



The Roar of the Lion

December 2025

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

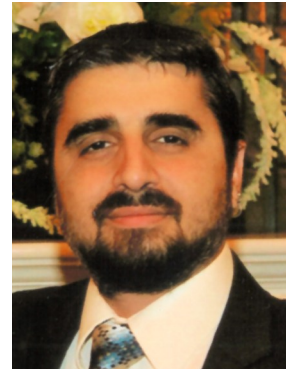
I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with minimal indigestion. December is here and so is the Christmas season. In lieu of our regular general assembly meeting this month, we will be having a **Christmas celebration for all ages**. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces and/or nephews, they are most welcome to join us. Santa will be visiting and there will be crafts and activities for the young ones. Feel free to bring a treat to share if you like.

Of course, the end of the year is also approaching. The council is reviewing the past year and coming up with the 2026 budget. **2025 has been a great year for our lodge and we're hoping that next year will be even better.**

As always, I'm open to suggestions and new ideas for presentations/guest speakers, events and the general function of the lodge. Shoot me an email (jjd1976.osdia@gmail.com), bring it up at a meeting or drop a note in our black suggestion box.

Buon Natale!

Jeremy DiFilippo



*Wishing you
a Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
filled with
great vibes,
good people,
and good times.*



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EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis\

2025 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

December 4th 6:30 Council Meeting
 December 11th 7:00 Meeting/Holiday Gathering

2025 Lodge Events

December 11th Holiday Gathering
 Eyer Building



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

Meeting ID: 816 1122 4522—Passcode: 906332

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88687598885?pwd=k0Okv9fYp3llkNiaefMdbj80frcNF6.1>

December 11th Holiday Gathering



This month's General Assembly will be a meeting like none other.

Santa will be visiting and there will be crafts and activities for the young ones. So, bring your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Feel free to bring a treat to share if you like.



Safe Harbors
 of the Finger Lakes
 Advocate. Educate. Support.

And don't forget a donation for Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes to help sustain their life-changing services.
 (Suggestions are on p. 5)

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients for a truly merry Christmas.

December Birthdays

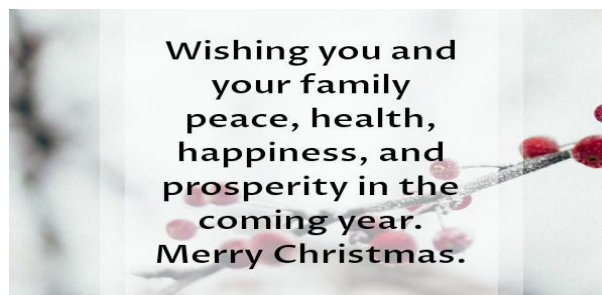
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- 12/1 Hon. Charles Schiano Jr
- 12/5 Mark Chester
- 12/9 Dr. Kenneth Nudo
- 12/9 Marisa Przepiora
- 12/11 Charlene Dodgson
- 12/15 Hon. James Vazzarno
- 12/19 Becky DeFilippo
- 12/20 Jennie Gugino
- 12/23 Dr. Maurice Pelucci
- 12/30 Lorraine Pelucci

Get Well Wishes

- Sandy Meleca
- Dawn DiGennaro's wife, Nancy
- Vince Giannantonio and Family
- Patty and Gordie Rask
- Rss Cottone
- Ron Santoli



Note from Our Corresponding Secretary, Pat Bartholomew

My duties include keeping the lodge informed of any news regarding our members, such as illnesses/hospitalizations, weddings, graduations, birthdays, passings-on, etc. So, if you have any news you'd like to share with the lodge, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Bartholomew
 Cell: 585-869-5062
 Email: pattyj7586@aol.com



New Feature



Spotlight on Member-owned Businesses

If you own a small business, we'd be happy to share information about your company/services with the membership.

Send to:
annette@decarolisgroup.com



BARK'S
 GOURMET DOG TREATS

Member Small Business Spotlight: Bark's Barkery Owner: Melissa Distaffen

At Bark's Bakery we make small batch treats with as many ingredients from local farms as possible. We locally source and hand process each ingredient, roasting and pureeing whole pumpkin, carrot and apple for each batch. Nothing unnatural and no additives. Only the best for your best friend!

- Flavors:
- Carrot & Pumpkin
 - Sweet Potato
 - Blueberry & Peanut Butter



Treats are \$10 for a 5oz bag (typically 13-15 treats per bag)

Treats are made fresh, so refrigerate and use within 5 days, or better yet, throw them in the freezer for long lasting fun!

We also love cats! \$1 from every purchase is donated to Love for Misfit Meeps Cat Rescue.

From the Financial Secretary

We are once again moving into a new year with **NO** increase to our member dues,
We thank you for your continued membership in our lodge and look forward to seeing you in 2026!

REMINDER OF DUES RENEWAL

2026 dues invoices will be emailed during the first week of December, so please keep an eye out, and don't forget to check your junk mail if you haven't seen the invoice by the end of the week. Please note, **your prompt dues payment saves us money** and is part of what helps us keep annual dues the same! When dues are paid by the stated due date of December 31, 2025, we save on costs associated with printing, mailing and postage to send 2nd and 3rd notices out. These costs add up, and every prompt dues payment helps offset those costs.

UPDATING MEMBER LIST

In January we have to reconcile our member list to the Grand Lodge. \$34 of your \$65 dues goes to the Grand Lodge each year for our per capita taxes. Our member list must be accurate at the beginning of the year so that we aren't overcharged by the Grand Lodge for members who don't end up renewing. Please send payment prior to the deadline of 12/31/25. And while we hate to lose even one member, we do understand that life happens and you may decide you will not be renewing. If this is the case, simply send an email to vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com to let us know and we will remove you from the list.

**Did you know you can pay for dues and events
and even make donations
to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge
by check or credit card ?**

To pay by Check

Print the invoice linked at the beginning of this newsletter and mail it with your payment to:

Marisa Przepiora,
2453 Wheeler Station Rd
Bloomfield, NY 14469

To pay by Credit Card:

Email vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com to request an invoice be sent to your email with a link for credit card payment.

~OR~ See Marisa at the December General Assembly Meeting and Holiday Gathering to pay using our credit card swipe machine.

A \$3 transaction fee will be added for this option. (This covers the fees our lodge pays for utilizing credit card payments).

However you choose to pay, you also have the option to include a donation to our lodge operating fund, our lodge scholarship fund, our local lodge charities and/or our Grand Lodge charities.

Please write all amounts paid on the invoice when mailing and include the names of all members whose dues are being paid so that we make sure dues payments are properly applied to your membership.

We thank you for your continued membership in our lodge and look forward to seeing you in 2026!



Vincent Lombardi Lodge Supply Drive for Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes

**CHARITY
SPOTLIGHT**

The Vincent Lombardi Lodge will be hosting a **Supply Drive** to benefit **Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes** during our **December General Assembly Meeting**.

In **2024**, Safe Harbors' impact was remarkable:

1,058 hotline calls answered

752 emergency shelter bed nights provided

2,200+ individuals supported through advocacy and crisis services

1,052 prevention presentations delivered to **18,305 community members**, including over **15,000 students (K-12)**

We invite you to support this important cause by donating items from the list below.

Shampoo/Conditioner

Body Soap/Body Lotion

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Children's Toys (new or gently used)

Children's Clothing

Winter hats/scarves/gloves

Deodorant/Antiperspirant

Hair Brushes and Accessories

Feminine Hygiene Products

Craft Kits for Children

Winter Coats for all ages

Adult and Child Coloring Books

Outdoor toys (sidewalk chalk, bubbles, lawn games)

Cleaning Supplies (Laundry, dishes, general all-purpose)

Community support is vital to help Safe Harbors sustain these life-changing services. Please consider making a donation to help Safe Harbors continue their mission of safety, healing, and hope for all those in need.

Monetary donations can be made by check or through our website at www.shflny.org/donate



*Giving is not just about making a donation.
It's about making a difference.*

Rochester Holiday Highlights

Rochester comes alive with warmth, light, and festive spirit during December and the holiday season with some of the city's most cherished traditions, including heartwarming performances, vibrant holiday markets, nostalgic activities, and captivating outdoor light displays. One of Rochester's most dazzling seasonal traditions: holiday lights! Cruise through neighborhoods or explore over-the-top displays like the Genesee Brew House Keg Tree, Shamrock Jack's Jameson Bottle Tree, and Bauman's Farm Christmas Tunnel.

Friday, December 5th, 5-9PM for the Genesee Keg Tree Lighting. A free family-event with live music, beer samples, and food trucks.



HOLIDAY LASER November 15 - January 4, 2026

The Strasenburgh Planetarium's family holiday spectacular returns as our new state-of-the-art laser system and full-dome visualization system combine to create a more colorful and immersive experience than ever before.

Experience the magic of the season at **West Wind Farm's new Holiday Light Show**—a drive-through event filled with dazzling displays and festive cheer. Featuring installations from the former *ROC Lights at Victor Hills*, this illuminated journey winds through the scenic farm, transforming the landscape into a winter wonderland of sparkling lights and joyful holiday scenes. The season begins with a special opening night on Tuesday, December 2, followed by regular show nights on **December 5–6, 12–13, 18–24, and 26**. While you're visiting, consider adding a stop at the **Pomona Express**, where families can enjoy crafts, letters to Santa, and cozy holiday activities. Then warm up next door at **Blue Barn Cidery**, featuring festive décor, local gifts, and seasonal drinks.



The Lamberton Conservatory Holiday Show runs from **Friday, December 5, 2025, through Sunday, January 11, 2026**. Step into warmth and color among poinsettias, tropical blooms, and twinkle lights. The Conservatory at Highland Park transforms into a lush indoor escape perfect for a winter's day wander.



The main December festival in Rochester is **Roc Holiday Village**, a free, family-friendly event in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park featuring an ice skating rink, Santa visits, a shopping village, live music, food trucks, and fire pits from **December 5-28, 2025**.



Get cozy and stay merry at **The Triple-O Lodge**, where the bar is stocked and the Charcuterie Bar will be inside with delicious boards to enjoy. Play free games in the mini arcade, catch the big game on TV, and enjoy free live music on the Simcona Stage every Wednesday (band karaoke), Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening. Tables are first come, first served. Be sure to grab a collectible mug for your cocoa, coffee, or mulled wine.

Rochester Holiday Highlights

A Holiday Cabaret with Chelsea and Geoff Packard

DEC 12 - DEC 14 | FIELDING STAGE at GEVA



In *Merry & Bright* Broadway veterans Chelsea and Geoff Packard return home to Rochester for a festive evening of holiday favorites and fresh new takes on beloved classics. Joined by the incomparable Tyler Driskill on piano, this holiday cabaret promises warmth, laughter, and song — the perfect kickoff to your holiday season. Come share hot cocoa, good cheer, and timeless tunes that are sure to leave you merry and bright.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES 2025

The **Edgerton Model Railroad Room** is open every Saturday in December from 11 AM to 2 PM



December 21st The Rochester Theater Organ Society (RTOS)

Presents: A Holiday Concert with accompaniment by **TIM SCHRAMM**



Beneath the Orchestra Pit of the Auditorium Theatre, resides a magnificent Wurlitzer 4/23 (opus 1951) theatre organ. The console rises, and the sound of 1,619 pipes, trumpets, clarinet, saxophone, drums, shimmering strings, or marimbas emanates from the filigreed proscenium arch surrounding the main stage. The Rochester Theater Organ Society (RTOS) was originally formed to rescue this organ from the downtown RKO Palace Theater, just before that 2,916-seat, luxurious 1928 movie house fell to the wrecking ball of urban renewal in the mid-1960s.

East Avenue glows with nostalgia each December, and the **George Eastman Museum** offers a full lineup of festive delights. Wander through the *Sweet Creations Gingerbread Display*, bid on artist-designed wreaths and trees, and settle in for a classic film at the historic Dryden Theatre—think *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, and more.



The **Dryden Theatre** is hosting a Holidays at the Dryden series, which will show various holiday and Christmas films: **Dec 5:** *It's a Wonderful Life*;

Dec 6 (2 p.m.): National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation*;

Dec 6: *Deaf Santa Claus*; **Dec 10:** *It's a Wonderful Life*

Dec 13 (2 p.m.): *It's a Wonderful Life*; **Dec 18:** *A Christmas Carol*;

Dec 20 (2 p.m.): *A Christmas Carol*;

Theater in Rochester



Saturday, December 13th

Santocielo 4:00—7:00 PM

Nazareth Arts Center's Peace Theater



Story line: A heavenly crew wonders why humans are still so selfish 2,000 years after Jesus' sacrifice, so they send a brand-new Messiah down to Earth to set things straight.

One reviewer applauds it as “another Ficarra e Picone masterpiece.” As usual, Ficarra and Picone show their ability to tackle deep and complex social problems by making a film that can make you laugh and cry at the same time. Ficarra as sarcastic and malicious, and Picone as simple-minded, are perfectly crafted. If you are searching for a film that is just fun and jokes, you'll be disappointed. If you are ready for something that entertains and makes you think, this is for you. However, another critic commented that the film *Santocielo* of 2023 presents itself as a Christmas comedy with enticing promises but, unfortunately, never fully captures its comedic and narrative potential.

La Ciociara Screening—Sunday, Dec. 14th—5-6 PM

In Italian with English subtitles. Free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be provided.

During World War II, Italian widow Cesira (Sophia Loren) must leave Rome with her daughter when the city comes under attack by Allied forces. Their bond is strained as they struggle to overcome the tragedy that changes them both forever.



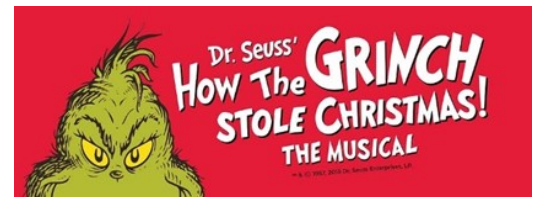
OFC Creations Theatre Center

3450 Winton Place—Free Parking and ADA compliant



Dec. 3-7 Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas brings the beloved Jim Henson television special to life, live on stage. This nostalgic tale takes us to Frogtown Hollow, where Ma and Emmet Otter risk what little they have to make each other's holiday dreams come true. This very merry musical is a heartwarming celebration perfect for the entire family.

December 18, 2025 - January 4, 2026



A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT GEVA

A TALE OF HOPE, HUMOR, AND HEART

Rochester's favorite holiday tradition returns **NOV 22 - DEC 28, 2025.**



Traditional Christmas Sweets

Italian cuisine is renowned for its rich flavors and diverse regional specialties, and this culinary tradition shines even brighter during the holiday season. December in Italy is a time for indulging in festive foods and treats that reflect the country's cultural heritage and love for good food. Following are some of the festive foods and treats that make an Italian Christmas special.

Panettone



Panettone is perhaps the most iconic Italian Christmas cake, enjoyed by families all over the country. This tall, dome-shaped sweet bread originates from Milan, studded with candied fruits and raisins. The dough is enriched with butter and eggs, resulting in a light and airy texture.

Pandoro

Pandoro, meaning “golden bread,” is another beloved Christmas cake from Verona. Unlike Panettone, it is free of fruit and has a star-shaped form. It is dusted generously with powdered sugar, resembling the snow-capped peaks of the Italian Alps.



Torrone



Torrone is a traditional nougat made with honey, sugar, egg whites, and a variety of nuts such as almonds, hazelnuts, or pistachios. This sweet treat comes in hard and soft varieties, sometimes including candied fruit or chocolate.

Struffoli

Struffoli is a Neapolitan Christmas dessert with small, deep-fried dough balls coated in honey and decorated with colourful sprinkles and candied fruit. This sweet treat is often shaped into a wreath or piled into a pyramid.



Ricciarelli



Ricciarelli are almond cookies from Siena, typically enjoyed during the holiday season. These soft, chewy cookies are made with almond flour, sugar, and egg whites. They are often flavored with orange zest and dusted with powdered sugar.

Panforte

Panforte is a dense, spicy fruitcake from Siena, made with nuts, dried fruit, honey, and a mix of spices, including cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. This cake has a chewy texture and a rich, complex flavor.



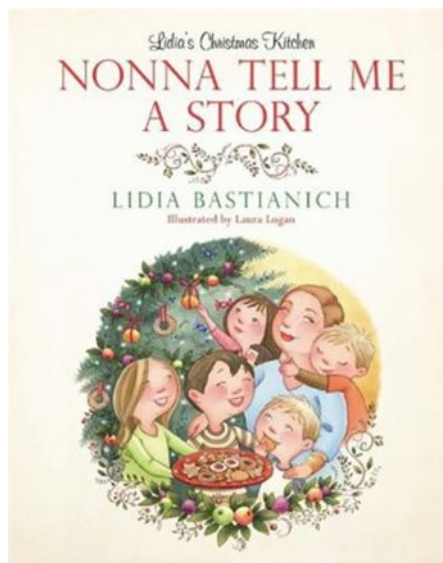
The Bookshelf

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.



This Month's Selections is Nonna Tell Me a Story



America's favorite Italian-American cook, Lidia Bastianich, shares the story of the Christmases she used to celebrate in Italy with her five grandchildren. When Lidia was a child, she spent Christmas with her grandparents, where she learned to cook with her Nonna Rosa by preparing food in their smokehouse and kitchen. Lidia and her brother would also find a big, beautiful juniper bush to cut down for their holiday tree. And they made their own holiday decorations with nuts, berries, and herbs they collected for their meals.

This delightful picture book is filled with the story of Lidia's Christmas traditions, delicious recipes, and decorating ideas all perfected over the years by Lidia and her family.

Lidia Giuliana Matticchio Bastianich grew up in a small town in Italy where neighbors were like extended family. If kids came home from school and mom was out, they went to the neighbors for a snack. The Emmy Award-winning TV host, author and restaurateur remembers her grandmother making an extra pot for lunch and sending young Lidia next door with it to feed her blind, elderly neighbor, along with a glass of wine.



That sense of community is not specific to Italy, of course, but Bastianich believes we need to nurture it ever more. She's hoping to spotlight and cultivate togetherness with her 14th TV special, "Lidia Celebrates America: A Nation of Neighbors," which premieres Nov. 25 on PBS and streams on PBS.org.

"It's my way of really thanking America. I think that there's no better place in the whole world than the United States of America," she says. "What I know is that out there, in the midst of America, there's a lot of good American people."



Italian Charities of America Founded 1936

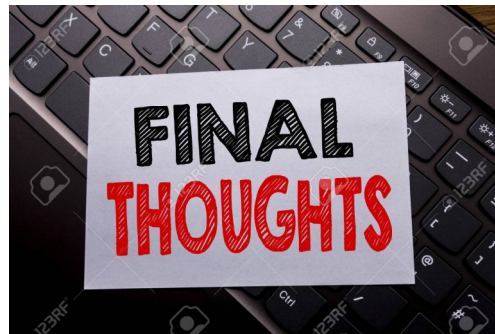
Italian Charities of America invites you to join a Virtual Presentation on Zoom
Two-Part Historical Speaker Series of the 1891 LYNCHINGS In New Orleans
by Sal Perricone, Author of *Cobblestones: A Novel of New Orleans*

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, | 7:00pm EST

How the city of New Orleans was structured before and during the immigration surge

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, | 7:00pm EST

The legal, social and other ramifications of the tragedy.



A small boy stood on the pavement, selling tissues, as a wealthy man nearby scrolled through his phone. Without a word, the man handed the boy a dollar, refusing to take any tissues in return.



The boy, clutching the note tightly, wandered over to a shoe shop and gazed longingly at his worn-out shoes, then at a fine pair displayed in the window—its price tag reading “\$50.”

The wealthy man, having quietly observed the boy, stepped into the shop. Moments later, he emerged with a smile and drove away without a word. Shortly after, the shopkeeper replaced the price tag on the shoes with one that read, “\$1.”

The boy, eyes wide with disbelief, dashed inside and bought the shoes, thinking the price had miraculously dropped. He walked out with his new shoes, his face glowing with joy and a smile laced with quiet pride.

*How beautiful it is to do good in secret, without seeking praise—
to preserve the dignity of those less fortunate,
for pride resides in every soul.*



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Patricia Bartholomew

Corresponding Secretary

Patricia Bartholomew

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