

IAHF NEWS

February 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,

Buon Anno a tutti! We are off to a great start this year. Already, we have had our first Regional Lunch. This luncheon was directed and cooked by Tino Burzio and featured food from the Piemonte Region. The Piemonte Region is up in the North-West corner of Italy that borders France and Switzerland. It was a delicious meal with thinly-sliced veal topped with a tuna pate. For dessert Tino served cookies called *ossi di morti* or bones of the dead and they were delicious.

In addition to the wonderful meal, Tino presented a talk on how to make his dishes and of the particular languages of that region. There was also a presentation and slide show about the history, economics, geography, and places-of-interest in Piemonte that included slides of the beautiful coats-of-arms of cities in this region.

If you haven't been to one of our Regional Lunches, you're missing a treat and great dining experience. We always have presentations and great meals that you won't find anywhere else in the area. Our lunches are every 3rd Thursday of the month and always feature a different Region of Italy with cuisine from that area.

Besides our lunches, we have many wonderful events scheduled for this Spring. Our Polenta Dinner just recently took place. Our Polenta Dinner is unique in that we collaborate with another Italian group called the Tricarico Club. The Tricarico Club cooks the polenta and sausage and we supply the venue. This event has been a long-standing tradition that benefits both organizations. In addition to the great meal guided by chef Tony Amato, this year we were entertained by Mark Hottel and were led in an exciting line-dancing instruction by Lucia Clementi. Michael Lo Vaglia presented a video about the making of his family's tomato sauce that was enjoyed by all.

Upcoming events planned are a Valentine's/Scholarship Benefit, St Joseph's Day celebration and a Crab Feed. Our Valentine's/Scholarship Benefit will feature Matt Helm as Dean Martin and the profits will fund our Scholarship Program. Last year we were able to award \$25,000 in scholarship money to deserving students. Our St. Joseph's Day celebration in February will honor St. Joseph through gifts of pastries and donations that we give to other charities, such as the Salvation Army and Our Daily Bread. As you can see, we are committed to serving the Santa Clara County community and to those less fortunate.

I am very proud of our organization and of all the volunteers and members who help make this a first-class organization. We have more members now than we have had in the last 3 years and we are growing every day. We now have over 600 members. Furthermore, this is the time of year that we encourage everyone to renew their membership. If you haven't yet renewed, please do so either by calling us at 408 293-7122 or going online at www.iahfsj.org.

Speaking of paying online, we use PayPal as our credit card company. We use PayPal because it is one of the most secure companies out there. You don't have to have a PayPal account to pay for our events; you can use any credit card. Simply click on the button that says, "Pay with credit card." For your privacy, your credit card number is hidden and cannot be seen even by us.

Grazie Mille,

David Perzinski / President, Italian American Heritage Foundation 

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Member SPOTLIGHT

Benvenuti New Members as of January 2017

☞ Matt Archibald & Teresa Lewandowski	☞ Felix & Marie Dalldorf	☞ Judge Al & Vera Girolami	☞ Annie Migliazzo	☞ Vito & Jill Scarnecchia
☞ Dylan & Adelina Boldt	☞ Zerelda del Fiugo	☞ Stacy & Shayne Hale	☞ Josephine Minola	☞ Stephen Schrage & Sarah Miller
☞ John & Vicki Brigantino	☞ Joe & Mary-Margaret Dellicarpini	☞ Mara Harrington	☞ Robert & Leigh	☞ Rebecca & Manuel Souza
☞ Loret & Christine Carbone	☞ Rosetta DeLuca	☞ Denise & John Hildenberger	☞ Stanley R. Olivar	☞ Richard & Marie Strezo
☞ Lori Carelli-Terry	☞ Kathryn DeMerit	☞ Carmen M. Johnson	☞ Elizabeth Binkley Park	☞ Shirley & Tony Tarantino
☞ Ann & Philip Castrogiovanni	☞ Denise Dettore	☞ Jerri Kazmierczak	☞ Mary Perzinski	☞ Mete Tasin
☞ Ed Citti	☞ Thomas & Clara Di Stefano	☞ Robert La Rocca	☞ Christopher & Corinne Phipps	☞ Charles & Patti Territo
☞ Sue L. & Virgil D. Clark	☞ Dana & Peter Dinno	☞ Frank & Roberta LaDucca	☞ Dr. Richard & Laura Porzio	☞ Catherine & Yolanda Villarreal
☞ Ettore M. Coluzzi	☞ Diana Donovan & Carol Repa	☞ Jo Ann & Tony Lauer	☞ Maureen M Psomas	☞ Lisa & Joseph Viso
☞ Karen J. Corlett & Chuck Loney	☞ Donovan Erba & Sally Paolini	☞ Anthony Lazzarini	☞ Elvis Raby & Janis Richards	☞ Derek & Jessica Von Borck
☞ Corey Crawford & Doris Matthews-Bottero	☞ Joanne Escobar	☞ Joan & Tom Lewis	☞ Frank & Linda Ricchio	☞ Sandra Williams
☞ James D'Albora & Valerie Love	☞ Marianne I. Ezell	☞ Art & Pam Maggio	☞ Lisa & Doug Robb	☞ Salome Woodward
	☞ Joseph A. Fasano	☞ Ann Marie Mallat	☞ Lauren Romanazzi	
	☞ Joe & Tanya Friscia	☞ Ashley Mapp	☞ Carol Sabatino	
	☞ Karen Marie Gidlund-Gibson	☞ Marie Marino	☞ Phil Scalia	
		☞ Mary Menniti		
		☞ Eric Merriman		
		☞ Jennifer Merriss		

Grazie 2017 Patron Members

☞ G. Vittoria Abbate	☞ Frank De Turris	☞ Steve & Pam Lyons	☞ Shirlee Di Napoli Schiro
☞ Neno J. Aiello	☞ Al & Kathy Di Francesco	☞ Bill McCraw & Janet Muscio	☞ Barbara Serrano & Duane Serrano
☞ Sal & Maeve Alini	☞ Melvin & Anna Di Salvo	☞ Gary & Contessa Messina	☞ Carlo & Rosa Severo
☞ Joyce Allegro & Jerry Sheridan	☞ Ralph Di Tullio	☞ Dan & Eva Miranda	☞ Virginia Sincich
☞ The Villages Italian Club - Susan Baciagalupi	☞ Phil & Jennifer DiNapoli	☞ Susan & Christopher Monahan	☞ Mary Ann Sorci Crannell
☞ Linda & Bob Binkley	☞ Ruby Domino	☞ Bobby & Ruth Moorhatch	☞ Nicholas A. Speno & Diane M. Speno
☞ Drs. Peter & Cheri Binkley	☞ Randolph Ferretti-Hoyle	☞ Rebecca & Tony Morici	☞ Paul & Mary Stabile
☞ JoAnn & Roger Bjornstad	☞ Ben & Christy Foster	☞ Ann & James Myers	☞ Mete Tasin
☞ Ken Borelli	☞ Ebe Frasse	☞ Maryanne Nola	☞ Corinne Tomeo
☞ Carl & Norma Brannon	☞ Pete & Marge Gaudio	☞ Elizabeth Novelo & Chris D'Angelo	☞ Bruce & Jodi Unger
☞ Elaine Bruni	☞ Verdell Giorso	☞ Marge Papp	☞ John & Marge Valente
☞ Sal & Denise Campagna	☞ Judge Al & Vera Girolami	☞ Vera & Jack Pedretti	☞ Diana & Al Vallorz
☞ Bob & Shirley Cancellieri	☞ Louise & Sam Gloizzo	☞ Dave Perzinski & Lucia Clementi	☞ Karen Vanderpan & John Dods
☞ Sandra & Christopher Carvalho	☞ Maria Gloria	☞ Kevin & Aurelia Pezzaniti	☞ William Venuti
☞ Dr. Tony & Clare Cedolini	☞ Joe & Rosella Guttadauro	☞ The Piazza Family	☞ David Venuti
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☞ David & Pattie Cortese	☞ Jim & Janice Jones	☞ Judi & Joe Rizzuto	☞ Tony Zerbo
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☞ Rose Crimi	☞ Mark & Jeanne Lazzarini	☞ Joanne & Gene Sanfilippo	☞ Guglielmo Family Winery
☞ Felix & Marie Dalldorf	☞ Constance LoBue-Scarpelli	☞ James Sanfilippo, DDS	
☞ Gwen & Rich Daulton	☞ Cleo Logan	☞ Joanne E. Sanfilippo	
☞ Joe & Cathy De Maria	☞ Kathy & Larry Lohman	☞ Christina Sanfilippo-Coghlan	
	☞ Larry & Diane Lovaglia	☞ John & Marj Scandizzo	
	☞ Kenneth Low		
	☞ Joe & Kaye Lucito		

Grazie 2017 Business Members

☞ <u>Anastasi Law Group</u>	☞ <u>Gioia Company</u>	☞ <u>Intero Real Estate</u>	☞ <u>Tadco Supply, Inc.</u>
☞ <u>DiNapoli Specialty Food</u>	☞ <u>Hill View Packing Company, Inc</u>	☞ <u>Scarnecchia Real Estate</u>	☞ <u>Giovanni Giannotta</u>

It's **Membership Renewal** Time!

As your 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 2017 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 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.

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*
- Joanne Sanfilippo - 2nd Vice President / *Building Administration and Maintenance / Hall Rentals*
- Richard Stewart - 3rd Vice President / *Marketing and Publicity / Newsletters / Library and Archives / Scholarship Program / Website / Social Media / Advertising*
- Frank De Turris - *Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer*
- Joyce Allegro - *Corporate Secretary*

IAHF DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Linda Gaudio Binkley - *Board Member / Scholarship Chair*
- Joyce Allegro - *Board Member*
- Diane Ayala - *Board Member*
- Marie Bertola - *Board Member*
- Steve Cornaglia - *Board Member*
- Pamela Oliver Lyons - *Board Member*
- Carlo Severo - *Board Member*
- Corinne Tomeo - *Board Member*
- Nanci Arata Wilborn - *Board Member*
- Tony Zerbo - *Board Member / Publicity Chair*



REMINDERS *By Ken Borelli*

Three items on the Italian American Cultural Radar:

- 1) If you wish to see the **West Coast Premier of Opera San Jose's production of Silent Night**, you can get discounted tickets by ordering on line. For the discount code put "IAHF". The opera will run from February 11-26 at the California Theater.
- 2) If you would like to attend the **special performance of the Mission Chamber Orchestra** on February 12th, 2017 contact Ken Borelli, likewise, if you would like to help out on a reception for the composer Jeremy Cavaterra. The reception will immediately follow the performance at San Jose's Petit Trianon Concert Hall.
- 3) **A call for IAHF artists!** Last year at the Italian Family Festa at History Park we were able to have a gallery. It was suggested that some of our members are artists and would appreciate the opportunity to show their pieces. In order to plan for capacity, if you are interested in showing some of your art, contact Ken Borelli at the IAHF for details.



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 _____

Join us for an IAHF Scholarship Benefit

An Evening with "Dean Martin"

February 17, 2017

Singles, Family, Friends and Members!
You won't want to miss this incredible performance
starring Matt Helm as "Dean Martin"

We're planning an evening of dinner and entertainment and it's all to benefit the IAHF Scholarship Program. Join the fun and help us provide educational support to our children.



Matt Helm
Dean Martin impersonator

Doors open, no-host bar 6:00 p.m.
Italiano Buffet 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.
Entertainment 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

\$55 members / \$60 non-members
Italian American Heritage Foundation
425 N. Fourth St
San Jose, CA 95112

Florentine Trattoria Italiano Buffet

Lasagna Bolognese
Eggplant Parmigiana (vegetarian)
Meatballs Alfredo
Salad, bread and dessert

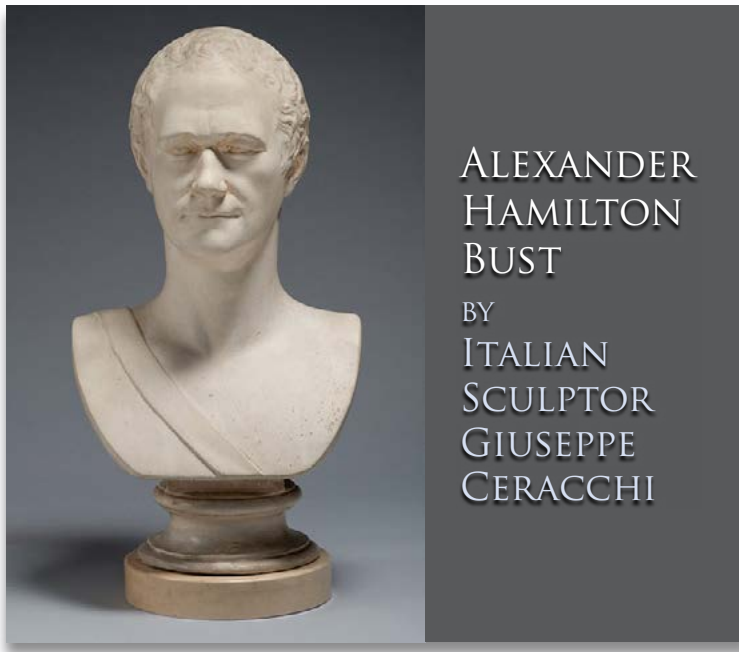
RSVP or DONATE TODAY

Online: iahfsj.org/events

Email: events@iahfsj.org

Phone: (408) 293-7122





Alexander Hamilton is a marble bust portrait of Alexander Hamilton, done in the style of a Roman Senator, by the Italian sculptor Giuseppe Ceracchi. Ceracchi also created many replicas, in both marble and plaster. The bust was later used as a model for sculptures and paintings.

HISTORY

Ceracchi created a terracotta model of Hamilton, from life, about 1791–92. This was then sent to Rome, where he created the marble version. As written to Hamilton in July 1792, Ceracchi was "impatient to receive the clay that I had the satisfaction of forming from your witty and significant physiognomy". He returned to deliver the bust to Hamilton in 1794, but did not receive payment until later. On March 3, 1796, Hamilton wrote in his cash book: "for this sum through delicacy paid upon cheracchi's (sic) draft for making my bust on his own importunity & as a favour to him \$620"

The Hamilton family kept the bust until 1896 when it was bequeathed to the New York Public Library along with the

portrait painting of George Washington, The Constable-Hamilton Portrait, by Gilbert Stuart. Both were sold together, as requested by the will, on November 30, 2005 to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art for over \$8 million.

DESCRIPTION

Ceracchi portrayed Hamilton in the style of a Roman Senator, with wavy hair and bare-chested, wearing a ribbon of the Order of the Cincinnati over his right shoulder.

INSCRIPTION

The original work is inscribed on the back in Latin:

DE FACIE PHILADELPHIAE
EX ECTIPO FLORENCIAE
FACIEBAT JOS. CERACCHI
CIDDCCCLXXXIV

LEGACY

The painter John Trumbull used the bust as model for a series of 1804–08 portraits of Hamilton.

The first U.S. Postal Service stamp to honor Hamilton was a 1870 30-cent stamp using this bust as a model.

In 1880, the bust owned by Hamilton's son, John C. Hamilton, was used as a model for the head of the granite statue by Carl Conrads.

At the Hamilton Grange National Memorial, the National Park Service has installed a touch-screen display that features an avatar modeled after Ceracchi's bust.

While Ceracchi, born on July 4, 1751, created busts for several founding fathers, his life did not end well. After returning to Europe, he first celebrated Napoleon with a bust, but then turned against him. After an unsuccessful plot, Napoleon had him guillotined at the Place de Grève on January 30, 1801.

To learn more about Ceracchi, click here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giuseppe_Ceracchi

To learn more about Alexander Hamilton, click here: http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Alexander_Hamilton

-- Article Submitted by Richard Stewart



ITALIAN POWER

Visit the IAHF website to get all the latest news on classes, events, regional lunches and more!

The IAHF website is a resource not for just IAHF members but the whole world community.

Visit www.iahfsj.org today - **information is power!**



Learn to sing

Italian Children's Songs

TAP
HERE



TAP
HERE



TAP
HERE

[Click here for more Italian children's songs on YouTube](#)



Traditional Games Italian Children Play By Mark Keller

Variations of many traditional children's games are played around the world. Many popular Italian children's games are often played outdoors, and require several participants but little to no equipment. Italian games also often include chants or rhymes that are incorporated into the play.

Lupo delle ore

This game requires a minimum of 3 players, although groups of 7 players are ideal. One player is the "lupo" ("wolf"), and stands with his back to the others, who form a line at a designated distance from him. They players call out "Lupo che ore sono?" ("Wolf, what time is it?"), and the wolf answers with a number. The players can then take that many steps toward him, and ask again. If, instead of a number, the wolf responds with "Ho fame!" ("I'm hungry!"), he can turn around and try to tag as many of the children as he can before they make it safely back to the starting line.

Regina, Regina Bella

This game requires a minimum of 4 players minimum, although groups of 10 are ideal. One player is chosen to be the "regina" ("queen"), who stands facing the others across the playground. The other children chant:

"Regina Regina bella, quanti passi devo fare per arrivare al tuo castello con la fede, con l'anello, con la punta del coltello?"

("Beautiful, beautiful Queen, how many steps do I have to take to get to your castle with the faith, with the ring, with the tip of the knife?")

The queen then calls out both a number and the name of an animal.



The children must take that many steps toward her, walking in imitation of the animal named. The first child to reach the queen wins.

Fazzoletto peo peo

This game requires a minimum of 5 players, although groups of 14 are ideal. The players all sit in a circle except for one who walks around the outside of the circle carrying a handkerchief.

The others chant:

"Fazzoletto Peo Peo se ti trovo ti dareo se ti trovo in un canton ti darei uno scupazon"

("Peo Peo Handkerchief If you find you give if you're in a corner I will give you a scupazon")

The outside child drops the handkerchief behind the back of one of the sitting children. This child then gets up, and he and the handkerchief-bearer race around the circle in opposite directions in attempt to be the first to sit down in the empty spot.

Strega comanda color

This game requires a minimum of 3 players, although groups of 11 are ideal. One player is chosen as the "strega" ("witch"), who calls out a color. The others must touch an object of that color, whether it be an article of clothing or something in the surrounding environment, before the witch can catch them. The first child tagged becomes the next witch. If the current witch is unsuccessful, she must call out another color.

Source: <http://ourpastimes.com/traditional-games-italian-children-play-5790117.html>

Dr. Maria Montessori

and Her Italian Legend



Maria Montessori was born on August 31, 1870 in the small town of Chiaravalle (part of the province of Ancona, region of Marche) in the house located in Piazza Mazzini No. 10 (in the picture below). She was the only child of Alessandro Montessori and Renilde Stoppani. Her father, a tradition-bound army officer, was determined and very disciplined; he discouraged his daughter's interest in a professional career because in his eyes the primary role of a woman was to raise her family. Her mother, Renilde Stoppani, well educated for the times, was the niece of the late Abbot Antonio Stoppani, geologist, patriot and author of the book called "Il Bel Paese".

Ahead of her time and against the wishes of her father but with the encouragement and support of her mother, Maria began to attend a boys' technical school in Rome. After seven years an interest in biology led to her decision to study medicine. This choice required some courage and tenacity as it was in defiance of the customs of a society which excluded women from such

endeavors. Maria Montessori was the first woman to graduate on July 10, 1896 from the University of Rome's La Sapienza Medical School becoming the first female doctor in Italy.

In her work at the University of Rome, Dr. Montessori developed an interest in the treatment of special needs children and, for several years, she worked, wrote, and spoke on their behalf. In 1907, the Italian government put Dr. Montessori in charge of a state-supported school in the San Lorenzo district of Rome which had 60 children aged 3 to 6 from impoverished families. The news of the unprecedented success of her work in this Casa dei Bambini or "House of Children" soon spread around the world. She was invited to set up a classroom at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San

Francisco, where spectators watched twenty-one children, all new to this "Montessori Method", behind a glass wall for four months. The only two gold medals awarded for education went to this class, and the education of young children was altered forever.

In Rome, Dr. Montessori developed the "Montessori Program" for the elementary school children aged 6 to 12. She adapted the traditional teacher-taught subjects in the arts and science so that the children could use materials to guide their open-ended research and to follow their individual

interests, working to a much higher level than was previously thought possible for children of that age. Her program has spread and today it is estimated that there are about 4,500 Montessori schools in the United States and about 20,000 worldwide.

Among her famous quotes:

"Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves."

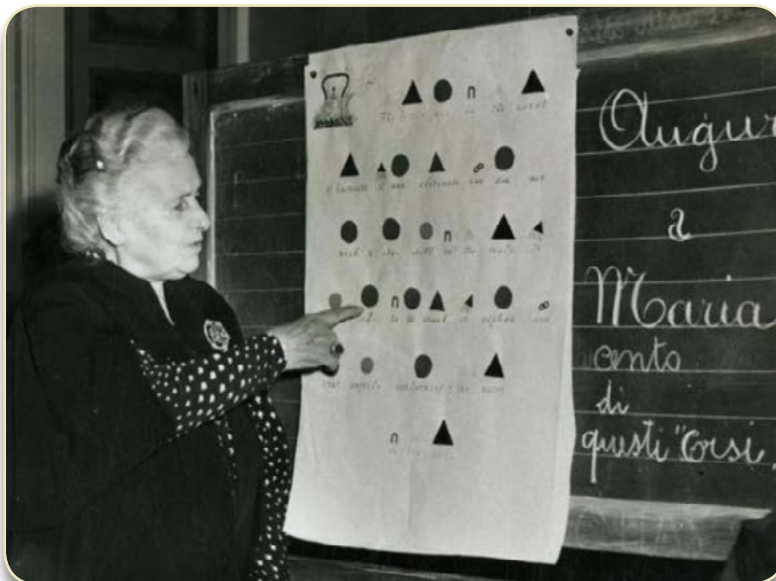
"The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'"

Dr. Montessori lived in many European countries before returning to Italy at the end of World War II. She died on May 6, 1952 in Noordwijk, Holland. In the 1990s before the launch of the Euro, the Italian government replaced Marco Polo in the Mille Lire (1,000 Liras) note with a picture of Dr. Maria Montessori.

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Source: <https://myitalianfamily.com/stories/dr-maria-montessori-and-her-italian-legacy>

-- Article submitted by Tony Tasca 🍷



A VISIT TO *Il Patronato*



First of all, what is *Il Patronato*? For many Italian-born, who are receiving a pension from Italy and living abroad this is a major resource. Its official name is *Patronato Unione Italiana Del Lavoro* and is part of the *Istituto di Tutela ed Assistenza (ITAL)* or translated, The Institute for the Protection and Assistance of Italian Workers.

Secondly, we are very fortunate to have an office of *Il Patronato* in the area. For your information, the office of ITAL is located at 870 Market St., Ste. #814, San Francisco, CA 94102; tel# (415) 399-9722; email: italsf@att.net. The district manager is Savina Foglia. The office is within walking distance of the Powell St. downtown BART station. While I drove, it is much easier to take BART if you can do so. The following experience illustrates how this all connects for those with Italian pensions.

About two months ago an individual contacted the IAHF about some assistance trying to fill out his Italian Pension forms. Based on my experience with income assistance forms I said I would meet with him and review the documents. Basically, in the field, they are called "income reports", and have to be filled out periodically to verify income status for pension plans. This, of course, takes on added complexities when you are living abroad, in much the same way a US citizen would need help with social security forms and issues while retired in a foreign country.

For this gentleman it was a stressful process to fill out the forms; for me it was an education into the world of Italian pension processes. You must fill out these documents carefully, so I needed to get more information about the procedures. As a point of information, the Consulates do not normally work with pension documents, so the district office is a critical resource. I was indebted to both IAHF Board member Carlo Severo, who was familiar with *Il Patronato*, and the Italian Community Services Agency, a non-profit service agency in San Francisco, for their background information. All roads led to Savina Foglia, the district manager of ITAL.

I made an appointment for the client in San Francisco, and we met with Savina. She is an energetic and dynamic lady who

has been working with these programs for many years. She is bilingual, and has an online database connected to ITAL in Italy. This was critical in a records check and being able to process the forms electronically to *Il Patronato*. The clients data was reviewed, copies of his supporting documents verified and all sent to Italy directly via email. Since we pre-filled out the forms and only had to bring supportive documents, the process itself took about a half an hour. A good thing too, because Savina had several other clients all with similar materials.

For our readers, some important points:

- 1) Make a draft form, fill out the forms, and check it over. Do not ignore the deadlines. Failure to do so may impact a pension.
- 2) Keep your filings current, and Savina noted that she can help back-file through 2014. The filing document is known as the RED/EST.
- 3) The documents that need to be verified are a yearly Social Security statement 1099 and proof of where you reside - a drivers license will suffice.
- 4) By working with the Regional Office your form can be sent electronically, and once your records are on file with the local office they can be renewed electronically yearly.
- 5) Keep all your records together so they are easily accessible.
- 6) And remember, too, your Italian Pension funds are considered income in terms of other forms of income maintenance, so it may impact benefits for your other pensions.

If there is an interest or a need for these services in the South Bay, Savina is willing to visit the IAHF, but we would have to have about 10 or more clients. Let me know, also I would be willing to help screen the documents if you're interested as an IAHF membership service. Share this article with your friends who may be Italian Nationals living abroad as it can be a very helpful resource.

-- Article written by Ken Borelli





NAPLES: LIFE, DEATH & MIRACLES

AIR RAIDS ON NAPLES IN WWII

Naples was heavily bombed in WW2. The city was struck for the first time on November 1, 1940, by RAF and Fleet Air Arm Bristol-Blenheim twin-engine light bombers flying out of Malta. It was part of a coordinated British attack against Naples and Brindisi. In Naples, the primary targets were the port facilities at the extreme eastern end of the Port of Naples as well as the rail, industrial and petroleum facilities in the eastern part of the city and the steel mill to the west, in Bagnoli.



The image at right is a cover from the Toronto Star Weekly magazine, published between 1910 and 1973. This cover is from April 25, 1942, titled «RAF bombs Naples.» The magazine featured many such illustrations on the war effort. The illustrator for this one (and some others) was Montague Black (1884-1964), a well-known British commercial artist of the day. Like many idealized depictions of warfare, it's entirely too beautiful and rosy. And Vesuvius did not erupt in that year. But I guess it's an historical document.

The attacks were part of a broader British campaign against the Italian armed forces in the southern Mediterranean. Although the British focus in the summer and autumn of 1940 was primarily on the home front—the great air war (The “Battle of Britain”) against the Luftwaffe—Britain had an important second war going in the south. Italy had declared war on June 10 against Britain and France; then, Italy invaded Egypt on September 13 from the Italian colony in Libya, and then invaded Greece on October 28. A British failure to meet Italian moves in the Mediterranean might have led to Axis control of the eastern Mediterranean, including loss of the Suez Canal and the British air and naval facilities on Malta and in Egypt.



The initial air strikes against Naples were strategic and effective in disrupting the Italian war machinery in the south. [The strikes against southern Italy included the bold—and unprecedented—attack on November 11, 1940, against the large Italian naval facility in Taranto. British Fleet Air Arm planes from the aircraft carrier *Illustrious*, 170 miles out in the Ionian sea, successfully attacked the port,

devastating the Italian fleet. That attack was the first major victory for naval air power in the history of warfare and has been called “the blueprint for Pearl Harbor”.] The air-raids were coordinated to assist the British desert war against Italian forces in North Africa, an offensive that would begin in December, 1940. British air raids on Naples were night-time raids that lasted until November of the following year. These raids were crucial to the British effort to interrupt Axis movements of men and material to the war in North Africa. A report filed to the New York Times on October 27, 1941, said, in part: ...The bombing of Naples port means that the British are now hammering at both ends as well as the middle of the Axis supply line to Africa. Eighty percent of the Axis supplies reinforcing the troops reaching the Libyan front is sent via Naples...It is through Naples also that German troops, who are now the only really effective fighting force the British need to consider in this wing of the



Middle East, are funneled to transports en route to Libya...The two-ton bombs which the R.A.F. is now dropping on Naples are terrible missiles, the most terrible of any the powers have yet developed...



The attacks trailed off in 1942, when the British attacked Naples only six times in the entire year. The air strikes were intended to be against precise targets and, revisionist historians to the contrary, can in no way be described as random "terror" raids against a civilian population, much less "carpet bombing" of the entire city.

Heavy raids started with the American bombings on 4 December 1942. They involved great numbers of four-engine B-24 "Liberator" long-range bombers from the US 9th Air Force flying from bases in North Africa (and, later, from Sicily). The initial attack killed 900 people. The raids were in the daylight and were massive. The raids lasted until the armistice with Italy in September, 1943.



Initially, Naples was not particularly well-prepared for air-raids. The initial anti-aircraft defense was from ship-mounted guns at the port. Air-raid shelters existed only because there was already in place a vast network of underground train stations, quarries and caverns (photo, left), including sections of the old Roman aqueduct.

[A friend, Larry Ray, of Gulfport, Mississippi, has written and translated so much material about the vast and strange world beneath the city of Naples that the city fathers surely owe him an aqueduct or two. I borrow these lines from his excellent website:

The honeycomb of caverns and passageways below were converted into air raid shelters under Mussolini's UMPA or civil defense program. Whole families spent weeks below ground, often emerging into daylight to find their homes and entire neighborhoods turned to rubble. . . so they returned to the cavernous shelters to survive. Evidence of DC battery power, showers and crude health and kitchen facilities can still be seen in many of the shelters.



A wartime press is censored and, obviously, tries to put the best spin on how the war is going. In the pages of *il Mattino*, the large Neapolitan daily, the features on the inside pages in early 1943 aim at putting the enemy in a bad light, but are not that bad to read: for example, the great apostle of peace, Mahatma Ghandi, is near death from fasting in protest of the British occupation of his nation; or even amusing—American women have petitioned the US government to forbid their G.I. boyfriends from marrying English women, and the editor of the *Chicago Tribune* has suggested the annexation of the British empire by the United States. The pages are full of praise for the great German partners: Hermann Goering celebrates his 50th birthday; the Führer addresses his people; and there is a straw-grasping report that the new German bomber, the Heinkel 177, has the capability to fly the Atlantic, bomb New York and return. [Actually, that airplane was a poorly designed dog, so prone to fire that German air crews, who despised it, called it a *Feuerzeug* (lighter) instead of *Flugzeug* (airplane).]



News from the war, is serious stuff, however, and is on the front-page: German advances in Russia, the Italian and German gains in North Africa, the bombing of London. The US bombings of Naples are usually reported beneath the headline, "Battle in the skies above Naples" with the focus always on the large number of enemy bombers shot down and on the "negligible" losses to the city. (That's a sad way to put it; one laconic report says, simply, "...four bombers downed, no relevant losses in the city... some collapsed buildings, 23 dead, 65 injured.") Yet, the inside pages carry some lists of civilian casualties, pictures of bombed out churches and columns of praise for the valiant people of the city in the face of the "brutal ferocity" of enemy "vandals" intent on destroying churches and killing civilians.



The largest raid was on August 4, 1943 when 400 planes of the US Mediterranean Bomber Command dropped bombs for one and one-half hours, an attack that destroyed the famous church of Santa Chiara. Again, some people who write about this claim that they were random raids on no specific targets, meant simply to terrorize the population and destroy the city. I don't believe a word of that. Here's something else I don't believe a word of. From *Breve Storia della città di Napoli* (Short History of the City of Naples) by Giuseppe Campolieti, (Mondadori Editore, 2004): "They say that in those days, bombing Naples and other Italian cities had become a kind of very exciting sport for American pilots, to the point where the pilots' gracious wives would accompany their husbands on flights and thus taste the thrill of the atrocious entertainment." (My translation.) That's right, the 9th Air Force flew in wives from Omaha and Hoboken so they could get in on the fun. Even as a "They say-" anecdote, anyone who lends credence to a fairy-tale like that is giving gullibility a bad name.

After the Allied invasion of North Africa in November, 1942, it became evident that Italy, itself, would have to be invaded. Naples was an important node of Axis naval and land communication and there was a large and very potent German military presence in southern Italy. It was crucial for the Allies to disrupt—destroy, if possible—Axis supply lines in and around marshalling points such as Rome, Naples, Foggia, Bari, Manfredonia—those places that kept German and Italian war machinery moving up and down the boot of Italy. Naples

was, quite simply, a target. Can you aim for a rail line, factory or electrical sub-station from 20,000 feet and hit a hospital or church instead? Of course you can. The San Loreto hospital, for example, was obliterated—but that hospital was 100 yards from the port. Estimates of civilian air-raid casualties in Naples run to about 20,000 killed (although that estimate may be too high. See note, below.) I have read one estimate that says 10,000 homes were destroyed.

Herman Chanowitz, veteran of the Italian campaign and long-time resident of Naples [and the source of some WW2 oral history pages in this encyclopedia] reminds me that even after Naples fell to US and British Forces at the beginning of October, 1943, shortly after the invasion of Salerno, the bombing didn't stop; it continued for weeks as the retreating Germans tried to destroy what they had missed in their "scorched earth" retreat from the city. German demolition teams had removed or destroyed all communications, transportation, water, and power grids; they mined buildings, blew bridges and tore up railroad tracks. Ships in the harbor were sunk, adding to those already destroyed. Amazingly, the Allies had the port of Naples open to traffic again within a week of its capture.

The greatest symbol of the rebirth of Naples after WW2 was surely the rebuilding of the church of Santa Chiara.

*note/update:
August 2011:

The original entry read "Naples was the most heavily bombed Italian city in WWII." By one reckoning, that is a true statement,

but it conceals an important—and often overlooked—detail about the war in Italy: on September 8, 1943, the nation of Italy, Germany's Axis partner in WWII, surrendered to the Allies. At that point, WWII between Italy and the Allies ended. Hostilities in Italy did not end, however. German forces continued their agonizing and very costly retreat up the boot of Italy from Naples through Monte Cassino, Anzio, Rome and to the north before finally leaving Italy in early May of 1945. During that period of 20 months, residual Fascist forces in Italy set up the so-called Italian Social Republic (essentially a German client state) in northern Italy and waged what amounted to a civil war against that part of Italy now reconstituted as part of the Allies. That civil war was bitter and costly.



Thus, "Naples was the most heavily bombed Italian city in WWII" is true if we use Sept. 8, 1943 as the cut-off date. *Storia Illustrata* (October 1964, no. 10, year VIII, Arnoldo Mondadori editor) in an article entitled "Allied Bombings of Italy" reports that between the first bombardments in November, 1940 until September 9, '43, Naples was bombed 76 times, more than any other Italian city. (Sources vary greatly on citing the number of air raids; presumably this is because some sources count separate waves in a single day of bombing as separate raids while others list them as a single raid.) When the whole nation of Italy was at war with the Allies (that is, until Sept. '43), cities farther north, such as Rome, Milan and Torino were struck 2, 13 and 24 times, respectively. During that period, the same source says that almost 21,000 Italians (18,000 civilians and 3,000 military) died in air-raids in all of Italy (which makes the above-cited estimate of 20,000 for Naples too high). But—and here is the oft-forgotten fact—after the armistice of Sept. '43, air-raids continued in central and northern Italy against the Fascist Italian Social Republic and produced 43,000 deaths (!), only 2,000 of which were military personnel.

"Heavily bombed" is also vague. It may refer to the number of air raids, but it may also refer to the bomb load—how much ordnance was actually dropped. By that measure, the heaviest single air-raid in Italy from June 1940 until the end of WWII (May 1945) was the British bombing of Milan, a night raid on August 13, 1943, in which 400 British aircraft dropped 1900 tons of bombs. By comparison, the heaviest raid on Naples, as noted in the text, was in August 1943, when two separate waves of US planes dropped 590 tons of bombs.

Precise statistics do not seem to be available on the additional German bombings of Naples that occurred after they pulled out of the city and headed north towards Monte Cassino in late September, 1943. At least one source (see the link, below, -- 'other entries on WW2' - then --->WW2 Oral History 1) says that it was significant.

More on "additional German bombing" (this, from the final paragraph, above).

Readers should note that although the city of Naples was in Allied hands by the beginning of October 1943, the emphasis for a number of weeks was on securing the city. The main push north to pursue the retreating German forces towards Monte Cassino and Rome had not yet really started. This gave the Germans the opportunity to conduct air-strikes (from still German-held airfields farther north) against the city of Naples.



(They had already left a considerable number of booby-traps in the city, which continued to go off well after they had left Naples). I still have not found precise numbers, but at least for a while, German air-raids on Allied-held Naples continued to be "significant" and certainly more than just harassment. This is evident in the following comments kindly shared with me

by Mr. Elwin Green of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who writes:

I have recently come into possession of a diary kept by my father [T/5* Illinois Green], who served in the U.S. Army in WWII... It includes this entry for October 11, 1943:

[*Technician 5th class, corresponded to corporal]

"Arrived in Naples about 5:00 PM."

His style is laconic; the diary contains no wealth of detail. But after discovering and briefly perusing your web page on WWII air raids on Naples (for which I am thankful), I thought you might find this of interest, from October 21, 1943:

"Dispatched and fixed a flat tire on truck 4182779, hauled for 550 ration dump. German planes raid Napales (sic) and dropped (sic) many bombs, raid lasted about one hour."

Then, on October 23: "Drove a new trk No. 547. An air raid."

On November 1, he lists items that he washed in his laundry, and a change of address to "O.M. Co. 58th O.B. Bn (Mobile), then ends the entry with: "An air raid."

(On a purely personal note, November 3, 1943 has "Birthday in Naples." He was 29.)

November 5: "An air raid that night, but no damage in our area."

November 6: "Went on night dispatch drove 437, shrapenal (sic) from a bomb hit my helmet."

November 9: "Went on dispatch. Went to 553 ration dump. Drove blackout...Enemy air raid about 3:50 a.m. but not much damage was done. First time going in an air raid shelter for security."

Things seem to quiet down for a couple of weeks, until November 26: "Air raid no harm done in area."

© Jeff Matthews entry Jan 2006

Source: <http://www.naplesldm.com/Naples%20bombing.php>

-- Article submitted by Richard Stewart

➤ SICILIAN BRACIOLE ⇐

Stuffed Meat Rolls, Sicilian Style

You will need 2 thin slices of meat for each person you invite over for dinner. A cold beer (with or without alcohol) will complement the meat rolls well. -- Recipe submitted by Tony Tasca 🍷

*Ingredients**Serving for 2*

4 slices	Thin beef rump slices, about 4 oz. each
4 slices	Prosciutto, thinly sliced (or mortadella)
2 medium	Spring onion sliced in half and then chopped
3 oz	Pignoli, toasted
3 oz	Currants, soaked in warm water for 30 minutes
½ cup	Grated pecorino
1 tbsp	Butter
1 tbsp	Olive oil
8 leaves	Fresh sage
To taste	Salt & freshly ground pepper
12 sturdy	Toothpicks

Preparation

1. Spread 1 slice prosciutto over each slice of beef
2. Add a couple sage leaves over prosciutto
3. Sprinkle some pecorino over
4. Sprinkle a few pignoli over
5. Sprinkle a few currants over
6. Roll up from the narrow end of the slice and secure with 3 toothpicks
7. Using a heavy skillet melt butter and oil over medium to hot heat
8. Add meat rolls and brown, turning to brown on all sides
9. Drop in a pot with freshly made marinara sauce
10. Simmer gently for 60 minutes, uncovered
11. Remove the toothpicks.
12. Serve hot with polenta or pasta

**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](#)

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Opera San José



By ordering tickets to Opera San Jose online only, IAHF members can get a 10% discount on tickets. When ordering on line, the noted discount code is **IAHF.**

Silent Night Symposia

In conjunction with the West Coast premiere of Kevin Puts' and Mark Campbell's *Silent Night*, Opera San José will present an afternoon symposia consisting of four different sessions at the California Theatre in San José.

Friday, February 10, 2017, 2:00pm to 5:30pm. Tickets are \$20

Panel 1: Contemporary Opera in America

Members of the local media discuss issues surrounding contemporary opera.

Panel 2: Designing *Silent Night*

Members of Opera San José's creative team discuss the challenges and inspiration behind the sets, costumes and lighting designs for *Silent Night*.

Panel 3: WWI: Contemporary Perspectives

Q&A with William Perry, former United States Secretary of Defense, about Mr. Perry's book, *My Journey at the Nuclear Brink*.

Panel 4: Meet the Creators of *Silent Night*

Composer Kevin Puts, librettist Mark Campbell and conductor Joseph Marcheso discuss the creative process that gave birth to *Silent Night*.

SYMPOSIA COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Friday, February 10, 2017, 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Tickets are \$50

Meet and mingle with the panelists and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and wine.

PURCHASE TICKETS

Click or call (408) 437-4450

*Calendar of Events is subject to change**

January 2017

Jan 19: Regional Lunch / Piemonte with Agostino Burzio

Jan 28: Annual IAHF-Tricarico Club Polenta Dinner

Jan 26: Cena Fuori / Zanotto's Market / 1421 Foxworthy, San Jose / Call IAHF to make a reservation for Cena Fuori, and pay at door

February 2017

Feb 12: Mission Chamber Orchestra / Premier of a commissioned piece by Italian American Composer Jeremy Cavaterra / IAHF plans in progress

Feb 16: Regional Lunch / Molise / In an old land, Italy's youngest province! / Consultant John Romano

Feb 17: IAHF Scholarship Benefit / An Evening with "Dean Martin" / Join us for this fun and important event!

Feb 23: Cena Fuori / Aldo's

Feb Date TBA: West Coast Premier of "Silent Night" at Opera San Jose / Group event being planned

March 2017

Mar 19: St Joseph Day Event (Note: no Regional Lunch in March 2017).

Mar 30: Cena Fuori / TBA

April 2017

Apr 7: Crab Feed! Sing along and dance to the Ron Borelli Trio!!

** 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
eventsrsvp@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
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Full page 8"W x 10"H

3 issues	\$300
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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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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.

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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 

Italian Balconies: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Details of style are essential for a terrace or balcony, even more so for a garden. There are endless ideas that would give special flavor to the spaces between rooftops or balconies tucked in, in front of a window. It's a great place to unwind when the day is settling into night, and simply to watch the world from a larger scale, seeing people come and go through your window. Viewing the world from a balcony, you can see the grandiose scheme of things, and the relaxing nature of the Italians, along with their laid-back lifestyle.

In the beginning, the basic reason for Italian balconies was to have space where people could hang their clothes out to dry. Balconies weren't born for the simple fact of esthetic style, they were a real necessity. Where else would they have hung the clothes to dry? Some of the wealthiest families did have decorative balconies for lounging in, or to enhance a villa's exterior decor, but they always had additional service balconies where the servants used to hang the clothes.

In fact, from Roman times throughout the medieval, balconies were considered a necessity - right up to the point when elevators were invented. Women threw baskets attached to a cord over the balcony's railing in order to send down money and receive merchandise in exchange. Today, Italians still use this method; for instance, in Napoli and in other places in southern Italy, including Sicily. This is why balconies became a part of the Italian lifestyle, and balconies range from the basic to the extravagant with plenty of room for your preferences and choices to make the balcony a place of relaxation.

Balconies can have stunning views of the ocean, countryside, and as always a view of the setting and rising sun. What people fail to see is the beauty of the sun, mainly because they are indoors. If we took the time to just sit and watch from our balconies, you could see this sight that passes people by everyday.

Speaking of the sun, don't forget that the balcony is also a place of refuge to sunbathe! It's a way of tanning while in private, without using a tanning booth.



And you may have a friend across the street from balcony to balcony that you may not have had otherwise!

The most wonderful use for the balcony though is the idea of the romance that can take place. In times that seem lost now, there were people who would serenade women from the street, with the lover on the balcony in sight. How can we forget the classic words spoken from Romeo & Juliet, the scene where Romeo comes to see Juliet on her balcony, professing words of love to each other? We can only hope that somewhere the beauty and art of serenading has not been forgotten...

Source: <http://www.lifeinitaly.com/decor/italian-balconies.asp>

-- Article submitted by Richard Stewart 🐼



Italian Balconies



Italian Balconies

