

MOSAICO CULTURALE

Volume XXVI, Numero 2

Marzo e Aprile 2010

TAVOLA DI SAN GIUSEPPE

Monday, March 15, 2010

Many descendants of Italian immigrants prepare St. Joseph Tables, *tavole di San Giuseppe*, set to honor St. Joseph. They are filled with beautiful and often elaborate dishes such as meatless soups, stuffed artichokes, pasta and fish, as well as breads, cookies, pastries, cakes and other delicacies. This year our St. Joseph's Table dinner will feature a variety of breads, zuppa minestrone, insalata, beverages and dessert. **Doors to the dining room open at 6:00pm and dinner is served at 6:30pm.**

The Table of St. Joseph originated in the southern regions of Italy where it is still celebrated today on March 19th. The feast was started to honor St. Joseph the patron saint of the family, fathers, workers, carpenters and the City of Rome. The tradition began during the Middle Ages when Sicily suffered a severe drought causing a famine. With only their faith to rely on, the poor starving people prayed to St. Joseph, and in time their prayers were answered. In gratitude a promise was made to make annual offerings in St. Joseph's honor. It was at this time the hardy fava bean became the life saving crop, becoming a good luck symbol.

Note bene: A special raffle will be held and the proceeds will be donated to a charitable organization. We hope you will join us for this feast day and share in spirit with those less fortunate.

Lo sapevi (did you know?) On March 19th all eyes are on San Juan Capistrano waiting for the return of the swallows which have flown south for the winter.

PRIMAVERA E PASQUA

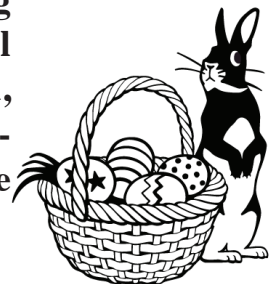
Tanti Auguri per una Buona Pasqua

Although abstinence is the theme of Lent, a profusion of special meals and events thread through the season of *Primavera*. Many of these events used to happen at *Mezza Quaresima*, half way through the six weeks of Lent. Children in Florence look forward to chewing chocolate cookies called *quaresimali Toscani* which are shaped like alphabet letters during Lent. In Umbria *cazzotti quaresimali* (Lenten punches) are made of a crunchy hazelnut dough. Romani indulge in orange and almond *biscotti* that are reserved for Lent, while St. Joseph's bread, *zepoli* and *fritelle di riso* can be found everywhere.

On Palm Sunday braided palm fronds called *palmureli* are blessed and distributed to the worshippers at St. Peter's in Rome. These come from the lovely town of Bordighera on the Italian Riviera.

Are you familiar with the Italian Easter vocabulary? *l'agnello*-lamb, *il coniglietto*-bunny rabbit, *la crocifissione*-Crucifixion, *la pace*-peace, *la Pasquetta*-Easter Monday, *la resurrezione*-Resurrection, *la settimana santa*-Holy Week, *l'Ultima Cena*-Last Supper, *le uova*-eggs, *Venerdi Santo*-Holy Friday.

NBICF's post-Easter Spring dinner will offer Lasagne al forno with antipasti, salad, beverages and dessert. Children are welcome. Make your reservations early.



Reservation Forms

March 15, 2010 Dinner Meeting
Vets Memorial Building 6:00pm
Dinner served 6:30pm

_____places @ \$12 for members
_____places @ \$14 for guest
_____places @ \$ 5 for child 5 to 12 years
_____places for under 5 years - free

Name _____

Mail in by Mar. 10, 2010

April 19, 2010 Dinner Meeting
Vets Memorial Building 6:00pm
Dinner served 6:30pm

_____places @ \$12 for members
_____places @ \$14 for guest
_____places @ \$ 5 for child 5 to 12 years
_____places for under 5 years - free

Name _____

Mail in by April 14, 2010

NBICF MEMBERSHIP

BENVENUTI~WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Individuals: Eileen Arnoff, Janet Barocco, Margaret Butler, Stephen Cabito, Ralph Dilisio, Joan Gaidzik, Jerry Guffey, Larry Hyatt, Camille Lina, Sharon Marangoni, Lyrae Myxter, Mary Schaefer, and Virginia P. Smith.

Families: Randy & Charmaine Bonfantini, Paul & Janet Firpo, Paula Smith & Keith Howell, Thomas & Joanne Miller, Glenn & Jeanette Morelli, Yvonne & Omer Otte.

Members who renewed as Patrons: Robert & Kim Agrella, Richard Colombini, Dino & Maria D'Argenzio, Phil Guidotti, Mario Lucidi, Madeline Major, Paul Rasore, Jr., David & Roberta Shippey, Linda Temple, Daniel & Patsy Wright.

Members who renewed as Donors: Lawrence & Mary Antolini, Virginia Pitts, Josephine Ridley, Alan & Susan Wintermeyer.

IN MEMORIAM

NBICF sends condolences to the families of the following members who will be missed.

Paul Robert "Bob" Molinari
Guido Pennato
Dave Sonnikson
Isolene "Icy" Sangiacomo

"Bob" Molinari served on our Board of Directors in the 1990's while "Icy" Sangiacomo and Guido Pennato served at various times as accompanists to the Coro Allegro. Dave Sonnikson's step son Stan Laughlin is a current member of the Board of Directors.

A donation to NBICF has been made by Sharie Sbrazza in memory of Guido Pennato, Dave Sonnikson and Bob Nicholson.

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"

Two new books that would interest Italian History Buffs - "Italy's Sorrow, A year of War: 1944-1945"

British author James Holland recounts the atrocities perpetrated by the German Nazis in Italy during the year 1944-1945.

"The Italian Legacy in Washington, D.C." is a book comprised of black and white photos, sketches and drawings as well as full color images highlighting the Italian influence on Washington D.C. art and architecture. The book also contains interviews with both Italian and American historians.

NBCF's own Arturo Ibleto was honored recently with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's "Spirit of Sonoma County Award" for his many contributions to the community and Sonoma County agriculture.

Singer and multi instrumentalist Steve Albin has joined the Coro Allegro. In addition to playing for us at Festa Italiana his performance of Italian music fused with jazz and world rhythms have brought him international acclaim. Albin will be offering instruction on guitar, piano, accordion and voice. For information please call Steve at 544-3123, cell 484-3753.

WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY

Would you like to receive the Mosaico as an *email*? If so please send us your email address. We will continue to mail the newsletter to those who do not wish to receive an email copy or do not have a computer.

Name _____ email _____

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 Wilburn
Reservations	544-5236	Geni Maggi
Scholarships	523-0296	Gino Muzzatti
Sunshine Cards	542-6605	Cleo Konhoff
Tours (Andiamo)	522-0340	Sharie Sbrazza
Translations	938-8729	Dave Henderson
Volunteers	542-5245	Jeanette Mitchell
	546-2552	Yvette Laflamme

ROSA PONSELL

On January 22, 1997 Italian Americans and all who follow the operatic world began a celebration with the issuance of a new postage stamp in honor of opera singer Rosa Ponsell. On January 27th, her actual birthday, she would have been 100 years old. She remains to this day the only Italian American woman to receive this honor.

She was born Rosa Ponzillo in Meridian, Connecticut to parents who immigrated from Naples some years earlier. Her interest in music surfaced around the time her older sister, Carmella, began pursuing a career as a cabaret singer. Rosa probably had one of the strangest music beginnings of any opera singer known. As a young teenager she played piano accompaniment to silent movies in movie theatres around the Meridian area. In between reel changes from one movie to the next she sang popular ballads. By now Carmela was established in vaudeville and her manager impressed with Rosa's voice hired her to perform with Carmela as a "sister act". Carmela's voice teacher, William Thorner, became interested in Rosa's voice and agreed to give her lessons. Thorner, for recreation, played cards with Enrico Caruso and urged the world famous tenor to listen to her. Caruso was impressed at what he heard and arranged an audition at the Metropolitan Opera House. The Met was also impressed and in six months she was preparing for her Metropolitan debut in Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* with Caruso. Her success in that performance of November 18, 1918 is now history.

During her tenure at the Metropolitan for the next 19 years she preformed 23 roles including her favorite Bellini's *Norma* an opera well know for its difficult vocal part and long absent from the Metropolitan repertoire. In 1937 she retired from singing on the stage. Two reasons for this: her top register was beginning to give her some problems and she had a disagreement with the Metropolitan General Manager, Edward Johnson, over repertoire. Ponsell later said that she never missed performing after she retired. Before her retirement she married Baltimore socialite Carle Jackson and built a luxurious home near Baltimore, the Villa Pace, where she lived the rest of her life.

Her marriage to Jackson ended in divorce in 1949 and was a tramatic experience for her. Although she never appeared in concert or on the stage she continued to sing at home for friends. In 1954 RCA Victor went to her home and recorded her singing a wide variety of songs. The recording was a big seller in the mid 1950's.

Luciano Pavarotti visited at her home and vocalized with her when she was nearly 80 years old and was impressed with her voice and dubbed her "the queen of queens in all of singing". Ponsell died at her estate on May 25, 1981, age 84 following a battle with bone marrow cancer.

ANDIAMO ~ Let's Go!

During 2009, thanks for joining Sharie in Morocco, Nova Scotia, on Med cruise, in Colorado & Croatia.

For 2010, join the Muzzattis and Sharie in Bella Italia!

America's Southern Gardens in Spring

Charming Savannah and quaint Charleston awes us!

Italy's Attic: Torino to Trieste plus Lake Bled in June

Join Gino & Julie Muzzatti for the exclusive treats of northern Italy: Piemonte wines, Italian-Swiss Lake gems, Bergamo, Iseo, Garda, Verona opera, Vicenza, plus his family retreat in the Dolomiti of hidden Friuli.

Hurry: only a few spaces are left on this leisurely, well-priced small group experience of a lifetime!

Wonders of Istria, Croatia & Slovenia in late June

Join Sharie & Bob with more relaxed time in Trieste for Ljubljana, Postojna Caves and Lipizzaner horses! In Croatia, marvel at Plitvice Lakes and Opatija resort. See all of Istria: Roman ruins to Venetian fishing villages.

Live Like an Italian in Urbania in July

Join Gino & Julie Muzzatti on their 7th annual "slow-down life" in LeMarche for language, art and cooking lessons. An Umbria tour is exquisite: Adriatic beaches, La Quintana Medieval Pageant in Ascoli Piceno, Jazz Festival in Perugia plus Assisi, Furlo Gola, Norcia, Senigallia, Gran Sasso, Deruta, Spello and a private lunch cooked by NBICF-friend / chef Andrea Sposini.

Sail Intimate OCEANIA Ships Year-round

Missed me and chef Jacques Pepin onboard in 2009?

Don't fret, take 50% off--plus free air during 2010.

Bavarian Oberammergau Passion Play in Summer

Performed only once every 10 years: it's time to go!

Sail to New Zealand & South Pacific in September

Sail from Seattle to Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand & more!

You Say Puglia, I Say Apulia in November

Join Sharie & Bob on their 15th annual tour to focus on the regional delights of Apulia, in Italy's stylish heel.

Celebrate Christmas in Rome or sail the Danube

Eternal City of Rome makes Christmas extra special.

Chateaux of Loire & Beaches of Normandy May 2011

My 13 day custom tour of food, wine, art & history!

Or select your own personalized vacation

or family reunion to anywhere in the world!

Inquire if you'd like to escort your own group of 20+!

RSVP to Free Meetings

Sun, March 7 - 10am at 1710 Mendo Coffeehouse

Sat, March 20 - 10am at Italian Cultural Center

Name _____

Email _____

Send to Andiamo, Box 406, Santa Rosa 95402 or email Sharie Sbrazza at andiamotravel@hotmail.com or call Gino Muzzatti at 527-4886 / gmuzzatti@santarosa.edu

See www.nbicf.org for Itinerary & Tour Applications

Andiamo by Sbrazza registered as cst2080834-40

North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation



N B I C F

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COMING EVENTS:



March 15, 2010
TAVOLA DI SAN GIUSEPPE
March 21, 2010
ITALIAN FILM AT THE CENTER
April 4, 2010
BUONA PASQUA
April 19 2010
PRIMAVERA DINNER

Addressee or current resident

Address label

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS, GIFTS, MEMORIALS & INTERESTS

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

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

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

Memorial donation for _____ From _____

Gift membership for _____ From _____

Name _____ Phone _____ email _____

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 (Treasurer 837-9151), Gerri Asti, Allen Barbieri, JoAnn Ferrera, Cindy Hume, Yvette Laflamme, Stan Laughlin, Geni Maggi (Corresponding Secretary 544-5236) Jeanette Mancini Mitchell (President 542-5245), Faye Piazza, Arlene Pleich, 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.