

SONS OF SICILY SAN JOSE WOMEN'S CLUB

Carte Di Donne



FAMOUS MOJO ALCANTARA PEACHES AT A MARKET IN MESSINA, SICILY



KAREN'S CORNER



A special thanks to those who were able to attend this month's meeting on June 11th. Our next meeting will be on Monday, July 9th at Three Flames.

Please plan to arrive early for this meeting as we will be having a social hour from 5:30-6:30pm! The board will be providing complimentary muffaletta appetizers. A huge **THANK YOU** to "Big" Joe Zambataro for making the muffulettas for us! Regular dinner will be served at 6:30pm.

Thank you to our dessert volunteers for our July Meeting: Lisa Chairamonte, Sarina Adams, Dottie Gingerelli, Marie Gingerelli, & Pat Charlton will each bring 2 dozen cookies.

Last month we had three new members join our Women's Club. Tonnie Jones, Karen Ravizza & Sharon Vignata, welcome! Please seek them out at our July 9 and get to know them. There might be prizes! Keep bringing your friends and family to our meetings. Guests are always welcome.

Our member raffle earned our club **\$400 last month**. This month, we have some wonderful raffle prizes, so please come prepared to purchase tickets, 3 tickets for only \$5. Thanks to Lynn Di Salvi for shopping for the prizes for our July meeting.

In the next few days you will receive your notice for 2018-2019 dues. The envelope includes a pre-addressed return envelope. You can mail it back or bring your dues to the meeting. The dues are payable by September 1st, but if you pay your dues at the July or August meeting you will receive **three free raffle tickets!**

Barbie Sunseri gave us a wonderful presentation on the Sicilian Cart. If you were not at the June meeting, or you couldn't remember everything, her presentation is attached. Also attached are our amended Bylaws and last month's meeting minutes.





SPECIAL THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, baked, donated raffle items, purchased raffle tickets and brought items needed to make the SOS Family Picnic a great success!

A special thank you to our picnic committee: Sarina Adams, Paulette Babilacqua, Madeline DiSalvi, Taylor Formico, Lauren Salciccia and Grace Vaccaro for organizing the events! The picnic really was a **fabulous family event!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday,
July 9th**

Monthly Meeting
at Three Flames

**Saturday, Aug. 25th
& Sunday, Aug. 26th**

SJ Italian Family Festa
at Kelley Park

**Sunday,
Sept. 30th**

San Jose Little Italy Festival

**Monday,
August 13th**

Monthly Meeting
at Three Flames

**Monday,
Sept. 10th**

Monthly Meeting
Location TBD



CULTURAL CORNER

Evolution of the Muffuletta

The Muffuletta was created in the early 1900's in New Orleans. The Sicilian farmers would take a break from selling their produce and go to The Central Grocery for lunch. They would order salami, ham, a piece of cheese, olive salad, and either braided Italian bread or round muffuletta bread. In typical Sicilian fashion, they ate everything separately. They would sit on crates or barrels and try to eat while balancing small trays covered with food on their knees.



The owner of the grocery suggested that it would be easier if he cut the bread and put everything on it like a traditional sandwich. He found that the braided Italian bread was too hard to bite, but the softer, round muffuletta was ideal. In very little time, the farmers came to merely ask for a muffuletta for their lunch.

Today, the muffuletta is made with Genova salami, Holland ham, Swiss cheese and olive salad on a round muffuletta loaf. People come from all over the world to The Central Grocery in New Orleans to taste the infamous muffuletta.

WORD OF THE MONTH

CUORE, n

La famiglia è la
patria del cuore

Family [home] is
where the heart is

JOKE OF THE MONTH

What do you
call a fake
piece of
spaghetti?

An Impasta!

LOOKING TO ADVERTISE?

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! JULY BIRTHDAYS

9 Janet Salciccia

13 Betty Zambataro

15 Pamela Weick

20 Sarina Adams

HEALTH AND WELNESS

Please continue to offer your prayers for James Taormina, son of Arlene Taormina. James has been hospitalized for several weeks.

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

Denise Vento, Secretary (408) 460-5786
Denisev5591@hotmail.com

Esther Zambataro, Treasurer (408) 772-3465
EZ3712@yahoo.com

Janet Salciccia, Member at Large (408) 267-2541
Janetsalciccia@gmail.com

BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Karen Heverling, President (408) 221-7506
K.heverling@yahoo.com

Judy Taormina, Vice President (408) 267-2509
Pops51@aol.com

By-Laws of the Sons of Sicily (SOS) of San Jose Women's Club

PREAMBLE

The Sons of Sicily (SOS) of San Jose Women's Club was founded to support the purposes of the SOS. The first duty of the Women's Club shall be to gather regularly to share aspects of the Sicilian heritage from a female perspective and support in the fundraising goals of the SOS. The club shall follow the main purpose of the SOS, to help its members and families. The club shall be a social club, gathering to further the customs and traditions of the Sicilian culture and increase the awareness of these customs and traditions in our younger generation. The club shall be consistent with the SOS stated purposes.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

- **SECTION I.** Membership shall have no maximum number of members. The Vice President will maintain applications.
- **SECTION II.** Females above the age of 18 are eligible for Membership in the Women's Club if:
 - a. They are of Sicilian extraction
 - b. They are wife, daughter, sister, mother, niece, cousin or domestic partner of any member in good standing of the SOS of San Jose
 - c. They are the wife of a deceased member of the SOS San Jose
- **SECTION III.** Members should be willing to pay dues and participate in all other respects as a bonafide member of the Women's Club.

ARTICLE II – DUES & FEES

- **SECTION I.** Dues of \$125 per year shall be paid annually, on September 1.
- **SECTION II.** Any member whose dues are not paid within 60 days of the due date shall be dropped from the club.

- **SECTION III.** A bank account for the Sons of Sicily of San Jose Women's Club will be established by the SOS using their tax identification number. This account will have three authorized users: Women's Club President, Women's Club Treasurer and SOS Treasurer. All three users will have access to the account via online banking.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

- **SECTION I. President** – The President shall:
 - a. Preside at all meetings at which she is present
 - b. Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the club & see that harmony is preserved and the laws of the club are enforced
 - c. Keep a roster of all members, showing name, address, phone & birthday
 - d. Sign all warrants check requisitions **with** the Treasurer for payment of monies.
- **SECTION II. Vice-President** – The Vice President shall:
 - a. Preside at all meetings in the absence of the President
 - b. Carry out any other duties of the President when circumstances may prevent her from so doing
 - c. Act as Chairperson for all community outreach projects.
- **SECTION III. Secretary** – The Secretary shall attend all meetings and keep a true, correct and full record thereof.
 - a. She shall be the custodian of all club records, except membership.
 - b. She shall read all communications and minutes of previous meetings and minutes, which have not been approved.
- **SECTION IV. Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Sign all warrants **after** requisition approval.
 - b. Receive all funds, keep them in the bank depository set up by SOS
 - c. Pay out funds only from a voucher with receipt & only after approval by the Board
 - d. Make a full financial report of debits and credits at each regular club meet and Board meeting.

- e. Upon end of her term, she shall immediately deliver all financial records and other property in her charge belonging to the club to her successor
- **SECTION V. Member-At-Large** – The Member-At-Large shall:
 - a. Serve as a liaison between the Board and the membership.
 - b. Provides appropriate correspondence and communication for Health & Welfare situations.
 - c. Oversee all membership and maintain all membership records.
 - d. Works with Treasurer when dues come in to maintain records.
- **SECTION VI.** Upon the loss of an officer, the Board shall elect a replacement.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE BOARD

- **SECTION I.** The Executive Board shall consist of all elected officers and the immediate past president.
 - a. Executive Board shall carry out wishes of the club in all matters of policy and action with relation to the purposes of the organization.
 - b. Actions taken by the Executive Board involving the expenditures of money shall not exceed the sum of \$500 without prior consent of the membership.
 - c. Not less than 3 members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
 - d. No member of the Executive Board shall receive any compensation from the club for performance of prescribed duties.
 - e. The past president will sit on the board in an advisory capacity and **will not** have a vote.
 - f. The Executive Board shall report to the SOS.

ARTICLE V. – QUORUM

- **SECTION I.** Not less than one third of the members shall constitute a quorum at any regular club meeting.

ARTICLE VI. – MEETINGS

- **SECTION I.** Meetings of the Sons of Sicily of San Jose Women's Club shall occur on the 2nd Monday of each month, excepting holidays.
- **SECTION II.** The order of business at all meetings of the Sons of Sicily of San Jose Women's Club shall be as follows:
 - a. Meeting called to order
 - b. Salute to the American flag
 - c. Reading & acceptance of minutes of previous meeting.
 - d. Financial report
 - e. Reports from officers or committee chairs
 - f. Old Business
 - g. New Business
 - h. Cultural Presentation
 - i. Raffle
 - j. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

- **SECTION I.** Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed at any regular meeting. Following discussion, the members shall vote on the proposed amendment. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for passage.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- **SECTION I.** Nomination of officers will be held at the April meeting. Election of officers will be held, by paper ballot, at the May meeting.
- **SECTION II.** The elected officers shall serve for a period of not less than two years. At the end of the two-year term, each officer will be followed by a successor, and for a period of not less than two years she can not hold another office in the club.

Revised 6/11/18

Member Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2018

Meeting was called to order by Karen Heverling, President presiding

Call to order

Flag Salute

Minutes from May 14th sent to members via mail/email, no questions. Accepted and Seconded

Financial Report presented by Esther Zambataro. Barbara Sunseri motioned to accept, Connie Russo seconded, motion to accept carried.

Member-At-Large, Janet Salciccia presented the ideas discussed at the May 21st Board Meeting. Prayers were requested for Beverly Cusimano and James Taormina.

Golf volunteers Kim Zambataro, Ramona Marr with Kayla Masini for their help. We raised \$400 for golf items sold, money was deposited to our account.

Picnic Committee report given by Lauren Salciccia. Ideas for that day: face painting, bounce house, classic car show, water balloons, popcorn, cake wheel, corn hole, raffle prizes. We need donations of: pop up tents, poker chips for cake wheel, popcorn with butter & salt packages sold at cash & carry. Lauren to send out email for donations for cake wheel: Suggestions brownies, cupcakes, cake pops neatly packaged.

Old Business

By-Laws amendment – Bank only allows one signature on checks, therefore we need to make 3 changes where the mention of 2 signatures. Discussed the changes, Grace Vaccaro motioned to strike the sentence Article II section III – Two signatures will be required for every warrant. Lauren Salciccia seconded. Vote of hands passed. Article III Section I – Sign all check requisitions with the treasurer for payment of monies, was motioned to be accepted by Grace Vaccaro, seconded by Mary Ellen Cancilla. Vote of hands, passed. Article III, Section IV Sign all requisition after requisition warrants are presented approved. Grace Vaccaro motioned acceptance, Connie Russo seconded. Vote of hands, passed. Karen Heverling to send out new copies of the by-laws with the changes made.

New members from May: Barbara Sunseri & Krista Taormina.

New members signed up in June: Sharon Vignato, Tani Jones, Karen Ravizza

Dessert volunteers for July meeting: Lisa Chairamonte, Sarina Adams, Dottie Gingerelli, Marie Gingerelli, & Pat Charlton will each bring 2 dozen cookies.

Raffle for July \$100 to purchase items, Lynn DiSalvi volunteered to shop.

Festa will be Aug. 25 & 26 at the San Jose Historical Park. Esther Zambataro has secured a booth and insurance, has merchandise from her father to sell. If we work the booth, after expenses, she will split the profit with the club. After the event, merchandise left will be donated to the club, for future sales.

Thanksgiving and Christmas events were discussed: giving to seniors, women & children shelters, veterans. To be researched and further discussion going forward this summer to plan.

Cultural presentation on the Sicilian Cart was given by Barbie Sunseri. It was educational and very well given. The presentation is attached to the newsletter email.

Thank you to Jessica Trimble for selling raffle tickets. Thanks to the members who brought in raffle gifts.

Thank you to Beverly Cusimano, Taylor Formico, Marina Masini, Maureen Psomas, Barbie Sunseri, & Denise Vaccaro for bringing cupcakes, they were delicious.

Meeting was adjourned by Karen Heverling, President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Vento, Secretary

Carretti Siciliani: The Painted Carts of Sicily

by Jeff Finzi

The wheel has been around for at least 6000 years. The first wheels were wooden disks. Of course, the Romans developed their two wheeled chariots...perhaps a precursor of the painted *Sicilian Carretto*, one of the most beautiful of all folk crafted technologies in all of Italy. Their bright primary colors (yellow, blue, red, green) celebrate the sun, the sea, lemons, the glowing lava from Mount Etna, the richness of green olive and grape leaves and the passions in the Sicilian soul. The carts contain remnants of Christianity, paganism, war, passion, nature, opera and mysticism... influences that illustrate the various cultures that have left their mark on Sicily: the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Romans, The Turks, the Bourbons, Arabs, Normans and Spanish. The battles of Charlemagne and his Paladin Knights remain the most popular theme for decoration.

Wherever you go in Italy, it's amazing to see how ancient donkey paths have been lovingly and beautifully maintained over the course of history. They are still used on a daily basis--a necessity, since most of the towns throughout Italy are up on rugged hilltops, with many homes clinging to the side of cliffs. These paths link house to village and vilalge to towns, and are definitely wide enough for donkey carts. *Carretto* are pulled mostly by horses or large mules nowadays, but if you look carefully at the two wooden shafts that the horses are attached to, you will notice in most cases (especially with vintage carts) they are mounted to the horse in an upward angle. This is because the carts were originally designed for use with donkeys--a much shorter animal more suited to the switchbacks common on donkey paths.

Carts were used for hauling loads such as grain, lemons, wood, vegetables, almonds, grapes, wine, and people--these were called *Carretto del Lavoro*(work carts). They were also used for festive occasions such as weddings and parades called, *Carretto de Gara*. In 1881, the Sicilian *Carretto* was brought into world acclaim when included as part of a Sicilian folk art display at the Esposizione Nazionale in Milan. It became nearly as popular a symbol of Sicilian life as the Trinacria.

Many types of artisans take part in creating these works of art: coach builders (*carrozzieri*), wheelwrights (*artigiano di ruote*), carpenters (*carradori*), carvers (*intagliatori* - they use walnut or beech), blacksmiths (*maniscalco*), leather craftsman (*pellettiere*) and to finish it off, the decorator (decoratore) and painter (pittore). Fir is used for the cargo trunk area, beech wood for the other parts and ash for the wheels. The blacksmith makes all the metal parts,

including the wheel rims and rings to hitch the horses. The *pellettiere* creates the amazingly decorative harnesses with feathers, colorful wool, silk bows and fringes, mirrors, ribbons, and metal studs.

Many wood parts are carved elaborately, some items are applied to the surface of the wood (like carved figures, shells, stone, mirrors or saint figurines), the wheels are painted in wild geometric or floral patterns, animals and tassels are often attached to the hubs. With all these artisans and varied skills, it would typically take three months to complete a cart.

Cart accessories often include a hanging rope net mounted just under the cart to hold food, wine, water and feed bucket for the animal. A chain for a dog, a basket, a lamp hanging on the front side (a sort of headlight), and an umbrella for protection from sun or rain complete the outfitting of the cart.

The Sicilian cart is no longer used today for carting heavy loads but has gained a proud place in the folklore and history of Sicily. The carts are used for festivals, religious events and other special occasions. In different areas of the island it is possible to distinguish between four basic types of carts: *palermitano* (Palermo), *castelvetranese* (Castelvetrano), *trapanese* (Trapani) and *catanese* (province of Catania).