



“The Roar of the Lion”

Jennifer Rubé, editor
June 2009

2009 FESTA ITALIANA

The Italian American Community Center has announced the dates for this year's Festa Italiana. Please join fellow lodge members the weekend of July 17 – 19th, 2009 as we once again set up a booth at the festival to sell Italian themed Christmas ornaments and gifts. Last year we raised over \$600 selling these items and the money was given to the lodge scholarship fund.

We will need a committee to help with preparing the items for sale, setting up the booth, selling items and tearing down the booth. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Sister Jennifer at 244-8437 for more information.

Italian Proverb

Dimmi con chi vai chi ti diro chi sei.

(Tell me who you go with and I'll tell you who you are.)

A man is known by the company he keeps

Thank you to Sister Maryann Koons and Sister Jen Rubé for the refreshments at the May General Assembly Meeting.

2009 SUMMER PICNIC

This year's Summer Picnic would be held on Saturday August 8th at the home of President Joe and Nancy Rubé. Many of our lodge members attended last year's Italian Night Picnic and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There is room in the yard for plenty of tables and chairs as well as a bocce area for some friendly competition between guests.

Enclosed is a flyer listing details of the event and a reservation form to be filled out and sent back to President Joe Rubé. The fee will be \$10 per person plus a dish to pass or some of the needed supplies. This is going to be an adults-only picnic with friends and family welcome. The money raised will cover expenses and any extra will be donated to the lodge for future activities.

We hope that our members will take this opportunity to bring friends and adult children to this and all our events and show the world why this is the Organization of Choice in the Italian American Community.

The main entrées will be homemade Italian sausage and pasta & meatballs. Side dishes will include salads, breads, pasta, vegetables and anything else that members wish to contribute.

If any lodge members have canopy tents that we can use, banquet tables or folding chairs, they will be gratefully appreciated. If you would like to volunteer for the Picnic Committee and help with set-up or clean-up, or if you have questions please call Joe & Nancy at 585-461-1181.

June 2009

I write this letter to our members and readers as we, your elected Delegates, prepare for the upcoming New York State Sons of Italy Convention in Albany, New York. I am particularly proud to represent our Lodge as President and to have Brother Joe Berta sit at the front dais as our District State Trustee. In addition to the many years of experience at Conventions by our Delegates Susan Berta, and Joe and Anne Vazzana, having my daughter Sister Jennifer attend as a dedicated member of our Lodge and representing the next generation makes me very proud.. As you know our Lodge chose three very worthwhile charities for our annual donations - Cooley's Anemia, Gift of Sight, and Coaches for Cancer Research. I indicated to the membership that individuals could also contribute to their own charity of choice. We will give our members an overview of the Convention happenings at our next membership meeting June 11th and in the next newsletter.

Besides the Convention, June brings our Lodge into its "busy" season. As we heard at the last meeting, Brother Tony Palucci and his committee are preparing for our annual summer picnic on August 8, 2009 being held at our home in Brighton and Sister Jennifer is getting her committee together to work on the Festa Italiana held at the IACC in July. Sister Eunice with Sister Susan's help has made the arrangements for October's Columbus Day Dinner Dance at which we will honor Dr. Ralph Pennino and INTERVOL the wonderful organization he founded with the Humanitarian Award, retiring Gates Town Supervisor Ralph Esposito for Lifetime Achievement Award, and our Family of the Year will be the Schiano Family. Sister Susan Berta has gotten the Ad Book, our major fundraiser, off to a great start as she has so capably in the past (I hear we already have several ads in) and with other members' help I'm sure we will surpass our previous income from this event. Sister Jen Gugino and her committee are putting together November's Turkey Raffle Dinner at St Cecelia's and the Christmas dinner at the Eagle's Club is being arranged by the Vazzanas and Joe DiPasquale.

Let us not forget the Columbus Day Parade in October organized by Brother Tony Palucci and Sister Jen Rube' who is our rep to the Parade Committee that Brother Lou DeCarolis Chairs. As you can see we have many proven events on the Agenda for 2009, but as I have said in the past I will support any member who has an idea for an event if they are willing to "run with it".

We know that there is a trip to a Red Wings game being planned and several people have expressed an interest in bringing back the Italian Mass, a Children's event, etc. I encourage our members to let the various people listed above as "Chairs" of the committees know in writing of your interest in participating in organizing any of the events. This will allow the "Chair" to notify you when they are meeting and how you can help. Most of all I encourage all our members to attend events, bring family and friends and show your support for our Lodge.

I wish to express my gratitude to Sisters Nancy and Jennifer for their "genealogy" efforts at our April meeting and to Brother Joe Berta and the Scholarship Committee for their diligent task in reviewing the candidates and choosing very worthy recipients.

In closing, we are one of many Italian American Organizations in this Community. When I first became President I mentioned that I would encourage our members to not only participate in other group events to help bring our Italian American Community closer together but also to "reach out" to those who currently do not belong to any of the community's Italian American clubs and to make our Sons of Italy Lodge the Organization of Choice. This not only requires a little effort but a real positive attitude when talking to others about our Lodge and its members.

Fraternally yours,

Joe Rubé

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Come join fellow lodge members for

*A Sons of Italy Day with
the Red Wings!*

Sunday June 21, 2009

*Premium box seats behind Home Plate
\$10 each*

*Please see the enclosed flyer or call
Linda Agnello at 288-4234*

Dues, Dues, Dues are Due

It is that time of year when dues are once again due. As previously explained this year the new dues rate is \$50 to assist the lodge in covering its current per capita tax, our commitment to the bereavement fund and to our general fund.

Invoices are in the mail. Please make your check payable to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 Inc. and mail to:

Susan Berta, Treasurer
10 Debran Drive
Henrietta New York 14467

VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE NEWS

LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS

This year the lodge received thirty seven applications for the two scholarships that we offer. The students who applied certainly were the cream of the crop both scholastically and in their extracurricular activities and volunteerism. It is truly a difficult job deciding who should be the recipients of our scholarships but the scholarship committee Joseph Berta, Chairperson, Hon. Philip Dattilo, Joseph DiPasquale and Susan Berta are proud to announce the following recipients.

The recipient of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 scholarship of \$1500 is **Victoria Mesolella** who is a senior at Nazareth Academy. She will be attending Canisius College in the Fall majoring in Biology with a goal of becoming a dentist.

The recipient of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge John DiMarco Scholarship of \$1000 is **Stephanie Brown** who is a senior at Nazareth Academy. She will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the Fall majoring in Psychology with the goal of working in the criminal justice system as a counselor. Both of these fine scholars will be honored at our annual Christopher Columbus Dinner Dance in October after January 1st, 2010 for applications.

2009 AWARD WINNERS

The Vincent Lombardi Lodge is pleased to announce our 2009 award winners. They are as follows:

- **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:**
Ralph Esposito – Retiring Gates Town Supervisor
- **FAMILY OF THE YEAR:**
The Schiano Family
- **HUMANITARIAN AWARD:**
Dr. Ralph Pennino and the INTERVOL organization

These awards will be given at our annual Christopher Columbus Day Dinner on Friday October 16th, 2009 at the Diplomat Party House. Tickets will be \$35 per person with advance reservations needed. For reservations please call Susan at 334-6641.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome goes out to Ross and Ann Battaglia who joined the lodge at the May General Assembly Meeting. The Battaglia's are long-time friends of the lodge and have attended many events with us over the years. We look forward to having them in the lodge as active members.

ITALIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **THERE IS NO BOARD MEETING IN JUNE BECAUSE OF THE STATE CONVENTION IN ALBANY.**
- **June 4, 2009**
Columbus Parade Benefit Lunch at the Italian American Sport Club – 12noon (info: 464-9160)
- **June 11, 2009** – 7PM
Sons of Italy General Assembly Meeting – Casa Italiana
- **June 21, 2009**
Sons of Italy Father's Day with the Red Wings. (info: 288-4234)
- **July 2, 2009** – 7:00PM
OSIA Board Meeting at President Joe's house. (info: 461-1181)
- **July DATE & LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED** – 7PM OSIA General Assembly Meeting.
- **July 17, 2009** – 7:00PM
Father Beatini Choir – St Padre Pio Chapel
- **August 8, 2009** – 3PM
Sons of Italy Summer Picnic (info: 461-1181)
- **August 9, 2009**
Columbus Day Parade Benefit Pasta Dinner - Italian American Sport Club – (info: 464-9160)
- **October 10, 2009**
Columbus Day Parade – 12noon - Downtown Rochester
- **October 12, 2009** – 12noon
Columbus Day Luncheon
- **October 16, 2009** – 6PM
Sons of Italy - Columbus Day Dinner Dance (info 334-6641)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The next general assembly meeting will be held on **Thursday June 11th, 2009** at the Casa Italiana located on the Nazareth College Campus at 4245 East Avenue. The college is located about half a mile from the Village of Pittsford on Route 96/East Avenue. Enter the campus at the entrance with the traffic light (South Campus Drive). Turn immediately into Parking Lot A on the right as you enter the campus. On the right you will note the Casa Hispana building and then the Casa Italiana building. Take the lower walk to the right of the building, which leads directly to the meeting room. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM sharp and all members are welcome. Please Note: the meeting room is handicapped accessible.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday wishes go out to....

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 6/4 | Joseph R. Porcelli |
| 6/6 | Mary Ricci |
| 6/16 | Eunice McCarthy |
| 6/20 | Anthony Oliveri |
| 6/22 | Matthew O'Connor |
| 6/27 | Louis DeCarolus |
| 6/30 | Edward Maruggi |

VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

We are asking everyone to take on the role of Lodge Photographer. We have albums of photos from the past and we'd like to continue this archive of our lodge's history. Please bring your cameras to all lodge events and take pictures for us and we will add to the albums as well as fill in the photo pages on our lodge website. Digital photos can be sent to Sister Jen Rubé at jennajlr@aol.com. Non-digital photos can be given to Sister Jen or President Joe for the albums and we'll scan them to use on the website.

Visit the website at www.sonsofitalyrochester.com



OPINION PLACE... by Jennifer Rubé

At a recent Italian Civic League meeting, a discussion was had about Italians in our community and the fact that over the years we have gotten an unfavorable reputation as a group that has dissension between various clubs, etc. From the outside, we look like a group that cannot get along, so please stop to think of this next time we find a disagreement within one or more of the Italian American organizations.

I believe that our reputation is what we make of it and if WE believe we can co-operate with each other then there is no stronger union than that of those within the Italian American Community. The past is the past as far as old arguments go, but the past will also be the future for those to come and now is the time to make sure that the future is as bright as we can possibly make it for our children. We have tough genes passed down from tough people determined to make a better life for themselves and their families and we owe them for this.

At this meeting, one of the ICL members asked the question, how many of your children belong to the organizations that you work so hard for and the answer was none. Excuses were, people are too busy today with work, kids and life in general but I don't think that is the right answer.

As a member of "the next generation" of Italian Americans, I find time for what means most to me. I'm busy with work life and other commitments but in my family we've been taught to take pride in our Italian American Heritage. This is the one thing our ancestors have passed on to us that nobody can ever take away. It is the one thing you will pass on to future generations that nobody can take away from them.

At one of our recent lodge meetings we briefly talked about family history and genealogy research. Many members came up to me and asked for help tracking down their ancestors and said, "I want to do this for my children and grandchildren". These children are the next generation and they should at least know the sacrifices that their great-great-grandparents and great-grandparents endured so that they could have a better life. Now is our chance to make sure this happens.