



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor
March 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy March!!!!

Last Friday on February 23rd at the Burgundy Basin Inn, we had our first Reverse Raffle Dinner. The night was filled with fun, excitement, food and entertainment. Music was provided by our very own Brother Franco Gallelli and Sister Franca Cinelli. The event was a success. During the course of the event, we gave away 10 prizes of \$50 each with 3rd prize being \$250, 2nd \$500, and 1st prize at \$2000. The final \$2000 was won by Sister Marisa Rubé.



Congratulations to all the winners! I want to thank everyone that helped run the event that evening. My gratitude to Patty Johns, Matthew Grosodonia, Pat Bartholomew, Pat Groszewski and Louis DeCarolis.

The chairperson of our honoree committee, Brother Matthew Grosodonia, is looking for committee members to help choose honorees for our October Awards Dinner. If you know of anyone that you would like to nominate for the award, or if you would like to join the committee, please contact Brother Matt at his e-mail address- seetheroc@gmail.com, or at 585-330-8810.

At our last general assembly meeting we elected our 5 delegates to the 2018 state convention. Congratulations to Brothers and Sisters, Marjorie Focarazzo, Mary Lou Cadena, Sandy Meleca, Tom Meleca and Luigi DiFilippo. As president, I will be attending along with Brother Joe Rubé, who will be attending as Grand Lodge State Trustee.

This coming July 28, 2018, we are co-hosting the summer plenary session with the Geneva Lodge. We are looking for volunteers to work in conjunction with our brothers and sisters from the Geneva Lodge. Please contact myself at 208-1578 or committee chairperson, Sister Marisa Rubé at 750-8336. or marisarube@gmail.com. This is a very important state function, that we are participating in. It is important that we have full lodge involvement.

Let's not forget our upcoming Cibi Dinner on May 20th at the East Rochester Community Center. **SAVE THE DATE.**

As our CSJ Brothers and Sisters say “ Sempre Avanti “

Peace and Health,
President Vince

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New York State and National OSDIA Events

April 3rd: NYS Grand Lodge Foundation Cooley's Anemia Dine Around at Verdi's of Westbury

April 6-8: NYSOSDIA Student Summit in the NY State Capital Region

April 27th: NYS Grand Lodge Foundation 36th Annual Golden Lion Awards Dinner at Garden City Hotel

April 29th: NYSOSDIA Annual Bowling Tournament at Farmingdale Lanes

May 31st-June 3rd: NYSOSDIA Annual State Convention at Villa Roman

Geneva Lodge Events

Sons of Italy Friday Night Dinners Starting on Feb. 16th

Join us each Friday during February and March for great meals



Fish Dinners

Fried, Broiled, or Shrimp -
Steaks and Grilled Chicken

- Fish Dinners - \$10.00
- Fish Sandwich Dinner - \$7.00
- Steak Dinner
- 10 oz. \$11.00 / 12 oz. - \$13.00
- Hamburger w/fries - \$5.50
- Cheeseburger w/fries - \$6.00
- Hotdog w/fries - \$5.50

All dinners include potato, coleslaw, salad, roll, ice cream, & coffee tax included)

For take outs add \$.50

Serving from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2018 Calendar

March 1st, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

March 8th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

March 14th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

April 5th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

April 11th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

April 12th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 3rd, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

May 9th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

May 10th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 20th, 2018 Time & Location TBD: Cibi Dinner

May 26th, 2018: East Rochester Memorial Day Parade

May 31st-June 3rd, 2018: OSDIA NYS Convention

June 13th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

June 14th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 5th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

July 11th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

July 12th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 2nd, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

August 8th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

August 9th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

September 6th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

September 12th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

September 13th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

September 23rd, 2018: Member Appreciation Picnic/Clambake

October 4th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

October 10th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

October 11th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 2018, Date/Time TBD: Italian American Heritage Dinner

November 1st, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

November 8th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 14th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

November 2018, Date/Time TBD: Annual Turkey Raffle

December 6th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

December 12th, 2018 @ 4pm: Dinner and Cards (Grapevine)

December 13th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



3/8: Chris Przepiora
3/10: Ann Battaglia
3/16: Donald Campisi

3/19: Michael Meleca
3/26: Mary Rinere
3/30: Shirley Sculli



...Br. Tom Meleca, recuperating at home after hospitalization.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Honorable Donald Marks, our distinguished, long time lodge member who passed away on February 10th.



Our 2018 Convention Delegates are:

Sister Sandy Meleca
Brother Tom Meleca
Sister Mary Lou Cadena
Sister Marjorie Focarazzo
Brother Luigi DiFilippo

Alternates: Brother Matthew Grosodonia, Brother Ron Santoli



Feeling lucky? New York State Grand Lodge \$100 Raffle tickets are here! Prizes range from \$500 to \$20,000. Raffle is held during the NYS Convention, May 31st-June 3rd. If you would like to buy a raffle ticket please see President Vince.



2018 Events and Committees

We need help planning and executing this year's events. Please take a look at the committee list below and contact the committee chairperson to help on that committee. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our lodge vibrant and active.

President's Picnic: Ron Santoli
October Honorees: Matthew Grosodonia
Ad Book: Kitty DiNicola
Past Honorees: Tom and Sandy Meleca
October Dinner: Kitty DiNicola
Holiday Party: Matthew Grosodonia
Finance: Ed Groszewski
Membership: Tom Meleca
Bereavement: Linda Agnello
Nominations: Ed Groszewski
Refreshments: Lillian Bonanni and Mary Lou Cadena
CSJ: Marjorie Focarazzo
Scholarship: Marisa Rubé and Rufus Brey
Newsletter: Marisa Rubé
Sunshine and Welfare: Ann Vazzana
Cibi Dinner: Sandy Meleca and Rosita Caridi Miller

ITALIAN JEWS AND THE HOLOCAUST

Italians who undermined the Nazis to save thousands of Jews should be celebrated. While much of Europe was under Nazi domination throughout World War II, Jews were rounded up, sent to concentration or death camps. Many tried to escape and hide with the help of others. Numerous people in Italy took significant risks, created cover stories, watched over and avoided opportunities to report them either to the German authorities or their Italian Fascist partners.

The history of World War II is intertwined with many events—some tragic, others heroic and overlooked. In 1938 Mussolini established harsh discrimination laws which many Italian authorities opposed, and citizens actively protected Jewish residents and refugees. The anti-Semitic legislative was often interpreted broadly. Italian Jews were integrated into the culture and society. There was little open and blatant anti-Semitism. Even within the government, Italian Fascism did not focus on antisemitism and Jews could join the Fascist party. Joseph Goebbels, Nazi propaganda minister, complained how lax the Italians were towards the Jews. Once the Nazis occupied Italy, several thousand Jews were transported to concentration and death camps. According to estimates about 80% of the nearly 45,000 Jews in Italy survived the war simply because the Italian people did not abandon them. Italian military authorities would refuse to participate in mass murder or permit deportation of Italian Jews or those seeking refuge. The Fascist leadership was unable and unwilling to force the directive. Italian authorities evacuated some 4000 refugees to southern Italy, who survived the war.

Northern Italy had a much different experience. The Germans, especially those along the northern border, grew suspicious of Italian intentions and quickly occupied the north and central areas, as well as occupied Italian zones. This radically changed the situation and more than 43,000 northern Italian Jews were deported. Again, roundups in Fall 1943 had limited success due to advanced warning to the Jews by the Italian Authorities and the Vatican. In all, the Germans deported 8564 Jews from Italy and areas occupied by Italy to Auschwitz, but 1009 survived. More than 40,000 Jews survived the Holocaust in Italy.

The question on many of the refugees who survived under false identities asked, "What is it about culture? Why was a culture so humane and protective across the board as the Italians were, where cultures like the Germans committed the sadistic horrors they committed?" The question may not be answerable, but the Holocaust Museum in Israel lists more than 600 Italians as Righteous Among the Nations. These were and are the people who risked their own lives and that of their families, as well as all they had, to save Jews. In general, the Italian population did not approve of the German alliance or entry into the war.

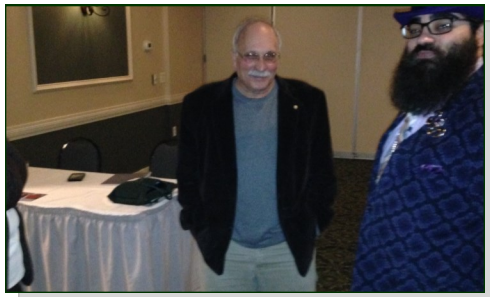
Only in the last fifteen to twenty years have Italian authorities been prepared to conduct proceedings against Nazi offenders. In 2000, the Italian Parliament proclaimed January 27th, the day the gates of Auschwitz were knocked down, as Holocaust Remembrance Day. The goal is to remember the Shoah (another term for Holocaust), the racial laws, the oppression, the deportation and imprisonment, and murder of hundreds of thousands, those who fought against extermination, those who saved lives, and those who protected the prosecuted at the risk of their own lives and entire being. In 2005 the United Nations followed the Italian movement, declaring Jan. 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. "Together to Never Forget" a solemn occasion to reflect on a dramatic period in history and its goal to prevent it from ever happening again.

NYS Grand Lodge Scholarships and La Bella Lingua Award

New York State Grand Lodge has announced two opportunities for graduating seniors to apply for awards. The first, the Scholarship Program, will award 124 district scholarships and 14 Statewide Undergraduate and Graduate awards to 74 students at a special ceremony on June 9th. The application and requirements have been mailed to guidance counselors to all high schools in Monroe County. The information has also been forwarded to the Geneva Lodge for dissemination. Students must have a minimum GPA of 85%, must show evidence of scholarship and service, and be a New York State resident and of Italian heritage. Applicants are not limited to OSIA membership. The deadline for submission of all materials is March 31, 2018. Please have your child or if you know of a student to contact their high school counselor or to contact Marjorie Focarazzo, 585-749-5346, MAFocarazzo@gmail.com.

The second opportunity is La Bella Lingua Award. Application and information have been mailed only to Italian Foreign Language instructors and high school principals of those districts that have an Italian Foreign Language Program. Each high school may nominate only one student who exemplifies proficiency in speaking Italian (has taken a minimum of three years of Italian Foreign Language). Each nominee is required to provide an official transcript, letter of recommendation, and an essay from the list of topics provided. Students should check with the Italian Foreign Language teacher for more information on this award. The deadline for submission of all materials is April 1, 2018 to Marjorie Focarazzo, 585-749-5346, MAFocarazzo@gmail.com.

2018 Reverse Raffle



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

President
Vincent Giannantonio

First Vice-President
Sandra Meleca

Second Vice-President
Thomas Meleca

Recording Secretary
Marisa Rubé

Financial Secretary
Louis DeCarolis

Treasurer
Catherine DiNicola

Orator
Matthew Grosodonia

Mistress of Ceremony
Mary Lou Cadena

Sentinel
Ronald Santoli

Trustees
Edward Groszewski
Luigi DiFilippo
Antonio Palucci
Marjorie Focarazzo
Lillian Bonanni

Immediate Past President
Joseph Rubé, MD

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*
Peter Cimino*
Sam Parese*
Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*



LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

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