

**MARCH 2018** 



### (USPS 257-300)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA WHOSE JURISDICTION COVERS CALIFORNIA, NEVADA AND KLAMATH COUNTY IN OREGON



A Message From The State President



State President John Costa

March, the third month of the year, is upon us, One quarter of the year is behind us, where does the time go? As I am writing this I am at the Ontario Airport after attending a wonderful 34th anniversary celebration of the Joanne Coccia Lodge. President Paul and members of the lodge thank you for your hospitality.

A lot of the lodges have had successful crab feeds the last two months, Congratulations to all. Those poor little crabs do not have a chance with a large group of Italians hungry and with a glass of wine. Congratulations to all your successes.

This week is a busy week, after Ontario I will be heading to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend the Winter National Plenary. I am looking forward to seeing our new National President anP her Council run their first Plenary. I know National President Vera will do great job, knowing how well she was as our State President here in California. My next article will have a report on this, but better yet if you attend our Grand Council meeting March 17th in Sacramento, you will get a first hand report. March 3rd is the time to put on the western wear and head to the Valley Of the Moon Lodge in Sonoma Scholarship Dinner Dance fundraiser. First Lady Donna Lee enjoys the country music and enjoys doing the two step or electric slide whatever it's called, I have two left feet so I will watch.

## News from the Central by Arlene Nunziati State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

ident Robert Ferrito. Everything was done in one day and they discussed a lot of business! They alternate between various areas of New York and lodges sponsor the plenary. Where we went, the lodge had a beautiful hall so all food was prepared by that lodge with other lodges assisting with the expense. No one pays for anything; breakfast and lunch all provided. For dinner they either travel home or get together and go out.

**VOL. 72 NO. 3** 

Eddie Morgan from the Eureka Lodge stopped by on a trip to Spain and I excitedly gave him a tour of the building. He was very impressed especially by the size and storage space. Great to see you Eddie.

In lieu of soup night, the Columbia Lodge had a "farinata" night! I was in heaven as I love farinata (minestrone soup with polenta). My Nonna always made it for me. Delicious.

I attended the annual Polenta dinner sponsored by the Cornelia Vita Nuova Lodge. The hall was packed and the dinner superb. Congrats Cornelia. You should have seen the homemade desserts there!

As I write this, I am getting ready to fly to Atlanta, Georgia for the first plenary of Vera's term. Looking forward to traveling to another place where I have never been. More on this next month.

Our Grand Council should be here by the time you read this. Looking forward to seeing our State Officers that most of I haven't seen since September. Sorry to say that Office Assistant Gina Lovecchio has decided to leave us; the commute and interference with schooling was too much. So we are again on the lookout for some help!

## News from the South by Sadie Tamburine

State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



I would like to share with you thoughts, observations and ideas one of the Trustees from La Costa dei Fiori #2424 shared with the other officers of his lodge.

Why did you join the Sons and Daughters of Italy?

"My thoughts and observations"

Salvatore Provenza

Membership in fraternal lodges, clubs and service organizations like the Sons of Italy, Elks, Moose, Eagles, American Legion, Masons and the Knights of Columbus have been losing members for many years as older members pass away and younger members are reluctant to participate in what seems to them to be an outdated remnant of older generations.

The question that is on my mind and needs to be answered is "Are organizations like the Sons of Italy doomed to extinction, or is there hope

# News from the North

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by Barbara Wisniewski State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President



Ken and I had the pleasure of hosting Ray Bini, Grand Trustee of the North and, his wife, Pam, President of the Beatrice Portinari Lodge. I have to say there is no better way to get to know our sisters and brothers than over your own kitchen table. It was a wonderful experience.

I accompanied Ray to the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge and the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge. My hat is off to you Ray for your excellent talk to our Lodges.

As you all may be aware, our next Grand Council meeting is in Sacramento, here in the North. Through the years I have heard some of our members comment negatively about our Grand Council. This is your chance to come and watch the workings of the Grand Council to see what we do. If you have never attended a Council meeting I don't think you can truly understand how we work as a ruling body. You can have input during "The Good and Welfare of the Order", but I think the opportunity to observe the Council as it discusses the issues at hand is a great start to understanding. Please attend our Saturday session and bring back to your Lodges your observations. Thank you. I would like to ask for some assistance. I need a State Deputy for the Gold Country Lodge in El Dorado Hills. They are a wonderful group of sisters and brothers that meet on the third Tuesday of the month. President, Anthony Scotch is a pleasure to work with. If any of you

Grand Council follows

Cont. on page 3

I had had it. Such an elegant and beautiful event. A special evening for a very special lady. Thank you Grand Lodge of New York for your hospitality and fraternity. It was also great seeing National Recording Secrtary Phil Privitera and spending time with him. (we discussed a lot of football and Jimmy G!)

As I reported last month,

I attended the annual New

York Winter Charity Ball at

the end of January. It seems

all I have done is travel to

the cold states these past

few months! It was a beau-

tiful event honoring our es-

teemed National President

Vera Girolami. There was

representation from many

states. New Yorkers sure do

know how to wine and dine

you! That is what we did -

eat a lot - and delicious food.

We also were shown the

sights. The actual Ball was

held at the Chateau, a beauti-

ful venue, where you would

not believe the food they

served. We thought that the

appetizers were dinner, there

was sure enough for a dinner,

three hot stations and tables

of cold appetizers and all you

wanted to drink. Then we

went to dinner, where wine

was served for dinner, and

you had a choice of six en-

trees. You should have seen

the dessert tables that were

wheeled out - OMG! By then

The next day we attended their plenary session. It was a great meeting and run very well by their State Pres-

Ciao for now. Stay warm.

Needed Administrative Office Assistant Grand Lodge of California Should live in San Francisco Bay Area Contact Grand Lodge Office of future survival?"

We need to ask ourselves why we joined the Sons of Italy lodge in the first place and what will need to change for us to remain active members, while encouraging the current and next generation to perpetuate the program.

Here are some reasons many of us joined in the first place:

To better understand and embrace the Italian culture of our ancestors

To share our childhood experiences growing up in an Italian family with other Italian-Americans

To perpetuate Italian customs and culture for our future generations

Cont. on page 3

Cont. on page 4

#### IL LEONE

# From the **Editor's Desk**

by Andy Pampuro apampuro@comline.com



One day I was planning something and picked the date of April 1st. Then someone made me realize that this year April 1st was Easter Sunday. I though they were wrong as it was too early for Easter but they were right. This year Easter Sunday is on April 1st. The first thing I thought about was the Easter ads. We had to get those in the March issue in order to be seen before Easter. Soooo, here we are with the Easter ads in this issue. When I called Debbie she was unaware of the early Easter also. God bless her she got right on getting the ads all together.

# **Important Notice**

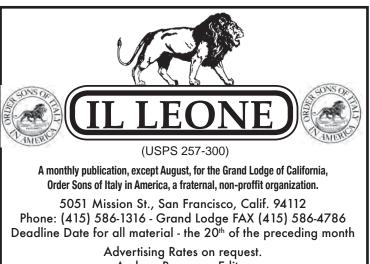
Unfortunately due to our transition to a new membership system households may begin receiving multiple copies of II Leone. If this happens, please contact the office at 415-586-1316 or SonsOfItalyCA@aol.com to let us know so we can opt out all but one member of the household. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



If your lodge has a queen or a prince PLEASE send a picture of them to the Grand Lodge office. We need the pictures for the paper, the convention book and the Royal Pageant program book. We don't have a massive group

of girls and boys but what we have we promise you a wonderful Royal Pageant.

Louise and I along with Debbie wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter.



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### President's Message Cont. from page 1

later in March, March 17the to be exact. Your Grand Council will be reviewing the Bylaw changes that have been submitted and discussing preparation for the upcoming Convention in Ontario. The Grand Council meeting on Saturday is open to all members, please come listen and ask questions. it is nice to see members in the audience, this way all the officers have to behave also.

As in each article I will once again push the 365 raffle tickets, even though a couple of months have passed there is still a lot of money to be won. I challenge each Filial Lodge to purchase one if not two tickets, It is nice to see the lodges win when I get to pull the winners at the Grand Lodge.

Sadly our office assistant Gina Lovecchio (President of Giuseppe Mazzini Lodge) has decided to leave the position of office assistant at the Grand Lodge to pursue her education. We would like to thank you Gina for your efforts and time while working in the office. Again THANK YOU.

Until next month.

# **Save the Date**

Please do not plan anything for your lodge for September 22, 2018. That is the night of the Humanitarian and Leadership Gala. It will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Santa Ana. We would appreciate it if all the lodges support this important event. More information will follow.

> Sadie Tamburine State Second Vice President Chairlady

### Dear Lodge Presidents,

The convention and Royal Pageant are quickly approaching. If you haven't already, please send your participants name, address, contact number and photo to the Grand Lodge. Be a part of this historical event. As of now we

#### News from the North Cont. from page 1

reading this would like to step up or know someone who would like to step up, please let me know. My contact information is here in the Il Leone

So how are we doing with our one new member per member? Remember we are in March and have nine more months to make this a success.

Have you all purchased your 365 raffle tickets? You can get them from your Lodge President, your State Deputy or any State Officers. I have won once already. You have to be in it to win it!

I would very much like to hear your comments or suggestions. I will add them to my article next month. I will not use print anyone's name. Thank you in advance for

your participation. Till next month...

### In Honor of Our 36th Anniversary Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519

Cordially Invites You to Attend A Dinner-Dance Honoring

### JIM LA MANNA, STATE DEPUTY

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018

CANYON OAKS COUNTRY CLUB 999 YOSEMITE DRIVE, CHICO CA 95928

> NO HOST SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

MUSIC BY THE DOGHOUSE

SEMI-FORMAL DRESS

RAFFLE PRIZES

\$30.00 PER PERSON

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

For further information contact:

CATHY LUCIDO – 530- 809-4111 DEBBIE ROSSI – 530-345-7911

NAME:

# OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_

PHONE:

PASTA BAR AND DESSERT WILL BE SERVED

Mail Check to: Debbie Rossi 3024 Calistoga Dr. Chico, CA 95973

Make checks payable to Vincenzo Bellini Lodge





A Very Happy Easter to all!



have 7 young ladies and 2 young men participating. Hopefully we can add a few more.

If you need tickets please contact the Grand Lodge. All monies need to be post marked by April 23, the fourth Monday in April. If you have any questions please call or email me.

# Lodge Anniversaries

March

3/16/24 3/20/49
3/8/59
3/4/71

Congratulations!!!

From the Grand Lodge of California

### State President John Costa First Lady Donna Lee

#### News from the South Cont. from page 1

To learn more about Italian food, wine, music, history, successful people and language

To better understand what it means to be Italian-American in today's society

To provide charitable donations, scholarships and contribute to the local community

The current Sons of Italy organizational model that worked so well for our parents and grandparents in the past, needs to be revised to retain our current members and secure new, younger members or our lodge and others like it will be doomed to extinction.

I would like to suggest the following for your consideration:

Reduce the current annual membership fees (What control do we have?)

Include a discounted fee for all family members (including adult children)

Keep the formal portion of our monthly meeting to 30 minutes or less

Include a discussion or activity about Italian culture or traditions at each meeting

Always serve a catered, Italian dish each month (members are not interested in cooking)

Provide a low-cost annual membership as Christmas or birthday gifts to family members

Have an Italian language "Word of the Month" at each meeting

Publish a lodge monthly event calendar in January of each year (always subject to change)

Keep as much funding as possible for the direct benefit of our members and local community

Consider reducing the size or eliminate our annual dinner/ dance

Suggested event calendar in addition (or instead of) our monthly dinner/meetings:

#### Month: Meeting Theme:

January	Epiphany/La Befana
February	Carnavale
March	Saint Joseph's Table
April	Pasqua (Easter)
May	Italian Heritage Padres Game (PetCo Park)
June	Festa della Rebubblica (Italy Republic Day)
July	Italian Film Night
August	Bocce Ball Picnic (Encinitas Bocce Club)
September	Dinner at Italian Restaurant in North County
October	Columbus Day Event (Still our guy!)
November	Il Giorno dei Morti (All Saints Day)
December	Natale (Christmas Holiday Dinner)

I would love to discuss this and other ideas at our next officer's meeting. With only 25 paid members this year, it is clear that things need to change.

Respectfully,

Past State President National President Vera Girolami and Honarable Judge Al Girolami Judiciary Chair extend their

# Hanford Lodge #1543

Hanford, CA by Jackie Giacomazzi giacomazzi@gmail.com



Hanford Lodge President, Charles Sant'Agata, checked out the raffle gifts at the 3rd Annual "Sweetheart Serenade" Dinner held at the Hanford Fraternal Hall, displayed before a scene of *Cinque Terre, Italy.* 



IL LEONE

Janis Hansen, Hanford Lodge Secretary and Ticket Chair, along with Ralph Agnello, State Deputy, welcome guests to the "Sweetheart Serenade", a fundraising event for the Valley Children's Healthcare in Madera, CA. This event is also in memory of Janis' mother, Eleanor Madruga, whose 90th birthday would have been on February 7, who began our fundraising for the Children's Hospital.



The Hanford Lodge "Sweetheart", Lilia Giacomazzi, (at 104.5 years) young enjoyed the evening dining and listening to the music of Josh Bravo and Rick DelCarlo. Posing with her is her cousin, Carole Burner, a member of the Roma Lodge. (Lilia is still the State Deputy of the Roma Lodge.) HAPPY SPRING---HAPPY EASTER TO ALL FROM THE HANFORD LODGE.







The dessert on the menu of the "Sweetheart Serenade" was homemade cookies provided by several members of the Hanford Lodge. Six different kinds were sampled by guests with plenty to take home!!!!

Queen Annamarie Tesoriere poses by the stage backdrop featuring a Tuscan garden. Annamarie would like support to become the next Grand Lodge top "Royal."



Best Wishes For A Happy Easter To All



Arlene Nunziati **State First Vice President** 





# **Commission For Social Justice**

by Tony Ricevuto

Sons and daughters of Italy members have taken a lead role along with the Knights of Columbus raising valued and historical issues to save Columbus Day celebrations throughout the United States. It's not only just Columbus, but it's also some of the other Italian icons that have been either scorned or their honor unjustly criticized. Despite the atrocities committed by Columbus and other explorers, our organization has always defended Columbus. Their attempt to discover new lands, people, and wealth led to experiences that are currently considered brutal and barbaric.

Our society has definitely changed from accepting their heroic deeds, to criticizing and condemning those who forged a new life with their discoveries. Our forefathers who immigrated to the United States endured hardships, criticisms, and were considered lower-class citizens. Throughout the years of harassments, they built a society that we as Italian-Americans are grateful and proud. They never lost their faith and perseverance in their beliefs of honoring Columbus to show our pride as American citizens establishing parades and events honoring Columbus.

Educators have questioned Columbus and other explorer's methods, which are causing educational values to go to the extreme and accept a new approach to social justice. Several studies and intellectual documents have condemned Columbus sometimes without proper research and justification. Their works are now

the basis that is taught in our schools have become the standard and believable to this generation. This has led to movements by organizations, especially those involved with indigenous causes to condemn and vilify Columbus.

"Democracy, like a precious jewel, shines most brilliantly in the light of an open government."

Recently in San Francisco and in Colorado politicians have decided without notification to rule on eliminating and replacing Columbus Day. In California the Brown Act (commonly referred as an Open Meetings Law) requires local government and agencies conduct business in a way that enables the public to scrutinize government decision-making. If inadequate notice is given, the municipality risks the chance that an aggrieved person will challenge the validity of the meeting in court.

Commission for Social Justice and the Knights of Columbus have encountered violations of the open meetings law in California and Colorado and throughout the United States. We urge Lodges in California to encourage their members to become politically involved and start a campaign to write and call legislative bodies and local politicians to adhere to the law. Another important aspect is that this has cost the National CSJ money and we are seeking contributions. The OSIA national newsletter has instructions of how to contribute and would appreciate any amount that you can afford.

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-R: Honoree National OSDIA President Vera Girolami holds Privitera Foundation Plaque presented by National Recording Secretary Phil Privitera. Privitera traveled from Boston to support President Girolami's honor and made donations to both the National and New York Foundations in her honor.

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by Stephen Contrado, B.A., Th.M. 165 Nantasket Ave. # 9 Hull, MA 02045

#### E-mail: stephencontrado@gmail.com

Located in central Italy, the Tiber is one of the world's most famous rivers because the ancient city of Rome was built on its banks. The Tiber rises on the southern slopes of the Apennine Mountains, follows a winding course, and flows southwest to the Tyrrhenian Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean. The river is about 250 miles long.

PAGE 6

Rome is located about 21 miles above the point where the river empties into the sea. Near the city, the river is about 300 feet wide and 15 to 20 feet deep. Heavy rains in the mountains used to cause the banks to overflow and damage a part of the lower city. Today, embankments are high and strong enough to prevent flooding.

According to legend, the infants Romulus and Remus were thrown into the Tiber, and Romulus founded Rome there in 753 B.C. The Tiber was very important to Roman trade and commerce.

The inhabitants of Italy regarded the Tiber with great veneration and made offerings to the river god whom they believed dwelt within its waters. The early inhabi-

tants lived on the east bank. Across the river there was fertile land to raise crops for the markets. A bridge was built over the river that the Romans could tear down in times of war, so that enemies such as the Etruscans could not cross the river upon the bridge and attack the city. When the Romans became a powerful people they built other bridges. The Mulvian Bridge still stands today.

Poets and artists have written about the Tiber and depicted it. They named it "the yellow Tiber" because of its muddy waters. It flows across the region of Umbria through the region of Lazio before emptying into the sea. The Tiber's main tributaries are the Nera and the Aniene rivers. Small crafts can use the Tiber from the sea to Nera about 50 miles north of Rome. The principal cities on its banks are Citta di Castello, Rome, and Todi.

Rivers are fascinating. They helped give rise to ancient civilizations. The Tiber is unique. Italian Americans can look to the Tiber as a source of inspiration.



Roman representation of Tiber as a god (Tiberinus) with a cornucopia.

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1	\$200.00	Frank Cuellar
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6	\$25.00	Renee Adair
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8	\$25.00	Manny Finazzo
9	\$25.00	Waldo Lorenzini
10	\$25.00	Wanda Tessaro
11	\$25.00	Pam Tedesco
12	\$25.00	John Jefsen
13	\$25.00	Judy Dutra
14	\$25.00	Rose Quinn
15	\$25.00	Carol and Tony Varni
January 16-31		
16	\$25.00	Pamela Bini
17	\$25.00	Minnie Baffo
18	\$25.00	Peggy Soletti
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26	\$25.00	Anna Watts
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29	\$25.00	Dorothy Lagomarsno
30	\$25.00	Judy Dutra
31	\$50.00	Anthony Finazzo
February 1-15		
1	\$25.00	Pugliese Lodge #1375
2	\$25.00	Paul Finazzo
3	\$25.00	Grace Rivera
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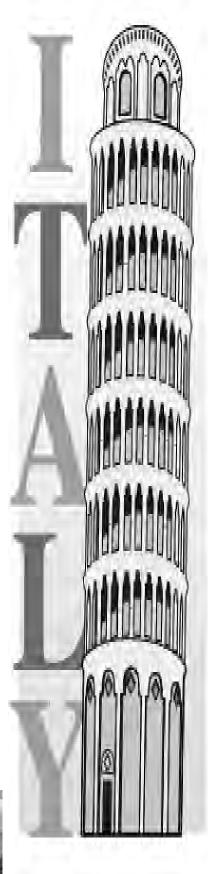
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# Lodge # 2566

Saddleback Valley

Mission Viejo, CA by Andy Pampuro, Immediate Past President

In the last issue of the Il Leone I wrote about our First Lady redesigning our Sons of Italy logo. We were so proud to be able to say Sons and Daughters of Italy in America we never realized that we were not allowed to make that change on the regular logo as it is a copy right logo and cannot be changed. We can use the regular logo and underneath put Sons and Daughters of Italy. So on behalf of our lodge we apologize for changing the logo and hope everyone understands what our intentions were.





#### PAGE 7

### Dolly Sinatra Lodge # 2400 Palm Springs, CA

by Andy Casey

There is great joy in being a Lodge member with the socializing, entertainment and dining; along with special events and activities.

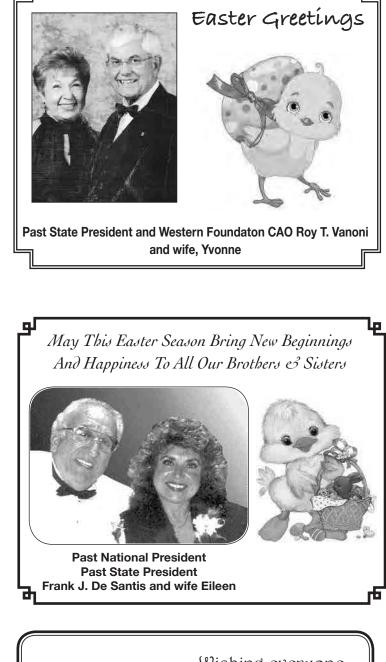
And the backbone, the very survival to this joy of our Lodge, any Lodge, is those members who are the volunteers, for the many tasks that keep us going forward. Volunteering is a selfless activity that is time consuming, at times hard work, and requires a commitment, a large commitment to keeping any Lodge going forward! And we here at Dolly Sinatra Lodge are blessed to have some extraordinary volunteers, which is evident in the great joy we all receive being members! The seamless way everything comes together and the growth of our membership are chief among examples of this!

There is however, occasionally, great sadness in being a Lodge member when we lose a volunteering member, which has been the circumstance to frequently lately.

On January 21st Carmela Cotugno, a much beloved friend, and a tireless volunteer passed away. This very warm, vital and dedicated member was a past President of the Lodge for a year plus. Cooked our main meal for many years, and was always there when we needed anything special. The side we rarely, if ever see, with Carmela, or any of our volunteers, is they also have a very full personal life. Carmela and husband Robert raised four remarkable sons. She was a Eurcaristic Mimister at Sacred Heart Church in Palm Desert. Her dear friend Renee, (herself a volunteer), reminisced, "despite being quite sick over the last five years Carmela was just always there to lend a hand, plan events and simply make our Lodge a better place!" We're thankful for having her, and look forward to her husband Robert being with us going forward. He too is a wonderful and warm person!

Coming up very soon is our Honoree of The Year awards dinner and dance, which celebrates the ultimate volunteer, President of the Lodge for the last twelve years and wonderful friend to all, Mr. Joe LaPorta! And when I say ultimate volunteer, there is no other word to describe Joe. He's first in and last out every Wednesday, dragging the garbage out to the bins with him, literarily! I wrote last month that I doubt there would be a Lodge today, and certainly not one as successful as todays Lodge without Joe! So, unquestionably, this is a must attend event for someone so deserving! The grand day is Sunday, April 8th at the Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75.00 each and see Joe or Lori Harvey for reservation form. Come dine and dance to the ever charismatic Frank DiSalvo and his Palm Springs dance band!

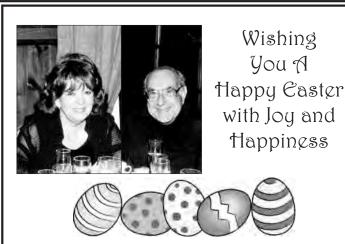
And lastly, Wednesday March 14 at 5 p.m. is our annual St. Patrick's dinner, where we take a departure from our regular Italian fare, to serve the always wondeful dinner of corned beef & cabbage, so beloved by we the Irish and all! And entertaining us, with a wee bit of the Leprechaun residing in him, is Larry Capeloto. There is limited seating for this event with tickets at \$18 for members and \$20 for non-members. The optimum word here is limited seating, so don't be shut out and order tickets from Lori or Joe ASAP.





Carmela with husband Bob and son Chris with screen they donated to Lodge.





President and honoree Joe LaPorta and wife.

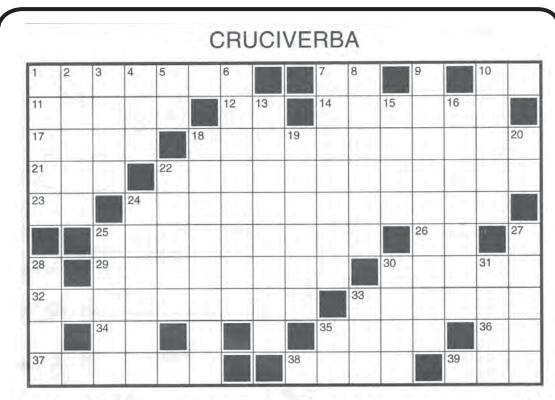


Past State President, Chris Lotito Athletic Committee Chair, Mary Lotito





The officers and members, of the Saddleback Valley Lodge wish you a Happy Easter



ORIZZONTALI: 1. Ufficio con le lettere -7. Terni - 10. Pianissimo in musica - 11. Satellite di Urano - 12. Particella pronominale - 14. Si cerca quando piove - 17. Diminuzione di prezzo - 18. Si propone per le elezioni - 21. Verso del corvo - 22. Vede buone prospettive - 23. Fondo di corridoi -24. Dipinge fini disegni - 25. Grossi granchi



- 26. A noi - 29. Assidui, instancabili - 30. Dio del vino - 32. Sbocciata di nuovo - 33. Leggeri aliti di vento - 34. Fune senza pari -35. Segno che sottrae - 36. Preposizione in Cina - 37. L'opera di Dio - 38. Le regine del giardino - 39. Segnali in acqua.

VERTICALI: 1. Involucro di cartone per spedizioni - 2. Si consultano alla stazione -3. Culmina nel monte Botte Donato - 4. Dio nei prefissi - 5. Il nome dell'attore Pacino - 6. Fughe dal carcere - 7. Li riscuote l'erario - 8. Replicare - 9. Piccolo sommergibile - 10. Si chiude col chiavistello - 13. Divenuto pazzo - 15. Sostengono la traversa - 16. Costruzione in campagna - 18. Il beato Ferrini - 19. Impronta del pollice - 20. L'architetto Aalto (iniz.) - 22. Il "Pallino" spesso citato - 24. Grossa mola da mulino - 25. Si può ordinare al bar - 27. Sdolcinate carezze - 28. Solleva l'auto - 30. Onestà, giustizia - 31. Musa della storia - 33. La cosa per i Latini -35. Medio Oriente.

Reproduced from the weekly "Mini Relax." For a subscription "sies@siesnet.it"

Answers page 16

## Cornelia-Vita Nuova #1198

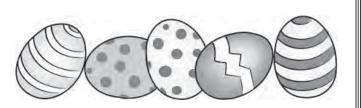
San Francisco, CA by Maria Fassio Pignati, Past State President

On Saturday, February 10, the Cornelia-Vita Nuova #1198 hosted its annual fundraising Polenta and Sausage Dinner at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club in North Beach. 265 people were present to enjoy a delicious meal and each other's company.

During the cocktail hour, the great accordionist Rene Sevieri serenaded us with beautiful Italian music. We were honored to have in attendance our National President Vera Girolami and National First Gent and Judiciary Committee Chair Al Girolami, our State President John Costa and First Lady and Chair of Ritual and Protocol Donna Lee, State First

Vice President and Office Manager Arlene Nunziati, Immediate Past State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy and State Trustee North Bill Murphy and Lynn's cousin Sharon Scott, State Trustee North Ray Bini and wife Pam, who is President of the Beatrice Portinari Lodge of Vallejo, National Charities

Everyone enjoyed the delicious polenta and sausage meal and the ample variety of homemade desserts. We concluded the night with a raffle of many beautiful baskets donated by the generous members of our lodge. Kudos to Lodge President Angela, Immediate Past Lodge President Linda De Palma, Past State President Maria Pignati and Ugo, Tony and Anna Pignati, Stella Riccio, Jack and Carla Silva and family, Joe and Evelyn Longinotti, Josephine Longhitano, Lisa Michelis and Vivian Santilli for their hard work in making the evening such a great success.



President Hank Lowinger and wife, Michelle



Chair Mike Carroll and wife Karen, and our lovely State Queen Mary Lucido and her escort Alex.

Lodge President Angela Silva gave a stirring speech about the vast contributions of Italians to the world, and she was followed by State Queen Mary and National President Vera.



Local, State and National Officers, Committee Chairs and the State Queen enjoying our Polenta and Sausage Dinner!

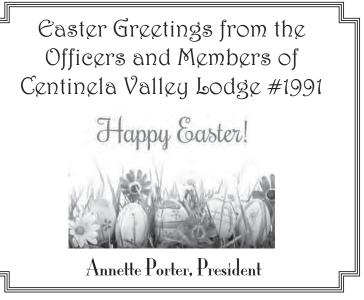
# C. Colombo Lodge #1315

Antioch, CA by Zelda LeFrak-Belleci

Smiles highlight the success of the Cucidati Contest sponsored by C. Colombo Lodge. Shown in th back row are two of the Judges: Grand Lodge President John Costa and John Jones. Front row is Georgette Russo accepting congratulations for being one of the contest winners from Judge Mary Lombardo, followed by the other Judges Laura Canciamilla and Stephanie Seeno Miles. Next you see runner up Marilyn Bruno

Nicoletti and the First Place winner Sandie Smario being congratulated by Mistress of ceremonies Lia Belleci Navarro.

Sandie Smario credited her nana Angie Ascanio's recipe as she also received the People's Choice Award. The 9th annual event was held at the Antioch Historical Museum complete with music,Tarantella dancers, and sales of homemade Italian cookies, polpetti, pizelle and cannoli. Joining the guests at the sold out event were dignitaries from the Grand Lodge: Past Grand President Lynn Lawrence Murphy, State Trustee of the North Bill Murphy, Chair of Ritual and Protocol Donna Lee Costa and Chair of the Garibaldi Meucci Museum Joy Bruno. Special guest was Grand Lodge Queen Mary Lucido returning to her home lodge to share in the excitement of the day.







COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO YOUR FAMILY:

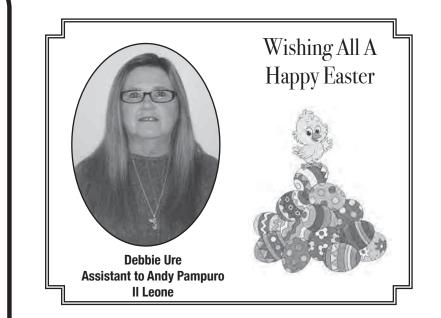
I'm sorry to have left you without making any final arrangements.



The officers and members of the Renaissance Lodge #2259 wish you and your family a very joyous Easter Season!



President Mary Jane Cambria



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#### IL LEONE

# Winner Every Day Raffle

- 1. Purchase a Winner Every Day Raffle ticket for \$30. If your lodge does not have any, you can order some through the Grand Lodge.
- 2. Mail your ticket stub and check to the Grand Lodge of California, 5051 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112
- 3. Once received, your ticket goes into the ticket drum.
- 4. Tickets are drawn every two weeks, until the end of 2017, one ticket for each of those days. If you are a winner, a check for \$25. will be mailed to you. Winners names are also listed in the most current issue of the II Leone newspaper.
- 5. Your ticket is put back into the drum for all future drawings.
- 6. There are several days throughout the year that have a higher dollar amount. Those days are listed on the back of each ticket.
- 7. Grand Prize of \$1,000.00 will be given only if 1000 tickets are sold and returned by December 21st, 2017. Or if 4500 tickets are sold the Grand Prize will become \$15,000. 4500 tickets are one ticket per each of our members!! Buy a ticket and become a big winner.

It's that easy!! You have a great chance of winning more than one time!! And a chance at the Grand Prize!

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If you have any other questions, please contact The Grand Lodge of CA (415)586-1316 E-mail: sonsofitalyca@aol.com

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### Roma Lodge # 1573 Tulare, CA by Larry Dutto

Roma Lodge sold Italian sausage sandwiches at the 51st annual World Ag Expo in Tulare, California, February 13-15th. Of the 33 non-profit groups that have food booths at the show, Roma Lodge is one of the few who have been at the show for all 51 years of the event.

Michael DePaoli, Maci Daramy along with Melissa and Matt Watkins, took on the big challenge serving as show chairs for the 6th consecutive year. They did a great job and were assisted by nearly 50 volunteer lodge members in the preparation of some great food for show attendees. They expanded the menu this year by adding meatball sandwiches to the menu along with pasta and several other menu choices.



(L-R) Maci Daramy, Michael DePaoli and Melissa Watkins chaired the 51st Roma Lodge food booth at the World Ag Expo.



A portion of the over 45 Roma Lodge members were on hand the final day for a group picture in front of the food booth. The show had over 100,000 visitors and perfect sunny weather for the three-day event.



# Lodge Websites & E-mail Directory

Anaheim Lodge www.anaheim2076.org

Beatrice Portinari Lodge OSIAVallejo@yahoo.com C. Colombo Lodge www.soiccololmbo1315.com Colombo-Stella Lodge

www.sonsofitalyfresno.org sonsofitalyfresno@gmail.com www.facebook.com/pages/ Sons-Of-Italy-Fresno-Colombo-Stella-1149

Columbia Lodge columbia\_1940@yahoo.com www.sonsofitalysanmateo.com Cristoforo Colombo Lodge www.renosonsofitaly.org

Dolly Sinatra Lodge www.dollysinatralodgeosia.org info@dollysinatralodgeosia.org

Enrico Caruso Lodge visaliasonsofitaly.club.officelive.om Eureka Lodge

sonsofitalyeureka@gmail.com Fratellanza Garibaldina

www.osia1627.org

Giuseppe Mazzini (http://www.giuseppemazzini.org) Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #1441 www.sonsofitaly1441.weebly.com

Grand Lodge of California www.sonsofitalyca.org

Hacienda Lodge #2168 www.osiahaciendalodge.com Hanford Lodge

Hanford Lodge http://sonsofitaly1543.org/ silaccilu@gmail.com

Joanne Coccia Lodge ociafontana.org

La Costa dei Fiori Lodge saljd55@cox.net

Las Vegas Lodge www.sonsofitalylasvegas.com sonsofitalylv@yahoo.com Monterery Lodge

www.sonsofitaly-monterey.org

Napa Lodge napasonsofitaly.org Northern Solano Lodge

www.SOI2534.org Pugliese Lodge

www.soipugliese1375.com Renaissance Lodge www.sonsofitalyca.org/renaissance Renaissancelodge2259@yahoo.com

Rodolfo Valentino Lodge www.rodolfovalentinolodge.com

Roma Lodge #1574 romalodge1573.org romalodge@yahoo.com

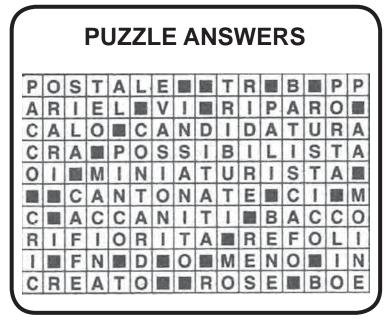
Roseville Lodge sonsofitalyroseville@gmail.com

Saddleback Valley Lodge www.saddlebackvalley2566.com malfieri1@aol.com

Santa Rosa Lodge www.santarosasonsofitaly.org

Shasta Lodge www.reddingsonsofitaly.com

soishastalodge@charter.net Vallejo Lodges www.vallejosonsofitaly.org



Roma Lodge members worked very hard preparing pasta plates, sausage sandwiches, antipasto salads and serving customers at the World Ag Expo in Tulare, California. Vincenzo Billini Lodge #2519 www.sonsofitalychico.com

Watsonville Lodge #2016 www.sonsofitalywatsonville.org sonsofitalywatsonville@yahoo.com

William Paca Lodge #1960 www.sonsofitalymountainview.org

West End Lodge www.sonsofitalywestend.org

If your lodge has an e-mail address or website and you would like to include it with the above list, please send it to me at apampuro@comline. com.

# Anaheim Lodge #2076

Anaheim, CA by Fran D'Errico Recording Secretary

<u>"SAVE THE DATE"</u> SUNDAY - MAY 6, 2018. ANAHEIM LODGE - 60TH ANNIVERSARY, We will be honoring "FRANK J. DE SANTIS". The event will be held at the Holiday Inn on Beach Blvd, in Buena Park, CA. This will be a Sunday afternoon Luncheon. All lodges should have received the "CARD - SAVE THE DATE" also the "INVITATIONS". Please mark your calendars for this event, to save this date for the Anaheim Lodge #2076 60th Anniversary. Members of Anaheim Lodge will also receive information. "WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING"

Saturday January 20th, We had a Fundraiser Dinner and Bingo for our new incoming queen; Meagan Rose Guthrie. Scott Fiorillo (Anaheim Orator) cooked a delicious meal of Sausage and Pepper Sandwiches. We had some great gifts for the raffle and lots of fun playing Bingo.

Saturday February 10th, We held our Coronation Dinner for our new Queen, Meagan Rose Guthrie.

Our menu consisted of Chicken Parmigiana, Pasta, Salad, Rolls and Dessert. Past Lodge Queens were honored and there to support our new queen. Our outgoing Queen Elizabeth Lavezzari was happy to have been able to be our queen for the past 2 years and also Miss America of the Grand Lodge. Our new Queen Meagan, gave a very heartfelt and warm speech of acceptance and how proud she is to be able to represent the Anaheim Lodge as our Queen.

#### <u>"UPCOMING EVENT -</u> <u>Please watch for the La Stel-</u> <u>la and Fliers</u>"

Saturday March 24th, This is when we will celebrate this very unique day, our "Annual St. Joseph Table". The most important Saint is Giuseppe (Joseph), Father of Jesus, whose day is celebrated on March 19. BUT... Some facts that are little known about St. Joseph. Of course, he's also included in the Feast of the Holy Family (December 30th, or thereabouts), and he's certainly a part of the Christmas story.

The circumstances of Joseph's death are not known, but it is likely that he died before Jesus' ministry began, and it is implied that he was dead before the Crucifixion. Mark your calendar. Our Officers and lodge members bake the most wonderful desserts to place on the table and are purchased after the dinner.

Saturday April 4th, This event will be chaired and run by the Junior members. This has become their Annual event and they always come up with great ideals with their planning. More information will come later and be sent out in a Flier.

MEMBERS, THIS is a RE-MINDER: That we encourage you to attend and support our lodge ... If you need a ride, call any officer and we will make arrangements for transportation. If you have Italian and non Italian friends who wish to come to our events, please bring them and see what a fun time we have and very friendly members. Our lodge has always been family oriented and we still encourage this standard in our lodge. We all want our Italian Heritage to continue for generations to come.

#### OTHER INFORMATION OF IMPORTANCE:

**PLEASE NOTE:** The General & Officers Meetings, Dates and Times have changed as of January 2018. All meetings will now be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

<u>Combined</u> <u>Meetings</u>; Officers meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and prior to the <u>General</u> <u>Meetings at 7:30 p.m.</u> on the following months. January 3, March 7, May, September 5, and November 7. The GEN-ERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT: Anaheim Civic & Senior Center; 250 E. Center Street, Anaheim, CA 92805



The Family of both queens, Mike and Cathy Guthrie behind Meagan David and Eva Lavezzari behind Elizabeth.



Elizabeth crowning Meagan.



The Solemnity of St. Joseph is March 19th (if this falls on a weekday during Lent, you can break your fast!), and the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1st.

Officers Meeting Only are February 7, April 4, June 6, October 3, and December 5, at 7:00 pm. July the meeting is held at the picnic. The Month of August is dark for summer vacations.

# Schedule of Upcoming Events, Dates are all set, mark your calendars:

March:	Saturday 24th - St. Joseph Table
April:	Saturday 14th - Junior Members Event
May:	Sunday 6th - 60th Anniversary Dinner
June:	Convention in Ontario
July:	Sunday 22nd - Lodge Picnic East Gate Park
August:	Friday TBD - Angel Baseball Night Out
September:	Saturday 8th - Casino Night
October:	Saturday 20th - Annual Halloween Party
November:	Saturday 17th - Annual Thanksgiving Family
	Dinner
December:	Saturday 15th - Annual Family Christmas Party
	& Dinner

God Bless those serving and protecting our country and Arrivederci until next time.

Both queens Meagan and Elizabeth.

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# **Contestants for the Royal Contest so far.**



Annamarie Tesoriere Hanford Lodge #1543



Gianna Benedetti Roma Lodge #1573



Joseph Perez Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566



Marissa Lavezzari



Sarah Grace Taylor Puliese Lodge #1375



Meagan Guthrie



Ted Seibel and wife, Lucille





Centinela Valley Lodge #1999

Anaheim Lodge #2076



Devin Guevara Joanne Coccia Lodge #2553

# Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566

Mission Viejo, CA by Andy Pampuro Immediate Past President

The Saddleback Valley Lodge enjoyed a wonderful night of Carnevale on Friday, February 9th, at the Norman Murray Center.

Over 80 members and friends were in attendance. The amazing thing was about 80% of them came in some kind of costume. If they had no costume they at least wore a mask. Some of the costumes were outstanding The judges picked three winners who were awarded cash prizes. They were third place winner Tony Marraccino, Second place winner was Carol Santell and the first place winner and deservingly so was Carmen Moraga-Eid who donated her winnings back to the lodge. The dinner was catered

by Jolanda and the music was furnished by Tony Ciaramitaro who had the crowd jumping all over the dance floor. It was truly a fun night. Many thanks go out to the chairlady of this event Bernie Neil who got plenty of assistance from our First Lady Michelle Lowinger plus her daughter decorated the hall like you never saw. It was truly a Carnevale.

A silent auction was held and everything was sold to a lot of happy people.



The winners of the best costumes. L/R First place winner Carmen Moraga-Eid, First Lady Michelle and President Hank Lowinger, third place winner Tony Marraccino and second place winner Carol Santell.

### Sacramento Lodge #1352 Sacramento, CA by Pam Stewart

In February members enjoyed a delicious lasagna dinner prepared by Verna and Patrick Carboni. The hall was festive with the tables decorated red, white, and pink with hearts and chocolates by Dave Carboni. Many thanks to the Carboni family for making our dinner so wonderful. We were honored to have Grand Lodge Queen Mary Lucido attend our dinner and to speak at our meeting. The Ways and Means winner was Susan Dixon. It's not too late

to purchase a ticket for \$10, a winning ticket is drawn once a month, so you have 10 chances to win \$100 in the year 2018.

Our next general meeting will be Wednesday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We will be having Corn Beef and Cabbage for dinner. This is definitely a dinner you do not want to miss!

# VallejoLodges

by Sharon Silveira

Mangia....definitely a favorite Winter activity. With ice on the birdbath and cold windy days, The Vallejo Lodges expect a very full house on Saturday, February 24th for our Polenta & Stew dinner. Event chairs are Pamela Bini and Tim Coragliotti. January 13th found a large crowd enjoying our Annual Crab Feed, that always includes Rick Branch's amazing pasta, garlic bread and salad. Kudos to Esther Asche and John Costa for continuing to chair this dinner.

Looking Ahead.....to Spring and the start of baseball season. Mark your calendars for Vallejo Admiral's Italian Heritage Night on June 20th. Tickets start at \$5.00!!! Tentative

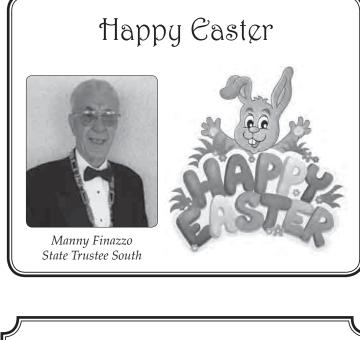
plans include the Rolling Out of the First Bocce Ball, National Anthem song by The Spark's Sisters, sausage & pepper sandwiches... The Admirals are the 2017 Pacific Association Champions. Plan to join in the fun. Contract Ray Bini for reservations and additional information 707 688-3751.

**Welcome** to new members Penny and Lou Bellotti. When's the last time you invited someone to a Vallejo Lodge function? Or asked them to join???

**Come** and put your feet under our table: Sunday, March 25th – Chicken Marsala – Adults \$15.00 and Children \$8.50. Reservations: Michele Castagnola 853-0386 or Pamela Bini 567-2938

#### Essere Bene ed Eserre Felici!













Please mark your calendar for our Annual Shrimp Feed which will be on Saturday, October 20!



# Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534

Reno, NV by Historian, Maria Nelson

We hope you enjoyed your Valentine's Day with your sweetheart and St. Patrick's Day for those of you with a little Irish in your blood. You know St. Patrick has Italian roots!!

Our Lodge has been busy since our last article, we are blessed to have great members.

In November Lisa-Marie Lighfoot from the Washoe County School District, Read and Succeed Program and Marian Davis Chair of the Elks Veteran's Program were our speakers. These were our two new charities this year keeping our tradition of giving to veterans and children. We presented each of them with a \$400 check. They were thrilled and thankful.

December was our fabulous Christmas Party. Of course, Santa came bearing gifts for the children. We took many great pictures with Santa. We presented our Santa with a \$400 check for the St. Baldrick's fund, another children's cancer charity. Many members, family and friends were in attendance. Our chef, Antonio Ricci and his helpers, put on a delicious dinner with New York strip roast, baked ziti, vegetables and, of course, dessert. Fancy Christmas Cookies for the kids by Patricia Rehn and Zuppa Inglese by Christine Handy. A good time was had by all.

In January, Garth Oskol from the Washoe County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) gave us a presentation about the South East Connector Project in Reno. It is an amazing project which will help traffic flow and protect the environment, animals and birds. It's been years in the making and should be complete this summer. Our Member, Sam Olson, briefly spoke about "Eddie's House" which helps homeless children. This charity may be in the running this year for our children's charity donation. Also, our member, Sivanna Ricci, told us about the Reno Philharmonic bringing an Italian conductor from Padova (Padua), Italy on March 11th & 13th. There will be a free family concert on March 10th. We are looking forward to this event. Finally, Trustee of the North, Ray Bini and his wife Pam came to make an official visit of our Lodge. He talked to us about the upcoming Grand council meeting with information about the Grand Lodge Building in San Francisco, an extensive study will be presented at the meeting, so our Grand Council can make an informed decision. Even though there was a mail in vote of the delegates which voted to keep the building this further study was highly recommended. This will be brought up at convention.

We want to invite all of you to attend our Festa Primavera on May 5th. This is our main fundraiser for the year where we raise funds to continue our scholarships and our charitable giving. We have a wonderful meal, great raffle prizes and fantastic silent auction items. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Please contact Christine Handy at 775-786-5294 or email at handys75@gmail.com for

tickets and information. We hope to see you there.

Thank you for reading about our Lodge. Until next time: Un bimbo che non gioca, felicita ne ha poca. (A child that doesn't play, has little happiness.)

Please visit our website for more information: www. renosonsofitaly.org. Learn more about our Lodge, your Italian heritage and upcoming events.



Christmas group.



Christmas kids.





Santa and Antonio.



Santa and Hugh.



Santa and Nathan.



Ray and Pam Bini.



Read and Succeed and Veterans.

South East connector.



**MARCH 2018** 

## William Paca Lodge # 1960 Moutain View, CA by Carolyn Franklin

February is the month of holidays, Ground Hog Day, Presidents Day, Valentine's Day and the Lunar New Year. People who work get the days off to sleep in. Remember when we used to work? It just occurred to me retired people get every holiday off. So we don't have a special day of no-work to sleep in. Retired people need a special day to actually go to work - maybe a Monday! It would bring back a lot of memories!

The best part of February is the Crab Cioppino dinner, everyone's favorite. Carlo Marenco and Mike Ravisi, our Master Chefs, will ride the range with fat crabs, always the best from Half Moon Bay. There's no crab as good as the ones from the cold waters of the San Francisco Bay. The cioppino dinner will include fresh, crispy salad and soft, crunchy french bread, and, desert. Mix this with all our friends and it's a night to remember. We need all the wonderful memories we can get. That's what our Italian get-togethers are for.

We're so glad Roldan and Frances Vigile are recovering from the flu. Thats a pretty wicked illness. We all hope you're good to yourselves, keep well, sleep cozy, eat lots of garlic and come to the cioppino dinner. An evening with good friends will cure anything!

Paula Chidichimo's mother, "Jo", is visiting Paula in Sunnyvale. Jo is 102 years young and has the secret to life. Maybe she'll come to our dinner and tell us of the great times of days

gone by - life the Italian way years back. Our young people need to hear of what we did as friends, neighbors and families before technology - we did very, very well!

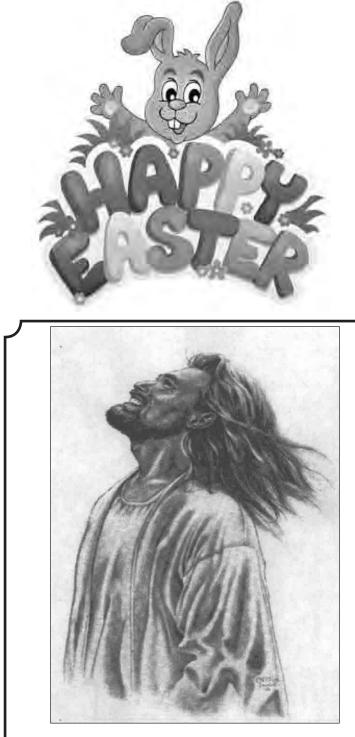
Also this month we start to plan our summer vacations. George and Gloria Ravetto are already on their way in their camper heading for the horizon. They meet up with other free spirits and ride the 1000 Trails route to relax, see the scenery and take in the beauty of America. The Marenco's are heading for Italy and then the Baltic Sea. They'll meet up with Marina and Jimmy along the way. It's a beautiful trip in that part of the world, all lush greenery and deep, clear seas, perfect for sailing. Jimmy will be heading for Bellarmine in the Fall, taking college prep. All too soon they grow up!

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The members of the C. Columbo Lodge #1315 Antioch, California wishes everyone a joyous Easter!







Easter Greetings from the

Officers & Members of the

ANAHEIM LODGE #2076

**Buona** Pasqua

Eva Lavezzari, President

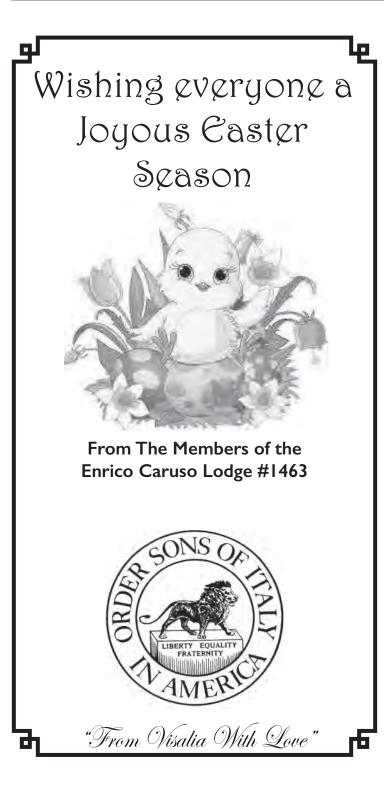
Praying for peace and harmony throughout the world! Happy Easter to all!





Praying for peace and harmony throughout the world!

Easter Greetings Immediate Past President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy and State Trustee North Bill Murphy





# **Attention all Filial Lodges**



It's that time again! We are looking for participants for the upcoming Royal Pageant for the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention in Ontario. The contest officially began on October 1, and so far we know there are eight participants. One of these entries may be a young man. We are encouraging not only our young ladies, but also our young men to get involved. Remember this is one of the few opportunities that we have to highlight our youth. So we are hoping that more of our lodges will join in and find someone to represent their lodge. It is important to let the Grand Lodge and myself know if you have a candidate.

Again, the contest has officially started. Tickets can be or-

dered from the Grand Lodge. The more tickets you sell, the higher percentage your lodge will receive back. All participants must have a minimum of \$2,000 to qualify. Any tickets sold beyond that will determine their placement of the top five in the Royal Pageant. All monies must be mailed to the Grand Lodge in the registered mail envelope provided by the Grand Lodge. The envelope must be postmarked by Monday, April 23, 2018. Placement of the Royal Pageant will be announced on Saturday, May 6, 2018 after 2:00 pm. More information will be sent from the Grand Lodge detailing all the rules at a later date.

Please let the Grand Lodge and myself know as soon as possible the name of your queen/king and the lodge they represent. Send a wallet size photo of the contestant to the Grand Lodge as soon as possible to be used in the newspaper and the pageant program.

It is a fun event and we hope that you encourage your youth members to get involved. We can't wait to see how many participants we have this year. Good luck to each of the lodges. Looking forward to a successful pageant.

Sincerely yours, Eva Lavezzari Royal Contest Chairperson



NEL RIMPIANGERNE LA PERDITA, CI ASSOCIAMO AL LUTTO ED AL DOLORE DEI LORO CONGIUNTI AI QUALI INVIAMO LE NOSTRE CONDOGLIANZE.

# "NECROLOGIO"

Member's Name Joe La Banca Romano Della Santina Carmine Gigi Ida Pucci Donato Raffaelli Newton Dal Poggetto Phyllis Sarafini Carmela Cotugno

Lodge	Lodge
Hacienda	2168
Cornelia Vita-Nuova	1198
Cornelia Vita-Nuova	1198
Cornelia Vita-Nuova	1198
Eureka	1274
Valley of the Moon	1959
Valley of the Moon	1959
Dolly Sinatra	2400
Dolly Sinatra	2400



## Happy Easter

State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi and husband, Mark

Buona Pasqua Happy Easter from the members of , Joanne Coccia Lodge #2553 **Paul Finazzo** President

Antheny Shane Anita Perry Frank Cattuzzo Ed Reynolds Frank Harrison Denise Runciman

Dolly Sinatra	2400
Vincenzo Bellini	2519
Hanford	1543
Shasta	2453
St. Helena	2077
Shasta	2453



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# Cesare Battisti Lodge #1518 Petaluma, CA

by Ann Albertoni

#### **Upcoming Events:**

March 8 St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Meeting - Corn Beef & Cabbage, guests invited April 12 Dinner/Meeting – Ham & scalloped potatoes

#### Lodge News:

- 1. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 8 with a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner prepared by chefs Giaco, Angelo and Jim! Please call Marie De Carli by Friday, March 1 at 707.486.5085 to make your reservations for members and guests. The dinner donation is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under age 12. This looks to be a very well attended party! Make sure to call in ASAP. It is necessary for your reservations be made in a timely manner.
- 2. The February 3rd crab feed was a success. All the crab you can eat, great raffle, thanks to Ernie, Ron and volunteer donations. The kitchen crew, bartenders, volunteers, servers, ticket sales, background crew - all who contributed to this success. Thank you!
- 3. Spelling correction of new member Bruno Fomasi's name.

#### Sick Members:

None reported.

#### Member Birthdays:

Giuseppina Alvarez 14th, Bob Bertolucci 4th, Elsie Bordessa 25th, Joan Davenport 10th, Dr. Louis Pelfini 14th, Bruno Fomasi 30th.



# Gold Country Lodge #2705

El Dorado Hills, CA by Tami Welch

Gold Country Lodge # 2705 recently held it's 22nd Annual Crab Feed on January 27, 2018 at Saint John's Catholic Church in Folsom. This is the lodge's biggest fundraiser of the year which raises funds for its annual scholarship fund that's benefits seniors in the El Dorado Union High School District. Fun night for all as guests enjoyed crab and pasta prepared by the always reliable lodge members, served by the Oak Ridge High School Italian class along with music and dancing to Bill Chiechi and the Funatics.







In support of all the men and women who have been called into military action. You're in our hearts, in our thoughts, and in our prayers.



# Napa Lodge #2043

by Anna Graeber napasonsofitaly.org info@napasonsofitaly.org

### **Holiday Gathering**

The last few months have indeed been a whirlwind! A few of our members lost their homes in the October firestorm in Northern California, they all embody the true spirit of strength in such devastating circumstances. Our Membership Chair, Marisa Miller, has worked her magic along with a few other members to bring in a total of 24 new members for 2017 and we have a good start on 2018 with 6 more new members joining our lodge. The holidays surrounded us with the hope of great things to come. We had a wonderful gathering at a member's home in December that was enjoyed by all, including a visit from Louise Silacci, State Trustee Central. January was relatively busy getting ready for the Napa Lodge holding our very first Crab Feed all on our own. When all was said and done, we've looked back with pride, a smile on our face, and an event well done. As the guests told us themselves: "The crab was the best they had ever tasted",

"This has been the best crab feed we've attended", "Put us on your list for next year" The committee: Alan Miller, Marisa Miller, Janice Gigliuto, Frank Gigliuto, Julie Querin, Dennis Schelling, Joan Oliver, her dessert committee, Anna Graeber and all of the personal friends of the committee (Matthew, we love you!) worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a great success. The Napa Lodge thanks every one of you as this event would not have been possible without your dedication.

We were honored to have the United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Association out of Petaluma serve our dinner as well as being honored with the presence of Louise Silacci, State Trustee Central, and 5 members of the Hanford Lodge driving 4 hours to attend our Crab Feed, thank you Louise and Hanford for your support! One highlight of the evening, our member Frank Pascale donated a bottle of his homemade Grappa for the silent auction. Another of our members John Cardinale, outbid everyone else and shared his prized Grappa! You just gotta love that giving, sharing Italian spirit!



Crab Feed





United Lodges of Southern California Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America Carmine Baffo, President

America Lodge No. 1609

Desert Valley Lodge No. 2352

Renaissance Lodge No.2259

Linda Enneman Anahiem Lodge No. 2076 Eva Lavezzari Centinela Valley Lodge No. 1991 Annette Porter Joanne Coccia Lodge No. 2553 Paul Finazzo

Gina Iacovino Dolly Sinatra Lodge No. 2400 Joe LaPorta Hacienda Lodge No. 2168 Bill Viverto Pugliese Lodge No. 1375 Michael Di Giuro Mary Jane Cambria Saddleback Valley Lodge No. 2566 Hank Lowinger West End Lodge No. 2127 David Cerboni





# Rodolfo Valentino Lodge #1449

Clovis, CA by Carole Watson, President; Lou Catallo, Historian; (559) 299-2205 lcatallo@aol.com

Last Month: The Pot Luck, following our regular meeting, went very well: Mexican (!) lasagna, fried Chicken, Italian Potato Salad, green salad, Chinese Rolls, muffins, plus cookies and deserts galore.

The best lessons to learn in life are those you teach yourself, but, always listen to your mother.

This Month: The next United Lodges of the Central San Joaquin Valley (ULCS-JV) meeting will be March 11, 2018, at the Kings County Historical Society in Hanford on 14th Avenue; let Carol Watson know if you will be attending.

Our **March** meeting will be on the 19th, with Pot Luck; come along and help us enjoy.

Next Months: April 16 will be our Spring Fest Pasta Party, so nudge your family and friends now. Preparation time for the party will be 10:00 AM at the Notre Dame Hall.

And, don't forget the Clovis Rodeo Parade on April 28th. We will again have the Tarantella Dancers and Rick DelCarlo on the accordion. Most likely we will be putting out our float again ... the theme this year is: "Rodeo-Land with Mickey and Friends". Remember? We took First Prize last year thanks to everyone taking part in the preparation and riding of the float. To ride on the float, be at the float location on Barstow Avenue before 9:00 AM.

The Grand Lodge 2018 Convention starts **June 28th** at the Ontario Airport Double Tree Hotel.

Christopher Columbus (Colon), a Genoa navigator, sailed for India with 87 crewmen, only four of which were Italian, one was Portuguese, and the rest were professional seamen from Andalusia, Spain. On his return trip he came with over 1500 men. He is credited with introducing sheep to the new land, among other things. He never saw India, but his effort gave Europe a new challenge in the Americas.

**St Patrick's Day** is this month, so have a good green beer time of it. St. Patrick was a Roman, taken captive from his home in Roman-Britain by Irish pirates and enslaved at the age of 16. He became a Bishop of the land and is credited with bringing Christianity to the Irish. No proof of expelling the snakes, though.

Do you have comments for our lodge members? Any Historical lodge photos? Let me know at my email address (above) and we can publish it in this column.

You will be as happy as you make up your mind to be, said Abe Lincoln.

We should learn something in every important thing we do; enhance your learning by applying for our Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America scholarship(s). Contact Scholarship Chair, Isabel Ronzano, at (559) 297-0851, for information on this topic. The Scholarship Deadlines are: for Clovis Lodge, March 31, 2018; for California State Grand Lodge: March 01, 2018; and, for National Lodge the date is generally November to February of any year (\$500 to \$5,000 awards). For grants/ tours/studies information in Italy, go to https://www. osia.org/students/scholarships.php).

Join Us: If you have friends or family that are looking for good fellowship and a place to hang out on the third Monday of each month, invite them to join you at our meetings, 6:30 PM, at Notre Dame Hall, 333 8th Street, at DeWitt Avenue. We feature short meetings, great companionship, and superb food. Our web site is http:// rodolfovalentinolodge.com/.

### Shasta Lodge # 2453 Redding, CA by Carole Dellaragione

Hello from Redding.

We have had a busy February following our busy January. We had our two day Crab Feed in January that turned out to be a great event. The following weekend we hosted the Redding Police Explorers for their annual dinner, and had a full house. Chef James from Enterprise High Culinary Program brought students to prepare this dinner. We held a catered Anniversary/Birthday party a couple of weeks later in February.

At our February general meeting we were very happy to welcome State Trustee of the North Bill Murphy and Past State President Lynn Murphy. Bill presided over the initiation of five new members along with herald Jim Giacomelli. Our new members are: Migdalia Garcia, a Health Information System Tech; Sylvia A. Hatten, a retired educator/administrator; John Ohler, a truck driver; Erica Roman-Pershall, an afterschool assistant, and Salvatore (Sam) Spagnuolo, retired from sales. Most of our new members have already started helping with events at the lodge. We are pleased to welcome them to our Shasta Lodge Family.

Jim Nobili and Jim Lamanna then announced our Most Honored Member of 2017, Bob Gullixson. Bob has been a member of the lodge for about 30 years. He can usually be found serving adult beverages at our bar, or working on or playing on our bocce courts. We are very proud of Bob and pleased to give him this award for all his hard work.

We will be hosting a fundraiser for the Enterprise High School Culinary team to help them attend a state competition in Pomona California. Chef James helps us with a couple of dinners each year with his students and one of our members, Cheryl Moore, will be traveling with the student team as a mentor. Good Luck to this great group of future chefs.

Tickets are going fast for our St. Patrick's dinner on March 17th. Steve Delben is chairing this event. We will once again be entertained by Enterprise Starship from Enterprise High School, always a great performance.

Wishing you a happy St. Patrick's Day and blessed Easter on April 1st.

Ciao, Your friends from Shasta Lodge.



Bob Gullixson received the Most Honored Member of 2018 from Jim Lamanna and Jim Nobili.

# Valley Of The Moon Lodge #1959

Sonoma CA by Susan Antonini, member at large susanantoniniart@gmail.com

#### HOME AGAIN....

Folks, the Valley of the Moon Lodge dinners are like coming home for a good home cooked meal. Remember the way the dinners were when you were a kid? Lots of good pasta, wine and TALK.... Call Karen for reservations: 707-938-1295

HANZ STRAND....prepared a wonderful Spaghetti Bolognese., Marie Rossi guided the kitchen helpers and had a lot of fun in the process! One kitchen crew member, Wilma, drove from Boonville to help out...now that's a friend!

Marilyn Sylvestri invited a friend, she was visiting from Vancouver BC, Benicia and San Francisco North Beach... welcome Violet!

Larry Lazareschi invited a friend, Dr. Guy Delorefice. His family came from Palena in the Abruzzo region of Italy during WWII.

Palena also has two other folks you might know, Perry Como's family and the painter Oreste Recchione.

Dr. Delorefice came from Fairfield recently...taking over the practice of the late Dr. Rolf Olness (1/1/17) He has two girls whom at long last he can spend some quality family time riding bikes etc.

The Doctor likes to hunt and fish...as well!

Welcome Doctor Delorefice.

### PHYLLIS SERAFINI....

12/1/25 – 1/18/17 Phyllis was a long time active member of the Valley of the Moon Lodge...a ready smile and gentle spirit...she will be missed.

A particularly wonderful night... Ciao!





Shown are new members Sam Spagnuolo, Erica Roman-Pershall, John Ohler, Sylvia Hatten, and Migdalia Garcia.







# I'm an Italian American

I am an Italian-American. My roots are deep in an ancient soil, drenched by the Mediterranean sun, and watered by pure streams from snow capped mountains. I am enriched by thousands of years of culture. My hands are those of the mason, the artist, the man of the soil. My thoughts have been recorded in the annals of Rome, the poetry of Virgil, the creations of Dante, and the philosophy of Benedetto Croce. I am an Italian-American, and from my ancient world, I first spanned the seas of the new world. I am Cristoforo Colombo. I am Giovanni Caboto known in American history as John Cabot, discoverer of the mainland of North America. I am Amerigo Vespucci, who gave my name to the new world, America. First to sail on the Great Lakes in 1679, founder of the territory that became the State of Illinois, colonizer of Louisiana and Arkansas, I am Enrico Tonti. I am Filippo Mazzei, friend of Thomas Jefferson and my thesis on the equality of man was written into the Bill of Rights. I am William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence. I am an Italian-American. I financed the Northwest Expedition of George Rogers Clark and accompanied him through the lands that would become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. I am Colonel Francesco Vigo. I mapped the Pacific from Mexico to Alaska and to the Philippines. I am Alessandro Malaspina. I am Giacomo Beltrami, discoverer of the source of the Mississippi River in 1823. I created the Dome of the United States Capitol. They called me the Michelangelo of America. I am Constantino Brumidi. In 1904, I founded in San Francisco, the Bank of Italy now know as the Bank of America, the largest financial institution in the world. I am A. P. Giannini. I am Enrico Fermi, father of nuclear science in America. First enlisted man to win the medal of Honor in World War II, I am John Basilone of New Jersey. I am an Italian-American. I am the million strong who served in America's armies and the tens of thousands whose names are enshrined in military cemeteries from Guadalcanal to the Rhine. I am the steel maker in Pittsburgh, the grower in the Imperial Valley of California,

the textile designer in Manhattan, the movie maker in Hollywood, the home maker and the breadwinner in 10,000 communities. I am an American without stint or reservation, loving this land as only one who understands history, its agonies and its triumphs can love it and serve it. I will not be told that my contribution is any less nor my role not as worthy as that of any other American. I will stand in support of this nation's freedom and promise against all foes. My heritage has dedicated me to this nation. I am proud of my full heritage, and I shall remain worthy of it. I Am An Italian-American. by Angelo Bianchi, Esq.