



North Bay Italian Culture Foundation To-Go Dinner

Prepaid Reservations ONLY

Saturday, February 27, 2021

NBICF Cultural Center (Chinn Street parking lot)

Curbside Pickup 5 pm to 6 pm only.

Park in the designated **pickup** area and your dinner(s) will be delivered to your car.

To-Go Dinner includes:

Ribs

Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans

Roll and Dessert

\$10.00 per dinner



Reservations and payment must be received by February 22, 2021

See below for mail-in reservations or make reservations online at: www.nbicf.org.

Prepaid Reservations Only

NBICF To-Go Dinner - Saturday, February 27, 2021 - Curbside Pick Up at 5:00pm to 6:00pm only

NBICF Cultural Center, Chinn Street parking lot

Name _____

Telephone Number _____ Number of Dinner(s) at \$10.00 _____

Email address _____

Make checks payable to NBICF. Mail to 64 Brookwood Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404.



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.

What a year it has been in light of the unprecedented challenges we all have faced in 2020! As the new year begins, the pandemic continues to dominate our lives. It is important to focus our attention on staying healthy not only for ourselves but for our families, friends, and our community. Hopefully life can return to some normalcy soon.

It has been a challenging year for the Foundation as fundraisers and events had to be postponed. This year, the Foundation will not be able to host its annual Crab Feed fundraiser and the income from the Crab Feed will be sorely missed. However, the Board is planning a **“To-Go”** dinner event for **Saturday, February 27, 2021**. I hope members will support this event as proceeds from the dinner will go to help fund NBICF’s scholarship programs and help with operating expenses. Please refer to the **flyer enclosed** in this issue of this Mosaico for full details.

** Messaggio del Presidente article continues on page 2**

ARTURO IBLETO

THE PASTA KING

October 2, 1926 - November 24, 2020



It is with a heavy heart that I write this article about the passing of *Arturo Ibleto*, ‘The Pasta King’. Arturo was the last member of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation’s founding fathers. He was on the Board of Directors for many years, currently serving as Director Emeritus.

He became a member of the Coro Allegro almost from the very beginning and loved to sing Italian songs. Most recently he sang with Carlo Solivan at one of our October dinner meetings and thoroughly entertained the guests.

You could always count on Arturo to participate at the annual *Festa Italiana*. If you attended the *Festa* and picked up a copy of the *Ricordo* brochure you would find an entertaining ad from the Pasta King.

Arturo was most happy when he was cooking his pesto and/or polenta at many of our monthly dinner meetings. Art and family operated Ibleto’s Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for many years. If you happened to stop by the Spaghetti Palace on any given day while Art was there, you could never leave without a heaping plate of pasta and garlic bread. He originally started the “Palace” because he felt there was no one else serving a complete meal to the public.

Arturo loved to tell stories about his early life in Italy and his days as a *partigiano*. He fascinated all of us with his hair-raising stories of escaping from the Nazi. Arturo recently wrote a book entitled “Freedom Fighter to King”. If you can find a copy of this book it is written exactly in the manner Arturo spoke. He was a proud Italian immigrant and a passionate American citizen. He worked his entire life, never retired, always giving back, proud of his “common sense” mentality. We will miss you Arturo but I am certain you are happily cooking your pesto, polenta, and ravioli up in heaven.

Respectfully submitted by Virginia Mennucci Wilburn

La parola del giorno (the word of the day)

Figurati (fee-goo-rah-tee)

The following excerpt was reprinted with permission from the Italo-Americano newspaper www.italoamericano.org.

Figurare is a peculiar verb, but **figurati** is even more peculiar, because its many meanings are often discernible only from voice intonation — or, of course, the context of the sentence — and have very little in common with one another.

Figurati can be used on its own, as an exclamation (*figurati!*), in which case it can express both surprise (I can't believe it!), or disbelief (in which case it can be translated with "don't be silly!"). It can also be used in sentences: in these cases, surprise and disbelief are also common meanings (*figurati che non è nemmeno venuto all'appuntamento*—unbelievable! He didn't even show up to the meeting/ *figurati se sa parlare lo spagnolo!* — don't be silly! He can't speak Spanish).

Figurati is often used instead of "prego" to answer when someone thanks you for something: "*Grazie per l'aiuto.*" "*Figurati!*" — "Thanks for helping me." "You're welcome!").

Figurati se ho tempo di andare in vacanza — Don't be silly, I have no time to take a vacation

Figurai, e' stato bello aiutarti. Not a bother, it was nice to help.

Thank you, **George**, for the interesting article.

Tarallucci al limone are traditional Italian lemon knot cookies from southern Italy. They were very popular at weddings as they symbolized two people "tying the knot" in holy matrimony. Today you will find them mostly at holidays and family gatherings.

OK, I get it nowit is a southern Italian thing and I am Genoese.....that is probably why I didn't know about these cookies.....

- Diane Badano McCurdy



NBICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

George Golfieri (President 707-843-3176)

Linda Apel (Treasurer), Allen Barbieri, Lynne Burton, Lisa Goe, Ron Grassi, Cindy Hume (Secretary), Arleen Place, Alfred (Al) Pucci, Don Raimondi, Carole Stewart and Les Villanyi (VP)

Directors Emeritus:

Angelo Catelani

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

Membership News

New & Continuing Business Members:

Buttitta Design

Faloni Ranch

Forchini Vineyards & Winery

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)

Ramazzotti Winery

Condolences to the families of:

Arturo Ibleto

Helen L. Sherak

Anna I. Young

May they rest in peace.

Messaggio del Presidente - continued from page 1

The Foundation, however, is in good shape and there is enough money in the treasury to cover expenses over the next two years as steps have been taken to reduce expenses such as the housekeeper, garbage pick-up, and landscaping. Temporarily postponing these expenses will save the Foundation approximately \$270 a month. I will report on the Foundation's financial results in the next Mosaico.

Membership renewals will be sent out in early January and will be due by March 31, 2021. The Board is counting on members to renew their membership as membership dues supply needed income to sustain the operations of the Foundation. The Board appreciates the support of its members now more than ever. The Foundation added 8 new members for 2020.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and guidance this past year. Their dedication to the success of the Foundation is greatly appreciated.

Jill Biden

Almost five years after president-elect Joe Biden's wife and daughter were killed in a tragic auto accident, he married Jill Tracy Jacobs. Jill has two master's degrees and a doctorate in education. She has been an English professor and plans to continue to teach at North Virginia community college. You already knew all this. But, did you know that she is Italian? Gaetano and Concetta Giacoppa immigrated from the town of Gesso in the province of Messina in Sicily. Jill's grandfather anglicized their name to the more user friendly "Jacobs".

Jill fondly remembers Sunday dinners at her grandmother's home with pasta, braciole and Italian wedding soup. After dinner her grandfather would say, "...tenire tarallucci e vino" (to have cookies and wine). Jill's sons prefer her chicken parmigiana but the president-elect favors pasta.

- Diane Badano McCurdy

So Many Books, for Once So Much Time...

If you are like me, I'm getting a lot more reading done these days. I often go searching online for new titles of books that take place in Italy, or are written by Italian authors.

Here is a list of books that take place in Sicily that I've recently read.

Auntie Poldi Mysteries

by Mario Gordano.

There are three in the series now.

The Villa in Sicily

by Elise Darcy

The Food of Love Cookery School

by Nicky Pellegrino

From Scratch

by Tembi Locke

Inspector Montalbano series

By Andrea Camilleri

Please send me titles of books about Sicily that you recommend at adler@sonic.net. Thank you Susan Terracina Adler for this information.

Paint Italy News

I certainly miss Paint Italy classes at the Center and spending time with the creative folks who attended. May we all stay safe and paint again at the Center very soon.

This week I discovered **Carla Carli Mazzucato** who was born in Appiano, in the Alps of Northern Italy in 1935. Carla married in 1962 and moved to America where she developed her painting career, often returning home to Italy for inspiration. Her work can be found in private and public collections all over the world including Bolzano, Italy where 14 of her oil paintings were commissioned by a Catholic church. Her art has been compared to works by Van Gogh, Monet, Chagall. Visit her website at www.mazzucato.org. There you can view her paintings, see videos, and read her complete biography.

If you are considering painting during these challenging times, here are some resources for you:

The Joy of Acrylic Painting by Annie O'Brien Gonzales

How to Paint Fast, Loose, and Bold by Patti Mollica

Learn to Paint in Acrylics with 50 Small Paintings
by Mark Daniel Nelson

Daily Painting by Carol Marine

Painting for the Absolute and Utter Beginner
by Claire Watson Garcia

-Susan Terracina Adler



CARNEVALE

Carnevale, also known as carnival or mardi gras is celebrated in Italy as a final party before Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021) 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 (*maschere*) and costumes for the festival. No costume or mask – wear the Carnevale colors: Purple Green and Gold. Carnevale is as popular in Italy now as it was in the thirteenth century.



North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation

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www.nbicf.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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.

THANK YOU to those who have made donations to NBICF.

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, such as building fund, scholarships, in memoriam or general fund, by indicating it on your check.



Make your checks payable to:

NBICF, 64 Brookwood Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Donations can also be made via our website,

www.NBICF.org.

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR OCCUPANT



ANDIAMO – Let’s Go . . . travel someday, when safe! I hope you’re healthy and protecting yourself, your loved ones and fellow citizens.

Le Marche Marvels – September 13-23, 2021 (hopefully) - Custom Tour on the Adriatic Sea.

Enjoy tasty cuisine, cultural gems, fine wines, and serene beaches in sea resorts and hill towns crowned by medieval castles. Linger in small but dynamic Ravenna, San Marino, Urbino, Norcia, and more. Composer Rossini and artist Raphael were Marchigiani. Savor Tuscan style minus fuss, cost, and crowds! For more information visit www.nbicf.org/travel. **Sharie Sbrazza of Andiamo Travel - Andiamo Vacations Box 406, Santa Rosa, CA 95402**

Email: andiamotravel@hotmail.com . **NBICF member since 1986**

Sammezzano, is an Italian palazzo in Tuscany featuring Moorish Revival architectural style. It is located in Leccio, in the heart of a sprawling wooded estate in Reggello. This stunning piece of architecture was first established in 1605 by a Spanish nobleman, Ximenes of Aragon. Though long lasting, the original was deemed unfit by Marquis Ferdinando Ximenes Panciatichi, who in 1853 undertook a complete rebuild of the site. The castle has 365 rooms, one for every day of the year and each room has its own name and differs from the others. Within the castle you can find the Peacock Room with incredible colors and geometries, the White Room with Moroccan mosaic tiled floors and wrought iron chandeliers, and a small, exquisite chapel, to name a few.

After the marquis’ death, Sammezzano was converted into a luxury hotel. After World War II, the castle became a must-see destination for the European elite, but in the 1990s it closed its doors forever. As of 2020 the castle sits quietly in the forest waiting to be restored to its former glory.

In 2019 it was on the market for \$18.3 million.

