



# The Roar of the Lion

April 2025

## A Word from the President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

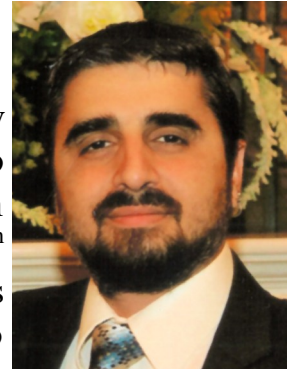
As you know, we've had an election this year and, as of March 13<sup>th</sup> our new council was installed and I was elected president. I'd like to take this time to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me very well. My Italian roots stem from both my maternal and paternal sides of my family. I'm 5<sup>th</sup> generation born in America on my mother's side and 1<sup>st</sup> generation on my father's side. My father, Franco (Frank) came to this country in 1954 at the age of two with his mother, three older brothers and a sister. They moved to the Dutchtown area of Rochester, which at that time had a large Italian presence and also where my mother's family had settled generations before. Eventually my parents got married and had two kids, first my sister, Franca, and then me.

Academics was very important to my family and my sister and I both graduated from high school with honors. My sister went on to become one of the top veterinarians at Orchard Park Animal Hospital. As for me, I've been working in the Engineering Department at the Town of Henrietta for the past 28 years and currently hold the position of Geographic Information Systems Operator. I'm married to an amazing wife that is one of our Trustees, Becky Wheeler-DiFilippo, and we have two daughters, a 25 year-old and a 12 year-old who is on the Autism Spectrum.

Many of you probably knew my uncle, Luigi DiFilippo who sponsored me when I joined the lodge in 2018. I have to say that I never thought in a million years that I'd eventually be the president. Joining our lodge was one of the most important choices I have made, allowing me to meet several wonderful people that share a similar background, but at the same time learning how diverse the Italian culture is from region to region, especially when it comes to food and some traditions. This is a very new type of position for me, but I have a great support system here and I know we are all going to do a wonderful job.

**I would love to see and/or hear from any of our members that have any ideas or even reasonable criticisms.** It's difficult to improve on things without constructive feedback and the strength of any lodge is dependent on its members and their participation. **Being a part of OSDIA gives us all the opportunity to belong to something grand and important, keeping our Italian heritage alive as well as helping out our community.**

Fraternally yours,  
Jeremy DiFilippo



### INIDE THIS ISSUE

Lodge Calendar	2
Members' News	3
April in Italy	6
Planting	9
The Bookshelf	10
CSJ Contest	11

### EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis

*"Spring has a way of bringing everything back to life,"* - Willie Nelson



### 2025 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 <b>Scholarship Awards Night</b>
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
September 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Council Meeting
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 Meeting/Holiday Gathering

### 2025 Lodge Events

<b>May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Italian Regional Dinner—4:00 PM</b> Eyer Building
<b>May 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Memorial Day Parade</b> East Rochester
<b>July 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Scholarships and Awards Night</b>
<b>August 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Summer Picnic</b> Quinzi Lodge, Eye Park
<b>September</b>	<b>Annual Pie Sale</b>
<b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Italian-American Heritage Dinner</b> Webster Country Club
<b>November</b>	<b>Turkey Raffle TBD</b> St. Nicholas Hall
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holiday Gathering</b> Eyer Building

### St. Nicholas Society

206 Madison St., East Rochester

**Happy Hour:** last Friday of the month 5-9 PM

#### Friday Fish Fry until Easter:

Fish or shrimp dinners \$15  
Children's meals \$5  
Make reservations by 2 pm on Friday.

April 19, 2025 [Saturday]  
**Spring Dance** - 6:30 pm - 9:00 PM

April 26, 2025 [Saturday]  
**Porchetta Dinner**

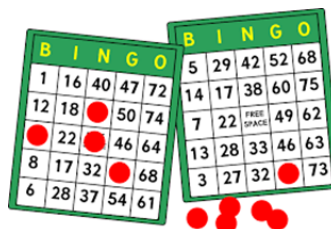
**Italian Dance Lessons** with Nino Spano  
call him at (585) 388-8381 for details

### Geneva Lodge

Fish Fry  
Fridays of Lent  
4:30—7:00  
\$16.00



Takeout: 315-781-2242



Bingo  
every Sunday  
2 PM



*"Spring is when life's alive in everything."* - Christina Rosetti

# Welcome, New Members

**Tara Sciortino**

**Peter Pullano**

At the Winter Picnic President Marjorie and Vince Gianantoni as Herald officially welcomed Tara and Peter.



**COMING  
ATTRACTION**



## April 10th Meeting

**Pizzelle Making**

from start to finish

by Brother Louis DeCarolis

*Assistants welcome*

**At the April meeting Brother Ed Groszewski will begin monthly presentations on learning Italian.**

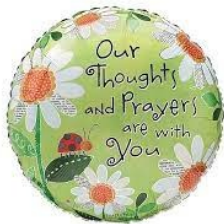
*“Sunshine and spring bring out the best in everyone.”*

Kenny Chesney



*Thinking  
of You*

**Do something today to make a difference:  
send a note, make a phone call, be present to someone.**



Sandy Meleca  
Dawn DiGennaro's wife  
Vince Giannantonio's sister  
Richard Meleca  
Patty and Gordie Rask  
Ron Santoli  
Dave Cook (*Geneva Lodge*)

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

### April Birthdays

Ray Macera	4/13
James Vacanati	4/13
Bonnie Catone	4/14
Frank DiFilippo	4/15
Brey Rufus	4/19
Gordon Rask	4/30



## FROM THE FRANK DIMINO CASA ITALIANA AT NAZARETH UNIVERSITY

### The Italian Conversation Table

This informal conversation group led by Daniel Speciale is held each Thursday evening at 5 pm. It is free and open to the public. For information contact Daniel at [dspeciao@naz.edu](mailto:dspeciao@naz.edu).



You will not be disappointed when you attend one of Tony Mangione one-time showing of the best of Italian cinema—films in the Italian language with English subtitles that promote Italian culture and heritage - at the Nazareth Arts Center Peace Theater. The next film is scheduled for Sunday, April 27th. Ticket price is \$15.00 and there is ample free parking near the theater. Round out the day by joining us after the film for a delightful Italian meal across the parking lot in the Frank DiMino Casa Italiana Building. Tickets are an additional \$25. Dinner reservations close at noon on the Thursday before the showing. Limited seating.



*"A kind word is like a spring day."* - Russian Proverb

## Our Lodge Installation of Officers —March 13, 2025



*Top row:*

Dave Cook (Geneva Lodge), Marjorie Focarazzo, Maurice Palucci, Melissa Distaffen, Marisa Przepiora, Carol DiNicola, Frank Giancaterin, Biagio Isgro, Jr. (Grand Lodge)

*Front row:*

Pat Galante, Joe Rubé, Nancy Rubé, Lorraine Palucci. Jeremy DiFilippo, Kitty DiNicola, Pat Bartholomew, Stephanie Salvatore

### Italian Civic League Scholarships

The deadline for the ICL \$1000 Scholarships is **April 15th**. Watch your e-mail for the application and more information. **There is no application fee**. Scholarships will be awarded at the **Columbus Day Luncheon** on



*Love yourself.*

*Get rid of the things that no longer serve you.*

*Leave places that no longer make you happy.*

*Detach yourself from people that no longer respect you.*

*It's that simple.*

*"Flowers always make people better, happier, more hopeful."*

- Luther Burbank



## Holy Week and Easter in Italy

*Italy is an intensely Roman Catholic country where they celebrate religious and cultural traditions associated with the Easter holiday.*

### Palm Sunday



Because palms are not readily available in Italy they are often replaced with branches from olive trees which symbolize both the local olive culture and peace. The Pope blesses both.

### Holy Thursday

The Pope traditionally celebrates two masses on Holy Thursday in Rome.

**Chrism Mass at St Peter's Basilica** in the morning when he blesses the holy oils to be used for the rest of the year in the sacraments of baptism, holy orders and the anointing of the sick.

**Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. John Lateran** in the early evening when the Pope washes the feet of twelve people to symbolize the humility of his office - 'not to be served, but to serve'.

### Good Friday

One of the highlights of the Good Friday observance in Rome is the *Via Crucis* when the Pope leads a solemn torchlight procession from the Colosseum to the Palatine Hill. The fourteen 'stations of the cross' are marked, each signifying a part of Christ's passion and death, and it's one of the most memorable things you'll ever see.



### Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday almost every church and cathedral celebrates the Resurrection of Christ. After the solemnity of the days between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, Easter Sunday bursts onto the scene with color, song, elation and great outpourings of gladness. Spring in Rome has arrived!



*"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own."*

- Charles Dickens

## Italian Easter Traditions

*A bonus of spending Easter in Italy is that it offers a unique opportunity to savor some of the specialty foods associated with the holiday.*

### 1. La Colomba

The first Italian Easter tradition is the typical soft cake called *colomba*, dove. It's very similar to the Christmas cake, Pandoro/panettone, except it is in the shape of a dove. The traditional recipe might have some candied fruit and is topped with almonds and pearly sugar, but you can also find cream or chocolate filled *colombo*. They say this cake got its name from the 1176 victory of Lombardy of the Holy Roman Empire, where miraculously, two doves appeared on the battleground.



### 2. Uovo di cioccolato



Chocolate eggs are also an important part of the Easter tradition. Unlike American/British culture where eggs are hidden and children go look for them, here the chocolate Easter eggs are huge, but hollow, so that a small gift can fit on the inside. The eggs are catered to a variety of ages with children's toys inside Kinder eggs for boys and girls and cheap jewelry or a free three month subscription to a video streaming service online.

### 3. La Pastiera

This is another Easter cake, with its origins in Naples. Legend has it that the wives of some fishermen put some eggs, ricotta, candied fruit, orange flowers, and grain in a basket as an offering to the sea to protect their husbands. During the night, the waves mixed the all the ingredients together leaving them with a delicious cake – *la pastiera*. This cake was made to celebrate springtime- the orange flower water to announce the coming of Spring, grain to symbolize wealth and fertility, and eggs representing birth.



### 4. Pasquetta

*Pasquetta*, means little Easter, hence the name. It is also called, *Lunedì dell'Angelo*, Monday of the Angel. This is the Monday where the women who cared for Jesus, return to the grave and the Angel announces that Jesus has risen from the dead. This is also a holiday in Italy. often spent with friends having a picnic or a barbecue if the weather is nice. The question usually is, "what are you doing for Pasquetta?" and **not** "what are you doing for Easter?"

There is a saying that goes *natale con i tuoi, pasqua con chi vuoi*, Christmas with your family, Easter with whoever you want. "Everyone" knows that it's expected you'll spend the Christmas holidays with your family, but you probably won't return home for Easter instead, you'll spend it with your friends, particularly the day after Easter, *pasquetta*. Schools, banks and most businesses are closed on Easter Sunday, and many of them remain closed or adjust their hours on Easter Monday (Pasquetta).

*"Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is."*

- Jessica Harrelson



## April News from Italy

### Dome of St. Peter's

The 14,000-ton, five-century-old dome of St. Peter's Basilica will debut new lighting to enhance Michelangelo's magnificent work.

The height of the dome is 120 meters (almost 400 feet) from the floor of the basilica to the roof of the cupola, and pilgrims who wish to get to the top of the dome can reach it by climbing its 537 steps.

These changes, which will be unveiled on Easter Sunday, April 20, will allow tourists and pilgrims to appreciate even more one of the most famous domes in the world.



Michelangelo's great Renaissance dome was built to house the remains of St. Peter. In fact, as Vatican expert Javier Martínez-Brocal explains if a fishing line with a lead weight at the end were dropped from the central point of the cupola, "it would rest right above the tomb of the fisherman of Galilee."



## 'Il Giorno Della Liberazione'

### Established April 25, 1949

Liberation Day is a national holiday in Italy that is annually celebrated on April 25. It marks the fall of Mussolini's Italian Social Republic and the end of the Nazi occupation in Italy in 1945, towards the end of the second World War.

The day is marked with speeches, the laying of wreaths and singing of *Bella Ciao*, the anthem of the anti-fascist resistance. Marching bands, music concerts, food festivals, political rallies, and other public gatherings take place in many places in Italy.

*The Italian flag is usually seen in parades o celebrate Liberation Day.*

Liberation Day is more than a historical commemoration, it is also a day to reflect on the values of freedom, peace and solidarity. At a time when democratic values are under pressure worldwide, this holiday is a reminder of how important it is to remain vigilant and work to preserve these ideals.

*"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."*

- Henri Matisse



## Mary, Mary Quite Contrary How Does Your Garden Grow?



Officially spring is here! It is a great time to start thinking about your fruit or vegetable garden. Some seeds do better if planted directly in the ground, so that old adage to wait until after Memorial Day when the likelihood of frost has past, still holds true.

Taking that into consideration those varieties of vegetables and **plants can be started inside now and later be transplanted.** Every plant is different, so they may need to be started at different times to be transplanted in the garden at the right time. Starting seeds inside is relatively easy. Containers can be as simple as an egg carton or a small plastic container. The key is to be sure that excess water can drain - a couple of punctured holes in the bottom will do the trick. It is best to use a starting mix rather than just using dirt from outside.

Once you have what you need to get started, the starting mixture should be moistened to the point it will hold its shape when picked up. It should be placed into the container, making sure there are no air pockets. Make an indentation in the middle of the mixture and place two to three seeds in the indentation and gently press down into the mixture. Again, read the directions on the seed packet to make sure if the seeds need light to germinate or should be covered by the mixture.



**Lighting** is important, but using what you already have is sufficient: regular florescent lights, a desk lamp, or just a windowsill with a good amount of sunshine. Make sure it is not drafty and away from heating registers. If growing lights are used, they should be kept no less than three inches above the tallest plant. Lighting should be on for 12 to 16 hours each day.

Gently mist the containers and then cover with plastic to keep the seeds warm and moist. Continue to mist until the seeds germinate. **Be sure not to let the mixture to completely dry out.** Once the seeds germinate, the plastic covering can be removed. Continue to mist until transplanted outside.

It is suggested to **transition** seedlings from indoors to outdoors. For the first two days, put your plants outdoors during the day in a protected area, where they'll only receive partial sun. Bring them inside for the night and water as needed. To transplant, dig a hole a little bigger than the plant's rootball and about the depth of the current container. Carefully remove the seedling from its container, place it in the hole and gently fill in dirt around the plant. Water immediately and keep it continuously moist, without allowing the soil to dry.



*“To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow.”*

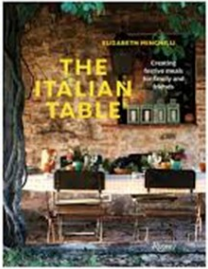
—Audrey Hepburn

## The Bookshelf

Reading books adds endless benefits to our daily lives, including stress-relief and entertainment. Reading books or even hearing them on tape can take you anywhere, anytime—even deep within yourself.



### This Month's Selection: *The Italian Table* by Elizabeth Minchilli *Creating Festive Meals for Family and Friends*



*The Italian Table* delivers both parts of the fantasy and reality of Italian meals as they would be eaten on location. Combining menus and recipes with visual experience and inspiration—as well as insight into the traditions of the food and celebrations—it serves as a practical resource that gives home cooks and hosts step-by-step guidance on how to re-create these fabulous meals at their own tables.

Menus and recipes include:

- Eating in the Market in Florence with Coward's Spaghetti and Pappa al Pomodoro;
- A Sunday Lunch in Emilia-Romagna with Ricotta and Swiss Chard Tortelli, Vegetable Pie, and Stuffed Pork Roast;
- A Table by the Sea in Positano  
with Mozzarella on Grilled Lemon Leaves, Squid and Walnut Salad, and Jackie O's Spaghetti.

There's a resources section for Italian ingredients, headnotes brimming with interesting history, recipe shortcuts, and serving suggestions. It also includes menu introductions detailing what to drink, how to set the table, and how to time the preparation and the party itself.

*This is an essential guide for home cooks and those who love to entertain.*

**Elizabeth Minchilli** is the author of nine books on the joys of Italian life. She has become a modern voice of where, what, and how to eat in Italy. Her true passion, however, is Italian food. Her favorite food is cheese. She says, "All cheese. And not just because I love eating cheese, but because behind each of the myriad chesses from all over Italy is a story."

Minchilli has eaten her way through Rome since she was 12. She knows the tastiest gelato and the best spot to sip a Negroni. Her previous book, "Eating My Way Through Italy," shared her tips for exploring Italy's diverse regions— from pizza in Naples to anchovies in Amalfi.

When asked to describe Italy in one sentence she replied: "*Italy is the speed bump that forces you to slow down and enjoy the scenery.*" Italians have mastered the art of *dolce far niente*—the sweetness of doing nothing!!



*"Happiness held is the seed. Happiness shared is the flower."*

- John Harrigan



New York State  
**Commission for Social Justice**  
*Order Sons of Italy in America*

**CSJ Christopher Columbus Award**  
**“Discovering The Truth”**

This award is open to students in grades 11-12 and who are children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of lodge members in good standing. The student must select one of the many anti-Columbus myths being repeated today and prove it wrong using reputable sources.

You can disprove a myth in one of two ways:

- Essay: Write a 500 (minimum) word essay
- Video: Compose a 3-minute (minimum) video

Awards will be distributed as follows: 1st Place \$1000, 2nd Place \$500, and 3rd place \$300.

The completed project is to be emailed to CSJ at [CSJD3@gmail.com](mailto:CSJD3@gmail.com) no later than June 1, 2025.

For more information and an application go to: [nyscsj.org/Documents/Discover](http://nyscsj.org/Documents/Discover)

In the spirit of Columbus, **EXPLORE** resources, **DISCOVER** the truth and **SHARE** this knowledge with the rest of the world!



**Did You Know?**

Columbus gave these instructions to his men January 2, 1493 before his first return trip to Spain:

*"I ordered and begged them not to cause offense or injury to any of the Indians, male or female, and not to take anything against their will. I especially told them to avoid committing any insult or violence against the women which might cause outrage, or give a bad example, or bring us into disrepute among the Indians, who are sure that we have all come from Heaven and are ambassadors of the heavenly virtues."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>"The Voyage of Christopher Columbus," *Columbus' Own Journal of Discovery Newly Restored and Translated* by John Cummins, p. 161.

*"An optimist is the human personification of spring."*

- Susan J. Bissonette



OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge  
37 Farnsworth Road N  
Rochester NY 14623

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Jeremy DiFilippo

**Vice-President**

Catherine (Kitty) DiNicola

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Stephanie Salvatore

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Shirley Sculli

Phillip Dattilo\*

Joseph Berta\*

Joseph Rubé

Jennifer Rubé\*

Vincent Giannantonio

Sandra Meleca

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