



# Geneva-Excelsior Lions Club

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Serving Since 1951

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## Celebrating Lion Al Gentile

We are greatly saddened to announce the passing of Lion Past President Al Gentile on March 8th. His passing will leave a huge hole in our club that will be very difficult to fill.

Lion Al joined our club on May 1, 1957 and was sponsored by Lion Joe Kearn. He worked as an Account Executive with New York Life at the time, and stayed with them his whole working life.

Lion Al's service to our club includes: President (1975-76), 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice Presidents, Secretary (3 terms), Financial Secretary (8 terms), Tail Twister (5 terms), Director (at least 8 terms), and Membership Chairman (too many terms to count).

Lion Al's chairmanships include 42+ terms on at least 12 committees. Needless to say he knew just about all the business our club did over the years.

On participation in events, and everything else for that matter, almost no member surpassed him.

Lion Al has served us, and the community, extremely well. Help keep his spirit alive by doing the same. For the older members who had the privilege of knowing him for years, you know how well he loved and cared for this Club, and feel the deep sense of loss that is shared by each of us. Rest in peace Lion Al.

The members of the Geneva-Excelsior Lions Club send our deepest condolences out to Roxanne, his daughter. Service details are not available yet.

### **From Roxanne Gentile:**

"There is a lot of info in my dad's obit about a lot of different things. This is what we put together about his contributions to the Lions: Al's commitment as a Geneva Excelsior Lion as a long-serving member in District 4C4 lasted 65 years. He formed lifelong friendships among the members, and was a charter organizer of the annual Lions Club Crab Feed, a community fundraiser celebrated by hundreds of supporters since 1983.

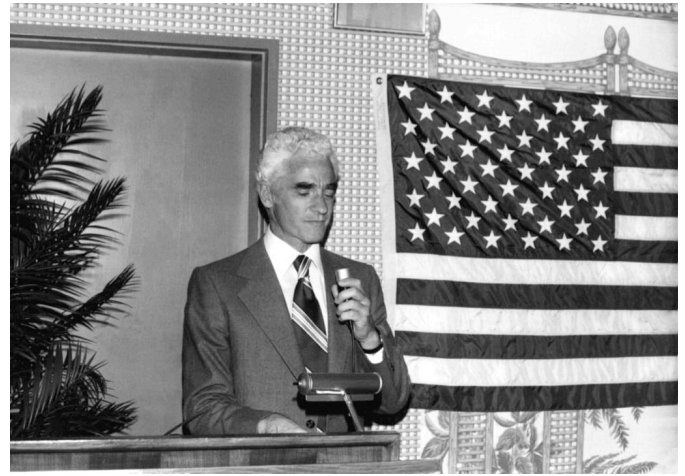
I just can't express how important you and the Lions Club have been to my dad and to me and my friends. I was diagnosed with MS in early 2018 and my neuroophthomologist was at the San Francisco Eye Institute at 711 Van Ness. I received treatment at the clinic that the Lions support! I brought my dad there to see it - he found it interesting and comforting, and talk about full circle!

I will keep you posted on any upcoming developments including his burial which will be semi-private.

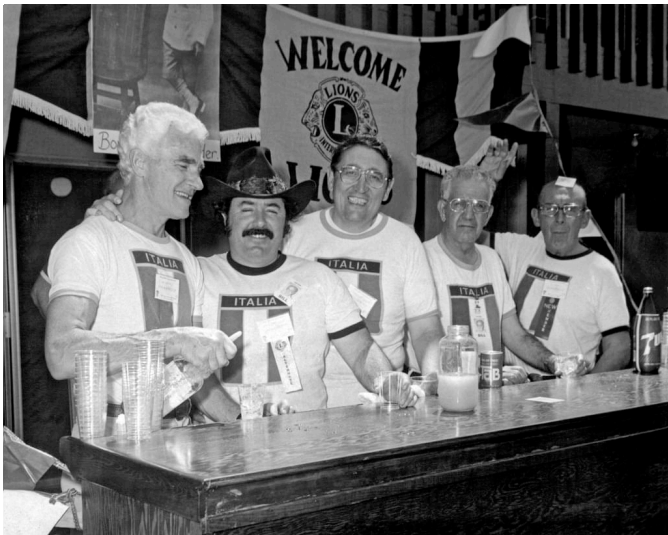
All the best, Roxanne"



6-21-75 - 26th Installation of Officers, Presidio Golf Club, San Francisco - Left: Joe & Emma Giuffre; center front: Betty & Al Gentile; behind them right: Blanche & Al Fregosi; to their right in back: Elva & Ozzie Buoncristiani; right (partial): Pat & Marjorie Martin.



7-10-76 - 27th Installation of Officers, Fort Mason Officers Club, San Francisco - Outgoing President Al Gentile calling the installation to order.



May 28-June 1, 1980 - District 4-C4 District Convention, El Rancho Tropicana, Santa Rosa - Serving it up are, L to R: Al Gentile, Mike Spediacci, Handford Clews, Sam San Filippo, and Al Fregosi.



5-17-86 - District 4-C4 Convention, El Rancho Tropicana, Santa Rosa - Costume Parade - L to R on parade: Al Gentile, Mike & Lorraine Castagnetto, Frances & Mike Spediacci, Irene Tonelli, and Estelle Bottarini.





6-22-91 - Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport, Burlingame - 41st Installation of Officers - L to R, standing: Charlie Bottarini, Dick Johnson, Bob Woodall, Handford Clews, Al Gentile, Gino Benetti, Mike Castagnetto, Irene Tonelli, and Joe Farrah; seated: Mike Farrah, guest, Ed Farrah, Julia Farrah, and Una Essaff.



5-18-96 - Radisson Hotel, Sacramento - L to R, back row: Charlie Bottarini, Lyle Workman, Al Gentile, George Salet, and Dick Johnson; middle row: Bruno Ceccarelli, Rosalinda & Paul Corvi, Bill Tonelli, Kathy Salet, Linda Workman, and Jennifer Ceccarelli; front row: Anne Benetti, Estelle Bottarini, and Diane Johnson.



11-10-04 - Granada Cafe - Al Gentile (left) and Aaron Straus displaying two of our entries in the Peace Poster Contest. The participating schools were Corpus Christi, St. Elizabeth, St. John and Cornerstone Academy. The theme for this year's competition was "Give Peace A Chance." Seated on left is Bill Graziano.



2-26-05 - Recreation Center for the Handicapped, San Francisco - 23rd Annual Crab Feed - 429 attending - Guests being served at the open bar before dinner. Opposite end of bar serving is Charlie Bottarini, guest helper, and Al Gentile.





11-22-05 - Mission Educational Center, San Francisco - L to R: Lions Al Gentile, Joe Farrah, Lyle Workman, and Sheriar Irani circling around for another handful of plates to serve while Lion Aaron Straus dishes up cranberry sauce.



11-29-09 - 31st Annual Giulio Francesconi Charity Raffle drawing, Italian American Social Club, San Francisco - Guests enjoying; in foreground are Al Gentile and Arline Thomas.



12-16-11 - Annual Christmas with Santa - Mission Education Center, San Francisco - Al Gentile posing with Ms. Linda as Santa, with her dog Emma, and Jackie Cash as her Elf.



11-16-16 - District Governor Rod Mercado's Official Visit, Italian American Social Club, San Francisco - Rod Mercado, District Governor, left, presenting Al Gentile his 60 Years of Service chevron.



12-20-17 - Geneva-Excelsior Lions Christmas Party, Basque Cultural Center - Arline Thomas with Al Gentile, and his daughter Roxanne Gentile.



8-19-21 - Al Gentile's Home, San Mateo - Al Gentile proudly holds his Certificate of Service for 64 Years of Service while posing with Bob Lawhon.

## Meeting Digest 3/16/22

The meeting was called to order by Lion President Bob Lawhon. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lion Ward Donnelly. The invocation was given by Lion Zenaida Lawhon. The introductions were skipped. 8 of our Lions were in attendance: Lions Bob & Zenaida Lawhon, George Salet, Joe Farrah, Sharon Eberhardt, Bill Graziano, Ward Donnelly, and Viela du Pont. Guest for the meeting was Nick Farrah, Joe Farrah's son, who is in the metals business both here, and in Utah.

## Membership

**From Lion Viela du Pont:** "I have good news for the club. I would like to nominate Iliana Escudero as a new member of the Geneva Excelsior Lions Club. She currently works at Clinic by the Bay and speaks Spanish. She is full of energy, laughter and is devoted to serving the community. She brings a contagious enthusiasm in whatever she

does. She is also brilliant at bringing new ideas to the table. I love this girl like she is my daughter. Her work ethic is admirable. (BTW: she is 27 years old and her goal is to become a doctor) So, let me know how I can initiate the new member process."

This has been passed along to Membership Chairman Lion Bill Graziano.

## During the Meeting

Discussed during the meeting was:

- District 4-C4 Convention in Redding.
- Confirmation that the officers from this year will be carried over to next year.
- Lion Viela du Pont has pulled the plug on her job at Clinic by the Bay and will be moving to Utah later this year.
- Visitations by the candidates for 2nd District Vice Governors; no info at the moment.



**Special Thanks** to Lion George Salet for taking the minutes of the meeting. He reports there was a lot of fun, but not much substance.



## **Lions Youth & Community Activities Raffle**

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, which might be a train. Current stats to date:

- **Groups:** All groups are preparing to turn in their books.
- **Members:** purchased 87 books.
- **Friends & Family:** purchases have increased to 414 books.
- **Sponsors:** \$3,890.00 sponsored.
- **Drawing:** the drawing is to be held at the April 20th meeting live at the IASC; our regular membership meeting.
- **Projected income** is between \$7500 - \$7900.

## **Coming Events**

**On our calendar:**

**4/6** Business & Board Meeting via Zoom.

**4/20** Youth & Community Raffle Drawing live at the meeting at the IASC.

## **Around the District**

### **MARCH 2022**

#### **Wed, Mar 23**

San Francisco Coordinating Council of Lions Clubs Meeting **NEW**

#### **Sat, Mar 26**

District 4-C4 KidSight First Certification

San Francisco Host Lions Club 102nd

Anniversary Dinner-Dance

San Francisco Health Care Cyber Lions Club Charter Event

#### **Mon, Mar 28**

Peninsula Council of Lions Clubs Meeting

**NEW**

### **APRIL 2022**

#### **Sat, Apr 2**

San Carlos Lions Club Blood Drive

#### **Sat, Apr 9**

San Carlos Lions Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt

#### **Sat, Apr 16**

Burlingame Lions Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast **NEW**

#### **Sat, Apr 23**

Save the date: Half Moon Bay Lions Club 2nd Annual Poker Chip Rally

#### **Mon, Apr 25**

Save the date: Peninsula Council of Lions Club Meeting

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**4/5** Happy Anniversary to Diane & Lion Ward Donnelly!

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## **From the Inbox**

**From District 4-C4** including:

- District 4-C4 Convention, May 18-22, Red Lion Inn, Redding. Registration form online.
- District 4-C4 3rd Cabinet Meeting Minutes.

**From the far corners of the web:**

- Is Your Brain Foggy? Here Are Five Ways to Clear It.
- What Happens When Lowell High School Becomes Open to All?
- The 25 Best Batman Villains, Ranked.
- How companies are hiding inflation without charging you more.

**From Lions International** including:

- **From Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, LCIF**  
**Chairperson:** LCIF Response to Ukraine. Read it online.
- Your March Club Digest. Read it online.
- **From Jerome Thompson, Past International Director, GAT**  
**Constitutional Area 1 Leader:** Discover how LCI and LCIF are working together to serve, increase membership and help youth in your community. Read it online.
- **From Intl. President, Douglas X. Alexander:** March Service with a Heart message. Read it online.
- **From PIP and Campaign 100**  
**Chairperson Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada:** March Campaign 100 News. Read it online.

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