



The Roar of the Lion

April 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Easter! The weather is starting to slowly get warmer. It's time for us to get out into our gardens, start sowing and get some spring cleaning done. Start opening some windows to let the fresh air in and the stale winter air out. Spring is a time of transition from the bleakness of winter into the fertile rebirth of the land and nature. The days are longer and we're starting to see that bright yellow circle in the sky more often now to keep the snow at bay.



Please join us at our next meeting on April 9th, where we'll be continuing our movie, *My Italian Secret*, and after the meeting there will be **an Easter ham** with other refreshments. If you'd like to bring something to share with the lodge, please do.

It's time for us to vote on which charities our lodge will be supporting at the State Convention this year.

Here's the link for the survey: <https://forms.gle/VKTFVxEy3JYmo2EA7>.

Please, fill it out and return it by May 1st. It's important that you participate in the democracy of the lodge, so that the counsel can accurately represent its members.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and can join us at our next meeting.

Buona Pasqua!

Jeremy DiFilippo



Traditionally, lamb was served for Easter and Passover. Now, Easter ham is as common on American tables as Thanksgiving turkey.

*Join us for Easter ham
at our April 9th meeting.*



*Forget the bunny,
it's all about
the Lamb—the
Lamb of God!*

INIDE THIS ISSUE

Lodge Calendar	2
Members' News	3
April in Rochester	6
April in Italy	7
Italian Culture	8
Bookshelf	10
CSJ Contest	11

EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis

2026 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

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

2026 Lodge Events

May 7 th	Spaghetti Dinner 5-7PM Pick-up/Take-Out Only
May 23 rd	Memorial Day Parade East Rochester
July 9 th	Scholarship Awards Night Eyer Building
August 9 th	Summer Picnic Quinzi Lodge, Eye Park
September	Annual Pie Sale
October	Italian-American Heritage Dinner
November	Turkey Raffle
December 10 th	Holiday Gathering—Eyer Building

April 9th Meeting Ham Dinner



Geneva Lodge 210 Club Fundraiser

\$20 per ticket

10 weeks of cash drawings starting March 20th

Two \$25 drawings for nine weeks

Extra \$50 drawing on week 5 for all paid up tickets

Week ten drawings:

\$200, \$100, \$50, \$50, \$25, \$25, \$25, \$25

Plus Italian Buffet dinner for all tickets holders

May 23rd—6:00 PM May 14th

Attend meetings

**whether in person or by Zoom and
be a more active and informed member
of the lodge.**



**COMING
ATTRACTION**

May 14th General Assembly

Don't miss
Tom Meleca's presentation
on his father-in-law
and the Hamlin CCC.

Meeting ID: 886 8759 8885 and passcode is 5fejz6

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

April Birthdays



- 4/13 Ray Macera
- 4/13 James Vacanti
- 4/14 Bonnie Cottone
- 4/15 Fank DiFilippo
- 4/19 Rufus Brey
- 4/30 Gordon Rask



*Sunshine
and Spring
bring out the best
in everyone.*

Get Well Wishes

- Sandy Meleca
- Rosita Caridi-Miller
- Nellie DiCesare
- Dawn DiGennaro's wife, Nancy
- Vince Giannantonio and Family
- Patty and Gordie Rask
- Ron Santoli



Note from Our Corresponding Secretary, Pat Bartholomew

If you have any news you'd like to share with the lodge—weddings, graduations, birthdays, illnesses/hospitalizations, passings-on, etc.— please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.



Pat Bartholomew
Cell: 585-503-3297 Email: pattyj7586@aol.com

REST IN PEACE

Philomena Giambrone

Nov.10, 1935 - March 14, 2026



Philomena Giambrone will be remembered for her devotion to family, and the example of perseverance she set for those she loved. Her life was a testament to the belief that hard work could create a better future for those who followed.

Per her request, memorial contributions may be made to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge.

2026 Heritage Dinner Awards

At our Heritage Dinner during Italian Heritage Month in October, we honor prominent local Italian Americans who have served our community and made an impact.

We are looking for nominees for **Woman of the Year**, **Man of the Year**, and **Lifetime Achievement**. Please send names of candidates to Marjorie Focarazzo at mafocarazzo@gmail.com and details of why they deserve to be honored by the Vincent Lombardi Lodge. Rest In Peace



Easter is not an ending; it is the beginning. The tradition of wearing new clothes and Easter bonnets is associated with the theme of new life. It is a fresh start, not just a holiday, empowering personal transformation and renewed purpose in daily routines. Easter's position in Spring was a happy coincidence allowing the celebration of the Resurrection to take place when nature is opening up and restoring life to the world.

A Legend Close to Home

From 1935-1941, an area on Moscow Road became the home of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S.P. 53. The Hamlin CCC camp was the second largest in Western New York, down to the Pennsylvania line. Each camp was assigned a meaningful task to improve the nation's infrastructure. In 1935 the young men who were assigned to the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Hamlin were given the job of turning a rundown county park along the shore of Lake Ontario into a New York State Park, the Hamlin Beach State Park that we know today.



Ed Evans has written the “inside story” of the site’s unburying. According to Ed’s story, a bag purchased at a yard sale contained letters addressed to **James Giancaterin**, Barracks #5, Hamlin, New York. All his friends called him Jimmy G. Jimmy G was from downtown Rochester and his father had just died in a workplace fire. Jimmy quit school at the end of his junior year and signed up for the CCC to help his mother (who spoke no English) support their family. He was bright, outgoing, and a good worker. He sang solo at weekly talent contests between the five barracks, worked for the camp’s weekly newspaper, and earned the nickname “Lady Killer.”



Giancaterin worked in the quarries in Holley.



In the Epilog of that story, Ed highlights the importance of the site to those who lived there, the stories shared, and connections made along the way, especially recognizing the contributions of James Giancaterin, father of Vincent Lombardi Lodge members **Frank Giancaterin and Sandy Meleca**. He visited the site with Sandy and Tom Meleca, sharing the actual pictures from Sandy’s father.

Like a great many other CCC “graduates,” Jimmy G never shared his CCC experiences with any of his family. But it is obvious that he treasured every minute of them! That paper bag he stashed in Kendall was stuffed with items secreted away to remind someone, someday, what a great experience his year-and-a-half in the CCC had been!



Aside from the 133 letters there were two spiral-bound, pocket-sized diaries full of very neatly penciled-in entries. The bag also contained a stack of the newspapers the camp produced – all issues the Hamlin Historian did NOT have! And 60 negatives of photos he took, his CCC enlistment paperwork, and other miscellaneous items! Evans wrote: *“With all the letters, two diaries, the camp newspapers and the pictures, it’s almost like the ghost of **James Giancaterin** stopped by to help me solve some mysteries. He must have been deeply devoted to the CCC cause.”*

At the May 14th General Assembly Tom Meleca will share more about the ghost of James Giancaterin that appeared in the treasures documented by this young 17-year old so many years ago.



CAF's Mission

We strive to ensure every Thalassemia patient lives a longer, fuller life, and we will not rest until we find a cure for all.

**CHARITY
SPOTLIGHT**

Statement of Purpose

The Cooley's Anemia Foundation is dedicated to serving people afflicted with various forms of Thalassemia, most notably the major form of this genetic blood disease, Cooley's Anemia/Thalassemia Major.

The Name Behind The Disease

The Cooley's Anemia Foundation proudly bears the name of **Dr. Thomas Benton Cooley**, the renowned researcher who discovered the disorder, in honor of his preeminent contributions to the livelihoods of individuals with Thalassemia. The Foundation is a source of continued inspiration to the new crop of dedicated medical researchers leading the quest for a cure. His research, considered one of the most significant contributions to hematology, laid the groundwork for Thalassemia research and treatment options.



How it All Began

Frank Ficarra and other parents of Cooley's Anemia patients planted the seeds of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, determined to make the world aware of this rare disease. In 1954, Frank Ficarra was a young Italian-American businessman working in Brooklyn when two of his young children were diagnosed with Cooley's Anemia, also known as Thalassemia major. He began organizing neighborhood blood drives to make sure that his children and others like them would have the precious blood they needed to survive.



What began as one man's mission for his family has grown into a global force, united in the fight for better treatments and a cure.

A Journey of Hope & Progress

Our journey is filled with milestones and miracles, each representing a step forward in research, patient support, and advocacy. Our history showcases the significant moments that have shaped our organization, the breakthroughs that have redefined possibilities, and the countless stories of resilience and hope.

As a lodge, we have voted to always choose Cooley's Anemia as one of the 4 charities we support. The money we use for these donations is the \$400 allocated in our budget (\$100 for each charity chosen plus \$100 to Cooley's Anemia). Our members need to vote for the other three by May 1st.

Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/VKTFVxEy3JJYmo2EA7>

Easter Egg Hunts IN AND AROUND ROCHESTER

Spring is here, and Easter brings so many opportunities for family fun.

Easter is the perfect reason to slow down, soak in the sweetness of spring, and make a few memory-making moments with your kids.



Egg Hunt at Webster Public Library April 3 @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Ready, set, hunt! Bring the family to search for Easter eggs at the library after hours! Hunt anytime 5:30-7:00 and join us for a spring craft after. No registration required.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parma April 4 @ 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Get ready for an egg-citing adventure! Our Easter Egg Hunt kicks off right at 9:00 AM sharp, so be sure to arrive at least 15 minutes early—you don't want to miss out on the fun!

Age Groups: 4 Under, 5-8 Years, 9-10 Years



Petting Zoo 8:45 – 9:30 am

Come snuggle some adorable animals before the hunt begins!

A Coffee Truck will be serving up delicious drinks from 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Let's spread the love! We're collecting non-perishable food donations to support the Hilton Food Shelf, so bring an item if you can!



Grab your baskets and bring your best egg-hunting energy—we can't wait to see you there!

Easter Egg Hunt April 12 @ 11:00 am *(Please bring your own basket.)*

FREE Easter Egg Hunt for kids 0-12 years old. Joy Community Church, 890 N. Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14509. Lots of candy and gifts! Go to wearejoy.org to register.

The Rochester Red Wings are family-friendly baseball at its finest!
The OPENING WEEK homestand is March 31-April 5
as the Red Wings take on the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders
at ESL Ballpark!



Spring in Italy



Easter is one of Italy's most important holidays, a day of feasting and celebrations. The blessing of Easter baskets (*la benedizione dei cestini*) is a cherished Holy Saturday tradition, particularly in rural regions like Umbria and Tuscany, involving the blessing of food for Easter morning breakfast.



The Monday after Easter is **Pasquetta**, Little Easter, when Italians often head to the countryside for a picnic.



On April 21st Rome celebrates its birthday with festivals, concerts, fireworks and special events. Despite facing countless invasions, wars, and natural disasters, Rome has persevered and thrived throughout the centuries. The city's resilience may explain why various writers and poets, like Virgil in his epic poem "*Aeneid*," have referred to Rome as the **Eternal City**. Each historical era has left its mark on the city, and every corner holds a story to tell.

April 25 – Liberation Day (*Il Giorno della Liberazione*)

Italy takes a heartfelt pause on this day to remember its liberation from Nazi Germany and the fascist regime during World War II, and the victory of the Resistance in Italy in 1945. This is one of the most significant events in Italy in April. The holiday is intended to honor all those who died during World War II, from soldiers fighting overseas to civilian victims. It is estimated that almost half a million Italians died during the war. Italian flags will be flying high across the land in remembrance of those who fought and died for the cause.



In Venice April 25th is also the day to celebrate its patron saint, **St Mark**, symbol of strength and pride and reminder of a glorious and serene past. The city of Venice is associated with the figure of the **winged lion** that embodies the young saint. History and traditions lie behind this millenary combination of historical reality and fascinating legends.

On the day of the **San Marco Festival**, the **Festa del Bocolo** is also celebrated, that is, when lovers give their *sweethearts*, i.e., their girlfriend, a **red rose bud**. The term *bocolo* in Venetian actually means bud and the red rose has become a **pledge of eternal love** among Venetian lovers.



Did You Know...

Why Italians Live Longer ?

- They eat fresh real food daily, not processed junk.
- They walk everywhere—movement is built into daily life, not the gym.
- They eat meals slowly—reducing stress and improving digestion.
- They use olive oil as their main fat—reducing inflammation and disease.
- They avoid overeating—smaller plates and smaller portions.
- They drink red wine in moderation—which improves heart health.
- They enjoy sunlight regularly—keeping vitamin D levels high.
- They prioritize sleep and rest rather than glorifying burnout.

They follow the Mediterranean Diet—proven to protect the heart and the brain.

They have strong social connections—which increases longevity significantly.

They value family time—which lowers anxiety and keeps emotional health strong.

They keep stress low with a relaxed lifestyle.



Why Salad is the Last Course Served in the Italian Meal?

Formal Meal Structure

Aperitivo opens the meal and is similar to the appetizer. Small amounts of food—olives, cheese, sauce dips, etc.—are eaten with a beverage, either alcoholic or non alcoholic such as prosecco, vermouth, spritz.

Antipasto is served before the first course and is usually cold with foods such as salami, mortadella, prosciutto, cheeses, etc.

Primo is the first course with hot foods, usually non-meat dishes such as risotto, pasta, gnocchi, or polenta.

Secondo or the second course includes different meats and fish: sausage, pork, steak, lobster, lamb, chicken.

Contorno, a side dish, usually consists of vegetables, which are served along side the second course but on a separate dish.

Insalata is served at this point of the meal to aid in digestion and cleanse the palate.

Formaggi e frutta is an entire course dedicated to local cheeses and seasonal fresh fruit.

Dolce is dessert, which is something sweet such as tiramisu, biscotti, panna cotta, gelato or sorbetto.



Tossed green salad is usually served after the main course at the Italian dinner table. Italians don't think of salad as a way to stimulate the appetite before the meal. It is believed, it aids in digestion. The fiber in salad helps with a heavier, robust meal that is usually multiple courses with distinct flavors. The traditional Italian salad is usually dressed with olive oil, vinegar, and salt, which cuts through the richness of the previous course and prepares the tastebuds for what is next. **It is supposed to complement the meal, not overpower it.** It cleanses the palate and removes any lingering tastes from the main course allowing for the dessert to be fully appreciated.

Italian Culture

The National OSDIA's Culture Committee, which promotes Italian and Italian-American culture through programs, events, and initiatives that preserve our heritage, was charged with the task of researching and providing instructions for five Italian games.

Post the link to your browser for directions to each game.

The three major national card games in Italy are Briscola, Scopa and Tressette.



Briscola: a popular Italian card game for 2-6 players, focusing on winning tricks with high-point cards. It gets its name from this Italian word for “trump” since Briscola is a “trump-based trick-taking” card game.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ASugGOh9qA1OyHfcepq_z1tFzm8KQmyo/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101073014237402397005&rtpof=true&sd=true



Scopa: an Italian card game that is also popular in Argentina and Brazil, brought in by Italian immigrants, mostly in the Scopa a Quindici variation. Scopa is the Italian word for “broom” and the correlation to the name comes from the fact that you get a “Scopa” by sweeping the cards on the table.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JFShZWVskIJWwCepcPhqT08nNGvmbf8mr9twhUInFgk/edit?usp=sharing>



Tressette: a popular Italian card game for two or four players (in partnerships) using a 40-card Italian deck (or standard deck minus 8s, 9s, 10s) where players aim to be the first to reach 21 points.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LXdLXJxe5qAuBQ9ZxN_z-4gfEsEpDhGU/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101073014237402397005&rtpof=true&sd=true



Tombola: a very common family game played at Christmas, similar to bingo.

<https://www.italyheritage.com/traditions/christmas/tombola.htm>



Morra: an ancient, fast-paced Italian hand game, dating back to Roman times. Two players simultaneously reveal one hand showing 0–5 fingers and shout a number from 0–10. The goal is to correctly guess the total sum of fingers shown by both players. The first player to score a set number of points (often three or higher) wins.

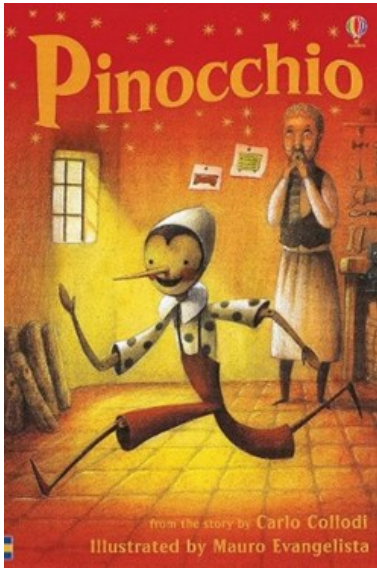
The Bookshelf

Reading books adds endless benefits to our daily lives, including stress-relief and entertainment, enhancing our knowledge, and increasing our imagination.

This Month's Selections is Pinocchio



The Impact of Pinocchio in the History of Children's Literature



The Adventures of Pinocchio, written in 1882 by Carlo Lorenzini under the pen name of Carlo Collodi, has been, and continues to be a staple in the magnificent world of children's literature. It has proven itself a timeless novella with universal moral lessons that children and adults from many different countries continue to share. Apart from Machiavelli's *The Prince* and Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, no other piece of Italian literature rivals it. Because the book has been translated into more than ninety different languages and has been adapted for the stage and film, it has undergone a significant evolution to say the least. *The Adventures of Pinocchio* has been influenced by cultural and societal shifts throughout the past century. Still, "Translated into more than ninety languages, 'Pinocchio' has never been out of print" (Scholastic, n.d.). Noteworthy literary devices have transcended the multifarious adaptations of Collodi's original novella and have even reappeared in the pages of some of our most prized contemporary children's literature.

Collodi's *The Adventures of Pinocchio* set a precedent for many fairy tales, short stories, novels, and novellas to follow and continues to maintain its position as a children's classic.

Carlo Lorenzini, better known by the pen name Carlo Collodi was an Italian author, humorist, and journalist. During the Italian Wars of Independence in 1848 and 1860, Carlo Lorenzini served as a volunteer with the Tuscan Army. His active interest in political matters can be seen in his earliest literary works, as well as in the founding of the satirical newspaper *Il Lampione* in 1853. By 1860, he published his first notable work called *Il signor Alberi ha ragione!* (Mr. Alberi is Right!), which outlined his political and cultural vision of Italy. This is the text where Lorenzini started using the Collodi pseudonym, which was taken from his mother's hometown.



When Lorenzini became disenchanted with Italian politics, he turned to children's literature. Lorenzini became fascinated by the idea of using an amiable, rascally character as a means of expressing his own convictions through allegory. In 1880, he began writing *Storia di un burattino* (*Story of a Marionette*), also called *Le avventure di Pinocchio*, which was published weekly in *Giornale per i bambini*. *Pinocchio* was adapted into a 1940 film by Disney that is considered to be one of Disney's greatest films.



NYS Commission for Social Justice Christopher Columbus Essay/Video Award

Arthur Spera, NY State President
Eleanor Jobbagy, NY State CSJ Chairperson



Discovering The Truth” - The Louis J. Gallo, Jr. Memorial Columbus Award

Over the past few decades, many myths and falsehoods have been spoken and written about Christopher Columbus. Today these falsehoods are being repeated on social media and in our classrooms to the detriment of Columbus and Americans who celebrate Columbus Day.

ASSIGNMENT

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

You can disprove the myth/falsehood in **one of two ways: Essay or Video.**

Essay: Write a 500 (minimum) word essay stating what anti-Columbus falsehood is being repeated today on social media, or in our classrooms, and prove why it is false.

- The completed assignment must be typed (handwritten submission will be disqualified) and submitted on time in order to be considered for the contest.
- A separate page should contain the bibliography of resources used and referenced in your essay.
- AI cannot be used in writing your essay. It will be checked and may be subject to a verbal review.
- The essay should be emailed to the CSJ: CSJD3chair@gmail.com

Video: Compose a 3-minute (minimum) video stating what anti-Columbus falsehood is being repeated today on social media, or in our classrooms, and prove why it is false.

- The video can be as creative as you want it to be and contain visuals, animations, and graphics that help prove your point. AI can be used to create visual content (ex: videos and images), but cannot be used to create narrative text.
- In the video you should reference resources that help prove your point
- The final 5 secs of the video should show a bibliography of resources used.
- Video files can be big so if you can't email it, you can upload the video to your google drive and make it shareable with: CSJD3chair@gmail.com.
- A link to the video should be emailed to the CSJ: CSJD3chair@gmail.com

Awards will be distributed as follows: **1st Place \$800, 2nd Place \$500, 3rd place \$300, and 4th \$200.**

The deadline for all submissions is June 1, 2026.

A scanned copy of the application form must also be emailed to the CSJ: CSJD3chair@gmail.com
Application form can be found at: www.newyorkcsj.org

OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
37 Farnsworth Road N
Rochester NY 14623

President

Jeremy DiFilippo

Vice-President

Catherine (Kitty) DiNicola

Recording Secretary

Patricia Bartholomew

Corresponding Secretary

Patricia Bartholomew

Financial Secretary

Marisa Przepiora

Treasurer

Melissa Distaffen

Orator

Joe Rubé

Mistress of Ceremony

Carol DiNicola

Sentinel

Ron Santoli

Trustees

Becky DiFilippo

Frank Giancaterin

Lorraine Palucci

Maurice Palucci

Nancy Rubé

Immediate Past President

Marjorie Focarazzo

Chaplain

Patricia Galante

Chaplain Emeritus

Sister Carole Proia

District VIII State Trustee

Vincent Giannantonio

State Deputy to Lombardi Lodge

Dave Cook

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge

Louis DeCarolis

Past Presidents

Joseph Lusardi*

Thomas Laverne*

Louis Giambra*

Joseph Vazzana *

John March*

Victor Bell*

Peter Cimino*

Sam Parese*

Cosmo Caceci*

Michael La Comba*

Shirley Sculli

Phillip Dattilo*

Joseph Berta*

Joseph Rubé

Jennifer Rubé*

Vincent Giannantonio

Sandra Meleca

Marjorie Focarazzo

**Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:
President Jeremy DiFilippo, 37 Farnsworth Road N, Rochester NY 14623
jjd1976.osdia@gmail.com**