



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

Messaggio del Presidente - George Golfieri

Cari Amici,

The Board of Directors elected officers at the February board meeting whose term will run from 2024 to 2026. Congratulations to **George Golfieri** (President), **Les Villanyi** (Vice President), and **René Berardi** (Secretary). The **position of Treasurer is still open**.

Over the past few years, I have been asking and pleading with members to get more involved with the Foundation by joining committees and the Board of Directors. Member involvement is crucial to the future of the Foundation. If any member is interested in joining a committee or serving on the board, please contact me. I can be reached at (707) 843-3176 or George.zena65@gmail.com

Financially, the Foundation ended 2023 with \$41,034 in the bank. However, the Foundation ended the year in the red losing \$4,593. The majority of this loss was the result of repairs made to the roof, ceiling, and termite damage, accounting for 25% of all expenses. On the bright side, income for 2023 was \$48,544 an increase of 13% over the previous year. Donations and membership dues accounted for most of this increase in income. Thank you.

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. If you have any questions regarding the Foundation's financials, please feel free to contact me.

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. Please pay your dues by March 31, 2024.

Each spring, the Foundation awards 3 scholarships for the **Sharie Sbrazza NBICF Florence Study Abroad Scholarships** to students furthering their education as part of SRJC's Study Abroad Program in Italy. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship. This year the Board has approved an additional scholarship in the memory of Ada Nourse, who passed away last year. The scholarship committee recently awarded 4 scholarships and the names of the recipients of these 4 scholarships will be published in the next Mosaico. In 1996; NBICF and SRJC established the **Marianne Pedroncelli scholarship**. This scholarship awards \$450 each spring to students with a major in Italian Studies. Also, in 2014 NBICF and the Santa Rosa Junior College established the **Bill and Jeanette Mitchell Scholarship**. This scholarship awards \$900 each spring to students pursuing a career in teaching or Italian-related studies. If members would like to donate to the Pedroncelli and/or Mitchell scholarships, they can contact the SRJC Foundation at: scholarships@santarosa.edu.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$132,000 in scholarships for Italian studies at SRJC.

Thursday, March 14th.

NBICF Dinner

New location for dinner

Sonoma County Veteran

Memorial Building

See insert for more information



Final call for tickets **Trip to Italy** -
March 7, deadline, or if still available
at the dinner on March 14th (cash only)

See insert

**Help Save
Coro Allegro
Singers Needed**

See insert

"Big Shoes to Fill"

Treasurer position

Mercatino Chairperson

We are always looking for

Volunteers for all events.

Have an idea for a fundraiser?

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, March 24, 2024

Captain Corelli's Mandolin (2001) 2h 11 m

Drama/Music/Romance (R)



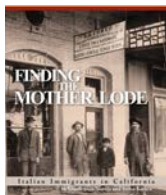
When a fisherman leaves to fight with the Greek army during World War II, his fiancée falls in love with the local Italian commander. Starring Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz, and Christian Bale. Mostly in English.

Showing Sunday April 28, 2024

Finding the Mother Lode: Italian immigrants in California (2014) 1h 20 m Documentary

Italians first came to California in large numbers because of the Gold Rush.

While most found little gold, they did find a "Mother Lode" in farming, fishing, commerce and, of course, making wine. This film documents stories set in 7 communities throughout California and examines how economic and social mobility became possible for many Italians in the Golden State. It also looks at how immigrant identity is maintained and transformed as immigrants become assimilated into mainstream America. Perhaps you will be able to recognize some familiar names.



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 Macaluso, 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

Christopher A. Kerosky

New Family Member

Gabriella Ambrosi (welcome back)

Amanda Vitiello

Richard and Loretta Zweig (welcome back)

Thank you to our Continuing Business Members

Apri La Creative Consulting

Buttitta Design

CIBO Rustico Pizza

D'Argenzio Winery

Ecostruction - Mitchel Slade

Faloni Ranch

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)

NorCal & Wine Country Real Estate LLC

North Bay Diamon Fusion

Servico Building Maintenance Inc.

CARE HOPE GOOD SPIRITS HEAL RECOVER

to members and their families who are not feeling well

March 31 - Easter (*Buona Pasqua*) * April 8 - solar eclipse, TX

April 22 - Earth Day

The Easter Bunny, chocolate ones included, does *not* exist in Italy. **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 Napoletana 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 del Carro, which translates as the "Exploding of the Cart," is an unusual Easter custom in Florence. A large antique cart is filled with fireworks and lit on Easter morning.

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.

Susan Terracina Adler, an artist and longtime member, who created Paint Italy for the Foundation since 2014, is saying "Good-Bye / Arrivederci to NBICF. Susan is no longer going to offer the classes at the Center. We will greatly miss her. She has stepped down from organizing and running the Mercatino fundraiser, too. We wish you well and will miss you.



Part of Susan's letter to the Board back in December: "I would like to thank NBICF for allowing me to rent the Center for Mercatino and Paint Italy classes all these years. What started as one fundraiser in 2014 led to on-going painting classes for the past 9 years. We painted scenes of Venice, Lake Como, many of Tuscany... and more. The Mercatinos were mini fundraisers...sales going to NBICF.

Over the years I truly enjoyed starting Pizza Nights, book group, working on regional dinners, and serving at dinners, pairing up with Slow Food for two fundraisers, and having dinner and a movie night at the Center. Great fun!

Again thank you for giving me the opportunity and space to bring Italy and awareness of NBICF to the Sonoma County Community.

Sincerely, Susan Terracina Adler

parole del giorno (words of the day)

treno, autobus, bagagli and biglietto
train, bus, luggage and ticket

Festa di San Giuseppe

The **Feast of Saint Joseph**, celebrated on **March 19**, 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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Upcoming Events

March 7, 2024 - Thursday, last day to buy Trip to Italy raffle tickets.

If still available, they can be bought at the March 14th dinner (cash only).

March 14, 2024 - Thursday, (doors open at 5pm, meeting and dinner at 6pm): **NBICF Dinner / Meeting, Sonoma County Veterans Building Dining Room.** Trip to Italy drawing.

March 24, 2024 - Sunday, 1:30pm: Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy, film: ***Captain Corelli's Mandolin***

April 28, 2024 - Sunday, 1:30pm: Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy, film: ***Finding the Mother Lode***

Save the dates: for Thursday Dinners - May 9th, September 12th, November 14th, and, Friday December 13th. *Pizza, Birra e Vino* will be sometime in July.

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.

FRITTELLA: A very old treat that always taste good. This word refers to a type of fritter and the history of this delicious treat is quite interesting. The word derives from the word Fritto meaning fried. Frittelle date back to ancient Roman times and have been a part of Italian culinary tradition since then.

Frittelle are called Fritole in Venice and are popular during Carnevale. Usually their ingredients are a mix of flour, eggs, butter, vanilla, sugar, lemon zest, yeast, salt, and sometimes liqueur. In Venice, frittelle have been a staple since the time of Marco Polo.

Excerpts of this article were taken from L'Italo Americano. www.Italoamericano.org. George, thank you.

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.

La Festa della Donna, (sometimes called *La Festa delle Donne*) is a celebration of women. *La Festa della Donna* is Italy's celebration of **International Women's Day**, recognized by the United Nations and many countries around the world.

The first National Woman's Day was held in New York, on February 28, 1909. The date was changed from the last Sunday of February, to March 8th, because Russia hadn't yet adopted the Gregorian calendar. February 23rd's corresponding date in the Gregorian calendar is March 8th. Italy first celebrated the holiday in 1922. The tradition of giving out yellow mimosa flowers dates back to 1946.

If you're anywhere in Italy on **March 8th**, you will see **yellow mimosa flowers** (aka acacia) everywhere. They are found throughout Italy and not as expensive as other flowers.



Some amazing Italian women

Maria Francesca Cabrini (July 1850 – December 1917), December 22 is her feast day. She was the youngest of the thirteen children. Only four of the thirteen survived beyond adolescence. Born two months early, she was small and weak as a child and remained in delicate health throughout her life. At 18, she graduates *cum laude* with a teaching certificate. In 1887, she asked for approval from the pope to establish missions in China. He urged her to go to the United States instead, to help the Italian immigrants. A few years later she and other sisters arrived in NYC to be faced with many obstacles. An orphan asylum was finally opened, and later renamed Saint Cabrini House. She founded 67 missionary institutions long before government agencies provided social services. She was naturalized in 1909 as an American citizen. She was canonized in 1946, known as the patron saint of immigrants. Cabrini is also informally recognized as an effective intercessor for finding a parking space. As one priest explained: "She lived in New York City. She understands traffic."

Rita Borsellino (Palermo, Sicily, 1945 - 2018), was an anti-mafia activist and a member of the European Parliament. For decades, Rita collaborated with the non-profit organization Libera, which works to create an anti-mafia culture among Sicilian youth and promotes activities against organized crime.

Grazia Deledda (Sardinia, 1871 – Rome, 1936), the first Italian woman to be awarded with the Nobel prize for literature (1926), she was also the second woman to win it after Selma Lagerlöf.

Rita Levi-Montalcini (Turin, 1909 – Rome, 2012 at the age of 103), An Italian neurologist, one of the most important scientists of the 20th century. In 1968, Dr. Levi-Montalcini became the tenth woman elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. She won the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology for the discovery of the nerve growth factor along with her colleague Stanley Cohen. In 2001, she was made a senator for life, one of Italy's highest honors. She was also a pioneer in the social field. Together with her twin sister Paola, she created the Levi-Montalcini Foundation, which awards scholarships and promotes academic education programs for women in Africa to get more women into scientific and social leadership positions.

Maria Montessori (Chiaravalle, Italy, 1870 - Noordwijk, Netherlands, 1952), was an Italian physician, educator, and innovator, acclaimed for her educational method that builds on the way children learn naturally. She is the founder of the Montessori method of education.

Anna Magnani (Rome, 1908 – Rome, 1973), she was the first Italian to win an Academy Award for Best Actress (1955) and one of the few Italian personalities to have a dedicated star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood.

Hortensia, daughter of the Roman orator Quintus Hortensius, is considered probably to be the first female lawyer in history thanks to a famous oration she delivered in the Roman Forum in 42 B.C.



North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation

Dedicated to the Study, Preservation and Enjoyment of Italian Culture

Raffle for Trip to Italy

10 Days for 2 people in Tuscany!!

First prize includes airfare, lodging, and transportation.

Trip to be taken in Fall 2024

Drawing: March 14, 2024 at the NBICF Dinner

Second and third prizes: \$100 Gift Certificates to Riviera Ristorante in Santa Rosa

Tickets still available - \$25 each

Purchase before March 7. If tickets are still available, they can be purchased at the March 14th dinner before the drawing! Cash only.

See www.nbicf.org for full raffle details.

Tickets sold by:

George Golfieri

Les Villanyi

908-202-7321

or

707-484-4992

coroallegro.nbicf@gmail.com



A Fabulous Evening

Did you attend the polenta dinner last month? Well, let me tell you, if you didn't then you missed out on a winner-winner!

The sumptuous dinner catered by Pasta King, was wonderful, and Susan Cole with her staff were incredible! Not to be missed was the dessert table with several scrumptious homemade cookies and a panettone.

I believe what really added to the evening was being greeted at the door with the fabulous sound of Carlo Solivan's melodic voice singing Italian-American favorites. As the evening progressed, the crowd really got into the music, with an impromptu conga line and dancing. Carlo was amazing interacting with the crowd to provide an unexpected joy!

Please consider joining us at the **March dinner** for a fun time!

Jean Barbieri



Curtains for Coro Allegro?

After almost 40 years of entertaining audiences with beautiful Italian tunes, the ranks of the NBICF Italian chorus have dwindled to a precious few.

Do you have a few hours a month to practice? Try something new, meet new friends, learn new songs, and have fun! Most importantly, you will keep an Italian tradition going for further enjoyment.

If you would like to join us, please let me know as soon as possible.

Les Villanyi, Director – Coro Allegro (707-484-4992, coroallegro.nbicf@gmail.com)



North Bay Italian Culture Foundation

Member Meeting and Dinner - **Thursday, March 14, 2024**

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

Back to the original location for dinners:



Sonoma County Veteran Memorial Dining Room

1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa

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

Dinner prepared by **Pasta King**

Dinner includes:

Antipasti, Salad, Ravioli, Chicken Fettuccine, Rolls, and Dessert

Wine at the Table

Drawing for the Trip to Italy will take place at the dinner!

Please **bring a recipe** of your **favorite cookie** to share

Reminder: **NO outside alcohol or food** allowed.



Prepaid reservations must be made by March 10, 2024

NBICF Member Meeting Dinner - **Thursday, March 14, 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.