



January 2025

Established 1920

Vol. XLV 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

2025 Officers

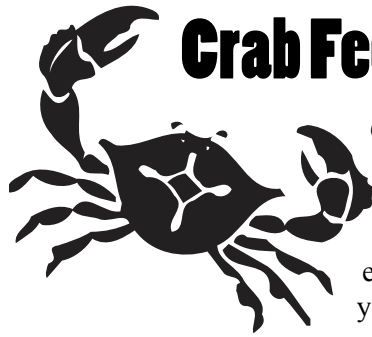
Joe Ianora	President
John DeRespini	Corres. Secretary
Perry Vittoria	Financial Secretary
Matthew Moran	Treasurer
Marc Emeldi	Sergeant-At-Arms

Board Members

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

Sunshine Chair, Gordon Bowman
gbowman999@yahoo.com

Crab Feed Time is Here Again



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

Saturdays,

January 18
February 8
February 22
March 22

Menu

Salad, Linguini with Clams
(except March 22 - Risotto with Clams) all you can eat Crab,
Wine, Coffee and Dessert

This is a prepaid event. Use the reservation form, No host Cocktails 6 pm
enclosed, or pay online www.thecolomboclub.com Dinner 7 pm

\$80 per person

Old Fashioned Family Dinner

Sunday, January 26

Menu: Salad, Spaghetti & Meatballs,
Wine Coffee and Dessert

Featuring George Campi and his
accordion during cocktail hour
No-host cocktails: 3 pm
Dinner: 4 pm
Pignatas for the kids after dinner,
thanks to member Mike Covione
and for providing popcorn and
cotton candy for the event!

Adults: \$25
Children 6-12 yrs: \$12
5 and under: free

Call for Reservations (510) 653-9020

Press 1 for reservations,
Press 4 for special events

Birthday Dinners

Jan. 9 and 23

Salad, Roast Beef, Dessert,
Wine & Coffee

Birthday Dinners

Thursday, Feb 13 (Men)

Thursday, Feb 27 (Co-ed)

Menu: Salad, Risotto, Roast
Chicken, Dessert, Wine and
Coffee

5:30 pm Cocktails; 7:30 pm Dinner

\$33 Members, \$38 Guests

\$16 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, Jan. 9 (Men only)

Thursday, Jan. 23 (Co-ed)

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.

2025

Happy New Year!

President's Message

Past Celebrations: December was quite a busy month for the Colombo Club! We had new members join, inducted new board members and new officers... and, a new President! Additionally, our Women's Auxiliary celebrated 87 years in existence, we had two stomach-stretching spaghetti and meatball dinners, and; of course, hosted our 73rd annual Children's Christmas Party. The Christmas event was an amazing day where Santa gave out almost 200 toys to our good little girls and boys! A special thank you to the many members and volunteers who helped make this day a huge success.

As we usher in a new year, I would like to first look back with gratitude to Tony Ballestero (out-going President) and Rich Puppione (out-going Chairman). Tony was my mentor over the past six years, encouraging me to further my involvement with the club and always there to help guide me in "all things" Colombo Club. I would not have considered stepping into this role without his role modeling. Rich, who brought me to the club almost 25 years ago. He has been a consistent presence in my time here. His leadership, guidance, and willingness to share his knowledge with me has prepared me for this next adventure.

Update: It is not lost on me that I am starting my tenure as President during the feast of Epiphany (when the wise men brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the new born king). As the new president, I would have loved some of the three gifts. However, the wisdom, leadership, guidance, passion, and joy that the board has passed on to me is better than any of those gifts.

This presidency started from very simple beginnings, with Rich Puppione bringing me for my first (of many) dinners. Then, as my own family grew, so did my love for the club and I would bring my kids as often as possible to share in "I miei famiglia di Columbo Club." I was happy to volunteer my time in the wardrobe room, getting to know some of the "goings on" at the club as well as meeting many of the members. Becoming a board member helped me gain a deeper understanding of the club and its rich tradition. I was encouraged to become an officer and take on an even greater role.

Looking back 25 years ago to that first dinner, I would have never dreamed of being President. I was just happy to stuff my face with those delicious bread rolls! I am wholeheartedly looking forward to serving the club as its next president and I am excited to be part of our growth and change as we move deeper into our next 100 years.

Current/Upcoming Events: January and February are our "Crab Feed" months. I would like to encourage you to attend any/all of them. The first one is for our Scholarship Committee and is very special to me as my three kids were all recipients of this program. Along with the above-mentioned events, January also features two Birthday Dinners, a Men's Lunch, and the immensely popular Old Fashioned Family Dinner & Children's Piñata Party. I would encourage you to attend with your family! Our annual Membership Dues are now due. These funds are critical to the operation of the Club. We have made it convenient to pay your dues online on the Club's website, www.thecolomboclub.com. Thank you for your continued membership and support

Grazie Millie,

Joe (Giuseppe) Ianora

Women's Auxiliary President's Message

Buon Anno! I hope you brought in the New Year with a nice toast at midnight. (Or at least still stayed up to watch the ball drop in New York).

We have made it through the holidays. (whew!) I trust that your Christmas with family was filled with joy, and delicious meals and treats.

We ended 2024 with a great Auxiliary 87th year Anniversary Celebration that Diane Proto & Yvonne Evans chaired along with our wonderful cooks that made it a fantastic event. We honored our longest-term members with years of service pins at the dinner and enjoyed dancing to live music of the Dennis Cruda Band. It was a wonderful time with all who attended.

Then, we had our member appreciation dinner when we also welcomed the newly-elected Officers and Board Members. Here are the results of that election.

Officers: Renee Amaro-President, Diane Proto-Vice President, Marie Camara-Recording Secretary, Denise Picetti-Financial Secretary, Dianne Marangio & JoAnn Bruno-Corresponding Secretary (duties shared), Lucy Seereiter-Treasurer, Christine Bonavolonta-Sentinel.

Board of Directors: Chairperson-Elisabeth (Betty) De Respini, Lisa Baumer, JoAnn Bruno, Ellen Castelluccio, Frances Bienati, Mary Pandolfo, Dianne Marangio, Yvonne Evans & Sylvia Jesuit.

Appointed positions: Auditors: Toni Alstad, Jeanna Lilley and one other TBD. Sick & Sunshine Ambassador-Elaine Kless. Congratulations ladies!

Our 73rd Annual Children's Christmas Party was a fun time with the children seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus (Dianne Marangio). The couple had them smiling from ear to ear with giggles aplenty.

We have only one Crab Feed dinner funding our scholarships this year. Please make your reservations soon before it sells out. It is on January 18. It is important to the young 12 graders who will receive the award of a Colombo Club Scholarship to further their education.

If you have changed your address, phone number or email address please let Denise know. We will update the directory soon. Contact Denise Picetti at: picettid@gmail.com

Dues for 2025 are due this month. Please write the check to Colombo Club Auxiliary and send it to the Colombo Club c/o Denise Picetti.

Remember to let our Sick & Sunshine Representative, Elaine Kless, know if you know of a member who was hospitalized or ill. Please call her at (925) 858-9245.

Buon Compleanno to all our January-born ladies. Let's make it a fantastic year. Ciao,

Renée M. Amaro, Auxiliary President

Buon Compleanno!

Vincent Abbate
John B. Accinelli
Richard Andres
Mark Avila
Daniel R. Bardon
Brian Biancardi
Jimmy Blythe
Ron Borelli
Ralph A. Brignone
Victor Bullock
Brian Calegari
Vince Capurro
Kevin Cardenas
Gary Carlson
Glen Cartwright
Jose Cerda
James Charlton
Ronald Conte
Aldo Corsi
Carlo Crivello
Michael Cusenza
Gary Damele
John M Davini
Steven Dinelli
Chris Dobberpuhl
Anthony Fiorica

Joel Franciosa
Vincent M. Fratangelo
Martin Frentzel
Christopher Gasparro
Anthony Granelli
Jonathan Hallin
Adam Herbert
Steve Hurlbut
Charles Ingrao
Frank Isola
John Lucasey
Jeff Lucia
Chris Lucia
Bob Mammarella
Magico Martinez
Nicholas R. Michael
Michael Mittelbuscher
Gary Lester Mittone, Jr.
Richard Moore III
Ken Moudy
David Norton
Paul Nuti
Sean P. O'Brien
Joseph Orsi
Dennis O'Sullivan
R. Armond Ouellet

Herc Pardi
Damon Pellegrini
Michael Perillo
Dustin Perucca
Nat Piazza
Dean Pichotto
Dennis Popalardo
John D. Ratto
Michael Rodrigues
Craig Rossi
Jim Scalise
Ronald Scalise
Dominic J. Scalise
Nick Schapiro
Steven Nello Siino
Marco Splendorio
Gary E. Symons
Robert Thompson
Sam Toriggino
Ron Umile
Frank Vasgerdsian
Roger W. Verducci
Roger J. Verducci Jr.
Craig Walker
Tom Wolf

Grazie Mille

Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to these generous donors who contributed to our incentive program in November: Dino Rinetti, John Porras (Crown Wine & Spirits), Danny Foster, Vincent Traverso (The Kingfish Pub & Cafe), Stefan Molnar, James Bartha, Heffernan-Brignole Insurance, Jerry Jennaro, Joe Gennaro, Tim Tomei, Gary Sabatte, Fredi Moehl, Craig Jaber (Royal Auto Repair), Aaron Yang, Austin Britton.

Reminder: Your Dues Are Due!

Questions? Contact John Mazibrook at 510.304.7211 or jtmazibrook@earthlink.net.

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In Memoriam

John Barassi,
member since 2002

Phil Rocco,
member since 2008

2025 Scholarship

Applications Available Now!

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, 2025.

Scholarship applications are available at the Colombo Club at the bar in the Club Room. Any questions, contact Tony Ballestero at tonyb1369@comcast.net.

2) The Bossola Scholarship for 2025

Applications are available by sending an email request to bossolascholarship@gmail.com. The deadline for completed applications is March 15, 2025.



Our Cultural Heritage

Generations of Involved Members

by Rich Puppione



The Puppiones' influence in the growth of the club goes back to day one of the club's existence and makes up four generations of involved Colombo Club members. Pietro Puppione (left) was one of the club's 22 charter members. He served in various leadership capacities like 1st vice president, house committee chair

and was one of the wine makers for club family dinners. Valentno, Pietro's son, (below, kneeling on the right) with a group before a dinner dance at the club on Broadway, was known to frequent many Colombo Club family dancing events with friends. Most recently, Rich, Valentino's son was president 2009-2010 and 2018-2019, historian, chairman of the board, and author of the 100 Year History of the Colombo Club. His son



Chris (below, right with Rich at a CC A's outing) served the club as a club Board member, bartender and BBQ cook at the club outings to the A's games. Robert, Rich's other son Bobby (left,

selling incentive tickets), served the club as a waiter and incentive program volunteer.



The Nicora family's influence on the club also goes back three generations during the presidential terms of Vince and Nick. Vince is seen here shaking Rocky Marciano's hand during a special event that drew over 700 people

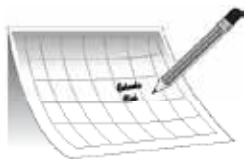


to a dinner, that included Joe Dimaggio. Vince also served as a club board member. Nick followed in his dad's footsteps and served as president of the club four years in a row during the Covid pandemic. Nick is currently a club Board member, chairman of the golf events and has help raise money for the club by organizing some big band events that have drawn large crowds. Nick's son Nicholas is also a club member, and has helped raise money for the club in the change-over to a cashless club.



Ken DeCrosta, Sr. and his son Ken DeCrosta, Jr. have made a huge influence on the club from behind the scenes. Before he passed away, Ken DeCrosta, Sr. was responsible for taking all the reservations for all of the events and then seating everyone at their favorite tables. This is an incredibly tedious and thankless job, but so valuable to the club. When he passed away in

2012, Ken Jr. took over taking the phone reservations for club dinners and events, arranging the seating the hundreds of members and guests for every club dinner. He eventually took on the job of kitchen manager. Ken not only orders all the food for every club dinner and handling the contracts, but he also helps out in the prep and cleanup in the kitchen and has been known to stay until the wee hours of the morning cleaning. Ken is frequently seen walking though the dining room greeting the members and guests and inquiring how they enjoyed the meal.



Mark Your Calendar

Birthday Dinners, Roast Beef

Jan 9 - Men Only
Jan 23 - Co-ed

Jan 18 - Scholarship Crab Feed

Jan 26 - Old Fashioned Family Dinner - Spaghetti and Meatballs

Feb 8 - Colombo Club Crab Feed

Birthday Dinners, Roast Chicken

Feb 13 - Men Only
Feb 27 - Co-ed

Feb 17 - Men's Lunch - Sausage & Tripe

Feb 22 - Colombo Club Crab Feed

Colombo Club 2024 Christmas Party Reflections

by Joe Ianora, Colombo Club President

Stealing a line from “Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” the 73rd Annual Christmas Party “will go down in history.” 170 kids attended The Colombo Club & Women’s 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 450 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, as well as the Bradley and Moehl Families, who welcomed and helped distribute programs and candy canes. They ensured each child and family had a wonderful time greeting Santa, getting a present, 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.



couldn't have done it without you!

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, Tony Tedeschi, Yvonne Evans, Don Ceremello, and Dianne Marangio...and, a big THANK YOU to those who served on our Kitchen Committee, our Amazing Cooks, Bartenders, Toy Wrappers, Elves, Floor Committee, and Mike Covione for the popcorn and cotton candy. We



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 President

jianora1@gmail.com