



The Roar of the Lion

May 2026

A Word from the President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

May is upon us and Spring is in full bloom, although the weather sometimes makes it seem otherwise. In Italy they celebrate their Labor Day (*Festa del Lavoro*) on the first and like a lot of the rest of the world, Mother's Day (*Festa della Mamma*) on the second Sunday of the month. As you know, here in the U.S. we also celebrate Memorial Day to commemorate our fallen and missing military men and women. Every year members of our lodge march in East Rochester's Memorial Day parade, which will take place on May 23rd starting at 10:30am. We will meet in the Debbie Supply parking lot (453 Commercial Street) between 9:30 and 9:45. Please consider joining and marching or riding with us this year. The more, the merrier.

We will have a guest speaker at the May General Assembly meeting (May 14th). Ed Evans will be presenting the story of the Hamlin CCC camp and the story of James (Jimmy) Giancaterin, father of Vincent Lombardi lodge members Sandy Meleca and Frank Giancaterin.

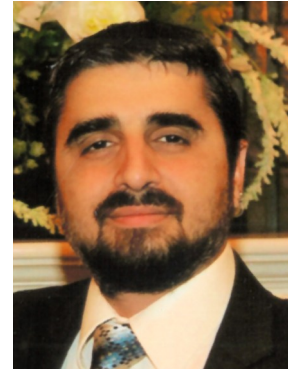


Refreshments will be available after the meeting including coffee (regular and decaf), espresso, water and snacks. If attending, please consider staying for a while afterwards and getting to know your fellow members. Since the council has decided to hold our council meetings on the second Thursday of the month before the General Assembly meeting, the first Thursday is free for us to have other activities/events. We're always looking for ideas for presentations and activities, so please reach out to us if you have any suggestions.



Buona primavera!

Jeremy DiFilippo



*The blue iris
is a beautiful
reminder
to keep faith
and hope
alive.*

INIDE THIS ISSUE

Lodge Calendar	2
Members' News	3
Local Theater	7
May in Rochester	8
May in Italy	9
Bookshelf	10
Did You Know?	11

EDITOR
Annette DeCarolis

2026 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

May 14 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
June 11 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
July 9 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 Scholarship Awards Night
August 13 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
September 10 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
October 8 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
November 12 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 General Assembly Meeting
December 10 th	6:00 Council Meeting 7:00 Meeting/Holiday Gathering

2026 Lodge Events

May 7th	Pasta Dinner Cancelled
May 23rd	Memorial Day Parade East Rochester
July 9th	Scholarship Awards Night
August 9th	Summer Picnic Quinzi Lodge, Eye Park
September	Annual Pie Sale
October	Italian-American Heritage Dinner
November	Turkey Raffle
December 10th	Holiday Gathering—Eyer Building

**Join us for the East Rochester Parade
Meet at Debbie Supply at 9:30**



**Attend meetings and events and
be a more active and informed member
of the lodge.**



May 14th General Assembly

Tom Meleca and Ed Evans present
Jimmy Giancaterin,
Tom's 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>

May Birthdays

- 5/4 John Sciortino
 5/6 Vincenzo Buonomo
 5/20 Dawn DiGennaro
 5/26 Angela Cataldi
 5/31 Scott DiMarco
 5/31 Suzanne DiMaria



*The month of May
 is celebrated
 as a time of hope,
 blooming,
 and renewed
 vitality.*

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



Happy Mother's Day to All Our Mom's

Mother's Day is an annual occasion where mothers, mother-figures and the contribution of motherhood to society are recognized and celebrated. The origin and history of the day vary across regions. The UK celebrates on the fourth Sunday of Lent each year, which links to the historical Christian tradition of returning to one's "mother church" on this day. This day was an opportunity for families to be reunited after working away as domestic servants, and it was customary for children to pick flowers for their mothers on the day.

American Mother's Day, celebrated on the second Sunday of May in North America, Australia and most European countries, has an entirely different origin story, and was established in the early 1900s by Anna Jarvis. Anna was an activist who founded the day as a way to honor her late mother's wishes, with the first Mother's Day on May 10th, 1908. After campaigning for nationwide recognition and celebration of maternal contributions to society, it was later established as an official national holiday in 1914.

Buona Festa della Mamma!

Grazie di essere
 sempre al mio fianco
 con tanto amore
 e tanta dolcezza.



Explore Italian Culture

Over time, the holiday has transitioned to an occasion when children would present gifts to their mothers as a token of appreciation. While a handmade gift is always meaningful, moms say thoughtful, personalized presents are much more special. Price matters far less than intention. *Above all, Mother's Day is about showing her you care.*

At the May 14th General Assembly

Tom Meleca and Ed Evans 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.



Ed wrote about the CCC camp in Hamlin, especially recognizing the contributions of James Giancaterin, father of Vincent Lombardi Lodge members **Frank Giancaterin and Sandy Meleca**. Pictured is Ed's visit to the site with Sandy and Tom Meleca, sharing the actual pictures from Sandy's father.



Giancaterin worked in the quarries in Holley.

During his tour at Hamlin, Giancaterin worked in the sandstone quarries in Holley "getting rock out of the ground," Evans said. "He ran a jackhammer which would have been a prestigious job."

Giancaterin also took advantage of an opportunity to take a typing course in Brockport and became a member of the production staff of the camp's weekly newspaper, *The Hamlin Special*.



The young man's name was James Giancaterin. He served two tours of duty at Hamlin and one at the CCC camp at Lovelock, Nevada. Giancaterin died in 1987.

The diaries show a "character development that is utterly amazing," says Evans, who has read all the letters and made notes about each one. "He was proud of his stay at Hamlin, if he went to this extent to document it."

Giancaterin, "came out of his shell," while at the Hamlin CCC camp, Evans says. "He discovered the recreation hall and the pool tables and was pulled out of his closed world." Giancaterin also liked poems, collected song sheets and regularly sang at the Wednesday camp nights.



Ed Evans among Jimmy's treasured letters and photos.

Evans says the CCC obviously developed Giancaterin's personality. "They gave this guy self confidence he never would have had. 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."

Jimmy's memorabilia included 133 letters, two spiral-bound, pocket-sized diaries full of very neatly penciled-in entries, 60 negatives of photos he took, his CCC enlistment paperwork, and a stack of the newspapers the camp produced – all issues the Hamlin Historian did NOT have! 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."*

News from the Geneva Lodge

B	I	N	G	O
6	20	43	48	68
10	22	35	50	63
4	29	FREE 604 SPACE	49	75
11	16	38	57	62
2	25	32	54	73

BINGO Every Sunday!!
Starts at 6:30 pm
Doors open at 4:30pm.



Wing -n- Pizza Night
Every Monday in our Lounge 5pm-7pm
 Dine in or Take out available
Wings @ \$15/doz. Pizzas start at \$8.00

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

Cornhole League Now Forming!

Join us for a non-competitive
cornhole league every Monday night
starting May 18th!

The fun kicks off at 6:30 PM
 \$10 per person to participate.
 Don't miss out—
 sign up at the Sons Daughters of Italy Lounge
 and get ready for a great time with friends!



Installation of Officers



Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism

**CHARITY
SPOTLIGHT**

Helping People and Families with Autism Live Life to the Fullest Our Promise

Our programs and activities improve the quality of everyday life for people and families with autism, along seven key dimensions that are critical to living each day fully. We aim to provide a path for education and/or employment during the day; opportunities for physical and social activity outside of work/school; and the tools to be safe, supported, and informed at all times to lead productive lives in a world where they are included, respected, and actively engaged in their communities.

Since our founding in 1998 by NFL quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife Laurie, the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism is building a deeper impact in the autism community. Together, we are ensuring every person and family affected by autism feels Safe, Supported, Educated, Active, Employed, Social, and Informed.

Our values guide our decision making:

- ◆ Family First
- ◆ Kindness and Respect
- ◆ Inclusion and diversity
- ◆ Growth

Your generous support allows the Flutie Foundation to fund and operate programs that help people with autism get access to services, lead more active lifestyles, and grow toward adult independence.

CHARITY VOTE BY June 1st

At the Grand Lodge Convention in June we 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.)

Our members need to vote for **three** charities that you would like to see our lodge donations support at the Grand Lodge Convention. The list include: Alzheimer's Association, Doug Floutie Jr Foundation for Autism Cancer Research, Commission for Social Justice, Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, Gift of Sight, Marty Lyon's Foundation, and Wounded Troops and Veterans' Causes.

Please vote by June 1st using this link:
<https://forms.gle/VKTFVxEy3JYmo2EA7>

Theater in Rochester

The Sound—May 2–17 at the JCC



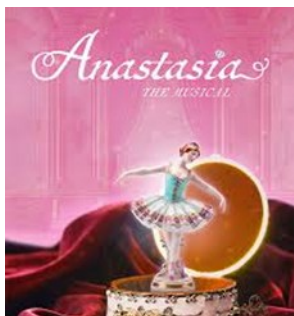
In 1943, deportation orders of over 7,000 Danish Jews inspired their friends and neighbors to help them escape to Sweden across The Sound, sending ripples far beyond the waters that transported them to safety. Set in both past and present, this magical and heroic story of one family's race against the clock to elude capture may restore your faith in humanity.

The Magic of Motown—May 9th at THE THEATER AT INNOVATION SQUARE



This highly-acclaimed show features all of your favorite hits! Hailed by critics and audiences alike, it has established a reputation as being “the #1 Motown show in the country.” It is “more than two hours of Detroit city magic!” You’ll enjoy The Temptations, The Jackson Five, Diana Ross & The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson, and all of the legends! The show’s pitch perfect harmonies, dynamic choreography, and costuming perfectly captures the sights and sound of Motown.

Anastasia—May 27 - JUN 28 at GEVA



This Tony Award-nominated musical inspired by the beloved films takes us on a journey to the past. Iconic songs like “Once Upon a December”, “Learn to Do It”, and “Journey to the Past” transport us from the darkness of Soviet Russia to the opulence of Paris in the ‘20s, as Anya and new friends Dmitry, a handsome conman, and Vlad, a bumbling ex-aristocrat, hatch a plan to pass her off as Grand Duchess Anastasia to her grandmother, the Dowager Empress. But could it be that Anya really is the long-lost Romanov?

Congratulations!

The Rochester Music Hall of Fame is honored to present this year's Educator Award to Judith Ranaletta — a transformative leader in Rochester performing arts education whose mentorship launched generations of performers.

*Her legacy lives on in every student
who stepped onto a stage with confidence
because of her guidance.*



Judith Ranaletta

We have been fortunate to have Judith bring her Roc City Singers to entertain our Lodge for various events.



2026 Lilac Festival in Rochester

May 8-17

Highland Park is more than the backdrop of the Lilac Festival — it's a living landmark shaped by vision, artistry, and community. Designed by famed landscape architect **Frederick Law Olmsted**, the park was created as a place for beauty, gathering, and inspiration. It is a horticultural treasure, with a diverse array of enchanting gardens that captivate visitors during all times of the year. Visitors can also explore, what we consider to be the star of the show, **the greatest collection of lilacs in all of North America**. Today, it remains home to thousands of lilacs, historic landscapes, and stories that continue to unfold each year.

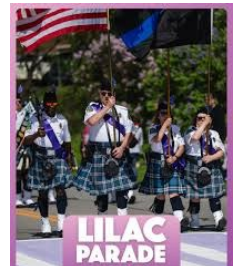
Walking Tours May 8-17

Immerse yourself in the beauty and history of Highland Park with a guided Lilac Walking Tour! Led by knowledgeable experts, these tours explore the park's stunning lilac collection—home to over 1,800 bushes and more than 500 varieties. Learn about the origins of the Rochester Lilac Festival, the horticultural legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, and the fascinating stories behind the blooms. Perfect for garden lovers, history buffs, and anyone who wants to experience the festival up close! These tours are completely **FREE!**



Lilac Parade May 9th @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join us on for the beloved **Lilac Parade**, celebrating community spirit with marching bands, dancers, local organizations, and of course — lilacs in full bloom!



Seniors Day May 13th

Town Square Health Lilac Seniors Day at the Rochester Lilac Festival is a special celebration dedicated to honoring older adults in the community. Held in the beautiful setting of Highland Park, this day offers a relaxed and welcoming experience designed specifically for seniors. Guests can enjoy live music, delicious lunch specials for seniors (\$2 off), and a comfortable, accessible environment with convenient drop-off areas and transportation accommodations. The event focuses on connection, enjoyment, and celebrating the generations who have helped shape the community—all while surrounded by Rochester's iconic blooming lilacs!

The Kids' Zone features creative crafts, games, face painting, and inflatables — a perfect way for young visitors to play, imagine, and explore.



*With so many family-friendly events,
the Rochester Lilac Festival is the perfect spring outing for all ages.
Bring your loved ones, explore Highland Park, and celebrate the season in full bloom.*

May in Italy



Wine lovers are in for a treat, with *Cantine Aperte* (Open Wine Cellars) on the last weekend of May. Starting in 1993, this event sees wine producers of Tuscany open their doors to the public for a wine tasting spectacular.

Taking place throughout the Tuscan countryside, this is a fantastic opportunity to discover the history of wine in Italy and taste the many variations of grapes. One of the biggest draws to *Cantine Aperte* is the chance to try some lesser-known wines from smaller family-run wineries, providing a first-hand glimpse into some of Italy's best wines.

Tuscany countryside holidays are all about dreamy tree-covered hills, lush vineyards, and romantic piazzas. Possibly the most famous wine of the region is the red *Chianti Classico*, an absolute must try when on holiday in Tuscany, with historical stone buildings and sensational views over the rolling vineyards.



Floral Fantasies in Italy



In a wonderful custom whose origin is a 13th-century miracle, many small towns in Italy make tapestries from thousands of flowers to cover their streets for the *Feast of Corpus Domini*, nine Sundays after Easter. The sheer artistry is astounding: reproductions of famous Renaissance paintings, religious and modern scenes, local architecture, geometric, abstract, flora and fauna patterns. Locals lovingly create flower carpets from petals, or whole flowers for a striking 3-D effect, and other natural materials, marking borders with soil or coffee grounds. Ornate chalk designs, often planned months in advance, are drawn on the street in the *infiorata*, which means “decorated with flowers.” A procession led by the local priest or bishop then walks the carpets on the feast day.

The oldest and biggest *infiorata* is less than 20 miles south of Rome, in one of 13 towns in the green Alban Hills called the *Castelli Romani*. About half a million flowers (about 50 tons!), such as carnations for red, wishbone flowers for blue and broom for yellow, compose 15 panels of designs on the street leading from the Church of Santa Maria. While flowers were first placed in mosaic-like designs in 1625 inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome by the Vatican's head florist for the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul, the city's patron saints, Italy's first outdoor *infiorata* took place in 1778 in Genzano.

In Noto, Sicily, *Infiorata Noto* offers a perfect canvas for the brilliant flower displays on the main boulevard Corso Vittorio Emanuele (pictured here). A parade in Baroque costumes, bands, and flag-wavers are part of the extravaganza in this town in southeast Sicily, located near Syracuse.



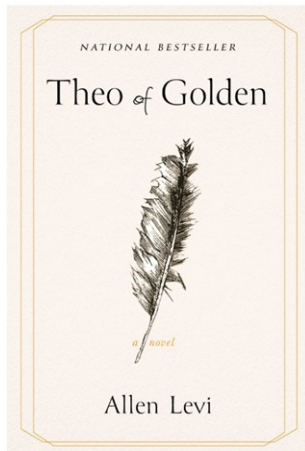
The Bookshelf

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 Theo of Golden

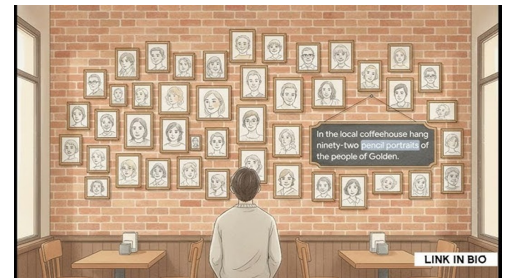
It's a story about hidden beauty, the redemptive power of kindness, and the legacies we leave in the hearts of others.



Theo of Golden is a bestselling debut novel by Allen Levi about a mysterious, kind stranger named Theo who arrives in the small Southern city of Golden, Georgia for reasons unknown to anyone but himself.

He begins a mission to buy 92 pencil portraits from a local coffee shop and return them to their subjects, learning their stories in the process. Theo's love for people, combined with his fondness for books, art, birds, and story, unite in a colorful expression

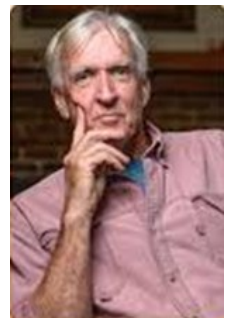
of outreach and affection. Stories are shared, friendships are born, and lives, in response to his inexplicable kindness, are affirmed and transformed.



Theo's anonymous gifts create pure, transformative joy without the complication of debt or recognition.

The book is a heartwarming story about generosity, connection, and the impact of anonymous kindness, exploring themes of wonder, purpose, and the invisible threads that bind people together. It's a novel that believes in the goodness of people and the transformative power of paying attention. Reading it felt like a restorative act, a reminder that our smallest, most nameless acts can be the most profound. *Enjoy reading this journey of heart, hope and unexpected miracles.*

Allen Levi grew up in Columbus, Georgia, attended University of Georgia for degrees in English and Law, and worked as an attorney from 1980 to 1990. Since then, he has worked as a traveling musician, sharing his whimsical, thought-provoking brand of songwriting and storytelling to audiences across the U.S. Allen published his first novel, *Theo of Golden*, in 2023.



When not reading or writing Allen cares for family acreage where he lives with his father, tries to spend time with family nearby, keeps a full schedule of involvement in the small community around him, and dreams of being an artist someday

Last night I ordered a glass of wine with my dinner, and the waiter asked for my ID. I replied "do I look that young?" and the waiter said "No. I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizen discount."

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A CEMETERY CAN RAISE ITS FUNERAL PRICES AND BLAME IT ON THE COST OF LIVING!

"By the time you're 80 years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it."

—GEORGE BURNS

I THOUGHT THE DRYER MADE MY CLOTHES SHRINK. TURNS OUT IT WAS THE REFRIGERATOR.

It's perfectly OK to talk to yourself and it's perfectly OK to answer yourself. But it's totally sad that you have to repeat what you said because you weren't listening.



New design cell phone for seniors

Did You Know?

Science shows laughing is good for your health.

Research has linked laughter therapy to improved mental health and reduced loneliness among older adults. A study published in the *European Heart Journal* in 2023 found that coronary artery disease patients who watched comedy sessions benefited more than their counterparts who watched documentaries.

Humor can boost your well-being as a senior.

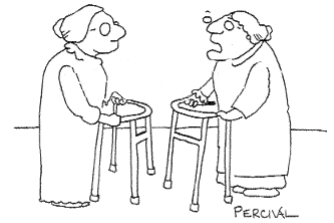
Laughter releases endorphins, easing pain and stress, while lowering cortisol to relax your body. It strengthens your immune system and improves heart health with better blood flow.

Humor also fights loneliness, reduces anxiety, and builds social bonds through shared chuckles. Plus, it's a great coping tool for life's challenges.

Aging isn't always the most fun thing in the world, but it sure can be funny if you approach it with an easygoing attitude.



"One senior discount for the six o'clock show, and could you fill this prescription, please?"



"The trouble with today's generation is that they can't stand on their own two feet."

"Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art."

—STANISLAW JERZY LEC

When I was little, I didn't care what I wore. I just went along with what my parents chose.

When I look in old photo albums, I realize that they didn't care either.



OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
37 Farnsworth Road N
Rochester NY 14623

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