



Founded in 1984, NBICF brings people of all ancestries together to share all things Italian

Messaggio del Presidente - George Golfieri - 707-843-3176

Cari Amici,

I hope all of you and your families and friends remain in good health during this pandemic. This past year has been like no other that we will remember for years to come. Two months into 2021 and the pandemic continues to affect our lives. However, I am optimistic that 2021 will be a better year as COVID-19 vaccines are beginning to be administered. Hang in there as there is light at the end of the tunnel and we can once again come together to celebrate our Italian traditions and culture. As they say in Italy, **“andra tutto bene”**. Everything will be alright.

Financially, the Foundation ended 2020 with \$37,648 in the bank, a balance much lower than in previous years. The pandemic had an impact on the Foundation’s ability to generate income to cover fixed expenses. The majority of income is generated from membership dues, donations, dinners, and fundraisers. The Foundation depends on these sources of income to support the scholarship programs, cultural events and to cover operating expenses. The Foundation depends on its members to support its fundraisers and events. Donations also go a long way to supporting the Foundation’s mission and our home, the Italian Cultural Center, as this is our heritage that binds us together as Italian Americans and to further the Foundation’s commitment to the North Bay Italian community.

Membership renewal notices were sent out in January. Members can pay their membership dues online by credit card or by mailing a check. A website page for **Annual membership renewals** is available on our website at [www.nbicf.org](http://www.nbicf.org). Please pay your dues **by March 31, 2021**.

If you have any questions regarding the Foundation’s financials or your membership renewal please call me.

The Board of Directors and I would like to thank those **members** who purchased To-Go dinners, **your support is greatly appreciated**, and **Randy Apel** for **donating his time** for preparing the dinner. There is a lot of work, planning, and preparation that goes into an event like this and NBICF can always count on Randy to come through when needed. We would also like to **thank the Cogir Senior Living of Rohnert Park for donating the food and containers** for the dinner. The Board appreciates these **generous donations from Randy and Cogir Senior Living of Rohnert Park** and for their support to NBICF. The NBICF Board of Directors should also be recognized for their leadership and assistance with the dinner.

It is with sadness that I report that member and volunteer, Ron Fertitta, passed away December 20, 2020. Ron was always willing to help by volunteering at our monthly dinners and other events. The Foundation sends its sincere condolences to the Fertitta family.

## Thank you - Grazie

The following members have made donations to NBICF:

**Maggie Brothers \* Vicki Fleming \* Glen and Kathy Gillis \* Marina Mariani  
Ginny Pitts \* Anna Rybat \* Diane Toso**

March 14 - Daylight saving

March 17 - St. Patrick’s Day (we can all be Irish for the day)

March 20 - First day of Spring



The Easter Bunny does *not* exist in Italy, so there are no chocolate bunnies with ears begging to be bitten off. **In Italy, it's all about eggs**, the symbol of rebirth and renewal. Italians go all out with chocolate eggs, which can range from tiny solid ones to beautifully wrapped foot-high hollow eggs, which hide a gift inside. For children you can buy chocolate eggs stuffed with a surprise toy, while for adults there are ready-made chocolate eggs containing such treats as costume jewelry or designer sunglasses inside.

"*Natale con i tuoi, Pasqua con chi vuoi*" is a popular expression throughout Italy, which translates as "Spend Christmas with your family, but Easter with whomever you want."

**Colomba di Pasqua - Colomba** is the word for dove and also the name of a dove-shaped yeast cake traditionally served by Milanese at Easter. It's studded with candied orange peel, then topped with almonds and a sprinkling of sugar to form a crisp, nutty crust.



**Pastiera Neapolitan** is a traditional Neapolitan dessert, a ricotta and whole-grain pie with a mouthwatering aroma so distinctive, any blindfolded Neapolitan can identify the dessert.

**Ciaramicola**, a spicy lemon cake frosted with a fluffy white meringue, and dusted with colorful sprinkles, is a classic Perugia tradition.

**Scoppio de Carro**, which translates as the "Exploding of the Cart," is an unusual Easter custom in Florence. **See the back page for information.**

The day after Easter in Italy, known either as *La Pasquetta* (Little Easter) or *Il Lunedì dell'Angelo*, (Angel's Monday), is a national holiday with offices and schools closed. Italians traditionally go on a picnic that day, often their first outdoor excursion since the start of winter.



#### NBICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

George Golfieri (President 707-843-3176)

Linda Apel (Treasurer), Allen Barbieri, Lynne Burton, Lisa Goe, Ron Grassi, Cindy Hume (Secretary), Arleen Place, Alfred (Al) Pucci, Don Raimondi, Carole Stewart and Les Villanyi (VP)

#### Directors Emeritus:

Angelo Catelani

Please visit NBICF.org About Us / Directors for a short biography of each Board member.

### Membership News

#### Individual

Jill Pfeifer Mc Intyre

#### Student

Gina Fortino Dickson

#### Members who renewed as Patrons

Susan and Howard Adler, Robert and Kim Agrella, Maggie Brothers, Joan and Charlie Demitz, Larry Dinelli, George and Anna Golfieri, Ron and Sally Grassi, Susan and Dan Maners, Betz and Sam Miller, Virginia Pitts, Arleen and Tom Place, Alfred and Phyllis Pucci, Leon and Lanette Radomile, Donald and Kathryn Raimondi, Rae and John Rehn

#### New & Continuing Business Members:

Buttitta Design

Faloni Ranch

Forchini Vineyards & Winery  
Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)  
Ramazzotti Winery

#### Condolences to the families of:

Fausto Catelani

(Brother to Angelo and Miria Garfagnoli)

Ron Fertitta

(Lois you are in our thoughts and prayers)

May they rest in peace.

La parola del giorno (the word of the day)

**Pesca**

The Italian word for *peach* is *pesca* (feminine, plural: *pesche*)

April 4 - Easter (Buona Pasqua) \* April 22 - Earth Day

New Member, **Leon J. Radomile**, has provided us with this quiz. You can learn more about Leon's blog at <https://www.leonradomile.com>

## POPULAR ITALIAN SURNAMES

Is Your Name Listed?

- 1] This comes from the Italian word 'manco' which literally means left-handed and is Italian in origin.
- 2] This popular Italian surname originated from the Italian word Barbiere, which means 'barber'.
- 3] Surname derived from the Italian adjective 'ricco' which means 'curly' and its variations like Rizzo are a nickname for someone with curly hair.
- 4] Surname commonly given to children in Italy who were abandoned or given up for adoption by their parents. After the unification of Italy in 1861, laws were put in place that forbid the practice of giving surnames that reflected a child's origins.
- 5] This common last name is supposed to be originated from the Latin word Peregrinus, meaning 'a foreigner' or 'a pilgrim'.
- 6] This surname indicates an individual from Greece.
- 7] This surname comes from the Italian form of the name Jordan. This particular surname has its roots in the Hebrew name "Yarden" which is the name of the Jordan River flowing between the countries of Jordan and Israel. It is derived from 'yarad' which means to flow down.
- 8] This name is derived from the diminutive of the given name of Mauro, the Italian form of Maurus, meaning dark-skinned of someone coming from Mauritania in northern Africa.
- 9] A popular Italian surname coming from the Italian word for 'lion'. It can be a nickname for your lion-hearted baby. My Abruzzese father was a surviving twin, can you guess his first name?
- 10] This surname denotes a person who lived by a river or the sea and comes from the words coast or riverbank. It is Italian, Spanish and Portuguese in origin. My mother was born on an island named Salina off the coast of Sicily.

Answers are below and there will more in the next Mosaico!

Thank you Leon for sharing.

ANSWERS  
1. Mancini 2. Barbieri 3. Ricci 4. Esposito 5. Pellegriani 6. Greco 7. Giordano 8. Moretti 9. Leone 10. Costa

### Festa di San Giuseppe

The Feast of Saint Joseph, celebrated on March 19, and is commonly celebrated in Italian communities throughout the world. Thanks is given to St. Joseph for preventing a famine in Sicily during the Middle Ages. According to legend, there was a severe drought at the time, so the faithful prayed to their patron saint for rain. They promised that if San Giuseppe answered their prayers, they would prepare a large feast in his honor. The rain did come, and the people of Sicily gathered to prepare a large banquet for their patron saint. Since St. Joseph's Day falls during Lent, no meat is served. Instead, fish and pasta are mainstays of the feast. One typical dish is pasta with bread crumbs, (St. Joseph was a carpenter so the bread crumbs are meant to symbolize sawdust). An altar is usually built using seasonal vegetables, fava beans, bread and whatever you have to offer.



*North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation*

64 Brookwood Ave Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4326

tel: 707-591-9696 email: nbicf@sonic.net

www.nbicf.org

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**Mosaico Culturale** is published six times a year. It is the newsletter of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation, a California nonprofit membership corporation. North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation Statement of Purpose: A nonprofit, open membership organization dedicated to the study, preservation and enjoyment of Italian Culture. Founded in 1984, NBICF brings people of all ancestries together to share all things Italian. NBICF activities foster cultural awareness, celebrate traditions and support education via scholarships, classes and programs.

**THANK YOU to those who have made donations to NBICF.**

Because of **YOU**, we are able to maintain our goals of study, preservation, and enjoyment of Italian Culture. Each donation, no matter the size, has an impact for NBICF. You can specify where your donation goes, such as building fund, scholarships, in memoriam or general fund, by indicating it on your check.



Make your checks payable to:

NBICF, 64 Brookwood Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Donations can also be made via our website,

**www.NBICF.org.**



DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT

**ANDIAMO – Let’s Go . . . travel someday, when safe!** I hope you’re healthy and protecting yourself, your loved ones and fellow citizens.

**Le Marche Marvels – September 13-23, 2021 (hopefully) - Custom Tour on the Adriatic Sea.**

Enjoy tasty cuisine, cultural gems, fine wines and serene beaches in sea resorts and hill towns crowned by medieval castles. Linger in small but dynamic Ravenna, San Marino, Urbino, Norcia and more. Composer Rossini, artist Raphael were Marchigiani. Savor Tuscan style minus fuss, cost and crowds! For more information visit [www.nbicf.org/travel](http://www.nbicf.org/travel). **Sharie Sbrazza of Andiamo Travel - NBICF member since 1986**

**Scoppio del Carro**



A huge, decorated wagon filled with fireworks is pulled by white oxen through Florence to the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore in the city’s historic center. Near the end of the Easter Mass, the Archbishop sends a dove-shaped rocket (a symbol of the Holy Spirit) into the cart to ignite the fireworks. That cart is the same one that has been used for more than 500 years (contrary to the festival’s name, they don’t actually blow up the cart itself). The complex firework show that follows lasts about 20 minutes. A successful display from the "Explosion of the Cart" is supposed to guarantee a good harvest, stable civic life, and good business.