



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE #2270

# The Roar of the Lion

Annette DeCarolis, *editor*  
December 2024 Edition



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is hard to believe that we will be putting 2024 behind us in just a few short weeks but looking back we had some great events and fun times. I hope we are able to continue them into 2025 plus add some new events and fundraisers. Sr. Melissa and Sr. Becky have taken on the task of looking at ways to raise money to support the Lodge, so we don't have to increase dues or the cost of our events. If you have an idea, join the committee, and help put new plans into action.

In January the nominating committee, co-chaired by Br. Vince and Br. Joe, will be announced. Any member, with the exception of social members, can be nominated from the floor. The Vincent Lombardi Lodge just passed its 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary in June, and hopefully you will want to continue to be part of the organization Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro started in 1905. Our mission today is not much different from what Dr. Sellaro envisioned. Since Italian immigrants assimilate quite easily into the American way of life, our focus has changed to scholarship and charitable organizations. For me, our Scholarship Award Night is the highlight of all our events. Along with financial support, receiving a scholarship can open doors to other opportunities. A scholarship recognizes academic achievement plus extracurricular activities and community involvement, all of which foster accomplishment and motivation. This is truly at the heart of what our organization is all about.

In 2025 the Grand Lodge of New York and the National Supreme Lodge will also elect new leadership. National has been working on a new logo and new ways of branding that will be more relevant to the times and attract younger members. Remembering who we are and how we got here, the struggles and sacrifices, our resilience and getting back up when we've been knocked down, are important lessons to pass on to future generations. We should take pride in the accomplishments and achievements of our past as we continue to make advances in a global society.

***Buon Natale*** to all our Lodge members and their families. Enjoy time spent with each other. Create new memories and cherish the old.

God Bless, Take Care  
Fraternally yours,  
Marjorie



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## 2024 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

December 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

December 12th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting and Holiday Gathering



### Join Zoom Meeting

This is the zoom link for General Assembly meetings each month thru April 2025.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85831885141?pwd=dU1QaGlmUGw2c0pOYm1lIMk3bHgrQT09>



## IMPORTANT MEETING

Plan to attend the **January 9, 2025** General Assembly Meeting. We will discuss the 2025 budget for approval. Consider events for the upcoming year. Report from the nomination committee on the slate of officers to be brought forward for election. This meeting accessible through zoom.



## 2025 EVENTS



Winter Picnic, Bushman Cabin, Veteran's Memorial Park, **Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Regional Dinner, Community Center, Eyer Building, East Rochester, **Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>**, featuring cuisine and wine of the Veneto Region



Scholarship and Awards Night, Community Center, Eyer Building, East Rochester **Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**

Summer Picnic, Quinzi Lodge, Eyer Park, East Rochester, **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**



Watch for more information coming your way on these events.

## From the desk of the Financial Secretary

### REMINDER OF DUES RENEWAL

Notice for dues renewal have been sent via email from Sr. Marisa. Be sure to check spam/junk mail if you have not received the email in your inbox. Dues will remain at \$65/per person. Deadline for submission is December 31<sup>st</sup>. Our membership list must be reconciled with the New York State Grand Lodge by January 31<sup>st</sup>, so it is imperative for us to receive your renewal payment by the end of the year. If there are any questions regarding credit card payments, please contact Sr. Marisa at [marisaprze@gmail.com](mailto:marisaprze@gmail.com). Your continued support of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge is most appreciated.

### 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 **\$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](mailto: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.



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

Looking for members to actively help with fundraising activities. Any and all suggestions will be considered. We want to keep the costs of our events down so everyone who wants to attend is able to, and the only way we can do that since the price of room rental, food, paper products, etc. keeps increasing to raise money by other means. Please join us: **Melissa Distafen** and **Becky DiFilippo** as we brainstorm ideas what we can do to keep our Lodge solvent.

Contact: Melissa at [Melissaddistaffen@yahoo.com](mailto:Melissaddistaffen@yahoo.com)

Becky at [seqra2@gmail.com](mailto:seqra2@gmail.com)



## *In our Thoughts and Prayers*

Sandy Meleca  
 Dawn DiGennaro's wife  
 Vince Giannantonio's sister  
 Family of Ed Maruggi,  
 Elizabeth Osta's brother,  
 Patty and Gordie Rask  
 Ron Santoli  
 Jim and Peg Vacanti  
 Family of John and Elena Fratta  
*(John is NYS Chair CSJ)*



*And all of our members who have suffered recently with illness or loss of a loved one.*



**Brother Edward Maruggi** joined the Vincent Lombardi Lodge in 2003. He was a second generation Italian American and a Professor Emeritus from Rochester Institute of Technology. He chaired programs for hearing impaired students for more than twenty-one years. From 1980-1981 he was a Rotary International Fellow and was able to study and conduct research in Italy. He is also an author having written seven college level textbooks and seven novels about Italians and Italian-Americans. In 2017 he was awarded the Grand Lodge of New York Literary Award. Ed was also a member of the Friends of Italian Genealogy (FIG). He and his wife, Carolyn, made their home on the shores of Lake Ontario in Hilton.



### **CELEBRATE**

### **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**DECEMBER 12 AT 7 PM**

General Assembly Meeting  
 with a visit from  
 St. Nicholas and Mrs. Claus

*Refreshments are appreciated*



- 12/1 Charles Schiano
- 12/4 Quintino DiCesare
- 12/5 Mark Chester
- 12/9 Ken Nudo
- 12/9 Marisa Przepiora
- 12/11 Char Dodgson
- 12/15 James Vazzana
- 12/19 Becky DiFilippo
- 12/20 Jennie Gugino
- 12/20 Lorraine Palucci
- 12/23 Maurice Palucci

### **SAFE HARBORS OF THE FINGER LAKES**

### **IS OUR ADOPTED HOLIDAY CHARITY**

Needed items include products for:

- Personal care and hygiene
- Baby care, including diapers
- Kitchen cleaning

## Local Holiday Happenings

### George Eastman Museum: **Sweet Creations Gingerbread Display**

Saturday, November 9, 2024–Sunday, January 5, 2025

Dozens of cleverly designed and deliciously decorated gingerbread houses fill the mansion. This beloved holiday tradition provides a visual and aromatic treat for visitors of all ages. All of the gingerbread creations are available in an online silent auction.



### Geva Theatre: **A Christmas Carol**

Nov 23-Dec 29 Filled with humor, heart, hope – and a little bit of horror – *A Christmas Carol* reminds us that it is never too late to have a change of heart.

### Auditorium Theatre—**How the Grinch Stole Christmas the Musical**

Dec. 3-8 The Grinch discovers there's more to Christmas than he bargained for in this heart-warming holiday classic.

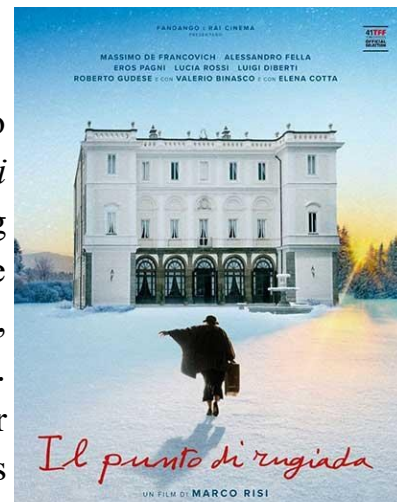


### Eastman Theater—**RPO Holiday Gala Pops** with Jeff Tyzik and the High School Festival Chorale

Dec. 20-22 For more than three decades, Gala Holiday Pops has been one of Rochester's favorite traditions.

### Nazareth University Peace Theater - **Italian Film Series: The Dew Point** Saturday December 14, 2024 at 4:00PM.

A very timely film about two young lawbreakers assigned to do community service at an assisted living facility for the elderly. *Il Punto di Rugiada*, or *The Dew Point*, is the point where cooling heat and warming cold meet—the youths are staggering towards the future while the aged are reminiscing about the past, or at least try to remember it. Rules are broken, sadness becomes joyfulness, resignation becomes an exciting anticipation. A beautiful, gentle, emotional movie that will stay with the viewer for months after. Please see important links at the beginning of this newsletter for more info.



# The Bookshelf

## Selections for December

### *An Italian Christmas*

### *Vintage Christmas Tales for La Dolce Vita*



*A gorgeous gift edition of festive stories from Italy by Penguin Books.*

Merry Christmas -- Buon Natale— is made all the more joyful with these literary treats filled with ancient churches, trains whistling through the countryside, steaming tureens, plates piled high with pasta, High Mass, dashed hopes, golden crucifixes, flowing wine, shimmering gifts and plenty of style.

In this collection, classic works by Boccaccio to Pirandello intertwine with more recent stories from writers like Anna Maria Ortese, Natalia Ginzburg and Nobel laureate Grazia Deledda to bring together the greatest festive tales from the land of enchantment: Italy. Bursting with family chaos, carols and yuletide cheer, *An Italian Christmas* showcases stories that put the passionate, fiery side of the festive period back into Christmas.

### *Buon Natale:*

### *Italian Christmas Traditions and Cuisine*

This book is a must-read for everyone who wants to understand more about the Italian Christmas spirit or just looking to add some new customs to your holiday season!

Italy is one of the most fascinating countries in the world because of its rich history, culture, and cuisine. And Italy is unmatched when it comes to Christmas festivities. Indeed, Italy has centuries-old Christmas customs that are among the most distinctive and fascinating.

Italy's Christmas season is characterized by joy, coziness, and of course, mouth-watering food, from the pre-Christmas ceremonies of Advent to the feast of the Epiphany on January 6.



## *Unwrapping the Magic of Italian Christmas Traditions*

**Whether you're wandering through the streets admiring the twinkling markets and breathing in the sweetness of roasted chestnuts, attending Mass in St. Peter's Square, or feasting on Italian festive delicacies, there's much to enjoy about Christmas in Italy.**

The festive holiday season touches every corner of the country, from the bustling streets decked with elaborate decorations to big family dinners featuring cherished recipes. Beyond the religious observances, Italy's rich cultural heritage is on full display during the holiday season with unique traditions, elaborate nativity scenes, and festive markets. The Christmas season in Italy is cherished as a time for reflection, gratitude, and the celebration of family.

Christmas in Italy is rich with traditions going back for centuries. Some traditions vary from region to region but much is the same throughout the country. These are some of the enchanting ways Italians celebrate the holiday season, blending centuries-old traditions with modern festivities to create a truly magical experience.

### **Christmas Markets**

All across Italy's cities, Christmas markets pop up, where you'll find delicious vin brulé (mulled wine) to sip on, an array of artisanal and handmade crafts, and delicious Italian pastries and sweets. Milan's traditional Christmas Market dates back to the early 1500's.



### **Presepe (Nativity Scenes) Displays**

Italians take great pride in creating intricate and elaborate nativity scenes, known as presepe. These displays go beyond the traditional manger scene, often featuring entire miniature villages, depicting scenes of daily life, and incorporating local craftsmanship. Naples, in particular, is renowned for its stunning and detailed Presepe.

### **PANETTONE**

This classic Italian sweet bread is a favorite treat on Christmas Day. Although the delicacy originated in Milan, it is now a traditional holiday treat in both Italy and in other parts of Europe.



### **Did You Know?**

Instead of writing a letter to Santa Claus, Italian children write letters to tell their parents how much they love them. The letter is traditionally placed under the father's plate and read after Christmas Eve dinner.

## December Happenings in Italy

**Italians celebrate Christmas for nearly a month, from December 8th to January 6th with a strong focus on religion, family, friends, and incredible traditional foods.**

### **Oil Festival, San Quirico d'Orcia, Siena - December 6th-8<sup>th</sup>**

A celebration of the centuries-old tradition of olive oil production in Tuscany. The event showcases the region's prized extra virgin olive oil, highlighting its culinary and cultural importance with a mixture of tastings, workshops, and food pairings.

### **Mount Ingino Christmas Tree - December 7th-January 12th**

The "world's largest Christmas tree" is lit up each year on the slopes of Monte Ingino, overlooking the mediaeval town of Gubbio in Italy's central Umbria region. The 'roots' of the tree stretch from near Gubbio's ancient walls while its star reaches the basilica of the town's patron saint, S. Ubaldo, at the peak of the mountain. Gubbio's Christmas tradition began in 1981 and earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1991.

Each of the tree's lights is 'adopted' by locals who dedicate a light to their loved ones, with messages ranging from welcoming newborn babies to saluting dearly-missed grandparents.



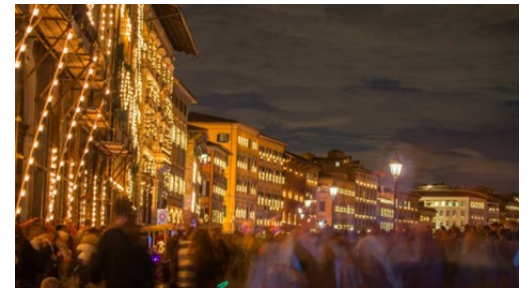
### **Barga in Cioccolato - December 7th-8<sup>th</sup>**

Barga in Lucca province is transformed into a chocolate lovers' paradise. *Barga in Cioccolato* ('Barga in Chocolate') will feature stands from artisan chocolatiers and a number of tasting experiences, all set against a holiday season backdrop.

**Living Nativity Scene, Matera - every weekend from December 7th to January 5<sup>th</sup>:** or *Presepe Vivente* is transform into biblical settings, with key scenes from the life of Jesus being brought to life. Matera is the city of caves.

### **Luminaria di San Ranieri—December 16th**

In the city of Pisa, the holiday season is celebrated with the Luminaria di San Ranieri. The city is illuminated by thousands of candles placed along the Arno River and the streets of Pisa. This dazzling display pays homage to the city's patron saint, San Ranieri, and creates a magical atmosphere that attracts locals and tourists alike.



**Burning of the Old One, Bologna - December 31<sup>st</sup> or *Rogo del Vecchione*:** The event takes place in the city's Piazza Maggiore, where crowds gather to enjoy live music performances and sample food from street market stands. As midnight approaches, a wooden effigy, often of an old man, is set ablaze. The origins of this custom are thought to date back to the early 20th century.



**Olives:** The various regions of Italy are known for their culinary specialties including olives. Just like wine and coffee, olives come in different varieties which involve color, shape, and flavor. There are at least, 400 known varieties of olives grown in Italy. Some extra virgin olive oils are made with only one type, while others are a blend. Like pairing the right wine with food can elevate your enjoyment of the meal, the right olive oil for cooking or dipping can enhance the meal as well.



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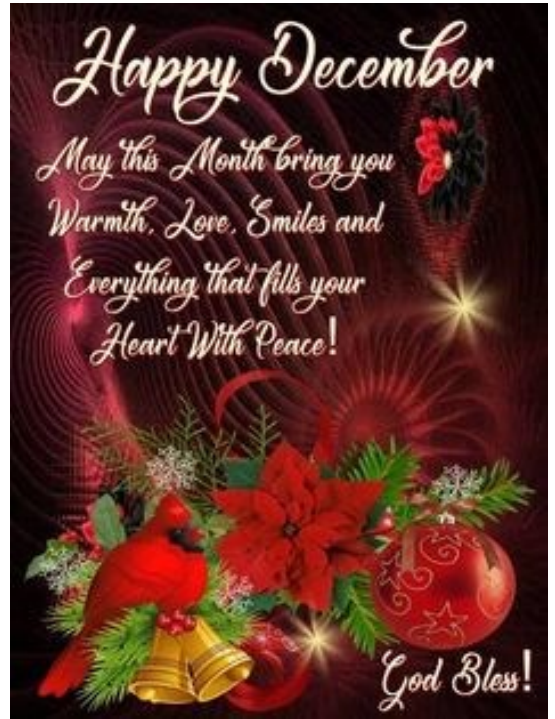
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**GRAND LODGE  
OF NEW YORK**

**CALENDARS FOR 2025**

Makes a great stocking stuffer

Cost: \$30



*Opera Guild of Rochester Bravo Nights  
The Little Café at 240 East Ave*

Join the Opera Guild of Rochester for Bravo Nights at The Little Café  
for **FREE** musical and operatic selections by talented local singers and artists:

- ◆ Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 om, Valentine's theme  
students from Roberts Wesleyan University
- ◆ Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm students from Eastman School of Music

## Messages for All Seasons

*Life is short, live it  
Love is rare, grab it  
Memories are sweet,  
cherish them.*

*Make new memories with  
family and friends  
during this holiday season.  
Treasure all the good times.*

*May we always find light amidst  
darkness and peace amidst turmoil.*

*May there always be an abundance  
of food on our tables  
and love in our lives.*

*Peace on earth will come to stay  
when we live Christmas every day.*

*Joy is not a season,  
it's a way of living.*



## Christmas Blessings

May you give and receive love generously.

May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.

May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened in you.

May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you.

May you have energy and vitality.

May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.

May you bring this peace into our world.

OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge  
1248 Calkins Rd  
Rochester NY 14623.

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