



**September 2025**

**Established 1920**

**Vol. XLV No. 9**

The Colombo Club  
5321 Claremont Avenue  
Oakland, California 94618  
[www.TheColomboClub.com](http://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 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)

**Saturday, October 18**

## **Halloween Dinner & Costume Contest**

**5:30 pm Cocktails**

**7 pm Dinner**

**\$33 members, \$38 guests,**

**\$16 children ages 6-12 yrs**

**Salad, Pasta,  
Pot Roast,  
Wine, Dessert, Coffee**

Make or cancel reservations by 6 pm on Oct. 13  
Call 510-653-9716 or register online, [thecolomboclub.org](http://thecolomboclub.org)

## **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](mailto:ballestero@protonmail.ch). Thank You.

**Bocce Day on August 9 was a big success! See the insert in this edition for pictures of the winners and a write up of the event. Thank you to Dave and John Nardi and their friends for a fantastic event!**

**Pictured, right is the winning team! (l-r) John Nardi (host) – Bob Bruce, Al Surges, Tyler Niemeyer, Carl Paz – Dave Nardi (host).**



## **Birthday Dinners**

**Sept 11 and 25**

*Salad, Pesto Pasta, Chicken Cacciatore, Dessert, Wine & Coffee*

#### **Birthday Dinners**

**Thursday, Oct 9 (Men only)**

**Thursday, Oct 23 (Co-ed)**

**Menu:** Salad, Pasta a la Anna, Sausage & Peppers, 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, Sept 11 (Men Only)**

**Thursday, Sept 25 (Co-ed)**

**For reservations, please use the website  
[www.TheColomboClub.com](http://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.*



## **Children's Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 13**

See the flyer in this issue to make reservations for your family including your child or grandchild. Hurry! **Reservation deadline is October 15.**

# President's Message

Ciao a tutti! Well, the end of August signals the beginning of fall and the wrap up of a huge month for the Colombo Club. While we still have the summer weather, our students are returning to school, and football season (among other things) is upon us!!

## ***Here is a recap of the August events:***

**Father-Daughter Nights** – One of my favorite events as it is (and was) a special time to celebrate a meal with the special women/daughters/granddaughters in our lives.

**Bocce Tournament** – On Saturday, August 9th, the Colombo Club hosted another outstanding tournament for members and friends at the Martinez Marina Bocce courts. The event was a sellout with 32 teams competing to play bocce, eat lunch, and visit with friends. This has been an annual event since 2011. There are leftover hats and t-shirts for sale but hustle down to the club because they are going fast.

**Back to School Dinner** – Our Womens Auxiliary's ever popular event. Another wonderfully successful dinner celebrating the return to school!

**Assembly and Induction Ceremony** – We inducted 16 new members this month in an event attended by nearly 100 members. Our assembly meetings are a time for you, as a member, to get a better understanding of current and future plans for the club. Our next Assembly meeting is Tuesday, November 18th, mark your calendar now.

Lastly, **our Anniversary Dinner** – This anniversary marks our 105th celebration. It was a grand event with many in attendance, including distinguished guests from the other East Bay clubs.

## ***Club Changes:***

**Website** – We now have a robust web presence! We encourage you to visit our newly revamped website. You can order meal tickets, pay dues, read the newsletter, sign up for events, and much, much more. [www.thecolomboclub.com](http://www.thecolomboclub.com)

**Online Reservations** – On-line reservations will be in full swing by November. We know change can be hard, so to that end we have a couple of events that will be on-line only to give you a chance to practice; the first time was at our assembly meeting. The next two are September 25th and October 9th. You will still be able to "call in" for these events; however, starting in November we will be moving almost exclusively to online only. Please go to our website to check out the FAQ's on how this will be handled.

**QR Code for New Members** – Do you have someone who would like to be a member? Have them scan the QR code at the Club and fill out the application electronically or go to our website! ([www.thecolomboclub.com/membership/](http://www.thecolomboclub.com/membership/))



If you're considering volunteering at the Club, please see or email me! We are always looking for people to sell incentive tickets, tear tickets, hand-out prizes. It's a great way to become involved and only takes a little bit of time.

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, President, [Jianora1@gmail.com](mailto:Jianora1@gmail.com)

# Women's Auxiliary President's Message

The kids are back in school, and we are surviving the heat of the summer. The best thing about that is that our gardens produce lots of nutritious food to eat. I enjoy sharing the bounty of my garden with my family and friends.

The Back-to-School dinner was quite a fun night. Beginning with the Bake Sale and George Campi playing during the cocktail hour and throughout the dinner. I want to compliment Colombo Club Cooks for preparing a delicious dinner for all to rave about. People enjoyed themselves so much that they were still in the dining room socializing long after the dessert was finished. I like to see happy people doing what we are supposed to be doing, socializing with fellow Italians, friends and family. Thank you to all Auxiliary members for your support for this event.

Congratulations on 105 years to the Colombo Club. At the Anniversary Dinner, everyone looked terrific, and it was a nice evening celebration of food and dancing. Cheers to another year!

Elections are coming up in November. Members must have attended at least three meetings (this year) to vote in this election.

The I.A.F. (Italian American Federation, which you members all belong to) will be having the Coronation of the 2026 Queen and her court on October 19th. Details to be announced soon.

Mark your calendar for the Auxiliary's General Meetings on September 17 and October 15.

Buon Cumpleano to all the September Ladies.

If you know of a member who is ill or hospitalized, please contact our Sick and Sunshine Ambassador: Elaine Kleiss at (925) 858-9245.

***Renee M. Amaro***

Colombo Club Auxiliary President  
[reneeamaro@comcast.net](mailto:reneeamaro@comcast.net)



# Buon Compleanno!

Steven Abbey  
Sam Abu-Ghaben  
Thomas Adair, USMC  
Mike Barbanica  
James Bartha  
Lorenzo Bazinett  
Russ Belleci  
Anthony Bellomo  
Jonathan J. Bellusa  
Alessandro Bertoncetto  
Mike Bonanno  
Leonard Butticci  
Randey Cabral  
Anthony J. Capra  
Steve Carmassi  
Paul Chivello  
Anthony Cipresso  
Stephen Coelho  
Edward Costello  
Austin Cronin  
Gregory Di Loreto  
Mike DiBene  
Marc DiLuca  
Ralph Duncan  
Walt Edgerley  
Bradley J. Ertola

Ralph Fattore  
Joseph J. Ferrara  
Dennis Edward Foley  
Gil Follini  
Fred Framsted  
Thomas Gallinatti  
Gordon Galvan  
Paul Giudice  
Kevin Goldson  
Paul Grazzini  
Matthew Guichard  
Mark Halfon  
Douglas Handran  
Jeremy Kennedy  
Tom Lerone  
Jeffrey Leuchi  
Brian Markier  
Anthony Martinelli  
Darin L. Martinelli, Phd.  
Michael Medeiros  
Chris C. Moulis  
Paul Mueller  
Brian O'Sullivan  
Cosimo Panetta  
Renzo Papucci  
Robert Payne

Andrew Peritore  
Michael Perry  
Paul Peterson  
Norman Pilat  
Steven D. Pittlick  
John Porras  
Dino Quarante  
Joseph Radwan  
Wayne Re  
Mike Richmond  
Michael C. Riedel  
Dean Rinetti  
Louie A. Rossi  
Kenneth Grant Rubino  
Thomas Sarnicola  
Peter L. Scalise, Jr.  
Charlie Scharff  
Bret Small  
Franco Tamburrino  
Lloyd J. Torchio II  
Tony Trampetti  
Michael D. Vaiana  
Keith Vanhole  
Mark Vasgerdsian  
Luciano Vinci

## Grazie Mille

### Incentive Program Donors

Thank you to these generous donors who contributed to our incentive program in August: Fredi Moehl, McGee's Bar-&-Grill - Alameda; Dino Rinetti; Michael Covione; Aaron Yang; Jerry Jennaro; Joe Gennaro; James Bartha, Heffernan-Brignole Insurance; Danny Foster; Stefan Molnar; Tim Tomei; John Porras (Crown Wine & Spirits); Craig Jaber (Royal Auto Repair); Chris Coby and Frank Hennifer.

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Oakland, CA 94609  
License #6006388

### A Message from the House Committee Chairman:

I would like to thank the following members for their outstanding work at our Colombo Club Work Party August 16, 2025. The group was lead by Don Ceremello, who also provided an outstanding lunch. We are also thank full to, Vic Tufo, Randy Thomas, Larry Bellusa, Dennis Foley, Fredi Moehl, John DeRespini, Ezio Maiolini, and of course Mike Covione, who brought his pressure washer to help put a shine on things. It was a great day of work, fun, and of course jokes that made the day go by fast. These gentlemen did a fantastic job, and that's what the Colombo Club is all about – friendship and support for our Club. Thank you again gentlemen.

—Anthony E. Tedeschi  
HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

### Colombo Club Members Invited to Rotary Event October 16

Rotary District 5170 is proud to announce that its annual Avenues of Service Dinner Celebration will be held at the historic Colombo Club in Oakland on Thursday, October 16, 2025. The evening begins with a vibrant showcase of service projects at 5:30 pm, followed by a celebratory dinner at 7:00 pm.

For the first time, Colombo Club members are warmly invited to join the celebration. Guests will have the opportunity to see firsthand what Rotary fellowship is all about - connecting with Rotarians, exploring service opportunities, and experiencing the power of "Service Above Self" in action.

Read more on the enclosed flyer.

"As a proud member of the Colombo Club, I'm always happy to help with your home selling, buying, & investing goals!"

**AZAR BENABOU**  
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azar.benabou@kw.com  
homesbyazar.com  
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## Our Cultural Heritage Cecaci Trip to Italy

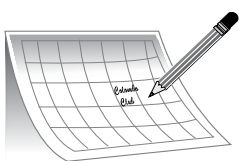


Landing in Rome, our quest was finding the best gelato. We explored the Colosseum, Pantheon, Vatican City, Caesar's Palace. We enjoyed Carbonara, panini, pizza, risotto, caprese, and gelato. Visiting Sorrento with its limoncello, Capri's gorgeous views was great. We loved Florence - admiring Michelangelo's David, and beautiful Basilica; and enjoying lasagna and gelato while wandering. Next Venice - from our gondola ride, the canals, to food and gelato - beyond expectations. Seeing Murano and watching glassblowers' magic was great. Last, adventures at the Lakes Maggiore and Como - the towns of Stresa, Varenna, and Bellagio. We'd love to explore beyond the tourist destinations next! Dave Cecaci



### ***Please Consider Sponsoring the Club's Newest Book on the Colombo Club***

In January 2026, the club will publish a supplement to the 100 Year History of the Colombo Club. This 8 1/2 x 11, 110+ page book will be filled with a written update and 350+ color photos of the recent Colombo Club events. It is a must addition to your club 100 year history book. Read more on the flyer here.



### *Mark Your Calendar*

**Birthday Dinners, Sausage & Peppers, and Pasta a la Anna**  
Oct 9 - Men Only  
Oct 23 - Co-ed

**Oct 18 Family Dinner,**  
Halloween Costume Party, Pot Roast

**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**

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

**Dec 13 Children's Christmas**  
Party

### *In Memoriam*

*Ronald Blair*

Member since 2013



**There are still some openings for your ad, family photo and/or best wishes, business card, or even just your family's name in our upcoming new Colombo Club history book. We really need your support in getting this book published and a sponsorship of any size is welcome.**

In January 2026, the club will publish a supplement to the **100 Year History of the Colombo Club**. This 8 1/2 x 11, 110+ page book will be filled with a written update and 350+ color photos of the recent Colombo Club events. It is a must addition to your club 100 year history book.

In order to help make this happen, **please consider buying into the sponsorship pages of the book** to help pay for its publication. Money raised from this project will help address the financial needs of the club.

Please send your business ad or card, family name, family best wishes/photo to the address below with your donation. When the book is published it will sell for about \$15 depending on the production costs. **Grazie mille tutti, Rich Puppione**

**Sponsorship Fees**

**Every sponsor will receive a complimentary copy of the book.**

*Full Page Ad (could include photo(s))- \$375	1/8 page Ad (Business Card) \$75
*1/2 Page Ad (could include photo(s))- \$200	Family Name plus a 10 word sentence \$50
*1/4 Page Ad (could include a photo)- \$125	Family Name (4 words max) \$35

**Deadline for being included in the sponsorship pages is September 25, 2025.**

Please send your donation and ad (photo) to:

**Colombo Club History Book, 5321 Claremont Avenue, Oakland, Ca 94618**

\*If you have a question, email me. If you have a photo of you/your family at a Colombo Club event, email it to me and I can include in the book with your sponsorship of a full page, 1/2 page or 1/4 page. ([richpup46@gmail.com](mailto:richpup46@gmail.com))



# Colombo Club “Boccé Day”

On Saturday, August 9th, the Colombo Club hosted another outstanding tournament for members and friends at the Martinez Marina Boccé courts. The event was a sellout with 32 teams competing to play boccé, eat lunch, and visit with friends. This has been an annual event since 2011.

The event was hosted by Colombo Club members and brothers Dave and John Nardi (Martinez natives) for the benefit of our members and their guests.

Many volunteers from the Club as well as friends and family volunteered to setup, cook, serve, and run the event. A big “THANK YOU!” to all who helped.

The all-day event included a 50/25/25 raffle generating \$665! And after winning one of the 25% cash prizes of \$332, our Board Chairman Tony Ballesterio donated his winnings to the Club, so the Club gets \$997 from the raffle. Thank you, Tony. Three other raffle winners took home the “Big three-pound Salamis”.

A generous lunch of salad, pasta, and sausage with peppers and onion sandwiches was enjoyed by all attendees. The commemorative Boccé Day T-shirts were sold along with a new addition – a Boccé Day hat that was well-received by all

Win, lose, or mangia – everyone had a good time and left with great memories!!



Winners – 1st Place Team (winners received a salami, engraved bocce ball, and name on the trophy)  
(l-r) John Nardi (host) – Bob Bruce, Al Surges, Tyler Niemeyer, Carl Paz – Dave Nardi (host)



2nd Place (winners received a salami and a free dinner at the Colombo Club)  
(l-r) John Nardi (host) – Jack Williams, John Rebar, Jeremy Calhoon, Mark Dirato – Dave Nardi (host)



3rd Place (winners received a salami)  
(l-r) John Nardi (host) – Mark Gregory, LaDawn Gregory, Frank Billeci, Sandy Lumb – Dave Nardi (host)

## **Rotary District 5170 Invites Colombo Club Members to the 2025 Avenues of Service Dinner Celebration**

**Oakland, CA – October 16, 2025** – Rotary District 5170 is proud to announce that its annual **Avenues of Service Dinner Celebration** will be held at the historic **Colombo Club in Oakland** on **Thursday, October 16, 2025**. The evening begins with a vibrant showcase of service projects at 5:30 PM, followed by a celebratory dinner at 7:00 PM.

For the first time, **Colombo Club members are warmly invited to join the celebration**. Guests will have the opportunity to see firsthand what Rotary fellowship is all about — connecting with Rotarians, exploring service opportunities, and experiencing the power of “Service Above Self” in action.

### **An Invitation to Fellowship**


“This event is about more than celebrating Rotary — it’s about building stronger bonds between our organizations,” said **District Governor Herb Ritter**. “The Colombo Club and Rotary share a deep commitment to service, community, and fellowship. By joining us, you’ll experience the spirit of Rotary and discover new ways we can serve together. Dinner reservations and ticket information will be released soon. Colombo Club members are encouraged to save the date and plan to attend this collaborative celebration.

Dinner reservations and ticket information will be released soon. Colombo Club members are encouraged to save the date and be watching for the Registration link to sign up.

 **Save the Date:** Thursday, October 16, 2025

 **Colombo Club, 5321 Claremont Ave., Oakland, CA**

 **5:30 PM – 10:00 PM**

 **Stay tuned for registration details — and join us for an evening of connection, celebration, and community impact!**



**Use this QR code to register and for more information.  
We hope to see you there!**

**Happy Holidays**  
**Colombo Club & Colombo Club Auxiliary**  
**5321 Claremont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618**

August 1, 2025

Dear Member,

On Saturday **December 13, 2025**, at 12 Noon (doors will open at 11:00) we will be holding our 74th Annual Children's Christmas Party for our members' children and grandchildren, age 12 and under. This event has been made possible by donations from our members (or member's representatives) for the past 73 years.

**Please mark your choice of options on the reservation form below.**

**Option #1: Pick up only** (no lunch provided). Just drop by the club's Ed Basso/Isabella Room between 9 am - 10:30 am to pick up your child's (children's) gift(s). **Pre-notification required.**

**Option #2** Receive your gift by age groups from Santa and Mrs. Claus as we did before the pandemic. Doors open at 11:00 am. Please **remember**, we start promptly at 12 Noon with the **first age group**, each age group takes about 20 minutes and we don't want your child to miss their opportunity to receive their gift from Santa.

We highly encourage you to click on the "Christmas Party Sign up, click here" below, this will take you to the google document to both sign up and submit the form for the Christmas party. Please fill out the document **as quickly as possible** (this helps Santa with his list). If that is not possible, please print out the attached reservation form, list the name, age, and sex of your children and mail it to the Colombo Club BEFORE October 30th.

**Christmas Party Sign up, click [here](#).**

**If you wish to make a monetary donation** (we would greatly appreciate it) either from you, your company or "in memory of," you have two options. Either click on the link below and fill out the google form and make the donation via our website or send a check to the Colombo Club with the amount to donate and designate you, your company or "in memory of."

**Donations for the Christmas party, click [here](#).**

If you are mailing the form in, mark the outside of your envelope "CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY" and mail it to the club. **Your reservations must be received before October 15.** Include any donations that you wish to make with your reservation form.

**We wish you and yours a very happy holiday season!**

Sincerely,  
Joe Ianora, Colombo Club President,  
and Renee Amaro, Colombo Club Auxiliary President  
Mark Rezente and Denise Picetti, Chairpersons, Children's Christmas Party

**Mail the form to: The Colombo Club and Colombo Club Auxiliary**  
**5321 Claremont Avenue, Oakland CA 94618**



Children's Christmas Party, 2025  
**THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE October 15, 2025**

**Circle either Option #1 or Option #2**

**Option # 1 Drop by the club between either 9-10:30 am (no lunch provided)**

I would like to come by the Colombo Club between 9 - 10:30 am on **December 13** to pick up the Christmas gift for my child.

**Option # 2 – Attending In Person**

**TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name of Submitting Member

First Name of Submitting Member

Member's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Children: All gifts to be picked up must be listed on the same sheet.

Child's Name	Age	Boy	Girl

*If it has been 6 months since the child's last birthday please put the child's age as of their next birthday. All cards may be picked up at the club the day of the event, nothing will be mailed **This form MUST be received by the Club before October 30, 2025 for your children to participate.***

**Mail completed form to:**

**Christmas Party  
The Colombo Club and Colombo Club Auxiliary  
5321 Claremont Avenue  
Oakland CA 94618**

## **2025 Children's Christmas Party Donation Form**

**We are thrilled that you will be donating to this wonderful Christmas event!**

### **Donations**

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ (personal, or company name)

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form to:**

**Christmas Party  
The Colombo Club and Colombo Club Auxiliary  
5321 Claremont Avenue  
Oakland CA 94618**