



The Roar of the Lion

Jennifer Rubé, editor
January 2014

FREE HEARING SCREENING

Weather pending, the Pittsford Hearing and Balance Center will be at our January General Assembly Meeting to give our members free hearing screenings. Please join us for the first meeting of 2014 on Thursday, January 9, 2014.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our scholarship committee chairperson, Sister Sandy Meleca, has mailed out all of the scholarship information to Monroe County High Schools. If you have a child or know of a child who is a senior in high school and planning on attending college next Fall, please have them ask their guidance counselors for the Sons of Italy scholarship information.

I'm pleased to announce that this year we will be offering at least four scholarships! We will have our annual Lodge scholarship, two Past Honorees scholarships, and a scholarship donated by this year's Woman of the Year Rae Mastro in honor of her father Nick who was one of our Past Honorees.

NEW MEMBERS

We are so proud to announce that 2013 has been even better for us than 2012 as far as bringing in new members. Welcome to Angela, Anthony, Stephen, Richard, Julia, Ed, Donna, Tom, Mike, Joe, Gino, Robert, Marjorie, Martha, Joanne, Chris, and Ron.

At the December 12th General Assembly Meeting we welcomed Stephanie and Rufus Brey, Patty Johns, Kitty DiNicola, Jackie Perotta and Samuel Mammano.

If you know of someone interested in joining our lodge please contact President Jenn. You will be receiving an updated membership list in January. Please remember that this list is to be used only for lodge communications.

WINTER PICNIC/CLAM BAKE

This year we have scheduled the event for Saturday February 22nd, 2014 and it will be held at St. Jude Church on Lyell Road in Gates. The hall will hold almost 200 people with plenty of room, comfortable seating, indoor restrooms and loads of fun.

Please feel free to invite family, friends, co-workers or anyone else who would enjoy a great afternoon with us. The buffet dinner ticket is \$25 per person and then you can purchase the clams by the dozen. This worked very well last year but many people told me afterwards they wished they had ordered more clams. Don't be shy! Order as many as you want. They are \$5 per dozen and when you get to the event and check in, you will receive a coupon for each bag of a dozen clams that you ordered. That way you don't have to pick them up all at once.

During this event we will be holding a 50/50 drawing to benefit Alzheimer's. The winner(s) will receive half the money and the other half will be presented to the NYS Grand Lodge at this year's Convention in June as a donation to Alzheimer's.

The buffet dinner menu is:

- Italian Sausage w/Peppers & Onions
- Baked Marinated Chicken
- Chef Salad & Dressing
- Ziti & Sauce
- Corn & Salt Potatoes
- Cookies & Brownies
- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate



Look for more information on the enclosed flyer. Please get your reservation forms back as soon as possible so that we can track clam orders.

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to President Jenn Rubé at:

92 Gleason Circle, East Rochester NY 14445 – (585) 381 - 5540 - jennajlr@aol.com



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE #2270
92 Gleason Circle
East Rochester, New York 14445



OFFICERS

President

Jennifer Rubé

Vice-President

Vincent Giannantonio

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Cottone

Financial Secretary

Joseph Rubé, MD

Treasurer

Salvatore Cutaia

Orator

Joseph Vazanna

Mistress of Ceremony

Nancy Rubé

Ann Vazzana

Sentinel

Ross Cottone

Trustees

Louis DeCarolis

Luigi DiFilippo

Thomas Meleca

Sandra Meleca

Antonio Palucci

Immediate Past President

Joseph Rubé, MD

Chaplain

Ann Vazzana

District VIII State Trustee

Anthony DiCostanzo

Chaplain Emeritus

Sister Carole Proia

Lodge Deputy

Anthony Idoni

January 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past year has brought a lot of wonderful things to our beloved lodge. Our membership is growing faster than it has in recent memory and everyone seems to be having a great time. I got one of the best compliments ever the other day when one of our new members said that everyone made them feel like part of the family right from the beginning.

The year 2013 began in January with a wonderful new member initiation for seven new members. What a great way to start out the year! We had our second full-family initiation when we welcomed the Cataldi Family into the lodge. In February we held our first Winter Picnic & Clam Bake with approximately 75 members, family and friends enjoying a big buffet dinner and almost 200 dozen clams. Please look at the enclosed flyer for info on this year's picnic.

In March we were honored to have a visit from then NYS President Thom Lupo as he officiated over our new officer Installation Ceremony. Sixty of our lodge members were present for brunch at Penfield Country Club as I was honored to be installed as your new lodge president. Our new Council has done wonderful things in the past year and I look forward to working with you all in the coming months and years as we continue to make the Vincent Lombardi Lodge one of the strongest and most popular Italian American organizations in the area.

In April and May we welcomed another four new members and in May we celebrated our third annual Regional Dinner with an Abruzzi themed dinner at Cibi, hosted by our own Sister Rosita. We were joined by a number of guests who all complimented the lodge and the chef for such an outstanding event. We are eagerly anticipating Sister Rosita's next dinner this April or May.

In June we attended the New York State OSIA Convention where we elected our new State President, Joseph Rondinelli. President Joe seems to have a good agenda planned which includes making updates to the organization to bring it up to date with technology as well as trying to grow the organization as a whole, bringing in new members and fresh ideas. Once again I ran the Gift Gallery at the Convention and got to meet many brothers and sisters from different lodges across the state. Almost immediately after returning home from the Convention we participated in the Festa Italia in East Rochester. It was a VERY wet weekend but overall our members seemed to have fun, even in the rain. In June and July we welcomed another four new members. You can see pictures from all our events at www.sonsofitalyrochester.com.

In July, as the summer temperatures climbed, we once again ran a very successful booth at Festa Italiana at the Italian American Community Center. Many of the proceeds from this event support our lodge's charitable donations as well as our scholarships. In August we held our annual Summer Picnic at the Rubé's with about 80 members, friends and family celebrating under the big tent in the back yard.

In October many of our members attended the Columbus Day Luncheon, hosted by the Italian Civic League of Rochester, where our own Brother Louis DeCarolis was honored. This annual event is an important part of the local Italian American cultural scene. We then celebrated Italian Heritage Month with our own Italian American Heritage Awards Dinner, formerly known as the Christopher Columbus Dinner Dance. The name change came in recognition of the fact that the Italian government chose 2013 to be the year that they recognized what the Italian history and culture means to so many in the United States.

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CONTINUED>>> We were proud to honor outstanding citizens such as Man of the Year, Salvatore Mitrano III, Chief of the Rochester Fire Department and Woman of the Year, Rae Mastro who is the owner and CEO of Mastro Graphic Arts, Inc. This year it was a special year for we honored two of our own members as well. Sister Shirley Sculli was honored for her role in our lodge's history as the first female lodge president (and the only one until I came along) as well as Brother James Vazzana as our Professional Man of the Year.

In November, Sister Jennie Gugino carried on lodge tradition with her annual Turkey Raffle Dinner in honor of her father. This year we were especially honored to have New York State President, Joseph F. Rondinelli fly up for the event from Long Island. It is always a great honor to have a state official attend one of our events but even more so this year because President Joe is the second State President to visit in the past year and in the past fifteen months or so we have had two State Presidents and the National President pay us a visit. I'm also proud to say that between the IAHA Dinner and the Ad Book, the Turkey Raffle Dinner and donations that have come in, we have already funded three scholarships for 2014 with the probability of having a fourth and possibly even a fifth scholarship to give away this year.

In December we initiated six new members at our final General Assembly Meeting of 2013 bringing our total number of new members for the year to twenty three. Later in the month we all gathered at the Grapevine Restaurant for our annual Christmas Dinner Party. More than seventy members, family and friends joined us for a delicious buffet dinner and live entertainment provided by Sister Sylvia Vazzana and her group of carolers.

We also lost several of our members this year. We will always keep Sisters Adeline Cimino, Mary Stewart, Marie Moscato-Foxton and Brother Hentry DiNardo in our hearts and memories. Many of our members have suffered the loss of a loved one and we keep you in our prayers as we continue on our journey into the next year.

I want to thank everyone that helped organize an event this year as well as everyone that attended those events. Holding meetings and giving scholarships or other charitable donations is very important in our lodge. However, I feel the biggest success is measured by the people attending our meetings and our events. After almost every event this past year we have gained new members from the people who attended previous events. This shows me that we're not just having fun among our membership but we're proud enough of our lodge to invite our friends and family to participate with us and they are having fun too. Brother Tom Meleca has proven this as he is the first member of our lodge to be awarded with the special membership incentive shirt that I recently designed. These shirts will be given to any member who sponsors five or more new members in a calendar year. Not only did Brother Tom get his shirt but he has also qualified for the Grand Lodge's incentive program and will be awarded soon with a special membership jacket because he sponsored more than ten new members this past year. The special shirt seems to have spurred the competitive natures of some of our members who have now decided they want one too and are signing up new members for 2014. I will be happy to give out as many shirts as there are people who earn them so go for it!

Our lodge council has some items on the agenda for the coming months. With our membership growing so fast we're realizing that we are outgrowing the meeting room at Casa Italiana. Some nights we have 40 or more members attending meetings and it is getting a bit cramped. Therefore, Vice President Brother Vince and a committee of members will begin looking for a new home for us. Short term, this will probably be a place that we can rent either just for meetings or possibly a space where we can really call it a home and have space exclusively for us. It depends on what the committee finds is available and what they ultimately determine the needs of our lodge are. Wherever we end up, we will make sure it is as centrally located as possible. While the majority of our membership lives on the east side of the city, we are gaining more members from the west side and we will keep that in mind as we begin looking. If you have any suggestions for places that the committee should look at, please let Brother Vince or me know.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe New Year for 2014 with the hope that our lodge continues to thrive. We have ideas for even more special events and are always in need of volunteers to help organize them. If you have an idea for an event and wish to run with it, please contact me with the details and we'll see if we can make it work. My philosophy is much like IPP Brother Joe's was – if you are willing to put the effort into an event I won't say no. If it is a success, great! If it doesn't go as planned then there is no harm done. You've tried and that is what is important.

Fraternally,
President Jenn

VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE

2014 CONVENTION INFO

Coming up at the February General Assembly Meeting will be the election of delegates for this year's Convention at the end of May. The convention is at the Villa Roma Resort in the Catskills and runs from noon on Thursday May 29th through Sunday June 1st. If you would like to run for a delegate position you must let me know by February 1st so that I can have your name on the ballot at the February Meeting. If you have questions about what being a delegate entails and the responsibilities for the position, please give me a call at 585-381-5540.

We have six positions open this year with the President and Immediate Past President being required delegates. Therefore we will have four positions up for election and two alternates. At the February meeting we will have a ballot with the name of everyone that contacts me saying they are interested. Everyone present at the meeting will pick four names from the list. The four people with the most votes will be delegates and the next two will be alternates. Alternates become delegates if a delegate has to cancel for some reason. You are also welcome to attend the convention even if you are not elected as a delegate. You must register through the lodge/Grand Lodge in order to get our group rates and to be able to sit with the delegates for meals. Non-delegates will be able to attend all business meetings and entertainment just like regular delegates.

The General Assembly voted recently to have the lodge reimburse all elected delegates for their hotel expenses during the convention. Each delegate will need to submit their invoice from the hotel to Financial Secretary Brother Joe Rubé immediately following the convention and he will reimburse them for their hotel and meal expenses.

I am waiting to hear if I will be asked to run the Convention's Gift Gallery again this year. If so, I greatly appreciate all the help from our delegates and non-delegate attendees when they can help out with sales. The Gift Gallery is set up right outside the Convention room and as lodge president I have to attend the meetings so this is very convenient.

Overall, the Convention is an exciting time and is very informative for those interested in seeing how OSIA works on a state level and not just a local lodge level. If you are interested in running for delegate please let me know by February 1st.

LA BEFANA

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated January 6 with a national holiday in Italy, and the tradition of La Befana are a big part of Italian Christmas celebrations. Epiphany commemorates the 12th day of Christmas when the three Wise Men arrived at the manger bearing gifts for Baby Jesus.

The traditional Christmas holiday season in Italy lasts through the Epiphany. Italy's traditional celebration includes the tale of a witch known as La Befana who arrives on her broomstick during the night of January 5 and fills the stockings with toys and sweets for the good children and lumps of coal for the bad ones.

According to the legend, the night before the Wise Men arrived at the manger they stopped at the shack of an old woman to ask directions. They invited her to come along but she replied that she was too busy. Then a shepherd asked her to join him but again she refused. Later that night, she saw a great light in the sky and decided to join the Wise Men and the shepherd bearing gifts that had belonged to her child who had died. She got lost and never found the manger.

Now La Befana flies around on her broomstick each year on the 11th night, bringing gifts to children in hopes that she might find the Baby Jesus. Children hang their stockings on the evening of January 5 awaiting the visit of La Befana.



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE

REFRESHMENTS

We are looking for volunteers to bring refreshments to our General Assembly meetings. If you would like to bring refreshments to the next meeting, please contact Sister Sandy Meleca at 315-986-1097. Thank you to all of our volunteers as this is one more thing that helps keep expenses down for the lodge.

LODGE NEWS

Our condolences go out to **Brother Chris** and **Sister Joanne Napoli** and their family on the sudden passing of their son-in-law.

Our condolences also to **Sister Jackie Perrotta** on the passing of her brother.

We send **Brother Dr Russ Gugino** our best wishes as he recuperates from a recent hospital stay.

Congratulations to **Sister Patty Johns** as she retires from Rochester General Hospital.

Congratulations to **Brother Richard Santo** on his retirement.

Please keep our older members in mind as the seasons change and it is harder for them to get out to meetings and events. Sometimes a phone call or a note can brighten up the day more than we can imagine.

If you know of any lodge members who have been ill, had surgery or have lost a loved one, please contact Sister Ann Vazzana at 586-6266 or President Jenn at 381-5540. We also love to hear about positive things going on in our lodge!

COKE REWARDS CODES

We are still collecting bottle caps and rewards codes from all Coke products. The codes can be found inside the bottle caps or inside the cardboard boxes from canned drinks. We redeem these codes for points towards different items that we can use for raffles at lodge events. If you can't bring them to the next meeting, feel free to email the codes to Jennifer at jennajlr@aol.com or call 381-5540.

INK CARTRIDGES

Thank you to everyone that has brought us empty ink and toner cartridges this year. This year our donated rewards points covered almost all of the printing for the Italian American Heritage Awards Dinner. They were a tremendous help in us realizing the profit that we did from this event.

If you have any empties to donate, please bring them to the next lodge meeting or lodge social event.

NEW YEAR MAILING

In the next several weeks you will be receiving your 2014 Membership Directory. Please remember that this is confidential information and is not to be used for anything other than communicating with fellow lodge members. For those members who have not yet returned contact info forms and bereavement fund contracts, those will be included in this mailing. Please fill out the forms and return them to President Jenn as soon as possible so that we can make sure our records are accurate.

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VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY:

01/02 Samuel Mammano
01/04 Anthony Cataldi
01/06 Paul DeCarolus
01/07 Matthew Sisto
01/11 Ron Santoli
01/15 Frank Oliveri



FEBRUARY:

02/02 Sarah Carbone
02/03 Patricia Galante
02/12 Joseph Galante
02/18 Stephen Cataldi
02/19 Lisa Napolitano
02/24 Angela Parise
02/27 Sandra Meleca
02/28 Joseph Capogreco

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **January 9th** - 7PM General Assembly Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **February 6th** - 7PM Council Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **February 13th** - 7PM General Assembly Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **February 22nd** – Winter Picnic & Clam Bake at St. Jude the Apostle Church. (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **March 6th** – 7PM Council Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **March 13th** - 7PM General Assembly Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)

HAVE – HEART - RAFFLE

The Grand Lodge is holding a new fundraiser called the “Have – a – Heart” Raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Each has a number printed on it and is good for the month of February. If your ticket number matches the NYS Lottery’s Daily EVENING number, you win. If you would like to purchase ticket(s) please contact President Jenn.

WINTER CHARITY BALL

The Grand Lodge of New York is pleased to announce that its 21st Winter Charity Ball will be held on Friday January 31st, 2014 in Carle Place, New York.

MEETING DIRECTIONS

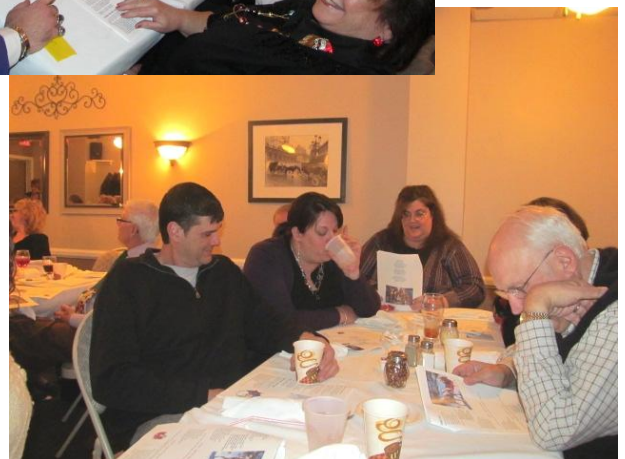
Our lodge general assembly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Casa Italiana located on the Nazareth College Campus at 4245 East Avenue. The college is located about half a mile from the Village of Pittsford on Route 96/East Avenue. Enter the campus at the entrance with the traffic light (South Campus Drive).

Turn immediately into Parking Lot A on the right as you enter the campus. On the right you will note the Casa Hispana building and then the Casa Italiana building. Take the lower walk to the right of the building which leads directly to the meeting room. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM sharp and everyone is welcome. Please Note: the meeting room is handicapped accessible.

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2013 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



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