



**December 2025**

**Established 1920**

**Vol. XLV No. 12**

The Colombo Club  
5321 Claremont Avenue  
Oakland, California 94618

To Make Reservations:  
[www.thecolomboclub.com/  
Calendar-of-Events/](http://www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/)  
(510) 653-9020 or (510) 653-9716

#### 2025 Officers

Joe Ianora	President
Vince Fratangelo	First Vice President
Mark Rezente	Second Vice President
John DeRespini	Corres. Secretary
Perry Vittoria	Financial Secretary
Matthew Moran	Treasurer
Marc Emeldi	Sergeant-At-Arms

#### Board Members

Tony Ballesterio	2025-2030	Chair
Joe Guerrero	2024-2026	
John Mazibrook	2024-2026	
John Nardi	2024-2026	
Don Ceremello	2024-2026	
Dave Nardi	2025-2027	
Dino Rinetti	2025-2027	
Anthony Tedeschi	2023-2025	
Mark Amaro	2023-2025	
Tom Gallinatti	2023-2025	
Nick Nicora	2023-2034	
Albert Traille	2025-2027	
Nicholas Bloisa	2025-2027	
Rich Puppione	2025	

Sunshine Chair, Gordon Bowman  
[gbowman999@yahoo.com](mailto:gbowman999@yahoo.com)



## It's Crab Feed Time!

Crab season is open once again and the Colombo Club will have three Crab Feeds for you to choose from in January and February. Dinner begins at 7 pm for all events

#### Saturdays,

January 17 - Scholarship Fund Raiser  
February 7 - Colombo Club  
February 21 - Colombo Club

Make your reservations online at  
[www.thecolomboclub.com](http://www.thecolomboclub.com)

**\$80 per person**

#### Menu

Antipasto, Salad, Linguini with  
Clams, fresh Dungeness Crab,  
Wine, Coffee and Dessert

No-host Cocktails 5:30 pm  
Dinner 7 pm

## Passing the Torch: House Chairman

After 12 years of dedicated service, Past President Tony Tedeschi will be stepping down as House Chairman at the end of this calendar year. The Colombo Club Board of Directors will interview Club Members interested in applying for the position and vote to appoint the new House Chairman. If you are interested in being considered for this position, then please contact Tony Ballesterio, Chairman, at [ballesterio@protonmail.ch](mailto:ballesterio@protonmail.ch). Thank You.

## Auxiliary 88th Anniversary Dinner Saturday, December 6

#### Menu:

Caesar Salad, Ravioli, New  
York Strip Steak, Dessert,  
Wine & Coffee

5:30 pm Cocktails  
6:30 pm Dinner  
Dancing follows

Dance Music by the  
George Campi Band

Members & Guests. \$47

RSVP to Mary Pandolfo (510)  
276-7681 by Nov 30.

## Birthday Dinners

**Dec 4 and 11**

Salad, Spaghetti and Meatballs  
Dessert, Wine & Coffee

5:30 pm Cocktails; 7:30 pm Dinner

\$33 Members, \$38 Guests

\$16 Children 6-12 yrs

#### To Make Reservations:

[www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/](http://www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/)

**Thursday, Dec 4** (Co-ed)

**Thursday, Dec 11** (Co-ed)

For reservations, please use the website

[www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events](http://www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events)

Please use the phone as a backup only: (510) 653-9020.

To cancel reservations use the Contact Us tab on the website.

For a full refund, you must cancel by 7 pm, Sunday before the dinner.

Cashless policy will be followed.

#### Birthday Dinners

**Thursday, Jan 8** (Men only)

**Thursday, Jan 22** (Co-ed)

**Menu:** Salad, Rigatoni, Chicken Lett, Dessert, Wine and Coffee

2026 Dinner Start Time: 7 pm

# GAME DAY

AT THE  
**COLOMBO CLUB**

at

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 12 PM**

**\$5 ENTRY - \$5 BEER**

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# President's Message

Ciao a tutti!

We are in full holiday mode!! I hope your Thanksgiving was a time of family and food, two of the Club's (and my) favorite things!

We are entering into the joyous, and sometimes stressful, "la stagione della vacanza," the holiday season!

For me, December is a time for reflection, a time to review a year that seems to have flown by much too quickly. As I reflect back on completing my first year as president, I want to sincerely thank you, the member, for making the year a memorable one for me. I have enjoyed sharing food and fellowship with you. This is at the heart of our mission and the "why" of our existence as a club. Grazie Millie.

I also want to thank our members who work daily to keep our club operating efficiently. Thank you to House Chairman Tony Tedeschi, Maintenance Chair Don Ceremello, Kitchen Manager Ken De Crosta, Board Chairman Tony Ballestero, Head Bartender Vic Tufo, and Head Waiter Mike Pandolfo. These gentlemen, and the capable staffs that they lead, are the reason that our club is always a great place to bring your family and friends for a good time and a great meal!

While I am well aware of how busy this month is for all of us, please take time to enjoy the MANY events at the club! Besides the birthday dinners, we have plenty of other events, like our Christmas party for you to attend. Check out our website for more information.

Speaking of the website and looking into the new year; you can now make reservations online for almost all of our events. I want to encourage you to make your reservations in advance so you won't miss out on all of the great camaraderie for you and your family!

If you are looking for something to do in your spare time in the new year, please consider volunteering at the Colombo Club; your help is needed! We need a few dedicated members to train to run our always-popular Incentive Program at each Birthday Dinner, and to help sell club wardrobe at each Club event. Volunteering is a great way to become involved, it's only a few hours each month, and it's critically important for the financial success of our club!

Lastly, if you have an idea about an event that you'd like to see held at our club, and/or if you would like to help out at our club, then please contact me at my email address below. I look forward to seeing you at the Colombo Club this month!

Ci Vediamo, Buon Natale, e Buon Capo D'Anno!

**Joe Ianora**

jianora1@gmail.com

# Women's Auxiliary President's Message

Ciao a tutti, I hope you spent your Thanksgiving with loved ones and were thankful for their presence. With Thanksgiving & Black Friday' over the sales are abundant as we are in full swing of the last holiday of this year. We must get our tree up with all the baubles, ornaments and lights. Cards sent and presents wrapped and all the colorful decorations done. We then bake cookies and prepare other Christmas treats while planning the Holiday dinner. Don't forget the Feast of the Seven Fishes, and your favorite pasta dish.

*Tante auguro un Natale pieno di gioia e amore.*

Our **88th Auxiliary Anniversary Semi-formal Dinner Dance** on the 6th will be hosted by Yvonne Evans & Joann Bruno. We will have many of the local Italian Club Presidents there, as well as the New I.A.F. Queen and her court. I hope to see you there with your dancing shoes on as the George Campi Band with be playing for us.

Our Annual Polenta Dinner on November 8th was very special. Frances Bienati was present at the dinner as we all missed her for several months at the club. She and Laurie Castell chaired the dinner with the help of Dianne Marangio. The tombola and cake walk were fun while the appetizer Focaccia and popcorn make cocktail hour go by quickly. The cooks did a fantastic job with the whole meal; the Polenta was delicious and loved by so many. The Auxiliary members donated many incentive gifts and cakes, as well as did table setting and decorations. All of which made the evening sparkle. Complements to all, Thank you.

Our Member Appreciation Dinner and Induction is on December 11th, followed by the Children's Christmas party on December 13th. (reservations are closed for this event).

*Buon compleanno to all our December birthday gals.*

If you know a member who has been sick or hospitalized, please contact our Sick & Sunshine Ambassador: Elaine Kless at (925) 858-9245.

Please mark your calendars for next month's crab feed on January 17th. It's the one that funds our scholarships. Please make your reservations early and bring your crab loving friends. Watch out for the deadlines, we want to be able for you all to attend.

Our auxiliary meetings are on Zoom for the first couple of months in winter due to inclement weather. (First one is January 21st at 6:30 p.m.)

Buon Anno,

Renee M. Amaro

reneeamaro@comcast.net

# Buon Compleanno!

JRick Adamo  
Larry Angeli  
Anthony Angerame  
Vincent J. Anzilotti  
Ernie Avila  
Russell Baretta  
Larry S. Bianchini  
Mark Bledsoe  
Kevin Bohm, Sr.  
Bruce Bondi  
Chris Brady  
Michael Bresso  
Dalton Brown  
Keith Bryan  
Robert Calegari  
Nicholas Calegari  
Mark Caputo  
Christopher D. Carrano  
Alan Caruso  
Glenn Chen  
Louis J. Conti, Jr.  
Michael Cosentino

David Cutaia, Jr.  
Niccolo DeLuca  
Erik Emerson  
James Ervin  
John J. Ferrara  
Jason Fox  
Peter Franco  
John Ginochio  
Mike Giovannetti  
Matt Heafey  
Richard Hocking  
David Lara  
David Limato  
Scott MacIntyre  
Christopher Todd Mack  
Mark Steve Magnania  
Maurice M. Manown  
Gary Maslowski  
Anthony Eden Mazzola  
Tim A. McGallian  
Edward Charles McLean  
Aaron Meadows

Brian Mendes  
Matthew Moran  
Tim Murphy  
John Nardi  
Nicholas Nicora, Jr.  
Peter Nuti  
Jim Pacheco  
Danny Pesco  
Francesco Poggesi  
Dino John Ramacciotti  
Steven Randall  
Tai Nakama Rawlinson  
Michael D. Rezente  
Jeffery Ryan  
Robert G. Scalise  
John Sinibaldi  
Tommy Sotiropulos  
Frank Tornaghi  
Sandy Vergano  
Joseph Michael Vittoria  
Ralph H. Watkins III

## GrazieMile Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to these generous donors who contributed to our incentive program in November: Jim Hayward, Milton Houston, Tim Tomei, David Wong, Stefan Molnar, Vincent Traverso (Kingfish Pub & Cafe), John Porras (Crown Wine & Spirits), Heffernan-Brignole Insurance, Aaron Yang, Dino Rinetti, Michael Covione, Fredi Moehl, James Bartha, Joe Gennaro, Jerry Jennaro.

## 2026 Scholarship Applications Available!

### 1) Colombo Club/Colombo Club Auxiliary 2025 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, 2026.

Scholarship applications are available at the Colombo Club at the bar in the Club Room. Any questions, contact Tony Ballestero at [tonyb1369@comcast.net](mailto:tonyb1369@comcast.net).

### 2) The Bossola Scholarship for 2026

Applications are available by sending an email request to [bossolascholarship@gmail.com](mailto:bossolascholarship@gmail.com). The deadline for completed applications is March 15, 2026.

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## In Memoriam

*William Zeppelin*, Member since 2022

*Larry Picetti*, Member since 1984

## Top 10 Tenured Members

- #1 Joseph Brignole - June 21, 1960
- #2 Michelangelo Gasparro - March 2, 1962
- #3 Frank Russo - May 16, 1962
- #4 Joseph Guerrero - October 9, 1962
- #5 Raymond Michardi - November 16, 1962
- #6 Billy Castell - May 29, 1964
- #7 Ronald Scalise - January 7, 1965
- #8 Victor Tufo - May 4, 1965
- #9 John Revelli - May 5, 1965
- #10 Stanley Geary - April 24, 1966

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# Our Cultural Heritage

by Rich Puppione

## Colombo Club Events in December throughout the Years

In December, 1922, the total financial assets of the club were \$157.

On December 28, 1937, the club passed a resolution to permit the newly formed women's auxiliary use of the club for \$2.50 to conduct their monthly sessions. They were charged \$7.50 for use of the kitchen.

Due to the large number of requests, banquet tickets for the grand opening of the club were limited to two per member at \$4 each. The grand opening of the club on Claremont Avenue was held on December 16, 1951.



In December 1951, the last minutes of the Board meetings written in Italian were recorded. Starting in 1951, the minutes for the Board meetings and club applications were written in English..

The first Children's Christmas Party was in December, 1952. It was proposed in a Board meeting by Frank Dingman and Al DeBenedetti, who became chairs of the first Children's Christmas party, to hold the event the week before Christmas every year. John Penna, Louie Pandolfo, John Dame and John Gai were the committee that organized the event. George Mossino was the assistant kitchen chef and the first Santa Claus. He played that role

every Christmas from 1951 to 1991. The boy in the photo is Jim Penna (club president 1990-1991).



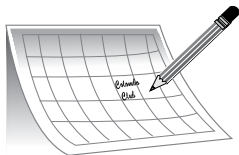
In the 1950s, members could buy Schlitz beer for \$3 and Falstaff for \$3.50 by the case at the club. The practice was stopped in December 1953. It was hurting local club members who sold beer commercially.

The bar account for December 1953 showed a loss, which Al DeBenedetti attributed to "inexperienced help and the season of the year when bartenders were inclined to be liberal with over pouring."

After a year of preparation and in a cost cutting move, in December 2007, the club started to publish its newsletter online for members who signed up for it.

In December 2007, the annual Children's Christmas Party was dedicated to Roger Verducci, Sr., who for years was one of the driving forces behind this annual event. In December 2016, the Christmas party was dedicated to Pat Fratangelo, an Auxiliary past president, who worked every year to help make the Christmas party a success.

One of the first events to be reinstated after the Covid pandemic was the Colombo Club Anniversary Dinner on December 4, 2021.



## Mark Your Calendar

Visit our website for additional events  
[www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/](http://www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/)

### **Birthday Dinners, Spaghetti & Meatballs**

**Dec 4 - Co-ed**  
**Dec 11 - Co-ed**

### **Dec 6 - Women's Auxiliary Anniversary Dinner**

**Dec 7 - Game Day**

### **Dec 13 Children's Christmas Party**

### **Birthday Dinners, Chicken Cutlet, Rigatoni**

**Jan 8 - Men Only**  
**Jan 22 - Co-ed**

### **Jan 17 - Scholarship Crab Feed**

**Jan 25 - Old Fashioned Family Dinner, Spaghetti and Meatballs**

**HB** | **HEFFERNAN BRIGNOLE**  
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