

SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071 January 2012

January 16-Free Lecture on Artist Theodore Wores ● Merry Traditions Exhibit Ends January 29 ● New Exhibit Celebrating A Century of Good Work With the IOOF/ Saratoga Retirement Community Opens Feb. 4

Artist Theodore Wores—In Context of Time and Place—Free Lecture by Susan Hillhouse on Januarv 16

Artist Theodore Wores once wrote, "Of all the countries I have visited in search of material for my brush, California ranks first as a land of sunshine and flowers, both in wild and cultivate. I have found endless possibilities in the colorful orchards in Spring blossom time in various portions of the state and especially in Saratoga...we arrived one beautiful day in the little town of Saratoga where thousands of acres of fruit trees were in bloom. We were quite overpowered by the beauty of this magnificent spectacle. As soon as I could articulate I exclaimed "we have reached the end of our journey."

His paintings hung in the White House and have been given as gifts to heads of state. He trained as a painter as young as

the age of 12 and continued painting until his death. He served as dean of the San Francisco Institute of Art and became an outspoken member of the Society fo Sanity in Art, a national organization dedicated to maintaining traditional standards in art.

Join us to find out more about famed California artist Theodore Wores (1859-1939) on Monday, January 16 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church hall. The program, sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, will begin at

7:30 PM and is free and open to the public. The hall is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. A potluck dinner will precede the event. Please bring food to share; plate and utensils for your own usage and a beverage. Coffee, tea and water will be provided.

San Francisco-born Artist "Theodore Wores: In Context of Time and Place" presented by Susan Hillhouse will focus on how prevailing art trends and geographic location influenced the work of Wores. He entered the world just as the art world blossomed into the Modern Period; when he died, Abstract Expressionism was about to be born. During his lifetime, he was exposed to French Naturalism, Japonism, Impressionism, Post Impressionism, Art Nouveau, Cubism and Dada. As Wores traveled from California and the American West to Germany, Japan, Spain, Italy, Japan, Samoa and Hawaii and back to California, his work deepened with his academic,

worldly, emotional and visual experiences.

Wores had a studio in Saratoga from 1924-1938. The studio is presently the Bell Tower Bistro on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. The "blossom period", when he lived in Saratoga has often been self-described as his best. The painting shown is indicative of the paintings he produced in the Santa Clara Valley.

Susan Hillhouse is the Curator of Art and Collections for the Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center in Santa Cruz, California. She has been in the art and museum field for over twenty years. Prior to the MAH, she

served as Chief Curator for the Triton Museum of Art. Hillhouse teaches Western and Eastern art history survey classes at West Valley College as well as History/Writing at California State University Monterey Bay in Seaside.



IOOF Retirement Community to Celebrate 100 Years of Dedication on April 20

The expansive and prestigious Saratoga Retirement Community on Fruitvale Avenue is known for providing first class care to its residents. As the retirement community approaches its 100 year anniversary, its history is reflected on by its residents and the members of the organization that

originally founded the institution back in 1912.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, or IOOF, is a fraternal society that started the Saratoga Retirement Community. IOOF was originally formed in the middle of the 18th century in England by a group of laborers who wanted to ensure future self security. IOOF was granted a charter to build lodges in California on September 9, 1849.

In 1906, the Odd Fellows Home of California, IOOF wished to establish a new lodge and to move the Odd Fellows retirement home from its previous location in Butte County, California. In 1908, IOOF purchased the 85 acre Oakwood Farm property, owned by John and Bessie Stetson, for \$16,000.

A dedication ceremony honoring the newly erected Saratoga Retirement Community took place on May 15, 1912. Former Saratoga resident William

Barnes was the featured orator, and spoke to the 2000 people who attended the ceremony.

The IOOF Lodge was also established in Saratoga, on Oak Street. Both IOOF buildings were completed in 1912.

In the 1920's, 175 residents lived in the retirement home, whose average age was 76.5 years. There were three times as many men than women, with 124 men and 46 women. Twenty-two orderlies worked at the institution, a far cry from the much larger number of staff working today.

Saratoga Historical Foundation Officers

The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.

Executive Committee Annette Stransky, President

Bob Himel, Vice President Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary

Jane Asher, Treasurer

Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please call 408-867-7468 or e-mail: <u>annette@saratogahistory.com</u>

Museum and Gift Shop

The Saratoga History Museum and McWilliams House are open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours.

Visit our website: http://www.saratogahistory.com.

organization alive and sucessful. Kraus recalls his curiosity about IOOF when he was growing up in Saratoga.

"As I child in Saratoga since 1959 I had been in most of the buildings in Saratoga and knew the people that owned them or worked in them, but I had never been in the Oak street IOOF building nor knew any members," Kraus said.

After serving the community for almost a century, the 100 year anniversary of the Saratoga Retirement Community will be celebrated on April 20, 2012.

"We are hoping for a well attended celebration. And are planning on a conjoined event with many other Saratoga organizations," Kraus said.

In addition to a lodge and a retirement community, the IOOF Cemetery was established in Saratoga in 1911, and is located on a hill behind the reitrement community.

By 1992, cottages that housed residents in the retirement community were replaced by a villa. Due to property sales, there is no longer an orchard on the property. Further renovations have been made to modernize the institution.

"Following a \$110 million renovation and



expansion project, the facility offers a relaxed, carefree lifestyle that is

outstanding in every respect," said Kraus.

Membership to IOOF is not required to live in the retirement community. Currently, nonmembers outnumber members of IOOF in the community. Due to the IOOF dedication to fraternity, members are guaranteed care in the retirement community once they retire.

"The second of the three mandates of our International order is to shelter IOOF members when they reach retirement age," said Kraus.

According to Kraus, there is a second Odd Fellow retirement home in Napa, called The Meadows, which is managed by the Odd Fellows Housing of Napa.

The Saratoga Lodge is involved in the Saratoga community, and organizes various events around the community. The lodge hosts the annual Wildwood Park Easter Egg Hunt and hosted the first Oktoberfest celebration at the local Bell Tower Bistro to raise money for charities.

The IOOF Educational Foundation, founded in 1927, reaches out to Saratoga High School students. "The IOOF Educational Foundation provides substantial loans and grants to students to SHS graduates that will be attending West Valley College," said Kraus.

Kraus reflects on the positive IOOF ideals centered around community and tradition, which have been loyal to Saratoga for nearly 100 years.

"Our mission is to create and maintain an enduring society which encourages the sharing of traditions and values, respect for oneself and others, and responsibility to Saratoga [residents] and the Saratoga community," Kraus said. Written by Saratoga High School Falcon Newspaper Reporter Sophie Mattson

Save These Dates!

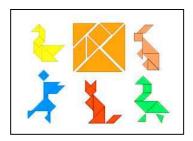
Now-Jan. 29	Exhibit:Merry Traditions of Christmas ends January 29
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Jan 16-	Theodore Wores lecture—SHF
	membership program and potluck at
	Immanuel Lutheran hall, 6:30 PM
Feb 1-14	Love Notes, SVDC event
Feb 3-May 31	IOOF special exhibit at the Museum
March 7	Civil War Connections panel at the
	Sunnyvale library, 7 PM
March 11	St. Paddy's Day, 2-4, SVDC event
March 19	SHF Membership program

Celebrating a Century of Good Work— IOOF Retirement Community –A Special Exhibit



The Saratoga Retirement Community, owned by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs (IOOF) is one of the oldest fraternal orders in the world. The facility was

originally built in 1912 as a private residential retirement center and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2012! This special exhibit runs February 3 – May 27 and will trace the growth of the retirement community as well as the contributions of the IOOF. The Saratoga History Museum is open from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



What's New At the Museum?

Many of the current popular puzzles and types in use today originated in China the tangram puzzle is one of the best known. Come and be challenged by this special interactive exhibit

featuring puzzles along with the IOOF special exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum opening on Feb. 3!!

Santa Clara Connections to the Civil War – A Panel Discussion



On March 7, 2012 at 7:00 PM Historian Jean Libby will conduct a panel "Santa Clara County Connections to the Civil War." Panelists include direct descendant

Alice Keesey Mecoy who will present "Am I Not John Brown's Daughter?'/Annie Brown in the Civil War"; African American historian John W. Templeton will discuss local participation in the Underground Railroad; and Bill Noyes will present "The Lincoln Writ" by the late Larry Comstock of the South Bay Civil War Round Table, an incident in which the President tried to seize the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines. The presentation is free to the public and will be held at: Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

Saratoga: a Lumber Town

When was Saratoga founded and what was it like to live here in the not too distant past? These questions and more are answered in a 30 minute presentation by SHF Historian Ray Cosyn that traces the story of Saratoga from the Ohlone Indians through the Spanish Explorers and on into the lumber and mining times of the late nineteenth century. The Blossom Festival and the publicity that surrounded it making Saratoga the center of the "Valley of the Hearts Delight" will be brought into focus. The 1920's and our unique transit system that tied our little agricultural town to the outside world will come to life in this fascinating story. The 1950s and incorporation into a city, which has become the home to many in the Silicon Valley, will resonate with all those who make this unique and historic place home.

If you are interested in having Cosyn speak before your organization, you can contact him by calling: 408-867-4311 or by sending an e-mail to ray@saratogahistory.com.



"Betty at 90 Rules"—A Celebration

Only a few communities in Santa Clara County have a Living Treasure, a person whose good works not only inspire

others but have made a notable impact on the people around them. Betty Peck celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary on December 18th, with poetry and performances from her family and friends.

She is our Living Treasure, and generations of elementary school children and their parents are grateful for her gifts. Wearing one of her favorite costumes, a bright red dress covered with embroidery and mirrors, a gift from one of her grateful students, Betty received her well-wishers. The Great Hall on the Peck estate was filled with music performed for Betty on her very special day. We were all very fortunate this year that the weather was so beautiful. Sunday was glorious, a lovely day for a celebration.

Betty's Thursday salon is an important Saratoga institution, a place for conversation and for community building. She has her finger on the pulse of Saratoga and does not hesitate to make a call if she feels something has gone awry. Quiet and focused, Betty is always a remarkable force. We were all delighted to share this day with her and her family. *Written by April Halberstadt, SHF member with photograph contributed by Marilyn Marchetti*

"Life in America, my grandmother found, was indeed rugged and unpredictable."

Whereas immigration to the United States was liberating for many European women, for Chinese women the experience was often confining, grueling and volatile. Connie Young Yu writes of the experiences of Chinese American women in "The World of Our Grandmothers" from Making Waves: An Anthology of Writings By and About Asian American Women:



"Once in San Francisco Grandmother lived a life of confinement, as did her motherin-law before her. When she went out, even in Chinatown, she was ridiculed for her bound feet. People called out mockingly to her, "Jhat!" meaning bound. She tried to unbind her feet by

soaking them every night and putting a heavy weight on each foot. But she was already a grown woman, and her feet were permanently stunted, the arches bent and the toes crippled. It was hard for her to stand for long periods of time, and she frequently had to sit on the floor to do her chores. My mother comments: "Tradition makes life so hard. My father traveled all over the world. There were stamps all over his passport-London, Paris-and stickers all over his suitcases, but his wife could not go into the street by herself."

Their first child was a girl, and on the morning of her month-old "red eggs and ginger party" the earth shook 8.3 on the Richter scale. Everyone in San Francisco, even Chinese women, poured out into the streets. My grandmother, babe in



arms, managed to get a ride to Golden Gate Park on a horse-drawn wagon. Two other Chinese women who survived the earthquake recall the shock of suddenly being out in the street milling with thousands of people.

The elderly goldsmith in a dimly lit Chinatown store had a twinkle in his eye when I asked him about the scene after the quake. "We all stared at the women because we so seldom saw them in the streets."

That devastating natural disaster forced some modernity on the San Francisco Chinese community. Women had to adjust to the emergency and makeshift living conditions and had to work right alongside the men. Life in America, my

grandmother found, was indeed rugged and unpredictable. As the city began to rebuild itself, she proceeded to raise a large family, bearing four more children. The only school in San Francisco admitting Chinese was the Oriental school in Chinatown. But her husband felt, as did most men of his class, that the only way his children could get a good education was for the family to return to China. So they lived in China and my grandfather traveled back and forth to the United States for his trade business. Then suddenly, at the age of forty-three, he died of an illness on board a ship returning to China. After a long and painful mourning, Grandmother decided to return to America with her brood of now seven children.

Although the children were quickly admitted to the country as US citizens, Yu's grandmother was held at Angel Island. She had filariasis, a non-contagious, curable ailment that health inspectors used as an excuse to deport Asians.

Yu writes: The year my grandmother was detained on Angel Island [1924], a law had just taken effect that forbade all aliens ineligible for citizenship from landing in America. This constituted a virtual ban on the immigration of all Chinese, including Chinese wives of US citizens....

After fifteen months [of letter-writing by the attorney she hired] the case was finally won. Grandmother was easily cured of filariasis and allowed-with nine months probation-to join her children in San Francisco. The legal fees amounted to \$782.50, a fortune in those days.

In 1927 Dr. Frederick Lam in Hawaii, moved by the plight of Chinese families deported from the islands because of the [filariasis], worked to convince federal health officials that the disease was non-communicable. He used the case of Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey, my grandmother, as a precedent for allowing an immigrant to land with such an ailment and thus succeeded in breaking down a major barrier to Asian immigration.

My most vivid memory of Grandmother Lee is when she was in her seventies and studying for citizenship. She had asked me to test her on the three branches of government and how to pronounce them correctly. I was a sophomore in high school and had entered the "What American Democracy Means to Me" speech contest of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. I looked directly at my grandmother in the audience. She didn't smile, and afterwards, didn't comment on my patriotic words. She had never told me about being on Angel Island or about her friends losing their citizenship. It wasn't in the textbooks either. I may have thought she wanted to be a citizen because her sons and sons-in-law had fought for this country, and we lived in a land of freedom and opportunity, but my guess now is that she wanted to avoid any possible confrontation-even at her age-with immigration authorities. The bad laws had been repealed, but she wasn't taking any chances." Contributed by Author Connie Young Yu, member of the Saratoga Historical Foundation.



Participate in a Survey

Participate in this survey if you have immigrated, live in Saratoga and have become a US citizen. Download a copy at www.saratogahistory.com.

Saratoga in the '50's-- "A Great Place to Be Brought Up"

Saratoga is known for its rustic charm, diverse population and great high school, but it was not always that way. It was a village with an ethnically homogeneous population and no real high school.

John Ljepava, now 65, remembers Saratoga from the fifties and sixties.

Ljepava's grandfather, also named John, immigrated to California from Yugoslavia around 1890, to work in the Argonaut Gold Mine in Jackson, CA.

Once his grandfather made enough money, he came down to the Santa Clara Valley and bought a tract of land to farm.

By the time Ljepava's uncle and father, Don, took over from his grandfather, the family owned several ranches. Ljepava's mother was a house wife. Everyone in Saratoga knew her and fondly referred to her as "Bunny," as she was born on Easter Sunday.

"The [main] ranch was located between the Argonaut development and Miljevich Drive, which is off Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road," Ljepava said.

The Ljepavas grew apricots and prunes, which they sundried, preserved and sold.

"It would just be like a sea of orange out there with these apricots," Ljepava said. "Then they were put in bags and that's how you would eat the apricots, dried like you would get them from Costco."

Ljepava said his favorite hobby as a kid was flying model airplanes with his dad.

"Right in front of where Safeway is now there was a field. I used to go and there was nothing around and I would fly these model airplanes with my father."

Ljepava said that the demographic of Saratoga was very different then than it is now.

He said that although most residents were Caucasians, there were also Hispanic children in his schools.

"We had a lot of farmers and there were several migrantlabor camps," Ljepava said. "Migrant workers from Mexico would come up and work as part-time fruit pickers.'

Ljepava attended Oak Street School (now called Saratoga Elementary), Redwood (which was then not a middle school), and Foothill until eighth grade. He then entered Saratoga High School.

"It was a typical high school, like it probably is now" Ljepava said. "Where you have the brainy ones and you have the jocks, and you have different cliques."

Ljepava said he wasn't in any particular clique as a



as a teenager, and was "just part of the regular crowd. He said he had "this flashy red sports car." "My first car was a

1956 Thunderbird, the original small type," Ljepava said. "Maybe one day I'll get another one. [In high school] everybody knew me by that car."

Ljepava was part of the first graduating class to attend Saratoga High School (SHS) for all four years-- the class of 1964. In fact, Ljepava said they had a class reunion this past July.



"We were all able to get together for the first time in many years," Ljepava said. "We were all brought up in Saratoga with good family values, which are still prevalent there today. I attribute this to the town."

After SHS, Ljepava

went on to attend West Valley College, then located in Campbell. Ljepava said it was "kind of a melting pot in Campbell," as much of the 1964 classes around the area attended the College.

"A lot of people just went over to West Valley College when it started," Ljepava said. Others went to San Jose State or to Stanford.

"Not too many people ventured too far at that time."

At West Valley, Ljepava studied architecture. Afterwards, he went into the restaurant business, designing the floor plans for many of his restaurants.

"For 28 years I developed and ran six Round Table Pizza parlors, so that was my profession" Ljepava said. "I did that until I retired."

Ljepava said he sees a definite change in Saratoga's youth since his time.

"Now, students are being groomed immediately, from early grammar school on, to go to a great college," Ljepava said. "[In my time] it was a little bit more laid back then than it is now. The competition for jobs and social life and everything is very demanding of the younger generation and so it's very critical that you get a great education and you go on to do greater things."

Ljepava now spends his winters in Tucson, AZ, and his summers in a house he owns in central San Jose. It's warmer in Tucson in the winter.

"It's desert, but there're mountains that surround the valley," Ljepava said. "So it always reminds me of Santa Clara Valley from one side or the other."

"All my thoughts of Saratoga are just wonderful memories," Ljepava said. "It's just a great place to be brought up. We're very proud to have a street named after us in the town, as our heritage there goes way back to the turn of the century." *Written by Sanj Nalwa, Saratoga High School Falcon Newspaper Reporter*



Time to Renew!

If you received a membership renewal form with this newsletter—you need to renew. You also have the opportunity to give a gift of membership for only \$15! The gift offer will be discontinued on February 28. Don't delay and renew your membership today and give a friend the

gift of history!!

Bookstore Stocked with Local History

Tucked away on Oak Street, the Book-Go-Round is overflowing not only with a variety of second-hand books, but also with a rich historical background and a strong sense of community.



The humble, Spanish-style building in which the Book-Go-Round is located housed Saratoga's first library, the Village Library, and

is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The building was designed by renown architect Eldridge Spencer, who also designed Yosemite Lodge. Also, Spencer's close acquaintance, Ansel Adams, famous for his black-andwhite landscape photographs, took two published photos of the building, according to the NRHP.

The Village Library resided in the Oak Street building from 1927 and left in 1981, shortly after the opening of the Saratoga Community Library on Fruitvale Avenue in 1978. Both libraries were run by the Santa Clara County Library system. The Village Library decided to move all of its books to the Fruitvale location because the Oak Street building was too small, according to the current manager of the Book-Go-Round, Mary Jeanne Fenn.

After the Village Library moved out, several nonprofits, including Friends of the Saratoga Library, applied to use the empty city building. The Friends opened the Book-Go-Round in the building in 1983. The Book-Go-Round initially shared half of the building with another organization but eventually gained the use of the entire building and "has been going strong ever since," Fenn said.

The Oak Street building has seen a fair share of notable people as well as books.

Twice named best actress by the Academy Awards, Olivia de Havilland dusted the children's books in the building when it was still the Village Library. de Havilland is the older sister of actress Joan Fontaine, and their family lived "just up the street," according to Fenn.

Significant books which have passed through the building include a 1642 copy of "The History of the World" by Sir Walter Raleigh, which was obtained and auctioned off by the Book-Go-Round.

All of the Book-Go-Round's profits, except for a small amount used to maintain its building, are donated to the Saratoga Library.

"The money goes to purchase new books, media, whatever the library needs, and a lot of children's programs," Fenn said. "The library presents a 'wish list' and we do what we can to fulfill it."

The bookstore is run entirely by volunteers and has about 100 people volunteer per month. Roughly 65 of them sort

through books at the Saratoga Library, decide which are fit to be sold at the Book-Go-Round, price the books and shelve them, according to Fenn.

"Our volunteers are terrific," said Fenn. "We have quite a few who don't live in Saratoga, but they still want to work here, they still enjoy it."

Students also volunteer at the Book-Go-Round, helping with paperback sales held at the Saratoga Library about five times a year. Some of these students are participants of the National Charity League, a club at Saratoga High School.

"We get so many books, there's no way we could do it without our army of people," Fenn said. "It's a huge undertaking."

Another group vital to the Book-Go-Round's community are the loyal customers. Many customers are dealers who resell the books that they purchase from the Book-Go-Round on the Internet. Fenn estimates that about 75 percent of customers are from outside of Saratoga.



our customers are friendly and talkative, and they really love books," Fenn said. The friendly atmosphere at the Book-Go-

"Most of

Round keeps the bookstore's community running happily.

"Our volunteers are great, the library people that we work for are really appreciative, and our customers, most of them, are repeat customers—they really like the Book-Go-Round," Fenn said.

Written by Deborah Soung, Saratoga High School Falcon Newspaper Reporter. Photo of BGR Mastermind and Manager Mary Jeanne Fenn (former Citizen of the Year) with her grandchildren.



Rick Waltonsmith driving the family donkey cart (all decked out for Christmas) in the annual Los Gatos children's parade in December—of course they won a prize!!



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Resolve: Have a Happy 2012!!

Some of the Saratoga Historical Foundation members have shared their New Year's resolutions and traditions:

"I've decided to quit being a sex symbol and concentrate on becoming rich." Mac McCaughey

"We have a quiet celebration with friends. We go to a movie then come home and cook a nice dinner together. Since we are usually turkey, ham, and prime ribbed out by now, we will pick something different such as a crown roast of pork. If we can stay up to midnight, we watch the ball drop in New York City on the telly. Champagne required of course!" Shirley and Chuck Heger

"Mine is to continue to provide service to the community, to attempt to always show kindness, to reach out to strangers, and to insure that my actions show that I love my family." Brian Berg

"Our favorite way to see in the new year is to watch the fireworks in Bear Valley. We ride snowmobiles down to see them and one year it was foggy so you could barely see them at all. This year there is NO SNOW so it seems very odd up here in the Sierra." Denise Goldberg

"We want to start reducing our collection of stuff and more stuff.... instead of a big party to celebrate our recent 50th anniversary and 75th years, we plan to have several small celebrations throughout 2012. For NewYear's Eve we will

ew Based Fish Mark

have a few traditional New Year's foods, toast the old and new year, ring our large liberty bell so the neighborhood can all hear it, and fall asleep before the clock strikes 12!" –Jack and Sue Mallory.

"My New Year's resolution for 2012 is to spend more time with family, neighbors and friends at my home and less time online with "friends" there. I don't know what my plans for NYE are... Perhaps we'll invite a bunch of our children's friends for a sleepover and have a big all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in the morning! Or do nothing!" Laura Menard "Based on the past few years, we will probably eat at the

Fish Market and take in a movie. My three resolutions would

be to deal with the termites in this house, more exercise, and really lighten the load as far as superfluous household stuff! Not much excitement in the above, but from outward appearances large raucous parties and overindulgence appear to be something found in the past." Norma and Bill Ford

"Tony and I enjoy going out to lunch New Year's Eve day. We have a tradition of having lunch at Bella Saratoga with our dear friend Cindy.

This is a tradition we have enjoyed for some time and look forward to the lunch each year. New Year's Eve night is quiet. If the weather is lovely on January 1, I will be in the garden. As soon as all my Christmas decorations are packed away I say'spring has begun, winter is a happy memory.' My new year's resolution is to spend more time in my garden.''Laurel and Tony Perusa

"I spend New Years Eve every year at the Starlite Ballroom dancing the night away and ringing in the New Year. There is no better place to be, at least for me." Nancy Lee