



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
January 2021 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

President Anthony Naccarato wrote in The Golden Lion, “I can still remember how hurtful it was when I would hear some misguided and mean-spirited hospital employee tell my mother, ‘you people always want something for nothing’ when she complained that we had been waiting ten hours to get medical attention. Those words are etched in my memory as if they were yesterday.” We have all heard similar words throughout our lives, and when directed at us, we take it personally, we feel belittled and maligned. We ask ourselves, “What did I do, what did my family do, what did my friends do to serve such hateful words and such horrible treatment.”

Of late, I think about the idiom, “when the shoe is on the other foot”. It has been a mutual effort, not something accomplished by a single individual or one group alone, to act with such disdain towards others and to create any form of social inequity. Collectively we can put forth change, not as a charitable act but for the greater good for all of us. We need to step up and do our part, to listen with open ears.

We should reflect on our own biases; we should consider the number of times we jump to conclusions or are judgmental when not thinking about someone else’s circumstances or situations. We teach our children to view different perspective, demand a high standard of truth, and ask for patience to engage and discuss. We teach the value of law that protects all of us, and we teach history so as not to repeat the past and to guard against oppression. Our children learn that life is much fairer and the things we do more enjoyable when we all play by the same rules, because when we don’t, we suffer from chaos.

In the past ten months, we have had to deal with tough emotions, whether directly or indirectly. What we need to show more of is empathy, compassion, and sympathy. Many of us will say that we are already empathetic, compassionate, and sympathetic, and if you already are, then be more so. Our lives, our society, our world can use a little more of all three. Know what you don’t know. Make room for voices different than our own and respect those differences. When we see experiences unlike our own, listen and learn.

Our world and our country are suffering a time of high political tension, despair, anger, skepticism, and distrust. We would be better off if we applied the test— “what if the shoe was on the other foot?”

Take care and God Bless,
Marjorie

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January 14 General Assembly Meeting

We are still holding monthly General Assembly Meetings and you can join from the comfort of your home in any of the following ways: Laptop/Desktop Computer, tablet, smartphone, or even a regular cell or landline phone. Please consider joining us as a way to connect with fellow members—we would love to “see” you!!

If you would like to join these meetings, but don't feel confident in your technological skills, please contact Marisa. I will send you step by step directions for whichever type of device you would like to use and am happy to set up a test call in order to try it out before meeting time. I can be reached at 585-750-8336 or marisarube@gmail.com.

Vincent Lombardi Lodge General Assembly Meeting

August 13th, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84252631864>

Or call using this number:

+1 646 558 8656

If prompted, use the following meeting ID

Meeting ID: 842 5263 1864

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

A note regarding our 2021 calendar....

All of our annual lodge events are TBD as we continue to follow CDC recommendations, and those from our state president, regarding the hosting of in person gatherings.

This calendar will be updated as we are able to make plans. We are anxious to come together again to celebrate our lodge and its members, and look forward to some fun a little later in 2021. Until then—be safe, be vigilant and take care of yourselves and your loved ones as we move towards post pandemic times.

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



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

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



Sending our love and prayers for a full recovery to Sister Linda Agnello, hospitalized with COVID19.

Also sending good thoughts to Brother Vince Giannantonio, involved in a car accident, with no serious injuries.



Two new members were initiated at our December (virtual) General Assembly Meeting.

James (Jim) Caternolo lives in Ontario, NY and is a plumber by trade. He and his wife Dawn have two children. Jim's sponsor is Tom Meleca.

Scott DiMarco lives in Mansfield PA with wife Julie, and their three daughters. Scott works in higher education as an administrator in the university library. His membership is sponsored by his cousin, Louis DeCarolis.

Our members are very glad to welcome you to our Lodge, and we hope to meet Jim and Scott and their families in person at a future event.

A note from the editor....



As we've all had to pivot and adjust to not seeing each other in person, our newsletter has become one of our main forms of communication with each other. We've worked to add interesting content, and we need your help to keep this going. Would you consider writing a guest column? Here are some ideas:

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. I look forward to hearing from you!!

~Marisa

Check out the New York State Grand Lodge on social media:



OSDIA Podcast at Italamia Podcast
YouTube Videos, NYS Grand Lodge
Facebook

2021 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 senior graduating from a Monroe County public, private, parochial or certified home school, or related to a lodge member if living in another county. Student must be of Italian descent (at least one grandparent must be of Italian heritage). Student must commence study at an accredited educational institution to continue learning in the fall following their high school graduation, including community/junior colleges, colleges, universities, and career, technical or vocational/trade schools. Preference is given to students associated with members of the lodge, but anyone who meets the above requirements is eligible and encouraged to apply.

Fees and Deadlines: There is no fee to apply. Application deadline is March 31st, 2021. 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 2021. Applications are also available on our lodge website: www.sonsofitalyrochester.com

Questions? Please contact Marisa Przepiora at 585-750-8336 or 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, 2021 and must be submitted to Marjorie Focarazzo.

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

2021 National Leadership Grant Competition

The Sons of Italy Foundation sponsor their 2021 merit-based scholarships to 10-12 students ranging from \$4000 to \$25,000. General eligibility: US citizens of Italian descent who will be enrolled in an undergraduate program or graduate program at an accredited school of higher education. The description and specific requirements for each scholarship can be found on the Supreme Lodge's website at www.osia.org/scholarships.

General requirements for the six posted scholarships: all scholarships must be submitted on using the application provided; certified transcripts through the December 2020 semester must be provided; and a \$35 non-refundable process fee is required with each application submitted. Unless noted, the deadline for submission is February 28, 2021 and all materials/documents must be submitted online.

Applications are screened by education professionals, but the final selection is made by OSDIA's National Scholarship, Education, and Culture Committee and notification will be made by May 1, 2021. Monetary awards will be made directly to the student's academic institution.

Traditions....



Epiphany in Italy is a public holiday celebrated on January 6th when the three Wise Men or Kings brought gifts to the baby Jesus in the manger. Depending on where you are in Italy the day carries its own traditions.

In southern Italy and Sicily, gifts are left to children by the wise men. In other parts of Italy, La Befana leaves the gifts of toys, sweet, and small presents in the child's sock, but lumps of coal are left to those children who have been naughty throughout the year. She arrives on her broom that she uses to sweep the floors to brush away last year's problems along with any dirt she may have brought into the house.

Epiphany is the twelve day of Christmas closing one of the most important religious holiday seasons. There are public celebrations throughout Italy, especially at the Vatican where people wear clothing of the Middle Ages era and normally present gifts honoring those of the Magi to the Pope. There are parades and street fairs celebrating the day. In Venice a rowing regatta race celebrates the day. Athlete members of the oldest rowing club, the Bucintoro, disguise themselves as old witches and race from S. Toma to the Rialto Bridge.

A SIP OF WINE

COLLEZIONE DI PAOLO GRAN PREMIO RESERVA 2013 *Chianti DOCG*

2013 was an exceptionally good year in Tuscany and Paoli Masi had his pick of sangiovese grapes from his Rufina vineyard. Fattoria di Basciano, the Masi family estate, is located in the heart of the Chianti premium Rufina region. It is located on a hill overlooking the Argomena Valley on one side and the right bank of the Siene River on the other. The dry, breezy micro-climate and heat trapping stony soil is perfect for growing the Sangiovese grape.

This wine is aged for twenty-four months in small French barriques, which creates its depth and spiciness. It then spends three years resting in the bottle before being released. It's intriguing aromas of cherries, currents, and blackberries. On the palate, it has red and black fruits mingled with spice, vanilla, and subtle tobacco notes with a well-rounded texture that gives way to a persistent finish. It is medium bodies and goes well with red meats and pasta dishes.



wine-searcher.com



It is truly amazing the capacity some people have to diminish their pain by projecting it on those who cherish the value of their soul!!! When someone dies or is gone, we are all diminished by one!!!! But the love that is in one's heart remains forever.

~ Brother Ron Santoli

Grandmother Said It Best: A Treasury of Italian Proverbs

By
Joseph Antinoro-Polizzi, PhD
Angeline Guzzetta-Jones, MA



Senza Dio nulla vale.

Without God all indeed is in vain.

Dolce far niente!

How sweet is to do nothing!

Jill Biden Set to Become the First Italian American First Lady

Article taken directly from the Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA)

Written by ISDA staff on November 7th, 2020

<https://orderisda.org/culture/women/jill-biden-set-to-become-the-first-italian-american-first-lady/>



As Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden worked to bring attention to the sacrifices made by military families. (Credit: WhiteHouse.gov)

Joseph R. Biden Jr. is the presumptive winner of the 2020 Presidential Election, after he secured 20 electoral votes by winning Pennsylvania on Saturday morning, The New York Times reports.

But perhaps equally historic is the fact that his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, is set to become the first Italian American First Lady in our nation's history.

Her story, and its humble beginnings, read like so many accounts that have been passed down from one Italian American generation to the next.

Her grandfather, Domenico Giacoppa, emigrated with his parents (Gaetano and Concetta) from Sicily to Ellis Island in 1900, and worked as a furniture deliveryman in New Jersey. Her father, Donald, started as a bank teller and went on to become the head of a savings and loan institution in Philadelphia.

“Every weekend of my childhood, my parents would drive me and my four younger sisters back to New Jersey to see our grandparents. We loved the Annual Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Italian Festival. The rides, games, fireworks and the grand procession of saints through the streets of Hammonton... It was a festival where many Italian grandparents would bond with their grandkids,”

Dr. Biden said during a recent Q&A with writer Joe Battaglia. “My grandmother cooked traditional Italian dishes for Sunday dinner. We would go to my grandparents house every Sunday because her cooking was the best. The red sauce and the meatballs and the pasta... I have beautiful memories of cooking with my grandmother, mom and four sisters. It was at their house that I made homemade tomato sauce for the first time.”

Dr. Biden has a bachelor's and doctoral degree from the University of Delaware, as well as two master's degrees. She taught English and reading in high schools for 13 years, and also taught adolescents with emotional disabilities at a psychiatric hospital.

Since 2009, she has been a professor of English at Northern Virginia Community College and is thought to be the first Second Lady to hold a paying job while her husband was vice president.

Despite a leave of absence due to her role with the campaign, she plans on returning to work during Mr. Biden's presumptive first term as president.

“I would love to. If we get to the White House, I'm going to continue to teach,” she said in an interview with CBS' Rita Braver that aired on CBS Sunday Morning. “I want people to value teachers and know their contributions and to lift up the profession.”

Interesting facts about the Italian Language

Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

Perhaps I am biased, but I would bet I could find others who agree with me, Italian is the world's best and most beautiful language. Read on about some odd, amusing, and mildly interesting facts about a language known for its beauty, romance, and musicality.

- There are only 21 letters in the Italian alphabet. The letters j, k, w, x, and y don't exist except as loan words, as in jeans, although some dialects will use j and k but usually in proper names or places.
- The current Standard Italian actually comes from the 13th Century Tuscan, more specifically Florentine. The grammatical manual of the Florentine language was created by Pietro Bembo, making it easier to adopt the language once the rules were written down.
- The most widely spoken regional dialect is Neapolitan, with over five million speakers. The least widely spoken is Croato, the region of present-day Croatia in Molise.
- It is the official national language not only in Italy but also Switzerland, Vatican City, San Marino, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and the European Union, and a minority language in Slovenia, Croatia, and Brazil.
 - Slightly more than one million people speak Italian in the United States.
- The first novel written in Italian is *I Promessi Sposi* (The Betrothed) by Alessandro Manzoni. It gives great insight of Italy under Spanish Rule and told through the lives of a peasant couple.
- The purity of the Italian language is protected by the *Accademia della Crusca*, a society of linguists in Florence.
 - Italian is the fourth most studied language in the world.
 - There are some exceedingly long words: 26 letters *precipitevolissimevolmente*, which means very quickly. Two words have four consecutive vowels: *ghiaiaiuolo* (someone who sells or produces gravel) and *cuoiaiuolo* (someone who sells or produces leather goods).
- A few words that contain four consecutive consonants: *substrato* (substrate), *sanscrito* (Sanskrit), *inscritto* (inscribed), and *instradare* (to direct).
- Italians love double consonants, but rarely uses a double "q", and the exception is *soqqadro* which means disarray or shambles
- Some words have four pairs of consonants: conjugated forms of *appallottolare* (to ball up) and *disseppellire* (to dig up)
- The highest number of occurrences of a single letter in a single Italian word goes to and there are eight of them: *indivisibilissimi* (plural form of very indivisible) and *indistinguibilissimi* (very indistinguishable)
- And there are just some words that do not have another t rhyme with them: *fegato* (liver) because the accent falls on the first syllable and *despota* (despot).



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