



*Geneva Lodge*  
#2397  
31 Prospect Avenue  
Geneva, NY 14456

*Geneva American Italian*  
*Ladies (GAIL) Lodge*  
31 Prospect Avenue  
Geneva, NY 14456

*Vincent Lombardi Lodge*  
#2270  
61 Sunset Street  
Rochester, NY 14606

The Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270, Geneva Lodge #2397, and Geneva American Italian Ladies Lodge #2397A (GAIL #2397A) will again be sponsoring an essay contest based on our cultural heritage as seen through the eyes of an Italian immigrant. The goal is to keep the stories alive and pass them on for future generations of our families and friends. *Voices from the Past* will tell the story of a senior Italian Immigrant by opening up the conversations through the interviewing process. We invite Middle School students, as defined by their school district, to interview a family member, friend, or neighbor who emigrated from Italy to the United States. Essays will be assessed using New York State Grade 6-8 Expository Writing Evaluation Rubric. A winner from each grade level (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) from the Vincent Lombardi #2270 and one from each grade level from the combined Geneva Lodges (Lodge #2397 and GAIL #2397A) will be determined.

Students are to describe the person interviewed: relationship, age, gender, home town/region in Italy and answer the following questions. Students should embellish on the story by asking their own questions and include answers into the story:

- ◆ What year did the interviewee come to the United States; what was the mode of transportation; how long did it take; what were the conditions like?
- ◆ What was the reason for emigrating from Italy? Was there a plan to return to their homeland? At what point in time was this planned to happen?
- ◆ Did the interviewee come alone, with family, or with friends? Who did they leave behind?
- ◆ What port did the interview come through (Ellis Island, Boston, other)? What was the experience like? Were you separated from the others you came with?
- ◆ What kinds of questions were asked when disembarking and waiting?
- ◆ How did this person assimilate into American life? What problems were encountered?
- ◆ Where did the interviewee initially settle? What community? Did they know anyone? Did they remain in this community? If not, why did they move and to where?
- ◆ What traditions did he/she bring and what are continued today: values, beliefs, and special holidays?
- ◆ Add pictures and/or documents: passport, ship manifesto, birth certificate, docking document, baby/childhood pictures to include family members, wedding pictures, etc.

Each of us has a rich cultural heritage, but with each generation, we move farther away from understanding who we are. We want to open the avenues of conversations and engage in dialogue to keep our history alive.

If you have any questions, please contact. Submit your essay electronically by April 8<sup>th</sup> to:

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Steve Muzzi    [smuzzi@genevacsd.org](mailto:smuzzi@genevacsd.org)    Geneva Lodge #2397  
Sandy Cannuli-Schading    [owensgram@rochester.rr.com](mailto:owensgram@rochester.rr.com)    GAIL #2397A

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name and District \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

*Geneva Lodge President,*  
*Sam Cosentino*

*GAIL Lodge President,*  
*Cynthia Durso-*  
*Woodhams*

*Vincent Lombardi*  
*Lodge President,*  
*Vincent Giannantonio*

*Essay Committee:*

*Steve Muzzi,*  
*Geneva Lodge*

*Sandy Cannuli-*  
*Schading,*  
*GAIL Lodge*

*Marjorie Focarazzo,*  
*Vincent Lombardi*  
*Lodge*