



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
February 2021 edition

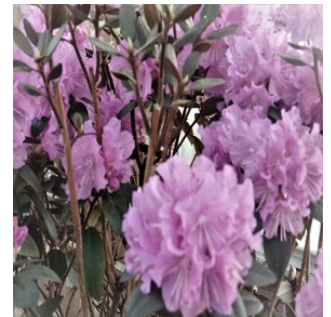
Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Ground Hog’s Day is one of my favorite holidays. I know. “It’s not really a holiday.” “That’s ridiculous.” But when you look at its significance, it can be a win-win. It doesn’t matter if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not, nor does it matter if you believe there is six weeks more of winter or six weeks until spring. The reality of the calendar is that spring is on the horizon, a rebirth, a time to look forward.

As crazy as it sounds, I look forward to Rochester’s Polar Plunge. I would never be a participant, and I think those who do are crazy, but I also admire their courage and willingness to put themselves out for a great cause—the Special Olympics. Plunging into the icy cold waters of Lake Ontario in February is not for everyone, but we can all do something to make a difference.

I also look forward to the Dutch Connection at the George Eastman Museum during the month of February. A welcome treat in the midst of winter, the show features thousands of colorful tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, amaryllis, freesias, and spring annuals both for viewing and for purchase. It’s an escape from the mid-winter blues for a few hours to take in the colors and aromas, but I also bring home some of those colors and fragrances that tie me over until I see those first signs of springs in my garden or the parks.



February is the second month of the year and the shortest. Originally February did not exist in the Roman calendar. Both January and February were added to the end of it about 700 BCE to reflect a standard lunar year of 355 days or 12 months. Dividing the time span into the 12 months had some with 29 days and some with 30 days. Since the Romans believed that even numbers were unlucky, the calendar then ended up with seven months of 29 days and four months of 31 days. February, being the last month of the year, in those days ended with 28 days which the Romans considered unlucky and so reserved it to honor the dead. The Julian calendar, proposed by Julius Caesar took effect on January 1, 45 BC and lasted until 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII reformed the Julian calendar to take into account discrepancies. The calendar, the one we know today, was not adopted uniformly across Europe until well into the 18th century. Although February has had an interesting history and while it is the shortest month on the calendar, it is packed full of events and happening, as well as looking forward to warmer, brighter, and more colorful days.

Take care and God Bless,

Marjorie

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The Italian Film Series is back and coming directly to your living room!

After waiting for 9 months to reach a level of normality, the Italian Film Series is starting up again. Rather than you coming to the theater for a view, the series will be coming to your homes with a streaming format. We will miss the personal interface and social contact which made this program most popular, but we will continue with wonderful films that keep us connected to that Italian spirit.



Purchase Tickets:

<https://ameritalroccom.ticketspice.com/italian-film-series-quanto-basta>

Arturo, played by **Vinicio Marchioni (The Place)** is a well known chef, with anger issues and sentenced to community service by teaching a cooking class in a centre for autistic children where Anna works. Guido, played to perfection by **Luigi Fedele**, has Asperger's syndrome and a great passion for cooking. Both are misfits in their own world; Arturo is too good for bad restaurants and too disgraced for those that are fashionable and cool, while Guido appears too normal to be considered in need of support and too bizarre to enter in to the world of work. The unlikely friendship between the two will elp Arturo to change his life. The interaction between the quick empered Arturo and the meticulous Guido united in their passion for gastronomy brings joy and laughter as we watch them, at times making it uncertain on who is leading whom. **Valeria Solarino (The King's Musketeers)** becomes emotionally involved and plays the balancingact between the two **QUANTO BASTA (AS NEEDED)** is primarily a character film, a feel good movie which is not afraid to display its emotions and positive feelings. Just what we need to start the year.

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2021 Calendar

January 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting (Virtual)
January 14th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting (Virtual)

February 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting (Virtual)
February 11th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting (Virtual)

March 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
March 11th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

*** New Council Installation—TBD***

April 1st, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
April 8th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 6th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
May 13th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

June 3rd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
June 10th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 1st, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
July 8th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
August 12th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

Scholarship Awards—TBD

September 2nd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
September 9th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
October 14th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
November 11th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

December 2nd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
December 9th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

February 11th General Assembly Meeting, 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84968734753>

Or call using this number:

+1 646 558 8656

If prompted, use the following meeting ID #

Meeting ID: 849 6873 4753

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



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

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



Sending love and strength to Sister Linda Agnello, recovering from COVID-19 at Clifton Springs Continuing Care Center, and to Brother Tony Palucci who is recovering from a recent illness.

And sending continued love and prayers to Brother Hugh Warner as he continues his fight against cancer.



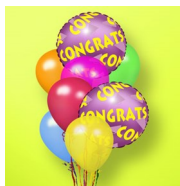
Sending our sympathies to Brother Tony Palucci for the loss of his sister, and to Sister Ann Marie Taddeo for the loss of her brother in law.

Two new members were initiated at our January (virtual) General Assembly Meeting. Welcome!



Lucia Flocco lives in Spencerport and was born in Casalbordino, coastal town on the Adriatic Sea, within the Province of Chieti of the Abruzzo region. Her sponsor is Luigi DiFilippo.

Joan Varone Brandenburg lives in Rochester and is the Director of Advancement for the Veteran's Outreach Center. Her sponsor is Marjorie Focarazzo.



Congratulations to our newly elected Council and Arbitration Commissioners!

New council members will be installed in March and serve a two year term.

President: Marjorie Focarazzo

Vice President: Marisa Rubé Przepiora

Treasurer: Carol DiNicola

Financial Secretary: Melissa DiStaffen

Recording Secretary: Pat Bartholomew

Orator: Joe Rubé

Sentinel: Luigi DiFilippo

Master of Ceremonies: Ed Groszewski

Mistress of Ceremonies: Lillian Bonanni

Trustees: Tom Meleca, Louis DeCarolis, Kitty DiNicola, Ron Santoli, Jeremy DiFilippo

Arbitration Committee: David DiNicola, Charlene Dodgson, Sam Mammano, Gordon Rask, Nancy Rubé



Thank you to: Matthew Grosodonia, Annette DeCarolis, Patty Johns, Pat Rask, Vincent Giannantonio for serving on the Nominating Committee.

Their job is an important one since they have the responsibility of selecting the best candidates to be seated on our governing body.



**Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
New York Commission for Social Justice
The John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest**

This essay contest sponsored by the CSJ is opened to lodge members, in good standing, children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews in 7th and 8th grades or graduating seniors in high school. The theme is “What My Italian Heritage Means to Me”, with a deadline of being postmarked by April 19, 2021. A monetary award of \$200 will be presented to one 7th or 8th grader and one high school senior per district. For additional information, criteria requirements, and scoring rubric please contact Marjorie Focarazzo at MAFocarazzo@gmail.com.

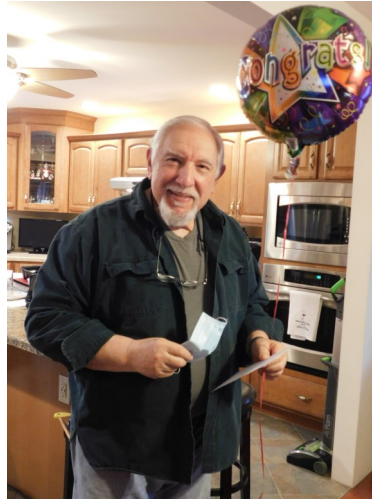
**Had Enough of Winter!
Me, too!!!**



Get an early peek at spring this February at the George Eastman Museum’s annual Dutch Connection floral display, where thousands of blooms are displayed throughout the mansion. The sights of colorful and aromatic hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, amaryllis, azaleas, begonias, and calla lilies will make you forget, even for just a short time, the cold, gray days of winter.

Landscape Manager Dan Bellavia is usually available for questions about the display and how to take care of the plants purchased. Volunteers and staff pot the tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth, and the pots are placed in a root cellar in Highland Park, graciously provided by the Monroe County Parks Department. When flowering starts the pots are brought to the museum, where they are thoughtfully arranged in a spectacular display of colors of various shades of orange, red, pink, lavender, yellow, and white. It is well worth the time spent to see and more information can be found on the George Eastman Museum’s website at <https://www.eastman.org/dutch-connection>.

Congratulations to our 50/50 Raffle Winners!



Brother Tom Meleca



Sister Pat Rask



Sister Ann Marie Taddeo



Italian Americans in the News: Regina Gina

*Article pulled from Italic Institute of America
Written by Bill Dal Cerro, January 23rd, 2021*

It is no surprise to see that President Biden selected Gina Raimondo, the governor of Rhode Island, to be in his cabinet, specifically, as his U.S. Commerce Secretary. Raimondo is the latest in a long line of strong Italian American women in politics – a link which is no less legit simply because our myopic media fails to adequately recognize it.

It's a familiar topic to Italian Americans who know their history, but not to the general public, to wit: In our 243 years as a nation, it was Italian American women who eventually shattered the "glass ceiling" of male-dominated American politics. There were, indeed, previous trail-blazers, such as Victoria Woodhull, who ran for president in 1872, and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-NY), who did the same in 1972.

But it was Ella Grasso who was elected the first female governor in her own right, without being appointed by anyone or succeeding a husband (1974). It was Geraldine Ferraro who was nominated at the first female VP candidate for a major political party (1984). It was Nancy Pelosi who became the first female Speaker of the House (2006). We now have our first actual female vice president, Kamala Harris. Yet, it's undeniable that the Grasso/Ferraro/Pelosi "triumvirate" paved the way for such an achievement.

First elected governor in 2014, Raimondo previously made a name for herself as the state's treasurer and, before that, as the founder of one of the state's first venture capital firms. She was an early trail-blazer herself, one of the first girls allowed to attend LaSalle Academy, an all-boys' Catholic prep school. She quickly unlocked any shackles of tokenism by proceeding to become the school's valedictorian.

Her early educational success set the template for what followed: She earned a BA at Harvard, a doctorate in Philosophy at Oxford University in England as a Rhodes scholar, and a *Juris Doctor* at Yale. After clerking for federal judge Kimbra Wood, Raimondo returned to her home-state, beginning the career ascent now culminating in a Biden cabinet position. Interestingly, before the George Floyd killing inspired Biden to commit to choosing a Black female VP, Raimondo was on his short list of potential running mates. In a May 22nd article in the *Washington Post*, conservative columnist George Will, of all people, sang Raimondo's praises, saying a Biden/Raimondo ticket would restore "adult supervision" to the White House. A few days later came the Floyd incident. But, clearly, Raimondo was still on Biden's radar.

Raimondo made national headlines last summer via a scuffle with fellow Italian American governor Andrew Cuomo from New York, demanding that people from his COVID-infected state who visit Rhode Island quarantine for two weeks. She later expanded her directive to include people from other states.

Her positive handling of the pandemic, however, led to a surge in her popularity, as did her election as chair of the Democratic Governors Association in 2019. So did previous initiatives such as cutting taxes and regulations, implementing paid sick leave, and raising the minimum wage to \$11.50, higher than the national average. Her father, Joseph, lost his job at the Bulova Watch factory when he was 56 years old, a victim of globalization. Memories of that event, watching her father and others struggle to get back on their feet, no doubt inspired Gov. Raimondo's common-sense concerns.

Raimondo is not without her critics. An initiative to computerize state records didn't go very smoothly. The state's department of child services was called by an Obama official "one of the most messed-up agencies ever." Her goal of managing state pension systems was considered wobbly, at best. But, Raimondo's intellect and physical energy (she regularly jogs, and played rugby in college) seem to easily surmount any negatives.

Thanks to the economic devastation caused by the Coronavirus, Raimondo's cabinet position will become even more visible and important. And, if she does a fine job, perhaps a "President Raimondo" may not be too strange of a concept to ponder.

Zoom Course: The Hardships of the Early Italian Immigrants and the Italian American Experience
6 online sessions lasting 2 1/2 hours each, Instructor: Francesca Roman
Reviewed by Brother Joe Rubé

I found an ad in an email about this class that piqued my interest, as I was getting bored watching Netflix during this time when we were homebound and I was nursing an injury from my hip, preventing me from doing yard work. I've also had trouble reading since I've retired and felt that I could revive my interest in reading as there would be "homework" that involved reading some of the literature covering the topics we would be discussing in class. So I paid the \$200 fee and went back to "school" to learn more about the topic of the hardships of early Italian American immigrants. I grew up in New Jersey living in a house with my paternal grandparents who emigrated from Sicily in the early 1900's, my father, born in Brooklyn in 1905, his brother, born in NY in 1915, my mother who had no Italian lineage, and my three sisters. I don't recall my grandparents, father or uncle speaking in the Sicilian dialect when we were around. I learned later that they wanted to be known as Americans and spoke English with many Italian words mixed in, like "mia caro" (my car). They maintained Italian traditions in the home but did not talk about their experiences being Italian in America. So right from the start of this course I began learning why they felt like they did and why they wanted to be "Americanized" for us to follow.

The early courses focused on the early years and dealt with why Italians chose America as their destination. A large percentage came from Sicily and Southern Italy. They were mostly farmers (contadini) and in America the southern states were in need of farmers for their sugar and cotton forms. Americans and Northern Italians were more involved with industrial jobs. Of course, the pay was very low but still better than back home. We learned that in the late 1800's and early 1900's, the large influx of Sicilians created a societal situation that was fostered by the need to keep the Italian's feeling respected. This all changed as the Italians were looked upon as intruders pushing the "national born" out. All this led to the lynchings in New Orleans. Much of our homework reading came from Jerre Mangione and Ben Morreale's book "La Storia". It is recognized as the authority on the history of the Italian American experience. I have had this book for many years and read it twice years ago. What a difference when I was reading it for the third time as a homework assignment for this course. I felt more like I was living their experience.

Another area well covered was the period of time of WWII and the Italian Internment Camps. The Italians, along with Germans and Japanese to a lesser degree, were considered now "enemy" aliens. They were forced to register for a certificate of identification at the post office nearest their home. In order to stay inconspicuous they were advised not to speak, even to each other, in their native language. When Mussolini became an enemy of the US, anyone who was found to be associated to Italy became the enemy. The Italians became frightened, fractured, dispersed, and silenced for a generation. All this despite the fact that many Italians hated Mussolini and actually joined the US Armed Forces, supported war bond drives, etc. This section clarified for me what the real situation was for my family. I was born in 1944, my father was a surgeon in the US Army at that time, sent to Walter Reed Hospital to train in the specialty of Neurosurgery for 6 months. Ultimately he became the first Board Certified Neurosurgeon in New Jersey. During the course we were asked if any of us had ever experienced or heard of the extreme discrimination of a family member or friend. I related the story of my father and mother. Their wedding reception was held at the prestigious country club in Ridgewood, NJ, sponsored by my father's member friend. Several years after, my father applied for membership at the same country club, sponsored by the same friend, and was turned down because of his Italian heritage.

Other classes were devoted to the parting and arriving process for Italian immigrants, challenges then faced in America, low wage labor, and living conditions in tenement apartments. This is just a brief (for me) summary of the course. It was very rewarding and worth the cost. I would recommend it, should it be offered again. The titles and reading list are below.

YouTube: The Italian Immigrants - Lynchings, Panoamero

YouTube: OSDIA/New Orleans—Recognition of Italian contributions to New Orleans. Apology by Mayor Cantrell

YouTube: Example - Louis Prima

The Rutledge History of Italian Americans, *William J Connell and Stanistao G Pugliese*

WOP! - A Documentary History of Anti-American Discrimination in the United States, *Salvatore LaGumina*

La Storia—Five Centuries of the Italian American Experience, *Jerry Mangeone and Ben Morreale*

Anti-Italianism - Essays on Prejudice, *William J Connell and Fred Gardaphe*

Blood of my Blood - The Dilemma of the Italian Americans, *Richard Gambino*

The Guarded Gate, *Daniel Okrent*

From Sicily to Elizabeth Street - Housing and Social Change Among Italian Immigrants 1880-1930, *Donna Gabaccia*

Italian-Louisiana History, Heritage, and Tradition, *Alan Gauthreaux*

Rope and Soap - Lynchings of Italians in the United States, *Patrizia Salvetti*

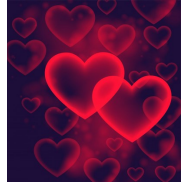
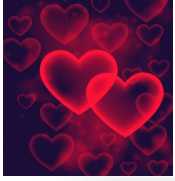
Dixies Italians, Sicilians, Race and Citizenship in the Jim Crow Gulf South, *Jessica Barbata Jackson*

Sacco + Vanzetti - The Men, The Murders and the Judgement of Mankind, *Bruce Watson*

Are Italians White? How Race is Made in America, *Jennifer Guglielmo and Salvatore Salerno*

On Persecution, Identity, and Activism - Aspects of the Italian American Experience..., *Cristogianni Borsella*

A Celebration of Romance...



Dave VanArsdale & Elizabeth Osta on their 25th wedding anniversary, July 21st, 2020. Seneca Lake in Watkins Glen.



Ed & Pat Groszewski on their 42nd wedding anniversary, June 25th, 2008. On a safari in The Serengeti, Tanzania



Marjorie Focarazzo & Ron Santoli seeing the Tall Ships in Boston, 2017.

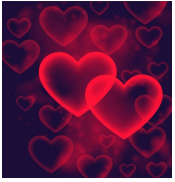
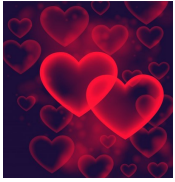


Steve & Carol Cataldi, Columbus Day Parade, 2009, where Steve proposed to Carol. 2020 was there 10 year anniversary!



Kitty & Dave DiNicola, enjoying dinner on a cruise to Puerto Rico, 2018

Through the years.....



Tom & Sandy Meleca, married 52 years



Chris & Marisa Przepiora,
married 3 years and together for 15



Joe & Pat Galante,
married 57 years



Frank & Angie Giancaterin,
married 56 years



Joe & Nancy Rubé,
married 53 years

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Vice-President
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