



The Roar of the Lion

July 2025

A Word from the President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone's summer is going well and everyone is keeping cool. I've just returned from the **117th New York State OSDIA Convention**, accompanied by Immediate Past President Marjorie Focarazzo and Delegates



Catherine "Kitty" DiNicola and Becky DiFilippo. Also attending from our lodge were 8th District State Trustee Vincent Giannantonio, Newsletter Competition Chair Dr. Joseph Rubé and Nancy Rubé. The convention was very productive and ran smoothly with the election of new state officers, specifically newly elected State President Arthur

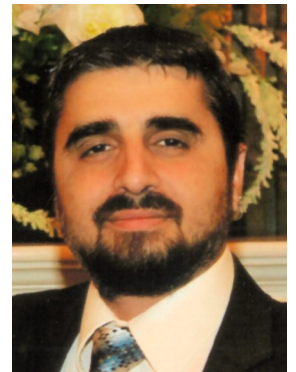
Spera. I would like to also highlight that we had a \$100 lotto ticket winner of \$1000 that was purchased by five of our members. Last, but not least, we also brought home **an award for our newsletter for Best Layout for Print and Composition**. Congratulations and many thanks to our newsletter editor, Annette DeCarolis, for her hard work and dedication making this possible. A more detailed report on the convention will be given at our August general assembly meeting.

Of course here in the states we will be celebrating **Independence Day on July 4th**, with many celebrations and fireworks going on throughout the country. July happens to be a very popular month for many different festivals throughout the regions of Italy. Notably *Palio di Siena* which is one of Europe's most celebrated horse races which happens on July 2nd and again on August 16th.

The July General Assembly meeting (**July 10th** at 7:00pm in the Community Room of the Eyer Building) will be our **Scholarship Night** where we will be awarding our scholarship winners. Please consider joining us to help celebrate these smart and talented young people as they enter the next chapter of their lives. Food and drinks will be available after the meeting.

Tanti auguri per l'estate!

Jeremy DiFilippo



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EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis



"America is a tune. It must be sung together."

- Gerald Stanley Lee

2025 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

July 3 rd	6:30 Council Meeting
July 10 th	7:00 Scholarship Awards Night
August 7 th	6:30 Council Meeting
August 14 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
September 4 th	6:30 Council Meeting
September 11 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
October 2 nd	6:30 Council Meeting
October 9 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
November 6 th	6:30 Council Meeting
November 13 th	7:00 General Assembly Meeting
December 4 th	6:30 Council Meeting
December 11 th	7:00 Meeting/Holiday Gathering

2025 Lodge Events

July 10th	Scholarships and Awards Night
August 23rd	Summer Picnic Quinzi Lodge, Eye Park
September	Annual Pie Sale
October 18th	Italian-American Heritage Dinner Webster Country Club
November	Turkey Raffle TBD St. Nicholas Hall
December 11th	Holiday Gathering Eyer Building



This is YOUR organization

YOU can be at every Monthly Meeting

Meeting ID: 816 1122 4522

Passcode: 906332

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



July 10th

Scholarships and Awards Night

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



*This is YOUR club — Be engaged, be involved,
attend meetings and events.*



*“I believe in America because we have great dreams,
and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true.”*

- Wendell L. Wilkie

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

Sometimes your presence is the only thing that can make a difference for someone.



**Our Thoughts
and Prayers
are With you**

Get Well Wishes

Sandy Meleca

Dawn DiGennaro's wife, Nancy
Vince Giannantonio and Family
Patty and Gordie Rask
Ron Santoli

Sympathy and Condolences

Louis and Cindy DeCarolis, on the passing of Cindy's Mom

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

July Birthdays

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



**Vincent Lombardi Lodge members
at Italian Civic League Bocci Tournament**



"Patriotism is like charity—it begins at home."

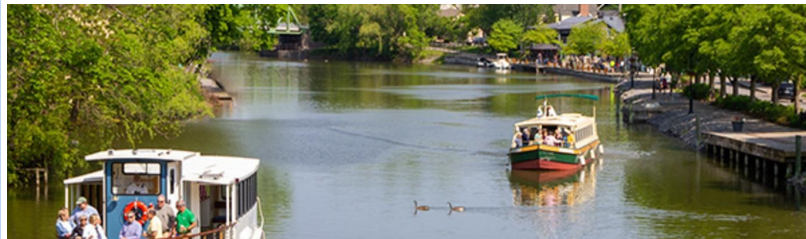
- Henry James

A National Treasure

Celebrating the Erie Canal's 200th Year in the Rochester Area

Completed in 1825 the original Erie Canal traversed 363 miles from Albany to Buffalo. It was the longest artificial waterway and the greatest public works project in North America.

The canal put New York on the map as the Empire State—the leader in population, industry, and economic strength. It transformed New York City into the nation's principal seaport and opened the interior of North America to settlement.



Equally important, the Erie Canal became a central element forging our national identity. Built with a combination of vision, determination, ingenuity, and hard work, the Erie Canal solidified these central elements of our American character.

Fun fact: The Village of Fairport was once known as Perrinsville but was renamed after the construction of the canal because it was considered a very “fair port” for an overnight stay for passing travelers. If you visit the village today, you’ll likely find it just as inviting!

Fairport is also where you can experience the Erie Canal from aboard the Colonial Belle, or while rowing a fully accessible kayak from Erie Canal Boat Company.

Fairport also has a ton of local shopping and dining to explore.

Spencerport Canal Days

July 26th and 27th

10:00am - 5:00pm

2 days of Crafters, live entertainment, food vendors,

Tasting Tent, Children's Tent

Sunday at 4:30 - Canaligator Race



Originally a farm known as “Spencer’s Basin”, the Erie Canal helped turn Spencerport into the quaint and charming town it is today.

Stop by Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum and learn about some interesting history about the Erie Canal. Beyond canal history, the museum features historical items from the Ogden Telephone Company, Village of Spencerport, and Town of Ogden. The museum opened for the season on June 2.

In future issues, we'll highlight events on the canal in Brockport, Corn Hill, and Pittsford.



“America was not built on fear, America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

- Harry S. Truman

Our Flying Colors



The flag of the United States, sometimes referred to as the American Flag, or lovingly as “Old Glory,” the “Stars and Stripes,” and the “Star Spangled Banner,” has stood as a symbol of freedom since 1777, and its design encompasses both our nation’s history and patriotic ideals. The design of the flag has been modified officially 26 times since then. On July 4, 2007, the 50-star flag became the version of the flag in the longest use. Because of the country's emergence as a superpower in the 20th century, the flag is now among the most widely recognized symbols in the world.

It is, of course, common knowledge that the 50 stars represent the 50 states of the Union and the 13 alternating red and white stripes represent the 13 original colonies; however, the colors of the flag also hold important meaning.

Red

The color red represents hardiness and valor, as well as courage and readiness to sacrifice. It is also sometimes said to represent the blood shed by those who have fought to protect our freedom and our country.

Blue

The color blue signifies justice for all, as well as vigilance and perseverance. A reminder that we must remain watchful and strong.

White

The color white stands for purity and innocence. Pure, because we are independent from other countries and hold true to our ideals.

These colors were deliberately chosen to reflect the beliefs and values that our Founding Fathers deemed essential to building our nation.

The flag is customarily flown year-round at most public buildings, and it is not unusual to find private houses flying full-size flags especially for civic holidays like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Presidents' Day, Flag Day, and on Independence Day, the 4th of July.

Most of us grew up knowing not to let a flag touch the ground, along with many other customs. The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

There are multiple Flag Code violations that are generally meant to maintain the emblem's reputation based on the time that the flag is displayed, where and how. However, these guidelines are only stated in non-binding language such as, "should" and "custom," meaning there is no penalty for violating any of its provisions.



"Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong." - James Bryce

What is Behind the Green, White, and Red



The Italian tricolor flag is one of the most recognizable in the world with its three equally sized vertical shaped colors. It has been said that the green, white and red of the Italian flag stand for the plains and hills found around the peninsula, the snowcaps of the Alps and the blood spilt by Italian soldiers during the 19th-century independence wars. While plausible, it is false. The origins of the Italian tricolor have very little to do with the features of the Italian landscape and date back to a time well before the Italian independence wars.

Actually, the birth of the Italian flag can be traced back to the late 1700s, when Napoleon's Italian campaigns led to the fall of most of the existing monarchical states in northern and central Italy. Napoleon's army was composed mainly of Italian soldiers, and it was one of these groups stationed in the Lombard(y) region that was the first to carry the tricolored flag in 1796. It is believed the shape of the flag was inspired by that of the French flag, which was the symbol of the French revolutionary movements. The colors—green, white, red—were influenced by Milan's coat of arms, a white shield with a red cross and the green uniforms worn by the Milanese National Guard.

The tricolors were adopted by other military units and on January 7, 1797, it became the national flag of the Cispadane Republic, which is now the region of Emilia-Romagna.

January 7th is considered the birth of the Italian flag and is now National Flag Day, but history had its own twist of faith. When Napoleon was defeated in 1814, the monarch returned to rule and the tricolor was banned. The penalty in the Lombardo-Venetian regions was so stringent that to even have a tricolored flag was subject to death. By the mid-19th century, the tricolor made a resurgence and became the symbol of independence and unification. When the conflicts ended, Victor Emmanuel II adopted the tricolor flag as the national flag of the newly founded Kingdom of Italy.



After WWII when Italy became a democratic republic, the tricolor was kept as the national flag with the elimination of the Savoy coat of arms from the center.

Today, most Italians love the tricolor flag and proud of what it stands for. It is flown during public ceremonies on government buildings as well as private residences. It is usually flown publicly when national sports teams play in big competitions.

Italians are particularly sensitive when their flag is mistaken for other flags—especially the Mexican flag which is also green, white and red. Their pride is such that anyone who vilifies the national flag with offensive expressions can be fined 5,000 euros, and anyone who intentionally destroys or defaces it could face a prison sentence of up to two years.



“Liberty is the breath of life to nations.”

- George Bernard Shaw

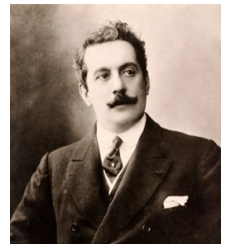
Festa Italiana

Sagra Del Limone, July 12th-13th. Held in Massa Lubrense, Campania. They honor a specific type of lemon that is native to this area, the femminiello or “oval lemon,” which is characterized by straw yellow pulp, juice rich in vitamin C and mineral salts, peel is rich in essential oils.



Il Festino Di Santa Rosalia, July 14th– 15th in Sicily. It is an annual festival celebrated in Palermo, Sicily, in honor of Saint Rosalia, the city's patron saint. It's a major social and religious event, with festivities typically taking place around July 14-15. The festival commemorates the discovery of Santa Rosalia's relics and her protection of the city from a plague in 1624. The festival features grand processions, including the *Carro Trionfale* (Triumphal Float) carrying the statue of Santa Rosalia, and the Solemn Procession with her relics. The *Festino* is a deeply religious event, with Masses, prayers, and pilgrimages to the Sanctuary of Santa Rosalia on Monte Pellegrino. Rosalia nicknamed *la Santuzza* ("the Little Saint"), is the patron saint of Palermo in Italy,

Puccini Festival marks its 71st year from July 18th thru Sept. 6th at Torre del Lago in Tuscany. These three operas are considered the most famous: *La bohème*, *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*. The annual opera festival attracts more than 40,000 people to the open-air theatre, a short distance from the Villa where he lived and worked. Puccini is buried in a small chapel inside the villa.



La Festa del Redentore (Fear of the Redeemer), celebrated on the third Sunday in July in Venice is one of the most important events in Venice. It began as gratitude for the plague epidemic 1576-1577 and a religious festival with deep history and traditions.



The Church of the Redentore was built to honor the 50,000 people, one-third of the population of Venice, who died. Andrea Palladio, a renowned architect of the time, designed the church. The foundation stone of the church (located on the Giudecca Island) was laid on May 3, 1577, and to celebrate the end of the plague, a pontoon bridge was built to reach the site of the Basilica. The Reentore Regattas are key events in the festival. They take place on the Giudecca Canal with competitive rowing in various categories and showcase Venice's maritime heritage.



“The land of opportunity. You just need the right people and the right work ethic and you can accomplish anything.” - Bob Poser

Milano

A visit to Milan will provide the perfect balance between history and modern times.



Duomo di Milano is the second largest cathedral in the world.* It is a masterpiece which took over 500 years to build, starting in 1386 until 1965. The exterior has 2300 intricately carved statues of religious figures from the bible. In the interior are thousands of statues, floor to ceiling marble columns, gilded ceilings, stained-glass windows, and paintings scattered throughout the building.

**The largest cathedral in the world, based on interior area and volume, is St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.*



Interesting fact: At the entrance to the Duomo, above the central door, to the left of the balcony is **La Legge Nuova** (The New Law), crafted by sculptor Camillo Pacetti.

This statue was said to be the source of inspiration for Frederic Auguste Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty that stands in New York Harbor.



Milan has been described as the fashion capital of the world and with good reason. **Giorgio Armani**, considered the godfather of fashion, began his career in the 1950's in La Rinascente Department Store as a window dresser. In 1975 he founded Giorgio Armani S.p.A. and presented his first collection of men's ready-to-wear clothes under his new name in 1976. He did the same for a line of women's clothing. Along with Armani, within the Quadrilatero D'Oro are designers of fashion wear such as Dole & Gabbana, Prada, Moschino, Versace, Valentino, Fendi, Bottega, Veneta, Missoni and Ferragamo.



But Milan is more than just a fashion city. **The Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is the world's most beautiful shopping arcade as well as a major historical landmark.** Constructed in 1865 of iron and glass and built in the shape of a cross, it might be considered **the first indoor mall of shops.**



"This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."

- Thurgood Marshall

Peppers

Peppers are a staple ingredient of Italian cooking, with both sweet and hot varieties playing significant roles in the cuisine.



The pepper season in Italy comes early. "*Peperone*" refers to sweet bell peppers, while "*peperoncino*" is the term for hot chili peppers. Everyone has their favorite, but the ones that are misshapened, the ones grown naturally are always so much better.

Some favorites in Italy are:

Friggitello is a southeastern Italian pepper. Friggitello peppers are available from late summer through fall, and they're usually sautéed in oil with garlic, basil, and tomatoes.



Peperone di Pontecorvo has a sweet flavor, a very thin skin, and delicate flesh. Excellent in salads but can be grilled or preserved in oil and served with charcuterie and cheeses. For a fancy appetizer, Pontecorvo peppers can be blended into a tapenade and spread over crunchy crostinis or bruschettas.



Peperone di Senise refers to fresh, dried or powdered chili pepper of the *Tronco*, *Uncino* and *Appuntito* varieties, grown between the rivers of Agri and Sinni, within the provinces of Matera and Potenza.

Stuffed Peppers

Ingredients

- 2 very large peppers
- 2 cups tomato sauce
- 1/2 pound ground beef or turkey
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup cooked white or brown
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella



Instructions

- Cut the tops off the peppers and remove the seeds.
- Place the peppers in a large saucepan, cover with water, cook until slightly soft.
- Drain, rinse with cool water and set aside on paper towels to drain.
- In a skillet, heat the ground beef and onion, cook and drain.
- Add salt, pepper, rice, garlic powder and half of the tomato sauce.
- Stir well and spoon into the peppers.
- Top with the other half of the tomato sauce and mozzarella.
- Bake uncovered at 350° for 25-30 minutes. Serve warm.



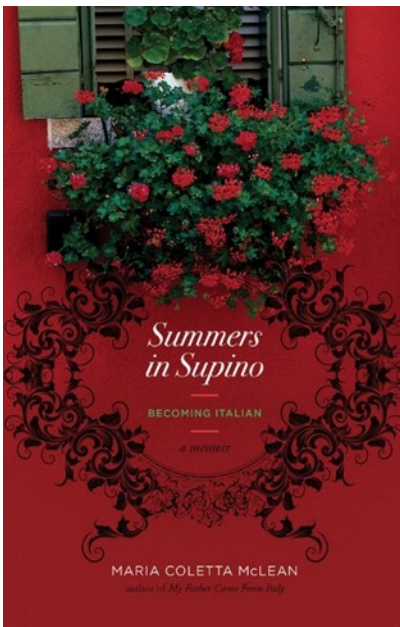
"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." - Peter Marshall

The Bookshelf

This Month's Selection: *Summers in Supino*



Full of wonderfully vivid stories of Italy, this book explores loss, grief, and the restorative power of community.



Every summer Maria and her husband, Bob, went to their little house in the Italian village of Supino, and every year it was a new adventure. Only in Supino would you find a pizzeria in a sheep pasture, a seafood restaurant hidden in the woods, or an electrical cord draped from one balcony to the next so neighbors could share power. In Supino, they celebrate the first figs of the season; host watermelon and artichoke festivals; and take pleasure in the magical view of the stars in the summer sky.

Written with humor and heart, *Summers in Supino* is Maria Coletta quickly transports readers into the charm and richness of village life: terra cotta rooftops, hills of beech trees and vineyards, cascading azaleas, friendly neighbors, bountiful gardens, and village shops. Readers can vicariously breakfast at Bar Italia with cappuccinos and cornettos, collect fresh bread and groceries from the street market, attend festivals in the surrounding villages, dine on local specialties, and experience the

intricacies and eccentricities of Supinese life. Bob decides to leave his business in Toronto in order to open his own cafe in Supino. That dream is scuttled when he is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, but the tragic turn also reveals how the summer visitors have become citizens. Bob is mourned as a "son of Supino." The idyll becomes a story of love and family.

Maria Coletta McLean is the former Owner at Columbia Coffee & Tea Co. She is also the author of the bestselling memoir *My Father Came From Italy* and the editor of *Mamma Mia! Good Italian Girls Talk Back*. Professor of English and Creative Writing at Seneca Polytechnic, she lives in Toronto and maintains a home in the village of Supino.



“Freedom is the open window through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity.” - Herbert Hoover





JOHN DABBENE ITALIAN HERITAGE ESSAY CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE NYS COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSJ)

Eligibility: A child, grandchild, niece, or nephew entering grades 7-12 in September 2025 of members in good standing..

The goal of this essay contest is to help students better understand their Italian heritage and culture. This is an opportunity to share stories with our children and to keep alive our heritage from a personal perspective. Textbooks tell the facts, but they lack the human nature that is involved. Stories of triumphs and struggles, sacrifices, disadvantages, and losses give us insight into who we are and how we got to this point.

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.

For an application and additional information, contact mafocarazzo@gmail.com.

Mail to: All essays must be mailed and RECEIVED by SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.

Geraldine Iannello Graham, Chairperson
John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest
53 Brookside Drive
Smithtown, NY 11787

Who is John Dabbene?

John Dabbene was born in Brooklyn, NY. In 1980, he was a co-founder of the Commission for Social Justice. As president of the Father Vincent R. Capodanno Lodge,, Mr. Dabbene instituted the lodge's first scholarship, library-donation, and positive-image programs in association with local elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. In 1982, the lodge selected Mr. Dabbene as Italian-American Man of the Year. In 1989 he led a protest of alleged bias against Italian-American faculty members at Queens College.



Although involved in many Italian American organizations, from 2001 to 2009, as chairman of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, he restructured the facility's mission to include language classes, exhibitions, and speakers.

John Dabbene was an activist and an advocate as to how Italian Americans are perceived, to rid the stereotypical perception, to promote and acknowledge Italian American achievements that benefit society, and to gain respect. Participating in this essay contest is a way of showing what John Dabbene hoped to achieve.

"There is one thing that the American people always rise to and extend their hand to, and that is the truth of justice and of liberty and of peace."

– Woodrow Wilson



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Phillip Dattilo*

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