

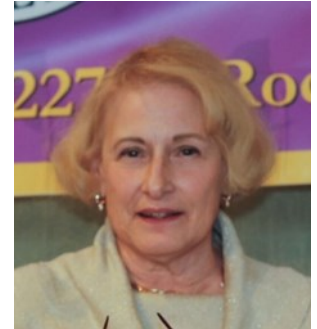


The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
November 2023 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Heritage Dinner on Oct. 27th was a huge success. We honored four distinguished Italian Americans who continually give back to the communities we live in. You can read more about our award recipients—Sr. Diana Dolce, Peter J. Pullano, Michael J. Cerretto, and the Rubino Family--in the newsletter. We also awarded to two of our past presidents, an award created by the Heritage Dinner Awards Committee, the President Bene Emeritus Award. We gave Immediate Past President, Sandra Meleca, her award in July since she is not able to be at the Heritage Dinner in person. That event was recorded, and with a little editing we were able to play it so our audience could see Sandy as the first recipient of this award. Our second past president to receive this award was Jennifer Lynn Rubé, presented posthumously to her family from NYS Trustee Vincent Giannantonio. Congratulations to all our award winners.



A huge “thank you” to Tony DiCostanzo, who stepped in as our emcee at the last minute. Our event sponsors provided the Lodge with enough funds to provide two scholarships. We are most appreciative of our Platinum Sponsors, The Daniele Family and Hope Hall. Other sponsors are Quatela Center, Mesoella Dental, Tully Rinckey Inc., Bartolomeo & Perotto Funeral Home, Louis & Cindy DeCarolis, St. Nicholas Society, Nick’s Seabreeze Inn, Fioravanti Florist, Mamma G’s Restaurant, MarketView Liquor, and Mark’s Penfield Pizza. We are most appreciative to our sponsors.

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It is never too early to think about next year. We have reserved the Webster Golf Club for Friday, October 25th. We will soon be thinking about our awardees. Anyone who would like to serve on that committee, please let me know. This past year we met a few times via zoom. We are open to any suggestions on who our honorees will be. Please send their name and a reason you think they are deserving.

We are now moving into the holiday season, and everyone will be super busy, but I hope you will not miss our December Holiday Meeting. This is a great time for our members to enjoy each other’s company with some good food, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Before we get to the hustle and bustle of Christmas, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving, time with family and friends, and to reflect on what we are truly thankful for.

God Bless and Take Care,
Marjorie

2023 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

November 9th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

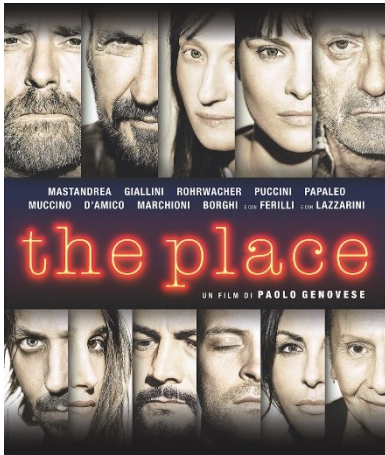
December 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

Papa Antolini Turkey Raffle: November 11th
St. Nicholas Society, East Rochester

December 14th, 7pm: Holiday Gathering GA Meeting
Eyer Building, East Rochester



The Place By Paolo Genovese



Showtime & Date: November 12th, 4 PM

Location: Peace Theatre (Room A14), Nazareth University Arts Center

Synopsis

A mysterious man sits every day at the same table of the same restaurant, accepting to grant his visitors' biggest wishes and assigning them peculiar tasks to accomplish in return. What will they be ready to do to get what they want?

Purchase tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/italian-film-series-at-frank-dimino-casa-italiana-1112-tickets-740393756657?aff=oddtcreator>

Limited number of tickets for the after-movie food and libations event at the **Frank DiMino Casa Italiana** can be purchased at the link above. Because of limited seating it is highly recommended that tickets for the dinner, sold separately from the movie, be purchased in advance since there is no guarantee that there will be available tickets the night of the show.

Rochester Italian American Club Events

Italian Women's Civic Club

Dante Ball: November 4th, 6pm

Italian American Sports Club

Thursday Luncheon: November 17th, December 1st, December 15th, 12pm

Christmas Concert: December 4th, 4pm

Christmas Gala: December 10th, 6pm

Christmas with Santa: December 17th, 1pm

New Year's Eve Party: December 31st, 6pm

Italian American Community Center

Annual Christmas Gala: November 25th, 7pm

Holiday Craft and Vendor Show: December 3rd, 10am

Gates Amita

Christmas Party: December 15th, 6pm



2024 Dates to Remember

Italian Regional Dinner: May 5th

Annual Members Picnic: August 10th

Italian American Heritage Dinner: October 25th

Naughty or nice? Which list are you on?



Join us at our December 14th General Assembly Meeting to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Please bring a favorite holiday dish to share.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be our special guests



11/1: Joseph Valentino
11/2: James Bruno
11/4: Richard Porcaro
11/8: Joseph Polizzi
11/10: Philomena Giambrone
11/17: Patty Johns



Keeping in our thoughts and prayers...

Pat & Gordie Rath
Ann Marie Taddeo
James Vacanti
Lillian Bonanni
Becky DiFilippo
Sandy Meleca



We need you! Please consider joining our Advancement Committee for 2024!

We are looking for members with an interest in helping secure the future of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge. The Lodge Advancement Committee will focus on developing ideas to carry our lodge forward. This includes brainstorming ways of raising funds for the operation of our lodge while keeping the cost of our membership and events reasonable, as well as ideas for encouraging participation of current members and recruitment of new members so that we may enjoy this organization well into the future, and for generations to come! We cannot succeed without the participation of our members. For more information on what this entails, or to express your interest, please contact President Marjorie at mafocarazzo@gmail.com or 585-749-5346. We thank you in advance for offering your support!



November is the time to be thankful, a time to remember and to embrace those who enrich our lives. Our Lodge prospers because of you. Wishing all my Brothers and Sisters and their families hope, joy, peace, good health, favor, and love on this Thanksgiving Day.

~Marjorie



**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 8TH**



Join our General Assembly Meetings by Zoom

You now have the option to join our General Assembly meetings by zoom if you are unable to attend in person.

This link will remain the same for all GA meetings this year.

Please join us at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651398467?pwd=SmlnbDhxbWIHS0gvVHJjb1B0UjJBUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5139 8467
Passcode: 865390

Did you know you can pay for dues and events and even make donations to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge by credit card or PayPal?

When utilizing PayPal, include a note indicating what the payment is for. Please include a **\$3 service charge** when you make your

There are four ways to do this:

1. See Financial Secretary Marisa Przepiora at a meeting or event to utilize our credit card reader.
2. Log into your PayPal account, click the link to send money and send to:
vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com.
3. Ask a Council member to have an invoice with a link for payment sent to your email address.
4. Scan the QR code here.



NEWS FROM THE FRANK DIMINO CASA ITALIANA

Oral History Project: The Frank DiMino Casa Italiana aims to preserve the history and traditions of the Italian-American Community of Rochester. As of September 2022, the Casa Italiana has been aiming to document the history of the Italian community in Rochester. In order to accomplish this goal, we are conducting oral interviews with anyone of Italian descent that resides in the

greater Rochester area. We are looking for individuals to join us on this project and help preserve the accounts of Italians and Italian-Americans in Rochester. If you are interested please send us your contact information or contact the Casa Italiana at Casa@naz.edu or 585-389-2468



Italian Conversation Table

The Italian Conversation Table is an informal conversation group led by Daniel Speciale and other members of Casa Italiana. Its goal is to provide attendees with an opportunity to speak Italian in a casual setting.

When? Every Thursday at 5 pm | **Where?** Casa Italiana.

For more information please contact Daniel Speciale (dspecia0@naz.edu).

Join us for our next meeting!





News from the Grand Lodge of New York

Scholarship Committee: Joanne Spera has been appointed State Scholarship Chairperson. Joanne proudly announced that a total of \$111,000 had been awarded in scholarships and grants. State A scholarship in memory of immediate past present Michele Ment has been established and will be presented to an eligible graduating senior in 2024, which is known as “The Michele Cangiano Ment Memorial Scholarship.” Additional scholarships are being considered to honor Past President Michele Ment. Michele served as the Grand Lodge scholarship chair for 25 years until she was elected president. She also served on the National Scholarship Committee. As a former educator, she wanted to ensure that students were given as many opportunities as possible to continue their education, and this scholarship is a lasting memory of her dedication to students.

Education & Culture Committee: State Past President Carolyn Reres is working on the Student Summit which will take place again in 2024 on April 5-7, 2024 at the Desmond Hotel in our State Capital of Albany.

National Commission for Social Justice: National CSJ President Robert Ferrito reports the plaque will be presented at the site of the lynching which took place in New Orleans in 1891. They have a resource page on the Supreme Lodge’s website with informational tools for fighting bias and bigotry of Italian Americans.

NYS Commission for Social Justice: State President Biagio Isgro presented a check for \$5795.00 raised at the New York State Convention to NYS CSJ.

State Convention Report: State Convention Chairman Ernest Magliato reported the 2024 Convention will take place on June 6-9, 2024 at the Desmond Albany.



Once in a Lifetime Tour of Italy!

Have you been dreaming of a trip to Italy, but don’t have the time or expertise to plan the trip? Well, now’s your chance to enjoy a once in a lifetime Italy tour without doing any work to make it happen. Cathy Meleca, daughter of our members Tom and Sandy Meleca, has planned a group tour to Italy for June 10th to 24th, 2024 and anyone is free to join! This is an adults only trip with a custom itinerary, traveling from Venice to Sicily. The trip cost is all inclusive including travel costs, excursions, 2 of 3 meals each day and even tips! Check out the itinerary:

- Day 1 - Start Tour**
- Day 2 - Ciao Venice Walking Tour**
- Day 3 - Venice Landmarks**
- Day 4 - Venice to Florence**
- Day 5 - Florence Landmarks**
- Day 6 - Florence to Rome**
- Day 7 - Rome Landmarks**
- Day 8 - Rome to Sorrento**
- Day 9 - Sorrento Landmarks**
- Day 10 - Sorrento to Matera and Matera sightseeing**
- Day 11 - Matera to Siderno with free time in Siderno**
- Day 12 - Siderno to Taormina with Taormina sightseeing**
- Day 13 - Taormina to Palermo with Palermo sightseeing**
- Day 14 - Palermo Landmarks**
- Day 15 - End Tour**

For more details on this great opportunity, please visit the tour page online at:

www.educationaltravel.com/Meleca-3903

If you have questions or would like more information, Cathy is happy to hear from you at:

586-557-2474

(Please note, that is not a misprint of the area code. Cathy lives in Michigan and the area code is 586)



Woman of the Year *Sister Diana Dolce*

Diana Dolce, SSJ is the Founder and Executive Director of Hope Hall School. Sister Diana has been an educator for more than fifty years. She is a pioneer in the field and works with students who learn differently. Her experience compelled her to develop and copyright the *Dolce Method for Learning Mastery*, published in 2023. Her goal is to help countless young people to overcome obstacles encountered in learning, and from there to experience and achieve personal and academic success. Sr. Diana believes the educational system can be change to help all students become responsible, productive members of society no matter what the learning style or level learning is. She believes in the principle that all children can learn. Some need more time and the right environment conducive to learning for any one student. The *Dolce Method* is a holistic approach to education. It uses a time tested 4 Step Study Method, which has proven to be successful.

More than 25 years ago, Sr. Diana welcomed the first students to Hope Hall. These students were bullied, the ones let out of sports, not invited to parties, and unable to learn no matter how hard they tried. Traditional schooling didn't know how to handle their differences. From the beginning Sr. Diana provided each student the means to face what they perceived they could not do. Each student would write down on a piece of paper one thing they could not do, placed the paper in the ground, and buried it. They planted flowers over the burial spot and watched as the flowers grew, as they themselves would grow.

Hope Hall has a 100% graduation rate considering that 85% of the students' families have significant financial challenges, and all the students have learning challenges,

Hope Hall has received national recognition as one of fourteen schools featured as part of a National School Choice Week tour of the United States, highlighting effective educational options. In 2018, Hope Hall received one of 16 nationwide "Community Thrives" Gannett Foundation grant awards. In 2019, Sr. Diana received the 2019 Rochester Business Journal ICON Award and a 2018 Rochester Women's Network 'W' Award. Sr. Diana considers the success of her students her greatest achievement. She treasures her students, Hope Hall, and the message of hope.





Man of the Year *Peter Pullano, Esq.*

Peter is the Managing Partner at Tully Rinckey PLLC's Rochester Office, where he is the chair of the firm's criminal law practice.

With over 30 years of criminal defense experience, Peter has handled thousands of criminal cases, primarily representing defendants in felony cases in both state and federal courts. Peter is certified as "learned counsel" in federal court capital cases, and prior to New York State's abolishment of capital punishment, he was likewise certified to handle death penalty cases in state courts. His devotion to criminal defense and helping people in need has been recognized numerous times in the legal community.

Peter was honored with the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Award by the United States District Court, Western District of New York in 2016, and he was recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" by the NY Daily Record in 2015. He has received the Super Lawyer distinction in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and has also received the Monroe County Bar Association's Charles Crime Award. Additionally, Peter was the recipient of the Rochester Business Journal's "40 Under 40" Award. In 1998, Peter received the esteemed Charles Crimi Award from the Monroe County Bar Association, and the Saint Nicholas Society "Man of the Year" Award.

A graduate of East Rochester High School, Peter received his juris doctorate from Albany Law School of Union University and his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York College at Buffalo. A longtime member of the Saint Nicholas Society in East Rochester, Peter has served as its president on three separate occasions. Peter has been the guest speaker and the Master of Ceremonies at the Italian Civic League Columbus Day Luncheon. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar, AIDS Rochester, Inc., and the Saint Mary's Church Parish Council.

When not practicing law, Peter enjoys participating in fundraising events such as the 440-mile AIDS Red Ribbon Ride, the 550-mile Empire State AIDS Ride and the Tour de Cure to fight Diabetes.





Family of the Year *The Rubino Family*

The Rubino Family has dedicated their daily lives to promoting a real understanding of high-quality authentic Italian imported goods. They appreciate the importance of the Italian heritage by only carrying the highest quality products Italy can offer. Our customers are the most important stakeholders in our business. Customers first, and quality products have been, and still are, the building blocks to Rubino's Italian Food.

In 1977, Peter's daughter Phyllis became involved, and they decided to move to the Ridge Road East location. With the addition of his son Joseph in 1980, Rubino's expanded into a larger building and opened several new locations.

Joe delivered newspapers during his childhood, but eventually went back to work for his father. After high school, Joe juggled two full-time schedules (one at MCC, the other at the store) with one tough decision: Should he go on to SUNY Brockport or commit himself to carrying on the business? Joe didn't hesitate, "Family came first. I could not leave my dad, and it was too much for Phyllis to take on by herself, as she was starting a family of her own."

To this day, dedication to high quality products and customer service is the trademark of what Rubino's does best!



Lifetime Achievement *Michael Cerretto*



On October 1, 2018, Director Michael J. Cerretto Started in his current position as Director of Emergency Communication - 911 for the City of Rochester, where he oversees the 911 Center that handles all emergency calls for the County of Monroe, NY, which includes the City of Rochester. The center handles over 1 million calls for service for 68 Police, Fire and EMS agencies.

Before that, Lt. Colonel Michael Cerretto oversaw all audits for the New York State Police's Professional Standards Bureau at the Division's Headquarters.

From 2015 to July 2018 Lt. Colonel Cerretto served as the Director of the NYS Office of Counter Terrorism, after he was appointed to the position by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. As Director, Lt. Colonel Cerretto led all units within OCT, and worked closely with the NYS Intelligence Center, the State Police, the New York City Police Department, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces, local and federal partners, and the private sector to strengthen counter terrorism efforts across the State. During his time there, Lt. Colonel Cerretto implemented one of the most robust Red Teams programs in the nation, which in 2017 alone conducted exercises at more than 900 locations across all 62 counties in New York State. He also developed a new Cyber Incident Response Team at the governor's request, and built a strong critical infrastructure fieldwork program, which worked with the public and private sectors to conduct security assessments at critical facilities across the State. Lt. Colonel Cerretto chaired the State's Executive Committee on Counter Terrorism (ECCT) and sat on the Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee (HSSAC). In September of 2017, in response to Hurricanes Irene and Maria, Lt. Colonel Cerretto led more than 25 Troopers on the first-ever NY State Police mission to an area outside the continental United States, to support hurricane relief efforts in the Virgin Islands.

From 2013 to 2015, Lt. Colonel Cerretto was Commander of Troop A in Batavia, NY where he oversaw more than 400 police members and civilians across eight counties. During his time there, Lt. Colonel Cerretto led the investigation of the Western NY manhunt effort to find two escaped inmates from Dannemora prison.

Prior to that, he served as the Troop E Zone 1 Commander for 12 years, where he supervised more than 70 employees in three counties, including Greater Rochester. From 2003-2005, Lt. Colonel Cerretto served as a Captain for Internal Affairs in Western New York, and from 1996-2002 he was a Lieutenant in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation for Troop E. Lt. Colonel Cerretto has also been an Investigator, Sergeant/Station Commander, and Uniformed Trooper with the State Police. Director Michael J. Cerretto was a member of the New York State Police for more than 31 years, and is a Navy veteran.





Bene Emeritus Award *Sandra Meleca*

Sandra (Giancaterin) Meleca, usually called Sandy, was born in February of 1947 in Rochester, New York. She graduated from Monroe High School and went on to study at SUNY Cobleskill. During high school, Sandy met Tom and they married in August of 1968. Once married, Sandy put her own educational pursuits on hold and raised their two children. Tom Jr. and Cathy remember their mom working many an odd job to help support the family while Tom Sr. worked in the construction trades. The endless list of jobs included being a greenhouse worker, a home caregiver, a floral designer and an employee at an array of retail merchants (even a short stint at McDonald's)! Sandy was never afraid to try something new to help the family.

Despite those experiences, teaching was always Sandy's first love. Sandy hadn't yet finished her degree, but she taught in some capacity at several parochial and public schools over the years. As the kids got older, Sandy decided to complete her degree at SUNY Brockport and become a certified teacher. She got her master's degree in Elementary Education in 1995, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Eventually Sandy started working in the Rochester City School District and remained there for 14 years until she retired. Although Sandy is very humble about it, her impact in education has been far-reaching. Many former students and their parents have reached out over the years to share heart-warming stories regarding the positive influence Sandy has had on their lives.

Sandy and Tom have now been married for 55 years and find joy in being involved in the Sons and Daughters of Italy, Vincent Lombardi Lodge. Sandy was particularly involved as the chair of the scholarship selection committee and served as vice-president and eventually president. This past summer, Sandy was honored as the first immediate past president to receive the Bene Emeritus Award from the lodge. This award recognizes "exemplary leadership and selfless acts of time and dedication, attention to detail and outstanding service". Sandy received the award surrounded by family and friends and it hangs proudly in her room at the Monroe Community Hospital skilled nursing facility where she is a resident.





Bene Emeritus Award *Jennifer Rubé*

Jennifer Rubé was born in Ridgewood, NJ and spent the first years of her life in Bologna, Italy before settling with her parents in Rochester, NY, where she lived until her death in 2014. To all who were a part of her world, Jennifer was known as a kind, compassionate woman with an infectious smile and a heart of gold. For many years, Jennifer was a local business owner with a gift shop located first on Main St in Victor, NY and then in Schoen Place in Pittsford, NY. As if owning and running a local business is not enough work, Jennifer also ran a successful online business selling her shop wares on Ebay. She would come home at night after a long day in the shop and get right to work online to grow her

business on that platform. There were many nights, especially during the Christmas season, where she was up all night working through her online orders. She was passionate about her shop and the people she served.

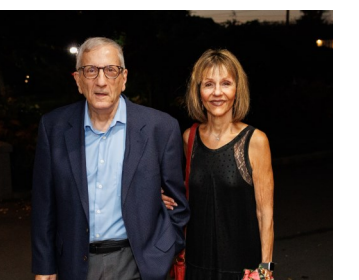
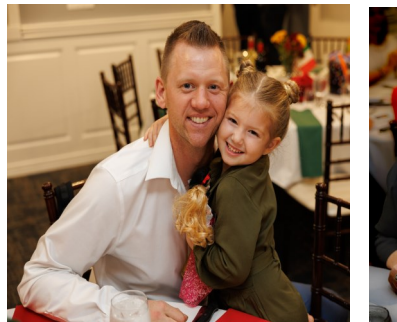
Jennifer was very close with her family - parents Joe and Nancy, and sister Marisa. It was this close bond that prompted her to join the Sons & Daughters of Italy Vincent Lombardi Lodge in 2004. She got involved quickly with the inner workings of the lodge, first as Recording Secretary and later on, as President. In addition to this, she took on the role of Deputy to the Geneva Woman's Lodge, Vincent Lombardi Lodge Delegate to the Italian Civic League, and Lodge Delegate to the NYS Commission for Social Justice, where she joined the fight against discrimination of Italian Americans. Locally, she became active in the fight to keep Italian language in our schools, and volunteered as committee chair for several lodge events, including bringing to the organization what is now our annual winter clambake. But her work didn't stop with the business of the lodge. She did all that she could to help out our members, particularly our older members, when they needed support. She was known to chauffeur our members who weren't able to drive themselves, in order to make sure they were able to attend our events and socialize with others. She worked diligently with the Gift of Sight Program of the NYS Grand Lodge for a reading machine for one of our members who suffered from macular degeneration, ultimately securing this machine that allowed the member to read, making her more independent.

Jennifer also had a creative side. She was a lifelong amateur photographer, particularly fond of photographing nature. Starting from a young age, she also wrote poetry, filling notebook after notebook with beautiful poems, a few of which were even published. Another artform that she was particularly fond of was pencil sketching, as evidenced by her many sketchbooks of portrait drawings. When computers came into play, she took to graphic design, where she ultimately designed the Vincent Lombardi Lodge logo that we use today.

If Jennifer were alive today, there's no doubt that she would have continued her journey with the Sons and Daughters of Italy, both on local and statewide level. She was so proud of her Italian Heritage and involvement in the Italian American community in Rochester, and loved her lodge family deeply. We know she is looking down on us today, humble and filled with pride at receiving tonight's award.









A SIP OF WINE

Italy goes to Argentina

Winery founder *Pascual Toso* emigrated from his native *Piemonte* region in *Italy* to Argentina in 1880 and settled in the Mendoza area. He was closely involved in the family wine business and saw a promising future for winemaking high above the Maipu district and decided to use his expertise. In 1890 he established the first winery in San José,

Guaymallen. The district of Maipu is located 2600 feet above sea level. It receives intense sunlight during the day and followed by cold night, which slows the ripening of grapes and extends the growing season.

In the early 20th century, Yoso expanded the business and acquired vineyards in Maipu. At his estate “Las Barrancas” he built another winery named for the estate, which grows and produces the finest grapes.

This particular wine is aged in a combination of steel and American oak (40%) for eight months. On the nose there are the aromas of plum and quince. On the palate, there are notes of blackberry, vanilla, licorice, and smoke. It pairs well with Argentinean grilled meats, pasta, charcuterie, and aged cheeses. Alcohol is 14.0%



Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini First American Saint Feast Day: November 13

Born: July 15, 1850, Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Italy

Died: December 22, 1917, Columbus Hospital, Chicago, IL

Buried: 1933, St Frances Cabrini Shrine, New York, NY

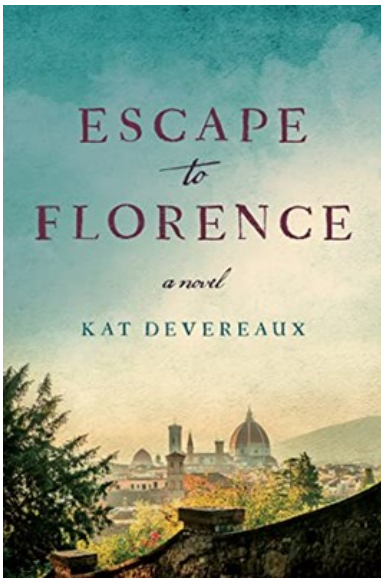
Beatified: November 13, 1938 by Pope Pius XI

Canonized: July 7, 1946 by Pope Pius XII

Mother Cabrini founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that supported fellow Italian immigrants giving her the title of Universal Patroness of Immigrants.

Mother Cabrini’s beautification miracle was restoring the sight of a day-old baby who was blinded by the administration of 50% silver nitrate solution instead of the normal 1% solution. The child, Peter Smith, attended her beautification and became a priest. Her canonization miracle was the healing of a terminally ill member of her congregation. When Cabrini was canonized, an estimated 120,000 people filled Soldier’s Field in Chicago for a mass of thanksgiving. Although her feast day would normally be December 22nd, her beautification date was chosen as her feast day to avoid conflicting with Advent.

Book Review: *Escape to Florence*, By *Kat Devereaux*



Moving between World War II and the present, *Escape to Florence* is an easy read and easy to follow. An historical novel, the story takes place in the little town of Romituzzo located in the valley Valdiana, which are both fictitious, but the geographic area between Florence and Siena is very real. By the time the area was liberated it was almost entirely destroyed. Those who fought against fascism and the Nazis drew support from rural communities. Providing that support was a dangerous undertaking. The German SS and Italian Fascist National Republican Guard waged violent attacks against the partisans and their allies. Many were hanged, shot, imprisoned, tortured or deported to concentration camps.

Fourteen year old Stella Infuriati risked everything to be part of the town’s resistance network. She relayed messages, transported supplies and weapons, tended the wounded at the risk of being captured, tortured, and being put to death. Her parents had no clue the danger their daughter was in, but her brother, Achille, also part of the resistance, knew. The love and fear for their son was all consuming, and Stella was treated more like a servant than a daughter.

Once the war ends, Achille, meets and falls in love with Rita, who is visiting from the British Isles. A budding race car driver, he is killed in a freak auto accident. Stella runs away with a fellow comrade with plans to go to Yugoslavia. She changes her name and takes on a new identity, but as she gets closer to the border something doesn’t feel right, and she runs away. She seeks refuge with the family who has hidden her, falls in love with Giovanni, gets married, and goes on with her life as Maria. Fast forward to the spring of 2019 when a young writer, Tori MacNair, leaves her abusive husband and returns to Tuscany where her grandmother, Rita, brought her as a child and begins to uncover long buried secrets. She meets Marco, who helps her discover her grandmother’s story, the love between Rita and Achille, and the relationship between Stella and Maria.

Simonetta Vespucci

Portrait of Simonetta Vespucci as a Nymph by Botticelli 1480s
(credit to <https://womennart.com/2019/09/11/who-was-simonetta-vespucci/>)

She was often referred as *la bella Simonetta*, was an Italian noblewoman born in Genoa. She was known as being the greatest beauty of her time in Northern Italy and was painted by Botticelli, Piero di Cosimo, and other Florentine artists.

She arrived in Florence as the bride of Marco Vespucci, a cousin of Amerigo Vespucci. As a young 16-year-old bride, she was adored in Florence. She often posed for Sandro Botticelli, and it is rumored that he fell in love with her, but he was not the only one. It is claimed that many completed for her time.

In 1475 during a jousting tournament at the Piazza Santa Croce, Giuliano Medici (it was during this era the Medici's rule the city of Florence) entered the arena carrying a banner with a picture of Simonetta as Pallas Athene (Pallas is the symbol for creative intelligence). The banner was painted by Botticelli with the inscription "*La Sans Pareille*" which means "*the unparalleled one*". As the story is told, this is when she became known as the most beautiful woman in the city.



Simonetta died very young, at 22 years of natural causes. Her body, encased in an open coffin, was carried through the streets and laid to rest at San Salvatore in Ognissanti, the family church. Thirty-four years later, Botticelli was laid to rest at the same cemetery, which he specifically requested.

The Birth of Venus by Botticelli, circa 1484-1486, is claimed to be Simonetta Vespucci and is located in the Uffizi Museum in Florence.



Labyrinth

The labyrinth dates back more than 4000 years. They are unique, geometric in shape which does not occur naturally, and as a result they point to the creative genius of humanity. In Greek mythology, it is an elaborate and confusing structure. Even its purpose has many variations: in prehistoric times, the labyrinth served as traps for evil spirits, or the defined paths were used for ritual dances. During medieval times, it symbolized a hard path to God, the center of the labyrinth is heaven and the entrance to it, only one, is birth.



In 1791, Italian architect, Domenico Bagutti, created the Parc del Laberint d'Horta in Barcelona Spain. In the center of the maze is a physical riddle that can be fun but is also incredibly frustrating. The paths are lined with cypress trees which form the walls and weave every which way. It is the perfect place to get lost in another world. Just be careful not to lose the ones you are with! As well as a great place of entertainment for the entire family, it also showcases an important side of Barcelona culture—the daily lives of the locals. It is a place to gather to chat, but to also just enjoy the freedom and beauty of the park, the crisscross of pathways to hidden gardens and tranquil spots, to observe the sculptures found within the maze, to explore the Torre Subirana, a seventh century medieval tower once used for security, and the many fountains hidden within the pathways.



DANIELE

Management & Development



www.DanieleFamily.com

Hope Hall

SCHOOL

www.HopeHall.org



MESOLELLA DENTAL

Serving Rochester, NY since 1966



Congratulations to Peter Pullano, our Rochester managing partner, on being named "Man of the Year"!



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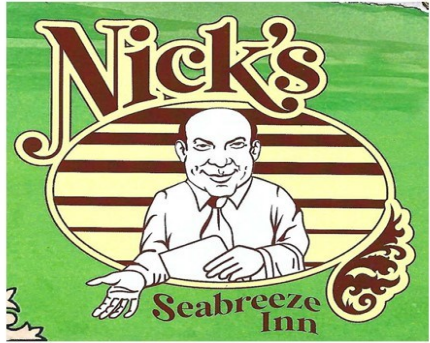
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All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

**President Marjorie Focarazzo
84 Mulcahy Blvd
Rochester, NY 14624
mafocarazzo@gmail.com**