

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

Celebrating the customs, languages, music, food and traditions of Trentino!



September 2017

Remembering Who We Are

When my mother's uncle, Zio Albasini, died in the 1950's, he left her and her siblings some money, since he had no children. By then, Mom had three children, and her family would grow to seven over the years. This inheritance was "her money" to spend, unlike her earnings before she was married, which she was expected to turn over to her parents for the well-being of the entire family. Mom chose to buy a large illustrated family Bible, reflecting her strong value of religious education, and an 8 mm movie camera, which has provided my siblings and me with delightful memories of our childhood years. Mom was documenting our family in a way that remains very meaningful. This month, we were lucky to have **Vincenzo Mancuso**, a video documentarian from Trentino, come to Seattle to film oral interviews of our club members, as part of a Memory Project funded by the *Museo Storico* in Trento. I had the extraordinary privilege of being present for the interview of **Fernanda Say** (Scaia), who will turn 93 later this year. Fernanda immigrated to the US in 1958. Over lunch, she told

us captivating personal stories of life in Italy during WWII. The dining room table was laden with beautiful food she had prepared from thriving vines, trees, and plants in her garden, grown from cuttings she had hand-carried from Italy in her suitcase nearly 60 years ago. Experiences like these remind me of the importance of our family stories and histories. I feel like I am part of a larger story when I pause to consider the lives of those who came before me. Like the plants in Fernanda's garden, we are of both places, Trentino and *L'America*. As our lives cycle forward with the seasons, I hope we can each find the opportunity to remember and record our family stories.

In this issue, we feature the fascinating family history of **Grant Rauzi**, whose story – spanning four generations – begins in **Cloz, Val di Non** with his *bisnonno*, continues to the Trentino community in **Stockton, California** and now, with Grant and his family, connects to our Seattle Trentino Club. May our Circoli continue to grow and intersect!

Mary Beth Moser

Seventh Annual Polenta Picnic

We had a great Polenta Picnic on Sunday, August 8 at Des Moines Marina! The weather and the food could not have been better. Thanks to all of you who came! We missed those of you who couldn't make it this year. **Dan Kalstad** (right) and his expert helpers stirred up a magnificent polenta. **Joan Barker**, with the assistance of **Annie Zadra**, cooked up a fabulous *tonco*, a special traditional meat stew with gravy, as well as her famous *crauti*.



Grant Rauzi brought homemade salami from a family recipe, and there were tables of great food. **Dan Zadra** journeyed from **Wallace, Idaho** bearing bottles of his award-winning wine to share with everyone.



Photo credit Kathy Rauzi

For the second year in a row. . . **Steven Rauzi** (left) won the grand prize of the Italian picnic basket with specialty items gathered by **Jan Agosti**. Our lucky prize-winners among the kids were **Sarah** and **Michael Jusko**, (above right) who won penny jars. (Sarah was actually a three-time winner!)



Lyda Dalpiaz (right) won the "Find the Glava" game - and took home movie-theater tickets! Congratulations!



Judi Martini, Chase Smith, Margie Martini Jones (below) and **Leroy Jones** came all the way from Wenatchee and we are delighted that they joined us!



Special thanks to all the volunteers! **Serena Rizzi** (right) helped at the registration table. **Rhonda Peterson** set up a map with sign-up sheets so folks could indicate where their relatives are from. We appreciate everyone who came early to set up, those who helped afterwards, and all those who stirred the polenta pot. The success of this event depends upon the efforts of all of us, and our club has outstanding volunteers. The connections we make at our gatherings provide the memories that linger long after the Polenta Picnic is over.



(Below: **Grant Rauzi** and **Dan Zadra**; **Rosie Zadra**, **Sofie Zadra**, **Savanna Barker** and **Laureen (Sissie) Rogers**; **Leanne** and **Dan Albertini**. Right: **Fino Fliss Zadra** and **Annie Zadra**). Please see more photos on our STC Facebook page, and feel free to post your news and photos!



Oral History: Trentini Americani Documentary Project



This September, we were lucky to have **Vincenzo Mancuso**, a video documentarian, visit Seattle to take oral histories of our club members. Vincenzo, who lives in Bolzano, received a grant from the *Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino* to interview members of Trentino clubs throughout the US and has produced [several documentaries](#). Over 160 interviews have been collected across the United States, from New York City to San Francisco, to preserve the memories and legacies of the Trentini community. Vincenzo worked late into the night to

interview as many folks as possible. Thank you, Vincenzo!

Fourteen of us were able to participate in this project – **Jan Agosti, Tom Agosti, Sid Flor, Joan Barker, Fernanda Say, Clete Boldrin, Dan Kalstad, Emily Kalstad, Grant Rauzi, Dan Zadra, Annie Zadra, Angelo Albertini, and Mary Beth Moser**. Thanks to each of you who offered support in numerous ways, including **Jan Agosti** and **Frank Woodruff**, **Tom Fellin** (right) and **Tina Fellin**, and **Rich Rotruck**! We hope that Vincenzo can continue his important work by interviewing our members in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Alaska.

A special thanks to **Clete Boldrin** (below left) for suggesting and facilitating the interview with **Fernanda Say** (below right, with **Mary Beth Moser**). Opportunities like this really help us bond as members, become more visible to other Trentini clubs, and reach out to new folks who may want to join our club.



We know that not all of you could participate who wanted to, but we hope to keep the momentum going by receiving your written stories for the newsletter and web site. It would be a lot of fun to gather once a month to share our family stories and history. Do you know a central place we could meet? Are you interested in participating or helping organize this? Let us know! mbmoser@comcast.net



Fernanda Say's husband, **Jack (Scaia) Say**, was a knife-sharpener. Fernanda and Jack operated this business from their home on Beacon Hill in Seattle for many years. Jack donated the money for a memorial statue of a knife-sharpener in **Pinzolo, Val Rendena** that honors this trade. (Left: Painting of a knife-sharpener on Fernanda's wall)

Meanwhile, the film, *Sharp Families* by Patrick Grassi about the knife-sharpener or *moletti* from Val Rendena, who immigrated to England, is currently on tour in Europe.

San Gennaro Festival

Sept. 8-10, 2017 was the annual San Gennaro festival in Georgetown. This is a small street fair, in the heart of some of the original Italian neighborhoods, whose proceeds go to charity – and it is a lot of fun! We spotted STC member **Dot Whitney** (below) hard at work for the Sons of Italy at the Beer Garden. The Rainier Valley Historical Society had an informative booth with maps and details of the early Italian neighborhoods (sometimes nicknamed Garlic Gulch). The founder of the festival, **Gennaro Mascio**, has a company that makes the (delicious!) pre-cooked tubes of polenta that are available under several different trade names.

It would be great to have a booth next year. We already have one volunteer, **Rita Flaim Larson**. Please let us know if you are interested in being involved! mbmoser@comcast.net



And Nearby. . . .

Mt. Virgin Church, one of the major churches of the Catholic immigrant Italian community. **Dot Whitney's** grandfather, **Giulio Miori**, installed the bell in the steeple. The stain-glass windows, more than 100 years old, were financed with donations from Italians; each window bears the name of the donor and the date.



Member Family History – Grant Rauzi

“A CLOZ FAMILY IN AMERICA”

Written by Grant Rauzi
Seattle, Washington, September 2017



Famiglia Rauzi traces our family history via **Castel Mozzo** in **Cloz, Val di Non** to the 1500s. We have embarked on the project to research even earlier and welcome any helpful information from our Trentino contacts!

AMADIO RAUZI (Bisnonno) Born in Cloz 1863-1939. Adventured to America at least twice to work in the gold fields. He also traveled to Argentina. Arrived in New York 12 Sep 1887 on the ship *La Bourgogne* departed from Le Havre, France. Age 28. Destination: California. SS *La Champagne* out of Le Havre 28th October 1899. Arrived New York Nov. 1899. Destination was listed as Belt (just north of Helena, MT) to mine for gold.

First family of three children died of cholera, the two oldest died the same day. The story goes that they went out in the fields to work and died, first one and then the other, before the day was over.

He returned to Cloz from America and had three more children before his wife died. Married her sister who raised his children but had none of their own.

FRANCESCO RAUZI (Nonno) Born in Cloz 12 June 1900, died 21 August 1952, Stockton, San Joaquin County, CA. Austrian Alpini army 1918. My grandfather joined in place of his father Amadio during the transcription of the villages of the Val di Non. Unfortunately, along with the rest of the Trentini, he was sent to the Russian Front, the “Long Walk”. Many lost their feet to frozen conditions. Good news: he survived and returned. Bad news: his lower extremities were never without pain again.

Arrived in America April 1921 after the war. The boundaries changed so his passport was Italian. His sponsor was his cousin-in-law John Franch who vouched for work and residence. (John Franch’s dad and Ervino Franch’s dad, Camillo, were brothers. Camillo’s shop in Cloz is well-known: *lavorazione artigianale e artistica dei metalli*.)

First stop was the mines in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, then on to California because his cousins, the Flors, from Cloz lived in Stockton. He worked as lumberjack in Truckee, Lake Tahoe.

Stockton, California offered many opportunities. My grandfather was offered a room in the house of the Valentini family, who originated from Dambel (near Cloz in Val di Non). In Stockton, he worked at the Monarch Foundry, then Union Ice Company, then started his own business as distributor of Italian meats and products. The products arrived in Stockton by riverboat from San Francisco, and his customers were meat markets, stores and restaurants in the Central Valley. He also farmed on West Lane and bought homes on Wyandotte Street.

Returned to Cloz by steamship with his wife and children and they lived in Castel Mozzo for 1937-38. He never completed his citizenship papers, and therefore, as an alien in Stockton, California during WWII, he had to be inside his house each night by 9:00 pm. He loved to sing, and was a host of many gatherings for his Trentini community in Stockton. Tragically, he died at the young age of 52 of Hodgkin’s Disease (cancer of the lymph glands). One year later, research was found to arrest it.



FRANK JOE RAUZI (Papa) Born in Stockton 1927. In Cloz in 1937-1938, he was confirmed at St. Stefano and lived in the family home “Castel Mozzo”. He didn’t understand why all the other boys in school had short hair, until the teacher grabbed him by his curly hair and shook him to scold him. Next day: haircut!

Frank joined the Marines during WWII and was selected for the Marine Rifle Team. He also served in the National Guard. He took over his dad’s business upon his death, and later enjoyed a long and successful career in sales for Gallo Salame of San Francisco.

Frank returned to Cloz in 1977 for six weeks, taking his entire family: his wife Marilyn and three sons (Grant, Frank & Kurt), his mother Edith and stepfather. It was a grand reunion. Frank and Marilyn returned five more times over the next 30 years to visit cousins and friends.

- Member: Circolo Trentino di San Francisco

For many years, Frank cooked the polenta dinners for the Trentino gatherings held in the San Joaquin Valley. He has set the example for all the cooks in our family using his time, treasure and talents!

- Dear Possessions from Cloz: his father’s WWI Alpini bayonet; a hammered copper deep polenta pot with rounded cauldron base for use on the wood stove which he watched being made by Ervino Franch’s father, Camillo in 1937. Ervino handmade the copper Rauzi family plaques cherished by each member of our family.

GRANT RAUZI (figlio maggiore) Born in Stockton 1954. Moved his family to Seattle in 1993 to follow work in the high-tech industry. Grant has visited Cloz four times: first in 1977 as mentioned, then with his new wife Kathy 1981, in 2001 with Kathy and their two children Madelyn and Steven, parents and his brother Kurt along with his family too; and again in 2006 with Grant’s teenage family and the parents.

- Member: Circolo Trentino di Seattle
- Dear Possessions from Cloz: Souvenirs from hiking to San Romedio. Many assorted handmade copper items from Ervino Franch’s renowned shop in Cloz, including a hand hammered WWI brass artillery shell from Ervino. Handmade heirloom copper pot from Cloz engraved especially for the Rauzi family.

OUR FAMILY TRADITIONS FROM TRENTINO

- Trentino club activities
- Wine family recipe for family, friends and club
- Favorite family recipes for polenta, cannederli with salame, torta, apple desserts, and Papa’s crauti with apple (P.S. Did you know half of all Italian apple production comes from Val di Non?)



Annual family salame production maintaining the Rauzi recipe from Cloz – this year we look forward to the assembly of four generations!

(P.S. We named our boat in Seattle after our desire to maintain our “close” family ties ☺)



Please see several more wonderful family photos that accompany this article on our [Seattle Trentino Club](http://seattletrentinoclub.org) web site, seattletrentinoclub.org

STC Member News

Welcome new members! We are glad you are here. Please send us your news!
We hope to learn more about everyone's heritage and family stories in months to come.

Mark Julian joins us as a member. All of Mark's grandparents (**Giuliani, Pettscheider, Larcher, and Gius**) were from the **Val di Non**. Thank you Mark for your generous donation!

Rita Flaim Larson, along with her husband **John**, and children join us. Both of Rita's parents, **Celestina** and **Sofia Flaim**, are from **Tregiovo**. Rita has many relatives in **Tregiovo, Revo, Nano, and Bolzano**. We look forward to learning more about them! (See more about Rita's connection to **Rock Springs, WY** in our June 2016 newsletter.)

Jan Agosti and her son **Fletcher** (below) visited Trentino in the spring where they saw family in her grandfather's village **Scanna di Livo in Val di Non**.



They trekked to several rifugios in the Dolomites and Jan spent one harrowing day on the Via Ferrata visiting World War I sites (left).



Dan Zadra (above left) recently gave a guided walking tour of downtown **Wallace, Idaho** after **Mary Beth Moser** and **Rich Rotruck** stopped in to see him on their way through Idaho. There is a lot of Trentino history in this beautiful town!

Shawna Gibson and **Dan Blood** will celebrate their one-year anniversary in Trentino in September! Congratulations, Shawna and Dan!



Flashback photo of **Bill Stolcis** and **Joan Barker** on their accordions. **Dan Aspromonte** of the Circolo Trentini di San Francisco sent the photo. We are lucky to have Joan play for us at La Befana, and now we know her talent began early!



Gary Asson from **Eagle, Idaho** sent a beautiful family story about his grandmother, **Rosa Angela Gabardi – Carotta – Malench -Asson**, which we will be publishing on our web site.

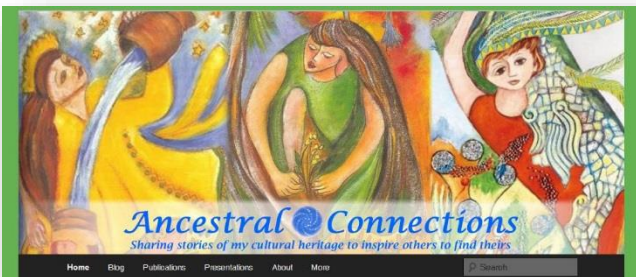
Margie Martini Jones and **Leroy Jones** rejoin us from **Wenatchee, WA**. Margie's grandparents, **Bortolo Martini** and **Rosa Rossi** were from **Revo**. The Martini family is documented back to 1493, and the Rossi family to the 1600s.

Upcoming Events – Save the Date

- **Seattle Trentino Club La Befana Party** – **Sunday, January 14, 2018** at Tyee Yacht Club
- Italian film festival, Nov. 9-16, 2017. Check [Seattle International Film Festival](#).
- The presidents of the Trentino clubs will meet on Nov. 15-17, 2017 in **Cleveland, Ohio**, in preparation for the International Tyrolean Trentino Organization of North America (ITTONA) Convention in the summer of 2018. The convention, which is held every two years, is a gathering of all the Trentini clubs in North America. We'll keep you posted when we have the exact dates for the 2018 Convention.

Publications of Interest

If you have not yet checked out the [Seattle Trentino Club](#) web site – be sure to take a look! Some of you were commenting on the beautiful maps that were on display at the Polenta Picnic. Please see the Geography section of our web site under the “Trentino” tab. Trentino Nel Mondo sent us gorgeous high-definition illustrated maps of each valley. These files are down-loadable onto a storage device. Local print shops, and places like Costco and Staples, can print these maps in a large-format poster. These illustrated maps make a great addition to your family history! Thanks again to **Richard Rotruck** for volunteering to create this site. <http://seattletrentinoclub.org/>



[Ancestral Connections](#) shares the ancestral journey and scholarly research of your newsletter editor, **Mary Beth Moser**. The cover art is by the late [Paola de Manincor](#), renowned muralist and artist of Trentino. The purpose of the web site is to share stories of the author's cultural heritage to inspire others to find theirs. <http://ancestralconnections.net/>

AQUASERI is a beautiful publication for the newly merged Comune of Dimaro Folgarida, in **Val di Sole**. It serves as a source of information for **Carciato, Dimaro, Folgarida, Monclassico, and Presson**. Often the Comune where our relatives live or where our ancestors came from will have a periodical that they willingly send out via mail or email. They are full of news and photos of folks in the places we love. Sometimes they are interested in our news as well, as emigrants or descendants of emigrants.



Other Local Italian Organizations

Several organizations in the Seattle area celebrate Italian heritage, language and culture.

- **Il Punto!** The Italian Cultural Center for Seattle, whose mission is to promote Italian culture through our common passion for food, literature, art, design, film, theater, dance, language, and music. <http://ilpuntoseattle.org/>
- **San Gennaro Festival** annual street festival with food, entertainment; fundraiser for local charity, <http://www.sangennarofestivalseattle.org/>
- **Festa Italiana** annual festival of Italian culture at Seattle Center, <http://www.festaseattle.com/>
- **Dante Alighieri Society**. Bi-monthly programs on Italian culture starting in **September**, one in English, one in Italian. [Italian language school](http://italianlanguage.school) with six levels of classes beginning September 28. <http://das.danteseattle.org/>
- **Seattle Perugia Sister City Society**: regular and special events focused on Italy; monthly gatherings, *La Tavola Italiana*, at Caffè Umbria in Pioneer Square for Italian conversation; film festival; Italian language scholarships; annual picnic; <http://www.seattle-perugia.org/>
- **Club Alpino Italiano (CAI)** Pacific Northwest subsection of Pisa: Hiking group with regular local activities and annual international trips and exchange programs. <http://www.cai-pnw.com/>
- **Sons of Italy**; Italian organizations with social events including an annual picnic, <http://www.glnw.org/information.htm>

THANK YOU for your support and membership from your 2017 Seattle Trentino Club Board!

Mary Beth Moser, President – mbmoser@comcast.net

Jan Agosti, Vice President jagosti@stanfordalumni.org

Annie Zadra, Secretary aezadra@yahoo.com

Joan Barker, Treasurer and Founding President faretuttabarker@icloud.com

2017 Seattle Trentino Club Dues

Our club year runs from January through December and dues are due in January. Our dues enable us to rent venues (which often require a large damage deposit) for our events, to buy supplies, and to cover other club expenses. Dues are \$25 per household. We very much appreciate your support for the Seattle Trentino Club. If you have not already done so, please send \$25 to our treasurer. If you have not been a member before, or if your information has changed, please complete the Application for Membership; otherwise, the form is not necessary. If your email address changes, please let us know. *THANK YOU!*

Seattle Trentino Club, c/o Joan Barker, 700 S 282nd Street #742, Des Moines, WA 98198

SEATTLE TRENTINO CLUB

Application for Membership

Name of Trentino/a _____

Name of partner _____

Names and ages of children in household:

Street address _____

Telephone(s) _____

E-mail address(es) _____

Relationship to emigrant(s), their names and the town(s) and/or valleys from which they emigrated, if known:

Date of application _____

We are collecting stories of the emigration and subsequent histories of our members' families. We hope you will share this information with the group.

Please send completed Application for Membership with \$25/household 2017 membership fee to:

Seattle Trentino Club, c/o Joan Barker, 700 S 282nd Street #742, Des Moines, WA 98198

For information call: **206-878-4502** or write: **Joan C. Barker, faretuttabarker@icloud.com**