



The Roar of the Lion

September 2025

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Summer seems to have flown right by. The fall season is here, and I've already noticed some leaves changing colors. This upcoming General Assembly meeting (September 11th), we will be celebrating *Festa dell'Uva* or **Grape Festival**. So come join us to indulge in grape treats and if you'd like, bring a bottle of homemade or your favorite wine to share.



Also, at this meeting, we will be pulling the winning numbers for our **share-the-wealth board** and starting our next board. There will be two lucky winners of \$250 each. I hope to see you there!



I'm keeping this letter short, as I'm currently relaxing with my lovely family at the aptly named Autumn Lake.

Tanti auguri per l'autunno!

Jeremy DiFilippo

Planning Ahead for Italian Heritage Month in October

Sunday, October 5th Italian Heritage Day in Rochester, NY

at the **Public Market** from 11:00—4:00

The **FREE** event will feature

authentic Italian and Italian-American food, art,

a sampling of live Italian music and interactive cultural activities.

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EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis\

ON THIS *Day* WE ARE ALL *Italian*

2025 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

September 4th 6:30 Council Meeting
 September 11th 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
 October 2nd 6:30 Council Meeting
 October 9th 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
 November 6th 6:30 Council Meeting
 November 13th 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
 December 4th 6:30 Council Meeting
 December 11th 7:00 Meeting/Holiday Gathering

2025 Lodge Events

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

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



Meeting ID: 816 1122 4522—Passcode: 906332

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

**COMING
 ATTRACTION**



Saturday, September 6th, 4:00

Movie: *L'abbaglio*

The **Italian Film Series** and the **Frank DiMino Casa Italiana** are proud to bring contemporary Italian films to the Peace Theater at the Nazareth Arts Center. Tickets are \$15, or \$7.50 for Casa Members.

When introducing *L'Abbaglio (The Illusion)* at the film's Milan premiere, director Roberto Andò said. "It was a special trip, everything was possible in that historical moment; the hope that something important and very big could come true, and the danger that nothing could occur. So the two forces of life come into play: the illusion, and the disillusion." Garibaldi, the hero of Italian unification, backed the uprisings against the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, ruling Southern Italy at that time. He then became the leader of a five-month revolution that gained momentum, defeated the King and redirected Italian history.



Get Well Wishes

Sandy Meleca

Dawn DiGennaro's wife, Nancy
Vince Giannantonio and Family

Sam LaPietra's son, Joey

Patty and Gordie Rask

Nancy Rubé

Ron Santoli

September Birthdays



9/5	Hon. Michael Sciortino
9/6	Paatrick Bernunzio
9/9	Ross Cottoe
9/10	Angela Giancaterin
9/28	Sal Cutaia

LEAD WITH KINDNESS

Live with gratitude

Our New Corresponding Secretary,

Pat Bartholomew

Pat was formerly our Recording Secretary and was elected our Corresponding Secretary in February. Her 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 Pat. Her contact information is below. The best way to contact her is by phone or text. She looks forward to hearing from you.



Thank you, Pat, for your willingness to continue serving your fellow members of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge.

Pat Bartholomew

Cell: 585-869-5062

Email: pattyj7586@aol.com

PIE SALE

A flyer is attached for our **Annual Pie Sale** from the Holy Childhood Special Touch Bakery. The deadline for orders is November 1st.

This year, you can also **donate a pie for \$18 to a victim of domestic violence and their family** to help make this holiday special. You do nothing after your order is placed. Sister Marisa Przepiora will pick up the donated pies and deliver them to clients of Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.



Sausage Making and our Annual Picnic

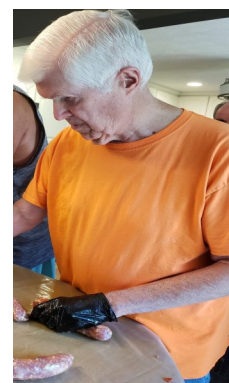
Charlene Dodgson joins the Meleca family to operate the machinery that fills the sausage casings



Char Dodgson and Louis DeCarolis



Artisans Tom Meleca and Fran Giancaterin



My name is **Emma Rosato**. I am currently a junior at Syracuse University where I study Mechanical Engineering. I am also a **past recipient of a scholarship through the Vincent Lombardi Lodge in 2023**. This scholarship helped with my tuition costs at Syracuse, my freshman year.



This past spring, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Florence, Italy. I was able to gain a diverse perspective on engineering and also was able to get closer to my Italian Heritage.

My grandparents immigrated to the United States when they were children and young adults. Throughout my life, I have heard stories and seen pictures of this beautiful country, and in January 2025, I started my four-month stay in Florence, Italy. I lived with other Syracuse students in an apartment in the center of Florence. I learned the language and participated in the local community. I walked to il Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio and mass at il Duomo di Firenze. I experienced Italian cooking and lots of gelato. I was fortunate enough to travel to Venice, Rome, Arezzo, Trieste, and Livorno to immerse myself in other areas of the country.

I was able to participate in the study abroad program because of the **Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship**. This federal scholarship allows students across the country the opportunity to participate in study abroad. Students like me who had never left the United States or been on an airplane. Yes, my first flight was a 10-hour international flight! This scholarship helped me pay for tuition and living costs while I was in Florence. Studying abroad was an amazing experience which left me full of memories, helped me gain a greater sense of independence, and allowed me to connect to my ancestry.

If you know someone interested in studying abroad, you can find more information on the Gilman Scholarship using the following link: [Program Overview-Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#).

Thank you for this opportunity to share this experience and the continued support from your community.

Emma Rosato

The **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program** is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

The Gilman Program supports American students to gain proficiency in a variety of languages and cultures, skills that are critically important to their academic and career development.

The program encourages students to study or intern abroad in all world regions and from all U.S. states, academic fields, and types of institutions. Almost 60% of all Gilman scholars come from small towns or rural communities across the United States.

Nearly 3,000 scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded this academic year for U.S. citizen undergraduates to study or intern abroad.

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process and must use the award to defray eligible study or intern abroad costs. These costs include program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance, international airfare, passport and visa fees.



The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) designs and implements educational, professional, and cultural exchange and other programs that create and sustain the mutual understanding with other countries necessary to advancing United States foreign policy goals. ECA programs cultivate people-to-people ties among current and future global leaders that build enduring networks and personal relationships and promote U.S. national security and values.

ENJOY WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY

The Strong National Museum of Play



MUSEUM MONDAYS FOR SENIORS

EXPLORE. LEARN. CONNECT

Individuals ages 55 and older can purchase discounted tickets for \$17, which includes admission to the museum and *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*. On select Mondays tickets also include unique, educational presentations in the museum's Psychex Theater at 11AM.

Monday, September 29: Evolving a Dream: Margaret Woodbury Strong to The Strong Museum

With her drive, financial assets, and compelling vision, Margaret Strong was one of the notable collectors of the 20th century. Find out more about how her amazing accumulation became the basis for the museum that continues to bear her name.

Monday, October 27: Monster Toys

It's spooky just how much some people love Frankenstein and Dracula. This presentation will highlight recently acquired toys inspired by *Shock Theater*, weird science, and some monsters you may have never heard of before!



Monday, November 24: Children's Literature in the Collections

Children's books are central to the museum and the story of toys in the 20th century. Learn about the importance of characters such as Berenstain Bears and Raggedy Ann (and Andy) and how each is represented in largest play collection in the world!

Monday, December 15: The History of the Christmas Card

Unlike many holiday traditions whose origin stories are lost to history, historians agree that the holiday card has a definitive birth, in 1843 England. Join for a lively presentation to learn more about the original Christmas card and its evolution.

Get a group of friends and family together and enjoy a Monday at The Strong!

Check website for more information: museumofplay.org.

Congratulations



2025 GUGLIELMO MARCONI AWARD HONOREE

THE HONORABLE THOMAS DINAPOLI

NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER

“It’s important to have transparency so New Yorkers are empowered with information they need to hold their elected officials accountable.”

Tom DiNapoli was raised in a middle-class home and was taught the value of hard work and stretching every dollar. As the state comptroller, he has been committed to protecting taxpayer dollars by fighting corruption and waste, and safeguarding retirees' pensions. As the state's chief fiscal officer, he ensures that State and local governments use taxpayer money effectively and efficiently.

His first experience as an elected official was in 1972 when he was elected to the Mineola Board of Education. He was the first 18-year-old in New York State to hold public office. He earned his BS in history at Hofstra University, graduating magna cum laude in 1976. Attending classes at night, he received his MS from The New School University’s Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions.

In 1986 he was elected to the New York State Assembly as the representative for the 16th District in northwestern Nassau County, which he held for 20 years. In 2007 he was elected to his first term as the state’s comptroller and reelected in 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022.

THOMAS LUPO



OSDIA'S NATIONAL PRESIDENT
2025 - 2027

FRANK DIMINO CASA ITALIANA AT NAZARETH UNIVERSITY



The Casa is the recipient of \$1.8 million bequest from donor Michael “Lindy” Cantisano, former co-owner of Ragu Packing Company, Nazareth University President, Beth Paul, says, “It is such a joy to find out a decade after his death that Mr. Cantisano believed so deeply in the Casa’s mission to help our students, the Rochester Italian community and beyond, study, appreciate, and celebrate the Italian-American experience. We are so grateful.”

THE CHEESES OF ITALY PART I

The word *FORMAGGIO* means cheese in Italian.

Cheese production began in the Po Valley in 876 AD, and Italy became the cheese-producing hub of Europe by the 10th century. We are most familiar with mozzarella, ricotta, provolone, parmigiano Reggiano, pecorino, and asiago.



Italy has the largest variety of cheeses of any nation in the world, with over 2,500 traditional varieties, of which about 500 are commercially recognized and more than 300 have been granted protected designation of origin status (PDO, PGI and PAT). When sampling Italian cheeses look for ones labeled Denomazione di Origine Protetta, DOP, which implies certification the product is locally grown and packaged. It is an authentic Italian cheese.

TYPES OF SOFT CHEESES



Burrata is a cow's milk cheese made from mozzarella and cream, a specialty of the Puglia Region. It is best to eat it as it is, drizzled with olive oil and a few fresh basil leaves, along with some fresh crusty bread. It is richer and more favorable than mozzarella. It goes great with hearty pasta dishes, colorful salads, or on a chunky bruschetta.



Mascarpone comed from the Lombardy region and is made by heating heavy cream and adding an acid, like lemon juice to coagulate the cream. The mixture is then strained to remove the whey and create a soft, creamy cheese. The flavor is like a lighter, sweeter, richer version of cream cheese.



Straciatella is made from Italian buffalo milk and profuced in the Foggia region. It is pulled mozzarella curds mixed with heavy cream. Refigerating this cheese will compromise its flavor so it is best eaten fresh within a few days of being made.



Robiola is a fatty cheese produced in the Langhe River Tanaro region in the Piedmonte province. It is a soft-ripened cheese of the stracchino family and made with varying proportions of cow's, goat's, and sheep's milk. It is served usually with fresh fruit, walnut or raisin bread, and can be paired with white fruity wines.

Visiting Italy in September

When visiting Italy, most people look for easy ways to make their trip more authentic, unique, and connected to traditions and culture. Attending a traditional festival in Italy is one of the easiest possible ways to entertain the whole family while learning about the culture, seeing (or even participating in) traditions, and having a more authentic and unique trip to Italy! Italians are so good at celebrating and putting on events. Italians love to celebrate with wine and food, but festivals can center around almost anything.

Festa dell'Aquilone (Kite Festival)

This gorgeous kite festival, or *Festa dell'Aquilone*, takes place in Urbino, Italy each September. There's a competition to see who can fly their kite the highest, but the catch that makes this festival more interesting is that it has to be their own handmade kite!

A kite craze already held fast the good people of Urbino in its claws over a hundred years ago. In 1904 a poet **Giovanni Pascoli** published a collection of poems in which we find a poem titled *L'Aquilone*, The Kite.



As is every town in all times everywhere, a Medieval town was divided into parts - called *contradas* in Italy. In times of war all the *contradas* came together to fight the impious invader. In times of peace ... well, they fought each other. These little wars took a heavy toll on the good people of a medieval town, so they were ritualized: they marked one day of the year for fighting and chose a way to fight so as to minimize casualties. In Italy these ritual fights between *contradas* are called *palios* and usually take the form of a race or a display of strength, like horse or donkey races, rowing competitions, tug-of-war contests, throwing large stones really far, etc. – the ritualized war morphed into sports. And the good people of Urbino chose *kites* as their weapon of choice. Why kill



a neighbor when you can fly a kite better than them? Kites here are a true symbol of peace – or, at least a symbol of a non-lethal fight. Every August they *conclave* themselves into their wards and make kites from early morning to late evening. On the first weekend of September they bring their kites out to the kite field – and fight with them! After all the official competitions are over, the most incredible sight appears over the shaly hills of *Marche*: thousands and thousands of kites of all the colors of the *contrade* – red, blue, gold, orange, purple, green, silver and black, purple and green, red and gold, brown and silver – cover the Urbinian sky. It's simply amazing!

Corsa Degli Asini - Donkey Derby

September 6th 1891 is the birth date of the event that immediately identifies Fagagna. The local townspeople transform the main piazza into a race track and race donkeys with carts attached where the rider sits. It's the most important event of the town fair.



The Bookshelf

Reading books adds endless benefits to our daily lives and can take us anywhere, anytime—even deep within ourselves.



This Month's Selections: books for sharing with the next generation

Traditionally students return to school in September—a reminder for us to educate the young people in our families about our treasured Italian heritage

All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel



Dan Yaccarino's great-grandfather arrived at Ellis Island with a small shovel and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family." With simple text and warm, colorful illustrations, Yaccarino recounts how the little shovel was passed down through four generations of this Italian-American family—along with the good advice.

A shovel is just a shovel, but in Dan Yaccarino's hands it becomes a way to dig deep into the past and honor all those who helped make us who we are.

It's a story that will have kids asking their parents and grandparents: Where did *we* come from? How did our family make the journey all the way to America?

Theodore's Italian Adventure

This cute, well-designed book about Italy for Kids features hand-drawn artwork. Theodore the bear teaches young readers all about Italy, basic Italian words and what life is like in Italy. Theodore travels to the Colosseum in Rome, Canals in Venice, Leaning Tower of Pisa and all over Italy on his journey eating all types of exciting foods like pizza and pasta. Your child will love learning about Italy as they join in the adventure of cute Theodore the Bear.





ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA®

REPORT OF THE CSJ NYS GRAND LODGE CONVENTION NAGA AND COLUMBUS “EDUCATE NOT ERADICATE”

The New York State Grand Lodge Commission for Social Justice collaborated with One Voice Coalition and other organizations to work alongside the Native American Guardians Association (NAGA). Over the years there has been a lot of controversy, debate, and misinformation on how Native Americans perceive Christopher Columbus. **Together we are committed to fighting bigotry and challenging distorted historical narratives.** NAGA’s motto, “Educate not Eradicate,” is a testimony to both of our heritages wanting to honor our respective legacies.



Reminder

The deadline for submitted entries for the **Italian Heritage Essay Contest** sponsored by the NYS CSJ is September 30, 2025. For an application and additional information, contact mafocarazzo@gmail.com.



OSDIA is today's leading voice of the nation's 26 million Italian-Americans. OSDIA is dedicated to promoting the culture, heritage, language, and legacy of our ancestors, and contributions to the U.S. and the world. OSDIA works at community, state, national, and international levels to promote Italians, Italian-Americans, and their culture. Currently, there are over 30,000 OSDIA members from around the United States. ***The Italian America Show*** features interviews with prominent Italian-Americans in the worlds of lifestyle, food, charity, sports, the arts, and Hollywood. Each episode dives deep into their illustrious careers and how their Italian-American upbringing influenced their rise to the top. With **over half a million views and 800,000+ reaches** on Facebook, ***The Italian America Show*** series features top names in the Italian American community including **Joe Piscopo, Adriana Trigiani, Joe Mantegna, Lidia Bastianich, Rocco DiSpirito, Doug Flutie**, and more.. We bring these highly successful presentations on **Wednesday's at 7pm EST** on Facebook Live.

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