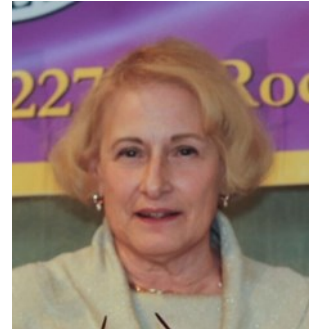




The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
March 2022 Edition



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Like many of you, I am so ready for spring. Although I don't think this winter was exceptionally hard, but we have been cooped up for so long, that it will be nice to enjoy the outdoors whether it's to go for a walk or to sit outside and enjoy the warmth of the sun on our faces.

I especially like mid to late spring when the flowers come into bloom, the leaves pop open, the grass turns emerald green, the days get longer, and the breeze warmer. We start planning our gardens, both floral and vegetable, dust off the lawn mower and put away the snowblower, we dream of picnics or sitting on the beach.

Spring in Italy brings festivals. April 25th is 'Il Giorno Della Liberazione or Liberation Day when the Allies liberated Italy from Nazi occupation in World War II. It is a tribute to all political partisans who stood up against Nazi's fascism. It marks the end of World War II for Italy and the birth of the Italian Republic

Festa di San Marco in Venice, May 11th-12th celebrates the patron saint of Venice. Typically, Venetian men present the woman they love with a red rosebud or bocolo.

The Sagra del Pesce or Fish Feast is celebrated in Camogli on May 12th, a small fishing village located on the Italian Riviera. The fishermen trade in their fishing nets for aprons and fry up their catch in a giant saucepan.

From May 12th until June 20th, Infiorata di Noto happens in Sicily. Noto is a Baroque town, and on the third weekend of May, the pavements are covered with intricate patterns of flower petals designed to look like mosaics and pictures. At the end of the festival, all the children get to run through the strewn flowers.

The Festa del Fiore del Mandorlo in Agrigento, Sicily, usually the last week in February or the first week in March welcomes spring as the pinkish-white blooms of the almond tree appear and the crops start being planted.

The international wine competition known as Vinitaly is held in Verona usually in April. Verona is the setting of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliette, another added attraction.

Whether you spend your Spring in Italy or Rochester, you can find plenty of festivals and activities.

Take care and God Bless,

Marjorie

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2022 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

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

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

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

June 2nd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
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

August 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

**August 11th, Time/Location TBD: Scholarship
Awards Night**

**August 20th, Time TBD: 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 13th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**October 21st, Time/Location TBD: Italian American
Heritage Dinner**

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

**November 17th, Time/Location TBD: Papa Antolini's
Turkey Raffle**

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

SAVE THE DATE

Sons of Italy 50th Anniversary Celebration
June 24, 2022 - Webster Golf Club



Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 - Rochester, New York
6/23/1972 - 6/23/2022



3/8: Chris Przepiora
3/10: Ann Battaglia
3/14: Kitty DiNicola
3/16: Don Campese

3/23: Nick Baross
3/26: Mary Rinere
3/30: Shirley Sculli

Sending our condolences to the family of Eva Fantauzzo. Eva was a member of our lodge and passed away on February 13th. Eva's obituary can be viewed here:

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc169158>



Also sending our thoughts and prayers to member Stephanie Salvatore, whose husband, Carmine, passed away on February 23rd. Carmine's obituary can be viewed here:

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc169542>

And to the family of Gene and MaryAnn Coons. Mary Ann was lodge member and passed away in 2018. Her husband, Gene, was very involved in lodge activities and well known to our members. Gene passed away on February 27th. His obituary can be viewed here:

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc169730>



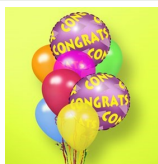
We initiated two new members at our February General Assembly Meeting, Karen Pelc and Mark Chester. Please give them a warm welcome and take a moment to get to know them when you see them at our next meeting or event. Welcome Sister Karen and Brother Mark!



Congratulations to Sister Becky DiFilippo on her graduation from Empire State College with her Bachelors Degree in Communications!



The monies collected through the raffle sales at our lodge Winter Clambake Picnic came to \$125. This was donated to the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester. Thank you to all who purchased tickets and made this donation happen!



Our 50/50 Club raffle winner for the Winter Clambake Picnic was Sister Carol DiNicola!



Thank you to all of our members who volunteered to help out with the Winter Clambake Picnic, including Louis DeCarolis, Luigi DiFilippo, Vince Giannantonio, Ron Santoli, Joe Rubé, Tom Meleca, Angela and Frank Giancaterin . Sincere thanks also to Sister Annette and Brother Paul DeCarolis for your beautiful raffle basket donations!

All of you contributed to a great, successful event!

March 8th: La Festa della Donna *International Women's Day*

International Women's Day has been observed in many countries around the world since the early 1900's. It is a day to commemorate the cultural, political and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point of the Women's Rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. It is a collective day of global celebration and a call for gender parity.

Italy first celebrated this day in 1922. Today in Italy, the day is celebrated with yellow mimosa flowers being handed out to the women of the country. This tradition began in 1946. That year, Rita Montagnana and Teresa Mattei, two activists fighting for equality of women, came up with the idea of marking International Women's Day by offering branches of yellow mimosa flowers to other women as a gift and sign of mutual respect, support and sisterhood. There are several reasons why the mimosa flower was chosen instead of the traditional violets and lilies of the valley that are given in France.

1. Mattei felt that violets and lilies of the valley were too expensive for the people of Italy. Mimosa flowers are abundant and grow naturally throughout all of Italy.
2. Mimosa trees flower consistently in Italy in late February and early March.
3. The mimosa blossoms are puffy yellow flowers that make the plant look fragile, but actually the mimosa is exceptionally strong and can survive in difficult conditions - just like women!
4. The mimosa tree has edible fruits and seeds, it's bark produces a gum that is used in printing and as a food stabilizer, and its wood is used to make furniture. The tree can do so many things - just like women!



Buona Festa della Donne!!

Italian Contributions to World Civilization

St. Francis of Assisi



The man we call Saint Francis was born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in Assisi in 1181 or 1182. His father was away at the time of his birth and upon his return he changed the child's name to Francis in honor of his wife's French heritage. The outlines of his life are well known to many of us. As a youth he enjoyed fine clothes, the songs of the troubadours, and a life of pleasure spent with the other rich and pampered young men in Assisi. When war against Perugia broke out in 1202, he joined the army, was taken prisoner, and held captive for a year. Soon after his return he began to lose interest in a worldly life and told his friends that he had found the love of his life: Lady Poverty. On this spiritual quest he had a vision in the abandoned chapel of San Damiano in which Jesus appeared to him and said, "Francis, go and repair my house which, as you can see, is falling into ruin." Despite setbacks ranging from lack of building materials and the wrath of his keenly disappointed father, Francis did succeed in rebuilding not only San Damiano, but other local dilapidated churches.

His devotion to his faith led him throughout his life. The tradition of building a manger began when he used living people and animals to recreate the scene. His courage prompted him to join the Fifth Crusade not as a soldier but as a missionary. During a truce he crossed into the sultan's camp and gained a private audience with him. On or about 12 September 1224 he had a vision of an angel who left with him with the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ, the first occurrence of this in history. Two years later on 3 September 1226 Francis died. Only two years passed before Pope Gregory IX proclaimed him a saint. His feast day is October 4.

St. Francis is often associated with benevolence toward animals and reverence for the environment. Two legends are often retold when speaking of the saint in this regard. In the first, Francis was traveling with some companions when they came to a place where the trees were filled with birds. Francis stopped to preach to the birds who sat still and not one flew away. In another tale, when Francis was living in the city of Gubbio, a wolf was attacking both animals and men, spreading fear everywhere. Francis found the wolf in the surrounding hills, made the sign of the cross over him and commanded the wolf to hurt no one. The wolf accompanied him into the city and Francis instructed the populace that the wolf was only acting out of hunger. A pact was made between citizens and wolf: they fed him and he no longer threatened them.

St. Francis is venerated today in the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, Lutheranism, and the Old Catholic Church.

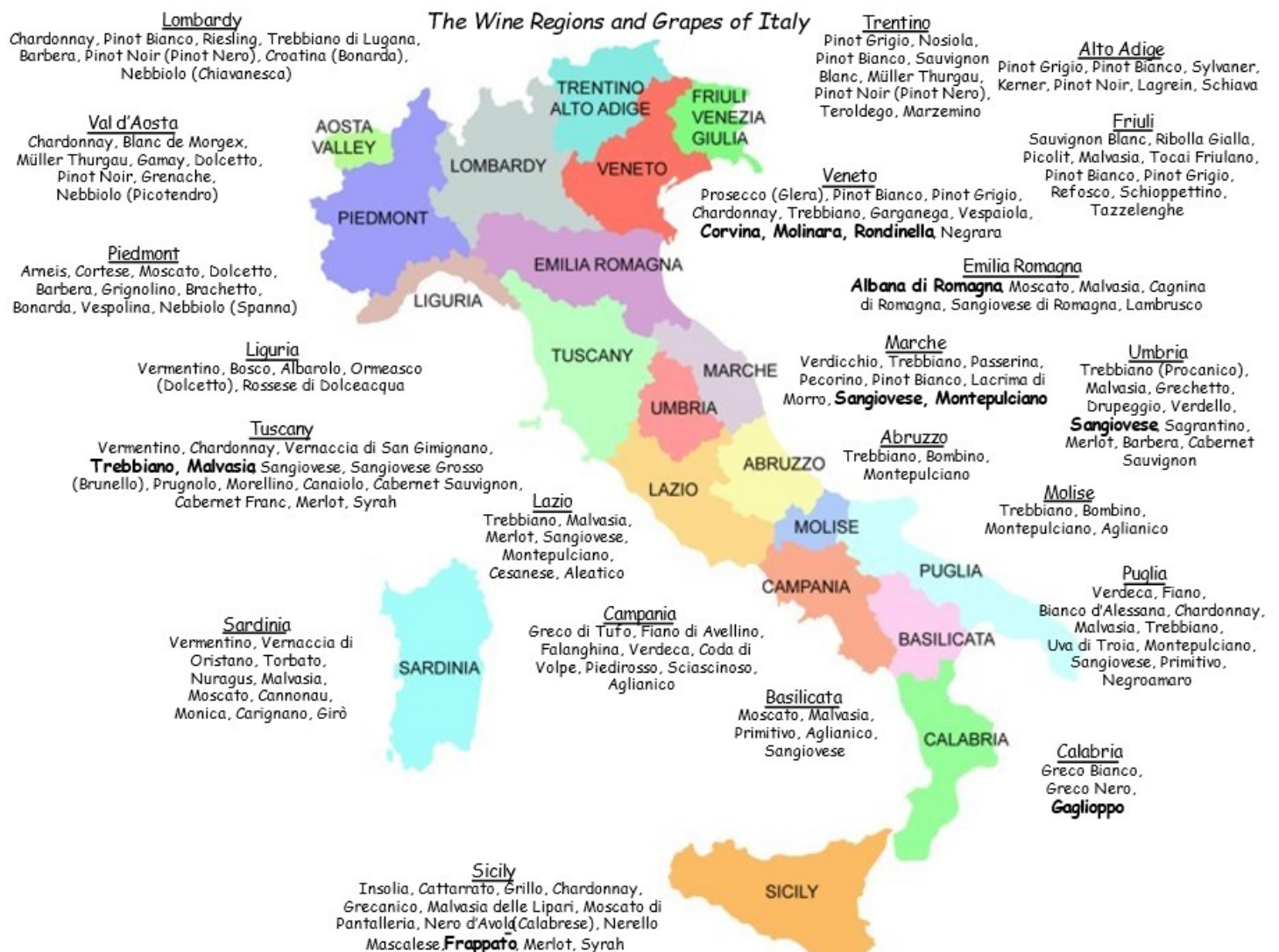
A Sip of Wine

Italy is the largest producer of wine in the world. It was called “Oenotria” by the Greeks which means The Land of Wine. There are 900,000 vineyards registered within all the regions. There are more than 1000 documented grape varieties. Vineyards are planted everywhere, even tiered along mountain sides.

Each region has its own wine traditions. The many microclimates or terroirs along with the soil will have a different effect on the same grape, depending on where it is grown. Most of the grapes found in Italy are rarely found outside of the country, except for the Cal-Ital wines of California.

Italian wines are regulated by laws through the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which keeps the wines true to their specific geographic location. Regulations vary with the *Vino da Tavola* wine (VdT), which are wines made anywhere in Italy from any grape or combination thereof but is more for local consumption to the *DOCG* or *Denominazione de Origine Controllata e Garantita*, the most regulated and controlled wines of Italy. There are only 23 *DOCGs* in Italy.

Grab a glass of your favorite Sangiovese or Montepulciano vino and salute!



Did you know?



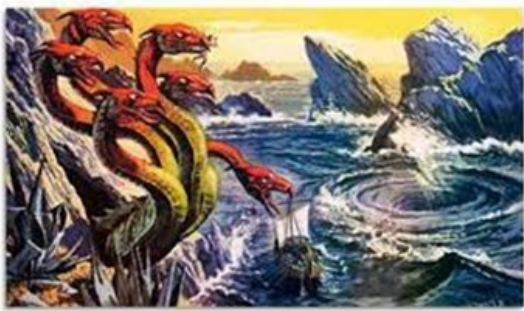
Genoa, Italy is the birthplace of denim. Denim was originally produced for the sails of Genoese boats and was then converted into clothing by the dockworkers before catching on worldwide. In September 2021, the inaugural Genova Jeans Festival was held in Genoa, an annual event to highlight Genoa as the birthplace of jeans, one of the most iconic garments in the world. The festival includes concerts, live shows, guided tours, exhibitions and workshops taking place throughout the city.



Lake Garda and Limone is famous for its lemon orchards and breathtaking views. Limone also has a genetic secret. In 1979 it was noted that there were more than a dozen residents over 100 years old. Upon investigation it was discovered many of them contain a rare protein in their blood that eliminates heart disease and increases life's longevity. Or is it because of the high concentration of lemons in their diet!!



Few know that Italian Fascism ended in Lake Como. Mussolini and his mistress were captured by Allied forces in Dongo, a commune in the Province of Como in the Lombardy region, located on the northwestern shore. Both Mussolini and his mistress were shot in Mezzegra trying to escape.



There are sea monsters in the Messina Strait between Sicily and Calabria. The two sea monsters, Scylla and Charibdis, according to Greek mythology, appear as beautiful sea nymphs but quickly change into ugly creatures with six heads, multiple mouths, and glowing eyes.

Winter Clambake and Picnic Eyer Park



Winter Clambake and Picnic Eyer Park



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