



ITALIAN  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

Preserving Our Culture. Serving Our Community.

SINCE 1916

# Il Messaggero

NEWS & UPDATES FROM ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Cari Amici,



Having been part of Italian Community Services for more 36 years has given me time to appreciate what can be done to help people adjust to change. The original focus of this organization was to help Italian immigrants and their families adjust to changes in language, culture, health and economic conditions. More than one hundred years later that continues to be our focus under very different circumstances. Over that long stretch of time, countless volunteers and contributors have given their time and financial support for this endeavor. That is what got us to where we are to-

day, and I want to express my thanks for that. As I have said before, change is constant, but with that comes opportunity. This year has been a perfect example of that. On January 1, 2019, Pietro Bonanno became our Executive Director, and during the year we have made significant changes in staffing and board membership, all of which help and will continue to help us meet the changed needs of the Italians and Italian-Americans whom we serve. This year also brought additional challenges as Trustee of the Building. We have worked through a number of necessary repairs, but the most significant challenge has been the decision of our long-term tenant, Steve Silver Productions, to close its well-known show, Beach Blanket Babylon. However, with the same commitment of all of

those who founded and kept us going for more than 100 years, we are working to find a proper replacement that will help support proper care of the Building and our charitable activities. We accept change as opportunity and look forward to continuing without pause our commitment to promoting the language, culture, health and well being of Italians and Italian-Americans in the Bay Area.

*Donald G. Parachini*

Donald G. Parachini  
President

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Buongiorno!



As my first year as Executive Director comes to an end I realize that there is much for me to be thankful. Leading Italian Community Services is both an honor and a large responsibility. I am grateful to the board, community leaders and to those we serve each day for having believed in my leadership. In business school I was taught to "always ask for the 5 year plan". Allora, this first year was dedicated to evaluating our processes and procedures, getting to know the community environment and learning of gaps, if any, in the way we serve our Italian and Italian-Americans. As for next year, 2020, there is a lot of buzz regarding the new initiatives and community projects that will be rolled out. Please visit our website and social media pages to remain updated. As a sneak peak, we will get involved at the high school and college levels to support the Italian culture clubs, help the over 100 Italian Au Pairs living in the Bay Area, host new and bigger events with ICA Cristo Rey, La Scuola International and BAIA, increase our weekly activities by 50% and rollout programming for different Bay Area communities.

I would like to highlight some of 2019's

milestones. Although our community's needs have changed, the Bay Area remains a place of great migration. Italian families continue to move here from Italy or other parts of the world. Integration services were at the core of ICS's inception and remaining true to our roots we have kicked-off the **Welcome to the Bay** series. This series is dedicated to assisting individuals and families in learning best practices for integrating and living in the Bay Area. Each session is dedicated to important topics such as "how to navigate the healthcare system" or "dos and don'ts in the workplace". Also, after encouraging an open door policy in our last newsletter the feedback has been tremendous. Seniors mentioned their desire for fieldtrips, which was something done many years ago. In record time, in addition to regular programming we were able to organize four fieldtrips to Tiburon, Golden Gate Park, Aquarium by the Bay and lastly, to Graton Casino. The latter included members from the Italian Athletic Club and Salesians Boys & Girls board members. These are beautiful examples of our community coming together. Our weekly activities calendar remained uninterrupted with hosting 48 catered meals, 50 activities, and 12 informational seminars. In terms of special

programming, ICS co-hosted cultural events at Casa Fugazi with the Italian Cultural Institute which attracted more the 1200 people. As a reminder, our space is available to the Italian community. As of today, 12 organizations use our Large and Small Heritage Rooms for board meetings, events and fundraises. Our care coordination team received 2461 calls requesting informational referrals. The number of families we support continues to grow and we hope to have the trend continue. We are here to serve the community, especially our most vulnerable. Lastly, through the John Riccio Grant Program this year we provided funding to numerous Bay Area schools whose Italian program is an example to the community.

Feel free to write me at [pietrojbonanno@italiancs.com](mailto:pietrojbonanno@italiancs.com) for any ideas or concerns. Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti voi!

*Pietro Bonanno*

Pietro Bonanno  
Executive Director

## Our Mission

Italian Community Services provides Bay Area Italian-American individuals and families with trusted resources to help them live healthy, independent and productive lives. We are committed to honoring and preserving the Italian language and culture, with an emphasis on the strength and support that come from family, community, education and goodwill.

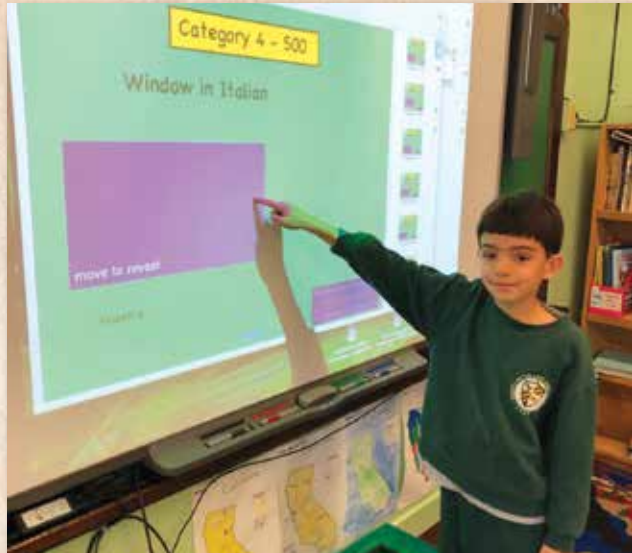


# The John C. Riccio Grant Program

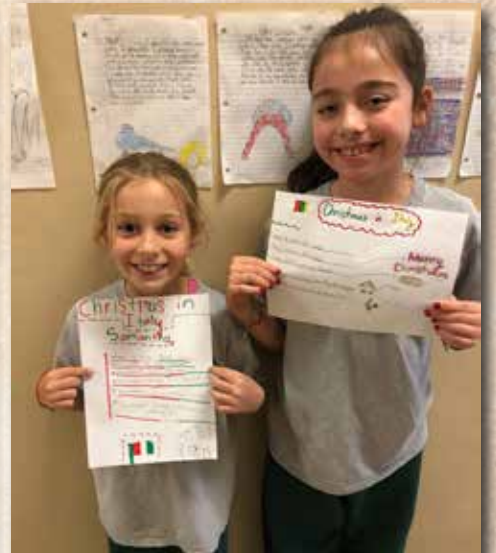
This year we continued our dedication and attention to the John C. Riccio Grant Program. La Scuola International, Saint Peter and Paul School, Italingua and Saint Catherine of Siena all received generous donations to support their highly successful Italian language initiatives.



Saint Catherine of Siena



Saint Peter and Paul School



Saint Catherine of Siena



Members of ICS and La Scuola International boards held an aperitivo and delivered in person the Riccio Grant funds.



Italingua



Saint Peter and Paul School

## ANNUAL APPEAL DONATIONS FROM MAY 1 to NOVEMBER 30, 2019. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Rose Amato  
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George Sacco  
Rae Sansa  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Gerald Stroffolino  
Claudio Tarchi  
Esther Tofahi  
Edwina Webb

### Our Staff



Italian Community Services recently welcomed new Client - Volunteer Manager, Lana Toniutti and Case Manager, Francesca Dufour to the team, left to right. Both share the common goal of preserving the Italian-American culture while serving members of the community. The team, under direction of Pietro Bonanno, are excited to be a part of all the upcoming events in 2020 while they remain dedicated to meeting our clients' needs on a daily basis. Lana and Francesca look forward to getting to know everyone who has helped make Italian Community Services mission a reality this year and for many more years to come. Grazie a tutti!

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Thank you for your generosity and continued support.



# Bringing the Community Together

Italian Community Services is once again becoming the catalyst for the community to come together. 2019 marks the most active year in a decade. In October, we organized an event where both ICS and La Scuola International were given the opportunity to showcase the impact we have on the broader community. Following the brief presentations we gave the floor to Luca Maestri (CFO of Apple) and Diego Piacentini (former SVP Amazon Global) to share their stories (including that of immigration from Italy to the Silicon Valley). This was the first time these high ranking members of Silicon Valley were together in the US. News of this event reached NIAF in Washington DC! It is with great pride to have ICS coordinate and bring this event together with La Scuola International.



Sheila Ortona, moderator; Lornzo Ortona, Consul General of Italy; Diego Piacentini; Valentina Imbeni, Head of School; Serra Falk Goldman; Luca Maestri; Pietro Bonanno.



One of Europe's leading business schools, the SDA Bocconi, held its annual North/South America Leader's conference at Casa Fugazi in July.



ICS invited to Italian Flag Day hosted by SF Major.



ICS proudly funded the "Italian Music in the Park" concert in Golden Gate Park.



Rosario Giuliani, Italy's leading Jazz player gave a free concert at Casa Fugazi. This was the only stop on the west coast for this internationally acclaimed jazz artist.



One of Silicon Valley's influencers, Federico Faggin, was honored by the Leonardo DaVinci Society at Casa Fugazi.



ICS hosted at the Giant's Italian Heritage Game.



Movie featuring Gualtiero Marchesi, the father of modern Italian cuisine was coupled with dinner catered by San Francisco's top Italian restaurants.

## BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
PIETRO J. BONANNO



Tiburon Outing



We were honored to host the Every Child conference on autism and children with special needs. Much of today's research in the field of autism is coming from Italy. This was a truly international affair with over 150 participants from 35 countries. Thank you Zoom technologies for making this possible.





Pic-Nic at Golden Gate Park

Afternoon at the Aquarium

**AIRITALY**  
IMAGINE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY

NEW DIRECT FLIGHTS TO MILAN FROM SFO



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## Volunteer and Special Projects Intern, Bailey Danielson

Italian Community Services would like to recognize our new volunteer and special projects intern, Bailey Danielson. A Saint Mary's College of California student majoring in Romance Literature and Linguistics with a focus in French and Italian, Bailey has been volunteering her time during our weekly senior activities while also attending I Piemontesi dialect group that meets biweekly in our Heritage Room. Bailey is also working on her Honors Program linguistics project which has allowed her to connect with some of our seniors while she gathered information about the various Italian dialects through a more linguistic and sociolinguistic lens. During the fall semester, Bailey conducted interviews



with Italian Community Services seniors who come from a variety of regional Italian backgrounds and are proud to still be able to speak their regional dialects in addition to the Italian language. This was the perfect opportunity for Bailey to delve into the social and cultural implications of dialect usage, specifically from the perspective of Italians who have immigrated to the United States at different moments in history. From her interviews and in conjunction with supporting research, Bailey was able to better understand the linguistic relationships among dialects as well as the extent of their cultural implications and identities. We look forward to sharing more about Bailey's finished project in our next newsletter.

## Volunteer Showcase

Damilia Loupy became a volunteer in August. Her grandparents (immigrants from Lucca and Chiavari) met



previous marriage to an Italian she still was in possession of her Italian Citizenship. This changed the trajectory of her retired life. She could now live and retire "Under the Tuscan Sun", something she has always dreamed of doing. To show her appreciation she soon began volunteering at ICS dedicating her time to our Community Library project focusing on binding the only complete collection of l'Italia, an Italian newspaper printed in North Beach from 1897 to 1925. To make this story even sweeter, while meticulously going through 27 years' worth of daily newspapers, she came across her grandparent's wedding announcement from 1925- tears of joy filled her eyes.

in North Beach and received services from ICS back in 1918. Damilia connected with ICS in March when she attended the Italian Citizenship forum we hosted for the community. The outcome of this event was life changing; she discovered that through her

