



President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of the IAHF,

Happy New Year! Time to take on the new year, ready or not. For most Americans, this is the time we put away the decorations, and haul out the tree. The gyms are overcrowded with dozens of people renewing their commitment and in the desperate hope they can work off those Christmas goodies that seemed so innocent at the time. And all those New Year's resolutions! How many weeks or days will go by before we somehow justify they can wait just one more year. Ah, procrastination, where would we be without it?

But not so if you were in Italy – for instead of winding down after the Holiday season, they are right in the middle of the holiday as the 12 days of Christmas start on Christmas Day and continue through January

6. Then on January 6th, they celebrate the Epiphany when the three Magi (wise men) arrived at the manger to welcome Jesus. (Although the Eastern Orthodox believe this was on Christmas Day).

Aside from the religious aspect, there is also La Befana – when an old woman comes in the night to fill children's stockings: candy for all the good ones and a piece of coal to those who have been bad (the coal being rock candy colored black). The story goes that the Magi had stopped at the house of a poor casalinga (housewife – although she is also referred to as the friendly Christmas witch) to ask directions to Bethlehem and invited the woman to join them, but she said she was too busy cleaning and sweeping. After the Magi left, she changed her mind and tried to follow them, but they were nowhere in sight. So, she wandered, leaving treats at all the doors for children, hoping to find the baby Jesus. Her curse was her broom, which kept her busy, and kept her from finding Jesus.

So, while we in America might last through the New Year's bowl games before we wind down the holidays, in Italy they are still in the middle of the celebrations, and if you go by the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas, it's just starting to get overcrowded... 'eight geese a-laying...'. Smart children will figure out that if they are Italian American, they could justify Santa Claus for their American side, and Babbo Natale (the Italian version of Santa Claus) and Befana for their Italian side. Really enterprising youth will figure out that if they get the gifts in the "Twelve days of Christmas," they would have a market value of over \$38,000 and if the earlier days gifts are repeated as the song suggests, a cool \$174,000 – and this is in addition to whatever they get from Santa and/or Babbo Natale at Christmas and La Befana!

It's also odd that Italians look at La Befana as a time to clean house. Tradition calls for throwing out old things and sweeping the house clean. But this is exactly why the housewife missed the chance to meet Jesus! It appears the lesson should have been the opposite: if she missed going with the Magi because she was too busy sweeping, it would seem this would be a great excuse to just let it go, stop cleaning, and focus on the holiday. This is probably why I am not consulted on tradition.

Whatever your beliefs and traditions, whether you are winding down the holidays or still in the middle, whether you stop at throwing out the trash from Christmas Day or do a thorough and meticulous house cleaning, whether you have pledged to take on a host of resolutions or have a pre-determined futility, I hope the spirit of the season has blessed you with good friends and family, good health, fond memories of seasons past and a bright outlook to the possibilities the future may hold. Happy New Year and Auguri per un Felice 2020! -- Felix Dalldorf / fdalldorf@gmail.com 🇮🇹

Events @ A Glance

- **Jan 13** / Patron Dinner / Tony & Alba's / Patrons and spouses/partners free / \$30 guests
- **Jan 16** / Regional Lunch: Puglia / IAHF Hall / 12 PM / \$15 members / \$18 guests
- **Jan 30** / Cena Fuori / Aldo's / 7 PM / \$40 at the door
- **Feb 1** / Polenta Night w/ Tricarico Club / IAHF Hall / 6 PM social / 7 PM dinner / 8:15 PM dancing until 9:30 PM / \$24 members / \$27 guests

See page 13 for more information



IAHF OFFICERS

- Felix Dalldorf - *President / Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation*
- Frank De Turris - *Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer*
- Ken Borelli - *1st VP / IAHF Events (including Annual Italian Festa) / Cultural Activities / Grants*
- Marie Rose Dalldorf - *Corporate Secretary / Scholarship Chair*
- Azie Habib - *2nd VP / Building Administration and Maintenance / Hall Rentals*
- Diane Ayala - *3rd VP / Marketing / Advertising / PR / Website / Newsletter / Social Media*
- Dana Zuccarello - *4th VP / Human Resources / Volunteer Development / Library and Archives / Succession Planning / Bar*

IAHF DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Marie Bertola - *Board Member*
- Chuck Gullo - *Board Member*
- Azie Habib - *Board Member*
- Frank Locicero - *Board Member*
- Jan Prinzivalli - *Board Member*
- Carlo Severo - *Board Member*
- Richard Stewart - *Board Member*
- Nanci Arata Wilborn - *Board Member*

ADVISORY BOARD



- Aaron Nicholson / *Director of Marketing and Development, Opera San Jose, Opera Liaison*
- Cathy De Maria / *Community Leader, Program Organizer*
- Doctor John Scandizzo / *Retired Physician, IAHF Genealogy Program Leader*
- Emily Ray / *Music Director, Mission Chamber Orchestra, Classical Music Liaison*
- Father Anthony Mancuso / *Former President St. Francis High School, Professor Santa Clara University*
- Frank and Marilyn Dorsa / *Owners of La Rusticana D'Orsa, Community Leaders*
- Hon. Salvatore Caruso / *Consul of Italy, and President of Salvatore Caruso Design Corporation*
- Lance Shoemaker / *Co-President, Hensley Historic District Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Liaison*
- Nancy De Vincenzi Melander / *Former IAHF President, Daughter of IAHF Founder, Little Italy Liaison*
- Pierluigi Oliverio / *Former San Jose City Council Member, Community Leader*
- Professor Michele Santamaria Ph.D / *Italian Language Chairperson, San Jose State University*
- Rod Diridon / *Former County Supervisor and Public Transportation Leader*
- Vera Girolami / *National President of the Sons and Daughters of Italy*

• ✨ • SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS • ✨ •

One of the most impactful opportunities is to become a donor to help support the IAHF Mission that provides scholarships to help students of Italian descent graduating from high school. These scholarships will help students become ready for the next step towards a promising future with post-secondary education goals to become leaders to shape and help them achieve their dreams. In turn, these students will enrich our entire Italian community. Memorial scholarships are one way to honor loved ones. Another way to support scholarships is by donating to the IAHF general scholarship fund. We encourage individuals



and corporations in the community to help the IAHF with its scholarship mission to offer scholarships each year. The donor can designate the scholarship recipient's eligibility requirements. Your entire donation will go directly to the scholarship fund as we do not apply any administrative costs. Remember, every dollar donated will make an impact!

If you are interested in contributing to the Scholarship Fund or setting up your own fund, please contact the IAHF Office at 408-293-7122 or visit our website at www.iahfsj.org.

Thank you! -- Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf ✨

BENVENUTI New Family, Individual & Student Members from January 2019 to January 2020

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicholas & Shannon Adams Jose & Darlene Alvarez Bibiana Alves & Osvaldo Martinello Jr Janine & Brett Arietta Edna & Nicole Asquith Vivian Mazza Atchison Anthony Barajas Angela Barone Jim Bertellotti Edward Bertozzi Sylvia Bianchini Lee Kate Boardman Joseph Bogusky Pietro Bonanno Carmen Bregoli Patty & Michael Brunetti Kathy Buob Cheryl & Fred Burger Sherry, Grant & Ashley Campbell Ronald & Bernadette Carlini Dee Chase & Carl Rook Dianne Chiechi Robert Christensen Greg & Maia Coladonato Jeanie Colclough Wendy & Tim Collins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul & Nancy Consentino Alexis Cook Jane & Randy Creech Karen Curci & Robert Smith Stefania Dal Zio & Roland Lucas Heba DeBellis & Joseph Nusairat Jesse DeGennaro Maxine Sonia Dehazes Elena Dewar Dennis & Carol Ann Diodate Jef & Julie Farro Betty Faultner & Thayer Watkins James & Lorraine Fitch Emma Fontana Maryjane Genco Anthony Georgilas & Doris Roth Mariana & Vic Giacalone Christan Gilcrest Joe Guerra & Rose Lopez Simone & Maryann Guerriero Elsa & Frank Guyre Allyson Harris Tisha Hartman Carole & William Jameson Kikue Johnson Jackie Joyce & Joan Maurer Catherine Kilkenny | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kari Larsen & Synnova Bjerke Dona LeyVa Blanca Lopez Eugene Ludwico Christopher & Jennifer March Daniene & Bill Marciano Eileen Marquardt Judy & John McCool Christina McDade & Shance Ordell John McGinn & Brittney Port Juliana & George Midwin Susan & Steven Minor Diane & Steve Moffett Mary L. Moreno & Bianca Thompson Joseph Morgan Salvatore Nicosia Roger Okamoto Joelle & Michael Orlando Daniel & Antonia Ornelas Umberto Pala & Sharlene Nathews Angelena Sanfilippo & Donald Paxton III Laura Bianchi Payne Marilyn Payne | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve & Kathy Pedone Stephanie Petrossi Tiffany Petrossi Mario & Karen Piergallini Adria Pulizzano & Thomas Boyce Charlene & Bryan Raisch Ellen Riek Jeffrey & JoAnn Rizzo Francois & Beth Rodigari Mike & Dianne Rosano Dina Saba Deborah Sadler Lisa Santoro Mary Ann Stanfield Christine Sterpetti Renita Taccolini & Steve Albanese Gerald & Catherine Thornton Justine & Alessandro Turturici Kristina Underhill Fran Vader Neal & Therese Van Keuren Antonietta Bonfiglio Vetere Danielle Zent Jenna Zerbo |
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GRAZIE January 2020 Patron Members

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sal & Maeve Alini Joyce Allegro & Jerry Sheridan Maria Cancilla Bandy Theresa Biagi & Robert Krebs, Ed.D. Linda & Bob Binkley Jo Ann & Roger Bjornstad Lisa & Robert Blickenstaff Joseph Bogusky Ken Borelli Nina Boyd Dan & Patty Bozzuto Carl & Norma Brannon Sal & Denise Campagna Sandy & Chris Carvalho Dr. Tony & Clare Cedolini Ann & Richard Cerniglia Frank & Theresa Cetani Christina & Paul Coghlan Mike Console Vince & Colleen Cortese Alfio & Gerry Crema (Crema Properties) Rose Crimi Felix & Marie Dalldorf Gwen Benassi & Rich Daulton Joe & Cathy De Maria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Deturris, Sr Mel Di Salvo & Anna Sordello Dr. Thomas & Clara Di Stefano Ralph Di Tullio Maryann & Jim DiBona Al & Kathy DiFrancesco J. Philip & Jenifer Dinapoli Ruby Domino Dee Dee Farley Joseph A. Fasano Cornelius Fiocco Frank Fiscalini Ben & Christy Foster Peter & Marjorie Gaudio Judge Al & Vera Girolami Maria Gloria Joseph & Carmella Gullo Charles P. Gullo, Jr. Joe & Rosella Guttadauro Jim & Janice Jones Robert & Carol Jonlynn Karr Mark & Andrea Kenter Steven & Alma Landi Mark & Jeanne Lazzarini Frank J. Locicero III Cleo Logan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathy & Larry Lohman Pauline Lomonaco Peter & Norma LoPresto Larry & Diane Lovaglia Kenneth & Judy Low Joe & Kaye Lucito Tony & Lorraine Maciejowski Christopher & Jennifer March Bill McCraw & Janet Muscio Sharon McCray & Robert Martinez Jr. Nora & Larry Monette Col. Bobby Moorhatch Rebecca & Anthony Morici Tony Nespole & Billie Jean Sgarlato Maryanne Nola Tina Orsi-Hartigan & Jim Hartigan Marge Papp Bob Paradiso & Patricia Pangrac Dave Perzinski & Lucia Clementi Kevin & Rose Pezzaniti Patricia & Walter Phillips Tony & Martha Piazza Jackie Pighini John & Debora Poch Charlene & Bryan Raisch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael & Emily Ray Loretta M. Riddle Jeffrey & JoAnn Rizzo Joe & Judi Rizzuto Francois & Beth Rodigari Richard & Genevieve Rolla Paolo J. Romano Connie & Joe Rotolo James Sanfilippo, DDS John & Marjorie Scandizzo Constance LoBue Scarpelli Shirlee Di Napoli Schiro Carlo & Rosa Severo John & Rose Simmons Virginia M. Sincich Paul & Mary Stabile Bruce & Jodi Unger Al & Diana Valloriz Karen Vanderpan & John Dods David Venuti & Kelly Sheahan William Venuti Nanci & Clarence Wilborn Anthony J. Zerbo |
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GRAZIE 2019 Business Members

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Barajas / Italian Renaissance Swordsmanship Academy Pietro Bonanno / Italian Community Services Frank & Charlene Cancilla / FCC Realty Group Madeline Chiavetta / Coldwell Banker Gloria Citti / Citti's Florist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diane Ferrara / Hill View Packing Co., Inc. Charles Gagliasso / Charles Gagliasso Trucking, Inc. Guglielmo / Emilio Guglielmo Family Winery Stephen & Susan Guzzetti / Intero Real Estate Daniel & Antonia Ornelas / Perfect Events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Jose Opera Guild / San Jose Opera Guild Blanca Lopez / Blanca's Bridal Myrlin & George Taddie, Jr. / tadcosupply.com Al & Diana Valloriz / Tony & Alba's Kathy & Karl Winkelman / Gioia Company |
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🌿 It's Membership Renewal Time! 🌿

As your new Membership Chair, I want to thank all of you for your support, participation and contribution to this wonderful organization which celebrates rich Italian culture. As part of this celebration, your membership dues keep Italian culture alive. So if you have already paid your 2020 dues, thank you for renewing promptly. If you haven't renewed and would like to continue your membership, please either call the IAHF office at (408) 293-7122, visit our website at www.iahfsj.org/membership or send in your check today. This will ensure that you continue receiving the newsletter, receive discounts on our events and are part of this dynamic community. Grazie mille, Dave Perzinski 🐟



23 year old IAHF scholar and San Jose resident Rosino Legan, a Communications graduate of Santa Clara University, pictured on his graduation day with with long-time IAHF Member Kay Virgilio.

Photo courtesy of Kay Virgilio

Note from the Editor



The Cena Fuori article in the November issue of the IAHF Newsletter had the author's name, Cathy De Maria, spelled incorrectly. We apologize for the error.

-- The Editors 🐟

Board of Directors Update

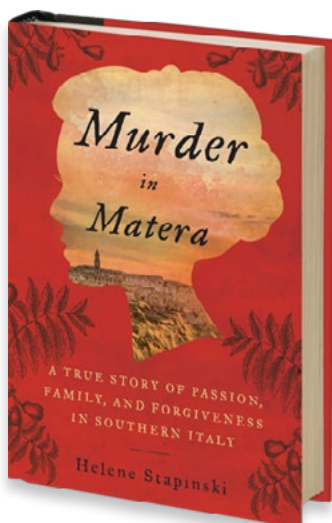
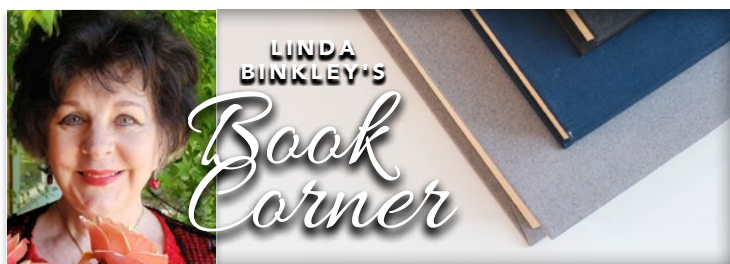


First, I would like to personally thank the outgoing members of the Board of Directors; Dave Perzinski, Tony Zerbo, Joanne Sanfilippo, and Richard Stewart. All these excellent volunteers have reached the end of their third two-year term and are required by our By-Laws to take a one-year break. The fact that each served the full-term limits possible under our By Laws speaks volumes to their commitment and dedication to our organization. Dave, Tony, and Richard have also served as Vice Presidents during their tenure, and Dave also served as President for three years. While we will miss their presence on the Board, we know that all plan to remain as active volunteers at the IAHF and we may see them back on the Board as early as 2021!

We sincerely thank them for their service and their powerful connection to the organization. Their valuable input and perspective as Board Members will help IAHF continue its work of spreading Italian culture. Thank you for sharing your time and expertise, commitment and enthusiasm.

We approved a new Board Member, Marie Bertola, who is returning after her one-year break, and we have received applications from three others for consideration by the Board. In December, the Board voted for the new officers for 2020; Felix Dalldorf will remain as President; Ken Borelli will remain as 1st VP (although this will be his last term); Dave Perzinski will be succeeded by Azie Habib as 2nd VP; Diane Ayala will remain as 3rd VP; and Tony Zerbo will be succeeded by Dana Zuccarello as 4th VP; with Frank Deturris remaining in the CFO/Treasurer role and Marie Dalldorf remaining as Secretary.

Please join me in commending these individuals who have served the organization so well. Congratulations also to our incoming Board Members! We look forward to working with these individuals to forge new opportunities. -- Felix Dalldorf, IAHF President 🌿



Murder in Matera

by Helen Stapinski 🍷

To tell you the truth, when our IAHF librarian, Madeline Damiano, handed me this book my first thought was that it was a silly title and probably was going to be a silly run-of-the-mill murder mystery. But since I have been to Matera, Basilicata, and was fascinated by it, I had to read it. First of all, importantly, I found that the writer is an accomplished journalist and frequent contributor to our country's finest magazines.

Also, the book is the real deal, it's non-fiction and autobiographical.

The surprising catch is that the murder occurred in the late 1800's and was purportedly committed by her great, great, great grandmother ironically named Vita which translates to Life... hmmm, a murderess named Life. And this is a true story!

Author Helene Stapinski did not have the door to her ancestry opened via Ancestry.com. In fact, she came from a Jersey City crime-ridden

family and the story of the ancestor/murderess Vita Vena was a story she knew by heart before she was ten years old. It worried her and she wondered if it were possible to have inherited a crime gene which she might have passed on to her children. This concern contributed to her obsession to know the truth about Nonna Vita Vena Gallitelli.

Over many years this passionate quest for the truth brings Helene to Bernaldo, a village near Matera, numerous times searching archives with the help of locals she met who, in turn, introduced her to helpful, educated people. I might add here that not all the locals were happy about her quest and they were not afraid to show it. What were they afraid of? That the truth might tarnish their own shady reputations perhaps?

Throughout Helene's journey, the reader becomes intimately acquainted with this ancient and largely forgotten corner of Italy's instep where the rugged mountains fall to the sea. A place where the mountains of tufa can be carved into high-ceilinged churches and comfortable residences. A place where worthy and hard-working citizens have been abused and neglected by a series of governments up to and including the 1950's.

Layers and layers of surprising revelations eventually fall into place for Helene. Her years of dedicated work and dogged persistence help her to reap the fruits of surprise, relief and satisfaction.

There are parts of the story in which Helene describes Vita's thoughts or actions. Since *Murder in Matera* is a work of nonfiction Stapinski admits, "In Vita's most intimate moments, I have used my own Vena/Gallitelli bones and blood to imagine how she would have acted and what she would have thought and said about the incredible events in her life." In any case, it all rings true.

Murder in Matera is an easy and lively read. The author adopts a no-nonsense very New Jersey style of writing (absent foul language). Helene is very strong yet sensitive. The revelations will surprise and entertain you. This book is available in the IAHF library. 🍷

LINDA BINKLEY'S A LITTLE *Italian* BY REQUEST

It's only January, but it's time to practice for the upcoming romantic holiday! In Italy St. Valentine's Day is celebrated only by couples who are in love. Cards and poems are not dedicated to classmates, parents or teachers... lovers only! Flowers, candy, or a romantic evening together are the norm. Silver or gold hearts are a typical gift because in Italian the word heart (cuore) rhymes with love (amore). Preparatevi! (prepareyourselves!)

- Buon San Valentino, Amore Mio = Happy Valentine's Day, My Love
- Con te ogni giorno è San Valentino ... Grazie Amore = Everyday with you is St. Valentine's Day ... Thank you Love
- San Valentino è solo un nuovo pretesto per dirti quanto sempre ti amo! = Valentine's Day is only a new excuse to tell you how much I always love you!
- Amo te oggi e sempre. Buon San Valentino = I love you today and for ever. Happy Valentine's Day
- Il giorno migliore per festeggiare il mio immenso amore per te! Buon San Valentino = The best day to celebrate my immense love for you! Happy Valentine's Day
- Grazie Amore per rendere speciali i giorni della mia vita. Buon San Valentino = Thank you my Love for making the days of my life special. Happy St. Valentine's Day!



32ND YEAR OF *The World of Italian Opera*

Celebrating a wonderful holiday musical event, and marking a transition were all part of this year's World of Italian Opera. IAHF Patron, Diva and founder of Opera San Jose, Irene Dalis in many ways symbolized the interconnectedness between our two organizations. And while space limitations do not permit me to describe the amazing singers who performed at the event along with the holiday program, I do want to highlight this historic transition for our readers.

We were fortunate to have at the event the new General Director of Opera San Jose, Khori Dastoor. I want to summarize her remarks and share with the readers her vision for Opera San Jose. Before I do however, I also want to acknowledge the leadership of Larry Hancock who provided the continuity of vision upon Irene's death. He ably stepped in with a great series of programs and took the helm of Opera San Jose and set its course for today's transition. Thank you Larry! The following is a brief summary of Khori's remarks to the audience:

"It's hard to imagine two things more inextricably linked than Italy and opera. Of course the same could be said for the IAHF and Opera San Jose. You have been with us since the beginning and we will never forget that.

Irene Dalis changed my life over 12 years ago. Because of her, I moved to San Jose. Because of her, I enjoyed a vibrant career in opera. Because of her, I stand here tonight.

There is a lot to be said about Irene's vision and fortitude. She understood that artistic endeavor requires institutions to be prepared to give chances to untested talents and assume risks on behalf of the new. So she founded a company with that aim as its core mission. Opera San Jose has always been an incubator for opera, and my current charge is to clarify and adapt this mission to the current era

so that we may expand our outreach to better serve this vibrant and diverse community for another four decades.

And it all starts with evenings like this one: people gathering together to enjoy good food, good wine and beautiful music.

This is your company. You built it. When Irene came to you with her vision of what bringing opera to this city could look like, you made it possible. You have been supporting Opera San Jose from day one... Perhaps that is because of our organizations have so much in common. Opera San Jose's values are IAHF's: we believe in community, in family, in a life well-lived, in the richness that tradition can bring to modern life.

I am honored to be with you all this evening to celebrate our shared family and the proud legacy of these two incredible institutions."

Khori also acknowledged the four chairs of the event that actually have been at it for all 32 years, they included Jeanne McCann, Kay Virgilio, Tony Zerbo and myself. Among the four chairs were also connections to the Boards of the IAHF, Opera San Jose, the Opera Guild and Friends of Opera. It was an exciting musical collaboration that can only happen at this level of coordination and cooperation. Khori also fittingly reminded the audience that the next performance by Opera San Jose will be Giuseppe Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, on February 15th.

And I want to conclude this article on behalf of the four chairs by acknowledging the many volunteers who put on this World of Italian Opera along with so many other special events at the IAHF. Without this collective vision and their volunteer help, this 32 year old tradition would not be possible. "Grazie tante"!

— Article by Ken Borelli, 1st VP Events 🍷





At 12:00 PM on Thursday, January 16th, we will start our 2020 Regional Lunch series with an amazing visit to Puglia. We are in the process of working on a special regional menu to be viewed online shortly in consultation with our guest lecturer, Valentina Cirasola. Valentina is a long time friend of the IAHF. She is also an author, designer, raconteur, historian and lecturer about her native region of Italy. This has been a several month project to schedule Valentina at the IAHF so we are looking forward to having her speak at the first regional lunch of the year as we sample some of the cuisine of Puglia.

The following is a brief biography of this multi talented lady:

Valentina Cirasola, Italian-born, is a lifetime trained designer in home interiors and fashion and author of five published books, available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Her latest book, *RED – A Voyage Into Colors*, affects human beings. Valentina was educated in both fields of interior and fashion in Italy and the USA. She established her interior design business in 1990, after she owned a fashion company in Italy.

Style surrounded her since the beginning of her life. Her many years of experience in the design field led her to offer consultations in both home interiors and fashion, she remodels homes as well as personal images.



Valentina is a TV producer of her show series called Valentina Design Universe.

As a Renaissance woman, she puts to work all her passions, expressing creativity in the homes she designs, in the fashion she produces, in the seminars she teaches, and in the blogs and books she writes. Valentina's goal as a designer is to transform peoples' lives by transforming their spaces, or their personal images.

Design - <http://www.valentinadesigns.com>

Blog-Books - <https://valentinaexpressions.com>

Amazon Author Page - <https://www.amazon.com/Valentina-Cirasola/e/B0031A02H2>

As a reminder, if you would like to volunteer for the regional lunches, please contact me at kjosephb@aol.com, likewise if you would like to

focus on a region and share a lunch with the group, also contact me. We have a fun and eager crew ready to help you with a favorite region of Italy. One area I personally would love to explore with some local experts is the Island of Sardinia. Our regional source material for our lunches come basically from the membership and that seems to be an area where we don't have many members, so if there is any hidden talent out there, now is the time to plan for 2020!

-- Best Wishes for a wonderful New Year, Ken Borelli /
Photo submitted by Valentina 🌸

For lovers of Florence art there is good news in the art world. The three massive sets of doors from the Florence Baptistery, which had been separated for nearly 30 years for restoration work, are now back together at the Museo dell'Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore. The terrible flood in the 60's in addition to hundreds of years of being handled made the job a challenge. The restoration of all the doors was accomplished by Opificio delle Pietre Dure and cost 1.5 million euros financed by the Opera Santa Maria del Fiore.

The huge bronze masterpieces measure about 16 feet tall and 10 feet wide. They were made between 1330 and 1336 by Pisano, a student of Giotto. Andrea Pisano created the bronze rendering of the life of St.



John the Baptist (for the baptistry). Dante was baptized there! Following Giotto's death, Pisano was charged with continuing the works on the Campanile, where, with the help of his collaborators, he completed eight of the large statues and 48 of the 52 reliefs. The originals of those are also on display at the Museo dell'Opera.

Visitors can now admire all the doors next to each other in the museum's Sala del Paradiso, the same place that holds the north and east sets of doors made by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Michelangelo named Ghiberti's work the Gates of Paradise due to their exquisite beauty. Truly a wondrous sight!

-- Article by Linda Binkley 🌸

Festa di Natale



The IAHF celebrated the Christmas season with the Festa di Natale luncheon on December 19 with our members and their guests. It was a very festive event, with lots of mixing and mingling, laughter and good cheer all around. We had a great turnout with folks festively dressed for the season. The event also had several vendors selling a variety of gifts for those last-minute shoppers, and of course, See's Candy for sale.

The meal began with antipasti that included salami, cheese, beets, and olives. This was followed by a green salad, pasta with Bolognese sauce, Italian sausage and peas and, of course, bread—a staple at every Italian meal. The meal culminated with a refreshing fruit cup and a wonderful cannoli.

A big thank you to Ken and Joe, our amazing chefs, and their many helpers for putting on such a well-orchestrated meal. We would be

remiss if we did not sincerely thank those who generously donated baskets of wonderful goodies for the opportunity prizes. We had 20 baskets, which may be a record! A special thank you also to all those attending who brought a gift for a needy child. We collected well over 50 gifts that beautifully adorned the Christmas tree that Stanley purchased and decorated. The gifts collected would be given to one of the previously identified organizations, however after contacting them we found that we missed their cutoff dates for accepting gifts. So, we contacted local Fire Station No. 9 in San Jose. They were so happy to get these toys as they said they had fallen well short of their goal this year and were grateful to get so many wonderful toys. Again, many thanks to our generous members and their guests. Buon Natale a tutti.

-- Article by Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf 🌸

Lucias's Cooking Class News 2020

Buon Anno a tutti! Happy New Year everyone, from the IAHF Cooking Class staff, and we hope your Holidays were delicious. Also, we hope that our students have had the opportunity to prepare some of the dishes that we have taught throughout the year. Our next series of classes will begin on Thursday, April 2, 2020. We will provide a list of upcoming classes in our next newsletter. Meanwhile, if there are Italian dishes that you would like us to teach, please drop me at line at lac9471@yahoo.com. Grazie e buon appetito! -- Article by Lucia Clementi 🌿



Tombola!

WHAT FUN!!

Stefania Pistrutto and her group of fellow Sicilians, Lea Scalici, Lore-dana Gueli, Luisa Petrini as well as daughter, Chiara Guastella led us in a rollicking game of Tombola. Did you know that "The Popes Glasses" is number eight?

Tombola is similar to Bingo with numbers called and cards marked. The games began in Naples in 1735. Our leaders called the numbers in Italian so many of us learned new numbers. Prizes are awarded for each tier: Ambo - two in a row, Terno - three in a row, Quaterna - four in a row, and Cinquina - five in a row. In between calls and wins, we were asked questions on all things Italian. The reward for a correct answer was a Baci candy. Yum.... The grand winner of Tombola, a completely filled cartella, was Ron Taylor. Congratulations Ron!

There was an added bonus after the game. Chiara beautifully sang the lovely Italian hymn, "Astro del ciel," our "Silent Night." We want to thank Chiara and these gracious ladies for a wonderful afternoon. Please see their introduction below.

Introduction

First of all, allow us to introduce ourselves, (ognuna dice il proprio nome). We are four friends that destiny, chance, or luck, call it what you want, brought together. Two of us knew each other before we moved to the United States, but the meeting as quartet took place four years ago. Each of us with a different background, among us

you can find a Chemist, a lawyer, a speech therapist and a journalist. We had just our Sicilian identities in common, our engineer husbands (the reason for our transfer) and love for our country and our origins. This is where our idea comes from. After living here for all these years, we realized that there is a lot of interest about Italy, some because they want to go there on vacation, others because they descended from original Italian families. However, we realized that many of these people do not really know the traditions and culture of our country. For example, how many of you had heard about Tombola before today? Very few! Yet this game was born in Naples in 1734. But like Tombola, many of you will never have heard of other traditions and cultures typical of Italy. And this is exactly what these 4 friends have decided to do. Tell you about Italy. Not the one you see in the newspapers and TV, but the beautiful one, made up of hospitality, of popular traditions, of art and culture.

And this evening we start with one of the most widespread Italian traditions, because there is no Italian house where Tombola is not played during Christmastime. Because Tombola, of course, is not only the game with the extraction of numbers, but it is the excuse to meet, to be together and why not, also to eat Aunt Annetta's last cookies or the first panettone of the season.

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-- Article by Jan Prinzivalli 🌿

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Your story adds vitality and a sense of family and community to the newsletter. Please send your entries to Editor at iahfsj@iahfsj.org

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A Treasure Trove of Books

Last month, I wrote about our new photo collection of the Vinassa family. On behalf of the IAHF and its library, I extend my sincere thanks to Robert Doll, who brought those photos to us.

We have received yet another fabulous donation. Maria Gloria, a regular columnist for *L' Italo Americano Newspaper*, has recently thinned out her substantial book collection. She chose our Twila Venuti Library as the happy recipient of 15 bags and boxes of quality books regarding Italian culture and history.

Maria has an impressive resume, having participated in the international collaboration to name Matera as a European capital of Culture for 2019, as well as on our local Save the Romaggi Adobe Committee. She recently assisted Louise Canepa with a sponsorship of the video "Old Monterey." One book that caught my eye documents the history of Cannery Row.

This impressive body of books has been collected over many years, and it was quite a job sorting through them. We used the entire conference table in the Board Room as a workspace.

Almost every book we handled was peppered with slips of paper, which marked passages she has cited in her articles. We pulled out hundreds of these slips while processing the books. It was an awesome feeling; each one represented a contribution to a well-thought out article. I was inspired by the magnitude of her contributions.

So, what's in the collection? While categorizing the books, we ran across nearly every subject, including sociology, traditions,



Notes From The Library

by Madeline Damiano, Librarian

religion, arts and music, science, and fashion. One book examines the curse of the Mal Occhio. You'll find Nancy Sinatra's Family Album illustrating the life of her famous father. Did you know the Jacuzzi family engineered airplanes as well as the water spas? Want to peruse the designs of Versace?

One of the largest sections included dozens of cookbooks. Famous Italian-American chefs are represented alongside regional cookbooks, including new additions in Sicilian cooking.

But what really caught my eye was the collection of most, if not all, of the fundraising cookbooks that local Italian-

American organizations have put out over the years. Maria faithfully collected these labors of love, a further testament to her unflagging willingness to support Italian American culture.

Scanning the books, I noticed a simple recipe for a ham and beans soup. I had to try it; it was easy and produced a fabulous soup that reminded me of my mother's cooking.

The bulk of the collection is in the area of history, particularly local history. These books explore Bernal Heights, the building of the Bay bridges, Oakland, San Jose, and Monterey, as well as Italian American culture in general.

As I write this, these books are being processed, and will soon to be available for checkout. You can browse our library online at iahf-sj.librarika.com.


You can contact me at librarian@iahfsj.org with comments, questions, or feedback. 

WITH APPRECIATION

Khori Dastoor, the new general director of Opera San Jose, made an observation at the annual World of Italian Opera that carries through to so many of our IAHF events. She noted that, "And it starts with evenings like this one: people gathering together to enjoy good food, good wine, and beautiful music." I reflected on those comments and wanted to underscore the interconnectedness of those observations with the shared vision of our attendees and volunteers. The quality of life in Santa Clara County is vitally dependent on the support and goodwill of its volunteers. As a community, and as a society in general, we are indebted to our volunteers for so many enriching activities.

As best I can, I want to try to list all the volunteers that help with both the World of Italian Opera and Festa di Natale lunch. I will put an asterisk by the names of those who have helped at both events: For the Opera: Stanley Olivar*, Kay Virgilio*, Dorothy LoPresti*, Madeline Damiano*, Gilda DeSimone-Groccia*, Maria Bandy*, Azie Habib*, Rick and Linda Smith, Diana Lasp, Rosario Elden, Zachary Ensil, Alexander Gomez, Yvonne Allyson Harris, Joseph Annuzzi (accordionist), Nancy Morreale, Carlo Severo, Dave Perzinski, Jeanne McCann, Tony Zerbo, Richard Stewart, Felix and Marie Dalldorf, and Bonnie Williams,

And for the Festa di Natale, Joe Lucito, Nanci Wilborn, Judy Rizzuto, Lucia Clementi, Jan Prinzivalli, JoAnn Bjornstad, Karen Corlett, Angela DiBerardino, Sharon McCray, Robert Martinez, Sandi Strouse, Kathy Lohman, Dave Perzinski, Andrea Kenter, Zina Russo, Chris Gilchrist, Frances Mazzanti, and Dennis Wyatt.

On behalf of the IAHF and its events and functions, a heartfelt thanks for your support! And of course, we always welcome new recruits to the volunteer pool. Just give a call to the IAHF and let us know of your area of interest or project you want to work on. My regrets for any unintentional omissions on either list. -- Ken Borelli VP / Events 



LEGACY CIRCLE



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

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

If you would like to consider becoming a Legacy Circle donor, please contact legacy@iahfsj.org for more information.

♦ SHORTY JOE QUARTUCCIO ♦

As we go to press, a short announcement that our local Country Music Swing Star passed away December 22. Funeral plans are pending and will be in the San Jose Mercury News after Christmas. He and his wife Jenny were long time members of the IAHE, and his band performed at the Foundation numerous times. He was elected to the the Country Western/Swing Hall of Fame and was a personal friend to many at the IAHE. He left all of us an artistic legacy that we can treasure via his recordings, and a biography, edited by Steve Hathaway. For more information about his autobiography go online at: www.rootsandrhythm.com. [From poor Depression-era Sicilian (Monreale) immigrant to C&W bandleader and NASA technician]. Our condolences to the Quartuccio Family. -- Ken Borelli 🐾



EATALY

opening
Italian food
market in
Silicon
Valley!!



Hot off the Press and quite the buzz: The Italian-bred food emporium that comprises a café, sandwich counter, bakery, beer garden and restaurants that feature butcher and seafood counters and an assortment of fresh pasta, cheeses, truffles and olive oil, is opening in Silicon Valley!

Eataly will debut its 51,000-square foot store at Westfield Valley Fair Mall in San José, California, as part of the mall's \$1.1 billion transformation in 2021. The three-story Eataly Silicon Valley will also sell wine from Northern California producers.

"We see a great opportunity for high-quality Italian food in

one of the wealthiest regions in the world," Nicola Farinetti, chief executive officer of Eataly, who owns Eataly USA in partnership with chef Lidia Bastianich and her son, restaurateur and winemaker Joe Bastianich.

It goes without saying many of our IAHF members will be visiting the epicurean center!

Shared by Judy Verona Joseph, our roving reporter, now from Southern California but still connected on line to IAHF happenings. Grazie Judy!

-- Article edited by Ken Borelli / Photos Mercury News 🍷

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SCHEDULE

OF

Events

If you would like to volunteer to work on any of these events, please contact
Ken Borelli, VP, Events / Chair, Cultural Committee at kjosephb@aol.com

Please note regarding Regional Lunches: Most lunches are on the 3rd Thursday of the month, and start at 12 noon. In March, St. Joseph's Table (3/19) preempts the Regional Lunch. In June, the Festa della Repubblica substitutes for the Regional Lunch. In August, due to the Italian Family Festa, there will be no Regional Lunch. In December, Festa Di Natale takes place in lieu of a Regional Lunch. \$15 Members / \$18 Guests

JANUARY

Jan 13 / IAHF Patron Dinner / Tony & Alba's / 3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose / 6 PM / Patrons and spouses / partners free / \$30 guests / RSVP at iahfsj@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

Jan 16 / Regional Lunch / IAHF Hall / 12 PM / \$15 members / \$18 guests / RSVP at iahfsj@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

Jan 30 / Cena Fuori / Aldo's / 7 PM / 14109 S. Winchester Blvd, Los Gatos / \$40 at the door / RSVP at iahfsj@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

FEBRUARY

Feb 1 / Polenta Night with the Tricarico Club / IAHF Hall / 6 PM social / 7 PM dinner / 8:15 PM dancing until 9:30 PM / \$24 members / \$27 guests / RSVP at iahfsj@iahfsj.org or call 408-293-7122

TAP to RSVP & to PRE-PAY at <http://www.iahfsj.org/events>

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Schedule of Events is subject to change; please check iahfsj.org/events for updates

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INTERO

A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rosetta is a full-time, professional real estate agent assisting in buying and selling homes in all of Santa Clara County. Throughout the years, Rosetta has earned many achievements and awards such as International Presidents Elite, Top Listing Agent, Top Buyers agent, one of Silicon Valley's Top 100 agents and Top Producers with over 19 years of sales, marketing, trust, probate and negotiation experience. Rosetta takes pride in providing 100% quality service to all her clients and has earned an impressive reputation in the real estate community. She is known for her exceptional work ethic, effective communication skills, attention to detail and fierce negotiating experience. With her clients' best interests at heart, Rosetta understands the meaning of commitment and dedication.

EDUCATION

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

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

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

Providing the Quality of Service You Deserve!