



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
March 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last weekend I had the opportunity to get a brief taste of spring at the Dutch Connection at the George Eastman Museum. I am sure everyone is as tired as I am of gray skies, cold temperatures, heavy coats and scarves and gloves, salt residue on the road, cars, bottom of boots and shoes, but for a couple of hours, I had spring!



Our Winter Picnic/Clambake was very successful with good food and wine, good conversations, and music. Even the weather cooperated! Our raffle raised \$105.00 for the Gift of Sight.

A new committee has been formed to brainstorm ideas for fundraising. We came up with numerous ideas, and we will be seeking out your opinions on what we want to do. In the meantime, if you have any ideas let us know.

The 114th NYS OSDIA Convention will be held later this spring at the Villa Roma. We have budgeted for four additional delegates plus the president and Immediate past president who are required to attend. This is a great opportunity to learn how the organization works. You can engage in conversations and ask questions of your state board members or attend a committee meeting on budget, scholarship, CSJ, or membership just to name a few.

Our next event is the Cibi Regional dinner, concentrating on the Lazio Region. Located in Central Italy and with Rome Italy's capital at the heart of Lazio's history and culture, the region boasts of a cuisine influenced since antiquity by multinational cultures, like the Roman, Greeks and Jews and that remains famous throughout the world today. Chef Rosita Caridi-Miller will cook this wonderful cuisine. More information will be forwarded soon.

Reminder: if you know of a graduating senior tell them about our lodge and state scholarships. Deadline is March 31st, which will be here before we know it.

Take care and God bless,

Marjorie

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OSDIA State/National Events

April 17th-19th:
2020 National Student Summit
(Washington DC)

April 19th, 2020
State Bowling Tournament
(Farmingdale, NY)

May 2nd, 2020
Annual State Walk -A-Thon, Walk for a Cure
(East Meadow, NY)

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2020 Calendar

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

DAL REGISTA DI **COME UN GATTO IN TANGENZIALE**

PAOLA CORTELLESI
MA COSA CI DICE IL CERVELLO
UN FILM DI RICCARDO MILANI

DON'T STOP ME NOW
March 26th at 7:00 IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

LITTLE ITALIAN FILM SERIES
PREMIERING CONTEMPORARY FILMS OF ITALY
ameritalroc.com

TICKETS \$12
Students, Seniors & Service Members \$10



3/8: Chris Przepiora
3/10: Ann Battaglia
3/14: Kitty DiNicola
3/16: Don Campese

3/19: Michael Meleca
3/23: Nick Baross
3/26: Mary Renere
3/30: Shirley Sculli



Our prayers go out to the DeCarolis family on the loss of Annette's mother, Dora DiSchino.



Sending healing thoughts to Sisters Elizabeth Osta and Nancy Rubé, both recuperating from recent surgery; Brothers Louie DiFilippo, Tony Palucci, Hugh Warner, and our other lodge members who have recently been dealing with illnesses.



The Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 will be represented at the 114th NYS State OSDIA Convention by six delegates. The president and immediate past president are required to attend, so we need to elect four (4) delegates and two (2) alternates at the March General Session Meeting. Anyone wanting to attend the convention, May 28th thru May 31st at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon (located in the Catskills) can place their name for consideration by contacting Marjorie (585-749-5346 or MAFocarazzo@gmail.com) prior to the meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Along with the general sessions, a delegate may also be asked to attend a meeting for budget, membership, CSJ, scholarship, etc. We also will be electing a State Trustee to a two-year term. It is a great opportunity to meet other delegates and members from across the state and to learn more about our organization. And there is also fun from the hospitality rooms in the evenings to social events to entertainment in the lounge.



There are plenty of opportunities to purchase "board" raffle tickets all throughout the convention. When one board is filled, winners are picked and another board is started. But if you aren't going to convention, there is a chance to purchase a ticket or tickets, whatever your pleasure without leaving the area. There are tickets to purchase for \$100 each. Don't let that number scare you, because you can share the cost with another person or persons. The BIG, first prize is \$20,000 if 80% or more of the tickets are sold, 2nd prize is \$5000, 2 3rd prizes at \$2000 each, 3 4th prizes at \$1000 each, and 5 5th prizes at \$500 each. If less than 80% of the tickets are sold, first prize is \$15,000. You only have until May 11th to get your ticket, and they are going fast!!



Because of our member's generosity, and thanks to those who donated items to be raffled, we raised \$105 at our winter clambake for the Gift of Sight!



The NYS OSDIA Grand Lodge now has a YOUTUBE channel.

To access it, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to the YouTube website - www.youtube.com
2. In the upper right corner, clique on the search icon.
3. Enter the following in the search box: nys OSDIA grand lodge Bellmore and you will see our name and logo. I encourage you to click on SUBSCRIBE. You can watch the content without subscribing, but the experience will be more rewarding if you subscribe. Please help us use this new social media initiative as a means to spread our message and to utilize it as a recruitment tool.

WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE FEBRUARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The snowy weather could not keep some of our members away from an awesome and fun evening. We started off with a short business meeting. The members approved the 2020 Budget, which was similar in revenue and expenditures to this past year. Some slight changes were made to clarify the categories making it simpler to understand.

We approved the expenditure of \$150 registration fee to send a student to the NYS OSDIA Student Summit, Albany. April 17-19.

It was reported reconciliation of the membership has been completed and submitted to state on January 27, 2020; we have 125 members as our convention delegate strength; 107 members for the per capita tax.

Our scholarship fund also received a generous gift of \$1000 from Nancy and Joe Rube', giving us another scholarship to award in August.

The highlight of the evening was the Breadman and his Bread Time Stories, Chet Fery who brought not only a loaf of bread to give to everyone but the message of kindness. He has baked over 100,000 loaves of bread in the past twenty years and given away every one of them. He connects with his audience, engaging them in conversation and bringing us back to those memories of the aroma of freshly baked bread and how it tasted as it came out of the oven.



Our next meeting is March 12th and we will decide on who our delegates will be for convention. I hope you are able to attend.

Beyond Scholarships....OSDIA Student Opportunities



NYS OSDIA GRAND LODGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SUMMIT ALBANY, APRIL 17-19, 2020

The student summit is a unique experience for students to interact with peers from across New York State exploring their rich Italian heritage and visiting various points of interest in our capital.

Students will visit the Capitol, participate in seminars, tour the American Italian Museum, and attend a cooking demonstration. The registration fee will be paid by the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270, but travel to and from Albany plus any incidental costs are the responsibility of the student. Qualifications: student must be of Italian descent and have leadership qualities. The deadline for submission is March 16, 2020. Information can be obtained through your high school guidance counselor or by contacting Marjorie Focarazzo at 585-749-5346 or email at MAFocarazzo@gmail.com.

JOHN DABBENE IMMIGRANT ESSAY CONTEST

NYS Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) is sponsoring an "Immigrant Essay Contest" for students in 7th and 8th grades of Italian descent and has a relative (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle) as a member of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270. There will be one winner from our District VIII and a \$200 award will be awarded the recipient.

Students will interview someone who has come from Italy to the United States. The person to be interviewed must be a relative, family friend, or community resident. If the person the student would like to interview is deceased, they may interview someone who knew that person to answer the questions. The student must ask 10 of the 12 questions provided but may ask all the questions. Answers to the questions must be on the questionnaire. Once the student has secured the answers, they are to write a story on a separate sheet of paper about the person they interviewed of a minimum of 150 words. If the person interviewed is a direct relation, that must be noted in the essay. You may also include any personal stories or experiences you have had with this person in your story. Students should also include a visual (picture(s), personal document(s) or objects) and explain the relevance to the story. Please indicate if the article is authentic. Each essay will be scored using a rubric scale. Contact Marjorie Focarazzo for a copy of the interview questions and rubrics, and forward all information to 84 Mulcahy Blvd., Rochester, NY 14624 no later than April 20, 2020.

CSJ Report: The Struggle for Social Justice

Marjorie Focarazzo

Social Justice is based on the concepts of human rights and is the way we treat and respect people in there every day lives at every level of society. It is the view of fair and just relations between individuals and society and is based on interrelated principles: equity, access, participation, diversity, supportive environment, and rights. It is important for the welfare of society as a whole, which leads to satisfaction and pleasure of life, as well as respect. Social Justice should decrease or eliminate inequity by promoting diversity and supporting an environment that is for all people.

Most Italian immigrants of the early 1900's took their first steps on US soil through Ellis Island. Although Italy had been united under one flag, they were hardly unified as a nation. The past internal strife left a legacy of violence, social chaos, and widespread poverty. The call of "L'America" was hard to resist. Immigrants no longer came from Northern Italy—artisans and shop keepers looking for a new market—but farmers and laborers from the Southern Italy looking for the same thing, "streets paved with gold".

In the late 19th Century, racist theories circulated in the press: those from the Mediterranean area were inherently inferior to the people of Northern Europe. Drawings and caricatures depicted new immigrants as childlike, criminal or subhuman. Attacks on Italians was not limited to the printed page. Anti-immigrant societies sprang up across the country and the Klu Klux Klan saw a spike in their membership. Catholic churches and charities were vandalized and burned, and Italians were attacked by mobs. This anti-immigrant sentiment continued through the 1920's when congress decided to restrict immigration, and it became increasingly difficult or Italians to immigrate to the US.

Italian immigrants are proud, have pride, and persevere. We have provided labor to American factories and mines, built roads, dams, tunnels, and other infrastructures. We have contributed to science, the arts, music, fashion industry, etc. The Commission for Social Justice works tirelessly to right the wrongs, but the wheels of justice turn slowly while Lady Justice tries to balance the scales. A real honor for Italian Americans and our military is being asked to sponsor the documentary on MaryKnoll Fr. Vincent Robert Capadanno. The tenth child of Italian immigrants, Fr. Capadanno joined the Navy Chaplain Corps to serve the increasing number of troops in Vietnam. He also served in a medical unit, ministering to injured soldiers. During his second tour, while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, they were ambushed by the North Vietnamese. Although Fr. Vince was seriously injured, he ran to assist a wounded corpsman

and the Marine aiding him. They were pinned down by an enemy machine gunner, and Fr. Vince was shot 27 times and died while faithfully performing his find act as a faithful servant of God.

The CSJ was able to successfully acquire an apology from the City of New Orleans and Mayor LaToya Cantrell for the lynching of 11 Italian immigrants in March 1891 after being exonerated for the murder of police chief Hennessey. Again, the people of New Orleans believed that anyone who is Italian must be involved with organized crime and can buy their way our of anything because the mob will take care of things. A plaque has been erected on the site honoring these Italians, and the CSJ is in the process of raising funds to have a statue placed at the location of the lynching.

St. Frances Cabrini was the first US citizen to be canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 7. 1946 as the patron saint of immigrants. Although she was nominated and chosen to be honored, the committee for She Built NY chose to ignore the decision of the many who voted. In December 2019, months of controversy ended when Gov. Cuomo intervned and pledges \$750,000 to build the Cabrini statue and appointed a 19 mostly Italian American and Catholic leaders to select the site which will be located behind the Museum of Jewish Heritage in the Battery's South Cove, providing the statue a sweeping view of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. Donations also come from the CSJ \$15000, National CSJ \$15000, and the Columbus Heritage Coalition \$20000.

Most of our families immigrated during economically hard times in Italy. We have all heard our grandparents talk of the struggles, of poverty, of rations, of holding down multiple jobs, and of a war most did not agree with. We heard how hard it was to leave all they knew and had, often the journey was alone, and family was left behind.

They came to the US hoping for a better life for themselves, for the families they would have here, and for the families left in Italy. Many were met with bigotry, bias, prejudice, and worse but they persevered and overcame the struggles. We are proud of what it took to get to where we are.



Traveling in Sicily

By Ed Groszewski

Isola Bella (The Beautiful Island) is located off the northeast corner of Sicily, near Taormina. Some, including me, would argue that all of Sicily is “the beautiful island.” Having visited the island many times and hoping to return again, I find its riches to be nearly inexhaustible. The natural beauty of the region, the delicious food, the ancient ruins, and the medieval and baroque architectural splendor are among its outstanding calling cards.

Almost everyone has seen photographs of Sicily’s most well-known natural feature, Mt. Etna, the active volcano that sits near the eastern coast. But its majesty is best appreciated by driving and walking its slopes to experience firsthand both its destructive and its fertile power. The beaches that nearly ring the island draw thousands of Europeans every year with their warmth and crystalline Mediterranean waters. Less well known perhaps are the interior wonders, such as the enchanting panoramas offered by Madonie Mountains, which are particularly attractive to hikers and the “outdoorsy” set.

Sicily’s food, having been shaped by the influences of the Arabs, Spanish and other invaders and rulers of the island over the centuries, is as distinctive as any region in Italy. Not to be missed are the blood oranges, the seafood preparations such as the Involtini di Pesce Spada (a swordfish dish), the pasta con sarde, and the staggering variety of street foods offered in the many markets of the cities and towns. No one should leave Sicily hungry.

Nowhere on earth are there more ancient ruins, both Greek and Roman, than in Sicily. The Valley of the Temples located just outside the city of Agrigento contains the largest collection of Greek temples to be found anywhere. There the traveler can see the Temple of Concord which is nearly complete because it was converted to a Christian church in the Middle Ages. (An intact example of this conversion may be found in Siracusa where the cathedral was built using the Ancient Greek columns as its outside walls.) The never finished temple at Segeste in western Sicily is one of the few Greek structures undamaged by time. The Roman amphitheaters in Siracusa and Taormina should be on everyone’s must see list.

Lovers of beautiful architecture will not leave Sicily disappointed. The breathtaking beauty of the medieval Palatine Chapel in Palermo and the cathedral in Monreale, both encrusted with magnificent mosaics will leave many visitors speechless. The area called the Val di Noto is an excellent example of how Sicilians turned tragedy into beauty. In 1693 an earthquake of profound proportions struck the area and leveled the towns and cities of the region. The rebuilding of the area meant that the most brilliant of architects and artisans had a blank slate upon which to express themselves. The resulting gorgeous cities of Noto and Ragusa stand today as outdoor museums of the style known as Sicilian Baroque. Walking the streets and visiting the church and municipal buildings offers the visitor a nearly unending string of wonders.

In the interests of full disclosure, I confess that what originally drew me to Sicily was my desire to reconnect with my ancestors on my mother’s side. I was able to locate, chat with and enjoy delicious meals with distant relatives living in the hill villages of Polizzi Generosa and Valledolmo. Their warmth and generosity will always have a claim on my heart.



Left: Temple of Concord at the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento

Right: View of the Madonie Mountains from Polizzi Generosa



Do you have travel adventures that you would like to share? We would like to make this a recurring column, but need your help. Please feel free to submit travelogues and pictures that you would like featured to vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com

2020 Winter Clambake—Lions Park



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