



# IL GAZZETTINO

*Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii*

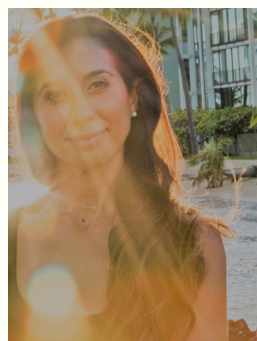
## Message from the Board

Ciao a tutti! We are excited to bring you a newly refreshed edition of our quarterly newsletter, Il Gazzettino. In this issue, we'll introduce you to the new Board of Directors and tell you all about our recent and upcoming events, from cooking classes and language courses to art lectures, limoncello demonstrations and more. **Save the date 6/6/20 for our 30th Anniversary at La Pietra!** We'd also like to thank Mark Ethridge for his support of this newsletter. Read his piece on Italian author Andrea Camilleri, creator of the beloved Italian character Inspector Montalbano, in the coming pages. As always, if you have any suggestions for events, programs, or newsletter content, please reach out to the Board at [friendsofitalyhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofitalyhawaii@gmail.com).

## Meet the Board

Since May's Annual Meeting, the new Board of Directors has been hard at work planning for an exciting year ahead. And as we get to know one another's strengths and passion for the organization, we also wanted to introduce ourselves to all of you. Piacere di conoscervi!

### **Chiara Logli, PhD President**



Originally from Bologna, Italy, Chiara is the Institutional Assessment Specialist at the Honolulu Community College. Previously she worked for the University of California Berkeley and Santa Barbara as well as for USAID, CAST/International Baccalaureate Schools, and Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership. She taught Italian language and culture at the Italian Consulate's Institute in San Francisco and the Dante Alighieri Society in Santa Cruz.

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FAREWELL TO WRITER ANDREA  
CAMILLERI, CREATOR OF  
INSPECTOR MONTALBANO**

## Meet the Board, cont.

### Fabrizio Medosi Vice President



Fabrizio was born last millennium in a log cabin in Cremona, Italy. When he was 18 years old, he moved to Rome to pursue his studies in the black arts and at 21, disguised as a raven, flew to New York City to study Architecture at Columbia University, where he met a young sorceress from Hawaii. After marrying her, in 1983, with a little sorceress' apprentice on her way, the three of them flew on a broomstick to Honolulu where he has been bewitched ever since. Presently he is president of Pacific Atelier International practicing the magic of Architecture. In 1990, Fabrizio was a founding member of the FOISOH and years later (he can't quite remember exactly when) one of its presidents when he survived being burned at the stake.

Since 2005, Marco has been the Relationship Manager at Heartland, where he consults with businesses for payments and payroll/HR solutions in Hawai'i and across the US. As a Realtor Associate with the local brokerage Engel & Voelkers. He has been active in the Rotary since 1999 and is currently the President of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset. In his free time, he occasionally plays bocce and tennis, loves to cook and entertain, and enjoys fine wine and food.

### Marco Schlessler Secretary



### Diane DeSantis Treasurer



Diane has multiple degrees in accounting, business and psychology, and brings over 25 years of bookkeeping and business experience. She also spent 25 years in high-level competitive indoor and outdoor doubles volleyball before switching to competitive tennis 10 years ago. She is very grateful for all the wonderful members she has met in the Italian classes and at Friends of Italy events.

### Ashley Bailey Board Member



Ashley is a real estate agent, ocean lover, and avid sailor. She enjoys surfing, cooking Italian food, dining, traveling internationally, sailing to new destinations, entertaining guests, and spending time with her 'Ohana. When she is not matchmaking people with property, she is races every Friday night and in multiple regattas a year out of the Hawaii & Waikiki Yacht Club.

### Maya Hoover Board Member



Maya is a professional classical singer (mezzo-soprano) who has appeared in recital, concert, and opera throughout Europe, Central and South America, China, and the United States. She is a roster artist with Wade Artist Management in New York, and she serves as Professor of Music and voice area head at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

## Meet the Board, cont.

### David Morihara Board Member



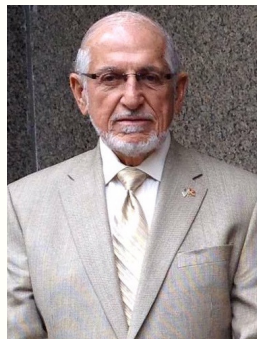
David retired from a career in legislation, higher education, and business. He served for ten years in the legislature as the State Representative for Upcountry Maui in the Hawaii State House of Representatives. He has served on numerous boards and loves hiking, gardening, traveling, Italian food, and Roman history.

### Ali'i Napoleon Board Member



Always a proud Kanaka Maoli, Ali'i is the son of a lecturer-historian, who taught Hawaiian history through its traditional music, a Combat Veteran of the US Armed Forces, and has a working knowledge of the Italian language. Currently, he works in development, hospitality, and global product sourcing with a great passion for Italian cuisine.

### Joe Magaldi Emeritus Board Member



Joe is currently a private consultant for Transportation and Government affairs. He volunteers for Visitor Aloha Society, Shidler College of Business Administration, Aloha Pacific Federal Credit Union, Civilian Advisory committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership. He holds a BA in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii and an MBA for Pepperdine University.

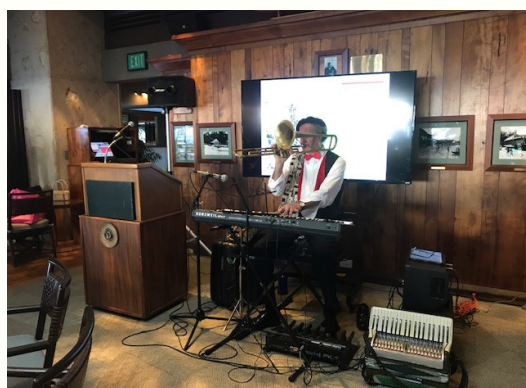
### Alison Mehrman Board Member



A public relations professional and writer, Alison is currently the Community Engagement Manager at Make-A-Wish® Hawaii. Having worked as a writing instructor and communications professional for years, she enjoys storytelling above all else. She is currently learning Italian and dreams of one day publishing a novel.

## Annual Meeting

Each of these Board members was elected at May's Annual Meeting at the Outrigger Canoe Club. In addition to the election, the event featured food, beverages, and fabulous music.



## Cultural Corner

*How to say "welcome" in  
Hawaiian & Italian*

### Hawaiian

e komo mai

or

e kipa mai

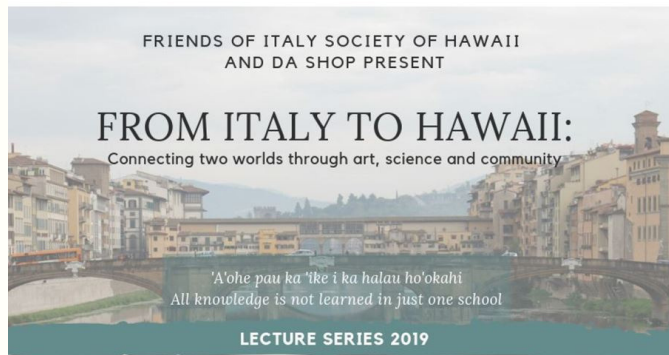
### Italian

benvenuti!\*

\*Note that the ending changes depending on the recipient of your message. For example, to welcome a man, you would say "benvenuto."



# Upcoming Events



This lecture series features experts from all over Italy who will discuss topics that affect both Italy and Hawaii, and will address questions from the audience.

Thursday, January 31

**Land that Connects Hearts**

Gigi Cocquio, Hoa'Aina O Makaha

Thursday, March 28

**Climate Change: Hurricanes in the Mediterranean and Pacific**

Giuseppe Torri, UHM Atmospheric Sciences

Thursday, May 30

**Cinematic Connections**

Vera Zambonelli, Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking

Thursday, August 29

**Learn from Rocks how to Defeat Cancer**

Angela Bononi, UH Cancer Center

Thursday, October 24

**Volcano's Breath: Telegram from the Earth's Interior**

Andrea Gabrieli, Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

## INFORMATION

6:30-7:30 PM

Da Shop

3565 Harding Avenue, Kaimuki

\$5 Members | \$7 Non-Members

808-421-9460

Complimentary taralli and wine for your aperitivo.  
Bring stuzzichini to share if you'd like.

Parking across the street in two municipal lots or street parking

REGISTER: [WWW.FRIENDSOFITALYHAWAII.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFITALYHAWAII.ORG)



**Register now at  
[friendsofitalyhawaii.org!](http://friendsofitalyhawaii.org!)**

FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII  
PRESENTS



## ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASS

Every Tuesday | September 10-October 29

**Beginner: 4:30-6pm**

**Intermediate: 6-7:30pm**

**Advanced: 7:30-9pm**

**465 Coral Street, Honolulu**

**\$160**

[friendsofitalyhawaii.org](http://friendsofitalyhawaii.org)



## Upcoming Events

FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII  
PRESENTS



**RISOTTO**

COOKING CLASS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 • 5:30-9PM  
PRIVATE RESIDENCE (KAHALA)



friendsofitalyhawaii.org



FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII  
PRESENTS

**PAINTING  
IN ITALIAN**

Saturday November 9, 16, 23  
9:30-11:30am  
Garden in Honolulu

friendsofitalyhawaii.org

**Register now at  
friendsofitalyhawaii.org!**

FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII  
PRESENTS

**GIOCHIAMO!**

italian fun for KIDS (4-11 years old)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 16, 23  
9:30-11:30AM  
GARDEN IN HONOLULU



FRIENDSOFTALYHAWAII.ORG



**Tiramisu'**

COOKING CLASS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9  
5:30-9PM  
PRIVATE RESIDENCE (KAHALA)

FRIENDSOFTALYHAWAII.ORG



## Recent Events- Cooking Classes with Chef Ivo Rossi

This summer, Friends of Italy members and guests learned how to make pasta (ravioli and lasagne) by hand from the wonderful Chef Ivo Rossi. Grazie mille to member Pia Rossilli Solywoda for graciously hosting these classes in her Kahala home, Eva Duckallari for capturing these beautiful photos, and, of course, to Ivo for making these classes possible (and delicious!).





## Feature Story

# A fond farewell to writer Andrea Camilleri, creator of Inspector Montalbano

by Mark Ethridge

Andrea Camilleri, one of Italy's best known and well-loved contemporary writers, passed away at the age of 93 on July 17 of this year. Camilleri enjoyed many years as a screen writer, director of theatrical productions, television producer, and writer of poems and short stories. Camilleri has been translated into 120 languages and has sold more than 10 million copies of his works. And yet he did not achieve his greatest fame until the age of 68, at an age when most people have ended their careers and are slowing down and taking their retirement.

In 1994, Camilleri published the first of a series of 27 detective novels set in Camilleri's native Sicily and centered around the character of Inspector Salvo Montalbano. These novels are enormously popular and inspired a RAI television series starring the actor Luca Zingaretti as Inspector Montalbano. The television series was born in 1998 with the consent and collaboration of Camilleri.

Salvo Montalbano is a police inspector in the mythical Sicilian town of Vigata, based upon the Camilleri's hometown of Porto Empedocle. The police headquarters is located in Montelusa, based on the real Sicilian city of Agrigento. The novels are notable for the great detail in the settings and descriptions of Sicilian customs and society, in addition to the well-defined characters.

Camilleri described his attitude towards the development of his characters: "Until the moment a character can spring from the page and start to walk around the room, in my opinion, that character has not yet been carefully drawn..."



*Montalbano actor Luca Zingaretti and Andrea Camilleri*

No character is better defined than Inspector Montalbano – somewhat curt and serious at times, engaging and compassionate in other moments, but always decent, honest, and skillful in accommodating the needs of the police bureaucracy in Rome and Milan at the same time as navigating the complex social webs of Sicilian society, and ultimately successful at putting together the complex clues to solve a crime.

## Feature Story cont.

Food plays an important part in the novels. Montalbano takes his food seriously, so much so that he insists on absolute silence during a meal. He is often seen eating lunch at his favorite restaurant San Calogero in Vigata.

Camilleri chose the name Montalbano to show his respect for Manuel Vasquez Montalban, who was the creator of another famous inspector, Pepe Carvalho. Both characters had several things in common, including their love of good food and complicated relationships with women.

Camilleri considered Montalbano as almost an alter ego, and often spoke of his creation as if he were real and alive. Camilleri often referred to Montalbano as a "serial killer of characters," meaning that this character demanded so much of his time that the author couldn't pursue the development of other characters for other stories. Camilleri added that he would write a Montalbano novel every so often just so that the character will be appeased and allow him to work on other pursuits.

There is a memorable supporting cast of characters including Domenico (Mimi) Augello, Montalbano's deputy and best friend, Giuseppe Fazio, his loyal, diligent, and energetic right-hand man, and Agatino Caltarella, a police officer who provides comic relief, mangling names and bursting frenetically into the Inspector's office or calling excitedly on the phone with news, but who also displays an amazing aptitude for technology, providing the office solid computer support. And then there is Livia, Montalbano's eternal girlfriend, who lives in Genoa, but visits Vigata frequently and with whom he has a loving albeit occasionally stormy relationship.



*Agatino Caltarella (Angelo Russo),  
Salvo Montalbano (Luca Zingaretti),  
Giuseppe Fazio (Peppino Mazzotta)  
and "Mimi" Augello (Cesare Bocci)*

Camilleri once revealed "I am a writer because of a promise I made to my father just before he died."

As he lay dying, Camilleri's father told him a story that he wanted his son to publish, but he wasn't able to tell it entirely in Italian – he had to use Sicilian to express himself in places. Rather than translate everything into Italian, his father suggested he write it as he told it.

Thus was born an unusual feature of the Montalbano novels: the use of Sicilian words and phrases carefully interwoven with standard Italian. Of course, a novel completely in Sicilian would be difficult for even Italians to understand. Instead, Camilleri had to carefully combine the Sicilian, or even Sicilianized Italian with standard Italian. He compared the task to bread-making, where the end result was a substance with the consistency of yeast mixed with flour at the moment it has risen and is ready to become bread.



## Feature Story cont.

As an example, the following is a short extract from the opening of *Una lama di luce* (A beam of light) with the bolded Sicilian words followed by the standard Italian words in parentheses.

La meglio era, quanno (quando) capitava, di vidiri (vedere) il meno nummaro (numero) di pirsone (persone) possibbili (possibile). Cchiu' (piu') passavano l'(gli) anni e cchiu' (piu') addimustrava (si dimostrava) d'umore sensibili (sensibile) alle variazioni climatiche...

*Una lama di luce*, p. 9

"I didn't think I was capable of enough imagination for such a long series, but I managed to do it," Camilleri stated on the 20th anniversary of the publication of his first Montalbano book.

There is a curious American connection to Montalbano through Mickey Mouse (Topolino in Italian). In the April 16, 2013 issue of the Italian Disney comic *Topolino*, there appeared the story "Topolino and the cat's promise." Camilleri agreed to let the comic use his characters from Montalbano to produce a Mickey Mouse adventure set in Sicily where Inspector Topalbano, a parody of the famous inspector, Salvo Montalbano, helps him solve the disappearance of Minnie Mouse. Another character, Signor Patò, was even drawn to resemble Camilleri himself. The story was closely supervised by Camilleri. He was enthusiastic about this effort, and even stated that he was honored and happy to do it, as if he was receiving a Nobel Prize. This was the only time he consented to letting himself appear in a comic, even though he had been asked many times in the past.

Two other stories later appeared, *Topolino* and the uncle from America, and *Topolino* and the Jar of Cariddi.



Topalbano tells Mickey:  
"You're American? You speak Italian well!"



Mickey is upset because the inspector won't talk during his meal, a running gag in all the Montalbano stories.



Camilleri appears in cartoon form as Signor Pato' a small hotel (pensione) owner – Notice Sicilian words are used even in the comics, such as "tanticchia" (un po') and "billizza" (bellezza).

## Feature Story cont.

When Andrea Camilleri himself passed away on July 17, 2019, the Italian police tweeted:

*"An affectionate arrivederci to Andrea Camilleri. Commissario Montalbano has revealed so much of our jobs, bringing to light the humanity of policemen always at the service of the community. We will miss you, Maestro."*

And finally from the actor, Luca Zingaretti:

*"Despite the increasingly tragic news, I hoped until the last that you would open your eyes and address us with one of your sentences, for all to listen to and hold onto ... You have now departed and left me with an emptiness that can't be filled. But I know that each time I say, even alone, in my head, that 'I am Montalbano!' then you will have left smiling, perhaps smoking a cigarette and winking at me, as a sign of understanding, like the last time we met in Siracusa. Farewell maestro and friend. Rest in peace."*