



The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Przepiora, editor
November 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our members and their families. The past four weeks have been exciting. Thanks to the hard work of the committee members we have had a successful souvenir ad book and October Italian American Heritage Dinner. A special thanks to everyone who participated to make this a great event.



Moving forward, we have also closed out our Pie Sale Fundraiser, which was another success for our lodge. Pies can be picked up on Friday, November 16th, starting at 11 AM at the Eyer building in East Rochester.

Our Annual Thanksgiving Gathering will be Thursday evening, November 15th at St. Cecilia's Newcomb Friendship Center starting at 6 PM, with a buffet served at 6:45. Entertainment will be provided by Judith Ranaletta and her Arts and Entertainment students. It will be a wonderful, delightful evening. Hurry and get your tickets, they are going fast.

On a different note, the year is winding down, but it's the beginning of the season for scholarship applications. This begins with the National Sons and Daughters of Italy in America scholarship, soon to be followed by the New York State Grand Lodge and our local Vincent Lombardi Lodge scholarships. Information on National OSDIA scholarships can be found at <https://www.osia.org/programs/scholarships/>. Grants are awarded up to \$20,000 per student. Any applicant will receive a one year at large membership to the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, which includes a one year subscription to the Italian America magazine. Information on State OSDIA scholarships can be found at <http://www.nysosia.org/scholarships>. We will be sending out information on our local lodge scholarships in December.

This month you will be receiving an invoice from our financial secretary Louis DeCarolus for the 2019 annual lodge dues. Please pay by December 31st so we can reconcile our membership list. Please be sure to make corrections about your contact information including your address, phone number, etc.

Once again have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally ,
President Vince

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**Important
DATE!**

State and National OSDIA Events

NYOSIA 30th Annual Garibaldi Meucci Museum Fundraiser Luncheon

November 3rd, 2018 @ LiGreci's
Staaten, Staten Island, 11:00am.
Contact: Fran Cicero @ 718-273-
8741.

Thanksgiving Gathering Dinner

Vincent Lombardi Lodge # 2270
Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

Please Join Us for a Fun Filled Evening
Great Food, Raffles & Entertainment

Menu: Beef Tenderloin au jus, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken French, Tortellini in Alfredo
Sauce, Beans & Greens, Tossed Salad & Ambrosia Salad, Dessert
prepared by *Parties & Picnics by Mark's*



Thursday
November 15, 2018
6:00pm arrival - buffet at 6:45pm
St. Cecilia's Church
Newcomb Friendship Center
2732 Culver Road
Rochester, NY 14622



Tickets \$25.00 Per Person
Reservations including your check are needed by November 08, 2018

November 10th, 2018 @ 2pm Introduction to Italian Genealogy

A short introduction to Italian genealogy will be presented by Brother Ed Groszewski beginning at 2:00 PM on Saturday November 10, at the Penfield Recreation Center, 1985 Baird Road. The presentation will be about one hour long, followed by a Q & A session. Among the topics to be discussed are how to organize a genealogical search, how to find information, how to read vital records, and where to get help. The presentation is sponsored by the Friends of Italian Genealogy, a local group headed by Brother Tom Meleca. All are welcome to attend.



Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270 2018 Calendar

November 1st, 2018 @ 7pm: Council Meeting

November 8th, 2018 @ 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

November 14th, 2018 @ 4pm: Monthly Card Game (Grapevine Restaurant)

November 15th, 2018 @ 6pm: Annual Lodge Turkey Raffle (St. Cecelia's Church Newcomb Friendship Center, Culver Rd, Rochester)

November 16th, 2018 @ 11am: Pie Pickup (Eyer Building, East Rochester)

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, Long Pond Rd, 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





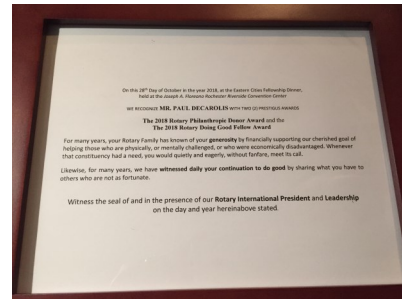
11/01: Franklin D'Aurizio
11/01: Joseph Valentino
11/13: Dennis Erbetra

11/15: Patrick Sculli
11/17: Patricia Johns
11/25: Gino Romano

Sending heartfelt get well wishes to our members who have been ill, including....

Sister Marilyn Sarkis, recuperating from recent hospitalization and surgery, and Brother Joe Galante, also recovering from recent hospitalization.

Congratulations to our lodge member, Brother Paul DeCarolis, who received the 2018 Rotary Philanthropic Donor Award and the 2018 Rotary Doing Good Fellow Award! Paul was joined by his family to receive the award, including our lodge members, Brother Louis DeCarolis and Sister Annette DeCarolis. Also in attendance but not pictured were Brother Ross Cottone (President of Victor Farmington Rotary) and Sister Bonnie Cottone.



Brother Joe Rubé, Sister Marisa (Rubé) Przepiora, and Sister Nancy Rubé at the 2018 Harvest of Hope Gala to raise the funds needed for Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes (a not for profit agency run by Sister Marisa) to build a domestic violence shelter in Seneca County. Also in attendance but not pictured were Brother Ross Cottone and Sister Bonnie Cottone. The event included an announcement of a \$300,000 grant for construction from Senator Pam Helming. See the full press release from Senator Helming here:

<http://www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/2018/11/04/domestic-violence-shelter-gets-300k-grant/>



National Memorial: Ardeatine Caves

By: Sister Marjorie Focarazzo

The site of the Ardeatine Caves outside Roma has become a national memorial in Italy.

Upon the invasion of Sicily by the Allies in July 1942 and a vote of no confidence for the dictator Mussolini, the Fascist Grand Council under King Victor Emmanuel III had him arrested and appointed an emergency government under Marshal Pietro Badoglio. It wasn't until September 1943 that a cease fire was declared and surrender to the Allies on September 8th. Intervention by the Nazis, Mussolini was able to escape and established a puppet state known as Salò Republic near Lake Garda. Fighting in the northern Italy continued until May 1945 when loyal fascists surrendered.

Resistance operatives on March 23, 1944, were able to detonate a bomb that resulted in the deaths of 42 policemen, who were largely composed of German speaking personnel. On hearing of the attack on the policemen, Hitler ordered the destruction of Rome. The recommended reprisal action in which ten Italian civilians would be shot for each policeman killed was directed. The next day 335 Italian male civilians were brought to the man-made caves outside Rome on the via Ardeatina. The Ardeatine Caves were the remnants of ancient Christian catacombs. Here, the shootings could be conducted in secrecy and the bodies could be concealed.

The orders were to select victims from prisons who were already sentenced to death, but the numbers fell short of the 330 deaths required to meet the quota of the reprisal plan. Security police added prisoners serving jail sentences, many for political offenses and those suspected of being involved in the resistance movement. The Germans also included 57 Jewish prisoners. They still did not meet their quota and rounded up civilians from the streets of Rome with the youngest be 15 and the oldest in his seventies. Although there were five hostages more than prescribed in the order, to release them would compromise the secrecy of the action, and so the five were among the victims.

The killing took hours. In groups of five with their hands tied behind their backs, each victim was singled out by a shooter and shot at close range. Bodies piled up on bodies as each group was forced to kneel on top of the previous shot victim. Following the executions, the mouth of the cave was sealed shut through detonation of explosives which would kill anyone who may have survived and entombing the dead.

The bodies were exhumed after the war, identified, and reinterred within a monument complex at the site. The victims are often described as martyrs and the anniversary of their deaths are noted in solemn commemorations. Some of the Nazis responsible for the killings were brought to trial after the war: Generals von Mackensen and Malzer were initially sentenced to death but appealed to reduce their sentences with von Mackensen released in 1952 and Malzer dying in prison that same year; Field Marshall Kesselring was also sentenced to death but pardoned in 1952; Herbert Kappler was sentenced to life imprisonment but was smuggled to Germany when diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1977 and died in 1978; Erich Priebke fled to Argentina where he was free until 1995 when he was extradited to Italy to stand trial. He and Hass were convicted and their sentences of 15 years and 10 years (Hass) were repealed, but a military court in a new trial sentenced Priebke to life imprisonment, which he served under house arrest until his death in 2013.

The bodies of the victims executed at the Ardeatine Caves lie under granite slabs in the memorial cemetery. These men are considered partisan combatants who have fallen in the struggle for liberation. It is important to keep their memories alive.

Protecting our Italian Heritage

Across the country, states, cities, school districts and others are introducing legislation and proclamations to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day, including here in Rochester, where Mayor Lovely Warren just last month declared that the City of Rochester would recognize the second Monday of each October as Indigenous People's Day. As Italian Americans we must speak with one unified voice to protect our Italian heritage and as a lodge we are working with our NY Grand Lodge and CSJ to do so. We will keep all of our members informed as we work towards our goal. Below is a position statement from the National Italian American Foundation on the subject. More information and sources can be found at <http://www.niaf.org/culture/niaf-statement-on-christopher-columbus-holiday/>

NIAF Statement on Christopher Columbus Holiday

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) supports Christopher Columbus Day and opposes public campaigns that advocate for its elimination as a federal holiday. As an organization devoted to the promotion and preservation of Italian American heritage, we support unequivocally keeping Columbus Day as a federal holiday. We believe that Columbus's courageous voyage was the catalyst that initiated over 500 years of immigration to the Americas by people from every corner of the earth who were seeking a better life for their families.

The intent and spirit of Columbus Day was to evoke national pride for our young nation and the roots of the holiday can be traced back to the 18th century. After gaining independence, America was searching for symbols that set its identity apart from Europe's. The first reported Columbus Day celebration was held in New York in October 1792 to mark the tricentennial of his voyage.[1]

When Columbus Day was founded in 1937, the federal holiday provided a sense of dignity and self worth in light of the hostility and discrimination many Italian immigrants, Italians Americans, and Catholics (more broadly) faced. Less than five decades before the holiday's establishment, 11 Italians were lynched in New Orleans, the biggest mass lynching in U.S. history.[2]

NIAF condemns the vandalization of Columbus statues.

NIAF feels strongly that as citizens, we should not attempt to deny America's history, nor should we try to erase it. This nation provides ample opportunity to have a reasonable debate in the public square over various aspects of a historic figure's legacy. NIAF does not blindly uphold any single figure as the representative of all things Italian American, since all individuals are flawed, and all monuments represent just a snapshot of our history, now measured against 21st-century sensibilities.

In our view, it is unfair to apply today's political norms on a historical figure from 500 years ago. If the practice of applying today's political norms to our Founding Fathers was accepted, there would be a strong argument to denigrate some of the most important figures in American history. Many monuments to Franklin Roosevelt stand today, although he allowed Japanese Americans and Italian Americans to be interned during World War II, and we as an ethnic group are not demanding that his statues be destroyed. Nor are we tearing down tributes to Theodore Roosevelt, who, in 1891, after 11 falsely accused Sicilian Americans were murdered in the largest mass lynching in American history, wrote that he thought the event was "a rather good thing." [3]

Opposition to the holiday has also led to vandalism to Columbus statues commemorating his achievement. In 2017, Baltimore's Christopher Columbus monument, believed to be the first erected to the Italian explorer in America, was vandalized. Last year, there were also public calls to remove the iconic statue from New York's Columbus Circle. In New York that same year, Italian Americans witnessed the Columbus statue in Yonkers be unceremoniously decapitated. For large numbers of individuals in the Italian American community, Columbus, and Columbus Day, represent an opportunity to celebrate our collective contributions to this country.[4]

The National Italian American Foundation strongly condemns the defacing of historical monuments and expects elected officials and law enforcement to protect our public memorials from further damage so that a true conversation on their place in modern society can be organized. We believe Christopher Columbus properly represents the values of discovery and risk that are at the heart of the American dream.[5]

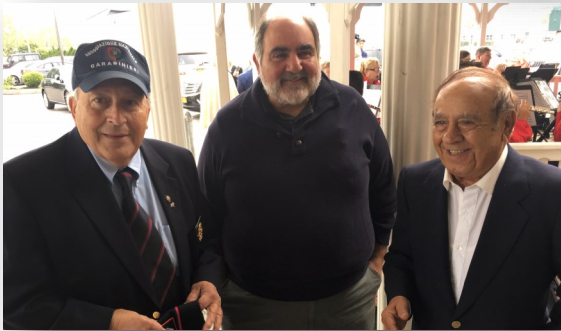
Despite the advent of Indigenous People's Day, NIAF is not opposed to the establishment of such a holiday. Native Americans, like Italian Americans, should have the right to celebrate and educate others about their history and culture. We believe that to repeal Columbus Day as a federal holiday, which is celebrated by over 20 million Italian Americans, only to replace it by another holiday celebrated by another ethnic group, would be culturally insensitive.

NIAF remains a strong and vigorous advocate for the continuation of Columbus Day as a federal holiday. Where individuals seek to establish an "Indigenous People's Day," we suggest this effort can be undertaken with civility and respect for other people's heritage and memorials. NIAF's view is that two such holidays can peacefully coexist

2018 Christopher Columbus Italian American Heritage Dinner



2018 ICL Columbus Day Luncheon



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First Vice-President
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Second Vice-President
Thomas Meleca

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Mistress of Ceremony
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Sentinel
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Patricia Galante

**District VIII State
Trustee**
Joseph Rubé

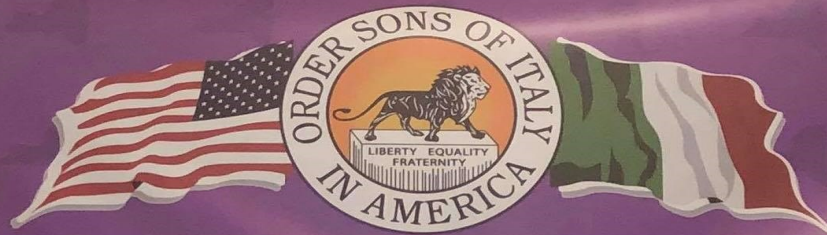
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State Deputy to Geneva Lodge
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Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America



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LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

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