



# BELLINI NOTES

## Gennaio 2009

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

#### **Thursday, January 15**

Wine & social hour 6 p.m.

Potluck, 6:30 p.m.

*Regular meeting 7 p.m.*

*Installation of new officers*

#### **Friday & Saturday, Jan 16 & \* 17**

Shasta Lodge Crabe feed

#### **Monday, January 19**

Regular meeting Shasta Lodge

Installation of officers

Potluck dinner

#### **Friday, January 30**

*Join your fellow members for*

#### **Friday Night dine-out**

Meet at Angelo's Trinacria

6:30 P.M.

#### **Saturday, February 21**

**Shasta Lodge Anniversary Dinner-Dance**  
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#### **Remember!!**

**Bring canned goods & Food donations  
for**

**Chico Community Relief food locker,  
or \$1 donation per person**

### LODGE OFFICERS:

President	Michael Smith	682-5641
Vice-President	John Jefsen	892-2848
Immed. Past President	Elmer Silvera	342-1630
Orator	Rocky Santulli	895-0359
Recording Secretary	Jeanne Smith....	898-8112
Newsletter	Jeanne Smith	
Financial Secretary	Debbie Rossi	345-7911
Treasurer	Rita Brunelli	893-2639
Historian	MaryAnn Silvera	342-1630
Trustees:	Don Smith	898-8112
	Ken Mackey	895-8545
	Sal Aiello	876-0728
	Jackie Schneider	345-1461
	Cathy Lucido	566-0130
	Michelle Mokres	894-6049
MC	Dominic Chiracosta	589-5597
	Bob Schneider	345-1461
Guard	Roseann Chiracosta	589-5597
Chaplain	Michelle Mokres	894-6049
Taste of Italy Sales	Stella Ricci	342-1071
\$100 Raffle tickets	William Dantona	894-5639
Culture Chairman.....	MaryAnn Silvera	342-1630
Sunshine Chairman.....		

### Message from your Editor

*With the start of the new year will come the initiation of new officers and a new secretary, Jeanne Smith will be taking over the duties of writing your newsletters. Over the past 6 years or so I've done my best to keep you informed of the lodge's activities & insert any other information I thought might interest our members, & to try to make this as interesting as possible. I wish to give thanks & recognition to Jackie Peterson for helping by folding, labeling & mailing them & to Debbie Rossi for printing the mailing labels & getting the stamps to me this past year. They have certainly made the job easier. Good luck to Jeanne. I know she will do a good job & will have many new ideas. I'm sure she will welcome members' contributions.*

*Arrivederci, Yvonne Vanoni*

## ITALIAN CULTURE

With the Christmas holidays so recently in our memories, I thought you might enjoy some of the stories I have accumulated about the holiday traditions: *Yvonne V.*

### The Candy Cane

Of all the beautiful traditions of Christmas, few are so ancient in meaning and so rich in symbolism as the candy cane. From the beginning of the tradition of the Christmas tree, it was customary to decorate the tree with symbols of the newborn Christ. Candles represented the light of the world, the star recalled that first Christmas night, and shepherd's crook symbolized the humble shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem who were first to receive the news, "Unto you is born a Savior." Christmas tree decorations in Europe, from which our tradition comes, were customarily made of food, principally cookies and candy. This symbolically expresses thanks for "our daily bread" as well as providing a Christmas treat for the children. Thus, the shepherd's crook became the Candy Cane. As time went on, many ornaments took on a more permanent nature but the candy cane retains the original use and meaning of Christmas tree ornaments. Candy canes on the Christmas tree symbolize the shepherds in the fields on that first Christmas night – shepherds who heard the angel chorus and came to worship at the crib of the newborn king. They are also a sign of our thanks to God for the food He has given us all during the year, and not least of all, they are an inexpensive and delightful Christmas treat. (*reprint from San Rafael Church bulletin, December 28, 2003, Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii*)

### The Precepio

Over the last few decades Christmas trees have crept into the Italian celebration, the traditional center of the season in Italy is the "precepio". A precepio is a scene that tries to recreate the gospels' description of the nativity. The scenes range from tiny table-top visions of the stable in Bethlehem to nearly life-size representations. On Christmas morning, an Italian child might peek to see "Papa Natale", St. Nicholas on Dec. 6, the day the saint is honored. In recent years Papa Natale has taken on more of the trappings of the American view of Santa Claus, but even so, Dec. 6, despite its connection with the saint, is not a major gift-giving day in Italy. On the day of Epiphany, Jan. 6, stores in most of Italy's large cities deliver truckloads of gifts to the major squares in each town. There the white-clad traffic directors, who usually try to manage Italian motorists, instead oversee the distribution of tons of goods to the poor, particularly children living in orphanages. If public Christmas goodwill is spread by traffic cops, Italian children look for an old benign witch to bring gifts at home. On January 6, legend has it that three kings delivered gifts to the babe in the manger, but according to an Italian custom, a wart-pocked, aged woman in a black dress, who rides a flying broomstick, La Befana was slow to acknowledge the divinity of the baby. As penance, La Befana was

given the responsibility to bring gifts to good children or lumps of coal to the not-so-good. The broom-rider flies down the chimney and leaves her gifts in front of the fireplace. Then she makes her exit through the same chimney. (*by Eugenio Frongia – reprint from December 25, 2000 Chico Enterprise Record*)

### Presidents Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Buona Serra, So much has happened since our last meeting. I wish to sincerely thank everyone for giving me the honor again to be your president of our lodge. You all know me by now and realize I will do what it takes to continue the traditions and success of our lodge, hence the phrase we know so well (for the good of the order). Most of all, our success is not judged by the actions of one man, but the actions of us all.

This last year was one of our most successful financial years to date. I salute all the members for making this possible. I congratulate all new officers and committee members of the Vincenzo Bellini Lodge and truly thank the outgoing officers for years of dedication and service to our lodge. I also wish to thank all the members that ran for office.

The Christmas Party was again a great success. Poenta with sauce, Italian sausage, salad was great! Again I thank all the members that helped that night with the planning, buying, cooking, ticket taking, raffle, decorations, food serving, the bar, music, clean up, Christmas tree, presents, and most of all, Santa. All the children had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and receive a gift. It was a great party. Best part of all, we were able to donate \$1,000 to our local community to help buy food for the unfortunate families for the Christmas holiday.

Some sad news..Theresa Lucido passed away. Theresa with her husband Anthony was one of the original founders of our lodge. I was honored to be able to attend the services for sister Theresa. My prayers go out to Cathy Lucido and her family for the loss of her mother.

See you at the regular meeting January 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope to have another Italian business in at 6:00PM for a taste of his culinary dishes.

Respectfully,  
President, Michael Smith

## Meeting Minutes November 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by President Michael Smith.

**Roll Call of Officers:** Excused absences were Jim Lamanna and Roy and Yvonne Vanoni.

**Substitutions:** Jeanne Smith as Recording Secretary.

**Minutes of October Meeting:** Approved as published.

**Special Guests:** Dario and Olivia Grieco were on hand to introduce us to their Berkeley Olive Oils. They shared the fascinating history of their 400 acre old growth olive grove, which was planted near Oroville by Lab Professors from UC Berkeley in 1913. Their 3 varieties of olive oils recently won Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in the Yolo County Fair.

**Election of New Officers:** President Michael Smith asked if there were any more nominations. None were heard. Ralph Huntsinger announced that Mary Huntsinger was absent, but wanted to withdraw her nomination as Trustee, and wished to express her support for Don Smith.

While ballots were being passed out by Yvonne and Richard Noerenberg, Michael Smith and Debbie Rossi commented on things to consider when voting for a candidate. The importance of dedicated involvement, and also having fun while we work to raise money for our causes.

Elections results were as follows:

President: Michael Smith

Vice President: John Jefsen

Secretary: Jeanne Smith

Orator: Rocky Santulli

Financial Secretary: Debbie Rossi

Treasurer: Rita Brunelli

Trustees: Sal Aiello  
Cathy Lucido  
Ken Mackey  
Jackie Schneider  
Don Smith

Historian: Marianne Silvera

Master of Ceremonies: Dominic Chiracosta  
Michele Mokres

Guard: Bob Schneider

**Congratulations to all new and returning officers!!**

**Communications:** No new applications for members have been received.

**Golf Classic** on October 10<sup>th</sup> was a great success.

We are invited back to the Chico Airfest next year, and we could be serving a spaghetti dinner the night before!

**Christmas Party is December 4<sup>th</sup>.** The cost is \$10.00 for adults, children 10 and under are free. No host cocktails at 5:00pm, dinner at 6:00pm. Bring your family, and please let Michael know how many will be attending, especially who will be visiting Santa. And, oh yes, don't forget your raffle items.

**Dine-Out is November 21<sup>st</sup>** at Crush 201.

Michael Smith brought out the Perpetual Bocce Ball Trophy that we won by defeating the Paradiso Club. Sal Aiello says the Paradiso Lodge has thrown down the gauntlet, they'll be ready for us next year.

**Financial Report:** Debbie rossi reported our previous checking balance was \$6,879 and our current balance is \$4,545.83. Digital Printing Bill was approved to be paid. The National Leadership Grant Competition was passed to Debbie Rossi.

**Sunshine:** Vincenza McDaniel has been sick. Roseanne Chiricosta still has pain. Don Smith has had knee surgery.

**New Business:** Budget meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> at Debbie Rossi's home.

**Officer's Meeting** is December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Reno and Stella Ricci's home.

**Roseanne Chiricosta** has agreed to continue as our Chaplain.

We need 10 volunteers to serve as our Arbitrator Board. Rocky Santulli says (the book requires) you must be a member for 2 years and be able to read and write English. You may be an officer as well.