



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
July 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The past several months has thrown rapid and continuous changes at us from all directions. With all the changes and uncertainty, we are exhausted, and still we have no idea how long the current situation will continue. As we approached Phase IV, we don't know what life will be like when we finally emerge from this crisis. Life as we knew it, has been turned upside down and we keep referring to the new normal. By now, we know every square inch of our homes, every nook and cranny, every cupboard and cabinet, and we get excited for our big outing to the grocery store. With restaurants being closed, we have cooked and eaten more meals at home, and we know every herb and spice in the pantry. We have watched more television: movies and news reports, completed more crossword puzzles and word games, read more books, and attempted to put together 1000 piece puzzles, but there are some who live alone and feel isolated. There are employees who wonder if they will have a job to return to while essential workers are overworked and risking their lives every day to do their jobs and keep us safe. Social distancing may keep us physically away from family, friends, and acquaintances, but it does not mean we have to be alone with no interaction with others. We have had to think differently about connecting with others, and many of us use some method of video connecting.

Not only have we had to think of new ways to stay connected with family and friends, but for work, meetings, clubs, schooling, and now to view and be part of ceremonies and rituals that we cannot attend in person. We've had to think outside the box, and for many that is difficult since most of the time we operate inside the proverbial box, dealing with change as little as possible. As we grow older, we become more ingrained with familiar patterns, routines and "that's how we always did it." Because we are creatures of habit, any small change can be difficult and overwhelming. When we think outside the box, it means we are willing to consider different solutions and methods for reaching our desired outcomes. We don't always have to take the tried and true route to get to where we want or need to be. If we view things or situations as unchangeable, then nothing can become better and experiences would not improve.

Questioning the status quo is a good thing. We can view things differently giving us a greater perspective on events and happenings in our life which will make us more open to different points of view and potential solutions. We can develop more creative problem-solving means with more possibilities and opportunities. We can become better thinkers with the ability to learn new things much easier.

When we ask someone to think outside the box, we are asking for ideas and ways that may be unusual, different, and divergent. We should even consider the bizarre, ridiculous, and non-obvious, because who knows what may be a better way to do something. In these extraordinary times, we can and should find ways to be inclusive in different ways, to try something different and out of the ordinary, because today's opportunity will never pass this way again.

God Bless and Stay Safe,

Marjorie

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In June, our council voted to cancel our Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner for October. The October event is our largest function of the year, and our main fundraiser to support the lodge. Most importantly, it is an event that recognizes the amazing work being done by Italian Americans in our community. This was a difficult decision and we are disappointed that we will not be able to hold the function this year, however the safety of our members is far more important to us, and there are just too many questions about the safety of large gatherings at this time. We have notified our honorees, and our plan is to honor these individuals at next year's event. We all look forward to the day when our lodge gatherings and functions can resume again!



*New York State
Grand Lodge Raffle
is still on!!*

Chance to win First Prize of \$20,000

Ticket cost \$100

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2020 Calendar

July 2nd @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting: No in person meeting. Held virtually and by phone

July 9th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting: No in person meeting. Held virtually and by phone. See instruction on next page.

August 6th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

August 13th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 23rd @ TBD: Annual Members Picnic (Quinzi Lodge—Eyer Park, East Rochester - Under Review

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

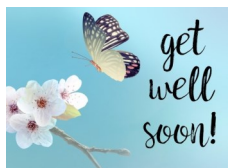
December 10th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting





7/4: Bob Kosinsky, Nancy Rubé, Tony Palucci
 7/8: Joe DiMaria, Richard Meleca
 7/9: Ann Marie Taddeo
 7/15: Marjorie Focarazzo
 7/16: Melissa DiStaffen

7/18: Rosita Caridi Miller
 7/21: Elizabeth Osta
 7/22: Stephanie Brey
 7/23: Robert Golino
 7/25: Bill Agnello
 7/29: Angelo Coccia



Sending our healing thoughts to Sister Nellie DiCesare, who is recovering from a fall, and Brother Hugh Warner, who is undergoing cancer treatment.

Also sending love and strength to Sister Sandy Meleca, still recovering from her stroke at Monroe Community Hospital. Because of the pandemic, no one has been able to visit Sister Sandy in several months and she could definitely use our support via phone calls to remind her that we're all still here and thinking about her. If you would like to call Sister Sandy, here's how to do so: First call the nurses station on her floor at 585-760-6167 and let them know that you would like to call Sandy Meleca—they will then go down to her room and help her get to and answer her cell phone when you call her at 585-752-3271. It's as simple as that and the nurses are happy to help.

July 9th Virtual General Assembly Meeting Instructions

Topic: Vincent Lombardi Lodge General Assembly Meeting
 Time: Jul 9, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting with the following link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83944146866>

Or Call in using this number:

+1 646 558 8656

If prompted, use the following meeting ID #

Meeting ID: 839 4414 6866

You will be placed into the virtual waiting room. Please be patient as the host will grant your access to join.

2020 Local and State Scholarship Award Winners

Local Lodge Winners

\$1500 VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE SCHOLARSHIP - **Ava DiNicola** - Nardi Academy Graduate
 \$1000 VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE SCHOLARSHIP - **Tony Palucci** - McQuaid Jesuit Graduate
 \$1000 PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - **Maria Rosato** - Our Lady of Mercy Graduate
 \$1000 PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - **Michaela Meleca** - Webster Schroeder Graduate
 \$1000 PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - **Elizabeth Cotter** - Allendale Columbia Graduate
 \$1000 RUBE' FAMILY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - **Marissa Nicastrò** - Webster Thomas Graduate
 \$2000 DISTEFFAN FAMILY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP- **Sean O'Hare** - Homeschool Graduate

Grand Lodge Winners

JOHN ASSENZIO JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION and the COOLEY'S ANEMIA SCHOLARSHIP - **Elijah Barnard** - Greece Arcadia Graduate

RICHARD DI MARCO SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATED BY JOHN DIMARCO and the GIAMBRA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP and the PAUL AND CHERYL SPERANZA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP - **Maria Rosato** - Our Lady of Mercy Graduate

GENEVA LODGE #2397 SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS and the GUGLIELMO MARCONI LODGE #154 SCHOLARSHIP and the JANE LIPPA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - **Paige O'Brien** - Geneva Graduate

LA BELLA LINGUA AWARD - **Francesca Martinez** - Greece Athena Graduate

Da Vinci's 500-year-old vineyard lives again!!



Leonardo

Da Vinci was a true Renaissance man: an inventor, a scientist, an artist, a sculpture, a musician, a mathematician, a writer, geologist, astronomer, paleontologist, cartographer, and yes, a vintner. In 1495, the Duke of Milan gave Da Vinci a small plot of land to grow grapes. In his spare time, between painting, inventing, doodling, and creating, he made wine until a few years before his death in 1519.

Upon the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death, Italian scientist searched for the lost vineyard to reconstruct it. They found it on the land situated behind an elegant mansion, the Atellani House. During World War II, the Atellani House and the surrounding land was destroyed to ashes in an Allied bomb raid. The house was rebuilt later, but the vineyard forgotten.

Italian Scientists used 1920 photos that showed the vines and with the information they had, the vineyard's borders were mapped out. They sifted the soil and using DNA to test the layers of ash from the fiery bombing that protected the nucleoid matter from the original vine plants, Five years ago, the vineyard as replanted following the patterns of the original vine rows, and in 2018, the first vintage was produced. The first bottles were finally put up for sale in a secret auction in November 2019. Only 330 bottles were produced, using techniques of the past, including terracotta amphorae, this wine is dry, aromatic, and very particular.

The grade is Malvasia di Candia Aromatica, a white grape that outrivals all others in the hillside vineyards of Piacenza and Parma in Emilia. The grape produces slightly weightier wines, straw yellow in color, with fresh, floral, and perfumed aromas. The grade is used to make Italy's best passitos.



Grand Lodge of New York
Order Sons of Italy in America

On Thursday evening, June 11th, District II and District VIII joined President Anthony Naccarto and the council in conversation. The goal was to keep open communication between the Grand Lodge and the districts and to address questions of concern in our current situation. Although our two districts may seem like an unlikely pairing, it was meant to hear about the differences in what each may be doing or not doing because of where we are in time with the health care crisis. Downstate is just entering Phase I, and we are moving into Phase III, so our situations and experiences are quite different.

The Grand Lodge is appreciative all our efforts in continuing to promote the good work our Lodge is doing even though we have cancelled meetings and events. President Tony stressed the Lodges in their respective areas are to fully comply with the guidelines established by our governmental authorities. Much of what was addressed pertained to downstate more than District VIII, but he stressed the importance of keeping our monthly meetings whether by video or conference calls, and to stay in touch with members in whatever means we can: email, phone, etc. As expected, nearly all events through early fall have been cancelled or rescheduled until later in the year.

Some of the conversation that is specific to us or may be of interest:

- Scholarships: 183 applications were received, and 72 awards will be presented to students; checks will be mailed to students.
- Lodges should still proceed with scholarships.
- Any funds raised this year for charity should be donated to that charity.
- If permitted, we will have a one-day Super-Plenary tentatively October 31, 2020 (Current day of scheduled Plenary). If it occurs, we will have the Trustee and Commissioner elections, \$100 raffle, charity donations, and other normal plenary business. To keep costs reasonable only the lodge Presidents, the IPP. Only a percentage of the convention delegates will be required. As of this time, no visitors will be allowed.
- The lodge presidents will bring election ballots in sealed envelopes, with an X across seal to maintain anonymity. It will take place in the Westchester area, and while a fee will be charged; every effort will be made for it to be a nominal amount. Due to financial concerns, all travel and incidental expenses will be paid personally by the State officers.
- The raffle will be done at the Grand Lodge and the election will be performed by mail.
- As of this time, applications to run for a Trustee, Arbitration or Museum commissioner vacancy must be postmarked to the Grand Lodge office address no later than September 25. Due to changing circumstances, this date may be changed to a later date, but not to an earlier date. If anyone wishes to run for a position, it is suggested to forward the application to the Grand Lodge office as soon as possible.
- President Tony would like to be invited to zoom meetings or conference calls. It was also suggested to invite John Fratta, CSJ Chair and/or Lou Gallo.

The meeting was very insightful. All the Lodges are doing their best to keep members informed and to do the business of the organization. We are all struggling, but from what I heard, everyone is looking at what positives may come from all of this.

This year marks the 528th anniversary of Columbus's voyage from Spain to find a different route to the East Indies. Columbus Day has been deemed a federal holiday for 83 years in October. As historians continue to research and delve into the life of Columbus, controversy has arisen and replace it with Indigenous People's Day. Currently, a bill has been introduced to the NYS Senate to do just that:

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

To replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Christopher Columbus did not discover America. Indigenous People's Day reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous people in the Americas, to organize against current injustices and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

JUSTIFICATION:

Renaming the holiday is a small beginning in recognizing indigenous people for their historic and ongoing contributions to our history, culture and economic life.

Columbus did more than being brave to navigate a voyage that was never done before, so we celebrate:

- Columbus was a visionary whose actions, tenacity, and bravery changed the world: opened the door to the Western Hemisphere, inspired explorers to follow him, led to the colonization of the New World, and provided a means for cultural exchanges which affects every country on the planet.
- The beginning of the Age of Exploration with proof that it was possible to safely cross the Atlantic Ocean.
- Columbus was the first to recognize the full importance of Atlantic wind pattern or the Prevailing Westerlies: that winds blow from west to east. It is possible to sail west with the Trade Winds and return with the Westerlies.
- The trans-Atlantic route laid the foundation for future navigation. He created maps used by later explorers of South America and Amerigo Vespucci. Columbus studied mapmaking in Portugal when he was 14.
- The Atlantic Ocean route established in the 15th century continues to be used by sailors today.
- Columbus 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.
- Columbus Day recognizes the achievements of the Renaissance period and the first settlement of a European community in the New World. It celebrates the beginning of a cultural change between the continents.
- The Age of Discovery brought contributions in music, art, science, medicine, philosophy, and religious principles which helped to shape our country.
- Influences from Greek democracy, Roman law, Judeo-Christian ethics, and the tenant all men are created equal.
- While facing bigotry and discrimination, Columbus is identified as an Italian who has been greatly celebrated across America for establishing a bridge between the Old World and the New World.
- Columbus was an explorer, a renowned sailor, and later governor who took action over the course of his career that were deemed unjust.
- Recorded history of the Western World begins with Columbus' discovery. There was no written history prior to 1492.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 in honor of the 400th Anniversary of Columbus' first voyage. President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day a legal holiday that same year. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made Columbus Day a federal holiday. In 1971 Congress passed a law declaring the second Monday in October a federal holiday in all 50 states.
- It is celebrated in Latin America, Spain, Uruguay, Belize, the Bahamas, Argentina, Italy, and all the Little Italys around the world.

Let us not be led into believing that by removing Columbus holiday and replacing it with Indigenous People's Day that we will be commemorating a harmonious, congenial, amicable, and friendly society. Long before Europeans even knew of the Western Hemisphere, the Native Americans were massacring entire villages, engaged in slavery, practiced cannibalism, headhunting, mutilation, and human sacrifice from the Aztecs to the North Plain Native Americans. Ritual human sacrifice was widespread in the Americas. The Incas sacrificed humans to appease their gods, and the Aztecs performed mass human sacrifices. There was widespread torture and cannibalism.

Human society are all guilty of racism, violence, and conquest throughout history, from the beginning of time. It is a human factor, not a European one. If Columbus is going to be blamed for bringing violence and greed, he should also be credited for bringing literacy, liberalism, and the scientific method which as transformed America to champion for human freedom.

CSJ Report: Columbus Statue in Columbus Circle, New York City

Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

The Christopher Columbus statue stands 70 feet tall in the middle of Columbus circle, and impressive site. It is listed with the NYS Register of Historic Places in 2017 and nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, as a means of protecting it from being removed. The statue is a powerful symbol to Italian Americans and serves as a testament for the assimilation of immigrants who come to the United States from all over the world. The submission to the National Register was sponsored by the Columbus Heritage Coalition.

The current protests on racism and the violence towards minorities, the Christopher Columbus statue and Columbus Circle are once again coming under fire for commemorating the man credited with the discovery of the New World. Once again, there are those who want to remove the statue and rename the circle, by Mayor DeBlasio and Governor Cuomo state the neither is likely to happen. Cuomo says the statue was originally from Italy and is an important symbol to Italian Americans, “The Christopher Columbus statue represents in some ways the Italian American legacy in the country, and the Italian American contribution in this country.”

Students are taught that Columbus discovered the New World when looking for a shorter route to Asia and the East Indies, believing the world was not flat. Removal of statues dedicated to the Italian explorer has increased throughout the country at a time when many of its leaders, and for that matter, the world, are facing their own acknowledgement of racism and the inequities in housing, education, health, criminal justice system, job opportunities, and pay.

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) denounce those who have vandalized statues and petition to remove them. The NIAF supports peaceful protests and people working towards justice and reform, but to vandalize and remove Christopher Columbus’ statues is culturally insensitive and divisive. The statues were paid for by the hard work and sacrifices made by the Italian immigrants, who were part of a marginalized community, discriminated against, and exploited for their labor. The NIAF is devoted to promoting and preserving the Italian American heritage. They believe we should not deny our history nor attempt to erase it altogether, and we should not apply today’s political norms to past happenings.

Italian Americans do not oppose establishing an Indigenous People’s Day, but it should not be an alternative to Columbus Day. Native Americans should have the right to celebrate and educate others about their history and culture, but to repeal Columbus Day, a holiday celebrated by over 20 million Italian Americans, to celebrate another ethnic group, would and is culturally insensitive. There is no reason that two holidays cannot coexist and be peacefully celebrated without words that denigrate and malign or acts of destruction.

The statue was built in 1892, the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ first voyage and the start of the Age of Exploration, with funds raised by Carlo Barsotti. Designed by Gaetano Russo, it was erected as Italian immigrants faced prejudice and attempted to assimilate into mainstream America.

Oh! Brother

My mother and father had great respect for the clergy. While they did not agree with everything that priests said, they respected the role that priests had. As for Brothers, they had never heard of one. Therefore, when my widowed mother heard from me, at twenty-one years of age, that I was going into a teaching order of Brothers, the De La Salle Christian Brothers, she was dumbfounded. Once and only once did she state her resentment to this plan for my vocational future. She said that she could understand a priest giving up having a family – a wife and children – but becoming a Brother? You can’t say Mass, do baptisms, hear confessions, or do other priestly duties.

As a Brother, a few years later when I came home for a short visit, she and I went off to an early morning weekday mass with her friends. She said to them, “Quest e il mio figlio Vincenzo, la monica.”

During mass, I was distracted by what my mother had said. Although I had failed Italian in high school, I remembered that masculine nouns ended in “o” or “i” and feminine in “a” or “e” depending if they were singular or plural. Did the Italian language have a word for monk?

Was there an equivalent to the English noun, sisters? On the walk home after Mass, I asked my mother if she had used the wrong word for monk. My question to her was, “Shouldn’t you have said il monico instead of la monica? Didn’t you call me a nun instead of a monk?” I said.

She looked straight ahead and answered with much annoyance in her voice, “What’s the difference? You can’t have children.”

*Story by Vincent Ortolani
Submitted by Brother Ed maruggi*



The Casa Italiana at Nazareth College is the recipient of the Friends of Foreign Language Award given by the Rochester region of the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT). The award recognizes a person, institution, or business that champions the goal of world language education within the community going above and beyond to promote the knowledge of world languages and their cultures.

The NYSAFLT says of the Casa, “The Casa Italiana has created an impressive, multi-faceted program of Italian language instruction.”

The Casa offers an array of classes in Italian language for both children and adults, culinary classes and its corresponding culture of the region, and programs that cover literature, history, cinema, politics, art, music, and dance.

The Director of the Casa and Chair of the Foreign Language Department, Maria Rosaria Vitti-Alexander says, “The Casa Italiana has become an important reference point for our community, and we hope that it can only continue to represent the beauty of the Italian culture.”

FORT MISSOULA, MONTANA, ITALIANS INTERNED IN WWII

Brother Ed Maruggi

It was the summer of 1942 in Fort Missoula, Montana. This old frontier Army post served as one of the nation's largest internment camps, the most widely spoken language at the post was not Japanese or English, but Italian. The United States would soon be at war. Approximately 1,200 Italian nationals, most of them sailors on boats stranded in American waters or employees of the Italian Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair, had been rounded up by the American government as “enemy aliens” and brought to Fort Missoula. The Italians called the camp “Bella Vista,” meaning beautiful view, but during the early months of their stay, when rules on visits to town were stricter, their view was marred by barbed wire.

The Italians at Missoula were just a fraction of the 600,000 Italian Americans whom the U.S. government labeled “enemy aliens” during World War II. Across the West Coast, federal agents placed thousands of Italian immigrants under curfew. Authorities confiscated fishermen's boats and forced 10,000 of those living close to the California coast to relocate inland. Across the country, intelligence agents surveilled Italian neighborhoods searching for Mussolini supporters. Immigrants who had made the United States their new home found themselves suspect.

The Italian internees weren't alone. Missoula held over 100 Germans and 1,000 Japanese Americans, who had been rounded up as part of a much larger surveillance program that the American government had been developing for years.

Missoula residents treated the prisoners differently, too. While townspeople viewed the Japanese internees with “suspicion,” the community accepted the Italians with open arms,” viewing them as “happy-go-lucky.”

This belief extended to the highest echelons of American government, with Roosevelt himself famously declaring Italians to be “a lot of opera singers.” Among the Italian internees at Fort Missoula, the stereotype wasn't entirely false. The seamen and World's Fair workers included several musicians, and the Italian internees even performed for the Missoula residents.

In 1943, Italy surrendered and soon joined the Allies in fighting its one-time German partner. In 1944, the Italians at Fort Missoula were allowed to go home. Some returned to Italy, delighted to see their mothers again, the local newspaper, The Missoulian, reported. Some stayed in the United States, fearing their native country would have no work. Some remained in Missoula for their entire life.



Vincent Lombardi Lodge—The Early Years



Vincent Lombardi Lodge—The Early Years



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Sandra Meleca

Vice-President
Marjorie Focarazzo

Recording Secretary
Mary Lou Cadena

Financial Secretary
Louis DeCarolis

Treasurer
Catherine DiNicola

Orator
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Joseph Rubé
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