

Upcoming Events

RSVP on our [website](#); follow us on [Facebook](#),
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Caffe' Letterario: The Stolen Lady: A Novel of World War II and the Mona Lisa

6 April 2022 5-6pm
Online

Language Class: Learning Italian through conversation (Members Only)

7 April - 26 May 2022 5-8pm
Online

Talk: Italian Living - Become an Italian citizen, resident, or visitor for a little while

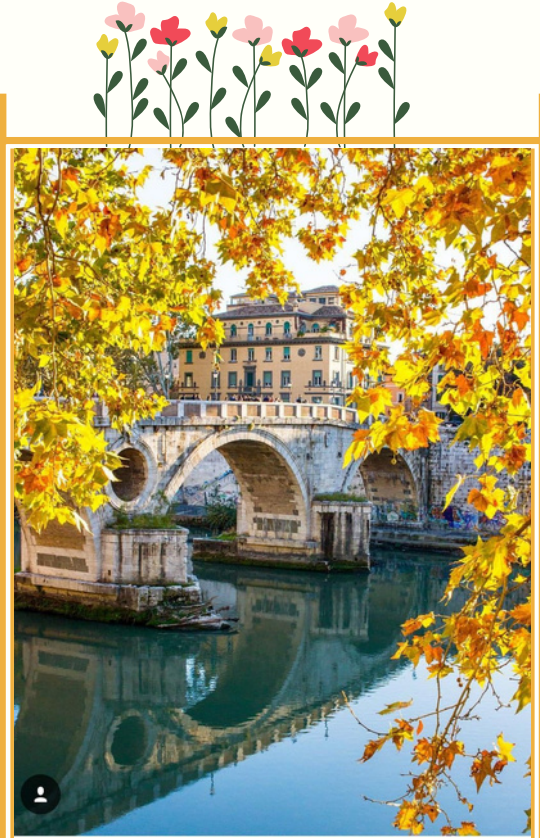
27 April 2022 6-7pm
Honolulu and/or Zoom

30(+) Anniversary Party: Finalmente Festeggiamo! (Members Only)

30 April 2022 5-8pm
La Pietra

Money Talk: Investing in Italy - Living, renting, buying property

26 May 2022 6-7pm
Honolulu and/or Zoom



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From Then... Il Primo Presidente



**DR. BEPPE TORRI, PROFESSOR AT UHM IN ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE, CURRENT PRESIDENT
CHIARA LOGLI AND FIRST PRESIDENT ARMANDO BECCARIA**

Almost 32 years ago, Armando Beccaria created our beloved Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii (FOISOH).

Born and raised in Brescia, Italy, educated in Switzerland and Germany, Armando was fully immersed in Europe for the first half of his life.

That is, until he made a permanent move to Hawaii with his wife and daughters.

Newly retired and enjoying a new chapter in his life, Armando joined up with other Italians to found the Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii.

It is thanks to Armando's commitment to fostering an appreciation for Italian culture that the FOISOH is flourishing today.

Read on to find out more about Armando's story...

Armando Beccaria

How was the Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii conceived?

It all began in 1990 when one day I received a call from my friend Luigi Finamore, at that time general manager of the Kahala Hilton and Honorary Consul of Italy in Hawaii, and he told me that the General Consul of Italy in San Francisco, Marcello Griccioli was in town. He wanted me to meet him.

Griccioli was very interested in having an Italian association also in Hawaii like in other places under his consulate's jurisdiction. The idea behind these associations, Griccioli explained, is to bring people with Italian roots together to enjoy and foster Italian traditions and culture in their communities. Griccioli said that San Francisco had a very active Italian association which could assist in establishing one in Hawaii. Finamore was very excited about this idea and asked me to help him make it become a reality.

At first, I was a little hesitant to get involved in this initiative. I was newly retired from a very hectic business life and enjoying the benefits of more freedom and peace. Yet Finamore was persuasive! He said, "You know, Armando, Italy has a wonderful and rich heritage – Americans love Italy! They want to know more! The French, the Swiss, the Germans, the Austrians and others have their associations in Hawaii." It became difficult to say no: My Italian pride prevailed!

What purpose did you wish for the society to serve?

To bring people together who wanted to share their interest and passion for Italy's rich culture and traditions.

It was important that the society be based in true, authentic Italian culture. I wanted to include the rather large number of people with Italian origins here in Hawaii, and also all those who appreciate things Italian.

Tell us about the first moments in the FOISOH history!

I first had to put a group of people together who would share the task of finding members and organizing programs for our activities. I had a big support from people like Chuck Giuli, Fabrizio Medosi, Joe Nicolai, Cristina Bacchilega, Joe Magaldi, Glora Zinetti and several others.

Finamore and I signed the Letters of Incorporation on January 10, 1991.

A few months later, we held our very first function at the Kahala Hilton attended by our three honorary members: His Excellency Bishop Joseph Ferrario, Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi and Italian Honorary Consul Luigi Finamore. And by December of that year, we had 390 members!

Armando Beccaria

The first significant event of FOISOH, held in 1992, was Ballo Cinquecento. The occasion was the 500th anniversary of the European discovery of America. It was attended by over 800 people at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. FOISOH donated most of the proceeds from this event, \$130,000, to the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, that we had engaged to help organize Ballo Cinquecento. There was a significant amount of media coverage of this event. It was a big success.

Tell us more about you! When did the Hawaii chapter of your life begin?

It actually started in 1957 when I met my wife Jo Ann when we were studying in New York. She was born and raised in Hawaii. When we got married, we based our life in Italy and spent the first 23 years of our marriage in Europe where we raised two wonderful daughters from Korea.

We moved to Hawaii when I was still young. It was a kind of early retirement which brought a big change in my life and a few challenges. I had to reinvent myself!

I went back to do things I was not able to do when I was working. I was interested in more learning, in reading all the books I had bought and never read, I travelled a lot, made new friends... and life soon became busy again but at a manageable pace.

And you know our current President Chiara!

I met Chiara in church long time ago. I had the good fortune to be sitting next to her and we got to talking. She was so outgoing, so enthusiastic. A wonderful person! She became a member of the FOISOH and soon its president. She has vision and energy and made of our society what I always dreamt it could be. Bravissima Chiara!

What can the world learn and benefit from Italians?

Not long ago I read a poster that said: "You can't buy happiness, but you can marry an Italian, and that's kind of the same thing." I suppose this is not the kind of answer you wanted!

Joking aside, I visited, experienced and enjoyed many countries. I don't want to sound chauvinistic but, considering the small size of Italy, I think its contribution to the advancement of humankind is remarkable, its beauty indisputable, the creativity of its people endless, its cuisine outstanding. Yes, Italy also has mafia, a phenomenon it shares with most countries, but in this too Italy excels!

...Til Now

La Presidente Attuale

From Italy to Hawai'i:

Dr. Chiara Logli's multicultural journey continues to bridge cultures

By Alison Mehrman



CHIARA AT THE VILLAGE OF NAMCHE, NEPAL

Sitting in her Honolulu home, warm sunlight pouring into her living room after bouncing off Diamond Head in the distance, **Chiara Logli, Ph. D.**, reflects on the winding, multicultural journey that's led her from a small village in Italy all the way to her "chosen home" on O'ahu 8,000 miles away.

"Ciao Alison," she says with a large smile, her thick, lyrical accent and positive energy radiating through the computer screen separating us. Her long dark hair is pulled back and her simple black tank top contrasts the various colorful cultural artifacts dotting the wall behind her: clay pottery, decorative fans, textured sculptures.

As she speaks, I find my pen moving furiously across the page, trying to capture every detail of her impressive list of achievements—from professional accomplishments like working with the United Nations to personal triumphs like trekking to Base Camp Everest, diving with whale sharks at the world-famous Molokini Crater off the coast of Maui, and winning the King Kamehameha Hula Competition with her halau (school).

Today, when not working her full-time job removing barriers to learning as an Institutional Assessment Specialist at Honolulu Community College, Chiara's latest endeavor is bridging Italian and Hawaiian cultures as president of the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i. Founded in 1990, the Italian association for the state of Hawai'i offers language courses, cooking classes, and cultural programs for all ages and backgrounds.

Chiara Logli

A Boston native with Italian roots living in Hawai'i, I first met Chiara through the nonprofit organization. After searching the internet one night for "Italian classes Hawaii," I soon found myself sitting among a group of other adult learners in one of her Italian language classes. Her energy and aloha permeated each session, allowing none of us to shy away from delivering our best attempts at answering her prompts: Come stai oggi? How are you today?

The first time I saw her outside of class, she had invited me to grab un caffè at a small coffee shop in Honolulu. Amidst the tables in earshot close by, our conversation must have seemed out of place: one woman speaking fluent Italian over the local Jawaiian reggae music playing in the background, the other responding in a haphazard mix of broken Italian and English. But Chiara seemed unbothered, perfectly content as she sipped her cappuccino. That is perhaps what makes Chiara so interesting; to her, there are no boundaries, no divisions, no reasons to forgo or not to try.

The last time I saw her in person, Chiara and the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i board of directors were engrossed in planning a Venetian-themed celebration at La Pietra that would bring together over 300 local Italy-lovers in honor of the organization's 30th anniversary. When the pandemic hit and plans halted, Chiara did not allow COVID-19 to keep her from finding creative solutions for connecting cultures, if only virtually for now. In fact, her life—and her work—has been all about breaking barriers.

Chiara's zest for life and love of people stems from her childhood running through the sprawling vineyards of her hometown of Boschi, a small village just north of Bologna, Italy. With four generations under one roof, Chiara learned important Italian values early on: respecting the land, respecting your elders, and respecting others—all values that she sees mirrored here in Hawai'i.

As we speak (in English for my benefit at the moment), she describes how kuleana (responsibility) for the 'Āina (land), 'ohana (family), and elders (kupuna) was part of her life since childhood, even if by different names in Italy.

"Just like Āina in Hawaii, I had a relationship with the land in many different forms. As a little girl, for me land was my home, food, and playground," she explains. "And I had a deeply rooted sense of community. The neighbors always had an eye on us children; we were very free in our village, but also expected to be on our best behavior and do what was right at all times. We knew that we were interrelated; if you had a fight, we had to pacify, because we were all neighbors, and often relatives—just like here, where we live on a small island and eventually cross paths."

But long before her journey ultimately led her to a culturally similar home in Hawai'i, Chiara was primed for a desire to explore the world and make a difference. Her father, a mechanical engineer who felt impeded professionally by his limited knowledge of English, enrolled Chiara in a school that fostered foreign languages. There, she studied Latin, French, English, and Spanish.

And when she wasn't at school, she was sitting at her kitchen table, listening with wide eyes as a family friend—an American diplomat named Elvira—spoke charismatically of her travels. Chiara's grandparents had met Elvira by chance at one of the thermal centers in Italy, sparking a friendship that inspired her to visit frequently, send postcards and gifts, and keep in touch for decades until she passed in 2005.

Chiara Logli

“Elvira was coming to my house often,” Chiara remembers fondly. “She had served as a diplomat in Italy immediately after World War II and she exposed me to the idea of the U.S., diplomacy, and women in important careers. At the same time, my neighbors adopted a child from Peru named Miriam, and I loved spending my time with her. So, in my little village I had these two international female figures: a little girl and a woman ambassador from the Americas.”

It wasn't until her senior year of university in Italy that Chiara first made her way overseas herself, applying for an exchange program scholarship that would bring her to the University of California Santa Barbara in 1998. “At that point, fate took over and life ran its course,” she says. She wrote extensively about multiculturalism in the United States and worked at the UC Santa Barbara's Multicultural Center as well as at UC Berkeley's International House. She soon earned a Rotary International Peace Fellowship that took her to Cambodia and Thailand for four months, but that also ultimately spurred a cumulative two-and-a-half-year sojourn in Southeast Asia.



CHIARA AT ANGKOR WAT, CAMBODIA

While in Asia, Chiara made some of her most important memories and professional accomplishments: researching educational issues, connecting with stateless communities and human rights lawyers, supporting anti-human trafficking organizations, and even interviewing former Khmer Rouge soldiers who had committed war crimes in Cambodia. “The moment that gave me the most chills in my life is when we were driving and going to meet former Khmer Rouge soldiers, who had tortured and killed their own people,” she recalls. “But after a war, victims and perpetrators need to find ways to learn how to live together again.” Chiara even had the opportunity to meet Cambodia-native Theary Sang, an international lawyer and author of *Daughter of The Killing Fields*, a memoir in which Sang recounts how the regime had killed her parents and held her captive.

In Thailand, Chiara met stateless people, who do not have a nationality because they were born in remote areas without birth certificates. She explains how the insight into their lives informed her research: “We had the opportunity to sit down and talk about their experiences and what it means not to belong anywhere, about the impossibility of going to the hospital or sending children to school when they don't exist on any document.”

After returning to the United States following her fellowship, she spent a summer in New York City researching issues like girls' education and women's leadership further from within the United Nations headquarters of UNICEF and UNDP. Later, she found herself in Indonesia, teaching Master's and Ph.D. courses on higher education and spearheading enhanced instructional strategies through the United States Agency for International Development.

Chiara Logli

Chiara sums up her diverse experiences abroad succinctly and powerfully: “I found endless stories of resilience and creativity in very adverse environments around the world.”

“She should be an ambassador,” says longtime friend and Associate Professor of Climate Change at University of Colorado Boulder Pedro Di Nezio. Originally from Argentina, Pedro’s life, like Chiara’s, has taken him across the world, and some of his best international memories—from riding on scooters in Bali to sailing the coasts of Italy—have been shared with Chiara. Though both speak some of the other’s native language, the two primarily communicate in English—though Chiara refers to Pedro as her kakak, the Indonesian word for “older brother.”



CHIARA, PEDRO AND FRIENDS IN THE ISLAND OF PONZA, ITALY

The two met here in Hawai‘i, where Pedro was doing research as a fellowship student and Chiara was pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Hawai‘i Manoa. She’d been inspired to come to Hawai‘i after a fellow Rotary scholar in Bangkok had recommended the university’s East-West Center, which promotes relations and understanding among the peoples of the U.S., Asia, and the Pacific. Here, surrounded by like-minded, passionate individuals in a culturally diverse setting, Chiara flourished.

“It was 500 of us, graduate students from all around the world, studying all disciplines, and living together. At the dinner table, we would have the most interesting, intellectual, and fun conversations. Our learning together was just incredible,” she says.

During her studies at UH Manoa, Chiara began learning Indonesian and spent a year and a half in the largest archipelago in the world for study abroad. Though she spent some time away, Hawai‘i had already made an indelible impression. In fact, from the first moment she’d stepped foot on the island, she knew Hawai‘i would be home.

“I went to pick up my car at the port and had a very brief exchange with the person who gave me the key. He looked me in the eyes and said, ‘Welcome to Hawai‘i. You have the Aloha spirit, you belong here,’” she remembers.

Chiara Logli

Immediately, she began immersing herself in the local culture, dancing with Hula Halau Kaulakahi, and volunteering at a local nonprofit educational farm, Hoa 'Āina O Mākaha. These opportunities have allowed her to experience Hawaiian culture at its roots: visiting the places described in each hula song, tending the land, and learning the deep cultural appreciation for it.

"I have never been in a country where there is such a rich repertoire of songs that are not about the love for a girlfriend or a husband, but are about the love for the place," she says. "Through Hawaiian music, lyrics, and movements, we can learn so much about our islands and local values; the way our kumu teaches us is very familiar to me, it reminds of my upbringing in Italy, with a lot of nurturing but also discipline."

In addition to dancing with her Halau, Chiara also spends her spare time volunteering at Hoa 'Āina o Makaha, which invites local students to learn how to cultivate the land and love for each other through traditional Hawaiian values. The organization is run by Luigi "Gigi" Cocquio, who founded it in 1979 after a journey no less fascinating than Chiara's. A former Catholic priest, Gigi had left his hometown near lake Como, Italy to work with those in poverty in the Philippines. After being deported to Italy, he eventually found his way to Hawai'i where he worked with the local Filipino community fighting against martial law in the Philippines, as well as leprosy patients living in Hawai'i, before adopting five acres of abandoned land originally owned by the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu.



GIGI AND CHIARA MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME, AT HOA 'ĀINA O MĀKAHA

Gigi believes wholeheartedly in embracing the local culture. "It took me a while to learn the language and not to be an Italian in another culture, by staying with the people, learning, and listening. If they accept me, good; if not, they might have a reason," he says.

Chiara Logli

But Gigi, like Chiara, found many similarities between Italy and Hawai'i—particularly in relation to the love for the land. "When I grew up with my grandparents and my parents in the small farm, there was no word for working the land. It was to cultivate: *coltivare la terra*," says Gigi. "You cultivate love. You cultivate friendship. You cultivate relationships. You cultivate your mind. You cultivate your heart. It's something that comes from the spirit, from the heart. It's not work. In Hawaiian, the word is *Mālama*—take care of the land, love the land. And through this culture of taking care of the land, we really create relationships."

Like seeds growing in the warmth of the soil into which they are planted or trees growing quietly but steadily on his farm, Gigi says, bridging cultures is about growing together: "We didn't come to change anything; we came to grow together and learn together." In a perfect example of the two cultures converging, Gigi and Chiara first met when she was learning the tarantella, a traditional Italian dance, at a farm near Gigi's on 'Oahu. Soon after, she began volunteering with Gigi—planting, weeding, cooking, and bringing friends to help.

Says Gigi: "Some visitors come to the farm and ask, 'What can I do for you?' and I answer, 'Don't ask me; I don't know. You come and you figure out what we can do together.' Chiara came, and she figured it out."

Since then, the two have developed a close relationship, joking in Italian and cultivating—as Gigi says—the land right alongside their friendship. He compares Chiara to a "beautiful mountain" and a "gift," someone who is present, purposeful, and persistent. And, most importantly, "She cooks a ton of pasta—*good spaghetti*."

These qualities of amiability and passion are echoed by all those who know her best—like Pedro, who calls her "motivating, encouraging, and always immersed"—and friends back in Italy like Arianna Morelli, a research developer at the University of Bologna who has known Chiara since they were both college students. "What I remember is that it was *amore a prima vista*, love at first sight," says Arianna, who describes her as "pure light." "She always keeps an open mind, always asks questions. Chiara is a natural giver. I think her goal is to have the possibility to share and help others, to give love."



**ARIANNA, CHIARA AND ALESSANDRA IN THEIR FAVORITE SQUARE,
PIAZZA SANTO STEFANO, BOLOGNA**

Chiara Logli

Their friendship was the springboard for Arianna to experience other cultures as well, leaving Italy to visit Chiara in California, Indonesia, and Hawai'i. Similarly, Chiara's international, multicultural journey has also led her mother—who had always been terrified to fly—to visit her in both California and Hawai'i. Says Chiara, "My mom never caught an airplane in all her life; her first flight was to visit me all the way from Italy to San Francisco."

Just as Chiara has shared new cultures with her friends and family, she's now working to foster knowledge, appreciation, and friendship between Italy and Hawai'i through the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i. "I am happy that after thirty years the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i is thriving under the guidance of Chiara and her board," says the organization's founder, Armando Beccaria, who started the nonprofit at the suggestion of then-Italian General Consul in San Francisco, Marcello Griccioli, and then-Italian Honorary Consul in Hawaii, Louis Finamore.

"I was told there were approximately ten thousand people of Italian ancestry in Hawai'i and a few Italians from Italy. With Finamore's help, I was able to put a team of enthusiastic people together, and soon the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i was born," says Beccaria. "All left their mark and must be recognized for the hard work they put in. I'm sure Chiara's approach will lead to more success of the Friends of Italy."

As president, Chiara, whom Beccaria says leads with "gentle determination and wholehearted commitment," creates innovative ways for the more than 400 members and 800 community friends involved in the organization to connect. One of her initiatives is a lecture series that features experts from Italy who can speak to issues that affect both Italy and Hawai'i, including climate change, urbanization, the arts, and music. We think about a topic that we may imagine being exclusively Italian, but then we discover that arts, science, and community, just like nature, don't have boundaries," says Chiara.

Another barrier Chiara has been working to overcome has been the distance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the 30th anniversary celebration that was postponed, in-person Italian courses, cooking classes, and lectures all came to a halt as well, resulting in hundreds of refunds and hours of work on the part of the organization's volunteer board.

In pivoting, however, the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i has created virtual spaces for members to connect, including fun opportunities like aperitivi (happy hours/pau hana), game nights, food demonstrations, and Zoom-based language classes—as well as the organization's first online annual meeting to vote on leadership.

"Our association has remained strong," says Chiara. "Friends have renewed their membership, attended online events, and brought so much kindness, laughter, and fun despite the physical distance. New members have joined our virtual offerings, volunteers have multiplied, and our community partners keep supporting us. The love for our organization is heart-warming."

Chiara Logli

As our virtual interview goes on, I realize we've only scratched the surface. There is so much to be said about Chiara, the journey that brought her from Italy to Hawai'i, and the work she's doing here. And it becomes clear that even in the most difficult moments of "creating a new life from the bottom up in a foreign language," Chiara has not lost sight of her primary goal: bringing people together. She cites inclusion, diversity, and equity as the three qualities that drive her efforts, and she believes there is inherent value in listening to and learning from one another.

"We need others to tell us what they see, what they experience," she says. "It's so important to listen to voices from other backgrounds describing what they view through their 'cultural windows.' We may be looking at the same landscape, but we see something that is completely different. And the only way to see a bit more of the reality is through others' perspectives."



CHIARA AT WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND

Arianna sums Chiara's philosophy up: "Chiara is incredible at interacting with people that have walked different paths and with different perspectives to her own. She has always been passionate about multicultural environments, people with unique stories to tell, different cuisines, cultural festivities and connecting with new individuals. I would say that multiculturalism for Chiara is a way of living."

And as an Italian living in Hawai'i with close ties to Southeast Asia, multiculturalism truly is part of Chiara's daily life. She seamlessly integrates these cultures by compartmentalizing her life: reading in English for work and Italian for fun but listening primarily to Spanish music, dashing off from Friends of Italy meetings to hula practice, and making time to enjoy every day in Hawai'i to its fullest with her family.

Despite her busy schedule, Chiara is committed to doing "one fun thing a day" on the island: surfing, yoga, free diving, hiking. There is no end to her appreciation for the land or its people.

Home, then, becomes a complex term. As Chiara says, Hawai'i is her "chosen home," but she makes sure to return to Italy every summer. Gigi perhaps says it best as a fellow Italian living in Hawai'i: "Home is where the heart is, and my heart is in many places."

Chiara Logli



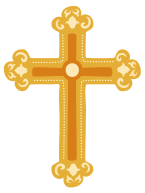
**BASE CAMP EVEREST FROM KALA PATTAR, NEPAL
5545 METERS**

Chiara's is in many places, as well—most recently, with the people of Nepal and Tibet, whose cultures she experienced as she hiked 5,364 meters to the base camp of Mt. Everest, an accomplishment she mentions much too casually toward the end of our interview.

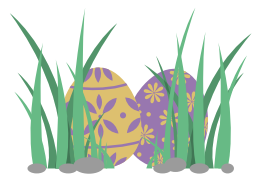
As she fulfilled her dream, Chiara paid homage to her hula halau back in Hawai'i: "I took off my shoes and danced Ku'u Poli'ahu, a song in honor of the beauty of the snow goddess of Mauna Kea and our mothers. The air was thin and cold, I felt so alive, in such a sacred space, embraced by mountains that are connected below oceans and above skies."

After life returns to normal post-COVID-19, a return trip to the Himalayas, she says, is in her future. And when asked about her driving force—what motivates her to explore, to discover, to make a positive impact in the world—Chiara says it all comes down to courage, a lesson that hearkens back to her small village near Bologna. There, her grandmother had owned the only store in the village, and Chiara recalls her as a compassionate and strong woman.

"In my grandmother's generation, some men controlled their wives by keeping them home with no kind of autonomy. So my grandmother sometimes overcharged those husbands and handed the little difference in cash to their wives, just to give them a little room to breathe," she smiles. "My grandmother and all the courageous figures in my life are my teachers. When you see what is right, you just have to touch it with courage. You just see it and you catch it."



Pasqua in Italia



Easter is one of the most important celebrations for *gli italiani*!
Find out how they celebrate this special time of year



Easter officially commences the Sunday *before* Easter Sunday. The most popular way for Italians to celebrate Easter is by taking part in a religious parade during Holy Week. One of the oldest religious processions takes place in Chieti, Abruzzo and features choirs and orchestras. Another famous ceremony is held on Good Friday, when the Pope give his liturgy at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, followed by an illuminated procession to commemorate Christ's Via Crucis.

In Italy, there is no Easter Bunny delivering chocolate goodies to children. Rather, it is all about the eggs! Symbolizing renewal and rebirth, it is tradition to give beautifully decorated or wrapped chocolate eggs containing gifts inside - ranging from toys for kids to designer sunglasses for adults!

Now, it's onto the FOOD! A huge lunch typically takes place after Mass on Easter Sunday. An Easter meal varies depending on the region. Eggs are an important part of the dishes - in Basilicata, they serve *brodetto pasquale* which resembles a frittata. In Liguria, they enjoy *torta pasqualina*, made from eggs, ricotta and chard. What's more, it is made from 33 layers of phyllo sheets, representing each year of Jesus Christ's life. Side dishes include *pane di pasqua* - a braided bread scented with anise and lemon - *pizza di pasqua* and *fagiolini*.

It is tradition in Italy to serve lamb as the main meal. Also associated with the season of Spring, you can expect to feast on dishes such as *agnello arrosto*, *polpette di agnello* e *agnello fritto*!

And who can have an Italian Easter meal without *i dolci*! They range from La Colomba - a dove-shaped cake containing candied peel - *pastiera napoletana* and *la schiacciata*.

There is a popular saying in Italian: "Natale con i tuoi, Pasqua con chi vuoi". This means: you celebrate Christmas with your family, and Easter with whomever you want! It is tradition to celebrate Easter Monday - known as Pasquetta - by going for a picnic!

*** Please note: the meals are only a VERY small selection of traditional dishes and vary according to each region***

Poem of the Season

Antonio Vivaldi

La Primavera

Allegro

Giunt' è la Primavera e festosetti
La Salutan gl' Augei con lieto canto,
E i fonti allo Spirar de' Zeffiretti
Con dolce mormorio Scorrano intanto:
Vengon' coprendo l' aer di nero amanto
E Lampi, e tuoni ad annuntiarla eletti
Indi tacendo questi, gl' Augelletti;
Tornan' di nuovo al lor canoro incanto:

Largo

E quindi sul fiorito ameno prato
Al caro mormorio di fronde e piante
Dorme 'l Caprar col fido can' à lato.

Allegro

Di pastoral Zampogna al suon festante
Danzan Ninfe e Pastor nel tetto amato
Di primavera all' apparir brillante.

Springtime

Allegro

*Springtime is upon us.
The birds celebrate her return with festive song,
and murmuring streams are
softly caressed by the breezes.
Thunderstorms, those heralds of Spring, roar,
casting their dark mantle over heaven,
Then they die away to silence,
and the birds take up their charming songs once
more.*

Largo

*On the flower-strewn meadow, with leafy
branches
rustling overhead, the goat-herd sleeps,
his faithful dog beside him.*

Allegro

*Led by the festive sound of rustic bagpipes,
nymphs and shepherds lightly dance
beneath spring's beautiful canopy.*

Feature Story

THE 21ST CENTURY REBIRTH OF KALAKAUA'S HAWAIIAN YOUTHS ABROAD PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA

BY MARK ETHRIDGE



In the past several issues of *Il Gazzettino*, we have presented the experiences of Hawaiian youth traveling to Italy to study under King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program. From 1880 to 1892, Kalakaua sent 18 Hawaiian youth abroad to study in Europe and Asia to develop future leaders for the Kingdom of Hawaii; five of the students were sent to Italy. During the summer of 2018, after a 126-year hiatus, the University of Hawaii Manoa restarted King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program. University of Hawaii students first visited London and Paris during the summer of 2018, followed by Italy and England during the summer of 2019, just in time to avoid the world-wide pandemic and travel bans that followed.

This issue will examine the activities of the University of Hawaii students in Italy, including research that they undertook to retrace the steps of the Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad (HYA) Program during the late 19th century. The visits to Italy occurred during late July and early August of 2019 and included stays in Turin and Naples where the 19th century program participants studied. Three faculty and fourteen students prepared travel blogs as well as research projects related to the participants in the original HYA. Each modern student researched one of the original HYA students. Excerpts from these blogs and papers served as sources for this and our previous articles. We shall summarize here some of the highlights of these visits, but for the complete details we encourage readers to visit the University of Hawaii Manoa website at: [HYA 2019: Italy & England – Native Hawaiian Student Services](#).

In Turin, the group visited the Royal Military Academy of Turin (now the Scuola di Applicazione) where Robert Wilcox and James Kaneholo Booth had studied. The UH group also stayed at Via Verde where Wilcox had lived during his student years.



THE REGISTRATION RECORDS OF ROBERT WILCOX

At the Academy, the UH group was greeted by university liaison Ten.Col (Lieutenant Colonel) Spinello, Manuel Lami (Librarian), and Gian Luca Falessi (General Affairs Office Manager). After a tour of the facility and its library, the Academy presented the Hawaiian visitors with documents including registration records, transcripts, student grades, and the only photo of James Kaneholo Booth known to exist. The UH Team was then invited to be guests of honor at the 2019 Academy graduation ceremony (190 graduates).



OFFICIAL ACADEMY GRADES WITH ROBERT WILCOX IN NEXT TO LAST POSITION OF THE LEDGER

Nearby the UH Team visited a cafe which was frequented by military students that would often discuss contemporary political issues. It can be reasonable assumed that Wilcox and Booth were frequent visitors and enjoyed the food and the conversations.



PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS BY ACADEMY OFFICIALS TO THE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS

The group also found and visited the location of the former Royal Hawaiian Consulate managed by Hawaiian Consul de Bel Brounlie. On day ten of the visit, they then got a chance to see his residence in Turin.



THE ACADEMY ALBERTINA WHERE MAILE NOWLEIN TOOK ART LESSONS



THE ACADEMY WHERE MAILE NOWLEIN STUDIED

The group spent the last three days of the trip in Naples where James Kāneholo Booth attended the Naples Naval Academy, and where he caught typhoid and died on a subsequent visit after studying with Wilcox in Turin. The group searched for his grave in the Old British Cemetery, where they encountered closed gates and a cleaning crew of five men. Reluctantly the workers agreed to let the students in three at a time, and eventually all were let in. The students were very moved by this experience. Booth's body was first laid to rest in the British Cemetery in Naples. Eight years after Booth's death, the British Cemetery in Naples relocated and transported his remains to a new location in a mass grave. His remains could rest in the New British Cemetery, in the old British Cemetery or even possibly in the Vatican. Sadly, his final resting place may never be known.



THE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS POSING FOR A PHOTO AT THE END OF THEIR VISIT

Guarda Questo Spazio

Venice Biennale 2022

After a two-year delay, this world-renowned celebration of art is finally back with a bang!

What is the Venice Biennale?

It is a celebration of art and architecture! Held every two years, the event delves into themes of contemporary cultural and social issues through different art forms - namely performance, sculpture and installations. It takes place between April and November, and artists from all over the world are invited to share their work.

Why is it so important?

It is considered one of the most prestigious art events in the world - not to mention one of the oldest! It started in 1895 and now attracts over half a million visitors.



Where and when is it held this year?

It officially opens on 23 April and runs through 27 November 2022. It is held in the *Giardini*, at the *Arsenale*, as well as various other sites in Venice.

What should I check out?

Accomplished sculptor Simone Leigh is representing the USA this year. She will be making history by being the first Black woman from America to feature her award-winning work at this event. Her art focuses primarily on social histories and subjective experiences of Black women.

I am going to Italy this year! Can I get tickets?

Yes, you can! You can purchase them from the official Venice Biennale website.



What else do I need to know?

2022 marks the 59th year that the Biennale has taken place. This year's exhibition is titled "The Milk of Dreams", with the name borrowed from a book by Leonora Carrington.



Event of the Season

Nothing says 'Amore' like Pasta!

Cooking Class & Dinner

Saturday, February 5, 2022

Ala Moana



Members of the Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii were treated to not one, but FOUR different pasta dishes during their cooking class and dinner!

Hosted by our Board Member, the ever-effervescent Esmeralda Carini, guests were taught how to whip up a *deliziosia* range of traditional pasta dishes, including:

Pasta alla Carbonara

Pasta all'Arrabbiata

Pasta alla Puttanesca

Pasta alla Norma

A big *grazie mille* to Chef Ivo Rossi for making this evening *così speciale*!



Aloha from the Editor

Aloha Amici!

As I write this note, I am looking out onto my lanai. The backdrop is a vivid blue sky, gently adorned with soft white clouds and two monarch butterflies flitting happily from flower to flower. The scene is framed by bright purple bougainvillea and palm trees, enhanced by the glorious sunshine that adds a luminous glow to its subjects, and warms the body and heart.

I cannot help but feel an immense gratitude and appreciation for the beautiful place that we all call home, where we feel a sense of safety, where we are surrounded by the beauty of Mother Nature.

It can be easy to take for granted the many privileges we have, simply because we experience them every day. They become part of our routine, and their beauty can be (unintentionally) overlooked. We can all get caught up in life admin, sweat the small stuff, and forget how good our lives truly are.

In this Spring edition of *Il Gazzettino*, you'll find an exclusive interview with our beloved founder and very first President, Armando Beccaria, whose energy and elegance are unsurpassable.

We are also treated a beautifully articulated piece, dedicated solely to our beloved outgoing Presidente, Chiara Logli. This was written by the former *Gazzettino* editor, the remarkable Alison Mehrman. It is a truly wonderful, captivating read, and showcases the extraordinary and truly inspiring life of our FOISOH leader!

We also feature the third and final installment of Mark Etheridge's fascinating chronicle of Italy and Hawaii's Youth Exchange - this time he details the journey of a group of UH students through Italy, as they retrace the steps of their predecessors, 126 years later.

Plus we are soon celebrating the FOISOH 32nd Anniversary! And what better way to do this than by holding a party! If you haven't yet signed up for the FOISOH 30th + Anniversary Gala, please visit our website! It will be held on Saturday, 30th April at the stunning grounds of La Pietra and is set to be a terrific evening of music, celebration and of course, wonderful food!

I hope you enjoy the Spring edition of *Il Gazzettino*. As always, I welcome your feedback and contributions!

