



February 2026
Established 1920

Vol. XLVI No. 2

The Colombo Club
5321 Claremont Avenue
Oakland, California 94618

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

2026 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	
Albert Traille	2025-2027	
Nicholas Bloisa	2025-2027	
Dave Nardi	2025-2027	
Dino Rinetti	2025-2027	
Patrick Scalise	2026-2028	
Mark Amaro	2023-2025	
Michael Covione	2026-2028	
Nick Nicora	2023-2034	

Sunshine Chair, Gordon Bowman
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.

February 7 - Colombo Club
SOLD OUT! February 21 - Colombo Club

Make your reservations online at
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

Surf & Turf Family Dinner Saturday, March 21

Cocktails 5:30 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm

Members & Guests \$60

Make Reservations online
www.theColomboClub.com

Antipasto, Salad, Tortellini
with Cream Sauce, Steak &
Shrimp, Dessert, Wine and
Coffee

Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Dinner Saturday, March 28

Featuring dancers from the
McBride School of Irish Dance
during cocktail hour

Cocktails 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm



Auxiliary Members/Spouses	\$33
Guests	\$38
Children 6-12 yrs.	\$16
Children 0-5 yrs.	FREE

Make Reservations by 3/21:
Lisa Baumer
(510) 912-3002
CCAreservation@aol.com

Birthday Dinners

Feb 12 and 26

Salad, Risotto Milanese,
Roasted Chicken, Dessert,
Wine & Coffee

Birthday Dinners

Thursday, Mar 12 (Men only)

Thursday, Mar 26 (Co-ed)

Menu: Salad, Pasta, Corned Beef &
Cabbage, Dessert, Wine and Coffee

2026 Dinner Start Time: 7 pm

New Start Time! 5:30 pm Cocktails; 7 pm Dinner

\$33 Members, \$38 Guests

\$16 Children 6-12 yrs

To Make Reservations:

www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/

Thursday, Feb 12 (Men Only)

Thursday, Feb 26 (Co-ed)

For reservations, please use the website

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.



**Check the website
for the
Calendar of Events!**

President's Message

Ciao a tutti!

I have always loved the beautiful simplicity of January. December is a very busy month, and February is right behind it and equally busy. The quieter pace of the Club in January allows me to recover from all of the events in December and prepare for everything we have planned in February.

Of course, our Scholarship Crab Feed in mid-January was a huge success, as it always is. Thank you for making this such a wonderful event—not only for our Club, but for our future scholarship recipients.

This month, we will host two crab feeds, two birthday dinners, and a Celebration of Life for Rich Puppione. This celebration will be tied to our co-ed dinner on the 26th. There will be a special celebration in the Isabella Room before the dinner – see below for more details. Because February is a very busy month, I would encourage you to sign up for the crab feeds and dinner events online as soon as possible, since they are almost always sold out. In fact, the February 21 Crab Feed is already sold out as I write this newsletter.

A reminder that annual membership dues are now due. We no longer send envelopes. You may pay your dues online at the Club website, www.thecolomboclub.com, or mail a check to the Club and write “Dues” on the envelope. These funds are critical to the operation of the Club. Thank you for your continued membership and support.

If you have a friend who you believe would enjoy being a member of the Colombo Club, please consider sponsoring them. Membership applications are available online, or, if you are at the Club, you can scan the QR code and complete the application.

If you have an idea for an event you would like to see at our Club, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact me at the email address below.

I look forward to seeing you at the Colombo Club this month!

Ci Vediamo,

Joe Ianora, jianora1@gmail.com

The Colombo Club is honoring Rich Puppione by dedicating the February 26th dinner to his legacy. We would love to have those who want to celebrate Rich in this way to please come to the dinner and celebrate with us.

If you plan to attend the Celebration of Life before the dinner on the 26th, it will run from 5:30 – 6:30 in the Isabella Room. There will be a “no host” bar and an open mic forum to share stories of communion, fellowship, and remembrance of Rich. If you will be attending this event (the celebration, not the dinner), ***please email me the number of people*** in your party who are attending (so I can get a head out and set the room up appropriately) at jianora1@gmail.com.

Women's Auxiliary President's Message

We've had our Scholarship Crab Feed and filled the house with happy crab crackers with bibs on. We ate our fill of luscious Dungeness crab meat and linguine with clams. A boisterous crowd laughed and enjoyed each other (even if we could only hear the person next to us). It is always a good time. A special thank you to our cooks who put this all together. There are more crab feeds on the Men's calendar so if you didn't get enough just check out the website.

This month has a lot of celebrations. Ground hogs Day February 2nd, Superbowl on February 8th, Valentine's Day February 14th for our sweethearts (sorry, our dinners' been cancelled). On the 16th It's Presidents Day. On the 17th, 'Fat Tuesday', 'Martedì Grasso' or 'Carnevale' as the Italians call it. It's a celebration of wearing elaborate masks with feasts, masquerade balls, and parades with floats and of course lots of music with street parties dancing and confetti. Major celebrations are held in Venice in grand ways as well as Viareggio and Florence. Then on the 18th it's Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Our meeting will be via Zoom for February 18th. We will have a hybrid meeting in March then; we return to the Isabella Room for the rest of the year for our monthly general meetings. There will be a Celebration of Life for Richard Puppione held on the 26th in the Isabella room from 5:00- 6:30 with Chris (Rich's son) and Cindy (Rich's wife). No host bar and appetizers.

Next month we gear up for the Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Dinner, where we have the McBride School of Irish Dancers come to entertain us during the cocktail hour prior to dinner. This is a well-attended dinner so make your reservations early please. See the flyer for more information.

I want to thank Mary Pandolfo for being our Reservation Queen over the past several years. She will be passing on the torch to another in this next dinner. We all appreciate your friendly voice and organizational skills and wish you the best.

Buon compleanno to our February born members.

Remember to let our Sick & Sunshine Ambassador, Elaine Kless, know if a member has been hospitalized or ill. Please call her at (925) 858-9245.

Renée M. Amaro
Colombo Club Auxiliary President
reneeamaro@comcast.net

Buon Compleanno!

Terry Adami
Michael E. Ageno
Barry Barlettani
Bruno Bartolini
Charles Berardi
Harry Black
Andy Boggeri
Michael Britton
Brian Carden
Marty Castell
Jose Cerda-Zein
Leopoldo J. Chanco
Tony Cilenti
Mark Cordone
James Cosenza
Jeffery Eandi
Ron Fenolio
Albert Ferrari
Dan Foster
Dennis Carl Gabellini

Al Gavello
Darren Gutierrez
Larry Himango
Trevor Holley
Anthony Isola
Paul Jannisse
Jerry Jennaro
Joe Karg
Roger Laurel
Ezio Maiolini
Silvas Martinelli
Craig Matoza
Francis McGreehan
Gene Meshechek
John Miraglia
Bryan A. Morgado
Michael T. Morley
Jerry Morucci, Sr.
Frank Napolitano
Fred J. Naranjo

Michael Natali
Michael Parrinella
Matthew Pingatore
Steven E. Pryde
Charles R. Reyna
Kevin John Rossoni
Frank Russo
Colin C. Silla
Don Sims
Scott Small
John Speakman
Robert Pellegrini Storer
Brian Strauss
Ronald Torchia
David Urbanus
Claude (Pepper) Weaver
James Weiland
Mark Worrell
Tony Zumbo

GrazieMille Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to these generous donors who contributed to our incentive program in December: Tim Tomei, 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, John & Kelley Beauford, Ugly Duckling Racing, Walnut Creek Bulldogs, Chester Jimerson, Martin Land Company, and Travis.

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.

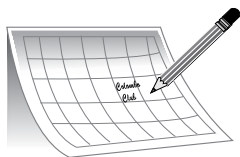
Scholarship applications are available at the Colombo Club at the bar in the Club Room. Any questions, contact Tony Ballesterio at ballesterio@protonmail.ch.

2) The Bossola Scholarship for 2026

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

3) NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Oscar Borin Memorial STEM Scholarship for high school seniors interested in pursuing their education in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. One \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded. Deadline for applications is February 26, 2026. Apply at <https://bold.org/scholarships/oscar-borin-memorial-scholarship>



Mark Your Calendar

Feb 7 - Scholarship Crab Feed, Linguine & Clams, Fresh Cracked Crab

Birthday Dinners, Roasted Chicken, Risotto Milanese

Feb 12 - Men Only

Feb 26 - Co-ed Celebrating Rich Puppione

SOLD OUT Feb 21 - Colombo Club Crab Feed, Linguine & Clams, Fresh Cracked Crab

Birthday Dinners, Corned Beef & Cabbage

Mar 12 - Men Only

Mar 26 - Co-ed

Mar 21 - Family Dinner Surf & Turf, Tortellini with cream sauce, Steak and Shrimp

Mar 28 - Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Birthday Dinners, Sausage with Peppers, Pasta e Fagioli

Apr 9 - Men Only

Apr 23 - Co-ed

Apr 30 - Co-ed

Apr 11 - Old Fashioned Family Dinner, Spaghetti and Meatballs

Apr 25 - Family Dinner, Pork Scallopini

Make reservations and see additional events on our website at www.thecolomboclub.com/Calendar-of-Events/

**NOT JUST A
FORKLIFT DEALER**

**NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT
RENTALS, SERVICE, & PARTS**

**TOTAL-IND.COM
800-527-3746**

TOTAL
INDUSTRIES

RINETTI & Co.

PERRY VITTORIA

OWNER / BROKER ~ DRE LIC. #01461822

(510) 326-0378

PerryVittoria@iCloud.com

www.RinettiCo.com

Remembering Rich Puppione

by Joe Ianora, Colombo Club President

Some people leave behind memories. Others leave behind a standard of service, of integrity, of showing up, and of doing things the right way. Rich Puppione left that kind of legacy. His passing has left an emptiness that's hard to put into words. We feel it because Rich wasn't just present—he was a pillar; dependable, consistent, and woven into how our Club operated. His absence has created a quiet ache for so many of us, because he meant something to so many inside the Club and far beyond it.

Rich's influence extended well beyond our walls. He was a steady presence across the broader Italian community. Known not only because he attended events, but because he contributed to them. He supported other Italian clubs, built relationships across organizations, and carried himself with the kind of consistency that earns trust over time.

Within our own Club, Rich served in more ways than most people ever realize. He was a Board Member, President on two separate occasions, and Chairman of the Board. He was also our historian and resident proofreader. He was someone who cared deeply about preserving our story and honoring the people in it. Rich didn't treat history like a collection of dates; he treated it like a responsibility. He wanted names right, details right, and stories told with respect, because behind every detail was a person and a family who helped build what we now call the Colombo Club.

Rich's commitment to the Colombo Club ran deep. He was a third-generation member, and his grandfather was a founding member of this Club. That kind of legacy isn't just something you inherit; it's something you live. Rich lived it with pride, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility for the people and traditions that came before him.

Not to mention, there were the countless "little things"—the kind of work that rarely makes a headline but keeps a club healthy: selling tickets, joining committees (it felt like he sat on nearly every one we ever formed), showing up early, staying late, and taking on whatever needed to be done. Rich had a quiet way of steadying a room. He could be gentle and firm at the same time; always respectful, always focused on what was best for the Club.

During the COVID lockdown, that steady leadership mattered more than ever. When many of our Italian organizations were uncertain about their future, Rich helped keep our Club standing. He understood something important: places like the Colombo Club don't survive by accident. They survive because people choose them again and again through good times and hard times. Rich was one of the dedicated individuals who refused to let the story of the Colombo Club end on his watch.

For me, Rich's passing is not only a loss for the Club, it is personal.

I first met Rich while working as a VP in the Pleasanton Unified School District in 2020, where he became a mentor to me. Over time, he brought me to the Colombo Club so I could experience the "magic" of my Italian heritage in a way that was real and lived. Not just something you read about, but something you belong to. He encouraged me to serve, guided me into becoming a board member, and helped shape the path that eventually led me to this role as President. We spent a lot of time together over the years through functions and community events, and it's difficult to imagine the Club without him.

The first time I had to emcee after Rich passed, especially with his son

in attendance, was incredibly difficult. After dinner, I sat at my seat on the dais and looked out into the crowd, and I saw Rich in everything: in the traditions, in the people, and in the unseen work that makes a night like that possible. I shed more than one tear then, and as I write this, tears are streaming down my face.

Rich gave this Club a lifetime of service, both seen and unseen. He protected our history, strengthened our foundation, and modeled what it means to lead with humility and heart.

We will miss him deeply. And we will honor him the best way we know how: by continuing the traditions, the work, the caring for one another, and the carrying of our heritage forward, together.

Riposa in pace, Rich. You will always be at the heart of the Colombo Club.

Joseph A. Ianora
President, Colombo Club of Oakland

NOTE: Join us for a Celebration of Life for Rich Puppione on February 26 before the 2nd Birthday Dinner. See details in the Message from the President, on page 2.



The Colombo Club Auxiliary

invites you to a

St. Patrick's Dinner



Saturday, March 28, 2026

No host Cocktails: 5:00 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Menu:

Antipasto ♦ Salad & Rolls ♦ Pesto Pasta
Corned Beef & Cabbage ♦ Dessert ♦ Wine & Coffee

Members/Spouses ... \$33

Children 6 to 12 ... \$16

Guests ... \$38

Children under 6 ... free

Cash or check only for dinner tickets

Business casual attire requested

Reservations: Lisa Baumer - (510) 912-3002 OR
ccareservation@aol.com

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Fee of \$15 per ticket for all cancellations made within 3 days of event
No-Shows pay full price

Chaired by Elaine Kless and Betty DeRespini

Bring your friends and don't forget cash for incentive prizes!
Proceeds support local charities.

Colombo Club: 5321 Claremont Avenue, Oakland
Parking is available at the DMV parking lot across the street