

Life in LAMORINDA



Front and center: Chris Amador and Steve Hessenauer of Moraga were among many dressed for the occasion

Photo Doug Kohlen

Paul Thomas Radio Show
 airing LIVE from PENNENS in Moraga
 Watch live with the team or tune in on-line Feb. 15 - 5:45 p.m.
 SMCgaels.com
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rosewood House.com
 FINE FURNITURE & ASIAN ANTIQUES SINCE 1969
 CONCORD 4700 CLAYTON RD. (925) 827-9588
 OAKLAND 2523 BROADWAY (510) 451-7373

LGA DESIGN-BUILD License #777236
 • Remodels
 • Additions
 • Custom Homes
 • Kitchens
 • Baths
FREE Professional Design Consultation
 Client-focused quality, value engineering and responsive delivery.
Just ask our clients!
 Call 925-323-6582
 email: nlgionet@lga-db.com www.lga-db.com

Lee and Grant Exhibit Opens at Saint Mary's College

By Sophie Braccini

The *Lee and Grant* exhibition opened last weekend at Saint Mary's College Hearst Art Gallery in Moraga and will continue until March 20th. Organized by the NEH On The Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the exhibition explores one of the most critical decades in American history through the lives of the two rival generals who led the opposing forces.

Saint Mary's College (SMC) is the only Californian location where this traveling exhibition of national importance will be shown. It includes many original documents and artifacts and will feature a live reenactment, complete with skirmishes and cannon fire, on the SMC grounds on March 19th. Local schools are invited to take advantage of the material and lesson plans provided by the Gallery.

"The Civil War, its drama, heroes, and its meanings, are important for all Americans to keep in view," says SMC professor and Civil War specialist Dr. Carl Guarneri. "But here in California the Civil War can seem a distant thing, both in time and space. It's something that happened 'back east,' we tend to think, and had little to do with California. That's not true, of course. California played an important role as a ground of struggle between the North and South for the state's allegiance, and once the state went for the Union it contributed disproportionately large amounts of troops and money to the cause. This exhibit and supporting events help to make the Civil War more present and vivid to northern Californians."

The *Lee and Grant* exhibition is toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance and was developed by the Virginia Historical Society. "We were lucky that I heard about it at a conference and got Saint Mary's on the waiting list," says Heidi Donner, Public Information & Educational Programs Manager at the Hearst Art Gallery. Donner believes that the presence on campus of Professor Guarneri was one of the reasons why the College got the show.

The exhibition contains material appropriate for all ages and level of knowledge. "It is even more student-friendly than I thought," noted Guarneri after its installation on campus, "there are a lot of interactive kiosks, reproduced uniforms and tents, quizzes, and questions. A key tactic seems to be to make students, from elementary grades on, evaluate history for themselves."

According to Guarneri the exhibit is particularly interesting for two reasons. First, it views the Civil War through the actions and per-

sonalities of its two leading military heroes, allowing visitors to compare and contrast Lee and Grant as men, generals, and representative types of the South and North, respectively. "Lee was the aristocratic, Christian slaveholder with a strong record and reputation who was out to defend his personal honor and regional loyalty, while Grant was an average and rather unsuccessful northern soldier and businessman who rose quite unexpectedly to greatness by harnessing the Union's vast resources behind a patriotic fight to save the nation," said Guarneri, "They had very different attitudes toward slavery, which is something this exhibit shows and which tends to get buried in all the adulation of Lee."

The second new thing about this exhibit is its focus on how these men were remembered and commemorated long after the war. Whether they were seen as heroes or disappointments depended, over the years, on such factors as people's continued devotion to the Union or the "Lost Cause," lingering comparisons with the two presidents, Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, on the desire for reconciliation between the North and South, and by the second half of the twentieth century, on a renewed sense that the cause of ending slavery was just and overdue.

The Gallery hopes to attract school groups to the exhibit. "The exhibition is free for children (the cost for adults is \$4), and we will give tours to school groups who reserve ahead of time," says Donner, "teachers can get the lessons plans before coming to visit and we will keep them available even after the exhibition is over."

On opening day Guarneri presented the lecture, "Only a Question of Time and Patience: An Inside View of Grant's Campaign against Lee," and displays by members of the National Civil War Association [NCWA] in period costume were included in the day's program. Guarneri will deliver the lecture again in mid-February. He is finishing a book on the Civil War portraying the war as seen through Lincoln's "eyes," Assistant Secretary of War Charles A. Dana.

On March 19th a reenactment of the Civil War will take place on campus. This offers a chance to tour the camps and learn first-hand about weapons, food, army life, telegraph operations, and Civil War medicine. "Cannons blasting show that the war used modern technology to raise the level of violence and destruction," explains Guarneri, "Skirmishes in a small way evoke the noise, confusion, individual heroism, and carnage of war."



Tired of Fighting the Crowds?

Try Star Pilates in Moraga: 20 days for \$20

Quiet studio. Private or group classes. Everything you need to workout, including the best Cardio Equipment, Spin, Pilates, Zumba, Ballet and Weight Classes.



1460 Moraga Road Suite F, Moraga, Moraga Shopping Center, behind McCaulous

www.starpilates.com

925-376-7500

LODI WINE COUNTRY

Wine & Chocolate WEEKEND

VISIT OVER 40 WINERIES!

February 12 & 13 • 2011

11am - 4pm \$45 in advance; \$55 at the door

lodiwineandchocolate.com | 209.365.0621

SAVE \$10 WITH PROMO CODE: W&CFUN

Offer ends Friday, February 4th at 5pm.