



# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor  
February 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a fantastic winter we had. I hope everyone has been enjoying this mild weather.

Our membership keeps climbing, for which we are very fortunate. Some lodges continue to lose members, however, our lodge continues to grow. We still need to keep vigilant in drawing in more members, especially from the younger generation. We all know someone that might want to be a member. Invite your neighbors, friends and family to our events to see what our lodge is all about. Introducing them to our lodge could pique interest in potential membership. I would like to make the year 2016 the year we focus on generating more members.



On a different note I would like to welcome our new trustee to the council—Lillian Bonanni. Welcome to Lillian!

Congratulations to our convention delegates, Brother Luigi DiFilippo, Sister Nancy Rubé, Sister Marisa Rubé, Brother Tom Meleca, and Sister Sandra Meleca. Our alternate is Marjorie Focarazzo. Due to our increase in membership we have an additional delegate this year.

Our winter picnic is quickly approaching. Hope to see you all there for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

Congratulations are due to the GAIL and Geneva Men’s Lodge in the merging of their two lodges into one. We wish them good luck in the future.

Looking forward to another great month.

Sempre Avanti!

Fraternally,

President Vincent

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## Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2016 Calendar

February 4th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

February 11th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

February 13th, 2016 @ 12pm: Annual Winter Clambake Gates Memorial Park (160 Spencerport Rd, Gates)

March 3rd, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

March 10th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

June 2nd-5th, 2016: NY OSIA Convention

August 14th, 2016 @ TBD: Annual Member Appreciation Picnic Eyer Park (East Rochester, NY)

October 2016 Date TBD: Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Awards Dinner

November 2016, Date TBD: Papa Antolini's Annual Turkey Raffle

December 2016, Date TBD: Lodge Christmas Party

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

### STATE AND NATIONAL OSIA EVENTS

Sunday, February 28th, 2016 @ 12pm: 36th Anniversary CSJ Luncheon

Tuesday, April 5th, 2016 @ 7pm: Cooley's Anemia Dine Around

Friday, April 15th, 2016 @ 7pm: NY Grand Lodge Foundation Golden Lion Dinner

New York State  
Order Sons of Italy in  
America

Carolyn Rores  
President

Date: April 5, 2016

Time: 7 PM

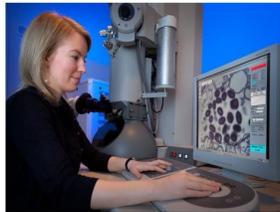
Verdi's Catering Hall  
Westbury, New York

Contact  
NYS Chair Mary Naccarato  
516 921-7839

NYS Co-Chair Mildred Mancusi  
516-359-1745

### "Research Will Find The Cure"

### Cooley's Anemia Dine-Around



Please join us on Tuesday April 5, 2016, for our annual Cooley's Anemia Dine-Around. Last year over 320 people had the pleasure to savor food, wine and desserts from almost fifty restaurants, bakeries and wineries from all-over our metropolitan area.

The Cooley's Anemia Foundation still needs your help so that they may contribute to the research necessary to find a cure, while helping those who struggle daily with the affects of Cooley's Anemia.



Cooley's Anemia  
Foundation

Cost - \$45.00 Per Person

Raffle Donations Welcomed

Table Sponsors—\$100.00

Cash Donations Appreciated

### The Sons of Italy

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270

### WINTER PICNIC and CLAM BAKE

1:00PM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Gates Memorial Park

150 Spencerport Rd. (behind St. Theodore's Church)  
· Gates NY 14606



#### BUFFET MENU

- Italian Sausage w/Peppers & Onions
- Eggplant Parmesan
- Chef Salad & Dressing
- Baked Ziti w/Ricotta, Mozzarella & Sauce
- Chicken tenders w/ Marinara Sauce
- Salt Potatoes
- Corn on the cob (subject to availability)
- Ciabatta Bread
- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate



Please feel free to Bring an Appetizer or a Desert Dish to Pass

**MEMBERS CORNER**



<b>02/02 Sarah Carbone</b>	<b>02/23 Elvira Chiarenza</b>
<b>02/03 Patricia Galante</b>	<b>02/23 Angelina Quaring</b>
<b>02/12 Joseph Galante</b>	<b>02/24 Angela Parise</b>
<b>02/14 Anthony Micciche</b>	<b>02/27 Sandra Meleca</b>
<b>02/18 Stephen Cataldi</b>	<b>02/28 Joseph Capogreco</b>



Sister Lillian Bonanni was elected by the General Assembly at our last meeting as our newest lodge trustee. Sister Lillian will serve the remainder of this term, until March 2017.

Delegates for our 2016 State Convention were chosen by the General Assembly at our last meeting. Delegates will be President Vince Giannantonio, Immediate Past President Joe Rubé, Sister Sandy Meleca, Brother Tom Meleca, Brother Luigi DiFilippo, Sister Marisa Rubé, and Sister Nancy Rubé. Sister Marjorie Focarazzo will serve as an alternate.



Get well wishes to all of our lodge members who have been under the weather recently.



A note from the Vice President....

As you all know our Winter Picnic/clambake is coming up in February and I hope all of you will show your support of this event by joining us on the 13th. Also if you plan on attending I wonder if you would consider donating either a appetizer or dessert?

Please let me know by phone, email, letter, etc.etc. My phone is 315-986-1097 or sandy-woman@hotmail.com. I look forward to seeing everyone! Thank you for always supporting our lodge.

Sister Sandy

## 2016 MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

### *Voices from the Past*

An essay by Sr. Marjorie Focarazzo

A visit to Ellis Island can be an enlightening experience. From 1892-1924, it was America's largest and most active immigration base. Over 12 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island on their way to a better life, more opportunities, and freedom. It has been estimated that nearly 40% of all current US citizens can trace at least one ancestor to Ellis Island. On average, it took 3-7 hours for each person to go through the inspection process. For a vast majority, it was the *Island of Hope*. For many it was the *Island of Tears*, where families were separated and individuals were denied entry and returned to their home.

On any given day, each person came in contact with inspectors, interpreters, nurses, doctors, social workers, and many others. As ships arrived in port, passengers lugged their baggage onto barges that would take them to Ellis Island. They were tagged with information from the ship's registry, and then passed through lines for medical and legal inspections to determine if they were fit to enter the United States. Doctors checked for more than 60 diseases and disabilities that would determine if someone could remain or be sent back. Those who were suspected of having a disease or disability were marked with a chalk for closer examination. Some were sent to the hospital located on the island while others were deported.

How far would you travel for a better life? Would you still consider the journey if it took weeks or months? What if you had to travel third class or steerage? Our middle school students have a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from someone who made that arduous journey, what the actual trip was like, what port was entered, what was their life like, what experiences were encountered, how and why they came to Rochester or wherever they set down roots? Encourage a middle school student to interview an Italian immigrant, inquire about their life and journey, and to write their story. There is a deep appreciation for the struggles and much in celebrating the successes.

## CSJ ACTIVITIES

With the new year getting in to full swing we had several new projects for our CSJ Liaisons.

Silvano Orsi made us aware of an Italian Show being marketed in Rochester. It is a comedy act involving 3 Italian American comedians entitled "The Three Tenors (who can't sing)". The issue is with a promotional ad that involves use of mafia/godfather imagery. The comedians are excellent, and not singers, but use of negative stereotypical imagery in ad work or within the act itself is not acceptable to our Italian culture. The BEST ENTERTAINMENT GROUP is the owner and promoter of this show. Silvano contacted Russell Best and a conference call was arranged with Russel, Silvano, Lou Gallo and myself. Russel was very cordial on the phone, sincere in wanting to hear us out and find a way to "fix" this. He is very familiar with the Order and now with the CSJ. After hearing us out, Russell offered to re-evaluate the ads and use interviews by the comedians to clarify that there is not any intent to stereotype Italians and to change the ad if the show is extended past its current run. We felt this was a positive response and will monitor and work with Russell in following through.

The Columbus Day issue is on the legislative "table" again in Colorado. A bill is being heard which proposes to allow various communities to replace Columbus Day with "Indigenous Peoples Day". We have been asked to contact the committee to urge them not to pass the bill. The request to have New York involved comes from Colorado's OSIA and our National President. Lou Gallo has assigned a different Colorado Legislator to each NY Lodge Liaison. If you wish to participate please contact Silvano or myself.

Sempre avanti,

Dr. Joe Rube'

District 8 CSJ Chairperson

## ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

### Vincent Lombardi Lodge Scholarship Info

The scholarship committee met in January to review and revise scholarship criteria. New for 2016, any applicant related to a lodge member will automatically be granted an interview. Please note, however, that when the scholarship committee reviews applications and essays to make our final award decisions, all identifying information is removed from the application so that we may make a fair, unbiased decision on winners. Our committee takes these deliberations very seriously, and we look forward to beginning this year's review process.

Scholarship information has been sent to all school districts in Monroe County, and can be picked up at the school guidance office. Additionally, scholarship information and applications can be found at our lodge website: [www.sonsofitalyrochester.com/scholarships.htm](http://www.sonsofitalyrochester.com/scholarships.htm). Deadline for applications is March 31st, 2016.

### New York State OSIA Scholarship Info

Always aware of the need for personal scholarship and the support of scholarship study, the NYSOSIA Grand Lodge has maintained a consistent financial support system for many decades. In any given year, the NYSOSIA, through the New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. and the local lodges, expends some \$250,000 in such support. While many local lodges sponsor their own programs, the New York Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. has an overall state competitive scholarship process in place since 1982. The funds for the Foundation scholarship endowment, which now hovers near \$1 million, has grown substantially due to the generosity of individual lodges, members of OSIA, as well as benefactors and friends. Promoting, encouraging and supporting scholarship and grant assistance has been the core piece of OSIA's efforts to honor young collegians in their academic pursuits.

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. at the State Convention. More information and an application can be found at <http://www.nysosia.org/scholarships>

### National OSIA Scholarship Info

Through the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) with hundreds of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) has awarded nearly \$59 million in scholarships to date.

In past years, the SIF has offered 10 to 12 merit-based scholarships (National Leadership Grants), ranging from \$4,000 to \$25,000, in a nationwide competition. These figures and the number of scholarships may vary according to funding each year.

General Eligibility: U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian-American grandparent) enrolled in an under-graduate or graduate program at a four-year, accredited academic institution for the **2016 Fall term**. Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. (Please note: Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific scholarships.)

More information and applications can be found at <http://www.osia.org/students/scholarships.php>.



Our Italian Culture: Opera

Br. Ed Groszewski

Opera and Italy go together like spaghetti and sauce. The opera theater experience created by the great Italian composers is something to be savored not only for itself, but also as a very enjoyable way to get to gain a deeper experience of Italian culture. An easy and inexpensive way to get this experience is to attend one or more of the Metropolitan Opera's movie-theater transmissions of certain performances in local theaters. Each opera is broadcast live on a Saturday afternoon and an encore presentation on the following Wednesday evening. Ten cameras televise and record the performances, giving the viewer close ups as well as the standard full stage shots. The high quality theater sound systems ensures that the music can be fully appreciated and English subtitles are provided. It's an immersive experience.

Here are this spring's performances, which can be seen at Henrietta Stadium 18, Tinseltown 17, Webster 12, and Eastview Mall 13. Enjoy!

**Manon Lescaut**, by Giacomo Puccini

Live Performance, Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:55

Encore, Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

*The Met stage ignites when soprano Kristine Opolais and tenor Jonas Kaufmann join forces in Puccini's obsessive love story. Opolais sings the title role of the country girl who transforms herself into a Parisian temptress, while Kaufmann is the dashing student who desperately woos her. Director Richard Eyre places the action in occupied France in a film noir setting. "Desperate passion" is the phrase Puccini himself used to describe the opera that confirmed his position as the preeminent Italian opera composer of his day.*

*Met Principal Conductor Fabio Luisi leads the stirring score.*



**Madama Butterfly**, by Giacomo Puccini

Live Performance, Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 12:55

Encore, Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30

*Anthony Minghella's breathtaking production has thrilled audiences ever since its premiere in 2006. One of the world's foremost Butterflies, soprano Kristine Opolais takes on the title role and Roberto Alagna sings Pinkerton, the naval officer who breaks Butterfly's heart.*

*Karel Mark Chichon conducts.*



**Roberto Devereux**, by Gaetano Donizetti

Live Performance, Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:55

Encore, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30

*In this climactic opera of the trilogy, directed by Sir David McVicar, she plays Queen Elizabeth I, forced to sign the death warrant of the nobleman she loves, Roberto Devereux. Tenor Matthew Polenzani is Devereux, and mezzo-soprano Elina Garanča and baritone Mariusz Kwiecien complete the principal quartet in the bel canto masterpiece.*

*Directed by Sir David McVicar and conducted by Donizetti specialist Maurizio Benini.*



## VALENTINE'S DAY IN ITALY

Valentine's Day is synonymous with love and Italians traditionally have been considered to be lovers. Known in Italy as "La Festa Degli Innamorati," Valentine's Day is celebrated only between lovers and sweethearts. Young sweethearts in Italy profess their love for each other all year round with a more recent tradition, attaching padlocks or "lucchetti" to bridges and railings and throwing away the key.

The celebration of Valentine's Day in Italy is actually an imported holiday from the American tradition, just like Halloween which was never originally an Italian tradition but is celebrated today. It is a holiday for romantic couples and children do not exchange Valentine cards as they do in the United States.

### History

Valentine's Day actually has its origin in the Roman Empire as a holiday on February 14 to celebrate the Queen of Roman gods and goddesses. The ancient Romans also considered this queen named Juno to be the goddess Queen of Women and Marriage.

Another legend related to the origin of Valentine's Day refers to St. Valentine who was a priest who defied the Roman emperors' order banning marriage between lovers during wartime and Valentine secretly married them. Once this was discovered, he was put to death on February 14 and later was named a saint by Pope Gelasius.

### Valentine Celebrations in Italy

To celebrate this lovers' holiday Italians give each other flowers, plan romantic dinners and present each other with chocolates, much like in the United States. The renowned Italian chocolate maker, Perugina celebrates this day by making a special edition of the Baci chocolate candies with a shiny red wrapper and a sweet red cherry and liquid center rather than the traditional hazelnut one. These chocolates are always a favorite and inside the foil wrapper there is a "love note" with a romantic phrase.

Florence and Venice are traditionally considered to be two of the most romantic places in Italy but Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet celebrates Valentine's Day with a four-day celebration of events designated "Verona in Love." In the center of Piazza dei Signori a giant red heart is painted on the street and illuminated heart-shaped lanterns are featured throughout the city center. Free concerts with romantic themes take place in Piazza dei Signori and there is a contest for the most beautiful letter written to Juliet. To attract lovers and sweethearts to spend a weekend in Verona, many of the local hotels offer deals and the restaurants feature specially priced menus.

### Locks of Love or Lucchetti dell'Amore

The tradition of locking padlocks to bridges, railings and lamp posts began in Italy a little more than four years ago after the release of the best-selling book "Ho voglio di te" (I want you) by the Italian author Federico Moccia. This was followed by the popular movie with the same name starring Riccardo Scamarcio and Laura Chiatti.

In the story young lovers tie a chain and a padlock around a lamppost on the north side of Rome's ponte Milvio and inscribes their names on it, lock it and throw the key into the Tiber River below. The action suggests that the couple will be together forever.

Throughout Italy I have found these locks usually near bridges but also in more peculiar places such as an overhead sign on the walking trail in the Cinque Terre. Many cities have placed bans on having these locks on bridges citing that it takes away from the beauty and culture of the structure and also adding safety concerns.

Most recently the Rome authorities have issued a decree that the thousands of padlocks on the ponte Milvio must be removed, and in Venice a few months earlier the authorities removed hundred of locks from the Accademia Bridge and announced their intent to do the same on the Rialto Bridge over the Grand Canal.

In Florence police removed more than 5000 locks from the ponte Vecchio where it is a crime to attach these locks today yet they continue to appear anywhere they can be attached. The phenomenon has spread to Turin, Bologna, Palermo and even into other European countries. Love conquers all seems to apply here as it is a losing battle with the Italian authorities.

Written by Margie Longano Miklas and taken from <http://www.lagazzettaitaliana.com/>

## VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

**President**  
Vincent Giannantonio

**First Vice-President**  
Sandra Meleca

**Second Vice-President**  
Thomas Meleca

**Recording Secretary**  
Marisa Rubé

**Financial Secretary**  
Joseph Rubé, MD

**Treasurer**  
Louis DeCarolis

**Orator**  
Bonnie Cottone

**Mistress of Ceremony**  
Nancy Rubé  
Catherine DiNicola

**Sentinel**  
Ross Cottone

**Trustees**  
Edward Groszewski  
Luigi DiFilippo  
Antonio Palucci  
Marjorie Focarazzo

**Immediate Past President**  
Joseph Rubé, MD

**Chaplain**  
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State  
Trustee**  
Anthony DiCostanzo

**Chaplain Emeritus**  
Sister Carole Proia

**Lodge Deputy**  
Anthony Idoni

**District VIII State Deputy**  
Joseph Rubé, MD

**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:

**President Vince Giannantonio**  
61 Sunset Street, Rochester, NY 14606  
(585) 208-1578  
vinnyg1951@gmail.com