



**June 2024**  
**Established 1920**  
**Vol. XLIV No. 6**

The Colombo Club  
 5321 Claremont Avenue  
 Oakland, California 94618  
 www.TheColomboClub.com

24 Hour Reservation Lines:  
 (510) 653-9020 or (510) 653-9716  
 FAX Line: (510) 653-9053

**2024 Officers**

Anthony Ballestero	President
Vince Fratangelo	1st Vice President
Joe Ianora	2nd Vice President
John DeRespini	Corres. Secretary
Perry Vittoria	Financial Secretary
Matthew Moran	Treasurer
Marc Emeldi	Sergeant-At-Arms

**Board Members**

Joe Guerrero	2024-2026
John Mazibook	2024-2026
John Nardi	2024-2026
Don Ceremello	2024-2026
Billy Castell	2022-2024
Richard Puppione	2019-2024
Dave Nardi	2022-2024
Dino Rinetti	2022-2024
Randy Bodas	2022-2024
Anthony Tedeschi	2023-2025
Mark Amaro	2023-2025
Tom Gallinatti	2023-2025
Mark Rezente	2023-2025
Nick Nicora	2023-2034

Sunshine Chair, Gordon Bowman  
 gbowman999@yahoo.com

**Colombo Club Pizza Night**  
**Saturday Night, June 22**

Cocktails at 4:30 pm  
 Dinner 6:30 pm

Members: \$35/person  
 Guests: \$40/person  
 Children 6-12: \$20/person  
 Children under 6 years: Free



**On the Menu**  
 Salad, Pasta with Meatballs, Pizza, Dessert  
 Wine & Coffee

Featuring George Campi's Accordion  
 Music during cocktail hour

Make or cancel reservations by 6 pm on June 15. **Call 510-653-9716**, press 1 and then press 4 for the family dinner. No shows will be billed for the full price of the dinner.

**FAMILY DINNER**

**Past Presidents Night!**

**Saturday, July 27**

**Salad, Pasta,  
 Chicken Scallopini,  
 Wine, Dessert, Coffee**

5:30 pm Cocktails  
 7 pm Dinner  
 8:30 pm Dancing

Members: FREE  
 Spouses: \$33/person  
 Guests: \$38/person  
 Children 6-12: \$12/person  
 Children under 6 years: Free

**Featuring  
 the Dennis  
 Cruda Band**

Make or cancel reservations by 6 pm on July 19  
 Call 510-653-9716, press 1 and then  
 press 4 for the family dinner.

**Get Your Name on the Ballot for an  
 Officer or Board Member Position**

We hold an election every year for important positions on our board and for elected club officer positions. Members who have been a member of the club for at least one year who would like to run for the following positions need to have their name into Billy Castell, phone (510) 524-1830 by our board meeting in August.

These are the positions that will be decided at our elections at the Assembly Meeting in November:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant-At-Arms
- 4 Board Members positions

We are also interested in finding someone who would like to take over sales and marketing for the club.

**Birthday  
 Dinners**

**June 13 and 27**

Salad, Spaghetti and  
 Meatballs, Dessert, Wine &  
 Coffee

5:30 pm Cocktails; 7:30 pm Dinner  
 \$33 Members, \$38 Guests  
 \$12 Children 6-12 yrs  
**Call (510) 653-9020**  
*Press 1 to make reservations,  
 press 1 for the 1st Birthday Dinner, or  
 press 2 for the 2nd Birthday Dinner*

**Father & Sons Nights**  
**Thursday, June 13 SOLD OUT**  
**Thursday, June 27**

Call now for reservations  
 To cancel reservations call by 7 pm Sunday  
 before the dinner. Use the same extensions,  
 above, to cancel.  
**Cashless policy will be followed.**

**Birthday Dinners  
 Family Nights**  
**Thursday, July 11**  
**Thursday, July 25**  
**Menu:** Salad, Pasta, Pot Roast,  
 Dessert, Wine and Coffee

# President's Message

Saluti A Tutti!

Welcome to Summer! May was a busy month behind the scenes at the Club; maintenance and repairs to our physical plant required immediate attention. House Chairman Past President Tony Tedeschi does an outstanding job of keeping one step ahead of the critical details that keeps our club functioning! He also had some much-needed assistance last month; a huge "Thank You!" to all the members who helped at the Work Party on Saturday, May 18th. You all did a great job!

Congratulations to the Ladies Auxiliary on their very successful Mother's Day Dinner; I look forward to attending their Back To School Dinner in September!

June offers fun for the whole family! Pizza Night on June 22nd will not only feature Tony Gemignani's award-winning pizza, but also club member Michael Covione will once again be providing Popcorn & Cotton Candy! Please plan to bring your family to this fun-filled evening! Our June birthday dinners feature Father-Son Nights. The menu is Meatballs and Spaghetti, and we will have A's baseball memorabilia for the sons aged 13 and under.

Remember, all July Birthday and Past Presidents Night dinners are Family dinners. Mark your calendars, make your reservations, and plan to bring your family and your friends! Thank you for supporting our club!

Saturday July 20, 2024, is Italian Heritage Day at the Oakland A's v Angels baseball game! Tony Tedeschi has tickets for sale; great seats at only \$28 each! Please see "Tony T" the next time you attend a club event and get your tickets early. Patrons will receive a complimentary Italian-themed blanket at the Coliseum entrance gates.

Lastly, if you're considering helping at the Club, we're looking for a few dedicated members to train to run our always-popular Incentive Program, at each Birthday Dinner. It's a great way to become involved, and it's critically important to the financial success of our Club! Please email me, if you're interested. As always, if you have an idea for an event that you'd like to see held at our Club, and/or if you would like to volunteer at our Club, then please contact me at my email address below. I look forward to seeing you at the Colombo Club this month!

Ciao,  
Tony Ballestero,  
President  
ballestero@  
protonmail.ch



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# Colombo Club Auxiliary President's Message

Buongiorno! We had a wonderful Mother's Day dinner last month. Members brought their mothers, children and grandchildren as well as close friends and relatives. We all were entertained by George Campi and his accordion throughout the night. I want to thank the cooks for the delicious and tender Chicken Picatta and very tasty pasta meal. I also want to say Thank you, Lisa Baumer and Jeanna Lilley, for chairing this wonderful dinner. (BTW, the Limoncello cake was delizioso). In addition, I want to acknowledge our ladies who volunteered and donated our incentive gifts and baked goods. Thank you. I believe a good time was had by all.

Can you believe it's June already? We are already approaching the halfway point of 2024. We have many things to celebrate this month. I for one love to eat fresh fruit and vegetables this time of year, they taste so much better especially if they are grown in our own organic gardens. I especially love fresh strawberry shortcake or gelato alla fragola in the hot summer months.

Flag Day is the 14th and Father's Day is Sunday, June 16th. We get to hear goofy dad jokes and we Italians know how to laugh. (1) *Why Italian men don't need the internet* > *Their wife knows everything.* (2) *What do you call a Roman with a cold?* > *Julius Sneezer.* (3) *What does an Italian say before a fight?* > *You want a pizza me? And* (4) *Do you know how Italians feel about ghosts?* > *I'm not Alfredo, no ghost.* Okay, too much. I get it.

Summer Solstice is June 20th, the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. Then, on the 22nd is the Colombo Club Pizza night with Tony Gemignani, the Pizza Guy! (13-time world pizza champion) Make your reservation early as this is going to be a big night of fun with George Campi playing during the cocktail hour. I will be in Italy and will not be able to attend, but please let me know how much you and the kids enjoyed it.

Are you a wife of a member or of Italian descent? If you would like to become a member of our Auxiliary. Please let us know by contacting any member.

Buon compleanno a tutte le nostre ragazze che compiono gli anni di giugno. :)

Please let our Sick & Sunshine representative Mary Pandolfo know if there is a member who has been ill or hospitalized. (510) 276-7681

Enjoy this month,  
Ciao!  
Renée Amaro  
Auxiliary President



**HB** | **HEFFERNAN BRIGNOLE**  
INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC

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Oakland, CA 94609  
License #6006388

# Buon Compleanno!

Joel Abraham  
Ken Altomare  
Mark Alves  
Alexander Amoroso  
Giovanni Bevilacqua  
Tony M. Bevilacqua  
Ronald Blair  
Cyril Bonanno  
Jeffrey Robert Bonato  
Steven Buscovich  
John Silvio Castagnini  
Billy Castell  
Scott Caviglia  
David Cerruti  
Ed Ciminello  
Nicholas Cosenza  
Andrew Croce  
Mike Dombrink  
Jessy Dosanjh  
William Elzig  
Russell R. Emerson  
Daniel Fraioli  
Michelangelo Gasparro

Paolo Giusti  
Cortland Golightly  
Leo L. Gorla  
Steve Guggiana  
Jim Hansen  
Timothy J. Harris  
Melvin A. Isola  
Darin Karg  
Ian Leong  
Bob Lilley  
Henry Loubet  
John J. Lucchese  
Dempsey Lydon  
Michael Maffeo  
Anthony V. Magliano  
Joe Malfitano  
Matthew Mastrantonio  
Giovanni Matteucci  
Dan McCarthy  
Raymond G. Michardi  
Kevin Murphy  
Vinnie Natali

Albert J. Nicora  
Bob Nocco  
Samuel S. Oatti  
Scott Osterholt  
Les Palia  
Rick Palmieri  
John Paulson  
Greg Peterson  
David Raimondi  
Mark Rezente  
Dewey Ridolfi  
William J. Rinetti  
Frank Sanzari  
Jim Scafetta  
William Silva  
Phillip Tenney  
Nick Tisa  
Albert Traille  
David Tullus, Jr.  
Richard J. Valenti  
Christian M Valenti  
Nick Vaticano

## Message from the Chairman

A couple of months ago I wrote to you about the need to raise the membership dues. As of now, we may need to drop 107 members who have not paid their dues this year. With members moving, financial issues and deaths, this is totally understandable. We have also added about 30 new members to the club. Even with the increased dues, we are still having difficulties making ends meet. Our building is over 70 years old and is showing its age. We had to spend over \$80,000 fixing plumbing, kitchen repairs and equipment replacement in the past couple of months. As you have heard on the news, employment costs have gone up. Your own home food costs have gone up along with increases in your gas and electricity costs. Add to this an increase in our insurance premiums. When you look back before the pandemic, we had about \$400,000 in reserve for the club. Since then, with the closure of the club during the pandemic, increased operating costs, reduced number of dinners because of the difficulties in getting cooks and waiters, our reserve has diminished to about \$100,000 and is dropping each month.

Besides asking you to book your reservations for club events, what it comes down to is this, keeping the costs of our birthday dinners and family dinners as low as they have been is no longer a possibility. I have surveyed the attendees at two of our birthday dinners in May. We will also send out a four question survey to each of you. I have kept it to four questions hoping that you will spend a minute to give us your thoughts (PLEASE RESPOND TO THE SURVEY!) I have also assembled a group of board members and officers to look into a long range financial plan for the club, so we can determine our next financial steps. As a first step starting this month the Board has voted to increase the cost of our dinners to \$33 for members and \$38 for guests. Special events costs are determined separately.

– Rich Puppione

## Grazie Mille

### Incentive Program Donors

We thank the generous donors who contributed to our incentive program in May: Peter Scalise, Edrington & Associates, Frank LaScala, Michael Covione, Dino Rinetti, Troy Russo, Tony Ballestero, Scott MacIntyre, John Porras (Crown Liquors), Danny Foster, Vincent & Gianni Traverso (The Kingfish Pub & Cafe), Stefan Molnar, Troy Brincat, James Bartha, Heffernan-Brignole Insurance, Jerry Rossi (The Fat Lady), Tim Tomei, Gary Sabatte, Fredi Moehl.

## Sunshine Corner

If you know of a member who's been ill or has been in the hospital, please let Sunshine Chairman Gordon Bowman know.  
gbowman999@yahoo.com.

### Looking for Help

The Colombo Club is looking for members who would like to be hired as assistant cook, waiter or bartender. We also need someone to volunteer at the ticket counter before our dinners. If you are interested, please call 510-659-9716, ext. #3 and leave your name and telephone number. We will return your call. This is a great opportunity to help your club and meet members and guests. Thank you.

Tony Tedeschi, House Committee Chairman

**Italian  
Heritage  
Night with  
the A's**

**Saturday, July 20 1:07 pm  
Angels @ Oakland A's, Section  
129R**

Tickets \$28 • Call 510-653-9020,  
Press 1 to make reservations, press 6 to  
make reservations for this special event.  
*Special giveaway: Italian Heritage Blanket!*

**Deadline for tickets: July 14, 2024.**





# Our Cultural Heritage

## Honoring the Fratangelo and Penna Families

by Rich Puppione

**The Fratangelo family** have had a lasting influence on the growth of the club. Ray, Pat and currently Vince, have spent hours and hours overseeing and getting involved with the growth and beautification of the club. Ray has been honored for generous and extraordinary commitment of time, support and leadership to the Colombo Club. His contributions include: President from 1984 to 1985, bartender, cook, Board of Director, First Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Club Manager, frequent participant in club golf events and every other club event, House Committee Chair for 10 years, Gold Card member, electrical worker around the club, volunteer at club picnics and a frequent work party



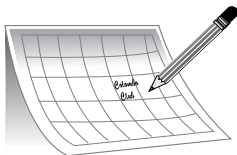
participant. Ray dedicated time every day to projects that included wiring the Ed Basso Room, spearheading the renovation

of the ballroom, club room, dining room and kitchen. Pat served as a president of the women's Auxiliary, chaired many fund raising events and is the only woman honored on the club's Wall of Honor. Vince spent many hours in his early life working with his dad at the club on the club wiring and is currently the club's First Vice President after serving on the club Board. Vince is overseeing the security system upgrades for the club building.

**The Penna family** have been very instrumental in the growth and success of the club. John Penna's contributions include: Club President 1960-1961, Cook, Board member, Historian, Member of the first Children's Christmas Committee, work party participant, Chairman of the Board of Directors for 10 years, Christmas setup volunteer, helped with the incentive program well into his 90's, chair and participant in the golf events. His motion at an Assembly Meeting led to the creation of the "Military Service Wall of Honor." He represented the club as a guest of Frank Sinatra in Tahoe and picked up Rocky Marciano at the airport for a club event. A plaque with his picture hangs in the Isabella Room for all of his efforts to collect and save Club memorabilia. A gold chair in the dining room commemorates the fact that John was a fixture most all club events. Before becoming club president (1990-1991) Jim Penna was Chairman of the Board for 7 years. Jim has many family ties to the foundations of the Colombo Club. He is a third generation Colombo Club member. Jim's grandfather S. Orio and his uncle John Orio and his great uncle Ottavino Cavallo were all charter members of the Club. Jim's other grandfather, Mike Roggero, was the club's first head cook for many years. Jim's grandmother, Maria Roggero, was one of the founders of the Colombo Club Women's Auxiliary. After serving as president, Jim has been providing the



Colombo Club with a great deal of information about various legal and contract matters. Jim is seen here with his father, John.



### Mark Your Calendar

**Birthday Dinners:** 5:30 pm Cocktails, 7:30 pm Dinner

**Family Dinners:** 5:30 pm Cocktails, 7:00 pm Dinner

**June 13** Birthday Dinner - Father  
& **June 27** & Sons Nights, *Spaghetti & Meatballs*

**June 22** Family Dinner - Pizza  
Night, *Pizza, Spaghetti & Meatballs*

**July 11** Birthday Dinner -  
& **July 25** Family Nights, *Pot Roast*

**July 27** Family Dinner - Past  
Presidents Night, *Chicken Scallopini*

**Aug 3** Bocce Day at Martinez  
Marina

**Aug 8** Birthday Dinner - Father-  
& **Aug 22** Daughter Nights, *Italian Ham*

**Aug 17** Anniversary Dinner Dance -  
*Strip Roast*

### Ballestero Engineering

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