



Serving Naples since 1969
Preserving Italian Language
Celebrating Italian Culture
Supporting Local Charities

Naples Italian American Foundation, Inc.
7035 Airport Road, North. Naples, FL 34109
Phone: 239.597.5210 Fax 239.596.3815
www.niafoundation.org E Mail: niaf@niafoundation.org

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Roger and Aida Guidice Editors

Dedicated to educating, preserving and celebrating Italian culture and the Italian language. You don't have to be Italian to join.

If you prefer not to receive hard copy of our newsletter by mail and read it online only, please call the office at 239-597-5210.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Our Naples Italian American Foundation is our comfortable home away from home to which we enjoy inviting family and friends to join in our celebrations. In past years members had generously donated for new dishes and utensils. This year members generously donated to refurbish our bocce courts and our parking lot.

Thank you to the following members who have contributed a total of \$39,500 this year to our Building Fund in an effort to maintain our bocce courts, building, and parking lot:

Ed Bernardi	Nancy Gruppuso	Jeff Morabito	Marilyn Romeo
Joey D'Annunzio	Jennifer Hoy	Bob Pascente	Carl and Sally Santolli
D'Annunzio Family	Michael Kaminski	Martha Pompeo	Prudence Vipiani
Carl and Rosie Fusaro	Larry Mohn	Eileen Renzi	Ginny Wile
One Very Generous Anonymous Donor			

Please accept our apologies and contact The Foundation office if we have unintentionally failed to recognize any donors who have contributed and deserve recognition.

We have established a Building Fund for your convenience. Any donations, large or small, will be appreciated to maintain our facility.

Thanks also to our members who took out ads in our golf tournament ad book
A complete list of ad book donors is on the back page of this newsletter.

Although one of Wyndemere's golf courses was unavailable due to Hurricane Irma, we were still able to have a successful tournament and donate \$25,000 to Folds of Honor and \$10,000 to Veterans Relief Fund.

Yours truly,

Carl Santolli
President, Board of Directors

PROGRAM PLANNING - MICHAEL KAMINSKI

NIAF Program Planning offers a mix of dinner dances and social dinners throughout the season. In November we held our opening night. In December we had a festive Christmas Poinsettia Ball. NIAF also sponsored a Christmas concert, headlined by the Three Tenors of Gulf Shore Opera. The new year brought a series of regional dances, highlighted by Sicilian Night in January.

February was a busy month. We held a Sock Hop, a Valentine's Day Dance, and a regional Italian dance night. NIAF also held its first Casino Night. While the initial turnout was lower than expected, everyone who attended had a wonderful evening. Our Grand Prize was a \$1,000 money tree, filled with cash, lottery tickets, and cash cards.

On March 7, NIAF resumed its tradition of holding a Fashion Show. Ninety women and a few gentlemen enjoyed a lovely afternoon of spring fashions provided by Kay's On The Beach. Our Dixieland Concert was held on March 18, and a final regional dinner dance on April 8.

During season we held approximately two Wednesday night social dinners a month. We had a wonderful Christmas party on December 12 which ended with a sing-a-long of Christmas favorites. La Befana found her way to Naples – even if it were several weeks early. Many of the members brought in a gift to be donated to St. Vincent de Paul. In March we held a St. Joseph's Day Dinner with a selection of Italian sweets for dessert. We also collected non-perishable food items to donate to St. Vincent de Paul. After several Wednesday dinners, we featured local speakers, including Father Michael Orsi, a well-known priest and educator, who provided an interesting lecture on Iran and the Middle East and Ave Maria Professor Paul Baxa also presented a lecture on Italian Cinema.

On alternating Monday evenings from Mid-January until April, NIAF showed Italian movies at The Foundation building.

We plan to continue our dances and periodic Wednesday night dinners in the 2018/19 season. We also hope to provide another Casino Night and Fashion Show. We hope you will attend and support our functions!

SPRING FASHION SHOW – AIDA GUIDICE

For the first time in several years, NIAF held a fashion show and luncheon. Our "club" looked dressed up for spring with beautiful flowering plants and pastel linens. Kay's On The Beach worked with us to present up-to-date fashions ranging from casual to elegant evening wear. The fashions were modeled by our own model-members, who exuded Florida glamor and charm: Roberta Burgess, Lyn Errico, Moira Fennessy, Rosemary Fusaro, Jennifer Hoy, and Carol Lenza. President Carl Santolli added a touch of class as he accompanied models to the stage, looking dapper in his tuxedo.

Twenty raffle gifts, including large gift baskets of wine, Italian foodstuff, and beauty products were offered, along with several \$100 restaurant and retail certificates, fashion jewelry, and tickets to Naples arts events. With such generous gifts, the raffles were highly successful. A door prize was offered as well, a large, hot-pink trimmed coach shopping tote and small matching bags within.

Approximately 90 women (and a few men) seemed to thoroughly enjoy the afternoon. Kudos to the planning committee, consisting of members:

Mary Ann Altobelli, Patti Antonellis, Roberta Burgess, Lyn Errico, Nancy Gruppuso, Michael Kaminski, Aida Guidice, Paul McCurdy, Martha Pompeo, Eileen Renzi, Florence Stella and Prudence Vipiani.

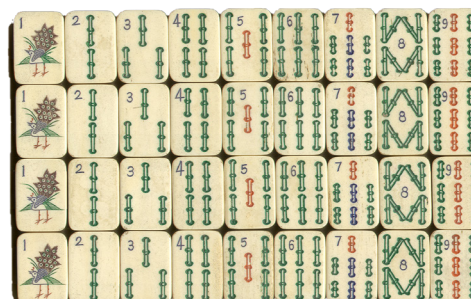
SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARDS NIGHT APRIL 4, 2018

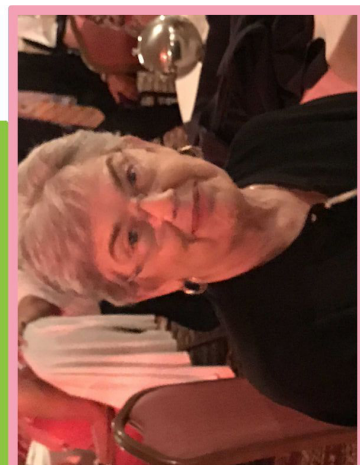
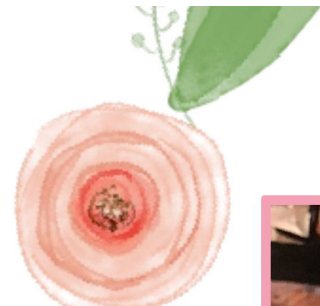
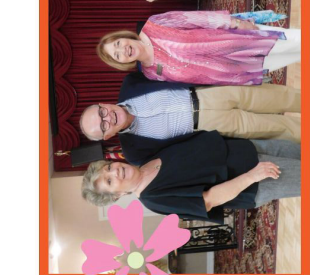
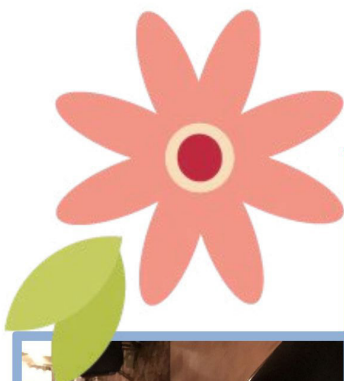
Our Bocce Coaches have been proud to coach our Special Olympians for 17 years.

We express our special thanks this year to Bob Pascente, Damian and Mary Rossi, Lester and Dorothy Kinney, Luigi Funicello, Renato Stella, and Tony Di Nello. Several of our coaches traveled with our Special Olympians, helped introduce bocce to the Collier Middle and High Schools, attended the area games in Cape Coral, and hope to attend the state games in Orlando on May 18 -20.

MAH JONG TOURNAMENTS

Nancy Gruppuso continues to coordinate her successful One Day Mini and Week End Mah Jong tournaments that enabled us to donate to the Neighborhood Clinic this year.





AN ITALIAN/AMERICAN NEW BASEBALL HERO

Anthony Rizzo is a very talented and personable first baseman for the Chicago Cubs. He is a three-time All Star, Golden Glove winner (for exceptional performance in fielding over the course of a season), a leader in the clubhouse, and a critical member of the team that brought the Chicago Cubs their first World Series title in over 100 years. He's accomplished all this, and he's only 28 years old!

His family traces back to Cimminna in Sicily. In fact, Anthony played for Team Italy in the World Baseball Classic in March 2013. The Rizzos are a tight-knit family of his mother, dad, and older brother. He was recently engaged to be married to a Greek-American young woman. For Anthony, life is good! However, it wasn't always that way. After he was drafted by the Boston

Red Sox and began playing professionally in 2007, he became ill with Hodgkins Lymphoma. After 6 months of chemotherapy, the disease went into remission. In 2012 Anthony and his family founded the Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation, a charity that supports research for the cure of childhood cancer. Over \$4 million has been donated to Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. Anthony is a frequent visitor to children with cancer there. His charitable involvement has been nationally recognized, and he was the recipient of the Robert Clemente Award in

2017, an award given to a professional baseball player who demonstrates outstanding contribution to his community.

In March, Anthony left spring training to go to Parkland, Florida, his home town, to offer comfort and assistance to families and students who were impacted by the mass school shooting. He delivered an emotional speech at the vigil for the victims at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, his alma mater. He felt that he had to be there and the Cubs agreed! Anthony is a true role model, something not always seen in professional athletes. He consistently demonstrates upstanding behavior, is generous, and has a lot of heart! It is fitting that Italian American sports fans are proud of this modern athlete embodying the best in our heritage!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 10TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AD BOOK:

6th Sense Dental
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Bob&Carole Beauregard
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PNC Bank
Richard C. Young & Co.
Florence and Renato Stella
Trevon Construction Co.
Eileen Renzi (Peter Vivonetto)
Wealth Preservation Solution
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Alex and Wilma DeBartolo
Michael Kaminski
Rocco Monticello

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D'Annunzio Family
Lyn and Carmine Errico
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Charlie for Donna Lomanto
Mercedes Benz/Naples
Moretrench
Neapolitan Car Wash
Pack and Ship Express
Precision Roofing
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Watermark Grille
Marilyn Romeo
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Donna and Keith Doran
Jennifer McCall
Ann Petrilla

Alpha Phi Delta (Tony Carfang)
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