



February 2024
Established 1920
Vol. XLIV No. 2

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 Fratangello	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 Mazibrook	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

Birthday Dinners

February 8 & 22

Salad, Risotto Milanese, Roast Chicken, Dessert, Wine and Coffee

Birthday Dinners
Thursday, Mar. 14

Thursday, Mar. 28

Menu: Salad, Pasta Pesto, Corned Beef, 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, February 8
Thursday, February 22
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.

Lobster Time is Back!

If you like your tails and claws, you have an opportunity to indulge on March 23 at the Colombo Club. The event is open to everyone but is limited to 350 due to the number of pots we need to cook the lobsters. The enclosed flier has additional details.

Saturday, March 23

Cocktails 6 pm • Dinner 7 pm

Antipasto, Salad, Red Risotto, **One Entire Lobster**
Wine, Coffee & Dessert

\$80 per person, Use the reservation form enclosed or

reserve online beginning February 1 at **www.thecolomboclub.com**



Men's Lunch

Monday February 19 at 12 Noon

Menu: Pasta Sausage and Peppers,
(Trippa on request)

\$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. When making reservations please indicate how many would like to have Trippa in your party. **Deadline for reservations: February 13, 2024.**

Family Dinner, Saturday February 24

Cocktails: 4:30 pm • Dinner: 6:30 pm

Salad, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Dessert, Wine and Coffee

Pignattas for the kids after dinner! Strolling accordion music by George Campi.

Make or cancel reservations by 6 pm
on February 18.

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. 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

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 or mailed to the Club. Thank you!



President's Message

Saluti A Tutti!

The month of January at the Colombo Club has always been a popular start to the new year. Our two Scholarship Crab Feeds were well-attended and very successful; thank you all for your generosity to raise funds for our graduating high school seniors.

Celebrate the February 19th President's Day holiday with the Men's Lunch at the Colombo Club. Please call-in your reservation "ASAP"! The menu will be sausage and pasta; you may also request the Trippa Alla Fiorentina, a traditional recipe and a favorite of mine, prepared by club member Michele Gasparro!

Our Club Crab Feed on Saturday, February 18th is sold out! Sorry! This event raises critical funds that support our ongoing building maintenance and allows us to make improvements around our Club premises. As a consolation, you do still have time to make a reservation for our Lobster Dinner in March; please see the event details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our annual Membership Dues are now due. We do not send out envelopes anymore. You may pay your dues online at the club website www.thecolomboclub.com. Or, just mail a check into 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 of our Club!

If you have a friend whom 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 Colombo Club this month! Ciao!

Tony Ballestero, President
ballestero@protonmail.ch

In Memoriam

Oscar Borin *John Tandi*
Gold Member since 1978 Member since 1995

Jerry Rossi
Member since 1982

Colombo Club Auxiliary President's Message

It's already February! Wow, Time is flying this year. Did you get a chance to go to the Crab Feed dinners in January? Having delicious crab and clam linguine alongside your friends and family. The best part was that the proceeds went to our scholarships. Thank you to all who donated to make our incentive program prizes so beautiful! A great time was had by all.

I want to welcome Lucy Seereiter as our new Treasurer, and Dianne Marangio to the Board of Directors. I know they will be an asset to our Auxiliary, and I look forward to working with them.

This will be a busy month with Valentine's Day, President's Day, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and Ash Wednesday also falling in February. Then in March, get ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Pesto Pasta (green for the holiday) with Corned Beef and Cabbage. It has been said that no one does it better than the Italians. What do you think? Let's fill up the whole dining room for this dinner.

I would like to invite women of Italian descent who would like to join our social club to ask an auxiliary member for an application. We need new members. I would like to hear your ideas and who doesn't want to have more friends!

Renee Amaro

Auxiliary President

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.

Buon Compleanno!

Terry Adami
Michael E. Ageno
Barry Barlettani
Bruno Bartolini
Charles Berardi
Harry Black
Andy Boggeri
Michael Britton
Brian Carden
Anthony Carvone
Marty Castell
Thomas Catalano
Jarid Catalano
Anthony Cecaci
Jose Cerda-Zein
Leopoldo J. Chanco
Mark Cordone
James Cosenza
John Luigi DeRose
Joseph P. DeStasi
Al DiPrima
Wayne Dutchover
Jeffery Eandi

Rich Diego Erausquin
Mick Erausquin
Ron Fenolio
Albert Ferrari
Dan Foster
Dennis Carl Gabellini
Al Gavello
Larry Himango
Trevor Holley
Anthony Isola
Jerry Jennaro
Joe Karg
Sal Lamagna
Ron Lucido
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
Jerry Ogden
Michael Parrinella
Matthew Pingatore
Dean Poggi
Steven E. Pryde
Richard J. Puppione
Charles R. Reyna
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

Grazie Mille

Incentive Program Donors

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

Auxiliary St. Patrick's Dinner Thursday, March 21



Salad, Pesto Pasta, Corned Beef &
Cabbage, 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 the Love of the Club

The Club just completed two successful Crab Dinners with one more to go in February (sold out). Over 1200 will have attended these events with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund and the Club. A big part of the dinner is the raffle of the beautiful baskets.

For many years Frances Bienati has spent numerous hours gathering gifts and baskets in preparation for these events.



I was told she starts the process 6-8 months prior. For each event she prepares 25 baskets. A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to be part of the final assembly of the 75 baskets. It is amazing to see Frances wheel around in her walker giving instructions on how to assemble the baskets.

The Club and the members are truly blessed to have Frances and all she does. A kind and caring lady who loves the Club and all it has to offer. I wonder what will happen when Frances can no longer be able to complete

this task. Time will tell what the future of the Club will look like without volunteers like Frances. As the new year begins maybe it would be a time to consider getting involved. Currently, we have Board Members in their 90's serving. I fear one day the Club may not exist without the old guard. We need to make sure the Club survives for future generations to experience what we have. There are numerous ways you can make a difference. Tony Ballestero, current President would love to hear from you, especially when you say how you can help.

Lastly, Thank You Frances! You are one in million and those of us who have had the pleasure in knowing you, we love you for all you have done and continue to do for the Club.

-Cyril Bonanno, past Chairman



A Tribute to Oscar Borin

I am shifting the timeline on the stories about men who have been of great influence in the development and success of the Colombo Club to move to the present day and write about a beloved man, Oscar Borin, who we all knew and who died last month at the age of 103. **Oscar, seen on the right with Louie Pandolfo at the Festa Italiana**, which was held at Jack London Square in Oakland, was such a positive figure at Colombo Club dinners. He loved to lead the dinner guests in the singing of the happy birthday song even at the age of 99 (seen here with Nick Nicora).



Oscar with Louie Pandolfo

Oscar also loved to tell the story about trying to enlist in the Italian army in Milan in 1943, where Mussolini's body was being hung. He said that the sergeant he talked to told him to forget enlisting and steal a bike and ride it to Switzerland, so he did. The Colombo Club is so fortunate that he did. Head waiter, Mike Pandolfo recalled the many days that he, Oscar, Norman Deming, Steve Pitlick spent roaming around SF enjoying lunch and drinks. (Oscar is seen here with Jim Casa, Norm Deming and Ray Fratangelo.)



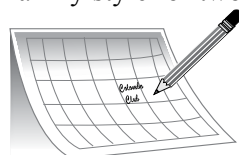
Mike Pandolfo wrote: "One of the best lunches that we had was at North Beach restaurant with Norm, Oscar, Steve, and me. Norm and Oscar were FOODIES before being a foodie was a thing! We had an epic lunch, multiple courses, cocktails, and a few bottles of wine later, Oscar wanted to end lunch with an Irish Coffee from the Buena Vista. So, we walked the MILE from North Beach to the Buena Vista, albeit making a few stops along the way, for various "snacks," Steve and I could barely keep up with Norm and Oscar. They had to repeatedly stop and wait for us to catch up! Oscar's favorite last activity before we would head back to BART for the trip home, was a stop at the Gold Dust Lounge on Powell Street for that last cocktail. Always a Campari and Soda for the road! We were having lunch with Oscar at Tadich Grill, and he ordered his favorite thing, (calf) liver & onions. We were blown away when the liver came. It was the whole liver served on a platter! Oscar scraped off all the sauteed onions and bacon and proceeded to eat the whole thing. The smile on his face was like a child on Xmas morning. One of our favorite places to eat in North Beach was Café Puccini. Oscar's favorite was the seafood risotto. The staff loved to see him, as the seafood risotto was served on a platter family style for two



people. All I can say is that Oscar never left a grain of rice and always ate the whole thing."

Riposa in pace, Oscar, From all Colombo Club members, "Grazie tante, tante grazie!"

Rich Puppione, Chairman of the Board



Mark Your Calendar

Feb 8 Birthday Dinner (men only)
5:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm Dinner

Feb 17 **SOLD OUT** Colombo Club Crab Feed, No host cocktails 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm

Feb 19 Men's Lunch, 12 Noon

Feb 22 Birthday Dinner (men only)
5:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm Dinner

Mar 14 Birthday Dinner 5:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm Dinner

Mar 23 Lobster Feed

Mar 28 Birthday Dinner
5:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm dinner

Apr 11 Birthday Dinner 5:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm dinner

Apr 25 Birthday Dinner 5:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm dinner

Apr 27 Scholarship Family Night Dinner

Attention Claws and Tails Lovers

Lobster Feed Time is Here Again

Lobster is once again on the calendar for the Colombo Club so save the date of March 23, 2024. Enjoy the rich taste of the lobster, cooked right here at the Colombo Club!

The cost is \$80 per person (no child discount) and you get the full menu we are well known to serve at our mouthwatering events:

- Antipasto
- Salad
- Red Risotto
- 1 Entire Lobster
- Wine
- Coffee
- Dessert



We are limiting attendance to 350 so get your payment and reservation early.

Lobster Night, March 23: ___ seats @ \$80 for a total of \$ _____

The event is 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

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 is business casual. All checks must be from a member, no guest checks please.

Questions: email to jtmazibrook@earthlink.net, or call John at 510.304.7211.

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS



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

The Colombo Club Auxiliary presents:



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

at the Colombo Club ~ 5321 Claremont Avenue, Oakland



Thursday, March 21, 2024

No host Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Menu:

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

Members/Spouses ... \$30

Children 6 to 12 ... \$15

Guests ... \$33

Children under 6 ... free

Bring your friends!

Reservations: Mary Pandolfo (510) 276-7681 or (510) 912-2906

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Cancellation fee of \$15 per ticket for all cancellations made within 72 hours of event



Parking is available at the DMV parking lot across the street



Chaired by Dianne Marangio & Elaine Kless



Reflections of the Christmas Party 2023

by Joe Ianora



Stealing a line from “Rudolf the red-nosed Reindeer,” the 72nd Annual Christmas Party “will go down in History.” One hundred thirty kids attended The Colombo Club Colombo Club Auxiliary Children’s Christmas Party. An additional 30 presents were given out to those who could not attend the event. Counting parents and guests, there were over 400 people who attended this year’s event.



Thanks to the Women’s Auxiliary who purchased, wrapped, and handed out all the presents, the dozens of Colombo Club members involved in setting up and cleaning

up, and the volunteers from both clubs preparing and handing out the lunches in the main dining hall. The event was a huge success.

A special thanks to the Verducci Family for continuing to carry out the family tradition of working the event, welcoming and helping distribute a wonderful gift to each and every child. Most of them had a wonderful time sitting on Santa’s lap or chatting with Mrs. Claus.

It is always such a pleasure as MC to watch each girl and boy come up the stairs, peeking over the shoulder of the person in front of them, trying to get a glimpse of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Then, watching as they receive a present and walk sheepishly to Santa to sit and tell him “Thank you” or answer a question from Santa. As they exit the stage, most look back over their shoulder and give a final

wave before they descend the steps that lead them back to the main hall to unwrap their new present.



It is also fun to watch all of the parents and grandparents rush up to the front of the stage and snap photo after photo of their little one. And, later, watching the families gather around the Christmas tree or in Santa’s Sleigh for a group photo.

As I reminisce about having brought my three children year after year to this Celebration, I can't help but smile. I am thrilled to see it continue, to be a part of this tradition, and am very grateful to the Colombo Club and Women's Auxiliary for continuing this wonderful tradition of providing the children and adults with a most memorable Christmas time event.

Because this event has so many different aspects, it is hard to thank all of the volunteers and not leave anyone out as there were many who helped make this a success. Here is a shortlist - Marc Emeldi, Denise Picetti, Joe Guerrero, Diane Proto, Tony Tedeschi, Yvonne Evans, Don Ceremello, and Marian Castelluccio ...and, a big THANK YOU to those who served on our Kitchen Committee, Toy Wrappers, Elves, and Floor Committee. We couldn't have done it without you!

Let me know if you would like to volunteer at the Children's Christmas party next year. I guarantee that you will be glad that you did.

Sincerely,

Joe Ianora, Colombo Club 2nd VP
jjanora1@gmail.com

