



# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor  
January 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. As we have another year under our belt we find our lodge moving forward and growing. We are currently 130 members strong and still growing. Our events have been successful and our name, the Vincent Lombardi Lodge, is becoming well known in our Italian community.



As I look back on my presidency this past year, I have seen an organization of people from various backgrounds come together not only as associates, but as a close knit group of friends that have become like family. It seems that as a group, there is nothing we can't accomplish and for that I am very proud.

Let's not forget our winter picnic/clambake on Saturday, February 13. Hope to see you there.

Annual dues are presently being collected by brother Joe Rubé at his new address: 1 Westin Court, Pittsford, NY, 14534. If you haven't paid already, please let us know of your intent to do so.

Currently we have four , possibly five, positions open for our Grand Lodge Convention in May. If you are interested in having your name on the ballot, please send me a written request prior to our next general meeting. Delegates will be voted upon at our next meeting, January 14th.

January signifies the start of a new year of business. Committees are being formed and sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting. We hope you will be sure to sign up! The committees range from our various special events, October dinner, honorees, etc.

Congratulations are in order for our recording secretary, Sister Marisa Rube, and Brother Christopher Przepiora on their engagement.

As I close, I am looking forward to another year of working with my fellow brothers and sisters.

Felice Anno Nuovo!

Faternally,

President Vince

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Lodge/District Events..2
- State/National Events..2
- Members Corner.....4
- Reports.....5
- Learning Italian.....6
- Christmas Party Pics.....7



#### STATE AND NATIONAL OSIA EVENTS

##### New York OSIA 23rd Winter Charity Ball

January 29th 2016

Chateau Briand, Carle Place

7:30 pm

## Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2016 Calendar

**January 7th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**January 14th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

**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**

**April 7th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**April 14th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

**May 5th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**May 12th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

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

**June 9th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

**July 7th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**July 14th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

**August 4th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**August 11th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

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

**September 1st, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**September 8th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

**October 6th, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**October 13th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

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

**November 3rd, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**November 10th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

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

**December 1st, 2016 @ 7pm: Council Meeting**

**December 8th, 2016 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting**

**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**



01/01	Mary Kosinsky	01/15	Frank Oliveri
01/02	Samuel Mammano	01/16	Pat Bartholomew
01/04	Anthony Cataldi	01/20	Marianne Ayer
01/06	Paul DeCarolis	01/24	Frank Romeo
01/07	Matthew Sisto		

At our December General Assembly meeting, we initiated and welcomed Brother Charlie Russolese and Brother Clemente Suero.



Our deep sympathy goes out to Sister Elizabeth Osta as she mourns the loss of her sister and two other family members. Please keep Sister Elizabeth in your hearts during this difficult time.

### LEO'S PIE SALE FUNDRAISER

Hello Everyone,

Just want to thank all our members that supported our recent pie sale. We did well for the short duration we sold pies. We cleared over \$300. Thank you to everyone that sold pies and everyone that bought pies. A special thank you to Brothers Vincent and Luigi and Sister Mary-Lou that for their help distributing the pies. A very special thank you to the East Rochester Eyer building that let us use their hall for distribution so we were out of the rain. I hope all our members and friends have a wonderful Christmas and a new year filled with joy and happiness.

Always,

Sister Sandy

### 2016 MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

The Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270, Geneva Lodge and Gail Lodge are collaborating in the essay contest, *Voices of the Past*, to encourage middle school students to interview an Italian senior citizen who immigrated to the United States. With each generation we move farther away from knowing and understanding how we came to be who we are. The stories we capture are important to us individually, but also in preserving our culture and heritage collectively.

A list of questions has been designed for students to interview a family member or friend who left their homes and families to venture forth not knowing what was before them. We want students to write their stories for us to preserve for future generations. We also hope students will realize the decisions made were not easy, the trip not a pleasure cruise, and the destination unfamiliar.

The essay contest is open to all middle school grade students as determined by the student's school district. Information has been sent to both the social studies and foreign language department heads to disseminate to students. Students are to interview someone who emigrated from Italy using the questions provided as a guide and embellishing further to write the interviewees story. If you know a middle school student, please share this opportunity with him or her. The deadline for submission is April 8, 2016. Please contact me, [MAFocarazzo@gmail.com](mailto:MAFocarazzo@gmail.com), with any questions.

### 2016 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Our 2016 scholarship information for high school seniors is available and located at [www.sonsofitalyrochester.com/scholarships.htm](http://www.sonsofitalyrochester.com/scholarships.htm). If you know a high school senior of Italian descent in Monroe County, please forward this information on.

The 2016 National Leadership grants through the Sons of Italy Foundation have also been posted. 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. For more information, please visit <https://www.osia.org/students/scholarships.php>.

### Epiphany in Italy

She is an **old woman**, a little shabby, but very hardworking and much loved by children, although her appearance is not so reassuring. She travels on a broom and, **in the night between 5th and 6th January**, she is on the go to bring gifts, sweets in particular, to good children. For those less good, however, she only brings coal. She is loved as much as Father Christmas, but unlike the elderly bearded gentleman, she is much less famous, particularly outside Italy. Here, however, she is known by everyone as the Befana: "la Befana vien di notte con le scarpe tutte rotte" ("**The Befana comes by night with her broken shoes**"), says an old adage.

**On January 6th**, in Italy we celebrate the **Epiphany**, a feast typical of some regions which then spread to the rest of the Peninsula, taking with it local traditions and folklore together with a strong religious value. Epiphany is linked, in fact, to the **adoration of the Magi** who came to Bethlehem twelve days after Christmas by following the comet with gifts for the **baby Jesus**. The appearance, however, also has its roots in pre-Christian and pagan rituals. For this reason it is a particularly complex holiday that blends with the character of the places in which is celebrated

Epiphany is thus a magical celebration, full of deep symbolic values during which, in some locations, it is believed that even animals can talk and finally say what they think to humans.

Epiphany therefore closes the holiday season (the Italian rhyme states that "L'Epifania tutte le feste porta via": "With Epiphany all the holidays are over") and marks the beginning of Carneval.

[www.italia.it](http://www.italia.it)

## Regional Epiphany Celebrations

In some traditions, the Befana is the female allegory of the old year ready to sacrifice itself to give life to a new and prosperous period. In some regions this leads to a bonfire of the old lady: a rag doll is burned in the square after, as happens in some locations of Tuscany and Emilia Romagna, a tour of the city streets on a wagon. In other cases, the puppet is displayed at a window, as happens in Florence or Rome.

In the north east this tradition is very much alive. In Veneto, the symbolic bonfire is called "panevin"; this is a bonfire that tends to erase the negative aspects of the year which has just ended and to seek the auspices for the one which has just started by looking at the direction of the sparks; the same happens in Friuli Venezia Giulia, accompanied by a glass of mulled wine and a piece of typical focaccia.

In Faenza, in the province of Ravenna, the Nott de Bisò is celebrated on January 5th with the "Niballo", a huge puppet which symbolizes all the misfortunes of the past year which is then burned. The bisò is mulled wine made from Sangiovese and spices. Florence celebrates the Epiphany every year by the traditional Cavalcade of the Magi, the re-enactment of the arrival of the Magi at the Holy Family's presence along the streets of the old town, on horseback, wearing Renaissance costumes of great pomp. The flag wavers' exhibition in Piazza della Signoria shouldn't be missed.

In Montescaglioso, in the area of Matera, January 5th is the time of the "Notte dei Cucibocca": figures dressed in black, with a big hat and bushy white beards move through the streets with a lighted lantern, dragging a broken chain attached to their foot and knocking on doors to ask for food offerings. This tradition is linked to the widespread belief in some parts of the south of Italy that the dead return to their loved ones the night before the Epiphany. It is they, and not the famous old lady, that in some cases fill the stockings hung by children with sweets.

In Sicily, in Gratteri, in the province of Palermo "A Vecchia" ("The Old one") emerges from the Cave of Grattara, wrapped in a white sheet and on the back of a donkey, and travels the road to the city center where she distributes gifts to children. In this case, however, it is on 31st December and for the occasion a type of allegorical trial is held in the square concerning the events of the year that is about to end, in order to propitiate the one that is to come.

## Imparando l'italiano (Learning Italian)

Written By Brother Ed Groszewski

Why learn Italian? Many of our order's publications encourage us to become more familiar with the language of our forefathers, or to remain fluent in the language we learned as a child. Knowing the language of a country brings us closer to its people, deepens our appreciation of its culture, and allows us to explore ideas and topics that might otherwise be inaccessible to us. As members of an organization that prizes our rich cultural heritage, each of us ought to at least explore the ways we might gain a basic knowledge of Italian. Fortunately, our home computers and the Internet now provide everyone with a panoply of options *per imparare la lingua Italiana* (to learn the Italian language). Here are some suggestions.

**Rosetta Stone** provides a comprehensive approach to begin learning without any tiresome drills and long vocabulary lists. Language acquisition proceeds through matching pictures with words and phrases. As a learner you will listen to a native speaker and your pronunciation will be recorded and evaluated. It's fun to read short stories appropriate to your skill level and there is also the opportunity to have live conversations with other learners and an instructor, completely conducted in Italian. The high cost of Rosetta Stone will be a deterrent to some as the cost to begin can be as high as \$300, and additional modules will cost more.

**Duolingo** ([www.Duolingo.com](http://www.Duolingo.com)) is a free app that breaks language learning down into categories and themes such as "food," "animals," and "travel," and proceeds in small steps up to more complex structures like infinitives, the future perfect, and the conditional perfect. Opportunities for listening and speaking are built in and you can set your own goals, get rewards, and receive reminders to study regularly. Like Rosetta Stone, Duolingo is free of drills and memorization lists. (Note: If you're using a Mac, use the Chrome browser, it's easier than Safari.)

It's time for an aside. I hate rote memorization: it's boring, frustrating, and time sucking. Unfortunately it's also necessary, especially in learning a language that has more verb forms than you have fingers and toes. In my opinion, neither Rosetta Stone nor Duolingo can stand alone for the learner who aims for fluency.

Fortunately, help is available in the form of another free app, **Conjugation Nation**. The app does just what its name implies - provides endless drills in fifteen different tenses and verb forms. The learner can set the exact verbs to work with and even the pronouns used. It doesn't make learning verbs fun but it is effective and efficient. Unfortunately, Conjugation Nation is only compatible with the iPhone, iPad, and iPad Touch.

Although it's not designed for the absolute beginner, **Italki** ([www.iTalki.com](http://www.iTalki.com)) can help someone looking to develop fluency in spoken Italian, as it provides an easy way to connect with a native Italian speaker or to hire a private tutor for a fee that fits your budget.

Of course, this is not an exhaustive list of the programs and websites that can help you learn Italian. These are just the ones I use and you may find others better suited to your needs. *Iniziare ad imparare oggi!* (Start learning today!)

### 2015 Lodge Christmas Party



2015 Lodge Christmas Party



## 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

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