



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Przepiora, editor
December 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my lodge brothers and sisters. Wishing you all a very prosperous and healthy upcoming year.

December is the last month to submit your name to the nominating committee for any council or arbitration committee positions. If interested, contact brother Ed Groszewski. Our slate of candidates will be announced at our January assembly meeting, and elections will follow in February. Installation ceremony of new officers will be held March 24th at Burgundy Basin Inn, with brunch at noon. Keep the date open and help celebrate with the incoming officers.

Our After Holiday party will be at Valicia's Ristorante, 2155 Long Pond Dr. The cost for this event is \$30 per person. You are receiving the flyer with this newsletter. Please send your reservations in before January 5. No tickets will be sold at the door, so please plan ahead. It will be a nice winter break and we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Also a reminder that December 31st is the cut off for dues payments, so please send in as soon as possible. The Grand Lodge requires an updated list to be completed by end of month January. Please also be sure to update all your personal information including phone, address, and your email address. This information is needed for our communications. Remember, your dues keep our organization moving forward. Thank you in advance for taking care of this very important matter.

Buon Natale,
Peace,
President Vince



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events.....	2
Members Corner.....	3
CSJ Report.....	4
Event Pictures.....	5





State and National OSDIA Events

January 25th, 2019: NYS
OSDIA 26th Anniversary
Winter Charity Ball, Chateau
Briand, Westbury NY

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2018 Calendar

December 6th, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

December 12th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)

December 13th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

January 3rd, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

January 9th, 2019 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)

January 10th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**January 13th, 2019 @ 12pm: After Christmas Party
(Valicia's Ristorante, Rochester)**

February 7th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

February 13th, 2019 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)

February 14th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

March 7th, 2019 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

March 13th, 2019 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)

March 14th, 2019 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**March 24th, 2019 @ 12pm: Officer Installation Brunch
(Burgundy Basin, Bushnell's Basin)**



Sons and Daughters of Italy *Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270*



Capodanno - After Holiday - Christmas Party

Sunday January 13th 2019

12:00 noon to 5pm

Valicia's Ristorante

*2155 Long Pond Dr.
Rochester, NY 14606*

Cost \$30.00 per person

Italian Feast Buffet: Antipasto - Caesar Salad
Bruzchetta - Roasted Baked Chicken - Eggplant Parmesan
Gnocchi Napoli - Sausage Pizzola - Vegetables Aglio-Olio
Coffee, Tea & Dessert

All reservations must be in advance - No tickets available at the door

R.S.V.P. by January 5th

Drink,

*12noon -1pm Cocktail Hour
Cash Bar*

Eat,

*1:00pm Italian Feast Buffet
and*

Be Merry!

Enjoy !!!



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

12/11: Paolo Polignone
12/15: Ezio Bonanni
12/15: Jim Vazzana
12/19: Becky DiFilippo
12/20: Eva Fantauzzo
12/20: Jenny Gugino
12/20: Robert Rosati
12/21: Rick Amico



....Sister Jenny Gugino, recuperating from surgery.



Please keep Gene Koons and the family of our lodge member, Sister Mary Ann Koons, in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve Sister Mary Ann's death and contend with the holidays during this grief. The link to Sister Mary Ann's obituary can be found here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/maryann-koons-obituary?pid=190766977>



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members, from left to right, Brother Anthony DiFilippo and Brother Dominick Calisto



2019 is an election year for our lodge. All council positions are up for election or re-election. Council positions are a great way to get more involved with the lodge, and to learn about the inner workings of OSDIA. If you would like more information about the roll of the council, what each position entails, or are interested in a council position, please contact a member of our nominating committee: Brother Ed Groszewski, Brother Sam Mammano, or Brother Luigi DiFilippo. Please make contact before the end of the year. Elections will be in February, with our Officer Installation Brunch in March.

Council Positions are:

President; Vice President; Financial Secretary; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Orator; Sentinel; Master of Ceremonies, Mistress of Ceremonies, Trustees (up to 10)



Sharing an end of year note from Brother Tony Mangione, who would like to thank all of our members who supported the Italian Film Series during 2018. Wonderful films were shown each month at the Little Theatre and we look forward to more films in 2019.

CSJ: Recap of 2018
From State to Local Issues
Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

The Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) is the anti-defamation arm of the Order. Its prime purpose is to address issues that are defamatory to Italian Americans. Its belief is no group should suffer from the vile aspirations of hate. The CSJ is committed to deal with complaints brought to its attention if the nature, scope, and degree falls within its scope.

Columbus Day continues to be an ongoing issue. More and more governmental agencies are looking to remove Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day, although November has been designated as the month, with November 23rd as a specific day, for Native Americans to celebrate their contributions, history, culture, and heritage. In the spring, the State of California compromised a change to Italian American Heritage Day after confronted by the California Italian American Task Force. Downstate, Southampton Central School District has, once again, considered eliminating Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day in the academic calendar. A letter sent to the board of education expressed the New York State Commission for Social Justice use of unfair standards and discriminatory practices toward Italian Americans. An ad was placed in the Southampton Press to convey the CSJ's concerns with the change and to reflect tolerance and diversity.

Columbus Circle statue of Christopher Columbus was landmarked in October and cannot be moved or amended. A marker can still be added, but this may be more difficult to obtain.

It has been said that when we can no longer celebrate the accomplishments of men like Columbus, no matter his imperfections and shortcomings, then we have lost that which makes us great and unique. President Ronald Reagan said, *"Columbus is justly admired as a brilliant navigator, a fearless man of action, a visionary who opened the eyes of an older world to an entirely new one. Above all, he personifies a view of the world that many see as quintessentially American, not merely optimistic, but scornful of the very notion of despair."*

Oct. 8, 2018 saw Rochester mayor, Lovely Warren, issue a proclamation declaring the second Monday on October as Indigenous People's Day. Our lodge was represented at the next City Council meeting voicing our opposition of this act, reminding them November has already been deemed as Indigenous People's month. A response to CSJ Chair John Fratta, who had contacted the mayor's office was that the City of Rochester had not replaced Columbus Day and that a proclamation declaring October as Italian American Heritage Month was issued by the mayor's office and flew the Italian flag of Italy over city hall on Oct. 23rd and 24th.

New Orleans Massacre took place in 1891 with the biggest Italian lynching in American history Taking

place. The murder of police chief David Hennessey was blamed on Italians, more specifically Sicilians, who had immigrated to New Orleans. The assailants were not identified, but newspapers called the chief's death a declaration of war. Nineteen Italian men were charged with his murder. The trial declared them not guilty, but the city had been led to believe otherwise. The crowd then turned from an outraged public into a vengeful mob, as many shouted, "Yes! Yes, hang the dagoes!" The crowd rounded up the men and lynched them. No action was ever taken against the mob but, but it forced Italy to cut off diplomatic relations with the U.S. and even sparked rumors of a war.

At the National Plenary session, Chair John Fratta and NYS CSJ was asked to take the lead in contacting the mayor of New Orleans and Governor of Louisiana to obtain an apology,

Chairman Fratta has received a response from New Orleans' mayor. The mayor is inclined to release an apology. At this time, talk of a monument may be erected in a park in a minority district for remembrance purposes.

Closer to home, the Gates Chili School District in a budget reducing plan, decided to eliminate the Italian and Latin Foreign Language classes at the Middle School level, leaving no feeder into the high school programs. With the help of the community and Italian American leaders, who addressed the school board, the programs were saved which gives students more opportunities to learn Italian and learn about the Italian culture.

Complaint Policy originally drafted in November 2007 was recently reviewed with a few minor changes. The CSJ receives numerous complaints and requests regarding issues of bias and bigotry. All complaints should be put in writing including enough detail, so the issue can be identified. Once a decision is made to accept the matter, which is based on a criterion, the concern is brought to the State body for further consideration and actions.

Casa Italiana at Columbia University is not using the facility to promote Italian good. While we may not feel this concern affects us since Columbia is down state, we need to remember there is a fine line between down state and upstate. What is a possibility or even an actuality downstate can very well find its way into our own back yard.

Many issues addressed by the CSJ may not affect us demographically. They may not even affect us on a personal level. BUT if we are not willing to stand together and fight to address the wrongs now, there may be no one left to speak for us later. It is something to think about.

2018 Annual Thanksgiving Gathering



VINCENT LOMBARDI LODGE OFFICERS

President
Vincent Giannantonio

First Vice-President
Sandra Meleca

Second Vice-President
Thomas Meleca

Recording Secretary
Marisa Rubé

Financial Secretary
Louis DeCarolís

Treasurer
Catherine DiNicola

Orator
Matthew Grosodonia

Mistress of Ceremony
Mary Lou Cadena

Sentinel
Ronald Santoli

Trustees
Edward Groszewski
Luigi DiFilippo
Antonio Palucci
Marjorie Focarazzo
Lillian Bonanni

Immediate Past President
Joseph Rubé, MD

Chaplain
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State
Trustee**
Joseph Rubé

Chaplain Emeritus
Sister Carole Proia

**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi
Lodge**
Tony DiCostanzo

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge
Thomas Meleca

Past Presidents
Joseph Lusardi*
Thomas Laverne*
Louis Giambra*
Joseph Vazzana
John March*
Victor Bell*
Peter Cimino*
Sam Parese*
Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*



LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

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