



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
September 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Dog days of summer are over, the days are getting shorter, children and grandchildren return to school, and there is a hint of fall in the air. We look forward to some down time, but as you look at our calendar, there are several activities happening over the next couple of months.

The members' picnic was a tremendous success. We had more than 90 in attendance. I would like to thank all of those who helped in taking time to go to the store and purchase items we needed, setting up, cooking hots and sausages, bringing a dish to pass, and cleaning up. Our events don't just happen. It takes all of us together to make it happen. And by working together, we have created some new memories and had a great time.

We were also able to initiate two new members. Welcome to Franca DiFilippo and Andrea Cole. Welcome!

Thank you to Jim Vacanti for donating the Zweigle hots. Thank you to the guys who made the sausage the Thursday before the picnic. I was able to watch and take pictures. What a fun afternoon!



Our annual Cibi/Regional Dinner will take us to the Lazio region of Italy. Our meal will be prepared by Chef Rosita Caridi-Miller. It will be a simple but elegant five course meal consisting of an antipasti, il primo and il secondo courses, insalata, and frutti e dolce. You don't want to miss this event.

Our committee for the Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner Dance at the Burgundy Basin Inn on October 18th culminates our Italian Heritage Month and the celebration of Christopher Columbus' 527th anniversary of the discovery of the New World. On Oct. 12, 1492, the two halves of the world came together changing the belief the world was flat. During this time the entire world was going through a period of transformation marking the transition from the Middle Ages to modernity. We should and must continue to recognize Columbus for his stature as a seaman and navigator, his endurance, and his determination.

We are still planning our Turkey Raffle in November, and if anyone would like to help in the planning it would be appreciated. This event has always been a huge success, for us, it kicks off the holiday season. As soon as we determine the date, you can put it on your calendar.

Update on Sandy: She continues to improve. She has been moved to Unity Hospital for rehab. I am sure she would love to receive cards and prayers.

Peace and blessings,
Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

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Important DATE!

Sons & Daughters of Italy - Vincent Lombardi Lodge

Annual Regional Sunday Dinner

Cuisine of Lazio

Compliments of

Cibi
deliziosi

Sunday September 8, 2019 2:00 pm.

\$45.00/person.

Antipasti

Carciofi alla Romana
Roman style marinated artichokes
salumi (cured meats and cold cuts), southern Italian cheese, olives and crusty bread

Il Primo

Bucatini all'Amatriciana
Bucatini, long thin tube pasta, with Amatriciana sauce, simply made with Guanciale (cured pork checks), tomatoes and Pecorino cheese.

Il Secondo

Stufatino Alla Romana
Beef braised in red wine
Served with
Potato gnocchi and
Vignarola
vegetarian stew featuring Lazio's abundant vegetables artichokes, peas and fava beans

Insalata

Insalata di Puntarelle
Chicory salad with garlic and anchovy dressing

Frutti e Dolce

Ciambelle al Vino
Lazio's famous wine cookies
Served with seasonal fruit and Vin Santo

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2019 Calendar

September 5th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

September 8th, 2019 @ 2pm: Italian Regional Dinner (Eyer Building, East Rochester) \$45/pp, RSVP DUE BY SEPT 3rd

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

September 23rd, 2019: DEADLINE FOR ADS and MEMBER PAGE SUBMISSIONS FOR HERITAGE DINNER AD BOOK

October 3rd, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

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

October 18th, 2019 @ 6pm: Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner (Burgundy Basin Inn, Bushnell's Basin) \$55/pp, RSVP DUE BY OCTOBER 11th

November 7th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

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

November TBD: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration

December 5th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

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

ALTRE STORIE - RAI CINEMA PRESENTANO



SERGIO RUBINI



IL BENEMIO

un film di PIPPO MEZZAPESA

GIORNATE AUTORI

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 | 7:00 PM

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

ITALIAN FILM SERIES

PREMIERING CONTEMPORARY FILMS OF ITALY

ALTRA STORIA È UN FILM PRODOTTO DA ALTRE STORIE E DISTRIBUITO DA ALTRE STORIE. SERGIO RUBINI È UN FILM PRODOTTO DA ALTRE STORIE E DISTRIBUITO DA ALTRE STORIE. IL BENEMIO È UN FILM PRODOTTO DA ALTRE STORIE E DISTRIBUITO DA ALTRE STORIE.



A PLACE OF SIGNS
A TOWN OF SUSPECTS
A HUNT FOR TRUTH

TOM SERVILLO
ALESSIO BONI
JEAN RENO

DIRECTED BY
PAOLO GARRETTI

THE GIRL IN THE FOG

FROM THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

ITALIAN FILM SERIES

PREMIERING CONTEMPORARY FILMS OF ITALY

OCT 6, 2019 - 1:00PM

TICKETS - \$12

STUDENTS, SENIORS & SERVICE MEMBERS - \$10

AMERITALROC.COM



09/05: Michael Sciortino
09/06: Patrick Bernunzio
09/08: Michela Palucci
09/09: Ross Cottone
09/10: Angela Giancaterin

09/14: Joanne Napoli
09/18: Mary Yacono
09/22: Luigi DiFilippo
09/28: Sal Cutaia



Please continue to keep our beloved lodge president, Sandy Meleca, in your prayers as she does the hard work to recover from the stroke she suffered earlier in the summer.

Let's give a warm welcome to our newly initiated members,
(left to right) Franca DiFilippo and Andrea Cole



Check out these two new, exclusive designs available in the official online store:
www.cafepress.com/OSIA



A note from your editor....

You'll notice a few new sections in our newsletter this month. The first is a book review. We will focus on books, both fiction and non fiction, that take place in or whose story is about Italy. If you've read any good books that meet this criteria, please consider submitting a book review to me for our newsletter.

Next, as you may know, each year at our state convention we make donations to each of the major charities supported by the organization as a whole. One of the ways we collect money for these charities is through the change cans that you see at all of our meetings and events. In order to familiarize you with these charities and the amazing work they do, we will be featuring information about each throughout the year here in our newsletter. We encourage you, if you are struck by the mission and activities of these charities, to thoughtfully consider donations to our change cans when you attend our meetings and events.

Finally, a reminder that we have started a section to highlight the good work or members are doing in the community. If you or a member you know are involved in volunteer work, please consider sending me a picture or two with a brief description of the work and why you/they do it.

And as always, if you have something that you think would be a good newsletter submission, please send it to me for inclusion.



Members Making a Difference: Dr. Edward Maruggi PhD

This month's highlighted member making a difference is Brother Ed Maruggi. Brother Ed is a retired professor through RIT and a highly respected author of both textbooks and fictional works, many of which center around Italian culture. In fact, Brother Ed donates \$5 from any books sold at our lodge events to our lodge scholarship fund. In 2018, Brother Ed was the recipient of the NYS Grand Lodge Literary Award, and in 2017 he was the recipient of our local lodge's Lifetime Achievement Award. Brother Ed is also actively involved in several Italian American organizations in our community.

Through the group FIG (Friends of Italian Genealogy), Brother Ed has been deeply involved in learning about his Italian heritage, and supporting others to do the same. In order to help engage young people in the process of learning about their roots, Brother Ed and his wife Carolyn established a genealogy research award for students in Monroe County. Applicants were asked to research their family lineage and create a family tree going back at least three generations, then present their project in person to FIG members. The winner received \$1200, generously donated by Brother Ed and Carolyn!

This year's winner was Tiara Weiner. Because of the close ties between FIG and the Vincent Lombardi Lodge, Tiara was invited to our scholarship awards night in August. She spoke to members about the project and what it meant to her to learn so much more about her family roots.

Thank you, Brother Ed, for your commitment to our Italian heritage and culture, and to youth and education in our community!



Ed Maruggi & Tiara Weiner



Carolyn & Ed Maruggi



A Charitable Contribution Cooley's Anemia

Anemia is a low red blood cell count or low hemoglobin level. Hemoglobin is that part of the red blood cell that carries oxygen to organs, tissues, and cells, and it affects the production of hemoglobin.

Beta thalassemia major, better known as Cooley's Anemia, is an inherited blood disorder, which means it is passed down through the parent's gene. Cooley's Anemia is the most severe type of beta thalassemia and is found in the first two years of life. Both parents must carry the gene for it to be passed down to their child, and each child has a 25% chance of having the disease. Because it is inherited from parents, you will have it from birth. You can't catch thalassemia the way you catch a cold or the flu. It is common among people from the following regions or areas: Greek, Italian, Middle Eastern, Asian, and African.

Treatment for children depends on the symptoms, age, and general health. It also depends on how severe the condition is. Those with severe thalassemia often have other health problems, which could include heart and liver disease. Frequent blood transfusions may present complications such as delayed growth and development, problems with the endocrine system, blood clots, osteoporosis, and organ problems. The bones could become thin and brittle.

Blood transfusions can replenish the hemoglobin and red blood cell levels and remove excess iron from the blood stream. Blood marrow or stem cell transplant or surgery can correct bone deformity. Research with gene therapy is presenting new possibilities by altering pieces of the genetic code that causes the disease. One clinical trial retrieves immature stem cells from the bone marrow, which were isolated in the lab. A harmless virus was used to infect the cells with a copy of the normal globin gene. Chemotherapy cleared the marrow of the diseased genes. The genetically altered cells were reintroduced into the blood stream where they matured into red blood cells that produced healthy hemoglobin. This has dramatically reduced the number of blood transfusions needed. In the most severe cases of Cooley's Anemia, the number of transfusions decreased by 74%, and those with less severe disease did not need any blood transfusions since being treated.

Clinical trials are just beginning for another possible treatment, CRISPR or Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, which will modify DNA sequences and alter the function of genes. The CRISPR enters the nucleus of the gene and cuts out the faulty DNA. While these treatments are not readily available yet, the breakthroughs in research become the breakthroughs in treatment. The ability to have several treatments available will provide better treatment when one type is ineffective.

The Cooley's Anemia Foundation is OSDIA's #1 charity. The donations from our lodge and other lodge's around the state, paired with the proceeds from the Grand Lodge Dine Around in April (over \$25,000 raised at the event this year) provide much needed support to Cooley's Anemia patients and research efforts.

A Book Review: Too Much Tuscan Sun By Dario Castagna

Few books give insight into what it is truly like to lead Americans into the heart of Tuscany's Chianti region than a Tuscan-raised tour guide.

Dario Castagna provides us with a lively, uncanny memoir, sometimes witty sometimes unpredictable behavior of Americans. Dario has spent more than a decade taking individuals and small groups on customized tours. His book, *Too Much Tuscan Sun: Confessions of a Chianti Tour Guide*, provides us with account of his more memorable clients, from the obsessive to the oblivious to the lunatic.

Dario takes us through the sights, sounds, and smells of the Chianti region through each of the twelve months with all the festivals and pageantry that can be experienced. He also provides us with an account of his own life beginning with being born and spending the early years in Great Britain. His passion and love of the Chianti countryside speaks of his adoption of abandoned peasant farmhouses, his apprenticeship of the wine industry, and his transformation to a Tuscan guide.

We cannot expect Dario to tell us everything. There is so much to learn and know about this interesting and fascinating region of Tuscany, but he encompasses the natural history as well as cultural vignettes. No matter the history or the culture or the esthetics, you will read about with While you may find his "diet-coke-swiggig, pink-sweat-suit-clad, quarreling tourists whose primary interest is in shopping or pointing out that Italian food really isn't up to quality! While you may find his clients amusing and entertaining, eventually they become tiresome and annoying. You will be so very grateful you don't have to travel with them.

One of my favorite parts of the book, although it is quite difficult to have a favorite, is about The Black Rooster and to understand about the iconic logo that dates back to 1206 when the Sienese and Florentines negotiated a peace treaty, which proved to be short lived. The turmoil was where the two states were to establish the border that separated them. I will not spoil what transpired, although it makes you chuckle, so find out what happened by reading the book. Have a few laughs and a few "I want to beat my head against the wall" moments. Dario offers an enchanting introduction or perhaps a refresher to the charms of Tuscany and the Chianti region.

Submitted by Marjorie Focarazzo

Did You Ever Wonder Why?

Did you ever wonder why, when a new brother or sister is initiated into our order, the vice president reads this sentence?

"The Order respects the religious, and political opinions of its members but requires that they do not profess any doctrines tending to disrupt the existing social order by unlawful means."

Here is the background: When the order was founded on June 22, 1905, Italian immigrants, whether they were naturalized were always under suspicion or anarchic, socialist, or even communist tendencies. They were often feared as a dangerous force within America.

One of the better-known examples of this paranoia was the infamous Sacco and Vanzetti trial of 1920. But it's not necessary for us as members of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge to travel to Braintree, Massachusetts, to feel the power of this suspicion and prejudice. The article below from a March 1908 newspaper, succinctly captures the mood here in Rochester. The sentence quoted above was there to protect the order and place it above suspicion.

Suspected of Being Anarchists.

Rochester, March 2.—Because they were suspected of having anarchistic tendencies and fomenting disorder about fifty Italians, who had arranged for a meeting in commemoration of the death of Giordano Bruno, burned to death in Rome in 1600, were dispersed by the chief of police and a squad of detectives. An Italian lawyer from New York, Matteo Teresi, who was to address the meeting, made some protest against the action of the police, but the meeting dispersed without disorder. A circular issued by the Italians, calling themselves the "Italian Socialist Federation," drew the attention of the police to the meeting. Among other things this circular said that Bruno was "burned alive by the rascally and infamous ministers of God."

A letter from our past award winner, Elena Greco

This year's scholarship awards night in August was a huge success. We had our five local scholarship winners, our Bella Lingua award winner, our FIG genealogy project winner, and one of our state scholarship winners. Pictures from the evening are included later in this newsletter. Additionally, we had the pleasure of hearing from one of our past scholarship winners, Elena Greco. Elena won one of our 2018 scholarships, and it was wonderful to hear what she has been doing in her first year at school:

My name is Elena Greco and I'm a past two-thousand and eighteen scholarship recipient of the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270). I am very thankful and honored to have received this award as it has helped me to follow my dreams of going to college to further my education. I am currently a sophomore at the College at Brockport, State University of New York. I am majoring in Environmental Science with a combo concentration in Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology. It has been a dream of mine to study the interactions between different species (animals, plants, etc.) in the environment.

*For the past summer, I interviewed for and received an internship to work with a professor and other colleagues within my major. Our goal was to help contain an invasive species known as *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, or Slender False Brome. This invasive grass has outcompeted many species and takes over whole areas. Along with my colleagues, I was a research assistant for the SUNY Research Foundation. We spent full-time work weeks conducting vegetation surveys and weed whacking infested areas.*

This internship heightened my knowledge of procedures in dealing with invasive species and the identification of different plants. Being able to spend my summer in the field I love, surrounded by the Earth's natural beauty, has truly been a blessing. It encourages me even more to learn how to care for our home. I hope to be working and studying many diverse interactions in the environment including the symbiotic relationships of animals and plants to the impact humans have on multiple species and vice versa. I want to thank the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270) for their gracious scholarship and support as well as my family who all love and encourage me endlessly.

*Thank you!
Elena Greco*

2019 NYS OSDIA Student Summit Washington DC

In August, the Order Sons of Italy in America, through the Sons of Italy Foundation, sponsored a student summit to our nation's capital. The program offers students a unique opportunity to interact with their peers from all over the country, to learn about their rich Italian culture and heritage, tour points of interest in the Capital (including the Italian Embassy, the Pentagon, and the Supreme Court), and have some fun attending a baseball game!

Our local lodge sponsored a student to attend this summit - Annika Morrison. Annika attended our scholarship awards night in August to talk to us about what she saw and learned while she was there. Here are some pictures from her trip.



In Cinemas-Live: 2019-2020

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD is a series of live opera performances transmitted in high-definition video via satellite from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, which allows its viewers to experience the excitement of the Met's high-quality performances. Operas can be seen in our area at Tinseltown, 2291 Buffalo Road; AMC Webster 12, 2190 Empire Blvd.; Eastview Mall, 70 Eastview Mall Drive Victor.

The *Live in HD* events are enhanced by specially produced features that offer audiences a look behind the scenes. These include live interviews with singers, directors, designers, and stage technicians, as well as documentaries and other short features. In the past seasons, the intermission features have been hosted by Met stars like Renée Fleming, Plácido Domingo, Joyce DiDonato, and Deborah Voigt.

Coming this season:

Puccini's **Turandot** Live Sat., Sept. 12th at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., Oct. 16th

Massenet's **Manon** Live Sat., Oct. 26th at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., Oct 30th

Puccini's **Madame Butterfly** Live Sat. Nov. 9th at 12:55 pm; with two encores Wed., Nov. 16th and Sat., Nov. 16th

Glass' **Akhmaten** Live Sat., Nov. 23rd at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., Nov. 27th

Mozart's **The Magic Flute** Encore Sat., Dec. 7th

Berg's **Wozzeck** Live Sat, Jan. 11th at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., Jan. 15th

Gershwin's' **Porgy and Bess** Live Sat., Feb 1st at 12:55 pm; two encores Wed., Feb. 5th and Sat., Feb. 8th

Handel's **Agrippina** Live Sat., Feb. 29th at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., Mar. 4th

Wagner's **Der Fliegende Hollander** Live Sat., Mar. 14th at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., Mar. 18th

Puccini's **Tosca** Live Sat., Apr. 11th at 12:55 pm; with two encores Wed., Apr. 15th and Sat., Apr. 18th

Donizetti's **Maria Stuarda** Live Sat., May 9th at 12:55 pm; encore Wed., May 13th

2019 Scholarship Awards Night



Scholarship Winners (left to right): Juliana Provenzale, Vincenzo Capezuto, Nicolas Meleca, Savanna Calisto, Alyssa Libonati



Juliana Provenzale & Family



Savanna Calisto & Family



Vincenzo Capezuto & Family



Nicolas Meleca & Family



Alyssa Libonati & Family

2019 Scholarship Awards Night Continued



FIG Award Winner Tiara Weiner with Ed Maruggi



Student Summit Attendee Annika Morrison and mom



2018 Scholarship Winner Elena Greco



Bella Lingua Winner Rocco Quatela & Family



State Scholarship Winner Paolo Bianchi & Family



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