



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor
May 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hopefully Spring has finally arrived and our thoughts turn to planting and being in our gardens. In a few weeks it will be Mother's Day! I want to wish all my fellow lodge sisters a Happy Mother's Day.

This coming month will be a busy one for our lodge. As a reminder we will be having our Annual Cibi Dinner presented by Chef Rosita. Seating is limited so hurry and please send your reservations and check to me as soon as possible.



Also at the end of the month a group of us will be attending the New York State Grand Lodge Convention at Villa Roma in the Catskills. Your delegates will bring back information to you about the happenings with the Grand Lodge and other lodges around the state.

Once again, we are participating in the Annual Memorial Day Parade in East Rochester. Please reserve Saturday, May 26th on your calendars and contact me to let me know if you can march with us. Hope to see you all there!

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Our lodge is currently 135 members strong, however, we have not seen our membership grow in the last few months. This is the first time in my presidency that we have had a lull in new membership. I would like to focus on membership growth in the summer months. I am asking each of us to make a concerted effort to bring in one new member by the end of September. "Everyone Knows Someone".

Speaking of membership, it is important to notify me of any changes in your contact information. If you move or change phone numbers or get a new email address please notify me.

This past week we had the pleasure of meeting a fellow OSDIA member, Vincent E. Marmorale. He came up from New York to give a presentation at Nazareth College and the IACC of his documentary, *My Italian Secret, The Forgotten Heroes*. The documentary is about bicyclist Gino Bartali and other Italians who rescued Jews and other refugees from Nazi occupied Italy. Great Documentary.

Looking forward to seeing you all Thursday, May 10th at the next general assembly meeting.

Fraternally,
President Vince



State and National OSDIA Events

May 05, 2018 @ 8:30AM
Grand Lodge Foundation 21st Annual Walk-A-Thon
East Meadow, NY

May 24th, 2018
Sons of Italy Foundation's 30th Annual National Education & Leadership Awards Gala
Washington D.C.

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

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2018 Calendar

- May 3rd, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- May 9th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant, East Rochester)
- May 10th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- May 20th, 2018 @ 2pm: Cibi Regional Dinner (Eyer Building, East Rochester)**
- May 26th, 2018: East Rochester Memorial Day Parade**
- June 13th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- June 14th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- June 30th, 2018 @ 9am: ICL Bocce Tournament**
- July 5th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- July 11th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- July 12th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- August 2nd, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- August 8th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- August 9th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- September 6th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- September 12th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- September 13th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- September 23rd, 2018: Member Appreciation Picnic (Eyer Park, East Rochester)**
- October 4th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- October 10th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- October 11th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- October 19th, 2018 Time TBD: Italian American Heritage Dinner (Burgundy Basin, Bushnell's Basin)**
- November 1st, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- November 8th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- November 14th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- November 2018, Date/Time TBD: Turkey Raffle**
- December 6th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting
- December 12th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)
- December 13th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
- January 13th, 2019 @ 12pm: After Christmas Party (Valicia's Ristorante, Rochester)**

PAOLA CORTELLESI
ALESSANDRO FABRIZO
GASSMANN BENTIVOGLIO

FUJIO E FEDERALCA LUCISANO E RAI CINEMA PRESENTANO

GLI ULTIMI SARANNO ULTIMI
UN FILM DI MASSIMILIANO BRUNO

THE LAST WILL BE THE LAST

MAY 23 AT 7 PM

Tickets \$12 Students, Seniors & Service Members \$10

ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
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5/4: Luigi LaPietra
5/6: Vincenzo Buonomo
5/11: Richard Gigliotti
5/12: Mario Daniele

5/18: Salvatore DiPerna
5/23: Clemente Suero
5/26: Angela Cataldi
5/31: Suzanne Tydings-DiMaria



...Sister Nancy Rubé, recuperating after surgery.

....Brother Joe DiMaria, recuperating from a hospital stay.

...Yolanda Capogreco, wife of Brother Joe Capogreco, recuperating from a hospital stay.



Have you always wanted to learn Italian, but never had the opportunity? Well, this may be your chance! Casa Italiana at Nazareth will be holding 8 week Italian Language and Culture classes this summer, beginning June 18th. The cost is \$144 for Casa members, or \$152 for non-members. Class list:

Lingua e Culture Italiane I Mondays, 6-8pm
Lingua e Culture Italiane II Tuesdays, 6-8pm
Lingua e Culture Italiane III Wednesdays, 6-8pm
Lingua e Culture Italiane IV Tuesdays, 6-8pm



The Annual ICL Bocce Tournament is set to take place on June 30th starting at 9am. Last year we had two teams in the tournament and it was a great time! We are hoping to meet or surpass that this year, with at least two teams. Please contact President Vince as soon as possible if you would like to participate on one of our teams.



Dear Members and Friends—

We have a wonderful update to share on the note in last month's newsletter about the Gates Chili School District and their proposed elimination of the Italian and Latin Programs in the middle school there. Folks showed up in force (including several of our members) to protest this proposal and our voices were heard! The Gates Chili Board of Education voted to continue the program! Thanks to everyone who showed up, wrote letters, and made phone calls. This is a great example of how we can absolutely make a difference!

NYS Grand Lodge Foundation Scholarships and La Bella Lingua Award

In February the NY Grand Lodge announced its 2018 Scholarship Program for graduating high school seniors. More than \$1,000,000 has been awarded since the inception of the New York State Grand Lodge Foundation. This year 138 scholarships and 6 grants will be awarded at an award ceremony on June 9th at the Tappan Zee High School in Orangeburg. Students are required to submit an official transcript of their grades plus their SAT/ACT scores, two letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors, and an essay of no more than 350 words summarizing their educational and career goals, school and community Service, and the significance of their Italian heritage.

The New York State Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee met on April 14th to decide the recipients. It is difficult to decide which of the many students who apply who will walk away with an award. At the same time, we are filled with the assurance these students will be the future leaders who have integrity, values, insight, awareness, veracity, principles, and will uphold their Italian heritage and traditions.

Juliana Viola is the recipient of the **Agnes Funk Memorial Award**. Ms. Funk was a philanthropist who supported charities for children including the National Center for Disability Services; Schneider Children's Hospital; the Long Island Philharmonic; Meals on Wheels; St. Mary's Children & Family Services in Syosset; and St. Christopher-Ottilie; the Gift of Life donor program; and the Children's Medical Fund. She gave millions to Parkinson's research. Juliana writes, "Being raised in an Italian family has not only equipped me to understand the importance of a home-cooked meal but it has equipped me with a set of skills that I have been able to apply in all areas of my life." Upon graduating from Brockport High School, she plans to study neuroscience and then go on to medical school. "In order for me to take away what I truly desire from college, I must be able to delve deeper than the surface level courses. I will be participating in research programs that will enable me to pursue a path of my own imagination. I do not plan to stop learning until I have made a positive impact on the world around me."

Richard Di Marco Sr. Memorial Scholarship donated by John DiMarco and the Giambra Family Scholarship and the Paul and Cheryl Speranza Foundation Scholarship will be awarded to **Antonio Buonomo**. A senior at Gates-Chili High School, Antonio plans to study Adolescent Math Education at St. John Fisher College and would also like to coach high school soccer. His grandparents, Antonio and Giuseppa, immigrated from Gaeta, Italy instilled traditions that will carry on for generations. Antonio says in his essay, "The emphasis on traditions, family gatherings, caring for others, and hard work were always impressed upon me since I was young." He volunteers at his church, the Chili Public Library, and has worked as a camp counselor and a referee for youth

soccer. He also states, "My Italian culture has taught me that none of the material things in life are nearly as important as love, family, God, and traditions."

Nicolas Pierleoni will receive the **Geneva Lodge #2397 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Members** and the **Guglielmo Marconi Lodge #154 Scholarship** and the **Jane Lippa Memorial Scholarship**. A graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, Nicolas plans to study business. He has studied the Italian language since 8th grade and as a senior is an Italian Assistant. His Italian teacher says of Nicholas, "In my years of teaching Italian, I have encountered few students as astounding as Nico. His language abilities have staggered me from the beginning." Nicolas spends Sunday mornings watching the professional soccer team, Fiorentina, with his Nonna, which he states, "No one loves the game of soccer as much as she does." Coming from a close-knit family has had a tremendous influence on him. In his essay he talks about people and relationships. "Love and compassion are two of the main driving forces in my life, and, of course, no Italian is complete without an abundance of energy and a willingness to work extremely hard." He lives by the values his grandparents and parents have instilled in him and has aligned his future goals with his primordial roots. "A great Italian is humble, hardworking, and helpful."

La Bella Lingua Achievement Award recognizes students excelling in Italian language courses. Students are required to take a minimum of three years of Italian to qualify and to write an essay. Only one student from each district is eligible for the award. District VIII's recipient is **Samantha Buckley** from Irondequoit High School. Samantha has studied Italian language since 8th grade and continues into her senior year. Recently she was able to travel to Italy with her class for unforgettable experience and increasing her global perspective. Her Italian teacher, Nancy Bonavilla, describes her as intelligent, diligent, self-motivated, and generous, gaining respect from her classmates. In her essay she writes on how she decided to take Italian, following her own heart. She wanted to learn of a culture that was "deeper than her own". She wanted to connect with her faith and understand more of the Catholic religion. She wanted "a language that was going to change the way she saw the world."

As committees struggle to decide on which student should be the recipient of awards and scholarships, we came across words and phrases such as: exceptional determination; ability to balance rigorous academic studies with extracurricular activities; puts forth maximum effort; motivated; and committed. These students are also described as kind, sincere, passionate, respectful, hardworking, enthusiastic, responsible; diligent, and generous. There is no doubt each one of these students will be successful. When world events seem to be on a spiral down turn, knowing there are students of the caliber the scholarship committee has had the privilege to interact with, it gives us an optimistic outlook for the future.

Submitted by: Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

Columbus: Fact vs. Fiction

(Prepared by OSDIA Commission for Social Justice)

FICTION: COLUMBUS DID NOT DISCOVER THE AMERICAS. THE VIKINGS DID.

FACT: In 1950, a map surfaced in Europe that shows the “Island of Vinland” in the northwest Atlantic Ocean. The map’s text in Medieval Latin explains that Leif Erickson and his Vikings found Vinland in the year 1000 A.D. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., dates the map’s parchment to around 1434 A.D. – nearly 60 years before Columbus’ first voyage. But when researchers at London’s University College used a laser technique to test the map’s ink, they found it contained a chemical substance called anatase, which was not synthesized until 1923, proving that the map is a forgery. Did Columbus “discover” America? In every significant way, he did. Even if others visited the continent sporadically before he did, their voyages had no historical significance. Columbus’ voyages, however, marked the end of thousands of years of isolation between the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world. The recorded history of the Americas and the Caribbean starts with Columbus.

FICTION: COLUMBUS FOUND SOPHISTICATED NATIVE CIVILIZATIONS.

FACT: Most of the native tribes Columbus found were hunter-gatherers who engaged in bloody tribal wars and, in the case of the Arawaks, Caribs and Canibs, slavery, torture and cannibalism. To survive, the native populations depended on “slash-and-burn” cultivation of the land along with hunting, fishing and collecting edible wild plants, seeds and shellfish. They had no written language, history or literature. In their struggle for survival, these peoples were not the champions of the environment that they are often portrayed as today.

FICTION: COLUMBUS WAS A SLAVE-TRADER.

FACT: Columbus never owned any slaves or brought any to the Western Hemisphere from Africa. During his first voyage in 1492, Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic). There, with the help of a tribe of friendly Taino Indians, he built a fort called Navidad and left 40 of his crew there when he returned to Spain in January 1493. On his return to Hispaniola in November 1493, he learned that all his men had been massacred by another Taino tribe. Columbus and his men fought with these Indians, capturing about 2,000 and in 1495, sent 500 of these prisoners of war (POW) to Spain to be sold as slaves, as was the custom in 15th century Europe. He sent another 30 Indian POWs to Spain the following year, but the Spanish monarchs ordered him to stop the practice and he never again sent Indians to Europe to be sold as slaves. It is important to note that slavery was not unique to Europe. Columbus found it practiced in the Caribbean by the Caribs and Canibs who made slaves of the tribes they conquered and also ate their victims. (Hence the word “cannibal”.) Later Spanish explorers in Mexico and Central America found that even the more advanced civilizations of the Aztecs, Incas and Mayans kept slaves. These civilizations also

practiced torture, ritual murder and the human sacrifice of their own women and children as well as of prisoners of war. Such practices horrified the Spanish and caused them to look down on native cultures. In fact, the Spanish arrival in the New World was the decisive factor that eventually ended human sacrifice and cannibalism there.

FICTION: COLUMBUS WAS A RACIST.

FACT: No evidence indicates that Columbus thought the islanders he met were racially inferior in any way. In fact, in the journal of his first voyage, Columbus describes the Tainos and other tribes as “well-made with fine shapes and faces...their eyes were large and very beautiful...straight-limbed without exception and handsomely shaped....” He praises their generosity, innocence and intelligence, saying they could “readily become Christians as they have a good understanding.” Initially, Columbus had friendly relations with the five Taino tribes he met during his first voyage. These relations soured with four of the five tribes after he found the colony of men he had left behind in the fort Navidad had been slaughtered. He became good friends, however, with one tribe of Tainos led by Chief Guacanagari, who helped Columbus build his fort and fought alongside Columbus against the Taino tribes that wanted to kill the Europeans. Guacanagari paid heavily for his friendship with Columbus. His village was burned; he was wounded in battle and fled to the mountains where he died.

FICTION: COLUMBUS COMMITTED GENOCIDE.

FACT: The destruction of the native populations of North and South America over the centuries is a complex historical tragedy. No one knows exactly how many people were here when the Europeans arrived. The numbers vary from 8 million to 145 million. Many researchers believe the number to be around 40 million. Columbus made four voyages to the Caribbean in a twelve-year period. In fact, most of the native populations perished because they lacked immunity to such diseases as small pox, typhoid and diphtheria as well as the non-fatal childhood diseases of measles and mumps that they caught from the Spanish explorers. These diseases were not transmitted deliberately and cannot be considered a tool of genocide. Scholars estimate that 80% of those who died were infected without ever seeing a white man. Tragic as this epidemic was, it also bears remembering that prior to the Europeans’ arrival, the Western Hemisphere was no Garden of Eden. New medical research on pre-Colombian mummies in Peru, Chile and remote areas far from the early European colonies reveals that tuberculosis, long thought European in origin, was rampant among the Indian tribes before the arrival of Columbus. Arthritis, periodontal disease and significant bone erosion also afflicted the native populations well before the voyages of Columbus and other Europeans. Most adults, only in their 20s and 30s, had terrible teeth or none at all. Very few lived past age 40. The native populations gave the early explorers syphilis, which they brought back to Europe. Clearly, blaming Columbus for the extermination of the native populations is as fair as blaming the native populations for killing people who die from using tobacco and cocaine, which the natives introduced to the Europeans.

Stay tuned for more next month....

VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

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