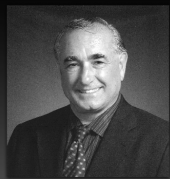


# IAHF NEWS

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011 • FOUNDED AUGUST 5, 1975 • CELEBRATING 36 YEARS

## President's Message

by Ken Borelli



## BUON NATALE & A VERY CREATIVE NEW YEAR!

It seems like the wrong time of year to start planning for the Holiday Season! Doesn't it? Weren't we just doing the Family Festa, Scholarship BBQ, Shorty Joe event, and a couple of other summer time activities too, including La Storia Segreta (THE DVD IS JUST NOW AVAILABLE)? I truly believe Fall came too fast this year. Even so, "time and tide waits for no man" and our holiday edition of the newsletter highlights some of the exciting activities over the last several months, but it also affirms how fast time flies. On a personal note, I love Autumn, and the harvest season, the fruit of our labors and the fall colors, especially in my travels to Sonoma County and the wine country, where the vines supply the bright orange and red hues throughout the countryside. I suspect many of you are equally caught off guard to find that the holiday season is really upon us. Not to worry, though, because we have two of our stellar IAHF events in December, our Christmas Party and World of Italian Opera Home for the Holiday Program and Boutique, to help you celebrate this festive time of the year.

There is a certain "synergy" associated with our IAHF activities, in that as we come together to share and celebrate with new and old friends alike, and our experiences affirm the

observation that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts". The interaction of our community truly does serve to enrich our Italian American experiences in a way that would be hard to replicate in isolation of each other. I can cite many examples of this observation, but it certainly was realized recently in taking a delegation of the Board of Directors of the Patrons of Italian Culture from Los Angeles

on a four-day visit through the Santa Clara Valley, and specifically to check out those things Italian in our community. A more comprehensive article is inside the paper, but

the beauty and pride in heritage certainly was reflected in all who had the opportunity to share the intangible parts of our community that we sometimes take for granted.

In many ways, that was the Patrons' gift to us, because in order to share that unique experience, you had to do a mental inventory to prepare and plan for the experience. Normally, we forget those daily cultural "blessings." Along those same lines, one can also experience the joys of the holiday in some of the very simple things of life, such as when a group of members recently came together to make ornaments and decorate the IAHF

Christmas tree for Christmas in the Park. I hope you will have the time to visit our tree. It will be stunning, not only because of the great decorations, but because of the love and enthusiasm that grew from last year's experience. This year the tree will have a Venetian *Carnevale* theme! This, too, is a good example of "synergy" in that one could paint and design one stand-alone ornament, but that

stand-alone ornament needs to be combined with the energy and creativity of many of our talented IAHF artisans in order to have our splendid tree in the park.

Would that we could bottle

all this creative holiday energy for the rest of the year! It seems, however, that this is truly a part of the special gift of the Christmas season, and an important reminder why, too, we should find the time to enjoy, not the "whole enchilada", but the wonderful moments the holiday season brings! On behalf of your Board of Directors, may you enjoy the many special moments of the Holiday Season, and, once again, our best for a very creative new year. And *ps...* in many ways the "synergy" we are referring to really is the "spirit" of this festive season..... *allora Buon Natale a tutti.....* 🎁



## 2011 HOLIDAY Issue

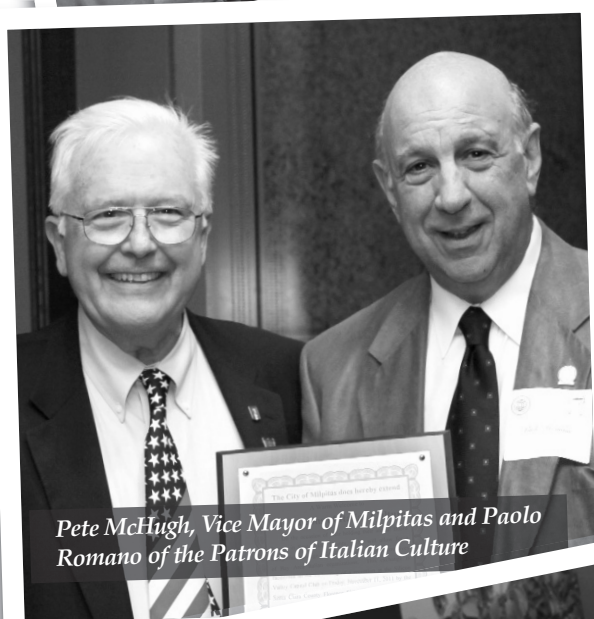
# PATRONS OF ITALIAN CULTURE VISIT SAN JOSE ON 11-11-11 EVENT HELD AT THE SILICON VALLEY CAPITAL CLUB



Paolo Romano (Patrons of Italian Culture), Ken Borelli and Robert Barbera (owner of L'Italo Americano newspaper)



San Jose City Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio and Ken Borelli



Pete McHugh, Vice Mayor of Milpitas and Paolo Romano of the Patrons of Italian Culture



Book author Valentina Cirasola and Composer Louise Canepa



Paul Lukes, Mary Gottschalk and Eugene Mirabella



JoAnn Anderson, Commissioner with SCC Florence Commission.

Photos by John Eric Paulson

## PATRONS OF ITALIAN CULTURE'S VISIT TO SAN JOSE A WHIRLWIND EXPERIENCE!

On 11-11-11, a reception and welcome for the Patrons of Italian Culture was held at the stunning Silicon Valley Capital Club. IAHF President Ken Borelli was the moderator. On behalf of the IAHF we shared the proceedings from *Una Storia Segreta* held at the IAHF earlier this year. The reception was co-sponsored by SCC/Florence Sister County Commission. Commissioner JoAnn Anderson welcomed the Patrons on behalf of the County Commission.

Officially welcoming from our community included:

Dave Cortese, President of the SCC Board of Supervisors, represented by aide Mike Donahue; Pierluigi Oliverio, SJ City Councilmember; and Cav. Primo Mc Hugh, Vice Mayor of Milpitas. We also acknowledged several artists in attendance: Louise Canepa, Composer, of Sicilians of Monterey; Julio Perrone, playwright and author of *Galileo's Daughters*; John Eric Paulson, our resident photographer; Shorty Joe Quartuccio, Lifetime Achievement Award for Country Western Swing; Carolyn Cocciardi, author and art historian regarding Leonard Da Vinci; and Valentina Cirasola, book author and interior designer.

Special thanks to IAHF members and friends for their help and for sharing our community with the patrons and for making this event and other activities related to the visit possible: Frank De Turris, Delia Schizzano, Judy Verona Joseph, Cathy De Maria and Father Bill Rewak, Cathy Lazarus, Nina Bruno Boyd, Josh Melander, Bob and Linda Binkley, Virginia Perry, Kathy Winkleman and Rosa Lopez.

We quickly went around the room to acknowledge the many organizations represented at the reception.

The welcome on behalf of the Patrons delegation of twelve board members was made by chairperson Paolo Romano, and Patrons board member Robert Barbera of the *L'Italo Americano* newspaper.

In addition to the reception, we gave the Patrons a whirlwind tour of our Italian American community, including an historical overview by yours truly, and then a visit to the Little Italy office, tour of the courtyard with Josh Melander and Helen Marchese Owen, followed by lunch at Paesano Ristorante and a reception at the Capital Club in the evening.

Thursday evening we were happy to be allowed to sit at a dress rehearsal for Opera San Jose's production of *Pagliacci*, where we met with Irene Dalis. On Saturday we had a Venetian mask making workshop at the IAHF with Kathy Winkleman and Carla Almanza, followed by a tour of Santa Clara University. At the University, Cathy De Maria and Father Bill were instrumental in providing a special gift, a copy of the book *The Land Beyond, Italian Migration in the Westward Movements* by Gloria Ricci Lothrop. The book was made possible by a special grant and support of the Patrons of Italian Culture in 2007. A copy of the book is now at the IAHF library. Thank you, Cathy.

The official visit concluded with a reception and wine tasting at the award winning vineyards of IAHF Advisory Board Member and Patron Scholarship recipient Linda Binkley and her husband Bob. The Patrons concluded their visit with a mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in San Jose, and then departed to many parts of the greater Los Angeles area. The networking and connections made for future dialogues, activities and projects were exciting to behold and will emerge little by little as these new relationships form. A very special *grazie a tutti* to all those who helped make this event possible!

As the Patrons departed south many of our IAHF members then continued the flurry of cultural activities with a special concert at Le Petit Trianon Concert Hall for a performance by Interpreti Veneziani and a reception hosted by the IAHF and in collaboration with the San Jose Chamber Music Society. - by Ken Borelli 🍷

### SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE WONDERFUL UPCOMING EVENTS!!

#### 🍷 December 3, 2011: Christmas Dinner Dance

- 6 pm to 7 pm Social / 7 pm to 8 pm Dinner / Dancing from 8 pm to 10 pm to Got To Groove
- \$27 members/\$30 non-members

#### 🍷 December 9, 2011: 24th Annual World of Italian Opera

- A community wide event featuring:
- Arias from the Italian Repertoire songs from Napoli performed by Opera San Jose
- Resident Artists and a Holiday Boutique
- The program starts at 6 pm with the Boutique and no-host Cocktails.
- Tickets are \$30 members and \$35 for non-members

#### 🍷 January 19, 2012: Regional Lunch featuring Liguria

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW 2012 IAHF BOARD MEMBERS

### ***Cecilia Logans*** - A registered Nurse and Educator.

As a Nurse, she worked in many areas of health care and interacted with a very diverse population for over 25 years. As an Educator, for over 20 years, she taught juniors and seniors in high school a course about health careers. She also taught at Gavilan College in the Allied Health Department. Cecilia has always enjoyed working with people, is enthusiastic and has made it her life goal to help improve the lives of others. In this spirit, she has volunteered her time in various causes and feels that she got more out of the experience than the recipients. She was a Board Member for the San Martin Neighborhood Alliance, Volunteered for the Child Advocates of Silicon Valley, and Recreation Center for the Handicapped in San Francisco. Cecilia is very outgoing, a nice personality, proud of her heritage, and very willing to help the IAHF reach our goals any way that she can. 🍷



*Frank De Turris, Kamake Franciosi, Christine Hudson and Clay Alan Braswell  
Not pictured: Cecilia Logans*

Cecilia is very outgoing, a nice personality, proud of her heritage, and very willing to help the IAHF reach our goals any way that she can. 🍷

***Frank DeTurris*** - Frank has an extensive background in Business Management. His 30+ years as a Manufacturing Executive include IBM Business Area Manager, Solectron Vice President Business Integration, Sanmina Global Account Executive, and Raytheon Engineer. Frank is currently putting his knowledge to good use as a volunteer for SCORE. SCORE is an organization that provides free counseling and mentoring for clients who are struggling to start-up or revise their small business, and he looks forward to helping IAHF in that capacity. Frank is also a member of the Capital Club. He has a professional outlook, proud of his heritage, and would like to help the IAHF retain and gain new members. He is a team player and willing to help the IAHF meet its goals and preserve our culture. 🍷

***Christine Hudson*** - In May of 2011, Christine retired from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. She spent 32 years in the legal profession and 25 years as a prosecutor. While she was a Deputy District Attorney, she was involved with and participated in numerous committees and volunteer organizations. Most of these experiences involved Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Drug Addition, and Foster Parent issues. Christine also worked with groups and organizations that dealt with children's issues such as education, medical, and social skills. She was also very involved with organizing donations to children who were in Foster Care. As if that was not enough, she worked with Philanthropic Adventures and Students Rising Above in helping children with scholarships and other benefits. In her spare time, Christine, is proud that she followed in her mother's and grandmother's footsteps by becoming a great cook!! She has a reputation for giving great Italian Dinner Parties and other fun events. (Another Skill the IAHF could put to use.) Christine has proven leadership skills, is reliable, hardworking, extremely responsible and welcomes the opportunity to inspire and encourage others in working to accomplish the IAHF" mission. 🍷

***Clay Alan Braswell*** - Clay has a 40 year career in Real Estate, spent 23 years as a Fight and Events Promoter (Cage Boxing, Boxing etc.) served on the State Board for Athletes, served as Secretary / Treasurer of the Cupertino JCs, and also headed up a smoke detector drive for charity and a recycling program. He a very accomplished Marketing and Events Coordinator which will be a great asset to the IAHF. Clay was born an Irishman, but he married an Italian Lady and he stated he loves everything Italian and his Heart is Italian. Clay is a very outgoing, likeable person, and a clear communicator. He is excited about learning more about the Italian Heritage, encouraging more youth Participation, and helping in Fund Raisers. Clay has good people and leadership skills and, as we mentioned before, will be another great asset to the IAHF Board. 🍷

***Kamake Franciosi*** - Kamake is a young man still working as a mechanic and manager. He is energetic, and willing to work hard to get more youth involved and push for change to unify and get various Italian groups to work together. Kamake is an organizer and has extensive experience as a volunteer. He helped set up the Young Italians Club and was the Bartender for La Salute Lounge. He spearheaded a canned food drive, was the Inter- Club Council Representative for De Anza College Auto Tech Club. Kamake's goals for the IAHF are: To help increase membership and attracting young Italians to the Foundation & Lounge. Increasing Italian Culture awareness and the presence of the Foundation in San Jose. As stated earlier; encouraging cooperation with other Italian-American Clubs and Organizations. These Goals mesh well with the IAHF goals and we wish him and all the other new Board Members well and WELCOME!! 🍷

# UN GRAZIE DI CUORE!

*Heartfelt Thanks to All Who Helped Sponsor This Wonderful Festa*  
*With Much Appreciation -- The Festa Planning Committee*



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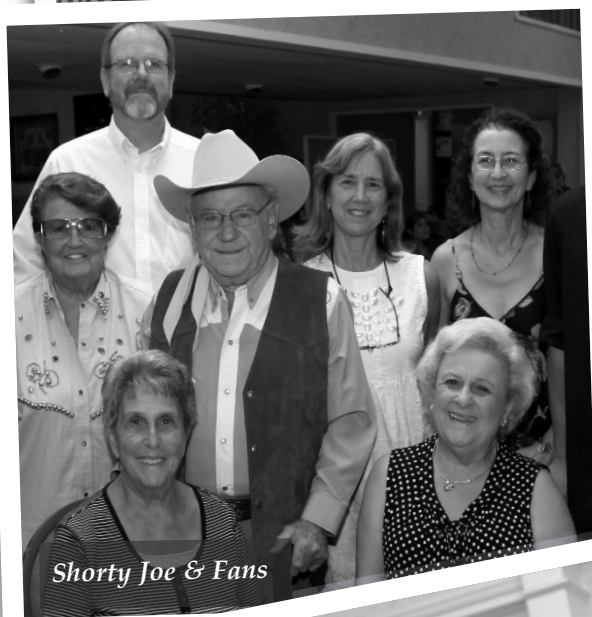
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PRIMO PUBLIC RELATIONS

# LIFE TIME ACHEIVEMENT AWARD EVENT FOR SHORTY JOE QUARTUCCIO ON OCTOBER 23, 2011



Luca Sirianni performs at the tribute to Shorty Joe event



Photos by John Eric Paulson

## SHORTY JOE QUARTUCCIO -- A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Sharing the joy of music is a true gift, not many can lay claim to. We at the IAHF were privileged to share a glimpse into why we celebrated the achievements of Shorty Joe. On Sunday October 23, 2011 we rolled back the years to the 1950's and 1960's as we heard the Western Swing music of our honoree. Joining the IAHF in doing honors for this life time achievement award included City and County Officials with Dominic Cortese, representing his son Dave Cortese, speaking from the heart as a long time friend, as well as Anthony Martino, from the Italian Mens Club, and Richard Vanucci, from the American Italian Historical Association, along with many friends, family and those who just wanted to learn more about this Sicilian cowboy. Our IAHF Hall was actually turned into an old time radio studio, as Radio Station KKUP's Steve Hathaway did a taped broadcast that was later played on his country western music program on Sunday nights. Joining Shorty Joe on stage was award winning steel guitarist and friend, Bobby Black and Richard Chon and the Saddle Cats. Many long time musicians were also present in the audience, but sadly too, we missed having Anthony Quartuccio, Jr. and a cousin Joe D'Angelo performing, due to the passing of Shorty Joe's brother Anthony Sr. (refer to the note in our paper). It was a sadness that we all felt, for Anthony Sr. too was a long time friend of the IAHF, and had several exhibits of his art work at many of our past art shows. Even so, because so many plans were set we decided to do the event, with a moment of silence for Anthony along with a special makeshift exhibit of his paintings during the performance.

Along with Shorty Joe's long time musical experience, it should not be lost that he is/was a major innovator in the development of the western swing genre that included a blending of a "big band" sound to the more traditional cowboy music of the day. In many ways all music is fusion and it grows and changes in response to innovation and the time. It is here that Shorty Joe made a major impact in the development of his style, which also resulted in him being honored by The Western Swing Hall of Fame. One tribute that I can't forget was an observation by Richard Chon, the leader of the Saddle Cats. Speaking about this award ceremony and the diverse background of all the musicians who have helped make this a true American form, as a Korean American he had much empathy with Shorty Joe's Italian and Sicilian Heritage and how profound it was that we at the IAHF recognized (in style) the contribution of one of our own to the arts in America today. Along this same line, we will be having an additional article from Richard Vanucci, a musical historian in his own right, of the significance of Italian Americans to Western Swing and Jazz in the greater bay area, and the roll of many other not to well known Italian Americans and their association with the popular musical life of the times. For a multitude of reasons, it was very difficult to track the Italian roots of many of the popular musicians of those times, especially from the 30's well up until the 60', but our Italian roots do have a direct connection with the popular music of the day even going back to the first Jazz recordings from New Orleans, and Hank La Roca's "Tiger Rag"!



DVD NOW AVAILABLE

*Una Storia Segreta: An Open Forum*

*(approximately 2 hours long)*

A Historic Forum and Discussion of the Internment of Italian Americans During World War II

Presented by The Italian American Heritage Foundation

Co-Sponsored by American Italian Historical Association, Western Regional Chapter

\$15.00 make check payable to IAHF

## WITH REGRETS

We at the IAHF were saddened to hear of the loss of several people who had long time connections with our foundation. They included Don Tamone, Sam Curto, and Anthony Quartuccio. Don was a long time friend of the IAHF and tended our bar and lounge area, along with his brother Richard, for many years at our special events, and opera programs. We also received a note from Pat Fortin of Le Grand, California, and the Curto Family, to let our members know that Sam Curto passed away in Madera Community Hospital (Oct 12). Sam was active in the IAHF's cultural life until moving out of the area, but enjoyed staying in touch via our IAHF NEWS. It is a timely reminder that we still keep our connections to those with roots in our valley and foundation.

And on the eve of a special life time achievement award for Shorty Joe Quartuccio, his brother Anthony died in Paso Robles, California. Many of you are aware of Anthony's artistic achievements, as a chronicler of a passing rural Santa Clara Valley. He was a "natural landscape painter" who captured so many regional scenes of an earlier California, including all the California missions to the tip of Baja California! He also did the mural above the altar of Holly Cross Church in San Jose. It is titled the "Mural of the Resurrection". Given the proximity of his death to the event for his brother, we developed a mini memorial exhibit and collection of his paintings and writings at the awards ceremony. A card was collectively signed and sent to the family.

Our collective condolences to those families impacted by this loss, from the IAHF. And a word of comfort to meditate upon comes from new board member Chris Hudson's mom, Mary Hudson, quoting from her book *PAINTINGS OF MAMA AND PAPA, AND THE NEW AMERICANS*. Mary wrote: "We all left home one at a time, leaving the folks alone in the old house by the river {Around McCloud, in rural Northern California}. Mama and Papa never left the old house. We always had a home to come back to. Mama made few changes in the house so the warmth of our childhood days was always there. Mama always wore her apron and Papa wore his railroad suspenders. Real love never dies, does it? It seems to go on even after material sense says there has been a change. The only change there really is that it disappears from sight and has found a permanent lodging in our hearts", From a collection of stories from Mary Hudson, sweet and to the point. ☺



## SAN MARTINO, CASTAGNE E VINO

Italy - The Chapel dedicated to San Martino and frescoed by Simone Martini in the 14th-century is certainly one of the masterpieces in our Basilica di San Francesco. St. Martin of Tours, 4th-century saint, is pictured as he gives his cloak to a freezing beggar outside the walls of Amiens. According to legend, the beggar will reveal himself as Christ. The association is there: St. Martin, the bringer of warmth.

In Italy, in fact, a spell of warm weather following the first freeze is called "*l'estate di San Martino*" (the summer of St. Martin", i.e., the "Indian summer" in Anglo-Saxon cultures). Due to an inordinately warm fall this year, *la Festa di San Martino*, November 11th, was warm and sunny but did not fall during *un'estate di San Martino*: we haven't yet had the first freeze.

In rural cultures, the *mezzadria* (share-cropping) contracts were stipulated during this period, with termination of some contracts and the renewal of others. At this time, farm families might move into a farmhouse on another farm; in fact, "*fare San Martino*" means "to make a move". An old Italian proverb announces the Saint's feast day as the time to slaughter the pig and enjoy wine, "*San Martino, uccidi il maiale e bevi il vino*". That might have been possible years ago – when November brought the cold weather needed for the curing of prosciutto.

A Piedmontese saying, "*Oche, castagne e vino, tieni tutto per San Martino*." ("Geese, chestnuts and wine, save it all for San Martino") refers to the period before Advent when farm families indulged in abundant meals before the "lean" period prior to Christmas. And legend says that when St. Martin was elected Bishop of Tours, he hid in the countryside, preferring the contemplative life. A flock of screeching migrating geese revealed his hiding place. Wine consistently stars in the many sayings of this feast day. "*Chi vuol far buon vino, zappi e poti a San Martino*" ("For a good wine, hoe and prune at San Martino"); that is, the vines should be pruned after the grapes are picked and before new growth.

## INTERPRETI VENEZIANI



A group of IAHF members and friends attended the Interpreti Veneziani concert at the Le Petit Trianon Concert Hall in San Jose on Sunday, November 13th.

From Venice, Italy, this fabulous ensemble of master musicians received several standing ovations and everyone enjoyed their performance. They made their debut in 1987 and were a main attraction for residents and visitors to the romantic city of Venice. In Venice they play some 350 concerts and have over 60,000 subscribers to their own season at the San Vidal Church where Vivaldi used to play.

Interpreti Veneziani has performed in the United States, Turkey, Italy, Holland, Venezuela, the Bahamas and at the prestigious Australian Melbourne International Arts Festival. They have over 18 albums to their name.

For more information about Interpreti Veneziani visit their web site at [www.interpretiveneziani.com](http://www.interpretiveneziani.com). - Photo and story by Judy Verona Joseph 🐾

## INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS



IAHF friend and composer Louise Canepa coordinated a visit to Northern California of the Rimsky Korsakov String Quartet from St. Petersburg, Russia, on behalf of the National American Pen Woman Association. IAHF President Ken Borelli mc'ed the event at Grace Cathedral in September. Also present was IAHF Advisory Board Member and Sister County Commissioner Tony Zerbo who coordinated a house concert in Cupertino on behalf of the Moscow/Santa Clara Sister County Commission. And in keeping with the connections, Louise did a regional premier of her opera, *Sicilians of Monterey*, at the IAHF, and we hope to have her back in the future for a pocket rendition of *Sicilians* (any sponsors out there willing to help out with this venue?). 🐾



## CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Christmas in The Park is an annual holiday tradition that takes place in the heart of Downtown San Jose at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez. For over 30 years, this whimsical event has brought people from all over the Bay Area together during the holidays.

Each year, the two-acre park is transformed into a holiday fantasy with over 60 musical and animated exhibits, glittering lights and the 60-foot Community Giving Tree. Some of the original displays housed in one of the largest exhibits, the Lima Train, include a melting snowman, caroling mice and elf woodcrafters. The Victorian Village is a 25-foot Christmas tree surrounded by the animated Nutcracker Suite exhibit and Santa's Photo Den. Guests enter a winter wonderland of lights, songs and local entertainment while strolling through an enchanted forest of trees decorated by San José schools, community groups and businesses.

Christmas in the Park is a non-profit organization that is supported through fundraising efforts by the volunteer Board of Directors and is free to the public. Children can have their photograph taken with Santa, watch nightly entertainment and enjoy holiday themed refreshments.

The City of San José is an in-kind sponsor and works closely with a volunteer Board of Directors in providing services. It takes more than 260,000 volunteer hours from Board Members and the community to bring this well-loved holiday tradition to San José each year.

Enjoy Christmas in the Park from November 25, 2011 to January 1, 2012. 🎄



## FREE LECTURE: "MASTERS OF VENICE" EXHIBITION

The "Masters of Venice" exhibition now at the de Young Museum gives us a rare chance to see a group of superb paintings which are normally in the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

Art historian Deborah Loft will introduce us to the exhibition, and will share observations to enhance our visit. What is distinctive about Venetian Renaissance painting? What are the stories being told? What was the role of Venetian painting in the broader European context? Join us to enjoy this exceptional chapter in the history of Italian art.

Deborah Loft is Professor of Art History at College of Marin, where she received the Distinguished Teaching Award. She has lectured widely in the Bay Area, including a recent Humanities West program on Toledo, Spain, and the "Getting to Know Modern Art" series at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

- 📍 Location: The Italian Cultural Institute
- 📅 Date: Thursday, December 01, 2011
- 🕒 Time: 6:30 pm
- 👤 Organized by: Italian Cultural Institute
- 🎟 Admission is free.
- 📞 RSVP to 415-788-7142 ext. 18

# CHRISTMAS IN DARING COLORS



Changes in the political theatre, the economic recession and my desire to stay positive have prompted me to design Christmas in unusual daring colors. To be different doesn't have to be challenging. This year anything goes as far as colors, but it seems that warm, rich jewel tones are dominating the scene. Some people are finding their decorating answers in vintage stores to save money and to add that *je ne sais quoi* of retro elegance. Some other people are just putting together new stuff with no rules.

To unite all the details of your casual Christmas dining table, I suggest to find a nice linen or cotton peacock blue tablecloth, but if you want to add elegance, your Christmas tablecloth should be made of silk, smooth, shiny, luminous silk, which I adore as tablecloth. Blue tones are some of the new colors for winter 2011-2012, precisely peacock blue, indigo blue and sky blue.

To be different it takes a little fantasy. I believe any dining table prepared for a special occasion need a surprising element. Find two common picture frames 4x6 or 5x7, they don't have to be the same size or shape, spray them in apple green, print your Christmas menu from the computer and insert it in each frame. Place both frames on each end of the table in front of the most important people.

Next to each place setting, add a small present wrapped in peacock blue tulle fabric tied with apple green ribbon. Inside of the small package there will be a little something, nothing really valuable under \$5.00, the thought is enough.

One idea could be a scented candle wrapped in a napkin that can have various functions later. Your guests will feel very special and will take home a momentum of your Christmas.

I like to mix sets of modern and antique or old plates all together with no rule. Even those white plates with a gold ring edge that every one has as a remembrance of someone's wedding gift might be used together with a modern plate. Arrange each place setting with three plates of different sizes and a napkin on top.

Since I have been in the process of writing my third book on the subject of Colors I feel like bathing in colors in all my daily expressions, not that I didn't before, but it just seems the feeling is elevated to the nth power.



This year, I will turn to nature for my Christmas table decorations. My tablescape will be designed with a low arrangement made of a few bell peppers filled with fresh mums, marigold and fall flowers. For height in the center of the table, I will have a glass vase filled with nuts, dry flowers, some grass and colored balls. This will give me a rhythm of a high and low effect.

Nature doesn't go wrong in combining textures; colors are always the right colors in each season. I can enjoy the decorations for a while longer past the holidays if I fancy and once I discard them back into the nature, they will dissolve again to become part of the earth once more.

This is my advice this holiday season: stay away from artificial decorations, be respectful of the environment, support your local artists and craft people, buy local, buy handmade and give unique gifts from your heart.

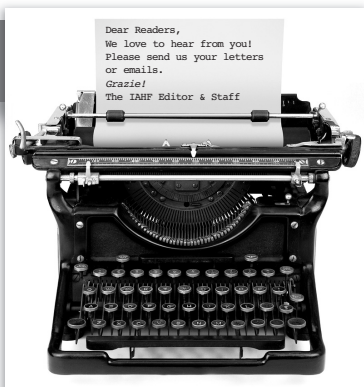
This Christmas use happy colors for your table, they will slap the winter out of anybody's face. Dare to be different, dare to be unique, dare to do the contrary of everybody else.

If you are in a bind, or feel the stress of the holidays, relax and let me take care of your decorations for the holidays, or any organization you need to do to make your successful holiday events.

Ciao, Valentina / [www.valentinadesigns.com](http://www.valentinadesigns.com)



Copyright © 2011 Valentina Cirasola, All Rights Reserved. Valentina Cirasola is an Italian Interior Designer and former Fashion Designer, working in the USA and Europe since 1990. She blends well fashion with interior and colors the world of her clients. She has been described as "the colorist" and loves to create the unusual. She is also the author of two Italian regional cuisine books available in her books' site: [www.Valentinaexpressions.com](http://www.Valentinaexpressions.com). She is also the author of the forthcoming book on the subject of Colors due to be released in the Spring 2012.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ken,

The annual Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz Fungus Fair will take place on 13 to 15 January at the Loudon Nelson Center, Center/Laurel Santa Cruz. I know that many of your members are very interested in the mushroom opportunities in the Bay Area including the wonderful Porcini and the Candy Cap which is made into a maple like Gelato served at our Fair. Anyway, we would love any publicity you can give us for this event, as the city of Santa Cruz is no longer involved. We feel we offer an important service to various communities in helping identify the "good from the bad" through lectures, organized forays and an ID service. There are also "no experience necessary" opportunities to forage for fair specimens Sunday through Wednesday prior to the fair in our local area and I can help those interested in getting involved.

Details of the fair and our organization can be found at <http://scfungusfair.org/> and <http://www.fungusfed.org>. I would be happy to answer any of your questions and please feel free to contact me. Hope to see you and your organization at the fair.

Sincerely, Jim Maley – Fungus Fair Volunteer 🐸

Hi Ken...

I really enjoyed reading your message in the latest IAHF Newsletter... well done!

I think using the vision and the accomplishments of both Steve Jobs and Michelangelo is a beautiful example and inspiration for those, like yourself, that have a Vision and Passion for the future of the Italian-American Heritage Foundation!

In fact, I just read an article by a Christian writer, the late Vance Havner, that had a quote that I thought would be of interest to you... it was excerpted from his book, "The Secret of Christian Joy". Quote... *"Someone has said that vision without work is visionary; work without vision is mercenary, vision and work are missionary!"* Steve Jobs and Michelangelo are a perfect example of the latter... it takes both!

There was also a great quote from Michelangelo with regard to the statue of David, *"In every block of marble I see a statue as plain as though it stood before me, shaped and perfect in attitude and action. I have only to hew away the rough walls that imprison the lovely apparition to reveal it to the other eyes as mine see it"*.

Keep up the good work and God Bless!! Ciao! - Irv Parolari 🐸



Nov. 16, 2011

Italian American Heritage Foundation

425 No. 4th Street

San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Ken,

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the Patrons of Italian Culture, we thank you for all your hard work and assistance in organizing so many wonderful events and collaboration opportunities for us as part of our Annual Retreat.

Starting with the SJ Opera Performance, the wonderful reception at the Capital Club, our special tour of Little Italy's restoration progress, the wonderful luncheon which followed, our "Venetian Mask Making" project, a special visit to Santa Clara University with Fr. Bill, and ending with the marvelous Binkley reception, made this a most exciting and enjoyable retreat. In all of our collective memories, never has a retreat city so honored our organization.

I know that many others played a part in organizing this special time including, Helen Marchese Owen, Pres. of the Capital Club, along with Frank DeTurris and Nina Boyd, SJIAHF's PR guru, Judy Verona Joseph, and 1st VP Delia Schizzano and IAHF project coordinator Rosa Lopez. Thanks also goes out to composer Louise Canepa for her thoughtful CD of "Romanza" of Napa Valley.

You are all to be commended for your continued support and involvement in the Italian American Community in San Jose. These efforts are most sincerely appreciated by visitors like us, who were privileged to have had an opportunity to meet so many like minded members of the community.

We heartedly wish you all continued success in 2012.

Warmest wishes,

Paul J. Romano, President, Patrons of Italian Culture

## ITALIAN MEN'S CLUB BINGO

*Elks Lodge, 444 W. Alma St, San Jose*

*Phone: (408) 286-2007*

- Every Monday Night; Doors Open at 4:00 PM
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- Play \$1,199 Flashboards, Cherry Bells (pull tabs) and all Games Pay \$250.00 (except for Early Bird)
- 15 minute Buy-In (2-15 Game Packs)
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- We Host a \$5.00 Senior Lunch and Bingo every Monday afternoon starting at 11:00 AM
- Check our website: <http://www.italianmensclub.com>

*That's  
Italian!*

## FOLDING METAL CHAIRS FOR SALE FOR ONLY \$3 EACH!!!

The IAHF has a collection of folding metal chairs for sale for the *incredible* price of only \$3 each for IAHF members and \$5 each for non-members. The chairs are in good condition and useful for a variety of purposes, like big Italian parties. So, if you need some good, sturdy folding chairs (and you know that a few would come in handy), please call Rosa at the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 for more information. 🐼



## THE IAHF NEEDS A VOLUNTEER ELECTRICIAN TO REPAIR OUR HALL LIGHTS!



*Please call Rosa at the IAHF office at 408-293-7122 for more information.*



## HAVE AN EVENT FOR 2012?

**Rent the IAHF Hall.**

*Call 408-293-7122 for more information*



## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHT

Enoteca La Storia in Los Gatos, CA is a classic Italian wine bar and shop with a diverse selection of local and international wines, specialty beers and artisanal foods. We are a store of stories where *amici* shop and *famiglia* gather to share grand tales over a bottle of *vino*, a cool *birra* and an authentic *piatto di salumi e formaggi*. *Salute!*



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## NEWS FROM NIAF

### ***Antico at National Gallery of Art***

- The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., will present from Nov. 6 to April 8, 2012, a retrospective on the Italian sculptor Pier Jacopo Alari Bonacolsi, a.k.a. Antico (1455-1528). The exhibition, entitled “Antico: the Golden Age of Renaissance Bronzes,” is the first dedicated to the work of this major Renaissance artist to be organized in the United States. For more information, visit the National Gallery of Art’s Website: [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov).

### ***Culinary Artistry at the National Gallery***

- While at the National Gallery, dine at its Garden Café Italia where famed Chef Fabio Trabocchi of the Penn Quarter restaurant Fiola welcomes cooler weather adding robust new dishes to the National Gallery of Art Garden Café menu inspired by harvest ingredients and an impressive exhibition of Italian works—Italian Master Drawings from the Wolfgang Ratjen Collection, 1525–1835, on view through November 27, 2011.

### ***Auguri!***

- Congratulations to NIAF’s new Regional Vice President for Greater New York Susan Paolercio and Nicholas R. Caiazzo.

## ROME REMAINS ETERNAL



*Rome is still the favorite city for foreign visitors to Italy followed by Venice, Milan, Florence and Sorrento, according to the latest Hotel Price Index report from Hotels.com.*

*The Eternal City is especially popular among American, Irish, British, Russian, Spanish, Austrian, Danish and Swedish tourists. Venice came second thanks to the preferences of French, Spanish and Austrian visitors, while Milan’s fashion district is top of the Russians’ must-visit list. Unexpected new entries into the rankings were Palermo and Bologna, both acclaimed by Spanish tourists. The romantic city of Verona has a big draw with Austrians, according to the same survey.*

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Delia Schizzano, *VP Programs*

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Nancy De Vincenzi Melander (2007-2008)

\*Deceased

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- Blevins Realtors/Coldwell Banker
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- John, Eric and Diane Paulson
- Mark Rindge, D.D.S. and Barbara Rindge
- See Spot Run Dog Walking (Rochelle Migliore)
- Steve Sgarlato

## IAHF NEWS

*Send your letters, comments and articles to:*

Editor, IAHF NEWS

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San Jose, CA 95112

Phone: 408-293-7122

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E-mail: [iahfsj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iahfsj@sbcglobal.net)

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**Design: John Romano Creative**

### Ad Rates & Deadlines

We accept business card size ads, camera ready art or digital ads.

Ads are due in THE IAHF office by the 5th of the month prior to the month of publication.

Rates are payable in advance:

- \$75 for minimum of three months
- \$275 for twelve issues.

All advertisements must be in accordance with the rules and requirements as determined by editorial policy. Paid political advertisements are not to be interpreted as an endorsement by the Italian American Heritage Foundation or its newspaper, the IAHF NEWS. In addition, the newspaper reserves the right to reject ads based on the paper's editorial policy.

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# IAHF NEWS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🍷 *December 3, 2011*  
*Christmas Dinner Dance*  
*6 pm to 7 pm Social • 7 pm to 8 pm Dinner*  
*Dancing from 8 pm to 10 pm to Got To Groove*  
*\$27 members/\$30 non-members*
- 🍷 *December 9, 2011*  
*24th Annual World of Italian Opera*  
*A community wide event featuring:*  
*Arias from the Italian Repertoire songs from Napoli*  
*performed by: Opera San Jose, Resident Artists and a*  
*Holiday Boutique*  
*The program starts at 6 pm with the Boutique and*  
*no-host Cocktails.*  
*Tickets are \$30 members and \$35 for non-members*
- 🍷 *January 19, 2012*  
*Regional Lunch featuring Liguria*

### *New Service - IAHF NEWS via Email!*

Would you like to receive the newsletter before it goes to press?  
Send your email address to [iahfsj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:iahfsj@sbcglobal.net) and we will  
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THE IAHF  
WISHES ALL  
ITS MEMBERS  
& FRIENDS  
BUON  
NATALE E  
FELICE ANNO  
NUOVO