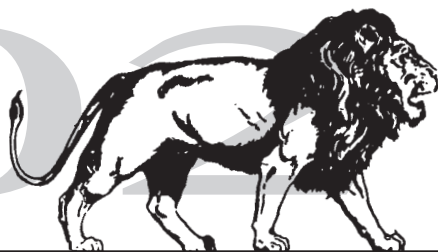


2021



IL LEONE

JANUARY 2021

VOL. 75 NO. 1

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

(USPS 257-300)

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



To All Members
If the address, name or title is not correct on the mailing label, please send it to the Grand Lodge, 5051 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112. Be sure to notify your lodge Recording Secretary

A Message From The State President



State President
John Costa

First, there was an error on last month's article, unfortunately my December 2019 article was printed, and that is why you see references to 2020. So I will now post my December 2020 article followed by my January 2021 article. Sorry for the confusion.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your immediate family. This has been a difficult year to say the least, with all the counties in California going in the wrong direction we need to now more than ever, take care of ourselves and listen to our elected officials to beat this pandemic. We may not agree with some of their policies or politics but we have to work together to beat this!!

It was nice to see some lodges able to meet socially distancing themselves. I was excited to see some lodges with their drive thru dinners, even though we are not meeting or gathering it is nice to see some faces even though they are partially covered. I know some lodges are doing this again for the holidays.

As you know we will not be doing the 365 raffle next year but the Western Foundation will be having an opportunity "one month" drawing. Information has been sent out to your lodge presidents. Please contact them for information. This will make a perfect gift and help the Western Foundation.

Looking back at my article last year I see how busy December was with all the events and such. Not this year. Now it's what conference call do I have today, or when is the next Zoom meet-

ing. But we all have to have high hopes for next year. 2020 will be a year to remember.

With 2021 right around the corner what have you thought of your New Year's resolutions yet? Let's all work together to help our Grand Lodge flourish in the years to come.

Again my phone is always on; feel free to contact me anytime. An open line of communication is the key. We have so many ways to communicate now, let's use them all. Touch basis with our social media committee to see our Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter. Just a new avenue to get the word out, that we are the best kept secret!!

In closing, I along with First Lady wish all of you & your families a Very Safe and Merry Christmas and here is to a very prosperous New Year!!

Ok now for January 2021 article:

2020 was a year like no other, to say the least. We can only hope for better things to come. With a vaccine on its way, soon we will be able to meet and socialize again with others.

In mid-December our Office Manager Rodelle accepted a new job. She will definitely be missed; we wish her good luck in her new job. This means we will once again be hiring a new Office Manager, please be patient with us as we go thru the process again. In the meantime, we will still be monitoring the phones and emails, feel free to contact myself by phone also.

Let us all stay positive. I as many of you hope to be able to travel soon, my daughter and son in law are stationed in Hawaii till June of 2021, I hope to get over to see them there, plus as you all know Donna Lee and myself are huge Disney fans and we are both looking forward to be able to spend time in Disneyland. This year (and one other) are the only two years we will not be able to spend our anniversary at Disneyland. So let's still work together to beat this, Listen to our local

Cont. on page 3



State 1st Vice President
Barbara Wisniewski

With the beginning of a new year, I am raring to get back to my Sons and Daughters of Italy family.

Your Vice-Presidents are still sending emails to your Lodge Presidents telling them what other Lodges are doing during this time. I think the best way to keep you all engaged is through communication. Without communication we are all disconnected from our Order. I love the way some of our Lodge Presidents are posting on social media interesting facts from Italy or information on our Order. I know of several Lodges that have increased members during this time by reaching out to friends that may be interested. Remember the words of our Membership Chair of the North, Louie Lodi, "JUST ASK". That holds true even during a pandemic. If you are speaking with someone who is not a member, remember why you joined and share. We will be back together soon to share the fraternity that is the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy

Let's all hope for a blessed and healthy New Year and a time to get back together again.

I am finding it hard, at this point to find something to write about that might interest you. Staying home to stay safe is leaving a large hole in my experiences. I can only write about this time at home so much before it becomes a major repetition. I've baked my bread, made Christmas Pizzelles, made pasta, braciola, pizza from scratch. Cleaned closets and draws and did some renovating in the house. There is nothing left!

Will someone please get

Cont. on page 3



State 2nd Vice President
Pauline Richmond

Praying all your families were blessed with the Love and the Peace that is Christmas and Wishing you all the wonders and joy of the season throughout the New Year! Peace and happiness to all people of good will.

I hope you find this article informative and helpful in building a strong lodge through membership in the New Year!

Get started in 2021 – you have been given the brain, heart, and courage, to continue to build membership in your lodge. Let us use our brains to build our lodge membership; perhaps have a membership contest, a year of free dues, a gift card, monetary award, pay partial convention registration. Recognize members publicly or in the lodge newsletter who have recruited new members.

You should feel at home in your lodge. We should be able to share life events with each other, be they happy or sad. Most of all, we should

be able to work together and for each other.

Enlighten members or learning about our organization. By being well informed about OSDIA, we can bring it to life for others who may be interested in joining. Research the Grand Lodge of California and National Supreme OSDIA to learn about its history. Know the Grand Lodge of California and National Supreme Lodges By-laws and utilize the tools as a resource for information. Learn more from the National website and the National Supreme Lodge Program. National has materials for membership recruitment.

Focus on: Service – doing good for the benefit of the lodge, Community – action within the lodge families, community, and the world.

Now that I have suggested ideas, please engage in looking for opportunities that interest your lodge. Do some research to see what projects you can do with your local community.

Thank you to all lodges that have sent me their newsletters. This allows me to share their various lodge activities with the email letter sent out each month by the Grand Lodge Vice Presidents to each lodge president. This is a great way of keeping communications between the lodges.

May you and your lodge continue to bloom! HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Fraternally yours



From the Editor's Desk

by Andy Pampuro
Media Committee



I am writing this column to apologize to you all for the disgusting mess our December issue was. Debbie and I are still trying to figure out what happened. The errors were unbelievable .

Even our State President John Costa's message was wrong.

It was an article he wrote a years ago.

Some of the articles were repeated one after another. I proofed the paper before it went to the printer. I only found one mistake which Debbie fixed. We couldn't believe there was only one error.

Well once the paper came out there were a helluva lot more. As I said earlier we are still trying to find out what went wrong. When my issue arrived in the mail my wife, Louise, was reading the paper and started to complain about all the errors. Boy was my face red and I mean red. Maybe some day we will solve the mystery. In the meantime my wife will become the official proofreader.

She is so good.

With the covid pandemic the paper has suffered financially. The articles from the lodges are far and few because of the pandemic. Everything is shut down so what is there to write about. Well you can write about your members and what they contribute to your lodge. I know some of you have some great members who should be recognized.

Also, if any of you know someone who would like to advertise in the Il Leone please let me know. God knows we could use some good ads. In the meantime stay well, wear your masks and avoid crowds. Hope 2021 is a better year for all of us.



(USPS 257-300)

A monthly publication, except August, for the Grand Lodge of California, Order Sons of Italy in America, a fraternal, non-profit organization.

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Deadline Date for all material - the 20th of the preceding month

Advertising Rates on request.
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718 Avenida Majorca #D, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Phone (949) 855-4279 • FAX (949) 206-0299
Subscription \$20.00 per year. Publication paid by the members
Periodicals Postage Paid At San Francisco, CA 94119 and
At Additional Mailing Offices
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes To: Il Leone
5051 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112

ATTENTION PLEASE

Please remember the deadline for articles is on the 20th of each month.

I appreciate all your help.
Thank you, Debbie Ure

Grand Lodge of California Website

OSIACA.org

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President's Message
Cont. from page 1

government's recommendations, wear a mask, and follow the rules, even though we may not agree with them.

The Western Foundation is having a one month calendar fundraiser drawing. All the Filial lodge presidents were sent tickets; they are 10.00 and will be drawn for the month of February. If you need some tickets please contact you president or our State recording Secretary Lori, and she will get them to you.

So what does 2021 hold for us? Let's hope for some normality, making up for the past year celebrations, socializing with our brothers and sisters. We will beat this by working together.

Happy New Year to all of you!!

State First Vice President
Cont. from page 1

us all a couple of doses of this vaccine so we can continue with life?

I can only hope and pray that 2021 will be better and we will be together soon.

Till next month
Fraternally
Barbara

New Year's Eve
Traditions in
Italy

Have a huge dinner
Most holidays in Italy seem to naturally revolve around food and New Year's is no exception. On New Year's in Italy it is traditional to sit down for a huge meal – a cenone, if you will. If you plan to go out for the evening meal, expect a pricey set menu and a lot of cheerful atmosphere. But regardless of if you are dining in or eating out – there will probably be lentils somewhere on the menu.

Eat lentils
In Spain, you dine on grapes at midnight, but in Italy, you eat lentils for New Year's. The tiny legumes can be cooked in many ways, but they are most traditionally eaten with cotechino – a kind of pork sausage. Lentils are considered to bring good luck in Italy for New Year's because the tiny round legumes resemble coins. Eat a lot because they supposedly bring wealth in the coming year.

Throw out your old stuff, literally
In Italy, "out with the old" can be taken literally when New Year's rolls around. In some parts of the country, particularly in the south, it is customary to throw your old things (including furniture!) out of the window at midnight. Watch out if you will be celebrating out on the streets because you may be hit by someone clearing out the house in preparation for the new good fortune that the new year will hopefully bring.

Order Sons and Daughters
of Italy in America
Grand Lodge of California

November 29, 2020

TO: STATE OFFICERS, PAST STATE PRESIDENTS,
LODGE PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS
FROM: LORI ROSSI
STATE RECORDING SECRETARY

I am deeply saddened to inform you of the death of Past State President Arturo Ibleto. Brother Arturo passed away at the age of 94, on Tuesday, November 24, at his home in Cotati and was surrounded by his family and friends. He had recently been hospitalized.

Arturo was born on October 2, 1926 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and grew up in the Liguria region in the northwestern part of Italy. He was 22 years old when he immigrated to America and found work on the Ghirardelli Brothers vegetable ranch in Petaluma. He married Victoria Ghirardelli in 1951.

Together, they established Bella Sonoma Vineyards. For nearly 50 years, their family operated Ibleto's Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. This was the beginning of his much earned nickname, the Pasta King. In 2016, Arturo, along with Jody Edwards and Chris Smith, wrote a memoir called Freedom Fighter to King. The book traces the life Arturo from his deep family roots in Italy, through his services as a teenage resistance fighter in WWII and on to building a new life in America.

Arturo and Victoria joined the Sons of Italy in America in 1958. They were members of the Cesare Battisti Lodge #1518, of Petaluma. Arturo became State President of the Grand Lodge of California from 1995-1997.

Arturo co-founded the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation and shared his passion for singing as a member of its choral group, Coro Allegro. There will be a socially distanced visitation on Friday, December 4, from 1PM to 7PM at the Eggen & Lance Chapel, 1540 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA.

Condolences may be sent to: Angelo Ibleto (Arturo's brother)
2700 Old Adobe Rd.
Petaluma, CA 94954



Wishing everyone a Safe
and Happy New Year!



Barbara Wisniewski State 1st Vice President and Husband Ken

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Royal Pageant 2021/2022

To all Filial Lodges,
Now is the time to start looking for a participant to represent your lodge in the Grand Lodge Royal Pageant. More details to follow soon.

Thank you,
Eva Lavezzari
Royal Pageant Chairman.



ATTENTION!!
THE IL LEONE
NEEDS YOUR HELP

As you know with lodges not being able to hold meetings or events it has also effected the Il Leone.

We are asking those who are willing to view the newspaper on the website only to contact the Grand Lodge and have your name taken off the mailing list.

We are trying to save on both the number of newspapers to be printed and also the ones being mailed.

We would really appreciate anyone who is willing to view on the website only.

Thank You



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November 24, 2020

Sons of Italy, Western Foundation
Attn: Mr. Roy T. Vanoni
5051 Mission St
San Francisco, CA 94112-3473

Dear Roy,

The ALS Association Golden West Chapter is in grateful receipt of a generous donation of \$1,122.50 from the Sons of Italy, Western Foundation. Generous organizations like yours make possible everything that we do for people with ALS and their loved ones, including our rapid response to the novel coronavirus.

Given that COVID-19 poses a serious threat to people with ALS and to ensure everyone's health and safety, the Golden West Chapter has transformed almost every aspect of our core programs. This transformation has created new opportunities for increased outreach and improved access to care. Through telehealth consultations with Chapter care managers and ALS specialists, collaboration with clinical partners and ALS researchers, and online community events related to ALS advocacy, awareness and education, we are committed to continuing to provide vital services and powerful programs today, and until we achieve our vision: *creating a world without ALS*.

During this unprecedented time, Sons of Italy, Western Foundation is providing help and hope to people with ALS and their loved ones. On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for your commitment.

It is only together we will defeat ALS.

Sincerely,

Fred Fisher

Fred Fisher, MSW, LCSW
President & CEO

PS - Please visit www.alsagoldenwest.org to learn more about how your generosity supports the ALS community.

Note: Sons of Italy, Western Foundation has received no goods or services in exchange for this gift, which is fully deductible to the extent permitted by state and federal law. The Chapter's Federal Tax I.D. number is 95-4163338.



ARE YOU CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?
PLEASE NOTIFY THE IL LEONE

This will assure that you will receive your copy of *The Il Leone* on time at your new address, and the Grand Lodge of CA will save the **65 cents** charge by the United States Postal Service for each returned newspaper. Please notify us of a change of address as soon as possible.

PRINT ALL requested information, otherwise change cannot be processed.

Name _____
Lodge# _____ Lodge Name _____

Old Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

New Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

MAIL TO: OSDIA GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA
Attention: The Il Leone
5051 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94112

Valley of the
Moon
Lodge #1959
Sonoma, CA
by Susan Antonini
susanantoniniart@gmail.com

Seasons greetings....past is our Christmas not like any other....but did you find yourself happy and content?

Somehow being isolated I found a peace in simplicity.

Probably you have been reading more books and watching more movies? Hopefully writing letters to family and friends....or perhaps calling on the telephone?

OH! How could I forget to mention, baking!

More loaves of bread have been baked during this time than many years previous.

And such delicious no knead dutch oven sourdough and non sourdough. Yumm!

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Jason Chiotti and Anthony Tommasi. Anthony's was in honor of Nilda Mulas's memory.

Remember, we are still the Sons of Italy Family....do try to keep in touch with each other. You are welcome to send an email to me or call Karen and chat...how else will we know "what's up" in the Italian and friends of Italian community?

Our condolences to Rosemarie Pedranzini for the loss of Benny...my fondest memories are watching them dance at our dinner dances...

And our sympathy to Dan Eraldi for the loss of his mother.

Congratulations to Paul Torzilli who married his special girlfriend Victoria Lenox.

The Amish call getting together to bake or sew on quilts ...a "frolic".

Well, lets borrow that term and cheer when we can "fo-lic" again at our dinners.

Ciao!



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Roma Lodge #1573

Tulare, CA
by Larry Dutto-Roma Lodge President

The Roma Lodge January article for the Il Leone *normally* would be filled with pictures of our annual Christmas party featuring a delicious ham and yam dinner, talent by our junior members, homemade pies for dessert made by members and a visit from Santa Claus. Each of our junior members would receive a Christmas stocking filled with candy and toys and everyone would have a great time.

Unfortunately, the year of 2020 has been anything but normal. We had a successful drive through polenta/stew dinner for over 125 of our members in November and scheduled a similar event for our annual holiday get-together. Unfortunately, just two days before the event the governor declared a shutdown for Tulare County and we had to notify over 110 members, who had RSVP to attend the event, we were forced to cancel it.



In 2020 we had also scheduled our 90th anniversary celebration for which we had a couple of local carpenters build a display case for our original charter which was made in 1930. Again, after a date had been selected, venue and caterer chosen, and invitations printed and mailed the event had to be canceled. Our annual ravioli dinner, our major fundraiser for the year, was also canceled and

now the 2021 World Ag Expo has also been canceled. Roma Lodge has been at every show since it started in 1967 selling our traditional sausage sandwiches which has been a favorite of show goers from the beginning.

The lodge has not met since February and it does not look like it will meet for the foreseeable future. In January lodge dues for 2021 will be solicited. Each member will have to determine whether they will continue their membership in the lodge. Of our nearly 300 members we have 75 who have been members for over 40 years and of those 41 have been members over 50 years. Roma Lodge dues are \$75 per year of which only 25 cents are kept by the lodge. (\$21.52-OS-DIA, \$32.51-Grand Lodge, \$4.98-Il Leone, \$.74 Scholarship Assessment, and \$15.00 Life Insurance-\$74.75 Total)

We inform our members the best way to get a return on their dues investment is to attend monthly meetings, where we provide a free dinner for all the members, volunteer at the World Ag Expo food booth, ravioli dinner or annual Christmas party. If the lodge cannot hold these activities, it may become difficult for members to continue their membership when we cannot offer these incentives. We hope the pandemic will end soon and can return to our regular monthly meetings and other fundraising activities. *We shall see!*



Rodolfo Valentino Lodge #1449

Clovis, CA
by Carol Watson, President;

Lou Catallo, Historian; (559) 299-2205 lcatallo@aol.com

Seeing the year 2020 in the rearview mirror is now a happy occasion; it was truly an eventful and trying period. Luckily, things are getting brighter for this new year. Our heroes today get their flu and Covid-19 shots and wear masks. For everyone that gets their shots, three to eight other people get protected, depending on where and how you live. As we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, pray with us that it is not an oncoming train; and, remember: we are still in the tunnel; safety precautions are still advised.

Avere una famiglia significa che hai qualcuno da amare (Having family means you have someone to love).

If you are looking for something to do, the Clovis Farmers Market is still going on: each Saturday at Pollasky & Fifth, 09:00 to about 11:30 AM every Saturday.

Living your life has many burdens; do not add a load of resentment to it.

You have seen this before: Fresno County Historical Museum is planning an Italian Heritage section to the Fresno Museum at the fairgrounds. If you have photos or stories that you would like to submit, contact Olivia Gallegos at 251-5992, or Sandra West, Friends of the Fair, 1121 S. Chance Ave, Fresno, CA 93702, (559) 650-3247. Contribute according to your ability by contacting Sandra if you wish. They are also accepting names for plaques to memorialize your family in the Valley.

Notre Dame Hall is not yet available to us, so, for sure there will not be a January meeting or dinner. The good news is that we will not be charged for the non-use.

Greet your neighbors at a distance with a wave. They will not be mad at you for it.

Italy is the tenth largest country in Europe and contains the most European volcanos.

The United Lodges of the Central San Joaquin Valley: Any next meeting will be announced.

“Hello” and “Ciao” to our friends and readers in San Francisco! Stai al sicuro!


These are the times that we need to support our friends: get your take-out orders from our old stand-by restaurants: Lunas, at 299-4141; Andiamo’s, at 299-4141; Boo Boo Bean Bakery, at 570-8093; The Hacienda, at 325-2505; and Clovis DiCicco’s at 299-3711; and, don’t forget to tip.

-Critical Italian word to know: “Alora”, simply meaning “then”. But nothing is simple; it can also mean “and so what”, or “ergo”. Sprinkled in an Italian conversation, the word can be as easy or as sassy as you want.


In Italy, if you do not have leftovers after a meal, it means you did not make enough food.

Our yearly scholarship fund will be made available as soon as we can get our fundraisers back up and running, Meanwhile call Isabel Ronzano for the generous national and state SDOI scholarships that are also offered; just ask her.

Join Us: After our pandemic is over: 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/>.



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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
Facebook.com/Order.Sons.of.Italy.Eureka
- 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
csantagata916@gmail.com
- Joanne Coccia Lodge
ociafontana.org
- La Costa dei Fiori Lodge
www.sonsofitalysandiego.org
- Las Vegas Lodge
www.sonsofitalylasvegas.com
sonsofitalylv@yahoo.com
- Monterey Lodge
Facebook.com/Sons-of-Italy-Monterey-Lodge
- 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.vallejasonsofitaly.org
- 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.

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32. Lo Stato di Canton.

34. Pregiato pesce di mare.

35. Somiglia alla lira.

37. Possedere.

39. Attrezzo da lavoro.

41. Le ultime di Richelieu.

42. Colorazione giallastra della pelle.

44. Strada sull'argine.

45. Il nome di Jannacci.

VERTICALI

1. Una gallina.

2. Senza pagare nulla.

3. Si paga all'armatore.

4. Uno a Seattle.

5. Io... in certi casi.

6. Raccontare.

7. Scelta dai votanti.

8. Il nome di Teocoli.

10. Sfortuna continua.

12. Brutto sentimento.

14. Opprime in piena estate.

16. Studioso delle malattie.

18. Un recipiente... o una truffa.

19. Castorino.

21. Pietra per affilare.

23. Toccare... con mano.

24. Era supremo in URSS.

25. Non tenuto a pagare.

26. Varie, eterogenee.

27. Una specie di bricco.

28. Ottenere in restituzione.

31. L'esame a voce.

33. Cassetta con api.

36. La città natale di Vittorio Alfieri.

38. Si spende anche in Francia.

40. Andata via.

43. Siede a Montecitorio (abbrev.).

ORIZZONTALI

2. L'asta della meridiana.

9. Uccello con lunghe zampe.

11. Dà un succo molto amaro.

13. Una scala del poker.

14. Ideologia.

15. Una scritta sulla cassa.

16. Si fanno dividendo.

17. Sostanze lubrificanti.

18. Lago ungherese.

20. Arriverà... col fiocco rosa.

22. Si sente col naso.

23. Iniz. di Timperi.

24. Pelo rigido di maiale.

26. Martedì sul datario.

27. Una funzione trigonometrica.

28. Marco e Dino registi.

29. Sono da tavola o da vino.

30. Pensa solamente a se stesso.

Reproduced from the weekly "Mini Relax."

For a subscription "sies@siesnet.it"

Answers page 10

Cesare Battisti Lodge #1518

Petaluma, CA

by Louise Vicino

Greetings from Petaluma!

With all the time we have during this Pandemic, I have had a lot of great things to think about. I think about all our dear members who have passed on, how hard they worked to make the Lodge the success that it has been and is. I think about Leo Lavio, Louis Vicino, John Del Prete, Leonard and Tula Bologna, Vito and Jenny Bologna, the Spagnolas and so many others who helped in so many ways. There are more, but I cannot at this time think of their names. So please forgive me if I left out your names.

I spoke to President Ernie and he said that we have a new location for dinner/meetings in the future when this stay at home order is ono longer needed. It will be at 5900 Snyder Lane in Rohnert Park. The hall is the club house of the El Rancho Grande Modular Home Park.

There isn't much more than that at this time except to stay safe. By the time you read this article, the Christmas Holiday will be over. I hope everyone had a lovely

holiday with your family, even tho long distance, and that it was filled with lots of love.

At this time I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year, one filled with happiness, joy and peace for all of us May this vaccine save lives and end this horrible pandemic. May we all be back to normal soon.

Get well wishes to anyone who is ill. It is with sadness that our beautiful Father Michael Raimondi passed away and our outstanding member Arturo Ibletto also has passed on. Say a prayer for them and anyone else who has passed away.

Our thanks to our President Ernie, all his Board Officers and Committee Members for all their hard work for the Lodge. They have done an excellent job and should be thanked for it.

At this time, I would like to tell you that due to my health I must discontinue writing the article for Il Leone. I have enjoyed every bit of it and will miss doing it. I thank you, the members, for your kindness to me. Ernie

has to find someone to do the article, so if you are interested call him and let him know.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all who are celebrating.

Before I end my article, I want to remind everyone to be kind and respectful to one another, share your friendship with new members and welcome them into the Lodge. Ernie told me we were getting four new members.

Pray for our service people, the homeless, victims of crimes, our Country and the World. Enjoy all the beauty in life that God gives us. Enjoy our members and hopefully we will be the world that we were once again.

Be nice to someone, you will always get it back in return.

Love to all and a very Happy New Year!

Louise Vicino

Malaria

by Stephen Contrado, B.A., Th.M.

165 Nantasket Ave. # 9

Hull, MA 02045

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Cell Phone: (741) 242-0053

Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and animals. Anopheles mosquitoes transmit a parasite that lives in blood. Millions of people are infected each year, and tens of thousands die from it. (In 2018 there were 228 million cases of malaria worldwide resulting in an estimated 405,000 deaths.)

People suffering from malaria have chills and a very high fever. These symptoms may occur only once, but in other cases they may occur many times. After an attack of malaria a person is very weak. Malaria is common in wet, tropical lands, but it is also found in swampy regions outside the tropics. Some attacks of malaria may be light, and some people who carry the malaria parasite in their blood don't feel sick at all. For a long time, the only effective medicine for malaria was the drug quinine.

During World War II quinine was scarce, scientists began looking for other medicines, and they succeeded in developing them. Atabrine was one of these drugs. Without mosquitoes malaria cannot be transmitted. One way of fighting the disease has been to destroy the mosquitoes. Since mosquitoes breed in stagnant water, a good way to control malaria is to drain swamps where the mosquitoes live and spay remaining

water with chemicals that kill mosquito eggs.

References to malaria go back to antiquity. Hippocrates described the periodic fevers. The Roman writer Columella associated the disease with insects from the swamps. Some historians say malaria may have contributed to the decline of the Roman Empire. Malaria was so pervasive in Rome that it was known as "Roman fever." The peoples of southern Italy and the island of Sardinia have suffered from the disease too. The term "malaria" originated in Medieval Italy: "mala aria" (bad air).

Italian biologist Camillo Golgi (1843 – 1926) studied the malarial parasite and its transmission. In 1889–1890, Golgi and Ettore Marchiafava described the differences between benign tertian malaria and malignant tertian malaria. Along with Giovanni Battista Grassi, Amico Bignami, Giuseppe Bastianelli, Angelo Celli and Marchiafava, Golgi confirmed that malaria was transmitted by anopheline mosquito.

The British writer Norman Douglas (1868-1952) in his travel book "Old Calabria" (1915) says, "Malaria is the key to a correct understanding of the landscape; it explains the inhabitants, their mode of life, their habits, their history."

World War II malaria poster.

Northern Solano Lodge # 2534

Fairfield, CA
by Sue Petty

Into each life a little rain must fall, and in 2020 I think we had a torrential downpour. This year started out as every year, filled with plans and activities for our lodge, such as our Annual Crab Feed (which we were able to do), our Scholarship Dinner, Convention, the Annual Gene Bruno Picnic and so many other projects, but then Covid 19 hit our world with a vengeance and the world came to a screeching halt. It has truly been the year that was bringing on new challenges for not only our lodge, but for all the lodges. We have had to come up with some creative ideas for our activities, a new way of having board meetings, some activities had to be postponed while others had to be temporarily dropped for the time being. So, with that being said, I will attempt to sum up 2020 to the best of my ability.

January started off as usual with our annual Crab Feed, held at the Fairfield Senior Center. We had 250 guests in attendance where we served 48 pounds of pasta, 20 gallons of sauce, bread, salad and 800 pounds of our guest of honor The CRAB. Beautiful gift baskets, good food, good company, I'd say a good time was had by all.

In February we welcomed new members Laurretta Graham, Marguerite Boyd and Charlene Ping into our lodge. We also had a wedding on February 1, our own Joy Bruno and Rod Neubert were joined together in holy matrimony. Congratulation to Joy & Rod.

March came in like a lion and everything came to a complete halt. Covid hit and the world changed as we knew it. We had to adapt to new normals, like all the other lodges, our plans for the upcoming year all changed. We had to come up with some new and creative ideas to keep our lodge active, and safe from this strange new virus. There was so much that needed to be planned and done, that is was overwhelming. But our lodge (like so many other lodges) have been able to make the best of this weird year.

So many planned activities had to be cancelled, such as the Dixon May Fair, where we work the Beer Booth, and A Day at the Races where we go spend a day at Golden Gate Fields. We were able to make a donation to Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties to try to help out our community during these trying times. The Grand Lodge had to cancel our Convention that was scheduled for June, and all future activities planned for the Senior Center were also cancelled.

We were able to pick our recipients for the yearly scholarships our lodge hands out. The following students were awarded with these scholarships"

Austin Peterson, Rodriguez High, received the Tom Tortorete Memorial Scholarship

Madison Metcho, Rodriguez High, received the Rose Simon Memorial Scholarship

Robert Wright, Rodriguez High, receive the Fred Barnes Memorial Scholarship

Tyus Green, Vanden High, received the Marie Ragusa Memorial Scholarship

Isabella Kunde, Vacaville High, received the Al Galli Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Barker, Early College High, received the Northern Solano Lodge Scholarship.

Sadly, we also had to say goodbye to some long time members: Marie Ragusa, Fred Barnes, Laurel Holmboe, Carol Jones. Rick Tracy, Joe Della Zoppa and Guido Colla. They will truly be missed.

Well, that's just the first half of the year, way too much going on in 2020 to put into one article, so stay tuned for part 2 in the next article of the Il Leone.

I will leave you with this, I wish each and every person a Merry Christmas and a joyous 2021.



Eureka Lodge # 1274

Eureka, CA
by Joe Bonino & Josephine Silva 707-445-5799

Despite the pandemic Eureka Lodge #1274 will award the Irene and Paul Pinochi and Frank Stagnoli Scholarships this spring. Please remind your grandchildren or friends with children of Italian descent that application materials are available now from their high school counselors or by calling Dianne Luzzi at 442-8812 to have an application sent directly to them.

The Eureka Lodge's activities suspended after March 2020 but up until then 2019 proved to be a banner year for our lodge:

- On April 28th 2019 we held a very successful polenta dinner at St Bernard High.
- John Salizzoni, Joe Bonino, and Jeanne Oneil attended the 2019 state Grand Lodge Convention at Reno, Nevada, in June.
- On September 8th, 2019, the annual Italian Accordion Festival and Bocce Tournament was well attended. Raffle chairwoman Betty Senestraro did a wonderful job of gathering prizes. Team Redway won the bocce tournament.
- The October Veteran's Stand Down dinner served over 200 vets and their families.
- October 27th's Pinochi and Stagnoli scholarship polenta dinner postponed due to the county wide power outage caused by severe wildfires.
- On November 15th Eureka Lodge hosted the Humboldt Lady Veterans Association sit down luncheon at the Arcata Veteran's Hall.
- Plaza Grill put on an elegant and fun Christmas dinner for the membership. Thank you to our member Bill Chino for hosting us.
- Finally, the postponed October 2019 polenta dinner was rescheduled and held on January 12th 2020. Our first attempt at using the Elks Lodge facilities proved to be a huge success. The additional kitchen space and more powerful ovens make a tremendous difference for the cooking crew and wait staff.

2019 was a fabulous year; 2020 not so much. Eureka Lodge is looking forward to happier, more successful 2020.

Colombo-Stella Lodge # 1149

Fresno, CA
by Olivia DeLiddo, President

Happy New Year! 2021, I feel like none of us really got to celebrate our holidays, milestones and birthdays, I think we can be allowed to keep our ages from 2020. Hopefully, you all had a Merry Christmas, wherever you were, and however you celebrated.

Since we are still under our State Covid 19 guidelines, we are still not meeting for the foreseeable future. Just because we have access to a vaccine, it does not mean we can be lax in our lives. Please keep wearing your masks and social distancing. Wash your hands often and limit contact with people outside your "bubble". Our Lodge has had a few family members reporting positive for Covid 19, with recovery. Even with recovery, there are after effects that are debilitating and long lasting. So please, follow the safety protocols. I will continue to send

the occasional emails out, if there is anything I need to share with my members.

Yolanda Canzio will be sending out membership dues statements. If you are not yet working, or you need assistance, please contact either me or Yolanda before the March due date. Please do not be the person who ignores the letters and calls. We are always here to help you in any way, please make sure you keep the communication open.

Congratulations to youth member Hannah Craig. Hannah received a Grant from our association with the Isnardi Foundation. Hannah is pursuing her Masters in Education and her Preliminary Teaching Credentials. The Isnardi Foundation is making it possible for Hannah to focus on her studies without the added stress of debt. We are so grateful for the Isnardi

Italy

The name Italy comes from the word italia, meaning "calf land," perhaps because the bull was a symbol of the Southern Italian tribes.

Italy is approximately 116,400 square miles (including Sicily and Sardinia), which is slightly larger than Arizona.

The official name of Italy is the Italian Republic (Repubblica Italiana).

Italy is said to have more masterpieces per square mile than any other country in the world.

Almost four-fifths of Italy is either mountainous or hilly.

In 2007, a dog named Rocco discovered a truffle in Tuscany that weighed 3.3 pounds. It sold at auction for \$333,000 (USD), a world record for a truffle.

Italian Food Fact

Italians claim to have taught the rest of Europe how to cook. Italy is responsible for introducing the world to ice cream (via the Chinese), coffee, and fruit pies. In addition to Belgium and France, Italy also claims to have made the first French fries. The first Italian cookbook was written in 1474 by Bartolomeo Sicci.

The Italian wolf is Italy's unofficial national animal and plays a large role in the legend of the founding of Rome.

di Foundation, and so very proud of Hannah.

I am still part of the committee of board members for the expansion of the Italian Heritage Museum at the Fresno Fairgrounds. Covid has slowed our progression, but we are still hard at work, and I will keep you all updated when it is ready to open. We had a zoom meeting and it looks spectacular so far. I know you will all be very proud to see it. We are still selling plaques to line the outer wall. Consider honoring your family name, it will be there for a lifetime. Contact me if you are interested.

That's about it. I probably won't write another article unless we have some news to share, look for an occasional email. Stay safe, stay healthy. Let's continue to pray for each other and for our country.

Until next time, Ciao!

Happy New Year!

Lodge Anniversaries

Weed #1269	1/6/24
Cesare Battisti #1518	1/28/29
Virgilio #1586	1/4/31
Beatrice Portinari #1626	1/2/22
Northern Solano #2534	1/16/83

Congratulations!!!



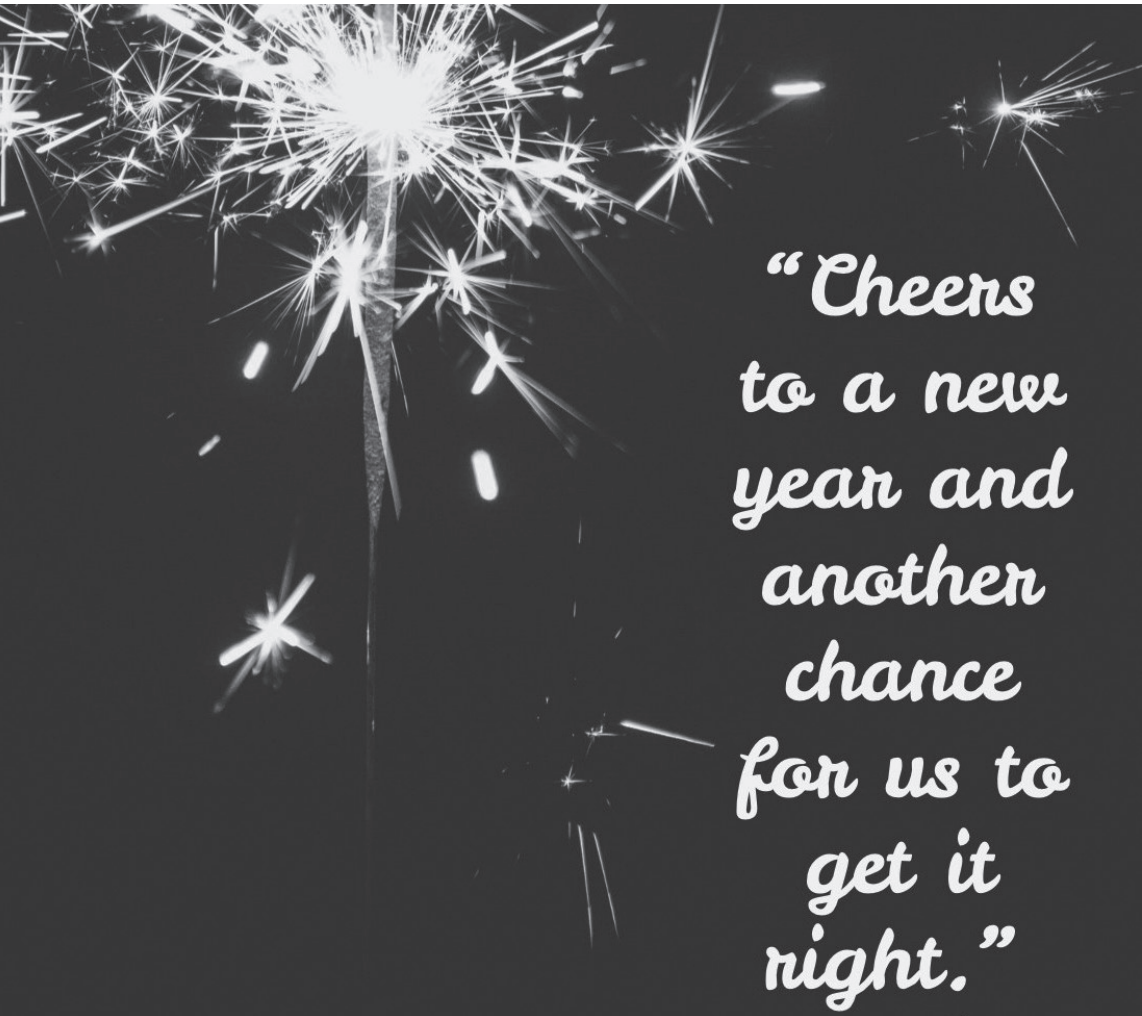
Winner Every Day Raffle

1. Purchase a Winner Every Day Raffle ticket for \$25. 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 2019, 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 Il 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.

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

Make checks payable to:
Grand Lodge of California

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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You're in our hearts, in our thoughts, and in our prayers.



365 Fund Raiser - Winners

2020 “IL LEONE” Sponsors

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1	\$25.00	Pam Boes
2	\$25.00	Mike Ravizza
3	\$25.00	Vera Girolami
4	\$25.00	Wayne Grant
5	\$25.00	Tony Tesoriere
6	\$25.00	Harper De Paoli
7	\$25.00	Carvet Wiles
8	\$25.00	Marlene Critanelli
9	\$25.00	Janell Smith
10	\$25.00	Pam Tedesco
11	\$25.00	Ron Artake
12	500.00	Olindo Viola
13	\$25.00	Tony Grant
14	\$25.00	Pamela Broderick
15	\$25.00	Carina Trentini

November 16-30

16	\$25.00	Joe Navarrette
17	\$25.00	Sean Dankowski
18	\$25.00	Ralph Nudo
19	\$25.00	Gina Gallucci
20	\$25.00	Dennis Zandona
21	\$25.00	Charlotte Bailey
22	\$25.00	Joyce Ford
23	\$25.00	Bart Aiello
24	\$25.00	Nancy Bilicich
25	\$25.00	Carole Mclain
26	\$25.00	Anna Watts
27	\$25.00	Bernard Torres
28	\$25.00	Mick Mistrena
29	\$25.00	Arlene Nunziati
30	\$50.00	Angela Silva

Alice Bakhead	Hank Lowinger	Rick Silveira
Beatrice Portinari Lodge	In Memory of Sandra Daniels	Sharon Silveira
Pam Bini	Richard Luzzi	Shasta Lodge
Ray Bini	Debi Mistretta	Hugh Ricci
Donna Branch	Mick Mistretta	Pam Ricci
Rick Branch	Giovanna Michalski	Elaine Teixeira
David Carboni	Bill Murphy	Anthony Tesoriere
Karen Carroll	Lynn Murphy	Louise Tesoriere
Michael Carroll	Andy Pampuro	Jan Trigleth
Columbia Lodge	Louise Pampuro	Debbie Ure
John Costa	Bennie Pardini	Valley of the Moon Lodge
Donna Lee Costa	Maria Fassio Pignati	Roy T. Vanoni
Cristoforo Colombo Lodge	Ugo Pignati	Marilyn Vecchio
Edith DeGiuro	Annette Porter	Watsonville Lodge
Michael DeGiuro	Privitera Family	West End Lodge
Diablo Valley Lodge	Charitable Foundation	Barbara Wisniewski
Dolly Sinatra Lodge	Phil Privitera	Ken Wisniewski
Gabe Domenici	Pugliese Lodge	Mario Zonni
Manny Finazzo	Pauline Richmond	Nina Zonni
Father Adam Forno	Hugh Ricci	
Gloria Garibaldi	Pam Ricci	
Andy Ginocchio	Al Rossi	
Gwen Ginocchio	Lillian Rossi	
Grand Lodge of California	Lucille Seibel	
Joanne Coccia Lodge	Ted Seibel	
Ron and Ashley Latteri		
In Memory of		
Father John Mallow		
Ron and Ashley Latteri		
In Memory of		
Mirella Daria Brattessani		
Zelda LeFrak-Belleci		
Janey Malatesta Leonardich		



Please support the Il Leone and become a sponsor.

WEAR A MASK AND REMEMBER
SOCIAL DISTANTING



Advice from the WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) website has instructive videos showing how to wear a mask. They advise cleaning hands both before putting the mask on and after taking it off, not touching the mask, making sure it fits properly without gaps, and removing it by the ear loops while leaning forward and avoiding any contact with the front of the mask. They cover proper storage and cleaning of re-usable masks, and they remind viewers that the mask alone will not guarantee protection, and people must still follow social distancing and handwashing recommendations. They explain that prolonged use of masks does not cause CO2 intoxication or oxygen deficiency. This has been tested; despite the fears of some in the public, blood oxygen and CO2 levels are not affected by wearing masks. Masks should not be worn while exercising, because sweating can make the mask wet, which can interfere with breathing and promote the growth of microorganisms.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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Ciao! Pamela Ricci

ARE CES GRI

Vallejo Lodges

by Sharon Silveira

The Changing of Traditions.....The Vallejo Lodges transformed their traditional December Holiday Dinner of Roast Beef & Ravioli, into a highly successful Curbside Pickup Event. At this point in time, it's not possible to gather at our lodge hall for a crowded family style dinner and so a new way to serve dinner happened on Saturday, December 12th. Our cooks—Rick Branch, John Costa and Glen Rushing prepared the roast beef & ravioli with meat sauce. The food assembly line also included Rick Silveira. Taylor Rojas handled the bagging. Donna Branch served as the liaison person between the kitchen and the speedy delivery team of Chrissy Bini and Edgar Nuno. Outside to handle the financial details were Melanie Rushing and Beatrice President, Pamela Bini. Over 130 dinners went home to be enjoyed. And though people's smiles were hidden by their masks, everyone felt a bit of the festive holiday spirit.

A Bit of Reminiscence....December gatherings included Adeline Nettleton's famous Tom & Jerrys. A couple of decades ago, everyone found a small fabric Christmas stocking by their place at the Sunday dinner made by Louise Nelson. Paul Chiotti playing Christmas carols on the piano or performing an accordion concert with Leo Tastides. Janet Capello's deep fried ravioli and special mushroom appetizers. Marilyn Ferranato organizing the Children's Christmas Party with Don Cahan playing the role of Santa and Rick Branch reading 'Twas The Night Before Christmas. In recent Decembers the very talented Spark's family, with their magical voices, have entertained us.

♻ and may 2021 restore some of our old traditions as well as inspiring new ones.



C. Colombo Lodge # 1315

Pittsburg, CA
by Zelda LeFrak-Belleci

Around and About with Safeth in Place
Our Answer to Covid-19



Two Frinds Become Roomates.
When Anita Greerty's husband became critically ill and confined to the hospital far from their home, dear friends Donna Stone and Neno Alaimo, offered her a place to stay. It made the daily trek to the ICU a bit easier. Time passed and both husbands died. so Anita and Donna became on-going housemates. Anita, on the left is a beautician and is using her skills on pal, Donna when all the salons closed down.



What do we all do during the covid-19 shut-downs? We clean the closets, organize the drawers and donate bags of stuff to St. Vincent de Paul. Pictured are George Eagan and Bette Boatmun about to tackle the "catch all cupboard" in the garage. He says, "treasure". She says "gotta' go". The winner? TBA.



Sweethearts Mary Ann Smith and Romano Marchetti had a whirlwind romance traveling hither and yon, dancing the nights away. Stuck a home, Mary Ann, the ardent crafter, has convinced Romano to come out to her patio workshop to help with the work of gluing pieces together and sprinkling the glitter.



C. Colombo Lodge #1315 has made a commitment to remember servicemen and women at the local Veteran's Hospital. During the year members create origial greeting cards to be delivered to each of the 100 patients. Pictured above Committ Chair Zelda LeFrak-Belleci is presenting the latest batch of homemade holiday cards to the Martinez staff on behalf of Sue Conglio, Carol Esposito, Edna Esposito, Rose Marie DeMaggio, AnnaMarie Lecce, Nancy McMahon, Lisa Navarro, Rose Ann Ortland and Mary Ann Smith.



Saddleback Valley Lodge # 2566

Mission Viejo, CA
by Pat Dito and Hank Lowinger

REFLECTIONS OF THE YEAR 2020

Saddleback Valley Lodge finished 2019 with a festive Christmas party and anticipation of a new year filled with activities with several new members. These are the ingredients for a successful year for the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. With 2020 ahead, we celebrated January with our favorite game—Bingo. And then there was preparation for our annual Carnivale in February. A new venue gave us a better place to hold our party and make it even more elaborate. It was our best celebration ever! Delicious food, music & dancing, and a costume contest made the event spectacular! At the regular meeting we celebrated St. Valentine’s Day where our President gave all the women a rose. How will we ever match this in 2021? St. Patrick’s Day is always a reason to have a party. We heard rumors of a Chinese virus coming to the USA from Europe & China. We were lucky enough to have our March meeting just one day before everything was shut down due to the Covid 19 virus. Surely, this would be over after Easter. Wrong! The virus stopped all formal activities for the rest of the year.

Things began to close down, businesses and schools. This virus is especially severe for people over 70. That includes nearly everyone in our lodge. Because this virus was unknown to us, it had to be researched and studied. Plans for vaccines were initiated and we thought that by summer the country would get a medication. What were we thinking? Covid 19 is complicated and foreign and would require many protocols to figure out a plan to protect the American population. Shutdowns helped at first, plus we learned to wear masks, social distance and wash our hands. (Isn’t that what our mothers always told us?)

This is not something that the Saddleback officers wanted for our lodge. By July 18th,

our President Hank Lowinger, planned a safe activity for members. We gathered in Mission Viejo for a picnic. We all wore masks, used sanitizing lotion and stayed 6 ft away from each other. We all brought our own food and the lodge provided drinks. So exciting to see one another! So in August we had another picnic with the same rules and regulations. All members have obeyed the quarantine and have remained healthy throughout the summer. In September, two of our Council Members Al Schlappy and Tony Marzaccino and the rest of our officers figured out how to set up a movie theater outside. We watched a hilarious Italian movie, “The Worst Week of My Life.” The council served pizza & salad and the members brought dessert.

We had figured out once again how to safely congregate. That event, coupled with talk of several vaccines, allowed us to look forward to 2021. In October, many members gathered in Laguna Woods to help Louise & Andy Pampuro celebrate 70 years of marriage! We sang “That’s Amore” and “Happy Anniversary” all the while observing social distancing. It was wonderful to share this day with them. The Pampuro’s will soon be 50-year members of the Sons & Daughters of Italy in America. Our last meeting was another picnic with a toy collection for Toys 4 Tots. We distributed toys and fun for the USMC. We also provided for an adopted family of eight with some Christmas cheer.



Valentine Dinner



1st Place Price - Carnivale



JULY PICNIC



St. Patricks Day Dinner

AUGUST PICNIC



SEPTEMBER MOVIE NIGHT



This has been a difficult year for us all. Not only fear of the virus, but also social distancing from our families, our friends, our lodge and even our neighbors! At this juncture, it is timely to consider what has held our lodge together. It’s the love of Italy, the warmth of Italian culture and most of all the enduring friendships created by our close associations with each

other. We have become more than just a lodge. We have become dear friends. This is the bond we share, allowing us to weather any crisis. Everything changed! Children were not in school; adults were not at work and our age group remains safely sequestered in our homes. We give thanks to our President, our Council and their

dedication to keeping the Lodge alive and healthy. In November we had elections, practically all the Council remained the same. All positions were approved by acclamation. So many things have disrupted our lives—social unrest, riots, political antics and disgust with our leaders. The restrictions that threaten our businesses, especially retail and restaurants, are horrible. SO, we wait patiently for the vaccines. And now they are here! Within 60 days our age group will receive the miraculous “jab.” Then we can resume our meetings and dinners and celebrations. We’re all ready to take on 2021. Who knows exactly what the year will bring? But we do know that we’ll soon be able to see our friends again. Oh, to share love & laughter. That nasty virus will be gone, but our friendships will last forever!

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.