

January 2011

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# Bellini Notes



## Presidents Message

January 3, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy New Year,

I trust everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I would like to welcome all the newly elected officers of the Vincenzo Bellini Lodge, and I want to thank everyone for electing me again as your president.

Our Sons of Italy Christmas party was once again a great success. Special thank you to Bob and Jackie Schneider for chairing the party of over 125 adults and 37 children.

Of course it would not be a Christmas party without Ken Mackey and Sue Graves, Santa and his elf never looked so good.

We were honored by some of our state officers, State third Vice President Rudy Braida and his wife.

Chair of the Garibaldi Meucci museum Joy Bruno and her husband.

Past state president and CFO Sons of Italy Western Foundation Roy Vanoni, and his wife, State Deputy Yvonne Vanoni.

We took all the money raised that night plus some extra to make a \$1,000.00 donation to the Northern Valley Catholic Social Services who provide food for the needy in our area. They in turn gave our lodge a very nice certificate of appreciation for the many years of our lodge donating to their worthy cause.

Everyone that was on committees did a fantastic job. I can not thank brother Paul Nelson for taking on the kitchen clean up.

Thank you to John Jefsen for taking my place at the November meeting while we were in Rome

Pat and Pam Hallin, Laurie and I had a wonderful time. Can't wait to share the pictures and stories with you.

January begins getting ready for our Spaghetti Feed in March. We will start meeting with committee chairs to get things started. Most important thing will be to sell tickets in advance. We should have them available at our January meeting.

Thank you to Ralph and Mary Huntsinger and Henry and Anita Pasquinelli for sponsoring this years tickets.

January meeting will be the initiations of your new officers.

See you at our meeting on January 20th for some good wine, good food, and great friends.

Respectfully,

**President Michael Smith**

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## December & January

Elizabeth Colucci  
Nunzio Femino

Eugenio Frongia  
Judy Gattuccio-Collins

Lisa Heuschkel

Mary Huntsinger

Lorna Jefsen      Nicholas Katz

Charlotte Losada

Anita Pasquinelli

Ronald Peterson      Alan Reil

Deborah Rossi

Manuel Salcido

Janice Salvo-White

Jake Santulli

Vic Sbarbaro

Annette Scotella

Frank Scotella      Frank Sisco

Gary Smith      Janell Smith

James Taylor

Michael Smith 🎉

### 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 Roseann Bradley	343-1050
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
Cathy Lucido	566-0130
MC Michelle Mokres	894-6049
Dominic Chiricosta	589-5597
Bob Schneider	345-1461
Chaplain Roseanne Chiricosta	589-5597
Taste of Italy Sales Michelle Mokres	894-6049
\$100 Raffle Tickets Stella Ricci	343-1 071
Cultural Chair Wm Dantona	894-5639
Sunshine chair MaryAnn Silvera	342-1630

## January Dine-Out

# Angelo's

*Cucina Trinacria*

*497 Walnut*

*January 28 2011 6:30 pm*

*Limited Seating \$25 Per Person*

*Call Roseann For Reservation ☎*

*Entre Choice 343-1050*

*Chicken Picatta or Calamari Originale*

*Dinner Includes; Anti-pasti, Salad,*

*Entrée, Dessert, Beverage. Wine is extra.*



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# Sons Of Italy

## Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519

### Membership Meeting

Sons of Italy – Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519



Membership Meeting – November 18, 2010

Meeting called to order by Vice President John Jepsen at 7:15pm

Roll Call of Officers: Excused absences noted were, President, Michael Smith; Orator, Rocky Santulli; Treasurer, Rita Brunelli; Trustee, Sal Aiello; Master of Ceremonies, Dominic Chiricosta; Mistress of Ceremonies, Michele Mokres; and Chaplain, Rosanne Chiricosta

The Minutes from the October 2010 Meeting were approved as published in our Bellini Notes.

New Member Applications: We have no new member applications at this time

Guests: Our guests were Italian citizens who found out about us at the Chico Palio and decided to attend our meeting and see what Sons of Italy is all about. Their names are Franco, Paola, Guberto and Sophia. They will be returning to Italy shortly.

#### Initiation

Our State Deputy, Jim Lamana from Shasta Lodge took control of the meeting and presided over the ceremony and Jackie Schneider acted as Herald. Tom Fregulia and Franco and Gaylene Di Lorenzo each spoke briefly about their Italian backgrounds and were welcomed wholeheartedly to our Lodge.

#### Nominations and Elections for new Lodge Officers:

Absentee Ballots are not legal according to our By-laws. Unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding and the ballot that was published in the Bellini Notes was not to be used as an absentee ballot, but was to be brought to the meeting. Nominations were not yet closed, and there is no provision for absentee ballots within our organization.

According to protocol, Vice President John Jepsen called final nominations for each Lodge Office. There were no new nominations for any office. Past President, Elmer Silvera made a proclamation that all offices that were running unopposed be acclaimed winners and the election be held for the remaining offices. Ralph Huntsinger seconded this proclamation.

At this point ballots were handed out by Recording Secretary, Jeanne Smith and voting took place. Financial Secretary, Debbie Rossi collected the completed ballots and delivered them to State Deputy, Jim Lamana. He and several members then proceeded to count the ballots while the meeting continued.

#### Committee Reports:

Financials: Financial Secretary, Debbie Rossi gave us an update on our current financials.

Communications: We received information from the Grand Lodge about the SOI 2011 Leadership Grant. This grant should be applied for online.

Roseann Bradley who does the Bellini Notes is requesting members to submit articles or stories that would be of interest in the newsletter.

Roseann's email is [Bradleyfam5@msn.com](mailto:Bradleyfam5@msn.com).

Sunshine: Mary Ann Silvera is requesting that members call her instead of Michael Smith when you have Sunshine news.342-1630.

Reno Ricci is having a rough time, although he is better.

Joyce Caparello lost her 36 year old Grandson Robin, due to a tragic choking incident.

Congratulations to the proud new Grandparents, Rita Brunelli and Sal and Lauri Aiello. Little boys in both cases!

**The Chico Air Show** John Jefsen declared the Airshow a great success this year. We received our share of the proceeds from the Chamber of Commerce this week.

**Christmas Party:** Bob (and Jackie) Schneider is the Chairperson for this event. Mark your calendar and get your families together for Thursday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, festivities begin at 5:30.

**Don't forget your raffle item!**

The cost for dinner is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 11 and under. Children under 5 are free. We will be serving polenta and sausage and pizza for the *kids*. There will be cake for dessert, and a no-host bar.

A phone committee will be calling to get a count for dinner, please let them know how many children you will be bringing to visit Santa, whether they are girls or boys and their ages.

**Spaghetti Feed:** Henry Pasquinelli and Ralph Huntsinger agreed to co-sponsor the tickets for the Spaghetti Feed this year. This event is scheduled for March 27, 2011, so mark your calendars. There will be no dine-out in November or December.

At this point Vice president John Jefsen announced the results of the election.

**President:** Michael Smith  
**Vice President:** John Jefsen  
**Orator:** Rocky Santulli  
**Recording Secretary:** Jeanne Smith  
**Financial Secretary:** Debbie Rossi  
**Treasurer:** Rita Brunelli  
**Historian:** Mary Ann Silvera

**Trustees (5 positions):** Sal Aiello Cathy Lucido  
Ken Mackey Don Smith Jackie Schneider

**Master of Ceremonies:** Franco Di Lorenzo

**Mistress of Ceremonies:** Galena Di Lorenzo

**Sentinel (Guard):** Bob Schneider

**New Business:**

There will be no regular meeting in December, however there will be an officer's meeting on

December 9<sup>th</sup> at Don and Jeanne Smith's.  
2319 Holly Ave, Chico 898-8112

We are thinking of changing our meeting nights to another night of the week and possibly changing the regular meeting location. This in an effort to bring in more members who may have a conflict or difficulty accessing our current location. Yvette Sanfillippo suggested that we take a telephone poll of members.

**Good of the Order**

Raffle winners!

50/50 Raffle – none

Stella's \$100.00 Raffle – Ryley Vanella

**State Deputy Comments:**

Elmer Silver to Shasta Lodge: Elmer announced that the Shasta Lodge had 102 members in attendance at their last meeting. They are planning a Crab Feed for January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sal Aiello to Paradiso Lodge: No report as Sal is on vacation. But several members who attended their Annual Polenta Feed said it was an excellent program this year and they had a wonderful time.

Jim Lamana, Our State Deputy: Jim opened by welcoming our newly initiated members. Then he congratulated Jackie Schneider on her performance as Herald during the ceremony.

He said he was impressed at the outstanding success of our Airshow this year. Last week Shasta Lodge celebrated their annual Thanksgiving Memorial for their deceased members. This event is also a wonderful fundraiser for the Lodge. Jim also commented on the Crab Feed scheduled for Jan 14, saying they serve the best clam chowder in Shasta County! Jim Lamana has been our State Deputy for 18 years!

Happy Thanksgiving, Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted by Jeanne Smith,

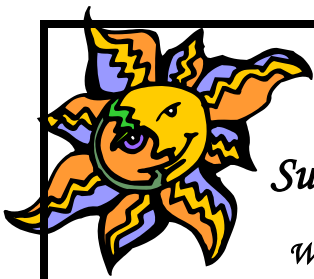
Recording Secretary

**Membership Dues Notice**

\$65 per person

Annual Dues for 1-1-11 to 12-31-11 is now due

Also time to renew your 'Ads' \$60 for 1 year  
include you business card with remittance



## Sunshine & Flowers

*When you have news to share  
Call MaryAnn 342-1630*

Sal and Laurie Aiello have a new grandson.  
Past State President (79-83),  
Peter Tublio passed away.  
Josephine Roberts, former member, passed  
away.

Jeanne Smith's brother, Richard, lost his  
battle with lung cancer on November 22.  
Stella Ricci fell but is recovering & Reno is  
home and doing better.

### Western Foundation Scholarships

Sons of Italy Western Foundation Scholarships are  
available for the 2011 year.

**Final Due Date is March 1, 2011**

There are Scholarships for Returning Students and  
for Collegiate Italian Language Study Grant.

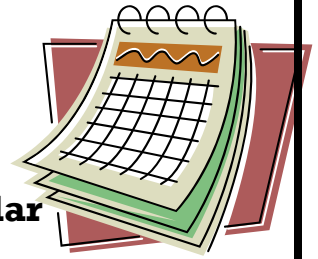
Applications can be obtained online at  
[www.sonsofitaly.org](http://www.sonsofitaly.org) or  
contact Debbie Rossi @ 345-7911

### Christmas Party

*Another Christmas Party has come and gone. We  
hope all the families and friends who attended had  
an enjoyable evening! We would like to thank  
everyone who volunteered their time to help with  
this year's party. This is our second year to 'chair'  
the Christmas Party and we still have much to learn.  
.It all comes together because of all the wonderful  
helpers. It's great to see the new members stepping  
in to help, as some of the veteran members are no  
longer able. Next year volunteer and join the fun!*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*Bob and Jackie Schneider*



## January Calendar

### of Events

- Jan 6 Officer's Meeting
- Jan 6 Epiphany
- Jan 14-15 Shasta Lodge Crab Feed
- Jan 17 Martin Luther King Jr  
birthday observed
- Jan 20 Reg. Mtg/Potluck
- Jan 28 Dine-Out

### ~ Miscellaneous ~

\*Tom Crete suggested we check out a fundraiser he is  
involved with as an idea for us. A Drive-Thru Tri-Tip  
Dinner

\*Professor Fluvio contacted Michael Smith for a donation  
for the CSUC Italian Club. The Grand Lodge, gave them  
\$500.00.

\*Rocky Santulli brought a video he received in the mail  
about Italian Culture. It is part of a Series, he suggested  
that it could be something we show at meetings.

\*Our website is working again, but there still is an issue  
with email.

\*Shasta Lodge is having their Crab Feed on January 14  
and 15, 2011.

\*A few ideas for events and fundraisers for 2011 were  
tossed around.\* A wine tasting trip, \*serving food at the  
Palio,\* bus trip Columbus Day weekend to Reno for the  
Great Italian Festival.

### ~Culture~

#### Sicily: A Land of Mystique and Wonder *Sicilia*

The world's first multicultural society was in Sicily.  
Today, it is [Europe's](#) most historic cosmopolitan region. The  
land is full of archaeological wonders. Amazing art,  
folklore and awe inspiring scenery greets visitors at every  
turn. Delicious food at reasonable prices is available  
wherever or whenever you have a craving.

This captivating place was once a Greek colony, a  
Norman kingdom, a Roman province and an Arab  
emirate. The Aragonese, the Swabians, Angevins,  
Carthaginians and Phoenicians have all called Sicily  
home at one time or another and they've left behind an

interesting and diverse history that is filled with mystique.

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean basin, with approximately 1,000 kilometers of coastline, which is sandy in the south, and rocky in the north. Around it lays the smaller islands of Pelagie, Egadi and Aeolian, among others. The landscape has great contrast, but mountains and hills dominate. Near Catania, there is a vast plain. To the east, Mount Etna is Sicily's tallest mountain, reaching heights of 3,300 feet meters and the largest volcano in Europe. Every year in winter, bubbling, fiery slag, in the form of lava flows down the sides of the snow-capped mountain, while ash and smoke spew from its mouth.

The southeast side of the mountain consists of high plateaus that are made up of lava, limestone and tufa. Numerous chasms have been carved into the mountainside through the ages by erosion. The mountain is entirely protected within a national park. The majesty of the spectacular landscapes will leave you in awe.

Life in Sicily is slow-paced, the atmosphere one of relaxation and tranquility, which is moving toward a new modern society. The people of the region are delightful. Though intensely proud of family and country, they are friendly, charitable, generous, cheerful and gracious. When greeted, visitors feel that at last they have come home.

Palermo was founded as a port during the eighth century B.C. Today, it is the largest urban center in Sicily. Be sure to visit the city center and gaze in awe at magnificent convents, palaces, monasteries, and churches that make up the ancient, medieval historical district. There are seven theatres in the city center if you wish to spend a night on the town. A must-see is the **Royal Palace**, a spectacular architectural structure that was built in the twelfth century. Other things you won't want to miss include the Cathedral and the Regional Archaeological Museum, which houses and extensive collection of Greek and Etruscan art.

Taormina is a charming village by day and captivating by night. It sits on the side of the mountain, 200 meters above sea level, gazing down on the Ionian Sea. You will delight in the diminutive passages and the winding, medieval streets. Ice cream bars, cafes and restaurants can be found in every nook and cranny.

From the Greek theatre that was built in the 3rd century, you can see a magnificent view of Mount Etna, which gives you the feeling of being minute in our vast universe. It's a wonder to behold and another experience you won't want to miss.

In Agrigento, on Sicily's south coast, you will find the Valley of the Temples, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Remains of the Greek city of Akragas, the Doric temples were built in the fifth century B.C. The Museo Archeologico has a large collection on display, including exquisite funerary urns and statues. At dusk, the

area is ethereal with the silhouettes of temples outlined against the night sky, as the sun gives way to the moon.

The second largest city in Sicily is the City of Catania, located on the southern coast. The city has survived its share of disasters, including heavy bombing during WWII, famines, epidemics, the eruption of Mount Etna in 1669, and in the past, hordes of marauding pirates.

After the devastating eruption of Mount Etna, the city was completely rebuilt. This accounts for the non-classical styles that you see as you stroll the streets of the city. Mount Etna plays an important role in the lives of the people of Catania. Homes, walls, buildings and roads are all built using black, volcanic rock.

Catania has two Roman amphitheatres. At one time over 14,000 spectators gathered in the largest to watch sporting events and socialize. Today, only a third of the structure is above ground. Buried beneath, is a labyrinth of winding tunnels and passages. We can only hope that one day they will be excavated. Each year Catania is host to the festival of Saint Agatha, the second largest festival in the world. For two days, a shrine of the saint is carried through city streets by her followers.

Two of Italy's most famous composers, Vincenzo Bellini and Giovanni Verga, were natives of Catania. Be sure to take in the Bellini Civic Museum and the Giovanni Verga House Museum to learn more about the music and lives of these two great men.

Known as the "Milan of the South," Catania is well known for its restaurants, clubs and shops. It's a city that is full of sights and sounds that will fill you with awe and delight.

The delicious, rich food of Mediterranean diet attracts visitors to Sicily from around the world. Arancine, crocche, and sfincione can be found in abundance. If you are a seafood lover be sure to indulge in such delicacies as snapper, swordfish, sepia, spaghetti with black squid ink, or sardines served with lemon. The quality of the food in Sicily is exquisite and more reasonably priced than in other regions of Italy. Be sure to try the desserts Cannoli, Gelato, Granita and Cassata for a heavenly, mouth watering treat.

Sicilian ice-cream in a bread bun. A good solution to a local problem: the Mediterranean heat quickly melts the ice-cream, which is absorbed by the bread. During the summer months, Sicily is a great place to visit for wondrous sights, sounds and tastes. Enjoy relaxing while enjoying the culture, festivals and history of the region for the experience of a lifetime.

By Mary M. Alward

Printed from the Website; Life In Italy

*Bellini Notes*

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News of the  
Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519  
Order Sons of Italy in America  
P.O. Box 736  
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A HAPPY  
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Vincenzo Bellini Lodge meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month @  
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# 2011 Calendar of Events

January	February	March
<p>Jan. 6 Officer's Meeting Jan. 20 Reg. Meeting/Potluck Jan. 28 Dine-Out</p> 	<p>Feb. 3 Officer's Meeting Feb. 14 Valentine's Day Feb. 17 Reg. Meeting Feb. 25 Dine-Out</p> 	<p>Mar. 3 Officer's Meeting Mar.13 Daylight Savings Time begins Mar. 17 Reg Meeting/Potluck, Mar. 27 Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser No Dine-Out</p> 
April	May	June
<p>Apr. 7 Officer's Meeting Apr. 4 Easter Sunday Apr. 21 Reg. Meeting/Potluck, Apr. 29 Dine-Out</p> 	<p>TBA Dinner Dance May 5 Officer's Meeting May 9 Mother's Day May 19 Reg. Meeting/ Potluck Installation of new members May 27 Dine-Out May 30 Memorial Day</p> 	<p>June 2 Officer's Meeting June 16 Reg. Meeting/Potluck, Last \$100 drawing June 19 Father's Day June 22-25 State Convention June 24 Dine-Out</p> 
July	August	September
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No Meetings!</b></p> 	<p>Aug. 4 Officer's Meeting Aug. 118 Reg. Meeting/Potluck TBA Family Picnic Durham Park No Dine-Out</p> 	<p>Sept. 1 Officer's Meeting Sept. 15 Reg. Meeting/Potluck New \$100 drawing begins TBA Chico Palio Sept. 30 Dine-Out</p> 
October	November	December
<p>Oct. 3 Golf Tourney Oct. 6 Officer's Meeting Oct. 10 Columbus Day Oct. 20 Reg. Mtg/Potluck Oct. 28 Dine-Out Oct. 31 Halloween</p> 	<p>Nov. 3 Officer's Meeting Nov. 6 Daylight Savings Ends Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Nov. 20 Reg. Meeting/Potluck Initiation of new members Nov. 24 Thanksgiving No Dine-Out</p> 	<p>Dec. 1 Officer's Mtg. TBA Christmas Party Our Divine Savior Hall 566 Lassen Av. Chico (children, family &amp; guests) Raffle donations for United Way No Reg. Meeting, No Dine-Out</p> 

Vincenzo Bellini Lodge meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month  
At St. John's Church Hall-5<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut Streets, Chico  
6:00-6:30p.m. Social Hour  
6:30-7:30p.m. Potluck Dinner  
7:30-8:30p.m. Program & Meeting