



**January 2024**  
Established 1920  
Vol. XLIV No. 1

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 Ballesterio	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	2023-2026
John Mazibrook	2023-2026
John Nardi	2023-2026
Don Ceremello	2024-2026
Billy Castell	2018-2024
Richard Puppione	2019-2024
Dave Nardi	2018-2024
Dino Rinetti	2022-2024
Randy Bodas	2022-2024
Anthony Tedeschi	2019-2025
Mark Amaro	2023-2025
Tom Gallinatti	2023-2025
Mark Rezente	2023-2025
Nick Nicora	2023-2034

Sunshine Chair, Gordon Bowman  
gbowman999@yahoo.com

## Birthday Dinners

January 11 & 25

Salad, Pasta, Roast Beef,  
Dessert, Wine and Coffee

**Birthday Dinners**  
**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
**Thursday, Feb. 22**  
**Menu:** Salad, Risotto Milanese,  
Roast Chicken, Dessert, Wine  
and Coffee

5:30 pm Cocktails; 7:30 pm Dinner

\$25 Members, \$30 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

**Thursday, January 11**  
**Thursday, January 25**  
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.**



## Men's Lunch

**Monday, January 15 - Canceled** (only 3 reservations)

**Monday February 19 - Join Us!**

**12 Noon, Menu TBA**

\$15 per person (Men Only) **Reservations required.**  
Call (510) 653-9020, press 1 to make reservations, and  
then press 7 for reservations for the Men's Lunch.

## 2024 Dues Notice

Your 2024 dues are due on or before  
March 1, 2024.

Regular Dues \$200.

Dues for 20-year members who are  
age 75 or more, \$100.

A late fee will be added if dues are not paid by March  
1, 2024. If you have any questions, please call or email  
John Mazibrook at 510.304.7211 or jtmazibrook@  
earthlink.net.

Dues may be paid online at [www.thecolomboclub.com](http://www.thecolomboclub.com)  
or mailed to the Club. Thank you!



# President's Message

Felice Anno! (Happy New Year!)

December's 72nd Annual Children's Christmas Party was outstanding! A huge "Thank You!" to co-chairs Denise Picetti and 2nd-VP Joe Ianora for planning, coordinating and organizing a great event!

This month, our always popular Scholarship Crab Feeds will be held on January 13th and January 20th; and, if you'd like to plan ahead, on February 17th! These events always sell-out, so please get your reservations in ASAP! To date, our members' generosity at these annual events has resulted in approximately \$400,000 in total scholarship awards. Scholarship application information, for both the Colombo Club/Colombo Club Auxiliary and Bossola Scholarship programs, is available now; please check this newsletter for additional information.

In addition to our Crab Feeds, January also features two Birthday Dinners. Please support our Club, and plan to attend at least one event this month.

We're always looking for creative ways to be more efficient, and to engage our members in supporting our Club. Last year, I asked each member to donate one bottle (of wine or spirits) to our Incentive Program, to help defray Club costs to purchase these prizes. The response has been very gratifying. We have several members who consistently donate bottles to the Club; you see their names listed in almost every newsletter. Please make it a New Year's resolution to donate one Incentive Club Prize in 2024. Thank you!

Our annual Membership Dues are now due. These funds are critical to the operation of the Club. Thank you for your continued membership and support of our Club. If you have a friend who you believe would enjoy being a member of the Colombo Club, then please consider sponsoring them; membership applications are available at the Club bar and on our website.

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 Club soon!

Ciao!

Tony Ballestero, President  
ballestero@protonmail.ch

# Colombo Club Auxiliary President's Message

Happy New Year-Buon Anno!

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year's Eve with family and friends. I am excited about being the newly-elected Colombo Club Auxiliary President. I am grateful and honored for this opportunity and want to thank the Auxiliary Officers and Board members who encouraged me and will be assisting me this year. I want to welcome Elizabeth "Betty" De Respini as our new Chairperson. I look forward to representing the women in this club while hoping to bring more fun events and members to our Auxiliary.

I also want to acknowledge that it's Crab Season which means the net proceeds of the Colombo Club & Auxiliary Crab Feeds this month go to Scholarships. I hope you crab lovers are getting your crab crackers, forks and picks ready to enjoy crab dinners this month.

Stay healthy and be on the lookout for upcoming events.

Renee Amaro  
Auxiliary President

## ***History Column, Continued from page 4***

and featured the "nine old men." In attendance from the Oaks were club owner "Brick" Law, Casey Stengel, Ernie Lombardi, Jim Tobin and Billy Raimondi. The Oakland Tribune described the event as "a most rollicking" affair. Sports cartoonist for the Oakland Tribune, Lee Susman, known for his weekly cartoons in the sports page, was also honored at one of the sports nights. At the October 1960 sports night, the club honored local St. Louis Cardinals' pitcher Ernie Broglio after his 21-win season (see photo on back page).

1962 president, John Gai, a fireman for the city of Oakland and presided over a dinner for 49er and Colombo Club member, Leo Nomellini attracted 661 people. In attendance were Coach Red Hickey, 49er President Vic Moribito, 49er place kicker Gordy Soltau and Mayors George Christopher and Jack Houlihan. John Gai organized many popular road trips that included Las Vegas, Raider and Giant games, ice hockey games, and wineries.

Aldo Galletti, son of charter member and third president of the club Luigi Galletti, served as president from 1963 to 1964. Like his father, Aldo was instrumental in planning and attending many of the golf outings. Aldo was so good at golf that he participated in and won several California State Golf Championships. He was behind a movement to turn the bocce room (Isabella Room) into an indoor golf driving range. To promote the idea, he organized a golf clinic put on by a dozen local golf professionals, including Mark Frye, Dewey Longworth, Bill Corbett, Joe Mozel and Pat Markovich.

President Paul Boasso, honored at the annual Sports Night dinner in 1963, were baseball great Jackie Jensen and all of the Oakland Raiders. There was a jack rabbit hunting trip outing to Tracy. Members had to bring their own shotguns (no other fire arms were allowed), and there was to be no drinking until after the shoot. The club held the first annual ".22 Shoot" in the bocce alleys in the Isabella Room. The cost of the entry and dinner was \$2. Each contestant paid 25 cents for five shots. The winner won a cup and a turkey. Second place got just the turkey, and third place won a goose. Fourth place won a chicken. The booby prize was a squab.

# Buon Compleanno!

Vincent Abbate	Martin Frentzel	Herc Pardi
John B. Accinelli	Christopher Gasparro	Damon Pellegrini
Richard Andres	Anthony Granelli	Michael Perillo
Mark Avila	Jonathan Hallin	Nat Piazza
Daniel R. Bardon	Adam Herbert	Dean Pichotto
Jimmy Blythe	Steve Hurlbut	Dennis Popalardo
Ron Borelli	Charles Ingrao	John D. Ratto
Ralph A. Brignone	Frank Isola	Michael Rodrigues
Victor Bullock	Anastasios Konstantin	Craig Rossi
Brian Calegari	John Lucasey	Dominic J. Scalise
Vince Capurro	Chris Lucia	Jim Scalise
Gary Carlson	Jeff Lucia	Ronald Scalise
Glen Cartwright	Bob Mammarella	Nick Schapiro
Jose Cerda	Jeff McGary	Steven Nello Siino
James Charlton	Nicholas R. Michael	Juan Soto Romano
Ronald Conte	Michael Mittelbuscher	Marco Splendorio
Aldo Corsi	Gary Lester Mittone, Jr.	Gary E. Symons
Carlo Crivello	Richard Moore III	Robert Thompson
Michael Cusenza	Ken Moudy	Sam Toriggino
Gary Damele	David Norton	Ron Umile
Steven Dinelli	Paul Nuti	Frank Vasgerdsian
Chris Dobberpuhl	Sean P. O'Brien	Roger W. Verducci
Anthony Fiorica	Joseph Orsi	Roger J. Verducci Jr.
Joel Franciosa	Dennis O'Sullivan	Craig Walker
Vincent M. Fratangelo	R. Armond Ouellet	Tom Wolf

## Making Reservations

Members: When making reservations please state the date of the event, and the number of guests attending. When you leave your reservations for that event, you will not get a conformation call back to confirm your reservation as your call has been received. If reservations are full, you will be put on the waiting list, first call, first served basis. We will call you back if reservations become available. You must call 72 hours before the event, (i.e, Sunday night before 7:00 pm) to cancel any reservations. Failure to do so will result in full payment when picking up tickets for the event. We thank you for your cooperation regarding our Reservations Policy.

Anthony E. Tedeschi  
HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

## Grazie Mille

### Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to the following members who donated to the incentive program in November and December: Michael Britton, Dino Rinetti and Joe Gennaro, Marty Castell, Troy Brincat, Mike O'Halloran, John Porras - Crown Wine & Spirits, Danny Foster, James Petersen, David Norton, Fredi Moehl, Tim Tomei, and Jerry Jennaro.

## 2024 Scholarship Applications Available Now!

### 1) Colombo Club/Colombo Club Auxiliary 2024

#### Scholarships:

#### Applicant Requirements:

- Must be the child or grandchild of a current Colombo Club or Colombo Club Auxiliary member
- Must be a high school senior who is graduating from a high school accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- Must provide completed application, including required attachments, before March 15, 2024.

Scholarship applications are available at the Colombo Club at the bar in the Club Room. Any questions, contact Rich Puppione at richpup46@gmail.com.

### 2) The Bossola Scholarship for 2024

Applications are available by sending an email request to bossolascholarship@gmail.com. The deadline for completed applications is March 15, 2024.

## Advertise in the Colombo Club Newsletter!

We have a new way for Colombo Members to support the Club and bring attention to their business. We are announcing a new advertising program for our electronic monthly newsletter.

Our monthly newsletter reaches all Colombo Club members as well as our Women's Auxiliary – a total of almost 1,300 members!

For a low annual fee, you can share information and generate interest in your business.

If you are interested in advertising with the Colombo Club, please contact John Nardi at [rubiconref@comcast.net](mailto:rubiconref@comcast.net) or text at 925.366.6962.

Thank you for your interest in supporting the best Italian Club in the U.S.!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm	3	4	5	6 Epiphany
7	8	9	10	11 Birthday Dinner (Men only) 5:30 pm cocktails 7:30 pm dinner	12	13 Scholarship Crab Feed
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20 Scholarship Crab Feed
21	22	23	24	25 Birthday Dinner (Men only) 5:30 pm cocktails 7:30 pm dinner	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2024

## Thanks to Revelli, Boasso, Galletti & Gai for Sports Nights

by Rich Puppione



Pictured are Chris Revelli, Ernie Lombardi (standing), and from left to right, Rocky Marciano and Cookie Lavagetto.

During the 50s and 60s the Colombo Club hosted professional athletes at the dinners. President Chris Revelli, a tire shop owner, invited many athletes, sons of Italian immigrants, to stop at the club to socialize and enjoy traditional Italian wine and food, fellowship and camaraderie. Among the athletes were Billy Martin, Ernie Lombardi of the Cincinnati Reds, Harry "Cookie" Lavagetto of the Washington Senators and Dodgers and Rocky Marciano.

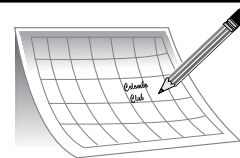
Joe DiMaggio also visited the club that night. When DiMaggio came into the club, he showed up after everyone had already gone downstairs. Ed Basso recalled, "Joe walked in the club and the only people in the room were the bartenders. Joe said, 'What gives, no one is here?' He was then escorted downstairs where there were 650 guys in the dining room waiting for him."



Joe DiMaggio

Ray Fratangelo recalled that when they saw Joe enter the room, there was dead silence followed by loud cheers. Joe said, "This is my kind of party."

Other major sports figures to visit the club included jockey, Willie Shoemaker; 49ers, Bob St. Clair, Tom Rathman



## Mark Your Calendar

- Feb 8 Birthday Dinner (Roast Chicken and Risotto)
- Feb 17 Colombo Club Crab Feed
- Feb 19 Men's Luncheon (Pasta and TBD)
- Feb 22 Birthday Dinner (Roast Chicken & Risotto)
- Mar 14 Birthday Dinner (Corned Beef)
- Mar 23 Family Dinner (Corned Beef)
- Mar 28 Birthday Dinner (Corned Beef)



and Leo Nomellini; Raiders, Fred Biletnikoff, Al Davis and John Vella; Billy Raimondi, catcher for the Oaks; and Dario Lodigiani, who played for the Oakland Oaks, Philadelphia Athletics and Chicago White Sox.

In 1959, the club hosted a reunion for the 1948 Pacific Coast Champion Oakland Oaks baseball team to a sold out crowd. Aldo Galletti reported that the club could have sold 1,200 tickets to this event if they had had the room. As it was, 700 people attended the sold out event. The team was managed by Casey Stengel

*Continued on page 2*

# Crab Feed Time is Here Again!

Crab season is open once again and the Colombo Club will have three Crab Feeds for you to choose from in January and February. We are limiting attendance to 450 for each event so get your reservations in early so you will not be left out!

The cost is \$75 per person (no child discount) and you get the full menu we are well known to serve at our mouthwatering and all you can eat event:

- Salad
- Linguini with Clams
- Crab – Chicken is available
- Wine
- Coffee
- Dessert



The dates to reserve are (reservation cut-off is 1 week prior to the event):

January 13: \_\_\_ seats @ \$75 for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (net proceeds for Scholarships)

January 20: \_\_\_ seats @ \$75 for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (net proceeds for Scholarships)

February 17: \_\_\_ seats @ \$75 for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (net proceeds to the Club)

The events are pre-paid and your payment must accompany your reservation. You can pay by check, made out to the Colombo Club or by Credit Card. You can also reserve your seats at our web site – [www.thecolomboclub.com](http://www.thecolomboclub.com)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by Credit Card, additional information is required:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Any seating requests: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Chicken plates: \_\_\_\_\_

The dress code for all three events is business casual

Questions: email to [jtmazibrook@earthlink.net](mailto:jtmazibrook@earthlink.net) or call 510.653.9716, options 1 then 5.

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS



**No Host Cocktails at 6:00 p; Dinner at 7:00 p**