

# Il Gazzettino

September 2017

## Message from the Board

Everyone come out and support Festa Italiana Hawaii on October 7!  
Your help and financial support are needed – visit the Festa website  
– [festaitalianahawaii.com](http://festaitalianahawaii.com) and continue to watch for emails from the Board...

Cordiali saluti,

Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii Board  
[info@friendsofitalyhawaii.org](mailto:info@friendsofitalyhawaii.org)

## *In this issue:*

- 1 Message from the Board**
- 1 Upcoming Events**  
Festa Italiana
- 4 Past Events**  
Italian Language Class  
Wine Tasting
- 5 Feature Story**  
A Short History of the Friends of Italy  
Society of Hawaii
- 15 Announcements**

## Upcoming Events

### Festa Italiana Hawaii

This is our biggest event ever!  
Please come out and join the celebration!



## Upcoming Events: FESTA ITALIANA HAWAII



Festa will be held on **Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 4:00-10:00 p.m.** on Cooke St. (between Pohukaina and Auahi).

Visit our website <http://www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org/> and [www.festaitalianahawaii.com](http://www.festaitalianahawaii.com) for more information and look out for additional emails from the FOISOH Board.

Entry to Italian street festival part of Festa is free, but please buy tickets to Passaporto Italiano\*

Partake in the rare opportunity to taste authentic Italian cuisine prepared by top tier Italian restaurants in Hawaii as well Italian Chefs. Oenophiles will find a carefully curated list of Italian wines from Flavors of Italy Hawaii, showcasing the various wine regions in Italy. \*Tickets are limited.

- (9) culinary tastings
- (6) 2 oz Wine pours from premium wines provided by Flavors of Italy
- (1) Italian cocktail by Aroma Cafe

**\*REGULAR: \*\$100, plus transaction fees \$6.49 per ticket**

## Upcoming Events

### FESTA ITALIANA HAWAII

Below is a summary in Italian of the information on our website about Festa Italiana Hawaii –share it with friends and family in Italy!

Aloha delle Hawaii!

Siamo orgogliosi di annunciare che la Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii (FOISOH) terrà la prima Festa Italo-Hawaiana a Honolulu sabato 7 ottobre 2017.

Fondata nel 1990, FOISOH è la più antica ed unica organizzazione delle Hawaii che promuove la comprensione dell'Italia, della sua lingua, della sua cultura e l'amicizia tra gli hawaiani che hanno origini italiane o semplicemente appassionati dell'Italia e delle vicende italiane.

Al nostro evento inaugurale, la Festa Italiana mostrerà le importanti connessioni che esistono tra “Il Bel Paese” e il nostro “island state” e la nostra comunità italiana sorprendentemente vivace.

I partecipanti saranno affascinati dalla cucina più raffinata, dai cibi da strada, dai ristoranti, dai Cuochi e dai vini; potranno anche apprezzare la musica tradizionale e quella contemporanea, la danza, e lo spirito conviviale caratteristico della cultura italiana.

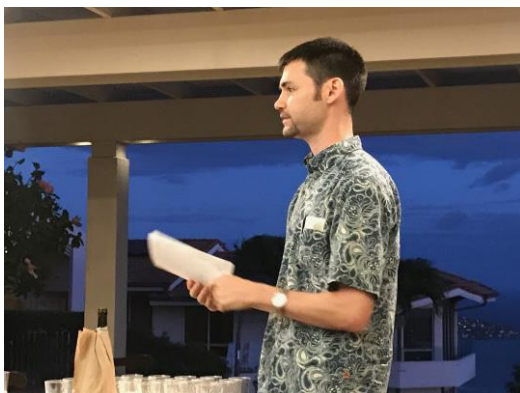
I punti chiave di questo evento sono:

- La cucina italiana ispirata da chef rinomati
- I migliori cibi da strada italiani
- I vini italiani rinomati a livello mondiale
- Le dimostrazioni dell'arte italiana
- Gli artisti italiani ispirati, ballerini, cantanti d'opera e musicisti
- Auto italiane, abbigliamento e borse da noti produttori italiani e dalle famose case di moda.

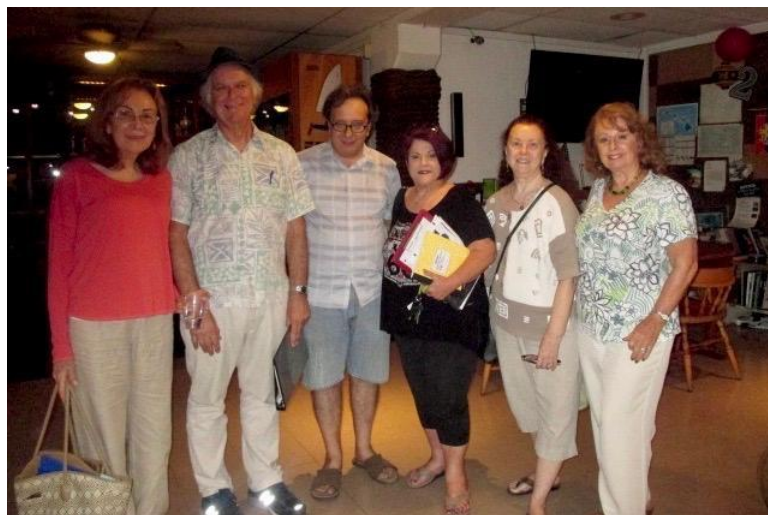
Chiunque sia interessato a partecipare al nostro evento potrà trovare maggiori informazioni su [www.festaitalianahawaii.com](http://www.festaitalianahawaii.com)

## Past Events

**August 18:** Blind wine tasting with wine expert Seth Buckley



**August – September:** Italian classes with Dr. Carlo Andrea Malanima



## Feature Story

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII

By Mark Ethridge

**The Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii (FOISOH) is Hawaii's oldest and only organization promoting an understanding of Italy, its language, and culture as well as friendship among those in Hawaii who have an Italian background or a love of Italy and things Italian.**

FOISOH was founded in 1990 at the urging of the Italian Consulate in San Francisco and the Honorary Consul in Hawaii. The letters of Incorporation were signed on January 1, 1991 by the first President of FOISOH, Armando Beccaria, and the Italian Vice-Consul in Honolulu, Louis Finamore.

The first meeting in 1991 was attended by three honorary members: His Excellency Bishop Joseph Ferrario, Italian Vice-Consul in Hawaii Louis Finamore, and Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi.

The Italian General Consul in San Francisco, Marcello Griccioli, also an honorary member, sent a message which was read to the members. He saluted and congratulated all the FOISOH members with a special word of appreciation offered to the Vice-Consul for "his enthusiasm, his dedication and experience towards the worthy goal of bringing into existence the Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii."

The General Consul continued:

***I am confident that your society will play an important role in promoting a better knowledge of Italy and of the Americans of Italian descent in Hawaii, and that the cultural and social life of the entire community will be enhanced by your activities. Please be assured that the Consulate General, as well as the Italian Cultural Institute in San Francisco, will always be willing to cooperate with Mr. Finamore in order to assist you.***

***I miei sinceri auguri a tutti per un successo duraturo del vostro lavoro.  
(My sincerest best wishes to you all for a long-lasting success).***



## Feature Story

This brief history was compiled from *Gazzettino* newsletters dating back to 1992, newspaper articles, and several speeches by Armando Beccaria, FOISOH's first president.

Here are some major FOISOH milestones:

- **December 1, 1991:** The club has 390 members.
- **February 1992:** The first edition of *Il Gazzettino* is published and named after *Il Gazzettino* of Venice. The newsletter has been published continuously several times per year since 1992 except for one year.
- **October 2, 1992:** FOISOH sponsors the *Ballo Cinquecento*, a celebration of the inauguration of the Renaissance and the modern era as commemorated by the 500th anniversary of the European discovery of America during the first voyage of Cristoforo Colombo. The proceeds from the event, totaling \$125,000, benefit the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. On hand to remind guests of this important period are many participants costumed as mariners, priests, patrons, troubadours, and elegant ladies of the Renaissance. Also on hand to remind the guests of the Italian penchant for creativity and craftsmanship are a Lamborghini automobile and a Moto Guzzi motorcycle.



- **May and December 1992:** The club holds the first annual board meeting dinner and Festa di Natale.
- **May 1993:** – FOISOH with the American military sponsors a day-long tour for former Italian POWs returning to Hawaii to visit their sites of incarceration and the works of art they created. The eight visitors are able to visit the still standing examples of Italian POW craftsmanship: two fountains at Fort Shafter, a fountain near the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service building and two sculptures at Sand Island of “hula girls” apparently meant to honor

## Feature Story

the women in Italy who were waiting for these prisoners' return. They also participate in a small military ceremony in honor of four their comrades buried at Schofield Barracks. The group meets with Mayor Fasi and is interviewed by local reporters.



The meeting is bittersweet for some returnees because the Cabrini Chapel, which they built as POWs, was razed in 1950.

Mario Benelli, the group's leader later sent a thank you letter to the FOISOH members:

***"A few days ago, we had a meeting with some POWs who could not make the trip to Hawaii and we told them how we were welcomed... last May. I must say we were all surprised by the warmth and affection with which we were received. I wish to express my gratitude to you, other representatives of the Friends of Italy Society, the Honorary Consul Louis Finamore, the Mayor of Honolulu, and the Immigration administrators. I do not know whether our hope to return again will come true, given our age: it is certain, however, that we will remember May 14, 1993 as one of the most beautiful days of our lives..."***

## Feature Story



Italian POW-built fountain at Schofield Barracks

- **June - July 1995:** In a collaboration with the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the Kapiolani Community College Humanities Department, FOISOH sponsors Festival Italiano which includes “Italian Journeys: From North America and Hawaii,” a public program held at UH Manoa Summer session and funded by the Hawaii Committee for the Humanities and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. The program includes films, music, art and discussions on Italian and Italian-American history, literature, film, art history, music and folklore.
- **December 1995:** At the urging of FOISOH members, the Coast Guard refurbishes two statues made by Italian sculpture Alfredo Giusti when he was a World War II prisoner of war at the facility, then an internment camp. Participating in the unveiling are the Honorary Italian Consul, Carmen Di Amore-Siah and FOISOH President, Joe Magaldi.





## Feature Story

- **Feb 20, 2000, March 4, 2001, and August 3, 2003:** The Great Italian Pasta Sauce off is a competition to see who can produce the best pasta sauce. The food is not limited to sauce and includes fruit salads, meatballs, fish salad, vegetables, pasta, pastries and cakes and gelato. A plaque is given to those who finish first, second and third.

- **April 2002:** FOSIOH Bocce and Potluck  
Members of Honolulu's Friends of Italy Society got together for food and fun at Paki Hale in Waikiki, featuring a pasta potluck and contest and bocce, a sport closely related to lawn bowling. Joyce and Gene Giardina were among those sampling some of the pasta contest dishes during the potluck. This becomes an annual event for many years.



FL MORRIS /FMORRIS@STARBULLETIN .COM

- **August 2002:** The Amerigo Vespucci, a three-square sail masted Italian Naval Academy training vessel is greeted by FOISOH members. The crew members are given orchid leis and entertained with by the Royal Hawaiian Band and graceful hula dances. A week-long series of visits and events include the celebration of Mass on Sunday morning aboard the vessel and visits to the Italian World War II POW art works at Sand Island. Since the ship is considered Italian territory, a little piece of Italy has literally come to Hawaii, a truly moving experience for FOISOH members.

## Feature Story



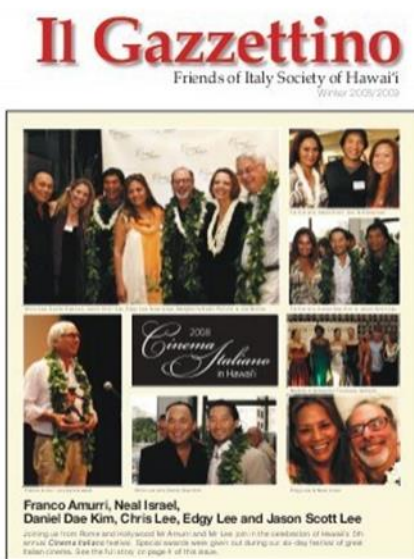
- **(2004-2011): Cinema Italiano** – From 2004 through 2011, FOISOH collaborates with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di San Francisco, the Honolulu Academy of the Arts Doris Duke Theater (later the Kahala Mall/Kahala Consolidated Theaters), the Movie Museum and Ferrari/Maserati of Hawaii to produce a Honolulu film festival showcasing new Italian cinema. Margherita Balbo Parrent, founding director of Cinema Italiano in Hawaii, says the following in the October /November 2009 edition of *HiLuxury Magazine*: “Once a year we get to showcase the best of Hawaii and the best of Italy. We really want to create a cultural bridge between Italy and Hawaii by bringing the best of authentic Italian film, fashion and cuisine.” The article states that idea for a Honolulu-based Italian film festival came to Margherita Parrent after she encountered an ad for another Italian film festival several years ago. Parrent contacted the Director of the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, who sent her the films for personal viewing. Parrent continued to maintain a good film-swapping rapport with the San Francisco Italian Cultural Institute Director, who eventually urged her to start her own festival in Hawaii. It turns out, Parrent says that the Italian government paid the shipping costs of the films sent to the U.S. for the first festival. The idea grows to an event that hosted stars such as Daniel Dae Kim, Barbara Carrera, Richard Chamberlain and Jason Scott Lee, and notable Italian film directors Franco Amurri and Marco Ponti, who created *Santa Maradona*.

## Feature Story



In addition to the film screenings, Cinema Italiano in Hawaii opens with a sponsor's reception and an exclusive party for film jurors, who select the winner of the festival.

Cinema Italiano in Hawaii along with the Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii gives back to the community by allowing film directors to visit public schools on Oahu and share their art. A scholarship for University of Hawaii's Academy of Creative Media also is offered each year to inspire students' filmmaking pursuits. Over the years, the festival provides more than \$15,000 in scholarships to aspiring filmmakers in the community.



## Feature Story

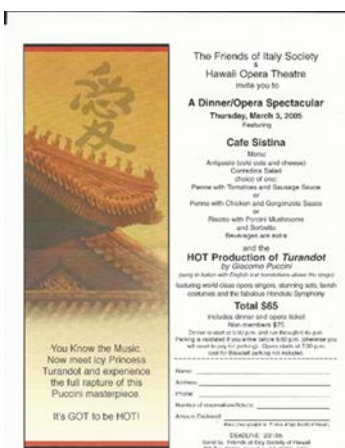
- **2004:** The Italian national polo team comes to Mokuleia Polo field on Sunday, August 15 to play the Hawaiian team and 30 FOISOH members attend. Daniel Garcia, the team veteran states “for the Italian Team Hawaii is a dream destination, a beautiful island in the Pacific Ocean.” The game ends in a tie and there is humorous speculation that this is because the Italians want to return for a rematch.



- **Winter 2005:** The Kapoliani Community College Culinary Arts program and FOISOH present culinary classes specializing in Italian food. Italian Master Chefs from Oahu graciously donate their time and expertise in preparing Italian entrees, including gnocchi con salsa di Pomodoro, stinco di agnello con polenta, zuppa di pesce, and cozze al guazzetto.
- **March 3, 2005:** Over thirty FOISOH members participate in a Dinner/Opera Spectacular at Café Sistina. This is a formula that is repeated many times during this period and is revived again in 2017 with opera of Hawaii Symphony proceeded or followed by group dinners.



# Feature Story



- **September 2005:** The Italian Consul General of San Francisco, Roberto Falachi and his wife visit Honolulu. They help FOISOH celebrate “The Best of New Italian Cinema Events.” The Consul General and his wife also attend in 2006.
- **January 29, 2008:** FOISOH helps organize a concert by **Interpreti Veneziani** at the University of Hawaii Manoa campus. **Interpreti Veneziani** is a group of master musicians based in Venice, Italy. Its fifteen-member ensemble performs worldwide, with some 350 concerts annually. Typically, the traveling ensemble includes nine member which is the case for this concert in Hawaii. They perform works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel, Sarasate, Marais, and other Baroque composers.



## Feature Story

- **April 2011:** Friends of Italy 20th Anniversary Festa. On April 17, over 150 members gather at La Pietra School to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of FOISOH. The goal of the Festa is to not only celebrate Italian culture through great food and live entertainment, but to also recognize past and present members who have made significant contributions to organization in the last 20 years as well as members of the community who have made distinguished contributions.



The image shows a printed RSVP form for the 'Friends of Italy 20th Anniversary Festa'. At the top, there are small Italian and American flags flanking the event title in a decorative script. Below the title, it says 'RSVP BY April 8th'. The form includes fields for 'Membership Name:', 'No. of Members Attending:', 'No. of Non-Members Attending:', and 'No. of Children (12 & Under Free):'. To the right of these fields are calculation lines: 'x \$20 = \$', 'x \$25 = \$', and 'Total Enclosed = \$'. At the bottom, there is a small green line of text: 'PLEASE PRINT THE NAME OF ALL THOSE ATTENDING ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM. SPECIFY CHILDREN.' followed by red text: 'PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION AND MAIL TO FOISOH, P.O. BOX 1376, HONOLULU, HI 96807-1376' and 'MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO FOISOH'.

- **February 2012:** Members enjoy Carnevale with the Alliance Française complete with costumes and French and Italian music. Following welcoming remarks, a dinner was served and then guests paraded in their costumes followed by dancing. The event was repeated the following year.



**2012 – 2017:** FOISOH organizes a variety of events -- bocce games, picnics, pizza parties, lectures, wine tastings, sausage-making, pasta-making classes, wine-bottling, limoncello making, gnocchi making, olive-oil tasting, and a risotto demonstration.



## Feature Story



Risotto-making



Pasta-making



Wine tasting



Dinner at Baci Bistro



Dinner at Brick Fire Tavern

- **May – September 2017:** The club restarts conversational Italian classes, *Parliamo Italiano*, and initiates formal Classes of Italian for Beginners.



Parliamo Italiano



Italian Lessons with Dr. Carlo Andrea Malanima

## Announcements

### OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

#### La Boheme (Puccini)



Presenter: Jim Becker, Retired AP foreign correspondent, sportswriter, opera and drama critic  
Dates: Monday November 13, 2017  
Time: 1 – 4 pm  
Location: Krauss 111

Described as an ideal cast, Luciano Pavarotti, Renata Scotto, and Ingvar Wixell star in this 1977 Metropolitan Opera production of the Puccini opera composed and first performed over 120 years ago. Before we watch this story of love among young artists in 1830s Paris, we will be treated to a pre opera introduction by Jim Becker. As he did in the past for Hawaii Opera Theater, Jim will set the stage for us, sharing key details on the plot and special things we should notice while watching to enhance our enjoyment of the story.

Anyone aged 50 or older is eligible to join OLLI and take OLLI courses. The only other prerequisite is a desire to learn. You don't need a college degree. A \$60 Fall Term Membership in OLLI entitles an individual to enroll in up to three courses or workshops and attend free special events on a space-available basis during Fall Term 2017.

See the brochure online at:

<http://www.osher.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/brochures/2017-fall-olli-uhm.pdf>