

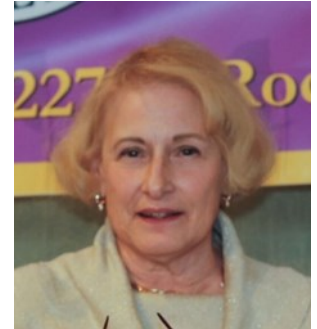


The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
January 2023 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that whatever stage in life we are in the coming year, we treasure love for family and friends, we learn to treat ourselves well, and we cherish others. Chat with, laugh with, sing with, dance with, talk about anything and everything with those you love.



Two important events for January:

Renewal of dues must be made ASAP. We are required to reconcile the membership list with the Grand Lodge by the end of January. If dues have not been paid by the time I complete that task, your name will be removed from the list sent to the Grand Lodge, although you will remain on the Lodge list until the end of March. Dues can be sent in anytime to be reinstated. Thank you to all who have already paid them. A reminder payment can be made by PayPal by contacting Br. Louis DeCarolis.

The Nominating Committee will be giving their report at the January General Assembly Meeting. Anyone who would like to run for office may either nominate themselves or be nominated by another member, but you must be in attendance to accept the nomination. Anyone who has been a member for a year is eligible to run for office, including social members, except for the office of President. The term of office is two years, and council members are asked to attend two meeting each month: council meeting and the general assembly meeting.

The council will be working hard on events for 2023, and if anyone has a suggestion on a program of some new activity, please let us know. We are open to trying something new.

We are looking forward to a busy but fun year. We can always use the help with planning, ideas, setting up/cleaning up, so let us know what you are willing to do.

We are off to a good start in 2023!

Take care and God bless,
Marjorie

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calendar of Events.....2
- Members Corner.....3
- CSJ Report.....5
- Scholarship Info.....6
- Tidbits.....7
- A Sip of Wine.....8
- Pictures.....9



2023 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

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

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

February 5th, 1pm: Winter Picnic - Veteran's Memorial Park, Bushman's Cabin (595 Calkins Rd, Henrietta)

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

March 19th, 1pm: Council Officer Installation Celebration, Location TBD

April 6th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
April 13th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

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

June 8th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 6th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
July 13th, 7pm: **Scholarship Awards Night**

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

Members Picnic: TBA

September 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
September 13th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

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

Italian American Heritage Dinner: TBA

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

Papa Antolini Turkey Raffle: TBA

December 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
December 14th, 7pm: Holiday Gathering



The Legend of La Befana

In Italian folklore, La Befana is an old woman, usually portrayed as a hag riding a broomstick, who brings good children treats on the morning of the Epiphany, January 6. She wears a black shawl and is covered with soot because she enters the homes of children through the chimney carrying a bag or sack filled with candy and gifts.

It is believed that her name comes from the Feast of Epiphany, Festa dell'Epifania in Italian. La Befana visits all the children of Italy and fills their socks with goodies if they have behaved themselves throughout the year or a lump of coal if they were naughty. As the story goes, she missed the birth of Baby Jesus because she was too busy cleaning. The Magi had come in search of the Messiah, but Befana turned them away. She later felt guilty and decides to seek out Jesus on her own by following the bright light in the sky, which she believes points the way. Unfortunately, she is never able to find Jesus and continues to search for him to this day. Before leaving the homes, she visits, she may sweep the floor clean. Many believe this sweeping means the sweeping away of problems from the year. The family leaves a small glass of wine and a plate with a few morsels of food for Befana.

Many poems have been written about Befana. Here is one by Giovanni Pascoli:

*Viene, viene la Befana
Vien dai monti a notte fonda
Come è stanca! la circonda
Neve e gelo e tramontana!
Viene, viene la Befana*

*Here comes, here comes the Befana
She comes from the mountains in the deep of the night
Look how tired she is! All wrapped up
In snow and frost and the north wind!
Here comes, here comes the Befana!*



1/1: Mary Kosinsky
1/2: Sam Mammano
1/4: Anthony Cataldi
1/6: Paul DeCarolis
1/9: Virginia McIntyre

1/11: Ron Santoli
1/13: Lorrie DiBisceglie
1/16: Pat Bartholomew
1/20: Tony Palucci Jr



Welcome New Members!

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members, **Sandra Witmer** and **Virginia McIntyre**, who were initiated at the December 15th GA Meeting and Holiday Gathering.



Vincent Lombardi Lodge 2023 Council Elections



This winter we will elect the officers and council members who will lead our lodge for the next two years. The nominating committee—Vincent Giannantonio, Char Dodgson, Frank Giacaterin, and Patty Johns have contacted and spoken with members to find out their interest.

The criterion for holding a position is being a member for more than a year, the ability to attend two meetings (one council, the other general assembly) each month, and caring about the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

At the January General Assembly Meeting, Br. Vince, Chair of the Nominating Committee will announce the slate of officers, council members, and arbitration commissioners. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Anyone being nominated must be in attendance to accept the nomination. If anyone runs from the floor, a ballot vote will take place at the February General Assembly Meeting. If no one runs from the floor, the recording secretary will be asked to cast a single vote formally electing the slate to a two-year term. The committee's obligation will be completed once the council has been elected. The newly elected council will be installed in March, date, time, and place yet to be determined.

Please direct any questions to Br. Vince Giannantonio.

2023 Membership Renewal Due Now



Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships, but if you have not, membership renewals are now due. The cost remains the same as last year, \$60.

We have to reconcile our membership with the NYS Grand Lodge by January 31st. The accurate numbers are important for two reasons: (1) it determines the number of delegates who will represent our Lodge at convention and (2) it determines the amount of the per capita fee we pay quarterly. The amount of your dues covers that cost each year.

Checks should be made out to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270.

If you prefer to pay by PayPal or credit card, please contact Br. Louis DeCarolis who will submit payment.

ACOUSTIC LIGHT ART RAFFLE



It's a repurposed guitar and it's a lamp. It's one of a kind, a piece of artwork, made by Stephen Cataldi, a member of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge. The unique lodge logo was designed especially for our lodge by our past lodge president Jennifer Rubé.

The LED lights can change colors (red, green, blue) and change brightness & speed with the beat of music, by using its own mike to hear music that you provide. Hang it on a wall or a guitar stand, use it as a night light, or a decoration for your den, office or bar.

Tickets will be available starting on November 17th at the Turkey Raffle and will continue until our Members Picnic in August 2023 when we will draw the winning ticket. Tickets cost: \$10 for a single ticket or \$25 for three tickets. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact us at vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com.

Membership Awards Program



The NYS Grand Lodge has a member awards program that we can all participate in, simply by sponsoring members to join our lodge! Prizes are given out to both individual members and lodges, as noted below. Let's make 2023 the year our lodge, and our members, are recognized for growing our membership!

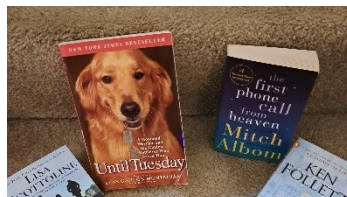
1. When an individual lodge member sponsors 10 or more new members within a calendar, they receive an official OSDIA Membership Jacket, or a \$50 gift check.
2. Every time an individual lodge member sponsors just one new member, they will receive a free raffle ticket for each member sponsored (so if you sponsor 5 members, you get 5 raffle tickets). A drawing will be held at the April plenary session and 6 winners will be picked, each receiving \$50.
3. At the NYS Grand Lodge Convention, a \$250 check and award plaque will be presented to the (1) lodge with the greatest increase in number of members; (2) greatest net percentage increase in number of members.

Spreading the Holiday Spirit

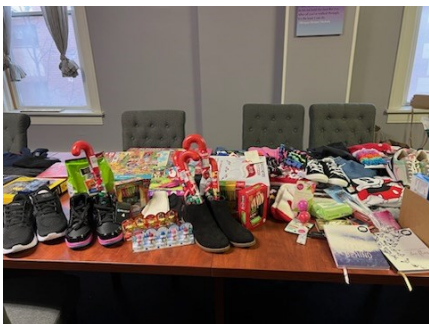


As many of you know, one of the local charities that we support as a lodge is Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, an organization providing advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and child abuse, as well as prevention education to schools and the community on these topics.

For our December GA Meeting and Holiday Gathering, our members brought donations to help stock Safe Harbors emergency domestic violence shelter, which will be opening its doors in 2023. Members donated books, toys, stuffed animals and personal hygiene items that will be utilized by women and children staying at the shelter. Thank you to our members for your generous donations!



Our brothers and sisters at the Geneva Lodge also donated to Safe Harbors for the holidays. Geneva lodge members and their loved ones adopted a family for Christmas, providing gifts for a family of 5, bringing joy to those who would have otherwise gone without. Thank you to the Geneva Lodge for your generosity and giving spirit!





Etymology—the study of words

Carnivale means carnival which comes from the Latin for “farewell to meat”.

Carni is derived from caro, meaning meat and vale is the imperative form of valere, which translates as you be well or fare well.

There is a lesser-known winter carnival in the Alpine town of Bagolino, which is known for its hard cheese, Bagoss. Participants in the festival dress all in black from head to toe. The girls wear bright colored shawls, while the boys wear grotesque masks and alter their voices. Anyone observing the “parade” will be drawn to the clip-clopping of their shoes, whose soles are made of thick wood, as they walk the cobblestoned streets. The dancers, known as Balari, dress in richly adorned costumes with an unusual striking hat, which holds a big multicolored silk ribbon garland that accentuates the movements as the dancer shakes his head.

Farneticare is a useful word when someone isn’t making any sense or talking rubbish. Ma cosa stai farneticando?!

Suggestivo in Italian means atmospheric, evocative, enchanting, magical, or spellbinding such as a stunning view or a castle high in the Alps, or the viilas on Lake Como. Di Fretta means hastily, rushed, or in a hurry. Vado di fretta is translated as I am in a rush at the moment.

Manrova is translated simply as maneuver or tricky movements.

Una curiosita’ is a phrase used for those who like to ask questions and is literally translated to mean a curiosity or something that is curious. – Una curiosità, avete questo vestito in nero anche? (Out of curiosity, do you also have this dress in black?)



NYSOSDIA Commission on Social Justice

The National and NYS CSJ were busy throughout 2022 with a number of issues. The number one concern at all levels of OSDIA continues to surround Christopher Columbus. Rumors abound, and we have the arduous task of educating others on facts and truth.

Most recently we have been victorious in Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt’s decision that the the city of Philadelphia must remove the plywood box placed over the statue of Christopher Columbus after the 2020 protests over racial injustice. The judge’s decision was based on the fact that the city of Philadelphia accepted the donation of the statue in 1876, and it is their fiduciary responsibility and duty to preserve the statue, which was determined to be an historic part of the city in 2017, but it is not city property. It was presented to the city by Italian Americans to commemorate the nation’s centennial, which was noted in the ruling from the state’s Commonwealth Court.

The fight to save the historic Columbus Monument in Syracuse isn’t over. Mayor Bill Walsh is appealing the court’s decision that the statue is to remain where it is. Every Columbus Day hundreds gather at the statue to pay tribute to the generations who fought for and defended the freedoms we enjoy. Tearing things down does not help others to rise up, and the statue that dominates Columbus Circle was donated by thousands of Italian immigrants.

In Massachusetts, another victory for Columbus Day when elected officials killed a bill to eliminate the holiday and kept the day. Other areas in the country who have retained Columbus Day: City Council of Morgantown, West Virginia and Magnolia Independence School District in Texas. While we are appreciative for these successes, there are still far too many untruths, misconceptions, and fabrications surrounding Christopher Columbus. “George Orwell in his book 1984 warned of a world in which the past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.”

Issues that continue to be addressed:

- * Awaiting the date that the plaque will be placed at the site of the lynching of Italian immigrants who were exonerated for a crime they were accused of committing in New Orleans.
- * We are waiting for the NY Attorney General and/or the Westchester DA Office to investigate the suicide of Claudio Mandia, a student at EF Academy, after being expelled and isolated for the “crime” of cheating on an assignment. NYS CSJ believes the school administrators need to be held accountable for this tragedy. This past November, Claudio’s parents brought a lawsuit against the school for wrongful death, negligence, false imprisonment, and emotional distress, plus other charges against the academy, four school officials, its parent company, and twenty other unnamed defendants.

The National CSJ and NYS Grand Lodge CSJ will remain vigilant throughout 2023 on these issues and whatever else needs to be addressed. The CSJ will investigate concerns brought to their attention, so if there is a matter you would like them to consider, please send it to John Fratta, CSJ Chair, at the NYS Grand Lodge.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Sons & Daughters of Italy in America offers college scholarships at all levels of the organization. Here is information on the National, State, and of course our local lodge scholarship opportunities.

Local Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarships:

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

Fees and Deadlines: There is no fee to apply. **Application deadline is March 31st, 2023 and must be submitted to Marisa Przepiora.** Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered.

Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship applications will be sent to all Monroe County schools in January 2023. Applications are also included with this newsletter, and available on our lodge website: www.sonsofitalyrochester.com. Questions? Please contact Marisa Przepiora at 585-750-8336 or marisaprze@gmail.com

New York State OSDIA Scholarships:

Scholarship Eligibility: Applicant must be of Italian descent and a resident of New York State. Undergraduate and graduate awards are presented to high school or college students who will begin full-time study for the fall academic term of the year their application is eligible to apply for competition. The scholarship awards are based on academic excellence and service. Students must have an average of 85% or above to apply.

Grant Eligibility: several grants are awarded to students with special needs. The requirements for grants are the same as noted above except for the need for a minimum of an 85% average. Also, all grant applicants are required to submit a written document of special need.

Fees and Deadlines: A \$10 non-refundable processing fee is required with each scholarship application. **All applications are due by March 31st, 2023 and must be submitted to Marjorie Focarazzo.**

Applications for grants and scholarships are included with this newsletter. For more information, visit <http://www.nysosia.org/scholarships>

Questions? Please contact Marjorie Focarazzo at 585-749-5346 or mafocarazzo@gmail.com

National OSDIA Leadership Grant Competition

The Sons of Italy Foundation sponsor their 2023 merit-based scholarships ranging from \$4000 to \$25,000. General eligibility: US citizens of Italian descent who will be enrolled in an undergraduate program or graduate program at an accredited school of higher education. The description and specific requirements for each scholarship can be found on the Supreme Lodge's website below.

General requirements for the six posted scholarships: all scholarships must be submitted online using the application provided; certified transcripts through the December 2022 semester must be provided; and a \$35 non-refundable process fee is required with each application submitted. Unless noted, the deadline for submission is February 28, 2023 and all materials/documents must be submitted online at www.osia.org/programs/scholarships/

Applications are screened by education professionals, but the final selection is made by OSDIA's National Scholarship, Education, and Culture Committee and notification will be made by May 1, 2023. Monetary awards will be made directly to the student's academic institution.



Did you know?

The Great Cake Debate: Panettone or Pandoro are well known Italian Christmas cakes enjoyed throughout December and January. Which do you prefer?



Panettone was originally made in Milan and has a dome shaped top. It contains citrus peel, raisins, and candied fruit. The dough contains yeast and is cured in a similar way to sourdough – it needs to be left rise three times before being baked. It is known as 'pan de toni' or Toni's bread. Legend has it that Toni was the kitchen hand at the court of Ludovic Sforza, Duke of Milan. He burnt the cakes for dinner so threw together a type of medieval spiced bread and presented it at court. The court loved it.

Pandoro came from Verona (the home of Romeo and Juliette) and is taller and star shaped. The term, Pan d'oro, means golden bread. This vanilla-scented cake gets its yellow color from eggs used in the batter. It is light, airy, plain, and dusted with confectioner's sugar. It was created in the 13th century to honor the Scaligeri, lords of Verona. Some say its star shape refers to the star that led the Three Kings to Jesus. Others believe it refers to the sun, symbol of fertility. Today's pandoro owes its height to 19th-century pastry chef Domenico Melegatti, who modified the original medieval recipe so the pandoro would rise better.

Auguri!

Lentils for the New Year: Italians are more interested in celebrating the arrival of the new year with lentils than champagne. Why? Lentils, or lenticchie, are believed to bring good luck and great abundance in Italy and eating them at New Year – shortly after midnight – is a tradition that's said to date back to ancient Rome. Served shortly after midnight, it is a warm and hearty dish on a cold winter's night. The more you eat, the luckier you'll be in the coming year.



News from Italy

Wild boars invade Rome's streets. An amendment has been brought forth from Parliament that allows the killing of wild animals for reasons of road safety in protected areas, even in cities. There is an estimate of more than two million wild boars in Italy. Their roaming has caused major damage to crops and has created deadly traffic accidents. Animal rights activist, however, are opposed to the measure citing it could put protected animals at risk.



Trending: Italian Baby Names

Boys:

1. Leonardo
2. Alessandro
3. Tommaso
4. Francesco
5. Lorenzo
6. Edoardo
7. Mattia
8. Riccardo
9. Gabriele
10. Andrea

Girls:

1. Sofia
2. Aurora
3. Giulia
4. Ginerva
5. Beatrice
6. Alice
7. Vittoria
8. Emma
9. Ludovica
10. Matilde

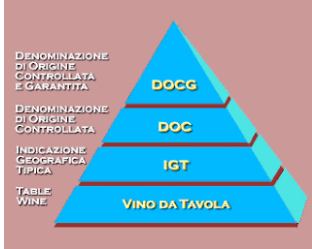




A Sip of Wine

Understanding the Italian Appellation System

The Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry oversees the regulations that ensure Italian wines keep true to their specific geographic area. Tuscan wines can vary from vintage to vintage and from maker to maker.



VdT = **Vino da Tavola**

Wine of the Table

The least sophisticated wine, usually the house wine (vino della casa) at trattorias and osterias, it's mainly produced to be consumed locally and not for export.

Wines with this label are made anywhere in Italy from any grape or combination of grapes. It has very little regulation and few are exported to the US.



IGT = **Indicazione Geografica Tipica**

Typical Geographic Indication

This classification was created in 1992 as a way to bring Italy's wine industry in line with Europe. All grapes within any IGT wine should come from the region stated on the label. Super Tuscan wines are a prime example. It is mandatory to include on the label the full wording Indicazione Geografica Tipica, but it is not mandatory to indicate the vintage of the harvest.



DOC = **Denominazione di Origine Controllata**

Denomination of Controlled Origin

It is a certification, as determined by law, which gives wine distinctive features of superior quality. It is determined by the grape varietal and the production area as well as the techniques for processing and aging. There are 329 different DOCs in Italy, which are well-defined regions with precise rules designed to preserve the traditional winemaking practices of each individual area. The wines range from sparkling Prosecco to the sweet dessert wines of Tuscany, to a wide variety of white and red wines. Each DOC has its own rules about what grapes may be used, the maximum harvest yields, and aging requirements.



DOCG = **Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita**

Denomination of Guaranteed Origin

This is the most rigidly controlled wines in Italy. There are 74 DOCGs in Italy. The yields are usually lower, and these wines must pass an evaluation, analysis, and tasting by a government licensed committee before it can be bottled. This has resulted in the overall improvement of the quality of wines produced. Wines that fall under this category are: Barolo, Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, Amarone della Valpolicella, and Prosecco Superiore.

Other important terms noted on wine bottles:

Classico are wines made in the historic center of a wine producing region. Some wines you may recognize are Chianti Classico or Valpolicella Classico.

Superiore is a wine that has, at least, 0.5% greater alcohol content than its regular counterpart from a certain region. It must adhere to certain limits regarding harvesting and minimum aging.

Reserva wines will be a higher quality wine made from riper grapes that has been aged even longer in oak barrels. The wine was aged for at least three years in the cask and bottle, at least one of which must have been in the cask.

2022 General Assembly Holiday Gathering



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

Orator

Joe Rubé

Mistress of Ceremony

Lillian Bonanni

Sentinel

Luigi DiFilippo

Trustees

Tom Meleca
Louis DeCarolis
Catherine DiNicola
Ron Santoli
Jeremy DiFilippo

Immediate Past President

Sandra Meleca

Chaplain

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

Past Presidents

Joseph Lusardi*
Thomas Laverne*
Louis Giambra*
Joseph Vazzana *
John March*
Victor Bell*
Peter Cimino*
Sam Parese*
Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo*
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*
Vincent Giannantonio
Sandra Meleca

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

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Rochester, NY 14624
mafocarazzo@gmail.com**