



IAHF NEWS



A CHRONICLE OF ITALIAN AMERICAN LIFE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY FOR OVER 45 YEARS

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION • ESTABLISHED 1975 • FOUNDED AS NONPROFIT 1976

425 N. 4TH STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95112 • (408) 293-7122 • TAP HERE FOR WWW.IAHFSJ.ORG

MARY PIZZO / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Happy New Year*

Happy New Year, dear members of the IAHF! It's been a while since I've sat down to write for our newsletter, seeing as we had a combined December and January issue. I trust everyone enjoyed the holidays and the new year. I had the honor of being voted in by the Board

of Directors to serve as President again and I am very excited for us as this year, 2025, is our 50th anniversary!

The IAHF celebrates 50 years!

To some, 50 years may seem like a lifetime; to others, it may not seem long at all. Back in 1975, a group of 15 men got together and founded our Italian American Heritage Foundation.. We are thankful to this group that got us started and to those who have continued to build, lead and carry us through today. As you know, 50th anniversaries are celebrated with gold. So, this year is our Golden Anniversary, a very momentous milestone! I am sure there are many couples at the IAHF who have celebrated their golden anniversaries which is wonderful.

Our Golden Jubilee

Last week, while at church, we heard a sermon about a jubilee. My church shares the same year, 1975, when they started. The same as the IAHF in celebrating its anniversary. The sermon was in Leviticus and it referred to the fiftieth year as being a jubilee. So, we have gold that represents our fifty years and it's also a jubilee: A Golden Jubilee! Which leads me to announce later this year, we will be holding a Golden Jubilee Gala Fundraiser! It will be held at the beautiful and historic Messina Orchard in San Jose. Marilyn Messina has graciously opened her home to us to hold our Gala Fundraiser. Ken and I will be chairing this event and

if you're interested in being a part of the planning committee, please contact us and you'll be invited to our first planning meeting

Out with the Old

As you know, we've received a sizeable donation that will allow us to get a new roof. Now, we're raising the money that will allow us to get the new HVAC that we need so it can be installed at the same time as we are getting our new roof, which is more cost efficient. The need to get this work done is now more urgent than ever. With the recent rains, have come more leaks, unfortunately. Those leaks have now made their way into the library and the archive rooms which could be very detrimental to our documents and all the hard work that Madeline Damiano and her team, have invested hundreds of hours into preserving. The monies needed for the HVAC work is approximately \$100,000 Getting all the necessary work done to the roof is now crucial and needs to happen sooner, rather than later. We need to raise an additional \$100,000 to get started on the roof and HVAC. Would you consider how you can help? We are so fortunate that we own our building. We need to ensure that we take the best care of it so that the younger generations coming along can enjoy it like we've enjoyed it over these fifty years.



\$50 for 50

You'll soon receive a letter from me in the mail asking each person to consider giving a gift of \$50. Which is \$1 for each year of our existence. Our goal with this letter campaign is to raise at least \$50,000. You can give several ways: mail in a check, go [online](#), drop off a check to the office, or give at any of our upcoming events. Please make sure to reference "**50 for 50**" or "**HVAC fund**" when you give so it goes to towards our HVAC project. See page 7 for more information.

Thank you all for your friendship and kind words. I am looking forward to a great year and focusing on our Golden Jubilee!

~~~Dana Zuccarello Aguirre, President



Editor Note: Look for the 50th year anniversary icon indicating articles which support the IAHF's mission.



# Schedule of Events

## February

- Feb. 02, Sunday / Mission Chamber Orchestra performing at the IAHF / Celebration of Italian Musical Heritage - Juan Palacios, Conductor / "Sounds of the Motherland" / Doors open at 2:00, concert from 3:00-6:00 PM / \$26.67 Adults, \$21.50 Seniors, \$16.38 Students, \$11.25 Children under 12 / Purchased tickets [online](#).
- Feb. 20, Thursday / Regional Lunch - A Visit to Sardinia / 12:00 / \$25.00 Members / \$30.00 Non-members & Guests / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.
- Feb. 23, Sunday / Valentines After Glow Dinner Dance with DJ Eric / Doors open at 3:30pm, 4:30-6:00pm Dinner, 6:00-8:30pm dancing / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122.

## March

- Mar. 03, Thursday / Cooking Class - Italian Rum Cake / 7-9pm / \$35 per person / Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling the IAHF at (408) 293-7122
- Mar. 19, Wednesday / Festa Di San Giuseppe (St. Joseph Day Celebration) / watch for details
- Mar. 28, Friday / Crab Feed / watch for details

## SAVE THE DATE

- Apr. 17 / Regional Luncheon
- May 04, Sunday / Scholarship Awards Luncheon
- May 18, Sunday / Bocce Tournament / Campo di Bocce
- Jun. 01, Sunday / Festa Della Repubblica Dinner with the Aurora Mandolin Concert
- Jun. 02, Monday / Festa Della Repubblica Flag Raising Ceremony
- Jun. 22, Sunday / Polenta dinner with Tricarico club / The Hall
- July 26-27, Saturday and Sunday / 43rd Italian Family Festa @ History Park San Jose
- Sep... 14, Sunday / IAHF 50th Year Celebration Gala / Messina Ranch and Orchard San Jose

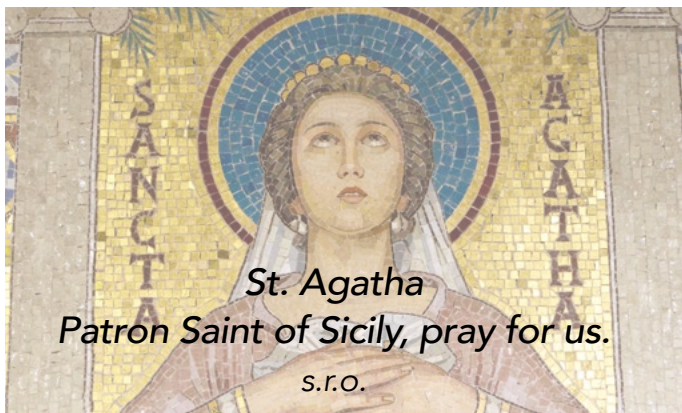
## ONGOING LANGUAGE CLASSES

Italian Language Classes / Conversational and Intermediate - Online classes/ Weekly Monday and Wednesday / 6pm-7pm / Join with [Meet up](https://www.meetup.com/san-jose-italian-language-meetup-group) at <https://www.meetup.com/san-jose-italian-language-meetup-group>

Classes are taught by Marie Dalldorf, a native Italian. Classes are informal and free of charge, and we welcome people at all levels. We focus on conversational text and phrases to help you achieve more fluency, increase your vocabulary, and increase your confidence in speaking Italian.

## COOKING CLASSES

Cooking Classes begin on the 1st Thursday of March, April and May, then break for Festa della Repubblica and 4th of July. Classes resume August, Sept., Oct., and end with the ever popular Holiday Biscotti Class in Nov.



|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | <b>Bob Basso</b>                                                                                               |
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| I will donate \$1000 to the IAHF for any referrals and a \$1000 referral fee to the member who makes the referral. |                                                                                                                |

# Spotlight on Cathy DeMaria

We are truly blessed to have the lovely Cathy De Maria among our treasured volunteers. Cathy's high energy, willingness to serve, kind demeanor, and unique set of skills have been a remarkable benefit to the IAHF.

We particularly appreciate Cathy's ability to organize and then implement important club events. The St. Joseph's Day Mass and Table is one example of how Cathy and her team can bring the priest, the Mass, the club and the community together in celebration of this deeply loved Sicilian tradition which is open to all the community. It's a labor of love for all involved.

Another major contribution is Cathy's coordination and planning of the opening ceremony for the annual IAHF Festa. This work is another multi-faceted, challenging achievement. The morning includes secular contributions from local politicians and community members, all of which need to be selected and scheduled. A further Festa contribution is the planning and preparation for the Festa Sunday Mass. This includes the awesome task of selecting a celebrant, music ministers, lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. An additional thoughtful gesture is that Cathy prepares a worship aid so participants can follow along.

Something we newsletter writers appreciate is the contribution that Cathy makes by spending many hours proof-reading and then sharing her observations with the authors. This leads to properly punctuated and grammatically correct articles. Thank you, Cathy!

Cathy served on the IAHF Board of Directors for four years, 2002-2008, and also on the Scholarship Committee with Mel Di Salvo. Beyond her volunteering for the IAHF, Cathy is an active member of many well-respected charitable organizations. In fact, Cathy has served as president of all of them! Among them are Santa Clara University's Catala Club which raises scholarship funds for undergraduate students at the University; Valle Monte League, which raises funds for mental health; Ladies of Charity whose sole mission is to raise funds for the middle school students at Sacred Heart Nativity School. Cathy's leadership in these worthy organizations is appreciated and represents hundreds of hours of volunteer work for the benefit of our valley community.

Cathy and her husband Joe can always be seen together at IAHF events. They also belong to the Italian Catholic Federation at St. Martin of Tours, Branch 391. Cathy served as President of this ICF branch for three consecutive years. Cathy also serves as lectors and Eucharistic Minister at their parish, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and at Mission Santa Clara at Santa Clara University, her alma mater.

The IAHF and indeed Santa Clara Valley are blessed to have Cathy De Maria who has given immeasurable volunteer hours yet always appears elegant and cheerful. Cathy, we do thank you and we do appreciate and admire you!

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley, Photo by Stanley Olivar



2025 Bocce Tournament - May 18 - Campo di Bocce, Los Gatos

Save May 18 for the IAHF Bocce Tournament.

Bocce is a ball sport belonging to the boules family, and developed into its present form in Italy, IAHF will offer a training session for those of you new to this sport. Make it a family event. Come for the fun and stay for the food.

Watch for more information in the March Newsletter

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

Italian Short Stories for Beginners and **Italian Short Stories for Intermediate Learners**

These books are a fun way to strengthen your reading skills. Each book has eight short “unconventional” stories to keep your interest. I am far from fluent in Italian, but I was able to read the book for beginners.

Death and the Olive Grove

A murder mystery by Italian writer Marco Vichi, translated into English. While not a mystery aficionado, I read the book in January and thoroughly enjoyed it. Detective Bordello is a complex character living in Florence, full of vices yet likable. He desperately hunts for the killer of little girls, hampered by flashbacks of his fighting days in WWII, and inadvertently crossing paths with Nazis who are on the run from their Nuremberg sentences. The book is not complementary to Germans.

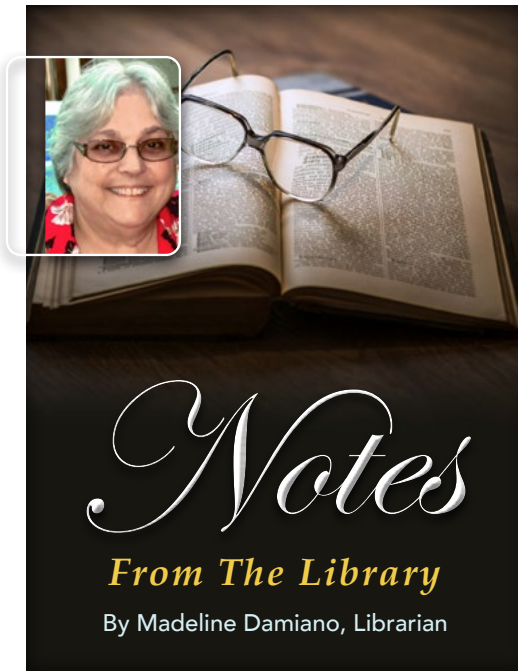
There is a nice sense of being in the city, with a fun nod to the food. You might even borrow a map from the library to follow along as he crisscrosses Florence, naming the streets as he goes. A short “Notes” section provides insights into life in Florence.

One of those notes reintroduced me to the song “Tu vuoi fa l’americano.” (“You want to be an American.”) You can see a lively 1956 video of Renato Carosone and his band performing the song on [YouTube](#), including a translation.

North Beach: The Italian Heart of San Francisco

In English, the extensive text is supplemented with many photos. It traces the evolution of the Italian center of the city from Telegraph Hill to North Beach.

The images are from photographer J B Monaco (1856-1938). He specialized in portraits, but his “avocation was recording the life around him.” This carefully curated collection documents daily life in the Italian neighborhoods. Many photos have never been published. There are photos of the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake and the rebuilding of the neighborhoods.



Winter Internship Begins

In January, I welcomed back my Summer and Fall intern Vanessa Sordello. Vanessa is a student of Italian studies and International Management at Santa Clara University, and her Italian language skills have been a huge help.

Together, we will work on building our on-line archives, a project made possible by the Santa Clara County Historic Grants Program. The goal is to preserve our amazing photo collection and make it accessible for public viewing. She will also help to build our collection by conducting oral interviews to supplement our photos. She has helped to bring many improvements to the library.

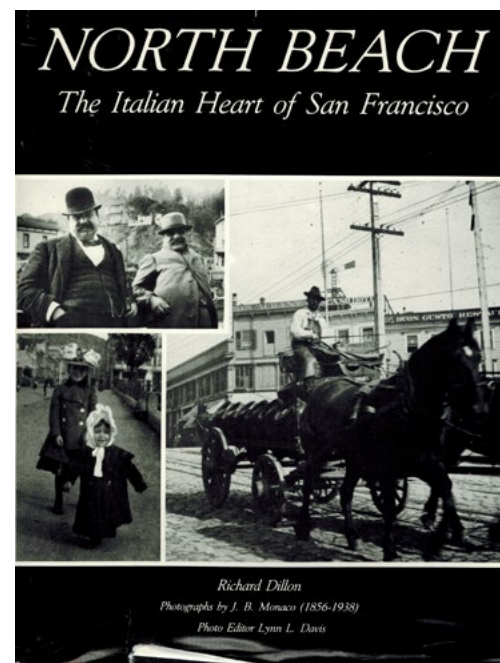
Our Italian Language Collection

I thought a week would be enough to get all those Italian language books sorted and on the shelves, but that task continues to elude me.

A few large boxes of books were dropped off over the holidays. Many are written in Italian, providing a wonderful opportunity to freshen our Italian section with contemporary books. But the sheer volume of books will extend the completion date of this project.

Vanessa will be helping me with more complex projects, so if you’d like to help, contact me at librarian@iahfsj.org

~~~Madeline Damiano



## A SPECIAL FAVOR FOR THE LIBRARY

As you may know, we have a reel of Super 8mm film documenting the 1978 annual festival. The 20-minute film has now been digitized and is currently being edited.

There is little information to help us identify people and performers. We have used the event program to make our best guesses, but we need positive IDs! We are asking for you to please view the unedited film at <https://tinyurl.com/2b34y246>.

If you recognize anyone, EVEN IF THE NAME IS ALREADY ON THE FILM, please send me the clip number and the person's name. We're happy to get any background information that you're willing to share.

Molto grazie del mio cuore.

~~~Madeline Damiano



For example, Clip #9 - Irene Dalis' name was misspelled. It has now been corrected.



Clip 24 - Do you recognize the band members of Riot, with Frank Anzalone Jr?

Helping the LA Fire Victims and Firefighters

The wildfires in Los Angeles has touched our hearts and many people want to know how to help. A Board member announced his intention to donate \$250 to help victims of the wildfires in Los Angeles. Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre learned the [Garibaldina Mutual Benefit Society](#) in Los Angeles is collecting donations to help LA Fire victims. The Board will seek a non-profit to donate to for the recovery from these fires.

Here are trusted resources you may contact to provide support to our southern California neighbors.

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation

The [LAFD Foundation](#) plays a critical role in equipping firefighters with the necessary resources to battle these blazes and protect our communities, including emergency equipment for those on the front lines. To donate, please [visit this link](#).

American Red Cross Disaster Relief

The Red Cross is providing shelter, food, and other vital services to those displaced by the fires. Donate [online](#) or by phone. Visit [redcross.org](#), call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767), or text RED-CROSS to 90999 to donate \$10.

If you prefer to donate by check, please write "California Wildfires 2025" in the memo line and send it with a completed donation form to the address provided or to your local Red Cross chapter.

World Central Kitchen

World Central Kitchen's Relief Team is in Southern California to support first responders and families impacted by wildfires in the Los Angeles area.- <https://donate.wck.org/>

We realize the recovery efforts for this disaster will take place over several years. The IAHF Board will update our members on donation drives we plan to support.

~~~ Mary Pizzo, Ken Borelli and Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre -  
Photo credit: Judy Verona - family friend's home in Altadena



# GENEVIEVE SCRIVANO SO MANY FOND MEMORIES

Over the holidays, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Genevieve "Gen" Scrivano on November 27th. For a key period in the life of the IAHF during the 1980's through the 1990's, she was the receptionist and secretary at the IAHF. Many of you old time members of the IAHF may recall her and her smile that represented the IAHF to the public. Gen, along with past IAHF President and later IAHF Coordinator Sal Scrivano, were a dynamic duo at the Foundation, and both were an important transition from some of the IAHF's early founders to the organization it is today.



Genevieve also served as a consultant to the "Young Italian Club" within the Foundation and had a "sunshine column" in the newsletter, keeping members informed of the goings on in our community. Some of the young Italians of the day attended the memorial service at Saint Lucy's. I fondly recall Sal and Gen driving into the Foundation parking lot and going to their respective desks and duties. Gen at the front desk and Sal in the middle room handling the day-to-day functions of the IAHF. At that time, the IAHF had 3 office staff in addition to the treasurer, a secretary, a coordinator and a handyman. While both Genevieve and Sal were born in New York City, Gen was from Manhattan and Sal was from Brooklyn. They met at Coney Island in Brooklyn.

The rest as they say is history, but sometimes when I just said Brooklyn to Gen, I was reminded she was from Manhattan.

Genevieve is survived by a sister in New York and five loving children, Mary Ann, Louis, Carolyn, Frank, Jeanette, and their families. The dynamic duo of Sal and Genevieve were amazing to watch, and always a critical part of the life of the IAHF, especially during Festa season. Their dedication to the IAHF for so many years helped make the organization the vibrant foundation it is today.

In memory of both Sal and Genevieve, a long overdue memorial scholarship is being established for 2025. You may donate [online](#) by choosing the

Scrivano Memorial Scholarship. It is also a timely reminder that as an organization we are membership driven so we hope the spirit of Sal and Gen inspires you to volunteer too. Both Gen and Sal left us with an amazing legacy. Our condolences to the family and with a special admiration for lives well lived.

~~~ Ken Borelli



Photo credits clockwise from the top: Genevieve Scrivano; Sal and Gen Scrivano



ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

YOUR PASSPORT TO ITALIAN CULTURE



VALENTINE AFTERGLOW CELEBRATION OF Love, Friendship, and Fun DANCE PARTY

Sunday, February 23, 2025

\$30 General Admission
\$15 Under 18
Children under 7 FREE

Italian American
Heritage Foundation
425 N. Fourth St. San Jose



3:30pm Social
4:30 - 6:00 pm Dinner
6pm - 8:30pm Dancing
from Oldies to Modern Pop

**Door Prizes, Birthday
Celebrations
& the latest DJ Eric
Backdrops**



Music By DJ Eric

Menu

Appetizer
Fresh Salad
Garlic Bread

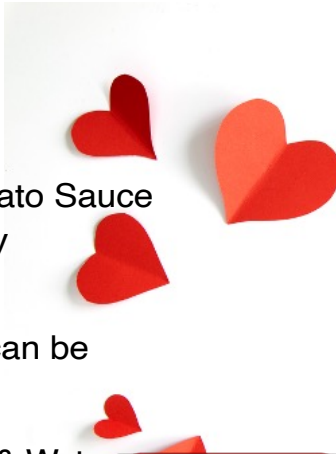
Baked Ziti in Beef/Sausage Tomato Sauce
Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Dessert & Coffee

Open Seating, tables of 6 or 8 can be
accommodated

NO Bar Service except Soft Drinks & Water

BYO / BOTTLE

Go Online www.iahfsj.org/Events
For Tickets Or Call (408)-293-7122



SCAN ME
FOR TICKETS

**Chair Persons:
Delia Schizzano &
Ken Borelli**





You know what else is 50 years old?

Our HVAC equipment!

As property owners we have to keep up with maintenance on our building and equipment. Patching and propping up becomes insufficient after a while. That's the position we find our HVAC equipment today.

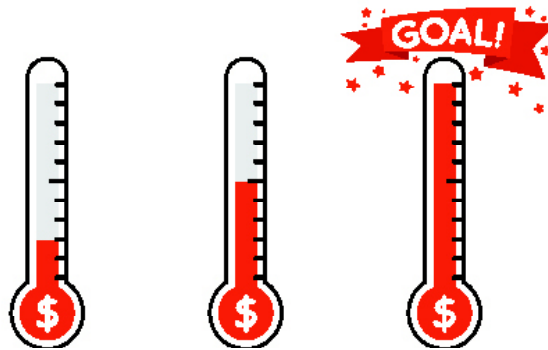
For our 50th Anniversary we are launching a fundraiser to replace the heating and cooling system. We know this will be very expensive but necessary to ensure your comfort and safety when attending events in the Hall.

Our Board of Directors has already reserved several thousand dollars for building maintenance. Then, there's the building permits, contractor fee, and of course the dreaded 'unexpected damages found' costs.

We are asking each member to contribute \$50 to our HVAC Fund. Your \$50 for 50 will fund the purchase of an energy efficient and robust HVAC system. For members and sponsors that are able to contribute more funds, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Donate [online](#) or mail your **HVAC Fund** donation to 425 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

~~~ Mary Pizzo



# SCHOLARSHIPS

### Application Deadline: midnight Friday, February 21, 2025

With the submission deadline quickly approaching, if you know any students graduating this year from either high school, community college, or a local university please share that there is still time for them to apply. Details about scholarship eligibility for students of Italian descent are available on the IAHF website: <https://iahfsj.org/scholarships>.

In 2024, the IAHF and Il Cenacolo awarded a combined \$18,000 in scholarships to nine qualified students. Each year, the IAHF and the Il Cenacolo will continue to support scholarships, a powerful and impactful goal that demonstrates a commitment to education and reflects the belief in access to quality education. The focus of these scholarships is to help Italian Americans with their educational goals while emphasizing the importance of preserving Italian history, culture, and language.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren, neices and nephews to apply for an IAHF or Il Cenacolo scholarship

~~~Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair




My Father's House

By Joseph O'Connor ~

My Father's House by Joseph O'Connor is a remarkable work of literature which reveals the accomplishments of a brave, dedicated and utterly unique Irish-born priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty. The entire novel takes place over a short period of time

during the horrendous days of the occupation of Rome by the Germans in the midst of World War II.

In order to protect itself, the Vatican, under Pope Pius XII declared neutrality. Under no circumstances could any resident participate in any humanitarian work that countermanded Nazi authority. Pope Pius made it abundantly clear to Monsignor O'Flaherty that his efforts on behalf of prisoners and escapees were strictly forbidden and that he stood to be expelled from the Vatican should he continue. The Pope's great fear is that the Nazis would take over the Vatican and abscond with its priceless art treasures as they were doing all over their conquered lands. Pope Pius XII paid a heavy price for his earlier collaboration with Mussolini.

My Father's House shares with us that Father O'Flaherty's audacity is directly disobeying the Pope to achieve his

goal of bringing thousands of detainees and escapees to safety, many of them Jewish. Beyond bravery, his brilliance in planning is revealed in every chapter. First, Monsignor O'Flaherty formed a choir of carefully chosen and very dissimilar individuals who agree to meet in the neutral zone of the Vatican to practice and sing exquisite choral music. They do sing, but it's a ruse. The Monsignor goes from individual to individual whispering their specific assignment or mission. They are never addressed by name, but by their part in the choir such as alto or tenor. There is the constant fear of being overheard which would result in immediate death by gunshot, so the choir practice must be authentic.

The structure of the novel is unique and demonstrates the skill of the author. Each participant in the escape scheme shares his or her story in the first person... sometimes through transcripts of interviews, or memoir or simply straightforward narrative. The writing style changes to fit the temperament and personality and class of each participant and this speaks to O'Connor's exceptional talent. Only Monsignor O'Flaherty's story is told in the third person. This seems to be appropriate since each participant is talking about the Monsignor and his plans for them and the escape route. So, even though they are all indispensable participants, Monsignor O'Flaherty remains the focal point of the action.

The brave group is formed as a choir to camouflage themselves from the Nazis. But the choir is also metaphorical as these individuals all have to work in precise harmony in order to produce the desired outcome. The outcome is the masterpiece of saving thousands of lives and Monsignor O'Flaherty is the composer and conductor.

My Father's House is classified as historical fiction, not biography. Author O'Connor presents his fictional versions of those worthy and brave individuals who actually worked his escape line. The writing is masterful, and the information is something we should all know.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley

## Try your ability to read Italian

### Il Temporale

Oggi c'è un temporale. Il cielo è scuro e ci sono molte nuvole. Le nuvole sono grandi e nere. Inizia a piovere. La pioggia è forte e le gocce sono grandi. Sento il rumore del tuono. È molto forte e un po' spaventoso.

Vedo i lampi nel cielo. I lampi sono molto luminosi. La pioggia continua a cadere. Le strade sono bagnate e ci sono molte pozzanghere. Le persone usano gli ombrelli per non bagnarsi. Alcuni bambini giocano nelle pozzanghere con gli stivali di gomma.

Gli alberi si muovono con il vento. Il vento è forte e freddo. La mia casa è calda e accogliente. Mi piace guardare il temporale dalla finestra. Bevo una tazza di tè. Dopo un po', la pioggia inizia a diminuire. Il cielo diventa più chiaro e il temporale finisce. Vedo un arcobaleno nel cielo. È molto bello. Il temporale è finito e tutto è tranquillo.

~~~ Linda Gaudio Binkley

The Storm
Today there is a storm. The sky is dark and there are many clouds. The clouds are large and black. It starts to rain. The rain is heavy and the drops are large. I hear the sound of thunder. It is very loud and a bit scary.
The streets are wet and there are many puddles. People use umbrellas to avoid getting wet. Some children play in the puddles with rubber boots. The trees move with the wind. The wind is strong and cold. My house is warm and cozy. I like watching the storm from the window. I drink a cup of tea. After a while, the rain begins to lessen. The sky becomes clearer and the storm ends. I see a rainbow in the sky. It is very beautiful. The storm is over and everything is calm.



Congratulations Maria Gloria

Newspaper columnist for the L' Italo-Americano, Maria Gloria has retired after 47 years of reporting on the Italian American scene in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. She has also been a member of the IAHF during this same time - which makes her one of the most tenured members of the Foundation. She has always been very gracious in calling attention to our events throughout the State and nation through her column with the L'Italo Americano.

Maria represents a dynamic group of members, who live a distance away from Santa Clara County, and use the Foundation to keep in touch with their heritage. Maria Gloria lives in San Francisco and remarkably can multitask, along with her husband Tony, with several regional Italian American organizations. She is on the Advisory Board of another great institution, Il Museo Italo Americano at Ft Mason, in San Francisco. In common parlance, Maria Gloria "walks the talk," and has been a longtime supporter of IAHF events, donating raffle prizes, serving as a donor and vendor for the Festa, and providing materials for our library and archival works. Her retirement is certainly going to leave a network vacuum among so many parts of the community.

The editor of L'Italo Americano, Simone Schiavinato, wrote in a fond editorial, "Thank you, Maria Gloria! Now it's up to all of us to write what it means to be Italian American." (Thursday, October 31, 2024) So, with the new year comes a challenge or rededication to pick up where Maria Gloria's retirement begins. In many ways, that is a part of the reason the IAHF took on the initiative of the Italifornian website and blog. It is free and open to all and an online option to continue the work Maria Gloria has been so involved in.

On a more personal note, it was through Maria Gloria's connection in NYC that I was able to contact Alfio to participate in our Festa. Likewise, through her introductions, I was able to meet the director of the Italian museum in New Orleans. I truly appreciated all the publicity she gave my cookbook, Flavors from A Calabrese Kitchen in the 1980's. It literally opened a new world for me.

Maria Gloria helped restore a mural in her father's hometown of Pomarico, Prov. di Matera, Basilicato. Several of our chair plaques also have the name Pomarico on the back, thanks to Maria Gloria's donations. And we were excited to recently have her, her husband and daughter with us at the A16 field trip in San Francisco.

I am sure I am only touching the surface of her activities. I know Maria Gloria's work will continue but sadly not in the form of her column in the Italo Americano. So, a celebratory "un abbraccio" for this amazing accomplishment and equally amazing member of the IAHF.

Tante belle cose, Maria Gloria.

~~~ Ken Borelli

*Photo credit - Ken Borelli and Genevieve working the Cultural Exhibit at the 2023 Italian Family Festa*



**Attendance:** Dana Zuccarello-Aguirre, Frank DeTurris, Sharon McCray, Azie Habib, Louie Lombardo, Mary Pizzo, Paul Greco, Joe Lucito, Richard Stewart, Madeline Damiano (v), Ken Borelli (v), Steven Ricossa (v)

**Absent:** Nanci Wilborn, Tony Zerbo, Susan Monahan, Marie Bertola

**President, Dana Zuccarello Aguirre** - Welcome, Roll call, Pledge of Allegiance. Reviewed December Meeting Minutes which were voted into the record with the various changes submitted.

- 2025 is our 50th Anniversary.
- \$50 for 50th Anniversary year long fundraiser. The funds will be used for the HVAC purchase.
- 50th Anniversary Gala - September 14 (3-7pm) at the home of Marilyn Messina. Fundraising for the HVAC purchase. Catered, valets, music, decorations, silent auction, will be planned by a committee, including a theme.

- 2025 Board Members Photo, Jan 21 or Feb. 11
- We may have to find another Social Media chair for Festa.

**CFO Report, Frank DeTurris** -

- Presented a preliminary summary of FY2024 financial status.
- Property tax exemption has been requested for 2025.

**1st VP, Ken Borelli** - Attended via Zoom (v) to present his agenda.

- Upcoming schedule of events is impacted by the scheduling of the Hall used as a Polling place in April and possibly June. Discussed hosting a District 3 Candidates Forum to be held at the Hall on Feb 25.
- Weighing the expected revenue from the Gala against offering fewer IAHF events.
- Email blast publicizing concert on Feb. 2, and Cena Fuori at Buca di Beppo
- City of SJ Grant for the Festa is due January 24.

**2nd VP, Azie Habib** -

- 10 Hall rentals booked for FY25.
- Liquor license could be purchased from a broker which will allow IAHF to sell beer/wine. Azie will research if our Zoning would permit a license.
- Azie has located an ice machine to be purchased (\$3200). The installation will be onto the existing bin. He needs a quote for the installation service.
- Madeline raised concerns about leaks into the library since we haven't been able to replace the roof and HVAC.

**3rd VP, Sharon McCray** -

- Marketing Ideas: Expanding rental opportunity for our Hall facilities, banners and publicity.
- There is a downtown Campbell Italian Heritage festival.
- Paul asked if SCU could have students to help create and jumpstart a marketing campaign. Sharon will reach out to the University's Marketing/Business department.
- Discussed 50th anniversary logo designs from John Romano and Louie Lombardo..

**4th VP, Louie Lombardo** -

- Last call for Bylaws proposed updates. Sharon would like to have the Bylaws specify two, 2-year terms with the option of allowing an additional 2-year term with the approval of the board.
- TBD scheduling of all Board Members Re-Orientation session and signing of Board agreements 2025.
- Membership Update - 473 active memberships. Louie has updated the complimentary membership based on the local election results.

**Librarian, Madeline Damiano** -

- Will be sending out a link to watch the video. She wants people to verify the people in the video.
- Vanessa will be the winter intern for 5 weeks. She did a good job organizing the materials. There are items that have shown up in the library. She wants help getting the library cleaned up.
- Madeline will be offering Italian language books for free at upcoming events to make more room on the selves.

**Newsletter, Mary Pizzo** -

- 50th Anniversary Artwork
- Feb. Newsletter articles received

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.



# LEGACY CIRCLE



THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS CHOSE TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IAHF TO THE COMMUNITY WITH A REMEMBRANCE IN THEIR ESTATES

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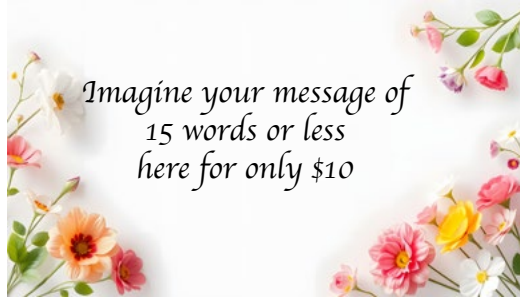
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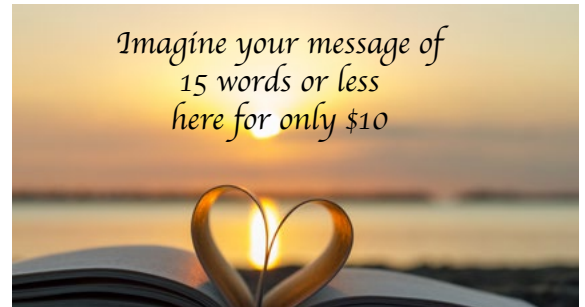
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