



IL GAZZETTINO

Friends of Italy Society of Hawaii

Message from the Board

Ciao a tutti! Auguri per un felice 2020! We are excited to bring you the winter edition of our quarterly newsletter, Il Gazzettino. In this issue, we'd like to tell you all about exciting recent and upcoming events, including our 30th Anniversary celebration at La Pietra on June 6. We'd also like to thank Mark Ethridge for his continued support of this newsletter. Read his piece on the hopefully-not-too-unlucky Friday the 17th occurring next week in the coming pages. As always, if you have any suggestions for events, programs, or newsletter content, please let us know at friendsofitalyhawaii@gmail.com. Grazie mille!

Buon Anno from our friend Gigi



As many of you already know, Luigi "Gigi" Cocquio and his team at Hoa 'Āina O Mākaha, a nonprofit educational program that teaches children how to care for themselves and the land, are wonderful community partners of ours. Hear from Gigi below and learn more about Hoa 'Āina O Mākaha [here](#).

On New Year's Day, some friends of ours from Japan sent me a video [where] their mother was greeting me saying, "Omedeto." I look[ed] for the ancient meaning of this word, and I found out that originally it derived from the Kanji characters ome (お芽) de (出) to (度う), which together means: "May your sprouts appear." In other words, the opening of the new year, which before the Japanese adopted the Western Calendar took place sometime in February, was a time to pray for good crops in the upcoming year. In this New Year, beginning of a new decade, it will [be] so nice to plant in our hearts seeds of kindness, compassion, understanding, love, peace, [and] justice, and let's [allow] them to sprout to become hope for the all world. AUGURI to all the Friends of Italy. I am honored to be part of [a] group of dear people who love the spirit and the warmth of the Italian culture and traditions. Friends of Italy are like a rainbow that paints the sky from Hawai'i to Italy.

Grazie
-gigi

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Upcoming Events

Language Classes

Taught by our president, Chiara Logli, adult Italian language classes for this winter are already underway. Our next session will run from April 7 to May 26, and the next children's course will be from March 7-21.

FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII
PRESENTS

GIOCHIAMO!

Italian fun for KIDS (4-11 years old)

SATURDAY MARCH 7, 14, 21
9:30-11:30AM
DA SHOP



FRIENDSOFITALYHAWAII.ORG



ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASS

Every Tuesday | April 7-May 26


Beginner: 5-6:30pm
Intermediate: 6:30-8pm

490 Coral Street, Honolulu

friendsofitalyhawaii.org

Cultural Events

Immerse yourself in Italian culture by learning how to dance the tarantella, celebrating Carnevale, and more!



DANCE CLASS

Tarantella

Thursday, January 30
5:30-7:30pm
Honolulu

www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org



Carnevale!

BOCCE & POTLUCK

Saturday, February 22
2:00-5:30pm
Kapiolani Park
Corner between Monsarrat, Paki, and Leahi



www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org

Upcoming Events

Lectures & The Arts

Learn about Italian greats like Dante and Raffaello, and try your hand at painting in an immersive, beginner-friendly Italian course.



LECTURE & TOUR

*What does a 700 year old epic
have to teach us today?*

Reflections on our contemporary Dante

Saturday, January 25
11-12:30pm
Honolulu Museum of Art

www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org

In celebration of the 500th Anniversary of Raffaello's passing, please join us for a film and panel conversation with Drs. Fabrizio Medosi and Nancy Miwa, who will engage in Q&As about Raffaello's contributions to the arts and humanity.

"Leventia" vs "Sprezzatura" in the Life, Paintings and Architecture of Raffaello Sanzio. Raphael's art is always identified with "sprezzatura," an Italian term introduced by his erudite contemporary Baldassare Castiglione, meaning "nonchalant": the artifice of living and acting without effort. The lecture proposes a truly positive reading of Raphael's art, not as defined and hobbled by an opposite, but by the forthright Hellenistic term "leventia" meaning "lightness of being." -Dr. Medosi



FILM & PANEL

Raffaello 500

Sunday April 5
6:30-9:00pm

Honolulu Museum of Art

www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org



FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII
PRESENTS

PAINTING IN ITALIAN

Saturday March 7, 14, 21
9:30-11:30am
Gardens In Honolulu

friendsofitalyhawaii.org

Upcoming Events

Cooking Classes

Become an expert on pasta shapes and sauces!



Save the Date for our Annual Meeting & 30th Anniversary

Annual Meeting & Dinner

May 1, 2020
Tiki's Grill
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

*Please register by April 10 here.

30th Anniversary Celebration

June 6, 2020
La Pietra

More information to come! Grazie mille to our event committee for their hard work planning this celebration.

Recent Events- Cena di Natale, Bocce & Cooking Classes

Thank you to all who joined us for recent events to play bocce, celebrate Christmas, and learn how to make Italian staples like limoncello and tiramisù! Grazie to Eva Duckallari for capturing beautiful photos of many of these events.







Your Membership Benefits

As an official member of the Friends of Italy, you'll enjoy the following benefits:

- **Discounted, members-only pricing for all of our events**, including cooking classes, language courses, and cultural lectures
- **Earlybird registration and participation in members-only events** likely to sell out
- **Special discounts at local restaurants and community events**, courtesy of partners like Baci Bistro, Hawaii Opera Theater, and Honolulu Museum of Art. See our full list of community partners and available discounts below and here: <http://www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org/community-partners>
- **Countless opportunities to share your love of Italian culture with friends and family!**

These benefits come at reasonable membership prices--just \$45 per year for an individual, \$30 for students, and \$65 for a family of five--yet make a huge impact for our club. With your support, we can continue to grow our presence within the community and offer even more unique, fun opportunities to share our love of Italian culture here in Hawaii. As we prepare to celebrate our 30th anniversary this June at La Pietra, there has never been a better time to join our club! Click here to begin or renew your membership: <http://www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org/become-a-member>

Become a member or renew your membership now at friendsofitalyhawaii.org!

Grazie to our Community Partners



10% discount!

Free order of bread sticks!



20% off events with discount code.



10% off any rental of 24 hours or less!



30% discount off tickets!



10% discount!



Feature Story

WATCH OUT! FRIDAY THE SEVENTEENTH IS COMING!

by Mark Ethridge

Beware and prepare! This month, the 17th falls on a Friday. Wait a minute, what's with Friday, the 17th? Don't you mean Friday, the 13th?

Yes, it's true that in much of the Western world, including the United States, the other Anglo-Saxon countries, and much of Europe, Friday the 13th is considered an unlucky day. However, in Spain and Greece, Tuesday, the 13th is the unlucky day (supposedly the date of the fall of Constantinople in 1453), and in Italy the date to be feared is Friday, the 17th. Both dates occur on a Friday, which is not a coincidence, for that is the day of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, or Good Friday (Venerdì Santo) as we know it. The number 13 can logically be associated with the Last Supper of Jesus at which 13 individuals were present (Christ plus the 12 apostles). Of course, one of those apostles, Judas Iscariot, would betray Christ, so this number could be viewed as being a bringer of disaster and bad luck.

So, why would the number 17 be considered a bringer of misfortune in Italy? There are several theories, and the most plausible seems to have its origins in ancient Rome rather than in Christianity. In ancient Rome, tombstones often bore the inscription "VIXI," which means the deceased "had lived" or in other words, "their life was over." All those letters also happen to be Roman numerals. If we arrange them in the correct order, "X" or ten comes first, then "V" or 5, and finally "II" or two. That results in the Roman Numeral for 17.



Also, the curse associated with 17 may have been reinforced by the destruction of the 17th Roman legion (as well as the 18th and 19th) in the Battle of Teutoburg Forest in Germany in 9 A.D. The numbers 17 and 19 were never used again as legion numbers, although there was again an 18th legion which was later disbanded. And yet another explanation is that the one in the number 17 resembles a condemned man and the seven a gallows, or another representation of death.

**Ecco perché
Venerdì 17
porta sfortuna**

VIXI = XVII

Feature Story, cont.

While there are those who laugh this off as superstitious nonsense, there are those who avoid traveling, making important decisions, getting married or even going out on Friday the 17th. Alitalia, the Italian airline, reportedly does not have a row 17 on their aircraft, as well as no row 13 (so you're covered either way). Renault sold its "R17" model in Italy as "R177." Finally, at the Cesana Pariol the bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton track in Cesana, Italy, turn 17 is named "Senza Nome."

May your Friday the 17th be uneventful!



Linus: *Today is Friday the 17th... they say it brings bad luck...'*
What do you think of that, Charlie Brown?

Charlie Brown: *Even unluckier than this..?! Good grief!*