



# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor  
January 2020



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

2020 starts a new decade and I believe that good things are in store for our lodge and its members. Sometimes its easy to get lost in the day-to-day business of what is important to us: families, jobs, hobbies, other organizations. Everyone has a role in accomplishing our mission, and no one's role is more important or less important than anyone else's. Understanding the importance of our role within the Sons and Daughters of Italy can help us see how the pieces fit together. Each of us has an area of expertise and how it can benefit the organization and make it successful. We care about who we are, our culture, and our heritage, but we see it changing as each generation moves farther and farther away from its core. We, like so many organizations, need to think out of the box to keep future generations interested in what has made us who we are, how we got here, and where we want to go. Each of us, individually and as part of a team, has the power to keep our lodge current and relevant for our families.

We look forward to a year full of wonderful events for families and friends: winter clambake picnic, CIBI Regional Dinner, participating in the East Rochester Memorial Day Parade, State Convention, our membership picnic, the Heritage Dinner and Dance, and the Thanksgiving Gathering. We are asking that our members take an active part in helping to organize these events. Or help us with writing an article for our newsletter. Or suggest an activity. Your expertise is a powerful gift. Share it! Inspire! Who knows where it may take us!

Peace and Blessings,

Marjorie

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calendar of Events.....2
- Members Corner.....3
- Scholarship Info.....4
- CSJ Report.....5
- Book Review.....5
- Convention Awards.....6
- Recipes.....6
- Event Pictures.....7





### OSDIA Grand Lodge Events

#### **27th Anniversary Winter Charity Ball**

January 31st, 7pm  
Carl Place, NY

#### **Winter Plenary Session**

February 1st, 8:30am  
Deer Park, NY

#### **CSJ 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance**

February 23rd, 12pm  
Howard Beach, NY

#### **Cooley's Anemia Dine Around**

April 7th, 7pm  
Westbury, NY

#### **38th Golden Lion Awards Dinner**

April 24th, 7pm  
Garden City, NY



LET'S PUT GRANDMA IN THE FREEZER  
JAN 16, 2020 - 7:00PM AT : **LITTLE**  
TICKETS - \$12 STUDENTS, SENIORS & SERVICE MEMBERS - \$10 AMERITALROC.COM

Claudia, is living on her grandma's retirement checks. When the grandma dies Claudia sets up a fraud with the help of some friends to avoid bankruptcy and hides the body in a freezer without reporting the death.

Simone, a clumsy and dedicated tax fraud detective, falls in love with Claudia and finds any excuse to see

her, putting Claudia in a precarious situation. It's the comedy of the year. A refreshing experience after the activities of the Christmas holidays.

### Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270

#### 2020 Calendar

January 2nd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

January 9th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**January 12th @ 12pm: After Holiday Party—Valicia's Restaurant (2155 Long Pond Rd, Gates) \$35/pp RSVP by 1/6/20**

February 6th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

February 13th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

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 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

December 3rd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

December 10th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



1/1: Mary Kosinsky  
1/2: Sam Mammano  
1/4: Tony Cataldi  
1/6: Paul DeCarolis

1/11: Ron Santoli  
1/13: Lorrie DiBisceglie  
1/16 Pat Bartholomew

### 2019 Member Participation Contest



The winners of our 2019 Member Participation Contest are the dynamic duo of Kitty DiNicola and Patty Johns! Kitty and Patty participated in all kinds of ways to earn points for this contest, including joining and chairing several lodge event committees, attending meetings, selling pies and ads for our lodge fundraisers, and RSVPing on time for events! Our runners up, not far behind, were Carol DiNicola and Charlene Dodgson. Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest, and in our lodge activities!

We want to send a sincere thank you to Brother Louis DeCarolis for creating this contest, and he and others for providing the funds for the \$1000 scholarship award. This contest would not have happened without you, thank you!

### Computer Class



We are looking to offer a basic class in computers and technology: how to access your email, open attachments, save documents as word/excel/PDF. Our tentative date will be our March 2020 General Assembly Meeting.

Are there any members willing to teach the basics to those of our members who want to be "tech savvy" in 2020 and to help us go "green" by eliminating mailings and protecting our environment.

Please let me know by the end of January your willingness to help each other with some basic skills.  
~Marjorie

### 2020 Heritage Dinner Award Nominations



Anyone willing to serve on the 2020 Heritage Awards Honoree Selection Committee please contact me. I would like to have a meeting on Thursday, February 13th at 5:30 at our normal meeting place in the Eyer Building to discuss nominations for Women of the Year, Man of the Year, Family of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement.

Members, please submit nominations to me by Jan. 31st in writing as to why you feel the nominee should receive an award from the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270. The criteria are to be of Italian descent and to have made some sort of contribution that benefits our community at large or the Italian American community. Each nominee will be given careful consideration by the committee.

~Marjorie

### A note from the editor....

Have you enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter over this past year, as we have added various components such as the Book Review, Members Making A Difference, Member Recipes and other columns? If you have, we need your help to keep this going. Here's how you can get involved:

**Read a good Italian themed book lately?** Consider writing a book review.

**Do you or another lodge member volunteer in some way to help the community, or do something to promote our Italian Heritage?** Submit name and info for our Members Making A Difference column.

**Do you know a lodge member who deserves recognition for an award or other job well done? How about someone who needs our good wishes during illness or after an injury?** Submit name and info for our Members Corner page.

**Do you have a treasured Italian recipe that you would like to share with others?** Submit the recipe for our Italian Heritage Recipes column.

**Hear about a community event that supports our Italian heritage?** Submit the event name and date for our 2020 calendar.

**Have other ideas or other items that could make our newsletter even better?** Submit, submit, submit! I am always open to new ideas.

All items can be submitted to me at [vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com](mailto:vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you!!

~Marisa



## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Sons & Daughters of Italy in America offers college scholarships at all levels of the organization. Here is information on the National, State, and of course our local lodge scholarship opportunities.

### Local Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarships:

**ELIGIBILITY:** 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). Applicant must live in and attend school in Monroe County, or be related to a lodge member if living in another county, and must commence study at an accredited academic institution of high learning in the fall of 2020. Preference is given to students associated with members of the lodge, but anyone that meets the above requirements is eligible and encouraged to apply.

**Fees and Deadlines:** There is no fee to apply. Application deadline is March 31st, 2020. Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered.

Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship applications will be sent to all Monroe County schools and to our members in January 2020. Applications are also available on our lodge website: [www.sonsofitalyrochester.com](http://www.sonsofitalyrochester.com)

Questions? Please contact Marisa Rubé at 585-750-8336 or [marisarube@gmail.com](mailto:marisarube@gmail.com)

### New York State OSDIA Scholarships:

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be of Italian descent and a resident of New York State. Undergraduate and graduate awards are presented to high school or college students who will begin full-time study for the fall academic term of the year their application is eligible to apply for competition. The scholarship awards are based on academic excellence and service. Students must have an average of 85% or above to apply.

**Grant Eligibility:** several grants are awarded to students with special needs. The requirements for grants are the same as noted above except for the need for a minimum of an 85% average. Also, all grant applicants are required to submit a written document of special need.

**Fees and Deadlines:** A \$10 non-refundable processing fee is required with each scholarship application. All applications are due by March 31st, 2020.

For more information and to download the application packet: <http://www.nysosia.org/scholarships>  
Questions? Please contact Marjorie Focarazzo at 585-749-5346 or [mafocarazzo@gmail.com](mailto:mafocarazzo@gmail.com)

### National OSDIA Scholarships

**Eligibility:** U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian- American grandparent) enrolled in a four year undergraduate program or a graduate program at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2018 term. Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific scholarships.

**Fees and Deadlines:** A \$35 non-refundable processing fee is required with each scholarship application. The fee includes a one-year At-Large Membership to OSDIA, with all At -Large Membership benefits. The deadline for all scholarships (unless otherwise noted) is February 28, 2020.

For more details and information go to: <https://www.osia.org/programs/scholarships/>

### A note from our 2019 scholarship recipient, Alyssa Libonati:

My first semester at Binghamton has been even better than I expected. I enjoyed all of the classes that I was enrolled in, although some were very challenging. I look forward to taking more major-related classes in the spring semester, which will include cell biology, a freshman writing course, chemistry, and an advanced writing and debate Spanish class. This semester I joined two organizations, the Binghamton Club Rowing Team and NYPIRG. Being an athlete in high school, I knew joining a new sport would help me make friendships and of course keep me in shape. I love the structure that the team gave me and enjoyed every second of the early morning wake-up calls. NYPIRG is a non-partisan organization that organizes community outreach through specific campaigns. I was personally involved in the higher education campaign, and will begin tutoring students at an alternative high school in the spring. I am thankful for the support that the OSDIA has given me and I cannot wait to see what the next semester holds!



**Book Review**  
**La Passione: How Italy Seduced the World**  
By Dianne Hales

What makes Italian passion so unique? In her book, *La Passione: How Italy Seduced the World*, Dianne Hales writes about Italy's greatest achievements, which are considered extraordinary by anyone's assessment: from its history going back to pre-biblical times and the Holy Roman Empire to its artists to its culinary to music. Everything the Italians "touch" is transformed into something magnificent, long lasting, and unique. What didn't exist, they invented: the first universities, the first public libraries, law and medical schools; the first modern histories, satires and sonnets; the arch used in aqueducts, bridges, and amphitheatres; botanical gardens (the earliest founded in Pisa 1543); carbon paper (1806); cello; dentures (700 BC); eyeglasses (Venice 13th Century); jacuzzi (1915); opera house (Venice 1637); telephone (first patented by Meucci); Galileo thermometer (1593); and so much more.

*La Passione* goes back to Italian roots and follows the transformation through centuries. It records the impact not only on Italy but the entire world through literature, art, music, cuisine, medical advances, technological ingenuity, and style. Its people embraced the changes bringing us to where we are today.

Hales write, "Imagine a world without Italy: painting without DaVinci; sculptures without Michelangelo; literature without Dante; no operas or arias by Verdi or Puccini; no pasta or pizza; no prosecco or chianti; no Murano glass or Burano lace."

Through extensive research she has traveled throughout the Italian countryside embracing its rich tapestry of legends and historical enclaves with interviews and firsthand experiences.

This journey through time is enchanting, enriching, and delightful.

*Submitted by Marjorie Focarazzo*

**CSJ Report: Marjorie Focarazzo**  
**Hermit of the Mountain**



Giovanni Maria de Agostini was a lay monk born in Sizzano, Piedmont, Italy in 1801 to a noble family. He traveled throughout South and North America preaching and using herbal remedies to heal. He was considered a holy man, a healer, and performed miracles, but he did not consider himself these things. He tried to become a monk but could not adjust to the secluded life in a monastery. Yet, he dressed in the habit of a Capuchin friar, wore sandals, and carried religious objects: the bible, medals of Our Lady, and a staff. He wanted to emulate St. Anthony of Qozhaya, a third century Maronite who lived in solitude for 20 years.

Giovanni was fluent in French and Latin. Knew the gospel and had great understanding of theology. He was very intelligent, well educated, and had a purpose. His sermons condemned luxury, warned of judgement day, the torments of Hell, and the possibilities of salvation. He established sacred ways and showed how one could reduce the debt to God. He tried to improve the living conditions and standards of peasants, and he cared for the sick.

He traveled throughout South America. His followers were drawn by word of the miraculous power of his waters. Her performed marriages, baptismal, blessings, and healings. His travels were entirely solo: a trip down the Amazon River by canoe, crossed the Andes on foot several times, walked vast distances refusing to ride in wagons or on horses, slept on the bare ground< and lived a life of solitude in scalding hot deserts and subzero temperatures of the mountains. He received death threats, was unjustly arrested, deported, jailed, and forced confinement in a mental asylum. No matter, Giovanni was persistent in his travels and the way he lived his life.

In 1867, he moved to a cave in the Organ Mountains of New Mexico, known as Hermit's Peak. He lived there for two years when he was found murdered, stabbed to death, by some villagers in 1869. No one was ever arrested for his death.

de Agostini had two aspirations: 1) a fervent desire to devote his life to "perfect solitude" and 2) to travel incessantly. He left behind a wealth of legends, including his own unsolvable murder.

## OSDIA Grand Lodge Convention Awards

Each year at our state convention, the following awards are given out. For more information, or if you know someone who you believe deserves one of these awards, please contact Marjorie Focarazzo. Deadline to submit names for these awards is May 1st, 2020

**Bene Emeritus Award** is the highest award bestowed upon anyone from the NYS Grand Lodge to a Sister or Brother who has performed outstanding deeds to enhance the image of Italian Americans in our local communities and throughout the state. The Grand Lodge protocol is to honor the Immediate Past President at the convention in the following year his/her term has ended, and therefore, on the opposite years, it will be opened to the entire membership. At the 2020 convention, the recipient for the Bene Emeritus Award will be the State Immediate Past President Robert M. Ferrito.

**Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award** is presented to a member who has distinguished themselves in the ideals and principles exemplified by our founder. In order to qualify for this award, members must be members for a minimum of 15 years and given outstanding service and contributions to the NYS Grand Lodge. Recipients of the Bene Emeritus Award or any member sitting as State and/or National Officers are not eligible.

**Family of the Year Award** requirements and qualifications involve a letter of recommendation lodge to include a list of all family members and their respective years as member of OSDIA. A resume to include all activities and accomplishments, civic/community service or involvement, and minimum of ten continuous years as a member for at least of family member.

**Membership Sponsor** must sponsor ten or more members in a calendar year, January thru December to receive either a jacket or \$50 gift check. Each member who sponsors a new member will receive a free "raffle ticket" for each new member sponsored. For example: bring in three new members, receive three free raffle tickets. The drawing will be held at the April Plenary Session. Six winners receiving \$50 each will be drawn. At convention, Statewide awards will be presented, which are based on the number of new members during the calendar year: (1) \$250 check and plaque for the greatest increase in number of members, (2) \$250

check and plaque for the greatest net percentage increase in the number of members, and (3) \$150 check and plaque for a net increase of fifty (50) or more members during the preceding year. An updated membership list including all initiating new members and a list of those who have left the lodge or passed away must be provided to the Grand Lodge no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Literary Award** in memory of Pietro Di Donato and John Fante will be made to a contemporary writer based on the literary quality of overall published materials and its relevancy to the Italian American experience in the United States and abroad. Supporting materials are bibliography and writing samples of at least five pages. Deadline for submission is Feb. 28, 2020.

**Coronaro Award:** the program was established in 1978 on the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first doctorate awarded to a woman, Dr. Elena Lucrezia Coronaro, and Italian who received her degree from the University of Padua in 1678 to recognize outstanding Italian American women in higher education who have made significant contributions to their community and their profession. The message from the recipient is to inspire our young scholarship students and to promote the value of higher education to the entire membership. Nominations are solicited from institutions of higher education throughout NYS and from the general membership of New York OSDIA Lodges. Deadline for submission is Feb. 28, 2020.

**Community Outreach Awards** is presented to organizations that reach out to local citizens in our respected communities to offer help, assistance, support, and awareness. OSDIA is here to support, participate, and become a vital addition to the community in which we live.

Categories are:

Community Activities: examples are Local food drives, library displays, veteran recognition

Fraternal/Family Activities: examples are family outings, memorial masses, family assistance

Heritage/Cultural Activities: examples are bias and bigotry resistance, food/cooking classes, Italian recognition, genealogy programs, and media projects

Youth activities: examples are sports team sponsorship, youth programs, lodge sponsored school programs, mentoring programs

## Member Recipes: New Years Drink Concoctions



### Bailey's Irish Cream Millie Parisi Martin

1 can sweetened condensed milk  
1 pint half and half  
1 heaping teaspoon cocoa  
1 scant teaspoon instant coffee  
1/2 teaspoon coconut flavoring  
1 cup whiskey

*Mix cocoa and coffee with a little warm water. Put all ingredients in blender and mix.*

### Italian Liqueur Eunice McCarthy

2 cups sugar  
1 vanilla bean, split  
1 teaspoon anise seed  
2 oz candied pineapple, chopped  
1/2 teaspoon banana extract  
1 (750 milliliter) bottle gin  
1 1/2 cup water

*In small saucepan, combine sugar, water, vanilla bean, and anise seed. Boil hard for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in candied pineapple and banana extract. Cool to room temperature. In a large glass container, combine sugar mixture and gin, mix well and cover tightly. Store at least two weeks before serving.*

### Raspberry Punch Mary Jo Lodato Orsini

1 1/2 gallon rose wine  
1 bottle club soda  
1 quart raspberry sherbet  
1 bottle ginger ale  
2 packages frozen strawberries

*Place wine in a punch bowl with the strawberries, Scoop in the sherbet. Pour the club soda and ginger ale over the sherbet.*

### 2019 Thanksgiving Gathering—St Nicholas Society Hall



**President**  
Sandra Meleca

**Vice-President**  
Marjorie Focarazzo

**Recording Secretary**  
Mary Lou Cadena

**Financial Secretary**  
Louis DeCarolis

**Treasurer**  
Catherine DiNicola

**Orator**  
Thomas Meleca

**Mistress of Ceremony**  
Carol DiNicola

**Master of Ceremony**  
Edward Groszewski

**Sentinel**  
Ronald Santoli

**Trustees**  
Marisa Rubé Przepiora  
Antonio Palucci  
Luigi DiFilippo  
Lillian Bonanni

**Immediate Past President**  
Vincent Giannantonio

**Chaplain**  
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State  
Trustee**  
Joseph Rubé

**Chaplain Emeritus**  
Sister Carole Proia

**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi  
Lodge**  
Palma Fratto

**State Deputy to Geneva Lodge**  
Jeremy DiFilippo

**Past Presidents**  
Joseph Lusardi\*  
Thomas Laverne\*  
Louis Giambra\*  
Joseph Vazzana \*  
John March\*  
Victor Bell\*  
Peter Cimino\*  
Sam Parese\*  
Cosmo Caceci\*  
Michael La Comba\*  
Shirley Sculli  
Phillip Dattilo  
Joseph Berta\*  
Joseph Rubé  
Jennifer Rubé\*  
Vincent Giannantonio

**All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:**

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Rochester, NY 14624  
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