



Upcoming Events

RSVP on our [website](#); follow us on [Facebook](#),
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A Night in Capri: Wine Tasting

16 January 2022 5.30-7pm
Brick Fire Tavern, Kaimuki

Language Class: Adults (Members Only)

18 January - 1 March 2022 4.30-9pm
Online

Talk: Dream House - Buying a Property in Italy (Free for all!)

27 January 2022 6-7pm
Honolulu and/or Online

Cooking demonstration: Italian resolution for the New Year!

30 January 2022 6.30-9pm
Private Residence (Ala Moana)

Caffe' Letterario: Trust (Confidenza) by Starnone (Free for all!)

2 February 2022 5-6pm
Kaimuki and/or Online

Cooking Class and Dinner: Nothing says "Amore" like Pasta (members only)

5 February 2022 6-9pm
Private Residence (Ala Moana)

Talk: Italian Citizenship: I got it on my own! (Free for all!)

24 February 2022 6-7pm
Honolulu and/or Online



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Friend in the Spotlight

Joe Saturnia, a long-time member of the FOISOH decided to honor his Italian ancestry with a Hawaiian touch...



Joseph Saturnia with his custom-made Italian surfboard

At first glance, it is clear that this is no ordinary surfboard. Whilst most modern-day boards sport anything from graffiti-style illustrations, geometric graphics, or surrealist art, these are noticeably absent from this image. In fact, if you look closely, you will see that this surfboard is adorned with a beautifully ornate and detailed crest - a somewhat unusual embellishment to see on a Hawaiian surfboard!

This crest represents the small *comune* of San Potito Ultra - a town of just 1300 people in the province of Avellino, Campania, and is around an hour's drive from Naples. Surrounded by rolling hills and bordered by the Salzola torrent, this piccolo villaggio counts 18th-century palaces of Palazzo Amatucci, Palazzo Maffei, and 17th-century church - St. Antony of Padua - amongst its drawcards.

Yet for Joseph 'Joe' Saturnia, this comune is the home town of his Great-Grandfather - *bisnonno* - Giuseppe Saturnino. Giuseppe came to the United States as a migrant in 1899, however as he was an orphan, there was no paper record of his parents, nor their Italian hometowns.

Fortunately, thanks to Ancestry.com and 23andMe DNA, Joe was able to determine who his bisnonno's biological mother and father were, and where they came from. Giuseppe's biological father was from the neighboring town of Chiusano di San Domenico. His biological mother was the sister of his foster father.

Friend in the Spotlight



**The crest of San Potito Ultra, province of Avellino,
Campagna**

Joe is the President of Island Pacific Energy, a renewable energy company based in Honolulu and a long-time member of FOISOH. He moved to Hawaii with his wife and young family from the East Coast 14 years ago, and has called Hawaii his home ever since. Yet he wanted to find a way to honor his *bisnonno* and his Italian heritage in a meaningful and creative way.

Joe enlisted the talents of Eric Arakawa and Jeannie Chesser to help him bring his vision to life. Arakawa is a local surfboard shaper who has made a name for himself as one of the top shapers on the island. A long-time surfer himself, Arakawa cut his teeth shaping for Hawaii Island Creations (HIC) before starting his own successful surf shop, Surfboard Factory Hawaii, based in Waialua. Chesser, a surfer herself, is an accomplished surfboard artist, having practiced her craft since the mid-1970s.

Two Italian-inspired surfboards were created for Joe - a 7'6" board and a 6'0" board. They took a total of three months to make, and each feature the unique crest of San Potito Ultra and are framed by the colors of the Italian flag - green, white and red.

Joe - who acquired Italian citizenship six years ago - plans to present one of the boards to the Comune of San Potito Ultra in person in the Fall of 2022. We look forward to hearing all about Joe's presentation next year!



Natale in Italia



Wondering how *gli italiani* celebrate Christmas? Read on!



The Christmas season in Italy officially starts on December 8, the Day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. It is worth noting that this wasn't the *actual* day of conception (Mary was not pregnant for just 3 weeks!), rather it is the date when the Church *decided* that the inception was, in fact, 'immaculate.'

You will find *presipi* (nativity scenes) featuring in almost every *piazza* and *chiesa* in the regions of Italy. If you want to see some of the most elaborate, handmade ornate *presipi*, Naples is the place to visit during your next Italian Christmas vacation!

A typical Christmas Eve meal consists of anything with seafood! Also known as the *Feast of the Seven Fishes*, no meat is to be consumed, so the body can be purified before the indulgent meals on Christmas Day. Dishes can include *Insalata di Baccala*, *Spaghetti alle Vongole* and *Pesce Spada al forno*.

Instead, a Christmas Day meal consists of all types of meat. You can expect to feast on the likes of *Tortellini al brodo*, *Scillatelle Al Ragù*, *Abbacchio Al Forno* and *Cappone Ripieno*.

And we cannot forget the desserts! These can range from *Struffoli*, *Panettone*, *Frittelle*, *Panforte*, *Pandoro*, *Pizelle* and more!

Gift exchanges happen on different dates, depending on where you live in Italy. In addition to Christmas eve or morning, some provinces in the North give gifts on December 13, the date Saint Lucia brings presents for children. Whereas cities like Venice, Bologna and Rome wait until January 6, when *La Befana* (the good witch who got lost following the Three Wise Men) delivers gifts to *i bambini*.

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

Poem of the Season

Fior di Neve

*Dal cielo tutti gli Angeli
videro i campi brulli
senza fronde né fiori
e lessero nel cuore dei fanciulli
che amano le cose bianche.
Scossero le ali stanche di volare
e allora discese lieve lieve
la fiorita neve.*

Snow Blossoms

**Up in the heavens all the angels
saw the bare fields
without leaves nor flowers
and they read in the children's hearts
how they love the white things.
So fluttered they the wings tired of flying
and then descended lightly lightly
the blossomed snow.**

Umberto Saba

Feature Story

HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN ITALY UNDER KING KALAKAUA' S HAWAIIAN YOUTHS ABROAD PROGRAM (PART 2) *AUGUST HERING AND MAILE NOWLEIN*

BY MARK ETHRIDGE

Our last newsletter (Fall 2021) discussed the experiences of two of the students sent to Italy to study under King Kalakaua's "Youths Abroad Program." Another August 2017 article focused on the adventures of Robert Wilcox, a student in that first group sent to Italy in August of 1880, who later became a leader in attempt to restore the Hawaiian monarchy in 1895. This article will focus on the last two students sent to Italy, August Hering and Maile Nowlein.



COLONEL SAM NOWLEIN (CIRCA 1885)

August Hering and Maile Nowlein arrived in Italy in early 1887. Maile Nowlein was the only female participant in Kalakaua's Youths Abroad Program. Herring came to study sculpture and

Maile Nowlein planned to study art and music. They were accompanied by Colonel Sam Nowlein, Maile's father, and an officer in King Kalakaua's Royal Guards (Colonel Nowlein would later plot and fight alongside Robert Wilcox in that same unsuccessful attempt to restore the Hawaiian monarchy in 1895).

After Colonel Nowlein enrolled his daughter in classes and returned to Honolulu, he submitted the following report to Godfrey Brown, the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"I have the honor to report that I have returned to Honolulu having accomplished the objects for which His Majesty's Government were pleased to depute me to visit Europe. I have placed Mr. August Hering with Professor Tabucchi at Turin.

This gentleman has the repute of being a very successful instructor in the art of sculpture. Mr. Hering will receive at his studio instruction in drawing as well as in sculpture and from what I have seen of the young man

I feel no doubt that he will do justice to his instructor and to the Hawaiian Government which has so handsomely provided for him for his future career.

Miss Nowlein is also at Turin and is receiving instruction in the Italian language in preparation for a course at an Art school in Florence, to be selected for her by His Majesty's Consul C. de Bels Brounlie, Esqr. I have left both these young people under the charge of Mr. Brounlie in whose discretion, and zeal for their benefit I have the highest confidence.

He will communicate to Your Excellency from time to time the arrangements he may make for their welfare and the progress they may make in their studies."

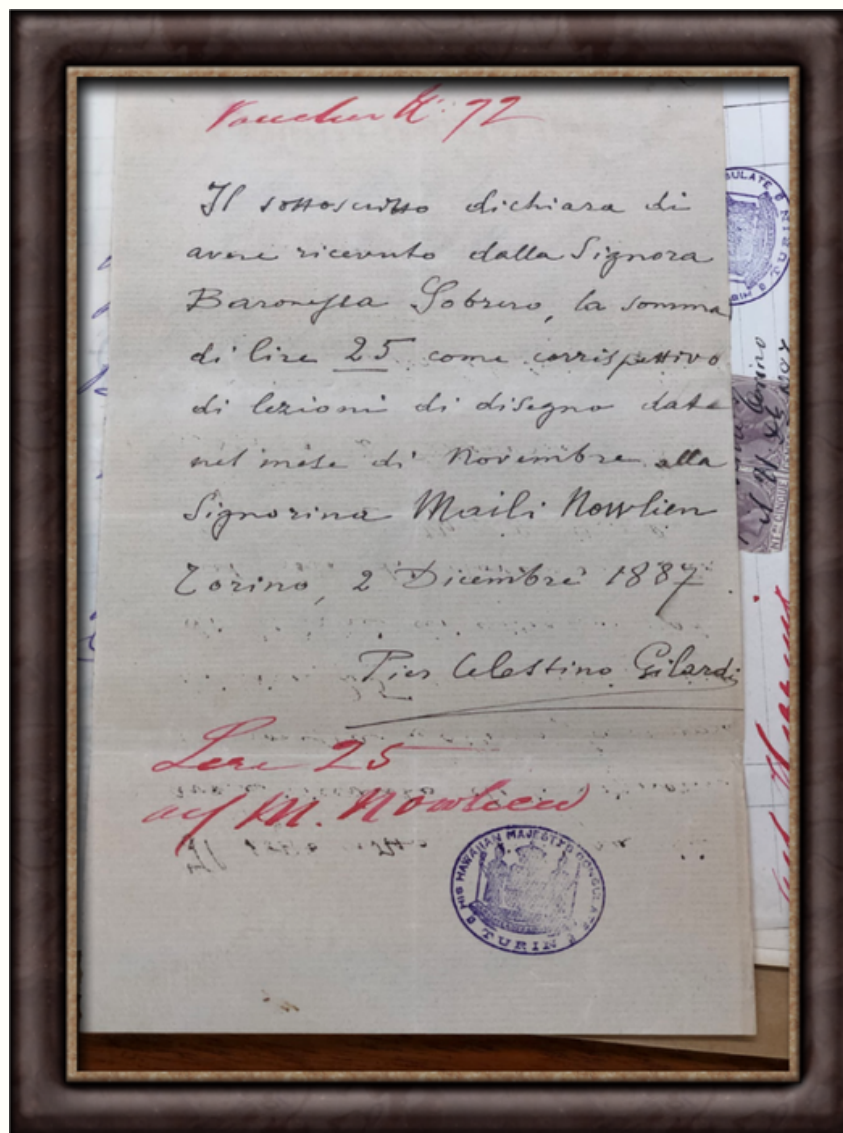


**NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF FUNDS BY THE HAWAIIAN CONSULATE IN TURIN FOR THE
EDUCATION OF MAILE NOWLEIN AND AUGUST HERING
(COURTESY OF KAMALI'I MCSHANE PADILLA, STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
MANOA)**

After King Kalakaua's powers were restricted because of his forced signing of the Bayonet Constitution on July 6, 1887, the Youths Abroad Program was terminated, and students were called back from their studies. In the spring of 1888, after being in Italy less than a year, Maile Nowlein and August Hering were asked to return to Hawai'i by the new government. Fortunately, Maile was able to remain in Italy when her father agreed to finance her educational expenses. August Hering, however, did not have such a wealthy benefactor. Hering reluctantly left for home but disappeared on the way in San Francisco and did not show up for his scheduled sailing to Honolulu aboard the Mariposa.

While still in Italy, Colonel Nowlein and Maile had attended the marriage of Robert W. Wilcox to Lady Maria Carolina Isabella Luigia Sobrero, a young Italian woman of noble birth. Kamali'i McShane Padilla, a University of Hawaii at Manoa student, found another interesting connection between Maile and Wilcox's bride, Gina Sobrero. Kamali'i discovered among receipts dating from July 1887 to mid-1888, that there were payments made by a 'Widow Sobrero' for Maile's drawing lessons. The "Widow Sobrero" may have been Maile's host in Turin.

According to a conversation between Kamali'i and Dr. Emanuela Borgono, the latter suggested the "Widow Sobrero" could be Gina Sobrero's mother, who was a widow at the time. During this time, Gina Sobrero & Robert Wilcox had just left for Hawai'i. and would be staying with the Nowlein ohana on O'ahu.



Miss Nowlein was able to make arrangements with her father, Sam Nowlein, to extend her studies until she returned to Honolulu sometime in 1890.

In 1890, August Hering returned to Honolulu, was married, and fathered a child, but all did not end well. On May 26, 1893, "Hering was convicted of the murder of his wife's lover, a man by the name of D. L. Huntsman, and sentenced to ten years in prison. After serving five years of his sentence, Hering wrote to the Parole Board asking to be pardoned. The files contain no information that Hering's request was granted" (Agnes Quigg).

Want to learn more?

The Hawaiian youths abroad program site includes blogs and research conducted by University of Hawaii students following in the footsteps of their 1880's counterparts. This article owes much to the research of Kamali'i McShane Padilla, who wrote a blog presenting her research on Hering and Maile Knowlein. The site can be found at: "No matter how far I go, I will always return," Last day in Turin, Italy with Maile Nowlein & August Hering: Lā 11 & 12 – Native Hawaiian Student Services.

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



**Dim the lights. Get the popcorn ready..
'tis the season to watch *i film Italiani*!**

What better way to brush up on your Italian skills and take a virtual trip to *Il Bel Paese*, all from the comfort of your living room!

Add *un tocco italiano* to your holiday viewing with these Italian films and series
Available on Netflix!

Rose Island

(*L'incredibile storia dell'Isola delle Rose*)

An idealistic engineer builds his own island off the coast of Italy and declares it a nation, drawing the attention of the world, and the government.

The Life Ahead

(*La vita davanti a sé*)

A Holocaust survivor running a daycare business forms an unlikely friendship with a bitter street kid when she takes him in after he robs her.
Starring Sofia Loren

My Brother, My Sister

(*Mio fratello, mia sorella*)

When their father's will forces them to live together, siblings Nik and Tesla — and Tesla's kids — try to overcome their differences to become a family.

An Astrological Guide to Broken Hearts

(*Guida astrologica per cuori infranti*)

Frustrated at the path her life has taken, Alice decides to take control of her personal life using astrology as her guide in this quirky, steamy and hilarious romantic comedy.

Generation 56k

(*Generazione 56k*)

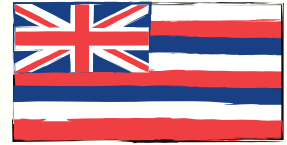
A chance encounter leads two 30-somethings to remember 1998, the year their teenage hormones kicked in — and the internet changed their lives forever.



Event of the Season



Picnic al Parco
Sunday, December 12 2021
Kapiolani Park



After a slightly soggy start to the day, the weather gods shined down on us (literally!) and gifted us with beautiful sunshine for our *Picnic al Parco*!

Over 30 people attended and we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, full of delicious Italian *cibo*, lively games of *bocce* and of course, lots of chatting!

Thank you to everyone who came! Look forward to seeing you all at our next picnic in 2022!





Aloha from the Editor

Aloha Amici!

Wow, I cannot quite believe we are reaching *la fine* of 2021...and it has been yet another year of change and transition for the world as a whole.

Most of us rang in the New Year under lock-down, unable to spend the precious holiday celebrations time with our loved ones. Fast-forward almost 12 months and we are seeing the opening up (albeit gradual) of the islands, international travel and the return of concerts, events and celebrations! It wasn't an easy road for us, yet we got through it and most of us with smiles on our faces!

What I have found most inspiring this year is the renewed appreciation many of us have found for the simpler pleasures of life - a beautiful sunset, a delicious home-cooked meal (Italian, preferably!), hugging a loved one, and the importance of family.

In fact, one of the beautiful similarities between Italy and Hawaii is the immense value of family. One of my favourite quotes from *Il Gazzettino* of 2021 is from our board member, Nancy Miwa. She so eloquently

expressed her appreciation for the "*deep family connection that is shared – Hawaii values ohana, Italy has la famiglia. Families stay together.*"

The Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii *famiglia* wants to thank each and everyone of you for your unwavering support during 2021. We wouldn't be here without your loyalty and love for Italy!

And 2022 is set to be *un anno fantastico* for the society! We have language classes starting back up, a host of dinners, including the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the FOISOH at La Pietra on April 30 (save the date!), lectures and more! We are excited to be seeing more of you all at our events!

On this note, I wish each and every one of you, your families, friends and loved ones a safe and joyous *Buon Natale*, and a prosperous 2022, full of laughter, happiness and positive moments! Remember: it's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters most, it's who's around it.



Felicity