



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

**Messaggio dei Presidenti - Susan Macaluso and René Berardi, has been moved to page 2.**



## Step up - join the Board of Directors.

All backgrounds and  
experiences welcome.

### Requirements:

Active NBICF membership

Passion for all things Italian

Desire to share the culture

One 1 ½ hour meeting monthly

Committee assignments of your choice

No previous board experience necessary

We are also looking to fill 2 positions:

**Secretary and Treasurer**

Send your nomination to:

**[nbicf2member@gmail.com](mailto:nbicf2member@gmail.com)**

*Siamo nella stessa barca! (We're in this together!)*

**Be Italian!**

### **Happy 250th Birthday America!**

The Fourth of July is known for parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks. Angelo Lanzetta launched his family on its pyrotechnic path after emigrating from Bari, Italy to the United States in 1870. It wasn't until Felix Grucci, the third-generation owner, took over in the 1920s that the business went from being a side job to a full-time money-making enterprise. Today, **Fireworks by Grucci** is a global business that employs 160 factory workers, 30 office workers and 400 part-time pyro technicians across the world. Every year, the company produces 200 fireworks programs in the U.S.



In 1893, Antonio Zambelli, a skilled fire worker from Italy, arrived in the United States with a dream and a notebook full of his family's pyrotechnic recipes. He

founded **Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Company** in Pennsylvania. Today, the Zambelli family tradition continues into the fourth generation and is now known globally for setting the standard in pyrotechnic design and technology and continuously exceeding it.

### **37 Years of Granting Scholarships**

NBICF established its prestigious College Scholarship Program in 1989 and it continues to thrive. To date, 409 scholarships totaling \$142,930 have been awarded. Scholarships support Italian-inspired and study-abroad programming for Santa Rosa Junior College students. In partnership with the SRJC, scholarships are awarded each year in the fall and spring. NBICF has a **scholarship committee** headed up by **Gino Muzzatti** with additional members drawn from the NBICF Board of Directors and at-large membership. **The Marianne Pedroncelli Scholarship** for Italian Studies awards one \$925 scholarship, and the **Bill Mitchell and Jeanette Mancini-Mitchell Scholarship** for Future Teachers awards one \$1425 scholarship. Both are awarded annually in the spring. In the fall, we annually award two \$1,500 scholarships from the **Sharie Sbrazza NBICF Florence Study Abroad Scholarship** and one \$1,500 scholarship in **Ada Nourse's Memory**.

This academic year's awardees are announced in the Messaggio dei Presidenti on page 2.

For more details about the scholarships, go to <https://nbicf.org/scholarships>.



Cari Amici,

Five months ago, we took over the helm here at NBICF which was founded 42 years ago. Yes, 42 years! To preserve and celebrate Italian culture is a responsibility for each of us to actively participate in. We are one heart with many heartbeats. Thus, we hope you will join us at events, be a part of committees, and share your ideas. We will be opening up the Italian Cultural Center on Brookwood Avenue with more activities and classes and will also create events to exchange our stories.

- We are joined together at the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation (NBICF) because of the ties that each of us has to our heritage. In May, some members gathered at our Italian Cultural Center (ICC) to watch a Zoom presentation by author Jennifer Anton about her journey to write *Under the Light of the Italian Moon*. It was a beautiful recounting of digging up family histories and what it means to be Italian. Thirteen years later, her book was published and has been recently translated into Italian. After the inspiring and moving Zoom conversation, our own members shared some of their stories. Each story is so unique and is part of the mosaic which is Italian culture in the United States. The conversation reminded us how important it is to write down our memories, interview our elders, and to act on it now. We may not all write books, but we all have stories and traditions to pass along.
- In June, we had our annual **Pizza, Birra, e Vino** party *al fresco*. Thank you to Don Raimondi for his generous donation, along with **Fiorello's Italian Gelato**, **Mary's Pizza Shack**, and **Oliver's Market**. We had an exhibit at the **Marin Community History Day** in May and were represented at the **True West Festival of Love** outdoor film event featuring *Moonstruck* in Healdsburg.
- On **July 1** we will again be in Healdsburg to promote NBICF at the **Prune Packers Italian Heritage Night baseball game** sponsored by **PizzaLeah**. The game starts at 6pm. To purchase tickets: <http://www.prunepackers.org>. Wear your Italian colors!
- We recently awarded two scholarships:  
**The Marianne Pedroncelli Italian Studies Scholarship** to **Victoria Cabanez Cunha**, who is studying studio arts. *After a trip to Italy in 2023, I decided to pursue a degree in Studio Arts. This scholarship will help me continue developing my artistic skills, complete my education, and pursue my creative and academic goals with greater confidence and fewer financial barriers. (Victoria).* The **Bill Mitchell and Jeannette Mancini-Mitchell Scholarship** went to **Marta Leon Delgado**, who is studying music.
- In the fall of 2025, the two awards were bestowed from the prestigious NBICF **Sharie Sbrazza Florence Study Abroad Scholarship** and one from the **Ada Nourse Scholarship** for the Spring 2026 Semester. The students were **Melina Lopez-Novella**, **Julian Petersen** and **Hailee Kukulka**. *Having the opportunity to attend the program in Florence has forever shaped my worldview. I am so grateful for this scholarship as this whole experience has made me feel so much more confident in making connections, breaking out of my comfort zone, and learning so much about the world around me. (Hailee).*
- In September, we are planning a big scampagnata (picnic) where there will be food, music, and family activities for all to enjoy. Stay tuned for more information and we look forward to us all being together!
- Thank you for your donations when signing up for events or renewing membership. Every dollar helps to keep the doors open at the Italian Cultural Center.
- Thank you to our volunteers, **Denise Scaglione** and **Nanette Simmons**, for your help in the care and maintenance of our building.



Saluti, Susan Macaluso and René Berardi

### Movies with Diane McCurdy

at the NBICF Italian Cultural Center

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

For information: 707-546-9654

No reservations required.

**Donations are kindly accepted.**

#### Showing Sunday, July 26, 2026

**Swept Away** (1974) 1h 56m. Comedy/Drama (R)

One of the first eminent female directors, Lina Wertmüller, provides us with an unusual experience. Imagine being shipwrecked on a beautiful island -- with someone you really can't stand. The film stars Giancarlo Giannini. **In Italian with subtitles.**



#### Showing Sunday, August 30, 2026

**Swept Away** (2002) 1h 29m. Comedy/Romance

This film was directed by Guy Ritchie. It is a remake of Lina Wertmüller's 1974 Italian film of the same name. The film stars Ritchie's then-wife Madonna (her last name is actually Ciccone!) and Adriano Giannini (the son of Giancarlo Giannini, the original film's lead) with a supporting cast featuring Bruce Greenwood, Jeanne Tripplehorn, and Elizabeth Banks.



Let's have fun comparing the two movies!

#### Fall Calendar

September TBD, Scampagnata

October 17, Penngrove Italian Festa. NBICF will have a display table with swag and membership information.

November 7, Saturday, 10am – 2pm, Sonoma County Finding History Day at the Veterans Memorial Center

December 17, Christmas Party, Veterans Memorial Center

#### NBICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Steve Albini, Sonia Badalamenti,  
Allen Barbieri, René Berardi (Vice-President),  
Breanna D'Argenzio-Tamburin, Gina Fortino Dickson,  
Sophia LoRé, Susan Macaluso (President),  
Don Malvestiti, Carole Stewart**

Director Emeritus: Angelo Catelani

**Benvenuti /Welcome**

#### Mille grazie

to all those who have become **new members** as **Individuals, Households, Patrons, or Students**

We look forward to meeting you at our future events.

If you are reading this and are not a member, we encourage you to join. Go to [nbicf.getcommunal.com/memberships](http://nbicf.getcommunal.com/memberships).

#### For Information

**Incontro:** (conversation group) meets every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays in person 10:30am; all levels welcome: René Berardi, [nbicf2member@gmail.com](mailto:nbicf2member@gmail.com)

**Italian Classes:** Emily Evans: (707) 874-2512

**La Piccola Scuola, North Bay:** Theresa Sabatino: (408) 343-9001 or [tmsabatino210@gmail.com](mailto:tmsabatino210@gmail.com)

**Membership:** René Berardi: [nbicf2member@gmail.com](mailto:nbicf2member@gmail.com)

**Nominations:** Gina Fortino-Dickson: [nbicf2member@gmail.com](mailto:nbicf2member@gmail.com)

**Reservations/Office:** leave a message at: (707) 591-9696

**Scholarships:** Gino Muzzatti: leave a message at [gmuzzatti@santarosa.edu](mailto:gmuzzatti@santarosa.edu)

**Volunteer Coordinator and Sunshine Cards:** JoAnn Piantanida: (707) 586-1167

#### Summer Italian Enrichment Camp for Kids.

June 1- August 14; 9am-1pm

Monday-Friday, weekly programming.

<https://lapiccolascuola.org>.

Adult classes also offered.

#### August 3-6, 2026 -Monday - Thursday, Italian Culinary Art Camp.

Cibo Rustico Pizzeria & D'Argenzio Winery. Ages 5-12. Afternoons.

Info and registration:

<https://www.dargenziowinery.com/kids-summer-break-italian-camp>



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

### Upcoming Events

**July 1, 2026** - Wednesday, 6pm: **Prune Packers Italian Heritage** baseball game, 515 Piper Street Healdsburg, CA.

Tickets: <http://www.prunepackers.org>.

**July 26, 2026** - Sunday, 1:30pm: Movies with Diane McCurdy, at the Italian Cultural Center, film: **Swept Away (1974)**

**August 15, 2026** - Saturday, **Pranzo di Ferragosto**, noon-4pm, D'Argenzio Winery **see flyer**

**August 15 & 16, 2026** - **Cotati Accordion Festival**

La Plaza Park, Cotati. See their web page for the schedule.

**August 30, 2025** - Sunday, 1:30pm: Movies with Diane McCurdy, at the Italian Cultural Center, film: **Swept Away (2002)**

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT

Thanks again to **Fiorello's Italian Gelato**, **Mary's Pizza Shack**, and **Oliver's Market** for their generous donations, for the Pizza, Birra, e Vino event in June.



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.

### Thank you to our Business Members

**Cotati Accordion Festival**

**Faloni Ranch**

**Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)**

**Jay's Engraving**

**Servico Building Maintenance Inc.**

**True Delicious Biscotti**

**Whipper Snappers**

**(Please support these businesses)**

Check out D'Argenzio's on Thursdays from July 9 to October 1, 5-8pm: music, farm stands for local producers, and craft items.

### THANK YOU

**to those who have made donations to NBICF!**

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

Donations, large or small amounts, are greatly appreciated.

To make a donation:

<https://nbicf.getcommunal.com/member/donate>.

You can also mail your check payable to NBICF  
 64 Brookwood Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

July and August are packed with festivals in Italy. **The Palio di Siena's** famous bareback horse race around the central square, **Piazza del Campo**, takes place on July 2 and August 16. In the tiny Tuscan hill town of *Montisi*, a festival of medieval games is held on the Sunday afternoon closest to August 5. **Ferragosto** is a public holiday celebrated on August 15th in all of Italy and many businesses and shops are closed. **La Fuga del Bove** (Escape of the Ox) is a colorful three-week festival in the Umbrian town of Montefalco near Perugia. From online resources.

See us on **facebook.**