



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor
February 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hoping you are well and staying warm during this cold season.

Our new officers have been elected with very few changes. The installation of the newly elected officers and council members will be held March 15, at the Burgundy Basin Inn from 12 o'clock – 3:30 PM. The cost of the event is \$22. If you are planning to attend, please make your check payable to Vincent Lombardi Lodge, and mail to me. See flyer for details. Hope to see you all there to support our newly elected officers.

Looking forward to having a very successful year as your president.

Please check the monthly newsletter for our future events and upcoming projects. We have prepared a survey for members that we hope will help us improve and plan our events. Please fill out the survey at your leisure and consider joining a committee.

Let's not forget our Winter Picnic Clambake February 14th, at Lions Park in Gates. Bring your favorite significant other!

I'm very happy and pleased to announce that one of our members and his family are celebrating their arrival to our shores 60 years ago, on January 28. Congratulations to the DiFilippo family!

Please remember in your prayers and thoughts all our members that are experiencing hard times during this winter season.

Peace,
Fraternally yours,

President Vince

Visit our website at
www.sonsofitalyrochester.com
and
“Like” us on Facebook at
[www.facebook.com/
OSIAVincentLombardiLodge](http://www.facebook.com/OSIAVincentLombardiLodge)

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VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE EVENTS

February 5th @ 7pm: Council Meeting, Eyer Building (317 Main Street, East Rochester)

February 12th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting and New Member Initiation, Eyer Building (317 Main Street, East Rochester)

February 14th @ 12pm: Winter Picnic/Clambake @ Lions Park, (100 Kentucky Avenue, Gates)

March 15th @ 12pm: Officers Installation Brunch @ Burgundy Basin Inn (1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford)

2015 LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Committee Chairperson: Sister Sandy Meleca

The application process for our 2015 lodge scholarships has begun. Information has been distributed to all high schools in Monroe County. To be eligible for an award, a student must be a Monroe County high school graduating senior from a public, private or parochial school. Student must be of Italian descent (at least one grandparent must be of Italian heritage) and must live and attend school in Monroe County and must commence study at an accredited academic institution of higher learning in the fall of 2015. Students must:

1) Complete and submit the application form and include a self addressed, stamped, return standard envelope. 2) A sealed copy of the applicants transcripts must be sent to the chair of the scholarship committee by the applicants high school counselor. Test scores on college admission tests such as SAT or ACT must also be submitted by the counselor. 3) On a separate page, submit a current resume outlining extracurricular activities, such as work experience, volunteer service, community service, sports, honors received, etc. 4) Submit three letters of recommendations from counselors, teachers, coaches, employers, etc. One of these letters of recommendations must be from the applicant's high school counselor. 5) A 500 word essay must be submitted to the scholarship chairman. The applicant is asked to discuss what it means to be of Italian-American heritage, and to discuss the values and contributions made by Italians to American culture and society. Also discuss future goals, aspirations and major and minor fields of academic study. 6) If so requested, applicant must be available to participate in a personal interview before the scholarship committee in May, 2015.

The scholarship winner will be presented his/her scholarship award at the lodge's General Assembly Meeting held in August 2015.

Deadline for application submission is March 31st, 2015. Interested students should contact their school counselor for an application.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee Chairperson: Brother Tom Meleca

Our February General Assembly meeting will be an open meeting. This is a great opportunity for members to invite family and friends who might be interested in joining our lodge.

We are striving to have all of our members bring in a new member for 2015!

STATE AND NATIONAL OSIA EVENTS

FEB. 22: NYOSIA ANNUAL CSJ DINNER DANCE

HONORING NATIONAL CSJ VICE PRESIDENT JOHN FRATTA AND ARTIST/ PRODUCER SIMONA RODANO TO BE HELD AT RUSSO'S ON THE BASY, HOWARD BEACH.

**Please see President Vince if you are interested in any the above event.

CSJ ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Contest Chairperson: Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

In a collaborative effort, the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270, Geneva Lodge #2397 and Geneva American Italian Ladies Lodge #2397A (GAIL #2397A), are sponsoring an essay created by the Commission of Social Justice (CSJ) of the OSIA. The goal of this essay is to keep alive the stories of our families and culture by interviewing a senior citizen of Italian descent and telling their story. This essay is aimed at Middle School students as defined by his/her school district. Essays will be assessed by using New York State Grade 6-8 Expository Writing Evaluation Rubric. There will be a total of 6 winners, 2 from each grade level, one from Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 and one from the Geneva and GAIL Lodge jointly. Students are to describe the person being interviewed: relationship, age, gender, where in Italy was his/her home (region, city). The following questions are required but students should embellish the story with other questions and include other discussions: What year did this person or family member come to the United States and what was the mode of transportation that brought him/her here? What was the reason for emigrating from Italy? Was there a plan to return to their homeland? Did this person come alone, with family, or with friends? Who did they leave behind? What port did this person come into (Ellis Island, Boston, etc)? What was the experience like? What kinds of questions were asked when disembarking and while waiting? How did this person assimilate into American life? What problems were encountered? Where did he/she initially settle? What community? Did you know anyone? What traditions did he/she bring and what are continued today; values, beliefs, special holidays?

All people have a rich cultural heritage, but with each generation, we move farther away from understanding who and what we are. We are hoping to start conversations, engage in dialogue so as not to lose our history.

Please contact Marjorie for an essay contest application at:

MAFocarazzo@gmail.com

Applications are due by April 30th.

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

CSJ District Liaison: Brother Joseph Rubé

CSJ activity in January was centered around Southampton School District which was entertaining the elimination of Columbus Day on its 2015-2016 calendar. The Superintendent indicated that this was only a suggestion in an effort to make up required school days as Labor Day is late this year. It would have children attending school on Columbus Day (as well as 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah). Columbus Day has always been a special day in that area. CSJ Chair spoke with the Superintendent and ultimately the issue was resolved and Columbus Day will remain a school holiday.

On Sunday, February 22, 2015 The NYS Commission for Social Justice OSIA will be holding its 35th Annual Dinner Dance at Russo's in Howard Beach. District 8's 3 Lodges have taken a 1/2 page ad in the Journal. We support this very important fund raiser for the CSJ.

If there are any issues that we should know about here in Rochester that would concern the CSJ please contact Brother Matthew Grosodonia Lodge CSJ Liaison. We are particularly interested at this time of year on school budgets and how they will affect Italian Language courses (take note Greece Residents).

Sempre Avanti!!

OSIA Organization Rules and Regulations

The Local Lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge of the State and is subordinate to such Grand Lodge. The Local Lodge participates in the administration of the affairs of the Grand Lodge, to which it is subordinate, through its State Delegates elected each year by its members. The Local Lodge is restricted by the laws of the Supreme Lodge and Grand Lodge but is still considered autonomous in that it may administer its affairs under such rules and regulations adopted by it (approved by the membership) AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF THE GRAND AND SUPREME LODGES.

The executive power of the Local Lodge, when the assembly is not in session, shall be exercised by its Council. Thus if a decision must be made and cannot wait for the next Assembly meeting, the Council can proceed.

The legislative power, i.e. the power to make and promulgate laws shall be exercised by the Local Lodge (Assembly), while in session, in all matters concerning the rights and obligations of its members. This is provided the laws made and promulgated are not in conflict with the laws of the Supreme and Grand Lodges.

If a Local Lodge wishes to have the Grand Lodge consider a change in the Laws of the Order, the proposal must be presented to the Recording Secretary of the Local Lodge no less than 3 months prior to the date fixed for the next State Convention. The Recording Secretary forwards it to the State Recording Secretary. If the proposal affects the Laws of the Supreme Lodge, the State Recording Secretary will forward it to the National Recording Secretary. The proposal is then refer it to the "Laws Committee" and so on.

Lodge Council Members Duties and Responsibilities

Each month, for the next several months, we will be featuring information about the role of the different lodge council members in order to give all of our members a better understanding of these roles within the overall organization.

Trustees

There are 5 Trustees elected by the assembly for 2 year terms . Out of the 5 ,one is appointed by the President as "Principal Trustee".

The duties of the Trustees , as noted in ART. 29 of the General Laws , are:

- a) To examine and audit the books kept by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge.
- b) To examine and audit the quarterly report of the Financial Secretary, certifying as to its correctness by affixing their signature thereon (no less than 3 Trustees).
- c) To perform such additional duties, in matters pertaining to their office, imposed upon them by the laws of the Order or by the deliberations of the assembly of the Lodge.
- d) The Chair of the Bereavement Committee will request an audit of the books of the Bereavement Fund at least once a year as well as reviewing the Annual Report.
- e) The Principal Trustee will see that the quarterly audit is done during the month following the last month of each quarter and report the results to the Assembly at the next Assembly meeting as part of the Financial report. The PT will make recommendations if there is a need to change something.
- f) All Financial reports are not considered accepted until the Trustees have signed the reports.

NOMINATIONS UPDATES

Nominations Committee Chairperson: Sister Linda Agnello

2015/16 Elected Lodge Officers

The following officers were elected at our January General Assembly meeting. These officers will be installed at our Officers Installation Brunch in March. And will serve a two year term.

President: Vincent Giannantonio

1st Vice President: Sandra Meleca

2nd Vice President: Thomas Meleca

Financial Secretary: Joseph Rubé

Recording Secretary: Marisa Rubé

Treasurer: Louis DeCarolis

Orator: Bonnie Cottone

Sentinel: Ross Cottone

Mistresses of Ceremony: Nancy

Rubé, Catherine DiNicola

Trustees: Ed Groszewski, Luigi

DiFilippo, Matthew Grosdonia,

Antonio Palucci, Marjorie Focarazzo

Non elected Positions:

Immediate Past President: Joseph Rubé

Chaplain: Patricia Galante

Convention Delegates

At our February General Assembly Meeting on February 12, 2015 we will have a ballot with the names of everyone that has contacted Linda Agnello (288-4234 saying they were interested in being a delegate to the State Convention of OSIA held at the Villa Roma Resort in the Catskills May 28th through 31st, 2015. Our President, Vince Giannantonio and our Past President Joseph Rube', MD are required to attend the convention as our Lodge delegates.

Everyone present at the meeting will pick four names from the list on the ballot. The four people with the most votes will be delegates and the next two will be alternates.

Alternates become delegates if a delegate has to cancel for some reason.

You are welcome to attend the convention even if you are not elected as a delegate. You must register through the Lodge/Grand Lodge in order to get our group rates and to be able to sit with the delegates for meals. Non-delegates will be able to attend all business meetings and entertainment just like regular delegates.

The State Convention of OSIA is a very exciting time and is very informative for those interested in seeing how OSIA works on a state level and not just on a local lodge level. If you have questions about what being a delegate entails and the responsibilities of the position, please give Linda Agnello a call.

Arbitration Committee

At our general assembly meeting this February 12th we will be looking for new members for our Arbitration Committee. This committee is the judicial tribunal of our local lodge and becomes the final overseer for upholding the rules and regulations of the lodge. This is done through an arbitration process with all parties involved. There are no meetings required of this committees members, except when called upon to hear a case after all other means of settlement have been exhausted. The members are called Commissioners and are elected at the biennial meeting for electing officers of the lodge. Their term is for a period of two (2) years. The arbitration committee consists of five Commissioners and five Alternate Commissioners to fill in when a vacancy occurs.

Anyone who is interested in a position to protect the rules and regulations of our lodge is asked to call Linda Agnello (288-4234) prior to our February 12th meeting so your name can be added to our lodge ballot .

MEMBERS CORNER



02/02	Sarah Carbone	02/18	Stephen Cataldi
02/03	Patricia Galante	02/24	Angela Parise
02/12	Joseph Galante	02/27	Sandra Meleca
02/14	Anthony Micciche	02/28	Joseph Capogreco



Sending warm wishes to Brother Bill Agnello as he recuperates from a recent illness.



On January 28th, Brother Luigi (Little Louie) DiFilippo celebrated 60 years since his arrival in the United States from Italy!

Editors Note:

If you have any information for our members corner, please send your submission to marisarube@gmail.com Or call 585-750-8336.

As part of our new format, we welcome lodge members to submit pictures of themselves and their families honoring their Italian heritage and culture. Please submit photos to marisarube@gmail.com.



We all know that food is synonymous with culture for Italians! Pictured here is Brother Tony Palucci with the homemade tomato sauce and sausage that he and his wife, Sister Mickey Palucci make each year!

FEBRUARY IN ITALY

Venice Carnival

The modern Venetian Carnival runs up until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (known as “Mardi Gras”), starting two Saturdays before the Tuesday. Venice carnival dates therefore vary in step with Easter as follows:

Carnival 2013: February 2 – February 12

Carnival 2014: February 22 – March 4

Carnival 2015: February 7 – February 17

Carnival 2016: January 30 – February 9

The word carnival comes from the Latin for “Farewell, meat!”. As Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday) obliged people to fast, during the period up to Ash Wednesday all meat, butter and eggs had to be used up. This religious formality became the excuse for a party that echoed pagan festivities. In late Rome Saturnalia and Lupercalia were moments when licentiousness and wantonry were celebrated – a deliberate upturning of the usual social order. Christianity licensed a comparable period of celebration from Twelfth Night until the midnight of Shrove Tuesday. Popes Clement IX and XI and Benedict XIII were among those who tried hardest to bring Carnival back within proper religious limits, but they didn’t have much influence over Venice.

The history of the Venice Carnival tradition began after 1162. The Republic defeated Ulrico, Patriarch of Aquileia in that year, and began a tradition of slaughtering a bull and 12 pigs in the Piazza San Marco around Shrove Tuesday to commemorate the victory. This celebration gradually grew and 1268 dates the first document mentioning the use of masks.

The eighteenth century was the heyday of Carnival. Venice’s decline in power was accompanied by a conspicuous consumption of pleasure. Rich young nobles doing the European “Grand Tour” made sure these pleasures were theirs as well.

The paintings of Francesco Guardi and his contemporaries, and the diaries of Giacomo Casanova (1725-1798) are the best-known symbols of the age – the languid spirit of carnival an ever-present implication.

Carnival’s significance declined gradually through to the 1930s, when Mussolini banned it. In 1979, a group of Venetians and lovers of Venice decided to revive the tradition. Within a few years, the image of the masked reveller had become a worldwide icon of Venice in winter.

Masks made the Venetian Carnival unique. If you cannot identify the wearer of the mask, you do not know his social status. In this way, Venice temporarily overturned her social order. Some of the masks depicted Commedia dell’Arte characters.

Others were more sinister. The white-beaked mask so famous from photographs is that of the plague-doctor; the beak echoes a doctor’s long breathing apparatus that held a sponge doused in vinegar, thought to hold the plague at bay. The Doges were frequently exercised by the dangers masks allowed, and passed laws limiting their use to within the carnival period; if you wore a mask at any other time of year, penalties were severe.

Information taken from www.visitvenice.co.uk



Italian—An International Language

An estimated 63 million people in 29 countries speak Italian, according to Synonima, a Dutch language service.

In addition to the 58 million native speakers in Italy, Italian is an official language in Switzerland, Slovenia, and Croatia and a second language in 26 other nations. In the US, 1.5 million people speak Italian, followed by 1 million in Australia, 680,000 in Canada, 600,000 in Argentina, 548,000 in Germany, and 500,000 in Brazil. See www.synonima.com for details.

~Contributed by Sister Patricia Galante

Samantha Cristoforetti from Male', Trento, on Nov. 23, became the first Italian female astronaut in space and only the 7th Italian overall. She is working from the International Space Station. The program includes experiments in physical science, biology, and human physiology, radiation research and technological demonstrations, including the use of the space station's first espresso machine.

~Contributed by Brother Joseph Rubé

The Italian Americans, a new two-part, four-hour documentary series about the Italian experience in America, **premieres on WXXI-TV Tuesdays, February 17 and 24, 2015, 9:00-11:00 p.m.**

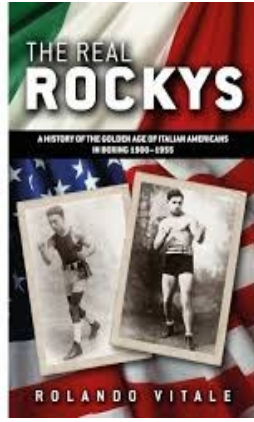
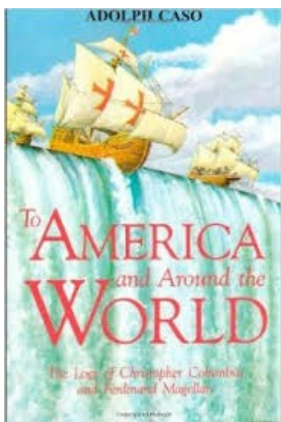
The series written and produced by John Maggio and narrated by Academy Award-nominated actor Stanley Tucci — explores the evolution of Italian Americans from the late 19th century to today, from “outsiders” once viewed with suspicion and mistrust to some of the most prominent leaders of business, politics and the arts today.

The Italian Americans reveals the unique and distinctive qualities of one immigrant group's experience, and how these qualities, over time, have shaped and challenged America. Unlike other immigrant groups, many Italians did not come to America to stay. At the turn of the 20th century, most came to work, earn money to support their families and eventually return home. Nearly half of the first generation of Italian immigrants did return to Italy. For those who made America home, their struggle to maintain a distinct Italian culture was guided by remarkably powerful ideals of family that had always been at the center of their lives. In the Italian family, the needs of the collective came before the individual — a value system often at odds with American ideals of freedom and personal choice. While the power of the Italian family became a source of strength, it also bred suspicion, popularized in popular media as a dark, criminal element. This clash of culture echoed through generations of Italian Americans and, as they entered positions of political, social and cultural influence, has left its mark on the American landscape.

Through extensive archival materials and interviews with scholars and notable Italian Americans — such as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, Tony Bennett, Dion DiMucci, David Chase, Gay Talese and John Turturro, who speak from personal experience — *The Italian Americans* tells the story of those who played vital roles in shaping the relationship between Italians and mainstream American society.

Information taken from interactive.wxxi.org

The Sons of Italy Book Club—Winter 2015 Selections

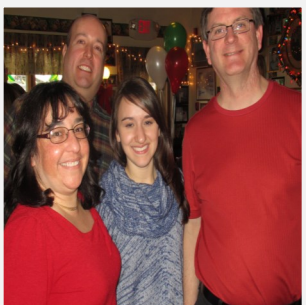
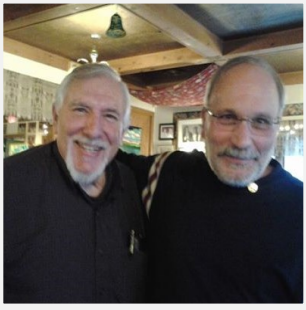


Information taken from *Italian America—Winter 2015 Edition*

December Initiation



Sunday Capodanno Supper



COKE REWARDS

We are still collecting bottle caps and rewards codes from all Coke products. The codes can be found inside the bottle caps or inside the cardboard boxes from canned drinks. We redeem these codes for points towards different items that we can use for raffles at lodge events. If you can't bring them to the next meeting, feel

OSIA APPAREL

OSIA apparel will continue to be available to members. Please contact Brother Joe Rubé at 585-461-1181 if you are interested in ordering, or have any questions about this.

INK CARTRIDGES

Thank you to everyone that has brought us empty ink and toner cartridges this year!

This year our donated rewards points continue to be used for supplies and printing at Staples, to help keep our administrative costs low.

If you have any empties to donate, please bring them to the next lodge meeting or social event .

President

Vincent Giannantonio

First Vice-President

Sandra. Meleca

Second Vice-President

Thomas Meleca

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Cottone

Financial Secretary

Joseph Rubé, MD

Treasurer

Louis DeCarolis

Orator

Robert Meli

Mistress of Ceremony

Nancy Rubé

Ann Vazzana

Sentinel

Ross Cottone

Trustees

Michael Tomaselli

Luigi DiFilippo

Matthew Grosodonia

Edward Grozewski

Antonio Palucci

Immediate Past President

Joseph Rubé, MD

Chaplain

Ann Vazzana

District VIII State

Trustee

Anthony DiCostanzo

Chaplain Emeritus

Sister Carole Proia

Lodge Deputy

Anthony Idoni

District VIII State Deputy

Joseph Rubé, MD

LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

**President Vince Giannantonio
61 Sunset Street, Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 208-1578**

NEWSLETTER COMMUNICATIONS

I welcome any and all newsletter submissions. If you would like to submit anything (stories, traditions, poems, recipes, etc.), please mail or email them directly to me:

marisarube@gmail.com
4552 Wildflower Dr,
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Please also feel free to call or email me with any member news, or corrections to past newsletters.