



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

Messaggio del Presidente - George Golfieri

Felice anno nuovo a tutti. Happy New Year to everyone.

Although the pandemic is not over yet, I am optimistic that 2022 will be a better year for all of us. I believe that the Foundation can get back to offering its members events throughout the year that will celebrate our Italian culture and heritage. I am excited that the Foundation has scheduled its **Tavola di San Giuseppe dinner for Saturday March 19, 2022 at St. Rose/Father Denis O'Sullivan Parish Center.**

It has been another challenging year for the Foundation as fundraisers and events had to be postponed. 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 and manage expenses. The Board has been busy discussing and making plans on how to move the Foundation forward and keeping our commitment to the Foundation's mission, which is *the study, preservation, and enjoyment of Italian Culture*. Board meetings have been focused on planning fundraising activities for 2022. I hope to have more details on upcoming events in the next Mosaico, along with the Foundation's financial results.

The Board of Directors elections have been finalized and all incumbents have been re-elected. **Virginia Smith** has been elected as our newest Board member. I would like to welcome her to the Board as she starts her two-year term beginning January 2022. I would like to thank **Alfred Pucci** who coordinated the election and **Don Raimondi** for his help in sending out the electronic ballots.

All Board member information and biographies can be found on the NBICF website (www.nbicf.org). Click on "About Us / Directors" for a short biography of each Board member.

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.

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

The Mangiamo Committee is back!

(Linda Apel, Lisa Goe, Cindy Hume and Alfred (Al) Pucci)

Save the date **March 19, 2022 - St. Rose/Father Denis O'Sullivan Parish Center**

Reunion dinner and celebrating Tavola di San Giuseppe

In 2022, we are planning to have special, limited event dinners throughout the year featuring exciting new menus, music, wine bar, and dancing!

Volunteers are greatly appreciated for set-up and clean-up.

Please contact the office at 707-591-9696 and leave a message for Linda Apel.



Messaggio del Presidente - continued from page 1

I am pleased to report that the **Piccolo Mercatino di Natale** was a success. Thanks to the efforts of **Linda Apel** and **Susan Terracina Adler** for their hard work in planning and coordinating the event. I would like to thank the following people who helped make this event a success:

Vendors

Jamil Adler, Susan Terracina Adler, Linda Apel, Joan Demitz, and Sheri Emerson Head

Also representing NBICF at the book sale, **Diane McCurdy**, and **Arleen Place**. I would also like to thank **Rosalie Towsen** who volunteered at the event.

Membership renewals will be sent out in early January. The Board appreciates the support of its members now more than ever, as membership dues supply needed income to sustain the operations of the Foundation. The Foundation added 12 new members for 2021.

On January 6, Italians and many others celebrate the Epiphany. In Italy, they refer to it as La Befana Epifania. Befana is derived from the word Epifania, the Italian name for the religious festival of the Epiphany. La Befana is the benevolent old woman with magical powers who brings gifts to children in Italy on the eve 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!



For Information:

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Library/Office: 707-573-7185 Virginia Wilburn
Italian Classes: 707-874-2512 Emily Evans
Membership: 707-591-9696 George Golfieri
Reservations: 707-573-7185 Virginia Wilburn
Scholarships: 707-981-8252 Gino Muzzatti
Sunshine Cards: 707-586-1167 JoAnn Piantanida

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, Virginia Smith, 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

Individual

Ida Paladini

Patron

Mark Rizzo

New & Continuing Business Members:

Buttitta Design

Faloni Ranch

Forchini Vineyards

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA)

Ramazzotti Winery

Condolences to the family of:

Sharie Sbrazza

Louise York

Al Konhoff

May they rest in peace

CARE HOPE GOOD SPIRITS HEAL RECOVER

to members and their families that are not feeling well

Thank you - Grazie

The following members have made donations to NBICF:

Maggie Brothers, Denise Scaglione, Maria Gloria, and

Jim Forchini



Le parole del giorno (the words of the day)

Vuoi qualcosa da mangiare?

(Do you want something to eat?)

Ongoing Incontro group for informal Italian conversation.

Please contact George Golfieri at 707-843-3176.

A song sent in by member **Roger G. Nacouzi** with music and lyrics by **Marie Pavlovsky**.

Com'è Bello Stare in Italia!

Oh! To be in Italy!

Com'è bello stare in Italia sotto gli alberi dei tigli

Oh! To be in Italy beneath the linden trees

Le vigne fragranti

The fragrant grapes

l'oliva dei campi

The olive groves

Col vino rosso liscio

The smooth red wine,

Solo io e te - Solo io e te

Just you and me — Just you and me.

Com'è bello stare in Italia sotto gli alberi dei tigli

Oh! To be in Italy beneath the linden trees

Le notte gentili

The gentle nights

Le dolce bellezze

The sweet delights

Un pezzo di pane e formaggio

A slice of bread and cheese

E i canti d'amore soffiano nell' aria

And love songs whispering on the breeze

Soffiano nell' aria

Whispering on the breeze

E quando penso all' Italia

And when I think of Italy

Vedo la tua faccia e il tuo sorriso

I see your face, your smile

E gioia sempre mi cattura

And laughter always captures me

E per un po

And for a little while...

Sono indietro in Italia sotto gli alberi dei tigli

I'm in Italy...beneath the linden trees

Guardando ai suoi cieli

Staring at her skies

Riempire ancora il mio cuore

Filling up my heart again

E danzando negli occhi suoi

Dancing in her eyes - dancing in her eyes!

Danzando negli occhi suoi!

Carnevale di Venezia (Carnival in Venice) is back – February 12 through March 1 2022

Carnevale was first celebrated in Venice in 1094 and has been officially sanctioned in that city since 1296.

It was traditionally a period when roles were reversed – men and women, nobility and commoners. Today the period of Carnevale is a time when people put their daily lives on hold to laugh at themselves, their leaders and their world. One of the largest celebrations in Italy is in Viareggio, a city on the Ligurian Sea.

Carnevale is celebrated in Italy as a final party before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. 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.



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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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 the building fund, scholarships, or in memoriam, 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

Save the Date

March 19, 2022 - St. Rose/Father Denis O'Sullivan Parish Center

(Reunion dinner while celebrating Tavola di San Giuseppe)



TOWERS OF SIMON RODIA, the WATTS TOWERS

On a plot of land, in the LA area called Watts, you'll find one of the most unusual works of public art anywhere in the United States, 17 interconnected towers embedded with shells, tiles, soda bottles, mirrors, and shards of pottery.

These towers were the vision of one man, a semi-literate Italian immigrant who worked with no outside help and only the most basic tools nearly every day for 34 years. He was born Sabato Rodia on February 12, 1879 in the tiny village of Ribottoli on the southwestern side of Italy. At age 15, he sailed for America. He settled in Philadelphia, then Seattle, then Northern California before moving to Southern California. He adopted the name Sam and worked as a laborer, laying cement and tile, among other things. In 1921, with help from his brother, Rodia bought a lot in Watts and began working on his masterpiece. Rodia's years as a laborer and his ingenuity led him to develop a unique method for building his dream structures on a limited budget and with few tools. He bent salvaged steel into the shapes, wrapped wire mesh around it and covered it with thin layers of cement mortar set with glass, ceramics, mirrors, and more.

Just as no one quite knew why Rodia had begun his work, no one knew why he stopped. One day in 1955, he deeded the property to his neighbor and moved to Northern California, to be near his sister's family in Martinez. Rodia was 76 years old and had spent 34 years, nearly half his life, building the Watts Towers. He would die 10 years later. The Watts Towers were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990.

Thank you, Susan Adler, for this interesting article.

