

## Upcoming Events

**RSVP on our website; follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!**

### La Cena di Natale

16 Dec 2022

6:00 - 9:00pm

Appetito in Ohana Waikiki East by Outrigger

*Let's celebrate the most wonderful time of year with our Friends of Italy ohana! An evening of sumptuous food, delicious wine, and entertainment by the talented Pierre Grill.*

### Language class: Learning Italian through book-to-movie adaptations - Members only

10 Jan - 21 Feb 2023

4:30 - 9:00pm

First Unitarian Church of Honolulu 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu

*Learn Italian language through recent films that are based on best-seller books! Every week prior to class, you will review assigned textbook sections as well as an Italian film (and possibly an extract or quote from the book for Level 3). In class, we will do some book exercises, practice conversation, and use the film to further apply grammar.*



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# Save the Date

*Un Concerto Italiano*

**February 24th 2023, 7:30pm**  
**Orvis Auditorium, UH**



**We have a very exciting event coming up for you in 2023!**

**Our beloved board member and stunning mezzo-soprano, *Maya Sybert*, is arranging a specially-curated concert for members of FOISOH!**

**She is teaming up with her musical partner of more than twenty-five years, pianist *José Meléndez*, for an evening of all-Italian music, poetry, and song!**

**It is co-sponsored by FOISOH and the University of Hawaii and supported by the Art Song Preservation Society of New York**

**This is the FIRST of its kind for the FOISOH family, and is a concert not to be missed!**

**February 24th, 2023 at 7:30pm**  
**Orvis Auditorium, UH**

*More details coming soon!*

# Guardo Questo Spazio



UPCOMING BOOK RELEASE



*Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii:  
A Celebration  
30 years as an organization  
200 years of Italian-Hawaiian Connections*



MARK ETHRIDGE AND HIS WIFE, MOON

For seven years *il nostro fantastico scrittore* and FOI member, **Mark Ethridge** has researched, written, and published a myriad of articles on Hawaiian-Italian relations over the centuries.

And now - thanks to the wonderful idea from **Chiara Logli** and **Maya Syper** - we are creating a special compilation e-Book for you all!

This book features ALL the articles written by Mark and fellow contributors over the years, plus more!

The wonderful **Dario Failla** is busy designing this masterpiece for us - *ti ringraziamo!*

Stay tuned for its release in 2023!



# New Year in Italia



Have you ever wondered how *gli italiani* like to ring in the New Year?

Get your appetite ready!

2023



In Southern Italian towns, *gli italiani* literally ring in the New Year..with their kitchen utensils! When the clock strikes midnight, they throw old pots and pans out their windows - causing quite a ruckus! This tradition dates back to ancient Roman times when loud sounds were thought to scare away evil spirits.

It is tradition for men and women to wear red undergarments - a color believed to symbolize fertility and fortune.

You will find Italians eating one grape at each ring of the midnight bell (a total of twelve) to banish bad luck for the coming twelve months. An old Italian rhyme explains the custom: *Chi mangia l'uva per Capodanno, maneggia i quattrini tutto l'anno*, "Whoever eats grapes on New Year, will handle money all year."

It is considered very good luck to consume a meal of *cotechino e lenticchie* (Italian pork sausage and lentils. Why lentils, of all foods? Their flat, circular shape resembles coins, of course! According to Italian tradition, each lentil corresponds to a penny. Therefore, the more lentils you eat at New Year, the more money will come your way.

You can find the recipe on the following page!

Another traditional Italian New Year food tradition includes consuming seven dried fruit and nuts - more specifically, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, walnuts, dates, raisins, and dried figs. Again, this shall bring good luck for the year to come!

# Poem of the Season

## CAPO D'ANNO

LA TAVOLA APPARECCHIATA DI TUTTO PUNTINO,  
LE CANDELE SPARSE, LA GIUSTA PENOMBRA,  
LA MUSICA DI SOTTOFONDO.

L'ATMOSFERA PERFETTA, TRANQUILLA E CALDA.

LA BOTTIGLIA MIGLIORE SUL TAVOLO,  
I GNOCCHETTI AI QUATTRO FORMAGGI  
E IL SORRIDERE NELL'ACCONTENTARSI  
PER NON SAPERE FARE DI MEGLIO.

TUTTO PERFETTO, TRANQUILLO E CALMO,  
TANTO DA PERCEPIRE L'ENERGIA DEL MONDO  
SALIRE,  
UNITA NELL'ATTESA CON LA BOTTIGLIA IN MANO,  
I CALICI PRONTI.

SENTIRE NITIDA L'ENERGIA DI TANTI  
IMPENNARSI NEL CONTEGGIO,  
PER SCARICARSI POI NEI BOTTI,  
COME A LASCIARLA NELL'ANNO TRASCORSO.

RESPIRARE IL VUOTO RILASSATO DELL'ARIA,  
CHE SEGUE, A PARTO AVVENUTO.  
TUTTO È TRANQUILLO E IMMOBILE, ORA.

LA TAVOLA, LE CANDELE SPARSE, LA PENOMBRA.  
UN NUOVO ANNO È COMINCIATO,  
IL FREDDO CONOSCIUTO È RITORNATO.

FINISCO IL CALICE DI VINO,  
SPENGO LE CANDELE, VADO A LETTO.  
BUON ANNO, AMORE MIO,  
OVUNQUE TU SIA.

## NEW YEAR

THE TABLE IS SET FOR THE PARTY,  
THE SCATTERED CANDLES, THE LIGHT DIMMED,  
THE MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND.

THE PERFECT ATMOSPHERE, QUIET AND WARM.

THE BEST BOTTLE ON THE TABLE,  
FOUR CHEESE DUMPLINGS,  
AND A SMILE AT MY INABILITY  
FOR NOT KNOWING HOW TO DO BETTER.

ALL IS PERFECT, QUIET AND CALM,  
OBSERVING THE ENERGY OF THE WORLD RISING,  
UNITED, WAITING WITH THE BOTTLE IN HAND,  
THE WINE GLASSES READY.

TO FEEL THE CLEAR ENERGY OF MANY  
EXPANDING WITH THE COUNTDOWN  
AND THEN RELEASED INTO THE FIREWORKS,  
LEAVING HER IN THE PAST YEAR.

TO BREATHE THE RELAXED EMPTINESS OF THE AIR,  
WHICH FOLLOWS AFTER THE DELIVERY.  
EVERYTHING IS QUIET AND STILL, NOW.

THE TABLE, THE SCATTERED CANDLES, THE DIM LIGHT.  
A NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN,  
THE FAMILIAR COLD HAS RETURNED.

I FINISH DRINKING THE GLASS OF WINE,  
I BLOW OUT THE CANDLES, I GO TO BED.  
HAPPY NEW YEAR, MY LOVE,  
WHEREVER YOU ARE.

Michael Serye

# La Ricetta della Stagione



## COTECHINO CON LENTICCHIE *(Italian pork sausage with lentils)*

**Cotechino with lentils is a typical dish that you'll see on New Year's Eve. It is believed that enjoying this dish before midnight will bring good fortune for the New Year.**

**300g pre-cooked cotechino**  
**300g dried lentils**  
**2 1/2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil**  
**2 sprigs of rosemary**  
**1 rib of celery, minced**  
**2 carrots, peeled and minced**  
**1 medium white onion, minced**  
**3 bay leaves**  
**2 cups of vegetable broth**  
**Salt and pepper to taste**

Soak the lentils in cold water for 2 hours. Drain and rinse under running water.

Pierce the cotechino with a fork in several places. Place the cotechino in a large pot, cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and let simmer for 45 to 50 minutes if using fresh cotechino (for precooked cotechino, simmer for 20 minutes).

Pour the olive oil into a pan and heat it. Add the chopped vegetables and sauté for a couple of minutes. Add the lentils, previously soaked in cold water.

Season with pepper and salt, and add the rosemary sprigs and bay leaves. Cover the lentils with hot vegetable broth and cook for 20 minutes or more, depending on the desired consistency.

Remove the herbs. Spoon the lentils into a serving dish, drizzle with olive oil, and slice rounds of the cotechino over the top. Sprinkle with fresh chopped parsley and serve.



# Feature Story

## HAWAII'S TOSCANINI: DOMENICO MORO, THE SICILIAN BANDMASTER OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND

BY MARK ETHRIDGE



**DOMENICO MORO, BANDMASTER**

December 6, 1941—Domenico Moro and the Royal Hawaiian Band are preparing for their 3:30 p.m. Sunday concert at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki.

Domenico Moro had only recently become the Bandmaster on January 2, 1941. Moro was born in 1885 in the little village of Caronia on the northeast shore of Sicily. When he was only 13 years old, Moro was already studying conducting at the Provincial Conservatory of Music in Messina, Sicily. When Moro was seventeen, a U.S. Navy vessel visited Messina's harbor and an officer went to the conservatory to recruit local talent. Moro couldn't resist the offer, and several months later he was appointed bandmaster for the U.S. Navy, even though he couldn't speak English!

In 1924, by way of San Francisco, he made his way to Hawaii where he held a variety of musical jobs.

These included being the Director of the Honolulu Plantation Band, flute player in the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, and finally as a member of the Royal Hawaiian Band and bandmaster in 1941.

# DOMENICO MORO, THE SICILIAN BANDMASTER OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND

We don't know exactly what the bandmaster or the band members were doing that Saturday, December 6 night, but we do know the program that was to be performed. The program had been printed in the Sunday, December 7 issue of the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* that was in the process of being finalized and distributed Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Other events on the social page included the announcement of an Iolani Palace Christmas Eve program, a Farrington High School play, marriages and funerals, Dorothy Dix's advice column, a Kamehameha ROTC picnic, election results of the Waipahu High School sophomore class, and the publication of a Chinese cookbook.

Below is the planned Royal Hawaiian Band Program for December 7, 1941:

## Royal Hawaiian Band Program

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The Royal Hawaiian band, under the direction of Domenico Moro, Bandmaster, will be heard at 3:30 p. m. Sunday at Kapiolani park.

The program follows:

Hawaii Pono (Hawaiian national anthem).....Berger  
Overture-Masaniello.....Auber  
Song-In The Land of Lei (by request) .....,Perez  
(Miriam Leliani, soprano)  
Ala Moana (a song of Hawaii)  
.....Lukens and Noble  
Capriccio Italien (by request)  
.....Tchaikovsky

Songs of Hawaii by the Royal Hawaiian band vocalist and string ensemble:

Pill Aoao...Kellimoewai and Kaleiluhia  
Hooma'u.....Unknown  
(Vocal solo by Jack Heleluhee)  
Haumani .....Lena Machado  
Maka Onana .....Unknown  
(Vocal solo by Abbie Wilson)  
Pau Lillia .....Alfred Alohihea  
(Vocal solo by John Panoke)  
Kaena .....Unknown  
(Vocal solo by Michael Hanapi)  
He Ono .....Bina Mossman  
(Vocal solo by Charles Pokipala)  
O Oe Ka'u.....C.King  
Ua Nani Kauai.....Unknown  
(Vocal solo by Miriam Leilani)  
Finale--The Star Spangled Banner  
.....Francis Scott Key



# DOMENICO MORO, THE SICILIAN BANDMASTER OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND

We also know, that on Saturday, December 6, the Japanese Imperial Navy, about 240 miles north of Oahu, was finalizing their plans for a daring surprise attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor.

The next morning at 7:48 Hawaii Time, the base was attacked by 353 aircraft launched in two waves from two aircraft carriers, and life in Oahu was forever changed.



We can safely assume that the Royal Hawaiian Band did not perform their concert. In the aftermath of the attack, some band members left to join the U.S. military.

However, in the days and years that followed, Moro and the band would continue to actively perform and support the war effort. On Army Day in April 1942, for example, the band performed for an audience composed of mostly servicemen at the Coronation Bandstand. As well as classical and patriotic favorites, at least half of the program was dedicated to local Hawaiian popular music.

Moro made a concerted effort to increase the band's playing of Hawaiian music.

These included performances by Hawaiian performers as soloists. One such talented local performer was Lena Machado, a native Hawaiian singer, composer, and ukulele player known as "Hawaii's Songbird."

# DOMENICO MORO, THE SICILIAN BANDMASTER OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND



**LENA MACHADO**

Royal Hawaiian Band Concert Sunday	
The Royal Hawaiian band under the direction of Domenico Moro, bandmaster, will be heard Sunday afternoon at Kapiolani park in Wai-kiki commencing at 2:30 p. m. Featured on this program will be Sally Wood and her hula troupe. Radio station KGU will broadcast the entire program which is as follows:	
Hawaii Ponoi (Hawaiian National Anthem) .....	Berger
March—Cosmopolitan .....	Herbert
Overture—Oberon .....	Weber
Song—Imi Au Ia Oe .....	C. E. King
(By the Group)	
Suite Espagnole—La Feria .....	Lacome
No. 1—Los Toros .....	
No. 2—La Reja (Serenade) .....	
No. 3—La Zarzuela .....	
INTERMISSION	
Songs of Hawaii by the Royal Hawaiian band vocalists and string ensemble, also featuring Lena Machado as guest soloist and Sally Wood's hula troupe:	
Kuu Lei Aaloha .....	Chas. King
Kaulana Kauai .....	Lena Machado
What Else Can I Do .....	David Lum
(Vocal solos by Lena Machado)	
SALLY WOOD'S HULA TROUPE	
Kawaihae .....	Bill Lincoln
Gorgeous Hula .....	Johnny Almeida
Beauty Hula .....	Johnny Almeida
Show Me How To Do the Hula .....	Unknown
Noho Paipai .....	Johnny Almeida
Finale—The Star-Spangled Banner .....	
.....	
Francis Scott Key	

Under the direction of conductor Domenico Moro in 1941, she appeared as a guest soloist with the Royal Hawaiian Band. In response to requests by the public for her to become the band's regular featured soloist, the government's board of supervisors allocated \$2,000 for her to accompany the band to Hawaii's outlying areas, including military installations. Above, she appears as a guest vocalist in a March 23, 1946 concert program.

In June of 1947, Moro also played a decisive role in the life of another Hawaii musician, 17-year-old Gabriel Baltazar, Jr., who would later become a legendary jazz saxophonist. Gabe's father asked Moro to help his son with the phrasing of the Concerto Fantasia from Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi, which was the audition piece for a prize for music camp at Interlachen, Michigan. He taught Baltazar well, and he won the contest.

In his autobiography Baltazar said:

*"Real Italian teacher, you know? He was the Toscanini of Hawai'i. He wrote some concertos and solo pieces, and he knew all the operas, all the overtures. And he memorized all that, like Toscanini. He didn't need the music. He could memorize, man. Knew all the parts, the third part, the second part."* (Gabe Baltazar and Theo Garneau, *If It Swings, It's Music: The Autobiography of Hawai'i's Gabe Baltazar, Jr.* University of Hawaii Press, May 2012).

# **DOMENICO MORO, THE SICILIAN BANDMASTER OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND**

The Royal Hawaiian Band dates from 1836 when it was founded by King Kamehameha III. Henry Berger was the driving force behind the band from 1872 to 1915, and his arrangement of Hawaii Pono'i became the royal Hawaiian national anthem (now the Hawaiian state song).

On August 4, 1944, Moro celebrated the 100th anniversary of Berger's birth with a concert in Kapiolani Park and conducting with a gold-tipped baton given to Berger on his 70th birthday.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Moro worked hard to improve the working conditions of his band members. He obtained periodic pay increases for the members, obtained additional funds for the glee club associated with the band, and expanded the band's Hawaiian and classical repertoire.

Moro retired as bandmaster when the board did not reappoint him because of his age (then 70 years old) and he lived many more years before quietly passing away on December 22, 1976.

*Note: Much of the information for this article comes from the book titled the Royal Hawaiian Band—the Legacy by Scott C.S. Stone, Island Heritage Publishing, 2004.*



# Aloha from the Editor

## Aloha Amici!

Can you believe it is THAT time of year once more? It only feels like a couple of months ago that I was writing the Christmas message for 2021!

And what a year it has been for the FOISOH *famiglia*! We kicked off the year with some amazing events, including Wine Tasting at Brick Fire Tavern, a variety of cooking workshops, language classes, seminars, and more! These were closely followed by our long-awaited 30 (+2) year Anniversary, celebrated at the majestic grounds of La Pietra. A month later, we farewelled our beloved Chiara Logli, who had served as President of FOISOH since 2019. We also celebrated the appointment of Jim McAluney who has taken the reigns as our new President! And to top it off, our resident writer, Mark Ethridge, was invited for a casual conversation with none other than our own Mayor of Honolulu, Rick Blangiardi!

2022 is also a year that we saw a return to a more normal life. After two years of on-and-off lockdowns, we are now free to celebrate the holiday season with our loved ones.

We are so proud of everything that our society has achieved in 2022. And 2023 is set to be a year jam-packed with events, classes, volunteer days, and much more!

Finally, we would not be where we are without the incredible *amore* from you, our treasured members! On behalf of the FOISOH, we thank you so much for your continued support.

I hope you enjoy this Winter edition of *Il Gazzettino*, the final issue of 2022. As always, I welcome your feedback and contributions!

I wish you a wonderful, safe, and serene holiday season, and *un anno nuovo favoloso*!

