



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

Messaggio del Presidente - George Golfieri

Cari Amici,

Felice anno nuovo a tutti. Happy New Year to everyone.

Looking back on 2023, the Foundation faced some financial challenges, mainly the major repairs to the NBICF Center, due to weather damage that occurred last winter. I am happy to report that even with the challenges, the Foundation remains solvent. It is ready to embark on its **40th anniversary** and continue in its mission which is the study, preservation, and enjoyment of Italian Culture.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors for their hard work, support, guidance, and commitment to the Foundation this past year. I would like to congratulate and welcome our newest Board members who were recently elected by mail-in ballots. Welcome to **Susan Mancaluso** and **Gina Fortino Dickson**. The Board and I appreciate their commitment to NBICF and I know they will contribute to the success of the Foundation. The Board and I would like to thank **Al Pucci** who has decided not to return to the board. The Board sends a special thank you to **Linda Apel** for all her years on the Board and also as an officer of the Foundation. Their dedication, contributions, and support have led to the overall success of the Foundation.

I am pleased to report that the **Mercatino di Natale** was a success. Thank you to **Susan Terracina Adler** for her hard work in planning and coordinating the event. I would like to thank the following people who helped make this event a success: **Kathy Gillis** and **Joan Demitz** for setting up and selling the books and to **Jamil Adler** who helped with set-up. Mille Grazie to **Louise Leck** who sold **handmade embroidery** items and donated the proceeds to NBICF.

In October, the Foundation was offered the opportunity to bring live Italian theater to Santa Rosa which was made possible by **In Scena theater group** and **the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. I would like to thank **Laura Caparrotti**, the artistic Director of In Scena, who brought talented Italian actors **Marco Simeoli**, **Antonella Romano**, **Rosario Soarno**, **Ernesto Orrico** and guitarist **Massimo Garritano**. All of the actors performed in the three different plays, and their performances were superb! Many thanks to the **Arlene Francis Center and D'Argenzio Winery** for offering their facilities and hosting two of the In Scena performances. Grazie Mille to **Susan Mancaluso** for bringing In Scena to Santa Rosa and for Susan's hard work in coordinating and planning the events.

NBICF is especially grateful to D'Argenzio Winery for donating 20% of ticket sales to the Foundation.

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NBICF is excited to announce that **Robert Michael Smith**, an active pioneer of **digital sculpture, 3D CG visualization/animation, virtual reality, robotic CNC milling, 3D printed sculptures** and **synthetic biology**, will be giving a **video presentation** on **February 18, 2024** at the NBICF Center, 2pm.



Do not miss this! Smith has exhibited extensively globally during the past forty years. Come see the remarkable sculptures he has created!

Please see reservation page insert. Limited seating.

Inserts of Upcoming Events:

January 29th - Polenta Dinner

February 18th - Robert Michael Smith, Sculptor. \$10 event

February 24th - Author Chef, Viola Buitoni,
<https://violasitaly.com-meet-viola-buitoni>

Free event, a donation is requested.

Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy

Doors open **1:30pm**, screening at **2:00pm**.

For information: 707-546-9654

Free - Snacks - No reservations required. Donations are kindly accepted. Movies may vary due to availability.

Showing Sunday, January 28, 2024

Night on Earth (1991) 2h 8 m Comedy/Drama (R)



This is an international feature. It unites Europe and America through one topic but with five different interpretations in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Rome and Helsinki. Each segment presents an encounter with a taxi cab driver. The Roman adventure has Roberto Benigni improvising as he confesses his sins to a bishop in his cab in what is arguably the funniest 20 minutes ever recorded in movie history! It is hysterical! Winona Ryder stars in another part and the production was financed and scored by Tom Waits. Winona and Tom, both former Sonoma County residents. In English, French, Italian, and Finnish with subtitles.

Showing Sunday February 25, 2024

Malèna (2000) 1h 32m Comedy/Romance (R)

In the small Sicilian town of Castelvoto, a teenage boy named Renato experiences three major events: Italy enters WWII; he receives a new bike; and he first sees the beautiful and sensual Malèna, who is the most desired young woman in town. Her husband is in the armed forces, leaving her alone. She keeps an eye on her infirm old father, until gossip makes him reject her. Renato becomes obsessed with Malèna. From writer/director Giuseppe Tornatore who achieved fame in Cinema Paradiso.



CARE HOPE GOOD SPIRITS HEAL RECOVER

to members and their families who are not feeling well

For Information:

Coro Allegro: 707-484-4992 Les Villanyi
Library/Office: 707-573-7185 Virginia Wilburn
Italian Classes: 707-874-2512 Emily Evans
Membership: 707-843-3176 George Golfieri
Reservations: 707-573-7185 Virginia Wilburn
Scholarships: 707-981-8252 Gino Muzzatti
Volunteer Coordinator and Sunshine Cards:
707-586-1167 JoAnn Piantanida

NBICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

George Golfieri (President 707-843-3176)

Sonia Badalamenti, Allen Barbieri, Rene Berardi, Susan Cole, Gina Fortino Dickson, Susan Mancaluso, Don Raimondi, Virginia Smith, Carole Stewart, Christl Unglaub, Les Villanyi (VP), and Virginia Wilburn

Directors Emeritus: Angelo Catelani

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

Welcome

Membership News

Benvenuto

Welcome to our newest members of NBICF!

Individual

Liliana Gallelli

Carla Musso (welcome back)

New Family Member

Ken and Sandy Litzie

Judith Newton

Joseph and Marilee Taddei

Michael Trulson and Susan Thollog

Rebecca Vives

New Business

Cibo Rustico Pizza

D'Argenzio Winery

Thank you to our Continuing Business Members

Apri La Creative Consulting

Buttitta Design

Ecostruction - Mitchel Slade

Faloni Ranch

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)

NorCal & Wine Country Real Estate LLC

North Bay Diamon Fusion

Servico Building Maintenance Inc.

Condolences to the family and friends of

Christina Blasi

May she rest in peace

Your ticket to Autumn in Tuscany & Umbria

Vineyards are no longer green, they are now resplendent in reds and golds. People are harvesting grapes and olives, restaurants are featuring dishes with fresh black and white truffles along with risotto that is flavored and colored with local saffron. Savor the heavenly chocolate of Perugia and the superb wines of Umbria and Tuscany. Experience breathtaking hilltop towns like Assisi, San Gimignano, and Cortona that fill one's soul with amazement and peace. Finally, you will see the wonders of Florence and ancient Rome.



You could be on your way to Incredible Italy next fall. NBICF's Raffle to Italy for 10 days for 2 people takes you to Umbria and Tuscany. Enjoy *la bella vita* with airfare, lodging, and transportation included. Like to stay longer? Customize your trip!

Only 750 tickets will be sold and the drawing for the lucky couple will be once all tickets have been sold. Tickets are \$25 each. Contact **Les Villanyi** at 707-484-4992 to get your chance to experience **Autumn in Tuscany & Umbria**.

A portion of the proceeds will support the NBICF Scholarship Program.

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Carnival of Venice 2024 (*Carnevale di Venezia 2024*)

January 27 - February 13

The parties, costumes, and masks! Traditionally, the most important days of the Carnival are Fat Thursday (the last Thursday before Lent), and Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday). The first official document declaring the Venice Carnival a public holiday dates back to 1296, when the Senate of the Venetian Republic set it before Lent. Various websites

Throughout Italy, children eagerly await the arrival of **La Befana**, and cities hold celebrations in her name. The biggest La Befana festival takes place in Urbania, her traditional home. Every year on **January 5**, residents of Urbania host a celebration that attracts thousands of people. Activities include dancing, singing in the streets, and appearances by hundreds of Befanas, who begin their **Epiphany gift-giving** journeys by handing out sweets to children at the festival.

La Befana vien di notte / The Befana comes by night
Con le scarpe tutte rotte / With her shoes all tattered
and torn

Col vestito alla Romana / She comes dressed in the Roman
way

Viva, Viva La Befana! / Long life to Befana!



Various web articles. Thank you George for the song

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Also in October, the Foundation participated in the Sonoma County Finding History Day at Finley Community Center. There were many varied organizations that participated in this event. NBICF was well represented and offered information about Italian history in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County through displays and information on prominent Italian families in the area. This was also an opportunity to give out information about the history of NBICF and its mission to promote Italian culture in Santa Rosa through programs such as the Foundation's scholarship programs. I would like to thank **Kathy Dowdall** for her hard work in creating the displays and her knowledge of local Italian History. I would also like to thank **Scotty Thompson** for helping to set up the displays and NBICF Board members **Susan Cole** and **Rene' Berardi** for their help.

In November, the Foundation was thrilled to be invited by the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber to participate in the Winter Lights celebration in Courthouse Square. This opportunity gave the Foundation the chance to promote Italian Culture by giving out information about NBICF to a very large audience. The highlight for NBICF was that our own **Coro Allegro** performed on stage and sang Italian Christmas carols for those in attendance. I would like to thank **Les Villanyi (Coro Allegro director)**, **Janet Barocco**, **Gabriella Ambrosi**, and **Accordionist John Pedrone** who accompanied the Coro. I would also like to thank **Rene' Berardi** and **Don Raimondi** for helping with set-up and assistance with manning the NBICF Booth.

Membership renewals will be sent out in early January. The Board is counting on members to renew their membership. The dues supply the needed income to sustain the operations of the Foundation. Be proud knowing you are investing in the future of our Italian heritage. The Board appreciates the support of its members now more than ever.



North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation
64 Brookwood Ave Santa Rosa, CA 95404-
tel: 707-591-9696 email: nbicf@sonic.net
www.nbicf.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Upcoming Events

January 28, 2024 - Sunday, 1:30pm: **Sundays at the Center** with Diane McCurdy, film: **Night on Earth**

January 29, 2024 - Monday, (doors open at 5pm, meeting and dinner at 6pm): **Members Dinner Meeting**, Father Denis O'Sullivan Parish Center (St. Rose)

February 18, 2024 - Sunday, 2 pm: **Robert Michael Smith**, Sculptor, video presentation, at the NBICF Center.

February 24, 2024 - Saturday, 2 pm: **Author Talk & Tasting**, with **Chef Viola Buitoni**, at the NBICF Center.

February 25, 2024 - Sunday, 1:30pm: **Sundays at the Center** with Diane McCurdy, film: **Malèna**

DELIVER TO: ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT

Mosaico Culturale is published six times a year. It is the newsletter of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation, a California nonprofit membership corporation. NBICF 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.

Mosaico Culturale Editorial Staff: Les Villanyi (editing and proofreading), George Golfieri, Marie Maggi-Wilson (editor) . Website: Don Raimondi

Members are encouraged to submit articles or items for publication. Submit your articles two weeks prior to the bi-monthly Mosaico publication date. Please submit articles as Word documents. Editors reserve the right to select and edit as space allows.

Some New Year traditions in Italy:

Eating lentils at midnight brings good luck or opt for 12 grapes! In Naples and other Southern areas, throw old things from the window, to symbolize letting go of the unwanted. Wear something red, usually underwear, it is believed to fend off negativity. Part of this article is a repeat of last year. I really like the idea of tossing things out the window. Marie



APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

___ INDIVIDUAL: \$35 ___ HOUSEHOLD: \$50 ___ PATRON: \$100 ___ BUSINESS: \$150

___ STUDENT: \$10 (Please provide a copy of your valid student I.D.)

Please indicate your areas of interest below; mark all that apply.

___ Fundraisers ___ History ___ Italian Classes ___ Music ___ Scholarships ___ Volunteer ___ Other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please make your checks payable to NBICF. Mail to 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Applications can also be done via our website, **www.NBICF.org**.

For more Information, call: 707-591-9696.

THANK YOU

to those who have made donations to NBICF!

Your donations will help us maintain our goals of study, preservation and enjoyment of Italian Culture.

You can specify where your donation goes, such as the building fund, scholarships, in memoriam, or for any other reason, by indicating it on your check.

Mail your checks payable to **NBICF**, 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Donations can also be made via our website, **www.NBICF.org**.



It is a new year and NBICF is proud to support four deserving Santa Rosa Junior College students who are studying in Florence, Italy this Spring 2024 semester. Three are recipients of a \$1,000 **Sharie Sbrazza NBICF Florence Study Abroad Scholarship**, which is solely funded by your donations and fundraising efforts such as our Foundation dinners.

A \$1,000 scholarship is being offered to a fourth student this year in honor of **NBICF Scholarship Committee member and lifelong Sonoma County educator, Ada Nourse**, who passed away last May.

If you would like to honor Ada's or Sharie's memory in supporting the international education of students during their life-changing semester of study in Florence, Italy, you can go to <https://www.nbicf.org/donation> and click on the yellow Donate Button.

Use the drop-down menu to select **Scholarship Fund** and select your donation amount and payment method. If you use this online option, please write an email to George Golfieri at george.zena65@gmail.com mentioning that it is in Ada's or Sharie's memory.

You can also donate by writing a check made out to **NBICF** with the word **Scholarships for Ada or Sharie**, on the memo line and mail to NBICF 64 Brookwood Ave. Santa Rosa 95404.

Your donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in a thank-you letter sent by the NBICF.

We greatly appreciate your support of our NBICF scholarship programs.

Grazie, Gino Muzzatti

For further information, email NBICF Scholarship Committee Chair Gino Muzzatti at gmuzzatti@santarosa.edu or call NBICF at 591-9696.





NBICF established its prestigious College Scholarship Program in 1986.

More than 400 scholarships totaling over \$124,000 have been awarded to date. Scholarships support Italian-inspired and study-abroad studies for Santa Rosa Junior College students.

The Marianne Pedroncelli Scholarship Fund was established in 1996 at the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) in memory of NBICF member Marianne Pedroncelli with an initial donation of \$10,000. This \$450 (2021) annual scholarship will be awarded to a student with a major related to Italy: fashion, wine studies, international business etc. SRJC students interested in applying can do so every March through AwardSpring, accessed through their SRJC Student Portal

The Bill Mitchell and Jeanette Mancini-Mitchell Scholarship Fund was established in 2014 at the Santa Rosa Junior College with a SRJC Foundation-matched donation of \$5,000. Jeanette is the late past-President of the NBICF. Additional donations have been made in Bill and Jeanette's memory to create this annual \$900 (2021) scholarship for students pursuing a career in teaching or Italian-related studies. Students interested in applying can do so every March through AwardSpring, accessed through their SRJC Student Portal.

The Sharie Sbrazza NBICF Florence Study Abroad Scholarships are awarded each year to students furthering their education as part of SRJC's Study Abroad Program in Italy. With the passing of beloved board member and travel program director, Sharie Sbrazza in 2021, the Board of Directors announced the three \$1,000 Florence study abroad awards are named in her memory. The application period opens in the Spring prior to tour departure and eligible students will apply through AwardSpring, accessed through their SRJC Student Portal.

For further information, email NBICF Scholarship Committee Chair Gino Muzzatti at gmuzzatti@santarosa.edu or call NBICF at 591-9696.



CULINARIAN BOOKSHOP

Author Talk & *Tasting*



\$40

Ticket Comes
with the book

Join Us for the
Tastiest Day of
the Year!

FEBRUARY 24TH
ITALIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION
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LEARN ABOUT CHEF AUTHOR VIOLA
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CULINARIAN BOOKSHOP



Author Talk & *Tasting*

10% of proceeds to benefit the Italian Cultural Foundation.

Books will be available for pick up at the event and Viola will be available for personalized book signings.

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**When ordering on-line enter
Italian Cultural Foundation in the
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For more information:

707-401-0462

support@culinarianbookshop.com



Robert Michael Smith
Digital Sculptor / ArtScience Tech

Sunday, February 18, 2024

2:00pm – 4:00pm

NBICF Center - 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Robert M Smith will be giving a video presentation.

Seating is limited to 40 people. Please make reservations early.

Reservations must be made by February 10, 2024.

Name (s) _____

Number of people at \$10 _____ Telephone Number _____

Make checks payable to NBICF. Mail to 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation

Member Meeting and Dinner - Monday, January 29, 2024

Doors open at 5:00pm, meeting and dinner at 6:00pm.

Father Denis O'Sullivan Parish Center (St. Rose), 320 10th Street, Santa Rosa

Open seating - arrive early to ensure seating for your entire party.

Prepaid reservations must be made by January 21, 2024

Dinner prepared by

Pasta King

Dinner includes:

Polenta! Choice of two Sauces

Salad, a side dish

And of course, **Dessert**

Wine at the Table



(REMINDER: NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL OR FOOD ALLOWED)

Author Talk & Tasting with

Chef Viola Buitoni

Saturday February 24, 2024

2:00pm – 4:00pm

NBICF Center - 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Seating is limited to 40 people. Please make reservations early.

Please see enclosed flyer.

Reservations must be made by February 20, 2024.

Free Event - Donations requested. Mail reservation to:

NBICF 64 Brookwood Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Name (s) _____

Number of people _____ Telephone Number _____

10% of proceeds to benefit the ItalianCultural Foundation.

Prepaid reservations must be made by January 21, 2024

NBICF Member Meeting Dinner - Monday, January 29, 2024

Doors open at 5:00pm, meeting and dinner at 6:00pm

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

_____places at \$35 for Members _____places at \$38 for Guests

_____places at \$10 for Teens (13 –18 yrs.) _____places at \$5 for Child (5–12 yrs.)

_____places at free for Child under 5 yrs.

Make checks payable to NBICF. Mail to 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

95404. Or, make reservations online at: www.nbicf.org

All net proceeds support SRJC Scholarship Fund and NBICF Cultural Activities.