

# IAHF NEWS

MAY 2019 • ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION • ESTABLISHED 1975 • FOUNDED AS NONPROFIT 1976 • CELEBRATING 43 YEARS

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

DIANE AYALA / IAHF NEWSLETTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of the IAHF,

I remember standing in front of Notre Dame in awe. I'm not sure if it was the dramatic architecture of the flying buttresses, the fact that I was actually in Paris, or the flashbacks to watching the original Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939). But it was more of a shock to see Notre Dame decades later, smoke pouring into the blue sky and flames lapping all around the roof – will I never see this incredible place again? The news was both troubling and hopeful – troubling to learn the alarms went off twenty-three minutes earlier and thus this tragedy might have been prevented; and hopeful that by the next day \$300 million had been pledged to rebuild only to climb to over \$1 billion by the next day.

This got me thinking of our visit to St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Again, I don't know if it was the water taxi ride to Piazza San Marco, the small back waterways strewn with gondolas, or just the magic of Venice; but the Basilica was even more towering and memorable. But there was a difference even more noticeable which while there right before our eyes, seemed invisible to all – the Piazza was flooded. Throughout the piazza were wooden planks precariously placed on unseen supports. In some places, the water was shallow enough to brave by foot, and in others, I'm sure the gondolas could have crossed safely. And the wooden planks underfoot often dipped under the weight of the pedestrians ensuring the prayers were not confined to the church.



Aqua Alta (High Tides) are common in Venice – at 100cm, about 4% of the city is underwater; at 110cm 12%; at 120cm 35%; at 130cm 70%; and at 140cm 90% of the city is underwater. There are sirens in the city, and vast floodgates have been built in an effort to manage the floods (the MOSE project). In 2018 an onset of five feet of water closed museums and the Basilica as they scrambled to save the precious artifacts. But when this happened, I do not recall the news reporting a billion dollars pledged to repair and rebuild. In fact, I'm not sure it even made much of the news outside of Italy.

Why is it that when there is tragedy at Notre Dame, it takes the world stage and over a Billion is pledged within a couple of days yet a tragedy at St. Mark's Basilica fails to capture our attention? I have concluded that it's because Italian tragedies just take

too long! The flooding at Piazza San Marco is a natural phenomenon that has been going on for so long, no one even pays attention anymore – so even when it floods, it is nothing new, it is not reported, and the world does not rush to provide aid to save such a world treasure.

Across Italy stands the very notable Pisa Cathedral, but most people would not go out of their way to see it if it wasn't for the campanile or freestanding bell tower; more commonly known as the "Leaning Tower of Pisa". Once again, a tragedy in slow motion with the tower beginning



continued on page 5 >>>

## Events @ A Glance

- May 2 @ 7 PM / Cooking Class / IAHF Hall / \$30 adults / \$20 students under 18
- May 16 @ 12 PM / Regional Lunch / IAHF Hall / \$15 members / \$18 guests
- May 23 @ 7 PM / Cena Fuori / Sole Mio Ristorante Italiano, Saratoga / \$40 at the door
- May 31 @ 6 PM / Casino Night / IAHF Hall / Games, dancing, refreshments / \$50 members / \$60 guests
- June 5 / Festa della Repubblica / San Jose City Hall (free) & IAHF Hall \$20 members; \$22 guests
- June 6 @ 7 PM / Cooking Class / IAHF Hall / Sicilian Caponata / \$30 adults / \$20 students under 18
- June 9 @ TBD / IAHF Scholarship Award Ceremony / IAHF Hall / More information to come
- June 20 @ 12 PM / Regional Lunch / IAHF Hall / \$15 members / \$18 guests
- August 24 & 25 / Italian Family Festa / History Park San Jose / [www.italianfamilyfestasj.org/](http://www.italianfamilyfestasj.org/)

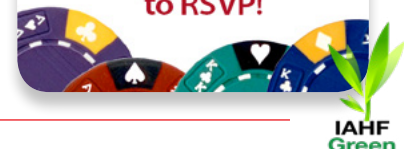
## Casino Night

FUNDRAISER

May 31 • IAHF Hall

[www.iahfsj.org/casino](http://www.iahfsj.org/casino)

to RSVP!



## IAHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

### IAHF OFFICERS

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

### IAHF DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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- Frank Locicero - *Board Member*
- Sharon McCray - *Board Member*
- Jan Prinzivalli - *Board Member*
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- Aaron Nicholson / *Director of Marketing and Development, Opera San Jose, Opera Liaison*
- Cathy De Maria / *Community Leader, Program Organizer*
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- Professor Michele Santamaria Ph.D / *Italian Language Chairperson, San Jose State University*
- Rod Diridon / *Former County Supervisor and Public Transportation Leader*
- Vera Girolami / *National President of the Sons and Daughters of Italy*

## 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 2019 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](http://www.iahfsj.org) or send in your check today. This will ensure that you continue receiving the newsletter, receive discounts to our events and are part of this dynamic community. Unfortunately, if we do not receive your renewal dues by April 15th, your membership will expire. *Grazie mille*, Lucia Clementi 🍀





## LEGACY CIRCLE

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

◆ LINDA & BOB BINKLEY ◆ ROSE CRIMI ◆ STANLEY OLIVAR ◆

If you would like to consider becoming a Legacy Circle donor, please contact [legacy@iahfsj.org](mailto:legacy@iahfsj.org) for more information.

## MEMBER

## SPOTLIGHT

### **BENVENUTI** *New Family, Individual & Student Members from October 2018 to May 2019*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicholas &amp; Shannon Adams</li> <li>• Janine &amp; Brett Arietta</li> <li>• Edward Bertozzi</li> <li>• Abby Cadile</li> <li>• Sherry &amp; Grant Campbell</li> <li>• Ronald &amp; Bernadette Carlini</li> <li>• Dee Chase &amp; Carl Rook</li> <li>• Madeline Chiavetta</li> <li>• Dianne Chiechi</li> <li>• Robert Christensen</li> <li>• Jeanie Colclough</li> <li>• Tom &amp; Linda Costanza</li> <li>• Jane &amp; Randy Creech</li> <li>• Karen Curci &amp; Robert Smith</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alain &amp; Tricia Dazzi</li> <li>• James &amp; Lorraine Fitch</li> <li>• Maryjane Genco</li> <li>• Anthony Georgilas &amp; Doris Roth</li> <li>• Dina Griffin</li> <li>• Azie Habib</li> <li>• Toni Heath</li> <li>• Carole &amp; William Jameson</li> <li>• Catherine Kilkenny</li> <li>• Kari Larsen &amp; Synnova Bjerke</li> <li>• Dona LeyVa</li> <li>• Michelle LoMonaco &amp; Steve Piuma</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniene &amp; Bill Marciano</li> <li>• Eileen Marquardt</li> <li>• Pat Martinez</li> <li>• Christina McDade &amp; Shance Ordell</li> <li>• John McGinn</li> <li>• Diane &amp; Steve Moffett</li> <li>• Mary L. Moreno &amp; Bianca Thompson</li> <li>• Roger Okamoto</li> <li>• Joelle &amp; Michael Orlando</li> <li>• Umberto Pala &amp; Sharlene Nathews</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Bianchi Payne</li> <li>• Stephanie Petrossi</li> <li>• Tiffany Petrossi</li> <li>• Adria Pulizzano &amp; Thomas Boyce</li> <li>• Susan Ross</li> <li>• Deborah Sadler</li> <li>• Renita Taccolini &amp; Steve Albanese</li> <li>• Gerald &amp; Catherine Thornton</li> <li>• Justine &amp; Alessandro Turturici</li> <li>• Neal &amp; Therese Van Keuren</li> </ul> |
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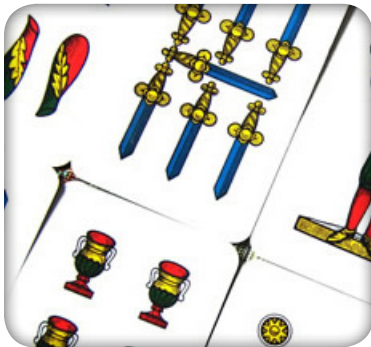
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frank &amp; Charlene Cancilla / <a href="#">FCC Realty Group</a></li> <li>• Madeline Chiavetta / <a href="#">Coldwell Banker</a></li> <li>• Gloria Citti / <a href="#">Citti's Florist</a></li> <li>• Rosetta De Luca / <a href="#">Intero Real Estate</a></li> <li>• Diane Ferrara / <a href="#">Hill View Packing Co., Inc.</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles Gagliasso / <a href="#">Charles Gagliasso Trucking, Inc.</a></li> <li>• Guglielmo / <a href="#">Emilio Guglielmo Family Winery</a></li> <li>• Stephen &amp; Susan Guzzetti / <a href="#">Intero Real Estate Services</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Jose Opera Guild / <a href="#">San Jose Opera Guild</a></li> <li>• Myrlin &amp; George Taddie, Jr. / <a href="#">tadcosupply.com</a></li> <li>• Al &amp; Diana Vallorz / <a href="#">Tony &amp; Alba's</a></li> <li>• Kathy Winkelman / <a href="#">Gioia Company</a></li> </ul> |
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# ITALIAN FAMILY FESTA

S a n J o s e

2019



## Join the **FUN**, Join the **TEAM**!

It truly takes a village to produce the Festa each year. We need you, our members, to share your talent and time in support of the Festa. Please consider joining the Festa team. We are a fun, supportive and passionate group and will always be there to assist you. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Almost all work is done on your own time, so it can easily fit into your schedule and lifestyle. We encourage co-chairing with friends and family to lessen the work and increase the fun!
2. Meetings – not anyone's favorite thing. We keep the larger meetings to a minimum. We do meet in small groups, on an as-needed basis, to allow for more focused and productive use of our time.
3. We are a team and we are always there to lend a hand to help each other. You will have all the support you need to make you, and the Festa, a success.

### CURRENT OPENINGS

**Marketing:** This can be one person, or a combination of several people. This will be a team effort working with the Festa Director, let's get creative together.

**Social Media:** Increase the number of followers, share, etc. on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Advertising:** Help develop ad placements in print, online, and other opportunities

### URGENT NEED

#### SODA / WATER CHAIRPERSON(S)

Main duties: order and manage soda, water and ice inventory, oversee Festa weekend volunteers. We have all the information you need to get started and a mentor to assist you.

Don't be shy - there's plenty of help to get you started. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Contact Nancy Morreale, [info@italianfamilyfestasj.org](mailto:info@italianfamilyfestasj.org) or call 408-368-9094 for more information.

-- Article by Nancy Morreale 

>>> President's Message, *continued*

to sink while building the second floor. The problem became more pronounced over the 199 years of construction with many attempts to correct or minimize the problem. It seems that if the problem was noted by the time they started the second floor, it might have been more prudent to start over on more stable ground, but that might have required an Italian admitting that maybe they were wrong! At least for this building, what started as a problem which underwent centuries of corrections, is now so famous the tower has over a million visitors each year.

And all over Italy remains of buildings are discovered centuries later – churches, monuments, amphitheaters, government buildings – some with remarkable art, books, jewelry, or sacred artifacts - buried in the rubble revealing unknown secrets. What was their story? What was the tragedy that brought them to such disrepair?

The point is not to diminish the tragedy at Notre Dame, but to look at the

contrast on how people react to change, both sudden and those changes which have onset so slowly that you cannot see them when you are standing right before

them. Where opportunity is seen, the changes will find a way to enhance what was already a great endeavor; at other times, we will rebuild and have nothing more than what we started with; and then there are the times when nothing is done and the remains are discovered centuries later under the rubble. What will be the future of the IAHF?

-- Felix Dalldorf / [fdalldorf@gmail.com](mailto:fdalldorf@gmail.com) 



## An Apology to Italian Americans in New Orleans

A press release has just been issued from the City of New Orleans. It is a public apology to the Italian American community for the 1891 lack of protection provided by the City in defending 11 Italian Americans who were about to be released from jail in a matter related to the murder of a Sheriff. A mob broke into the jail before the release and lynched the prisoners, believing they were involved in the shooting. None of the defendants were charged with the death; however, being in custody made them targets of the wrath of the mob.

Several IAHF members and Festa visitors may have seen the exhibit related to the San Jose-New Orleans connection at last year's Festa's Cultural Tent, but it ties into this article and the turbulent times for primarily South Italian/Sicilian immigration to New Orleans during the 1880-1900s. The bustling port city was a take-off point for secondary migration throughout the Mid-West and Western USA, including St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago,

### DEMONS LOOSE IN NEW ORLEANS

A Wild Mob Numbered by the Thousands Avenges the Murder of Chief Hennessey.

THE WRETCHED SICILIAN BAND BUTCHERED.

Cut Down by a Rain of Lead While They Crouched Like Hunted Animals in Their Prison Yard.

CRAZY POLIZZI TWICE STRUNG UP TO A LAMPPOST.

Scenes Unequaled in Lawlessness and Violence—The Mob Well Managed, but Determined —The Action Deliberately Decided Upon at a Meeting Beneath the Statue of Henry Clay—Speeches Made by the Leaders—Arms, Battering Rams and Ropes All Ready When the Crowd Reached the Prison—No Resistance Offered by the Authorities—A Successful Effort Made to Save All but the Eight Parties—The First Citizens Approve the Deeds of Violence—Action of the Exchanges.

Denver and, of course, San Jose. The article about the lynching was noted both in the IAHF archival material and from the Italian American Museum in New York City. The news release and the full article will be included in a revised IAHF exhibit in time for the Festa's Cultural Village display as an updated version of the San Jose-New Orleans Connection.

The article itself is under an on-line story by the Associated Press noted as "Mayor to Apologize for 1891 Lynching of 11 Italian Americans" by AP News Reporter Jane McConaughy, March 30th 2019, and reprinted in the I AM News Letter for April 2019,

a publication from the Italian American Museum of NYC. The article is quite lengthy and space does not permit us to replicate it for our newsletter but here is the link:

<https://www.apnews.com/2a592e4f9dde4d81946252334720b49d>

-- Article by Ken Borelli 

### IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO GET NEWSLETTER STORIES FROM IAHF MEMBERS

It adds vitality, diversity, and a sense of family and community. Please send your proofread entries to Diane Ayala at [news@iahfsj.org](mailto:news@iahfsj.org)  
Please check the Submission Guidelines on page 14 of this issue for more information, or online at [iahfsj.org/submission-guidelines](http://iahfsj.org/submission-guidelines)

Thank you! 

## Connecting The Dots:

# THE CATANIA COWBOY



Among all the activities at the crab feed an interesting connection emerged and am sure to be continued. Our Italian folk entertainer Michele Musolino happened to glance at our history boards and saw a photo and story of Country Western/Swing Hall of Famer, Shorty Joe. She inquired about him and wanted to meet him. Logistically it was quite challenging as she was in the Bay Area for a series of concerts, including the IAHF and Santa Clara University.

The one window of opportunity was a Tuesday night gap in her schedule, so this very determined musicologist was on the road to Sacramento from Santa Clara in some very nightmarish traffic during the late afternoon! But go she did, and finally I received a call around eight in the evening that they did connect in Sacramento. The trip took on special significance too because a close friend of Michele plays lead guitar for many of the recording artist in Memphis and Nashville.

A phone call and conversation also occurred at the visit, with the guitarist. His name is Mario Monterosso. A native of Catania, and at an early age was intrigued by the country western sound, so learned his skill in Sicily and now works as a musician in Memphis, Tennessee. He

may be unique in country music circles, but can you imagine meeting a "paisano" who traveled this road 60 or so years ago. Mario is coming to LA soon to do some recording work, and going to try to do a detour to Sacramento too, and meet this pioneer Country Western artist. Maybe they will cut a record together, or at least do a "gig"!

I am sure there will be some great music and stories out of that meeting. I will hope to be able to share. It highlights too our photo collection, what a pageantry of stories and photos of San

Jose the collection holds. It is always growing but it is a timely reminder of our traditions in Santa Clara County. Without those photos would this story have been told?

PS: Next on Michele's list is to connect with Louise Canepa. Louise is a composer and song writer. We have done several programs with Louise including her amazing opera The Sicilians of Monterey. She now resides in Napa, California, and has several art songs on line. I will be looking forward to that meeting, too; a lot of creative sparks for future collaborations. -- Article by Ken Borelli 🍷

SAN  
JOSE  
OPERA  
GUILD

## CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH



**Save The Date!!** The San Jose Opera Guild, a member of IAHF, will be hosting a brunch at the Saratoga Country Club on Sunday, June 9, at 11 AM featuring singers from Opera San Jose. There also will be a raffle and a silent auction with the grand prize being a 1 week safari in Africa for two for only \$2500 opening bid (value \$5995)! Accommodations and all meals are included. Details about this bargain may be obtained from Tony Nespole, a Patron member of IAHF and a Board member of the Opera Guild, who has won this prize in the past. He may be reached at [a.j.nespole@comcast.net](mailto:a.j.nespole@comcast.net). Don't miss this opportunity! Reservations for the brunch are \$80 for Opera guild members and \$90 for non-members and may be made at our website at [sjoperaguild.org](http://sjoperaguild.org).-- Article submitted by Ken Borelli 🍷

get **connected** >>>



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# Crab Feed 2019



*The sold out Crab Feed was "over the top" this year. About 300 members, guests and volunteers enjoyed the evening's festivities.*

The meal started off with a green salad, pasta Bolognese, and garlic bread. This was followed by unlimited buckets of succulent FRESH crab. Many in attendance commented on the crab being the best ever. From my point of view I was impressed with how large the pieces of crab meat were. It made pulling it out of the claws rewarding. The crabmeat was delectable, partially due to Ken Borelli having marinated it all day. Dessert consisted of a light orange "fluff" with fruit. A big thank you to our kitchen staff led by Ken and his volunteer helpers for

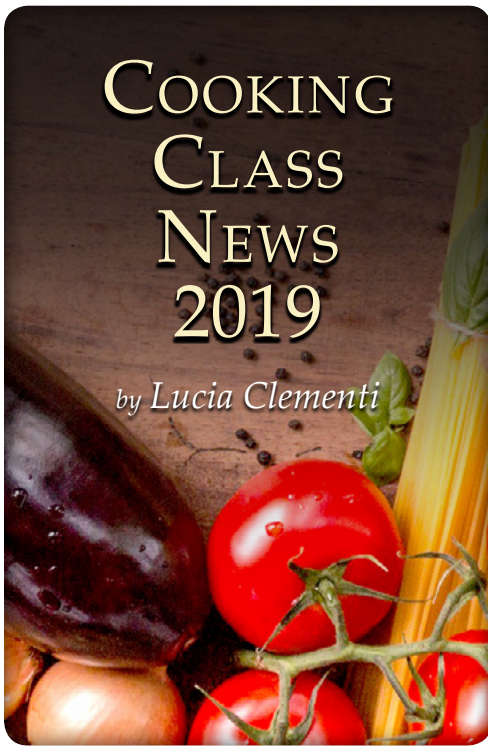
the scrumptious meal. Without the set up crew, servers, bar tenders, ticket takers, cleanup crews, etc. the evening wouldn't have come together.

The opportunity basket lucky ticket winners went away with wines, chocolates, gift certificates, prosecco and many other lovely surprises.

Music for the evening was provided by Michele Musolino of Terra Sangu Mare and the crowd was taught how to dance the tarantella.

We are looking forward to crab season 2020 so we can again get together for this lovely traditional meal. -- Article by Nanci Wilborn / Co-Chair 🍷🍷





Our April cooking class featured **Agostino Burzio** teaching us how to make **Bagna Cauda**, a popular Piedmont dish.

Our Bagna Cauda party in April was quite a fun celebration. Agostino (also known as "Tino") Burzio taught us how to make this festive Piedmonte dish that had us coming back for more. A variety of raw vegetables are used in this dish, such as broccoli, cauliflower, celery, carrots, and peppers, and are dipped into the bagna cauda sauce. In addition, good French bread is an excellent accompaniment. The sauce is made of three ingredients: olive oil, anchovies and lots, and I mean lots, of garlic. The sauce is heated in a pan (we used electric frying pans and slow cookers) and once it is hot, the vegetables and bread are dipped into the sauce. We all sat around the tables, dipped, ate and talked for hours. It reminded me of being in Italy where we did much of the same thing! It always gives me a feeling of satisfaction when I see our students not only learning how to prepare delicious dishes, but enjoying the social aspects of the IAHF.

In our next class in May, Ken Borelli will teach how to make *Timballo di Melanzane*, which means "drum of eggplants". Many of you had a chance to try this dish at the January regional lunch. Now here's your chance to learn how to make it!

All of the cooking classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and are payable in advance. To enroll, please go to [www.iahfsj.org](http://www.iahfsj.org) and select "events" or call the office at (408) 293-7122.

Here is a schedule of upcoming classes (subject to change):

- May 2, 2019 – Timballo di Melanzane – Instructor – Ken Borelli - \$30.00 for adults; \$20.00 – for students under 18
- June 6, 2019 – Sicilian Caponata – Instructor – Lucia Clementi - \$30.00 for adults; \$20.00 – for students under 18
- July - Vacation



# The Boy From Rochester

Jan Prinzivalli, IAHF Board member, shared this family memory about award-winning Italian American jazz musician Chuck Mangione:

My cousin told me that he changed her flat tire in high school. His sister went to the same school, but I didn't hear of him until after high school. A group of friends went out one night to hear a local band play. The sound wasn't the usual rock and roll but JAZZ.

In the early days, The Mangione Brothers Sextet/ Quintet formed by Gap Mangione on piano and his brother Chuck playing trumpet could be seen in local clubs. Brothers Gap and Chuck Mangione were raised in Rochester, NY, my home town. Their paternal grandfather emigrated from Porto Empedocle, Sicily, to the United States in 1906.

Their uncle, Jerre (Gerlando) Mangione, a literature professor at the University of Pennsylvania until he retired in 1978, wrote about the problems of growing up in a Sicilian-American culture. I recommend his final book, *La Storia: Five Generations of the Italian-American Experience*.

Chuck and Gap recorded three albums for Riverside Records before Chuck, a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, joined Art Blakey's



band, the Jazz Messengers. Later, Chuck received an "updo" horn from the man he called his musical father, Dizzy Gillespie.

As director of the Eastman School of Music's Jazz Ensemble, Chuck Mangione received his first Grammy nomination for "Hill Where the Lord Hides." He recorded for Mercury, A&M, and later the Columbia label. His albums include *Land of Make Believe*, and *Bellavia*, written to honor his mother, and became his first Grammy award winner. The single record and album *Feels So Good* became a mega hit and is said to be the most recognized melody after The Beatles' song *Michelle*.

Not forgetting his roots, Chuck released two live albums in 1989. *The Boys From Rochester*, featuring Steve Gadd, Gap Mangione, Joe Romano and Frank Pullara,

On April 29, 2012, Chuck was inducted to the Rochester Music Hall of Fame at the Eastman Theater in Rochester. During the event, the audience cheered Chuck with his brother Gap as they performed a medley of hits. Wish I could have been there too.

-- Article by Jan Prinzivalli 🍷🍷

## Cena Fuori 🍷🍷 MARCH 2019 🍷🍷

As the name of the restaurant so perfectly implies, the almost 60 IAHF members and their guests felt like they were dreaming as they wined and dined on the incredible, sumptuous, abundant and diverse Cena provided by il Sogno at our March Cena Fuori!

Owner, Umberto Pala, former Master Chef at Il Fornaio, outdid himself! We thought what we enjoyed at his sister restaurant, Vin Santo located in Downtown Willow Glen, was divine – the menu served us March 28 equaled and validated Umberto's culinary expertise.

Il Sogno is a very lively restaurant – formerly Sonoma Chicken Coop in Downtown Campbell – with a large, welcoming bar – and bar crowd - even for a Thursday night! The restaurant portion is on one side of the huge space so the noise level runs high – especially if you are a group of Italians and their friends, sitting at long family style tables, enjoying a multi-course family style dinner! Just like Sundays at Nonna's!

We began our feast with Cheesy Garlic Bread (very thin crusted pizza topped with yummy formaggio and lots of aglio), Umberto's famous handmade meatballs simmering in a delicious red sauce and crispy batterfried fresh green beans – and these were just the appetizers!

There's more!



Next came a large portion per person of Caesar Salad – and housemade French bread

There's more!

Family style entrees began to appear one after another, and when one platter was emptied, more kept coming: Eggplant Parmesan (beautiful slices of tender eggplant nestled in a perfectly seasoned tomato sauce), Fusilli au Funghi (that was cooked to perfection and doused with just the right amount of truffle oil) and Brasato con Polenta (braised short ribs over creamy polenta)

And to top the evening – housemade Tiramisu

Of course throughout this Bacchus feast were cocktails and vino.

Umberto never disappoints – for that matter, he and his staff exceed all expectations – service was attentive – including from Umberto himself! – food was clearly decadently delicious and plentiful – spirits from the bar kept us all "spirited."

Grazie tanti, Umberto, - e encore grazie mille for catering our IAHF Valentine Dinner this year!

Grazie tanti, Ken, for organizing and treating us to another fabulous "Cena Fuori." MERAVIGLIOSO!

-- Article by Cathy De Maria 🍷🍷



In honor of Mother's Day, here are the words to a very famous Italian song, *Mamma*, composed in 1940 by the Neapolitan Cesare Bixio under the title *Mamma son Tanto Felice (Mama, I am So Happy)*.

— Submitted by Linda Binkley 🌸

Mamma,  
son tanto felice  
perché ritorno da te.  
La mia canzone ti dice  
ch'è il più bel giorno per me.  
Mamma son tanto felice  
vivere lontano perché

Mamma,  
solo per te  
la mia canzone vola.  
Mamma, sarai con me  
tu non sarai più sola.  
Quanto ti voglio bene!  
Queste parole d'amore  
che ti sospira il mio cuore  
forse non si usano più.

Mamma,  
ma la canzone mia più bella sei tu,  
sei tu la vita  
e per la vita  
non ti lascio mai più.

Sento la mano tua stanca  
cerca i miei riccioli d'or.  
Sento e la voce ti manca  
la ninna nanna d'allor.  
Oggi la testa tua bianca  
io voglio stringere al cuor.

Mamma,  
solo per te  
la mia canzone vola.  
Mamma,  
sarai con me tu non sarai più sola.  
Quanto ti voglio bene!  
Queste parole d'amore  
che ti sospira il mio cuore  
forse non s'usano più.

Mamma,  
ma la canzone mia più bella sei tu,  
sei tu la vita,  
e per la vita non ti lascio mai più,  
mamma, mai più.

Mama,  
I am very happy  
because I am returning to you  
my song is telling you  
that it is the most beautiful day for me  
Mama, I am very happy  
why should we live apart?

Mama,  
only for you  
my song flies  
Mama, you will stay with me  
you'll not be alone anymore  
how much I love you  
these words of love  
that my heart is whispering to you  
maybe are not longer used

Mama,  
but my most beautiful song is you  
you are my life  
and for the rest of my life  
I'll never leave you again

I can feel your tired hand  
looking for my golden curls  
I can hear, and your voice is a whisper  
the lullaby of back then  
today, your white head  
I want to hold tight to my heart.

Mama,  
only for you  
my song flies  
Mama, you will stay with me  
you'll not be alone anymore  
how much I love you  
these words of love  
that my heart is whispering to you  
maybe are not longer used

Mama,  
but my most beautiful song is you  
you are my life  
and for the rest of my life  
I'll never leave you again



## St. Joseph's Day Memories

Here's a walk down memory lane. The photo above was forward to the IAHF via member Sandi Strouise. Jasper Corpora sent the 1952 photo of his mom, Lena Graffeo Copora, and the altar located in their living room, for us to share with our readers. It highlights how personal the altars were. At one time in many communities, these altars would be made at home during St. Joseph's Day. Even a garage was turned into an altar. The preparation of traditional foods were made by families and friends and shared with all in a local neighborhood. Many of our IAHF members grew up with these memories. Joseph Fasano, this year's Chair of the IAHF St. Joseph's Day Committee, wants to collect these and similar stories as well as any feedback on how to improve the event. You can contact Joseph care of the IAHF at [iahfsj@iahfsj.org](mailto:iahfsj@iahfsj.org) (email) or (408) 293-7122. Thanks, too, to Sandi and Jasper for sharing their memories and recollections.

— Article by Ken Borelli 🌸

## MILESTONES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Do you have a milestone  
you want to share?*

*We would love to feature it  
in our next newsletter!*

*Please send an email to  
[news@iahfsj.org](mailto:news@iahfsj.org)*

*notifying us of what type of  
announcement it is, who it is for, etc.  
The more information you can provide  
the better (we may edit content to fit).*



Linda Binkley's

# Book Corner



Piero Di Donato's book *Christ in Concrete* is a masterful piece of literature; the first novel written in English portraying the Italian American experience of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in New York City. At times so gruesome I thought it to be exaggerated, I found that, in fact, it is deeply autobiographical.

The story tells of the life of a big Italian family who immigrated from the Abruzzo region in the 1920's. It was indeed a roaring time with construction going on madly in the city and miles of tenements housing immigrants in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Honestly, Di Donato's description of life in the tenements is so thoroughly described, it is an assault on all the senses.

As in the author's own life, the protagonist loses his father in a terrifying construction accident while building a foundation. Steel rods pierce his body and hold him in an upright position, arms outstretched, while wet concrete engulfs him. Thus the title. The concept of Jesus' passion inspired me to read this book during lent.

The young twelve-year-old becomes the head of the family of seven children. Young Paulo rises to the occasion in the novel just the author did in real life and takes his father's place as a bricklayer at the unspeakably unsafe construction site. He works hard for a mere \$5.00 a day and suffers physically from the heavy work. Though the work comes close to killing him, he does not stop.

We see how the local government colludes with the bosses to deny death or accident benefits to the workers. We see how the Church fails these people dramatically. The scene in which young Paulo goes to the wealthy local parish priest for assistance is particularly disturbing. He found that the close association between the Church and the aristocracy was no different here in America than it had been in Italy.

His mother's brother, a big, strong man, helped support the family during the sad, hungry months after the father's death. As in real life, the uncle was crippled by an on-site accident and actually becomes needy, too. Twelve-year-old Paulo becomes the head of the family. All this on a youngster's shoulders.

Deeply disappointed, his Catholic faith is woefully shaken. After visiting a seer with his mother, his faith is somewhat restored. She contacted his father's spirit and quoted him saying beautiful words about God and Paradise. Young Paulo is greatly relieved and

unburdened... never mind that this type of activity is sinful according to the Church.

Contributing to his fall from faith is his friendship with a young, intelligent Russian Jewish boy whose brother was murdered by the Tsar's soldiers. The young Jewish boy had witnessed violent, bloody pogroms in Russia and no longer believed in God and found capitalism disgusting. All these kids see is rich bosses working people to death, literally. The catastrophic end to his belief in God occurs after the violent death of his Godfather on the jobsite due to unsafe conditions. He crushes his mother's crucifix with his strong bare hands.

*Christ in Concrete* is quite an achievement. The book received many awards and, in fact, edged out *Grapes of Wrath* as a book-of-the-month selection. It's startling. California Italians are mostly unaware of the trauma suffered by the east coast immigrants. Since it is autobiographical, we know that the protagonist successfully brings his brothers and sisters through the depression. He educated himself by spending evenings in the library and taking evening classes.

The writing style of the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is quite different to what we see now. I found it to be alternately poetic and gruesomely realistic and at time melodramatic.. The book was made into a movie but was banned from the USA. The government feared it might encourage the rise of labor unions and other socialistic tendencies. In fact, the conditions described in the book did just that. Today we enjoy safe working conditions among many other benefits denied these early laborers. You will find this book in the IAHF library. ✨

Linda Binkley's

# A Little Italian *by request*

Studenti! Siete attenti alla bella rima nel poema italiano. Rio Bo by Aldo Palazzeschi (Firenze 1885 – Roma 1974)

Tre casettine  
dai tetti aguzzi,  
un verde praticello,  
un esiguo ruscello: rio Bo,  
un vigile cipresso.  
Microscopico paese, e vero,  
paese da nulla, ma pero...  
c'e sempre disopra una stella,

una grande, magnifica stella,  
che a un dipresso...  
occhieggia con la punta del  
cipresso di rio Bo.  
Una stella innamorata?  
Chi sa  
se nemmeno ce l'ha  
una grande citta.

a big, wonderful star,  
that nearby ...  
twinkles at the tip of the Rio Bo  
cipress.  
A star in love?  
Who knows,  
if there isn't such (a star)  
in a grand city.

Three small houses  
with pointed roofs  
a little green meadow  
a slender stream: Rio Bo  
a vigilant cypress.  
Microscopic village, that's true,  
an insignificant village, but...  
there is always a star above,



## A Night in Napoli! • Tickets coming soon!



Join us for an exciting evening of Italian appetizers, wines, and of course music at the Historic Trianon Theater for the Opening concert of 19th Annual San Jose International Piano Competition. Jury President, Van Cliburn Medalist, and Italian born pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi will be performing Italian Themed recital, including Liszt's Venezia e Napoli, Roberto Pianas Neopolitan Songs, and Poulenc's Napoli Suite.

More info about Antonio Pompa-Baldi: <https://www.pompa-baldi.com/> • More information about the San Jose International Piano Competition: [www.sjipc.com](http://www.sjipc.com) • When: Sunday, June 16th at 7PM • Where: Trianon Theater, 72 N 5th Street, Downtown San Jose

## WELCOME SBANDIERATORI E MUSICI DI FAENZA



The IAHF is excited to host the Gruppo Sbandieratori e Musici del Palio del Niballo di Faenza from Ravenna, Italy. They are flag throwers and musicians that will be performing at our Italian Family Festa both Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25, times TBD. Stay tuned for more information in next month's newsletter. Please help us welcome them by supporting our efforts with your donation. Contact the IAHF office or just mail in a check with the memo "Flag Throwers".

### *Itinerary Highlights for August 18 to 26, 2019*

- 8/18/19 Arrival at 12:45pm San Francisco / IAHF 4:00 PM, meet host families and light dinner
- 8/19/19 Visits to Stanford University, Apple, tour Santa Clara Mission & archives / lunch provided by Nanci Wilborn / BBQ dinner with host families provided by Tony & Rebecca Morici
- 8/20/19 Visits to Facebook, Santana Row, tour Tesla's plant / lunch provide by Zanotto's Family at Zanotto's on Naglee / Welcome dinner by IAHF
- 8/21/19 Tour Google, Futsal (Calcio) game at Silvercreek Sport Arena / lunch provided by Jeff & Joya Whitford, Google / Mexican Fiesta dinner provided by Italian Language Program members
- 8/22/19 Day in San Francisco, tour Alcatraz, visit S.F. Piers, North Beach / China Town, walk Golden Gate Bridge, lunch/dinner in S.F.
- 8/23/19 Day in Santa Cruz / lunch in Santa Cruz at the home of Gerry and Alfio Crema / pot-Luck dinner with members of Italian Language Program and Host Families.
- 8/24/19 Italian Family Festa performances
- 8/24-25/19 Italian Family Festa, two performances Saturday, one performance Sunday and farewell activities
- 8/26/19 Farewell Brunch at IAHF with Host Families / Sbandieratori e Musici depart for Italy -- Article by Delia Schizzano 🌸

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SCHEDULE OF

*Events*

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

Schedule of Events is subject to change

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

### MAY

May 2 / Cooking Class: Timballo di Melanzane / 7 PM / Instructor: Ken Borelli / IAHF Hall / [RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org](mailto:RSVP_at_eventsvp@iahfsj.org) or call 408-293-7122

May 16 / Regional Lunch: Tuscany / 12 PM / IAHF Hall / Guest speaker Caroline Cocciardi, author of Leonardo's Knots / \$15 members; \$18 non-members / [RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org](mailto:RSVP_at_eventsvp@iahfsj.org) or call 408-293-7122

May 23 / Cena Fuori / Sole Mio Ristorante Italiano, 14441 Big Basin Way, Saratoga / 7 PM / \$40 at the door / [RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org](mailto:RSVP_at_eventsvp@iahfsj.org) or call 408-293-7122

May 31 / Casino Night / Visit [iahfsj.org/casino](http://iahfsj.org/casino) for more information

### JUNE

June 5 / Festa della Repubblica / 11 AM flag raising at San Jose City Hall, 70 W. Hedding / Lunch at 12 PM at IAHF Hall / \$20 members; \$22 guests / [RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org](mailto:RSVP_at_eventsvp@iahfsj.org) or call 408-293-7122

June 6 / Cooking Class / Sicilian Caponata / 7 PM / IAHF Hall / Instructor: Lucia Clementi / \$30 adults | \$20 students under 18 / [RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org](mailto:RSVP_at_eventsvp@iahfsj.org) or call 408-293-7122

June 9 / IAHF Scholarship Award Ceremony / Time TBD / IAHF Hall / More information to come

June 20 / Regional Lunch / 12 PM / IAHF Hall / \$15 members; \$18 guests / [RSVP at eventsvp@iahfsj.org](mailto:RSVP_at_eventsvp@iahfsj.org) or call 408-293-7122

### AUGUST

Aug 24 & 25 / Italian Family Festa / History Park San Jose / FREE!! / More info to come at [www.italianfamilyfesta.org](http://www.italianfamilyfesta.org)

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

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## INTERO

A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

### EDUCATION

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

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

### PERSONAL BACKGROUND

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

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

*Providing the Quality of Service You Deserve!*

The Italian American Heritage Foundation presents

# Casino Night Fundraiser



May 31, 2019 6:00 p.m.



Prizes!

CASINO GAMES  
DJ and DANCING  
NO HOST BAR  
LIGHT APPETIZERS



Re-buys!

Doors open/DJ 6:00-10:00 ~ Games 6:30-9:30

Location: IAHF, 425 N 4th St, San Jose

**HIGH ROLLER SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Player: Members \$50/Non-members \$60

Socialite (non-player): Members \$40/Non-members \$50

Early Bird Pricing until April 30, 2019\*

\* add \$10 tickets to prices starting May 1, 2019

PAY BY CREDIT CARD or for MORE INFO: [iahfsj.org/casino](http://iahfsj.org/casino)

PAY BY CHECK—make checks payable to IAHF, include number of tickets and names of attendees, mail to: IAHF, 425 N 4th Street, San Jose, CA 95112 or call 408.293.7122, email [iahfsj@iahfsj.org](mailto:iahfsj@iahfsj.org) for assistance.

MUST BE 21 YEARS OLD  
TO ATTEND

Number of member tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of non-member tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_