

PROGRAM PROFILES

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

The Italian Garden

Mary Menniti



Mary Menniti is from Pittsburg PA, and now resides in Davis, CA. She will tell us how her “Italian Garden Project” was organized to preserve old world food and gardening traditions and demonstrate that the wisdom of the Italian-American gardener is relevant for today and for the future. Mary has documented gardens throughout the country including in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Cleveland, Pittsburg, San Jose and Sacramento. Her project is now in the Archives of the American Garden at the Smithsonian Institution.



THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

The Shameful Treatment of Italians during WWII

Laura Smith



Laura Smith is a member of “Timeline Members” and has completed extensive research of the Italian-American experience in the United States during WWII. From Monterey, CA to the waterfront areas of San Francisco, to President Roosevelt’s infamous Executive Order 9066, to General DeWitt, to the 10,000 Italian-Americans forced out of their homes and finally to the internment of hundreds of Italians at Fort Missoula in Montana. Laura is the Managing Editor of Timeline.com, a history magazine based in San Francisco. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Atlantic* online, and others.

**THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018*****Misfits, Merchants & Mayhem on the San Francisco Waterfront:
Focus on Italian Fishermen*****Lee Bruno**

Lee Bruno will speak about the San Francisco Barbary Coast with its legendary gold-rushers, gamblers and adventurers galore, and the history of the San Francisco waterfront from 1849 to 1934. Lee will also focus on the Italian-Americans of that time period. Lee holds a Master of Science in science journalism from Boston University, and is the author of

[*Panorama: Tales of the San Francisco 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition*](#). He has been writing for over 20 years about business and technology for the *Economist*, the *Guardian*, *MIT Technology Review*, *Red Herring Magazine* and *Wired*, among others. He has lived in San Francisco for more than 30 years, raising a family of four boys with his wife, and enjoys long open-water swims with the eccentrics at the South End Rowing Club.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018***Plans for the 150th San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade*****John Parente**

John Parente is a past President and current Board Member of Columbus Day Celebration, Inc. He is also the Chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee of that organization, and will tell us about the many activities planned for this most important Italian-American event. John is a native San Franciscan, holds a BBA from Gonzaga University and a JD from Lincoln University School of Law. He has been a practicing attorney since 1976.

**THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018*****Istituto Italiano di Cultura: Its Mission and History*****Paolo Barlera, Director**

Paolo Barlera asks: *Is the Istituto Italiano di Cultura a treatment center?* He will tell us of the many things the Istituto does to keep Italy's history and civilization alive in the 21st century, and discuss its mission and history.

After studying philosophy and literature, Paolo has served in the cultural division of the Italian Foreign Office for the past 20 years, and is currently the Director of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of San Francisco.
