



# The Roar of the Lion

Jennifer Rubé, editor  
March 2014

## COUNCIL POSITION

At the February 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting lodge members approved a change in Council positions. Brother Louis DeCarolus (Trustee) and Brother Sal Cutaia (Treasurer) changed positions so that Brother Lou can begin to computerize our lodge's financial records.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

We now have our lodge scholarship information on our website at [www.sonsofitalyrochester.com](http://www.sonsofitalyrochester.com) as well as links to the state and national scholarships.

## WINTER PICNIC/CLAM BAKE

It was a cold winter day when more than seventy five of our members, their friends and family, got together at St. Jude's Church in Gates for our Second Annual Winter Picnic & Clam Bake. Lots of good food was consumed, including over one hundred forty dozen clams! Check pages 7 & 8 for pictures!

## ANNUAL DUES CHANGE

At the February 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting the members present voted on a new method of billing our annual dues. We are not raising the amount of the annual dues!

In recent years we have sent out invoices for annual membership dues in April and May and our membership year ran from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Sometimes it would take six months for payments to come in and we're no longer going to be allowing that. Our goal is to get our membership back onto a calendar year starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

In a couple of weeks you will be receiving your invoice for the 2014-2015 years. This year you will have two options for payment.

Plan A: You will be able to pay for six months (\$25) and you will be covered until December 31, 2014 and you will have a very strict deadline for payment. You will then receive another invoice (\$50) for 2015 in October or November which must be received by our Financial Officer no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Anyone that has not paid by that date will automatically be dropped from the membership because that is the deadline for us to let the Grand Lodge know how many members are in the lodge.

Plan B: You will be able to pay for 18 months (\$75) and you will be covered until December 2015. Again, payment deadlines will be strict but many of our members liked the idea of being able to pay ahead instead of receiving another bill so soon after paying in June.

## TUSCANY AT CIBI !

Our fourth annual Regional Dinner at Cibi in Mendon will be held on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Chef Rosita invites lodge members, friends and family to come for a feast of Tuscan themed foods!

This year's event will once again be held as a fundraiser to raise money to support Breast Cancer Research through the Sons of Italy Foundation.

Reservation forms will be included with your APRIL newsletter but please mark your calendar and save the date!

## MEETING AGENDA

At the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be initiating several new members into our lodge. Please make an effort to attend and welcome these new members.

This will be a short meeting due to the new member initiations. Refreshments will be served afterwards and everyone will have time to socialize and meet our newest members. If you or someone you know is interested in joining and would like to come to a meeting before making a decision, this is an open meeting. Family and friends are welcome. Our regular meetings are only for members to attend.

**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](mailto: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

Louis DeCarolis

#### Orator

Joseph Vazzana

#### Mistress of Ceremony

Nancy Rubé

Ann Vazzana

#### Sentinel

Ross Cottone

#### Trustees

Salvatore Cutaia

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

March 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As usual, a lot of things have been happening behind the scenes in the Vincent Lombardi Lodge this winter. It seems like our members are never idle for long these days. Thank you to all of our volunteers and the enthusiasm you bring to the lodge.

Thank you to everyone that ventured out on a wild and windy Saturday a few weeks ago and joined us for our Second Annual Winter Picnic & Clam Bake. We had almost eighty people enjoying good food, lots of good friends and even a musical jam session with Brother Ross and Brother Mike on instruments. For some reason everyone asks how many clams – well, this year we finished off one hundred and forty one DOZEN clams! Thanks to Greg and his crew for catering yet another wonderful event for us. There was tons of food and everyone that wanted to take home food got plenty to go.

Our next event will be our Fourth Annual Regional Dinner at Cibi in Mendon. This year Chef Rosita will be preparing a Tuscan feast for us. Anyone that attended the Sicilian, Calabrian or Abbruzzese dinners knows just what a treat we always get at Cibi. Like we did last year, some of the proceeds from the dinner and 50/50 drawing will be donated to Breast Cancer through the Sons of Italy Foundation at this year's convention in June.

Speaking of the Convention – If you have a favorite charity that you would like to make a donation to through our lodge, we will be happy to take your donation with us to the Convention in May and present it to the Grand Lodge in your name or in honor of a loved one. Last year we made a number of personal donations to Autism and other charities on behalf of our members along with the donations made from the lodge itself. OSIA charities include Gift of Sight, Commission for Social Justice, Doug Flutie Jr Foundation for Autism, Alzheimer's Foundation, Coaches vs Cancer, Arthritis Foundation, Breast Cancer, Garibaldi-Meucci Museum (and their brick program), WWII Memorial, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, National Bone Marrow Registry and many more. If you wish to make a personal or corporate donation to one of the OSIA charities, please make your check payable to the Sons of Italy Foundation and send to President Jenn by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

After the Convention we start with the summer season. We are currently waiting for information regarding the *Festa Italiana* at the IACC where we plan to have our usual booths. We also just heard that the *Festa Italia* that was held in East Rochester last June may be held again this year in another location. Once we receive more information on the date and location for that festival I will ask the membership if they wish to participate again. We have also been invited to exhibit at this year's new *Abruzzese Festival* in Gates on August 24<sup>th</sup> but the general membership decided that the one-day price was too high for a first year festival and the merchandise we sell. If we woke up to rain that morning or had a lot of rain prior to the festival causing muddy fields we would be out a lot of money.

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<<<FROM PREVIOUS PAGE: At the last meeting, Brother Louis and Brother Sal essentially switched board positions which will now allow Brother Louis to start computerizing our lodge records. I want to thank him in advance for agreeing to do this work for us and helping us move our lodge into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Sister Marjorie Focarazzo has agreed to take on a new initiative offered by the Commission for Social Justice organizing a District VIII essay contest for Junior and Senior High School students. We are only in the beginning stages of organization but the theme of the essay contest will be focused on what being Italian and our ancestors' cultural traditions mean to these students. If you are interested in working on this with her please contact her or myself.

In closing, I would like to thank Brother Tom Meleca for agreeing to be our new Membership Chairperson and for the hard work he has been doing setting up membership displays at our events and for contacting potential new members for the lodge. Our members are the key to our success!

Please keep all of our members who have been ill or who have lost loved ones in your prayers and as always, please keep those fighting for our freedoms around the world in your prayers.

Fraternally, President Jenn

## LODGE NEWS

It is with sadness that we note the passing of our 2012 Humanitarian of the Year Award winner, **Thomas C. Ferraro**, founder of Foodlink. Our condolences go out to fellow lodge member **Brother Thomas Ferraro, Jr.** on the passing of his cousin.

Get well wishes go out to **Sister Kitty DiNicola** after recent surgery. Kitty is one of our newest members.

Get well wishes go out to long time lodge member **Joe DiPasquale** after recent surgery. Joe is recuperating at home.

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!



The brick we purchased on the walkway of the Garibaldi Meucci Museum on Staten Island. For more info, contact President

## NEW YEAR MAILING

Recently all lodge members received the new 2014 Membership Directory. I'm very sorry there were so many omissions on that copy due to an error in the program. I have had it reprinted and you will be receiving a new copy soon.

## 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 helps to keep expenses down for the lodge.

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# VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE

## 2014 CONVENTION

At the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, members elected the delegates and alternates for the 2014 NYS OSIA Convention which will be held at Villa Roma in the Catskills from May 29 – June 1, 2014. This year your lodge representatives/delegates will be:

- President Jenn Rubé
- IPP Dr. Joe Rubé
- Vice President Vince Giannantonio
- Principle Trustee/Membership Chair Tom Meleca
- Trustee/Scholarship Chair Sandy Meleca
- Trustee Louie DiFilippo

Alternates in case one or more of the delegates cannot attend will be:

- Lodge Member Matthew Grosodonia
- Council Member Nancy Rubé
- Lodge Member Ed Groszewski

Everyone is welcome to attend the Convention as guests if they would like to. Guests are welcome to attend business meetings, meals and social events with the delegates. You must register through the lodge in order to get the group rates and meal package!!! Reservation forms must be returned to President Jenn no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in more information such as rates, please contact President Jenn at 381-5540 or Brother Joe at 461-1181.

## SAUSAGE MAKING at MELECA's



## COKE REWARDS

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](mailto:jennajlr@aol.com) or call 381-5540.



# VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE

## BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

03/07 Mercie DiGiacomo  
03/08 Christopher Ciacchio  
03/10 Ann Battaglia  
03/14 Catherine DiNicola  
03/23 MaryJoyce D'Aurizio  
03/23 Donna McIntosh  
03/28 Flora Fustaino  
03/30 Shirley Sculli  
03/31 Hon. Donald Mark



### APRIL

04/01 Ted DeSoto  
04/09 Matthew Grosodonia  
04/10 Angela Amato  
04/13 James Vacanti  
04/14 Bonnie Cottone  
04/19 Rufus Brey  
04/26 Peter Maddalena  
04/29 Sunni Povero  
04/29 Antonio Galvano

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **March 13<sup>th</sup>** - 7PM General Assembly Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 7PM Council Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **April 10<sup>th</sup>** - 7PM General Assembly Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **May 1<sup>st</sup>** - 7PM Council Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **May 4<sup>th</sup>** - Tuscan Feast at Cibi (check flyer for more info)
- **May 8<sup>th</sup>** - 7PM General Assembly Meeting at Casa Italiana (info: Jenn 381-5540)
- **October 18, 2014** - October Dinner Dance – more info to follow.

## 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 empties to donate, please bring them to the next lodge meeting or lodge social event.



## 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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# St. Joseph's Day

Saint Joseph is one of the most beloved saints among Italian-Americans. As the patron of workers and the protector of the family, he is honored with a feast on March 19.

According to legend, there was a famine in Sicily many centuries ago. The villagers prayed to St. Joseph, foster-father of the Infant Savior, and asked his intercession before the throne of God. Their prayers were answered. With the ending of the dreadful famine, a special feast of thanksgiving was held in commemoration of the Saint. This celebration became tradition. Wealth families prepared huge buffets. They then invited the less fortunate people of the village, especially the homeless and sick. The celebration begins with a religious tableau. Selected villagers portray an elderly man, a lovely young woman, and a little child. The three are seated at the head table and remain there during the early part of the festivity. Others accompanying this "Holy Family" are twelve men or boys, representing the Apostles and other children, attired as angels. The village priest blesses the food and then the "Holy Family" is served first by the host and hostess.

The effect of the table design is dignified, solemn, yet festive, grand and inspiring. Much symbolism is contained in its shape and decoration. The "steps" represent the ascent from earth to heaven. On the topmost step is a statue of St. Joseph or a picture of the Holy Family. White linen tablecloths cover the table. Vigil lights of green, brown and deep yellow, representing St. Joseph's attire, are profusely placed. Palms placed nearby and around the room, as well as lily plants and white carnations give the table softness and the scents together with incense used in the opening of the ceremony are suggestive of the fragrance of heaven and the sweetness of salvation.

The food dishes represent the harvest, the created beauties of the world. Breads are baked in shapes of a staff, a carpenter's implement, a hand, the cross and animals close to the Infant Child at birth. These shapes represent St. Joseph and the life of Christ. *Minestras*, very thick soups, are made of lentils, favas and other types of beans, together with escarole, broccoli or cauliflower. Other vegetables, celery, fennel stalks, boiled and stuffed artichokes are also served. No cheese is eaten on St. Joseph's day. The spaghetti is not sprinkled with grated Incanestrato, but in its place a traditional mixture of tasted dry bread crumbs with fresh sardines and fennel sauce is used. A dish of "sweet macaroni" with honey sauce is also served.

Then, the special dessert without which no St. Joseph's Day buffet could ever be called by that name. It is St. Joseph's Sfinge: a large round cream puff filled with ricotta (Italian cottage cheese) and topped with red cherries and glazed orange slices. Many dessert cookies are embellished with almonds. The almond tree is characteristic among the flora of the Mediterranean and a profoundly sacred symbol to those of Jewish, Moslem and Christian faiths alike.

All are free to come and go as they wish. The guests may eat what they choose and as much as pleases them. The festival lasts most of the day and well into the night. When all have been fed, they go on their way with thankful hearts and take the blessing of the host and hostess with them. It is also customary for the village officials to arrange a public buffet in St. Joseph's honor. The banquet table invariably stands in the *piazza*--public square--opposite the doors of the cathedral. The table is usually built around two sides of the *piazza* in the form of a right angle. These village tables in the public squares may not be as elaborately decorated as those in the homes, but they sage beneath the weight of choice foods and wines contributed by the wealthy villagers. All come to this public table at some time during the day to pay homage to the great saint.



# 2014 WINTER PICNIC & CLAM BAKE



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# 2014 WINTER PICNIC & CLAM BAKE

