



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.

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: **Steve Albini and Diane Bourassa**. The Board and I appreciate their commitment to NBICF. The Board and I would like to thank **Don Raimondi** and **Les Villanyi** for their dedication, contributions, and support in the past. They have decided not to return to the Board.

Don has been a longtime Board member and responsible for managing the Foundation's website. Don has done a great job developing and maintaining the website for NBICF. He will continue to manage the website and is looking for an assistant to eventually take over.

Les has been Vice President of the Foundation and was Coro director. Coro's success can be attributed to Les's musical direction and selection of Italian music. I would like to thank both Don and Les for their dedication, contributions, and support to the Foundation.

I will also be leaving the Board and stepping down as President of the Foundation. After 11 years, it is time for me to pass on this responsibility to new leadership. I would like to thank members and past and current board members for their support over the years. A new President will be elected by the Board in February.

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). Click on *About Us / Directors*, and you will see a link to the Director's bio.

La Festa Italiana di Santa Rosa on October 26 was well attended despite the rain. It was estimated that over 400 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.

I would like to thank the **La Piccola Scuola** for hosting the children's corner for NBICF.

A lot of time and hard work goes into coordinating and planning a large event such as *La Festa*. Planning started back in May with several committee meetings. There were 12 vendors who participated. Feedback from the vendors was very positive, and one of the best events they participated in. There was a variety of silent auction items on display for wine tastings, restaurant gift certificates, and many more items that could be bid on.

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Throughout Italy, children eagerly await the arrival of **La Befana**. The biggest La Befana festival takes place in Urbania, her traditional home. Every year in **January**, residents of Urbania host a celebration that attracts thousands of people. Sweets are handed out to children at the festival. The name Befana is derived from



the word Epifania, the Italian name for the religious festival of the Epiphany.

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.



**Please see enclosed flyer for the
January 22 Dinner**

Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy

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

For information: 707-546-9654

Free admission - Snacks - No reservations required.

Donations are kindly accepted.

Showing Sunday, January 25, 2026

Green Book (2018) 2h 10m Comedy (PG-13)

Great period detail and great actors make this film well worth an investment of your time. Viggo Mortensen is barely recognizable and in top form as the tough Italian American transporting Mahershala Ali's world class musician across the Deep South in 1962. Linda Cardellini as Viggo's wife gives an accurate view of the "Vigilia" or how Sicilians experience the night before Christmas. Won Best Picture at the Oscars in 2019. (In English)



Showing Sunday, February 22, 2026

Sunflower (I girasoli), 1970 1h 47m War/Drama

Giovanna (Sophia Loren) and Antonio (Marcello Mastroianni) marry to delay Antonio's deployment during World War II. Giovanna is convinced her true love has survived the war and is still in the Soviet Union. Determined, she journeys there to find him. Directed by Vittorio D'Sica, produced by Carlo Ponti. In Italian with subtitles.



Movies may vary due to availability.

For Information:

At this time many areas are being updated and will be corrected in the next Mosaico

Italian Classes: 707-874-2512 Emily Evans

Membership:

Reservations/Office : 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:

**Steve Albini, Sonia Badalamenti, Allen Barbieri,
René Berardi, Diane Bourassa,
Breanna D'Argenzio-Tamburin, Gina Fortino Dickson,
Sofia LoRé, Susan Macaluso, Don Malvestiti, Carole Stewart,
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

New Individual

Julia Carlson

Lyrae Myxter

Elena Mondino

Lydia Mondino

New Family

Patti Adams (welcome back)

Patrick Ryan

Rose Calzontzi and Chad Ward

Thank you to our Continuing Business Members

Buttitta Design - Patti Buttitta

Cotati Accordion Festival

Della Terra Oils

Faloni Ranch

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)

Jamie Maletta Real Estate

Servico Building Maintenance Inc.

Staged Right - Martine Piazza

Taft Street Winery

True Delicious Biscotti

Whipper Snappers

January (gennaio)

Great skiing and manageable crowds, make it a prime choice for Italian winter sports enthusiasts.

Top Regions - Dolomites, Aosta Valley (Italian Alps), Sestriere, Bormio (also famous for thermal baths)

Milan Men's Fashion week - (also in June) Ralph Lauren will show for the first time at Milan Men's Fashion Week

In **Mugnano di Napoli**, near Naples, there's a massive fireworks display as it is the home of one of the biggest fireworks companies in Italy. Fireworks are also throughout the year for different celebrations.

February (febbraio)

February 3 is a minor celebration everywhere in Italy.

Saint Biagio is the saint of the throat. It's a tradition to eat leftover panettone with a glass of wine to bless your throat.

Sanremo Music Festival - Started in 1950, the Sanremo Song Festival has made many Italian singers and songs famous.



Many years ago, NBICF had a Book Club. Diane McCurdy selected some very good reads. Looking for a good book to read?

Here are a few that were featured in the past:

Ferocity by Nicola Lagioia

The House at the Edge of Night by Catherine Banner

NBICF had an event that featured author Natalie Galli. She is a native San Franciscan and third generation Italian/American who lives in Marin.

Her featured book was ***The Girl Who Said No***.

Le parole del giorno (the words of the day)

Fuochi d'artificio (fireworks)

The Italian New Year, or *Capodanno*, is a time-honored celebration filled with rich traditions and a dash of superstition. Out with the old: by throwing old pots, pans, clothes, appliances, even furniture out the window. Want a sweet new year? Give jars of dates and figs in honey. Don't forget your red underwear on the 31st!

I would like to thank **Susan Macaluso, La Festa Chairperson** who not only took on the herculean task, but who also worked hard to make *La 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 *La Festa* and **Steve Albini** who coordinated the music.

Please see the flyer thanking all committee members, vendors and volunteers. Grazie mille a tutti.

The Board is planning a *La Festa* for 2026. However, the Foundation needs members to join as committee members and volunteers. Please help the Board plan another successful *La Festa*.

On November 1, the Foundation participated in the **Sonoma County Finding History Day**. 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 the 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 \$142,000 in scholarships** for Italian studies and other cultural events.



The **2026 Winter Olympics**, officially the XXV Olympic Winter Games, will be held in **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo**, Italy, from February 6 to February 22, 2026, marking Italy's third time hosting the Olympics.



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

January 22, 2026 - Friday, (doors open at 5pm, dinner at 6pm): **NBICF Dinner**, Sonoma County Veterans Building Dining Room, Santa Rosa, CA

January 25, 2026 - Sunday, 1:30pm: **Sundays at the Center** with Diane McCurdy, film: **Green Book**

February 22, 2026 - Sunday, 1:30pm: **Sundays at the Center** with Diane McCurdy, film: **Sunflower (I girasoli)**

February 26, 2026 - Thursday, Save the Date: **NBICF Dinner**

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT



The Venice Carnival 2026 (Carnevale di Venezia) is set for **January 31 to February 17, 2026**, with the main events focusing from February 7th to the 17th.

Venice Carnival 2026 (Carnevale di Venezia 2026) is coming back bigger than ever, celebrating Italy's Olympic year with the official theme "Olympus – the origins of play". Carnevale, also known as carnival or mardi gras, is celebrated in Italy as a final party before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday," which reflects the practice of eating richer, fatty foods during the last night before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season begins. For people in Italy, Carnevale is a huge winter festival, usually complete with masks, parades, music and parties. Being the final celebration before Lent begins, it is as popular in Italy now as it was in the thirteenth century.

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 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**.



North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation

January Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, January 22, 2026

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.

Dinner catered by **Pasta King**

Dinner includes:

Antipasti • Lasagna with marinara or meat sauce

Mixed Green Salad with homemade Italian dressing • Garlic Bread

Dessert

Wine at the table.

A friendly reminder that outside alcoholic beverages, including wine, cannot be brought to the monthly dinners or other NBICF events. Thank you in advance. NBICF Board of Directors



Prepaid reservations must be made by January 15, 2026

NBICF January Meeting Dinner

Thursday January 22, 2026

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.



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 2025

Canevari's Delicatessen & Catering, www.canevarisdeli.com
Fiorello's Artisan Gelato, www.fiorellosgelato.com
Scarlata Farms, olive oil and vinegar, www.scarlatafarmscellar.com
Sonoma Wine Shop/La Bodega, arancini, www.sonomawineshop.com
Pasta King, ravioli and pasta, www.pastaking.com
Old Possum Brewing Co., beer and sausage, www.oldpossumbrewing.com

Mille Grazie to **D'Argenzio Winery** and **Cibo Rustico Pizzeria** for hosting La Festa
and providing the meeting space and the treats .

Grazie a "Carla's Kitchen"! **Carla Musso** donated the ingredients and made the polenta and marinara
sauce she sold at La Festa, **raising \$275 for NBICF!**

Thanks to **Al Barbieri** and **George Golfieri** for the restaurant gift certificates.
True Delicious Biscotti, <http://www.truedelicious.com> for donating biscotti and sponsoring the Italian
quiz

La Piccola Scuola for hosting the Family Corner

La Festa Committee:

Susan Macaluso, Chair
Ray D'Argenzio
JoAnn Ferrara
George Golfieri
Carolyn Kenny
Sophia LoRé
Al McCall
Rafael Rivera
Denise Scaglione
Lidia Simonetti
Breanna Tamburin D'Argenzio

ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Fabrizio
Christina Freeman
David Ferrera
Gia Vennes
Ingrid Zurlo
John Ansel
Ken Di Lillo
Logan Godfrey
Lynn Frenna
Lynn Stewart
Marina Mariani
Martine Piazza
Meagan Ashley
Melanie D'Anna
Rae Rhen
Ron Grassi
Sophia Ashley
Susan Cole
Susan Di Lillo
Terri McCall
Virginia Kelly

NBICF Board Members:

Sonia Badalamenti
Al Barbieri
René Berardi
Diane Bourassa
Gina Fortina Dickson
George Golfieri
Sophia LoRé
Susan Macaluso
Don Raimondi
Carole Stewart
Breanna Tamburin D'Argenzio
Virginia Wilburn

