



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
June 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have all been cooped up in our homes for more than two and a half months. When we go to the store for staples, we are met with shortages and empty shelves. Some of us have watched more television over these past weeks than we have in months. To make things worse, the weather fails to cooperate. We haven't seen family—children, grandchildren, great grandchildren—and friends. We haven't eaten out, let someone else do the cooking, or attended a worship service. We have had windstorms, rain, snow, and cold weather that adds insult to injury, and we are ready to go out to enjoy whatever activities we normally enjoy. We've heard of weddings being put on hold and funeral services have been curtailed to only just a few mourners. It has been tough for all of us, and we are ready for it to end. Even when we are able to "escape" we will have to adhere to some guidelines to continue to be safe.

It is hard to be grateful in these times, but it is important to acknowledge the goodness in our lives while we are quarantined, which not only keeps us healthy and safe but those of our loved ones. Gratitude comes from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness, and we often recognize that the source of goodness lies outside of ourselves, and it helps to connect us to something larger than ourselves. More than that, it helps us to feel more positively, to appreciate good experiences, and it helps to improve our health, to deal with adversity, and build stronger relationships.

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We all express gratitude in different ways: the elements of a terrific childhood or past blessings; the ability to do what we want and think the way we want, to come and go as we please; and to have an optimistic and hopeful plan for the future. There is a correlation between our gratitude and well-being., and it improves relationships. It is a way to appreciate what we already have instead of trying to find something else to make us happy or feeling we won't be satisfied until this or that happens. It is a way to focus on what we have instead of what we lack.

What am I grateful for? The answer does not have to be hard. We all don't see the world through rose colored glasses, but we can start thinking that when handed lemons, make lemonade. It can be quite simple: "I have a place to sleep." "I ate today." "I have a good heart." "I drink clean water." "I strive to be better." "I wish others well." "I am a good person." "I have nice clothes." "I am breathing." "Someone cares for me." Thinking about what we are grateful for or keeping a grateful journal may not be life changing, but it may help us realize that life is about the little things, and being actively grateful for the little things in our lives can change how we view our day, our life, maybe even our world.

God Bless and Good Health to All,
Marjorie



WIN THE BIG BUCKS

New York State Grand Lodge Foundation
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

2020 Charitable & State Raffle

1st Prize \$20,000
2nd Prize \$5000 3rd Prize (2 prizes @) \$2000
4th Prize (3 prizes@) \$1000 5th Prize (5 prizes@) \$500

Donation: \$100.00 per ticket
Winner need not be present
Make checks payable to:
NYS Grand Lodge Foundation

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, for your chance to win \$20,000, contact Marjorie.

Consider sharing the cost of a ticket with friends!

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2020 Calendar

June 4th @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting: No in person meeting. Held virtually and by phone

June 11th @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting: No in person meeting. Held virtually and by phone. See instruction on next page.

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 (Burgundy Basin)

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



6/6: Lucia Flocco, Mary Ricci
6/7: Frank DiBisceglie
6/16: Quintino DiCesare
6/17: Hugh Warner

6/22: Carol DiNicola
6/25: Ed Groszewski
6/27: Louis DeCarolis
6/30: Dominick Calisto, Ed Maruggi



Our thoughts and prayers are sent to the family of Brother Gerald Camardo, who passed away on May 17th. Gerald passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family.



Sending healing thoughts to our members who have been undergoing health challenges, including our President, Sandy Meleca, and Brother Hugh Warner.



The NYS Grand Lodge Foundation made a \$1500 donation to Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, an organization run by our member, Marisa Rubé Przepiora, to recognize and support the work that the organization is doing to help domestic and sexual violence victims during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

May General Assembly Meeting—What you missed. . .

This was our first meeting using video conferencing. I would say, that while we had few people log on, it was successful. What we have learned is that it is a viable means to reach our members who are unable to attend monthly meetings for whatever reasons but want to remain connected. And isn't that what we should be about? Staying connected. It doesn't matter what we want to accomplish or what events we want to have if we are not communicating with our members.

The current health care crisis has curtailed our activities, but perhaps it is more important to touch base with members than to tell them what we can't do. We already know what we aren't allowed to do, but to see each other or hear someone's voice, even for a few minutes, is priceless.

The CSJ continues to work on issues surrounding Columbus and Columbus Day. An education committee has been established to investigate what curriculum has been written about the Age of Discovery and the founding of the new world. The members are in the process of putting together a poster and bookmark on Dr. Anthony Fauci, who oversees an extensive research portfolio of basic and applied research to prevent, diagnose, and treat established infectious diseases. There are plans to update the kit on Italian American Congressional Medal of Honor winners to include David Bellavia. They would also like to provide more information on Italian Americans who were interned right here in the United States during World War II.

The assembly approved membership for applicant Joan Varone Brandenburg who is the Director of Advancement at the Veteran's Outreach Center.

The decision on whether to cancel the Heritage Dinner Dance has been deferred to the end of June when we know more about the conditions surrounding Covid 19 virus. Although school has not been in session for months, our lodge received 15 applications and 22 applications for the NYS Grand Lodge scholarships. Our most imminent upcoming events are the Award Night in August and our picnic. It is too premature to cancel them at this time, so we are tentatively planning to have them. Time will dictate and the governor's guidelines will be the determining factor. So, don't rule them out just yet.

In attendance was Palma Fratto-Evans, deputy from the Geneva Lodge. Also, President Anthony Naccarato of the NYS Grand Lodge logged on to our meeting. He was positive and upbeat in light of the current situation. He said that we will be able to resume normal activities in accordance with the guidelines established by Governor Cuomo. He realizes how diverse our state is, and we are all not at the same point at the same time. Although the convention has been cancelled, the executive board is considering a mini convention, for perhaps a single day to be held late fall. As we know everything is tentative, but it was wonderful he could join us.

General Assembly Meeting Call In and Video Conference Instructions

Our June 11th General Assembly Meeting will be held virtually, with options to video conference or simply call in to participate.

To call in via landline or cell phone

Dial 1 (773) 231-9226

When prompted, enter meeting ID: 536 572 5221

You will be automatically placed into the call when the host arrives.

To video conference via Laptop or Desktop Computer:

Copy this link to your internet browser:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/5365725221>

You may be prompted to add the ring central extension to your browser for faster loading. This is optional, you can choose yes or no.

You will then be prompted to "Open Ring Central Meeting". Click yes.

You are now in the meeting. If you receive a prompt saying "Please wait for the host to start this meeting" be patient, you'll be automatically directed into the room when the host arrives.

To video conference on smartphone or tablet:

Download the RingCentral Meetings App from your app store.

Once the app is downloaded, click to open it.

Click "Join a Meeting"

Enter Meeting ID: 5365725221.

Click "Join"

You will now be added to the meeting.

If you receive a message saying "Waiting for the host to start this meeting", please be patient, you'll be automatically redirected to the room when the host arrives.



Our May General Assembly meeting, held virtually. We hope you will join us for our June meeting, following the instructions above!

Update from....2019 Scholarship Winner Alyssa Libonati

Hello all! I hope you and your families are doing well during this difficult time. I am writing to you to update you all on my very unconventional first year of college. Although it didn't end how I expected, I am grateful for the experiences I did have and what I was able to complete while at Binghamton University.

During my spring semester I took several challenging science and language classes. I also continued my membership on the Binghamton Women's Rowing Team and became a member of the Delta Epsilon Mu Pre-Health Co-Ed Fraternity. Now that I have finished all my spring courses, I am gearing up for a couple of summer classes, a new job, and spending time with family and friends (at a safe distance of course). I am also hoping to take this time to learn more about my heritage and even learn to speak Italian.

Although we don't know what the future may hold, I am preparing for the fall semester and getting involved as much as possible so that I will have a strong sophomore year. I have applied to be a TA, a tutor, and a research intern for the coming semester, while also serving as the philanthropy chair for my fraternity.

I am looking forward to furthering my education, whether it is online or in person and am forever grateful for the support this organization has given me to do so!

Update from....2018 Scholarship Winner Elena Greco

I've completed my sophomore year at the College at Brockport. I still am pursuing my degree in Environmental Science and Ecology with a combo concentration in Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology. Halfway through our spring semester, the schools began to shut down for our safety. Thankfully, my classes were all converted into online teachings. Professors would lecture through video services and post our assignments through online portals to be completed. It was difficult for two of my classes which had required labs included in the coursework.

Quantitative Chemical Analysis included labs which were very hands on and in depth. Switching to a more online setting included our labs but we could only complete a couple via simulations. Ornithology (the study of birds) was my other lab. Unfortunately, we planned on venturing to multiple areas within the community to study these beautiful animals, however, it was cut short. We instead conducted individual small studies (around our homes) on a bird species of our choice as a lab project. My species was the American Robin (which I found a nest of chicks within my front yard's cherry tree). The school year was cut short, but I care more and am blessed to say that my family and friends are all healthy and safe.

Before the virus hit, I was actually setting up my second internship/job for the summer as a research assistant for the SUNY Research Foundation. I currently am helping a master's student collect and enter data for her thesis project on an invasive plant. It is a great field experience for me, and I enjoy being outside in the elements. I will continue this job throughout the summer.

I want to thank the Vincent Lombardi Lodge for supporting me throughout the years and I hope everyone continues to remain safe and healthy!

I would also like to thank all the essential workers that are protecting us and helping our communities fight against this virus!

2020 GRADUATES

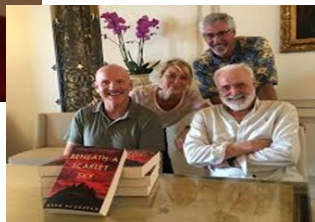


We wish you the very best in your future endeavors. Don't be afraid to carve out your own path. In the words of Henry David Thoreau,

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”



The Forgotten Hero: Giuseppe Lella



If you lived in Italy in the early years of World War II, it was likely, especially the young, to be forced, indoctrinated, and brainwashed into Fascism under the dictatorial regime of Benito Mussolini. Giuseppe "Pino" Lella, 92 years and living in Lesa, Italy, tells his story to his son, Michael, of spying for the allies and the Resistanza, while being the driver for General Hans Leyers until he delivered him to the Fifth United States Army and became the driver for Major Frank Knebel until the end of the war. During this time, he became acquainted with tank traps, land mines, ammunition tunnels and fortifications between Florence and Milan. He watched the most important defenses of the Germans and secretly documented movements, taking photos and recording movements, then transmitting this information to the Allies.

How did this happen to a not yet 17 year old? In 1943, began a six month intensive bombing campaign on Italy, Pino and his younger brother, Mimmo, nearly escaped the destruction of the movie theatre, where they were seeing the movie, You Were Never Lovelier. For their safety, their father sends them to a Cholic Boys School, Casa Alpina, located in the Alps high above Lake Como. Pino was singled out, being the oldest, to become an Alpine guide. In the beginning, Pino was unaware of the brutality, cruelty, and inhumanity of the Nazi since many were frequent patrons of his families' businesses in Milan. Then in September of 1943, the Nazis round up 52 prominent Jews, whom they executed and threw their bodies into Lake Maggiore for the town to witness. The Italians fought back and hid their Jewish friends and colleagues.

They formed an "underground railroad" to aid them in escaping and one of the routes went through Casa Alpina. This was what Pino was chosen to do—to take people to safety. He knew it was dangerous, putting his own life in peril, but it was the right thing to do. It gave him a purpose, an identity, and the opportunity to lead. He was convinced by his aunt and uncle to join the Organization Todt as a means to keep him safe while protecting others. His family was already involved with the resistance and allies, and they knew that Pino would be privy to much secret information, especially when he was chosen to be General Leyers driver. On April 24, 1945, after receiving orders from the resistance, Pino single handedly arrested Leyers and handed him over to the American Command. Immediately he became the driver for the 5th US Army major Frank Knebel. They both watched as an Italian mob captured Mussolini and executed him. Two days later Hitler committed suicide.

In early May, the German Army was retreating from Italy into Austria, through a dangerous path in the Alps. Thousands Nazi troops refused to surrender to the Italian Resistance and the US Army. Pino was asked, his final mission, to drive a high ranking Nazi from American custody to the Austrian Border to be turned over to the intelligence agency who would interrogate the very same General Leyers Pino turned over to the 5th Army on what he knew of Hitler's Reich.

Heroes for liberty and peace do not come from any one region nor from a specific period of time nor to one sex. They are all around us from every nationality, every creed, every religion, and either sex. "They inspire others to a noble and universal cause. All people should be able to live their lives in peace as long as they do no harm to the rights and freedom of others. They are passionate not solely for their own liberty and freedom, but for those of others, as well."

Mannaggia l'America

Being the last child born of immigrant parents, I did not learn to speak or understand the Italian language. While I could not translate what was said, I was able to figure out their emotions: happy, sad, critical, frustrated, and humorous. One day, in the early 1940's at about ten years of age, I was with my mother at the neighborhood grocery where she was speaking in Italian to the proprietor. The dialogue was firm with the usual Italian hand and arm gestures. I felt that the emotion displayed was that of criticism, and the topic was about America. During their conversation I occasionally heard a certain expression that I knew always meant a criticism of American culture. To this day I hear in my mind what I think are the words, "Mannaggia l'America." I had no idea of the precise meaning of that phrase. Upon returning home, I asked my mother, a woman to whom I always spoke to respectfully.

"Ma, if you don't like this country, why don't you move back to Italy," I said uncomfortably. She gave me a stern look. She was obviously annoyed and responded in her heavily broken English.

"I donta wanna to returna to Italy. Justa because you criticizes a country, donta mean you no love it."

That lesson in good citizenship was to stay with me throughout the social unrest period of the 60's and 70's. Each time I saw on TV an act of protest by the citizens of this country, I heard that maternal voice in my head say, "Because you criticize a country doesn't mean you don't love it."

A Sip of Wine



Feudi del Pisciotto "Baglio del Sole" Nero d'Avolo 2016 (IGT)

Sicily has more vineyards than any other region in Italy competing with Puglia for first place. The Nero d'Avolo grape is Sicily's most indigenous red grape coming from the small town of Avolo. The name means black of Avolo referring to the grape's very dark color and is similar to warm climate syrahs. It is often referred to as the "Syrah of Sicily".

Feudi del Pisciotto is 82 acres of vineyard located on the southwest area of Sicily 820 feet above sea level and four miles from the Mediterranean. The area benefits from two climatic influencers: the elevation, which allows to vineyard to enjoy the sea breezes and the sea itself, which moderates the temperature.

Baglio del Sole is made from 100% nero d'Avolo grape. It is aged 12 months in French oak. The wine is complex and intense with a red fruit, currants, blueberries, and cherries aroma and has a dark spicy and toasty flavor on the palate. It is considered bold and full bodied with rip tannins that carries through the long finish. It goes great with rich red marinara sauces, meatballs, portabella mushrooms, and anything off the grill.

The Italian Buon Ricordo Program

By Edward Albert Maruggi, Ph.D.

A good vacation makes for lasting memories. A keepsake from a special place can spark smiles and help keep those good times close at hand. For many, the flavors and ambiance of a great meal in Italy is especially memorable - and those culinary experiences are now transportable in the form of a Buon Ricordo plate.

Buon ricordo means "good or happy memories" and also explains the goal of this unique program. It is a non-profit organization of restaurants founded to promote and publicize the diversity and value of local cuisine. In 1977, a group of collectors founded the Associazione Collezionisti Piatti del Buon Ricordo. Since then, the Association has promoted and shared the passion of collecting Buon Ricordo dishes as well as the culture of Italian food and its traditions.

In Italy, regionalism still exists. The dishes tourists enjoy in Tuscany are different from the traditional food of Puglia, for example, and local products vary as well. This program bands together a group of individuals who treasure their traditions and want to share them with others through carefully prepared meals that are offered with an abundance of hospitality - the kind of dining experience that is memorable. The Buon Ricordo sends home with diners a decorative dish from that particular restaurant.

There are more than 120 member restaurants that prepare their regional recipes using local products and serve them on hand-painted Vietri, ceramic plates, bearing the name of the restaurant along with a design that highlights their special entree. Plates become collectable, colorful souvenirs. Some tourists plan their vacation destinations around Buon Ricordo restaurant locations.



The house specialties may change from time to time to highlight a different a regional dish, as well as a new accompanying plate. One needs to order the Buon Ricordo meal in order to receive the plate. This program helps keep local traditions alive but also draws people to visit some out-of-the-way towns in the search of a guaranteed good meal. It's also a good way to find a friendly, authentic restaurant in the midst of a busy tourist-oriented city. You can be certain it to be a buon ricordo of your Italian vacation experience.

The Buon Ricordo Directory, that is available from most restaurants, is a full size, four-color book that has a page for every participating restaurant, with photos of the plates, restaurant hours, closing days, even a map of where to find them. My wife and I have had a wonderful time collecting our seven plates that now adorn the top of the kitchen soffit at our cottage in the Finger Lakes. We look forward to adding to our collection. We've enjoyed some wonderful regional meals during our Buon Ricordo quest. The restaurants that are listed in the book are definitely worth visiting for the food alone. The "piatti" you receive is a bonus.

So, on your very next trip to Italy consider taking home a permanent souvenir from a memorable meal. The Unione Ristoranti del Buon Ricordo is a terrific way to sample authentic regional Italian cooking with a lasting memory in the form of a beautifully hand painted, 9 inch, piatto del buon ricordo.

A look back on our last OSDIA Decade...



A look back continued....



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