

AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ROME

# THE FORUM

WINTER 2024



# THE AWAR FORUM

## WINTER 2024 ISSUE

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#### COVER ART

Desideria Corsini has been painting for many years, after careers in fashion and PR at Gucci, Ken Scott (Milan), Il Pellicano Hotel, and Sotheby's Client Services. Daisy resides most of the year in Italy and spends winters in New York.

#### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Elizabeth Barsanti (page 16) has been an AWAR member since 1974.

Barbara De Benedittis (page 17) earned a Master's degree in Law from a prominent university in Rome, and worked as a trainee barrister in a civil law firm before joining the legal department of a major bank in Italy. An expat herself, she splits her time between Rome and the UK. She founded and runs Barbara De Benedittis Relocation and Legal in Italy to provide legal support to people wanting to move to Italy.

Dorothy Dowling (page 20) has been an AWAR member for more than 30 years, serving as First Vice President, President for two terms, and Historian. She organized AWAR's Professionals and launched the AWAR archive project.

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***Buongiorno alle mie amiche. After the last issue of The Forum, I received so many notes from you all. I thank you for your kind words and your encouragement. As I am new to Rome, AWAR, and The Forum, things are challenging and I will do my best and hopefully improve with each issue.***

As I write this, I am sitting at my table and looking out on Gianicolo Hill. Specifically, my view includes the Fontana dell'Acqua Paola, the Spanish Royal Academy, and San Pietro in Montorio. I love my view. It inspires me with its grandiosity and beauty that characterizes so much of Rome.

It is easy to get grumpy with Rome and its chaos. For those of us who are new, we all have our days where it seems impossible to navigate the bureaucracy or the day-to-day



challenges. For me, after a particularly difficult January, which required multiple trips to the ASL to renew my healthcare registration, I was deflated. In an attempt to revive my flagging spirits, I took a long walk through Parco Celio and into Villa Celimontana, with a side trip through Santo Stefano Rotondo. If you have not walked in



this area, I highly recommend it. The area is in the shadow of the Coliseum, yet it is so peaceful and full of history.

Rome has so many hidden jewels and each time I visit these areas, I am

full of awe. On my daily walks, I often stop in Chiesa San Luigi and the Basilica di Sant'Agostino in Campo Marzio to look at the Caravaggio and Raphael paintings. Even though I have been in these churches many times, it is common for me to see something that I haven't noticed before. My point is that seeing something once is fine, but bringing fresh eyes on subsequent visits is how Rome's true beauty is revealed.

In this issue, we are profiling both member services and new members. I enjoyed reading about new members and getting a peek into lives lived before coming to Rome. I hope that you enjoy getting to know people a little more. We also received good responses for our Member Services listing. We tried to make minimal edits for brevity and conformity. Having said that, if you have thoughts, please be courteous in expression of them.

I hope to see you soon.  
**Melanie Price**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



### Dear AWAR Members,

Last month, Ute Winkler, Melanie Price and I spent the morning with Erica Ercoli, who has been the director of [Differenza Donna](#) (DD) for over 30 years. The scope and aim of this organization is to support abused women and educate them - and all Italians - on the topic of domestic abuse. We met with Erica to discuss how the women of AWAR can support Differenza Donna (a long-standing AWAR charity) in a more hands-on way, rather than solely financial.

Differenza Donna was founded in Rome on the 6th of March 1989 to expose, fight, prevent, and overcome gender-based violence. The organization has a 24-hour hotline with support offered in 15 different languages. Additionally, there are numerous centers for abused women. In both of these areas, volunteers are welcomed, following a Differenza Donna-offered training course.

Throughout this past year, we've been alarmed by the number of femicide cases in Italy, and partner abuse, both physical and mental/verbal.

Giulia, a 22-year-old student, was murdered by her rejected boyfriend. This became front-page news in Italy and news of the murder spread worldwide. The tragedy of Giulia captured public sentiment and moved Italians into awareness and action. It also triggered commentary and debate throughout Europe as well as the United States as evidenced by a New York Times article published in November 2023.

The male/female dynamic within Italian society is very much a key element of diversity, equity, and inclusion. There's a mindset within the Italian psyche – both male and female – that men should be permitted to overpower and control women. It's the kind of subtle dynamic that tells a man he has the inherent right to control, and even discipline, his partner and dictate what she can do.

If a woman rebels against this subtle underlying power structures, then she puts herself at risk for punishment or even femicide in extreme cases. This power structure in Italian society was, up until half a century ago, enshrined in law. A woman was powerless to take recourse if she

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

found herself in an abusive situation because the court system supported the man. Laws have changed and this is no longer the case but nonetheless it takes time, work and effort to modify the male/female mindset so that the Equity and Inclusion elements in DEI are stabilized.

The murder of Giulia has opened up the floodgates in the collective, Italian mindset, and although this horrific event never should have occurred, it's been important in tipping the scales here in Italy.

When you read about Giulia's murder, including the article in the New York Times, it is easy to draw the conclusion that Italy is the worst offender within the European Union. This isn't the case. According to a [recent article](#) in the Economist "That Italy has a problem with dangerously possessive husbands and boyfriends is well known. It is not [true], however, that Italy is an exceptionally lethal place for women. In fact, Germany's rate of femicide is twice Italy's figure of 0.4 murders per 100,000 women, the fifth lowest in the EU. But Italian social attitudes have reached a point at which even a relatively low incidence of the crime is considered intolerable."

This article appeared in the Europe section of the Economist print edition under the headline "Italian Outrage Against Femicide". That doesn't take away from the fact that this is an area where Italians must stay focused, and continue working towards change, so that we achieve full equity and inclusion between men and women.

Following the femicide incident, and as the ensuing ["anger at the mistreatment of women grew, the Senate rushed into law a bill intended to assuage it. The education minister in Giorgia Meloni's deeply conservative government earmarked €15m](#)

[\(\\$16.5m\) for relationship education in schools."](#) This is a start, but only just.

A November 20, 2023, Italian Ministry of the Interior study revealed that ["for the period 1 January – 19 November 2023 295 murders were recorded, with 106 female victims, of which 87 were family/relationship murders, and of these, 55 died at the hands of their partner/ex partner."](#) It's a 3% decrease over the preceding year, but still a grim statistic.

Giulia's father and sister have been active and vocal on femicide and partner abuse following her murder. Her sister pushed back against the government's request for schools to hold a minute's silence for Giulia, calling instead for widespread sexual and emotional education and the financing of anti-violence centers. ["For Giulia don't hold a moment of silence, for Giulia burn everything," she wrote. "Femicide is a state murder because the state does not protect us. Femicide is not a crime of passion, it is a crime of power."](#)

This murder was a wake-up call for parents, many who recognize similar situations with their own daughters, where an as yet nonviolent boyfriend or spouse shows similar tendencies. These parents are seeking guidance on how they can support their daughters and avert a violent incident.

**Here is your chance to channel your alarm into action. If you are interested in volunteering, you will need to enroll in a Differenza Donna-offered training course. Differenza Donna would like to set up a training session for AWAR members interested in volunteering. If you'd like to participate, please send an email to [president@awar.org](mailto:president@awar.org).**

Warm regards,  
**Wendy Holloway**

# MONTHLY MEETING



## Thursday, March 21, AWAR Vote & Sip

Join us at the Hotel Savoy for this important gathering, an IN-PERSON-ONLY VOTE on proposed amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws. It's not all business, though! Enjoy an aperitivo, good company, and the always lovely view from the Savoy rooftop.

Please feel free to stop by and vote; there's no obligation to attend the event.

Register by March 18! Details [here](#).

## Hold the date for the following gatherings in 2024:

### Meetings

Thursday, April 18,  
Lunch

Thursday, May 23  
Evening

Thursday, June 13  
Evening



### Coffee Breaks

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 4

(all at 10:00 am)

Check the calendar on [awar.org](http://awar.org) or the AWAR app for details!

# BONE HEALTH

As women, we face diverse and unique health concerns across our life that may affect our overall health and wellness.

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## BY MELANIE PRICE

When I first met with my doctor in Rome, she recommended a number of medical tests – EKG, mammogram, etc. She also recommended a bone density test. As a new Roman resident, I stumbled a bit in getting it scheduled, but a friend helped me and we both learned that we had the beginnings of osteoporosis. As a breast cancer survivor, my oncologist had warned me to focus on bone health, so I did some research and learned some interesting things.

Osteoporosis is prevalent in both Italy and the United States. According to Professor Paolo Tranquilli Leali, past-President of the Società Italiana di Ortopedia e Traumatologia (SIOT) and President of the Foundation SIOT-DELITALA "Osteoporosis mostly affects older adults and this is a major cause for concern in Italy where 23.1% of the Italian population is aged 65 years or older, projected to increase to a staggering 35% by 2050.

Similarly, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it affects almost 20% (1 in 5) of women aged 50 and over and almost 5% (1 in 20) of men aged 50 and over.

There are a number of risk factors that increase your likelihood of osteoporosis. These include the following:

### AGE

The older you are, the more likely you are to have osteoporosis. Around 75% of fractures due to osteoporosis happen in people aged 65 and over.

### GENDER

Women are more likely to develop osteoporosis than men.

### FAMILY HISTORY OF OSTEOPOROSIS

You are at greater risk if your parents had osteoporosis or a broken hip.

### PREVIOUS FRACTURE

If you've broken a bone after a minor fall, it could be an indicator of osteoporosis.

### MENOPAUSE/HYSTERECTOMY

Estrogen has a protective effect on bone mass, and with menopause women start to lose bone mass at a faster rate. That's why women who have early menopause (before age 45) or have had a hysterectomy, are at greater risk.





## WOMEN'S HEALTH NOTE

### MEDICATIONS

Certain medications have side effects that are linked to osteoporosis or increased fracture risk. These include:

- Long-term glucocorticoid therapy: medications (e.g. prednisone) used to treat arthritis or asthma. Using glucocorticoids for more than three months can increase risk of fracture.
- Certain steroid hormones (medroxyprogesterone acetate, luteinising hormone releasing hormone agonists) and hormone deprivation therapy (androgen deprivation therapy)
- Proton pump inhibitors
- Certain medications to treat diabetes
- Certain antidepressants, anxiolytics, sedatives and neuroleptics
- Certain immunosuppressants (calmodulin/calcineurin phosphatase inhibitors)
- Thyroid hormone treatment (L-Thyroxine)
- Aromatase inhibitors (used to treat breast cancer)
- Certain chemotherapy agents
- Certain antipsychotics
- Certain anticonvulsants, anti-epileptics
- Anti-coagulants

### OTHER DISEASES

Some diseases may weaken bones and increase risk of osteoporosis and fractures:

- Rheumatoid arthritis (note: this is a major and common risk factor!)
- Nutritional/gastrointestinal problems (lactose intolerance, Crohn's, IBS, celiac disease, etc.)
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma
- Endocrine disorders including hypogonadal states (diabetes, Cushing's, hyperparathyroidism, Turner/Klinefelter, amenorrhea, etc.)
- Immobility
- Chronic kidney disease
- HIV/AIDS

- Cancers (including prostate and breast)
- Haematological disorders
- Psychophysiological disorders and mental illness (dementia, anorexia)

### WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE ODDS?

- Curtail excessive alcohol intake. Drinking more than 2 units of alcohol per day increases the risk of fracture.
- Stop Smoking. Smoking almost doubles the risk of hip fractures.
- Maintain a healthy body mass index. A healthy body weight is important - and being underweight with a BMI below 19 is a significant risk factor.
- Good nutrition. A diet rich in calcium, protein, fruits, and vegetables benefits bone health.
- Get sufficient Vitamin D. Low levels are common, particularly in the winter or among seniors who do not go outdoors.
- Seek treatment for eating disorders like anorexia or bulimia, which can result in extreme weight loss, dangerous for bone health. In young women, this results in estrogen deficiency (much like menopause) and very low calcium intake, with resulting rapid bone loss.
- Stay active. Lack of exercise results in bone (and muscle) loss. Inactive adults have increased risk of hip fracture.
- Get enough calcium, an important nutrient for bone health. The body's ability to absorb calcium declines with age, which is one of the reasons why seniors also require higher amounts.
- Watch your step! Frequent falls mean higher risk.

# NEW MEMBERS

Since September of 2023 through the beginning of February in 2024, we gained over 30 new members. Here are the autobiographical profiles of some of the new members.

## NICOLETTA (NICKY) BASTA

I'm Italian born but lived my childhood life in Santo Domingo DR, Puerto Rico and in Miami Beach and NYC. I was eleven when we came back to Rome and then attended Marymount. I worked for Pan Am, which was bought by Delta. I work at the Fiumicino Airport. In my free time I like to go on walks with my toy poodle Sami and continue to explore the world. I love to learn about different cultures and ways of life.

## KATHERINE BRIENZE

I was born and raised in New York but lived for over 30 years in California. I retired from being a Special Educator in the Bay Area and Sacramento and moved to Naples with my husband in 2022. We relocated to Frascati one year ago. I love gardening, art, hiking in the Castelli Romani forests, cooking, dining, exploring historical sites in Rome, and I am currently bound and determined to learn Italian. I was an active member of the sister club in Naples and met so many wonderful friends and I am happy to be part of the Rome group.

## PAMELA CAPOROSSI

I am an American by birth. I live with my family in Rome but spent many years in Africa and the US. I am a freelance technical translator from English into Italian, and I love travelling the world, meeting new people, and exploring new cultures. I am a member of two associations where I develop my interest in Personal Growth

and play an active role in the organization of activities.

## OLIVIA CARRESCIA

I first came to Italy in 1964 and worked in Florence and then Rome on international co-productions and also on documentaries for RAI-TV in Italy and New York, from 1968 to 1974. After a 6-month solo trip across Asia, I returned to NY and eventually independently produced five documentaries on the Maya of Guatemala. I later became a teaching artist and obtained a master's in education. My husband and I now come to Italy often. After having attended several events with Linda Mitchell (friend since 1972!) I joined AWAR last year and have enjoyed it. We are now investigating obtaining dual citizenship and hope to be able to spend even more time in Italy.

## HOPE COHEN

I am from Philly, and I am a chef, cookbook author and media personality. I have worked both in front of (as host), and behind the camera (as producer). For 6+ years I hosted a cooking show on the Comcast Network, working with nationally and internationally renowned chefs. My cookbook titled "Fast, Fresh + Simple" was published 10 years ago and since then I have worked in production, recipe development and as a presenter for television, video, culinary advisor for brands, as well as culinary events. I love to travel, the sea, contemporary art,

## MEMBER UPDATE

and studying the culture of cooking, food & wine.

### MARTINA COTICHELLA

I was born in Rome in 1987, and I am an Italian and US citizen. At 25 I moved to the UK where I spent 9 years working and soaking in the Brit style of living. I wanted to come back to Rome during the pandemic, to stay closer to my family. So, I did in 2022, with no regrets. I am the Head of Product Strategy at a software company (MailUp-Team System), leading a team of 7. Last year, together with my friend Arianna Figliola we founded the Urban Book Club, the first itinerant Book Club-Community of Rome.

### JOUMANA DAHER

I am Lebanese. I grew up in Lebanon then moved to Dubai and arrived in Florence, Italy at the end of 2014. I received my Masters in International Relations. I came to Rome at the end of 2020. Now I am an export manager consultant for a contact lens company and I engage in antique trade like vases and paintings. I also engage in export activities. I live with my Mother, who is a retired lawyer

### CHIARA FERRARIS

I moved to Rome at the beginning of 2023 after 12 years living and working in China. Before that, I was based in Venice, Vienna and Germany. I am very passionate about foreign languages, art and literature, and I love running. I have worked in various fields, from business consulting to education, writing and editing, interpreting, and Foreign Affairs. I am currently working for an Italian company organizing art exhibitions, managing projects in China and Asia. I believe cultural cooperation and exchange can help us build a better world and I am looking forward to sharing ideas

and connecting with the other members of the AWAR community.

### JEANNE GARVEY

I came to Rome in August of '23 with my husband who is teaching a course at the Catholic University of America Rome Center located in Trastevere. We lived in Washington, D.C. for the past 12 years and will be moving to South Bend, Indiana. I have had interesting careers in Educational Administration, Consulting, Photography and Retail (I helped John Peterman launch the J.Peterman Co catalogue). I love to knit and make small assemblages. We have five grown children and 26 grandchildren! We will only be here through May but I hope to have the chance to meet some of you before we leave.

### JENNIE HAUSCHILD

I am a native Iowan that settled in New York City after graduating from the University of Iowa in 1997. I worked in public education and international group travel until I moved to Rome in 2020. Here, I manage Airbnbs in the historical center with my husband; I also offer tour experiences and teach English. I am a foodie, an avid traveler, and enjoy the mediterranean culture. I look forward to promoting AWAR and developing connections with other members and the community.

### SUSANA HAYMAN

I was born in Kent, England and left to travel the world with my parents when I was nine months old. My travels have been fundamental to my understanding of peoples from many different cultures and backgrounds. As a result, I speak five languages, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese and my native English. I studied ballet at the Royal Ballet School

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and after moving to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil I studied the modern dance techniques of Martha Graham Jose Limon and Brazilian primitive dance. I was invited to join the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in 1968 with whom I travelled around the world performing.

### CARYN HOFBERG

I arrived here from Los Angeles, in April of 2022. Before I came here, I had a flea market-type store in the historic neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles and also started the merchant's association there and was president. I had art, jewelry, furniture, pre-loved clothing, purses, and shoes and collectibles. I then lived with my Mother for the last 5 years of her life until she passed in her sleep at 100 years of age after which I worked as a Professional Organizer and did Interior Redesign. I live in Quartiere Trieste and I'm very happy here. I have two brother cats named Frankie and Freddie.

### JERI LUGO

I moved to Rome in 2017. I had a wonderful life in Los Angeles as my entire focus was and still is devoted to making everything around me beautiful. From producing Designer Fashion Shows all over the country, Celebrity Styling, Celebrity Weddings, Home Design and Organizing, and any single thing I could get my hands on that I could make a difference and bring beauty and design to the project. Upon my arrival in Rome, I was heavily tasked with renovating a beautiful historic flat in the Parioli area where I live today. The biggest challenge was of course the language, and in fact, it still is.

### TAMARA MAGLIOCO

I am an Italian citizen who decided to return to live in my hometown Rome, after

15 years living abroad. I previously lived in Switzerland and Germany with my husband, two kids and a cat. I moved to different places due to my husband's job where I had the pleasure to meet many people of different nationalities, interests and culture. I worked as procurement manager in various oil and gas projects. I am currently working for an engineering contractor in Rome being responsible for the procurement activities associated with a vegetable oil treatment plant to produce biofuel. My passion is tea, and my dream is to set up a tea shop in Rome.

### KRISTINE MASTERS

I was raised in Lexington, Massachusetts and moved to Rome in 2009 from New York City. I now reside in Piazza Vittorio and am a math instructor at a nearby scientific high school and private tutor. After working at live rock 'n roll venues in Boston and New York, I love attending shows locally and traveling to see my favorite bands on their European tours.

### KELSA SMITH-MOUSKOUROVA

I am originally from Los Angeles, California. In 2009, I married a Bulgarian Diplomat (Ivo) and moved to Sofia, Bulgaria. From there, our journey continued to Toronto, Canada, back to Sofia, Bulgaria and in October 2022 to Rome. I own and operate Native Connection, a now mostly online English Language Center which focuses on individual and very small group English Language instruction for both children and adults. I love reading books, watching movies, exploring new places and entertaining. I also like meeting people for coffee and conversation, strolls through the city and meals in the abundant number of gluten free restaurants available in Rome. We live in Flaminia with our cat, Sofie.

## MEMBER UPDATE

### PAULINA NG

I am an entrepreneur, business consultant and former investment banker with extensive experience across Asia, North America, Oceania and Europe. My unwavering dedication to the arts and passion for culture has positioned me as a staunch advocate for promoting culture awareness and appreciation worldwide. In my recent career trajectory, I have ventured into Web3 strategy, NFT art advisory, and have become a passionate advocate for extra virgin olive oil in Italy.

### GRETA STACY

I moved to Rome from Doha, Qatar in the summer of 2023. I am originally from St. Paul, Minnesota and I have also lived in Quito, Ecuador. I teach science and develop curriculum for Subject to Climate remotely. I live in Ponte Milvio and am eager to explore Rome and Italy.

### AMANDA TESTA

I am half American, half Italian. I am a nature-loving, and animal-adoring veterinarian, and I work for a veterinary pharmaceutical Company as Export Manager. I joined AWAR in January 2023 and love the experiences, activities and acquaintances, with a special preference for the food and wine initiatives..

### KYSHA WINTERS

I relocated to Rome, Italy from San Diego, California. Before moving to Rome, I worked in Early Childhood Development for over 10 years. In 2017 after getting married, I joined my husband in the diplomatic lifestyle, where we move every three years to a new country. I have lived in Canada, Estonia and Italy. Since moving abroad, I am now a travel blogger who loves adventuring around Europe.

### CHRISTIE WORRELL

I split my time between Campagnano di Roma, Switzerland and the US. A former corporate lawyer, I write children's books under pen name Carris Kane and head a charity, Level the Field Fund. I am married to a Roman and am a recent empty nester

# MEMBER SERVICES

In general, AWAR does not permit members to promote their commercial or professional pursuits. However, we know that many of you are in search of goods or services and would prefer to patronize fellow members, given the option. To facilitate the match of members and services, Melanie Price sent several emails requesting information from members. Below are the responses received, edited for brevity and consistency.

## FLORIST

### **Victoria Classen**

Provides sustainable flowers to events, and  
[www.popflorist.com](http://www.popflorist.com)  
Instagram @popflorist

## FOOD

### **Maureen Fant**

Market-cooking classes for individuals and small groups  
[www.maureenbfant.com](http://www.maureenbfant.com)  
info@maureenbfant.com

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### **Catherine Tondelli**

Venue finding, events and meeting organization  
[www.meetingangels.com](http://www.meetingangels.com)

## PERSONAL SERVICES

### **Danielle DeVine**

Color Addict: Offers seasonal color analysis and armocromia.  
daniellehdevine@gmail.com  
[www.colouraddict.it](http://www.colouraddict.it)

### **Susana Hayman**

Elan Vita guided meditations.  
[www.susanahayman-chaffey.com](http://www.susanahayman-chaffey.com)

## ARTS AND GRAPHICS

### **Karen Gann**

Watercolor painter who does work on commission.  
Please see [karengann.com](http://karengann.com) for a professional resume, artists statement and a view of her work.

### **Liz Grauman**

Graphic design, web design, logos and branding.  
lizgrauman@gmail.com

### **Claudia Lazzarini,**

Multidisciplinary artist – sculptures, painting, jewelry  
claudia.artline@gmail.com

## EDITORIAL SERVICES, TRANSLATION

### **Dorothy Dowling Scillia**

Translator, member of AITI (Associazione Italiana Traduttori e Interpreti - Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters) for more than twenty years. From Italian into American English.  
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## MEMBER UPDATE

### EDITORIAL SERVICES, TRANSLATION, CONT.

#### **Maureen Fant**

Writer, translator, editor, coordinator of publishing projects  
[www.maureenbfant.com](http://www.maureenbfant.com)  
info@maureenbfant.com

#### **Manuela Paeffgen Cerreto**

Member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIC), from French, English and German into Italian and from Italian and English into French.  
.m.paeffgen@aicc.net

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

#### **Barbara A. Mutsaers**

Financial Advisor  
Via Colle Mainello 31, Zagarolo, IT 00039  
Office: 011 39 06 9576598  
Cell: 011 39 09 339-4433919  
bmutsaers@investment-planners.com

### WRITERS

#### **Sinne Mutsaers**

Writer, director for children's Animation.  
sinnesinne1@gmail.com

#### **Weaver, Vivian**

Business plans, professional letters, advertising slogans.  
vivian18953@gmail.com

### TRAVEL SERVICES

#### **Danielle DeVine**

Location for cultural and corporate events as well as weddings and other special occasions of every kind about 15 minutes from the Vatican.  
daniellehdevine@gmail.com

#### **Maureen Fant**

Small-group one-week tours in Italy emphasizing archaeology and food culture.  
[www.elifanttours.com](http://www.elifanttours.com)  
elifanttours@gmail.com

#### **Nina Farrell**

Azienda Agricola Carafa Jacobini  
Jacobini Wine & Wine Tours  
+39 393 1474262  
www.jacobini.it

#### **Holly Grabow-Magazzino**

Bella Giornata Tours: A Beautiful Day in Italy. Unique and exclusive tours.  
[bellagiornatatours.com](http://bellagiornatatours.com)  
Irene@BellaGiornataTours.com  
hollybellagt@gmail.com

### VACATION RENTALS

#### **Susan Doull**

Commendable Rentals LLC. Specializes in upmarket short-term rentals focusing on Rome, Historic Centre, Tuscany, France.  
[commendablerentals.com](http://commendablerentals.com)  
susan@commendablerentals.com  
France: +33 (0)675530340  
USA: +1 843 548 4213

#### **Nina Farrell**

Vacation properties for short-term rental in Genzano di Roma, Castelli Romani.  
+39 393 1474262

#### **Liz Grauman**

Vacation rental apartments in Monti and Esquilino. Perfect for families and groups.  
[vvmonti.com](http://vvmonti.com)

#### **Megan Todd**

Rental properties in Porto Santo Stefano - Argentario, Tuscany and Anghiara Sabazia - Lago di Bracciano.  
meganalexandratodd@gmail.com  
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# THE HOME OF ITALIAN FUTURIST GIACOMO BALLA

BY ELIZABETH BARSANTI

I recently took a guided tour of Giacomo Balla's home where he lived and worked with his wife and two spinster daughters from 1929 until his death. He was a foremost exponent of Futurism and a signee of the movement's founding manifestoes.

The apartment is all painted in the Futurist style and furnished with things they designed and either made themselves or had made, in the same bright colors and whimsical shapes. It's a showcase for color, light and dynamic movement. Some of the extraordinary garments they made (and wore) are still hanging in the corridor and the furniture, woven rugs, light fixtures etc. are interesting.



A class of school children was on the tour and they obviously enjoyed it and absorbed the concepts.

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**Tickets can be purchased through the Maxxi Museum at [www.maxxi.art](http://www.maxxi.art).**





# PATHS TO ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP

## A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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BY BARBARA DE BENEDITTIS

Even if you don't have Italian ancestors and cannot gain Italian citizenship *jure sanguinis* (by blood), you can still gain Italian citizenship through different paths.

Non-EU citizens can gain Italian citizenship after living in Italy legally for ten years. However, obtaining Italian citizenship through residency is not a right: citizenship can be granted by the Italian government based on whether you meet the prerequisites, but also based on a full consideration of your application and your personal situation.

The main requirements to apply for Italian citizenship are:

- a)** You must know Italian at a B1 (lower intermediate) level;
- b)** You must have been living in Italy legally for ten years (you must have a *permesso di soggiorno*, for example, and be registered in the local 'anagrafe' [population registry]);
- c)** You must have a clean criminal record;
- d)** You must prove you have enough of an income to support yourself financially.

When processing your application, Italian authorities can ask for more documentation at their discretion in order to evaluate your situation and verify that you are integrated into Italian society. Processing times can take as long as two to three years, or longer if further documentation is required.

The application is done [online](#).

Children born in Italy, from foreign parents who are legally residing in Italy, can become Italian citizens if:

- a)** They have lived full-time in Italy, AND
- b)** They declare their willingness to become Italian citizens within a year of their 18th birthday. The declaration is made to the local *Comune* [town hall].

Children of parents who have acquired Italian citizenship before their birth are born Italian, and do not need to make any application to have their citizenship recognised.

Minor children of parents who acquire Italian citizenship after their birth gain Italian citizenship if they live full-time with their naturalised parent. However, when they reach the age of 18, they can renounce their Italian citizenship if they wish so.

Foreign citizens marrying an Italian citizen can acquire Italian citizenship. The application can be made three years after the marriage if the couple lives outside of Italy, and two years after the marriage if the couple lives in Italy. These times are halved if the couple has children together. In addition to the proof that the marriage is still ongoing, the main requirements are a clean criminal record and at least a B1-level knowledge of Italian.

You can find details online [here](#).

*This article is not exhaustive and is for guidance only.*



## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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AWAR's Sustaining Members, or Friends of AWAR, are businesses, schools, universities, and individuals who assist our association in its purpose. We thank them all for their involvement and support!

### **JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY**

Founded in 1972, JCU is an independent, four-year liberal arts university offering undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, and study-abroad programs to English-speaking students from all over the world.

### **ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL**

Founded in 1964, is a nondenominational, coeducational, American international day and boarding IB World School in the heart of Rome, grades 9 to 12, with an optional postgraduate year.

### **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME**

Since 1969, AUR has provided an American liberal arts education in Rome to students from all over the world. It currently offers ten B.A. and three M.A. degrees.

### **THROUGH ETERNITY TOURS**

Started by Connecticut native and Rome adoptee Rob Allyn, this tour company is guided by the conviction that there is no more life-affirming experience in the world than travel. Through two decades in business, they've been recommended by Rick Steves, Pauline Frommer, and Forbes Magazine. They combine a team of professional guides and travel experts with friendly, English-speaking customer support to create uniquely engaging and user-friendly cultural experiences.

### **ANTICA FORNACE DERUTA**

Hand-made and hand-painted dinnerware and home goods in the world-famous style from Deruta, Italy. Antica Fornace Deruta is integral to the history of this ancient town of artisans and factories in the Umbria region. As such, it also maintains an exceptional museum with a one-of-a-kind collection of antique pottery from the original large-scale factory in town (1900-1970), complete with artists' renderings and prototypes from 1300-1900's. Made In Italy. Made in Deruta.

### **AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOL OF ROME**

Established in 1947, the American Overseas School of Rome provides a rigorous and well-rounded American international education from pre-K through grade 12.

### **MARYMOUNT**

Founded in 1946, Marymount is a Catholic, English-language, Early Childhood (age 2) through Grade 12 school offering an American international curriculum, the IB Diploma Program, and AP courses on a 40-acre parkland campus.

### **JACOBINI WINERY**

Azienda Carafa Jacobini is a family-owned estate sprawling over one hundred acres just south of Rome in Ariccia, Lazio's wine country. We hand-selected only our best grapes to produce a limited, high quality white organic wine, Jacobini IGP Lazio.

Remember Y2K? It was the shorthand term for "the year 2000" and referred to the panic that a computer programming glitch would wreak havoc around the world. At the turn of the last century, many computer programs only allowed two digits for the year instead of four (e.g. 99 in place of 1999). There was widespread concern that the shortcut would blow up when the year changed from "99" back to "00," preventing computers from functioning properly and crippling banks and governments. In reality, most of the anticipated issues were fixed in advance and Y2K was basically a non-event.

But AWAR was prepared!

### Preparing for Y2K

by Suzanne Tomkies

Perhaps the most talked about issue this century is the Year 2000 technology problem (a/k/a Y2K problem) which results from decades of memory-conserving computer program writing. Instead of using a four-digit code for year dates, computer programmers used two-digits. Unfortunately this practice persisted, long after the need for saving space was eliminated. The two-digit code also was used in embedded chips, which exist in many devices that control processes, functions, and machines such as elevators, fire and security alarms, and automobiles. Programs that have been coded with two-digit year codes may not distinguish between the years 2000 and 1900, thus if the program includes time-sensitive calculations or comparisons, the results are unpredictable.

Examples of potential problems include disruption in electrical power and in manufacturing and production industries. Additionally, roads, train stations and airports may be gridlocked if transportation signals are impaired, electronic credit card and banking transactions may not be processed and communications systems may not function properly.

While forecasting all the problems that may occur is difficult, efforts — often extensive — by governments and

businesses have been made to prevent or reduce the problem. Although many people foresee Y2K problems occurring at midnight on December 31, 1999, it is more likely the problem will be a series of obstacles over a few years rather than a single "crash." Many experts now believe that while anticipating inconveniences is appropriate, anxious stockpiling of essentials or radical management of personal finances is not. Some people suggest that you keep hard copies of all banking transactions at the end of 1999 and beginning of 2000.

To help prepare for potential disruptions caused by the Y2K problem, the American Red Cross has developed the following checklist:

- Check with manufacturers of any essential computer-controlled electronic equipment in your home to see if that equipment may be affected. This includes fire and security alarm systems, programmable thermostats, appliances, consumer electronics, garage door openers, electronic locks, and any other electronic equipment in which an "embedded chip" may control its operation.

- Stock disaster supplies to last several days to a week for yourself and those who live with you. This includes having

nonperishable foods, stored water, and an ample supply of prescription and nonprescription medications that you regularly use.

- As you would in preparation for a storm of any kind, have some extra cash or traveler's checks on hand in case electronic transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards, and the like cannot be processed. Plan to keep cash or traveler's checks in a safe place, and withdraw money from your bank in small amounts well in advance of 12/31/99.

- As you would in preparation for a winter storm, keep your automobile gas tank above half full.

- In case the power fails, plan to use alternative cooking devices in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Don't use open flames or charcoal grills indoors.

- Have extra blankets, coats, hats, and gloves to keep warm. Please do not plan to use gas-fueled appliances, like an oven, as an alternative heating source. The same goes for wood-burning or liquid-fueled heating devices that are not designed to be used in a residential structure.

- Have plenty of flashlights and extra batteries on hand. Don't use candles for emergency lighting.

- Examine your smoke alarms now. If you have smoke alarms that are hard-wired into your home's electrical system (most newer ones are), check to see if they have battery back-ups. Every fall replace

all batteries in all smoke alarms as a general fire safety precaution.

- Be prepared to relocate to a shelter for warmth and protection during a prolonged power outage or if for any other reason local officials request or



require that you leave your home. Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for information about where shelters will be available.

- Check with the emergency services providers in your community to see if there is more information available about how your community is preparing for any potential problems. Be an advocate and support efforts by your local police, fire, and emergency management officials to ensure that their systems will be able to operate at all times.

*Courtesy of the American Red Cross. All Rights Reserved in all Countries. Visit the American National Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).*

## THE LAST WORD

BY DOROTHY DOWLING

***Einstein once said that time is relative.... time expands and contracts, in an ever-changing pattern. Seconds can be eternities and decades can be minutes.***

If we are all honest with ourselves, when we were children we couldn't wait to get to the next step in our lives – celebrating double-digit birthday, reaching our teen years, reaching our majority. Our parents tried vainly to curb these frenzies by dangling goals in front of us: you can have a Spalding ball when you're twelve (by that time we were more interested in clothing), you can wear makeup when the school board allows it (we had already realized that they couldn't possibly check us all). And so on. There were many milestones along the way – diplomas and degrees, getting our licenses, entering the work force. We were finally adults.

Then there were the years (often decades) of learning how to actually BE an adult – taking responsibility, caring for others, being a good citizen.

Now we had the next generation coming to us for guidance and suddenly we were spouting the exact same words our mothers said to us, but updated to reflect the times. You can have your video games back once you've finished your homework. You want the latest iPhone???? Yours is newer than mine. The struggles continue.

At long last, in the best of cases we're given a retirement party with stale cake and soda. Our supermarket fidelity cards



change to "senior" cards. There are little two-legged munchkins who call us Gran and Gramps. How on earth did we become seniors??? And what does "senior citizen" mean today?

The images we had before of senior citizens – all with grey hair, often a bit wobbly on their feet, spectacles perched on their noses, sitting for hours in a recliner, memories fogged by time – suddenly didn't fit any longer. Life has been extended (whether by good genes or good living) and we follow our dreams. Travel became more available, we were free to learn new skills, frequent courses and take up or concentrate on hobbies and sports, do volunteer work and shower love and attention on those dear to us.

But we refuse to be called "old" or "elderly". The Italians have a good phrase – *diversamente giovane*. Many are sprightly, still enjoy a good meal and a good laugh, treasure real friendships, get a little embarrassed when someone gives up their seat for us on the bus or train. Age is just a number – so let's live life to the fullest and enjoy the benefits of modern technology as we sip a glass of good wine and munch on a delicious dessert.

We're too young to be this old.