



*North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation*  
*Mosaico Culturale Maggio e Giugno 2020*

*Volume XXXVI - Numero 3*



At this time, we are unable to reschedule the Winemaker Dinner originally planned for April 20, 2020 at Ricky's Eastbound with wines provided by Portalupi Winery. **We will provide an update in the next Mosaico.** Members who have already paid may request a refund by sending an email to [nbicf2member@gmail.com](mailto:nbicf2member@gmail.com) or we will hold your payment until we have rescheduled the event. Thank you for your understanding.

**Messaggio del Presidente**

Cari Amici,

We are all facing challenging times with a lot of uncertainty and anxiety regarding the current health crisis. We all need to keep optimistic. We will get through this crisis and will be back to normal soon.

The Foundation, being in compliance with mandates from the government and health officials, has postponed all Foundation functions. The Board will continue to monitor recommendations from state and health officials to determine when the Foundation can resume normal operations. The Board remains focused on the health, safety, and wellbeing of our members and their families. The Board will keep members informed of any Foundation business and future functions through e-mail communications, Mosaico, and on the Foundation's website [www.nbicf.org](http://www.nbicf.org).

The May dinner has been canceled and the June Summer Language Camp for Youth has been postponed until June 2021. The Board thanks you for your understanding and support.

Beginning with the September 2020 dinner, members will see an increase in prices as the Foundation needs to increase dinner prices by \$2.00 for both members and guests. Dinner prices for teens and children will be unchanged. Therefore, the dinner price for members will be \$20 and for guests \$22. The Board regrets having to raise dinner prices, but this is due to increased costs for food and other operating expenses.

The Foundation has lost a longtime member and friend, Bill Mitchell, who passed away on February 20, 2020. Bill was 93 years old. Bill was the husband of the late Jeanette Mancini Mitchell who was the former president and founder of NBICF. Bill was a proud Marine and fought at Iwo Jima, an event that significantly changed his life. Bill passed away on the anniversary of the battle. Bill was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in the battle. Bill attended SRJC and worked there for over 50 years until he was 91 years old. For those of us who remember Bill, we will never forget his sense of humor and jokes.

“più sabbia è sfuggita dalla clessidra della nostra vita, più chiaro dovremmo vederlo attraverso”. Niccolo Machiavelli. (The more sand has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.)

To the people of Italy we send our prayers and best wishes.

**Happy  
Mother's  
Day!**

***Buona festa della mamma e felice festa del papà***

*Italy celebrates Mother's Day, the same as the USA, the second Sunday in May. They celebrate Father's Day on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.*



## PAINT ITALY WORKSHOP

Paint Italy will resume when it is safe.

### A Message From Susan Terracina Adler

"Andrà tutto bene" means "everything will be fine" in Italian. This is the message children of Italy have adopted as they use art to cope with the quarantine and spread messages of hope (1). Movements in and out of cities are severely restricted but this is not stopping Italians from using art and creativity to tackle the situation. All the videos of Italians making music on their balconies is proof, and also children and adults putting their art in windows or on sidewalks. Italians will continue to create.

Historically, whatever form it took, art was created during pandemics. There will be more of a demand for it from people who are bored, those who want to be amused, those who want to be consoled, those who want to be able to be heard (2). Some art will most likely contain scars of all we have been through, like artwork from the fires we endured here in Sonoma County.

So today, make some art...it can be music, it can be drawing, a story, a painting. Do it for those you love but more importantly, do it for yourself.

Remember '**Andrà tutto bene**'.

1Why children in Italy are sharing "Andrà tutto bene [rainbow symbol]. Published: March 15, 2020 Gulf News.

2Heather O'Neill: Throughout history, art was created during pandemics—to amuse, to console, and to give voice to those who were previously unheard. Published March 24, 2020. Maclean's.

## TRAVEL NEWS / Andiamo

Since mid-January, Sharie Sbrazza has been overwhelmed with canceling and refunding clients while attempting to work with tour companies, and non-responsive hotels in Italy.

Sharie, **Siete nei nostri pensieri e preghiere**  
(you are in our thoughts and prayers)

Sharie Sbrazza of Andiamo since 1979

*NBICF Member since 1985*

Italy is said to have more masterpieces per square mile than any other country in the world.

Italy has hosted the Olympic Games three times. The 1956 Winter Games were held at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Zuel, and the Dolomite Alps. The 1960 Summer Olympics were held in Rome, and Turin hosted the 2006 Winter Olympics.

## Sundays at the Center with Diane McCurdy

### Thoughts From Diane Badano McCurdy

In the pandemonium that has characterized this pandemic, Anthony Fauci has emerged as the voice of logic, reason, and truth. He has become something of a pop star. There are Fauci socks, t-shirts, and Fauci linguini. The eminent doctor graduated first in his class from Cornell medical school and has been director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984. His grandparents, Antonio Fauci and Calogera Guardino, were from Sciacca, Sicily. His maternal grandmother, Raffaella Trematerra was from Naples.

The other great leader who has arisen from this crisis is Andrew Cuomo, governor of New York and son of former governor of New York Mario Cuomo. The Cuomo family came from Nocera Inferiore and Tramonti areas in southern Italy. On the maternal side, the Raffa's hailed from Messina, Sicily.

Ben fatto e viva l'Italia!!!

Well, I don't have a story to tell during this "shelter in place" era but I do have an anecdote. I misdialed my friend's phone number and a woman answered and she was totally elated, beyond thrilled, to hear a human voice so much so that she said she would tell me a joke. (Remember how random this is considering I had gotten a wrong number.) She said, "Why did the spider cross the road?"

".....because he wanted a new website!!!"

### Reading suggestions:

When the plague raged in Florence in the 14th century, a group of Florentines fled to a villa in the caves above the city and told wonderful stories recounted by **Giovanni Boccaccio** in his classic *The Decameron*.

In 2007, a dog named Rocco discovered a truffle in Tuscany that weighed 3.3 pounds. It sold at auction for \$333,000 (USD), a world record for a truffle.

## Membership News

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### In memoria di

Donation received from

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of **Bill Mitchell**.

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Because of **YOU**, we are able to maintain our goals  
of study, preservation, and enjoyment of Italian  
Culture.

**Each donation, no matter the size, has an impact for NBICF.**

You can specify where your donation goes, building fund, scholarships, in  
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Donations can also be made via our **website, [www.NBICF.org](http://www.NBICF.org)**, using the  
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**Directors Emeritus:** Angelo Catelani and Arturo Ibleto

Please visit [NBICF.org](http://NBICF.org) About Us / Directors for a short biography of each Board member.

**Mosaico Culturale** is published six times a year. It is the newsletter of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation, a California nonprofit membership corporation. North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation 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.

NBICF Events to look forward to, remember or wish we could do again:

Ongoing Events at the NBICF Center

Incontro and Italian Conversation \* Sunday at the Movies \* Paint Italy

Guest speakers, Groups and Special Events at the NBICF Center

Prof. Denise Beeson, an instructor at the SRJC specializing in Genealogy  
Dr. Douglas Kenning \* Coro \* Travel/Andiamo \* Opera Series and sing along \* Book Club \* Youth Summer Language Summer Camp

Dinners/Fundraisers

Crab Feed \* Carnevale \* Festa di San Giuseppe \* Winemaker Dinner  
Scampagnata \* Rummage Sales \* Pizza, Birra & Vino \* Festa di Natale  
Mercantino

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