



## From the President

HELLO ALL!

The year is already half over! Thanks to our energetic group of volunteers we have been very busy for the first half of the year. And as I said in the last newsletter, we will also be very busy for the next six months. Here is the calendar:

- **Aug 4 – 7:00 pm – St. Helena Public Library:** Program introducing some of our artists who will be participating in the big special event art fundraiser in February.
- **Sept. 10 – St. Helena Cemetery:** Cemetery Tour featuring students from the St. Helena High drama department.
- **Oct. 17:** Harvest Festival, Oak Avenue.
- **Feb. 11, 2017 – Brasswood Estate:** Special event art fundraiser, featuring works by local and nationally known artists; event auctioneer: Fritz Hatton.

Let's start with the library program on August 4 to launch the February 11 art fundraiser. This is an opportunity for you to meet some of the artists participating in our big event...

**HISTORY BECOMES ART.** Local artists have been invited

to render some of the society's historic photographs in each artist's own medium. These photographs and some of the finished art work will be on display at the launch August 4. This will be your first opportunity to view the photographs, some of the contributed art and meet artists Thomas Arvid, Marvin Humphrey, Sheila Ticen, Christine Olivo, Greg DeLucca, Lin Weber and Mark Salvestrin

Artists participating in the HISTORY BECOMES ART event on February 11, 2017 include: Thomas Arvid, Theo Becker, Helen Berggruen, Greg De Lucca, Wyn Ericson, Layla Fanucci, Marvin Humphry, Whitney LeBlanc, Christine Olivo, Mark Salvestrin, Sheila Ticen, Priscilla Upton, Lin Webber and Nancy Willis. We should have the final roster of artists in the next few weeks.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**HISTORY BECOMES ART** – A special event to raise funds for the St. Helena Historical Society, February 11, 1-4 p.m., at Brasswood (formerly Cairdean) Estate.

In addition to our impressive roster of artists, we are very excited to tell you that nationally renowned Fritz Hatton will be our auctioneer! Many of you are familiar with Fritz through his long and successful association with Auction Napa Valley.

If you cannot make it for the special program on August 4, the preview will be on view the rest of the month.

In this issue of *The Electrolier*, we're pleased to introduce you to four of the participating artists. I hope to see you on August 4, 7:00 p.m., at the library!

## Exhibit Case Donation

OUR THANKS to the St. Helena School Board for donating to the society six display cabinets from the school's media center. The cases were no longer needed and the board was asking if anyone wanted them. Lucky for us, no one did.

So, through the grapevine (thanks to Leslie Stanton for putting us in touch with Susan Swan), we were able to again call upon Larry Smith and the Bartolucci crew, John Sales and Ed Salvestrin to move the cases to another storage unit! The cases are 6-ft. long, 2-ft. deep and 4-ft. high. They have lights, also. Sure would be great if we could use them now to share with the public a selection of our wonderful artifacts!



*HISTORY MAKES ART special event fundraiser*

# Meet the Artists

## Christine Olivo

*In her own words...*

SINCE CHILDHOOD drawing and painting have been a way that I have found to express myself. Living in the Napa Valley, I have been inspired to reinvent myself, and my painting style. I love nature, its colors and the way light plays on everything.

Through the medium of oil painting, I have expanded my own color perception. I use paint strokes to enhance form. I like to paint the essence of a landscape, simplifying what I see and selecting the color and light relationships.

As I continue to study art, I find that I return most often to the Impressionists. Most of my landscape paintings are “plein air” so as to discern color relationship and capture the varying lights in nature.

My paintings are not limited to landscapes. I love to “zero” in on objects and study them up close and personal. I did a series on old, rusted, cars that were falling apart. They seemed to have a story to tell and painting them on canvas, seemed to bring them back to life.

Painting is a language all itself, and it is an adventure for me, that will keep me inspired for the rest of my life.



## Sheila Ticen



SHEILA TICEN WAS BORN IN 1960 in New Mexico but soon moved with her family to California, and eventually to Saint Helena. She spent her middle-school years in the breath-taking beauty of Monument Valley, Utah, where she spent many hours hiking the red sandstone mesas. Her first two years of high school were also spent in the red rock country of Utah. Sheila lived in remote locations for those five years in Utah, places where there was no television, very little radio and only occasional access to modern shopping centers. During this time Sheila developed a love of reading and came to appreciate being still and just watching the light move over the landscape.

Sheila's family returned to the Napa Valley in the mid 1970s and she has been a Napa Valley resident for all of her adult life. Being surrounded by natural beauty for most of her life has encouraged in Sheila a thoughtful contemplation of her surroundings.

Sheila began painting in high school and has remained active in making art since then, often taking evening classes. In 2002 Sheila returned to school full time and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting at Sonoma State University in 2006. Since completing her BFA, Sheila has divided her time between family and work, helping out with her young granddaughter and participating in local, regional and national juried art exhibits.

## Layla Fanucci



BORN IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1957, Layla Fanucci's artistic talent was first expressed in music. She learned to play the piano, clarinet and guitar. She put herself through San Francisco State University by giving guitar lessons, receiving a degree in sociology in 1981.

Layla and husband Robert eventually settled in St. Helena. In 1998 she found herself wanting some "big, live art" (as she describes it) for her home. Finding nothing to her liking, Layla bought some art supplies and created a large, colorful abstract painting.

By the year 1999, she was ready to devote herself full-time to making art. She began to create portraits of her family, still lifes, city scenes, and abstractions with figures. These paintings, while diverse in character, often had vibrant color, bold forms, energetic brush strokes and a sense that, whatever the style, the painting was charged with underlying emotion.

Layla found her voice and style in her cityscape paintings. Applying layer upon layer of paint on her canvases, she searches for the colors that best communicate the mood that gives the truest essence of the city. When the paint dries, she takes a brush and in black draws the outlines of the buildings, bridges, streets and people, imbuing the painting with life and adding particulars that will make the city unique and distinctive. Painting city upon city, her paintings have two, three or four full paintings/cities underneath the final works.

Luminous, striking and intriguing, her works have been exhibited in galleries all over the world. Notably, The Walter Wickiser Gallery in New York, The Christopher Hill Gallery in Saint Helena, Andrews Art Museum in North Carolina, Chasen Gallery in Virginia, Le Musee de Marrakech in Morocco, Samuel Gallery, Lisa Freedman Fine Arts, 750 Wines Studio and VAM Art Inc. Gallery. She has received many commissions and her work is in numerous private collections.

## Greg De Lucca

*In his own words...*

EVER HAD AN ITCH to try something you've never done before in your retirement? I did! After 5 years of retirement filled with skiing, playing tennis and trying to make sense of the financial markets, I decided to take acrylic painting lessons in January 2005 with my wife, Sue, from Jakki Kouffman, a noted Santa Fe acrylic artist. I always felt I had a latent, but keen sense of color and graphic composition.

After ten years of concentrated training with Jakki, Don Ward of Taos, New Mexico; Robert De Leon of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and most recently, Theo Becker of the Napa Valley, I have centered my art interest to realistic landscapes using water soluble oil paints. I aspire to the breathtaking portrayals by New Mexican artists Wilson Hurley, Peter Hagen, Grant MacDonald and Irby Brown (my heroes) as well as classical impressionist Claude Monet and expressionist Georgia O' Keeffe.

My passion for painting is driven from achieving a "humbling level" in my work of the beauty God has bestowed on the landscapes of many parts of the world. I especially enjoy painting skies, sunsets, sunrises, water, reflections on water, mountains — any landscape with drama.

In my former working life I was an executive of The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia and the California wine industry where I was president of Sterling Vineyards, Chateau St. Jean and Lyeth Winery. I resided eleven years in Santa Fe after retiring and now live full time in St. Helena where Sue's family is involved in the wine business (Retro and Dunn Vineyards) and real estate development.



## Membership is Critical to Society's Success!

*There is no greater gift to the future than  
careful preservation of the past.*

MEMBERSHIP IS ONE WAY you can help support the St. Helena Historical Society. Your membership helps us to collect, preserve, exhibit, interpret and provide access to the rich history of the St. Helena area for present and future generations.

PLEASE JOIN US!

### *Benefits of Membership:*

- Free admission to the St. Helena Historical Society monthly educational program series and discounted admission to signature events such as "The Spirits of St. Helena" cemetery tour and Museum for a Day.
- Quarterly publication *The Electrolier*
- A 10% discount on SHHS books
- Two special members-only programs per year:
  - > the Annual Holiday Dinner in December
  - > Spring "mystery visit" that gives members an insider look at something of local, historic interest from a perspective that the public does not get to experience
- Plenty of unusual volunteer opportunities!

### *Membership Levels:*

#### \$30 Individual

- Member benefits for one person

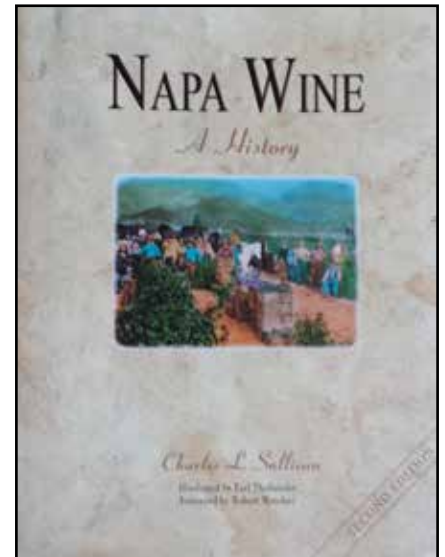
#### \$40 Dual

- Member benefits for two people in one household

#### \$50 Family

- Member benefits for two adults plus children in one household

*\$100 Contributing  
Membership Level  
and above receive  
a free copy of  
"Napa Wine:  
A History"  
(second edition) by  
Charles L. Sullivan.*



#### \$100 Contributing (membership plus contribution)

- Member benefits for one to four people in one household
- Recognition in quarterly newsletter
- Copy of *Napa Wine: A History* by Charles L. Sullivan

#### \$200 Business/Corporate

- Member admission rate for up to 3 people for programs and events
- Two hours free research into business-related history
- Copy of *Napa Wine: A History* by Charles L. Sullivan
- Recognition in Quarterly Newsletter

#### \$500 Life Member (one time fee)

- Member benefits for one person during lifetime
- Copy of *Napa Wine: A History* by Charles L. Sullivan

### *Want to become a member?*

- Visit [www.shstory.org/support-us/join/](http://www.shstory.org/support-us/join/) for a downloadable membership form.

### *Do you need to renew your membership?*

- Download the membership form, or...
- Call the society at 707 967 5502, or...
- Email: [shstory@shstory.org](mailto:shstory@shstory.org)