun competitive bocce. Likewise, it is a great way to use this opportunity to share the game with family, especially our youth. While the game has been around for hundreds of years, thanks to Campo di Bocce and other similar venues, bocce has become very popular; there is even a new beach version, called Sand Bocce; the balls are lobbed in the sand rather than rolled and played in a court, similar rules, and scoring though. At our Bocce Event, you are assigned a

team composed of 4 players, or you can bring your own team of 4 players. Likewise, non-players can join and root for the home teams, along with enjoying the appetizers prepared by Campo di Bocce. First and Second Place medals will also be presented to the top two teams, but the real winner will be the IAHF, as this and similar programs help to maintain the IAHF operational budget, so consider playing bocce for the IAHF!

Also in May will be a special pre **Festa della Repubblica** event. On Wednesday May 31, in conjunction with the IAHF's Italian Language Program, we will be showing a special documentary on the **Mussolini years**, called *Italian Fascism*, and the events leading up to the war years that ultimately resulted in the founding of the Italian Republic. The documentary offers a fascinating account of those years. You may recall, last year we had a special program highlighting Italy and World War One. We also uncovered some family stories regarding the Christmas truces on the Alpine or Italian front. We hope to have a discussion at the showing, and for some of you, our members who lived through those turbulent times, we really want to hear from you and glean this information. As time marches on we are in danger of losing this critical part of our history, and this is why these and similar programs are an important part of our mission of preserving of the Italian American experience.

This year our **Festa della Repubblica** celebration will be held on Thursday, June 8th, including a flag raising at the county building. We normally celebrate the event on the actual day, but being a Friday afternoon would not be the best time for this event, so we moved it forward a week to June 8th and will be combining the event with June's regional lunch. In addition, we are hopeful that the new honorary Italian Consul General will be in place for San Jose, and, of course, invited to the activities.

We are also planning a **Brunch field trip to Danville** in conjunction with students from the IAHF language program. We will be visiting Peter Cedolini and his expanded restaurant, Mangia Mi. That will be on Sunday, June 4th. Peter's parent's, Tony and Clare, are IAHF members and language students, and have funded several Cedolini Family Scholarship which are awarded to up-and-coming young scholars. "FYI" Danville is an emerging vibrant community with many boutique shops and restaurants and a great place to stroll before or after a lunch. For more information about the field trip contact Delia or me at the IAHF.

And finally I want to add my encouragement to our members to share information about our events, especially our **IAHF Scholarships**, and help the IAHF get the word out about all our activities. Be a part of growing the next generation of Italian Americans. Information about our events are on line, or you can get information by contacting the IAHF. An exciting preview, too, the cultural committee will now be starting to work on the Cultural Village for the Festa. If you would enjoy helping us with this and other cultural activities, please contact me at the IAHF. *Ciao.* -- Article Written by Ken Borelli, VP / Events



Special kudos to Gene & Joanne Sanfilippo and Larry & Kathy Lohman for chairing the St. Joseph's Table event. It was wonderful. The hall was full and bursting with excitement! It also reflected all the hard work our chairs along with so many volunteers, donors and supporters put into the experience. It highlights the sense of community that is out there, a timely reminder too. Both the Mayor and President of the Board of Supervisors were present... and people who moved out of the area came back just for this event. I re-connected with several people who visited from out of the area and as a people told me, the St. Joseph's Table event was an extension of an extended family experience.

ONE MAN MAKES A STAND

Phil Cosentino sits behind the J&P Fruit stand on Carter Avenue, sandwiched on a sliver of sidewalk adjacent to his orchard. Mr. Cosentino is in his 80s, although you would hardly guess – he's far too active in the community and on his orchard to be considered geriatric. However his vast knowledge about the city's past and his fruit proves he's been around for longer than most.

The 2 acres lined with rows of fruit trees is an anomaly on a typical suburban street and in Santa Clara County as a whole, where since the 1950s virtually every strip of available land has been plucked by developers. Today, a wave of hi-tech businesses stretch from San Francisco sixty miles south through San Jose, eventually ending at the cool coastal redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains. During my visit on an unusually warm November morning, Mr. Cosentino tells me about his orchard – one of the last active orchards in all of Santa Clara County.

At the turn of the 20th century, the County was a leader in the production of prunes, apricots, pears, cherries, and walnuts. 1 out of 6 individuals depended on the agriculture industry for their livelihood. A 1963 agriculture report calculated a ten-year gross income of 89 million dollars from 125 different crops in the Santa Clara County – an equivalent of 650 million dollars today. The Silicon Valley, known these days as the home to Apple Computers more than apple orchards, was at one time called "The Valley of the Heart's Delight".

In the shadows of the fruit stand cast by the bright November sun, Mr. Cosentino reminisces to postwar 1945 when his father, Dominic Cosentino, first brought his family to the Santa Clara Valley. The family settled in the house on Carter Avenue on a 10-acre plot on a sprawling street shared with just three other families. Today, the street is lined with single-story, single-family homes huddled on perfectly divided plots separated by small side yards and tall wooden fences.

Dominic Cosentino hoped to cultivate his 10-acre orchard into a family business. But instead of growing fruit, he opened Cosentino's Vegetable Haven in 1955 and went into selling it. "He started the grocery because us kids didn't want to work on the orchard," says Phil Cosentino, "we were fighting him all the time. We didn't want to be farmers; it was hard, dirty work. The kids in the modern age, at least what was the modern age at the time..." he pauses and chuckles as he realizes I might be completely



unaware of his reference to the 1950's, "...we didn't care for it at all".

Cosentino's Vegetable Haven soon became Cosentino Market, followed by the expansion of two more Cosentino Markets in the area. The four Cosentino sons owned and operated all three, with Phil Cosentino overseeing the produce for the stores, "I know quality." He said to me, as a matter-of-factly.

Phil Cosentino became proprietor of the orchard in 1975, when his three

brothers didn't want any part in keeping up the land. "Each of us had 25%, so I had to buy them out. The land had already been cleared for development, but I decided to keep it going...I would work in the [grocery] stores in the mornings, and come home in the afternoons to work on the orchard".

In the very beginning, the now 2-acre slice of land overflowing with 100 varieties of fruit was once littered with a mere three crops: apricots, prunes, and wine grapes (4 acres of wine grapes, to be exact). When he first started in the seventies, Mr. Cosentino planted 10 of everything. When a tree would die, he often put something else in its place.

Mr. Cosentino stopped working in the stores in 1995, and went full-time caring for his orchard. These days he works a few hours in the mornings, every day. His season runs from May-September, offering a bounty of berries, apples, figs, plums, prunes, pears, citruses, about 20 different peaches, and more. On his orchard the trees are scattered in rows of 16 to 20. None are labeled, although some have colored ribbons tied around the trunks. I ask him how he knows where everything is. "Oh, well, after I've been here all these years...sometimes I forget where a certain tree is, but eventually I find it. I have a pretty good idea where all the different trees are."

Mr. Cosentino only picks what is ripe, transporting his fruit no more than a hundred yards from tree to stand. His selections are always juicier, plumper, brighter, and more flavorful than any other fruit I try. Luckily, he says, "nothing gets ripe all at once". An obvious statement, but a good reminder when supermarkets offer 365-day availability of citrus. During my visit, the 'season' is technically over but there are still winter fruit to be had: huge, bulging pomegranates and bright, hearty persimmons. There are also tangerines coming in, much to his surprise, and he frets that his regulars might not stop by since there's typically not an abundance of fruit this time of year. >>>



The stand is simple but effective, built by Mr. Cosentino himself for his two daughters in the mid-1970s. It gave them “something to do in the summers”. Eventually, it was his girls’ idea to give farmers’ markets a try. “They thought it would be fun”, Mr. Cosentino said, with the obvious love of a father relenting to the superfluous wants of a daughter (I know this voice; I’ve heard it many times in the permissions granted by my own father). When asked about farmers markets, he is polite, but I can tell he doesn’t think they’re all that great. “We’ve tried it, but it got too political,” he says at first. A moment later he elaborates

“Down [at a local farmers’ market] I was selling my summer fruit, and that finished, and as soon as the apples started the first Saturday I took my apples down there. Ohhh, they said, you can’t sell apples. But I told them, I have apples now. They said, we have too many apple vendors now. We don’t want too many vendors of the same thing. You can come back next summer with your summer fruit.

We never went back.”

Regarding a recent hunt for sweet potatoes, he continues, “they were \$2 a pound [at the farmers market]. I could buy them for .75 at Smart&Final. I could buy them at Artie’s, which is already high priced, for \$1.49. \$2 a pound, ain’t no such thing.” I smiled, as it was appropriate for a man who had sold produce his whole life to be so agitated over these prices – let alone remember the numbers so effortlessly.

Mr. Cosentino’s passion is evident in his knowledge, which he offers minimally or when prompted. On a subsequent visit to the orchard, I envy his fruiting pomegranate trees as my shoes crunch down on crisp Autumn leaves. He takes a break from pruning to point out that he doesn’t dare pick them until the skins crack. “That’s how you know they’re ripe. Even the farmers

markets won’t have them like that” (he says “that’s how you know they’re ripe” probably a dozen more times throughout our conversations).

There are Feijoas, something I’ve never seen in my 30 years of eating California produce. Mr. Cosentino points down to the left, to a tree-like bush. “Look, there’s fruit. You almost can’t see them. They’re green, just like the leaves”. I see small, bud-like fruit clustered in threes and fours. “I wait until they fall on the ground to pick them. They don’t change color, so you only know they’re ripe when they fall. Nature picks them!” He cuts one open for me to taste. A mini guava-like fruit, tropical with flavors of pineapple and a hint of banana. A Jamba Juice smoothie in fruit form. Why had I never tasted this before?!

He walks on, not waiting for me. He points out rose hips, growing on a lattice, saying he’s heard you can use them in cooking but has never tried it himself. His eyes dance as he warns me of his Lady Crabapples, “They’ll fool you. They’re a lot more flavorful than you think!”, then mentions they originated in France. With each fruit, he is able to site provenance, indicators of ripeness, period of dormancy, and when trees tend to fruit. He points out a Spring Crest peach tree, “it’s one of the earliest peaches of the season”. I ask him how he knows all this “Oh, I just know, after working on the orchard all these years.” He falls silent for a moment, then points over to his grape vines with his pair of mechanized shears. “Those out there, they’re going dormant too, just like the trees. I’ll prune those last.”

Article written by Jessie Bryson

January 2013 // Honest Cooking Tablet Magazine //

Source: <http://jessiebryson.com/2013/01/one-man-makes-a-stand/>

-- Article submitted by Richard Stewart 🌿



Italian-American Heritage Foundation 2017 Scholarship Application

The IAHF is offering four types of scholarships:

1. The IAHF general scholarships **for High School graduates accepted to a four-year or a two-year institution;**
2. The IAHF general scholarships **Community College graduates accepted to a four-year institution;**
3. The IAHF general scholarships reserved **for students of arts accepted to a four-year institution.** Visit www.iahfsj.org for details and to view our past recipients.
4. The Bocciardi Scholarship reserved **for students having completed three years of foreign language and accepted to a four-year institution.** Visit www.bocciardischolars.org

Requirements:

1. Must be of some Italian descent
 2. Must be graduating from a Santa Clara County High School or Community College
 3. Must provide all the attachments indicated herein on or before **Thursday, May 18, 2017 (11:50PM)**
 4. Must attend the award ceremony on **Sunday, June 18, 2017 (4:00PM-6:00PM)** (not required for the Bocciardi scholarship)
- *If applicant is an IAHF member or the child, or grandchild of an IAHF member, the applicant is exempt from items 1 and 2.*

Please print:

Last name _____ First name _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Date and Place of Birth _____

Name of High School: _____

Name of Community College: _____

Grade Point Average (on a 4.0 scale): _____

Is a parent or grandparent a member of IAHF? If yes, under what name? _____

Are you a member of the IAHF? _____

Highest level of foreign language study: _____

How did you find out about the IAHF scholarship program (counselor, teacher, IAHF Newsletter etc.)? _____

On a separate paper, type-written, list if applicable and include approximate dates for:

1. Extra-curricular **in-school** activities
2. Community volunteer experience (excluding mandatory high school work)
3. Paid work experience
4. Special talents and hobbies
5. Non-monetary awards received
6. *On this paper, you may add a short paragraph and share any extenuating circumstances which may cause your application to merit special consideration.

Necessary Attachments:

1. A letter of acceptance from a college or university
2. One sealed official transcript (no copies)
3. One essay of 500-1,000 words, typed, double-spaced, three paragraphs or more. It shall describe your vocational and professional goals and how this scholarship will aid you in accomplishing these choices. Essay will be graded on structure and grammar as well as content.
4. One letter of recommendation from a person of your choice, excluding family members, who will guide us to a better insight as to whom you are as a person.
5. One original senior photo or one appropriate for printing on the awards banquet flier

Mail or bring applications to: IAHF Scholarship Committee, 425 N. Fourth Street San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: 408-293-7122

Recipients will be notified by Monday 6/05/17.

The signature of the applicant indicates that the applicant understands that all parts of this application, including all attachments, must be completed and submitted by the deadline.

Signed _____ Date _____

**The Albert J. Casola Prize for the Study of Italian Language and
Culture Awarded by the Patrons of Italian Culture**

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please identify any Italian American lineage:

How did you learn about this prize?

Name and address of College/University currently enrolled at:

Your Major Course of Study:

Your minor (if any):

I am a: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Graduate Student,

Pursuing the following degree:

Anticipated date of the degree award:

I agree that my entry becomes property of The Patrons of Italian Culture and they may publish my entry in whole or in part. Finalists will be asked to submit their Social Security Number (required by law) and will be interviewed during the summer by the Board Members of The Patrons of Italian Culture. The Patrons of Italian Culture retains sole discretion in the awarding of the prize.

Signed:

SMALLPOX PLAGUE IN ROME



& THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

Roman Emperor
Marcus Aurelius Antoninus



We are all so aware of the horrendous smallpox scourge that devastated the Native Americans during the time of the conquest of the New World. You might be interested to know that the Roman Empire at its zenith suffered a plague of smallpox now generally known as the Antonine Plague or Galen's Plague. The physician Galen wrote one of the

very first medical books in history and he was witness to the devastation which he documented. It is through his detailed notation descriptions that the disease has been identified as smallpox.

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus was emperor and the year was 166 A.D. He was preparing Rome for the triumphal march of his honored general and co-emperor, Lucius Verrus, who was returning with a wealth of spoils from his dramatic victories along the far eastern borders of the Empire. Little did they realize that hidden among the golden cache was bacteria that would ravage the Roman Empire for the next twenty years and likely cause the death of General Lucius Varrus as well as the Emperor Marcus Aurelius himself in 180 A. D.

As with the terrifying flu epidemic of 1918, the Antonine plague first spread rapidly through the army legions. The soldiers living in close quarters and doubtless not in the best of conditions were easy victims. The legions were so devastated and their numbers were so reduced that in some cases the sons of the dead were called into service to replace their fathers. In other situations, discharge and retirement certificates were withheld in order to maintain the army.

The civilian population was similarly shattered. The ruling council of Athens was so depleted of aristocracy that the standard requirement for membership was lowered by decree of Marcus Aurelius in a letter dated 174 A.D. There were simply not enough upper-class Athenians left alive to fill the available posts.

Letters from Egypt to the Emperor explain the reduction of tax income due to plague mortality and the flight of fearful survivors out of the cities. They weren't dodging taxes, they were running for their lives!

Architectural evidence in Rome make it clear that civic building projects which were typical of second century Rome came to

halt during the twenty years of 166 A.D and 186 A.D. A similar halt in construction is evident in London during that same period. This was clearly an empire-wide devastation.

Dio Cassius, an historian living at the time of the plague, writes that 2,000 people per day died in Rome alone during a particularly virile outbreak. It is estimated that over the twenty-three-year period of this plague the mortality rate was 7 to 10 percent of the population. Among the army legions and densely populated areas of the cities the death rate is estimated at 13 to 15 percent.

The effect of this ongoing human calamity was multi-faceted. The Roman military was destabilized, the economy was in upheaval, trade routes were fractured (the disease was also devastating Han China), and the government was in disarray with the death of its two most important leaders, General Varrus and later Emperor Marcus Aurelius as well as much of its leading citizenry.

As often happens in times of crisis, people's thoughts turned to the spiritual. The death and gross disfigurement of this disease must have had a calamitous effect on the psyche of the survivors. Archaeological evidence shows that while civic building stopped, the Emperor invested heavily in restoring or constructing temples and shrines to the Roman deities. Many historians agree that it is no coincidence that it is during this time that Christianity took root in the empire. People often turn to God when they feel afraid or helpless. We see few chapels in public buildings or public schools, but always in hospitals.

Who could imagine that 1500 years later this same horror would be visited upon the people discovered in the New World.

Summarized partially from an article by Sarah Yeomans in "Biblical Archeology Review"

– Article Submitted by Linda Binkley

Group of physicians in image
from the Vienna Dioscurides,
named after the physician
Galen shown at the top center.



AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO
Returning Home

Musings from an old man visiting his home village

by Tony Tasca



VIA AIR MAIL



I left my native village for America one late evening in December sixty-one years ago. I was eighteen... I am now seventy-nine. It was supposed to be for a year, but it became a lifetime. I now return to my village three or four times each year.

After retiring eight years ago, against everyone's advice, I bought a large fixer-upper by the seashore in my home village. Remodeled and updated, this now is my second home. I often sit on the balcony late at night to gaze at the stars, smell the salty air of the Tyrrhenian Sea, and wonder why I now come back so often.

My parents passed away eighteen years ago. All except one of my first cousins have also departed. What remain are my youngest brother, his family, and many second cousins.

Each time I return I make the ritual visit to the local cemetery. My parents, grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts, and dear friends are buried there. And with them, many of my memories... I mourn the time I did not pass together, the distance that made seeing one another random and occasional, and the seemingly unfinished business that keeps me connected to my village.

Weather permitting, I visit the family farm. It was a working farm when I was a youngster. Under my paternal grandmother's strict management, it fed us, provided for us, and lifted our spirits up. I sit on the veranda, alone, and gaze at the river valley below and the distant blue sea.

A cool breeze caresses my face, the chirping of the birds and the characteristic sound of the cicadas serenades me. I reminisce about the time I would come and stay there during the summer for an entire month with my younger brother, one of my cousins, and, of course my grandmother. They were my best years, the happiest years, my wonder years. I feast on my memories...

Thomas Wolfe and others have been quoted as saying that you cannot go home again. Perhaps, they were right! It has also been said that you cannot be in the same river twice, because the second time around the river has already changed. Yet, we return home and to the cherished river again and again.

I ponder why... I speculate, I might be returning in search of what I left behind. I might be going back to collect remnants of a cherished existence; I visit the places where I began my journey; am I taking care of the unfinished business? Perhaps!

I realize that part of me never really left, choosing to stay put, close to those I loved and cherished. I now realize more than ever how much I still miss every one. I desperately try to bridge the gulf of separation, as if it did not happen, as if it was shorter than it really was. When you emigrated in the old days, it was forever. It took me fifteen years to the day for me to return home for the first time. I did not see my parents and my youngest brother for thirteen years.

Getting to New York by ship was an eleven-day journey. It was a journey full of anticipation and mixed emotions. It was a journey into the unknown.

I now return like a prodigal son, asking for forgiveness for having abandoned everyone, seduced by adventure and search for greener pastures. I was supposed to be away for just a year, yet I chose to stay away a lifetime. Indeed I chose a less traveled road, question is: am I better off?



SISTER CITIES / SISTER COUNTIES

By Linda Gaudio Binkley



Commission Chairperson and IAHF member Joanne La Torre Anderson with Italian film director Francesco Calogero at the screening of *Seconda Primavera*, a film presented by the Florence Commission at Santa Clara University.

Most of you know all about sister cities. San Jose, for example, has eight sister cities! But did you know that the County of Santa Clara has sister county relationships? Since 1985 Santa Clara County has been sister counties with the Province of Florence, now known as the Metropolitan City of Florence.

The Florence Commission is an advisory arm of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. President of the Board, Dave Cortese, is the liaison. One of our long-time IAHF members, Joanne La Torre Anderson, is now serving as chairperson of the Florence Commission.

As we all know, the IAHF is dedicated to preserving and promoting the spirit and passion of Italian heritage and culture. That includes all the varied cultures of Italy from the top of the boot to the bottom and including all the islands as well as Italian cultures abroad.

The Florence Commission on the other hand has a very specific focus. Due to its status as a sister county participant, the Florence Commission is dedicated to fostering an exchange of culture with the Metropolitan City of Florence (an area similar to our county). To that end the commission consists of several committees: culture and arts, education, and technology. It has been my pleasure to serve on the education committee of the Florence commission as well as the education committee of the IAHF... what better use of a retired teachers time!

Every district of Santa Clara County has up to five representatives serving on the Florence Commission. Several IAHF members are currently serving on the Commission. I believe there are a few openings, so if you know anyone who has a love of Florence and might be interested, please have them contact me at linda.binkley@iahfsj.org and I can tell them how to proceed.



A LITTLE ITALIAN BY REQUEST



If you studied Latin in high school as I did this vocabulary will be a cinch!

migliore = piu` buono
(better= more good)

ottimo = buonissimo (best)

peggiore = piu` cattivo
(worse = more bad)

pessimo = cattivissimo (worst)

maggiore = piu` grande (bigger)

massimo = grandissimo (biggest)

minore = piu` piccolo (smaller)

minimo = piccolissimo (smallest)

superior = piu` alto (higher)

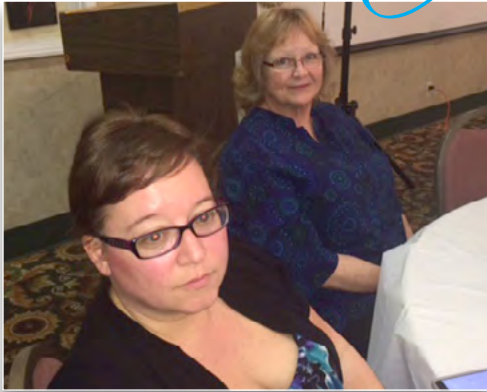
supremo = altissimo (highest)

inferior = piu` basso (lower)

infimo = bassissimo (lowest)

Our Vice-President Richard Stewart has a great story about Latin. During World War II, Richard's father, Captain Clarence Stewart, met Richard's future uncle through a friend and went to his home to pay his respects to his family. When he knocked on the door, he was greeted by Mr. Sorvillo, Richard's future grandfather. Not knowing Italian, he began to speak in Latin, which he had studied throughout his education. Mr. Sorvillo, also knowing Latin from his school days, responded. While visiting the family, Captain Stewart met Francesca Sorvillo (Richard's future mother), and wanted to court her. And, as they say... the rest is history! Mrs. Stewart has told us that had her husband not been able to communicate with her father, the courtship would not have proceeded. Latin became the basis of their communication until, gradually, each learned the others' language. Archaic Latin saved the day and Captain Stewart and his lovely Neapolitan wife, Francesca, enjoyed a very long and happy marriage! -- Article by Linda Binkley

IAHF
Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner



CARPET FUND *Update*

Last year we started a Carpet Fund to replace the old and worn carpet in our hall. Many of our Members and Patron Members responded with donation for a new carpet. As of now our Carpet Fund is at \$8,900. After reviewing many carpets, we decided on a beautiful carpet that will cost us \$16,800 to remove and replace. We are still looking for donations to make up the difference. We are almost there! We really want to thank those of you that have donated. We appreciate your contribution so much. At right is a list of who has donated to the Carpet Fund.

Thank you for your donations and patience,

Dave Perzinski, President and
Joanne Sanfilippo, 2nd Vice President

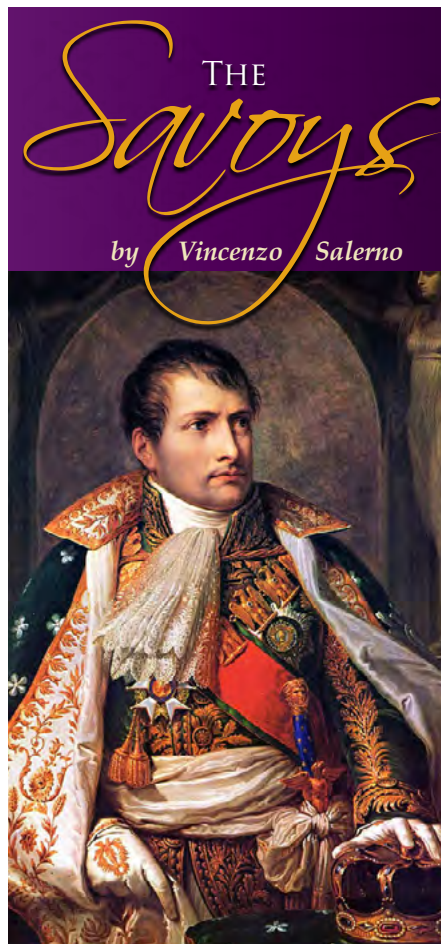
- Neno Aiello & Kathleen Sardella
- J. Philip DiNapoli
- Mike Console
- Dr. Tony & Clare Cedolini
- Guglielmo Family Winery
- Carl & Norma Brannon
- David Perzinski & Lucia Clementi
- Ken Borelli
- Joanne & Gene Sanfilippo
- Jim & Cherly Sanfilippo
- Kathy & Lary Lohman
- Rebecca Morici
- Rita Horiguchi
- Margaret Papp
- Nanci & Clarence Wilborn
- Joe & Carmella Gullo
- Richard & Gwen Daulton
- Janice & James Jones
- Bobby & Ruth Moorhatch
- William McCraw
- Virginia Sincich
- Tony Zerbo
- Kenneth & Judy Low
- Carlo & Rosa Severo
- Peter & Marge Gaudio
- Joseph & Connie Rotolo
- Joyce Allegro
- Paul & Mary Stabile
- Alfredo Chiotti

ITALIAN COOKING CLASSES RESUME



Our exciting cooking classes are starting up again in April. If you haven't yet enrolled in one of our cooking classes, you're in for a treat! Our students experience hands-on training with authentic Italian family dishes that have been passed down from generation to generation. Here's a list of our upcoming classes (subject to change). All of the classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and are payable in advance. Please go to www.iahfsj.org and select "Events" to enroll.. -- Lucia Clementi 🍷

- April 13, 2017 – Piemontese Vitello Tonatto - Instructor – Tino Burzio - \$30.00
- May 4, 2017 – Art of Braising Vegetables & Meats – Instructor - Joe Rizzi - \$30.00
- June 15, 2017 – Gnocchi & Spaghetti Alla Chitarra - \$25.00
- July 6, 2017 – Cuccidati - \$25.00
- September 7, 2017 – Almond Biscotti – Instructor – Carol Tapella - \$25.00
- October 5, 2017 – Italian Pasta Sauces (Bolognese & Puttanesca)
Instructors – Ken Borelli & Lucia Clementi - \$25.00
- November 2, 2017 – Annual Holiday Biscotti (Assorted Italian Cookies) - \$25.00



Today they are best-known as the former ruling family of Italy and patrons of the nation's controversial unification movement of the nineteenth century. In truth, that is the least of their accomplishments, for the Savoy's boast a history that places their roots firmly in the age of chivalry. Their medieval heritage features majestic castles, a mystical sword, heroic legends and the earliest knightly orders. Had the Savoy's never been kings of Sicily, Sardinia or Italy, had they ended up as nothing more than simple dukes of a sovereign state, their history would be respectable enough for any dynasty.

Their origins were military and feudal: knightly. Emerging in France's Savoy region in the eleventh century, where they eventually built a fortress at Chambery, the Savoy family rose to prominence as guardians of strategically important Alpine passes. Originally "French" in orientation and culture, they "Italianised" their ambitions with establishment of their capital at Turin in the sixteenth century and adoption of Italian as their realm's official language. Yet as recently as the nineteenth century many of their subjects, including the statesman Camillo Benso of Cavour, spoke French as their first language; there is also a Piedmontese dialect influenced by both tongues. The complete coat of arms of the House of Savoy (shown at left) reflects the dominions they ruled, some by pretension, or the dynasties from which they are descended. By the nineteenth century, they displayed only the white cross on a red field shown in the center of this design.

In the Middle Ages, among Germanic emperors, French knights and Papal intriguers, nobody could have foretold the fortunes of the Savoy family. This relatively obscure house, possibly descended from Burgundian knights, would display over the centuries a machiavellian shrewdness and enduring strength of will. Traced through the male line, the Savoy sovereigns of the Kingdom of Italy descended directly from antecedents who ruled with sovereign authority before the Norman conquests of Hastings in the North and Messina in the South, who counted among their eleventh-century contemporaries not only the Normans William the Conqueror of England and Roger of Sicily, but Harald Sigurdson in Denmark, Alexius Comnenus at Constantinople and El Cid in Spain.

Like so many other royal families, the Savoy's were not destined by any divine authority to rule. There were to be no prophet Samuels or Pope Leos to anoint the founder of the dynasty. The progenitor of the House of Savoy was a certain Humbert (Umberto) "the Whitehanded" who lived from circa 980 until around 1047. He may have been the great-grandson of the Holy Roman Emperor Otto II, though this is unproven. In 1003, perhaps as an act of gratitude for military service rendered to the later Emperor Conrad II, Humbert acquired certain Alpine territories as a feudal lord and came to be known as Count of Savoy. He appears to have already had certain lands, however, and from an early date, Humbert's de facto exercise of his rights was more akin to that of a sovereign ruler than to that of a mere feudal vassal.

This could have resulted from the obvious importance of his loyalty to the Emperor, who may have considered that a "sovereign" ally with a vested interest in defending his own strategic lands would be more loyal than a temporal feudatory.

Count Humbert may have had white hands from the Alpine chill of many a long winter's hunt for ibex and deer, but in fact his nickname, ascribed retroactively, derives from from a textual mistranslation of an early Latin record which actually refers to the walls of his castle, not his hands, as white.

The dynasty's initial acquisition of territory was slow, at first based on advantageous marriages to Italian and French heiresses, but the Savoy's prominence came quickly. Two of Humbert's sons were bishops who served as provosts of the Abbey of Saint Maurice on the River Rhone east of Geneva, a church still associated with the Royal Family today. (Saint Maurice, the early Roman martyr whose relics are kept there, is the patron of the House of Savoy and of one of its orders of chivalry.)

Amedeo (Amadeus) "the Tail," Humbert's oldest surviving son, succeeded his father but served as Head of the house for just a few short years before his own death. His nickname is attributed to the story that he was kindly disposed to pay a visit to the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor, but not without his entourage of vassals and knights, his "tail." A younger son, Otto, who had married Adelaide of Turin, succeeded Amedeo around 1052. >>>

It was Otto's own son, Amedeo, who established the dynasty's presence in Piedmont (shown in the northwestern corner of Italy in this map), inherited from his mother, Adelaide. As its name implies, Piedmont lies at the "foot of the mountains." At this early date, the family also ruled Aosta, which borders Switzerland and France.

Over the centuries, the dynasty would not be given to spectacular conquests, but rather to the slow, cautious, even plodding, increment of territory and influence. For more than three centuries, the title "Count of Savoy" was handed down from generation to generation, sometimes passing between collaterals but always in the hands of the Whitehanded's progeny. Territorial expansion accompanied the dynasty's history.

Amedeo VI, called "the Green Count" for the colour he favored, which was the tincture of the liveries he gave to those who attended his tournaments, founded the Order of the Collar in 1362. Known today as the Order of the Annunciation, it survives as one of the oldest dynastic orders of chivalry.

The family fortunes continued after the Middle Ages but would not survive the political complexities of the twentieth century.

For a few centuries, the Savoyes were keepers and protectors of the Shroud of Turin, usually - if not always - demonstrating a tolerance of Jews and Waldensians (early Protestants) rarely known elsewhere in Italy. The horrors of the Inquisition were minimized in Piedmont, Savoy and Aosta, where a number of Jews were ennobled. For all this, the Savoyes today may be the most unfortunate royal family in Europe, compromised by their support of a particularly evil regime (Fascism) which eventually provoked war at home and abroad, and the Allied bombardment of Italy's cities.

To add insult to injury, most Sicilians and other "southerners" regard "our" royal family to be the Bourbons who ruled until 1860 - defeated by the Savoyes' supporters (Giuseppe Garibaldi comes to mind). Yet the Savoyes have an assured place in Sicilian history. Indeed, it was in Sicily that they earned their right to be called kings, during the brief reign of Vittorio Amedeo II as King of Sicily from 1713 until 1718 when, after levying new taxes, he exchanged this realm for the Kingdom of Sardinia, taking most of the Sicilian treasury with him. Before the eighteenth century, the Savoyes had been counts and then dukes and princes, albeit sovereign ones. Even before their alliance with Fascism, the Kingdom of Italy, the unitary state created in their name, could not be said to have been free or democratic, and poverty was rampant.

The way Italy was united in this Risorgimento is now questioned by historians in Italy and abroad, though most oppose dividing the nation today.

If we consider the period before the unification of Italy (1861), it is not true, as is often claimed, that the Statuto (constitution)



of Carlo Alberto of Savoy was Italy's first constitution; that distinction must go to King Ferdinando I of the Two Sicilies (Naples and Sicily), the sovereign who granted the Sicilian Constitution of 1812 which unfortunately was rescinded a few years after it was effected. Acting in response not to empathy but to the violent riots of 1848, his grandson, Ferdinando II, granted a second constitution in Naples a few months before his cousin in Turin. Jurists generally agree that the enlightened but ephemeral Sicilian Constitution of 1812, formulated under British influences, would have been a far better basis for a democratic state than Carlo Alberto's Statuto.

Until their deposition by referendum in 1946 (establishing the Italian Republic), the Savoyes

could be said to have reigned with sovereign authority, over one dominion or another, for almost a thousand years. The head of the dynasty and his heirs were actually exiled from 1946 until 2002, when a special act of parliament changed the constitutional law banning them from their own country. It has been said that people get the government they deserve. Sometimes they get the monarchy they deserve.

King Umberto II, who died in exile in 1983, was different. Privately, Umberto was known to resent the Fascists, his wife even moreso. He was called "The May King" for having reigned briefly in that month in 1946 before the referendum, held during the Allied occupation. It was the first election in which Italian women could vote; only Fascists and Savoyard apologists ever asserted that the Kingdom of Italy was progressive.

Umberto's only son, Prince Vittorio Emanuele, Duke of Savoy (shown below with his consort, Princess Marina), resides in Switzerland but visits Italy occasionally. He has a son, Emanuele Filiberto, who is married and has two daughters. If Italy still had a monarchy, Prince Vittorio Emanuele (Victor Emmanuel) would be its king - unless, of course, the Italians chose to change their dynasty.

As King of Italy after 1861, Vittorio Emanuele II was reasonably efficient if not especially enlightened, and certainly no ideologue or philosopher. The referendum electing him with 98 percent of the vote was fraudulent, and pro-Bourbon riots continued in Palermo into the 1860s, but if pure democracy was lacking his governments at least managed to curb the Vatican's influence in Italian affairs. The Waldensian and Anglican churches in Palermo were built during this period, whereas previously the Bourbon government prohibited any but Catholic places of worship. In the vernacular of the nineteenth century, the Savoyard administration during the first three decades of the Kingdom of Italy was part of the so-called liberal movement, something of a misnomer.

The new unitary state almost immediately confiscated church property, particularly monasteries and their estates, a policy which led to the closures of the accompanying > > >

Catholic schools which constituted the educational system of the former Two Sicilies. State schools were founded, for the most part, after 1910, and this delay hindered the growth of literacy in these regions for over fifty years. This is why, when the Allies arrived during World War II, they found higher illiteracy in southern Italy than in the north where more money had been allocated to train lay teachers and build schools as well as factories. Indeed, the situation throughout Italy was pitiful in 1943; agriculture was based on manual labor to harvest rice in Piedmont (mostly by women called *mondine*), maize in Lombardy and wheat in Sicily, while only a fraction of rural Italian homes had electricity or running water, with the situation worse in Sicily and most other southern regions.



For the Sicilian Golden Age we must look to the thirteenth-century reign of Frederick II, not to the Savoy or Bourbons. While most Savoyard programmes or "reforms" were not much different, and neither better nor worse, than those initiated in other European countries during the nineteenth century, the colonialist occupation of Libya and the Italian military defeat at Adwa in Ethiopia in 1896 reflected particularly disastrous foreign policy decisions based on simple expansionism. The latter earned the Italian army a disdain that followed it through two World Wars and to some degree persists to this day. A second Ethiopian debacle in the 1930s only confirmed that widespread impression. Frankly, it would be merciful not to dwell on Italy's mediocre military escapades

from 1861 until 1945.

For many years the unification of Italy, the *Risorgimento*, was enshrined as one of the great achievements of the House of Savoy, but Italy's new federalism (regionalism) contradicts this, and it was Umberto II who (as viceroy during the Allied occupation) signed the decree establishing Sicilian autonomy. The Italian unification wars around 1860 were probably unnecessary; Germany united herself as a federation with no need for this kind of bloodshed.

At home, hunger and poverty were by no means alleviated by Savoyard or Fascist policies. Beginning about 1870, millions of Italians fled Italy in search of a better life in the Americas, creating an Italian diaspora. Until that time, most emigration was from the relatively impoverished north, but Italian social, economic and educational policies created greater poverty in the south, and in the event the steamship made it easier to leave Italy. In 1860 illiteracy was uniformly disgraceful throughout Italy (around 80%), but by 1920 it was comparatively worse south of Rome, partly because of the lack of schools, as we've already noted. As recently as 1950 most Italians resided outside the major cities and were involved in some way with agriculture (still rice and livestock in Piedmont, maize and dairy farms in Lombardy, durum wheat and olives in Sicily). Sadly, emigration continued. Australia, Argentina and even Germany and the United Kingdom have large Italian populations descended from immigrants who arrived in the decades following the end of the Second World War. Italy's "economic miracle" began in the 1950s, with a boost from the Marshall Plan, after the Savoyes were gone.

No doubt can exist that Vittorio Emanuele III was gravely mistaken in signing the Fascists' anti-Semitism laws, accepting the Ethiopian crown (restored to Haile Selassie backed by British force in 1941) and declaring war on the Allies. He was, however, at least nominally, a "constitutional" monarch with little real choice in matters of government. Long before the rise of Mussolini, many of the worst "Savoyard" policies were, in reality, instituted by mediocre ministers such as Cavour and the bigamist Crispi rather than the kings themselves, and yet the king, who embodies his nation, is ultimately responsible for these policies - whether they provoke the deaths of children in Ethiopia (with mustard gas) or the > > >

The Kingdom of Italy was technically at war with the Vatican until 1929, and while this may have earned it a certain prestige in certain quarters (in Britain), it was of little help elsewhere. To this day, Italian leaders underestimate the influence of the Catholic Church only at their own peril. The Savoyes should have signed the Lateran Treaties by 1900, perhaps during the reign of the devout Umberto I, murdered by an anarchist at the turn of the century. (Incidentally, the anarchist in question was Italian-born, not "American" as is sometimes claimed.)

In the economic sphere southern Italy suffered terribly during Savoyard rule. Until 1860 Naples was the wealthiest city in Italy. By 1900 it was eclipsed by Milan, Turin and Rome. In 1860 Palermo was, by any standard, more prosperous than Turin, the Savoyes' capital. The kindly Savoy monarchs of the nineteenth century were not personally responsible for this but, unfortunately, they seemed little concerned about what was done in their name. Much had changed since their ancestors had fought alongside Holy Roman Emperors and participated in Crusades.

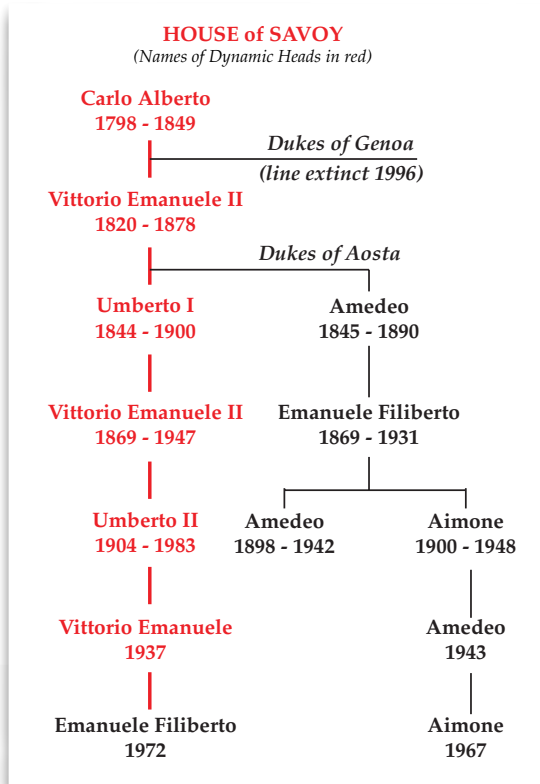
persecution of Jews in Italy.

Despite his poor judgement, the long-reigning Vittorio Emanuele III was a reasonably intelligent man, according to those who met him (including American military officers in 1944), his son Umberto more so. He did, in fact, remove Mussolini in the Summer of 1943, though he was prompted to do so by the Allied conquest of Sicily. The "civil war" that began later that year between Partisans and Fascists created social and political divisions that plague Italy to this day. There was talk of permitting Umberto, an officer in the air force (Italy's only competent service) to lead troops against the Germans and Mussolini's Republic of Salò. Had this materialized, the monarchy, defeated by a narrow margin following the war, might have been preserved. Neither event would come to be.

The mode of Italy's unification, as well as its rabid historical revisionism, is increasingly disparaged by Italians of every regional and political color. That said, the government employees who organized the subdued celebrations marking 150 years of unification in 2011 - amidst an economic recession that was terrible even by Italian standards - did their best to focus on the Risorgimento without mentioning the Savoy. That ridiculous strategy only added to a general cynicism about the entire commemoration. Nevertheless, fewer than one percent of Italians are monarchists, and many people in Italy who know next to nothing about Italian history since 1900 despise the dynasty anyway.

Rightly or wrongly, the House of Savoy has become the object of most of the Italians' venomous resentment of the effects of Fascism and the Second World War, even if virtually every family in Italy has a nonno or ageing papà who participated, usually without question, in Italian politics at home or the nation's misadventures (and perhaps the occasional atrocity) in Libya, Ethiopia, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. The rest of the world laughs at the ridiculous figure of the incompetent Fascist soldier, always mightier in the face of Balkan or African civilians than when facing British or American adversaries. Many older Italians harbour memories of lost loved ones and bombed cities.

It's a heavy weight to be borne by a single family, even a royal one. Harassed by journalists a few years ago, Vittorio Emanuele's son responded with annoyance that, "I can't be held accountable for the actions of Garibaldi and Cavour!" That is true, but (more generally) it is also true that aristocrats presume to inherit their ancestors' prestige without inheriting their guilt, and the sword of hereditary principle has two edges.



That Vittorio Emanuele's position as head of his dynasty is now contested by a cousin seems to reflect the typical jealousy of Italian families, where it is perfectly normal - almost expected - for siblings to fight over inherited property, even if it's just a one-car garage. This is not to suggest that the Savoyard patrimony is worth no more than a garage, but the family no longer owns any castles and the "value" of titles held by non-reigning royals and unrecognized nobles (like Italy's) are of less importance nowadays than the kings and queens are gone than they were a half-century ago.

That the living Savoy, like other non-reigning royalty (including the Neapolitan Bourbons), are the object of "vicarious identification" by social-climbing sycophants and would-be "noblemen" is a sad commentary on

those who aspire to 15 minutes of fame by association. Paradoxically, most of Sicily's genuine nobility couldn't care less about the royal families.

During the Allied occupation of Palermo, Stefania Mantegna, Princess of Gangi, who held her title in her own right (not through her husband), gave Palermo's last lavish ball at her palatial residence in a time when there were food riots elsewhere in town. Attending were local aristocrats anxious to befriend the influential foreign guests, namely the British and American military officers attached to the Allied military government. That half of Italy was still at war with the Allies made no difference at all. Four decades later, when The Queen and Prince Philip were house guests at Palazzo Gangi, the Kings of Italy were little more than a faded memory.

The Savoy is one of "our" royal families, if non-reigning, and such an ancient dynasty deserves at least to be remembered, if not with nostalgia or affection, then perhaps in the interest of the eternal Italian hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

The definitive history of the Savoy reign and the kings' roles in Italian events after 1860 is Denis Mack Smith's *Italy and Its Monarchy*. The author was knighted by the Italian government for his various books dealing with Italian history. A slightly cynical, if accurate, work is Robert Katz's *Fall of the House of Savoy*. In Italian the most detailed, most objective history of the dynasty over the centuries is Francesco Cognasso's *I Savoia*.

About the Author: Palermo native Vincenzo Salerno has written biographies of several famous Sicilians, including Frederick II and Giuseppe di Lampedusa. Material by B. Di Bella is used by permission.

Source: <http://www.bestofsicily.com/mag/art197.htm>

-- Article Submitted by Richard Stewart

*Calendar of Events is subject to change**

April 7 / Annual Crab Feed

\$45.00 members / \$50.00 non-members / Dinner and Dance with Music by the Ron Borelli Trio / Sicilian Folk Dancers / 6:00 PM / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

April 13 / Piemontese Vitello Tonatto

\$30 / 7:00 PM / Instructor: Tino Burzio / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

April 20 / Regional Lunch and Plant Sale / Calabria

\$14 member / \$17 non-members / 12:00 PM / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

April 23 / Sunday Sicilian Dance / Music Performance and Dinner

\$15 member / \$18 non-members / \$5.00 Children 12 and under / 2:00 PM / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

May 4 / Art of Brasing Vegetables & Meats

\$30 / 7:00 PM / Instructor: Joe Rizzi / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

May 21 / Bocce Ball Tournament & Fundraiser

\$60 playets / \$25 non-players / 4:00 PM / Campo di Bocce, 565 University Ave, Los Gatos / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

June 1 / Cooking Class: Gnocchi & Spaghetti all Chitarra

\$25 / 7:00 PM / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

July 6 / Cooking Class: Cuccidati

\$25 / 7:00 PM / RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

August 26 & 27 / Italian Family Festa

History Park San Jose / Sat., Aug 26: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM / Sun. Aug. 27: 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

** Plans being finalized for Memoir Writing Program and introductory Genealogy Saturday mornings at the IAHF. Cooking classes to resume in April.*

YOU CAN CLICK HERE TO RSVP AND TO PRE-PAY AT
<http://www.iahfsj.org/#!/events/cfvg>

RSVP FOR ALL EVENTS (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) BY EMAILING
eventsvp@iahfsj.org or by calling 408-293-7122

Dear Members, your assistance is needed as we plan events. The following guidelines are helpful tips to assist our Event Chairs with activity planning:

- 1) If you are signing up online, there is a form to indicate who you want to sit with. If you use PayPal or a credit card, call, write, or email the IAHF with the names of the the people who you wish to sit with.
- 2) Many events, such as regional lunches and lectures, are "open seating", however, please be sure to sign up for these events by going online or calling the IAHF office.
- 3) If you make a reservation, please be sure the others in the party you listed will be attending the event (in some instances people are listed in two separate guest list, and they were not aware).
- 4) If you are canceling an activity please call the IAHF as soon as possible. Sold out events usually have a back up list that the Committee Chair can call. Just not showing up to an event is costly since supplies and food are purchased several days in advance, and also denies others the ability to participate.
- 5) Our events are priced modestly as a benefit to our members and their guests, so following these suggestions will help the Chairpeople plan efficiently and effectively. The more lead time the better in order to purchase food and plan the events accordingly.
- 6) When in doubt about an activity *please call the IAHF*. More and more we are using online information and hope to have our new website up and running shortly, but a simple phone call or email usually can resolve an issue.

Circulation: 600

Size Pricing

Bus card 3.25"W x 2.25"H

3 issues	\$100
6 issues	\$170 (15% discount)
6 issues	\$150 (business / member discount)

1/4 page 4"W x 5"H

3 issues	\$150
6 issues	\$240 (20% discount)
6 issues	\$210 (business / member discount)

1/2 page 8"W x 5"H

or

4"W x 10"H

3 issues	\$200
6 issues	\$300 (25% discount)
6 issues	\$265 (business / member discount)

Full page 8"W x 10"H

3 issues	\$300
6 issues	\$420 (30% discount)
6 issues	\$380 (business / member discount)

Artwork

- * Preferred file format is EPS with vector outline text but we can accept any high resolution graphic file format
- * We can do simple design layouts based on your input
- * Images/business cards can be scanned and insert as well

Note: Depending on the item, scanning does not always provide the best quality

Contact

Richard Stewart: 408-821-4260
or news@iahfsj.org

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Submission deadline: 20th of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter

Revision deadline: No later than the 25th of each month

Guidelines for the newsletter must be followed before submitting entries.

Information for the newsletter **MUST** be submitted by having all information together and not piecemeal. If you don't know the date or the start time then you'll have to wait until you know all the info before you submit it. *Otherwise it cannot be posted.*

For posting Events, please provide the following information:

- Official name of event
- Time of event
- Cost of tickets
- Date of event
- Location of event
- Short description of event

Articles

- Original articles must be carefully proofread, spell checked and grammar checked before submission. The IAHF cannot assume responsibility for errors that appear in articles. Include author's name and other pertinent credits and/or information.
- Original articles should be submitted simply as text in paragraph form, single line spaced, with no formatting (no centering, no indents, etc.). The newsletter staff will format the article as required.
- Articles from the Internet, magazines or other sources must have author's credits, photographer's credits, website or publication name.
- Articles must be submitted in either Word or PDF format, or as email text. PDF documents must have text that can be selected and copied. PDFs made from scanned hard copies will not work.

Photos

The IAHF media staff reserves the right to use images at their discretion.

Transmission:

- Image files should be sent as email attachments, not embedded in a text document or in an email message.

Format:

- JPEG preferred; BMP, EPS, GIF, PDF and TIFF formats may be acceptable as well.
- Photos should be big, bright, and sharp, with no timestamps or watermarks. Low-quality photos or out-of-focus photos cannot be used.

Size:

- Send full-size, unedited, high-pixel-count files. Make sure your email program doesn't downsize the files. Sizes of 500 KB and larger are preferred.
- Each photo must have an individual name. Leaving the name of the photo as named by your camera is suggested.

Credits:

- Original photos should include the name of the photographer. If you are not the photographer, you must give credit or secure permission to use the photos with your article.

Captions:

- Please provide captions as either email text, as a Word document, or as a PDF document

Questions?

- Please contact Richard Stewart, IAHF Newsletter Editor, at 408-821-4260, or at news@iahfsj.org 📧

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Professional Experience

Rosetta is a full-time, professional real estate agent assisting in buying and selling homes in all of Santa Clara County. Throughout the years, Rosetta has earned many achievements and awards such as, International Presidents Elite, Top Listing agent, Top Buyers agent, one of Silicon Valley's Top 100 agents and Top Producers with over 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.

Professional Affiliations

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

Personal Background

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

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

FOR A PROFESSIONAL MARKET ANALYSIS, CALL ROSETTA TODAY!