



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
August 2020 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Isaiah 40:29, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.” We all have been defeated and discouraged many times in our life, sometimes the blows have literally knocked us down and we exhibit feelings of hopelessness and despair. We have been overwhelmed with this pandemic, grief, loss, tension, and confusion. We wonder if we can survive these catastrophic events and what our life will be like. We find it difficult to muster up the strength, will, or courage to continue on. Most often, things get better, and we become stronger. Sometimes our lives change. To live our lives to the fullest, it is important to learn how to persevere and deal with the challenges life throws at us: adversity, pain, feelings of hopelessness, and loss. When we don’t know what to do, we are unable to move forward and we find regret, fear, pain, disillusionment, and sadness gradually creeps into our lives. How we work through these trials helps us to learn who we are.

The Covid 19 virus has brought about changes in our lives and in society that we could never have imagined. Our lives have been turned topsy turvy. We have been confined to our homes for the most part for months. Those who were furloughed from jobs thought they would be returning, but now there is no indication the job will still exist. Our students have missed out on a great deal: proms, graduations, award ceremonies, musicals and concerts, moving up ceremonies, and future prospects don’t look all that promising. Our elementary and secondary students will find school quite different from what that are used to. College students’, especially freshman, experiences will be totally different than what we experienced when we went to college. There is nothing to compare it to.

Sometimes getting a different perspective can help us. Someone else’s view on our situation can help us create empathy and compassion for ourselves. By focusing on one thing at a time lets us concentrate totally on that one item, which will allow us to handle the things that are most important in our lives and not completely distract us. Looking at the bigger picture instead of minute details can make us decide what we want to do and what we love to do.

It is understandable when we are facing tough times, we can become overwhelmed and lost. It is hard to be hopeful and optimistic. I hope each of you find strength and perseverance during these tough and unforeseen times, and that you will keep moving forward. Abraham Lincoln said, “The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time.”

God Bless and stay safe,
Marjorie

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Unfortunately, our lodge member picnic for this year has been cancelled. It was a difficult decision to make since we enjoy the event with great food and spending time with members, family, and friends. But the health, safety, and well-being of all our members and guests is paramount to the picnic committee and council.

We look forward to celebrating next year.
God Bless and stay safe.

Scholarship Awards Presentation Update



For the health and safety of all involved, we cancelled our in person scholarship awards night this year. However, we wanted to make sure we do something special to recognize these outstanding students, and to make sure that our members are able to participate in some way.

On August 6th, 11th, and 24th, we will doing a “Drive Up” scholarship awards presentation to each of our students. A small group of us will drive to the homes of each of our winners, including our Bella Lingua award winner, where we will present the students with their certificate and scholarship check in their front yard.

There are several ways that you can join in the fun: If you would like to participate in person, please contact Sister Marisa, scholarship committee chairperson, at marisarube@gmail.com for more details. Additionally, we will be Facebook Live streaming these presentations, so you can join us online starting at 6pm on August 6th, and 6:30pm on August 11th and 24th. If you are not able to join in person or online for these events, don't worry, our September newsletter will be devoted to our winners, and we will include a video of the events.

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2020 Calendar

August 6th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting: Cancelled

August 6th Scholarship Award Presentations. Presentations to Ava DiNicola, Michaela Meleca, Marissa Nicastro, Anthony Palucci

August 11th Scholarship & Bella Lingua Award Presentations: Presentations to Liza Cotter and Francesca Martinez.

August 13th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting: No in person meeting. Held virtually and by phone. See instructions on next page.

August 24th Scholarship Award Presentations. Presentation to Sean O'Hare.

September 3rd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting
September 10th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 1st @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting
October 8th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 5th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting
November 12th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 19th @ TBD: Annual Thanksgiving Gathering (Location TBD)

December 3rd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting
December 10th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

Happenings at the Geneva Lodge

August 8th, 4:30-7:30pm: Pasta Dinner Night
Rigatoni and Meatballs with side salad and a dinner roll. \$9/pp. Sides of gizzards and greens & beans plus pastries for dessert also available for purchase. Dine in or take out.

September 5th, 10am: Annual Lodge Golf Tournament
Big Oak Golf Course in Geneva. 18 hole 4 person scramble. \$75/pp or \$300/team includes lunch at the grill, beverages on the course, and steak dinner at the lodge, where prizes will be awarded. Dinner only tickets available for \$20/pp. Download the application at www.osia2397.com. Applications must be received at the lodge by 8/31/2020

Tuesdays through August 18th, 5:30 - 7:30pm: Steak Night
10oz Strip Steak - \$12, Fried Butterfly Shrimp - \$10, Grilled Chicken Breast - \$9. All dinners include side salad, fries or salt potatoes, and dinner roll. Dine in or take out.

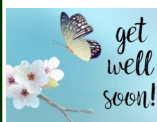


8/2: John Pecora
8/10: Joan Brandenburg
8/11: Ernie Capone
8/12: Linda Agnello
8/12: Jerry Griffo
8/13: Pat Rask

8/22: Jacqueline Perrotta
8/23: Jeremy DiFilippo
8/24: Tom Meleca
8/27: Saverio LaPietra
8/31: Joe Rubé



Sending love and prayers to Brother Gordon and Sister Pat Rask for the loss of their nephew.



Sending get well wishes to Brother Ron Santoli after a recent hospitalization. Brother Ron is now home and doing well.

August 13th Virtual General Assembly Meeting Instructions



Topic: Vincent Lombardi Lodge General Assembly Meeting
Time: August 13th, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting with the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83553067747>

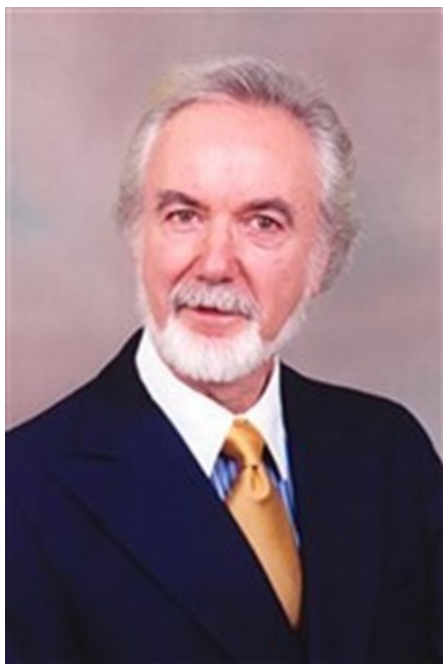
Or Call in using this number:
+1 646 558 8656

If prompted, use the following meeting ID #
Meeting ID: 835 5306 7747

FIG (Friends of Italian Genealogy) 2020 Italian Genealogy Project Award

Once again, through the generosity of Dr. Ed Maruggi and his wife Carolyn, the Friends of Italian Genealogy are sponsoring the Italian Genealogy Project Award. The post-secondary program that the award winner will be attending will receive a check for \$1,200. Winner or not, all participants will enjoy learning about their ancestral connections to Italy, as they trace their forbearers to their European roots. To successfully complete a contest entry, the students will tap into a rich load of resources including on-line and library archives, government issued documents, treasured family documents, and interviews with relatives. The final project must be presented in person to a panel of local genealogists for judging.

This competition is open to any high school senior planning to continue his or her education at a college or university, apprenticeship program, or technical or trade school in 2021. Students should complete their application by October 15, 2020 and expect to receive a packet of helpful materials by return mail. Applications are available from Dr. Joseph Rubé at bolognadoc.aol.com or 1 Westin Court, Pittsford, NY 14534.



**Members Making A Difference: Joseph Antinoro-Polizzi
Social Scientist, Cultural Historian, Professor Emeritus, Publisher, Author**

Joseph Antinoro-Polizzi has been a long-standing member of the Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy and lives the farthest distance from our Lodge in Sarasota, Florida. A 1956 graduate of Aquinas Institute, he received his Bachelor of Science from St. John Fisher College. While there, he received the Rochester Rotary Scholarship to study at the United Nations. He earned his Master of Arts at Fordham University in 1962. He continued his studies at Cornell University and was a Fulbright Scholar from 1963-1964 and completed his academic and research work at the University of Perugia and University of Naples, Italy where he earned his doctorate in 1967. He taught at his alma mater for 23 years and retired emeritus in 1988.

Dr. Polizzi's doctoral thesis, *Southern Italian Society, Its Peasantry and Change* and other writings concentrated on issues of modernization in developing countries, many of which were published in respected peer review journals. Since retirement, his writings reflect diverse topics.

While living in Pittsford, his home, Villa Perla, was the setting for The Ausonia Heritage Preservation Foundation, Inc. in which he served as the vice present. He was the instrument force in the creation of the Casa Italiana and the center of Italian Studies at Nazareth College. At his home in Sarasota, he has served as cultural director and president for the Ausonian Society for more than 20 years.

Dr. Polizzi has a strong advocate of the arts, donating to the Eastman School of Music and the Sarasota Music Archive. He has an extensive rare collection of opera memorabilia, obtained from the personal library of his dear, personal friend, Monsignor Dante del Fiorentino, biographer of composer Giacomo Puccini.

At the present time, Dr. Polizzi serves on an international team of scholars and forensic scientists studying and authenticating the Italian Old Master paintings. He has published a children's story, *The Court of Winter Roses*, that is set to the music of an early American composer. He is working towards having it produced as an operetta or ballet. In his spare time, he enjoys reading the literary works of ancient and renaissance thinkers, collecting antiques, traveling, and playing baroque compositions.

He has been recognized by Marquis Who's Who Top Educators for his dedication, achievements, and leadership in the field of philosophical studies.

Publications: *Illustrissimo Palladio: Architect of the Veneto and the World*; *The New Flowering: A Cameo of Women in Ottocento Italian Art*; *The Golden Orrery*, a story based on the life experiences of an Italian Ancestor; *Lady of Asolo: A Pictorial History of the Life and Times of Queen Caterina Cornaro*; *My Grandmother Used to Say*, now in its fifth edition; *The Golden Conch: An Anthology on the Splendid Isle of Sicily*; *Bel Giro: Italian Places in Rhapsodic Images, Odes, Word-Paintings, and Poetic Fragments*; *The Italian Garden*.

My Grandmother Used to Say was a collaborative effort with Angeline Guzzetta-Jones, an Associate Professor of Modern Languages at Nazareth College for 27 years. From 1957-1970 she was the Foreign Language Supervisor at the Greece Central School District, a visiting lecturer of Spanish and Italian at St. John Fisher College from 1970-1971. In 1966, she received the New York State Foreign Language Teacher of the Year Award, and in 1987, the Nazareth College Casa Italiana Columbus Day Achievement Award.

The Italian Pleasure Garden
Brother Joseph Antinoro-Polizzi

When in the 15th century, Charles VIII returned from a campaign in Naples, he brought back to France not only the paintings, sculptures and other artistic treasures, but also more than twenty Italian artists to beautify his castle and grounds at Amboise. “The garden of Naples”, he observed, “only lacked Adam and Eve to make them an earthly paradise.” Following his example, his successor, Louis XII, commissioned the Italian garden designer, Father Pacello di Mercogliano, to create the impressive gardens of Blois, later enlarged by Francois I (in whose enviable artistic retinue was the incomparable Italian genius, Leonardo da Vinci). Over time, the Italian pleasure garden style would be widely admired and copied in continental Europe, England, and America, and as far distant as Russia and China.

As the Italian garden style took shape in the Renaissance (credited to the Florentines, more specifically the Medici; thereafter, the extremely rich and princely notables of Rome), it consisted of (1) a harmonious union of the elements of the small, intimate domestic, as well as the grand-scale fabled imperial or antique Roman gardens; and 2) certain facets of past Arabic gardens, such as the celebrated “Cuba” of Frederick II’s brilliant court at Palermo Sicily.

In concept, the garden was viewed as an integral part of the household’s gracious living space and, importantly, a visual or experiential entity reflecting the taste, culture, achievements, or aspirations of its owner(s). Its creation was not simply an exercise in “decoration” of nature, but often a highly intellectualized process integrating elaborate mythological, literary, genealogical and other themes. In intent (use), the garden was created to provide an enchanting setting for cultivated human enjoyments: private quiet and reflection or stimulating conversation and gaiety, sensory delights, music and song, theatrical events, games and feasting, and not least importantly, family or public events (for example, weddings or the visits of dignitaries).

Generally, the Italian pleasure garden combined among its most basic features: favorable or enhancing sitting factors; greenery in choice areas; topiary, box, knots and parterres in geometrical and other shapes; pleasing placement of fountains, pools and still-water ponds; sculptures and various carved stoneworks; open colonnaded walkways (pergolas and berceau); flowering bushes in terracotta vases or tubs, and so forth. Still later additions to the garden in the Baroque period included much more elaborate (and sometimes astonishing or surprising) hydraulics or waterworks, “ruins”, and temples, whimsical pavilions and grottoes for cool recess and dining, unusual contouring of terrain highlighted with dramatic statuary, staircases and balustrades, all with the attempt to bring the “formal” (civilizing) aspects of the garden to contrast with the backdrop of the extensive forest or woods (wild nature). At this heightened level of development, the ultimate goal was beautiful spectacle — theatre! How Italian!!!

Many principles and facets of the Italian pleasure garden reached an expressive “frenchified” apex with the grand-scale glories of Andre LeNotre’s Versailles, but it was the adaptations, set in the luxuriant verdure of the English countryside that became the most felicitous embodiment. One of the first such gardens was at Wolsey’s (the Henry VIII’s) Hampton Court, but in time several more aristocratic Italian gardens were to be successfully created. Some, such as the exquisite one at Blenheim Palace, still flourish today, often adjoining later 18th and 19th century “romantic”, “natural garden”, or “landscape parks” with patterned plots of variegated flowers, large expanses of curvilinear green lawns punctuated with architectural “follies” (temples, pavilions), bridges and so forth. It may be interesting to know that the composer and avid lover of flowers, Sir Elton John, has in recent years created a magnificent Italian garden at his principal home outside of London.

In the early modern era in North America (the U.S.), the Italian garden style was popularized by two individuals: the painter and architect, Charles Adams Platt, and the novelist (of Age of Innocence fame), Edith Wharton. It was often created as an elegant extension of the mansions of industrial and financial magnates and other successful individuals and celebrities. It’s essential elements were sometimes freely combined with particular American details or interests.

The lovely gardens at Sonnenberg in Canandaigua would be a fitting example of such close to home.

Source: Joseph Antinoro-Polizzi, IN PRAISE OF THE ITALIAN GARDEN: AN ESSAY WITH ANTIQUE ILLUSTRATIONS, SKETCHES AND ENGRAVINGS, PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, CURIOSITIES AND POETIC FRAGMENTS. Sarasota, Florida: Ausonia Press, 2015.

Italian Wine Painter Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

Your first thought after reading the title is a Renaissance artist who paints grapes or vineyards or glasses of wine. But that could not be further from the truth. Piedmont based, modern, 21st Century artist, Vincenzo Reda, likes to paint with the same wine he drinks. You have read correctly, Reda paints using the same wine he drinks. Born in 1954 in Calabria, he has lived and worked in Turin for the past sixty years. He has worked in photography and filmmaking, dabbled in advertising and publishing.

“I like everything about wine. Wine has flowed in my veins since I was small,” he says. Both his grandfather and father were winemakers, and the regional Ciro’ wine is still one of his favorites. Reda has been painting on paper, cloth, and glass using red and white wine since 1993. He studies every minute detail of what he plans to paint and uses various materials from cotton and sponge to hand and even his foot.

Painting with wine started quite by accident when wine fell on a friend’s business card accidentally. That image left an indelible mark and inspired him to experiment with this new art form. He says, “Sometimes, particularly at night, after drinking wine, I spread it on certain types of paper and wait for a miracle to happen. But it’s not that simple; I have to wait for days, weeks, and even months for the shapes and shades I desire.” He first started with Barbera and Pinot Noir from Burgundy. Reda says that Nebbiolo can be a tough wine to paint with but a very easy one to drink! He has tried different types of material—fabric, leather, crystal, but paper works best, and grapes with a high level of anthocyanins produce wines of more vibrant shades. Dolcetto, Montepulciano d’Abruzzo, Primitivo, and Merlot have the best and brilliant shades. His favorite for painting is Dolcetto, but cheap wine works just as well as expensive ones. He says the wine oxidize on paper and turn brown, sienna, neutral, and warm shades. He uses only wines he has drunk, knows the producer, and its history.

Reda says wine is not only a color or a simple drink. Every wine has a story that can go back for centuries.

Sometimes it starts with a single vine planted in an obscure place where nothing can grow, but everything falls into place—geological formations and evolution of climate that is just perfect for a tenacious but delicate plant who roots reach deep down, which starts yet another story. For Vincenzo Reda, the wines provide him with creative originality and technical skills.



How They Met Brother Ed Maruggi

During the African Campaign of World War II, an Italian soldier, Adolfo Poletti, was captured by allied forces in Tunisia, (North Africa) and sent to a prisoner of war camp in the United States. He was first detained in Cheyenne, Wyoming then relocated to Denver, Colorado and finally sent to the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York. During his detainment at the Seneca Army Depot, Italy became an ally to the U.S. forces. After this point in time a few extra privileges were granted to the prisoners. They were able to form teams and play soccer games and other sports. They also enjoyed dances held on the premises, to which the general public was invited.

Josephine D’Accursio, a resident of Fairport, New York, enjoyed going to dances at the camp along with her friends. On a particular evening, she spotted Adolfo across the dance floor and, at once, announced to her friends that she was going to marry him. Their first dance was to the song, “Rum & Coca-Cola” by the Andrew Sisters. Over time she attended the dances often and enjoyed this blossoming relationship with him.

Josephine could not tell her very strict mother that she was seeing Adolfo, so when she wanted to go to the camp to visit him, she would say she was going to a friend’s birthday party.

Her plan was unique. She would send herself a birthday invitation to an imaginary party, and on the day of the party, she would wrap an empty box and leave the house under her mother’s watchful eye. Soon after leaving the house she would throw the “birthday gift: in the Erie /canal, which she needed to cross on the way to catch the bus to Romulus.

The relationship was interrupted at the end of the war because Adolfo was sent back to Italy. They corresponded frequently and shortly after the war, Josephine gained passage on a Liberty Ship and sailed for two weeks to reunite with Adolfo. Through the efforts of Adolfo’s sisters, Lina and Maria, they were granted permission to get married at Saint Anne’s Chapel within the Vatican.

They returned to Fairport where they raised three daughters and one son. Adolfo passed away one month before their fortieth wedding anniversary.

Becoming an American citizen was very important to Adolfo.

He was proud to be an Italian American. An annual award is presented to an eighth grade, male and female student, who has shown exemplary citizenship throughout their middle school years at the school where Adolfo worked. This award is known as the “Adolfo Poletti Citizenship Award.”



Vincent Lombardi Lodge—The early 2000's



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