



## CEO Comments

Fall 2009

By Penny Parsekian

New London is one of America's most historic cities, and our city is filled with an enviable creative class. But let's take a larger view for a moment.

I recently had the opportunity to visit an historic part of the world, where art is paramount: Italy. Its cities are living archeological sites, with level upon level of remnants of the past dating back thousands of years. Art is everywhere. Frescoes and mosaics adorn walls and floors; sculpture and fountains draw you from one street corner to the next. Even the grillwork in catch basins are works of art!

The cities and villages I visited were surrounded by farmland – vineyards, olive groves, and grazing fields. Rail connected these towns to one another and travel was easy, extremely efficient, high tech, and heavily patronized.

Preservation, smart land use and art everywhere – is this the vision of the future we are striving for? To create something that will sustain future generations and satisfy the human hunger for beauty? We should be taking the long view of what we are about. But it's such hard work in the present! You can see from this newsletter how much we are doing. Come spring, we hope to launch a series of weekly lunchtime events to take place in the new Parade Plaza. Especially hard, though, is to increase our output while losing a valuable employee, Tammy Sell, who is leaving us for a great opportunity with New London Harbour Towers.

But let's not leave Italy just yet. Thanks to one of our Fall Food Stroll culinary judges, I was able to meet Umbrian chef and restaurateur Lorenzo Polegri. He would like to form a Sister City relationship with New London and perhaps a branch culinary institute. A more permanent tie to the ancient world and at least one of its arts (culinary) just might be in our future.