



The Roar of the Lion

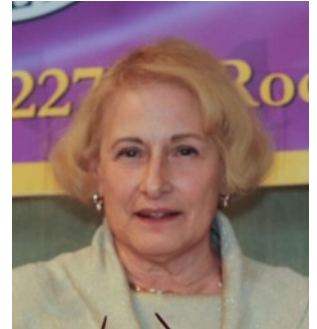
Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
September 2021 Edition

2021

SCHOLARSHIP EDITION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Scholarship is defined as “a grant or payment made to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement”. This month we will award scholarships to six students in the total amount of \$9,000, who have recently graduated from high school and will soon be heading for their first semester at college. For our Lodge this was no small feat after having canceled all events and fundraisers for more than a year. But thanks to the generosity of our members and past honorees, we are able to make these presentations.



Scholarship is extremely important to the Sons and Daughters of Italy, from the local lodge to the Supreme Lodge. Every student’s story is different, and the financial gap can be tremendous, sometimes being the deciding factor to attend college or not and which college to attend. Providing support to students enables greater success. Scholarships can make a significant difference to a student’s education and can maximize their experience through service learning, volunteer opportunities and internships.

Earning a degree means the student has accomplished something by gaining knowledge, skills, and experience that can help in both career and in personal life. Added benefits are developing better communication and problem-solving skills which will increase confidence.

Our Scholarship/Awards Evening recognizes those students who have the ability to outshine the rest. They understand their strengths and weaknesses and improve upon those characteristics to be more confident, have self-esteem, and to work towards achieving their goals. These students consider learning as an investment in their future and look beyond just the good grades.

Scholarships can help make college more accessible and affordable, and pave the way to completion of the student’s degree. Scholarships can help to lighten the burden in the cost of college, so the student can focus their energy on school and their studies. When students can work towards the greater good, rather than paying off loans or dropping out of school for financial reasons, the results are a happier, healthier, and more productive working public. We are proud of all our students and only wish we had the resources to make an award to each applicant. The Vincent Lombardi Lodge wishes them all success and a bright future.

God Bless and take care,
Marjorie



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September Events in Italy: The Feast of San Gennaro



Saint Gennaro was Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and died a martyr in 305 AD during the persecution spearheaded by Emperor Diocletian.

He signed his death warrant when he visited the deacons, Sosso and Proculo, and the laymen, Eutichete and Acuzio, in jail. The Proconsul, Timothy, had Gennaro arrested. He underwent torture without wavering in his resolution to remain loyal to Christ. He was thrown headlong into a furnace, but by the grace of God, he came through unscratched. Furious, the agents beheaded him. His body and the severed head still dripping blood were gathered up by an old man who wrapped them reverently in a cloth. An old Neapolitan lady collected the blood with a sponge and filled a phial with the precious liquid.

The body of Saint Gennaro is preserved in Naples, where he is honored as the city's principal patron.

The Neapolitans pray to him for protection from fires, earthquakes, plagues, droughts and the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. In every emergency Saint Gennaro is their powerful champion and universal helper. His blood, which is normally solidified, liquefies twice a year on the first of Sunday of May, the feast of the transfer of his relics, and on September 19, the anniversary of his martyrdom.

In Little Italy, NYC

The immigrant families on Mulberry Street who started the feast, a group of cafe owners, erected a small chapel in the street to house the image of their patron Saint. They invited all to partake of their wares, asking the devoted to pin an offering to the ribbon streamers that are hung from the statue's apron. This money was then distributed to the needy poor of the neighborhood. Over time, the festival expanded into an 11-day street fair organized and run by people outside the neighborhood. It is now an annual celebration of food and drink, and a major tourist attraction.

Centered on Mulberry Street, which is closed to traffic for the occasion, the festival generally features sausages, zeppole, street vendors, games, parades and other such attractions. The Grand Procession is held starting at 2 p.m. on the last Saturday of the feast, immediately after a celebratory Mass at the Church of the Most Precious Blood. This is a Roman Catholic candlelit procession in which the statue of San Gennaro is carried from its permanent home in the Most Precious Blood Church through the streets of Little Italy.

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2021 Calendar

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

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

October 22nd: ITALIAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE DINNER, Webster Golf Club

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

November 18th: TONY ANTOLINI TURKEY
RAFFLE, St. Nicholas Society

December 2nd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
December 9th, 7pm: General Assembly Holiday
Gathering and meeting

June 24th, 2022: 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION, Webster Golf Club

In Naples, Italy

The Religious Ceremony: On the morning of September 19, thousands of people fill the Duomo and Piazza del Duomo, the square in front of it, hoping to see the saint's blood liquefy in what's known as the miracle of San Gennaro. In a solemn religious ceremony, the Cardinal removes the vials of blood from the chapel, and takes them in a procession, along with a bust of San Gennaro, to the cathedral's high altar.

The crowd watches anxiously to see if the blood miraculously liquefies, believed to be a sign that San Gennaro has blessed the city. It is thought to be a bad omen if it doesn't. If the blood liquefies – which it usually does – the church bells ring, and the Cardinal takes the liquefied blood through the cathedral and out into the square so everyone can see it. Then he returns the reliquary to the altar where the vials remain on display for eight days.

The Festival Celebration: As with many Italian festivals, there's much more than just the main event. After the ceremony, a religious procession winds through the streets of the historic center, where the roads and the shops are closed. Stands selling toys, trinkets, food, and candy are set up in the streets. Festivities go on for eight days until the reliquary returns to its place.



9/5: Michael Sciortino
9/6: Patrick Bernunzio
9/8: Mickey Palucci
9/9: Ross Cottone

9/10: Angela Giancaterin
9/14: Joanne Napoli
9/22: Luigi DiFilippo
9/28: Sal Cutaia



Sending strength and prayers to the family of member Catherine Nuci, who passed away on August 20th, at the age of 102. Catherine's obituary can be found here :

<https://harrisfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/3880/Catherine-Nuci/obituary.html>



Sending prayers to all of our members who are ill or recovering from illness, hospitalization an injuries.

Our deepest appreciation to Jim Vacanti and Zweigle's Hots for their donation to the Members' Picnic.

A huge Thank You to Br. Vince and Sr. Kitty for co-chairing the Member's Picnic Committee. Thank you and much appreciation to Patty Johns, Char Dodgson, Carol DiNicola, Sue Galens, Pat Bartholomew, Luigi DiFilippo, Tom Meleca, Louis DeCarolis, Joe Jennings, and Ron Santoli for all the tasks that made the picnic a success.



Thank you to all our Council members and Lodge members for preparing and donating food.



Founded June 22,1905

News from the OSDIA Supreme Lodge

The August 14th meeting opened with words from best selling author, Adriana Trigiani. She said the "power lies in us to spread the word about our heritage and the hard work of Italians. Past president and current nomination committee chair, Joseph Sciamè, presented the slate and opened nominations from the floor.

Your newly elected National Council is:

- President**, Robert Bianchi from NJ
- 1st VP**, Joseph Boncore of MA
- 2nd VP**, Michael Polo, from CT
- 3rd VP**, Thom Lupo, NY
- 4th VP**, Mark DeNunzio, FL
- 5th VP**, Anthony Bisceglia Anderson, from North West (Washington State)
- Immediate Past President**, Nancy Di Fiore Quinn, of NY
- Orator**, Frank Gattuso, NJ
- Recording Secretary**, John Saladino, NJ
- Financial Secretary**, Louis Santoro, NJ
- Treasurer**, Joseph Rondinelli, NY
- Historian**, Lynn Lawrence-Murphy, of CA

Robert Ferrito, Past President of NYS Grand Lodge and current National CSJ President was elected as **Trustee** from NYS.



DOMINIC LIPPA
VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE SCHOLARSHIP - \$1500
HIGH SCHOOL: GATES CHILI
COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
FIELD OF STUDY: CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Dominic is a soccer and trumpet player from Gates Chili High School who enjoys fishing, cooking, and spending time outdoors. Among his many accomplishments, he has received the Faith through Sports Award, an Italian III Excellence Award, and Hands of Christ recognition. He spent three years on high honor role and ranked 3rd in his class of approximately 350 students. He will be attending The University of Rochester for Chemical Engineering with the goal of research and development of medicines.

“Dominic is a pleasure to work with. He is always excited to play and is one of the most reliable and courteous students I have encountered. He is consistently prepared for lessons and always willing to surpass expectations. He asks meaningful questions and applies what he has learned. I highly recommend him for your scholarship.” ~ Christopher Oldfield, Instrumental Music Teacher—Gates Chili High School

“Dominic consistently shows his willingness to put others first and to lead with “servant leadership” style, which I believe speaks to his character. He has been a model of character and sportsmanship and has always impressed me with his innate leadership skills and his ability to inspire others on the team. Although he is competitive, he understands the greater value of trying your hardest and showing good moral values through athletics. Dominic would not hesitate to help an opponent up off the ground, and has demonstrated his integrity by correcting the referees when they make a call in our favor that is inaccurate. I can truly say that I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to coach Dominic over the years. His dedication, character and work ethic made it a joy to coach him and truly set a standard for our team.” ~ Sara Falk, St. Pius X Parish Soccer Coach

An Excerpt from Dominic’s essay:

Since family is such a central aspect of Italian culture, Mr. Luciani decided to be a teacher, just like his father. However, he was inspired to live away from home to find himself and explore his family’s history. By doing so, he was able to learn much about his past generations and appreciate how he came to be in America.

After reflecting on the interview, I was able to take some important points away about Italian heritage. Mr. Luciani taught me that family comes first. He visited Italy not only to explore the beauty it holds, but to understand his familial history better. By doing so, he was more thankful of his grandfather’s commitment to establishing the family name in America. Mr. Luciani is proud that he was given the opportunity to live here because of the sacrifices his grandfather made. He without a doubt taught me that sticking to your roots is crucial in expressing yourself and upkeeping the history of an Italian family, and this is a life lesson I will not forget.



VANESSA IANTORNO
EUNICE MCCARTHY VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE
SCHOLARSHIP - \$1500
HIGH SCHOOL: GATES CHILI
COLLEGE: ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE
FIELD OF STUDY: BUSINESS or PSYCHOLOGY

Vanessa is a National Honor Society student from Gates-Chili High school who spends much of her time in service to others through peer leadership, school improvement team, student council and youth group. Among her many accomplishments, Vanessa earned high honor roll from grade six through twelve, received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and was a HOBY Youth Leadership Ambassador. Vanessa will be attending Roberts Wesleyan College in the fall for Business or Psychology.

“Vanessa is extremely bright and very motivated. She is already off to a great start for her college career. I am certain that with her energy, resilience, determination and superior work ethic, not to mention her compassionate personality, Vanessa will be a success in whatever path her future may take. I know Vanessa will be a success to her program and community. I am very proud to have been her Italian teacher.”
~ Mary Ellen Donovan, Italian and French Teacher, Gates Chili High School

“Vanessa has high standards at work, but also in her personal life. She is always eager to help her coworkers and assist with jobs when needed. Whenever she assists, she ensures the job was done to the best of her ability. Vanessa brings a great attitude and strong work ethic to work every day. She is consistently on time, focused, and ready to provide incredible customer service. She is an exemplary citizen and I believe she would be an excellent candidate for your scholarship.”
~Emily Main, Store Operation Intern, Wegman’s

An Excerpt from Vanessa’s essay:

...People from Pescara or even Abruzzo in general have a pride that is almost contagious, that inspires others to appreciate their own culture as well. My father says that “Abruzzo capatosta” or stubbornness also plays a factor in his determination to do great in America and wants to be a good representation of his city and region. This determination and pride is shown throughout my family on both sides and has passed down a generation to my brother and me. It also explains our love for Abruzzo and closeness with our family that lives there, even though we’re across the country. Having the privilege to go there and seeing my father in his element shows how positively impacted my father is from having these Abruzzese roots.

Even without considering the view of my father and other family members on their heritage, I can say I hold similar views of the Italian culture as well, after seeing it my whole life and learning about it in my Italian class studies. Compared to other cultures, Italians have this positive, hardworking, and caring aspect or view on things. Their view of the importance of family and hard work makes me proud to be an Italian, especially an Italian with Abruzzo heritage, I hope that other people who are Italian are proud of where they come from as well, because the history of Italians and their success in all aspects of life from science to art to music really shows how positive and impactful this one culture is among the many in the world.



MICHAEL MACERA
PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - \$1000
HIGH SCHOOL: WEBSTER SCHROEDER
COLLEGE: ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY
FIELD OF STUDY: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Michael is a Tennis and Volleyball player from Webster Schroeder High School who enjoys music and video games. Among his many accomplishments, Michael was a high honor roll student who earned the Principal's Recognition Award three times, and was the recipient of the Hands of Christ Award and a participant at the Lockheed Martin Codequest Competition. He is attending St. Bonaventure University for Computer Science.

"Especially this year, getting students to work together has been very tough.

Masks, social distancing, and general social anxiety are all working against the model of collaboration. Michael, thank goodness though, was in the class. When the first test of the year was returned, Michael almost immediately said, "OK everyone, come around here, we're going to go through the questions one by one", and there he was, leading a class discussion that I had not once required or asked him to do – and he was doing it with such kindness. The fact that Michael was able to foster such cooperation, even in his toughest of years, speaks volumes to his generosity, his kindness, his ability to not only work in a team but to be a team leader.

He is intelligent, kind, compassionate and a true leader." ~ Siobhan Julian, Chemistry Teacher, Webster Schroeder High School

"Michael is a kind, hard working individual that is always willing to tackle any task given to him. Michael has proven himself respectful and caring towards all customers and co-workers, and has made a difference in the time he has been at Wegman's. I believe Michael to be an exemplary candidate for your scholarship.

~Taylor Finewood, Service Team Leader, Wegman's

An Excerpt from Michael's essay:

...(My father) reminded me that he grew up on a farm picking tomatoes with his father from morning till night when he didn't have school. From this, he learned the value of hard work and self sufficiency. While working hard to make a living for yourself, it is easy to forget the importance of your family and friends, so it is essential to maintain a good balance between the two. In the fall time in Italy, my father and my grandparents would go to my great-grandparents farm to make wine. There, they would work tirelessly to pick the right grapes to make wine that they could sell to others. Community and sticking with those closest to you is extremely important to my father, and is something he brought to the United States with him. Along with the sense of community, my father makes sure that mutual respect between all is mandatory, because people may live different lives, but as long as they can get together to have a good time, they deserve every bit of respect. He makes it clear that disrespect and rudeness solve absolutely nothing that that everyone needs a bit of love and kindness. From his time growing up in Italy with his parents, my father also learned to value education, as it is the foundation for a successful life and career....Now that I am 18 years old and ready to take my journey into college, I believe that my understanding of Italian culture has been made similar to my father's due to his love of his children and willingness to make us the best possible people we can be. I hope to have a successful future while living the Italian-American life, which leads me to be able to teach these same values taught by my father to my future children.



BENJAMIN TANTALO
PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - \$1500
HIGH SCHOOL: CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ROCHESTER
COLLEGE: ST. VINCENT COLLEGE
FIELD OF STUDY: BUSINESS OR FINANCE

Benjamin is a cross country track, soccer, and basketball player from Chesterton Academy who loves finance and musical theater. Among his many accomplishments, Benjamin was a school prefect and athletic board member, and Received the Faith through Sports and Hands of Christ Award. Benjamin will be attending St. Vincent College in the fall for Business and Finance.

“With respect to teamwork, Ben has the rare ability to flex between natural leader and very supportive peer. He quickly grasps the purpose of labs and helps his team organize tasks, roles and responsibilities to get started. He is conscientious of time, asks clarifying questions, is respectful of his teammates, is quick to learn new analytical skills, and is diligent in record keeping. Ben has always challenged himself academically while participating in school and the local community. He has earned the respect of his fellow students, his teachers and his administrators. He is an impressive young man and I confidently recommend him.”

~ Dr. Diane Herrick, Science Teacher, Chesterton Academy of Rochester

“Throughout Ben’s life, he has demonstrated a lived faith with honesty and integrity. Simply put, Ben’s faith informs his life. He has very faithfully, enthusiastically, responsibly and joyfully served the wider community and our parish in a variety of areas. He follows direction well while also taking the initiative to look for opportunities and to suggest improvements. I would describe Ben as a humble, intelligent, enthusiastic servant leader who would immediately begin to make contributions wherever he finds himself.”

~Deacon Frank Pettrone, Pastoral Administrator, St. Mark’s Church

An Excerpt from Benjamin’s essay:

Before the interview, I didn’t really understand how neighborly everyone was in the early 20th century. The Italian families in my grandma’s time could teach me and my generation quite a bit about loving neighbors and generosity. I also learned how the Catholic churches brought Italian families like my grandmother’s together with the Irish and German community.

I realized through this interview that many of the things that are important to my family come from my Italian heritage. First, faith and family are of upmost importance in our lives. We are a very close family, and our faith is very important to us. Much of our life revolves around our parish. I see that many of my parents’ habits also came from their Italian parents. We have a vegetable garden and grow many of the foods which we enjoy, such as tomatoes, basil, oregano, beans, zucchini, and garlic. My parents not only share their vegetables, but they also share homemade meals with many people....My parents also inherited my grandma’s frugality and wise spending habits. My parents live modestly, trying not to waste money, food or material possessions, so they can support their family and give generously. I have emulated my parents throughout the years as they have passed down their literal genealogy and have led me by example throughout my life. I found this interview with my grandma as a great gift for me by helping me understand where my lifestyle and values came from.



MOLLY FISHER
JENNIFER RUBE' MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - \$1550
HIGH SCHOOL: WEBSTER THOMAS
COLLEGE: ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE
FIELD OF STUDY: PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT

Molly is a Field Hockey, Nordic Skiing and Piano player from Webster Thomas High School. Among her many accomplishments, Molly was awarded the scholar athlete award for field hockey and Nordic skiing, is a member of the national honor society, and received the George H Ball Community Achievement Award. The main criteria for our Jennifer Rubé Memorial Scholarship is service to others. Some of her many community services experiences include a Spanish internship teaching English to students from the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, food pantry and clothing stocker at Hope House Ministries, Physical Therapy Assistant and Gastroenterology Surgical Unit Aid at Strong Hospital, Children's Faith Formation Assistant Leader at Holy Trinity Church, Resident Service Technician at St. Ann's Nursing Home, and St. Rita's Breakfast Club Server. Molly will be attending St. John Fisher College in the fall to become a Physician's Assistant.

"Molly is very organized and efficient. She is an excellent student who took advantage of all the academic opportunities our school offers. Since I met Molly, she has always presented as a mature, grounded student. She is quite organized and resourceful with her time management, and ability to juggle a variety of activities. Molly is ready for the rigors of college. She has a solid academic foundation and clearly can manage the responsibilities of college life. I offer her my strongest recommendation."
~ Susan Stacy, School Counselor, Webster Thomas High School

"From our first days together, Molly impressed me greatly with her eagerness and enthusiasm for working with our children. She never hesitates to do what is needed and serves our children and youth with patience and compassion. She consistently goes above and beyond what is asked of her and recognizes where her assistance is most needed, without being asked. In the time I have spent with Molly, I have been impressed immeasurably by her maturity and depth of character. I am certain Molly is going to do many wonderful and meaningful things in her future." ~ Tricia Kull, Faith Formation Coordinator, Holy Trinity Church

An Excerpt from Molly's essay:

My interview with my grandfather was very surprising to me because I did not realize how much discrimination Italian's experienced, let alone my own grandfather. Thinking about this has made me realize just how lucky I am that I do not have to experience this, and that because my last name isn't Italian, I have never felt what it was like, nor will I ever know what it is like, to have to deal with this type of discrimination.

I am very glad that this discrimination is no longer as common for Italians, but this experience that my grandfather endured has given me a greater understanding and sympathy for the kind of discrimination other races are experiencing in our world today. It has made me realize just how large an impact discrimination can have on someone's life, their life choices, and how it can really shape what their future looks like. It is very sad and unfortunate that people's opinions and judgements on someone, just because of their race or nationality, can cause adversity for an individual or even alter their hopes and dreams.

The hard work that my grandfather endured as a child in getting food for the family and contributing significantly to the daily chores has made me realize that this type of work ethic that Italian-Americans held has been lost through the generations. We live in a society today where many things are handed to us or done for us. What is unfortunate is that the opportunity for character development that comes along with that kind of work ethic may also have been lost as well. It is up to our generation to realize the importance of depth of character and appreciate the things in life that develop it.



SKYLAR MOGAB
JOSEPH DARRYL DISTAFFEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP -
\$2000
HIGH SCHOOL: SPENCERPORT
COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
FIELD OF STUDY: PUBLIC HEALTH

Skylar is a Lacrosse, soccer, and basketball player from Spencerport High School. Some of her many accomplishments are the scholar athlete award, the coaches choice award, and the seal of biliteracy. She is a 2020 AP scholar with honors. She was a youth lacrosse coach, a student government social chair, and an anchor for the Spencerport Morning News Show. During the pandemic, Skylar started her own business making and selling charcuterie boards, and donated her profits to support mental health causes. Skylar will be attending UC Irvine for a Public Health degree, with the ultimate goal of attending medical school and becoming a doctor and researcher.

“Skylar is compassionate and strong, and she works well with other students as well as other faculty members and coworkers. Between her many clubs, sports, and her job, Skylar has proven time and again that she can show kindness to all members of society, in many different settings. Interacting with her in the work setting, I was consistently impressed with her ability to be a leader and handle the variety of tasks that were asked of her. Skylar has been a wonderful asset to the Spencerport High School community. Her maturity, academic skills, and social strengths will make her an excellent member of the college community.”
~Mary Levandowski, World History Teacher, Spencerport High School

An Excerpt from Skylar’s essay:

My grandmother embodies hard work and resilience, and she inspires me to learn about my Italian heritage and step out of my comfort zone. Moving to a country with a foreign culture and language is intimidating for a 12 year old, but she persisted. Her first few years of school were difficult for her; she felt alone when her classmates made fun of her accent or her clothes. She had trouble making friends because of the language barrier and her lack of understanding of typical American culture. While Nonna has certainly adapted to American life, she has maintained a strong connection to Italy, and has combined her love for both countries by becoming a dual citizen. She has hosted monthly Sicilian cooking classes at Casa Italiana at Nazareth College, engaged in various events at the Italian American Community Center, and spread her knowledge and passion for Italian culture throughout Rochester.

In the summer of 2017, my grandmother brought my cousin and me to visit her hometown of August for a month. We explored the town, ate brioche and granita with our cousins, and took a boat to see Etna, a volcano in the Aeolian Islands. I swam in the freezing Mediterranean sea, ate fresh fish and pasta, and hiked up various mountains. The experience was truly life changing as I connected with several relatives and learned more about the culture...This trip made me more empathetic to Nonna’s experience as an immigrant as I dealt with learning a new language and dressing differently from everyone else. I can now say I truly understand how hard it must have been for my grandmother, great aunts and uncles, and great grandparents to move from one small town on the edge of Sicily to a large city that was constantly growing. My appreciation for the Italian/American heritage grew immensely as I spent the summer without household items that are considered necessities to many Americans; our Sicilian house did not have air conditioning, a washer and dryer, or WiFi. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn more about my Italian heritage, and I am excited to go back to Italy and visit Maddalena’s family in the next few years.

GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT WINNERS



SOPHIA CINAMELLA

COLUMBUS LODGE #2143 GRANT AND THE ROMANESQUE LODGE #2198 GRANT

Sophia J. Cinamella graduated from Geneva High School and will attend Finger Lakes Community College to study Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Sophia's guidance counselor wrote, "Sophia is a self-directed student who is interested in pursuing a career in either criminal justice or law. She has been inducted into the National Honor Society as a result of her determination to do well. She has earned a three-sport award while remaining on the honor roll throughout high school, has volunteered as an assistant for the Geneva Junior Panthers Cheerleading program, and works parttime at a local café. She is a drive for success in her future."

Her mathematics teacher described her "as a role model for other students; academically she is consistent in the quality of work and conscientious in preparing. She is a leader in sports and is the captain on the track and field team."

In her essay, Sophia said "Although high school has not always been easy, there have been many difficult challenges I have had to overcome, but overall, it has made me the person I am today." She said about her Italian heritage, "I am very proud to be an Italian. We are very hard-working people and very family oriented which I love." "Being Italian has taught me the importance of life itself and to not take anything for granted."



MICHAEL MACERA

RICHARD DIMARCO SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BY JOHN DIMARCO AND GIAMBRA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AND THE PAUL AND CHERYL SPERANZA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Macera graduated from Webster Schroeder High School. Michael's goal is to earn a bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure University in computer science.

Sage Miller, computer instructor, said Michael "shows attention to detail and dedication to understanding concepts being covered." He competed in all four American Computer Science League contests as a sophomore, and attended CodeQuest, a high school programming contest sponsored by Lockheed Martin using his collaborative skills to solve multiple problems with fellow participants. He remained actively involved and took on leadership positions in the Computer Science League. She also stated, "Michael was a dedicated student who worked well with his peers and cared about academics."

Michael wrote in his essay about his passion for sports helps and volunteered for the Little League's Challenger Baseball League, assisting students with disabilities. He also gave his time at St. Anne's working with the elderly with memory issues. He cherishes the values from his grandparents of hard work and providing a small economic foothold in American society. Michaels said, "My Italian heritage has shaped my way of thinking and living and has taught me to stay connected to my roots."

2021 GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT WINNERS



BRIAN ANTHONY NARDONE
*NYS GRAND LODGE ADELINE AND NICHOLAS P. DINAPOLI
SCHOLARSHIP*

Brian Anthony Nardone graduated from Geneva High as valedictorian of a class of 152 students.

Brian's 10th Grade AP English teacher, Ryan DeWolfe, stated that "he is very serious about his studies, but he loves to joke and be as down-to-earth as possible, which is a significant advantage for him." "Brian is excellent with his calculating, logical words in discussion, homework assignments, and essay writing." Brian is well rounded and served in leadership roles for school clubs and activities. He further said of Brian, "He is without a doubt a remarkable individual, because he is insightful, determined, witty, open-minded, and an all-around genuine person."

Brian said in his essay how important education was to his grandfather, who had to drop out of school to help his family, but his lack of schooling did not stop him from working hard and being a successful businessman. Brian learned from his grandfather not to take his education for granted and to work as hard as he could. College will allow Brian to pursue his dreams and to be as successful in whatever he does as his grandfather did. He plans to study materials engineering at college.



MADISON CIRENCIONE
*GENEVA LODGE #2397 SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF DECEASED
MEMBERS AND THE GUGLIELMO MARCONI LODGE #154
SCHOLARSHIP AND THE JANE LIPPA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP*

Madison Cirencione graduated from Romulus Central School as valedictorian and will attend LeMoyne School of Nursing. Madison's plans to further her education to become a nurse practitioner and to help people "hands-on" every day. She says, "her Italian heritage is very special to her with her grandparents keeping alive many of the traditions."

Victoria McCusker, school counselor, said Madison "likes to challenge herself to do better to be better, not only in her academics but in her personal life as well." She further stated, "Madison is able to move outside her comfort zone to try new and challenging things despite how intimidating or how hard they may appear." She reflects on how Madison would take an active role in extracurricular activities, athletics, and community service. She is very responsible and skilled in time-management to complete schoolwork and assignments, sports, community service and working.

Miriam Harms, Madison's science teacher, described her as being a self-advocate, and an active online student during the pandemic. She said that Madison has taken the most rigorous and demanding course offered at Romulus High School.

2021 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



BARBARA SMITH *2021 BELLA LINGUA AWARD*

Barbara Smith, a recent graduate from Irondequoit High School, received the 2021 La Bella Lingua Award, sponsored by the NYS Grand Lodge Commission for Social Justice. Barbara started studying Italian in 7th grade and continued with it until she graduated. She states in her essay, “Taking Italian would allow me to have a slice of pizza from where it all started, I thought to myself as a naïve twelve-year-old. I would not learn the power of the Italian language until my studies began.”

She tributes her Italian class in building her character, helping her to become the young woman she has become. The language emphasizes family, culture, positivity, to learn new things with an open mind, to refrain from passing judgement on those aspects that make us different and teaching about humanity, which helped to develop her core values.

Barbara’s Italian language teacher, Renee Bosco, said she is a masterful speaker and writer and has approached her studies with maturity and wisdom, she asked insightful questions, and would make unique and thoughtful comparisons to American culture. Ms. Bosco stated Barbara came to class ready to learn and participate. Barbara was able to earn an additional three college credits in Italian and the Bilingual Seal as a result of her dedication and commitment to her studies.



MORGAN STANLEY *2021 JOHN DABBANE CSJ ESSAY CONTEST*

Morgan is almost fourteen years old and will be a Freshman at Spencerport High School in the fall. She plays soccer, basketball, and lacrosse for Spencerport schools. Her favorite subjects in school are Math and Science. When she graduates, she would like to attend college and major in one of the sciences like biology. For her career, she would like to be a Physician's Assistant.

In her essay Morgan states her great grandmother, Cindy Giancaterin had the greatest influence on her life. She told Morgan and her siblings to be proud of being Italian, to be proud of their ancestors and what they accomplished since coming to America. Morgan says she has never known anyone, past or present, who has worked as hard as her great grandma over the 100 years of her lifetime.

Morgan mentions the disrespect and prejudice her great grandparents endured when they arrived in the US. They came from Naples, Sicily, and Calabria, landing in Ellis Island before making their way to western New York. She talks about how her great-great uncle was forced to drop the “a” at the Giancaterin so it would seem more American to be employed by Kodak. They were forced to learn English quickly and assimilate into the American culture. In spite of all that, Morgan’s great grandparents and grandparents passed down many family traditions and values: Sunday family dinners with pasta, baking holiday cookies-pizzelles and biscotti, value of hard work, not quitting, and being proud of who you are and where you come from.

AN UPDATE FROM A FEW OF OUR PREVIOUS AWARDEES

LIZA COTTER 2020 PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP

Hello to all the Members of the Vince Lombardi Lodge! My name is Liza Cotter and I am so grateful to have received the Italian Heritage Scholarship last year. I took a gap year this past year (due to on-campus COVID restrictions) and will attend Princeton University as a member of the Class of 2025. This past year I explored my plans to study engineering by taking a position at Optimax Systems Inc. (optimaxsi.com) in the Research and Development department.

Optimax, located in Ontario, NY, is the largest privately held prototype optics manufacturer in the United States, specializing in precision optics for a wide variety of fields, including aerospace, medical, semiconductor, military, solar, and digital technologies. My work in R&D centered around using various robot platforms to polish optics, measuring parameters of optical quality with Optimax's metrology tools, and using Robot Operating System (ROS) to complete coding tasks. One of my more elaborate projects involved adapting a program to visualize the trajectory of the robot in the user interface to make it easier for the user to diagnose potential problems with the path. I also contributed to a proposal for the Department of Defense and a presentation for NASA.

I am very excited to finally be entering Princeton University this fall and this past year of real-world experience has made me even more motivated and excited to study engineering and take on the challenges of this new environment. I will start with an intended major of Mechanical Engineering, but I am excited to explore as many facets of engineering as possible. In my free time, I hope to participate in Princeton's Society of Women Engineers, a robotics team and the Ultimate Frisbee club team.

Thank you once again to the Vince Lombardi Lodge for your generous scholarship and for allowing me to defer receipt until this year. Thank you also to my family who has been a great support throughout this past year and always.

AVA DINICOLA 2020 VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE SCHOLARSHIP

I am so grateful to have been one of the recipients from the handful of students chosen last year. 2020 was an extraordinary year, as many people knew, so my interview took place of zoom and my award was graciously given at my grandmother's home. Even throughout the pandemic, the Sons and Daughters of Italy were able to make everything so special.

I am happy to say that my award went towards the best first year of college I could expect at the University of South Florida in Tampa. I have accomplished so much in just two semesters. I have started finding what interests me and what my passions are. That being in said, I've fallen in love with the gym and going on a regular basis on campus. I have also started devoting my time to church on campus, attending each Sunday with my best friend (and suitemate). From attending weekly mass, I was inspired to do something more with my life and find a deeper meaning. Therefore, I applied as a volunteer at the Moffitt Cancer Center, where I go weekly to help out in their Urgent Care Department.

As for my academics, I have worked hard through all my online classes and was awarded, my second semester, The College of Public Health Dean's List of Scholars. Furthermore, I decided to become a Certified Nurse's Assistant. In taking the state exam, I passed in time to also transfer my certification to New York, where I've worked this summer as a Medical Assistant in OB/GYN. I feel blessed to be on the path that I've hoped for for so long—a Physician's Assistant.

A huge thank you to the Sons and Daughters of Italy for helping make my freshman year of college so special!

AN UPDATE FROM A FEW OF OUR PREVIOUS AWARDEES

ELENA GRECO 2018 PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP

My name is Elena Greco and I am in my senior year at SUNY Brockport. I am set to graduate a semester early in the fall of 2021 with my bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Ecology with a combo concentration in Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology. COVID-19 has presented challenges with in-person learning but I am very grateful to be in an amazing department that worked tirelessly to provide its students with the best education possible. I was able to continue my lab-based classes in-person with proper regulations. Last summer, I was given the opportunity to work with a graduate student as a research assistant, which provided me with invaluable fieldwork skills. This past semester, I made Dean's List with Honors, which is a title that I will strive to keep for the remainder of my senior year. Currently this summer, I am conducting my own study through SUNY Brockport's Summer Undergraduate Research Program and collaborating with wildlife biologists and technicians from the Department of Environmental Conservation. Without the support of my professors, mentors, family, and friends, I would not have been able to achieve so much in the past year. My goals have only grown as I hope to be involved in the conservation and rehabilitation of endangered species in my future career.

This past year has been both difficult and eye-opening. It has taught everyone how to persevere and adapt as we are healing worldwide.

MICHAELA MELECA 2020 PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP

I am going into my sophomore year at St. John Fisher College and studying Media & Communications. I made the Dean's List both semesters of my freshman year which I am very proud of. I am also part of the Teddi Dance Club which raises money for childhood cancer. I am very excited to continue my academic career in the fall!







Awardee Dominic Lippa
and his family



Awardee Vanessa Iantorno
and her family



Awardee Michael Macera
and his family



Awardee Molly Fisher
and her family



Essay winner Morgan Stanley and her family



Awardee Skylar Mogab and her family



Essay winner Barbara Strong and her mom



2020 Awardee Liza Cotter and her family

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