



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,



This has been a challenging year for everyone, but challenge is what Italian Community Services was established for in 1916. On the positive side, this 104th year has been an opportunity! Working both in person and remotely, our dedicated staff and volunteers have been able to meet the social and financial needs of an increased number of clients. Through social media we have been able to expand both awareness of our services and keep our supporters informed about how their much-appreciated donations mean to those whom we serve. We are an independent Private Foundation that has survived for more than a Century on donations and careful management of past gifts and assets.

As set forth in his report, Pietro Bonanno, our present Executive Director, has brought new ideas and energy to our mission of providing financial, emotional, and cultural support to Italians, and Italian-Americans.

Pietro is building on and adding to the work of four dedicated, caring, and able long-term Executive Directors, each of whom brought new ideas and energy to their work. The four previous Executive Directors account for 83 of the 104 years of our existence. We owe Pietro, and those four our appreciation and recognition.

I am sad to report that Anna Pierini, who served as Executive Director for 22 years, unexpectedly passed away at her home in Marin County on November 19, 2020. Anna loved her work for us and served us with ability and complete dedication. I intend to recognize that with a donation to Italian Community Services in her honor. I hope that

you will join me with a donation for the work to which she was so completely committed.

Donald G. Parachini

Donald G. Parachini
President

In This Issue

- **New Board Members**
- **Community Impact in numbers**
- **What is new at the Italian Consulate**
- **Cultural Revolution at ICS**
- **Digital transformation**
- **Record year for press coverage**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Buongiorno,



For once I believe we are all happy to see the year come to an end. 2020 has been challenging for everyone, everywhere. For Italian Community Services it was and continues to be an opportunity to understand the community's needs. Our new team (staff, volunteers and interns) has demonstrated to be innovative, resilient and 100% dedicated to helping our community members. Our main goal was to provide a dignified way of living for all. Our community has been deeply impacted by Covid-19. Isolation continues to be the biggest issue impacting our seniors. To alleviate this burden we began making weekly calls to over 200 households not only to lend a listening ear but to genuinely understand what services were needed. Although Club Fugazi was closed to the public we brought a part of our center to every family. Bi-monthly care package deliveries (with organic produce, foods from Italy, recipes and reading materials) provided

an opportunity for volunteers to visit our seniors and for our seniors to reconnect with their Italian roots. Without going into too much detail, since March we rolled out the following new services: Calling Hotline, provided Vital- Link medical devices, free prescriptions deliveries, transportation to and from doctor's appointments, Italo-Americano subscriptions, cancer support group, and now we are working on providing "senior friendly" tablets so that once again friends and families can see each other's face. Seniors were not our only focus. A surprising number of Italian nationals witnessed their employment disappear and turned to Italian Community Services for assistance. Our support allowed them to have food on the table, partially pay for their rent/bills and guidance with navigating city/county/federal services. I am so proud to see this organization helping such a vast number of people. Truly, we are an example to all Italian communities on a national level.

In the midst of this work we found the time to enter the modern age with a strong social media presence. Today we have our own

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube pages. Please follow-us.

Now more than ever, schools needed the support of the John C. Riccio Grant. Four schools each received \$10,000 to provide vital funds to keep the Italian programming alive and thriving.

I want to take the time to thank my team, our volunteers and the board in believing in our mission. If anyone knows of individuals needing help please contact us. Lastly, I encourage everyone to give in their own capacity to our annual appeal. Above all, thank you for the trust given to us, we understand each person we help has a special story and unique needs. It is an honor to serve the community. I'm confident that the founders would be proud to see how we have adapted to today's unprecedented times.

As we say in Italy, buone feste a tutti voi!

Pietro J. Bonanno

Pietro Jonathan 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.

WHAT'S NEW

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Julia Dondero

Throughout her career, Julia has worked with a wide range of companies including Google, Wells Fargo, Cisco, Yahoo!, Barbie, LifeMoves in addition to a number of companies in the pharma, medical device, publishing and casino gaming industries.

As a third-generation Italian-American, Julia found a home in San Francisco's vibrant community. In 2007 she joined FIERI, a young adult Italian club, and quickly became their Marketing and Public Relations Director.

In 2010 Julia was invited to join a multigenerational group of women to become a founding officer of Le Donne d'Italia and lead their branding and Marketing. Now in 2020, she is kicking her third year off as the President of Le Donne d'Italia.



Paolo Colavita

Paolo Colavita comes from Campobasso which is in the Molise region in Italy. He has a law degree from the Luiss University in Rome and UC Berkeley. Although law is his passion, he recently fell in love with the Food & Beverage industry and is now heading the US operations for Colavita Imports. Colavita is his family's business and he is the third generation to help grow this brand and company.

NEW SERVICES

We continue to add services that benefit the community. If you have an idea please share it with us. We are always looking to improve how we serve others. In the past 9 months we have introduced the following:

- Bi-monthly care packages
- Free prescription delivery
- Call Hotline
- Vital Link medical alert device
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Essential errands
- Pen pal program with La Scuola International Students
- Food pantry (of course – only Italian Food)
- Tablets for seniors to reduce isolation
- Italo-Americano subscription



NEW INTERNS

We are blessed to have two extremely talented interns at Italian Community Services. Please welcome them as they begin the much needed digital transformation of our archives. This project is extremely important as it will make these documents available for generations to come. Once scanning is complete we will implement IBM Watson technology. By doing this it will take seconds to search through 105 years' worth of documents. Stay tuned as we achieve milestones in this colossal project.



Welcome Thomasina Daleo. Thomasina is from San Diego, California and attends Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, California. An avid learner she is a triple major in Clinical Psychology, Art History and Italian Studies.

Upon graduating in May she plans on going to graduate school for a PhD program in Clinical/ Forensic Psychology in New York or the East Coast. Recently she lived in Rome, Italy for a year to study and travel. Her passions are traveling, Renaissance and Baroque art, history and reading!

Federico Gioele Aprile is the first 100% Italian student of Lowell. Some of his school activities include Film, History, Archery, and Artificial Intelligence. Apart from school, he has been volunteering to help homeless people and the less fortunate ones, by helping to serve them lunch every Thanksgiving Day and Christmas, at Saints Peter and Paul Church in North Beach.



VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

"I really have enjoyed volunteering at Italian Community Services for a multitude of reasons, but the part of it I have enjoyed the most was the ability to help other people through our food packaging and deliveries. It makes me really happy to be the bright spot in someone's day during the difficult and tough times we live in, and



Marco Jacimovic

possessing the ability through ICS to provide real help and assistance to those who need it during the pandemic has brought me a great amount of joy and happiness. I've also loved building friendships with the other volunteers who also work hard to help out those in need as well as the people I deliver to. All in all, volunteering with ICS has been extremely fun and exciting, and I've loved every aspect of it!"

ICS IN THE NEWS

2020 has become the biggest year in terms of local, national and international recognition. It is still hard to believe that The Wall Street Journal, Rai Television, La Cucina Italiana, Unico, NIAF, Italian Catholic Federation, Italo Americano and the Bocconi University showcased the impact we have on the community. To view the articles please visit our website.



WALL STREET JOURNAL

LA CUCINA ITALIANA



ITALIAN COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICS is happy to announce the arrival of the Vice Counsel General of Italy. Fabio Massimo Ballerini is the first Italian diplomat in the position of Vice Counsel for San Francisco. It is an honor to have him as part of the community. We appreciate his open door policy and approachable demeanor. Upon meeting him we were impressed with his desire to "cut to the chase" and know how to help the community. Here are a few words from Vice Counsel Ballerini:



"A Roman at heart, I initially pursued a career in the private sector. In 2012 I entered the diplomatic corps through an active role in Italy's mission with the European Union. It is here where Lorenzo Ortona and I first worked together. The most recent missions have been in Dakar, Senegal (from 2015-2018) and Mogadisciu, Somalia (from 2018-2020). My arrival in San Francisco took place in the beginning of November. I am still learning and understanding the dynamic community that exists in the Bay Area and Northern California in general. I look forward to working with Italian Community Services and assisting their mission wherever possible."



Mauro Aprile Zanetti is a San Francisco-based masterful multimedia storyteller with 20 years of outstanding experience in the field of PR, marketing & communication between the US (NYC and San Francisco), Europe (Italy, France), and Asia (India and Malaysia). A multilingual world-class people person, with a strong independent filmmaking and art background, able to inspire any kind of audience with enthusiasm. A native Sicilian he masterfully embraces Italian, European and US cultures. We are honored to have him become the cultural ambassador of Italian Community Services. He will kick-off a series of virtual events interviewing innovators and leader's whether they are Italians or Italophiles. These interviews will take place within Club Fugazi and broadcasted live. We are excited to bring the world to Club Fugazi through these initiatives. Thank you Mauro!

Our Staff



We are so thankful for the outpouring of support from the Italian American community along with our team of dedicated volunteers. That same support has been the driving force carrying us through the pandemic. From making wellness calls and taking clients on essential trips to providing dry goods/produce boxes and warm meals, Italian Community Services board members, staff, and volunteers have been even more determined to meet the needs of the community. Together we have logged thousands of hours and provided just as many home deliveries all thanks to our volunteers who helped assemble and bring care packages to our growing list of clients throughout the Bay Area. We really could not have done it without them!

With the holiday season, I am reminded of how many volunteers gave the gift of their time and just how much that means to us and our clients. Their resilience and eagerness to help has made such a difference in so many people's lives. We have a deep sense of gratitude for everything our volunteers have done to support Italian Community Services. Thank you ~ Grazie!

Client - Volunteer Manager, Lana Toniutti



I'm writing to let you know a little of who I am and what I do to support the Italian community. I am a first generation Italian American, I moved to the United States at the age of 10 years. I am half Taiwanese on my mother's side.

Currently I am the case worker which is an honor and a pleasure. I have been part of this team at the Italian Community Services for a little over a year. I have the honor of being an aide to folks who need support in finding resources that can assist our clients in how the client would like to run their life.

My hope is that when I interact with folks that they feel respected, number one, and hopefully feel supported in their needs and goals.

Furthermore I have had the privilege of having had a job and a home throughout these devastating times. I want to thank the team I work with and I want to thank the clients for being the best clients any caseworker could ever wish for. Every time I call to check on you, you try and comfort me instead. If I ask "how are you" you'll answer briefly that you're "fine" and then inquire about my kids.

So I ask that if you have some questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call.

Francesca Dufour- Case Worker

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

ELENA GUMINA ANGELI
ALESSANDRO BACCARI
SANDRA BAUMGARTEN,
Auxiliary President
FRANK BILLANTE
ROMANA BRACCO
FEDERICO BROCCO
PAOLO COLAVITA
RICHARD CUNEO
MATTEO DASTE
RONALD J. DERENZI, *Treasurer*
MARIO DONATI
JULIA DONDERO
ELISABETTA GHISINI
DAVID T. GIANNINI
LEANA C. GIANNINI
JOE LEVERONI
STEPHEN E. LEVERONI, *Vice President*
STEVEN D. MARTINI
MARK MICHELI
TIMOTHY J. PADOVESE
MARIO G. PAOLINI, JR, *Secretary*
DONALD G. PARACHINI, *President*
VYRIA PASELK
CLAUDE PERASSO
MARIA FASSIO PIGNATI
LUIGI E. PINOTTI, *Chairman*
BARBARA RIZZI
JOSEPH P. RUSSONIELLO
ILIA SALOMONE-SMITH
DENNIS STRAZULO
PAUL D. TONELLI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PIETRO J. BONANNO

ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AUXILIARY

The Italian Community Service Auxiliary is an Italian women's organization that meets once a month for a meeting and luncheon. One doesn't have to be Italian to join. Our purpose is to raise money to donate to Italian Community Services. During COVID 19 we are staying in touch with our members and Italian Community Services by telephone. Wishing everyone a Happy and better New Year.



ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Preserving Our Culture. Serving Our Community.

Casa Fugazi
678 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94133
Tel: 415.362.6423
email: info@italiancs.com
web: www.italiancs.com
LinkedIn: italian-community-services/
Facebook: italiancs
Instagram: italiancommunityservices
Twitter: Italiancs

If you would like to receive your newsletter and notices via email please contact: lana.toniutti@italiancs.com
501 (c) (3) Organization
TAX EIN 94-1196199

ITALIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
678 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Preserving Our Culture. Serving Our Community.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IN NUMBERS

8,500 Wellness calls



5,100 Care packages

1,011 Errands



60 Families receiving financial assistance

71 Individuals receiving care coordination



45 Volunteers

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 11882

ANNUAL APPEAL DONATIONS

Grazie mille to everyone who donated.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Arana, Ron | Le Donne d'Italia |
| Armanino, Richard | Leveroni, Steve |
| Bambacigno, Scott | Lucchesi, Josephine |
| Baumgarten, Sandy | Machi, Yolanda |
| Bernardini, Eugene | Machi, Antonette |
| Billante, Frank | Massetani, Christine |
| BNY MELLON | Mayorga, Ana |
| Bonanno, Janet | Micheli, Mark |
| Bonanno, Pietro | Mogal, Katy |
| Bracco, Romana | Molinari, Mary |
| Buscemi, R | Mori, Charlene |
| Capuzzi, Laura | Morzenti, Alida |
| Ciardi, Leane | Nutini, Emilia |
| Clemens, Monica | Padovese, Tim |
| Costetti, Massimo | Panari, Pierina and Angelo |
| Cresto, Maryanne | Parachini, Donald |
| Cuneo, Louise | Perasso, Claude |
| Cuneo, Richard | Petrocchi, Richard |
| De Venezia, Maria | Pignati, Maria |
| DeMartini, Elanor | Rapicavoli, Rita |
| Derenzi, Ronald | Reiman, Ken |
| Donati, Mario | Rizzi, Barbara |
| Dondero, Julia | Russoniello, Joe |
| Dower, David | Sansa, Rae |
| Falk, Harry & Mary | Sauvageau, Christina |
| FalkGoldman, Serra | Schenone, John |
| Figone, Liana | Schoellkopf, Sarah |
| Foundation Silicon Valley | Strazulo, Dennis |
| Gagliardo, Grace | Tofahi, Esther |
| Ghisini, Elisabetta | Tonelli, Paul |
| Il Cenacolo | Tonelli, Paola |
| Isola, Gina | Toniutti, Lana |
| Jeanson, A.R. | Vinci, Maria |
| Kambisos, Barbara | Viti, Lori |
| La Torre, Manuele | Wells Fargo Philanthropic |
| Leicht, Wendy | Zammiti, Karen |

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS

