



The Roar of the Lion

Annette DeCarolis. *editor*
August 2024 Edition



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. It is hard to believe that we have already passed the halfway point, but I am sure there are a lot more things planned before we even have to think about the cold and snow.

If you did not attend our Scholarship and Awards Night, you missed the highlight of all our events. We were able to meet our award winners for local awards, state awards, and La Bella Lingua Award. **What a delightful, energetic, spectacular group of young adults!** We had a full house to honor all our recipients. We want to wish all of them the very best through the next journey of their lives. What an exciting time!

I want to thank everyone who made our Scholarship and Awards Night a success. Sr. Marisa and the scholarship committee. Melissa Distaffen, Maurice Palucci, and Ed Groszewski, who read through all the applications, interviewed the students, and then had to narrow it down, which is not easy when everyone is top notch. I actually think you have the best job! Thank you to our Geneva Lodge friends who support us and come to as many of our events as possible: President Peter Gillotte, Past President Tony DiCostanzo, and Lodge Deputy Dave Cook. I cannot tell you how much this means to us. I would also like to thank Grand Lodge President Biagio J. Isgro, Jr. and First Lady Marisol along with District VII Trustee, Mark Dozoretz and his wife Sarah for being a part of our celebration. It is not always easy to attend all the events our lodges have in a state as large as New York.

The Council hopes you are planning to attend our Members' Picnic on August 10th. We will have homemade sausage and all the foods you can find at a picnic plus the camaraderie of our members.

Many of our council members' terms will expire in 2025. The Vincent Lombardi Lodge and OSDIA can only continue if our members are willing to keep it going, which means having a leadership position as a council member. I will be honest: it does take time, but you are not left to figure it out for yourselves. Those of us leaving the board will still be here for guidance and support. **The Vincent Lombardi Lodge belongs to all of us.** It is in our purview to make it work, and since we are all here for the same reason, we can make it happen. Please think about it.

Take care and God bless.
Fraternally yours,
Marjorie

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**Lodge Picnic
Saturday, August 10th
1:00 PM
Quinzi Lodge**

August 8 General Assembly Meeting is cancelled.

2024 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

August 10th, 1pm: Members Picnic

September 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

September 12th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 3rd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

October 10th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 25th, Heritage Dinner

Webster Golf Club (440 Salt Rd, Webster)

November 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

November 14th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 16th, Papa Antolini Turkey Raffle

St Nicholas Society (East Rochester)

December 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

We hope you will join us for our annual picnic this year.

Members are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share:
dessert for last names A thru L,
appetizer for last names M thru Z.

\$10/person for members
\$20 for non-member and guests -
including spouses, children,
extended family, friends

**Geneva Lodge #2397
Italian Festival
Aug. 9th and 10th
31 Prospect Ave.,
Geneva**



- St. Nicholas Society Happy Hour—Last Friday of the Month, 5-8
- Gates Amita Summer Picnic, Aug. 4th
contact Nellie DiCesare at 585-247-6601 for more information
- East Rochester Summer Concerts—adjacent lot to the Eyer Bldg.
Wednesdays at 7 pm on August 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th
- East Rochester Memorial Wine and Food Walk* - Aug. 17th 4:30-7
- Columbus Day Luncheon, October 14, 2024
(more info to follow from the Italian Civic League)

**Stephen V. D’Orazio Memorial Wine and Food Walk
to benefit Brenton Jacob Memorial Fund
Saturday Aug. 17th 4:30 to 7 pm
followed by a concert DAWGS FOR A CAUZ
register at www.erchamber.org. Cost is \$20/person**

From the desk of the Financial Secretary



You may have noticed that our events now include member and non-member pricing.

We are offering this discount to dues-paying members of our lodge as a benefit of your membership.

If a member attends all lodge events for the year, the discounted event pricing will make up the cost of membership for that year.

As a member, when paying for events, please use member pricing for yourself and non-member/guest pricing for all other attendees, including spouses, children, extended family and friends.



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 **\$2 service charge**.

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.



The Grand Lodge of New York received over \$86,000 in charitable contributions, surpassing last year's amount. Thalassemia Major, more commonly known as Cooley's Anemia, netted more than \$23, 000. This disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects the ability to produce beta protein, which causes anemia, a low blood count. It is now a global public health concern due to changing demographics. Blood transfusions are the main way to treat moderate or severe thalassemia. The average life expectancy is 17 years but many with the disease usually die by 30 years of age.

Thank you for your generous donations that helped us to meet this auspicious amount.



Sandy Meleca
Patty and Gordie Rask
Sam Mammano
Ron Santoli
Dawn DiGennaro's wife
Vince Giannantonio's sister
John Fratta, NYS Grand Lodge CSJ Chair
Joe Rondinelli, Grand Lodge Past President

Members who are ill or have lost a loved one.

In Loving Memory

Peter S. Maddalena



August Birthdays

8/12 Linda Agnello
8/12 Jerry Griffio
8/13 Patty Rask
8/14 Frank Affronti
8/22 Jacqueline Perrotta
8//23 Jeremy DiFilippo
9/24 Tom Meleca
8/31 Joe Rube



***Special thanks to those who contributed
in a special way
to our Scholarship Awards Celebration***

- ◆ Karen Pelc for connecting with author, Bill Giovinazzo, who wrote *Italianita*.
- ◆ Bill Giovinazzo for donating copies of his book to give to our scholarship and award recipients.
- ◆ Mike DeLucia, 2024 Literary Award Winner of the Grand Lodge of New York, who presented his award-winning novels to our students.

***Many thanks to
the Vincent Lombardi Lodge
Scholarship Committee
for all your time and energy
on the 2024 scholarships***

Marisa Przepiora, Chair
Melissa DiStaffen
Ed Groszewski
Maurice Palucci

Seeking New Council Members



As you know, our elected council keeps the Vincent Lombardi Lodge running. From planning and execution of our events, to overseeing the financial welfare of the lodge, to handling the day to day items that come up, our council holds an important role and the organization could not function without them.

There is also a special camaraderie that comes with being on the lodge council and getting to know the other members who are also giving their time for this job.

In the coming months we will be appointing a nominating committee to oversee the election process, and will have more information for you on how to throw your name in the ring for any of the council positions; but for now, over the next several newsletter issues we will be highlighting the council roles and duties.

Many of our members have served a number of years in various capacities and we appreciate all their efforts. They will be the first to attest to the importance of bringing new ideas and energy to the work.

Please thoughtfully consider running for one of these positions in our 2025 elections.



Mistress/Master of Ceremonies

What is the role of a Mistress/Master of Ceremonies?

The Mistress/Master of Ceremonies is an officer of the local lodge who participates in ceremonial activities prescribed by the laws of the Order during the course of the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge. Mainly, the Mistress/Master of Ceremonies participates in our New Member Initiations by leading the new members into the meeting. Other duties include attending monthly council meetings, voting on issues brought to the meetings, and taking on other general tasks when able.

Scholarships



Scholarship Award Event
July 11, 2024





Daniella Gibson

Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship \$2000

High School: Webster Thomas

College: LeHigh University

Field of Study: History and Pre-Law with a Minor in Music

Daniella is a dancer, singer, piano player and actor from Webster Thomas High School and will be attending Lehigh University in the fall. She will be majoring in History on a Pre-Law track, with a minor in music. She would ultimately like to be a civil rights attorney or government representative. Daniella has a long list of volunteer service including with the Susan B Anthony Museum, Titan Service Scholars, St Annes Home, Catholic Charities Family and Community Services, Hope House, Sandy Stramonine School of Dance, Friends of Webster Trails, St. Paul's Church, St. Rita's Church, Foodlink, the Webster Public Library, Mary Cariola, and the PTSA. She has been honored with the Titan Scholar

award for Math, Music and World Language, the Book Award Scholarship for Community Service and musician of the month for Women's Choir, Select Choir, Music Theory, and Jazz Ensemble. She is a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society, and was secretary of the High School Choral Department.

Daniella's Spanish teacher says,

"Humility is one of the first words that comes to mind when I think of Daniella. She is unbelievably poised and an all around conscientious young lady, who has been a gift to our school and community. She embodies the character and integrity I hope for with my own children. Daniella's passion for learning and life are infectious and have allowed her to persevere in spite of setbacks. She is steadfast in her visions and goals. I couldn't recommend her more highly for your scholarship."

Daniella's Susan B Anthony House supervisor says,

"Daniella has shown incredible customer service during her time here. She mastered a one-hour long tour narrative and expertly navigates the general public through the life and work of Susan B Anthony. She directs discussions on the various themes of the 19th century, including voting rights, politics and racial discrimination. Many of her visitors have returned and provided positive feedback on her tours. Given her positivity, willingness to try something new, and involvement at the museum, I enthusiastically recommend Daniella for this scholarship."

An excerpt from Daniella's essay, written about her Nonna, Giovanna:

My Nonna's Italian-American heritage has instilled values in me that I call upon each and every day. When things go wrong or I am faced with a challenge, I call upon the resilience and perseverance my Nonna has shown me is possible. I've also learned the power of setting goals and pursuing dreams. I've learned to tune out the naysayers and to instead take the leaps of faith that present themselves. I've learned that life is unpredictable and I need to be able to support myself and save for those unforeseen circumstances. Most importantly, I understand the power of family, of always being there for each other no matter what, and I embrace traditions that have been passed down to me because they represent an identity I am proud of.



Lucas Desalvo

Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship \$1500

High School: **Irondequoit**

College: **SUNY Oneonta**

Field of Study: **Adolescent Education/Minor in Theatre and Performing Arts**

Lucas is a musician and performer from Irondequoit High School who will be attending SUNY Oneonta to study Adolescent Education with a minor in Theatre and Performing Arts. His goal is to become a high school math teacher and inspire the next generation of students the way he was inspired by his teachers.

Lucas is a published author with a short story titled, *We Are America*. He is working towards his Seal of Biliteracy, hoping to travel to Italy and truly learn and understand the culture. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Jazz Ensemble, Link Crew, Wind Ensemble, Tri-M Music Honor Society and is a Boy Scout and Venture Scout.

Lucas's Italian teacher says,

"I had the privilege of being Lucas's Italian teacher for two years. In addition to earning college credit for his Italian courses, Lucas is on track to earn the NYS Biliteracy Seal. This well-deserved accolade is a testament to Lucas's dedication and diligence in his study of the Italian language and culture. While traveling in Italy on a class trip, Lucas was able to speak the language in which he had become proficient and experienced first-hand the culture he has been studying since 7th grade. In Italy, Lucas became truly Italian. He spoke with the natives and never hesitated to try the different dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. He walked around the Italian cities with his eyes wide open so that he wouldn't miss a thing. Lucas's efforts and enthusiasm reflect both his desire to capture the true essence of the Italian language and culture, and his passion for speaking and writing in the target language. I wholeheartedly recommend him for this scholarship."

Lucas's employer says,

"In today's generation it is difficult to find a young worker with good ethics. Lucas is very responsible, always shows up on time, and is not afraid to work. He is a smart, responsible teenager who really has a curiosity for the world and is looking to do great things for society. He is a hard-working young man with a lot to offer the world. His energy and curiosity to exceed and change the world for the better is impressive and well deserving of this scholarship. I give him my highest recommendation."

An excerpt from Lucas's essay, written about his Aunt Rose

Aunt Rose said that the most important thing that her mom taught her was love. How putting love into everything you do can make the biggest difference. She continued to mention that when she was visiting Sicily, everyone there was so kind and loving towards her, which I think teaches a very important lesson in life that you must allow love to come into your life to live a happy one. Seeing all of what I have learned and experienced play out in front of me has heavily influenced my decisions in life. I have made the decision to continue studying Italian through high school and most likely college, and I am hoping to get to study abroad in Italy for a semester during college. I want to feel embedded into their culture and really feel what it's like to be a true Italian. My appreciation for the culture and ways of life has continued to grow ever since I got to see it in person, and I hope that one day I'll be the one passing down the recipes and knowledge to my kids, so they can live a life filled with passion and love."



Isabella Fiorillo

Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship \$1500

High School: **Spencerport**

College: **Mercyhurst College**

Field of Study: **Honors Nursing**

Isabella is a soccer player from Spencerport High School who will be attending Mercyhurst College for their Honors Nursing Program. She will also be playing Division 1 soccer for the school. Ultimately, she would like to become a travelling nurse. In addition to soccer, Isabella took part in student government, student athlete leadership team, service club, and dash to change. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and has been awarded the St. Thomas Aard, Academic Achievement in AP Language, and Academic Achievement in US History. She also volunteers at the YMCA

of Rochester and works as a waitress.

Isabella's supervisor at work says,

"Isabella is an independent, ambitious, determined and extremely personable young lady. She consistently handles any obstacles that come her way, as she has a very strong personality. Her attention to detail and leadership abilities are transparent in all she does. With utmost certainty, I can say that Isabella will succeed in anything she puts her mind to with her strong work ethic and confident personality."

Isabella's math and stem teachers says,

"Isabella is a motivated and determined student with excellent attention to detail and she is a meticulous problem solver. What most impresses me about Isabella is her reaction to setbacks. She has come through potentially life changing injuries and is admired for her example of overcoming adversity. Her hard-working, never give up attitude has brought her far in life and I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for your scholarship."

An excerpt from Isabella's essay, written about her father, Michael Fiorillo

Italians' emphasis on togetherness and celebration instilled values of connection and support. The well-known Italian phrase, La famiglia è tutto (family is everything), is exactly how my father goes about his life. Furthermore, the knowledge in Italian heritage and wisdom passed down from his parents has been a cornerstone in his success in the professional realm. My father is grounded in strong work ethics and a commitment to achieving excellence. The lessons ingrained in him from his Italian upbringing have translated seamlessly into the work force. Italians can be known for being stubborn, but this stubbornness emphasizes on perseverance and perfection that propels him to strive for quality in all tasks. My father's experience of Italian American heritage can profoundly influence my understanding and appreciation for cultural roots. The richness of Italian American traditions, from cuisine to family to determination, fosters a connection to my Italian heritage. My father's stories of his immigration experience, childhood, and traditions, all add to my collective identity. His story with his Italian heritage has influenced how I go about my life and how I plan on creating my future. I am extremely proud of my heritage and intrigued in participating in cultural traditions, lifestyles, and language. My father's upraising has taught me grit, passion, and determination and that can be contributed to his Italian heritage, which I am beyond thankful to have been a recipient of.



James Marotta

Past Honorees Scholarship \$1500

High School: Aquinas Institute

College: SUNY Geneseo

Field of Study: Finance and Data Analytics

Jimmy is a baseball, soccer and basketball player from Aquinas Institute and will be attending SUNY Geneseo in the fall to study Finance and Data Analytics. In addition to his sports and academics, Jimmy has received numerous awards, including the St Thomas Club, the Noah Ogden Award, the St Josephs Community Service Award, the Richard Pelliter Merit Scholarship and the Faith through Sports Award. He is also a devoted volunteer for the Special Olympics, and has other volunteer experience through Vacation Bible School, Youth Baseball Camp, and Foodlink. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and Diversity Club.

Jimmy's School Counselor and baseball coach says,

"Jimmy is an incredible leader who possesses a very strong work ethic. I feel very confident in giving him responsibility and it is clear that he is mature beyond his years. I have no doubt he will make a strong impact on whatever campus he attends next year. He is a very strong, outgoing, personable and hard-working young man and I have the utmost confidence in his future success."

Jimmy's family friend says,

"Jimmy has been a bright light in spreading kindness, positivity and love to all he has encountered since the day he was born. He embodies the characteristics of a loving, respectful, compassionate young man of Italian heritage, who has a deep faith, strong moral compass, and is proud of his ancestry. He demonstrates an uncompromising, disciplined work ethic. I am beyond proud of the fine young man that Jimmy is and I am honored to recommend him for this scholarship. I have faith and a strong belief that Jimmy will leverage his strong self-discipline and continue to be a positive role model, making a positive impact on this world."

An excerpt from Jimmy's essay, written about his Nana, Elisa DiCesare

Getting to understand my culture and the experiences that my Nana went through influenced the way that I look at life. The two most important things in my Nana's life have always been work ethic and family. She showed me that it does not matter what challenges I face, there is always a way to move forward, and I should never give up. Whenever she wanted something, she worked for it and every decision she made was for her family. Family always came first. She worked hard to better the life of her family and is why she came to the United States in the first place. She was the first one from her family to come and then after her the rest followed. Once she started her own family, she continued to work hard to support them to make sure they could live a good life. She worked many jobs including as a tailor for multiple companies, she worked at Kodak, she worked for Stanely selling home products, and even worked part time at Wegmans. These were all the things she did to support her family. Everything that she has done gives me an appreciation for my life today and the culture that I come from. My Nana has shown me what the most important things in life are. Without her I would not be the person that I am today.



Julia Santoli

Past Honorees Scholarship \$1500

High School: **Webster Schroeder**

College: **Ithaca College**

Field of Study: **Philosophy**

Julia is a singer, dancer and performer from Webster Schroeder High School who will be attending Ithaca College in the fall to study Philosophy. At Webster Schroeder, Julia participated in Show Choir and Select Choir, as well as numerous musicals. She also participated in musicals and was student assistant director at MJT Stages. She is a member of the National Honors Society, Tri Music Honors Society, and German Honors Society.

Julia's teacher says,

"Having had the privilege of teaching Julia, I can attest to her commitment to learning, her creative prowess, and her quiet resilience and fortitude. Julia possesses a quiet yet profound presence that speaks volumes. Her remarkable resilience in the face of personal hardships translates into the work she does. Her ability to channel adversity into a driving force for personal and academic success is a testament to her admirable character. She has a unique blend of creativity, innovation, adaptability and visual acumen. I have no doubt that Julia will be a great addition to any campus community and that she will be incredibly successful wherever she goes with whatever she decides is her path. Our world is lucky to have her."

Julia's Director of Production at Stages says,

"From 2015 to present, Julia has been cast in eighteen Stages productions, improved her skills through master classes, and worked as an Artistic Student Assistant for three productions. Whether cast as a featured dancer, soloist or in an ensemble role, Julia has diligently worked to create strong, impactful characters that speak to the audience. Her strong work ethic shines through her kind, introspective demeanor. She is a team player who leads by example. My experience working with Julia demonstrates that she would be a wonderful candidate for your scholarship and I highly recommend her."

An excerpt from Julia's essay, written about grandfather, Daniel Nino Santoli

My grandfather is proud to be an Italian American and it has made me proud as well. He has taught me that you can be proud of your culture and where you're from while still being equally proud of where you are now and the life you have gained. My grandfather often reminds us how lucky we are to know where our family is from and to be able to celebrate that and carry it with us. When I was younger I didn't really understand why it was so important but as I've gotten older I understand why it means so much to him, because now it means a lot to me too. Knowing about my family and my heritage helps me understand who I am, it makes me proud to carry the same name as they did and most importantly it inspires me to work hard and be honest so I can make them proud and so that someday when my great grandchildren learn about me it will inspire them to be better like it has for me.



Cerys Montanarello

Joseph Darryl Distaffen Memorial Scholarship \$1500

High School: **Irondequoit**

College: **Houghton University**

Field of Study: **Inclusive Childhood Education with a concentration in Global Studies**

Cerys graduated from Irondequoit High School and will be attending Houghton University to study Inclusive Childhood Education with a concentration in Global Studies. In school, Cerys participated in theatre, and she is an avid volunteer at her church as cross bearer, altar server, and vacation bible school volunteer, as well as volunteering at the zoo.

Cerys's ministry supervisor says,

"Cerys is patient and thoughtful and asks excellent questions, she learns very quickly and is highly motivated in her desire to serve. She is an extremely dedicated young woman. Even when she is not assigned to a ministry for a particular Sunday, she is diligent in asking if any assistance is needed. She communicates well and always completes her ministry responsibilities. A quiet presence with a strong determination to make positive contributions would define Cerys. I recommend her without hesitation for this scholarship."

Cerys's curriculum support teacher says,

"Cerys has demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination, and academic excellence. She has overcome obstacles and emerged as an outstanding student, embodying the qualities that make her deserving of any scholarship she pursues. Beyond her academic accomplishments, Cerys is a person of exceptional character. She is known for her kindness, empathy and willingness to help others. She actively contributes to the school community and has proven to be a positive influence on her peers. What sets her apart is her ability to turn personal challenges into opportunities for growth. She approaches every task with a positive attitude, determination, and a genuine desire to learn. She has developed effective coping strategies, allowing her to not only manage her own challenges, but also to serve as an inspiration to others facing similar obstacles. I wholeheartedly recommend Cerys for your scholarship."

An excerpt from Cerys's essay, written about her dad.

I believe that my dad and my own opinions are similar, due to a high level of care for family. We both acknowledge our genuine love for it. However, a difference is that he is very modest about how great and successful he is, not only in soccer but in his morals and hard work. I state this because my dad holds such a strong work ethic in sports, his job, and life. I admire that so much and that goes beyond our Italian heritage but it derives from his moral compass and upbringing. My grandma and papa are both Italian and have passed down their culture to my dad, along with giving me the wonderful ability to experience all my heritage holds. From cooking, gatherings and more, all of which encompass an even greater blessing that I could experience in life. Without my dad, some of my involvement in our Italian life would not have been present. I would like to thank my dad and family for not only possessing these great qualities but for being a wonderful role model for life in general and my cultural understanding.



Joseph Riddell

Rubé Family Scholarship in honor of Jennifer Rubé \$1500
High School: **Hilton** College: **SUNY Polytech**
Field of Study: **Engineering**

Joseph is a swimmer and performer from Hilton High School who will be attending SUNY Polytech in the fall to study Engineering. He is a high honor roll student who participated in varsity swimming and performed in musicals throughout high school at both Hilton and Our Lady of Mercy. He is Red Cross certified as a lifeguard with CPR/AED training for professional rescuers, and in first aid and administering emergency oxygen. He has spent time volunteering with the Town of Ontario Parks and Rec, in addition to his job as a lifeguard.

Joe's supervisor at Ontario Parks and Rec says,

"I have had the opportunity to closely observe Joseph work with our campers, parents, staff and public participants over the past several years. He has always demonstrated dependability, enthusiasm, and an admirable work ethic no matter what tasks or responsibilities have been assigned to him. He has been a positive role model to our campers and to our day camp and lifeguarding staff. He is a responsible, approachable and energetic person. He has developed and employed excellent communication, leadership and organizations skills. I would highly recommend him and am certain he will benefit any organization he chooses to join in the future."

Joe's teacher says,

"I am absolutely honored to write this letter of recommendation for Joseph Riddell. Joe was the upperclassmen who expressed appreciation for my patience with our mixed grade level class. Joe showed kindness and helpfulness to his classmates every day as he selflessly explained programming concepts to his classmates. He was an exemplary model of respect, effort and determination, as he came to class ready to learn, wonder, think and try. Joe's amazing character, thoughtfulness and kind heart are the things that I will always remember about him. His determination and persistence are impressive and his love of learning made him a joy to teach. He is a true, life-long learner who proves that effort and dedication are the keys to success. I highly recommend Joe for your scholarship opportunity. Joe is ready for his future, ready to learn, to think and to grow, ready to accept the challenge, ready to unleash his potential, and ready to make a positive difference in our world."

An excerpt from Joe's essay, written about his grandmother

My Grandmother has done so much for me over the last eight-teen years, she has supported all of my hobbies, she has been brutally honest with me when I needed it even if I did not want to hear it, and she has always been there to call up and chat just to talk about life. Her experience and culture, the values she instilled onto my father then onto me is what made me be proud to be part Italian. This conversation has only made my appreciation and curiosity around the culture and heritage much greater. I now want to visit this small town she grew up in, knowing that it will not be the same, but to just talk to some of my relatives down state and learn more, and be more connected, is something that my grandmother has always inspired me to do. I now understand more about my Great-Grandfather Maria, and I plan to talk to his other children, my Great-Aunts and Uncles, to learn more about what it was like to grow up in this environment. Since I first found out about being of Italian descent when I was younger to now, I have only become more and more proud of my heritage, and I appreciate it, along with my grandmother, for explaining her experience to me so it can live through another generation.

2024 GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK STATE AND NEW YORK GRAND LODGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Cameron Andrew Watt has been awarded the John Assenzio Jr. Memorial Scholarship for Undergraduate Education and the Cooley's Anemia Scholarship. A recent graduate of Pittsford Mendon High School, he will be attending University of Florida to study Economics. He has been an avid volunteer with the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and Brighton Police Youth Academy. He has helped as an election advisor distributing literature and installing signs around the community. His Nonno had a great influence on him growing up talking about the accomplishments of Italians and European history leading to the volunteering he did. His long-term goal is to study law and become a law maker to give his Italian heritage a seat at the table.

Julia Ann Santoli has received a District VIII Scholarship: Richard DiMarco Sr., Memorial Scholarship donated by John DiMarco and The Giambra Family Scholarship and the Paul & Cheryl Speranza Foundation Scholarship. A graduate of Webster Schroeder High School, she will attend Ithaca College to study philosophy, which will lead her to study law. Many of her extracurricular activities involved the theatre where she preferred the behind-the-scenes of production and storytelling through film. She plans to get a minor in film. Julia has an extraordinary capacity for creativity that is exemplified in her storytelling and character development. Her uncanny ability to notice intricate details and discerning subtle cues will propel her forward in all future endeavors.



Aidan Robert Cupelli Wineglass was presented with the Geneva Lodge #2397 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Members and the Guglielmo Marconi Lodge #154 Scholarship and the Jane Lippa Memorial Scholarship. As a graduate of Geneva High School, he will attend LeMoyne College this fall to study software design and cybersecurity. He enjoys volunteering with the Geneva Lodge #2397 and often assists the chef for private catering events. During his high school career, he was active in sports: wrestling and football. He is committed to making an impact on his community through his volunteerism and his desire to contribute positively to helping others.



MORE 2024 GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The Beatrice Waked Memorial Scholarship and the Dominck & Concetta Cardone Memorial Scholarship were given to **Lorenzo James Tantalo** who graduated from Spencerport High School and will be attending RIT to study computer science.

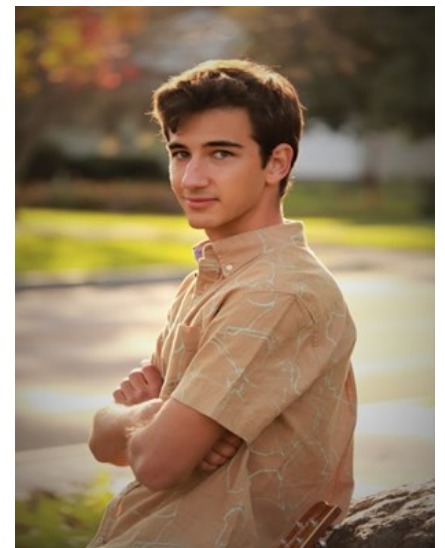
He has volunteered more than 125 hours over the past four summers at his church's Faith Formation Youth Summer Camp plus community events, sports clinics, and camps as a way to giving back to a community that supports his school district.

He is proud of his Italian heritage which is a reason he wanted to learn to cook and realized it gave him much more—being able to carry on family traditions and grateful for what his family has been able to provide for him. Lorenzo was a positive force in the classroom, something that will be missed which made him a class leader and role model.

Tristan Hagel graduated from Geneva High School and is the recipient of the Etruscan Lodge #2238 Scholarship. He plans to study mechanical engineering at the University of Buffalo with an ultimate goal of being an entrepreneur.

Tristan was very active in school participating in a diverse range of extracurricular activities as well as in his community. He has made an impact on his community and exemplifies OSDIA's concept of Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality. His altruistic nature benefits those around him.

He is a talented musician and has appeared in numerous venues including playing for a benefit for the Golisano Children's Hospital.





2024 LA BELLA LINGUA AWARD WINNER SPONSORED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ella Belcufine is a recent graduate of Irondequoit High School. She has studied the Italian language and culture for six years and will continue with her studies at Nazareth University where she plans to major in music education and Italian. She plans to participate in the Bonner Leader Program, which creates a more just and equitable world while developing leadership and changemaking skills through community building, civic engagement, diversity, international perspective, social justice, and spiritual perspective.



NATIONAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP AWARD (NELA) SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION

Sabrina Sciortino received the The Barbara Lupo and Vincenzo Sellaro Scholarship at the 35th Annual NELA Gala this past spring. She attends the University of Georgia and will be a sophomore this fall studying psychology with a concentration in neuroscience and a minor in biology. Her goal is to attend medical school and study psychiatry.



Her accomplishments at the University of Georgia are: DECA Executive Officer Director of Hospitality and Tourism - Two-year consecutive advancement to international competition, placing in top 10% and receiving DECA Award of Excellence. • Cares Club Co-Chair of Concessions - Organized and directed annual carnival to fundraise for local, underprivileged students and families; assisted in assembly and preparation of food for distribution. • UGA Miracle Ignite Committee member - Fundraising and volunteering in events benefiting Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, providing medical services for children battling cancer.

Sabrina is incredibly proud of her Italian heritage. All four grandparents immigrated to the United States from Italy to find a better life. They have instilled the values of education, hard work, and determination. She looks forward to her time home, the holiday traditions, spending time with family, and eating her nonna's homemade pasta.

News from the Grand Lodge of New York



BEST NEWSLETTER EDITOR AWARD

116TH GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK CONVENTION

JUNE 2024

MARISA PRZEPIORA, EDITOR



VINCENT GIANNANTONIO

ELECTED AS DISTRICT VIII TRUSTEE

Vincent was elected and installed as District VIII Trustee at the 116th Grand Lodge Convention of New York State on June 28, 2024. As our trustee, he represents the Grand Lodge for our Lodge and that of the Geneva Lodge #2397. And he is our spokesperson at quarterly plenary sessions held by the Grand Lodge.

Thank you Vince for all you do and the support you provide for District VIII.



Annual Convention

June 2024

Crown Plaza



The Vincecent Lombardi Lodge was well represented.



The Bookshelf

On this page we'll highlight books recommended by lodge members who have found them worth sharing.



This month's selection, is *Growing up Italian-American*



Ferdinand J. Visco M.D.
Heritage Edition
2024

Whether you grew up in Rochester, East Rochester, Irondequoit or Gates, NYC, Philly, Boston, or any other immigrant Italian neighborhood in the world, this book is for you.

This reader-friendly illustrated book is a guide to being Italian American. It explores Italian American history from the Risorgimento to the present. It features first-person accounts, Italian proverbs, timeless Italian American advice, a glossary of Italian American words, and twenty-four family recipes.

Discover information about Italian American history, culture, and tradition that's hard to find elsewhere.

Some of the questions answered in this book:

- What does it mean to be an Italian American?
- What hardships did our ancestors endure during their voyage to America?
- How were they processed at Ellis Island?
- What were the requirements for naturalization in the early 1900s?
- What is donuts spelled backwards?
- What do Italians do when they say, "Via il vecchio, benvenuto al nuovo?"

Who were Filippo Mazzei, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Antonio Meucci, Joe Petrosino, Amadeo Giannini, Generoso Pope, Sacco and Vanzetti, and Mother Cabrini?

Why do Italians give out candy-coated almonds at weddings?

What are authentic recipes for Neapolitan Ragu, Polpette, Braciole, Struffoli, and Pizza Rustica?

Learn the answers to these questions and much more in this 461-page book that contains hundreds of stories and photographs.

OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
84 Mulcahy Blvd
Rochester, NY 14624

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Vice-President
Jeremy DiFilippo

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Patricia Bartholomew

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