



# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor  
March 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Time certainly has passed quickly, here I sit writing my last letter as President of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge. It has been a great five years and I have been honored to be your president. During the last five years my acquaintances in the lodge have become dear friends and family. We are truly brothers and sisters.



As of March 24th we will have a new administration with some old and some new faces. Please support the new president and her board as you have supported me.

Time is running out to reserve your spot for our March 24th Installation Brunch at the Burgundy Basin Inn. Please send in your reservations as soon as possible. Hope to see everyone there.

I would like to thank everyone that attended our Winter Clambake Picnic. Even with questionable weather we had a good turn out, lots of fun and a lot of laughs with good food.

Once again, a quick reminder, our convention is coming up in May. If you would like to attend as a delegate please see me as soon as possible at the March meeting or contact me by phone or email.

It's spring time and time for the Grand lodge raffle. Tickets are \$100 apiece with the prize of \$20,000. Hurry and get your tickets soon. They will not last long!

Again, thank you for all the cooperation and support you have given me over the years.

Yours Fraternaly,  
Vincent

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**Cooley's Anemia Dine-Around**

April 2nd—Verdi's of Westbury, Westbury NY

**Golden Lion Awards Dinner**

May 3rd—Garden City Hotel, Garden City NY

**Annual Walk for a Cure**

May 11th—Eisenhower Park, East Meadow NY

**An Introduction to Italian Genealogy**

7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 19, Ogden Farmer's Library, 269 Ogden Center Road

Brother Ed Groszewski will be making a presentation for those just starting to explore their Italian roots. How to find where in Italy your ancestors lived, how to find the birth, marriage, and death records you need, how to read those records and, most importantly, how to get help when you need it. The presentation will take about 45 minutes and you do not need to know Italian to understand the lecture. Free.

**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](http://MovieForMAW.kintera.org).

**Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2019 Calendar**

March 7th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

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

**March 24th, 2019 @ 12pm: Officer Installation Brunch (Burgundy Basin, Bushnell's Basin)**

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

**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: March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, December 11th. Please note, there is no cards night in January. Cards night is occasionally cancelled due to holidays or other circumstances, so please watch your email for notices of cancellation.



3/10: Ann Battaglia  
3/14: Kitty DiNicola  
3/16: Donald Campese

3/19: Michael Meleca  
3/23: Nicholas Baross  
3/26: Mary Rinere



Another longtime member, Brother Joe Vazzana, has passed away. Please keep Sister Ann Vazzana, Tom and Sylvia Vazzana, and the rest of the Vazzana family in your hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

Also sending prayers to Brother Pete Maddalena on the passing of his brother in law.

## Scholarship Updates

**Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarships:** Applications are available at all Monroe County High Schools, or by download on our lodge website at [www.sonsofitalyrochester.com](http://www.sonsofitalyrochester.com). We have 5 awards to give this year. Information about qualifications can be found on the application. All applications must be submitted in full by March 31st to qualify. Contact [vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com](mailto:vincentlombardilodge@gmail.com) or Marisa Rubé, 585-750-8336 with any questions.

**NYSOSDIA State Scholarships:** Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America New York State Grand Lodge Foundation has announced their 2019 Scholarship Program for graduating seniors. The statewide and district scholarships and grants, established by lodges, districts or individuals are distributed on a yearly basis by the NYSOSIA Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. The application and criteria have been mailed to all high schools' guidance offices. The deadline for submission of all documentation is March 31st. Any questions should be directed to Marjorie Focarazzo, email [MAFocarazzo@gmail.com](mailto:MAFocarazzo@gmail.com), phone 585-749-5346.

**Bella Lingua Award:** For graduating seniors who have studied Italian for three or more years in a school program, the deadline for submission of the award is fast approaching, March 20th. Please check with the Italian Language Instructor in your school for the application and criteria. The \$500 award is sponsored by the New York State Commission for Social Justice and the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America New York State Grand Lodge. The award presentation will be at the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 award ceremony on Aug. 8th. Please direct any questions to Marjorie Focarazzo, email [MAFocarazzo@gmail.com](mailto:MAFocarazzo@gmail.com), phone 585-749-5346.

**Italian Civic League Scholarships:** The Italian Civic Leagues announces its 2019 Scholarship Program of two \$1000 awards to a graduating senior who will be pursuing a college education immediately following graduation. Applications and criteria will be mailed to all high school guidance offices or information can be obtained from Marjorie Focarazzo, email [MAFocarazzo@gmail.com](mailto:MAFocarazzo@gmail.com), phone 585-749-5346. The deadline for submission of all materials is April 30, 2019. Recipients must be present to accept their award at a special luncheon to be held on Columbus Day, October 7, 2019.



## **The Italian Immigrant to the American Shores**

By: Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

America has had a long tradition of welcoming immigrants. Sometimes. It also has a long history of treating immigrants with open discrimination and violent hostility. The recent dispute of the Muslim ban or whether to accept Syrian refugees conjures up a different time in our history when Italians were not welcomed to our shores or were even banned from emigrating. They were seen as alien in religion, culture, education, politics, and law. The consensus was they could never assimilate. They were even thought of as terrorists. They were portrayed as ignorant, insular, superstitious, lazy, prone-to-crime and acts of violence, and righting wrongs with personal vendettas.

Like many groups of Europeans, Italians started migrating to the US in large numbers in the 1880's, which continued to grow until 1921 when Congress passed a law to restrict immigration. They came for work, for a better life. Many hoped to make enough money to return home to buy their own land, home, farm.

The 1891 lynching of eleven Italians in downtown New Orleans, the worst mass lynching in US history, was not an isolated incident. In 1899 five Italians living in Tallulah, Louisiana were lynched after a disagreement over a goat. In all, there are 50 documented lynchings between 1890 and 1920.

But ethnicity was not the only basis for prejudice. Italian immigrants had to face an older hostility, one that is century old based on religion. In 1785 there was a proposal to build St. Peter's Church in the heart of Manhattan. They were forced to relocate outside the city limits because city officials feared the papacy and sinister foreign influences. Christmas Eve 1906, protesters surrounded the church outraged by the "mysterious" ceremonies going on. This protest led to a riot where dozens were injured, and a police officer killed.

By World War II, America's propensity for xenophobic hysteria grew. Those who were hated, ridiculed and discriminated one day were approved the next only to be replaced by another allegedly "dangerous" immigrant group. During this time, Italians' movements were restricted, their home raided, radios and cameras confiscated, livelihoods

and property seized and, in many cases, never returned, and some were even interned. Those who were not interned were not allowed to travel more than five miles from their homes and were subjected to curfews. Violation could mean imminent arrest and indefinite detention. Unnaturalized Italians were required to be fingerprinted, photographed, and six hundred thousand Italian immigrants were forced to carry "enemy alien" identity documents. Many of the elderly who never pursued citizenship were suspected to be spies.

When Mussolini declared war on the United States, Italians living in America were no regarded with suspicion and fear. People refused to patronize their businesses or be hired. They became "enemy aliens". But Mussolini had minimal support from Italian Americans.

In 1999, NY Representative Rick Lazio introduced a bill, which passed, to investigate the treatment and violation of civil liberties. A report, issued post September 11, 2001 when anti-Arab sentiments swept through the country, detailed some but not all the transgressions Italian Americans suffered.

Prejudice and discrimination died a slow death, although there are many of us who say it still persists in subtle forms. We became loyal hard-working, productive citizens. Obviously, we did assimilate despite the hostility we faced. Italian Americans served heroically in our armed services and many have received medals of honor. Italian Americans throughout the United States are well represented in a wide variety of occupations and professions, from skilled trades, to the arts and sports, to engineering, science, space exploration, mathematics, law, politics, business enterprises, medicine, and Nobel Prize laureates: Mario Capecchi, Renato Dulbecco, Riccardo Giacconi, Salvatore Luria, Franco Modigliani, Rita Levi Montalcini, and Emilio G. Segre. To understand and appreciate the struggles the Italian immigrant endured and to make their way in a world so hostile to them, their culture, and their religion should give each of us a deeper respect.

2019 Winter Clambake—Eyer Park



## VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

**President**  
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Sandra Meleca

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Marisa Rubé

**Financial Secretary**  
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**Mistress of Ceremony**  
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**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi  
Lodge**  
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**State Deputy to Geneva Lodge**  
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Michael La Comba\*  
Shirley Sculli  
Phillip Dattilo  
Joseph Berta\*  
Joseph Rubé  
Jennifer Rubé\*



## LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

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