



The Roar of the Lion

Annette DeCarolis. *editor*
June 2024 Edition



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After more than ten years as the editor of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge Newsletter, Sr. Marisa felt it was time to put our publication under someone else's tutelage. We are very grateful to Sr. Marisa for the direction she has taken our newsletter. We have won numerous awards from the Grand Lodge of NY's newsletter competition. A lot of work goes into producing a quality paper: researching and writing articles, editing, finding graphics or pictures, designing the layout, keeping within the number of pages allotted for printing or emailing. I cannot thank Sr. Marisa enough for all she has done to make our newsletter attention-grabbing and fun to read.



I would like to welcome Sr. Annette DeCarolis as our new editor and look forward to working with her to keep you up to date on what our Lodge and our fellow Italian organizations in the area are doing, to continue to bring news of the Supreme and Grand Lodge to you, as well as interesting stories from Italy. We also welcome your stories, pictures of trips, recipes, or whatever you would like to share with the members.

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Sr. Chef Rosita has decided the next region for our Regional Dinner will be Venice and Veneto. Veneto is a northeastern Italian region stretching from the Dolomite Mountains to the Adriatic Sea. Venice, its regional capital, is famed for its canals, Gothic architecture, and Carnival celebrations. The

Island of Murano is world known for glassblowing. Burano for its lace. In Torcello, you can see Attila's, King of the Huns, throne. A date has yet to be determined for Spring 2025, and you will once again be delighted by the cuisine and wines from the area.



With summer quickly approaching everyone will be spending more time outdoors, enjoying the beautiful weather, traveling, and being with family and friends. I wish for you a safe and wonderous season, and remember to read your newsletter for information on our events.

God Bless and Take Care
Fraternally yours,
Marjorie

2024 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

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

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, Time TBD: Members Picnic
Eyer Building (East Rochester)**

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



July 11th Scholarship Awards Night

and General Assembly Meeting

A time when we get to celebrate our students
and wish them well on their new ventures.

2024 Scholarship Winners

\$2000 Lodge Scholarship – Daniella Gibson

\$1500 Lodge Scholarship – Lucas DiSalvo

\$1500 Lodge Scholarship – Isabella Fiorillo

\$1500 Past Honorees Scholarship –
James Marotta

\$1500 Past Honorees Scholarship –
Julia Santoli

\$1500 Rubé Family Scholarship
in Memory of Jennifer Rubé – Joseph Riddell

\$1500 Joseph Darryl DiStaffen Scholarship –
Cerys Montanarello

Our Annual Picnic — August 10th Quinzi Lodge, Eyer Park, East Rochester



We hope you will join us for our annual picnic this year. As in the past, members are asked to bring a plate to pass: appetizers, salads, or desserts. But to help defray some of the cost we will be asking for donations: \$10/person for members and \$20/person for non-members. We try to be prudent and cost conscious with what we purchase, but with prices constantly going up, I know you will understand we may be looking at doing things a little differently to still have the events we have had. Thank you for understanding.



Join Zoom Meeting

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85831885141?pwd=dU1QaGlmUGw2c0pOYm1lMkK3bHgrQT09>

Topic: Vincent Lombardi Lodge General Assembly Meetings

Time: June 13, 2024 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Whether in person
or by Zoom,
attend meetings and
be a more informed
and active member
of the lodge.**

**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.
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.



Meeting ID: 858 3188 5141

Passcode: 837616

One tap mobile

16469313860,,85831885141# US

16465588656,,85831885141# US

(New York)

Dial by your location

• 1 646 931 3860 US

• 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Sunshine Corner

Keeping in our thoughts and prayers...

Sandy Meleca

Pat & Gordie Rask

Peter Maddalena

John Pecora (past member)

Ron Santoli

And all of our members
who have suffered recently with illness.



June Birthdays

6/16 Nellie DiCesare

6/22 Carol DiNicola

6/25 Ed Groszewski

6/27 Louis DeCarolis

6/30 Dominic Calisto

6/30 Ed Maruggi



In Loving Memory

Shirley Sculli

Lillian (Lila) Bonanni

Michela (Mickey) Palucci

Franklin D'Aurizio



La Bella Lingua Award Winner

Ella Belculfine, graduating senior
from Irondequoit High School,
will be presented with District VIII's CSJ
Bella Lingua Award
at the Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship
Awards Night on July 11th.

Heritage Dinner Honoree Selection

At the Vincent Lombardi Lodge Heritage Dinner to be held on Friday, Oct. 25th we will present awards for: Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Family of the Year. The Awards Committee is looking for those individuals or families who have made a contribution to our community. The important criteria is that person or family must be of Italian descent.

NOMINATIONS

Do you know of anyone to be considered as an honoree? Please send us their name(s), the reason or reasons they should be considered, and contact information for the nominee.

New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc.

Scholarships and Grants

The Grand Lodge of New York has provided financial support to students for decades. In conjunction with the scholarships presented at the local level, more than \$250,000 has been given out. The New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. endowment is close to \$1 million and continues to grow through the generosity of our members, lodges, benefactors, and friends. One of our core values is to promote, encourage, and support this program that honors so many young adults in their academic pursuits. This year the Grand Lodge created a new scholarship, and while the criteria remain the same, its focus is on students attending a vocational college.

The recipients of the 2024 scholarships are:

Cameron Watt — Pittsford Mendon High School

Awarded the John Assenzio Jr. Memorial Scholarship for Undergraduate Education and the Cooley's Anemia Scholarship

Julia Santoli — Webster Schroeder High School

District Award: Richard Di Marco Sr. Memorial Scholarship, donated by John DiMarco, and the Giambra Family Scholarship and the Paul and Cheryl Speranza Scholarship

Aiden Cupello-Wineglass — Geneva High School

District Award: Geneva Lodge #2397 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Members and the Guglielmo Marconi Lodge #154 Scholarship Award and the Jame Lippa Memorial Scholarship

Lorenzo Tantalo — Spencerport High School

Beatrice Waked Memorial Scholarship and Dominick & Concetta Cardone Memorial Scholarship

Tristan Hagel — Geneva High School

Etruscan Lodge #2238 Scholarship



Around the Community



The Italian Civic League Bocce Tournament is June 15th at 9 am at the IACC. A registration form is included in this newsletter and is also available through Br. Vince, Sr. Marjorie, or Br. Quintino DeCesare.

Lodge members are eligible to participate since the Vincent Lombardi Lodge is a member club of the ICL

Italian Conversation Table

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

When? Every Thursday at 5 pm.

Where? Casa Italiana Le Chase Lounge.

For more information, please contact casa@naz.edu or Daniel Speciale dspecia0@naz.edu

Casa Italiana Book Club:

Casa Italiana hosts this book club that meets once a month to discuss **Italian books**. The Club is open to anyone, and its purpose is to offer the possibility to practice the Italian language and/or learn about Italy and its culture. The group suggests the books, usually by contemporary Italian authors, who reflect the changes that have taken place with time in the language and customs. The discussion is informal.

Participation is free.

When: First Saturday of each month, 11:30 am

Location: Casa Italiana LeChase Lounge



St. Nicholas Society Monthly Happy Hour— Friday, June 28th from 5:00-9:00 pm

East Rochester Wednesday Summer Concerts at the adjacent lot to the Eyer Building at 7 pm on July 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st August 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th.

East Rochester Fireman's Field Days — July 18th thru 20th at the East Rochester School Campus, 200 Woodbine Ave.

Stephen V. D'Orazio Memorial Wine and Food Walk — Aug. 17th, 4:30 to 7 pm followed by a concert DAWGS FOR A CAUZ; to register www.erchamber.org

The Bookshelf

Reading books adds endless benefits to our daily lives, including stress-relief and entertainment. Reading may also improve our concentration and memory, expand our vocabulary, enhance our knowledge and increase our imagination and creativity. Reading books or even hearing them on tape can take you anywhere, anytime—even deep within yourself.



This Month's Selection: *Remembrances* by Edward Marauggi



Edward Marauggi's collection *Remembrances: Sixty Tales of Growing Up with Italian Mothers, Grandmothers and Godmothers* is as much a walk through the reader's own history as it is through the history of those in the stories that are told. The photographs add a certain nostalgia that would take any reader back to grandma's house for a Sunday meal or to the memory of one's Godmother who held her own place in our lives.

Of the many gems to be found in *Remembrances*, one of the most touching is a lesson in compassion and racism. In "My Mother - The Florentine War Bride" Diane Melville recounts this about her mother: "My first lesson came when I was in first grade. I came home from school one day and told her about a sad black girl who was in my class. *Nobody talks to her, Mommy.* So she said, *Well, tomorrow you start talking to her and she won't be sad anymore.* No lecture about racial prejudice and why it was wrong. Just simple logic that made sense thereafter." Her mother's compassion did not

stop there. It continued one day on the street to help "a drunk" who had fallen, "a person who needed help," her mother clarified.

Whether poetry or prose, each tale in this collection is told with an offering of words for us to describe our own ancestors. There's *Grandma the Healer* about Maria Antonia Corona Molino by Ed Marauggi, *The Do-It-Yourselfer* by Barbara DiNucci Hendrickson, and *In the Footsteps of Giants* by Matthew Marauggi among others.

The book ends with *A Mother and a Godmother* (first in Italian, then in English) by Adriano Menegoi in which he finishes the tales with these words: "Decades later we still have these two wonderful characters fresh in our memory and we think about how much they have given to us; two strong links of a chain that ties the two of us to our origins in the long history of generations."

Edward Albert Marauggi, Ph.D. is a second-generation Italian American and a Professor Emeritus from Rochester Institute of Technology, having chaired programs for hearing impaired students for twenty-one years. In 1980/81 he was a Rotary International Fellow who studied and conducted research in Italy. He has authored seven books about Italians and Italian Americans. **He is a member of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America** and was awarded the Literary Award by the New York Grand Lodge of OSDIA in 2017.





These three popular Italian operas from the Met's award-winning series of live cinema presentations return to theaters this summer.

Puccini's La Boheme—July 24th

In this 2018 Met performance of Puccini's timeless love story, soprano Sonya Yoncheva and tenor Michael Fabiano lead a celebrated cast in Franco Zeffirelli's picturesque production. Marco Armiliato conducts.



Rossini's La Cenerentola—July 31st

Rossini's charming take on the Cinderella story returns to cinemas, starring mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato and tenor Juan Diego Flórez in this 2014 performance of Cesare Lievi's whimsical production. Fabio Luisi conducts.

Puccini's Turandot—August 17th

Puccini's extravagant masterpiece stars soprano Nina Stemme and tenor Marco Berti in this 2016 performance. Paolo Carignani takes the podium for legendary director Franco Zeffirelli's larger-than-life staging.



**OPERA AT MCC MAINSTAGE THEATRE
ROBIN AND TIMOTHY WENTWORTH ARTS BUILDING
FRIDAY, JULY 12TH, 7 PM AND SUNDAY, JULY 14TH, 2 PM**



In Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, family members become resentful and quite unhappy when a recently deceased relative has left them nothing. They plan to rewrite the will before anyone knows of his death. Gianni Schicchi is Puccini's only one act comic opera, which contains the soprano aria, "O mio babbino caro" ("Oh My Dear Father"). The story originates from Dante's *Inferno*, but Gianni Schicchi was an actual Florentine. This 1918 opera depicts the life of a scheming yet ingenious peasant, who tries to cash in on an old man's vulnerability by changing his will and securing a pay-off for his daughter's wedding. To find out the outcome, you will need to attend this magnificent production.

Your Family Tree



Historically we have been known by more than one name to distinguish ourselves from someone else with the same last. Often a change in the spelling of the last name, even slightly, can differentiate one person from another. As societies changed, names became fixed and were passed on from generation to generation. The nature of the surname often gives clues to what was important to society at the time the surname was “adopted.”

Do you know what your surname means or even where it comes from? Some common origins of surnames include:

- ◆ Occupations, such as “Smith” referring to a blacksmith
- ◆ Physical characteristics, such as “Short”
- ◆ Places or landmarks, as in “Hill”
- ◆ Patronymics or father’s name, such as “Johnson” meaning son of John

To keep from being stereotyped, a characteristic or religious connotation may have been used. This would have been more prevalent in lower socioeconomic societies. More advanced societies used surnames that depicted occupations, social status, or place of residence. Less developed societies adopted surnames from a father’s name. The surname’s origin was impacted by social class and culture. Someone of high social status would take a surname that is considered uncommon today. In contrast, someone of lower social status or what we would consider working class would adopt common surnames. More apt to be true is these members of society have less control over their surnames and would often have names given to them by aldermen, lords, or someone in power, which could result in someone having a name that would be insulting, offensive, and hurtful.

Most surnames originate with a male ancestor. We can often determine the culture of someone from their name: Armenian last names end in -ian, Polish ends in -ski, and the Irish begin with Fitz.

Italian surnames are no different. The modern combination began during the Renaissance. Council of Trento required parish priests to register parishioners by their first name (also referred to as Christian name) and last name to stop marriages between blood relatives. **The majority of Italian surnames derive from first names, originating from the name of the head of the household.** Many surnames were based on geographic locations, while some came from nicknames. Most spelling variations have specific regional origins.

Changes to surnames have always happened and many times for various reasons. Old records show differences in spelling as names were translated from Latin to Italian or a dialect. Quite often changes were made so Italians could adapt to their new environment and be accepted. Names were Americanized by shortening the name or dropping the final vowel.

Has your surname been changed so families could be accepted into their new homeland? Do you know what change(s) was made? Does your original surname give you insight into ancestors? Wouldn’t you like to find out?

A SIP OF WINE

Fortified Wines



Many of us are familiar with Port, a wine made in Portugal in the Douro Valley, and it is still made, pretty much the way it was more than a hundred years ago. Sherry is also considered a fortified wine and can be bone dry or richly sweet. It comes from Spain and was a major import to the United Kingdom. Madeira is a remote volcanic island off Portugal where Madeira has been made. One interesting fact about this fortified wine is that it was used to toast the Declaration of Independence.

Italy's fortified wine, **Marsala**, is dry or sweet and produced in the region surrounding the city of Marsala on the island of Sicily. Fermentation of the wine is halted when the residual sugar content reaches the predetermined levels according to the sweet/dry style the wine maker wants.



Marsala—
Italy's sunshine
in a glass

These wines are classified by their color:

- ◆ Oro is golden in color
- ◆ Ambra has an amber color,
which comes from the mosto cotto sweetener that is added
- ◆ Rubino has a ruby color, made from the red grape varieties

Aging is also categorized:

- ◆ Fine is aged at least one year
- ◆ Superiore aged at least two years
- ◆ Superiore Reserva is aged for four years
- ◆ Vergine e/o Soleras ages at least five years
- ◆ Vergine e/o Soleras Stravecchio e Vergine e/o Soleras Reserva for at least ten years



Florio "Vecchioflorio" Marsala Superiore 2019 Sicily 18% alcohol

The grapes, grillo and catarratto, for this wine are harvested from the coastal strip of the Marsala DOC and contain a high sugar content when pressed. The fermented wine ages in oak barrels for 30 months and then a further three months in the bottle before being released. Dark amber, with hints of dates and apricots; sweet, full, warm, and harmonic with an elegant, dried fruit finish. The Marsala of choice for fish, poultry, and meat preparation. An elegant after-dinner wine.

News from the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ)



The National CSJ will be heading in a different direction according to National CSJ President Robert Ferrito. Under the guidance of Supreme Lodge President, Michael Polo, the National CSJ will build a database of all issues that have been brought to their attention. It will include letters that have been previously written to be used as a resource tool for information to be used by the public. It will expand its social media presence to project more of a positive image. They are working on a disclaimer regarding the portrayal of Italian Americans depicted in film and movies.

Look for book reviews about Italians and/or our heritage in the Golden Lion from State Trustee Lisa Serafini and Cellini Lodge member Allison Vitucci.

The NYS Grand Lodge CSJ continues to address all issues with regards to Columbus Day and statues.

Letters are sent to school districts who make the decision to remove the name of Columbus Day from their academic calendar. They strongly recommend Italian Americans do not support any show: musical, theatre, tv, or cinema that portrays Italians and Italian Americans in a negative manner. They will also address any derogatory comments, graphics, or pictures used on FaceBook or social media. There has been concerns the OSDIA logo has been used without permission and in a defamatory way.

Senate Bill S-2970 has been introduced to eliminate the Federal Columbus Day Holiday and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The National and NYS CSJs are asking you to **contact these members of the committee to voice your opposition of eliminating Columbus Day as a federal holiday and to keep it as is:**

1. Dick Durbin (D-IL) 1-202-224-2152, Chair
2. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) 1-202-224-2921
3. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) 1-202-224-3244
4. Chris Coons (D-DE) 1-202-224-5042
5. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) 1-202-224-2823
6. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) 1-202-224-6361 COSPONSOR
7. Cory Booker (D-NJ) 1-202-224-3224 COSPONSOR
8. Alex Padilla (D-CA) 1-202-224-3553 COSPONSOR
9. Jon Ossoff (D-GA) 1-202-224-3521
10. Peter Welch (D-VT) 1-202-224-4242
11. Laphonza Butler (D-CA) 1-202-224-3841
12. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) 1-202-224-5972; ranking member
13. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) 1-202-224-3744
14. John Cornyn (R-TX) 1-202-224-2934
15. Mike Lee (R-UT) 1-202-224-5444
16. Ted Cruz (R-TX) 1-202-224-5922
17. Josh Hawley (R-MO) 1-202-224-6154
18. Tom Cotton (R-AR) 1-202-224-2353
19. John Kennedy (R-LA) 1-202-224-4623
20. Thom Tillis (R-NC) 1-202-224-6342
21. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) 1-202-224-3344

It is also suggested in contacting NYS Senators Chuck Schumer (202) 224-6542) and Kristen Gillibrand (518) 431-0120) to oppose this bill. NYS has one of the largest Italian American populations in the United States. It is preferable to call than to send a letter. You will most likely talk to an aide, but they are usually quite knowledgeable about what is being worked on, and this is important to all of us.

OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
84 Mulcahy Blvd
Rochester, NY 14624

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Vice-President
Jeremy DiFilippo

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Vincent Giannantonio
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All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

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