



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
April 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a day! Today our lodge had their Installation Ceremony at the Burgundy Basin Inn. As many of you may already know, I was installed as your new president for the next two years. I look forward to moving our lodge ahead with various events that will entice our members and community folk to attend.



We were very fortunate today to have two state representatives with us for the swearing in of the council members - Biagio J. Isgro, Jr, our State Orator, and Anthony Geddes, District 6 trustee, were here to take part in the ceremony and we thank them for their participation. We appreciate the fact that they drove such a great distance to join us. Thank you.

As this is my first of many president letters I don't have much to tell you...yet. I can tell you that your delegates to the convention are eagerly awaiting for the month of May to arrive. The state conventions are always a wealth of information and ideas. It is also a time to form many new friendships with delegates from other lodges across the state. If you have never attended a convention you should seriously consider it for the future.

Once again I want to thank all of you for putting your trust and faith in me as your lodge president. I know it may be somewhat difficult to follow in Vinny's footsteps, but I will do my best.

Take care and hope you are all having a happy spring.

Hope to see all of you at our next member meeting in April.

Regards,
Sandy

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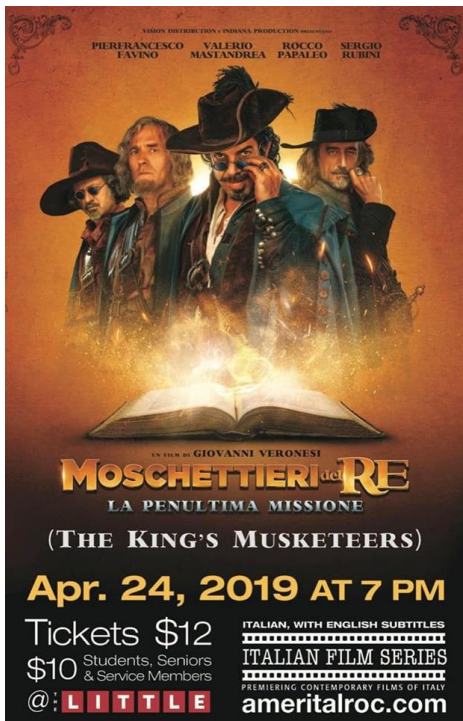




Sicily: Land of Love and Strife

1:00 PM, Sunday April 7, The Cinema Theatre,
957 Clinton Ave. South

This one-of-a-kind documentary showcases the history of the island, its people, culture and breathtaking scenery. It was produced by Paul Spano and volcanoes, Greek ruins, olives, The Leopard, cart painting, funerals and more are featured during the movie. This will be its only Rochester showing and all profits go to the local chapter of the Make-a-Wish foundation. Treat yourself to a tour of la isola bella and brighten the lives of deserving children at the same time. Standard tickets are \$20 and VIP tickets are \$35; both are available at MovieForMAW.kintera.org.



Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2018 Calendar

April 4th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

April 11th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 2nd, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

May 9th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 30th—June 2nd, 2019: New York State Convention

June 13th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 11th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 1st, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

August 8th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 25th, 2019: Annual Summer Picnic (Eyer Park, East Rochester)

September 5th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

September 12th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 3rd, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

October 10th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 7th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

November 14th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

December 5th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

December 12th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

NYS Grand Lodge Events

April 2nd: **Cooley's Anemia Dine-Around**
Verdi's of Westbury, Westbury NY

May 3rd: **Golden Lion Awards Dinner**
Garden City Hotel, Garden City NY

May 11th: **Annual Walk for a Cure**
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow NY

2019 Monthly Card Games at The Grapevine

A group of our lodge members meets monthly at the Grapevine Restaurant to have dinner and play cards. All are welcome and you can plan to come for just dinner, just cards, or both! Cards night is the second Wednesday of each month. Dinner at 4pm, cards after. Dates for this year: April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, December 11th. Cards night is occasionally cancelled due to holidays or other circumstances, so please watch your email for notices of cancellation.



4/9: Matthew Grosodonia
4/10: Angela Amato
4/13: Ray Macera
4/13: James Vacanti
4/14: Bonnie Cottone

4/15: Frank DiFilippo
4/19: Rufus Brey
4/26: Peter Maddalena
4/26: Anthony Mangione
4/29: Daniel DeJohn



Please keep Sister Franca Cinelli and her family in your thoughts and prayers, with the loss of her husband, John.



Sending healing thoughts to Brother Joe DiMaria and Sister Jenny Gugino, recuperating after surgery, and to Sister Eva Fantauzzo, recovering from illness.

...And to all of our members who have been ill and under the weather during this long, cold winter.



Our OSDIA NY lodges do great work in the community through our various community, fraternal/family, heritage/cultural, and youth activities, and the NY Grand Lodge has started a program to acknowledge the wonderful work being done by local lodges with a Community Outreach Award in each of those categories. Locally, we are doing great things for the community together as the Vincent Lombardi Lodge, including our support of various charities and our scholarship programming, and we know that our members are doing this individually as well! We think our lodge members are exceptional examples of what it means to be Italian American, and we want to acknowledge the work you are doing to support our heritage and our local communities. Our new Outreach section will highlight you, our members, as you lend a hand to lift others up and share important aspects of our Italian culture in the community. We would be grateful if you would send us pictures and/or information about any community work you are doing to support others and/or promote our heritage, so that we may feature it in this regular column.

Our first feature is Brother Peter Maddalena. Brother Pete spends much of his free time knitting winter hats for infants, that he then donates to those in need, including Golisano Children's Center at UR Strong Hospital and other hospitals in the area. Thank you, Brother Pete, for your years of dedication to this project!



CSJ Report - New Orleans Mayor Apologizes for 1891 Lynching Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of New Orleans embraced the idea of apologizing for the atrocity that happened to eleven Italians in 1891 when approached by the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ). Vincenzo Pasquantonio, Human Relations Commission head, to act as liaison. Michael Santo of the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America stated, "This has been a long-standing wound."

What led up to the March 14, 1891 lynching was the acquittal of six of the nine men and a mistrial declared for the remaining three who had been indicted for their alleged role in the murder of police chief David Hennessy. There had been innuendos and rumors of an Italian network of criminals who had been responsible for the killing of the police chief. There was further belief the jury had been bribed, and a mob broke into the jail where the men were held and eleven prisoners were killed, mostly by shooting. The mob were in the thousands, including some very prominent and influential citizens, who gathered near the statue of Henry Clay. The press, both in the north and the south, was unified in its endorsements of the lynching and amplified the coverage as congratulatory. Those responsible for the lynching were never charged. Correspondence between the US, state officials, and the Italian government showed the lynching happened in agreement and collaboration with New Orleans officials.

One response to the lynching was the closing of the Italian embassy in the US, followed by the US embassy closing in Italy. The cutting of diplomatic ties sparked rumors of war, increased anti-Italian sentiment, restrictions on immigration, the term *Mafia* was now heard more and more in reference to Italians, and the stereotype of the *Italian Mafioso* became established in American culture.

During the 1800's and early 1900's, the American press was vastly racist and supported lynching's, which was considered a tradition the press accepted and defended violence against racial minorities under the guise of being lawful. Revenge was a respected value, and it was believed the murder of Police Chief Hennessy was being avenged. It just made sense to praise the lynch mob, which was honorable because it reflected their values.

Anti-Italian sentiment was growing throughout the US in the late 19th-century. They were immigrating in large numbers because of poor conditions and were able to fill the shortage of cheap labor as a result of the end of slavery. Recruiters were hired to bring Italians to southern Louisiana to work the sugar plantations. Many settled in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The mayor of New Orleans during this time of migration expressed common anti-Italian prejudice.

On April 12th, the city of New Orleans and Mayor Cantrell will present a proclamation apologizing for the city's involvement at the American Italian Cultural Center.



Founded June 22, 1905

National Office

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE®

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(dba Order Sons and Daughter of Italy in America®)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of New Orleans to Issue Proclamation of Apology for Largest Lynching in United States History

Washington, D.C., March 25, 2019 – The City of New Orleans will be issuing an official Proclamation of Apology on April 12, 2019, regarding the largest lynching in United States history.

Following the murder of New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessy on October 16, 1890, several Italian immigrants were arrested without just cause. Nine of the 19 men who were indicted went to trial, which resulted in six acquittals and three mistrials (because the jurors couldn't agree on a verdict).

In reaction to this, on March 14, 1891, a mob formed outside of Parish Prison. The rioters broke inside and dragged 11 Italian immigrants out of the prison. Those 11 Italians were hung, shot, and/or clubbed to death in the city streets—marking the largest lynching in United States history. Five of those who were killed had not even been tried in court. Eight of the wrongfully imprisoned Italian immigrants survived the lynch mob by managing to hide in the prison itself. Afterward, the charges against them were dropped, and they were set free. In the end, 11 Italian immigrants were lynched for a murder that was never solved, and those who were guilty of the lynching were never arrested and brought to justice.

The Presentation of the Official Proclamation of Apology for this tragic event will be made by the Mayor of New Orleans LaToya Cantrell on:

Friday, April 12, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m.
AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER
537 South Peters Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information, contact:

Michael A. Santo, Esq.
(516) 551-5503
AttySANTO@gmail.com

The Commission for Social Justice would like to recognize New York CSJ State Chair John Fratta and Michael Santo, Esq., for their efforts in making this Proclamation possible.

Founded in 1905, the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America is the oldest and largest organization for men and women of Italian heritage. Its anti-defamation arm, the Commission for Social Justice, was founded in 1979 and combats the stereotyping of Italian Americans by the entertainment, advertising, and news industries.

2019 Officer Installation Brunch



2019 Officer Installation Brunch



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Sandra Meleca, President
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President
Sandra Meleca

Vice-President
Marjorie Focarazzo

Recording Secretary
Mary Lou Cadena

Financial Secretary
Louis DeCarolis

Treasurer
Catherine DiNicola

Orator
Matthew Grosodonia

Mistress of Ceremony
Carol DiNicola

Master of Ceremony
Edward Groszewski

Sentinel
Ronald Santoli

Trustees
Marisa Rubé Przepiora
Antonio Palucci
Luigi DiFilippo
Lillian Bonanni
Tom Meleca

Immediate Past President
Vincent Giannantonio

Chaplain
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State
Trustee**
Joseph Rubé

Chaplain Emeritus
Sister Carole Proia

**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi
Lodge**
Tony DiCostanzo

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge
Thomas Meleca

Past Presidents
Joseph Lusardi*
Thomas Laverne*
Louis Giambra*
Joseph Vazzana
John March*
Victor Bell*
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Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*
Vincent Giannantonio

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