



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
February 2020

Dear Sisters and Brother:

Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow today, and as the custom goes, that means an early spring. But whether you believe there is still six more weeks of winter or six weeks until spring, it all comes down to our perspective. No matter which you choose, spring officially starts on March 19th.

February 29, 2020 is Leap Year Day. We gain an extra day this year, giving us 366 days. The extra day helps synchronize the calendar year with the solar year. Leap Years are divisible by four but not 100. Leap Year Day is heaped in traditions and superstitions: women have the right to propose marriage; a Greek superstition is couples will have bad luck if married during a leap year; the Scots believe that being born on Leap Day is bad luck but babies born on February 29th can join The Honour Society of Leap Year Babies; others believe it brings increases spirituality; the City of Anthony which crosses the border of Texas and New Mexico has declared itself Leap Year Capital and holds a four day celebration; the Olympics is always held in a leap year; and it is considered Rare Disease Day, which embellishes over 7000 rare diseases in the world. However, you decide to look at February 29th, it gives us an extra day this year.

While we look forward to that extra day, our Lodge can also look forward to The Winter Picnic/ Clambake on Valentine's weekend. Our raffle proceeds will benefit one of our charities, The Gift of Sight. If you have not reserved your spot, please do so as soon as possible. We look forward to great food from Picnics and Parties by Mark.

Our General Assembly Meeting on February 13th will include a guest speaker, The Bread Man. Chet Fery is a former administrator with the Gates Chili School District who brings the message of kindness through giving away loaves of bread. He is engaging and inspiring through his Bread Time Stories. Let's change the world one loaf of bread at a time, one random act of kindness at a time.

Membership reconciliation has been completed and we have as of January 31, 2020, 125 members, the number used to determine the number of delegates we can send to convention. If you have not attended one, it is a unique experience giving insight into how the organization is managed. Committees—budget, CSJ, membership, scholarship, etc.—meet during the time spent there providing more detailed information. We will be deciding in the next month who our representatives will be, so now is a good time to let us know if you would like to be a part of this event.

This letter started with the perspective of whether we have six more weeks of winter or will spring come early. Either way, our Lodge has a lot to look forward to over the next few months. Be sure you read your newsletters to know what is coming. If you have a suggestion for a program, please let us know. We will research what is feasible, but we won't know if you keep it to yourself.

Have a great February,
Marjorie

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OSDIA State/National Events

February 23rd:
NYS CSJ 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance
(Howard Beach, NY)

April 17th-19th:
202 Student Summit
(Washington DC)



Geneva Lodge Events

February 12th @ 7pm
A discussion on the history of the Italian
Opera, with song
no charge

February 14th @ 6pm
Valentine's Dance
no charge, just bring a dish to pass

February 24th @ 6pm
Geneva Shrine Club Belly Dance Night
\$30/pp includes dinner

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2020 Calendar

February 6th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

February 13th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**February 16th @ 1pm: Winter Clambake/
Picnic (Lion's Park, Gates) \$25/pp + \$7/dz
clams RSVP Due: February 10th**

March 5th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

March 12th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

April 2nd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

April 9th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**April 26th @ TBD: Italian Regional Dinner
featuring the Lazio Region (Eyer Building,
East Rochester)**

May 7th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

May 14th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**May 28th—June 1st : NYS OSDIA Grand
Lodge Convention (Villa Roma Resort,
Callicoon)**

June 11th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 2nd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

July 9th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 6th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

August 13th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**August 23rd @ TBD: Annual Members
Picnic (Quinzi Lodge—Eyer Park, East
Rochester)**

September 3rd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

September 10th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 1st @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

October 8th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**October 16th @ TBD: Christopher Columbus
Italian American Heritage Dinner (Location
TBD)**

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



2/3: Patricia Galante
2/9: James Caternolo
2/12: Joe Galante
2/14: Anthony Micciche
2/18: Stephen Cataldi

2/20: Andrea Cole, Vivian Sciortino
2/21: Frank Giancaterin, Gloria Scotto
2/27: Sandy Meleca
2/28: Joe Capogreco



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and family of our member, Sister Mary Yacono, who passed away on December 28th.



Sending healing thoughts to Sister Nancy Rubé as she recuperates from surgery.

Please keep our president, Sister Sandy Meleca, and other long time members Sister Eva Fantauzzo, Brother Gerald Camardo, Sister Mary Delman, and Brother Franklin D'Aurizio in your prayers as they continue to fight health battles.



One of our previous Heritage Dinner award winners, Julie Camardo-Steron, is a recipient of the Sixth Annual Athena Young Professional . Congratulations Julie!



Books, books, and more books!

We are considering the idea of starting a book club. Our National lodge created an online list of fiction and non-fiction books written by OSDIA members around the country, and are encouraging lodges to incorporate a book club where members can read and discuss these. Are you interested in forming or joining an Italian culture themed book club? If so, please let our editor know at marisarube@gmail.com or 585-750-8336. If we have enough interest we

January General Assembly Meeting—What You Missed!!

The first General Assembly Meeting of the new year was held on January 9th. Part of the Financial Report given by Br. Louis was a meeting with the Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF) explaining a couple of ways we could invest our scholarship fund through them and what is needed to proceed in that direction. We are not ready to take the next step with RACF, wanting to investigate other options before deciding.

Most communications came from the NYS Grand Lodge with information about awards to be presented at convention. We have the criteria for the Literary Award in Memory of Pietro Di Donato and John Fante, Coronaro Award, and Community Outreach Awards.

La Bella Lingua Award information and criteria which is sponsored by the CSJ has been mailed to Gates Chili High School. Greece Central School District, McQuaid Jesuit High School, and Irondequoit High School. Deadline for submission is March 20, 2020. A \$500 award will be presented to the winning graduating senior at our Scholarship and Award Celebration in August.

The Lodge membership will be reconciled soon and sent to the Grand Lodge by January 31, 2020. Our membership will determine what we will pay in per capita for this year and the number of delegates to represent us at convention.

The membership agreed to adopt Roberts Rules -Simplified. The purpose is to make our meetings more efficient, to stay focused on the topic being discussed, and to give everyone a chance to have input in the discussion.

Our next event, the Winter Picnic/Clambake, will be held on Sunday, February 16th, 1:00 pm at Lions Park in Gates. At the time of the meeting, we had no definitive cost for the meal or clams. A flyer would be distributed as soon as we have a firm price.

We adjourned to refreshments and want to thank everyone who brought something to share. Your attendance and input are very important and greatly appreciated. Thank you. Marjorie



2019 Commission for Social Justice Recap

Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

A monumental accomplishment for the CSJ was receiving an apology from New Orleans Mayor, LaToya Cantrell, for the 1891 killings of eleven Italian immigrants, who were arrested without just cause and exonerated for a crime they did not commit, when a mob stormed the Parish Prison. On April 12, 2019 Mayor Cantrell issued a Proclamation of Apology, On the site a plaque has been placed honoring the men who were murdered, and the CSJ is currently raising funds to erect a statue.

During the summer, the Sons of Italy Foundation sponsored a Student Summit in Washington, DC. The is unique opportunity allowed students to interact with their peers from all over the United States; learn about their rich Italian culture and heritage, including the language and food; tour points of interests and visit the Italian Embassy. We had two students from our region, Annika Morrison and Sarina Gregory, represent us.

La Bella Lingua Award was again sponsored by the NYS CSJ. We received three student applications. Rocco Quatela from Gates Chili High School was the recipient of the \$500 award at our annual Scholarship Award evening in August.

An Education Committee was established in April. Their mission is to ensure that factual information on Christopher Columbus is taught in school. They plan to look at textbooks to see how Columbus, his discovery of the new world, and subsequent trips are depicted. They will review Wikipedia and seek to have any misleading or false statements corrected. They are planning to create a website on Columbus.

Throughout the year number of concerns were addressed with regard to Christopher Columbus:

- ~Rhode Island legislator, Katherine Kerwin support the person who vandalized the Columbus statue. Chair John Fratta will be sending a letter to the Majority Leader of the RI legislature.
- ~Detroit Michigan Teacher wore a shirt that said Columbus was a Murderer. Both Chair John Fratta and National Chair have sent letters asking for her resignation. CSJ Board feels that academia is our worst enemy.
- ~Reno, NV changing the holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day. National is dealing with it.
- ~Over 600 signatures on the petition to declare vandalism to Columbus Statues as a hate crime.
- ~No longer pursuing the issue that refers to Chris Cuomo as "Fredo" with the NY Post.

The NYS CSJ is pursuing the attorney general's office to declare vandalism of a Columbus statue as a hate crime.

The New York City Public Arts Program reneged on the decision through a public poll to honor St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, and Italian immigrant who arrived in NYC in the late 19th Century. She founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and opened many schools and orphanages. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1946, who names her the patroness of Immigrants in 1950. On Columbus Day, Gov. Cuomo announced the state would fund the statue.

Brooklyn College Italian Language Program: they board has decided to remove the Italian Language Program from the "commuter" college. A letter was sent to the college president, Michelle Anderson, voicing our displeasure and concerns over their decision and asking it to be reversed.

The National and State CSJ will continue to address issues of bigotry and bias towards Italian Americans throughout the United States. Their main focus will be retaining Columbus Day as a holiday where we can celebrate the accomplishments that led to the Age of Discovery and Exploration, laid the foundation for the Trans-Atlantic navigational routes and created maps used by later explorers, the Atlantic ocean routes still used today by sailors, and he introduced the principle of compass variation, which is the variation at any point on the Earth's surface between the direction to magnetic and geographic north and observed the rotation of the Pole star. When issues do arise, the support of OSDIA members through phone calls or letter writing will help us to achieve our goals in eliminating prejudices against Italian Americans. Remember: there is strength in numbers.

Member Recipes: Game Day Finger Foods

Cheddar Spinach Squares

Dorothy Servati

8-oz can crescent rolls
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
1/4 cup parmesan cheese, grated
1/4 cup flour
1 1/2 cup half and half
10-oz pkg frozen spinach, cooked
and squeezed to drain
3 eggs, beaten
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg

Heat oven to 350. Unroll dough into two long triangles. Place in an ungreased 13 x 9 baking pan; press over bottom and 1/2 inch up sides of pan. Seal perforations. In medium bowl, combine cheddar, parmesan, and flour. Add half and half, spinach, eggs, salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Mix well. Pour into crust and bake 45-50 minutes or until center is set. Cut into squares.

Crab and Bacon Puffs

Mary Jo Lodato Orsini

2 (6-oz) cans crab meat
1/3 cup bread crumbs
2 Tablespoons dry sherry
2 teaspoons chives, chopped
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 tsp parsley, chopped
1/4 teaspoon salt
10 slices bacon, cut into thirds

Drain and rinse the crab meat. Remove shell or cartilage and squeeze out excess water. In a medium bowl, combine crab meat, bread crumbs, sherry, chives, mustard, parsley, and salt, mixing well. Chill for 30 minutes. Using a tablespoon of mixture, shape into balls. Wrap bacon around the crab balls. Secure with tooth pick. Broil 4 inches from heat for 4-5 minutes or until bacon is crisp.

Biography: Vince Lombardi



On this Superbowl Sunday, we take a moment to honor our the life and work of our beloved namesake, Vincent Thomas Lombardi.

Vincent Thomas Lombardi is arguably the greatest football coach of all time, and is on the short list of history's greatest coaches, regardless of sport. His ability to teach, motivate and inspire players helped turn the Green Bay Packers into the most dominating NFL team in the 1960s.

The oldest of five children, Vince Lombardi was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 11, 1913. As the son of an Italian immigrant, Lombardi was raised in a strict Catholic household. In 1928, at the age of 15, Lombardi entered the Cathedral College of Immaculate Conception to study for the priesthood. Deciding on a different career path two years later, Lombardi transferred to St. Francis Preparatory and starred as fullback on the football team. Upon graduation, Lombardi attended Fordham University and starred on the football team, where he was a member of Fordham's famed "Seven Blocks of Granite". After graduating magna cum laude from Fordham in 1937, Lombardi attended law school in the evenings while working for a finance company during the day. Lombardi once again shifted gears, deciding to take a teaching and assistant football coaching position at St. Cecilia High School in Englewood, New Jersey. During his successful 8-year stint at St. Cecelia, Lombardi married Marie Planitz in 1940 (with whom he had two children, Vince Jr. and Susan).

Lombardi joined the coaching staff at his alma mater, Fordham University, in 1947 and enjoyed a two-year run there. But Lombardi couldn't resist the opportunity to continue his coaching career at West Point in 1949, while learning under the direction of the great Red Blaik. It was during this time as an assistant to Blaik that Lombardi identified and developed what became the hallmark of his great teams.....simplicity and execution. He developed a reputation for being a tireless workaholic, a trait that helped Lombardi land a position as assistant coach in the NFL for the New York Giants. During his five years with the Giants, Lombardi helped lead the Giants to five winning seasons, culminating with the league championship in 1956.

Lombardi became a hot commodity in the coaching arena, accepted the head coaching position and signed a five-year contract with the Green Bay Packers in January 1959. From the outset, Lombardi established himself as a coach firmly in charge. He conducted grueling training camps and demanded absolute dedication and effort from his players. His hard-edged style turned the Packers into the most envied and successful franchise in the 1960's, leading them to five NFL Championships, including victories in Super Bowl I and II, and solidified Lombardi's status as the greatest football coach in history. After a one year break from coaching, Lombardi returned to lead the Washington Redskins in 1969, promptly leading them to their first winning season in more than a decade.

Tragedy struck as Lombardi was diagnosed with an aggressive form of colon cancer in June 1970, and died a short ten weeks later on September 3, 1970 at the age of 57. A beloved national icon, thousands of people attended two separate funerals. Shortly after his death, Lombardi was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, as well as honored by the NFL by having his name adorn the trophy awarded to the Super Bowl champion each year.

Special Feature:
THE BREAD MAN COMETH



Chet Fery, a former Gates Chili educator has given away more than 100,000 loaves of bread that he bakes himself, not in a restaurant or bakery but in his own kitchen. Why? Why would anyone want to bake that much bread and then just give it away? As the saying goes “there is a method for that madness.”

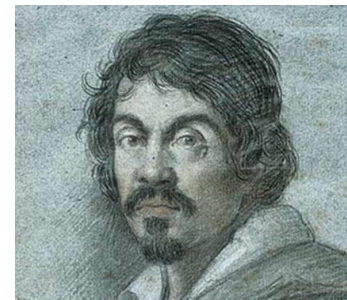
Chet will tell you it isn't about the bread at all. It's about sharing kindness. He says, “Bread and kindness have a way of bringing people together.” His demonstrations and the aroma of freshly baked bread captures an audiences' attention in a special way. Even for those who don't bake, there is the memory of touching bread as it comes from the oven, tasting warm bread (with or without butter as it melts into its crevices), and the smell of bread as it bakes. Chet gets his audience to reflect on that memory, and their mouth starts to water, they lick their lips, and that's when he has them.

Fery connects with students, all the while making bread. He asks them questions, and his unassuming and open demeanor will get students to accept him and open up with their own stories, sometimes sharing their struggles. His wife, Marina, talks of the impact of “Bread Time Stories”, because “you don't know who you will reach”.

A presentation to middle school students in Tonawanda challenged them to perform five acts of kindness everyday for five days. His talk happened a week after the shooting in Parkland, Florida. By the end of the five days, the entire student body had performed over 800 acts of kindness. His message , “ You can control and make the environment you want by what you say and what you do.”

Italian Culture
Caravaggio, an Italian Master

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio was an Italian painter in Rome, Naples, Malta, and Sicily from the early 1590s to 1610. He used a combination of the physical and emotional element of the human state along with dramatic lighting, which later influenced the Baroque period. His technique was close observation of his subject with dramatic flare of darkening shadows and introducing bright shafts of light. He focused on crucial moments and scenes with violent struggles, torture, and death. He worked directly on canvas using live models he found on the streets or prostitutes.



Caravaggio's peers thought him a violent, touchy, and provocative man. He was sentenced to death for murder but managed to flee to Naples to avoid execution. IN 1609, he petitioned for a papal pardon of his sentence so he could return to Rome. Before he could receive the pardon, he was involved in another violent altercation which left him severely disfigured, and rumors circulated that he was dead. He was known to be erratic with bizarre behaviors, and finally succumbed under mysterious circumstances in 1610.

His paintings became part of the counter Reformation period, which was a time when the Catholic Church tried to bring back all those who converted to Protestantism. His effect of contrasting light and shadow was used for dramatic effect, which allowed for heightened intellectual and emotional encounters for that time.

Caravaggio spent his later years in exile, hiding with noble families he knew in Naples. He was able to continue his travels to Sicily, where he created some of his most notable pieces of art, including The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist. Throughout the four years of exile, he continued to pursue the papal pardon. He negotiated with paintings: David with the Head of Goliath and Salome with the Head of John the Baptist. He died before ever receiving his pardon.

Pope Francis is an ardent fan of Caravaggio, with The Calling of Saint Matthew being one of his favorites. In considering this work of art, the Pope says. “This is me, a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze.”



The Calling of Saint Matthew



The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

2020 After Holiday Party



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