



# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora,  
editor  
December 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Buon Natalie E Felice Anno Nuovo!

This is my end of the year letter and I want to thank all of our members who have helped make this year a success. We've certainly grown and changed.

As a national organization we have finally acknowledged our sisters, and we are now known as OSDIA—Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

On the local level, we have had several successful events, and we are looking forward to the future.



Our upcoming events include our Annual Holiday Party. This year we decided to have this annual party in January in order to make it convenient for all of our members to attend. The event will be held on Sunday, January 14, at Red Fedele's Brook House on Ridge Road.

In February we are having our 1st Reverse Raffle Fundraising Dinner to help offset the cost of the expenses spent to run our lodge. The Reverse Raffle will be held on Friday evening, February 23, and Burgundy Basin Inn. This event is very important to our lodge so we can maintain our charitable contributions and scholarships and to help us keep our dues at the same cost. It is extremely important that all support and participate in this event. Tickets for the raffle are only \$100. This includes a night of entertainment, dinner, and the opportunity to win \$3000 in prizes! Only 100 tickets are being sold, so the chances of your ticket being a winner are huge. You can also share the price of a reverse raffle ticket with another person or group of people, and decide who you would like to represent your group at the dinner with that ticket. We are also selling tickets for dinner only, and those are available at \$30 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased from any officer or council member. See you there!

On another note, Robert Baccari, President of the Per Sempre Lodge #2344, was in town with his family for the Thanksgiving holiday. A few members of our lodge met with them and shared lunch together while they were here. We had a wonderful meal and a great time.

2018 membership dues are presently due—all members should have received an invoice. The cost remains the same this year at \$50, with a payment deadline of December 31. Please make an effort to respond in a timely fashion.

Again I want to wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace,  
Fraternally,  
President Vince

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calendar of Events.....2
- Members Corner.....3
- CSJ Report.....4
- Event Pictures.....5



CALLING ALL CARD PLAYERS. BEGINNING JANUARY 10TH, 2018 AT THE GRAPEVINE RESTAURANT OUR MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR MONTHLY EUCHRE CARD GROUP.

WE'LL MEET FOR A CASUAL DINNER (SEPARATE CHECKS) THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4PM WITH CARDS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS.

WE'RE ALSO FORMING A SUBS LIST FOR THOSE THAT CANNOT COMMIT TO MONTHLY CARDS BUT WOULD LIKE TO PLAY OCCASIONALLY.

IF INTERESTED, CALL:  
LUGI DI FILIPPO 352-0503  
LINDA AGNELLO 288-4234  
([Tedi28bear@aol.com](mailto:Tedi28bear@aol.com))

## Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 Calendar - 2017/18

December 7th, 2017 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

December 14th, 2017 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**January 14th, 2018 @ 12pm: After Holiday Party - Red Fedeles Brook House (920 Elmridge Center Rd, Rochester)**

**February 23rd, 2018 Time TBD: Reverse Raffle Dinner - Burgundy Basin (Bushnell's Basin). Raffle Tickets \$100 (includes dinner), Dinner tickets \$30**

**March 18th, 2018 Time & Location TBD: Winter Clambake**

**April 22nd, 2018 Time & Location TBD: Cibi Dinner**

**May 26th, 2018: East Rochester Memorial Day Parade**

**\*\*Please note, all Council and General Assembly meetings are held at the Eyer Building—317 Main Street, East Rochester**

### OSIA New York Grand Lodge Events

January 26th @ 7:30pm: **25th Anniversary Winter Charity Ball** - Chateau Briand, Carle Place.

February 25th @ 12pm: **CSJ Annual Dinner Dance** honoring Past CSJ Chairman Louis Gallo - Russo's on the Bay, Howard Beach.

April 3rd, 6pm: **Grand Lodge Foundation Cooley's Anemia Dine Around**

April 27th @ 7pm: **Grand Lodge Foundation 36th Anniversary Golden Lion Awards Dinner** - Garden City Hotel, Garden City.

May 31st through June 3rd - **Annual State Convention**



**12/01: Charlie Schiano**  
**12/03: Mary Lou Cadena**  
**12/04: Nellie DiCesare**  
**12/06: Franca Cinelli**  
**12/07: David DiNicola**  
**12/09: Ken Nudo**  
**12/09: Marisa Rubé Przepiora**  
**12/11: Paolo Polignone**  
**12/11: Charlene Dodgson**  
**12/15: Ezio Bonanni**

**12/15: James Vazzana**  
**12/17: MaryAnn Koons**  
**12/19: Becky DiFilippo**  
**12/20: Eva Fantauzzo**  
**12/20: Jennie Gugino**  
**12/20 Robert Rosati**  
**12/21 Rick Amico**  
**12/23: Maurice Palucci**  
**12/26: Ralph Doerr**



Congratulations to our members, Marjorie Focarazzo and Ron Santoli, on their recent engagement! Sister Marjorie and Brother Ron became engaged while on a recent trip to Italy!



**National OSIA Scholarships:** The National Sons of Italy Foundation has once again opened their application process for their 2018 National Education and Leadership Awards. Up to 12 grants may be made in any given year ranging from \$4000 to \$25,000.

**General Eligibility:** U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian-American grandparent) enrolled in a four year undergraduate program or a graduate program at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2018 term.

Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific scholarships.

**General requirements:** Application Form: Must be submitted along with requirements for each scholarship.

**Transcripts:** For each scholarship, transcripts provided must be through the December 2017 term. All transcripts must be stamped by the institution.

**Processing Fee:** A \$35 non-refundable processing fee is required with each scholarship application. The fee includes a one-year At-Large Membership to OSDIA, with all At -Large Membership benefits.

**Deadline:** The deadline for all scholarships (unless otherwise noted) is February 28, 2018

For more details and information go to:

<https://sonsofitalyfoundation.submittable.com/submit>



The annual Grand Lodge of New York lottery calendar fundraiser program has started and each lodge receives an allotment to sell. Cash prizes can be won every day of the year based on the evening drawing of the New York State Lottery. This is an important fundraiser for our Grand Lodge and we hope you will support it. Calendars cost \$30 and make great Christmas gifts. See President Vince if you would like to purchase a calendar.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank everyone that participated in our pie sales. So much support made for a wonderful profit for our lodge. This year we made over \$500 profit. Amazing what we can achieve together! Thank you to buyers and sellers.

~Sister Sandy Meleca

## CSJ Highlights of 2017

Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

Many issues and concerns were confronted and challenged by the Commission for Social Justice throughout 2017 in NYS. The most often discussed topic was the attack on Christopher Columbus and Columbus Day. He was denounced as the discoverer of the New World while in search of an easier route to China and India. He was accused of being a slave trader but never owned or brought any to the Western Hemisphere from Africa. He did, in 1495, send prisoners of war, who had massacred all of his men left in Hispaniola, to Spain to be sold as slaves - as was the custom in 15th century Europe. It has been written Columbus committed genocide, but the deaths of many thousands of natives can be attributed to other causes: Europeans who followed Columbus; diseases, some that were brought by explorers but others which were common among Native Americans; use of tobacco and cocaine. It is claimed Columbus destroyed the balance between man and nature, however, old world farming techniques, which included crop rotation and animal breeding, were brought to the newly discovered land along with new plants and domesticated animals, including the horse. These imports helped to improve farming, provided a greater variety of crops, and offered a more dependable food supply. Columbus' navigational achievements have provided the foundation for the trans-Atlantic route, which is still used today. He introduced the principle of compass variation, which is the variation at any point on the earth's surface between the direction to magnetic and geographic north and observed the rotation of the Pole star. He recognized the importance of the prevailing Westerlies and Trade Winds. Today, Indian activists portray the New World as an earthly paradise. There is a movement to repeal Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day. There has been an effort to remove statues and to change the names of parks. The American Indian should be recognized and celebrated, just not on Oct. 12th.

Recognition of Luigi Del Bianco as the chief carver of Mt. Rushmore was unveiled on Sept. 16th. After 25 years of perseverance, grandson Lou Del Bianco and his family celebrated with great joy that this day had finally arrived. Luigi began studying stone carving at the age of 11. After working with a skilled carver in Vienna for two years, he then studied in Venice. At 17 he headed out of Naples for America. When World War I broke out he returned back to Italy to fight for his country. In 1920 he emigrated to Barre, Vermont and a year later settled in Port Chester, NY. His brother-in-law, Alfonso Scafa, introduced Luigi to Mount Rushmore designer Gutzon Borglum - "Bianco", as Borglum affectionately called him. In 1933, Borglum hired Bianco to be chief stone carver on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Luigi's job was to carve the "refinement of expression" or detail in the faces. He is the man who saved Jefferson's face and brought life to Lincoln's eyes.

Our Lady of Loreto Church in Brooklyn has been demolished. The century old church was boarded up in

2009 when a lack of patronage prohibited it from remaining financially viable. The CSJ, along with the Brownsville community hoped to keep the church as an arts and cultural center for its citizens. The cost to renovate became prohibitive and it was dangerous to leave the building standing in its current poor state. Permits to demolish the building were issued in March and Catholic Charities plans to bring 64 affordable housing units to the site.

Saturday Night Live skit this past April on Tenement Housing was derogatory and demeaning to a number of ethnic groups. Letters to Producer Lorne Michaels and NBC went unanswered. Sponsors justified their positions by saying they didn't know what skits would be televised.

Despite worldwide demonstrations in support of their innocence, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed for murder on Aug. 23, 1927. Anti-radical sentiments were running high in America during the 1920's, and the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti was regarded by many as unlawfully sensational. Authorities had failed to come up with any evidence of the stolen money, and much of the other evidence against them was later discredited. In 1977, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation vindicating Sacco and Vanzetti, stating that they had been treated unjustly and that no stigma should be associated with their names.

Columbia Italian Institute was designated a landmark in 1978. It was built in the 1920's by Italian immigrants and Italian Americans who supported the building as a hub for Italian scholarship and community. Over 2000 volumes of Italian literature lined the shelves. A lawsuit filed against Columbia for breaching its duty to the supporters by changing the role of the building usage is intended. CSJ is working to bring the Italian Institute back to its original intent.

As we prepare to enter 2018, we anticipate more concerns surrounding Columbus Day. We will continue to address issues as they arise and will keep you abreast of what is happening. As with many things, the CSJ cannot do it alone. We want and need your support and for your voice to be heard.

Happy Holidays  
Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year



2017 Annual Turkey Raffle



## VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

**President**  
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**First Vice-President**  
Sandra Meleca

**Second Vice-President**  
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**Recording Secretary**  
Marisa Rubé Przepiora

**Financial Secretary**  
Louis DeCarolis

**Treasurer**  
Catherine DiNicola

**Orator**  
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Luigi DiFilippo  
Antonio Palucci  
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Lillian Bonanni

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Joseph Rubé, MD

**Chaplain**  
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State  
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Joseph Rubé

**Chaplain Emeritus**  
Sister Carole Proia

**Lodge Deputy**  
Anthony Idoni

**District VIII State Deputy**  
Thomas Meleca

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Victor Bell\*  
Peter Cimino\*  
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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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