

## Upcoming Events

RSVP on our [website](#); follow us on [Facebook](#),  
[Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)!

### **The Cuisine of Emilia-Romagna: Tasting Menu with Wine Pairing**

26 September 6pm

Quiora, The Ritz-Carlton Residences

### **Language Class: Adults (Members Only)**

28 September - 16 November 4.30pm, 6pm, 7.30pm

Online

### **Lecture: A Museum in the City (Free for all!)**

30 September 6-7pm

Online

### **Caffe' Letterario: "Atlantis - A Journey in Search of Beauty" by Carlo and Renzo Piano (Members Only)**

11 October 5.30-6.30pm

Online

### **Wine Tasting: A Tuscan Night**

17 October 6-7.30pm

Bottleheads, Kailua

### **Lecture: The Beauty, Value and Comfort of a City at Human Scale (Free for All!)**

28 October 6-7pm

Online

### **Caffe' Letterario: "Dante" by Alessandro Barbero (Members Only)**

8 November 5.30-6.30pm

Online



#### IN THIS ISSUE

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FRIEND IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### LE TUE COSE ITALIANE PREFERITE

#### POEM OF THE SEASON

#### FEATURE STORY: HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN ITALY UNDER KING KALAKAUA BY MARK ETHRIDGE

#### GUARDO QUESTO SPAZIO

#### ALOHA FROM THE EDITOR

# Friend in The Spotlight

## Nancy Miwa



It barely takes one minute of time with the vibrant **Nancy Miwa** before you sense her Italian *anima*. The passion in her voice, her expressive hand gestures, her natural warmth - not to mention the way her eyes light up when speaking about one of the pillars of Italian culture, *la famiglia*.

Born and raised on the East Coast, Nancy has – in her own words – lived "many different lives". From a thriving career in politics, to completing a college degree shortly after becoming a Mom, to earning a Doctorate, moving to Hawai'i and joining the Honolulu Museum of Art (HMoA) as a leading docent .. there isn't too much Nancy has not achieved!

Yet the golden thread that runs through Nancy's rich and varied life are her Italian roots, her *famiglia*. Read on to find out more about Nancy's Italian story..

### **Tell me about your very first experience with Italy**

My Nonna's home made tortellini! She made *everything* from scratch - the broth, the pasta, the meat - she prepared everything herself!

It was really special when we visited my grandmother. She lived in Massachusetts, which was a six or seven hour drive away from where I lived. This meant that as a young child, I would only see her once a year.

When we sat down to dinner with her, we always started with *tortellini in brodo* with *parmigiano* sprinkled on top. I never knew you could eat tortellini any other way until I was in my 20s! That's how I grew up. To this day it is the best tortellini I've ever had! I still have my Nonna's large wooden board that she used to prepare the meal. Each time I look at it, it reminds me of her.

### **Tell us more about your Italian roots**

I am half-Italian. My Grandparents on my Father's side were born and raised in Bologna, Emilia-Romagna. This explains where my Nonna developed her incredible cooking skills!

# Friend in The Spotlight

## Nancy Miwa

### **How has your Italian heritage enhanced your life?**

In so many ways! Being Italian has truly made my life better. I have wholeheartedly embraced my Italian heritage. Growing up Italian - in an Italian family - is extraordinary. In fact, it is the deep family connection that steered me in direction of loving my Italian heritage.

I remember when I moved to Washington at the beginning of my political career, it was my Uncle - on my Italian side - who took me in. I even worked at his firm when I started out! There is something uniquely special about how unbreakable the bond is between Italian family members.

### **How did you first come across the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i?**

I met Chiara Logli (President of FOISOH) at an event some time back. We got chatting and there was an immediate connection! She told me about FOISOH and her vision, and the rest is history!

### **Why did you decide to become a Board Member?**

Chiara very kindly asked if I would like to join the Board! I had been contributing regularly to the Society's events, as well as leading tours of HMOA for our members.. we became quite close friends as a result. I was delighted to say yes!

### **What can you tell us about the Board's vision for FOISOH?**

We are dedicated to broadening current and prospective members' appreciation for Italian culture! We would love to bring more exposure to the society, and encourage more people to join and share their love for all things Italian!

### **What do you feel the world can learn from Italy?**

The strength of family! Here in the States we live in such a transient world, we move away from our homes. We don't stay as connected to our family like we used to. Instead, Italy really values familial bonds, and closeness. I remember my Italian family all stayed in same neighborhood!

### **What do you feel that Italy and Hawai'i have in common?**

Both cultures have that 'spirit', the deep feeling of warmth and love. There is an Italian word - *sprezzatura* – that means elegance, ease of doing something effortlessly. It is very similar to the Aloha spirit!

In fact, the aloha spirit can also be compared to *la dolce vita*! There is an inherent sense of warmth and love present in both Italian and Hawaiian cultures.

And of course there is the deep family connection that is shared – Hawaii values *ohana*, Italy has *la famiglia*. Families stay together, and in both cultures many generations even live in the same home!

# Le Tue Cose Italiane Preferite

Welcome to this brand new section of *Il Gazzettino*!  
This issue, **Nancy Miwa** shares with us a few of her favorite Italian things!



**Attore / Attrice** : Sophia Loren



**Gusto di Gelato**: Stracciatella



**Citta' / Provincia**: Forte dei Marmi



**Pasto**: Pizza Napoletana



**Museo**: Galleria Borghese



**Artista**: Michelangelo



**Film**: La Vita e' Bella e Room with a View



**Macchina**: Alfa Romeo



## Fun Fact:

Did you know that in Tuscany, they still employ the Roman method to transport quarried marble down to the marina? They place the marble blocks on top of wooden beams and tie them down with hemp ropes!



# Poem of the Season



Did you know that Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* Concerto is based on four poems written by Vivaldi himself?

## **L'Autunno (Autumn)**

*Opus 8, No. 3, in F Major*

### I. Allegro--

The peasants celebrate with dance and song,  
The joy of a rich harvest.  
And, full of Bacchus's liquor,  
They finish their celebration with sleep.

### II. Adagio molto--

Each peasant ceases his dance and song.  
The mild air gives pleasure,  
And the season invites many  
To enjoy a sweet slumber.

### III. Allegro--

The hunters, at the break of dawn, go to the hunt.  
With horns, guns, and dogs they are off,  
The beast flees, and they follow its trail.  
Already fearful and exhausted by the great noise,  
Of guns and dogs, and wounded,  
The exhausted beast tries to flee, but dies.

Antonio Vivaldi

# Feature Story

## HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN ITALY UNDER KING KALAKAUA'S HAWAIIAN YOUTHS ABROAD PROGRAM:

**ROBERT NAPU'UAKO BOYD AND JAMES KANEHOLO BOOTH**

**BY MARK ETHRIDGE**

Between 1880 and 1891, during the reign of King David Kalakaua, a total of 18 young Hawaiians were sent overseas to study as part of the "Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program." The goal of the program was to train the young Hawaiians so that they could be of service to their King and country. The locations selected were Italy, England, Scotland, China, Japan, and the United States. The participants were personally chosen by King Kalakaua and included 17 men and one woman studying diverse subjects such as engineering, medicine, art, music, military science, and foreign languages. Of these 18, five were sent to Italy.



**KING DAVID KALAKAUA**

The first group of students left Honolulu on August 30, 1880. The group included Robert Napu'uako Boyd, Robert William Wilcox, and James Kaneholo Booth, under the guardianship of Celso Caesar Moreno. Kalākaua had wanted the three to attend a Prussian military academy, but Moreno later found the idea to be impractical because of the rigor of the Prussian program and the fact that none of the students had any knowledge of the German language. Moreno, who was born in Italy, managed to locate through his connections three different academies in Livorno, Turin, and Naples.

*[We have already written a separate feature article about one of these three, Robert Wilcox (Slide 1 (friendsofitalyhawaii.org), so this article will concentrate on the other two students in this first group studying in Italy, Robert Napu'uako Boyd, and James Kaneholo Booth.]*

### **Robert Napu'uako Boyd**

Robert Napu'uako Boyd was born on April 2, 1864, in Honolulu to Edwin Harbottle Boyd (of British ancestry) and Maria Punapanaewa Adams Boyd (Native Hawaiian). His mother was an adopted granddaughter of King Kamehameha I and his great grandfather was a British naval officer who served Kamehameha I. Robert Boyd attended Punahou (then called the Oahu School) with James Kaneholo Booth, who would also later study in Italy.



**ROBERT NAPU'UAKO BOYD IN LIVORNO, ITALY C. 1884**

Initially Boyd performed well in his studies at the Royal Naval Academy in Livorno, Italy. However, in 1884, Boyd failed to pass his final exam at the Naval Academy. In his desperation, he penned an anguished letter to the King, apologizing and offering to return home.

*"Dear-Sire:*

*Excuse my short note but have the patience to read it to the end. I have studied immensely this year, and had many fine fine reports; but yesterday I failed in my final examination; what does it mean? Now Your Majesty must know the truth, and nothing else but the truth, I am five years abroad, and during this short period I have suffered more than a man of forty... Their has been times in which I wished to run away and beg for my living, but when I think of your kindness towards me, my passion calms quickly, and I dream of the happy future: But at last I have come to the conclusion not to suffer anymore, my studies to the present are not at all little; and perhaps sufficient to earn my living as a gentleman; Theirfore [sic] I am ready to come home and serve thee Sire... The schooling ends on the 3rd of June, and I should wait for your answer in August, if at the end of this month I receive no answer, Your Majesty may calculate that I have no Country, I have no parents, and I have no king... Your Majesty may be sure that these words are as true as If I had my hands on the bible while writtin [sic] it, theirfore [sic] give me hope, and let me die in peace: I will repeat again, that my education is quite sufficient. I can come home alone, not as a child, but as a young man of 21 years old. I have the honor to wish his Majesty a prosperous reign and a long life."* [edited for brevity)

In a letter of dated July 26, 1884, Robert Wilcox responded to the King's questions about Boyd's situation:

*"Regarding Boyd, he has not written to me up to this writing. I have already written to you about him from what I could gather from his schoolmates. . . In Cerulli's [the students' new guardian] letter I see the following 'Boyd will have to continue in the second class as he failed in his examinations in the following subjects: Special Trigonometry, Geography, and Gunnery of the Artillery, and has utterly refused to continue his examinations although he had a sufficient percentage which entitled him to take a second examination.' . . . I am going to write to the Admiral myself tomorrow. . . I cannot understand how Boyd has gone backwards after hearing of his great progress."*

Despite this setback, Boyd would complete his studies in June of 1887. Robert Wilcox was helpful in this respect, and the two became close friends. Boyd would return to Hawaii in October of 1887 after attending the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria as part of the entourage of Queen Kapiolani. Later he would be an active participant with Wilcox in the unsuccessful Wilcox Rebellion of 1889 aimed at restoring political power to the king. He would remain active in politics until his death in 1914 and would work as the surveyor for Oahu (now Honolulu) County.



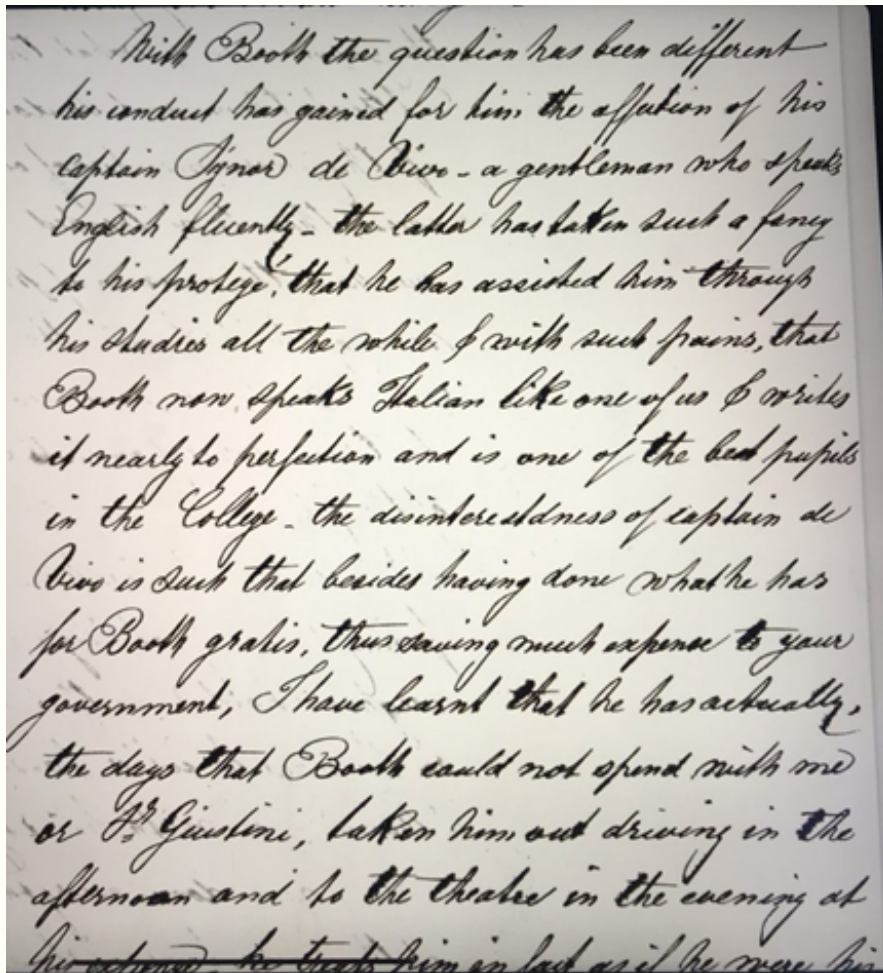
**ROBERT N. BOYD AND FAMILY**



## James Kaneholo Booth

Unlike Robert Boyd, James Kaneholo Booth consistently excelled in his studies. He was a brilliant student at Punahou where he studied with Boyd, and so was a logical choice to study abroad. He first studied at the Royal Military Academy in Naples, and after completing his studies there, he pursued additional education at the Royal Academy of Civil and Military Engineers in Turin with Robert Wilcox.

Booth arrived alone in Naples at the Royal Military Academy but excelled in his studies and soon had many friends and was popular with his professors as well. He rapidly became fluent in Italian (due largely to his relationship with his Captain) and made great progress. By July 14, 1882, Mr. Cerulli, the consulate general of Naples, wrote to Kalākaua informing him that in less than a year's time that "this young man's superiors are enchanted with him- he has already received three promotions... and was promoted to the rank of picked Pupils of whom there are only two or three to each company."



With Booth the question has been different his conduct has gained for him the affection of his Captain Signor de Piero - a gentleman who speaks English fluently - the latter has taken such a fancy to his protege, that he has assisted him through his studies all the while & with such pains, that Booth now speaks Italian like one of us & writes it nearly to perfection and is one of the best pupils in the College - the disinterestedness of Captain de Piero is such that besides having done what he has for Booth gratis, thus saving much expense to your government, I have learnt that he has actually, the days that Booth could not spend with me or P. Giustini, taken him out driving in the afternoon and to the theatre in the evening at his expense - he treats him in fact as if he were his

Letter above from the Consulate General of Naples Mr. Cerulli to King Kalākaua dated July 14, 1882: "With Booth the question has been different his conduct has gained for him the affection of his Captain Signor de Piero -a gentleman who speaks English fluently- the latter has taken such a fancy to his protege, that he has assisted him through his studies all the while and with such promise, that Booth now speaks Italian like one of us and writes it nearly to perfection and is one of the best pupils in the College..."(courtesy of Kawaipuna Kalipi, University of Hawaii at Manoa)



#### **PHOTO OF JAMES KANEHOLO BOOTH TAKEN AT THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY IN NAPLES**

In 1884 Booth made a fateful decision to revisit Naples. The reason is not known for sure. Booth could have been told to flee Turin because of a cholera outbreak there, or to settle debts from his period of residency in Naples, or he could have just had a desire to revisit the place where he studied for several years. In any case, Booth visited and found lodging in a small resort hotel.

Unfortunately, Booth contracted cholera while staying at the hotel. Booth was visited repeatedly by the King's personal doctor, but the young man's health continued to deteriorate, and he died in the arms of one his friends from the Military College, Mr. de Emilio. Booth's remains were interred in the British Military Cemetery in Naples and later transferred to an unknown location.

Mr. Cerulli gave Booth's impressive personal library and guitar to Wilcox. Booth's library included a selection of the great classics of world literature and demonstrated the quality of education the Hawaiians were receiving in Italy.

James Kaneholo Booth was one of the most talented and successful of the Hawaiian students who were sent abroad. Who knows what he could have achieved if his life had not been cut short and he had been able to return and serve his country?

#### **Want to learn more?**

Hawaiian youths abroad program site includes blogs and research conducted by University of Hawaii students following in the footsteps of their 1880's counterparts. The site can be found at:  
<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/nhss/programs/hawaiian-youths-abroad-program/>.

Another important source of information for this article is: Agnes Quigg, "Kalakaua's Hawaiian Studies Abroad Program." The Hawaiian Journal of History, vol. 22 (1988).

# Guarda Questo Spazio

## See what's coming up in Italy's creative space

The Launch of **ITsART** is set to bring Italy to your living rooms!

Touted as the 'Netflix' of Italian Culture, ITsART is set to be a game-changer for the visual and performing arts space in Italy

### What exactly is ITsART?

It is a digital streaming service dedicated to showcasing all things Italian art, culture, performing arts. Think of it as a virtual stage in Italy!

### What can I watch?

Quite a lot! Whether you are an Italian history buff, a fan of visual or performing arts, or simply love Italian culture, there is something for everyone.

The platform is divided into three sections: Stage, Places, and Story. It ranges from live streaming of concerts to classical music events to virtual tours of Rome's Colosseum, Milan's Leonardo da Vinci Museum, libraries, theatres, archeological site and more! It also boasts an extensive film selection made up of history and art docs, as well as classic films such as Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor," plus modern titles such as the D'Innocenzo brothers' debut "Boys Cry."

### Why is it so great?

Not only does this platform allow for Italian fans all over the world to enjoy its vast creativity, it provides a unique opportunity for performers to showcase their talents to local and international audiences.

### How much does it cost?

Niente! It is free to register with ITsArt. The website and app are accessible via smart TV, web, smartphone or tablet. Content is either free or pay-per-view, depending on what content you want to watch.

### When is it available in the US?

It is slated to hit international markets in early 2022.





# Aloha from the Editor

## Aloha Amici!

Allow me to introduce myself - I am Felicity James, the new Gazzettino editor! I have been given the wonderful privilege of publishing this seasonal publication for you *preziosi* members of the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i!

I have some rather large shoes to fill. The lovely Lisa Maraventano - who has held this position for many editions - has handed over the reins. Her contribution over the years has been invaluable. She has brought a piece of Italy into our lives with each edition - something that we have all appreciated, particularly in this current climate.

The last 18 months have not been easy. We have been forced to adapt to a way of living that is unlike anything that we have had to endure - at least in our lifetimes. One 'freedom' that has been curtailed is our ability to travel. Whilst our options are (slowly) beginning to open up, it is still early days and it may take some time before we can return to our vacation routines.

Which is why I intend to carry on Lisa's legacy by bringing all things Italian to your homes in Hawai'i! Featured in this Fall edition of *Il Gazzettino*, we learn about Hawai'i's Study Abroad program under King Kalakaua in the 1880s, we discover the Italian story behind our esteemed board member, Nancy Miwa, and we find out about an innovation that will bring more of Italy's creative prowess to the world!

I have always believed that I was Italian in a past life (I am sure many of you can relate!). Despite having zero Italian heritage - I am 100% Australian! - I have felt an affinity with this extraordinary country ever since I was a *bambina*. My love for Italy was sparked at the age of 5 years when I was cast in a leading role in my Italian class performance - as a *gallina*! From there, I insisted on taking Italian throughout my schooling years, and onto University where I graduated in Journalism and Italian Studies.

Since leaving Australia in 2008, I have been fortunate to fulfill my Italian dream, spending several years living and working in Bologna, Verona, and Milano. I have since lived in London, New York and now Hawai'i - yet it is *Bella Italia* that shall always hold an extra special place in my heart.

As your new Editor, I look forward to sharing with you my everlasting love affair with Italy in each edition! I hope you enjoy this issue of *Il Gazzettino*!

A presto!

Felicity

