

**George Golfieri**

I was born and raised in New York City and grew up in a close knit Italian community. I am a first generation Italian/American. My family came from Liguria (Genova) and Toscana (Pietrasanta) and I learned to speak Italian at a very early age. I am proud of my Italian heritage and I have traveled to Italy many times to visit relatives. I worked for various automotive companies in various management positions. I retired in 2008. My wife Anna and I moved to Santa Rosa in 2009 to be closer to our 3 grandchildren. I love to read about all types of history and like to collect historical items. I joined NBICF in 2009 and was elected to the board of directors in 2012. I was a co-chairman of Festa Italiana. I was elected president of NBICF in 2014. I am proud and honored to be part of a Foundation and as president I will continue the Foundations mission to foster cultural awareness and celebrate Italian traditions.

**Sonia Badalamente**

I was born in the Dominican Republic and came to New York with my mother and sister where I went to Business School and graduated as a Bi-lingual Secretary and Translator. Also in New York I met and married my husband, Vito, born in Sicily and my strong connection to Italy. He passed away in 2013. Shortly after our marriage, we moved to San Francisco, where I got my certificate as a Court Interpreter and worked in an attorney's office, Crocker National Bank and APSA Peruvian Airlines. I have two children and three grandsons. I like to play Bocce, Chinese Mahjong and I love to travel and have been to Italy several times; one of my favorite countries to visit and, even though I have no Italian ancestors, Italy has a very special place in my heart.

**Allen Barbieri**

I was born in Santa Rosa. My parents were born in California, but my grandparents were born in Italy. I was raised in Santa Rosa, until I left to go to Creighton University School of Dentistry, in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduation, I stayed there and worked as a dentist in Public Health for two years, then moved back to Santa Rosa to set up my dental practice. I have been married to my wife Jean, from Nebraska, for 53 years. We have two children, and four grandchildren. Now that I retired, I can spend more time cycling, skiing, and drive my '50 Porsches, watching my grandkids sports activities, and of course participating at NBICF events.

## Susan Macaluso



I'm a New Yorker born in Niagara Falls, NY. I grew up in an Italian family, my mother from Calabria, and my father born in Boston to parents from Sicily and Veneto. The customs, songs and language of Italy were part of my growing up. I have often traveled to Italy for pleasure and to meet relatives, and in college I studied Italian. Since graduating with a BA and MA from Indiana University, I've had a diverse career in performing arts, public relations, marketing and social services. For many years I was an independent producer and event planner, creating dozens of videos on social justice issues, and multi-media presentations for corporate training and fundraising events. In 2021, I relocated to Santa Rosa from New York City, where I had retired as the director of a performing arts center in Manhattan. In that capacity, I was able to present many plays in Italian. When I moved to be near three grandchildren, I was also delighted to find the NBICF and am honored to be a part of this Foundation that brings Italian awareness and culture to the community.

## Don Raimondi



Born in San Francisco, spent early years in San Jose, moved to Santa Rosa in 1992. Married to Kathryn, 6 children, 17 grandchildren. Ancestry: Sicilian (maternal & paternal). Education: BS Chemistry, San Jose State 1963, PhD Chemistry, UC Berkeley 1966. Retired 1993 from IBM after 30 years in various research, development and management roles. Since 1994, Santa Rosa Junior College Adjunct Professor of Computer Science. Served 8 years on San Jose Unified Schools Board of Education. Joined NBICF Board in 1994. Responsible for NBICF website and member communication activities, including the online reservation process.

## Virginia Smith



Italian culture has been a part of my life since I was born in 1935 in Santa Rosa. Though I am half Italian and half Irish, the Italian side was predominant in my rearing. I still own a portion of my great grandparents' property on Laguna Road. Cuneo Court was part of the original property, named after my grandparents, who were Genovese and Tuscano. I've been to these areas 4 times; 2 times to support my oldest son's career as a Carrara marble internationally known sculptor. My last visit, 2015, was to find the cemeteries of our ancestors, which 2 of my daughters and I did successfully. I've been playing Bocce with other NBICF members for the last 6 years and helping Carole Stewart decorate for dinners even before I became a member. Besides raising my 7 daughters and 2 sons, art, cooking and softball have been my main hobbies while my career was based on Bookkeeping and Property & Casualty and Health Insurance sales and administration. My sister and I have continued our Italian cooking and will be making our family's recipe for Swiss Chard, Pork Sausage and Beef Brains raviolis next week for Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners. I'm interested in everything Italian, but please don't ask me to sing.

## Carole Stewart



I was born and raised in San Francisco and have been a resident of Santa Rosa for over 50 years. I'm a retired teaching assistant and caregiver. I have three grown children – a son who is a teacher living in Warsaw, Poland, two daughters living in Santa Rosa, and six grandsons. I am one quarter Italian from the Piedmont area. My passions have been art, music and traveling to archaeological sites. I returned to college to get a degree in archeology and anthropology. I've done tour directing to Yucatan, Mexico, and "digs" in the southwest. Currently I'm a fine artist in oils and co-president of Artists Roundtable. I have been on the NBICF Board of Directors for five years and been singing with Coro Allegro for 15 years. I have also acted with Actors Theatre for Children and many years ago with "ACT". I love gardening, billiards, bocce ball, cards, traveling and just getting involved with fun and interesting people and my family. I also volunteer at Assistant League of Sonoma County for the last 19 years, was past president of Sonoma County Museum Auxiliary and on the Board of Directors of Senior Advocacy Services (SAS) of Sonoma County.

## Susan Cole



A native of Sonoma County, graduate of Montgomery High School and SRJC Culinary Program. I have been married 54 years to my wonderful husband Tony. We have one amazing daughter and 3 wonderful grandchildren, two of whom will be married this year. We have been fortunate enough to do some extensive traveling to see the US and abroad, with 1 month in Italy in the Abruzzi region, in an ancient hillside community, with a family that taught us all about the culture and the love of Italy. My work includes an office manager for a local doctor for over 40 years, interrupted with a 7-year term in corporate for Redwood Credit Union, and graduate school for culinary skills. My husband and I started Sonoma County Bocce Federation 11 years ago, my position of President ended with retirement two years ago, but we still maintain a team to enjoy the sport and stay involved. I look forward to helping the NBICF grow and have fun doing it.

## René Berardi



My grandparents are full Italian, came over through Ellis Island in the 20's, worked in the coal mines in Pennsylvania and lived in San Francisco. Joe and Jennie Berardi retired to Santa Rosa in 1977. Since then, we have spent many evenings with NBICF. I was born in San Francisco, spent my childhood in West Marin and Sierra counties. I have 8 siblings, three moms and one dad. I raised my three children in Santa Rosa and they attended Cali Calmecac Language Academy and are bi-literate in Spanish. They have also attended NBICF summer youth language courses. I have one granddaughter, Charlie Reign, who attended her first NBICF dinner just last month. I live with my partner, Ted, and recently retired from 36 years of teaching. Our most recent trip to Italy this past September included my granddaughter. I am currently remodeling our house in Italy that has been in my family for six generations in the tiny hamlet of Isola Fossara, the Marche region. I intend to spend 3-6 months each year there. It's important to keep cultural traditions, connections to our ancestors and the rich variety they bring to our world. I would love to see Italian traditions taught by our members. We all know someone who makes manicotti, pasta, wine, who speaks the language, is familiar with Ellis Island, art, history, and helpful with travel ideas or geography. Let's connect and offer that to each other and by all means include the children!

## Christl Unglaub



When I was growing up in Germany, my father built a summer home overlooking Lake Iseo (Lombardia) and I spent all my summers there. As a young woman I immigrated to America, but every year my travels abroad would not only take me to my family in Germany, but also to Italy. Jeanette Mitchell, the former president of NBICF, asked me one day to come to a gathering. By joining this great unity I became involved right away in helping with events, as a treasurer, even receiving a scholarship to study in Livorno. My German heart keeps pumping with everything that is Italian: food, wine, song, traditions, history. I am a strong believer of keeping any heritage and customs alive. And what better way to do this with like-minded people of all ages in a setting that offers just that. I am looking forward to be involved because drinking Italian wine and eating Italian food just tastes better in a welcoming group like the NBICF.

## Les Villani



I have been a member of NBICF and the Coro Allegro since 2010 and have been the Director of the Coro since 2014. I spent 40 years in sales and management in the food, dental, software, and real estate industries. My education revolves around foreign languages: I speak French (M. A.), German, Hungarian, Italian, and Spanish. I have taught "Survival Italian" classes for over 20 years to private students and online as well at various junior colleges in the Bay Area. I am the author of two cookbooks for the Petaluma ICF: *The Mamma Mia Cookbook* and *The Return of Mamma Mia*. I love being a part of the NBICF and work constantly to bring the beauty, language, and culture of Italy to our membership as well as to the greater community.

## Gina Fortino-Dickson



Gina is a Civil Litigation Attorney, focusing on plaintiff's personal injury and consumer law. She completed her Juris Doctorate degree at Empire College, here in Santa Rosa. Gina was born in Syracuse, New York. Her paternal great grandparents emigrated from Italy and settled there. Her roots are in the campo region of Italy and possible traces to Sicily. Her parents moved their young family to Sonoma County in the 80's. Gina and her husband, also of Italian descent, now live in Windsor. She looks forward to serving on the board the NBICF striving to maintain a connection to our heritage and culture. When Gina is not serving the community, she loves spending time with her family, including her parents and five siblings, her husband and two children.

## Virginia Wilburn



I was born in Salinas, California, to my immigrant father from Massarosa, (Lucca) Toscana. I am third generation California on my mother's side. My mother was half Italian, father was from Calabria, her mother's ancestry was from Chile. My first language was Italian. I could not speak English when I started school at age 5 in first grade. As a child we moved up and down the state of California always stopping close to other Italians. My father knew all of them. I spent my high school days at McCloud, northern California, graduated as Salutatorian on a Thursday and went to work at my first job the following Monday with the McCloud River Lumber Company in the accounts receivable office. Promoted to the company employment office and collected receipts from the local businesses and other duties. This was a most unusual job, ask me and I will explain. Most of my working years were spent as Customer Service Rep for Insurance Agencies. I was a licensed Broker and spent the last 20 years working and living in San Francisco. After I married, my husband was drafted into the Army and sent to Fairbanks, Alaska, where I joined him and worked for the Air Force for 18 months. I worked at Aerojet in Sacramento where they developed the propellant for the Polarus missile. I have 4 sons, 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandsons. I was a single mom for many years before they coined the phrase. I joined NBICF in 1998 and became a Board member and secretary for 15 years. I was chairman of the Festa Italiana for 9 years. And here I am again as a Board member trying to influence more people to join our organization. I am also the Office Manager, Reservations Coordinator and club volunteer. I hope to bring new life into this organization and keep it going for the future. Sempre avanti!