



April 2024
Established 1920
 Vol. XLIV No. 4

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
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John Nardi	2024-2026
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Richard Puppione	2019-2024
Dave Nardi	2022-2024
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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

Family Dinner, Saturday April 27

Cocktails: 4:30 pm • Dinner: 6:30 pm

Salad, Pasta your choice of 2 sauces, Pork Scaloppini,
 Dessert, Wine and Coffee

Make or cancel reservations by 6 pm on
 April 21. 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.

Members: \$25/person
 Guests: \$30/person
 Children 6-12: \$12/person
 Children under 6 years: Free

Auxiliary Mother's Day Dinner Saturday, May 11

Antipasto, Salad, Rigatoni, Chicken
 Piccata, Dessert, Wine & Coffee
 6 pm Cocktails • 7 pm Dinner

Members/Spouse	\$30/each
Guests	\$33
Children ages 6-12	\$15
under 6	Free

See the flyer for details.

For Reservations call Mary Pandolfo (510) 276-7681
 or (510) 912-2906 by May 4.

FAMILY THURSDAY DINNER Mothers & Fathers Day Dinner Thursday, May 30

Salad, Pasta, Chicken Piccata, 5:30 pm Cocktails • 7:30 pm Dinner
 Dessert, Wine & Coffee

For Reservations
Call (510) 653-9020
 Press 1 to make reservations,
 press 3 for the 3rd Birthday Dinner.

Members/Spouse	\$25/each
Guests	\$30
Children ages 6-12	\$15
under 6	Free

Birthday Dinners

April 11 and 25

Salad, Pasta Fagioli, Sausage &
 Peppers, 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, Apr 11 SOLD OUT
Thursday, April 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.

Birthday Dinners
Thursday, May 9
Thursday, May 23
Menu: Salad, Pasta, Pork Roast,
 Dessert, Wine and Coffee

The Club is Open for Your Next Private Party!



Book the Colombo Club for your private event. You can also have
 a Party within a Party at one of our dinners. Your guests can
 enjoy the Ed Basso Room before and after dinner.

Call the Club at **(510) 653-9020** and **press 3** for events and leave
 a message for the Member Event Coordinator Francis Bienati or
 House Chairman, Tony Tedeschi.

President's Message

Saluti A Tutti!

Another stormy month of March has passed, and we're now all looking forward to some warm, sunny spring weather!

Our always popular Corned Beef & Cabbage Birthday Dinners were very well-attended. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Past President and Board Chairman Rich Puppione, we were honored to host the Italian Consul General, Signor Sergio Strozzi, at our 2nd Birthday Dinner, including a pre-dinner reception attended by representatives from most of our fellow East Bay Italian Clubs. Last, but not least, was our Lobster Dinner, which featured a whole lobster and an outstanding clam risotto. This was an excellent event but was only attended by about 175 people. If you have any suggestions to make this dinner more popular, I would appreciate receiving your comments and suggestions!

Congratulations to the Women's Auxiliary on their very successful March Dinner, which also featured entertainment provided by a group of very talented Irish Step dancers. Please join me in attending the Auxiliary's Mother's Day Dinner, on Saturday, May 11th.

Our April Birthday Dinners will feature Sausage & Peppers! These dinners will sell-out, so please make your reservations "ASAP." The April Family Dinner menu is Pork Scaloppini.

We did have a minor emergency in March; after approximately 20 years of operation, the Public Address (PA) System in our Dining Room failed. Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of Maintenance Manager Don Ceremello and House Chairman Tony Tedeschi, we were able to have a temporary PA system loaned to us, while a sound technician expedited having our PA system checked, tested, and then upgraded with some new equipment and wiring. Thank you to everyone who donates and participates in our incentive program at our Birthday Dinners. The proceeds from this program provide the funds necessary to keep our Club maintained and in good working order!

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

Colombo Club Auxiliary President's Message

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and made it through the pranks and jokes of April Fool's Day fun. Now we can enjoy the intermittent sunshine amongst the showers this month so we can prepare our Italian gardens for fresh onions, garlic, tomatoes: peppers, zucchini, eggplant, basil, and all our favorites that we love to cook with. I love fresh fruits and vegetables from my garden.

We have added new members this month, and we will be having a Spuntino to welcome them at our General Meeting on APRIL 17th. I also want to wish our April born ladies a very happy birthday.

Thank you to all the women who helped with the St. Patrick's Day dinner. It was a great success with donations of sweets for the Bake Sale and incentive baskets. With a special thank you to Betty DeRespini's daughter and dancers who came from the McBride School of Irish dance for us to enjoy before our meal.

The Scholarships presentations will be on Saturday April 27th at the Colombo Club Family Dinner. I am also looking forward to our next Auxiliary dinner for Mother's Day on Saturday, May 11th, the day before the Mother's Day holiday. This should be a great turnout. Please let your friends and family know.

If you know of any women who may want to be a part of our Italian social club, please contact an auxiliary member for an application. The more the merrier.

Saluti,
Renee Amaro
Auxiliary President



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Buon Compleanno!

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Andrew Balistreri	Dominic Duncan	Ronald Mladinich
Paul Bancroft	David Edwards	Wayne Morris
Bryan Baptist	Patrick Eiser	Greg Nuti
Greg Bellusa	Steven A. Fadelli	Kevin O'Sullivan
Phillip R. Bodas	Mark Figone	Richard Padovani
Gary Borg	Terry Forristall	John Paganelli
Ben Buserwini	Richard L. Fraioli	Donald Paganelli
Devin Campbell	Michael L. Franchi	Bill Pappas
Bill Caruso	Paul Giacoletti	Lawrence Picetti
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Cosimo Cavallo	Michael Gonnelli	Eric Strellis
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Greg Ciraulo	Ralph D. Hughes	Randy Thomas
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Adam Corder	James G. Korkos, M.D.	Victor Tufo
William Curotto	Dryden Lafferty	Kyle Vallone
Guido M. Curzi	Thomas Lombardo	Gary L. Vittori
Brian DeDeaux	Ryan Arthur Lorenzini	Robert Thomas Warren

Grazie Mille

Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to these generous folks who contributed to our incentive program: Donors: Donors: Dino Rinetti, Vince Fratangelo, Danny Foster, Marty Castell, Stefan Molnar, Frank Mellon, James Bartha, Adolph Adragna, Heffernan-Brignole Insurance, Tim Tomei, Jerry Jennaro, Fred Naranjo, Gary Sabatte, Fredi Moehl, Friends of Angelo Magurno, Craig Jaber - Royal Auto Repair.

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.



Message from the Chairman

As historian and Chairman of the Board of the club, I enjoy looking back at some of the old posters in the Ed Basso Room and am amazed that the club could offer dinners and other events for what seems like pennies today - really, a Grand Benefit Ball for "Gentlemen 50c and Ladies 25c." By 1946 the cost increased to \$2.50. In 1961, there was a five cent raise in the price of drinks, and a notice went out to all the members: "Do not embarrass the bartenders and yourselves by questioning or causing trouble when asked for the increased price of drinks." We all realize that things cost more today. I still recall the ads that said, "Gas and electricity are cheap in California." The Board has struggled to keep the costs down, but

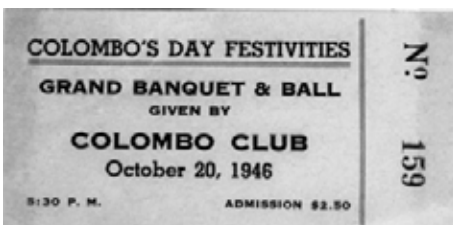
rising meat prices, repairs on an aging building, and fewer attendees at the family dinners and birthday dinners have depleted the club's reserve funds, and there is again a need to keep up with the "costs of doing business." You are already aware that we raised the members' dues by \$15 to \$200. This was met with a few members dropping their membership. COVID concerns and the need for more cooks and waiters have resulted in fewer attendees at birthday and family dinners, and dropping one birthday dinner. The result is less revenue coming into the club and a need to look elsewhere for the funds to operate the club. Like the other Italian clubs, the Board voted to raise the dinner prices starting in June to \$30 for members and \$35 for guests. This is still a deal when you consider that 1 large Round Table pizza costs \$36.95 these days.

You can help the club financially in another way: We are also asking those

of you who have businesses to consider

advertising at the club, not only in the newsletters, but also on the continuous ads on our club TV sets. We are also exploring the idea of putting up ad banners in the club room. The details have not yet been worked out about the ads, but we will have those in the next newsletter. As with any aging building, things break, pipes spring leaks and just need to be replaced. We welcome any donations of any amount to our Building Fund. If you are not able to donate any money, we welcome your donation of your time and expertise at our work parties. We will be having the next one on the second Saturday in May. There are almost 1,000 members in the club, and we really need your help and support.

Rich Puppione, Board Chairman



Our Cultural Heritage

Two Families Who Have Influenced the Club's Growth

by Rich Puppione

From day one, the Basso family has had a huge influence on the success of the Colombo Club. Tommaso Basso, a quarry worker, was a charter member and devoted his free time to the establishment on the club. On August 23, 1960, 600 people attended the club's 40th anniversary (below). Charter members, Carlo Pastrone, Tom Basso, Charles Merlone, and Vittorio Cafasso with President John Penna.

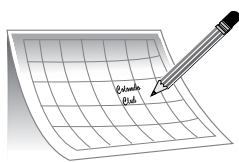


Tom's son, Ed Basso, was known for his generous and extraordinary commitment of time, support and leadership to the Colombo Club. Ed's contributions were many and included Colombo Club Cultural and Spiritual leadership. He

served as Reservation Chair, keeping track of all the club dinner reservations for every club dinner. He was a Board of Director, Membership Chair and Chair of all the work parties. Ed answered the Colombo Club phone for years on a daily basis. The Board dedicated the Isabella Room to Ed for being the guiding spirit behind keeping the officers and Board members on track to follow the charter members' original vision of the club and upholding the Italian traditions of the club. Members referred to Ed as "Mr. Colombo Club."



The Scalise family has been very influential in the growth and popularity of the club. Papa Joe Scalise introduced a dinner menu that has become an all time favorite of members and guests. Tony Zeni wrote in the newsletter "That wonderful Scalise clan, Papa Joe, Ron, and Joe Jr., would chair a special event for the birthday dinner that would feature the cuisine of Calabria." The menu included pasta e fagioli, tripe and sweet and hot Italian sausage. Papa Joe is pictured above behind the counter on the left. Ron Scalise became the youngest member ever to serve as club President (1972-1973) and Chairman of the Board. Ron's brother Joe Jr., was also a member of the Board of Directors. Ron and Joe are pictured on the right.



Mark Your Calendar

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

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

Apr 11 ~~SOLD OUT~~ Birthday

Dinner, Sausage & Peppers

Apr 25 Birthday Dinner, Sausage & Peppers

Apr 27 Family Dinner, Pork Scaloppini

May 9 Birthday Dinner, Pork Roast

May 11 Auxiliary Mother's Day Dinner - Chicken Piccata

May 23 Birthday Dinner, Pork Roast

May 30 Family Birthday Dinner, Chicken Piccata

June 6 Birthday Dinner - Father & Sons Nights, Spaghetti & Meatballs

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Mother's Day DINNER

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Cocktails: 5:00pm Dinner: 6:00pm

Chaired by Lisa Baumer & Jeanna Lilley

Menu:

Dinner Rolls, Antipasto, Green Salad,
Rigatoni with Red Sauce, Chicken Piccata,
Dessert, Wine, and Coffee

Reservations:

Mary Pandolfo • (510) 276-7681

Make reservations by Saturday, May 4, 2024

Auxiliary Members/Spouses.....	\$30.00
Guests.....	\$33.00
Children 6 to 12.....	\$15.00
Children 0 to 5	FREE

\$15/ticket for cancellations
made within 3 days of event

Colombo Club Auxiliary