

# SONS OF SICILY SAN JOSE WOMEN'S CLUB

## *Carte Di Donne*



**Sons of Sicily Women's Club Christmas Party**



## KAREN'S CORNER



### **December Meeting**

What a special celebration for the holidays we had in December. The tables looked fabulous and the "story" game was fun! Thank you to Denise Vaccaro for organizing this fun night and thank you to all the table hostesses who made the night extra special!

### **SOS Christmas Dinner**

The SOS cooks outdid themselves – Again! The salmon/pasta/prime rib buffet and oyster bar was beyond delicious! Everyone also enjoyed the cannoli for dessert provided by our club. The raffle baskets our members assembled were a big hit! Thank you all who shared your time & creativity and made a basket! Also, thank you to the SOS club for the gift of a beautiful insulated travel bottle for all our members of the Women's Club.

### **Next Meeting**

At our November meeting, we voted to change our meeting location in 2019.

Monday, January 14 @ 6:30 pm

**Palermo's Restaurant**

# CULTURAL CORNER



## *La Befana*

In Sicily, the Christmas season lasts through the Epiphany, a National holiday that is observed on the 6th of January. The Epiphany is also a religious holiday commemorating the 12th day of Christmas and the arrival of the Magi.

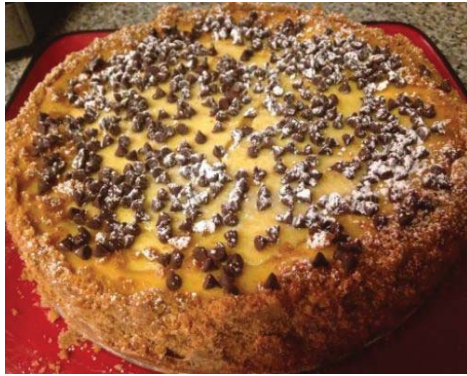
The tradition of giving gifts for Christmas actually comes from events that happened on the Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas. It was on the Epiphany that three wise men who traveled a great distance, the Magi, arrived at the manger where the baby Jesus lay and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Similar to the story of Santa Claus, La Befana arrives on January 5 (by broomstick) and is considered the personification of the old year giving way to the new. In Sicily, children hang stockings in hopes of a night visit and gifts from La Befana. The visit of the friendly witch La Befana is celebrated on Epiphany Eve (January 5) throughout Italy. La Befana is recognized because of her broomstick, shawl, and sack filled with sweets and gifts for children.

Legend is that she originally set out to meet the Baby Jesus, but never found her way to Bethlehem. To this day, in an attempt to catch up with the Magi, on the eve of Epiphany, she stops at every home, leaving sweets and gifts for well-behaved children in stockings that they've hung in their windows. Naughty children are left coal. Years ago in Sicily, naughty children in rural areas were sometimes left a stick versus coal, while well-behaved children traditionally were given dried figs, dates, honey, and almonds.

La Befana is also considered the personification of the old year giving way to the new. Sicilians take a more solemn and symbolic approach to Epiphany. In Palermo, "The Old One" (A Vecchia) rides on the back of a donkey to the city Centre, where she distributes gifts to children. As part of the ceremony, the locals also hold a "trial" to pass judgment on all the events of the past year.

## *Sicilian Ricotta Cheesecake*



For the cheesecake:

- 32 ounces ricotta cheese, drained
- 2 1/2 tsp orange zest
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 18 graham crackers
- 4 ounces butter

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F
2. Generously grease and flour a springform pan
3. For graham cracker crust, crush graham crackers in good processor until consistency of bread crumbs; stir with melted butter until mixture holds shape when squeezed. If need, add a little more melted butter
4. Firmly press graham cracker crust into bottom and along bottom sides of spring form pan; set aside
5. Sift together flour and sugar in small mixing bowl
6. In medium bowl, stir together ricotta cheese and orange zest. Slowly fold in mixture with spatula until well blended and smooth
7. Add eggs, one at a time, continuing to blend with spatula. Stir in vanilla
8. Pour batter in pan
9. Bake for 80-90 minutes, until cake is firm all the way to the top center, cool in fridge for 2-3 hours
10. Top with powdered sugar, chocolate chips, fruit or the topping of your choice
11. Enjoy!

# UPCOMING *Events*

## *Guests Always Welcome*

Keep bringing your friends and family to our meetings. Guests are always welcome. The dinner charge for guests is \$27.

## Monday, January 14

Women's Club Meeting at  
*Palermo's Restaurant*

At our November meeting, we voted to change our meeting location in 2019. We look forward to seeing everyone at Palermo's restaurant on  
**January 14 at 6:30pm**

*Address: 791 Auzerai Avenue*

*San Jose, CA 95126*





## SICILIAN PROVERB OF THE MONTH

*Tantu a quartara va  
all'acqua ca si  
rumpi o si ciacca*

The vase filled with  
water, sooner or  
later will break or  
crash

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

*It's hard to be  
humble  
when you're Sicilian!*

## LOOKING TO BE A SPONSOR?

If you have a business, you can have your  
business card appear in our newsletter  
every month for just  
\$25 a year.

Please let Karen Heverling know if you  
are interested.

## BUON COMPLEANNO!



Angelyn Denevi – January 1  
Maureen Psomas – January 1  
Mary Ellen Cancilla – January 7  
Roberta La Ducca – January 11

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

*If you have any news for the membership,  
please contact Janet Salciccia.*

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## BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

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