



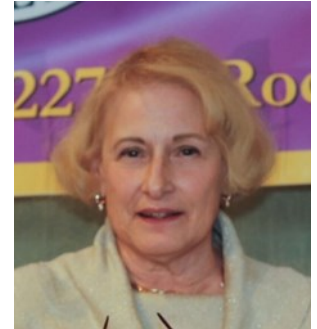
VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE #2270

The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
June 2022 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On June 23, 2022 our Lodge will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. That is quite a milestone. Think back on all the changes, events, and happenings we have experienced since 1972, both on a personal level and from a historical perspective.



Technology has advanced so quickly that it is hard to keep up with: laptop computers, internet, cell phones, and paying bills online. The medical field has made some significant advances that has improved our health and given us a longer life expectancy: photochemotherapy, MRI, early onset Alzheimer’s gene, triple organ transplant, vaccines, better nutrition, telehealth to name a few. We have found a way to enhance education through online courses. Many of us worked from home during the pandemic. For me, I received my BS and MS degrees, raised four children, saw three of them marry, two had babies of their own, and I do have a great grandson. I am sure that among the celebrations there were times of despair and heartache, but we have persevered.

Through all this our Lodge has remained intact. It has not always been easy, but our members long past and current have remained stoic and endured. We still have the opportunity to grow in numbers and to remain relevant in changing times.

I look at our scholarships as our “crowning glory,” a two-way street. We show our young adults that it is okay to be proud of who we are, where we came from, and how we are at this point in our lives. They show us they want to be a part of all this, but still be themselves. All of us should be honored to be a part of each other’s lives.

I look forward to seeing our Lodge and the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America to continue to reach out to others, both Italian Americans and Non-Italian Americans. We can bring the richness, splendor, strength, and vibrancy to others. We can share our music, our food and wine, art and sculptures, literature, fashion, automobiles, our culture, and heritage to bring about better understanding and acceptance.

Our Lodge will continue our 50th Anniversary celebration throughout the year. It is a celebration of us for us, something we do not do enough. Enjoy the rest of the year.

Take care and God Bless,
Marjorie

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2022 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

June 9th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**June 24th, 6pm: 50th Anniversary Celebration
Webster Country Club (440 Salt Rd, Webster)**

July 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

**July 14th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting and
Scholarship Awards Night (Location TBD)**

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 21st: 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)**



Please join us at the General Assembly Meeting to initiate our newest members

**Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 pm
Eyer Building, East Rochester**

We will be initiating:

**Lorraine Puccini
Tony Puccini
Richard Antelli
Jeffrey Arigo**

**Sandra Gigliotti Witmerantonio
Philomena Mascitti Giambrone
Joanne Giambrone Rath**



Father's Day in Italy is celebrated on March 19th or St. Joseph's Day, Festa di San Giuseppe, rather than the third Sunday in June as is traditional in the United States. The feast is in honor of Joseph, the earthly father figure of Jesus.

Similar to the celebration Festa de la Mamma, young children create special cards and drawings to present to their papas. They may also include an original poem. Most often Festa del Papa' falls during the week, but the family will still gather for a special meal. Italian cream puffs, Bigne' di San Giuseppe are synonymous with the day. Even at the street festivals, fried cakes and pastries can be found in abundance. A great Italian dessert for an All-American Father's Day is Affogato, ice cream doused with espresso and topped with whip cream. To all our Italian American fathers and father figures

Festa del Papa'!



June 23, 1972 – June 23, 2022

Reserve your seat (by June 10th) for this auspicious occasion as we honor

**Louis DeCarolis
Luigi DiFilippo
Jen Gugino**

at Webster Golf Club on June 24, 2022.



6/6: Lucia Flocco, Mary Ricci
6/16: Quintino DiCesare
6/22: Carol DiNicola

6/25: Edward Groszewski
6/27: Louis DeCarolis
6/30: Dominick Calisto, Edward Maruggi



Please hold the families and friends of Brother Daniel DeJohn and past member Hugh Warner in your thoughts and prayers.

Brother Daniel joined our lodge in 2016. He lived in Newark and was a long time friend of Brother Luigi DiFilippo. His obituary can be found here: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc173073>

Brother Hugh joined our lodge in 2014. He was the partner of Past President Jennifer Rubé, and considered family by the Rubé's. After a long struggle with cancer, he had recently moved back to South Carolina to be close to his daughter.

Congratulations to our Lodge Scholarship Winners!



*Vincent Lombardi Lodge
50th Anniversary Scholarship - \$2000*

Edward Hall
High School: McQuaid Jesuit

Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship - \$1500

Erin Heh
High School: Aquinas Institute
Past Honorees Scholarship - \$1000

Jeffrey Arigo
High School: McQuaid Jesuit

Past Honorees Scholarship - \$1000
Mary Cotter
High School: Allendale Columbia School

*Rubé Family Scholarship
In Honor of Jennifer Rubé - \$1200*

Rose Nicastro
High School: Webster Thomas

*Joseph Darryl DiStaffen
Memorial Scholarship - \$1000*

Adyson Parrinello
High School: Pittsford Sutherland

DiStaffen Family Scholarship - \$1000
Zachary Warner

High School: Webster Thomas

State Scholarship and Contest Winners



Adeline & Nicholas P Di Napoli Scholarship
Jeffrey Arigo - McQuaid Jesuit High School

*Geneva Lodge #2397 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Members
and the Marconi Lodge #154 Scholarship and the Jane Lippa Memorial Scholarship*

Nicholas Caster - Geneva High School

*Richard DiMarco Sr. Memorial Scholarship Donated by John DiMarco and the Giambra Family Scholarship and the
Paul and Cheryl Speranza Foundation Scholarship*

Mickayla Giambrone Rath - Our Lady of Mercy High School

Columbus Lodge #2143 Grant and Romanesque Lodge #2198 Grant

Michael Marker - Lyndonville Central High School

La Bella Lingua Award - **Daisy Smith** - West Irondequoit High School

John Dabbene Essay Contest - **Gabriella Maccarone** - Merton Williams Middle School, Hilton SCD

Italian Contributions to World Civilization

The World of Business



When asked to name the things that make Italy so important in the world, most people will probably mention food, fashion, grand opera, or the grandeur of the Roman Empire. But the contributions of Italian bankers and businessmen in the later Middle Ages set the stage for modern capitalism and even the flourishing of world trade. And the advances made in the banks of Florence and Siena and by the traders of Venice and Genoa laid the foundations of business practice that remain indispensable even today.

Before turning to some specific commercial developments, it must be understood that feudalism came to an end in northern Italy much earlier than in other parts of Europe. Beginning in the eleventh century, as demographic and economic changes were happening, many cities in northern Italy rebelled against their feudal overlords. They demanded and received the right to be independent communes.

Italy's position in the Mediterranean Sea gave it a substantial advantage as trade with the East grew in the tenth and eleventh century, partly as a result of the Christian Crusades into the Levant. Located conveniently on the coasts, Venice and Genoa became the preferred ports of entry from which valuable goods could then be repackaged and transported to the inland cities of Northern Europe.

In the late Middle Ages, in Genoa, a new type of business organization arose to finance burgeoning trade with distant parts of Europe and beyond. The *commenda* was a practical method to raise large amounts of capital to fund international trade and to spread its risk among many investors. In the *commenda* large and small investors pooled their resources to finance a commercial sailing venture, hoping to share in its profit while limiting their risk. According to the records of the city, many investors were people of only middling means.

By the early days of the Renaissance, wealthy northern Italian cities like Florence, Milan, Venice and Genoa controlled most of the trade in fabrics and spices from the East. But carrying the large amounts of money needed to deal in these materials over a long and arduous journey was dangerous and uncertain. To relieve the merchant of this necessity, letters of credit were created. Banks would issue a letter of credit to a depositor who could then use the letter to buy goods in a distant city, because the letter guaranteed that the seller would be paid even if the buyer failed to pay. These letters quickly came to dominate transactions at trade fairs throughout continental Europe and even beyond; they are the precursor of modern checks. It was the bankers of Florence who invented this type of transaction and that helped to catapult the city to fantastic riches and sponsorship of many Italian Renaissance artists.

Finally, even the word "bank" has its origins in Italy. "Banco" in Italian originally referred to a bench with a back and slowly came to refer to a workbench and in English the bench, or counter, where business was transacted. Eventually it came to refer to the business itself. From this development it is only a short step to our modern English word "bank."

The Opera Guild of Rochester



Bravo Nights are performances at the Little Café of opera and musical theatre selections by local talent, which takes place at the Little Theatre on East Avenue from 7 to 9 pm.

There is also Coffee and Conversation after a Royal Opera House screening.

The Guild has reserved The Little Café for approximately 90 minutes after the show, which begins at 12N.

Met Opera HD performances:
Tinseltown,
Henrietta Stadium 18,
Webster 12, and
Eastview Mall

Medea
by Luigi Cherubini on Oct. 22nd

La Traviata
by Verdi on Nov. 5th

Fedora
By Umberto Giordano on Jan. 13, 2023

Don Giovanni
by Mozart on May 5, 2023

Stop and Smell the Roses



June is a wonderful month.

There is so much to celebrate: graduations, weddings, the end of the school year and the start of summer, Father's Day, Rose Festivals, vacations, and anniversaries.

June is also the middle of the year and the midpoint of the growing season between planting and harvesting. If you look hard enough you can find something to celebrate or pay tribute to every day: June 4th is Hug Your Cat Day, June 6th is World War II D Day Anniversary, June 12th is National Red Rose Day, June 14th is not only Flag Day but also the US Army's Birthday, and June 26th is National Chocolate Pudding Day. In Italy on June 2nd the Festa della Repubblica is celebrated, The Tuscan Sun Festival takes place within the intimate setting of the medieval town of Cortona, Sagra di San Giovanni is the oldest historic event on Lake Como, and Festival of Two Worlds, is one of Italy's most famous performing arts festivals.

With so many things to do, when do we take time to stop and smell the roses, to take time out of our busy schedules to enjoy or appreciate the beauty of life? Studies have shown appreciating small things can make life feel more meaningful. It is important for us to reflect on what is important in our lives. We need to value our families and friends. And we should cherish the good times in our lives.

Can you remember the last time you saw an old married couple holding hands? Were you mesmerized by the child jumping in a puddle? Did the musician playing on the street corner capture your attention? None of these are life changing experiences, but they are simple and beautiful. We often just walk by in a hurry to get someplace else, and never take the time or give attention to any of these happenings. Frank Martello from Aalto University in Finland says, "We should slow down, let life surprise us, and embrace the significance in the everyday." If now is not the time, then when? Stop, even for a moment, and smell the roses. The fragrance will do wonders for the soul.



Rochester Italian Americans in the Public Eye

Mary Cerasani, Arthur Cerasani, and Richard Cerasani

We know the story about Luigi Del Bianco, a tone carver from Naples, Italy, who came to the United States and became the chief carver of Mt. Rushmore. There is a Rochester connection.



In 1940 Arthur Cerasani, was hired by Gutzon Borglum, who was already working on Mt. Rushmore but was also commissioned to do a bust of Frank Gannett, publisher of the D & C and Times-Union Newspapers to help on the Gannett bust. A few months later Borglum brought Cerasani to South Dakota to work on the Mt. Rushmore monument. Working for Borglum was challenging, and Cerasani would have preferred to be working any other place. He wrote long letters to his beloved Mary and wanted to return home to get as far away from Borglum as possible. But, Mary, always the practical one, wrote back to her husband “to buck up, to ask for better work, to be assertive.”

Sometimes you get what you wish for, and soon Borglum could no longer afford to keep Arthur on the payroll and sends him home. But, as we know, when one door closes another opens, and Arthur goes on to a career creating and teaching art and finally establishing himself as a leader in art therapy.

Mary Cerasani graduated from the College of Wooster and Suny Geneseo and went on to teach at the Harley School and in Rochester and Greece School Districts. At the age of 7, she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Thailand. She also did a Peace Corps stint in Poland when she turned 80 years.



Arthur and Mary’s son Richard found an old trunk in the attic after his mom passed. While his parents did not dwell on the early years, what he found in that old trunk were invaluable. It was filled with mementos and memories of his parents’ courtship and marriage and the work his father had done on the Mt. Rushmore National Monument, which is the basis of his book, *Love Letters from Mt. Rushmore: The Story of a Marriage, a Monument and a Moment in History*.

Arthur and Mary’s love story is one we have heard many times. She can trace her lineage back to the American Revolution, and he is the son of Italian immigrants. They met on 4th of July at a picnic and fell in love. Despite their parents’ opposition, they marry during the Great Depression. Like for so many, money is tight, but things begin to look up when Borglum hires Arthur.

Richard Cersani, whose stage name is Richard Caine, is best known for his role on General Hospital as Bill Watson. Retired now, he lives in Saratoga Springs.

Louis Paul Begnini



Louis Paul Begnini was one of many who made up the business sector of Rochester. At 92 years, he was still cutting hair at his shop in the Concourse of the Metropolitan Building. He earned many prestigious hairstyling awards throughout his career. His clientele were influential people of Rochester, such as Mayor Thomas Ryan and Monroe County Sheriff Andrew Meloni. In 2018 he was named a “Remarkable Rochesterian”.

As a young man, Lou first planned on a career in commercial art, but instead, he followed in his father’s footsteps as a barber. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and was the official barber on the USS Randolph CVA-15 while stationed overseas. In May 2015 he was able to be a part of the Honor Flight to Washington, DC to visit the Korean War Memorial.

After the war, he worked along side his father, Sam, at the Four Corners Barber Shop. He opened his own shop, Lincoln Tower Barber/Stylist in the Lincoln First Tower.

Prior to his passing in 2021, he and his daughter, Tina, worked together at her salon in Seabreeze. As he got older, he slowed down some, but the word retirement was never a part of his vocabulary.

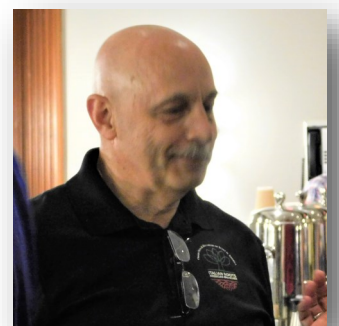
2022 East Rochester Memorial Day Parade



2022 OSDIA NYS Grand Lodge Convention - Day 1



2022 OSDIA NYS Grand Lodge Convention - Day 2



OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
84 Mulcahy Blvd
Rochester, NY 14624

President
Marjorie Focarazzo

Vice-President
Marisa Rubé Przepiora

Recording Secretary
Patricia Bartholomew

Financial Secretary
Melissa DiStaffen

Treasurer
Carol DiNicola

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Tom Meleca
Louis DeCarolis
Catherine DiNicola
Ron Santoli
Jeremy DiFilippo

Immediate Past President
Sandra Meleca

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Patricia Galante

District VIII State Trustee
Vincent Giannantonio

Chaplain Emeritus
Sister Carole Proia

State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi Lodge
Peter Gillotte

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge
Jeremy DiFilippo

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Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo*
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*
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