



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé, editor
March 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We made it through the coldest February ever with record temperatures below zero. Hopefully March will be better.

Even though it was a cold snowy day the winter picnic was well attended and a huge success. The food was great as usual and everyone seemed to have a good time. I want to thank everyone that attended and helped during the picnic.

As installation time draws near I would like to thank all of the outgoing board members for their constant support during this past year. Thank you to Robert Meli and Ann Vazzana. I would like to thank the remaining board members for their continuous support. Without the hard work and effort of the current board we would not have been able to maintain and grow as a lodge. On behalf of the board and myself, I would like to thank the membership for their vote of confidence and electing us to our current positions. I would like to welcome newly elected board members Marjorie Focarazzo, Kitty DiNicola, and Marisa Rubé. Welcome also to our new Chaplain, Pat Galante. A special thanks to Ed Groszewski for accepting the position of Principal Trustee. Welcome also to the Finance Committee, Linda Agnello.

We hope to see all of our members on March 15th at Burgundy Basin Inn at 11:30am for the installation ceremony.

Don't forget about the essay contest we are offering to middle school children. This is a chance for the students to learn about their heritage and their culture and share it with others.

One final note of congratulations to Silvano Orsi on his appointment to the State Board of Directors to the CSJ.

Looking forward to working with everyone this year as we continue to make our lodge grow and be the best that it can be. Working together we can keep our lodge moving forward.

Hopefully we will have an early spring.

*Peace, fraternally,
President Vince*

Visit our website at
www.sonsofitalyrochester.com
and
"Like" us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/OSIAVincentLombardiLodge

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STATE OSIA EVENTS

**GRAND LODGE \$100 RAF-
FLE FOR A CHANCE TO
WIN \$20,000!**

**APRIL 7TH @ 7PM:
COOLEY'S ANEMIA DINE
AROUND TO SUPPORT THE
COOLEY'S ANEMIA
FOUNDATION.
WESTBURY, NY**

**APRIL 24TH @ 7PM:
33RD ANNIVERSARY
GOLDEN LION DINNER
GARDEN CITY, NY**

**MAY 17TH @ 9AM
TRIBUTE BREAKFAST TO
FIRST LADY
JOAN RONDINELLI
LONG ISLAND, NY**

**MAY 28TH—31ST
109TH ANNUAL STATE
CONVENTION
VILLA ROMA RESORT
CATSKILLS, NY**

****Please see President Vince
if you are interested in any of
the above events ****

VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE EVENTS

**March 5th @ 7pm: Council
Meeting, Eyer Building (317
Main Street, East Rochester)**

**March 12th @ 7pm: General
Assembly Meeting, Eyer
Building (317 Main Street, East
Rochester)**

**March 15th @ 11:30am: Of-
ficers Installation Brunch @
Burgundy Basin Inn (1361
Marsh Road, Pittsford)**

**March 20th: Deadline for
Middle School Essay Contest
Applications**

2015 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

March 12th: Regular Assembly Meeting

April 9th: Regular Assembly Meeting

May 14th: Open Meeting—New Member Initiations

June 11th: Regular Assembly Meeting

July 9th: Regular Assembly Meeting

August 13th: Open Meeting—Scholarship Awards Night

September 10th: Regular Assembly Meeting

October 8th: Open Meeting—New Member Initiations

November 12th: Regular Assembly Meeting

December 10th: Open Meeting—New Member Initiations

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee Chairperson: Brother Tom Meleca

Our February General Assembly meeting was an open meeting with new member initiations. A warm welcome goes out to our newest lodge members: Stephanie Salvatore, Tricia Lagana, Melanie Sarkis Carozza, Paolo Polignone, and Donald Campese.

We are striving to have all of our members bring in a new member for 2015. If you know someone who you think might be interested in joining the lodge, we invite you to bring them to an open meeting or a lodge event to get an idea of what we are all about. Contact Brother Tom Meleca for a membership application.

CSJ ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Contest Chairperson: Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

An oral history is the conversation between two people with regard to some aspect of the past that is recorded for the record. The conversation takes the form of an interview where the interviewer asks specific questions of the interviewee or narrator. In essence, a dialogue takes place in which the narrator decides what is important or what he/she thinks is important to tell the interviewer. The narrator recounts the experiences of everyday life and talking about their lives in ways that are different.

The CSJ Essay's purpose is to provide new knowledge and perspectives, and to understand the everyday lives of ordinary people. Oral history is living people's testimony about their own experiences.

Everyday memories of everyday people, not just the rich and famous, have historical importance. If we do not collect and preserve these memories, the stories will one day disappear and be lost to future generations forever. The deadline for submitting the interest form has been extended until March 20th with the deadline for the final essay due on April 30th. We encourage middle school students of Italian heritage to participate. A member of the Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270, Geneva Lodge #2397 or Geneva American Italian Ladies Lodge #2397A (GAIL #2397A) can sponsor a student. Please contact :

Marjorie @ MAFocarazzo@gmail.com (Vincent Lombardi Lodge#2270),
Steve @ smuzzi53@gmail.com (Geneva Lodge #2397) or
Sandy @ owensgram@rochester.rr.com (GAIL #2397A)
with any questions or submission of the form.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations Committee Chairperson: Sister Linda Agnello

The following lodge members were appointed to the Arbitration Commission for the 2015-2017 term:

Commissioners:

Bill Agnello
Joe Galante
Jen Gugino
Pete Maddalena
Chris Napoli

Alternate Commissioners:

Sal Cutaia
Ted DeSoto
Robert Meli
Ann Vazzana
Tom Vazzana

The following lodge members were elected at the February General Assembly Meeting to serve as lodge delegates at the State Convention in May:

Vince Giannantonio
Joseph Rubé
Louis DiFilippo
Tom Meleca
Sandy Meleca
Matthew Grosodonia

Alternates: Nancy Rubé, Marjorie Focarazzo

OSIA RULES AND REGULATIONS

DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Art. 3. Regular members are required to perform the following duties:

- a) To obey and respect the authorities of the Order.
- b) To pay dues and assessments.
- c) To obey all the laws of the Order.
- d) To assist in the work of the Order.
- e) To settle any grievances that may arise by submitting this grievance to the proper authorities of the Order, or to the Assembly of the Local Lodge while in session.
- f) To give testimony in cases to be determined by the judiciary authorities of the Order.

RIGHTS OF REGULAR MEMBERS

ART. 4. Regular members may:

- a) participate in discussions
- b) make proposals
- c) vote on matters discussed
- d) be elected to office
- e) receive any benefits (Bereavement Fund) the Local Lodge adopts

Having outlined these duties and rights of members brings us back to a point concerning the basic structure of the Organization and how it functions. In the Local Lodge we have one meeting per month of the Council at which the work of the Lodge is discussed and organized in a format with regard to the rules of the Order. The outcome is a "motion" to take the matter to the membership when in session (General Assembly Meeting) with a recommendation for which the members present will approve or decline. The Council can act on behalf of the membership only when the matter is on a time schedule when the General Assembly cannot be in session before the required deadline.

Lodge Council Members Duties and Responsibilities

ORATOR

The Orator is a member of the Council (Board). The Orator is the go to person when the interpretation of the laws of the order is required and gives opinions seeing that the laws of the Lodge are properly applied. In matters which relate to the administration of the affairs of the Local Lodge, the Orator is subordinate to the President. In matters relating to the exercise of Judicial Power, the Orator is subordinate to the State Orator. If a member violated the laws of the Order, the Orator has the power to provide written charges upon their own initiative or upon complaint being made to him/her. Some examples where this might happen include, but are not limited to : a refusal by a member to give testimony in a case being reviewed by the judiciary authorities of the Order (Arbitration Commission), member provoking disorder during a meeting that cannot be resolved by President, member or officer resists and does not observe the deliberations of the Assembly, one who willfully and maliciously misapplies or abuses the laws of the Order with resultant injury to the Order or its Officers or Members. A good knowledge of the Laws of the Order is a good thing and the Orator should bring the Book of Laws to meetings. When the Orator is unable to resolve an issue he/she will confer with the State Orator to bring the issue to resolution.

CSJ UPDATE

Recently, radio talk show hosts “Kimberly and Beck” used an Italian racial slur (the word “dago”) on the air. Brother Silvano Orsi called the radio station and spoke live with Kimberly, requesting an on air apology to the Italian American community for using the slur. Kimberly refused to make the apology. Brother Silvano then contacted Iheart Media Inc., detailing his concerns in an eloquently written letter. Here are some excerpts from the letter:

I'm also sure that you, and Kimberly & Beck, also know that "dago" is a highly offensive word used to disparage Italians. It is considered a racial slur; and may be considered a discriminatory, harmful, defamatory and/or derogatory term. It derives from the word "day-goers" which was used to describe Italian immigrants in the 19th century, who were paid a very low and menial daily rate as day-by-day laborers, in the early times of mass immigration to the United States.

The word day-goers unfortunately later morphed into the derogatory and very disparaging term "dago", which was then used to intimidate Italians, mock them, and suppress them from learning English and making progress in the new world. Italians were treated and/or referred to as "lower-class" people during that difficult period.

This unfortunate term came about many years ago, at a very turbulent time in our nation's history. It's important to note however, that most Italian immigrants who came to America at that time worked hard, and raise their families respectably in the United States of America, so as to realize the American Dream. Most of them succeeded, very admirably preferring to work and abide by the law, rather than seeking hand-outs or a free ride. I am very proud of my culture, traditions and heritage as an Italian-American man living in Upstate, NY.

I prefer to believe that we as an American people have evolved since the times of mass immigration in the 19th century, and have moved forward from using such derogatory and demeaning terms on our radio and TV programs. I very much regret hearing this horribly offensive word used in the year 2015, on iHeart Media's 95.1 FM "Kimberly & Beck" program, in Rochester, NY.

My parents and grandparents were immigrants from Italy, and I recall listening to their stories from that difficult period, about how they and their fellow countrymen were referred to as "dagos", when they attempted to settle in our glorious land -- which by the way, is founded by a multitude of races and cultures, and is known as the "United" States of America.

After this letter was received, Iheart Media Inc. and their local radio hosts officially apologized on the air. Kimberly also called Brother Silvano and the Sons of Italy's Editor in Chief, Ms. Dona DeSanctis in Washington D.C. to apologize. This is a victory for Italian Immigrants and all Italian Americans. Here, also, is a reply from Dona De Sanctis, PhD Editor-in-Chief, Italian America Magazine:

I have just received a phone call from Kimberly Ray, the co-host of the radio show, Kimberly and Beck. She sincerely apologized for the slur and said she did an on-air apology as well today (2/4) at around 2:50 PM. She left a voice mail message for Mr. Orsi as well.

I have to commend Mr. Orsi for hitting all the right notes and sending his message to all the right executives in addition to Ms. Ray. His clout was enhanced by his lead sentence....he was going to advertise on the station but now..... Money talks louder than political correctness when Italian Americans are involved.

This victory follows on the heels of the New York CSJ under Lou Gallo who got the manager of an upstate NY hotel fired for ignoring complaints about hosting a mafia new year's eve party. Gallo launched a boycott of the hotel for CSJ and sons of Italy events. Then he found out that the owner of the hotel (who was Italian American) was as incensed as he was about the event. And fired the people responsible.

I take these victories as significant. We are finally finding our voice and making a difference.

Thank you Mr. Orsi, Lou Gallo, and all our staunch defenders of our heritage.

Reading genealogical records can be dry and repetitive if one forgets that each one records a real drama in the lives of real people. The following short story was written by Brother Ed Groszewski, and is based upon actual names, dates, and places recorded in the civil records of Valledolmo for 1823. It dramatizes the plight of the foundling children of Italy and Sicily during the 1600's and through most of the 1800's.

It was four o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 29, 1823 when forty-six year old Giovanni Spampinato and his younger neighbor on Beverasola Lane, thirty-six year old Silvestre Polizzi, walked into the office of the mayor of the growing village of Valledolmo. Antonino Sciarrino greeted them in a tone that was an equal mixture of impatience and resignation and asked them to state their business.

Giovanni, always impatient, spoke first, "We've come to report the death of a townsman this afternoon about two hours ago."

As much as he resented doing this part of his job, Antonino had to record this event. Without saying a word, he rose slowly from behind his desk and walked over to the shelves where the large volumes containing the village records were kept. He turned to the first blank page in the death records and inscribed the number 12 at the top. As he did so he thought to himself, "This is the fourth year that the king in Naples is making me do this and I still don't see why. The church has been recording births, deaths, and marriages since this village began in the 1600s. Why do I have to repeat the work?"

"What was his name?"

"Antonino," replied Giovanni.

"Antonino what?"

"We don't know what his last name was, sir," continued Giovanni.

"But you lived near him, didn't you?"

Both men could see why the mayor was puzzled, but they had no answer for him. After an awkward silence, Giovanni volunteered what he knew about the deceased.

"Antonino always said that he was born here in the village in 1787, but that he had been left at the foundling wheel and never knew who his parents were. We always called him Nino. That's all I know."

"But," the mayor replied, "aren't lots of boy foundlings given the surname Esposto in this village? I've recorded it more than once."

Sensing that this line of questioning was going nowhere, he turned to the next blank in the form.

"What did he do for a living?"

This time it was Silvestre who bowed slightly and answered,

"He was a farmhand, just as we are, sir. He worked for any landowner or baron who needed the help."

"One more question. Where did he die?"

"At his home. We hadn't seen him for a few days."

Antonino thanked the men for doing their civic duty and escorted them to the door.

The sun was lower in the sky now, and an afternoon wind was rising. Silvestre and Giovanni wrapped their thin coats a little tighter and pulled their caps down lower as they walked home in silence. As they passed the sign that they couldn't read but that they knew read "Vincenzo Costellana, Shoemaker," Giovanni turned to Silvestre, "Nino never knew his own parents, even though he must have seen them many times on the streets of this little village. He never even had a name. Kind of sad."

"I guess you're right, but there's nothing we can do for him now."

"No, there is one thing."

"What's that?"

"Pray for his soul."

The foundling wheel was a place where unwanted, often illegitimate, children were anonymously left, often to protect the family honor. Virtually all communities in Italy had a wheel until late in the 1800s. My great great grandfather, Calogero Gianfisco, was placed on the wheel in March of 1823 in the nearby town of Polizzi Generosa. These foundling, most of whom died before the age of one, should not be forgotten. Abandoned babies were usually given names by the woman in charge of the wheel, La Ruotaia, or the Lady of the Wheel. Common last names were Esposto (exposed), Proietti (abandoned), and Trovatiello (foundling).



COOLEY'S ANEMIA FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Cooley's Anemia Foundation is dedicated to serving people afflicted with various forms of thalassemia, most notably the major form of this genetic blood disease, Cooley's anemia/thalassemia major.

MISSION

Our mission is advancing the treatment and cure for this fatal blood disease, enhancing the quality of life of patients and educating the medical

profession, trait carriers and the public about Cooley's anemia/thalassemia major.

HISTORY

For over fifty years, the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been a strong and supportive partner for families living with thalassemia. Although now national in scope, CAF began on a local level – a fact reflected in the continuing importance of our local chapters.

FRANK FICARRA

In 1954, Frank Ficarra was a young Italian-American businessman working and living in Brooklyn when two of his young children were diagnosed with a rare blood disease, Cooley's anemia, also known as thalassemia major. Frank Ficarra began organizing neighborhood blood drives to make sure that his children and others like them would have the precious blood they needed to survive. Even though these blood drives were successful, Frank Ficarra realized that more was needed. One autumn night, Frank Ficarra and the parents of other Cooley's anemia patients met in the back of his Brooklyn butcher shop to discuss what they could do to help their children and let the world know about this rare disease. From that meeting, the seeds of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation were sown. Since that night, CAF has grown into a national and international force with an extraordinary record of accomplishments. CAF established the first Fellowship Program for thalassemia research and has become a strong voice in Washington for thalassemia patients and their families. Today, Frank Ficarra's son, Robert, serves as CAF Vice President of International Affairs and continues the work his father began on an international scale, reaching out to patients in every corner of the globe where medical knowledge and supplies are lacking. What began as the story of one man's family is today the story of many families working together toward a common goal – better treatments and a cure for a disease which threatens their most precious resource – their children.

MEMBERS CORNER



03/07 Mercie DiGiacomo
03/08 Christopher Ciaccio
03/08 Christopher Przepiora
03/10 Ann Battaglia
03/14 Catherine DiNicola

03/16 Donald Campese
03/23 Donna McIntosh
03/26 Mary Rinere
03/27 Annette Taddeo
03/30 Shirley Sculli



...**Brother Joe Rubé**, recuperating from surgery.

...**Brother Hugh Warner**, recuperating from a medical procedure.

...**Sister Cindy Woodhams**, President of the GAIL Lodge, recuperating from illness.



Our sympathies go out to **Brother Chris Przepiora** and his family, on the loss of his Aunt Natalie.



...To **Brother Silvano Orsi** on his appointment to the Executive Board of the OSIA State CSJ!



It's a family affair! Lodge Brothers and Sisters Lou DeCarolus, Angela Cataldi, Anthony Cataldi, Stephen Cataldi, Richard Meleca, Tom Meleca, and Sandy Meleca and several others all got together this past month to make over 200 lbs. of sausage!

NOTES AND OTHER HAPPENINGS

A note from our Vice President, Sister
Sandy Meleca:

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Winter Clambake such a great success! Many members chipped in to help, from decorating and set-up, to clean up and break down, to bringing appetizers and desserts. We hope everyone had a great time and we're looking forward to our next event!

Our lodge is honored to have been invited to host the October Italian Civic League Dinner. A committee is being formed for this event. Please contact President Vince if you are interested in serving on this committee.

As part of a National Italian American Organization, we are excited to be asked to be the lead organization for the Little Italy Festival in Gates this June. We will have a booth at the festival, and we will lead the procession in honor of St. Anthony. It is important that our lodge members are a strong presence at this festival. If you would like to sign up for a shift working our booth, please contact President Vince.



Public Relations:

Rick Castellano, past Winter Charity Ball Honoree, attained his 600th win as coach of the Northport Lady Tigers. His career as their coach spans 35 years.

Rocco Amorosa became a Life Member of US Soccer at the March 2014 meeting of the Eastern NY Youth Soccer Association and Eastern NY Adult Soccer Association. Now 89 years old, Rocco first played in NY's Eastern District Soccer League in 1942.

February Initiation Ceremony



Winter Clambake



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

OSIA APPAREL

OSIA apparel will continue to be available to members. Please contact Brother Joe Rubé at 585-461-1181 if you are interested in ordering, or have any questions about this.

INK CARTRIDGES

Thank you to everyone that has brought us empty ink and toner cartridges this year! This year our donated rewards points continue to be used for supplies and printing at Staples, to help keep our administrative costs low. If you have any empties to donate, please bring them to the next lodge meeting or social event .

President

Vincent Giannantonio

First Vice-President

Sandra. Meleca

Second Vice-President

Thomas Meleca

Recording Secretary

Bonnie Cottone

Financial Secretary

Joseph Rubé, MD

Treasurer

Louis DeCarolis

Orator

Robert Meli

Mistress of Ceremony

Nancy Rubé

Ann Vazzana

Sentinel

Ross Cottone

Trustees

Michael Tomaselli

Luigi DiFilippo

Matthew Grosodonia

Edward Grozewski

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

District VIII State Deputy

Joseph Rubé, MD

LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

**President Vince Giannantonio
61 Sunset Street, Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 208-1578**

NEWSLETTER COMMUNICATIONS

I welcome any and all newsletter submissions. If you would like to submit anything (stories, traditions, poems, recipes, etc.), please mail or email them directly to me:

marisarube@gmail.com
4552 Wildflower Dr.,
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Please also feel free to call or email me with any member news, or corrections to past newsletters.