



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor
January 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to wish everyone a very healthy and happy new year.

Time is passing so quickly and now we are entering a new year with new elections for officers of the lodge. This is an important aspect of the lodge and we need everyone to participate in elections for our new council.

Looking back on the past year, we as a group have gone through some major changes and transitions. We were able to make it through these transitions because of the constant support of our members. I want to thank everyone for his or her confidence in our council and continued support.

We relocated from Casa Italia to St. Nicholas Hall and finally found a home at the Municipal Offices in East Rochester - where we were welcomed with "Open Arms" by the Village Administration.

We were very successful with all the events we took part in this year from the Festivals, to the Heritage Dinner, to the Turkey Raffle and the Holiday Brunch.

However the most important of all our events is our successful Scholarship Program. We were thrilled to give away eight scholarships to very deserving young men and women.

All these events could not have been successful without the perseverance and hard work of the committees and their chairpersons.

As an organization we are always looking to improve the way we function throughout the year. Therefore, our officers and council members want your input of ideas and suggestions to make our lodge work for the betterment of all. Please feel free to contact any of us with your ideas and concerns.

We are looking forward to the upcoming events, especially the Winter Clambake on February 14th at Lions Park in Gates, and the Installation of Officers Brunch on March 15th at the Burgundy Basin Inn.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our future events. We hope you will save the dates and join us.

The experiences I have had as interim president has made me realize that our lodge is not just an organization of people but and organization of family.

Peace to All,
Fraternally yours,
Vince

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OSIAVincentLombardiLodge](http://www.facebook.com/OSIAVincentLombardiLodge)

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VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE EVENTS

January 4th @ 1pm: Annual Lodge Holiday Party @ Nick's Seabreeze Inn (4581 Culver Rd, Rochester)

January 8th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting, Eyer Building (317 Main Street, East Rochester)

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 @ 10am: Officers Installation Brunch @ Burgundy Basin Inn (1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford)

STATE AND NATIONAL OSIA EVENTS

JAN. 30: NYOSIA 22ND ANNIVERSARY WINTER CHARITY BALL HONORING STATE PRESIDENT JOSEPH RONDINELLI, CHARLES FUSCHILLO JR., WILLIAM CAMASTRO, AND THE MAGLIONE FAMILY TO BE HELD AT CHATEAU BRIAND, CARLE PLACE

JAN. 31: NYOSIA WINTER PLENARY SESSION HOSTED BY JOHN MICHAEL MARINO LODGE #1389 AT THE PORT WASHINGTON SENIOR CENTER, PORT WASHINGTON.

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 BAYS, HOWARD BEACH.

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

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nominations Committee Chairperson: Linda Agnello

The Nominating Committee will be working up to our next General Assembly Meeting (1-8-2015) on a slate of officers for the two-year term beginning March 15, 2015. If you would like to be considered for a position on our board, please contact Linda Agnello, Chairperson for the Nomination Committee, at 288-4234. We have at this time at least one nominee for each position. We are still in need of another nominee for the position Master or Mistress of Ceremony. For that position....we need two nominees. Please consider serving on our board as it is important to have new council members and new ideas to keep our Lodge vibrant and moving forward. Proposed new officers will be announced from the floor at our next meeting. If a vote is required, it will be taken at our February 12th meeting. New officers will be installed at the Installation Brunch at Burgundy Basin Inn on Sunday, March 15, 2015.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Chairperson: Tom Meleca

2014 brought the initiation of 20 new members into our lodge family! Let's go for even more in 2015! We encourage all lodge members to sponsor one or more people for lodge membership this year.

Our next new member initiation will be held at the February 12th General Assembly meeting. Any applications that are turned in and approved with dues payment before that time will be initiated.

Editor's Note: In the October/ November edition of our newsletter, one page of pictures was mistakenly titled "IACC Columbus Day Luncheon." This was actually the Italian Civic League Columbus Day Luncheon. Pardon the mis-print.



Congratulations to Sister Sandy Meleca, who received the Lodge Special Membership Shirt for Sponsoring 5 new members in 2014, and will receive at Convention Grand Lodge Membership Incentive Jacket for sponsoring 10

There are libraries around the world in which you can check-out humans as a living book and listen to their stories.



Geneva American Italian Ladies Lodge #2397A (GAIL #2397A) are working collaboratively to sponsor this project. The essay is aimed at Middle School students as defined by the school district in which he/she resides. As we check-out books from the library for research and to gain knowledge, we want students to “check-out” family members, neighbors, or friends of Italian descent, who are 65 years or older, listen to their stories, and write them down to share with us. More information regarding the essay will be available in February, but questions can be directed to: Marjorie (Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270) MAFocarazzo@gmail.com, Steve (Geneva Lodge #2397) smuzzi53@gmail.com, or Sandy (GAIL #2397A) owensgram@rochester.rr.com.

OSIA COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

CSJ District Liaison: Joe Rubé

I would like thank our members for supporting me in taking this position as District 8 CSJ Chairperson. State CSJ Chair Brother Lou Gallo is a very positive leader who exudes confidence in his members that we can make a difference. I have had an opportunity to attend all 3 Lodges' General Assembly meetings and am impressed with the positive attitude of our Local Lodge CSJ Liaisons (Matthew Grosodonia:VLL, Sandy Cannuli Schading: GAIL, and Steve Muzzi: Geneva Men's). For us here in Rochester our main focus has been on preservation of Italian Language Courses in the Greece Schools. We had success here in the past year. Now that it is School Budget time we will keep a watchful eye on things in Greece. We also are concerned that AP Italian may be in jeopardy in the future. We are also monitoring what is going on at Nazareth College and the future of CASA ITALIANA. Our newest project is the Essay Contest sponsored by CSJ as well as financially supported by State CSJ with a monetary award system. Chairwoman Marjorie Focarazzo and her Committee have developed a program that will encompass 6th, 7th and 8th graders in the District (Geneva & Rochester). More info in Sister Marjory's column.

Statewide, we received notice about CSJ involvement in an issue in Latham, upstate NY at the Holiday Inn there. They are holding their New Year's Celebration there and calling it a "MAFIA PARTY". Chair Lou Gallo is asking that as many of us as possible call General Manager Todd Hanlon at the Hotel (518 783 6161) or go to their website at www.ontaplatham.com to post an objection to this type of defamation of Italians. Brother Lou says "Sempre Avanti. Brother Joe

CSJ ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Contest Chairperson:
Marjorie Focarazzo

A library is a place in which reading materials, such as books, periodicals, and newspapers are found to provide us with tools and resources to provide us with information. The Commission of Social Justice (CSJ) of the OSIA has created an essay contest for students to learn about and appreciate Italian culture and heritage.

The Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270, Geneva Lodge #2397 and

OSIA Organization Rules and Regulations...a new Series

In an effort to help educate our members on some of the more complex regulations within our Organization, we present this new series.... We hope that this will help members understand and feel more comfortable in discussions they might take part in. We remind our members that we, as members of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge, are also members of the Grand Lodge of New York State and thus members of the National Supreme Lodge. In developing By Laws or Rules & Regulations for our Local Lodge we are given latitude only if the law being proposed is not in conflict with the laws of our State and National Organization.

Article 18 of the General Laws of the Local Lodges

reads "...no Local Lodge or Grand Lodge..., may become an active member or affiliate member of, or join any other fraternal society or federation, whether it is local, humanitarian or patriotic in nature unless it first obtains the approval of the Supreme Council; provided, however, that a Local Lodge or Grand Lodge may cooperate with other associations to plan, program or participate in a specific endeavor, e.g., Columbus Day, Italian Day, etc."

You, as an individual, can be a member of as many Clubs, Organization, etc., as you wish but as a Lodge we can only be a Filial member of our OSIA State and National Lodges. Always remember that we are proud members of the oldest, active Italian American Organization in this Country.

MEMBERS CORNER

2014 NEW MEMBER

INITIATIONS

Let us all give a warm welcome our 20 new members initiated in 2014:

Marianne Ayer

Pat Bernunzio

Lillian Bonanni

Chris Ciaccio

Regina Ciaccio

Franca Cinelli

Quintino DiCesare

Onelia DiCesare

Sam DiPerna

Charlene Dodgson

Terry Fico

Mary Kosinsky

Robert Kosinsky

Richard Meleca

Silvano Orsi

Chris Przepiora

Mary Renere

Annette Taddeo

Hugh Warner



01/01 Mary Kosinsky
01/02 Samuel Mammano
01/04 Anthony Cataldi
01/06 Paul DeCarolis
01/07 Matthew Sisto

01/11 Ron Santoli
01/15 Frank Oliveri
01/20 Marianne Ayer
01/24 Frank Romeo



Our thoughts and prayers go out to lodge member Sal Cutaia and his family. Sal's brother, Charlie (Lillo), passed away on December 30th, in Italy at 84 years old.



Wishing lodge member Mary Delman a speedy recovery as she recuperates at home from a recent surgery.

Sending positive, healthy thoughts out to lodge member Pat Sculli as he continues his recuperation at home.



Congratulations to lodge member Tony Cataldi on his recent engagement to Lynn Perkins!



A warm thank you to lodge member Ed Maruggi. Ed donated \$500 to our scholarship fund via the inventory and sale of his wonderful books!

JANUARY IN ITALY

EPIPHANY

The celebration of Epiphany or Epifani, is celebrated in Italy on January 6th, the eve of which (Jan 5th) is the 12th night, or little Christmas. Epiphany, which means “revelation”, celebrates the day the three Wisemen reached Bethlehem, the day of the revelation of Jesus’ birth. The famous carol, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, was written about the days between December 25th and January 6th. In Italy, Epiphany is the last day of the Christmas season, when the main exchange of gifts takes place.

In many cities in Italy, a traditional Epiphany procession moves through the streets, leading to a Nativity scene. In addition, many Italian families bless their homes with holy water and incense. The water, prepared on the eve of the Epiphany, is used to ward off evil spirits and purify the home and family. In Rome, a toy and sweet fair takes place, featuring a procession, led by La Befana, to the fountains of Piazza Novona. In Milan, a procession of the Rei Magi (Three Kings), takes place.

(Taken from: Italian-American Holiday Traditions: Celebrations and Family Entertainment, By Lori Granieri)



LA BEFANA

La Befana is the benevolent old woman with magical powers who brings gifts to the children of Italy on the eve of Epiphany. Like most legends there are many versions. This is just one of them. The name Befana is derived from the word epifania, the Italian name for the religious festival of the Epiphany. In the weeks preceding the Epiphany, the children of Italy are busy writing notes to La Befana, telling her the presents they would most like to receive. They are on their best behavior because they know that La Befana will leave a lump of Coal, instead of sweets and toys, for ill-behaved children.

The story takes place at the time of the birth of the baby, Jesus, the Christ Child. La Befana is an old woman who lives in a house in the hills of Italy. She once had a husband and Child, but now lives alone. La Befana spends her days sweeping and baking. One night, she notices a bright light in the sky. She thinks nothing of it and goes back to her work. Later a caravan led by the Three Wise Men stops at her door. They ask her for directions to Bethlehem. They also invite her to join in their search for the Christ child. Befana refuses because she is too busy and knows nothing of this faraway place and the birth of a special baby. After the caravan disappeared over the hills, La

Befana thought of how much she missed her child who sadly died at very young age. She changed her mind and wanted to visit this special child, mainly because she loved children very much. So she placed some baked goods and gifts for the child in a sack, and took her broom to help the new mother clean. She raced out after the caravan in search of the Baby Jesus. La Befana soon became lost. Just as she tired, Angels appeared from the bright magic star that she had seen earlier. The Angels bestowed magic powers to La Befana that allowed her to use her broom to fly in the sky. This was a night of miracles. She searched and searched for the Baby Jesus but could not find him. She still searches after all these centuries. Every year on the eve of Epiphany, whenever La Befana comes to a house where there is a child, she drops in through the chimney, to see if it might be the child she seeks. It never is, but La Befana leaves a gift any way. For La Befana has come realize, over the years, that her searching is not in vein, that in a way the Christ Child can be found in all children.

*Adapted from a story that appeared at Calandra Italian Institute Internet site.

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 free to email the codes to Marisa at

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 .

VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

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

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Matthew Grosodonia

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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:

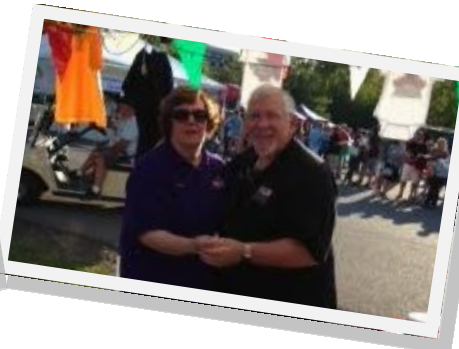
**President Vince Giannantonio
61 Sunset Street, Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 208-1578
vinnyg1951@gmail.com**

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.



2014—A Look Back





2014...A LOOK BACK

