



Nina Asaro Leavenworth

Antonina “Nina” Asaro Leavenworth was born in Monterey on April 15, 1966, to Salvatore and Antonietta Asaro. Her parents, both born in Sicily, came to Monterey in 1965, where her father joined the local fishing industry. Nina is the oldest of four children; her sister Francesca (Rich) Aiello, brothers Andrew (Kellie) Asaro & Domenic (Nellie) Asaro all live in Monterey.

Nina married Scott Leavenworth in 1990 and soon after they started their electrical company, Leavenworth Electric, Inc. Ultimately, she considers her biggest achievement in life to be her three children. Alexandria graduated with her Masters degree from the University of Nebraska and is currently working at KSBW. Adam graduated from San Jose State and Nicholas from UC Santa Barbara, both with Bachelor degrees, and are now working for The Pebble Beach Company.

When she’s not volunteering, Nina loves spending time with her kids, family and friends. Her hobbies include traveling, attending country concerts, cheering on the San Francisco 49ers and San Francisco Giants, and continuing to check-off items on her bucket list.

In 1986, Rosine’s moved to a new location on Alvarado Street, where it became a staple of downtown Monterey. Now in its third generation of management, locals consistently rank Rosine’s as Best Family Restaurant, and it remains a favorite among the populace. Jim and Rosine have since retired, their aspirations of success firmly achieved. They were fortunate enough to become proud grandparents to seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Today, Jim can be found taking a walk on the streets of Monterey, soaking up the beauty of a city that has given him so much, and striking up conversation with friends both young and old. He is very proud of his Sicilian heritage and will gladly tell the stories of his family’s adventures to anyone who will listen. If you don’t see Jim out and about, he’s probably at home, tending to his garden.

If anyone can match Jim’s energy, it’s Rosine. Despite retiring years ago, she will still get up at 3 a.m. if the mood strikes her to bake her much-beloved meatloaf and fruit pies. Her spirit and culinary passion inspire the current staff at Rosine’s Restaurant to bring their A-game every day. If she’s not baking at Rosine’s, you might find her in her own home kitchen, preparing a mouthwatering dinner for her family.

Years of success at Rosine’s Restaurant led to an appearance on The Food Network, featuring Rosine’s own lasagna and minestrone recipes. It has also allowed the Culcasi Family to contribute to many different organizations across the Central Coast. Some that have benefited from Rosine’s donations include the Children’s Miracle Network, Meals on Wheels, Gathering Place for Women, and KSBW’s ‘Share Your Holiday.’ Rosine’s has been a blessing to not just the Culcasi Family, but the greater community.

Jim and Rosine want to thank the Italian Heritage Society for bestowing this honor upon them.

