

MOSAICO CULTURALE

Volume XXVI, Numero 6

Novembre e Dicembre 2010

MADAMA BUTTERFLY DVD

November 14, 2010 at 2:00pm at the Center

A short musical analysis and background will precede showing a DVD of San Francisco Opera's 2007 production. Program presented by Donald Tarpley. Phone reservations to ensure adequate seating are requested. The Center phone 591-9696. Refreshments will be served.

NBICF DIRECTORS

NBICF is pleased to welcome three new directors to its Board. Their names will be presented for ratification at our November 15th ANNUAL MEETING.

Brief Profiles ~ **Margaret (Maggie) Brothers** was born in Brooklyn, New York and was the youngest child of an Italian American mother (Mildred Bonadonna), whose parents immigrated from Ventimiglia di Sicilia and a father of English/Scottish heritage. After she moved to Massachusetts, she attended Wellesley College, where she majored in Russian studies. She moved to Santa Rosa from Spokane, Wa in 1999. In her "first career" she was a Senior Human Resource Manager for Hewlett-Packard/Agilent Technologies for 24 years. In 2005 she enrolled in Law School at Empire College, graduating Cum Laude. She now practices law in Santa Rosa with an emphasize on elder law and estate planning.

Ron Misasi, a second generation Italian American, came to Santa Rosa 33 years ago from Stockton, Ca. His family has roots in Calabria, and his father's uncle is serving as a town Mayor/Sindico in that region at the present time. Captain of one of NBICF's Bocce teams, Ron has been a Bocce enthusiast since childhood. His father organized the Stockton Italian American Club Bocce League. Misasi and his wife Julie have a son, daughter and four grandsons.

Continued on page 2.....



November 15, 2010 - Vets Memorial Building

Doors open 6:00pm Dinner served 6:30pm

___places @ \$12 for members

___places @ \$14 for guests

___places @ \$ 5 for child 5 to 12 years

___places for under 5 years - free

Name _____

Mail by Nov. 11, 2010

AUTUMN DINNER

Venite/come to celebrate the autumn harvest on Monday, November 15th. Join your friends for a Pollo and Risotto "Thanksgiving" dinner with Pumpkin Pie! This meeting will include accordion music, door prizes and raffle and our annual *election* of the 2011-2012 Board of Directors.

BUON NATALE

Sunday, December 19, 2010

A children's hour from 4:00 to 5:00pm will feature Christmas crafts and the St Francis Christmas video. During that time there will be a no host bar and background music for those who arrive early before the 5:30 *Prime Rib* dinner with appropriate *contorni*, including a very special dessert. Plan to visit the festive raffle prizes organized by our artistic Norma Rivas. There you may find something for gift-giving or home decorating.

Since *tradizioni natalizie* in Italy center around the family we will be happy to seat your relatives if you make your reservations **early**. **Only the first 150 prepaid reservations can be accommodated.** The evening will include musical entertainment, Christmas Carols and perhaps a *surprise visitor* who would appreciate knowing the names and ages of the children who are coming to our party.

CINEMA AT THE CENTER

On Sunday, November 21st at 2:00pm (movie starts at 2:30) **Vincere**, the story of Mussolini's secret lover and their son is part political and part melodrama.

Sound interesting?



Reservation Forms

December 19, 2010 - Vets Memorial Building Dinning Room

Doors open 4:00pm Dinner served 5:30pm

___places @ \$16 for members

___places @ \$18 for guests

___places @ \$ 5 for child 5 to 12 years

___places for under 5 years - free

Name _____

Mail by Dec. 15, 2010

NBICF MEMBERSHIP

BENVENUTI~WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Individuals: Lynne Frenna; Penny Hopkins; Mary Pandolfino; Stephen Pasion-Caian; Charlene Shaw; Karlene Stevenson and Sami Thomas

Families: Richard & Deanna Henderson; Rose & Bruce Lamanna; Sean & Carrie Walsh.

The NBICF Board of Directors invites you to our next dinner meeting and future events. Hope to see you soon.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend sympathy to the families of **Charles Carniglia, Chris Christani, Marie Frazee and Rachel Ann Seghesio** for their recent bereavements. These dear members will be fondly remembered.

A donation has been made to NBICF in memory of Chris Christani and Charles Carniglia by Sharie Sbrazza.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Kathy Lazzini for being named as Ursuline Alumnae of the Year.

Many thanks to Arturo Ibleto for his loyalty to NBICF and his generosity. Arturo recently received double Gold Medals for his wine, *Bella Sonoma*, and for his pesto.

Continued from Page 1.....**Eva Marie Sbraggia** joined NBICF 8 years ago when she became a member of the Coro Allegro. Born in Chicago, her father's family, the Cappellin's came from the Veneto region of Italy. She also has roots in the Lucchesi area of Tuscany. Sbraggia began learning the accordion when she was 7 years old. She volunteers to play at our monthly dinners. Her passions are her husband, daughter, music and shopping.

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 7:00 PM are open to all members.

QUEL CHE BOLLE IN PENTOLA

“What’s Cooking”

A fierce debate has erupted over the ownership of Michelangelo's David between the Italian state and Florence, the city where the statue has been on display since 1873. Government lawyers have produced a nine page document as conclusive proof that the sculpture belongs to the state. Look for a legal battle in the style of David and Goliath to continue for years.

Venice's first ever female gondolieri trainee passed her final exam in August and her name was added to the official list of those allowed to practice this age-old profession. Giorgia Boscollo, 24, took courses for a year and completed her apprenticeship before taking the examination. She can now ask for a full gondolier's license and in the meantime can substitute for her colleagues.

News from VIVA: Italian language classes beginning November 9th - December 14th. Italian movie night November 12th *Cronaca di un amore*. Cheese making workshop - Mozzarella and Ricotta, December 5th. Contact VIVA at 824-9913 or email: viva@saiprograms.com

Lo sapevi / did you know? Brooklyn born Vito Fariola, a 19 year old usher at New York's Paramount Theater, changed his name to Vic Damone in 1947 after his first big hit "I Have But One Heart." His career continued for the next six decades, amounting to one of the most successful singing careers in America.

**Your Membership is valued
2011 renewals will
be mailed in December**

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)	570-7076	Sharie Sbrazza
Translations	938-8729	Dave Henderson
Volunteers	542-5245	Jeanette Mitchell
Festa Volunteers	546-2552	Gerri Asti

FESTA ITALIANA 2010.....

Was a huge success and was attended by a crowd of 2,000. This year's warm Sunday brought out a capacity crowd who enjoyed not only the warm day but the entertainment and general ambiance. It took 140 volunteers to put on this celebration with some working double shifts. Chairman Virginia Wilburn wishes to thank the committee and all of her loyal volunteers who worked very hard to put on *La Bella Festa*.

The committee hopes you enjoyed *The Coro Allegro, Tom Cordoni Duo, The Don Giovannis and Zighi Baci with Michael Van Why*. The *Roman Entourage* with their wonderful display brought much attention to the West Room which also included Sonoma County Italian History and two very lively and informative food demonstrations. The children were entertained by the *Gioventù Mothers* and *Twizzle the Clown*.

The food prepared by our chefs, Ray Lazzini and Randy Apel was enjoyed by all. Did you get your fill? If not come to one of our monthly dinners!

Congratulations are in order for our Super raffle prize winners who are as follows:

\$1,000.00 prize to Beverly Stumbaugh

\$600.00 prize to Irene Pohley

\$400.00 prize to Ed Canevari, Sr.

Door prizes went to the following: Jo Estill, Julie Tuckey and Lorraine Sims

Next year the *Festa* will be held on October 16, 2011. Mark your calendar and plan to volunteer and support your club. We need everyone's help to make the next *Festa* a big success. Remember, *Festa* is our biggest annual fundraiser. If you have any suggestions to make *Festa* even better please contact the Chairman.



Crowd listening to The Don Giovannis

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

ITALIAN HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

This article first appeared in The Mosaico Culturale December 1995.

Christmas really began in Italy. Christ was born in Bethlehem, but His birthday was first celebrated in Rome almost 300 years later, when Emperor Constantine adopted the new Christian faith. Because of winter solstice, December and January had always been months of festive revelry, but the season became a time of holiness with the advent of Christianity.

The season extends to January 6th when the Three Kings reached Bethlehem and gave gifts to the infant Jesus. The early Romans followed suit and the custom to exchange gifts on Epiphany still prevails.

While many Italians gather around Christmas trees, the real focus is the Nativity scene. Mangers range from a simple, homemade *presepio* to elaborate Neapolitan creches fashioned in the late 1700s. St. Francis of Assisi created the Nativity popularity in his desire to share the wonder of Christ's birth. In the winter of 1223 St. Francis wanted to "show how the infant Jesus was born, suffered from the cold and how He lay in the manger warmed only by the breath of the ox and the ass."

New Years is another time for gifts when a Yule log or *ceppo* is dragged from the woods and set afire with much ceremony which includes blindfolding the children. When the blindfolds are removed, a pile of gifts magically appears in front of the ashes, which are kept as a charm against oncoming winter storms.

On the Eve of Epiphany, many Italian children believe it's the night of magic when empty stockings and shoes await the witch-like appearance of *La Befana*, dressed in black and riding a broomstick across the dark-winter sky. As legend notes, she was always busy sweeping her house, front steps and walkway all the way down to the road. One day while doing her sweeping chore, she heard bells. She thought her ears were playing tricks on her, so she kept on sweeping. Suddenly a procession of camels, horses and even an elephant appeared. She stopped sweeping and began to observe this wonderous sight. In the procession rode three men dressed in robes and jewels with gold crowns on their heads. They bid her to join them in their quest for the newborn King. She declined as she was too busy sweeping. After a while she decided to go and spend the day baking cookies, cakes and candies to take as a gift to the newborn King. So now it's her duty to give the children of the world these goodies, or if they are bad, a lump of coal!?

North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation



N B I C F

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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

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday November 14, 2010

Madama Butterfly Opera DVD

November 15, 2010

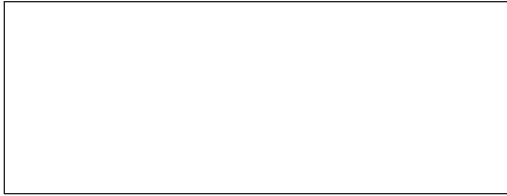
Monthly Dinner

November 21, 2010

Cinema at the Center

December 19, 2010

Annual Christmas Party



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, Stan Laughlin, Geni Maggi (Corresponding Secretary 544-5236) Jeanette Mancini Mitchell (President 542-5245), 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.