



# The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor  
December 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What a wonderful evening we had for our Thanksgiving Gathering Dinner! The food was terrific! The entertainment was spectacular! I imagine one of these days we will be seeing some of those young performers dancing and singing on Broadway, and we can always say “we got to see them first.”

As we enter the holiday season, we will celebrate with old traditions and create new ones. Your busy schedule becomes even busier with preparations and celebrations. There is also a lot to see and experience in and around the Rochester area: Ginger Bread Houses and Table Top Trees at the George Eastman Museum, Christmas Carol at GeVa, Holiday Pops with the RPO, and little known places like the Lamberton Holiday Botanical Show, ROC Holiday Village at The Martin Luther King Park and outdoor ice skating, and the Image City Holiday Show at Image City Photography Gallery on University. While our days and evenings are full of shopping and get togethers with families and friends, stopping to enjoy some of these events can help to lower the stress and anxiety we often feel at this time of year.

Information on awards and scholarships are beginning to arrive. We have received word on the 2020 National Leadership Grant Competition. More information will be forthcoming but some background on it. Nearly \$61 million in scholarships has been awarded to date ranging from \$4000 to \$25,000. Ten to twelve are merit based. Eligibility is US Citizens of Italian descent enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program or graduate program at an accredited institution for the Fall 2020. There is a \$35 processing fee, which includes a one-year At-Large membership to OSDIA. The 2020 La Bella Lingua Award is once again being offered in conjunction with NYS CSJ. Information will be forwarded to those high schools that have an Italian Language Program. Only one graduating senior from each district will be eligible to receive the award and must have completed at least three years of Italian Language. Our students will be honored at our August General Assembly meeting.

Our After-Holiday Luncheon will take place on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> at Valicia's Ristorante. Flyers are available for reservations. The menu is the same as last year. Please plan to join us!

We will start planning for the Winter Clambake soon after the luncheon in February. Anyone willing to help with it, please let me know. We will also start gearing up for the October Heritage Dinner. You may think it too early but there is a lot to be done and we want to get our honorees in place so we can start working on the nitty gritty parts of the dinner.

A lot will be going on and your help is needed. Consider being a part of just one event that we do throughout the year. It is a lot of fun to plan and create a uniqueness for each one. In 2022, The Vincent Lombardi Lodge will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For most of us we know it as the Golden Anniversary. That is a monumental timeframe for an organization to grow, be productive, and support charities and our young people. It is a time to celebrate. I would like to form a committee to start thinking about what we can do that would be different than our Heritage Dinner. Two years really isn't that far away!!

I want to wish everyone a safe, enjoyable, relaxing, and fun holiday season. For anyone traveling to be with family, God speed.

buon Natale e Felice Anno nuovo  
Marjorie

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*Join us for our Holiday Meeting  
December 12<sup>th</sup> in the  
Eyer Building*



We will have a shortened meeting followed by refreshments and socializing.

At this meeting, we will welcome a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association to discuss the warning signs and symptoms of the disease.

We will also be collecting items for donation to Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes. Safe Harbors provides free and confidential advocacy, support, and educational services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking. We will be raffling off a bottle of wine for all donation participants.

Items needed include:

Children's toys, puzzles, books, craft kits  
Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Toothpaste,  
Toothbrushes, feminine care products, and  
other personal hygiene items  
Sheets, pillowcases, pillows, blankets  
Scarves, hats, gloves  
Women's and children's coats  
Diapers and wipes



## Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2020 Calendar

January 2nd, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

January 9th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**January 12th, 2020 @ 12pm: After Holiday  
Party—Valicia's Restaurant (2155 Long Pond  
Rd, Gates) \$35/pp RSVP by 1/6/20**

February 6th, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

February 13th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

March 5th, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

March 12th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

April 2nd, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

April 9th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**April 26th, 2020 @ TBD: Italian Regional  
Dinner featuring the Lazio Region (Eyer  
Building, East Rochester)**

May 7th, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

May 14th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

June 4th, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

June 11th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 2nd, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

July 9th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

August 6th, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

August 13th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**August 23rd, 2020 @ TBD: Annual Members  
Picnic (Quinzi Lodge—Eyer Park, East  
Rochester)**

September 3rd, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

September 10th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 1st, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

October 8th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



**October 16th, 2020 @ TBD: Christopher  
Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner  
(Location TBD)**

November 5th, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

November 12th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

December 3rd, 2020 @ 6:30pm: Council Meeting

December 10th, 2020 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting



12/1: Charles Schiano  
12/3: Mary Lou Cadena  
12/4: Nellie DiCesare  
12/6: Franca Cinelli  
12/7: David DiNicola  
12/9: Marisa Rubé, Ken Nudo  
12/11: Char Dodgson

12/15: Ezio Bonanni, Jim Vazzana  
12/19: Becky DiFilippo  
12/20: Eva Fantauzzo, Jennie Gugino  
12/21: Rick Amico  
12/23: Maurice Palucci  
12/30: Vincent Serino

### **2020 Dues must be remitted by December 30th.**

Benefits: Included in the State's numbers to receive the Golden Lion Newspaper and the National's numbers for the Italian American Magazine. Our membership numbers also determine the number of delegates for convention. These are the people who will be representing you.

Your dues must be received by December 31st to be counted as a member in good standing. If you do not plan to renew, we would appreciate an email or call from you to let us know. State rules force us to pay state dues for all members on our membership list unless we know for certain that the member is not rejoining. This forces us to call, email, and otherwise track you down if we haven't received your dues by December 31st, so that we have an accurate count for payment to the state. If we don't hear from you, we still have to pay the state for your membership, even if you don't end up sending dues to renew.

**DUES**

### **2020 Heritage Dinner**

One of the first tasks needed to be completed for the Heritage Dinner Dance is to determine who our honorees will be. The committee reviews proposed names and makes a determination of who the best candidate would be in the category. Each nominee is contacted, and it is explained what our mission and purpose is. Once they accept, a few committee members meet with the honoree as the event gets closer to inform him/her what we need: a bio and picture to be sent to the printer and a list of family and friends he/she would like included in our invitations to be mailed. Other than the meetings with the honorees, the time required is usually one meeting but no more than two.

Anyone who would like to serve on this committee please let me know by the end of December. The committee should meet late January early February to have plenty of time to make the selection(s), contact the honorees to get their acceptance to be honored, and meeting with each one before June 1<sup>st</sup>, so the invitations can be created for the printer, the lists can be generated for attendees.

We would like to consider the following: Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Family of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement. That is not to say we will have someone to fill each of these awards. Criteria to be considered: must be of Italian descent; accomplishments; endeavors; community involvement.

This is also an opportunity for members to have their voices heard and to make a nomination for the committee to consider. Please write a short paragraph about your nominee on why you think this person should be considered and what this person has done. Please submit the nominee to me by December 31<sup>st</sup>, so we have a list of potential candidates for when we meet.

~Marjorie

### **An update from our 2018 past honorees scholarship winner, Elena Greco**

My sophomore year of college has been off to a very great start. Some of the courses I'm currently enrolled in are ecology and organic chemistry; which have been throwing me for quite a loop but in the best way possible. I am currently on the Brockport Dance team and I also participate in the Hip-Hop Dance club on campus. I have also been appointed secretary for a club on campus called Inclusive in STEM. I am going to apply for a research study for the summer of 2020 at my college and I am getting in contact with the Disney College Recruits in order to obtain an internship at Disney World in environmental science. Thank you very much for all your support!



**UPDATE**

## Members Making A Difference: Nancy Rubé & Ed Groszewski Genealogy Research Volunteers at the Family History Center



Nancy Rubé's passion for genealogy research began at the time that the Genesee Hospital closed. Her husband, Joe, had been in practice there for 30 years, so Nancy wanted to do something to help get his mind off of what was happening. Because he'd always been interested and very proud of his Italian heritage, Nancy decided to see what she could find out about Joe's family. She started at the Family History Library of the Mormon Church where she remembers wondering how she would ever be able to decipher these records that were of course written in Italian. Now after 15 years working at that library and loving most every minute of it, she's also been able to learn about her own German and pre Civil War roots. There's nothing better than seeing the face of someone who sees the birth record of their ancestor for the first time.

Ed Groszewski can't remember when he wasn't interested in history or felt strong ties to his family. He was a high school history teacher for more than a decade, so genealogy became the perfect hobby for him. Soon after he retired he took coursework to become a certified genealogist, and he and his wife traveled to Sicily to visit the villages of two of his grandparents, Polizzi Generosa and Valledolmo. They were received with overwhelming hospitality by both families and thus was cemented a personal trinity: Sicily, genealogy, and teaching. Accessing the genealogy records of the Church of the Latter Day Saints through a local Family History Center was the next step for the serious family historian.

It was there that Ed met Nancy, who was well along in her work indexing the vital records of Polizzi Generosa, the village of her husband's family (as well as Ed's own grandfather's). Ed joined Nancy in the indexing work and quickly came to see how valuable these indices could be to genealogists. When the work in the Polizzi Generosa came to a close, Ed immediately began indexing the records of his grandmother's village. Nancy soon came to Ed's aid and, over four and a half years, more than 45,000 birth, death, and marriage records were indexed. It was during this effort that Ed became a weekly volunteer at the center, helping others make exciting discoveries about their ancestors.

Ed and Nancy remain as interested in genealogy and family history as ever. They work together at the Family History Center with a specialty in Italian and Sicilian research, but they, along with a number of other volunteers, are trained to help with many other nationalities. With the DNA testing available these days and the abundance of information that can be found online, they encourage everyone to get to know their ancestors.

The Family History Center is a free research library staffed with volunteers, like Ed and Nancy, who are there provide you with knowledge, tools, and support as you delve into your own family history. The Center is located at 1400 Westfall Road, on the back side of the Mormon church. The Center's hours are: Tuesday 9am-3pm and 7pm-9pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-12pm, Friday 9am-3pm, Saturday 9am-12pm, Sundays and Mondays closed. Feel free stop in any time for help, no appointments are necessary.



**Italian Film Series:**  
**Sunday, December 8th, 1pm**  
**The Cinema Theatre**  
**957 South Clinton Avenue**



In a slice of life that has to be seen to be appreciated, the movie tells the true story of Ismaele, who was the 4th most voted candidate in the 2017 mayoral elections of Palermo, the capital of Sicily, and the very birthplace of the mafia. The “actors” inadvertently starring in this movie are some of the biggest names in Italian politics; those who governed Italy for the last two decades and those who are leading it today.

Amidst this real documentation of the inner workings of Italian politics flows a comedy that features the life of a young man (Ismaele) and his typically cumbersome Italian mother. These two narratives are tied together by the city in which they both happen to live—Palermo, a stunning movie set with no film crew. The news that a 23-year-old kid secretly recorded his political campaign in Sicily was picked up by all of Italy’s print and TV media on a large scale—creating a furor about the ethical and legal implications.

Additional information and movie listings can be found at [www.AmerItalRoc.com](http://www.AmerItalRoc.com)

### OSDIA Charity Spotlight: Alzheimer’s Association

The Alzheimer's Association® is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research.

**Vision:** A world without Alzheimer's disease.

**Mission:** To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Alzheimer’s Disease is the most common form of dementia. It is progressive beginning with mild memory loss. It can progress to the point where holding an everyday conversation or responding to the environment is difficult. It involves the part of the brain that controls thought, memory, and language which seriously affects a person’s ability to carry on daily activities and living a normal life. Early detection matters. It is natural to feel uncertain or nervous about discussing changes to others, but it is important to take action to determine and understand what is happening.

Early warning signs and symptoms:

~Memory loss that disrupts daily life, forgetting recently learned things, asking the same question(s) over and over; increasingly relying on memory aids or others

Challenges in planning or solving problems such as following a familiar recipe or tracking monthly bills

Difficulty in completing familiar or everyday tasks such as driving to a familiar location or organizing a grocery list

Confusion with time or place, not understanding when something does not happen immediately

Trouble understanding visual and spatial relationships, difficulty ready, unable to keep a steady balance, judging distances

Problems with words when speaking or writing, trouble following a conversation or stopping in the middle of a conversation and no idea on how to proceed

Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps

Decreased or poor judgement

Withdrawal from work, friends, and social activities

Change in mood and personality, becoming confused or suspicious, depressed, fearful, anxious

There is more optimism than ever in the progress of research for Alzheimer’s and dementia. There is a dynamic community of scientists and continued funding to find new treatments to slow or even prevent Alzheimer’s. As our population ages, this disease will reach epidemic proportions. But we are learning more about the disease and recent discoveries have determined what lies at the heart of the disease. The NIH has doubled its funding to almost a billion dollars per year since 2015.

The scientific community is working towards understanding the factors that causes this complex disease. The National Institute of Aging at the University of Rochester is advancing research and financial resources with the goal of developing new therapies to detect and improve early diagnosis and treatment. Although, currently, there is no known cure, studies are looking for a vaccine, use of hormones to name just a few.

## CSJ Report: The Judge Who Fought the Mafia



During the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, Giovanni Falcone was a judge and prosecuting magistrate in Palermo, Sicily. He spent most of his professional life trying to overthrow the power and corruption of the Sicilian Mafia, and in May 1992, he was assassinated near the town of Capaci at the age of 53. He and his childhood friend, Paolo Borsellino, spent their careers working tirelessly and sacrificing for the good of their community was also assassinated two months after Falcone. For their valiant efforts, they were both awarded the Italian Medaglia d'oro al valore civile. They were also named as heroes of the last 60 years in Nov. 2006 issue of Time Magazine.

As a child, Giovanni was taught the importance of hard work, bravery, and patriotism. He said his parents "expected the maximum from him". Growing up near the seaport district of LaKalsa in Sicily, the mafia was present but quiescent. Sicilians did not acknowledge their existence as a coherent organized group.

Giovanni studied law at the University of Palermo at his father's insistence. In the 1960's he gravitated toward penal law and was assigned to the prosecutor's office in Trapani and Marsala. Later, he was appointed to investigate bankruptcy cases. He uncovered a great deal of corruption that could be traced back to the Mafia bosses. By 1980, he was a major force behind the anti-Mafia laws through the Office of Instruction which is the

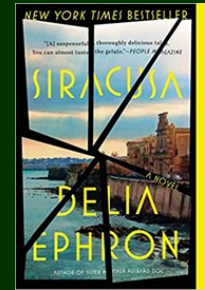
investigative branch of prosecution office. Just prior to joining this branch, Judge Cesare Terranova and head police chief, Boris Giuliano were assassinated.

Although Falcone did not fear death, in fact, he expected it at every turn with every case, he realized that it was inevitable. He conducted work from a bazooka-proof bunker beneath the city's law courts. His home was equally protected, and wherever he needed to go, a barrage of armored vehicles escorted him. His secrecy and security were ingrained in everything he did, even to the point that when he married, it was in an undisclosed place without even his family and friends in attendance.

His success investigating and prosecuting the Mafia dubbed his group the Anti-Mafia Pool. The Maxi Trial was the biggest attack against organized crime. A total of 474 Mafiosi were indicted for a wide range of crimes with 360 being convicted. They received a total of 2,665 years in prison sentences, not including the 17 life sentences given to leading bosses and hitmen. The convictions were all upheld in the Supreme Court in January 1992. The crime bosses decided to retaliate. They hired Giovanni Brusca to complete the task of assassinating Falcone. On May 23, 1992 on the highway from the Palermo Airport, car bombs were detonated killing Falcone, his wife who was the magistrate Francesca Marvillo, and three members of his security detail. This brutal attack turned many Sicilians against the Mafia, which to changes in the region for the better.

The Palermo Airport has been named for Giovanni Falcone and posthumously received the Train Foundations Civil Courage Award.

## Book Review:



Siracusa is an Italian aria, a Greek tragedy, and an American classic. The story is about two complex and dysfunctional couples, a child with issues beyond that of children, and a trip to Sicily that changes everyone forever. The characters are unlikeable: Finn is charming to the point of being nauseating; Michael is a self-centered sleaze; Taylor is a controlling neurotic; Lizzie is quirky; and Snow (who names their child Snow?) is beyond creepy, something a ten-year-old should not be.

The story may appear to be somewhat confusing and baffling. It is told alternately by the four major adults providing different situations from different perspectives. Each character is deeply flawed. Although having had intimate relationships with each other in the past, they have trouble figuring each other out and what is actually going on. The scenario is intriguing and will become deeply imbedded in your mind. There are layers upon layers of lies, betrayals, and infidelities. The reader is often caught off guard.

It is a thoroughly suspenseful story, elegantly written and irresistible to fans of psychological thrillers. It will cause you to wonder about the secrets we don't share with friends, and what kind of chaos can occur if we decide to vacation with friends. It is a witty, wicked tale you won't want to put down.

*Reviewed by Marjorie Focarazzo*

### **Cuccidati, Three Ways**

Cuccidati is a long time Italian tradition at the holidays. So much so that it has been adapted and changed to meet the tastes of families in the various regions of Italy. Here are three recipes from our members, past and present, showcasing the different adaptations.

#### **Couchatadies - Eunice McCarthy**

Dough:	Filling:
8 eggs	1 pkg dates & figs
8 tsp baking powder	3/4 cup nuts
1 orange & rind	1 can crushed pineapple
2 cups sugar	1/2 tsp lemon peel
1 cup spry	1/2 tsp orange peel
6-7 cups flour	1 cup chocolate chips
1 tsp cinnamon	1/2 cup strawberry preserves
1/2 tsp ginger	

Using a food mill, grind all of the filling ingredients together and set aside. To make the dough, cream spry and sugar, add eggs, beating well after each addition. Add the baking powder, orange and rind, cinnamon, and ginger with enough flour to make a dough. Roll out dough 1/4 inch thick. Fill with the filling, roll into a log, and slice on a diagonal. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Cool, frost, and top with sprinkles.

#### **Cucidate (Fruit Crunch) - Jeannie Parisi Pudetti**

Dough:	Filling:
1/2 cup butter	1/4 lb figs & dates
1/4 cup milk	1/2 lb dried peaches and apricots
1/2 cup sugar	1/4 lb candies cherries and citron
1/2 tsp salt	1/2 lb semi sweet chocolate chips
2 eggs	2/3 cup honey
1 tsp vanilla	Cinnamon or Allspice (optional)
2 1/2 cups flour	
1tsp baking powder	

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar together. In a separate bowl, beat eggs and add milk and vanilla. In another bowl, sift flour, salt, and baking powder. Add dry ingredients, alternating with liquid mixture to butter and sugar mixture. Mix and chill. Grind the fruit and chocolate together. Add honey and the spice, if desired. Mix well and let stand several hours while dough is chilling. Roll the dough thin and cut into 2 1/2 inch squares. Place some filling along the center of the square and roll up. Brush with milk and top with thinly sliced almonds and colored sprinkles. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes.

#### **Grandma's Cuccidati "Polizzani" - Joseph Rubé**

Dough:	Filling:
1 lb flour	1 lb raisins
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 lb chopped citron
1 tsp baking powder	12 oz cooking chocolate, chopped
8 Tbsp Crisco	1 cup chopped filbert and pignolia nuts
1/2 tsp cinnamon	1 tsp cinnamon
2-3 eggs	1 oz cooking wine
2 Tbsp cold water	1/2 cup honey

(Make the filling one day and the dough the following day). In a large pot, over a low flame, add each of the ingredients slowly. Stir frequently to prevent burning. Once completely combined, turn off flame, cover, and allow to cool naturally. Do not refrigerate. Into a large mixing bowl, add the flour, sugar, baking powder, and cinnamon and mix well. Liquefy the Crisco in the microwave and gradually add to the dry ingredients, mixing well. Beat the eggs and add to the mixture, kneading the dough to medium soft, using the water to assist. Roll the dough out into (2) 5x9 inch rectangles, 1/4 inch thick. Place half the filling into the center of each dough, then bring the edges of the dough up over the filling and seal using water to assist. Seal the edges with water as well. Bake at 425 degrees for 20-25 minutes until golden brown. Cool and slice.



We have just received announcements for the La Bella Lingua Award and the National Leadership Grant Competition.

**La Bella Lingua Award** sponsored by the NYS CSJ will be forwarded to those high schools in District VIII with an Italian Language Program. Each school will only be able to submit their best student for consideration. The decision on award will be made by a committee of our lodge members for the student's name to be sent on to the NYS CSJ. Criteria for eligibility is a minimum of three years of Italian language, extracurricular activities, honors and achievements, employment, hobbies, and interests. Included with the application is an official transcript and a letter of recommendation. Each student is required to write an essay on one of six topics noted on the application. Deadline for submission is March 20, 2020.

**National Leadership Grant Competition** is funded by the Sons of Italy Foundation and open to students of Italian descent, who will be enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program or graduate program in the Fall of 2020 at an accredited academic institution. There are several scholarships available including study abroad at the American University of Rome. Each scholarship/grant has its own requirements, but the deadline for all is February 28, 2020. Each application must include a certified transcript through the December 2019 term, and a \$35 processing fee, which includes a one year At-Large membership.

If you know of any student who would like more information or is interested in applying, please have him/her contact me as soon as possible. As with many things, it will take time to gather all the materials to be submitted, and we want our students have an equal opportunity. The competition will be fierce.

**2019 Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner**





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**All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:**

**Vice President Marjorie Focarazzo  
84 Mulcahy Blvd  
Rochester, NY 14624  
mafocarazzo@gmail.com**