

MOSAICO CULTURALE

Volume XXV, Numero 3

Maggio & Giugno 2009



The Board of Directors of NBICF cordially invites you to an Open House at the Center celebrating our 25th year. Please join us on Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 1 to 5:00pm. Come and enjoy the Coro Allegro. Refreshments will be served. RSVP 707-591-9696 or e-mail: nbicf@sonic.net.

Year-long events to observe NBICF's 25th anniversary began in March with our Winemaker dinner at Rosso's. On April 26th renowned pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi thrilled audiences with a well balanced concert at Wells Fargo Center.

Forthcoming events will include a Scampagnata in August (date to be announced) and a day trip to the former Asti Winery with tastings and lunch on Sunday, 9/13/09.

THE FANTASTIC FESTA ITALIANA ON 10/11/09

November 20th Wine Tasting at the Sonoma County Museum for the Marianne Pedroncelli Scholarship.

RESERVATIONS FOR MAY DINNER

Doors open at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm
Prepaid reservations in advance are appreciated.
May 18 ___ places @ \$10 for members
___ places @ \$12 for guests
___ places @ \$ 8 for teens 13 to 18 years
___ places @ \$ 5 for child 5 to 12 years
___ places for under 5 years - free

Name _____

Mail by May 14 or phone 591-9696. No reservations day of dinner.

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

May 18, 2009

Mothers will be honored with a dinner featuring Chicken Cacciatore with Pasta, Baby Carrots, Salad and rolls. Beverages and dessert will be served. Come early and join your friends. Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner is served at 6:30pm.

Since *mamma* is the heart of the Italian family we would like to see more families coming to our dinner together. Children and grandchildren are always welcome. We strongly urge you to follow the old Italian custom.

Special raffle and 3 free raffle tickets for everyone who brings a picture of his or her mother to display. Accordion music by Eva Marie Sbragia will precede dinner.

FATHER'S DAY DINNER

June 15, 2009

Inspired by Anna Jarvis's efforts to establish a national Mother's Day, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd wanted her father to know how special he was to her. After her mother passed away, it was her father who made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a selfless and loving man. Since his birthday was in June she chose June 19, 1910 to hold the first Father's day. In 1972 President Richard Nixon established the national observance to be held on the third Sunday of June.

Come and celebrate summer with a barbeque of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chili Beans and Green Salad. A special raffle for *fathers only* will be held.

RESERVATIONS FOR JUNE DINNER

Doors open at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm
Prepaid reservations in advance are appreciated.
June 15 ___ places @ \$10 for members
___ places @ \$12 for guest
___ places @ \$10 for teens 13 to 18 years
___ places @ \$ 5 for child 5 to 12 years
___ places for under 5 years - free

Name _____

Mail by June 11 or phone 591-9696. No reservations day of dinner.

NBICF MEMBERSHIP

BENVENUTI~WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Individuals: Carol Lorenzo and Joan Talamantez, Lisa Breschi Almond.

Families: Ron & Julie Misasi, Jim & Cynthia Naye, Giovanni & Annette Pavone, Thomas Samarati.

The NBICF Board of Directors invites you to our next dinner meeting and future events. Please call the Center if you have any questions.

The following renewed as Patrons: Nancy, Michael & Patrick Moran, Nona Rosasco, David & Roberta Shippey, Patricia Voshall.

Members who renewed as Donors: Dino & Maria D'Argenzio.

Tanti Baci to all the above. Your continued support is vital to NBICF and is very much appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

NBICF Board of Directors extends heartfelt sympathy to Alice Becker on the death of her husband Walter. Walter will be remembered for his pleasant manner and will be missed at all our dinners.

We will also mourn the loss of Steve Piazza who was one of the early members of the Foundation. Steve volunteered at each Festa Italiana and was seen at Carnevale in *costume*.

Rest in peace Walter and Steve!

Nota bene: This will be the last issue of the Mosaico Cultural for those who have not paid their 2009 dues.

North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation

Policies

No refunds/exchanges; tickets transferable; no reservations accepted on event date. Space limited: first come, first served. Any offering in the *Mosaico Culturale* should not be read as an endorsement or warranty by NBICF

Italian Cultural Center ~ Library ~ Office
Tuesdays 1-4 pm or by appointment, 591-9696

Board Meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm are open to all members.

QUEL CHE BOLLE IN PENTOLA

*****WHAT'S COOKING*****

Once again Stan Laughlin and his committee are planning a colorful entry for the Rose Parade on May 16th. Watch for the 1928 Model "A" owned by Al Traversi and cheer our group onto the winners circle.

Artist Lar Landa will exhibit recent paintings at Stanford Spaces, 420 Via Palou of Campus Dr. W & Via Ortega, Stanford University Campus from May 22 to July 23rd. Information: www.cis.stanford.edu/~marigros; 650-725-3622

New Italian Class for Results-Oriented Communication offered by SRJC. FOCUSER (Focused Communication/Structured Response) is a language program specifically designed for visitors to Italy who have little or no Italian. It will provide you with an easily-learned communication method that can be applied to a wide range of everyday "tourism" situations. It is also designed to help you to "manage" the Italians you speak with, so that they will respond in ways that you will understand. FOCUSER delivers results-oriented communication with Italians. Three Thursday evenings, June 18, 25th and July 2, 7:00 - 9:00pm. Fee \$57.00. Please contact instructor at davehen@sonic.net for book and course information.

The 2009 "Celebrate the Accordion" event will be held on June 20 & 21st, starting at 11:00am to 5:00pm at 1st and C Streets, Petaluma. (adjacent to the Yacht Club) Tom Cordoni, founder, will be in charge.

Squadra Italiana the Bocce team formed by NBICF has joined the new Santa Rosa Bocce League. Twenty members play on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm at Juilliard Park. The official name of the team was selected by the members. Spring League competition started April 22nd and continues through June 17th against three other Wednesday night teams. Another set of four teams play on Monday evenings. The league is co-sponsored by the City of Santa Rosa Parks & Rec. Dept.

FRA NOI ~ AMONG US

Coro Allegro	483-8075	Sal Peritore
Festa Chairman	573-7185	Virginia Wilburn
Language	542-1799	Ada Nourse
Mailing Volunteers	538-4031	Muffy Bertuccio
Membership	433-6033	Dolores Giorgi
Office/Library	573-7185	Virginia Wilbrun
Opera Ensemble	539-1734	Donald Tarpley
Refreshments	579-8054	JoAnn Ferrera
Reservations	544-5236	Geni Maggi
Scholarships	523-0296	Gino Muzzatti
Sunshine Cards	542-6605	Cleo Konnoff
Tours (Andiamo)	522-0340	Sharie Sbrazza
Translations	938-8729	Dave Henderson
Volunteers	542-5245	Jeanette Mitchell
	538-7352	Gerri Asti

ONLY IN AMERICA

*Evelina-Santini-Peritore.....*For me, coming to America was the fulfillment of a dream. As a young girl, I prayed that some day it would happen. My home, "Casalina," was on a hill across from the small town named Gorasco, in the Tuscan region, near the Cinque Terre. I lived on a farm with my father, mother working the farm without machinery and running water. In the spring time, I was up at 4:00am and worked for 16 hours per day cutting and storing hay in the barn for the winter which would later be used to feed the cows. We raised everything we needed on the farm, legumes, olive oil, meat, vegetables, olives and grapes. We made cheese, butter, ricotta, olive oil, wine and even chestnut flour for baking. Daily I would make the trip down the hill and to the town of Gorasco carrying a large container of milk on my head, where I would sell the milk. Then, on the way back up the hill, I would bring water back to the house. I remember one occasion when there was ice on the ground. I slipped on ice and fell down, not thinking of myself and if I was injured, but worried if I wasted all the milk. The most difficult chore was cutting the grass for the rabbits and the cows. We used a big basket to carry the grass. Since the basket was heavy, I would place it on a rock so I could get my head under it to carry it home. There was no shortage of exercise on the farm.

Once a month, I would walk to the town of San Terenzo which was about 5 miles away. I would bring a basket full of cheese to trade with the grocer.

As a young girl, I attended grammar school in Gorasco. In the winter time, we had lots of rain so the water in the creek would rise. So the only way to cross the creek was to jump from rock to rock. I can remember the times when I stood for quite awhile gathering up the courage to jump to the first rock.

Even though I worked hard I was very happy. I particularly looked forward to every weekend when my mother would take a girlfriend and me dancing. Looking back we had so much fun on the weekends.

Coming to America

Settimo and Evelina Santini, my aunt and uncle lived in the U.S. She often expressed how much she would like for us all to be together. My mother wanted to move to the U.S. but my father was just happy playing cards in the evening. First step was to have my uncle fill out the immigration papers, but by the time our papers finally arrived, 12 years had passed. I had almost lost all hope of moving to America, since now I was engaged to Salvatore Peritore. My mother and father left for America on a boat in May 1966. Since I was over 21 years old, I was unable to accompany them. They began their 6 month period which would qualify them to be U.S. residents.

During this period, my brother and I lived in the Casalina alone. In November 1966 I left the airport in Milano for the U.S. with 4 grown men crying, my brother, uncle, fiancée and even the taxi driver. It was another memorable experience.

I had mixed emotions, I was very happy to be with my parents in the U.S. and sad because of what I had left behind. I will never forget that trip. I had a fear of flying and this was intensified because I didn't speak a word of English. When I arrived in New York, an airline attendant put a sign around my neck which said "Going to San Francisco".

A few months later, my fiance, Sal Peritore and I were married at St. Rose Church in Santa Rosa in 1967. At that time we had accumulated \$700.00 which came mostly from wedding gifts. Neither of us had a college degree or spoke English, so we lived with my parents for 2 years on Wilson Street. My first son Steve was born and three years later my son David arrived.

Meanwhile I started working for an Italian couple who were friends of my uncle Settimo. I helped around the house, cooking and cleaning until I got a regular job working at the Santa Rosa Shoe Factory. In 1978 we purchased a nursery called College Garden Center, located on the corner of college Ave. and Dutton Ave. in Santa Rosa. We were in partnership with George Martinucci. Sal kept working as a body man because that was a sure income. George and I ran the nursery with the help of Ray Sichi, the previous owner of the business. The first 2 years were difficult. The first as very dry and second was very wet and we made little profit. After the first 2 years, business picked up and we began to do better.

Years later we bought a store which was in the same location called Buck Stoves. By now the boys were grown and the four of us all worked as a family for the next 8 years. Steve in sales and management and Dave specialized in installations, customer service and repairs. Eventually we sold the nursery and expanded Buck Stove to include swimming pools and spas.

Looking back I'm convinced that coming to America was a good choice for me. As my dear aunt Evelina said we would not have had the same opportunity anywhere else in the world. I am proud to be Italian and also to be an American citizen. I love to visit Casalina often which has now been converted into a Bed & Breakfast. I also enjoy spending time with my family especially my grand daughter Ariella, David and Cecilia's daughter. My other son, Steve is engaged to be married to a wonderful lady, Jade.

This is the fourth of continuing articles about our Italian-born members.

North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation



64 Brookwood Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4326
Tel 707-591-9696 • Fax 707-545-2124
Email: nbicf@sonic.net • Website: www.nbicf.org
Mosaico Culturale, the newsletter of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation, a CA nonprofit open membership corporation, is published 6 times a year.

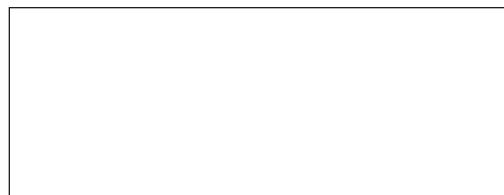
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #868
Santa Rosa, CA

CELEBRATE NBICF'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS WATCH FOR DETAILS FORTHCOMING

MAY 18, 2009
MOTHER'S DAY

JUNE 15, 2009
FATHER'S DAY

July 2009
NO MEETING



APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS, GIFTS, MEMORIALS & INTERESTS

Annual Dues: ___\$25 Individual ___\$35 Family ___\$50 Patron ___\$100 Donor ___\$500 Life ___\$1,000

My Ancestry Italian interests: _____ I am interested in (circle):

Art Bocce Festa Fund-raisers History Language Library Mailings Music Office Scholarships Travel

Memorial for _____ From _____ (Acknowledge to person below)

Gift membership for person below from _____

Name _____ day/evening phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Please mail with check payable to NBICF, 64 Brookwood Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404 - phone 707-591-9696

NORTH BAY ITALIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A nonprofit open membership organization dedicated to the study, preservation and enjoyment of Italian Culture. Founded in 1984, NBICF brings people of all ancestries together to share things Italian. NBICF activities foster cultural awareness, celebrate traditions and support education via scholarships, classes and programs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patti Adams, Jim Alfieri, Linda Apel (VP 837-9151), Gerri Asti, Allen Barbieri, Jim Caron, JoAnn Ferrera, Cindy Hume, Yvette Laflamme, Stan Laughlin, Geni Maggi (Corresponding Secretary 544-5236) Jeanette Mancini Mitchell (President 542-5245), Dolores Neil, Faye Piazza (Treasurer 545-9923), Don Raimondi, Norma Rivas, Donald Tarpley (VP 539-1734) and Virginia Mennucci Wilburn (Recording Secretary 573-7185).
Directors Emeritus are Angelo Catelani, Arturo Ibleto and Chic Rey.

Mosaico Culturale Editorial Staff: Jeanette Mancini Mitchell, Virginia Mennucci Wilburn and Donald Tarpley. Members are encouraged to submit articles or news items for publication. We reserve the right to select and edit as space allows.