



# The Roar of the Lion

Annette DeCarolis. *editor*  
July 2024 Edition



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you have some great plans for the next couple of months filled with time for family and friends, a chance to rejuvenate, and perhaps some travels. At the same time, we are enjoying warm, balmy days, the business of the Lodge continues with plans for our summer picnic and our big celebration of Italian Heritage Month.

Thank you to Pat Bartholomew, Louis DeCarolis, and Tom Meleca's nephew for their homemade wine for us to taste at the last General Assembly Meeting. Our intent was to decide which one we would bring to convention to enter into the Homemade Wine Tasting Contest. They were all so good, we decided to bring one from Pat, Louis, and Tom.

Our delegates, Kitty DiNicola, Ron Santoli, Joe Rube, and I, attended the Grand Lodge of New York Convention, and we will provide you with updates and new initiatives. In 2025, a new Grand Lodge President will be elected, so think about being a delegate. It is a great experience, and you learn a lot about how important our connection is.

Our Lodge will also be holding its own elections in early 2025. Anyone who has been a member for at least a year can run. Sr. Marisa will highlight the positions in our newsletter over the next several months. A nominating committee will be formed in October. They will take into consideration each person who shows interest in holding a spot on the council. The slate will be presented at the January General Assembly Meeting and nominations will be taken from the floor. If anyone runs from the floor, elections will be held at the February General Assembly Meeting. Installation will take place in March. Please think about being an integral part in leading this wonderful organization.

We have a busy second half of 2024, but we will have fun and build new memories.

Take care and God Bless.  
Fraternally yours,  
Marjorie

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## 2024 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

July 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting Cancelled  
July 11th, 7pm: Scholarship Awards Night

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

**August 10th, 1pm: Members Picnic  
Quinzi Lodge (East Rochester) - See attached flyer**



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, Time TBD: Heritage Dinner  
Webster Golf Club (440 Salt Rd, Webster)**

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

**November 16th, Time TBD: Papa Antolini Turkey  
Raffle  
St Nicholas Society (206 Madison St, East Rochester)**

December 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting

## July 11<sup>th</sup>

### Scholarship Awards Night

**2024 Lodge Scholarship Winners  
and awardees from the District and  
the Grand Lodge of New York State**

Ella Belculfine  
Aiden Robert Cupelli-Wineglass  
Lucas DiSalvo  
Isabella Fiorillo  
Daniella Gibson  
Tristan Samuel Hagel  
James Marotta  
Cerys Montanarello  
Joseph Riddell  
Julia Ann Santoli  
Lorenzo James Tantalò  
Cameron Andrew Watt



*Come to celebrate our students  
and wish them well  
on their new ventures.*



### Vincent Lombardi Lodge Members' Picnic

**Saturday, August 10th  
Starting at 1:00 pm  
Quinzi Lodge**

**Eyer Park, East Rochester**

**RSVP Required - See  
attached Flyer**

### **St. Nicholas Society Italian Festival, July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

206 Madison St., East Rochester

July 12<sup>th</sup> Happy Hour

July 13<sup>th</sup> Main Event with Italian Dance Presentation,  
car show, vendors, and more

### **East Rochester Summer Concerts on Wednesdays at 7 PM**

at the adjacent lot to the Eyer Building

### **Italian American Sports Club Summer Picnic, July 14th**

### **East Rochester Fireman's Field Days: July 18<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>**

East Rochester School Campus, 200 Woodbine Ave.

### **Gates Amita Summer Picnic, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>**

contact Nellie DiCesare at 585-247-6601 for more information

### **Geneva Lodge #2397 Italian Festival, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

31 Prospect Ave., Geneva

### **Geneva Lodge #2397 Steak Night, July 9th and July 16th**

31 Prospect Ave, Geneva

# From the desk of the Financial Secretary

**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.



Member Perks

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.



Year after year through your generosity, the members of our Lodge and the members of OSDIA in New York State donate more than \$100,000 to charities. What we do is unmatched by other states, but more importantly your donations have helped to fund research, provide resources, and supported families in need. It is appreciated more than you can ever know.

Each year we make a donation to Thalassemia Major, more commonly known as Cooley's Anemia. Children born with thalassemia have blood that can't carry oxygen around the body the way it is supposed to. As a result, these children need blood transfusions that keep them alive. Great strides have been made in the treatment, and research continues to be done.

You also have chosen to support: Alzheimer's, Gift of Sight, and Veteran's Assistance Fund. Each charity will receive \$150.



Peter Maddalena  
Sandy Meleca  
Patty and Gordie Rask  
Sam Mammano  
Ron Santoli  
Jim and Peg Vacanti

*Members who are ill or have lost a loved one.*



***In Loving Memory***

John R. Pecora  
(past member/partner of Sr. Pat  
Barthomew)

Italian Consulate, Enzo Scollo's mom  
(passed away a couple of months ago)



7/4 Robert Kosinsky  
7/4 Nancy Rube'  
7/8 Joseph DiMaria  
7/8 Richard Meleca  
7/9 Ann Marie Taddeo  
7/15 Marjorie Focarazzo  
7/16 Melissa DiStaffen  
7/17 Richard Antelli  
7/17 Karen Pelc  
7/18 Rosita Caridi-Miller  
7/21 Elizabeth Osta  
7/22 Stephanie Brey  
7/25 Bill Agnello  
7/30 Joanne Giambrone Rath



**Commission for Social Justice  
Grand Lodge of New York State  
2024 John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest**

This essay contest provides an opportunity for each of us to recount stories of our heritage and engage in dialog with our family about experiences, traditions in our families and Italian culture. The goal of this essay contest is to help students better understand their Italian heritage and culture. To that end, we hope that as parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, you will sponsor and encourage a family member to participate. The interaction between you and the student may present an opportunity to further enhance your family's knowledge of your Italian heritage.

This contest is open to children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews of Lodge members only in grades 6 thru 12. A winner will be chosen from each district throughout the State from each grade category. Each winner will receive a \$200 award for his or her essay. Please see the details and application in the attachments to this newsletter.

**Join Zoom Meeting**



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85831885141?pwd=dU1OaGlmUGw2c0pOYm1IMkJ3bHgrQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3188 5141  
Passcode: 837616

# Festa de Repubblica the Italian-American Sports Club



## *Seeking New Council Members*



### **Take a seat at the table**

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.*



## *Trustees*

### **What is trustee and what do they do?**

The trustees supervise the affairs of the local lodge and are members of the council.

Our lodge council has five trustees.

Their duties are:

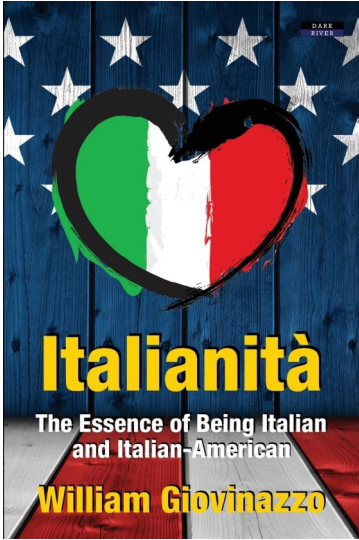
To examine and audit the books kept by the financial secretary and Treasurer of the lodge, and to examine and audit the quarterly report of the Financial Secretary, certifying as to its correctness by affixing their signatures thereon. *Practically speaking in our lodge, this means reviewing bank reconciliations and lodge expenses on a quarterly basis – either electronically via access to our google drive, or in person at our council meetings where hard copies will be available.*

To perform such additional duties, in matters pertaining to their office, imposed upon them by the laws of the Order or by the deliberations of the assembly of the Local Lodge. *This includes attending monthly council meetings, voting on issues brought to the meetings, and taking on general tasks as they are able.*

## The Bookshelf

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

**This month's selection, is *Italianità* –  
*The Essence of Being Italian and Italian-American***



In this book, William Giovinazzo explores the culture and history of Italians and Italian-Americans, from the time when the Greeks first colonized Italy, to the influx of Italian immigrants in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, to John Travolta strutting his stuff in a New York disco.

William Giovinazzo's book on what it meant to be Italian-American reads like a literature review and guide to understanding Italian history, culture, and language. From Shakespeare to Sinatra and Dante to Dondi, the Italian war orphan featured in comic strips for three decades beginning in 1955, Giovinazzo goes to great lengths to understand the Italian-American experience and to analyze his own Italian-ness in what he describes as *Italianità*. On his journey he takes you through the stereotypes of Italian immigrants in the US – from the Organ Grinder with his Monkey to the Marx Brothers imitating Italian accents in their comedy routines to “Pizzaman” and Chef Boy-Ar-Dee.

Giovinazzo doesn't stereotype Italian-Americans but he describes how they were stereotyped over the decades in their attempt to integrate with American society and how the different layers of culture were peeled back over time. From food to language, religion and family, to the Mafia, amulets and the evil eye, this book provides a wild ride through Italian history, culture and society.

**Giovinazzo grew up an American of Italian origin in upstate New York, so he was surrounded by real Italian-Americans his entire life.**

In an insightful and entertaining journey, which also takes in food, religion, relationships, we discover how *Italianità* is a complex and multifaceted entity; it's what makes Italian and Italian-American societies the wonderful, life-affirming, vibrant cultures that they are.



An award-winning author, **William (Bill) Giovinazzo** is a journalist, blogger, and public speaker. Beyond writing and speaking, Bill celebrates his heritage through the classical guitar. His passion is all things Italian, from its history to its literature, music, language, and, of course, food.

**Mr. Giavinazzo has generously donated books for our scholarship winners and plans to attend the Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship Awards Night July 11<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.**

## THE ITALIAN INFLUENCE



Italian Americans and Italians had a tremendous impact in the founding of this new nation from language in the Declaration of Independence to fighting with the colonist to signing the Declaration.

**Filippo Mazzei** was an Italian born physician, winemaker, merchant, horticulturalist, and arms dealer who was also a close friend and neighbor of Thomas Jefferson. In 1773, Mazzei sailed to Virginia and was interested in the political life of the colonies. On his way to the Shenandoah Valley, he stopped to visit Jefferson. Mazzei was persuaded to settle in Albemarle County, and Jefferson gave him a tract of land bordering on Monticello. Mazzei wrote under a pen name for the Virginia Gazette, which were translated by Jefferson. In one article for the Gazette, he wrote, *"All men are by nature equally free and independent. Such equality is necessary in order to create a free government."* Jefferson decided the concept would work for the Declaration of Independence and came up with this language, *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*



Italian Americans and Italian immigrants fought on the side of the Patriots in the War for Independence. There were 1500 soldiers and officers in three Italian regiments-- the Third Piemonte, the 13th Du Perche, and the Royal Italian- who fought alongside the colonists.

**William Paca** studied law in Annapolis and advanced studies in England. In 1771 he was elected to the Maryland Colonial Legislature and appointed delegate to the Continental Congress in 1774 where he served until 1779. As a delegate, he was an original signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was appointed Chief Justice to the Maryland Supreme Court, and in 1782 elected governor of Maryland.

Francis Vigo born **Giuseppe Maria Francesco Vigo** was an Italian-American who aided the American colonial forces during the Revolutionary War. In addition to his services as a patriot and spy, Vigo was the foremost financier of the American Revolution in the Northwest.

Italian immigrants, yours and mine, provided labor for American factories and mines, built roads, dams, tunnels, and skyscrapers. **Their back breaking work at menial jobs, while not being acknowledged or respected by other ethnic groups, allowed them to have a small foothold in American society.** This let them provide for their families which was and for many is still the core of Italian American life. That is pretty cool!!

## Did you Know?

### *The Statue of Liberty has an Italian Heritage*

#### **STATUE OF LIBERTY INSPIRATION: THE ROMAN GODDESS LIBERTAS**

In the late 1800s, one of the most significant female icons in American culture was the Roman goddess Libertas, a female figure clad in robes. In ancient Rome, she was worshipped as the goddess of freedom, particularly amongst slaves.

Lady Liberty's torch is a symbol of enlightenment. It lights the way to freedom and down the path of liberty. The official title of the Statue of Liberty is actually "Liberty Enlightening the World"- directly coinciding with the light from her torch.

The image of a woman holding a torch was influenced by one of the ancient wonders of the world. Bartholdi took inspiration from *The Colossus of Rhodes*, a massive statue erected in the city of Rhodes to honor the sun-god Helios. Much like this ancient work of art, Bartholdi wanted his statue to have a peaceful appearance. For him, the torch also represented progress.

The Statue of Liberty is one of New York's most impressive monuments. Not just for her symbolism but for how accomplished the structure was for the time period. While much of that original statue still stands, the torch you see in Lady Liberty's right hand is much newer than the rest of her. You might think it's just another piece of her wardrobe, but the Statue of Liberty's torch is one of her most significant and symbolic elements. By the 1980s, it was decided to replace the original torch with an exact replica of Bartholdi's original design. In 1986, the current torch was installed, which has a flame covered in 24-karat gold.



The copper statue, a gift to the U.S. from the people of France, was **designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi** and its metal framework was

*In many ways, Lady Liberty represents all of us  
and the hope we have in building a better society  
through liberty, democracy, and independence.*

## JULY FESTIVALS IN ITALY



July in Italy is resplendent with an array of Summer Festivals, tributes to composers, celebrations of regional culture and observances of saints.

**Jazz & Wine Festival:** A five day event that brings local and international jazz musicians to Montalcino, which is known worldwide for Sangiovese-based Brunello di Montalcino red wine. This music festival is organized by this region's biggest winery, Castello di Banfi.

Each July Umbria's capital, Perugia, becomes a hub for Jazz. **Umbria Jazz** is one of the world's most important jazz festivals. Founded in 1973 by Carlo Pagnotta, this festival has welcomed B.B King, James Brown, Phil Collins, George Benson, and many more jazz musicians. Nina Simone once said, "Jazz is not just music, it is a way of life, it is a way of being, a way of thinking."

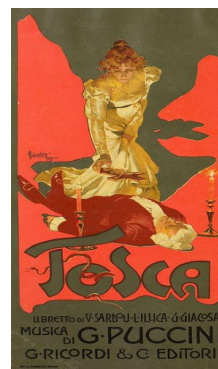


**Disfida degli Arcieri di Terra e di Corte** is an archery contest that takes place in mid-July in Fivizzano, northern Tuscany. Archers from each neighborhood compete in a re-enactment of a medieval festival with costumes and flag throwers.



**Feast of Sant'Andrea the Apostle** is celebrated in Pescara, on the Adriatic coast, on the last Sunday in July with a huge parade of fishing boats off the coast.

**Puccini Festival: July & August:** The small Tuscan city of Lucca where Giacomo Puccini lived, Lucca, is home to the Pucci Festival. Each year an open-air, lakeside theatre is built for the performances of his most famous operas.



Sunday, July 14 **Artpark in Lewiston NY** will feature a mesmerizing journey through Puccini's repertoire with classics from **LA BOHÈME, MADAM BUTTERFLY, TOSCA, TURANDOT**



## COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSJ) COLUMBUS MONUMENT COMMITTEE SYRACUSE, NY

### THE FIGHT CONTINUES!!

The state Court of Appeals rejected the Columbus Monument Corporation's request to appeal the lower court's decision that tossed their attempts to block removal of the Columbus statue which stands in Columbus Circle. New York's highest court has decided not to hear the case, which means the state's Fourth Appellate Department's ruling would allow the city of Syracuse to remove the statue.

The decision is based on a technicality. The appellate court did not rule that the city has the right or the power to remove the statue, but instead, claims the Monument Corporation's lawsuit, was filed prematurely. This decision is grounded that to remove the statue has not gone through all the administrative steps required for approval. While this may seem like a setback it is, the Monument Corporation believes that if they had not taken Syracuse Mayor, Ben Walsh to court when they did, the statue would already have been removed.



Members of the Monument Committee state, "So we are not deterred. We are not discouraged. We are ready to do it all over again. If Mayor Walsh wants to waste more taxpayer dollars fighting the will of the taxpayers in his attempt to destroy public art, we will meet him every step of the way. This is our 90<sup>th</sup> year. Mayors come and go, but we have been here for most of the last century. We are not going away now."

History: In 1910 Syracuse University Professor Torquato DeFelice visited Florence, and while there, he met with artist V. Renzo Baldi. They discussed the creation of a monument of Christopher Columbus to be displayed in Syracuse. The formation of the Monument Committee, which was approved in February 1928 believed, "The monument and statue would be a symbol of 'achievement' that would 'inculcate into the hearts of posterity, a desire to emulate the great achievements of man'." In an era when Italian-Americans were regularly labeled as seditious, subversive, dangerous, and un-American, it was important to these men – all prominent members of Syracuse's Italian community – to provide their city with a symbol of ethnic pride."

The statue, which took 24 years to build, was a collaborative effort among the Syracuse citizens, the Onondaga Nation, Syracuse University, two mayors, and Stickley's Dr. Irene Sargent, an authority on fine art. **From the statue to the pedestal, the Columbus statue was a community effort, but built by the hands of Italians, and became a living testimonial to the spirit of all people who work for the progress of humanity.**

*You can make your voice heard by sending a personal message to Mayor Walsh to not desecrate this important piece of public art.*

OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge  
84 Mulcahy Blvd  
Rochester, NY 14624

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**Vice-President**  
Jeremy DiFilippo

**Recording Secretary**  
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**Financial Secretary**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Sentinel**  
Vacant

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Ron Santoli  
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**Chaplain**  
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**District VIII State Trustee**  
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**Chaplain Emeritus**  
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**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi Lodge**  
Peter Gillotte

**State Deputy to Geneva Lodge**  
Jeremy DiFilippo

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Thomas Laverne\*  
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Phillip Dattilo\*  
Joseph Berta\*  
Joseph Rubé  
Jennifer Rubé\*  
Vincent Giannantonio  
Sandra Meleca

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