



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.

It was a busy year for the Foundation in 2024. Throughout the year we had guest speakers such as; sculptor **Robert Smith**, author and chef **Viola Buitoni**, and author **Kathleen Ann González**. Summertime brought a winemaker dinner and *Pizza e Birra*. We ended the year with *La Festa Italiana* and Sonoma County Finding History Day. Let us not forget the dinners and Sundays at the Center for movies! A big thank you to the **Volunteers!** The Foundation is looking forward to more events in 2025.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors for its hard work with the events, support, guidance, and commitment to the Foundation this past year. I would like to congratulate and welcome our newest Board members: **Breanna D’Argenzio-Tamburin, Sofia LoRe’ and Don Malvestiti**. The Board and I appreciate their commitment to NBICF. The Board and I would also like to thank **Susan Cole** and **Christl Unglaub** for their dedication, contributions, and support in the past. They have decided not to return to the Board.

All Board members’ information and biographies are in the process of being updated. Board bios can be found on the NBICF website ([www.nbicf.org](http://www.nbicf.org)). Click on *About Us / Directors*, and you will see a link to the Director’s bio.

**La Festa Italiana di Santa Rosa** on October 20 was well attended. It was estimated that over 800 people attended *La Festa*, attracting people not only from Sonoma County but also from the South Bay and other parts of the state. Feedback from attendees was very positive and one in particular regarding the children’s corner was, “The kids’ section was exceptional”.

Alot of time and hard work goes into coordinating and planning a large event such as *Festa*. Planning started back in May with several committee meetings. Letters were mailed to various organizations and businesses requesting silent auction donations and to vendors asking if they would be interested in selling their goods at *La Festa*.

There were 12 vendors who participated. Feedback from the vendors was very positive and several vendors sold out of their product. According to vendors, this was one of the best events they participated in.

There were a variety of silent auction items on display from wine tastings, restaurant gift certificates, trips to Lake Tahoe, and many more items that could be bid on.

I would like to thank **Susan Macaluso, Festa Chairperson** who not only took on the herculean task but who also worked hard to make the Festa a success. I would like to thank **Breanna D’Argenzio-Tamburin, Ray D’Argenzio, and Sofia LoRe’** for their assistance in planning and hosting the Festa and **Steve Albini** who coordinated the music. I like to recognize **Les Villanyi**, Coro Director, and all the members of **Coro Allegro** who gave a fabulous performance.

All committee members and vendors and volunteers will be listed in a separate flyer in this Mosaico.

Grazie mille a tutti.

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In Italy, Valentine’s Day is a romantic holiday, celebrated by adult couples and lovers, not by friends and children as in the US and elsewhere. In cities where St. Valentine is the patron saint, it is also a religious holiday.

**Carnival of Venice 2025 (*Carnevale di Venezia 2025*)**

February 22 - March 4



The parties, costumes, and masks! There are mask making workshops for those creative souls. 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. Today people, 95% of them in mask and or costumes, come from all over the world to visit Venice during *Carnevale*. Various websites

## 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.

### Showing Sunday, January 26, 2025

**POMPEII** (2014) 1h 45m Action/Adventure (PG-13)



Set in 79 A.D., POMPEII tells the epic story of a slave turned gladiator who finds himself in a race against time to save his true love Cassia. As Mount Vesuvius erupts in a torrent of blazing lava, he

must fight his way out of the arena in order to save his beloved as the once magnificent Pompeii crumbles around him. The screenplay is taken from a novel by Robert Harris who also wrote the recent "Conclave". So expect a heavily plotted but very immediate film. In English. Starring Keifer Sutherland and Carrie-Anne Moss.

### Showing Sunday, February 23, 2025

**The Orange Thief** (2007) 1h 24m Comedy

In this world infused with magical realism, a young orange thief dreams of owning a piece of land in Sicily. He ends up in jail and when his cell mate makes him an offer he can't refuse, his life and the lives of everyone he encounters takes an unexpected turn. This film is delightful, imaginative and bold featuring music and singing that is integral to the narrative. It sparkles with the effervescence of life! In Italian with subtitles.



Movies may vary due to availability.

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](http://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

**Dominic Antonelli, Kathleen Conway, Nancy Cuneo, Shari Dei Moore, Genevieve Di Giulio, Bianca Di Giulio, Ken and Susan Di Lillo, John Donagey and Lois Menos, Sophia LoRé and Collin Day, Claire Lucido, Lou Marano, Roberto and Frances Miliano (welcome back), Anthony Rosso, Theresa Sabatino**

### New Business

**Cotati Accordion Festival**

**True Delicious Biscotti**

Thank you to our Continuing Business Members

**Buttitta Design - Patti Buttitta**

**CIBO Rustico Pizzeria**

**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**

In Italy, the killing of feral cats has been illegal since 1991. Feral cats in Italy have the right to live free; they are protected and cannot be removed from their colony. The colonies are cared for by associations of cat-caretakers officially recognized by the authorities.



Thank you Diane McCurdy for this article

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Messaggio del Presidente - George Golfieri, continued from page 1

The Board is in discussion of planning a Festa for 2025. However, the Foundation needs members to join as committee members and volunteers. This is all hands-on deck so please help the Board plan another successful Festa.

On November 2, the Foundation participated in the Sonoma County Finding History Day. 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.

**Membership renewals** will be sent out in early January. The Board is counting on members to renew their membership as these dues supply 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. Through your generous support the Foundation has **awarded over \$132,000 in scholarships** for Italian studies and other cultural events.

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. The name Befana is derived from the word Epifania, the Italian name for the religious festival of the Epiphany.

*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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**Lidia Giuliana Matticchio Bastianich**

An Italian-American celebrity chef, television host, author, and restaurateur.



Lidia was born in the Kingdom of Italy, to an Istrian Italian family. Her family emigrated to the United States when she was 7 months old during the Istrian-Dalmatian exodus.

Istria was part of the Kingdom of Italy, but it became part of Yugoslavia at the end of World War II. After the Second World War and the dissolution of Yugoslavia, Istria finally became part of the newly founded states of Croatia and Slovenia. Various web articles

**San Francisco deli voted best in state!**

**Molinari Delicatessen**

located in San Francisco's North Beach area

A family keeping Italian-American culture alive in SF since 1896! Favorite sandwiches include: Molinari Special Italian combo and Renzo Special. (KRON4)



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



DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT

**Upcoming Events**

**January 26, 2025 - Sunday, 1:30pm: Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy, film: *POMPEII***

**February 23, 2025 - Sunday, 1:30pm: Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy, film: *The Orange Thief***

**February 26, 2025 - Save the date - Carnevale Dinner / more information to follow.**

Le parole del giorno (the words of the day)

*ti amo / fiori / rose rosse / I love you / flowers / red roses*

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.



**NBICF is still looking for a Treasurer. Contact George for further information about the positions. George's phone number is on page 2.**

**You can also leave a message at the NBICF office (707) 591-9696.**

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](http://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 the 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](http://www.NBICF.org).





Thank you to the following Vendors, Board Members, and Volunteers.

Without the help and support of everyone, La Festa would not have happened.

### **Vendors at La Festa 2024**

**Canevari's Delicatessen & Catering, [www.canevarisdeli.com](http://www.canevarisdeli.com)**

**Colavita NorCal Cycling, Colavita USA food products, [www.colavita.com](http://www.colavita.com)**

**Fiorello's Artisan Gelato, [www.fiorellosgelato.com](http://www.fiorellosgelato.com)**

**Scarlata Farms, olive oil and vinegar, [www.scarlatafarmscellar.com](http://www.scarlatafarmscellar.com)**

**Sheri Emerson, glass art and paintings**

**Howard and Susan Adler, wooden cutting boards and art**

**Sura Botanicals, lip balms [www.surabotanicals.com](http://www.surabotanicals.com)**

**True Delicious Biscotti, <http://www.truedelicious.com>**

### **La Festa Committee**

#### **La Festa Committee:**

#### **NBICF Board Members:**

**Sonia Badalamenti  
Al Barbieri  
René Berardi  
Susan Cole  
Gina Fortina Dickson  
George Golfieri  
Susan Macaluso  
Don Raimondi  
Carole Stewart  
Chrisl Unglaub  
Les Villanyi  
Virginia Wilburn**

#### **NBICF Members:**

**Steve Albini  
Ray D'Argenzio  
Breanna D'Argenzio -  
Tamburin  
Sophia LoRé  
Gino Muzzatti  
Julie Muzzatti**

#### **Volunteers:**

**Angie Comalli  
Nick Donhoff  
Emily Evans  
Barbara Fabrizio  
Joann Ferrara  
Christina Freeman  
Josie Graham  
Dave Henderson  
Kathryn Henderson  
Virginia Kelly  
Carolyn Kenney  
Lovey Marcucci  
Ernie Marcucci  
Al McCall  
Terri McCall  
Mary Kay Pedersen  
Rafael Rivera  
Tamara Rocco  
Grace Rocco  
Millie Rocco  
Christa Smiley  
Lynn Stewart  
Diana Toso  
Gia Vennes**

#### **To the attendees!**

Without people showing up and spending time, and yes, money, this would not have been a successful event.

Thank you

Mille Grazie