



# The Roar of the Lion

March 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I know it doesn't seem like it with the way the weather has been lately, but Spring is right around the corner. At this time of year there are several celebrations in Italy marking the arrival of Spring like Carnevale, Festa della Donna and Saint Joseph's Day. Which brings me to our March general assembly meeting where we will be having a **Saint Joseph's Table** featuring traditional foods including homemade lentil soup. Please feel free to bring something to share with the membership.

As mentioned before, the State convention will be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany from June 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in being a delegate, please let us know. We'll be choosing our two delegates and an alternate at our next meeting.

In the meantime, stay safe and I hope to see you all soon.

*Marzo pazzerello, guarda il sole e prendi l'ombrello!*

Jeremy DiFilippo



**St. Joseph Table at our March 12th Meeting**

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## EDITOR

Annette DeCarolis\

## 2026 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

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

## 2026 Lodge Events

May	<b>Spaghetti Dinner</b>
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Memorial Day Parade</b> East Rochester
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Scholarship Awards Night</b> <b>Eyer Building</b>
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Summer Picnic</b> Quinzi Lodge, Eye Park
September	<b>Annual Pie Sale</b>
October	<b>Italian-American Heritage Dinner</b>
November	<b>Turkey Raffle</b>
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holiday Gathering</b> Eyer Building



## State Convention

**The Desmond Hotel in Albany**

**June 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>**



## Attend meetings

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

Meeting ID: 886 8759 8885 and passcode is 5fejz6

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

### March Birthdays



- 3/6 Jeffrey Arigo
- 3/8 Chris Przepiora
- 3/10 Ann Battaglia
- 3/14 Kitty DiNicola
- 3/16 Donald Campese
- 3/26 Mary Rinere
- 3/31 Paul Guglielmo

*May the dreams  
you hold dearest  
be those which  
come true,  
and the kindness  
you spread  
keep returning  
to you.*

### Get Well Wishes



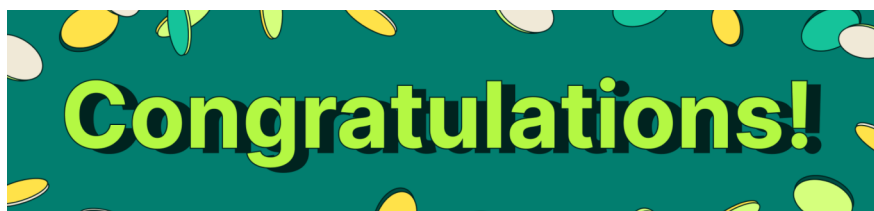
- Sandy Meleca
- Rosita Caridi-Miller
- Dawn DiGennaro's wife, Nancy
- Vince Giannantonio and Family
- Patty and Gordie Rask
- Ross Cottone



### 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: 585-503-3297      Email: [pattyj7586@aol.com](mailto:pattyj7586@aol.com)



At our February meeting, **Vince Giannantonio** was presented with a certificate honoring his dedication to the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.



We also purchased a brick in his name on the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Walkway, an inspiring sidewalk on the beautifully landscaped lawn in front of the historic Museum.





## *2026 Heritage Dinner Awards*

Do you know an Italian American who has made an impact or difference in our community? 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. Some past recipients include:

- ◆ Joseph Capogreco, long-time host of *Carosello Italiano*, brings traditional and contemporary music from Italy, along with news, sports, and community happenings of interest to Rochester's diverse Italian American population.
- ◆ Joëlle Carota, current Director of the Casa Italiana at Nazareth University, has been instrumental in helping to bring back the Italian Film Series begun by Tony Mangione.
- ◆ Bill Tiberio, who has been an instrumental music instructor for 32 years, was the first person to be inducted into the Rochester Music Hall of Fame as a Music Educator.
- ◆ Dr. Stella Plutino-Calabrese, former director of the Casa Italiana, is the Director of Global Education at St. John Fisher University. She has expanded international programs promoting service-learning, internships, and other experiential learning; increased students' participation; and worked on initiatives to promote the importance of foreign languages.

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](mailto:mafocarazzo@gmail.com) and details of why they deserve to be honored by the Vincent Lombardi Lodge.

## Local Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarships

Applications available at all Monroe County schools and on our lodge website:

[www.sonsofitalyrochester.com](http://www.sonsofitalyrochester.com).

### ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ High school senior graduating from a Monroe County public, private, parochial or certified home school, or related to a lodge member if living in another county.
- ◆ Student must be of Italian descent (at least one grandparent must be of Italian heritage).
- ◆ Student must commence study at an accredited educational institution to continue learning in the fall following their high school graduation, including community/junior colleges, colleges, universities, and career, technical or vocational/trade schools.
- ◆ Preference is given to students associated with members of the lodge, but anyone who meets the above requirements is eligible and encouraged to apply.

### REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Official Application Form: Complete and submit the application form or a photocopy of the application.
- ◆ Official Transcripts: A copy of the applicant's transcripts must be sent to the chair of the scholarship committee by the applicant's high school counselor.
- ◆ Resume: Submit a current resume outlining extracurricular activities such as volunteer service, work experience, community service, sports honor received, etc.
- ◆ Letters of Recommendation: Submit two letters of recommendation. One letter should be from someone associated with your school i.e. counselor, teacher, coach, etc.; and the other must be from someone outside of school i.e. employer, mentor, clergy, etc. Letters of recommendation from family members are not acceptable.
- ◆ Essay: Submit an essay following the guidelines found on page 3 of this application form.
- ◆ A photo of the applicant would be helpful.

If so requested, the applicant must be available to participate in an interview before the scholarship committee. The time and place of the interview will be announced once applications are reviewed.

The winners will be presented their scholarships at the Awards Night in August with a check made payable to the educational institution they will attend. The recipients will be asked to address the group and their parents and guests are also encouraged to attend.

### FEES AND DEADLINES

- ◆ There is no fee to apply.
- ◆ All requested information must be submitted to the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 Scholarship Committee Chairperson by **March 31, 2026**. Applications or materials received after the deadline date will not be considered for the scholarship.

**Please submit your application to Marisa Przepiora**

**2453 Wheeler Station Rd., Bloomfield NY 14469**

**or email: [vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com](mailto:vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com)**

For questions please contact Marisa Przepiora at 585-750-8336



## The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum,

a National Landmark owned and operated by the Sons of Italy Foundation, is one of the charities our local Lodge supports.

**CHARITY  
SPOTLIGHT**

In the heart of Rosebank is the historic home of the inventor, Antonio Meucci and the legendary hero, Giuseppe Garibaldi. The simple country residence was built circa 1840 in the Gothic revival style. In 1850, Meucci and his wife Ester learned of its availability and soon after began renting it. Shortly thereafter, Garibaldi arrived in New York seeking refuge. Meucci offered him the hospitality of his home and together they worked in his candle factory. Later, in 1854, Garibaldi returned to Italy leading military forces that would provide for the unification of Italy and would win him worldwide fame. In 1907, on the centennial of the hero's birth, the house was moved to its present location.



**Here you can visit the actual place where telephone history was made, where a great friendship thrived and where the vision of Italian unification was formed.**



The Garibaldi Room honors General Giuseppe Garibaldi, the "Hero of Two Worlds." Here on permanent display are artifacts and artwork chronicling the life of the man who united Italy. As you tour this gallery you will see not only the personal story of a great world leader and warrior but the history of a unified modern Italy.

The Meucci Room honors Italian immigrant and inventor, Antonio Meucci. Here on permanent display in his own home, are artifacts and artwork chronicling the life and inventions of the true inventor of the telephone. As you tour this exhibit you'll not only see models of Meucci's original "Teletrofono" but also his handcrafted rocking chair and piano.



The Anita Rose is a symbolic flower that is being cultivated in Italy and ceremoniously planted throughout historically referenced places in Italy and Brazil, to honor the heroic legacy of Ana Maria DeJesus Ribeiro DaSilva, aka Anita Garibaldi. The symbolic "Anita Rose" also represents a noble movement toward establishing an equal status for women of the world.



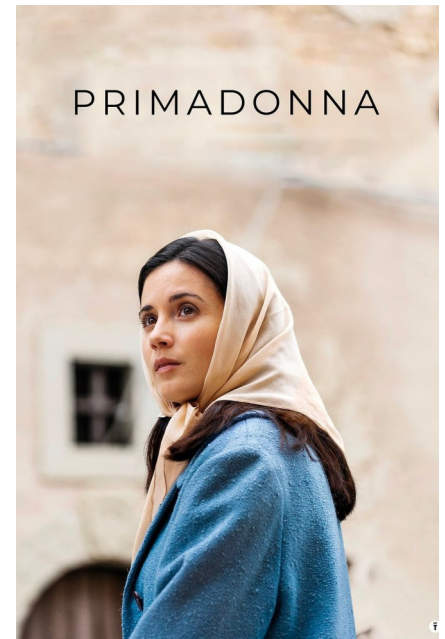
Sunday - March 1st, 4:00 PM

*Primadonna*  
(*The Girl from Tomorrow*)

Written and directed by Marta Savina.

In honor of International Women's Day

Lia is a strong-willed young woman who refuses to conform to the rigid codes of honor and obedience imposed by her community. What begins as an innocent romance with Lorenzo quickly shatters when his charm gives way to violence, and he abducts and rapes her. Lia is expected to restore her “honor” by marrying her attacker through the practice of *matrimonio riparatore*—a so-called reparatory marriage that would erase the crime and silence the scandal. But Lia refuses to submit. In an unprecedented act of courage, she challenges not only her aggressor but also a patriarchal legal system and a society determined to shame her into compliance. Her decision to reject the marriage sparks a personal and legal battle that will resonate far beyond her small Sicilian town, marking a turning point in Italian history and becoming a powerful stand for dignity, justice, and female self-determination.



*“It’s a story about female emancipation for audiences of all different geographical and cultural backgrounds”*

## March in Rochester

**St. Patrick’s Day Parade**—Saturday, March 14

Rochester’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade brings tens of thousands of people downtown in a sea of green.



### High School Musicals

March is peak season for high school musicals. From classic Broadway favorites to contemporary productions, these shows are energetic, affordable, and deeply community-oriented.

**Fairport, March 5-7:** *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*

**Pittsford Mendon, March 5-7:** *The Drowsy Chaperone*

**Webster Thomas, March 5-7:** *Footloose*

**Arcadia, March 6-8 and 13-15:** *Mean Girls*

**McQuaid Jesuit, March 11-14:** *Anything Goes*

**Olympia, March 13,14, 20 and 21:** *Legally Blonde The Musical*

**Eastridge, March 19-21:** *Les Miserables*

**Rush Henrietta, March 19-21:** *Mamma Mia!*

**Wheatland-Chili, March 20-21:** *The Little Mermaid*

**Hilton, March 20-22:** *Chicago*

**Gates-Chili, March 20-22:** *Singin’ in the Rain*





## EVENTS FOR ITALIAN CLUBS IN AND AROUND ROCHESTER

First Tuesday ITALEO – Member Monthly Meeting  
 Second Tuesday IWCC - Member Monthly Meeting  
 Last Tuesday Sicilian Sports Club Dinner, call 585-478-6591  
 or e-mail [siciliansportsclubrochester@gmail.com](mailto:siciliansportsclubrochester@gmail.com)

Wednesdays Italian American Community Center luncheons  
 every other Wednesday. Call (585) 594-8882

Thursdays Italian American Sports Club luncheons  
 every other Thursday. [iascrochester.com](http://iascrochester.com)

Italian Conversation Table at the Casa at 5 pm

For information contact Daniel Speciale: [dspeciale0@naz.edu](mailto:dspeciale0@naz.edu).



Fridays of March Fish Fry— St Nicholas Society  
 206 Madison St., East Rochester

First Friday Italian American Sports Club monthly Member's Dinner

Last Friday St. Nicholas Society Happy Hour 5-9 PM

First Saturday Casa Italian Book Club 11:30 am  
 Informal discussion about Italy and Italian culture in books

Third Saturday Gates Amita Member Meeting at 5:30 pm.

Every Sunday Bingo at the Geneva Lodge at 2 pm  
 31 Prospect St. Geneva



## Italy in March

**March 8th: Festa della Donna** (International Women's Day) - celebrated across the country. In Italy, La Festa della Donna tends to have a symbolic flavor, reminiscent of Mother's Day. With each mimosa blossom, we are recognizing women's economic, political, and social achievements over the last century, which have been sizable.



### **March 9th: Feast of Santa Francesca Romana**

The Feast of Santa Francesca Romana is celebrated in Rome annually, honoring the 15th-century mystic and patron saint of motorists, widows, and Rome itself. The main celebration involves a traditional, popular blessing of cars, taxis, and drivers near the Colosseum to ensure safe travel.

### **March 19th: Festa di San Giuseppe/Father's Day in Italy**

Father's Day (*Festa del Papà*) in Italy is on **Thursday, March 19**. This date aligns annually with the Feast of San Giuseppe (Saint Joseph), honoring the patron saint of fathers. Celebrating fatherhood with family includes children making cards, gifting, and eating traditional sweets like *zeppole di San Giuseppe*.



### **March 25th: Capodanno Fiorentino**

The Florentine New Year (*Capodanno Fiorentino*) is a traditional celebration held annually on **March 25th**, marking the historical start of the new year in Florence until 1749. It honors the **Feast of the Annunciation**, signifying the start of the civic year, and features a historic parade, religious rituals, and cultural events. Dressed in vibrant Renaissance costumes, the parade pays tribute to the city's storied past and to the sacred significance of the Annunciation.

March 25 is also the date scholars believe marks the beginning of Dante's journey through the afterlife in the *Divine Comedy*. For this reason, Italy has chosen it as *Dantedì*, the national day to celebrate Dante Alighieri. Born in Florence in 1265, Dante is considered the father of the Italian language and one of the most important poets in world literature.



*March brings an abundance of fresh produce and seasonal dishes to savor.*

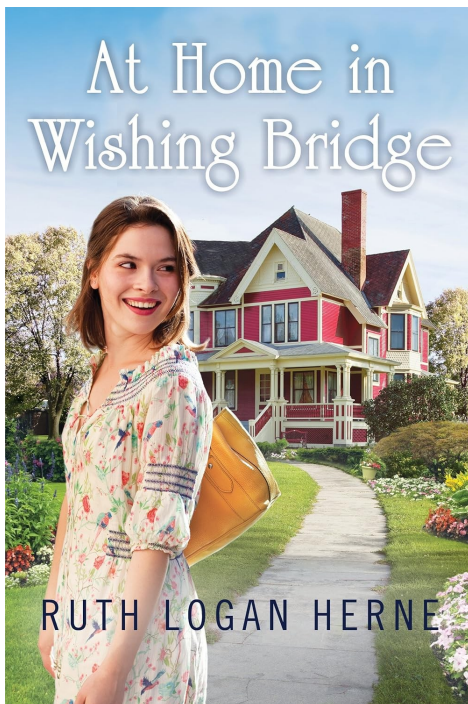
## The Bookshelf

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 At Home in Wishing Bridge*



After surviving the streets of South Philly, Thea Anastas never thought she'd wind up working in rural New York. But a call from a friend in need convinced the nurse practitioner to make the trip. Now her temporary position is making a difference in Wishing Bridge, to fill a gaping hole in the sweet, small town.

Her partner, Dr. Ethan Brandenburg, has his own struggles: caring for his orphaned niece and nephew and holding firm to his decision to leave Wishing Bridge for a prestigious job in Chicago. Though Thea's no-nonsense advice in the office has been good for business, her compassion in Ethan's personal life has been good for his heart. But how can he offer a commitment to a woman when they're both about to say goodbye?

Wishing Bridge may be surrounded by forests and farms, but Thea realizes that friendships and family form its heart—and that what she wants in life and love may be right in front of her eyes.

Ruth Logan Herne, aka Ruth Blodgett, is the bestselling author of more than forty novels and novellas. With millions of books in print, she's living her dream of touching hearts and souls by writing the kind of books she likes to read. Ruthy takes her living experiences and turns them into relatable stories of faith, hope and love. The mother of six and grandmother to fourteen, she loves God, family, country, chocolate, and dogs and lives with her husband on a small farm in Upstate New York. Their pumpkin farm has become a signature spot in their town and folks come from all over Western New York in September and October to enjoy an old-fashioned, affordable family experience embracing all aspects of fall, including Ruthy's homemade cakes, cookies, breads, jams, fudge and fried dough! Her farm store gives Ruthy a chance to chat with real people and local customers know not to say too much or they just may end up in a book. Visit the author at [www.ruthloganherne.com](http://www.ruthloganherne.com).



# Italian Charities of America

Invites you to our Virtual Event in our Italian American Speaker Series

## The Holy Week in Beautiful Sicily - "A Simana Santa Nta Sicilia Bedda"

FREE VIRTUAL  
EVENT

A Speaker Event Given In the Sicilian Language  
(Slideshow Presentation with English Translations)

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026 | 6:30pm EST

Join us for a virtual presentation by Sicilian native and scholar **Daniela Privitera** discussing the **rites, myths and food traditions of Holy Week in Sicily**. Holy Week is important because it remembers the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Sicily, Holy Week is a very special time as it brings together religion, traditions and food. From Trapani to Catania, from Adrano to Modica, there are many religious events that are very popular and emotional, such as the **"Madonna Vasa Vasa", the Diavolata and the Angelicata**. Food traditions are also very important during this week. There are traditional dishes like u ciciiliu, agneddu ô furnu (roast lamb), and many other typical foods that will be discussed.



**Daniela Privitera** is a Sicilian scholar from Catania. She teaches Contemporary Italian Literature at the Niccolò Cusano University in Rome and has been teaching for many years at the Italian School of Middlebury College (Vermont, USA). She also taught Sicilian and Italian Dialectology for many years at the University of Catania. As a speaker, she has taken part in conferences and discussions on topics such as Sicilian literature, the Mediterranean, Italian-American literature, women's literature, the Sicilian language and music. Among her publications are studies on crime fiction (giallo d'autore), Giovanni Pascoli, exile and migration, and twentieth-century poetry.



### To Register:

Visit our website under the  
Program tab and click on Italian  
American Speaker Series.

With  
Guest Speaker  
Daniela Privitera

This FREE event is given by Italian Charities of America. This Speaker Series event is sponsored by Italian Charities of America with funding from The Giambelli Foundation and NYC Discretionary Funding from Council Member Robert Holden.

For more information call 718-478-3100 or email: [info@italiancharities.org](mailto:info@italiancharities.org)



Italian Charities of America, Inc.  
A 501c3 Non-Profit Organization  
83-20 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst NY 11373  
[www.italiancharities.org](http://www.italiancharities.org)



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OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge  
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