



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

Messaggio del Presidente - George Golfieri

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707-843-3176

Cari Amici,

Financially, the Foundation ended 2024 with \$43,034 in the bank and had a profit of \$3,771. Income was \$52,086, up 7%, and expenses were down by 10%. Total profit from dinners and fundraisers totaled \$9,887.

The Foundation generates the majority of its income from membership dues, donations, dinners, and fundraisers. These sources of income help support the scholarship programs, cultural events, and cover operating expenses. This is our heritage and binds us together as Italian Americans and furthers the Foundation's commitment to the North Bay Italian community.

I am pleased to announce the recipients of **The Sharie Sbrazza NBICF Florence Study Abroad Scholarship** for the 2025 spring semester. This scholarship is awarded each spring to students furthering their education as part of SRJC's study abroad program in Italy. In addition to these two scholarships, the Board approved a third scholarship in the memory of **Ada Nourse**. Congratulations to **Dora Avanzi Mesquita, Baily Caldwell, and Kiana Palermo**. Each recipient receives a \$1,500 scholarship.

In 1996, NBICF and Santa Rosa Junior College established the **Marianne Pedroncelli scholarship**. This scholarship awards \$450 each spring to students with a major in Italian Studies. Also, in 2014, NBICF and 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 Mitchell scholarships, they can contact the SRJC Foundation at: <https://give.santarosa.edu/give/453878/#!/donation/checkout>

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$136,500 in scholarships for Italian studies at SRJC.

Membership renewal notices were sent out in mid-January. Members can pay their membership dues online by credit card on our website at www.nbicf.org. Members can also mail a check to the Center. Please pay your dues by March 31, 2025.

Over the past few years, I have been asking members to become involved with the Foundation by joining committees, volunteering, or serving on the Board of Directors. Member involvement is crucial to the future of the Foundation. Please contact me if you have questions regarding the Foundation's financials, membership, or joining a committee. My e-mail and telephone number are listed above.

Pictures from the **La Festa Italiana di Santa Rosa** have been added to the NBICF web page. The pictures can be viewed on the home page under *La Festa Italiana di Santa Rosa* headline.



On March 8th, Italy celebrates *La Festa della Donna*, International Women's Day, with women around the world. The yellow mimosa flower is the flower given to women on their special day. Italy first celebrated Women's Day in 1922. The holiday became more important after World War II when Italian women gained the right to vote and pursue political careers.



Le parole del giorno
(the words of the day)

che ci sia pace sulla Terra
(let there be peace on Earth)

Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy

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

For information: 707-546-9654

No charge / No reservations needed / Free snacks.

Showing Sunday, March 30, 2025

Made in Italy(2020) 1h 34m. Comedy/Romance (R)

It stars Liam Neeson, his real-life son, Micheál Richardson and Valeria Bilello. It follows a London artist who must restore a villa in Tuscany with his estranged son. Filmed in Tuscany. In English.



Showing Sunday, April 27, 2025

Gladiator (2000) 2h 35m Action/Adventure (R)

Set in Roman times, the story of a once-powerful general, who is loved by the people and the aging Emperor, is forced to become a common gladiator. The emperor's son is enraged when he is passed over as heir, and a power struggle begins. Directed by Ridley Scott and written by David Franzoni, John Logan, and William Nicholson from a story by Franzoni. In English.

Starring Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. Filmed in Morocco, Malta, Italy and California.



Donations are kindly accepted.
Movies may vary due to availability

Ongoing Incontro group for informal Italian conversation. Please contact George Golfieri at 707-843-3176.

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, René Berardi,

Breanna D’Argenzio-Tamburin, Gina Fortino Dickson, Sofia LoRé, Susan Macaluso, Don Malvestiti, Don Raimondi, Carole Stewart, Les Villanyi (VP), and Virginia Wilburn

Director Emeritus: Angelo Catelani

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

Welcome

Membership News

Benvenuti

Welcome to our newest members of NBICF!

New Individual

Lynn Koon

Joe Marino

New Family

Tabatha Bonetti-Asker

New Business

Taft Street Winery

Thank you to our Continuing Business Members

Buttitta Design - Patti Buttitta

CIBO Rustico Pizzeria

Cotati Accordion Festival

Culinarian Bookshop, Emely Hernandez

D’Argenzio Winery

Della Terra Oils

EcoStruction - Mitchel Slade

Faloni Ranch

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)

Jamie Maletta Real Estate

Saena Iulia—Scuola di lingua e cultura italiana

Servico Building Maintenance Inc.

Staged Right - Martine Piazza

True Delicious Biscotti

Condolences to the family and friends of

Marina Crosarial

John Rehn

May they rest in peace

La Festa di San Giuseppe

The Feast of San Giuseppe, or *Festa di San Giuseppe*, is celebrated on **March 19th** in Italy, and it remains very sacred to Italians. While all Italians celebrate Fathers' Day on the 19th, southern Italians are more apt to include St. Joseph in their celebrations. Sicilians, in particular, honor him as their patron saint.

According to legends, during the Middle Ages, Sicily was suffering such a horrific drought that the people were eating fava beans to survive. The beans, normally food for cattle, kept many from starvation. They prayed to St. Joseph for rain, and their prayers worked. The spring rains saved the crops from destruction and the Sicilians from famine.



The people rejoiced. Sometime later, to show their gratitude, they prepared a table with a special assortment of foods they had harvested. After paying honor to San Giuseppe, they distributed the food to the less fortunate.

Business Member **D'Argenzio Winery** is starting a **Bocce League**. They are inviting NBICF members and their family and friends to sign up to play.

Detailed information and an application is available at:

www.dargenziowinery.com/bocce-league

Fun Facts

The area with the most Italians in the USA: **New York City**

Largest Little Italy in USA: **San Diego**

Cities in the USA with names of Italian cities:

Genoa, Palermo, Milan, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Verona.

There is **Italy in Texas**, and you can drive 3 and half hours to get to **Genoa, Texas.**

Various websites

Lent in Italy

Quaresima (Lent) corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert.

Rituals of Lent have changed over the years, however, it is still celebrated in special ways, especially with food.

Traditional Italian Lenten food includes anything that is considered "poor," that is, that was once accessible to all, so bread, vegetables, polenta in the North, soups and fish, both fresh and preserved, such as **baccalà** (salted cod) and **stoccafisso** (air-dried cod).

In Piemonte, **lasagne gran magro**, pasta layered with a sauce made with butter, anchovies, parmesan, and pepper is a favorite.

Cappon Magro is common in Liguria. It's served cold, made of layers of cod or other types of fish, potatoes, vegetables, and parsley *salsa verde* (which is made with olive oil, anchovies, garlic, and pinenuts) and a bottom layer of toasted bread or *galletta del marinaio*, a traditional Ligurian dry biscuit sailors used to bring with them at sea.

Neapolitans like **scammario**, a sauce made with olives, pine nuts, capers and sultanas. This is used as a topping on pasta or to add flavor to eggs, (*frittata di scammario*). Naples is also a fan of baccalà, which is traditionally battered and fried.

Is dessert served during a time of fasting and restraint? Many Italians give up sweets and cakes for Lent, traditionally called "fioretto". There are several sweet dishes typical of this period. Genoa is known for its **quaresimali**, cookies made without fats (no butter, no oil, no egg yolks), the main ingredients of which are *pasta di mandorle*, sugar, fennel seeds, egg whites, and orange blossom water. In Rome, Quaresima means *maritozzo*, but not the creamy ones we're used to eating during the rest of the year, but a simpler version, made with honey, pine nuts, and candied fruit. Easter is around the corner, April 20!

If you're lucky enough to be in Italy for Easter, you won't see the famous bunny or go for an Easter egg hunt. However, Easter in Italy is a huge holiday, second only to Christmas in its importance for Italians. While the days leading up to Easter include solemn processions and masses, *Pasqua* is a joyous celebration marked with rituals and traditions.

La Pasquetta, the Monday after Easter Sunday, known as Little Easter, is also a public holiday throughout the country.





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

March 30, 2025 - Sunday, 1:30pm: **Sundays at the Center** with Diane McCurdy, film: *Made in Italy*

April 7-10, 2025 - Monday –Thursday, 10am-2pm: Italian Kids Culinary Spring Break Series. At D’Argenzio Winery, 1301 Cleveland Ave., Santa Rosa

April 11, 2025 - Friday, (doors open at 5pm, meeting and dinner at 6pm): **Dinner Meeting**, Sonoma County Veterans Building Dining Room

April 27, 2025 - Sunday, 1:30pm: **Sundays at the Center** with Diane McCurdy, film: *Gladiator*

May 18, 2025 - **Save the date** - Lecture by Dr. Douglas Kenning on the **80th anniversary of World War II in Italy** at the NBICF Center.

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT



Add an **Italian cultural experience** for your **children this spring break**, including culinary arts, bocce ball, Italian story time, arts and crafts, music and dancing, and more. Includes a snack and gelato each day.

April 7th- 10th, 10am-2pm each day. Ages 5-11. \$280 per child per week; 10% sibling discount.

Limited to 24 children. Details and Register: www.dargenziowinery.com/kids-spring-break-italian-camp

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.

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.



Attenzi one!

Save the Dates for Upcoming Dinners:

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Friday, December 12, 2025

La Festa Italiana di Santa Rosa returns in 2025!

D'Argenzio Winery, Sunday, September 28, 2025

Be a part of sharing your Italian heritage.

Join the Committee:

The committee envisions and plans the celebration. We meet several times before La Festa and this is your chance to use your creativity and shape the day's activities.

Volunteer:

Before La Festa, we need help with promotion and distributing postcards and flyers, reaching out to potential vendors, soliciting businesses for the silent auction, and preparing the family corner.

Day of La Festa, we need lots of help with set-up, greeting visitors, helping with the family corner, giving directions, assistance at the NBICF information booth, general operations, and clean-up.

Interested? Want more information?

Please email **Susan Macaluso**, suealda@aol.com or **George Golfieri** George.zena65@gmail.com.

Whatever you choose to do, you will have fun being with a great group of Italians in Sonoma County.

We need your help to make La Festa a success!

North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation

April Meeting and Dinner

Friday, April 11, 2025

Sonoma County Veterans Memorial Dining Room

1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa

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

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

Polenta Dinner

Detailed menu to follow

Reminder:

NO outside alcohol or food is allowed.



Prepaid reservations must be made by April 2, 2025

NBICF April Meeting and **Polenta Dinner**

Friday, April 11, 2025

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

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

_____ places at \$35 for Member(s) _____ places at \$38 for Guest(s)

_____ places at \$10 for Teen(s) (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.