



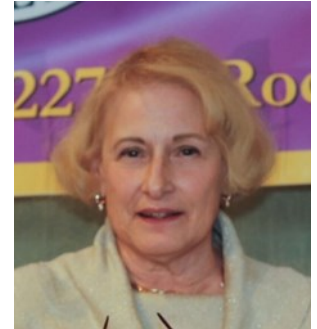
VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE #2270

The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
August 2022 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of summer’s biggest perks is being able to spend more time with family and friends. This may be the first summer in more than two years that we are able to see friends at backyard barbeques, community festivals, and picnics. Some of us are traveling not just locally but to farther destinations for a number of reasons: weddings, vacations, reunions, graduations, or just a long weekend getaway.



Friendship is powerful both on a personal level and in its role to build communities. They should be more than a one-day celebration but should be fostered to last. International Friendship Day helps to remind us how important friendships are. It began at a summertime dinner party on July 20, 1958 at the home of Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho in a small town about 200 miles north of Asuncion, Paraguay. It was during this party that World Friendship Crusade was born, whose goal was to celebrate the power of friendship bot just between individuals but also between whole countries.

In 2011 the United Nations declared July 30th as World Friendship Day and called on all countries to celebrate. The UN defines the power of friendship as, “Through friendship, by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust, we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.” These interlocking bonds that are created serve as a foundation for international peace, but if that is beyond your reach, then think of friendships as making us healthier, happier, and reduce stress as well as improve your self-confidence and self-worth. Research shows that strong bonds between people helps us to navigate whatever life hands us, the good and the bad.

Friendships can transcend distance by staying in touch in any number of ways: the long-lost art of letter writing, phone calls, text messages, emails, cards, or establishing face time. Loyalty and companionship are traits that define true friendship, so let’s not forget the friendship or bond we form with our furry friends. Pets can change our lives and can be a great help in times of need. For some they are more than just pets but are trained as service or therapy dogs that help those with disabilities to lead more independent lives. One of our charities, Gift of Sight, is instrumental in training guide dogs for those who are legally blind or visually impaired.

The Beatles have said it best, “I get by with a little help from my friends.”

Take care and God Bless,

Marjorie

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**Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270
Members' Appreciation Picnic
Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm
Quinzi Lodge in Eyer Park, East Rochester**

Please remit the following by August 17th, so we know how much food to prepare and/or purchase. The council will provide in the way of dishes: Baked ziti, peppers & onions, cowboy baked beans, large tossed green salad, Sicilian Caponata, East Utica Greens.

Also supplied will be: homemade sausage, beverages, hotdogs, buns, condiments, paper products

We will be raffling off baskets: \$2 for a single ticket, \$5 for three tickets.

NAME(S): _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL _____

DISH TO PASS: _____

Numbers to attend: _____

**Checks should be made out to Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 and mailed to:
Marjorie Focarazzo 84 Mulcahy Blvd. Rochester, NY 14624 by August 17th.
Any questions, please contact 585-749-5346 or MAFocarazzo@gmail.com**

2022 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

August 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

August 20th: Annual Members Picnic, Quinzi Lodge—Eyer Park (100 Eyer Park, East Rochester)

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

October 6th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

October 14th: Italian American Heritage Dinner, Webster Country Club (440 Salt Rd, Webster)

November 3rd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

November 17th: Papa Antolini's Turkey Raffle (Location TBD)

December 1st, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

December 8th, 7pm: General Assembly Holiday Gathering, Eyer Building (East Rochester)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH
PARCEL 5 (285 E. Main St.)
NOON TO 9PM
Downtown Rochester, NY
Tickets & Info: LittleItalyROC.com

DE CECCO SPAGHETTI
FEATURING: EATING CONTEST @3PM!



6:30 PM
Tre Bella
THREE BEAUTIES, ONE VOICE

8PM
As seen on PBS
Giada Valenti
IN CONCERT
FROM VENICE WITH LOVE

ORQUESTA ANTONETTI
5:30 PM

MICHAEL SIDOTI
4PM

NOON
DJ PABONY

OPENING BLESSING & PRAYER FOR PEACE CELEBRATION HONORING ST. PADRE PIO & ST. MICHAEL WITH PROCESSION at 2PM

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THE EAST ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

Wine & Food WALK

2ND ANNUAL



TO BENEFIT
Brenton Jacob  Memorial Fund

Information & Tickets

Presale Tickets \$20
Tickets Day of Event \$25
Starts at 317 Main St.
East Rochester NY 14445
Registration is 4pm - 5pm
WWW.ERCHAMBER.ORG/WINEWALK
ALL SALES ARE FINAL AND CONSIDERED A DONATION TO THE BRENTON JACOB MEMORIAL FUND

Sponsors



SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 2022 5PM - 7PM

FREE CONCERT WITH LYIN' EYES AND FOOD TRUCKS TO FOLLOW • 7PM - 9PM
RAFFLES THROUGHOUT THE EVENT
RAINDATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 5PM - 7PM





8/2: John Pecora
8/10: Joan Brandenburg
8/12: Linda Agnello, Jerry Griffo
8/13: Patricia Rask
8/14: Frank Affronti

8/22: Jacqueline Perrotta
8/23: Jeremy DiFilippo
8/24: Tom Meleca
8/27: Saverio LaPietra
8/31: Joe Rubé



Sending continued prayers and get well wishes to Brother Bill Agnello, Brother David DiNicola, Brother Joe Rubé, Sister Nancy Rubé, Sister Becky DiFilippo, Brother Nick Baross, Brother Ezio Bonanni, Sister Lila Bonanni, Sister Sandy Meleca, and to all of our members who have been ill or recuperating from injury.

Thank you for the help at the
East Rochester Fireman's Carnival!



Vince Giannantonio
Luigi DiFilippo
Karen Pelc
Tom Meleca

Don Campese
Joan Brandenburg
Ron Santoli
Stephanie Salvatore

A special thank you to Vince and Luigi who help to set up and take down and were there for all three nights.



Christopher Columbus Italian Heritage Dinner
October 14, 2022
Webster Golf Club
Celebration Page for Members

Please take this opportunity to support our Lodge and members for all the work they do by having your name on this special page in the program. Cost is \$10.00 per line. Please fill out the form below and return it with payment to

Marjorie Focarazzo
84 Mulcahy Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14624

Checks should be made out to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270. Deadline for submission is September 15, 2022.

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount _____ Check # _____



EDWARD HALL
VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP - \$2000
HIGH SCHOOL: MCQUAID JESUIT
COLLEGE: DAVIDSON COLLEGE
FIELD OF STUDY: MATH & SCIENCE

Edward is a Varsity Baseball, Indoor Track and Field, Hockey, and Volleyball player from McQuaid Jesuit High School. He also participates in Chess Club, Masterminds, French Club, Pre-Med Club, and is a McQuaid Admissions Ambassador. His dream is to play baseball in the Major League, but he also plans to dedicate as much time to his studies as to baseball. When he is not busy with his sports and other extra curricular activities, Edward finds time for service to the community, volunteering at Tutors for Tomorrow, Foodlink, Casa Italiana Summer Language and Culture Camp, Lector at Church, and his favorite service activity, coaching for the Genesee Valley Youth

Hockey Program. You may also find him making pizza and wings at Six50 Pizza. He is a member of the National Honor Society and received First Honors with Distinction/High Honor Roll. In the sports arena, he received the All Greater Rochester honorable mention, was a Section 5 indoor track and field champion, and All County Track and Field champion, and was winner of the National History Day Outstanding Sports Related Entry. Edward believes that hard work, family, and food are the keys to understanding Italian culture, and has learned and practiced these things throughout his life, with great influence from his Nonno and Nonna, who emigrated to America in 1968, and have played an integral part in understanding his Italian heritage.

“Ed is an intelligent young man, and a careful, clear thinker, who brings a gentle and gracious presence to any environment. He is admired and respected by his peers, and easily adapts to new and diverse social situations. Consequently, I recommend Edward Hall to you unreservedly. In nearly twenty years of teaching, he is a standout. Edward is possessed of extraordinary character and maturity, academic and athletic gifts, and is an asset to any academic environment!”

~Elizabeth Pietropaoli, Theology Teacher

“Every once in a while you meet a truly talented individual. Athletic achievement is something that can only be measured by statistics, but there is so much more that defines success. Edward not only fulfills the requirements that you are looking for as a scholarship holder, but exemplifies what it truly means to be a leader in our community. This is an extraordinary young man with a bright future ahead.”

~ Nick Mancuso, Trainer

An Excerpt from Edward’s essay:

I am extremely close with my Nonno and Nonna, however, I never really talked to them about what it was like for them to come to America. I never stopped to think that I have learned a lot about Italian culture from them because really it just seems normal to me to have the strong traditions that our family has on a day to day basis. Yet I realize how special and fortunate I am to have such a close relationship with my Nonni, who immigrated to the United States over 50 years ago....Hard work is key in Italian culture. It would have been easier for them to return to Italy where they knew the culture, the customs, had lots of family and friends but instead they took a leap of faith and chose to stay in America...When I think about what my Nonni undertook coming to the United States with only the belongings they could carry, a small child in tow, a few hundred dollars, and no grasp of the language or culture, I am in awe of the courage and determination they had to make a better life for themselves and their family....I have been so blessed to have known my Nonni. Their influence on my life is so great. The importance of hard work, family, and food are just a few influences they have shared with me. I’m not sure if there will be a strong Italian community when I’m away at college but I know that wherever I end up, these traditions and values from my Nonni will always be with me.



ERIN HEH
VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE SCHOLARSHIP - \$1500
HIGH SCHOOL: AQUINAS INSTITUTE
COLLEGE: ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FIELD OF STUDY: PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT

Erin is a softball and lacrosse player from Aquinas Institute who enjoys music and the theatre. She is a self taught guitar, keyboard, and eucalyptus player. Among her many accomplishments, Erin is a National Honors Society member, and a member of the Aquinas Institute for Women's Leadership, and is the recipient of a Community Service Award. In 6th grade, she trained to be a sighted guide for her best friend. Erin spends much of her time performing, as a member of the Aquinas Institute Concert Choir and Advanced Choir, and as an actor and member of the St. Genesius Society. She is also a photographer for her school yearbook, a student ambassador, and a member of the Diversity Club. Erin's motto is experience making, and she believes that if you can contribute to one sentence in someone else's story, you never know what your impact will be in the future. She attributes her strong Italian heritage to her grandparents, and appreciates that her grandmother taught her the importance of pride, of involving yourself in your home and community, the importance of doing things yourself and of working hard for what you get in life, and most importantly the importance of family and spending your time with the ones that you love

"Erin is an amazing young woman that continues to thrive in every aspect of her academics as well as her personal life. She is confident, focused, determined, mature, personable, and respectful. She cares about how others feel and has a mature respect for others needs. She has a positive nature that encompasses her energy. She is an amazing student that will go above and beyond any academic challenge."

~Clara Montalbano, School Counselor

"Erin is a reliable and conscientious person. She is a talented individual who is willing to take on leadership when required. With loyal support at challenging times, she has shown good judgement and kindness in every way possible. Over the time that I have known Erin, she has consistently performed her duties and never fails to go the extra mile, doing more than expected with kindness and compassion. Erin is an intelligent, committed, inquisitive individual who is more than deserving of this award."

~Marybeth Bauler, friend

"Thoughtfulness, compassion and generosity are some of the many daily graces that Erin extends to those around her. What makes her truly remarkable is not just that she is driven, smart, and dedicated. What is best about Erin is her 24 karat heart. She lifts every life she touches."

~ Megan Barbour, Theatre Director

An Excerpt from Erin's essay:

Roots are what a plant bases its life on, what builds a foundation on which one lives their life. My roots begin with my family, which is why I chose to interview my grandmother, Serafina Marovelli. Faith was always something that was adored within my family, which my grandparents speak of bringing from Italy....It was from my grandma that I was taught the importance of giving, how important it is to be active in your church and community. Living life knowing that you did a good thing altruistically is something that you can truly feel in your heart....The basis of my life is built on the foundation of what my grandmother taught me growing up....{she} teaches me that there are endless possibilities of what you can do with even one item, and what immense joy it brings to make something out of your own hard work....My grandmother taught me the importance of pride, the importance of involving yourself in your home and community, the importance of doing things yourself and working hard for what you get in life.



JEFFREY ARIGO
PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - \$1000
HIGH SCHOOL: MCQUAID JESUIT
COLLEGE: COLGATE UNIVERSITY
FIELD OF STUDY: PRE-MED

Jeffrey is a football, indoor track and baseball player from McQuaid Jesuit who enjoys fishing, hiking, reading and spending time with family and friends. Jeffrey's is a member of the National Honor Society, and has received numerous academic awards, including the National Merit

Letter of Commendation, The Bowdoin College Award, and the American Chemical Society Award. He is a Jefferson Scholar Finalist, a College Board AP Scholar with Distinction, and the Environmental Earth Science Student of the Year. In addition to all of this, Jeffrey is an admissions ambassador and transfer student mentor for McQuaid, and participates in the Big Brother Program, the Mosaic Club, the Pre-Med Club, the Pallbearer Ministry, and the Indian Interest Club. Outside of school, Jeffrey does much in service to his community, volunteering at the Reach Homeless Center, The Asbury Dining and Caring Center, the

Field of Dreams baseball event, and Lollipop Farm. He has also done environmental trash cleanups, and home repairs and assistance for the elderly. He has observed and shadowed various healthcare offices including pediatrics, general dentistry, and orthodontics, has participated in the Religious Youth Ministry and took part in the Ignatian Family Teach in for justice conference in Washington DC> When he's not in the midst of all of those activities, you can find Jeffrey working as a landscaper. Jeffrey believes in sticking to your roots and never forgetting the journey that brought you to where you are now. His Italian Heritage has taught him hard work and perseverance, respect, leadership, and integrity.

He believes that kindness rubs off, so we should do what we can to make others happy.

"Jeffrey has always taken his responsibilities seriously, and his future goal of being a health services provider reiterates this. He is a caring and kind person who goes out of his way to help others. You will be drawn to his strong character, kindness to others, maturity and work ethic. His character embodies the principles of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship."

~ James Hitchcock, Mentor

"Jeffrey belongs to a small, select cohort of students who impress with his focus, commitment to others, and his strong desire to have a meaningful life where he grows and strives to make a huge difference. Jeffrey will continue to grow both inside and outside of the classroom. He will treat people with dignity and respect, and he will make a difference. You will be drawn to his strong character, love of learning, intellectual curiosity, and humility. I give him my most lofty and heartfelt recommendation."

~ John Serafine, Director of Student and College Counseling

An Excerpt from Jeffrey's essay:

For my interview I had the amazing opportunity to interview four Italians who grew up just outside of Palermo, Sicily... I chose to meet with the people because of their unrelenting kindness and openness to others, which allowed for such an amazing evening for my father and me, who were graciously welcomed into {their} home...During our discussion, one topic that was brought up stuck with me, and it was the idea of sticking to your roots and never forgetting the journey to where you are now...I came away with a few things. First, I always knew that Italians were hard-working, as my father's side of the family is primarily Italian, so I have gotten to witness first hand their perseverance and success. {the Palermo's and Infurna's} endured a lot during their journey to America, such as leaving family members behind or traveling to a country that spoke a foreign language, yet they stood steadfast and determined at all times. They fought for their place in this country and came away from it all victorious, which makes me appreciate my heritage more. However, what stood out to me even more was their kindness and welcoming nature. Up until this meeting I had never met any of these people before, but they treated me like I was a part of their family. ..Not only did I learn a lot about Italian culture, I also made four friends for life.



MARY COTTER

PAST HONOREES SCHOLARSHIP - \$1000

HIGH SCHOOL: ALLENDALE COLUMBIA

COLLEGE: UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

**FIELD OF STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND
COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Mary is a Runner and Swimmer from Allendale Columbia School who enjoys sewing, drawing, and embroidery. Among her many accomplishments, Mary has received the Distinguished Young Woman of New York Award, the Williams College Book Award, the RIT Computing Award, the Pablo Neruda Award, was a National Merit Scholar Finalist, and earned a number of sports championship titles and two gold medals and an honorable mention on the National Spanish Exam. She has also received national academic recognition as an AP Scholar with Distinction. In 2019, she ran the Rochester Tri, Pittsford Tri, and Rochester Youth Triathalons and was the winner for her age group and for females.

Additionally, Mary participated on the Engineering Team, CodeX Club, Math Team, and Student Government, and was the Rochester Chapter Founder of Project CS Girls. Mary also spends much of her time in service to her community – volunteering for Re-Run Shoes, MMC Tutoring, Girls Who Code, Girls on the Run, Rochester Marathon, and Ronald McDonald House. Mary appreciates that the shared struggle of integrating into American society, the development of

strong family bonds, the sense of pride in serving in the American military, and the civil responsibility of prioritizing how to benefit your community have been woven into the spoken stories of her family history. She feels these things have contributed deeply to her own love of family and family celebrations, passion for community service, and have intensified her pride in her own Italian heritage.

“I can honestly say that although I’ve interacted with a number of very top tier students over my educational career, none have made such a lasting impression nor better exemplify the grit, leadership characteristics, and community minded attitude which we would hope to see in today’s young people. Mary is truly exceptional. I have known her for over a decade, observing that she aspires to positively influence our world with her confidence, kindness, environmental advocacy, leadership and determination. Her authenticity and collaborative spirit create a lasting impact on any community to which she belongs.”

~Dr. Raymond “Ray” Antocicco, Executive Director

“Mary is a very enthusiastic, hardworking student and a year round long distance runner to boot. She is just naturally engaged with whatever she tackles, yet she is willing to ask questions and willing to revise her understanding when the facts warrant it. I can honestly say that this combination of traits that Mary has is rare, less than 1 in 100. I give her my highest recommendation without any reservations.”

~Dr. Gregory Dobson, Mathematics Teacher

An Excerpt from Mary’s essay:

For Dr. Raymond Antocicco, life has always been about family and the frequent celebrations that bring them together. Celebrations with cousins, mourning the loss of family members, and big Sunday family dinners reinvigorate their proud Italian heritage. I chose to interview Ray because I admire his dedication to family, his focus on community service (also a passion of mine), and his effortless “adoption” of others (like me) into his loving circle of Italian friends.... My interview of Ray highlighted and expanded characteristics I already knew about him including his love of family and his dedicated passion for causes near to his heart. I was surprised by how much of what he shared surrounding his Italian heritage reminded me of conversations I’d heard between my Grandpa Adamo and my mom about the Adamo and Garofalo families as they navigated their immigration to America. Stories of the shared struggle of integrating into American society, the development of strong family bonds, the sense of pride in serving in the American military, and the civil responsibility of prioritizing how to benefit your community were beautifully woven into the spoken tapestry of my family history....I feel blessed to bring this renewed and deepened sense of family and heritage allegiance with me as I move to the next chapter of my life at college.



ROSE NICASTRO
RUBE' FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
IN MEMORY OF JENNIFER RUBE' - \$1200
HIGH SCHOOL: WEBSTER THOMAS
COLLEGE: LEMOYNE COLLEGE
FIELD OF STUDY: BUSINESS

Rose is a swimmer, softball and volleyball player who enjoys going to the gym and spending time with family and friends. She is a National Honor Society Member, as well as a Language other than English Honor Society and Business Honor Society Member. She is also part of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, where she launched a business partnered with Camp Good Days and Special Times called Teddy's for Teddi, designing teddy bears of different colors to represent and bring awareness to the different types of cancer faced by many. Rose has spent much of her time in service to her community, volunteering at the Maplewood Nursing Home, St Rita's Church, and St. Paul's Vacation Bible School. She was awarded the Hands of Christ award for her dedication to her faith and her hard work at St. Rita's Breakfast Club. In addition to her extracurricular activities and volunteer work, Rose works as a Lifeguard and swim instructor at the Webster Aquatic Center and Knollwood Swim Club, and as a food server at Core Life Eatery. Rose's Italian Heritage has been a huge art of her upbringing and she plans to continue those values into her adulthood. She believes strongly in the importance of family, food and culture traditions. She says that we honor those that have passed before us by keeping those traditions and memories alive, and this is how she will live out her life, working hard and being kind to all.

"Rose is spirited and engaged. She's got a likeability that is off the charts and a can-do attitude that has afforded her much success in the classroom, on athletic fields, and interpersonally. She has is excited and willing to learn from others. She has an approachability that attracts friends and posits her as a leader. She will no doubt bring energy and enthusiasm to the college classroom and to the world of business, as she seeks to increase the representation of women in the business world."

~Felice Prindle, School Counselor

"Rose continues to surprise me with the compassion, intelligence, and diligence she encompasses at such a young age. She possesses every good quality anyone can fathom, while also being undeniably one of the strongest people I know. Her strength is inspiring to everyone she meets. I am so proud to have known Rose and to see the beautiful things she will do. "

~Olivia DiMillo, Friend

An Excerpt from Rose's essay:

{My great-aunt} and her sisters' experience of Italian-American heritage has influenced me and my cousins. They are the core of our family and give us a sense of belonging and culture. They have taught us the importance of family and what it means to be an Italian. We have learned how to cook Italian foods, learned about the language and cultures/traditions of Italians....Food is a very important part of our culture and heritage and it strives to keep families, including ours, close...Our understanding of Italian-American culture is very similar, as during the interview we both related to the sense of duty that comes with being Italian. When asked about her sense of responsibility, {my great aunt} said, "my heritage influenced me for having empathy for others, and caring for friends and family in need"...Our family believes in offering assistance with compassion to those who truly need it. Those traditions mentioned earlier may sound small or minor, but to our family it is much, much more than that. We honor those who have passed on before us by keeping those traditions and memories alive....Italian heritage has been a huge part of my childhood and will continue to be just as present in my adulthood. I am committed to strive to work hard to keep memories and family traditions alive. I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing community that comes with our heritage.



ADYSON PARINELLO
JOSEPH DARRYL DISTAFFAN
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - \$1000
HIGH SCHOOL: PITTSFORD SUTHERLAND
COLLEGE: SUNY GENESEO
FIELD OF STUDY: PSYCHOLOGY

Adyson is a soccer, basketball, and lacrosse player from Pittsford Sutherland High School who enjoys exercising, cooking and travel. She holds two jobs outside of her schooling and sports activities, as a nanny for three young children and as a front end salesperson at both Pittsford and Henrietta Hots. Adyson believes that growing up with a large Italian family has helped her in school and every day life. It has taught her to work hard for everything, pay attention to detail, don't take anything for granted, always cherish family, and be home for the Sunday sauce! She has the ultimate goal of becoming a middle or high school counselor.

“Caring, nurturing, helpful, dependable, athletic, competitive, and good time manager are some of the first words that come to mind when I think of Addy. When she puts her heart into something, she gives it 100%. I believe that Addy has the maturity, time management abilities and responsible nature to be a success in whatever she pursues. She gets along well with all types of people and has a great sense of humor. In addition to a strong work ethic, she possesses a positive and forward thinking outlook. Her drive and grit will take her far.”

~Colleen Teel, School Counselor

“On the field, Addy was a fierce competitor. She always strived to win and played harder than all. She was a very skilled athlete and very kind teammate. As an employee, she is one of the few that I can rely on at all times. She is on time, works hard and is great with customers. Based on her work ethic and friendly personality I know Addy will always succeed.”

~Ronald Davis, Business Owner

An Excerpt from Adyson's essay:

I decided to choose my grandpa as the person I would interview to discuss Italian heritage. He stressed to me that growing up Italian meant that family came first and working hard was expected. He is a perfect example of how coming from an Italian background with the support of Italian family can shape you as a person both personally and professionally....Along with the strong Italian work ethic he learned that family always comes first....family over everything...Growing up Italian meant you were shaped around holiday gatherings and family dinners. Understanding the importance of family and family gatherings in the Italian culture makes me understand why I have such a strong tie to my family and appreciate the time I get to spend with them, especially on Sundays and holidays....Thinking about my interview with my grandpa I realize that “growing up Italian” is such a blessing. My father preaches hard work, attention to detail, don't take anything for granted, and “be home for the Sunday sauce”. For me this is especially important because growing up with a large loving family and good work ethic has helped me in school and in everyday life. Growing up Italian has especially taught me to work hard for everything and always cherish family...especially the Sunday dinners! I've never looked so deeply into how Italian heritage has shaped my grandpa as a person and our family and it interests me a lot. This interview made me appreciate being Italian and how the heritage that started over 100 years ago has allowed our family to succeed.



ZACHARY WARNER
DISTAFFEN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP - \$1000
HIGH SCHOOL: WEBSTER THOMAS
COLLEGE: MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FIELD OF STUDY: BUSINESS

Zach is a lacrosse player, skier and powerlifter from Webster Thomas High School who enjoys reading, hiking, working out and hunting. Among his academic achievements, Zach graduated Magna Cum Laude. In addition to his rigorous school schedule, Zach spent time in service to his community through the Rotary Interact Club, and as an Assistant at Supreme Auto Detailing. He enjoys individual service to people, believing that when love is shown to him, he will show it back. He considers himself a jack of all trades in training. When he's not in school or volunteering his time to help others, Zach works as a Project Assistant with the Casserino group and as a partner with Cerone Development, where he works every day to develop his leadership and communication skills. Zach wears his Italian heart on his sleeve and feels his Italian heritage has taught him strength, perseverance, taking care of your family, and hard work. Being Italian brings with it a feeling of belonging that Zach wants to create within his own life and as an influence in the lives of others.

“My class is better with Zach in it. Zach possesses an unassuming charisma of positivity and I cannot help but think of everything that Zach balances with this positivity: School, fitness, family and work. He is a better kid than I ever was. There is one quality of Zach’s that I want to highlight and that is his humility. Zach realizes that his success not only comes from his hard work and ability, but also from the time, effort, and sacrifice of his teachers and family. He will make his family proud, he will make the Thomas High School proud, and he will make me proud – though really, I already am.”

~ Kyle Suffoletto, Teacher

“What started out as a work relationship ended turning up into something much more meaningful for us both. Zach is an absolute pleasure to work with, never complains about anything life throws at him, and eagerly takes on any daunting task that you give him. If any job requires extra help, training or assistance, he never hesitates to show his humility and ask for it. He takes any opportunity he can to grow and learn.”

~Michael Cerone Jr, Mentor

An Excerpt from Zachary’s essay:

When thinking about my own values of what it is to be Italian - strong, hardworking, self made, prideful - the first person that came to mind from our own community was a good family friend of mine, John Gabriele....In the words of John, the spirit of being an Italian American is about knowing who you are, where you came from, and where you are going. Having a strong sense of identity, and reinforcing this with the values of hard work, honesty and strength were the focus of our conversation....These are the things that I want to belong to. I believe that identify is something that my generation is lacking heavily right now. I believe that this nihilistic shift that our society is undergoing is a cancer to the good of our communities. Finally, I believe that the rejection of this nihilism and the resurgence of a culture of family is an attitude that can truly begin to heal the wounds that are evident in my generation. Reviving and adopting that feeling of belonging, that deep feeling of knowing where you came from, is exactly what I am going to create within my own life. I believe that this is the greatest gift that my heritage has left me.

GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT WINNERS

MICHAEL MARKER

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



Michael Marker graduated from Lyndonville Centrl School District with a weighted GPA of 89.138 and plans to attend SUNY Cobleskill to study Animal Science: Beef and Live-Stock Studies. He is described by his teachers as having a strong work ethic, is a strong self-advocate, has “grit” to successfully reach his goals regardless of external difficulties. He is able to adapt to change quickly and is not afraid to ask questions for clarification. He participates in band, varsity sports, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, while holding down a part-time job and maintaining good grades. He has attended BOCES and has earned his welding certificate, which he intends to use to fix the farm equipment on his farm. He speaks of the hard work, perseverance, and dedication his great grandfather brought with him from Italy in 1911, attributes passed down to him which has given him success in school and the chance to attend college.

MICKAYLA GIAMBRONE RATH

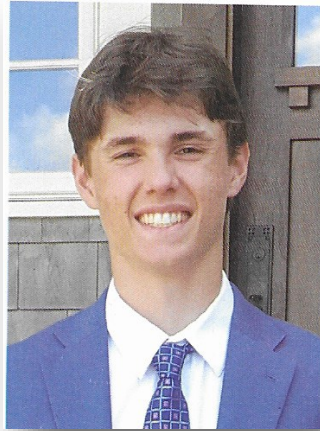
RICHARD DIMARCO SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BY JOHN DIMARCO AND GIAMBRA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AND THE PAUL AND CHERYL SPERANZA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



Mickayla Giambrone Rath graduated from Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women and will attend the University of Dayton to study Engineering with a goal of becoming the first female NASCAR crew chief. She has a weighed GPA of 4.13. Her employer says she is respectful, can handle difficult situations, and has a fastidious desire to learn and lead. Her AP Chemistry instructor says she has an enthusiasm to learn and a determination to do her best. Mickayla has an interest in mechanical engineering by investigating internal combustion engines and high-performance cars. She volunteers with Willow Domestic Center and the Center for Youth. She hosted a supply drive where she was able to collect items to help children.

JEFFREY ARIGO

NYS GRAND LODGE ADELINE AND NICHOLAS P. DINAPOLI SCHOLARSHIP



District VIII's top student is Jeffrey Dominick Arigo, a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit HS. Class size is 127 but they do not rank students. His weighted GPA is 99.235. SAT is 1470 and ACT 34. He had taken 8 AP courses plus two courses at FLCC and 4 years of Italian with a GPA of 98. He plans to study biology at Colgate with an interest in pursuing a career in the health profession, preferably as a physician. Scoring on AP exams has been either a 4 or 5 and has been awarded AP Scholar with Distinction. He has served as an admissions ambassador for McQuaid. He is dedicated and committed to achievement and continually strives toward improvement and exemplified and exemplifies self-motivation. His enthusiasm and positive outlook have had a profound influence on the school community.

NICHOLAS CASTER

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



Nicholas Caster graduated from Geneva HS with a weighted GPA of 99.610 and ranks 7th out of 145 students and has taken 7 AP courses. He plans to study biology (premed) at Syracuse University. He has been involved with the New Visions Medical Program at Geneva General. This program only selects 17 students from 14 school districts and students must complete 150 hours of Clinical experience in 20 different units. His outside activities include volunteering with the Rotary Club, an altar server, and senior patrol leader in the Boys scout, while being involved in extracurricular activities at school. His honors include National Honor society, scholar athlete, American Chemical Society recipient for 2 consecutive years, and an American Math competition award winner.

DAISY SMITH
2022 BELLA LINGUA AWARD



The winner of La Bella Lingua Award is Daisy Smith, who graduated from Irondequoit HS. In her Italian class, she was known as Margherita. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburg to study psychology. She has taken a number of AP courses and has received dual credit for courses taken at MCC. She was active in sports and served on School Based Planning and District Strategic Planning Committees. She received the ROT Innovation and Creativity Award and is an Urban League Black Scholar. She has received the Seal of Biliteracy for 5 years of Foreign Language in Italian and has 6 college credits in the Italian language. Daisy's teacher, Renee Bosco, says that Italian was Daisy's first and only choice. They also have French, German, and Spanish. He says Daisy is not afraid to make mistakes either when speaking or writing but uses the feedback to better her Italian skills. Daisy loves the language and is masterful speaker but also wants to lean the culture. Daisy is a leader, comes to class prepared and ready to participate. She hopes to one day spend some time in Italy to experience firsthand the culture and converse in the language she has become fluent in.

GABRIELLA MACCARONE
2022 JOHN DABBANE CSJ ESSAY CONTEST



The John Dabbene Essay Contest winner for District VIII is Gabriella Maccarone. Her story starts with her great grandparents who came from Sicily and Calabria. She writes about their struggles and how they overcame obstacles. She writes about traditions and her favorite ones. Gabriella is the granddaughter of Angela and Frank Giancaterin and niece of Sandy and Tom Meleca. She spends a lot of time with her grandmother who passes down the family traditions and creates new ones. Her grandma and grandpa have nicknamed her Pasta Girl since she helps to make the homemade pasta dishes in grandma's kitchen. One of her favorite traditions beside the pasta family dinner, is enjoying a gelato with her Uncle Ron. She is learning Italian through an online course and loves to browse through her grandma's books on Italy and travel guides. Gabriella will be entering ninth grade in September. She would like to visit Italy someday and knows that being prepared thanks her grandmother for preparing her.





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