



# San Francisco Italian Athletic Club

**JANUARY 2005**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members,

This will be my last communications to you as the President of the SFIAC. These past two years serving as your President have been both challenging and rewarding. While the challenges have been numerous, so too have been the rewards!

I thank all of the line officers and the Board of Directors for their continuing support of and dedication to the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. All of the members owe these men their thanks for the jobs they continue to do. In addition I thank Frank Villani for stepping in almost without notice to serve as Financial Secretary. This position has many demands and Frank has risen to the challenges.

In January, the members will be voting for new line officers and some directors of the board. I urge you all to vote your choices. Please make your voice and preference heard.

In closing, I thank all who supported my term of office. See you around the Club!

Fraternally,

*George Bacigalupi, President*

## **NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the stockholders of the Italian Athletic Building Association on Thursday, March 3rd, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club at 1630 Stockton street, San Francisco California.

## **MARDI GRAS IN NORTH BEACH?**

Mark your calendars. On the evening (8 PM-last call) of Saturday, February 5 the SFIAC will transform itself into the French Quarter as our younger members host their first E-Vite party of the year. Come on by your club for a very entertaining cocktail party, complete with great decorations, plenty of beads, jazz music, Cajun style sausage and spicy foods, The Big Easy playing on the big screen, and not to mention...plenty of Hurricanes to be had. No cost for members. \$5 cover for guests.

For all you new members, E-Vite parties are something new to the club. Last year, a few of our younger members met, put together their email list of friends, and invited them over to the club for a cocktail party. What started with five members hosting the party and about 100 of their friends attending has grown to about 20 members hosting and a few hundred guests attending. Typically, these parties attract the twenty/thirty something crowd. They are a lot of fun and a great way for you and your friends to enjoy your club.

If you are interested in putting your friends on the E-Vite list or would like to know more about the party, please contact Lisa Michelis at the club: 415.781.0933. It'll be much more fun with YOU there!

## **MEMBERSHIP**

If any Club member has a question about the dues/assessments, their membership status, or wants to refer a new applicant for membership, please contact Paul Accinelli by writing to 46 Arlington Street, San Francisco, 94131 or email to [paulaccinelli@comcast.net](mailto:paulaccinelli@comcast.net) or phone (415) 920-8951. He will make a concerted effort to respond to your inquiry as soon as possible. Thank you for your help and support with the Club's membership program.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**ATTENTION:** All tickets for the Stag Night dinner must be paid for by the Saturday before Stag Night. Similarly, all tickets for the Luncheon must be paid for by the Wednesday before the Luncheon. **NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE!** And remember, parking is always available at APM Parking at 721 Filbert Street (Sunday-Thursday costs \$7.50 flat rate, Friday & Saturday costs \$15.00 flat rate). Finally, tickets can be paid for by credit card. Members of the Board of Directors will collect tickets after all participants are seated. In order to be served, a member or guest must produce a ticket, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. A list of the names of ticket purchasers will be on hand to resolve questions such as lost tickets, etc. If the member's name (or guest ticket number under that member's name) is not in the book, the dinner price will be collected or no meal will be served. Members shall be responsible for their guests, who must also provide a ticket for their meal. The Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges that the vast majority of the members attending a Stag dinner always have their tickets. The Board apologizes for any inconvenience this procedure may cause.

- **JANUARY STAG NIGHT**

**Thursday, January 6, 2005.** The menu will include salad, pasta pesto, boiled beef with vegetables and sherbet for dessert. Cost is \$ 15.00 for members and \$18.00 for Guests. **Remember, you must have a ticket to be served.**

- **JANUARY LUNCHEON**

**Friday, January 21, 2005.** The menu will include salad, veal cutlets with vegetables and a chef's surprise for dessert. No host cocktails at 11:00 AM and lunch to follow at 12:00 PM noon. Tickets on sale January 7, **A MINIMUM OF 50 TICKETS MUST BE SOLD BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> OR THE LUNCHEON WILL BE CANCELLED.**

- **FEBRUARY STAG NIGHT**

**Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.** The menu will include salad, pasta pesto, short ribs with vegetables in season and ice cream for desert. Cost is \$15.00 for members and \$18.00 for Guests. **Remember, you must have a ticket to be served.**

- **FEBRUARY LUNCHEON**

**Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.** The menu will include salad, pasta with marinara sause, baked halibut, and sherbert for desert. Cost is \$18.00 for both members and guests. No host cocktails at 11:00 AM and lunch to follow at 12:00 PM noon. Tickets on sale Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. **A MINIMUM OF 50 TICKETS MUST BE SOLD BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> OR THE LUNCHEON WILL BE CANCELLED.**

- **CHAMPAGNE BINGO LUNCHEON**

Attention all you lucky Bingo players, mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** (*this is a change, the date in the last Newsletter was not correct*). The SFIAC invites you to come win some of our money and have a great time at our Champagne Bingo Lunch. The day starts with a glass of champagne and then a great lunch, consisting of a beautiful garden salad with Italian sliced meats, hot pasta, a half chicken, veggies and potato's that promise to melt in your mouth along with dessert and coffee. Total cost \$20.00. Then we start the bingo playing and leave the Luck up to you. So call your friends and reserve a table so you can be the BIG winner of the day and not left out in the cold. Doors open at 12:00 noon and lunch starts at 12:30. Tickets go on sale December 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **GINO & GINA'S WEDDING**

Auditions will be held soon for the hilarious interactive play, "Gino and Gina's Wedding." A spin-off of the ever so famous "Tony and Tina's Wedding," this dinner show will be held in April, so get your wedding attire on and tryout for a starring role. Being a cast member will be a huge amount of fun! For more information about the show and the auditions, please contact Lisa Michelis, our event manager at 415-781-0933.

- **CRAB FEED**

**Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.** Set a side this date for a special evening with your family and friends to enjoy a fabulous menu featuring our San Francisco seasonal crustacean. Details will follow in the February newsletter.

## CLUB NEWS

**GREAT NEWS! GREAT NEWS! GREAT NEWS! GREAT NEWS! GREAT NEWS! GREAT NEWS!**

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Hopefully, this message finds you well and you have enjoyed a joyous Holiday Season with your loved ones and family. 2004 proved to be an encouraging year for the Club. As we have communicated to you, the Club had to be fiscally responsible in 2004 for us to succeed. In response, we reduced our head count, created a volunteer effort, and actively managed our expenses. While we continue to face our fair share of challenges, we are experiencing success in many key areas.

First, our membership is growing. You have done a wonderful job of referring applicants to Membership Chair, Paul Accinelli. Without your interest in helping grow our membership, we would not have been able to initiate over 50 new members! Paul is optimistic that we will exceed this number in 2005. Thank you in advance for your continued support in this area.

The banquet business is our largest revenue stream. For the Club to succeed, we must excel in this business area. Over the past few years, we underachieved. We addressed this in the latter half of 2003 with the hiring of Event & Sales Manager, Lisa Michelis. Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Lisa in hosting your own event at the club. As we are now experiencing, so are many other people. We are enjoying business from repeat clients, non-profit organizations, neighbors, and local businesses. Thanks to Lisa's effort, our banquet business is up over 70%. We are also experiencing improved management in the kitchen and of the wait staff. And the banquet staff (cook, bartenders, wait staff, janitor, etc.) is doing a great job. As a result, per party profits are up.

We are also making some strides in the overall management of the club. Financial Secretary, Frank Villani has been actively engaged in managing the little things that add up...from the implementation of energy efficient lights to renegotiating with some of our vendors, we continue to tighten the belt. While the numbers are not in, it appears likely that the growth in our banquet business and the improved management of the club will allow us to turn a small profit in 2004. Considering we lost over \$60k in 2003, we are very pleased that our difficult decisions made over the past 18 months have resulted in this year's net income increase of over 100% and a platform to build on in 2005. (*See accompanying article following, Ed.*)

Socially, we have had mixed results. Attendance at our more traditional, monthly events has been poor. We are concerned by this considering the events are a great value...great food, wine, and live entertainment for about \$40. Where else can you go for that? What would you like for us to change? We have tried to reinvent ourselves a little by offering new alternatives such as the one man act, "Behind the Counter with Mussolini," and the very talented singer Pasquale Esposito. The attendance has improved but we are not content. The Summer Series has proven to be a casual, weekend experience. It seems that members enjoy the club most when North Beach hosts many of the city sponsored events. The E-Vite parties sponsored by our younger members have been wildly successful. In 2005, we hope to offer you a social event that encourages you to enjoy your club. We would appreciate your participation.

On a final note, we encourage everyone to come to the club and vote in this year's elections. We hope that you recognize that the club is turning the corner. We believe it crucial that we build on last year's momentum. We are not out of the woods. Please be part of the process and vote for the men that you think can best help the club achieve this important goal. Make this your first act of getting involved in 2005!

The Board of Directors

## CLUB NEWS

### **MORE GREAT NEWS!! CLUB FINANCIAL CONDITION GREATLY IMPROVED!!**

The financial report from our CPA, Jane Slingsby, has just arrived and the Club has turned a profit for the first time in at least four years!! This is wonderful news and speaks highly of the Club and its members. It looks as if the Club's management, as a whole, has finally gotten it together.

You may remember that in April-May of this year the Club was virtually bankrupt. At that time there was only about \$1500 in the bank, and the Club was heavily in debt. We were headed for the \$66,000 loss we posted in December 2003. The Board of Directors bit the bullet, took the bull by the horns, and made staffing changes which revitalized the Club's ability to do business in a professional, and profitable, manner. Many difficult decisions were made. Besides the Board, most of the kudos goes to Frank Villani and Lisa Michelis. The Board needs your support in the coming year to continue the profitable trend it has established. Remember, the more money brought in, the more you, the membership, get back in lower costs and better services. Those of you who were members in the "Good Old Days," when the Club was flush with funds, remember how nice the Club functions were. They were subsidized by the Club to keep the cost artificially low. They can, and will, be that way again with continued proper management. That's why your carefully considered vote is so critical during the upcoming Club elections.

### **NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ELECTIONS**

**Article VI, Section 1, B, of the Club Bylaws states:**

"Nominations for all offices, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees and Club Officers, shall be open to the general membership at a Special Meeting on the first and second Tuesday in January. Nominees must be present to accept or decline their nomination."

Plan to attend these vitally important meetings on **Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**. And don't forget that there's cheap parking at the APM lot at 721 Filbert Street. It's \$7.50 to park as long as you'll need to stay for the meeting, and some socializing after!

Due to the Special Meeting for Nominations the January Stag Dinner will be held on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Mark your calendar!**

**Article VI, Section 2, A of the Club Bylaws states:**

"The election of Officers, Directors and trustees shall take place on the fourth Tuesday of January. Ballots must be cast at the Club premises between the hours of 1:30 PM and 9:00 PM."

**IN ORDER FOR THE CLUB TO FUNCTION, YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS IS ESSENTIAL. THIS IS ONE CLUB FUNCTION THAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD ATTEND, IF ONLY FOR THE SHORT TIME NECESSARY TO VOTE.** Please plan to be at the Club to vote on **JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**.

***YA GOTTA SHOW UP FOR THIS GUYS!! EVERY VOTE COUNTS!!***

### **AND SPEAKING OF ELECTIONS**

During the last year many members have expressed their interest in becoming a member of the Board of Directors. And some of the younger members have expressed their opinion that the younger outlook on life is not appreciated, and that maybe there should be a separate board for the young. There's a better way to do things, a way that will benefit the Club into the future. **ATTEND EITHER OF THE TWO NOMINATION TUESDAYS (January 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) AND EXPRESS YOUR DESIRE TO BE NOMINATED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** Or attend and express your desire to be appointed to a committee. The Social Committee is always looking for members with fresh new ideas! The Club needs the expertise of its members in order to maintain the profitable direction it's going in. You know, it's fine to express your opinion, but it's great to step-up-to-the-plate and help.

## **San Francisco Italian Athletic Club**

1630 Stockton Street • San Francisco, CA 94133

Club 415-781-0166 • Office 781-0165

Banquets 781-0933

www.sfiac.org • e-mail: sfiac@slip.net

### **CARNEVALE DELLA PICCOLA SCUOLA ITALIANA**

February 4th, 2005 the Italian Athletic Club will host Il Carnevale della Piccola Scuola Italiana. This night of carnival fun will include a silent auction and cocktail party and act as an elegant and entertaining fundraiser for La Piccola Scuola Italiana (LPSI).

Inspired by high quality, internationally renowned ECED in North Central Italy (Pistoia, Reggio Emilia, and others), LPSI began January 2002, as a not-for-profit preschool organized by parents who were looking for a developmentally appropriate place for their children to learn Italian and experience Italian culture in San Francisco. The school is dedicated to providing the highest quality, progressive early childhood care and education for children, while building a community in which children experience authentic Italian language and culture and offering children the opportunity to learn Italian from earliest months, when they are most receptive to the rhythm, grammar and sounds of all language. LPSI is the only Italian language preschool on the West Coast.

Il Carnevale della Piccola Scuola Italiana will be a wonderful opportunity to come support this unique and valuable enterprise while experience the elegance and magic of Carnevale. If you are interested in attending Carnevale or would like to learn more about LPSI please contact Amy Ruth Baker, Ed.M., Direttrice della scuola at 415-567-2663 or by email at [amybaker@lpsisf.org](mailto:amybaker@lpsisf.org) or visit the website at [www.lpsisf.org](http://www.lpsisf.org) Tickets are \$75 per person, the better part of which will be tax deductible.