

Messaggero

NEWS & UPDATES FROM ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Buongiorno,
We are now approaching our 107th year and we could not have continued meeting the needs of the Italian and Italian-Americans in the Bay Area if it had not been for the generous support of gracious donors and the leadership of our Board of Directors and the tireless work of our volunteers and ICS Auxiliary. For the past six years, Italian Community Services has thrived under the leadership of Don Parachini as President. Don was very instrumental in guiding us through a new lease for Club Fugazi with the Club Fugazi Experiences group, which replaced our 47-year tenant Beach Blanket Babylon. He assisted in navigating the many issues of the COVID-19 pandemic, and hiring a new Executive Director, Vyria Paselk Haverhals to replace our beloved Pietro Bonnano. The good news is that Don will be assisting and guiding me as our Chairman of the Board as I assume the Presidency role at ICS. Also, a large benefit is that Pietro will remain a Board Member to assist Vyria in the transition to the Executive Director role from a Board Member role that she previously held for three years. I am also excited to announce the new Vice President of the Board, Elisabetta Ghisini. We also hired Madison Barton and Analisa Del Prete to assist Vyria in the office and coordinating services for our clients and community.

Many changes as we move into 2023. Change usually can cause some bumps in the road which our seasoned Board of Directors will help temper and smooth out. Our clients have always come first and that will not change. We will always look for better ways to serve our clients as their needs in today's world have become more complex with financial stress, as well as mental challenges. ICS will meet these challenges head on!

I would like to thank a long time North Beach resident, friend of ICS, volunteer for ICS, and longtime family friend Alida Morzenti for the addition and final completion of our Italian Heritage Morzenti Library on the third floor. We dedicated the Library as Alida wished, to her Mother and Father, Sarah and Gene Morzenti. Alida, along with Pietro Bonnano's mother, Damilia, worked tirelessly in cataloging, arranging and decorating the Library. If you happen to be in North Beach, please drop by and visit the Morzenti Library. To top all that Alida graciously donated \$10,000 on Giving Tuesday.

Thank you to our Staff, our Board of Directors, our Auxiliary, our Donors, our Volunteers for all that you have done and will continue to do for our clients and community. Grazie mille,

Stephen Leveroni
President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ciao a tutti,
Warm greetings from Casa Fugazi in North Beach. It is with deep gratitude that I write this letter as the newest Executive Director of Italian Community Services. Since April, I have had the honor of serving our Bay Area Italian and Italian-American community. As an "Italiana nel cuore" it is a privilege to be able to serve a community that I both admire and cherish. With ICS celebrating its 107th year in 2023, I am thankful to those who have come before me as they have laid a strong foundation to continuously evolve and adapt to the dynamic needs of our community.

While meeting over caffè is always preferred, until then, allow me to share a bit about my background, reflections on my first few months as the Executive Director, and some words on current and future programming at ICS.

To start off, my family and I love North Beach. Collectively, my husband and I have lived in North Beach for 30+ years and are now raising our young son here. When I moved to San Francisco after graduate school, I was drawn to North Beach because of its Italian roots. I had the privilege of living in Italy for almost a year (across Tuscany and then in Rome) as well as studying Italian, which is why I am conversational in a beautiful language I call "spoken poetry."

Before my time as the Executive Director of ICS, I served as a Board Member. This is because I believe in the nonprofit sector. What I mean is that nonprofits are the hands and feet of our communities. They are feeding those in need, they are connectors to vital services, they are equipping the next generation, they are providing community spaces. ICS has

been doing this and more for over 100 years, which is why I believe in our work.

Speaking of our work, I've been humbled over the last several months to have met so many volunteers, donors, partners and overall supporters of our work at ICS. It means a great deal to know how much goodwill there is in our community towards our mission and work. Whether it's a dedicated volunteer who serves at our weekly luncheons, or a donor who generously gives over and over again, or a partner who donates goods for our care packages, or grantees who write letters for our seniors - you all inspire me and my team to do even more for our community!

Over the last several months, we've been navigating the new normal as our world and community begin to slowly re-open and re-gather. During this transitional period, we've remained dedicated to the mission of preserving our culture and serving our community. As we approach the new year, we continue to listen to our community to determine how to best support and serve. We plan to continue our current initiatives and create new opportunities to provide support, which includes the following:

Transportation

We are looking to make connecting with the community in-person easier for seniors by assisting with transportation needs, not only to help them join us for our weekly events, but to run errands, visit the doctor, and more. We aim to combine volunteer, ride-share, and shared van options to meet this community need.

Training and Connections

Technology is both an opportunity and a challenge for many in our community. Based on a recent tech survey conducted within our community-specific tutorials, including in-home assistance will be

offered leveraging partner organizations and volunteers.

To further combat isolation, ICS is re-launching the FriendLine phone call program to ensure our community members have a friendly and regular point of contact.

Youth Engagement

Preserving Italian culture is a foundational value of ICS. In 2023 we will place more emphasis on better engaging our youth. We'd like to encourage our Italian and Italian American young people to remember the accomplishments of those who came before them, while also inspiring them to make their own marks.

Expanded Direct Community Support

As we prioritize the requests of our community, we work to ensure our community's basic needs are met. We do this through targeted financial support which includes rent, utilities, and grocery assistance for those who most need it within our community. As costs continue to rise, we see more need in this area.

If you believe in the work we are and will continue to do, we kindly ask you to consider donating to Italian Community Services.

Thank you once again for your support. I look forward with great anticipation to the year ahead with all of you- Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Vyria Paselk Haverhals
Executive Director

CORE CURRENT ICS PROGRAMS

Information and Referrals

Referrals and connections when we are not able to meet community needs directly such as for citizenship, legal, real estate affairs, etc...

Care Coordination

Care coordination ensuring our community are able to receive proper medical support, home-bound care, counseling services and more

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance to struggling families and individuals to ensure their basic needs are met

Transportation

Prioritized medical appointment coordination via ride-share services which we hope to expand in the coming year

Care Packages

Care packages during special holidays celebrating our history and heritage

Educational Grants

Grants to Italian language programs via the John C. Riccio Grant for children and adult learners to ensure the preservation of our language and culture

Social and Cultural Activities

Weekly community events including Wednesday luncheons and Thursday activities for our senior clients + our space at Casa Fugazi to support a wide variety of Italian organizations and events

JOHN C. RICCIO GRANT PROGRAM



Saints Peter and Paul School grant recipients

Italian Community Services' John C. Riccio Grants provide financial support to Bay Area Italian language programs. These programs use the grant for a variety of purposes, including to enhance their learning materials such as textbooks, supplies, and technology; to create immersive cultural experiences for their students; and to provide professional development opportunities to their faculty. These grants ensure that these Italian programs are well-equipped to teach and support students with the best materials, tools, resources, and opportunities available.

2022 John C. Riccio Grant recipients include Marin Catholic High School, ItaLingua, La Scuola International School, St. Catherine of Siena School, Saints Peter and Paul School.

HERITAGE PARADE

San Francisco's Italian-American Community celebrates the Italian Heritage Festival & Parade every October, featuring Italian and Italian-American dignitaries, music, performances, floats, and representatives of our fellow Italian and Italian-American organizations and businesses. This year, Italian Community Services collaborated with Club Fugazi Experiences to promote our home and 109 year old building – Casa Fugazi!

Casa Fugazi, a gift to the Italian community from the Fugazi family, was entrusted to ICS in 1916. Located on 678 Green St, the third floor remains the home for Italian Community Services and the first two floors, a popular theatrical venue, are now the home of Club Fugazi Experiences, also known as CFE.



On this year's float, ICS featured many of its community members, along with the cast and crew of Dear San Francisco – a contemporary circus show by CFE that serves as a "love letter to San Francisco" and pays homage to the Italian roots of North Beach.

Casa Fugazi remains a prominent figure for entertainment and a sanctuary for the Italian Community. Thank you Club Fugazi Experiences for partnering with ICS for this year's float and for joining Italian Community Services in honoring the history of the beautiful building that is Casa Fugazi, a true gift to the Italian community in North Beach.



ICS Clients, Volunteers, Staff, Riccio Grant Recipients and Club Fugazi Experiences staff on our Casa Fugazi float

CLIENT ACTIVITIES

Before COVID-19 hit our community, Italian Community Services held Wednesday Luncheons and Thursday Activities for the senior community. In order to protect its most vulnerable population, ICS closed its doors during COVID-19 and opted for care package deliveries to continue to engage with the community. This year, ICS is proud to share that we were able to safely bring back weekly meals, presentations, field trips, and activities again! Since April we've been able to host more than 60 events (luncheons, activities, concerts) with our clients at our office.

Our Wednesday Luncheons and Senior Activities, supported by weekly volunteers, are organized with the goal of forging relationships, reducing isolation, and preserving the Italian culture. Every month, a calendar of activities are sent to community members with the opportunity to RSVP and attend – all completely free. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please call 415-362-6423 or visit: <https://www.italianscs.org/events/>

Since April we've had over 500+ in-person interactions with our community members including over 320+ meals served at Casa Fugazi! We hope to see you in 2023!



NOVEMBER						
November 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	1	2	3	4	5	6

ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
CASA FUGAZI, 678 GREEN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PLEASE CALL 415/362-6423 EXT. 10 TO RSVP BY MONDAY BEFORE EVENT

Pasquale

In November, we were able to reconnect one of our community members, Pasquale, with his family in Italy after having been out of touch for nearly 40 years! This all started when we learned that Pasquale had lost touch with his family in New York after experiencing multiple challenging times, including homelessness. Pasquale had no idea how his family had fared over the years. Were they still in New York? Had some of them passed away? His family also had no idea of what Pasquale had experienced and whether he was even alive after all this time.

With the help of Miracle Messages, a local nonprofit, their team was able to quickly track down Pasquale's family in New York as well as in Naples. After a week of processing the news that his family desperately wanted not only to reconnect and catch up but have him back in their lives, we assisted Pasquale in calling his family in Napoli.

We helped Pasquale navigate the technology needed to reconnect with his family, and he was able to video chat with his siblings. It was heartwarmingly beautiful to see their interactions, even with barely recognizing each other after so much time.

We are working to help more people in similar situations to Pasquale connect more with the community as well as their loved ones by creating opportunities for our seniors to receive training on how to use various technologies such as Zoom that many of us use daily to connect.



HOLIDAY CARE PACKAGES

Italian Community Services continues to thrive with the strength of its community. Whether it be through volunteer efforts, donations, or simply spreading the word, community support has remained ICS' core value in making a positive impact on the Bay Area Italian population.

This fall, ICS partnered with Workday to bring back Care Package Deliveries to community members and those in need for the holiday season. Led by ICS volunteer and Workday employee Denise Accurso, ICS was able to organize the assembly and delivery of 150+ care packages all throughout the Bay Area.

Denise began volunteering with Italian Community Services in 2020 during COVID-19, when ICS began delivering Care Packages filled with fresh Italian goods to Bay Area community members isolated within their homes. Inspired by this initiative, Denise became determined

to continue to serve those in need this year for the holiday season. In her Workday Volunteer Award submission, given in recognition of outstanding Workday employees with philanthropic service to others, she writes, "One of the greatest rewards we have in life is from the relationships we develop with people. Through my volunteering, I came to find a new fulfillment through giving to others by lifting the spirits of isolated seniors in need."

Denise reached out to Italian Community Services about an opportunity to organize her colleagues at Workday to participate in a team volunteering effort. With 20+ Workday employees partaking, not only was Italian Community Services able to assemble and deliver the packages, but Workday itself also recognized the efforts of their employees with a grant to Italian Community Services to financially support the Care Package Deliveries. Because of this grant and a generous donation of Colavita goods from ICS board member Paolo Colavita, ICS was able to bring back this beloved Care Package Drive for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Denise shares, "Being a champion for volunteering to promote Workday's generous philanthropy programs is something I have begun to do to bring awareness to my fellow colleagues across the company. I hope to inspire more Workmates to join me in this cause so they will experience something truly special that is life changing. The seniors give back to us fourfold what we put in. It is something inexplicable which touches your heart."

ICS thanks Workday, Paolo Colavita, and Denise Accurso's commitment, drive and enthusiasm to serve the community. We hope to have more team volunteering opportunities like this in the future to help better serve the Italian and Italian American community.



Denise Accurso, Madison Barton, Ambrish Kumar

HERITAGE LIBRARY

ICS is excited to share that after many years, the Italian Heritage Morzenti Library is officially open! Located on the third floor of Casa Fugazi, the library's mission is to empower the Italian and Italian-American community with lifelong learning opportunities, promote excellence in scholarship and Italian knowledge, and enjoy the rich history of Italian's migration to the Bay Area.

Donated by members of the Italian Community over the past 50 years, the Italian Heritage Morzenti Library holds over 2000 novels, textbooks, biblical texts, books, and music records. In the library, members will also be able to find a rich history of the Italian and Italian-American journey, including immigration records, historical newspapers of the Italian Community in San Francisco, and even Italian advertisements within North Beach dating back to 1878.

ICS would also like to give special acknowledgement to Damilia Loupy and Alida Morzenti for bringing the library to life. Damilia catalogued and organized the thousands of pieces of literature we have within the walls. Alida, in memory of her parents Gene and Sara Morzenti, donated many of the items within the library in order to make it a comfortable learning environment. The Italian Heritage Morzenti Library is dedicated to Alida, Gene, and Sarah Morzenti for their generosity and efforts to support the Italian community within the Bay Area. May their legacy live on through the Italian Heritage Morzenti Library at Casa Fugazi.

To reserve a library visit, please go to: <https://www.italianscs.org/library/>

CLUB FUGAZI



Italian Community Services is proud to be able to collaborate with many other Italian agencies and organizations across the Bay Area, including the Istituto Italiano di Cultura San Francisco, also known as the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco. In celebration of Italian Heritage Month this past October, the Italian Cultural Institute put on a special free concert dedicated to the Italian community of San Francisco hosted by Club Fugazi Experiences and ICS in our own Casa Fugazi theater and halls. Hundreds of Bay Area Italians, including Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, Sergio Strozzi, enjoyed the legendary Italian folk musician Eugenio Bennato along with his group, Taranta Power, within the Club Fugazi theater. ICS looks forward to more collaborations like this in the future and thanks Club Fugazi Experiences for leveraging the theater in support of our community, as well as the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco for organizing the benefit concert.



Romana Bracco, Stephen Leveroni, Alida Morzenti, Ronald Derenzi, Vyria Paselk Haverhals, Elisabetta Ghisini

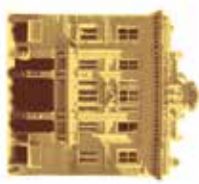


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If you would like to receive your newsletter and notices
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501 (c) (3) Organization
TAX EIN 94-1196199

OUR STAFF



Maddy, Analisa and Vyria

Madison Barton: Community Relationship Manager

Maddy focuses on Volunteer Coordination, Database Management, Special Events, Community Member Correspondence

"I work at ICS because the relationships I have with volunteers, clients, and community members is very rewarding. I love that the results of my work show a positive and direct impact within my community and my neighborhood."

Analisa Del Prete: Client Advocate

Analisa focuses on Client Care Coordination, Community Luncheon, Advancing Access to Bay Area Health and Wellbeing Resources

"I am proud to share in Italian Community Service's mission to sustain the social and cultural vitality of Italian-Americans. Together we will serve and uplift the Italian community and honor their legacy."

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Grazie mille to everyone who donated.

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Ana Mayorga
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Carolina Francia
Cecilia Beltrame
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Charlotte Mastrangelo
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Christopher Petrini
Claudio Tarchi
Club Fugazi Experiences
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Constance Romeo
David Franco
Denise Artal
Dennis and Renee Capovilla
Diane Shannon

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Elisabetta Ghisini
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Vincenzo Conte
Vinny Moretti
Vittoria Galluzzi
Vyria and Mike Haverhals
William Dake
Yola Ferralis
Yolanda Machi
*including in-kind donations

We are conducting a short survey to better understand how the community perceives Italian Community Services and the programs we provide. Your time is very valuable and we appreciate your input so that we can continue to improve how we communicate and more importantly how we serve our community. We appreciate your response! Find the survey at the below link or scan the QR code on your smartphone. Grazie Mille!
<https://www.italiancs.org/ss/>

