

A Message From The State President



State President John Costa

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter Sunday celebration, with families. We are getting closer to a normal lifestyle. But do we remember what normal is? I for one am more than ever thankful for family. Being happy with what you have. Enjoy spending time with your family. Slowing down and taking the time to smell the roses.

We as a social organization are slowly making our ways back to having in person meetings and some simple fundraising events. Please listen to your county officials and follow the guidelines, this way we can socialize once again.

As I mentioned last month our State Convention will be done by "Zoom" this year. The date of our Convention will be June 26th 2021, Mark your calendars. Also a reminder this is an election year, if you or someone you know would like to run for a State office, please send a letter of intent to our Recording Secretary.

I would like to thank our three area Vice Presidents for their monthly notes that they send out to our Filial Lodge Presidents on what is happening up and down California. Thank you, Barbara, Pauline and Sadie.

Our membership during this "pandemic" has been staying pretty steady, I was worried that a lot of lodges would have a considerable drop in membership. So thank you everyone.

The next Holiday coming is Mother's day, I along with our First Lady, Donna Lee, would like to wish all of the mothers, Grand Mothers, Great Grandmothers & Great Great (just in case) a Happy Mother's day. We all appreciate all of you!! Lets' us all celebrate safely.

If your Lodge is using Zoom for your meetings please send me an invite to attend, I will try to log in when I can. As always feel free to contact me either by email or phone. I have sat in on a couple and it was nice to see faces again.

Hang in there everyone. Vaccines are being administered. We are going to beat this, we are resilient.

Stay safe and healthy!!



State 1st Vice President Barbara Wisniewski

Communication! I can't think of anything more important to our Grand Lodge and Filial Lodges. Without communication of real facts no one knows what is happening. We need to go to the Grand Lodge if there are questions about the Grand Lodge activities. We need to go to our Local Lodge Presidents if we want real information about the Local Lodges.

I am asking all our members to reach out to their Grand Lodge Officers if they have questions. We don't have all the answers, but we can get them to you. You don't have to be a Lodge Officer to contact the Grand Lodge or Officers. As members, we at the Grand Lodge are elected by you, and are happy to share information. All our contact information is here in the II Leone.

Is your Lodge meeting in person yet? I hope all our Lodges are working on this. It can be outside, weather permitting, or inside if your county approves. As Italian Americans or American Italians we need contact to be happy. Why don 't I like texting? Because I can't hear the tone of your voice. Why don't I like the telephone? Because I can't see your face when we are speaking. Why don't I like Zoom? Because I can't hug you, my Sisters and Brothers. We need to get back to in person contact wherever and whenever it is safe to do so. Next month we will have our Convention. It will not be the same as in the past. But different is not bad. It is just different, and we need to be flexible enough to move forward. I hope to see many of you on Zoom. If you have



State 2nd Vice President Pauline Richmond

The forthcoming is news on the Grand Lodge Council Virtual Meeting held on March 20, 2021.

The meeting started at 11:00 am. Roll Call of Officers, Pledge of Allegiance, and the Invocation was given. A reading and approval of the minutes for Saturday, October 10, 2020 Grand Council meeting. proceeded.

Reports were given by each of the state Officers after the meeting was closed the meeting of the Western Foundation was opened. Reading and approval of the minutes for Saturday, October 10, 2020 proceeded.

The Western Foundation Committee Chairperson reports were given. The Western Foundation Meeting was closed and then the Grand Lodge Committee Chairpersons Reports were continued.

In brief, (not in order) the following items were discussed. There was Concern over declining memberships. The Order has dropped to 3,300 members with the closing of five lodges during the past year. There will be no Royal Pageant at convention 2021. It was reported the February 2021 Fundraiser/raffle chaired by Mark Rossi Trustee of the Western Foundation was successful with a gross of \$5,805. and after expenses a Net of \$4,270. A Golf Tournament is set for October 11, 2021 in the South. The Grand Lodge will have a one-day 2021 Convention, to be held at the Grand Lodge Hall on June 26, 2021 with few council members on site. All others to participate in the convention online at home. Two resolutions will be presented and acted upon at this year's convention. The first, resolu-



State 3rd Vice President Sadie Tamburine

Happy Mother's day to all the mothers. I trust everyone is well. Here's a fun quiz for your enjoyment. Answers are at the bottom, don't cheat.

1. What Italian composer penned the major work "The Four Seasons"?

- a. Nino Rota
- b. Giuseppe Sarti
- c. Pietro Raimondi
- d. Antonio Vivaldi

2. Which of the following Italian athletes won the Gold Boot at the 1982 World Cup of Soccer?

- a. Alex Zanardi
- b. Paolo Rossi
- c. Jarno Trulli
- d. Dino Zoff

3. In Italy, what is associated with every day of the year?

- a. A Different Vegetable b. A Different Patron Saint
- c. A Different Animal
- d. A Different Fruit

4. On what was the Italian economy based before the advent of World War II?

- a. Agriculture
- b. Industrial Resources
- c. Fisheries d. Gold Mining

5.Which of the following scientists is a native of Italy? a. Galileo

Yours Fraternally





b. Dr. Strangelove
c. Aristotle
d. Einstein

6. Who was the last of Rome's "Five Good Emperors"?

a. Nero
b. Marcus Aurelius
c. Caligula
d. Hadrian

7. As emperor, where did Hadrian travel?

a. Persia
b. China
c. British Isles
d. Turkey

8.In Italy, what does a gift of yellow flowers suggest?

- a. Jealousy b. Romance
- c. Bad Luck
- d. Hatred

Cont. on page 3

Cont. on page 3

Cont. on page 3

ATTENTION PLEASE

Please send all articles and photos to me. If you send them to Andy he has to then send them to me which can cause the paper to be delayed. You can also email me at debbie@sanddgraphics.com **Debbie Ure**

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I appreciate all your help.



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Immediate Past State Pres.

SAVE THE DATE

for our State Convention. the date is June 26th 2021 more information to follow



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IL LEONE

State First Vice President Cont. from page 1

any questions or concerns, please get them to your Grand Council beforehand so we can address them.

I hope you all are having a happy Mothers' Day. My mom has been gone for a while, but this day gives me time to ponder all that she did for me, and to spend time with my own daughter and granddaughter.

> Till next month Fraternally Barbara

State Second Vice President Cont. from page 1

tion proposal is to reduce the number of delegates to two per lodge versus delegate numbers being determined by lodge membership. The second resolution proposes to have the State Grand Lodge of California Convention held every other year versus every year. It was reported that National will still have the NELA held on May 28, 2021 on U-tube, with an Auction, with donations and more to come. National Convention Virtual meeting will be in August and extended to October 2021 in Florida. Our next Grand Council Meeting will be held at the Double Tree in Napa, CA on September 20, & 21, 2021. The Grand Council will be Honoring Past Grand Lodge President Lynn Lawrence Murphy. The financial reports were reviewed.

Our State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi read the list of members sent to her, informing her of their intent to run for a State Office.

I am looking forward and encourage many to connect and participate in the Grand Lodge of California State Convention on June 26, 2021 on-line.

Fraternally yous



State Third Vice President Cont. from page 1

9. Which of the following science fiction writers is of Italian descent?

- a. Valerio Evangelisti
- b. Anne Rice
- c. Dan Brown d. Stephen King

10. Which of the following Italians is a Grand Prix race car driver?

- a. Jury Chechi
- b. Antonio Ascari
- c. Primo Carnera
- d. Loris Capirossi

11.Who was the first emperor of Rome?

- a. Cassius
- b. Pericles
- c. Octavian
- d. Julius Caesar
- 12. What did Romans call the
- Colosseum?
- a. Circus Maximus
- b. Colosseum
- c. Flavian Amphitheatre d. Caesarian Colosseum

13.What does the Latin word paganus mean?

- a. Country Dweller
- b. Evil-Doer
- c. Non-Believer

d. Atheist

14. Emperor Constantine helped build Christian churches in all the following locations except which?

- a. Rome
- b. Alexandria
- c. Constantinople
- d. Jerusalem
- 15. What was an arena in ancient
- Rome called?
 - a. Circus
 - b. Hippodrome
 - c. Villa
- d. Velodrome
- 16. What is the name of a famous
- Italian astronaut?
- a. Paolo Boi
- b. Lance Armstrong
- d. Roberto Vittori
- 17. What Italian metropolis has
- the largest population?
- was a famous Italian cartoonist?

- c. Hugo Pratt

19. What famous political scandal rocked the country of Italy in

- c. Clean Hands
- d. Dirty Hands

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.

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



c. Alessandro Salvio

- a. Naples
- b. Turin
- c. Milan
- d. Rome
- 18. Which of the following men
- a. Jim Davis
- b. Mario Bava
- d. Victor Hugo

the 1990's?

- a. Clean Feet
- b. Dirty Feet



20. What Italian explorer explored the Mississippi Valley in America?

- a. Marco Polo
- b. Christopher Columbus
- c. James Madsen
- d. Henri De Tonti

Answers on page 4.



Wishing everyone a Happy Mother's Day



Barbara Wisniewski State 1st Vice President and Husband Ken

Northern Solano Lodge #2534

Fairfield, CA

by Don Cradduck, President

Hard to believe four months of 2021 have passed us by with things starting to return to normal. Our county (Solano) is close to achieving the state mandated Orange designation which will allow us to meet with some restrictions. We are working on the necessary protocols so we will be ready when we get the OK to meet. On April 15th we held our zoom lodge meeting with 22 members in and a special guest, the Grand Lodge President John Costa in attendance. Mark Rossi, our Immediate Past President led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was presented by our Chaplain Dominic DiFabio and we opened the meeting just like the "old times".

In May have scheduled our

first "Out to Lunch" gathering since March 2020. Each month members would get together at different restaurants for an enjoyable lunch and a chance to spend time with our brothers and sisters. With the help of Rory and Laure DeVincenzi-Nichols we are going to put on a Virtual Dinner where members can join via zoom and together create a culinary meal together. As always, wine is optional and encouraged!!

Earlier this year our lodge was able to resume volunteering at our Local Food Bank sorting items to be distributed throughout our local community. Joy Bruno Neubert has been tirelessly chairing this project for many years and does a wonderful

her- job.

Our scholarship chairperson Sue Cahan informed us that only one student applied for one of our scholarships this year. The unused scholarships will roll over and if we are able to have our Columbus fundraising dinner, we could offer even more scholarships next year.

We are also working of creating a Lodge Cook Book which will allow our members to share their favorite family recipes with the emphasis on Italian food. What could be better? This will take a little time to create but the rewards will be worth the wait.

Ciao from Northern Solano Lodge #2534



SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected and follow the Grand Lodge on our social media platforms. Add us on Facebook at Order Sons and Daughters of Italy - Grand Lodge of California and follow us on Instagram @sonsofitaly_ca. If your lodge is doing anything virtual (meetings, drive-thru dinners, etc.) send us a picture and we would love to feature you! Furthermore, if you have any pictures engaging in any Italian culture-related activity like cooking, dancing, etc. please send them our way! We want to showcase our lodges and our incredible members, especially during this global pandemic. Lastly, let us know what you want to see more of on our social media profiles. We welcome your feedback! Please send all of your photos to: donnaferreira@att. net

Cesare Battisti Lodge #1518 Petaluma, CA by Ernie Giono

Sisters and Brothers. Here we are still holding our own against this virus. By now, most people have been able to get their vaccinations or have appointments to get theirs. This is the way to end this virus. Please wear you mask when out and about, These actions put us on the right track. Spring has sprung (again) and I got three veggies planted this year. Far less than normal but all

I am hoping that we will be able to have our monthly dinner meetings starting again by August. The California Governor says he wants the state opened up by mid June. We shall see what happens in the next few weeks. I must admit I am hesitant about that early date.

I really want this year.

Our new meeting place is waiting for us. This hall holds 140 people and has an additional eight big tables outside under a roof right near a swimming pool. Yes, you can socialize out there before the meeting.

The opening of our new location also depends on the owners and managers of this complex. They must agree on opening the meeting hall then we can schedule a dinner/meeting.

I hope this finds all of you well and ready to meet and greet again. I have not seen any of you in almost 14 months. I might not even recognize some of you...

I will miss the in person SDOIA Convention again this year. I enjoy seeing all of the other lodge members from all over the state and giving hugs and hand shakes all around.

I will be in touch with everyone with complete directions to this new location, as well as the new time and day when I get the final OK to meet again... Stay safe and remember to be kind to someone today and you will get kindness coming back to you tenfold.

If anyone would like to write a article for Il Leone in the future, let me know. I welcome any offers to help. Ernie Giono

Answers

1.d 2.b 3.b 4.a 5.a 6.b 7.c 8.a 9.a 10.b 11.c 12.c 13.a 14.b



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and marylucido.1@gmail.com. Thank you!

15.a 16.d 17.c 18.c 19.c 20.d Until next time.







Rodolfo Valentino Lodge#1449 _{Clovis, CA}

Clovis, CA by Carol Watson, President Lou Catallo, Historian

Thomas Jefferson almost said, "Good luck is what you get after you do all the hard work to earn it".

Italy has a population of 62 million people, of which 96 percent are Italian. Dialects include: Sardinian, Friulian, Neapolitan, Sicilian, Ligurian, Piedmontese, Venetian and Calabrian & Milanese (in Milan). Other languages spoken include Albanian, Bavarian, Catalan, Cimbrian, Corsican, Croatian, French, German, Greek, Slovenian and Walser.

The way things are going, we should all be meeting again in June (says our Governor Newsom), providing all is well with Notre Dame Hall. Our best effort would be spent in getting our vaccinations. As the media says, the best COVID vaccine is the one that is closest to your arm.

To pay help pay for extravagant weddings in Italy, the bride carries a satin bag called "la borsa", in which guests will place small amounts of cash.



Roma Lodge # 1573

Tulare, CA by President-Larry Dutto

The Pandemic Fallout!

It appears that the nation and California has turned the corner regarding the COVID-19 pandemic as government restrictions have been reduced. Roma Lodge sits in the center of the state and has recently moved into the less restrictive orange tier for Tulare County. Public venues can now have a 50% occupancy rate which means that Roma Lodge will be meeting again on May 3rd.

History will record the number of deaths and health issues caused by the pandemic. It may be some time before it is determined what affect the disease had on the educational and social development on our school children, families, workplaces, and the economy.

Roma Lodge has not officially met since March of 2020. It is difficult to carryon the work of an organization when all local lodges depend on the most important tenet of the lodges, which is *FRATERNITY*. Without monthly meetings it is difficult to move forward when you do not meet.

Probably the biggest impact of the pandemic on the lodge was that we did not have any of our eligible junior members apply for lodge scholarships this year. I looked back at our *IL Leone* article from last year and we had pictures and biographies of our *eight* Roma Lodge scholarship recipients.

This phenomenon was not exclusive to Roma Lodge. I have learned from several other college and non-profit scholarship programs that applications were down by over 50%. So yes, the pandemic did have a devasting affect on our young people, to what extent we may not know for years to come. So sad.

Roma Lodge was unable to hold their planned 90th anniversary celebration in April of 2020 because of the pandemic. We plan to present our members celebrating five-year anniversaries of membership at the May gathering.

> 5 Year Members Gianna Daramy, Harper DePaoli

20 Year Members Kylee Cleek, Clint Curti, Alex Galvan, Shaun Pedroncelli, Amanda Warren

25 Year Members

Jim Chavez, Kathy Chavez, Nicole Clark, Kathryn Cleek, Patrick Marinelli, Cathy Mederos, Dennis Mederos, Megan Mederos, Michael Mederos, Melissa Mederos-Semeos

> *30 Year Members* Michael DePaoli, Larry Dutto, Tessa Hall

> > 35 *Year Member* Bill Benedetti

45 Year Members Ken Bertorelli, Karen Pedroncelli, Bruce Smith

55 Year Members Clarence Costa, John Greco and Maryann Luis

65 Year Members Carole Burner, Janet Cabral, Johnnie Kaye Costa, Betty Pratt, Lorraine Cleek, George Rinaldi

> **85 Year Member** Joe Signorelli

Roma Lodge members were saddened by the passing of Linda Berra on April 17th. Linda along with husband Dr. Albert Berra are 49-year members of the Porterville Lodge #1596 prior to its closure and their membership moved to Roma Lodge. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Berra Family.

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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.



reo - 34. Gertrude scrittrice - 35. Anemone di

mare - 37. Un terzo d'Europa - 38.

Esclamazione di sorpresa - 39. Fanno respi-

rare male - 41. Francesca attrice - 43.

Dolcetto che si scioglie in bocca - 45. Lo pre-

senta... lo scontento - 47. Atleti eccezionali -

48. Il nome della Compagnoni - 49. Il nome

VERTICALI: 1. La capitale col Cremlino - 2. Misura terriera - 3. Lo Stato di Tel Aviv - 4. Risultato senza gol - 5. Protegge i pantaloni

del ciclista - 6. Aspro... come il fumo - 7.

Accigliato o grave - 8. Fa brevi voli - 9. Il West

del western - 10. Vi nacque Karl Marx - 11. Le

prime del West - 12. Filza d'agli - 13. Mare

della Grecia - 16. Si dà da svolgere in classe

- 19. Nome di donna - 20. La capitale norve-

gese - 22. Le sette figlie di Atlante - 24.

Terrazza sul tetto - 26. Intensità di sentimento

- 28. Automobile scoperta - 29. Recipiente per

trasportare benzina - 31. Il divino poeta - 33.

In coppia con lei - 34. Un tipo di divano - 36.

Scherzo... mancino - 37. Dio dell'amore - 40.

Fine inglese - 42. Prefisso che dimezza - 44.

Nostro in breve - 46. Prima e terza di Lahore.

della Barzizza.



Mushrooms

by Stephen Contrado, B.A., Th.M. 165 Nantasket Ave. # 9 Hull, MA 02045 © 2019 Stephen Contrado Cell Phone: (741) 242-0053

Mushrooms are amazing little things. They crop up not only on dinner tables but also in literature and art. There are hundreds of kinds of mushrooms, and they have many popular names, such as inky cap, horn of plenty, witch's butter, Gypsy mushroom, and parasol. They got their odd names from their particular shapes and colors.

Only experts should gather wild mushrooms for food because many kinds are poisonous. And there is no safe rule for choosing wild mushrooms to eat. Poisonous mushrooms are called toadstools.

Mushrooms are not like other plants. They don't have roots, leaves, flowers, or seeds. While green plants make food from the sun, mushrooms get theirs from living plants or decaying materials in the soil. Many mushrooms grow best in shady damp places. Others grow in grassy meadows and gardens, popping up on damp, warm days as if by magic. Mushrooms grow in woods, even under logs and stones

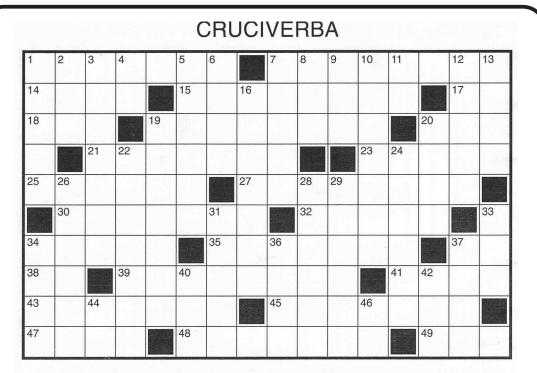
Under the ground, mushrooms send out threadlike fibers called mycelium. New mushrooms spring up from the mycelium. Tiny mushrooms are called buttons. Some mushrooms are beautiful. Some are white; others are black. Some are pink, and there are rare blue and purple ones. Under the umbrella-like cap of the meadow mushroom hang pink gills that look like tiny curtains. As the mushroom grows the pink gills turn brown.

Mushrooms and other fungi reproduce by means of spores. A single mushroom can have thousands of spores. Spores are so tiny they look like dust. One kind of mushroom is commonly known as a "puffball" because of its rounded shape and because spores puff out of it in a cloud that looks like smoke. One large puffball can have trillions of spores in it.

Some people raise and sell mushrooms. They plant mushroom mycelium in beds of rich, moist, warm soil. They have grown their mushrooms in cellars and even in abandoned mines. Our ancestors ate mushrooms thousands of years ago. The ancient Greeks and the Romans were fond of eating mushrooms.

Mushrooms are a delicious food. They are even consumed instead of meat, but they are not as nutritious as meat. They are consumed with meat, with eggs, with vegetables, in soups, in sauces, and in salads.





ORIZZONTALI: 1. Isola delle Baleari - 7. Insieme di programmi per il PC - 14. Bianco polare - 15. Abbagliare - 17. Le prime in egiziano - 18. Sua Altezza Reale - 19. Innaffiare a spruzzo - 20. Sgradito al moralista - 21. Segmenti geometrici - 23. Molto ampio... in Abruzzo - 25. Antico pittore greco - 27. Breve annotazione - 30. Il poeta del "Monte Circello" - 32. Può essere cesa-



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Answers page 10

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Large Portobello Mushroom (Wiakipedia)



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To all members of the California Grand Lodge of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. I am running for President of our Grand Lodge for the term 2021 through 2023. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have on my qualifications or to submit any suggestions on moving forward.



Faternally, Barbara

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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.