



November 2025

Established 1920

Vol. XLV No. 11

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
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 Ballestero	2025-2030	Chair
Joe Guerrero	2024-2026	
John Mazbrook	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



COLOMBO CLUB AUXILIARY

Polenta Dinner

CHAIRIED BY FRANCES BIENATI & LAURIE CASTELL

Saturday, November 8th, 2025

5:00 PM - COCKTAILS AND GAMES
ENJOY FOCACCIA WHILE PLAYING TOMBOLA AND CARTE WALK
6:30 PM - DINNER
SPECIAL SALAD, POLENTA, CHICKEN,
ITALIAN SAUSAGE, DESSERT, WINE & COFFEE

RESERVATIONS:
MARY PANDOLFO (510) 278-7681
MAKE RESERVATIONS BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

MEMBERS/SPOUSES.....\$35.00
GUESTS.....\$35.00
CHILDREN 6-12.....\$15.00
CHILDREN 0-5.....FREE

CANCELLATION: A \$15 FEE PER TICKET APPLIES IF YOU CANCEL WITHIN 8 DAYS OF THE EVENT.
NO-SHOW: YOU WILL BE CHARGED THE FULL TICKET PRICE IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND THE EVENT

DRESS ATTENDING BUSINESS CASUAL
Colombo Club, 5321 Claremont Ave., Oakland
PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE DMV LOT ACROSS THE STREET

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. The House Chairman is the day-to-day manager of the Club, responsible for supervising Club staff. If you are interested in being considered for this position, then please contact Tony Ballestero, Chairman, at ballestero@protonmail.ch. Thank You.

Tuesday, November 18

Polls Open 5 pm - 7 pm
Cocktails 6 pm
Dinner 7 pm
Meeting follows

\$20 Members only

Bagna Cauda Salad,
Tortellini Soup, Dessert,
Wine, Coffee

Assembly Meeting

Election and Dinner

It's time to vote! See page 3 for the ballot.

Call for reservations: (510) 653-9020. Press 1 to make reservations, then press 6 for Special Events

Birthday Dinners

Nov 6 and 20

Salad, Risotto, Roast Beef,
Dessert, Wine & Coffee

Birthday Dinners

Thursday, Dec 4 (Men only)

Thursday, Dec 11 (Co-ed)

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

5:30 pm Cocktails; 7:30 pm Dinner

\$33 Members, \$38 Guests

\$16 Children 6-12 yrs

Reserve online or 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, Nov 6 (Men Only)

Thursday, Nov 20 (Co-ed)

For reservations, please use the website
www.TheColomboClub.com

If you have trouble, call (510) 653-9020.

To cancel reservations call by 7 pm Sunday before the
dinner. Use the same extensions, above, to cancel.

Cashless policy will be followed.

GAME DAY

AT THE

COLOMBO CLUB

at

DENVER BRONCOS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 12 PM

\$5 ENTRY - \$5 BEER

BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND FOOD

TICKETS!!
QR Code

Visit:
thecolomboclub.com

President's Message

Ciao a tutti! Looking back, we celebrated Italian Heritage Month – a time to remember and recognize our roots. Looking forward, we will celebrate our American tradition in Thanksgiving!

October was Sausage and Peppers month, and it is always outstanding! Thank you for taking the time to support our club and our events. Our Halloween Family Dinner was enjoyed by all, with costumes, games, and great food! “Thank You!” to Club member Michael Covione for once again transforming our ballroom into an eerie Halloween wonderland!

November is packed with events that you will not want to miss:

1. **Voting** – we have many open positions on our board. Please vote before you attend one of the events!
2. **November 18th** – Assembly Meeting and Elections. This is your opportunity to keep up-to-date with the current state of our financial health, share your opinions and ideas with our Board of Directors, and take part in determining future Club operations. Cost? Only \$20!
3. **December 7th** (I snuck this one in.) If you are a football fan, and a Raiders fan, come to our first ever “Watch Party!” The game features arch rivals Raiders vs. Broncos ... more details to follow - look for the flyer coming soon with all of the details. You don't miss this great event!
4. **December 11th** – The Consulate General of Italy, Massimo Carnelos, will be joining us for dinner, make your reservations now!

If you're considering volunteering at the Club, we're also looking for a few dedicated members to train to run our always-popular Incentive Program at each Birthday Dinner. It's a great way to become involved. It's only a few hours each month, and it's critically important to the financial success of the Club! Please email me, if you're interested.

Lastly, 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 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,

Joe Ianora

jianora1@gmail.com

P.S. If you have not been to the Mercantino di Natale at Fort Mason, I would encourage you to go. It is being held at Fort Mason 12/6 and 12/7. Details here: www.museoItaloAmericano.org.

Women's Auxiliary President's Message

Ciao a tutti, it's hard to believe we are already in November with the holidays rushing in. The time changes and colder temperatures are another sign that we must prepare for our 88th Anniversary, Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays.

The Colombo Club family Halloween Dinner & Costume Contest was spooky fun. The kids loved the decorations, snacks as well as breaking the Pignatte. Lots of smiles & excitement was had.

Did you celebrate your Italian Pride by attending the **Italian Heritage Parade** in San Francisco? On Sunday, October 12th we participated in the 157th Italian Heritage Parade! The weather was terrific, people lined the streets with their cameras in tow, waving the Italian and American flags. The Canadian pilots did an inspiring fly over, complete with hearts and symbols in red, and blue streaming across the sky, to the delight of the thousands of people attending. The mayor and other dignitaries joined the parade! This is now in the memory books, to re-live and appreciate our heritage!

At I. A. F.'s Queen Coronation Dinner last month, the young women (four princesses and queen) received their crowns and represented our East Bay Italian Clubs in the parade and will be at many Anniversary Dinners to say a few words, including ours in December.

We have our **Annual Polenta Dinner** on November 8th chaired by Frances Bienati & Laurie Castell. It should be a successful night with the Cake Walk & Tombola Wheel games with sausage and wine winners. Whoo-hoo!

We had nominations last month for this month's election. Our meeting is November 19th.

Our **88th Auxiliary Anniversary** is coming fast. Dust off your dancing shoes and semi formal outfits for December 6th. Let's make it a great celebration. Please see the Festive Flyer.

We don't have a general meeting in December. However, our **Member Appreciation Dinner and Induction** is on December 11th, followed by the Children's Christmas party on December 13th.

Buon compleanno alle nostre ragazze che festeggiano il compleanno di Novembre.

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

Rendito un mese fantastico.

Renee M. Amaro

Colombo Club Auxiliary President
reneeamaro@comcast.net

Buon Compleanno!

John Anderson	Martin Nicola Francone	John B. Parisi
Andrew J. Bausone	Gerald Ghio	Eric Payne
Larry Bellusa	Eric Ghisletta	James J. Penna
Clay Berg	Rodger Taylor Haley	Jacob Perata
Jose Blason	Jim Haywood	Anthony Porreca Sr.
Dominic A. Bonavolonta	Mitch Houston	Devin Ramos
Gordon Bowman	Jason Hutchings	Fred J. Ravazza
Lance A. Brocchini	Domenick Infrerra	Anthony Rega
Philip Cardiasmenos	Michael Isola	Steve Roderick
Fred J. Cattaneo	Richard Jensen	Keith Romano
Larry J. Cavalli	Anthony Kontilis	Don Sanguinetti
Franco Cavallo	Father Jason Landeza	Charles J. Scarano
David Dominic Cerruti	Joseph N. Lapenna	Anthony Scotto
Vincent Cirelli	Frank LaScala	Christian Shumate
Donald George	Matt Lydon	Sean Anthony Sillineri
Colombana	Richard "Rick"	Steven Splendorio
Salvatore Coniglio	Marchitiello	Donald Squaglia
Chris Corby	Patrick Marigonda	Nikolas Stathopoulos
Tony Corica	Dustin Mayberry	Anthony E Tedeschi
Vincent Culcasi	Denis M. McGrath	Tim Tomei
Aidan Delamain	David L. Merlo	Domenic V. Torchia
Leonard Devoto	Dick Minolli	Robert A. Tucknott
Michael D'Orazi	David Minolli	George N. Valerio
Marc Emeldi	Jerome Novero	Leon Vignale
Vito Esposito	Adam Olivieri	
Justin Forni	Arthur Panella DDS	

GrazieMile Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to these generous donors who contributed to our incentive program in October: Jerry Rossi (The Fat Lady Bar & Restaurant), Aaron Yang, Michael Britton, The Geary Family, Sliders Softball Club, Heffernan-Brignole Insurance Mitch Huston, 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.

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.

In Memoriam

William Zeppelin, Member since 2022

Larry Picetti, Member since 1984

Colombo Club 2026

Election for Officers and Board Members POLLS Open at the Club

Tuesday, November 4, 5:00 pm - 7:15 pm

Tuesday, November 18, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Officers: One-Year Terms

Vote for Seven

President: Joe Ianora

First Vice President: Vince Fratangelo

Second Vice President: Mark Rezente

Corresponding Secretary: John DeRespini

Financial Secretary: Perry Vittoria

Treasurer: Matt Moran

Sergeant at Arms: Marc Emeldi

Board of Directors:

Three Year Terms

Vote for Four

*Mark Amaro

*Rich Puppione

Randy Bodas

Mike Covione

Freddi Moehl

Stefan Molnar

Patrick Scalise

* Incumbent

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Our Cultural Heritage

By Rich Puppione

For the next year, I will pull out some events from each month of the Colombo Club history.

- Collecting membership dues started on November 14, 1922. Pietro Puppione collected a total of \$13 from the members for the monthly fees. A monthly admission fee to the Club was set at one dollar.
- In November, 1924, Delfino Damonte ordered 4,000 cigars from Tuscany and 200 cigars from Naples for sale at the Club. The total cost was \$132. Cigars were sold for 5 cents each and 3 for 10 cents.
- It was decided in November of 1925 that only family members of members could join the Club.
- In November 1952 that music at the dinner dances will be mostly Italian "in order to discourage outsiders."
- On November 14, 1965, the Club held the 1st annual ".22 Shoot" in the bocce alleys in the Isabella Room. The cost of entry and dinner was \$2 and 25 cents for 5 shots. The winner won a cup and a turkey. 2nd place got just the turkey, and 3rd place won a goose. 4th place won a chicken. The booby prize was a squab. Guns were available for contestants. People could bring their own .22, but scopes were not allowed.
- The Club held the annual Buffalo Feed in November 1990 - (\$10 for members and \$12 for guests).
- In November 1996, during heavy rain storms, the Club experienced extensive water damage to the walls in the front of the building. As a result, many of the Club's historical documents and photos were lost.
- In November 2003, a number of rectangular tables in the ballroom were replaced with smaller round tables in order to create a more intimate setting.
- In November 2007, members and guests began reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before birthday dinners.
- In November 2014, the metal chairs in the dining room were replaced with new more comfortable chairs.
- A highlight at the first November men's dinner was when Oscar Borin came to the Club to celebrate his 99th birthday and led the crowd again in the birthday song.
- The November 2020, Italian Night family dinner of tortellini and chicken scallopini drew a record crowd.



- On November 4, 2021, the Colombo Club reopened for a sausage and pepper dinner under the Alameda County Health Department guidelines and CDC recommendations. Entrance to the Colombo Club was through the Ed Basso room. Everyone was required to have a current vaccination card and wear a mask. The Colombo Club again operated at a reduced capacity. The event was sold out.
- In November 2024, about 125 people attended a successful movie night with the movie "Potentially Dangerous."
- The Colombo Club held a bbq tri tip dinner on November 14, 2024. A crowd of 160 enjoyed a dinner of tri tip and pulled chicken, coleslaw, corn on the cob, biscuits and a baked potato.

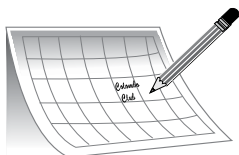
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Mark Your Calendar

Birthday Dinners, Roast Beef and Risotto
 Nov 6 - Men Only
 Nov 20 - Co-ed

Nov 8 - Women's Auxiliary Polenta and Games Night

Nov 18 - Assembly Meeting, Dinner and Election

Birthday Dinners, Spaghetti & Meatballs
 Dec 4 - Men Only
 Dec 11 - Co-ed

Dec 6 - Women's Auxiliary Anniversary Dinner

Dec 7 - Game Day

Dec 13 Children's Christmas Party

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 License #6006388

COLOMBO CLUB AUXILIARY
88th Anniversary Dinner
Saturday, December 6, 2025

Location: Colombo Club - 5321 Claremont Ave., Oakland
Parking is available across the street in DMV parking lot.

Chaired by Yvonne Evans and JoAnn Bruno

PRICE - \$47 FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS - CASH OR CHECK

Menu: Antipasti, Caesar Salad, Ravioli,
New York Strip Steak, Wine and Dessert

Time: No Host Cocktails at 5:30; Dinner at 6:30
RSVP to Mary Pandolfo at (510) 276-7681 by 11/30

Semi-Formal Festive Attire

Music provided by George Campi & Band



GAME DAY

AT THE

COLOMBO CLUB



at



**DENVER
BRONCOS**

**LAS VEGAS
RAIDERS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 12 PM

\$5 ENTRY • \$5 BEER

BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND FOOD

TICKETS!!

QR Code



Visit:

**thecolombo
club.com**



COLOMBO CLUB AUXILIARY

Polenta Dinner

CHAIRIED BY: FRANCES BIENATI & LAURIE CASTELL

Saturday, November 8th, 2025

5:00 PM - COCKTAILS AND GAMES

ENJOY FOCACCIA WHILE PLAYING TOMBOLA AND CAKE WALK

6:30 PM - DINNER

SPECIAL SALAD, POLENTA, CHICKEN,
ITALIAN SAUSAGE, DESSERT, WINE & COFFEE

RESERVATIONS:

MARY PANDOLFO (510) 276-7681

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

MEMBERS/SPOUSES.....	\$33.00
GUESTS.....	\$38.00
CHILDREN 6-12.....	\$16.00
CHILDREN 0-5.....	FREE

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DRESS ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL

Colombo Club, 5321 Claremont Ave., Oakland

PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE DMV LOT ACROSS THE STREET