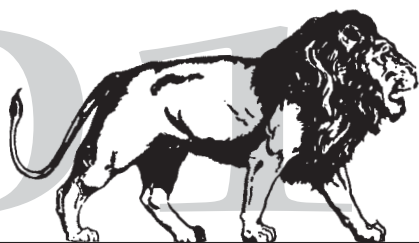


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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA
WHOSE JURISDICTION COVERS
CALIFORNIA, NEVADA AND
KLAMATH COUNTY IN OREGON

To All Members
If the address, name or title is not correct on the
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A Message From The State President



by Lynn Lawrence-Murphy
State President

"Fratellanza"

It is amazing how rapidly those March winds blew through the month and here we are in the month of April already. The first day of Spring, St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's and Easter have all come and gone.

I would like to share a few highlights of the National Winter Plenary Session that National 1st Vice President Vera, State 1st Vice President Arlene, S.I.F. Trustee Joe La Banca, wife Mary and I attended at the end of February in Baltimore, MD. National is moving forward with changing the name to the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America – also changing the logo. Paperwork has been filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Hopefully, everything will be in place for approval by the next convention. National Orator Chris Cannatella and National's CPA Jeff Drake gave a brief presentation and explanation on the governing of non-profit organizations (a topic many lodges are confused about). The Grand Lodge and all Filial Lodges are classified as 501 C 8. (Fraternal Beneficiary Societies). We are tax exempt non-profit entities, but donations given to us cannot be tax exempt. A 501 C 3 refers to educational, religious and charitable organizations. With the exception of minimal administrative and publicity fees, the rest of the monies must go to the charities. Therefore, all monies donated to the Sons of Italy Foundation and our

Western Foundation can get a tax deduction. All lodges are accountable to the IRS, Secretary of State, and the contributors that make donations need to know how the monies are distributed. Remember to file your 990s (by May 15th). If you lose your non-profit status, you will be taxed for everything.

With sadness, I report that Dr. Phillip Piccigallo, our National Executive Director, will be retiring on June 30th 2016. Dr. Piccigallo has been instrumental in getting the Sons of Italy recognized as a strong and important group at the National and International levels. Phil has been the driving force behind the NELA Gala, which has raised millions of dollars for the Sons of Italy Foundation (SJF) over the last 26+ years. This year's NELA will be taking place on May 26th in Washington D.C. with Condoleezza Rice being one of the Honorees. As in the past, the Grand Lodge and several State Officers have contributed \$250 to sponsor a wounded warrior to attend this event (a small way to recognize and thank these men and women for what they have done for us). Another group that will be recognized at the NELA is a group called "Help Our Military Heroes" which raises funds to purchase vans so disabled vets can transport their families and themselves. If you wish to donate to these causes, contact the Grand Lodge Office and they will give you all the information you will need for your donations (which are tax deductible).

Please keep on getting signatures for the petitions and writing letters to our legislators to let it be known how important it is to retain Columbus Day and the importance of having the month of October declared as Italian Heritage Month.

National will be holding another raffle this year. The cost per ticket is \$50.00. Tickets will be sent to your lodges. Please support this

cause as we have 175 tickets to sell. The drawing will take place in August at the next National Plenary Session. National also will be conducting a Membership Contest among the Grand Lodges. It will run from April 2016 – April 2017 and will be based on net increase (stressing both recruitment and retention). Four prizes will be awarded ranging from \$1000.00 1st place to \$250.00 4th place. More information will be in the next National Magazine *Italian America*.

Upon returning from the National Meeting, Bill and I attended a series of Corned Beef Dinner Meetings. (Thank you St. Patrick). Wednesday, Mar 2nd Bill cooked the Corned Beef Dinner for our St. Helena Lodge. (Thank you Napa Lodge members for your constant support of our dinners). On Saturday, March 5th, we attended the Valley of the Moon's Scholarship Dinner Dance. They tried a new type of event "A Country Western Night" with BBQ ribs and chicken, beans, etc. along with a local Country Western Band. This turned out to be a profitable and fun night for all. On Thursday, March 10th, Bill and I attended the Cesare Battisti Dinner Meeting. Another great corned beef dinner. Vice President Jim Gamboni ran the meeting in Les' absence – great job Jim! This lodge was Bill's home lodge so it is always like returning home for him and visiting with friends and family. On Sunday, March 13th, we attended the Vallejo Lodges' Dinner where I had the honor of presenting Certificates of Appreciation to Beatrice Portinari long time member Josephine Agosta and Virgilio member Don Cahan for their many, many years of service and devotion to their lodges. These two have been the chief cooks, along with a dedicated crew, for the lodges' many, many great polenta and stew dinners. I have had the pleasure attending many of them and

I have enjoyed every morsel. Cooks for the day were John Costa, Rick Branch, Lucy and Steve Branch and Glen Rushing - great job on the Chicken Marsala and Pasta. Another great meal thanks to Sons of Italy's great cooks. Tuesday, March 15th, we travelled up to Paradise, CA to attend the Paradiso Lodge's Potluck Dinner Meeting. This lodge has recently lost several members due to death and health issues and are in the process of building back up. Thank you Wanda Tessaro for stepping in as lodge president. You did a great job in conducting your meeting! Thank you State Deputy Sal Aiello for keeping us informed and offering your assistance and the Grand Lodge's to bring this lodge back up. We truly are a Fraternal Family and always ready to support each other and our family members.

In closing, I would like to share a few highlights from the March 19th Grand Council Meeting held in Santa Ana. Increasing and retaining membership is a prime focus at the local, state and national levels. Several key items discussed in this area were the importance of listening to what your members want regarding activities, events, etc. (especially our younger members). Adjust accordingly. Have incentives for your members to bring in new members (a free dinner, small prize, etc.). Membership Chair Joe Simoni and his committee will be sharing more information with you at your lodge meetings and at convention.

Have you checked out our new website, osiaca.org? Webmaster Nicholas Marinelli stated that his goal is to make our site easily available to all, especially to the outside world, to tell them who OSIA is, what we stand for and what we are doing. He would like all lodges to send him information on events, activities, etc. that are happening in your lodge (Save the Date, etc.). He has of-

fered to create a web page for your lodge, set up Facebook and Twitter as well. You can reach Nicholas at nickolas@osia.org. He also will be adding the most recent *Il Leone* papers.

Our Queen Contest is going along nicely. Chairperson Eva Lavazzari has many fun activities planned for our queens and us. Keep buying these tickets!

Convention Chair Chris Lotito shared information on the 2016 State Convention taking place from June 23rd to June 29th at the Nugget in Sparks, NV. The package cost will \$220.00 (if paid by May 25th deadline) which includes Thursday's Theme Night (railroaders), Friday Night's Queen Pageant Dinner, and Saturday Night's Black and White Ball. The Nugget has offered a special price to Sons of Italy. Sunday night thru Thursday, rooms will cost \$59.00 +, Friday and Saturday Nights room costs will be \$99.00 +. On Thursday, June 23rd, there will be a luncheon to honor our Queens this year. Please try to attend and support these young ladies (our future). Friday will be the Royal Court Luncheon. On Wednesday, June 22nd, the Nugget is supplying free reception from 4 to 4:30, Bocce will follow at 4:30 and a Slot Tournament will be held that evening around 9:00. State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi will be sending out delegate information at the beginning of April. Hope many of you can join us for this year's Convention in Sparks. You are always welcome to join us even if you are not a delegate. Brian Watson has a fun filled package planned for our Youth.

On Sunday, March 20th, Scholarship Chair Rosemarie Vanderhaar held a committee meeting to evaluate this year's scholarships. I had the pleasure of working with them since Bill is a committee member. What amazing young men and women the applicants are!

Until next month, CIAO!

From the Editor's Desk

by Andy Pampuro
apampuro@comline.com



For a few months we have been asking for photos of the girls running for queen of their lodges. I plan to run all of these pictures in the May issue of the Il Leone and then the top five in the June issue. So far we have only received three photos and that is of the girl from the Reno Lodge, the girl from the Columbia Lodge and the girl from the Modesto Lodge. You must send two wallet size photos to the Grand Lodge office. If we don't get these pictures we will publish a blank square with the girl's name and lodge under it. That will not look very good. Please help us out.



SAVE THE DATE

HUMANIARIAN & LEADERSHIP GALA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
HILTON HOTEL, SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
HONOREES TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

Our Queen Contest Director Eva Lavazzari is working very hard to put on a great Queen's Coronation for these girls. So let's do our best to help her out. Get those photos to the Grand Lodge office and above all get those Queen's Tickets sold before the deadline.

The Grand Lodge Council was held in Santa Ana on Saturday, March 19th. It was a

very successful weekend with our State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy doing a great job as usual. Reports from the various committee chairs and Grand Lodge officers were heard and accepted.

Our next big event will be the convention in Sparks, Nevada. We will be staying at the Golden Nugget Hotel. More information will be following.



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News from the Central

by Arlene Nunziati
State 1st Vice President



Joe Simoni and Joy Bruno. President Charles Sant'Agata conducted a very interesting meeting and it was so nice to be back in Visalia.

A belated St Joseph's Day to all my Joseph friends.

We just returned from a council meeting in Santa Ana. It was so nice to see Andy Pampuro and see him eating a little. We had a good Grand Council meeting. Many issues were discussed and items resolved. The Grand Lodge will be doing the convention program book so be sure to sell ads and get them to the Grand Lodge office.

Thank you to Linda Enneman for the fabulous tour of the Federal Courthouse in Santa Ana. What an exciting adventure and so thoughtful of you Linda. What a view from the top!

The scholarship committee met and were hard at work selecting recipients. On the way home we were invited to the home of Past National and State President Frank and Eileen DeSantis for a delicious brunch. Thank you Frank and Eileen for your hospitality.

I hope everyone had a Happy and Blessed Easter.

My thoughts and prayers to the Christin Family on their loss.

Since my last article, I have traveled to the National Executive meeting in Baltimore, Maryland with 1st National Vice President Vera Girolami and State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy.

It was a very interesting meeting and a job well done by Vera. She is a very strong lady.

We were saddened on Saturday to learn of the passing of Past National President Robert Messa.

It is always so nice to see all our friends from the other states. Thank you New York for including us Friday evening.

I attended the meeting and luncheon of the United Lodges of San Joaquin with

News from the North

by John Costa
State 2nd Vice President



I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter celebration with family and friends.

March has been a very wet month and Mother Nature is making up for lost time. It was nice to see everything so green during our trip back from Grand Council in Santa Ana.

Speaking of Grand Council, we just completed a very full agenda. President Lynn did an excellent job running a smooth meeting. It was nice to see many people from the various local lodges in the audience.

Membership is still a key to our success. Just think what our Grand Lodge could accomplish if everyone were to bring in just one member each. Let's challenge ourselves.

For those local bay area baseball fans, the A's, Giants and the Rivercats (giants minor league team) are having Italian heritage Games. The Oakland A's will be August 5th playing the Chicago Cubs, the San Francisco Giants will be September 17th against the St Louis Cardinals. And the Sacramento Rivercats went out of their way to change the date so the Sons of Italy could participate. It was June 23rd during convention, but they changed it to June 30th. Let try and support these days to show our heritage. I will be ordering a group of tickets for all three games. I do not have pricing but will shotly

May 8th is a day we all honor our Mother's. Happy Mothers Day to all of our grandmothers, mothers and soon to be mothers. We appreciate you! Remember, if it was not for them we would not be here. (don't forget you could win \$200.00 on that day with the "365" daily raffle ticket)

As we get closer to convention, make sure you send your delegates with ideas, questions and concerns that you have for our Grand Lodge. And when they get back have them give a complete report.

Until next month

News from the South

by Ted Seibel
State 3rd Vice President
tseibel@roadrunner.com



Do you know why we elect Trustees in our lodge? Do you know the importance Trustees are to your lodge and its members? Do you know what their duties are?

First let's look at the qualifications for electing a Trustee. There are only two qualifications, honesty and integrity. There is nothing more and nothing less required. Accounting skills would be nice to have, but are not necessary. I would bet most, if not all, of our members have had experience managing money, whether it was theirs or someone else's.

Our By-Laws grant Trustees access to review all the accounting ledgers and administrative books kept by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Trustees are the guardians of the economic interests of the lodge. Unfortunately, money is tempting to everyone and no one is immune, therefore Trustees must look for irregularities and discrepancies, not in hope of finding someone purposely took money that doesn't belong to them, but in hope an honest mistake was made or someone forgot to do something. Mistakes are made and things are forgotten, and that is the real world we live in.

Trustees are charged to verify the money received as income was deposited in the lodge account and verify the money outgoing as expenses was for legitimate expenses.

"Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom." - Thomas Jefferson

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." - Oscar Wilde



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www.sonsofitalylagunahills.com
Nicolomac@cox.net
- Salinas Lodge
ideal1940@yahoo.com
- Santa Rosa Lodge
www.santarosasonsofitaly.org
- Sgt. John Basilone
www.osiacorona.com
- Shasta Lodge
www.reddingsonsofitaly.com
soishastalodge@charter.net
- Vallejo Lodges
www.vallejosonsofitaly.org
- Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519
www.sonsofitalychico.com
- Watsonville Lodge #2016
www.sonsofitalywatsonville.org
sonsofitalywatsonville@yahoo.com
- William Paca Lodge #1960
www.sonsofitalymountainview.org
- West Covina Lodge
soi2056@live.com
- 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.



Lodge Anniversaries

April		
Cornelia Vita Nuova #1198	4/21/23	
Roseville #1413	4/4/26	
Rodolfo Valentino #1449	4/4/27	
Fratellanza Garibaldina #1627	4/17/32	
Modesto #2021	4/20/52	
Napa #2043	4/24/55	
Ukiah #2104	4/24/60	
Hacienda #2158	4/17/66	
Lake County #2537	4/19/83	

Congratulations!!!

Membership Committee

by Joe Simoni
Membership Chairperson
jsimoni2000@gmail.com



lodge Membership Chair as a gauge for future activities.

MEMBERSHIP MANUAL

The primary amendment to the Manual is the addition of an Action Plan. This plan lists numerous vehicles to use when planning activities. I challenge every lodge to review and act on the suggestions provided by the Membership Committee.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Committee member Anna Graeber will serve as editor. The contents will include spotlighting the lodges who have demonstrated a proficiency in adding and retaining their members, tips on improving membership, and so forth.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to Valley of the Moon #1959 (7 new members), Modesto and Watsonville (4 each) and an additional 13 lodges with new members. Please keep it going.

Well, that's it for now. Talk to you next month!!

The March Grand Council is over and the following provisions have been submitted and approved by the Grand Council:

NEW MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Each new member will receive in their Member Orientation Packet a Questionnaire. This short

Document, which preferably will be completed before they leave the meeting (or taken with them with a stamped, self-addressed envelope), will be used by the

365 Fund Raiser - Winners

Feb. 16-29

16	\$25.00	Jennifer Sheldon
17	\$25.00	Vince Zaccaria
18	\$25.00	Tina Sparlin
19	\$25.00	Manny Finazzo
20	\$25.00	Donna Grist
21	\$25.00	Marilyn Ward
22	\$25.00	Michael Leoni
23	\$25.00	John Marshall
24	\$25.00	Arlene Nunziati
25	\$200.00	Carole Dellaragione
26	\$25.00	Marlene Parr
27	\$25.00	Frank Locicero
28	\$25.00	Pauline Masotto
29	\$50.00	Dave Lovecchio

Mar. 1-15

1	\$25.00	Rose Nobili & Jean Russell
2	\$25.00	Lucky Simoni
3	\$25.00	Keaton Stigmon
4	\$25.00	Monica Pignotti
5	\$25.00	Gerald Firpo
6	\$25.00	Meri Sorrells
7	\$25.00	Philip Priviera
8	\$25.00	Rose E. Quinn
9	\$25.00	Don Kid
10	\$25.00	Adeline Nettleton
11	\$25.00	Babe Peluso
12	\$50.00	Mike Fistolera
13	\$25.00	Dorothy Jensen
14	\$25.00	Lawrence Romanazzi
15	\$25.00	Lori Rossi

LIST OF UNITED LODGES

SAN MATEO COUNTY
BENNIE PARDINI
1400 Hopkins #101
Redwood City, CA 94062
Phone: (650) 367-8828

NORTH BAY
SHARON SILVEIRA
1818 Vervais Ave.
Vallejo, CA 94591
707 644-5304
ravioli_spaghetti@yahoo.com

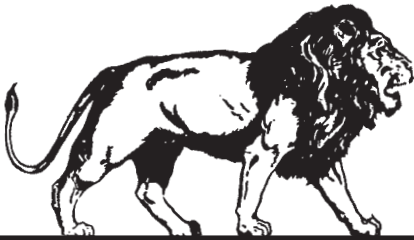
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
CHARLES SANT'AGATA
1945 N. Glen Alva Lane
Clovis, CA 93619
Phone: (559) 323-9523
cjsa@att.net

SOUTHERN CALIF.
GABE DOMENICI
1034 Apple Blossom Lane
Corona, CA 92881
Phone: (951) 737-4306



Attention all presidents...

If your lodge is supporting a queen please advise her that she must send in two wallet size photos to the Grand Lodge office. We will be running all of the pictures of the girls in the May issue of the Il Leone and then we will run the top five in the June issue. If we don't get a photo of your girl there will be a blank square with the girl's name and lodge under it. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



It is time to renew your sponsorship of the Il Leone

Please make out your checks to the Western Foundation and earmark it for the Il Leone. The cost is \$25 per person per year.

We did great last year raising \$8,200. Let's do better this year. God knows the paper can sure use the money to survive. Send your donations to me at 718 D Avenida Majorca #D, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. A new list will appear in the July/August issue.

I am thanking you all in advance.
Andy Pampuro
Editor

NEL RIMPIANGERNE LA PERDITA, CI ASSOCIAMO AL

LUTTO ED AL DOLORE DEI LORO CONGIUNTI AI QUALI INVIAMO LE NOSTRE CONDOGLIANZE.

"NECROLOGIO"

Member's Name	Lodge	Lodge #
Ritz Brunello	Weed	1269
Eileen Bigotti	Giuseppe Verdi	1441
Shirley Menicucci	Giuseppe Verdi	1441
Helen Spagnola	Cesare Battisti	1518
Daniel Lo Giurato	West Covina	2056
Sarah Polis	Anaheim	2076
Al Sirignano R. V.	Anaheim	2076
Mary Canata	Colombo	1315
Francesca Kloeffer	Diablo Valley	2167
Matteo Genna	Gold Country	2705
Karl Romero	Renaissance	2259
Candida Erwin	Northern Solano	2534

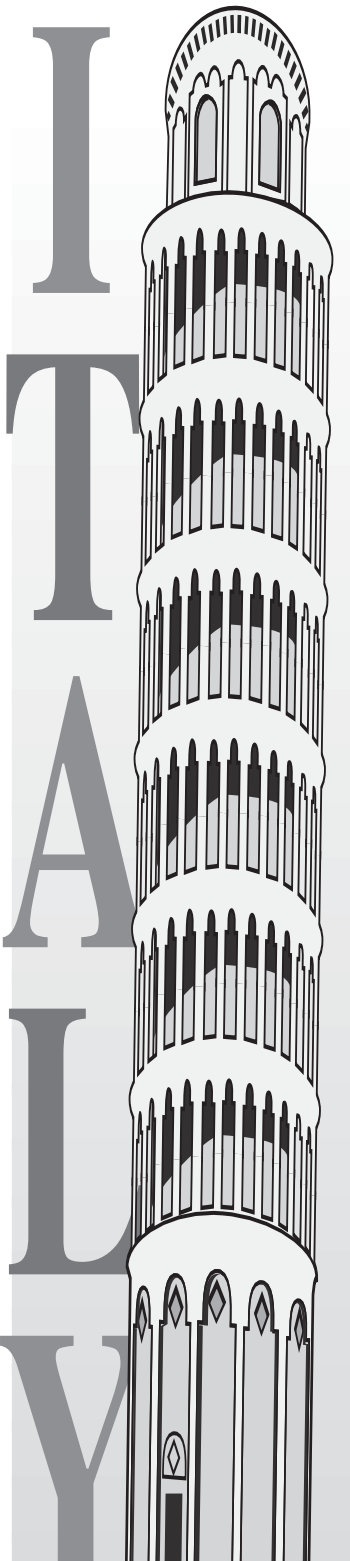


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Telefoni: 333-0161 – 333-0162



Public Relations

by Stephen Contrado, B.A. Th.M.
165 Nantasket Ave. #9
Hull, MA 02045
E-mail: stephencontrado@gmail.com

Public relations work is an important modern profession. It is sometimes called publicity work. The field of public relations uses various methods of communication for special purposes, such as to persuade people. It uses special techniques to change attitudes and resolve conflicts. It applies the research supplied by the social sciences, such as psychology and sociology, to accomplish its work. A thorough knowledge of technology and the media facilitates the PR work.

From the earliest times, advisors have assisted kings, popes, governors, legislators, court officers, diplomats, politicians, merchants, and others how to form favorable relations, achieve goals and get desired results. These advisors were the forerunners in public relations. The written word and art were the earliest forms of media employed, followed in time by printing, radio, television, and computers.

Many aspiring people have wanted as much publicity as possible. Ancient rulers sought to spread their fame over vast territories. Actors were successful only if a lot of people knew about them. Manufacturers and craftsmen also wanted to become well-known to distribute and sell their products.

Public relations professionals work to get good publicity for their clients. Sometimes a large public relations staff is hired by an employer to promote his company. Men and women working in public relations get the media to mention their clients' good qualities. They also advise their employers on how to behave and what to say to people in order to make a good impression and get people to work efficiently. They warn political candidates against saying certain things that the public will not like and suggest doing other things that the public will approve of.

Ivy Lee is considered the first public relations counselor. He invented the name for the profession in 1916. He was hired by John D. Rockefeller, who had become the richest man in the world by controlling oil companies, but was unpopular with the public. Lee informed the public about the millions of dollars

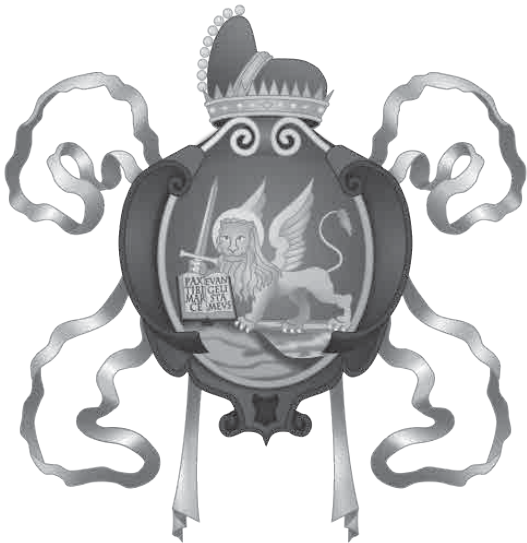
that Rockefeller spent to advance science and education and that Rockefeller gave to charitable purposes. In only a few years Rockefeller was no longer unpopular. Together with George Parker, Lee established a public relations firm, Parker and Lee, in 1905. During World War I, Lee became the publicity director for the American Red Cross. The field of public relations has grown impressively since then.

Today nearly every large company has a public relations staff or employs a public relations firm to represent it. Government agencies also have and employ them. And public relations specialists play an important role in international relations.

Public relations is different from paid advertising, but many advertising agencies have PR branches to serve them. Their job is to get the work and social functions of their clients mentioned favorably in the media. The founder and CEO of Microsoft, Bill Gates, said, "If I was down to my last dollar, I would spend it on public relations."

Here are ten ways you can get free PR publicity: (1.) Report to the media special interest stories and celebrations. (2.) Hold a contest and report it to the media. (3.) Sponsor an award and report it to the media. (4.) Inform the media of a large donation you make. (5.) Involve a celebrity or expert in a function and invite the media. (6.) Take on a cause and get the media involved. (7.) Make a seal of approval and award it to worthy candidates, informing the media of the reasons for your selections. (8.) Issue a proclamation and ask the media to be present or to report on it. (9.) Conduct a survey or poll and report the results to the media. (10.) Sponsor a sports event and release the information to the media. Submit photographs of your events along with the stories.

The study of history is rich in lessons of the importance of public relations. There are lots of ways to get others to see and hear favorable things about you. Most Italian cities and aristocratic families have used handsome coats of arms to popularize a favorable image of their ideal of life.



Coat of Arms of the Most Serene Republic of Venice (697 – 1797).

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Columbo Stella Lodge #1149	Arlene Nunziati	John Charles Slatten
Cornelia Vita Nuova	Mike Navone	Peggy Soletti
Lodge #1198	Margaret Olivieri	Sadie Tamburine
Cristoforo Colombo #1534	Ann Paparella	Sid Tamburine
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Commission For Social Justice

by Tony Ricevuto

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a speech provided by Umberto Mucci in Las Vegas Nevada. Mr. Mucci is the founder and CEO of *We the Italians*. *We the Italians* is an email magazine that is generated in Rome Italy and emphasizes cooperation between United States and Italy. And to emphasize the importance of his message his banner conveys: *two flags one heart*.

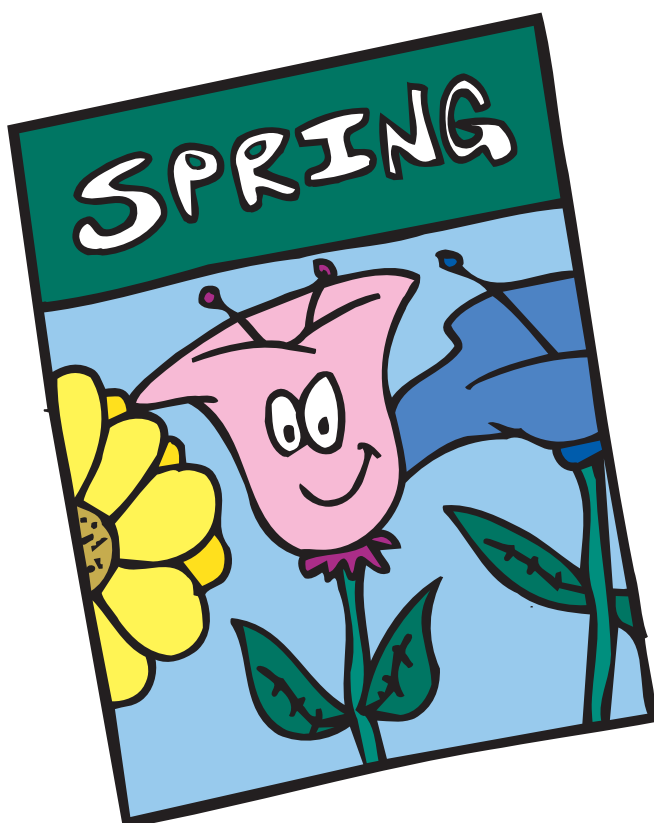


Mr. Mucci has interviewed over 100 prominent persons in both Italy and the United States to include Joseph Sciamè, past national president of OS IA and currently chair of the conference of Presidents of major Italian American organizations and other noted professionals to include, artists, diplomats, authors, chefs and organizational heads both from the United States and from Italy. He has recently written a book on his 100 interviews and was visiting Italian American organizations throughout the United States.

Mr. Mucci stated that he became thankful to Americans due to his father's involvement with the fifth Army during the Second World War. The American soldiers saved his father, cared for him, dressed him, fed him, armed him, and freed his country. He has never forgotten the sacrifice that the Americans made. On every Memorial Day he goes and pays homage to the 7861 American soldiers buried in the Sicily Rome America cemetery near Rome. He emphasized in his speech that our DNA is the same as the Italians living in Italy. He also stated that Italy needs more America because of cooperation between Italy and America generates success and quality. Therefore "if you are Italian, not only does it may need more America. It needs you." Italian-Americans are successful people, winners with a passion and friendly "We are the Italians who are interested in you, learn from you, and will appreciate what you do." If you have not looked at www.wetheitalians.com, please take time and review the site. It's full of cultural activities and developments that will keep you advised of events and happening in American and Italy.

His message was well delivered and he made special note of the contributions Christopher Columbus made on both countries. He was appalled that Governments were undermining Columbus's accomplishments by re-inventing Columbus Day with Indigenous People Day or Native American Day. Mucci is also attempting to have Italy recognize the accomplishments of Columbus. Columbus is not an official holiday in Italy.

The Commission for Social Justice forwarded a petition to all the lodges in an effort to collect signatures from Lodge members and general public since Columbus Day is recognized in the United States as a federal holiday and is currently under vilification. If you have not yet completed the petition sheets please do so. This is a concerted effort by the entire OISA and we need your cooperation.



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Tell your friends!

Anyone can apply and help with this National OSIA fundraiser!

In Memory of Anna Marinelli

Sacramento Lodge#1352



On November 11, 2015, the Sacramento Lodge lost one of our most beloved members, Anna, after a brief and sudden illness. Anna was a member of the lodge for almost 24 years and was a regular participant in every dinner/meeting each and every month, despite limited mobility. Anna was Lodge Orator for the last several years and was effective in insuring our meetings were conducted in an effective, orderly business-like manner.

In addition to Anna's immense value to our lodge, Anna was a tremendous family-value person, with a large family. Anna loved to cook and instilled those culinary values to her children and grandchildren. Anna will be missed by many but memories of her life, her rewarding actions and lifelong contributions will be remembered. We love you, Anna.

**Please join the Royal Court of
the Golden Lion.**

**Any donation would be
appreciated. It is for
a good cause. Call Chris Lotito
for more information.**

Scholarship Application Reminder

Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar
Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Just a reminder that the deadline for scholarship applications and Students to Italy grant is (post-marked) March 1, 2016. Students must be part or wholly Italian. Eligible students must be enrolled in a credited trade school, college, university or community college.

Application forms are available online. GO to www.sonsofitalyca.org and click on the link for scholarships.

Any questions or inquiries, please feel free to contact me. Those students wishing to apply to the National scholarship program, deadline for those applications is February 29, 2016. Their website is www.osia.org.

My contact information is: email: rgeorev@aol.com, (h) 626/254-0449, cell or text (626) 222-7768. Mailing address is 801 W. Duarte Rd., # I, Monrovia, CA 91016.

Saddleback Valley Lodge # 2566

Mission Viejo, CA
by Andy Pampuro, President

We held our monthly meeting on Friday, March 11, 2016. It was movie night so we had a quick meeting taking care of any important business we needed to take care. Then it was on to the movie which was "The Big Night", a very good movie enjoyed by all. Sandwiches and drinks were served prior to the start of the movie. Many thanks to Hank and Michelle Lowinger who arranged for the food and donated all the drinks. Thanks to Lillian Rossi for taking care of the desserts which were donated by Lou-

ise Pampuro, Jean Andreone, Erta Maston and Pat and Pete Dito. Thanks also to Pete for showing the movie.

The very next day we participated in the Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano. Our queen, Baylin Herington rode in a chariot which was pulled by her parents and grandparents. There are no motorized vehicles in this parade. You either ride a horse or you walk. Next year we may rent a flatbed truck which will be drawn by two or four horses. We can get a lot of our members on one

of these trucks. Our queen looked very regal waving to the spectators lining the parade route. Many of our members who did attend wore their lodge T-shirts. This was the 85th year for this parade and the first time I have seen or been in it. It was a beautiful parade and a beautiful day.

Our next big project will be our rummage sale at the home of our recording secretary Bernadine Neil and her husband, Al Schlappy. This will be on April 1st and 2nd. Say a prayer it doesn't rain.



Our lodge banner was carried by junior members Stephanie and Christine granddaughters of Pat and Pete Dito.



Our lovely lodge queen, Baylin Herington, in her chariot.

Hanford Lodge # 1543

Hanford, CA
by Jackie Giacomazzi
jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com



Michael Leoni and his daughter pose by the display they arranged for the Lodge to tell the story of their family heritage.



Members of the Hanford Lodge and the Enrico Caruso Lodge shared a bus trip taking them to a guided tour of Mission San Antonio de Padua located on the Army Base Fort Hunter Liggett.

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Terry Anderlini is past president of the State Bar of California and has been serving satisfied clients for over 40 years.

411 Borel Avenue, Suite 501
San Mateo, California 94402
(650) 212-0001
tanderlini@amlawoffice.com

Terry Anderlini is a member of the Columbia Lodge # 1940



Become a Sponsor of Il Leone!

Vallejo Lodges

by Sharon Silveira

The Queen and King of Polenta....these titles belong to Josie Agosta and Don Cahan, who with their kitchen crew, have prepared the highly popular Stew & Polenta dinners for countless years. They have announced their retirement from cooking---the polenta paddle will pass into other hands and so on Sunday, March 13th the Vallejo Lodges honored Josie & Don. State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy handled the presentation of beautifully framed certificates, each awarded with many kind words and followed by a standing ovation. There were reminiscences of past kitchen crew members including Josie's husband Joe Agosta, Bruno Mainini, Joe & Rose Fomasi, Dennis Lazarotta, Don Passalacqua, Tony Balzano, Richard & Evelyn Fox....

Everyone enjoyed a delicious Chicken Marsala dinner prepared by Rick Branch, Glen Rushing, Steve & Lucy Branch and John Costa. A lively dice game was presided over by Peter Mustico. The raffle table looked very festive thanks to the efforts of Carmella Engberg Melanie Rushing and Sharon Silveira sold the red tickets. A special thank you to Ruth Corda for contributing two of her hand-made purses with matching scarves----those received many covetous looks. We always appreciate raffle gifts and we especially appreciate the raffle ticket buyers! The raffle ticket sellers will be wearing new cute aprons and a thank you goes to Fran Lemos. Libations served up by President Ray Bini and Rick Branch. At the Reception Tables selling the tick-

ets and tokens were Regina Coragliotti and President Pamela Bini. A big Thank You to our Head Server Donna Lee Costa, Shelby Clemons and the students from SVSP High School.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at our Tuesday meeting night on March 8th with corned beef sandwiches, Marlene's incredible potato salad, cabbage salad and a Vallejo tradition---an assortment of Jello salads. Kudos to The KitchenQueens Bert & Marlene. Joining us for their official visits--State Trustee North Joy Bruno and State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi. And how fun they brought OSIA t-shirts and other Italian themed merchandise as part of fund raising for the Grand Lodge.

Always good to look ahead.....Saturday, May 7th is our annual Wine Tasting & Appetizer Event that benefits UC Davis Alzheimer's Research. Once again we have the pleasure to hold it at the Classic Car Museum due to the generosity of Buck Kamphausen. An incredible Silent Auction (donations for the auction please contact Sharon Silveira 644-5304) and amazing Door Prizes (Melanie Rushing is the contact for door prizes 449-1196) are just part of the event--- don't miss it.

The Scholarship Awards Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 17th and our emcee will be Supervisor Erin Hannigan. Please join us and show our recipients some true Italian Family Spirit as we gather round the tables for a spaghetti dinner and celebrate these amazing students.

United Lodges of the San Joaquin Valley

by Jackie Giacomazzi
jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com

The United Lodges of the San Joaquin Valley met in Visalia on March 13 hosted by the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. All the Lodges in the Valley were represented: Clovis, Fresno, Hanford, Tulare, Visalia.

We were delighted to have several State officers present: State 1st Vice President, Arlene Nunziati; State Trustee, Central, Pauline Richmond; State Trustee, North, Joy Bruno; State Membership chair, Joe Simoni. Joe Simoni gave the group a very informative talk on getting new members and keeping the ones we have.

SAVE THE DATE: May 15, 2016—The United Lodges will meet in Visalia at the Enrico Caruso Lodge hall to have a luncheon and give our monetary gifts to the Valley Children's Hospital Birth Defects Library. More information to follow.



Pictured: Front row: Lilia Giacomazzi, Special Deputy; Joy Bruno, State Trustee, North; Arlene Nunziati, State 1st Vice-President; Pauline Richmond, State Trustee, Central and UL 1st Vice-President and Joe Simoni, State Membership Chair. Back row: Jackie Giacomazzi, United Lodges Secretary Lou Catallo, UL Trustee Leroy Beecher, UL Treasurer Charles Sant'Agata, UL President and Donna Grist, UL 2nd Vice-President.

Dolly Sinatra Lodge # 2400

Palm Springs, CA
by Andy Casey

The joy and warmth of our club just never ceases, but unfortunately the seasons do. And with just two months to go it is a wonderful time to reflect on the season so far. Better than most, certainly for me, although I've only been with the club for three seasons! It is a season which saw our President Joe LaPorta being diagnosed with cancer, undergoing grueling treatment, and now improving dramatically, so it's pretty easy to see why this season is the best! Of course it would have been far better without any health problems!

Last night was our annual St. Patrick's Dinner Party, and, oh my, was it a wonderful event. This Lodge of ours just pulls out all the stops and fetes us to a glorious celebration. And by one look at my name you might guess I'm Irish, and I know a great corned beef and cabbage dinner. And we had one! And if that wasn't enough the incomparable Michael DiAngelo was the entertainer and master of ceremonies. Now I've heard hundreds of renditions of "Danny Boy", but Michael's will leave you shedding a tear. And then he had Denny Pezzins come to the stage. Now Denny had promised me he would sing McNamarra's Band a couple of weeks ago, which is a personal favorite of mine, and true to his word he belted it out. It's a difficult song to sing, but Denny nailed it! As did he on his Elvis impersonations. He's a wonderful singer and a joy to listen to. Up next was Deanne Conti and Amado doing a duo that highlights there wonderful talents, especially together. Then to the floor he called Arnold Capitanelli.

Now Arnold is a whole different story! This soft spoken, warm and extremely funny man is a story teller, singer/ musician and writer, who at 84 years old, is seemingly just getting started, although he has a 60 years plus brilliant career! At, well, all of the things above! And another thing he has done extremely well is to keep his bride of 60 years, Jackie, very happy, but that's easy to see when you see them. Arnold will be our 39th Honoree recipient at our annual Gala on April 16th, a well deserved award! Arnold regaled us with his oft told, but never boring "You Have Two Choices" joke, which is way too long to do here, sorry. Then he sang "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet", a song about telling God your problems and, yes, you guessed it, tell God your problem and you'll hear a voice say, you ain't seen nothing yet. Trust me, magnificent!

And our membership continues to grow. Recently joining us was Ms Donna Caponi, who amongst her other great golfing triumphs is the first woman to be elected to the National American Sports Hall of Fame! Welcome Donna! Obviously our ranks keep growing with the amazing people volunteering and keeping our Lodge the best!



Don Cahan and Josie Agosta being lauded by State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy.



Las Vegas Lodge #2158

Las Vegas, NV
by President Tony Ricevuto

In the past year the Las Vegas Lodge has experienced a decrease in membership and dues which has resulted in problems contributing to our share of paying per capital. Our meetings have not been well attended resulting in various issues to include obtaining a quorum to conduct meetings in accordance with the bylaws of the Order. We have an older membership which resulted in several members experiencing health issues and their active participation at monthly meetings. The members that regularly attend cannot conduct fund raising events due to lack of participation and the expense associated with the preparation and cost of food and/or materials. We are relying on membership fees to pay the per diem. I want to acknowledge the assistance and support of our State President, Lynn Lawrence-Murphy for her patience and understanding in working with us to come to a solution so we can keep the Lodge active.

Our monthly meeting was held on March 10th instead of our normal second Tuesday of each month. The Italian American Club had a scholarship fund raiser and movie actor and director, Chazz Palminteri donated his time to this event so we changed our meeting date to accommodate the Club. One of the most fortunate advantages we have is that the Club provides meeting space for the Lodge.

The Lodge meeting was

attended by a small amount of members and we were pleased that Ted Seibel, State Third Vice President and State Deputy Carmine Buffo joined us for dinner prior to the meeting. Mr. Seibel provided an insight to assist us in evaluating how we can arrange to comply with the per capital problems that has plagued us this past year. Our Past President Phil Carlino had discussed an arrangement with the State President, Lynn prior to this meeting. Our discussions during the meeting worked out a solution which our Lodge will honor. Mr. Carlino introduced a new young member to our group who completed an application and paid her dues. We know the key is for us to recruit younger members so the Lodge can provide the participation and dedication to continue. We are in the process of evaluating how we can attract new members and those who have not renewed their membership.

June and Luigi Passarelli were not present at this meeting since June is still in ill health but at least she is home recuperating and resting. Luigi has his own health problems and it has been difficult to communicate with them and attend meetings. We have several other members in the same predicament. Thank you for your patience and we look forward to becoming an active Lodge again.

La Costa dei Fiore

Lodge #2424

Encinitas, CA
by Mary DeFalco

Did you know that Saint Patrick was not Irish? Did you know the traditional meal is lamb? It's the American culture that transformed the meal plan into corned beef and cabbage. Ireland, known as the Emerald Isle because of its rich green fields, is the source of wearing "green" on this day.

Some myth and fact about this superhero: March 17th, the day that Saint Patrick died in the year 461, began as a religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland and has now become an international festival celebrating Irish culture. Saint Patrick was born in England, an aristocrat with no interest in his Christian roots. After being kidnapped at the age of 16 (by Irish "pirates") and held in captivity in Ireland for six years, he made his way back to England. Missing Ireland, and having found Christianity, he went back to Ireland to work as a missionary. He used the shamrock or clover leaf to explain the Holy Trinity. It was then that the Christian people adopted the custom of showing their faith by wearing a "shamrock" pinned to their clothes. He became a well-known figure/hero of his faith and of his time and ended up as the patron Saint of Ireland, in short. Today over three million spectators come to New York City to watch the St. Patrick's Day parade, a long time tradition started in New York City by Irish soldier immigrants marching to a tavern.

At our monthly meeting this month we had the pleasure of a show performed by the Clan RInce Dance Group, a local Irish dance school. They were more than happy to practice their skills and talents for us. About ten young girls performed with a lively thirty minute rendition of traditional Irish country dance. We had so much fun watching them stamp their feet and making lots of noise. To add to this happiness, we were the recipients of and excellent corned beef and cabbage meal cooked by one of our members who claims to never have made corned beef. By all accounts it was one of the best meetings we've had here at the lodge.

I recommend you invite locals from your community to come on in and entertain your group. For example: you can invite experts in the wine, gardening, medical or language fields, local dance schools whose students need practice performing in front of an audience, or even different ethnic clubs who have dance or music groups attached to them. It's a win-win for all participants.

By the time you receive this paper, both St. Patrick's Day and Easter will have passed. From our lodge to yours: We hope you had a blessed Easter.

Una primavera felice di te. Stop e prendere un momento per godersi la fioritura dei fiori freschi e campi verdi. Sono le piccole cose nella vita che ci fanno sorridere.

Enrico Caruso

Lodge #1463

Visalia, CA
by Nick Noarnicola

Enrico Caruso Lodge 1463 had a busy March. We had a Mardi Gras dinner where our Queen Christine Bianco was crowned. She also has been having breakfasts and other events to raise money. The queen contest is coming to a close and she has several more events scheduled. A round of Golf Board, use of a Resort Board, Rummage Sale, a Pancake breakfast and several 50/50 drawings. The lodge had several Fish Fries for the benefit of the delegates. We also had a St Joseph's Table Dinner with the proceeds going to the Bethlehem Center, a local soup kitchen for the homeless and poor. Our big event is April 3, our annual Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner.

Ciao



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Welcome Spring



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.



Anaheim Lodge # 2076

Anaheim, CA
by Fran D’Errico, Recording Secretary

Cao, to all my brothers and sisters in the Anaheim Lodge, sorry for the long absence, but I’m back and fully recovered and ready to keep you all informed on up to date news for the Anaheim Lodge.

“WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING” On February 20th we held our Queen Coronation and Dinner for our new Queen Elizabeth Lavezzari. She is the daughter of our President Eva Lavezzari and the Grand Lodge Budget and Finance, David Lavezzari. Our outgoing Queen, Marie Copak gave her some words of wisdom on serving as Queen for the Anaheim Lodge. Her Nonna, Past President Babe Peluso, made the lasagna dinner with the help of her sister and also the homemade cannoli for dessert. Elizabeth is very excited about being queen for the lodge. She is following in some very good footsteps of the family. The first queen of the lodge was her Aunt Louise Cavic, then her Nonna Babe Peluso, cousin Sherry Monarcky, Laura Capparelli, Eva Capparelli and mother Eva Lavezzari. So, Elizabeth you have 6 generations of family members before you to guide you on your road.

“UPCOMING EVENT”
APRIL 9TH, the Junior Members will again be hosting and “EVENING OF FUN”. Just like last year they will committee it, plan it and run the entire event on their own. Officers of the lodge will only be there for guidance if needed. Last year they put on a great event and made a really good profit. Now that they are pro’s at it, we’re sure it will be even a better event this year. So look for the flier in the mail. You may also contact Elizabeth Lavezzari for more information, thru her mother Eva Lavezzari.

“WHO DID WHAT & IS DOING WHAT!!!” (PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS, SENT ME YOUR ARTICLE AND I WILL WRITE IT UP IN THE IL LEONE.

Schedule of Upcoming Events:
Saturday: May, 58th Anniversary for Anaheim Lodge Information forth coming.
Sunday: July 17th Annual Lodge Picnic (East Gate Park)

Members, we need your help!!! We encourage you to attend and support our lodge...if you need a ride, call my officer and we will make arrangements or 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 will still encourage this standard in our lodge. We all want our Italian Heritage to continue for generations to come.

God bless and arrivederci until next time.



Queen Elizabeth Lavezzari with junior members.



Incoming queen Elizabeth Lavezzari and out going queen Marie Copak.

Queen Marie giving some words of wisdom to new queen Elizabeth.



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

*The reason I didn’t do this
when I had the chance was...*

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America Lodge # 1609

La Habra, California
by Yolanda Campanelli,
Historian

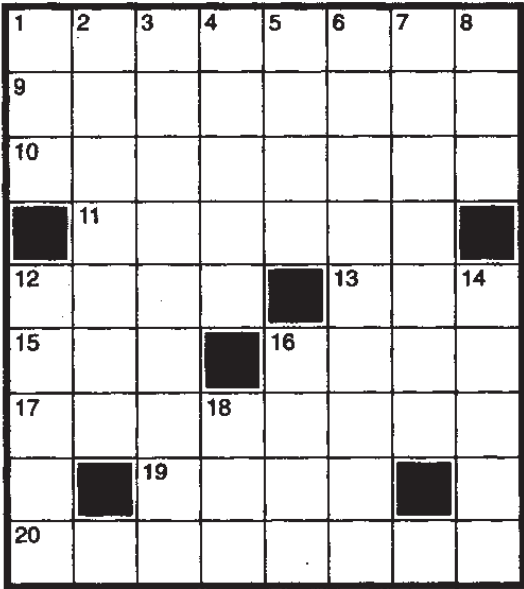
The “White Elephant Sale/ Auction” was a success, providing America Lodge members with the opportunity to spend a fun time together after the meeting, especially when you have two super energetic auctioneers, Donna Norton and Lucy Sacco prompting the bidders to up their bids. The members were asked their reaction to the “sale” and all agreed that not only did we add to our treasury but enjoyed the time spent with each other, but also with the guest that joined us. Even our State Deputy Mark Vaona was seen leaving with a “White Elephant”. Thanks to Helen Yukich for suggesting the Sale. President Linda Ennemen and her guests, Great niece 8 year old Jaden Gonzales, friend Christina Mosieve, Chris’ granddaughter 7 year old Sofia Mosieve and Adele Macaluso (all potential members) enjoyed the Centinela Valley Lodge Crab and Rib Eye Steak Dinner, cooked by America Lodge State Deputy Mark Vaona. As you all know – Mark is a great cook!!!

The month of March will be busy as we finalize the plans for “Our Special Italian Pasta Lunch” fund raiser on April, 17th 2016 1:00pm, at La Habra Community Center, La Habra CA. Come join us, members of other lodges and State Officers to share our good food, dancing to the fabulous Sicilian Band, many great raffle prizes, as the local merchants are very generous. Cost: Adults \$15.00, Kids (12 and under) \$8.00. For further information and tickets, contact Ann Eaton (562) 691-0635 or Jeanine Smorowski (562) 943-5505. Hope to see many of you here.

In February, the Joanne Coccia Lodge celebrated their 32nd Anniversary. America Lodge President Linda Enneman would like to congratulate Joanne Coccia Lodge on their Anniversary and thank Marlene Clark for being the organizer for the Memphis Show and dinner. Attending the celebration with President Enneman were Ann Eaton, Dee Tucker, Ed Allen and Gina Danza. It is always a pleasure to attend and support other Lodge’s functions and getting to know them better.

America Lodge is working on activities for the rest of the year, some we’ve done before such as the Corn Festival in August, the picnic and of course our 85th Anniversary celebration in November and coming up with new ideas that will continue to make the meetings interesting and productive. More news next month, Ciao.

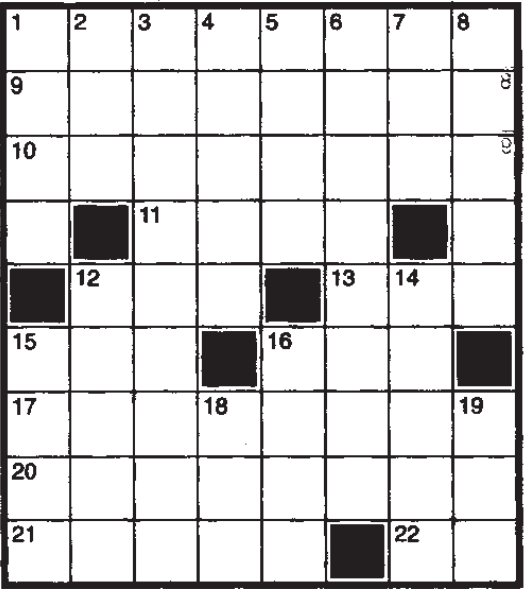
CRUCIVERBA



ORIZZONTALI: 1. Si cuoce alla griglia - 9. Alessandra attrice - 10. Ammalciare - 11. Indirizzare a rete - 12. Buono e mansueto - 13. Controspionaggio USA (sigla) - 15. La prima ora - 16. Alan del cinema - 17. Stabilimento con colate - 19. Con Itar è un'agenzia di stampa - 20. Fanno respirare male.

VERTICALI: 1. Messaggio al cellulare (sigla) - 2. Moscone... in acqua - 3. Che dà molto fastidio - 4. Un anestetico - 5. Sbarramento fluviale - 6. Piegarsi curvando la schiena - 7. Ninfe del mare - 8. Sgradito al moralista - 12. Si forma nei luoghi umidi - 14. Scrisse "Felicità Colombo" - 16. Danneggiato o ferito - 18. Segue din e don.

CRUCIVERBA



ORIZZONTALI: 1. Grave mancanza di viveri - 9. Darsi una mano a vicenda - 10. Materiale... plastico - 11. Lo Stato di Mascate - 12. A favore di - 13. Questa... tra amici - 15. Un seme delle carte da gioco - 16. Cattive per il poeta - 17. Famoso avventuriero russo - 20. Ha sette lati - 21. Corda per Tarzan - 22. Iniz. di Einstein.

VERTICALI: 1. Insenatura marina - 2. Cortile rurale - 3. Realizza effetti per la colonna sonora - 4. Forma originaria di parola - 5. Priva di malattie - 6. Passaggio - 7. Tre lettere per l'istituto - 8. Parte del giardino - 12. Distese erbose - 14. È come la caffeina - 15. Vi nacque Turgenev - 16. Un solco in fronte - 18. Peter fiabesco - 19. Il patriarca dell'arca.

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

Answers page 18

Centinela Valley Lodge # 1991

Torrance, CA
by Annette Porter

Our February Crabfest dinner was an enjoyable evening. We had a wonderful crab dinner, the food was fantastic as usual thanks to chefs Mark Vaona, Annette Porter, Steve Guthrie and the group of members that help put this event together. Without each and every one of them our events would not be successful.

Our March business meeting we had the honor to initiate one new member into our lodge. We are pushing along trying to bring in new people.

We are already gearing up to play bocce. Our first scheduled event will be our

April Spring Fling Luncheon on Saturday April 24th, we will have bocce and bingo for those of you who would like to play either or both. Doors will open at 1:00pm. Additional information to come in our lodge bulletin.

Our anniversary is scheduled for Saturday May 21st. Invites will be going out to the state officers and each lodge. The menu will be choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Wellington, the price is \$40.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children under 12. We have the pleasure of honoring "Mark Vaona" this year.



A few of our members enjoying their vino and crab. Amedeo Rocca and his friends from Familia Veneta Maria and Armand Varlotta.



This is a picture from our meeting with our new member – Sandro Soler Ferro. Our Mistress Patty Perez and Master of Ceremony Brian Sinaguglia escorted him. He will be a great addition to our family. Sandro has accepted the chair position of Italian Culture, he will do a fantastic job.



Sons of Italy Shirts

*****Price Reduction*****

Ladies Shirts Now \$15



Men's Shirts Now \$10



To place your order, please call State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi at
(209) 404-1883 or e-mail her at: loriathegrandlodge@gmail.com

Valley of the Moon Lodge # 1959

Sonoma, CA
by Ellen Toscano
ellentoscano@gmail.com

Emerald green napery decorated the dinner tables as a congregation of cheerful Italians dressed in smiles, bright eyes, and various shades of green filled the room at our March 15th St. Patrick's Day dinner. Laughter, fun, and friendly conversation filled the air while our tastebuds enjoyed a traditional Italian-prepared Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage created by our fabulous chef, Beth Bruzzone, and her dream team: Doreen and John Amaral and Andrew Storck. Prepared with Guinness and Jamison Whiskey (no wonder it was so good!), the dream team constructed a mouthwatering meal including corned beef, traditional vegetables, smashed Irishman potatoes and drunken Irishmen gravy. As if that wasn't heavenly enough, Irish "car bomb" brownies followed as the dessert du jour. We all thought we were Irish by the time we left! Alright, who am I kidding...I shouldn't go that far. We were lucky enough, however, to have two special guests straight from Ireland in attendance who, after the meal, got on the microphone and gleefully announced to the room, "This was the best corned beef and cabbage we have ever had." What can I say? Italians know food!

We also had the pleasure of welcoming our newest members: Will Hansen and Dale Ingraham, as well as junior member, Suzanne Amaral, who was the recipient of one of our high school scholarships just a couple years ago and is now attending Cal Poly! Speaking of scholarship winners...

Our March 5th Sons of Italy Scholarship Dinner/Dance was an enormous success! What seemed like never-ending buckets of rain tirelessly poured onto our beautiful city, but luckily, it takes a lot more than just "a little" water to keep Italians away from having a good time! Over 200 people braved the rain and came out to the event to eat, drink, mingle, be merry and enjoy an evening of dancing to the Country Swing music of Tommy Thomsen and his band. Because of the sopping wet weather, we almost didn't have a BBQ! Thankfully, Chief Joe and Travis from CAL-FIRE loaned us their covered smoker to cook the ribs and chicken, so everything fell perfectly into place - it's a good thing too because people are still talking about those unbelievably delectable ribs! We would like to give special thanks to the many helpers who worked so hard to make this event such a special and successful evening: Bartenders Herb Seidell, Tony Grant and Anthony Grant, servers

from the high school's FFA program and young students from our local junior high school Altimira, our chef Beth Bruzzone and her entourage John, Paul Kenny, Jamie and Andrew Storck, Doreen and John Amaral, Alina Amaral and her friend Gino, and other hard-working volunteers and contributors, Marie Davis, Joanna Seidell, Linda Shockey, Josephine Grant, Karen and Mike Carroll, Deborah De Martini, Chandra Grant, Jim O'Donnell and Broadway Market. We truly can not thank you all enough, as well as everyone who was in attendance to support our scholarship program.

We also have some exciting news to share about a couple of our current members! Junior member, 12-year-old George Storck started his very own egg business! This ambitious young entrepreneur, who is always helping at our events, is selling fresh local eggs which he has successfully provided to many of our members at our monthly dinners. To place an order, please call George at 707-938-9360. Also, new member, Ellen Toscano, will be performing this summer with Transcendence Theatre Company at the beautiful Jack London State Park's outdoor theatre in Glen Ellen where she will be sharing the stage with other professional Broadway artists. Ellen will be singing and dancing in "Fantastical Family Night" - one of the four main shows in TTC's Broadway Under The Stars series. Performances are scheduled for July 15th and 16th. For tickets, please call the box office at (877)

424-1414 or go to www.transcendencetheatre.org. And for all the baseball fans out there, Ellen will also be singing the National Anthem at the San Francisco Giants game on July 10th as well as on opening day for the Sonoma Stompers, our local professional baseball team, on June 7th. Come on out and support your fellow Sons of Italy sister while enjoying some peanuts and cracker jacks!

Even though spring is here and the weather is beginning to warm up, there is still some kind of "flu bug" in the air and we would like to wish many of our members well: Edith King, Jean Morenzoni, Phyllis Serafini, Russell Johnson, and Laverne Gardella - you are in our thoughts to get well soon! And please keep Jean Maffiloli in your thoughts and prayers as she just lost her dear sister. Jean, we are all sending you love and hugs.

For those of you who want to experience a lot of laughter with the Valley of the Moon members and the delicious cuisine of our culinary artist Beth Bruzzone and her dream team, please join us at our dinner next month on April 19th. Get your appetites ready because we will be enjoying savory meatloaf with absolutely scrumptious side dishes. "Happy Hour" starts at 5pm, dinner will be served at 6pm, and our meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. As always, a raffle will be included in our evening as well as excellent company and a whole lot of smiles! Please make reservations with Karen Carroll: 707-938-1295. See you all soon!



Matriarch Jo Grant poses with her family, including members Tony Grant and President Paul Grant, at the Scholarship Dinner.



Jo Grant and her son Tony flash their pearly whites as they prep for the raffle.



Tommy Thomsen and fellow musicians performing at the Sons of Italy Scholarship Dinner/Dance.

**Scarves for sale from Grand Lodge
\$15.00 each inc postage**



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Roma Lodge # 1573

Tulare, CA
by Larry Dutto

Roma Lodge # 1573 is celebrating their 86th Anniversary this year. The lodge will be honoring members who have 25, 35, 50 and over 50 years of membership in the lodge. At our monthly meeting a long held tradition of Italian sausage and risotto dinner is held in honor of our members who have given so much over their years of membership.

Our honorees will include:

25 Year Members

Marjorie Boyer
Michael DePaoli
Larry Dutto
Tessa Curti-Hall

35 Year Member

Jennifer Gray

50 Year Members

Clifton Cleek
Clarence Costa
John S. Greco
Mary Ann Luis

51 Year Members

Marlene Peterson
Mary Jean Kronbetter

52 Year Members

Agnes Pelous
Rosalie Milanesio
Pete Milanesio
Dominic Milanesio

53 Year Member

Leroy Beecher

54 Year Member

Judy Paggi

55 Year Member

Richard Atkinson

58 Year Members

Catherina Romero
Connie Spagnuolo

59 Year Members

Richard Paggi
Angie Pasquini
Ronnie Pedroncelli

60 Year Members

Carole Burner
Janet Cabral
Johnnie Kaye Costa
Betty Pratt
Lorraine Cleek
George Rinaldi
Angela Guerra

62 Year Members

Sharon Barreto
Joann Beecher
Gary Dutto
Barbara Maraist

63 Year Members

Lillian Cotta
Sylvia Signorelli

67 Year Member

Catherine Atkinson

71 Year Member

Anna Dutto

75 Year Member

Oswald DaRos

80 Year Members

Joe Signorelli
Lilia Giacomazzi-Grand
Lodge Deputy

Roma Lodge will be hosting their 81st Annual Ravioli Dinner on Saturday, May 7th at the T.D.E.S. Hall in Tulare. Last year nearly 900 people were served a great Italian

dinner of ravioli, spaghetti, chicken and salad. Tickets may be purchased from Cathy Mederos, 687-1112 for only \$25. Take outs available.



Tapestry Award

Lilia Giacomazzi is celebrating her 80th year membership of the Roma Lodge. Lilia will celebrate her 103rd birthday in July and is still very active in lodge activities. She serves as the State Deputy for Roma Lodge and transferred her membership to the Hanford Lodge when she married her late husband Fred Giacomazzi. Lilia was honored with the Tapestry Award for her contributions to agriculture by Fresno State University.



Dairyman Honored

Forty-seven year Roma Lodge member Ben Curti was honored by the Tulare Dairy Herd Improvement Association at their annual banquet. The Curti dairy family immigrated from Albonico, Italy in the early 1900's and have been dairying and farming in Waukena, California for over 100 years. Ben is on the board of Land-O-Lakes and a leader in the industry.



Domenic Milanesio
1927-2016

Roma Lodge members were saddened with the passing of 52 year lodge member Domenic Milanesio. Domenic and his wife Angie moved to the Strathmore area in 1956 where they farmed cotton, alfalfa hay, black eye beans, sugar beets, corn and many other grains. Domenic and Angie recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. He was an active member in lodge activities and regularly attended meetings.

Rodolfo Valentino Lodge # 1449

Clovis, CA
by Carole Watson, President;
Lou Catallo, Historian; lcatallo@aol.com,

From last month: Carol Watson, our President, announced that Alberta Ferrer (see photo) will be our new Vice-President.

United Lodge of the San Joaquin Valley: at last month's meeting in Visalia, Charles Sant 'Agata announced that he is on the committee to review the possibility of selling the Sons of Italy San Francisco headquarters. The committee has now reached their conclusions and submitted their recommendation to the Grand Lodge officers for their consideration. As part of their review, they hired assessors to determine the value of the headquarters, and the assessments ranged from a low of \$1.5M to a high of \$8M.



Winning does not always mean "First Place"; entering the game of life is a marathon, not a sprint.

Repeat from last month: Planning for the Spring Pasta Fest, April 18, 2016, is still on-going; the raffle prizes will be better than ever, so contact your friends and family to make sure they are all aware of this yearly event. The price is still \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children that we are famous

for. We will be putting more emphasis on the silent auction this year because it was so popular at the last dinner, and, we will maintain the raffle. Our music will feature Rick DelCarlo on the accordion and vocals by Josh Bravo; space for dancing will be in front of the stage area. The festivities begin at 6:00 PM for pasta, sausage, string beans ala carbonara (Carol's famous recipe), tossed salad, fresh baked buns from Fresno's B Street Bakery, butter, dessert, and refreshments; enjoy at our tables or take-out, as you prefer. Raffle proceeds go to the Valley Children's Hospital Library Fund, which we have always supported.

When a child is ready, a teacher will appear -Anon. Now is the time for scholarship applications, so be thinking toward the coming year. Do you have a relative that could use a little boost or an assist while at college? If so, call our Scholarship Committee Chair, Isabel Ronzano, at (559) 297-0851. The Deadlines: for Clovis Lodge scholarships, March 31, 2017, for next year; for California State Grand Lodge Scholarships: March 1, 2017 for next year; and for National scholarships the date is generally November to February of any year (for more information 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/>.

Puzzle answers from page 13

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Cristoforo Colombo Lodge # 1534

Reno, NV
by Historian, Maria Nelson

"NASA" visited us in January. Dan Ruby, Director of the Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center at the University of Nevada Reno, talked about the Italian Astronauts, including the first Italian woman astronaut. He showed us their pictures and talked briefly about each one. He brought space ice cream which our youth tried, showed us what pasta in space looked like (yuck), and gave us a wonderful presentation. Thank you to Nancy Anderson for getting Dan Ruby to speak to us.

In February a few members visited our Carmen Ghia car at the National Auto Museum. We encourage our California members to visit this museum. The car belonged to Frank Sinatra. It was one of 61 Carmen Ghia's built in Torino, Italy. We had no formal speaker in February but played a fun trivia game and enjoyed a presentation by new member Margaret Spano who was the highlighted member in February. Margaret told us about her grandfather who was a chef for the Officer's club in WWI. He created a special dish called Lumaconi, large stuffed shells to the delight of the officers. He started a restaurant at Lake Tahoe, in Kings Beach California called Lanza's you can visit it to this day and enjoy a great Italian meal. In honor of Carnivale, a great Almond Cake dessert was provided by the Anderson's and Wisniewski's, we are blessed that our members get together and share their special desserts with our members.

March movie night was another great event. Mark and Nancy Anderson opened their home to a pot luck dinner and many of us watched the 2004 award-winning documentary, "Prisoners Among Us". It is about the internment of Italians in this country during World War II. It was a serious subject but one that was important for us learn about. We had a great meal, good discussion, interesting conversation, and, of course, fun! Thank you again to the Andersons.

Our very own Chef Joe Eidem will be our March presenter. He will do an olive oil demonstration/tasting. We are so looking forward to this as well as a chance for our members to get together and share our culture.

IMPORTANT EVENT – Our Festa Primavera. It will be at held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at the Sparks Recreation Center, 98 Richards Way, Sparks, Nevada. It begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 7-12. We will serve you a fantastic five course meal. There will be many raffle prizes and a silent auction. Please contact Christine Handy at 775-786-5294 or handys75@gmail.com for more information or tickets. This year we are celebrating

our 87th year as a Lodge where we raise money for our scholarships and charitable giving through the community. We hope some of you will attend this important, fund-raising event, it would be great to see you and always a great time is had by all.

We continue our Share the Wealth Board at our monthly meetings along with the member raffle. Our children always enjoy learning something about the Italian heritage and presenting their crafts to us at the end of the meetings. Our new Cheers or Peers section

in our newsletter is a success. We have had some very interesting articles about our members. Our Chef Antonio continues to delight us with his cooking.

REMEMBER ... I litigi finiscono, ma le parole dette non muoiono ma. Quarrels end, but words once spoken never die.

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

Happy Springtime!



Space Ice Cream.



Franco Malerba-Italian Astronaut.



Ken & Barbara Wisniewski shining up the Ghia.



Members enjoying dinner before the movie.

Vincenzo Bellini Lodge # 2519

Chico, CA
by Jeanne Smith

As I write this our Spaghetti Dinner is still more than 2 weeks away but when you read this it will be behind us! Lots of planning and preparation goes into this event and our members donate many hours of their time to make it successful. The proceeds go to scholarships for local graduating seniors. Many thanks to the community for their support!

Thanks to our State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and her husband Bill for coming to our February meeting! It really helps to motivate members and help us all realize that we are not just local but a State and National organization. Together we really can be quite powerful when it comes to promoting our common causes of keeping Italian culture alive in our country and the many charities we support. Along those lines the California Grand Convention is at the Nugget in Reno this June. If you have time it's worth sitting in on the convention, especially during the pledging

by the lodges! It's amazing how much we do!

Our first New Membership Social this year was at Alameda Winery and Distillery on Sunday, February 21st from 2pm to 4pm. There was a tasting and a tour. It is hoped that these functions will attract new members as well as retain members. Please try to let your friends, family and acquaintances know about these functions, they may be inspired to join when they realize how charming and fun we all are!

The Vincenzo Bellini Lodge is moving to the Chico Grange Hall at 2775 Nord Ave. Our first meeting at our new location will be Thursday, April 21st. We are excited about this and so is the Chico Grange! Members of both organizations are talking about becoming members of both, not to mention having a venue with so much potential for functions! Watch us grow in our new home!

Prendetevi il tempo per godere i fiori lungo la strada.



Our Lodge President Gary Smith welcoming State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and her husband Bill to our February meeting and potluck.

SPRING



Shasta Lodge #2453

Redding, CA
by Carole Dellaragione

We hope you all had a very blessed Easter and that all this rain from El Nino hasn't dampened your spir- its.

Shasta Lodge held our annual St. Patrick's Dinner on March 12th and despite the rainy evening, had a full house. Once again Enterprise Starship gave an outstanding performance and with the help of our guests and mem- bers, we were happy to be able to give them a donation of \$1,000. Our lodge helped them when they first began this high school musical per- forming group twenty-four years ago and continue to help them when we can. Beckie Patterson did a great job on the dinner and as al- ways Jim Nobili and the bar crew served up some fine libations to keep everybody happy.

On March 19th our "trav- eling cooking crew", headed up by Jim Nobili, cooked and served a spaghetti lunch for the 7th Annual Welcome Home Viet Nam Vets lun- cheon. This is our 7th year cooking the lunch. Once again we were able to give them a cash donation of \$300 . The money donated by SOI members is for the Vietnam Veterans Monument to be erected at the Igo Veterans Cemetery later this year. Shasta Lodge has supported the monument effort since its inception

We are planning a social night in April with pizza, bingo and bunko, and just a chance to visit and enjoy each other's company.

Our golf tournament is coming up on May 7th. A new feature this year is a chance to get a "Hole-in-One" and win \$10,000. We also have many great prizes for our raffle. This should be a great tournament, along with a nice steak lunch. If you would like to play, give us a call and we will send you and entry form.

If you are not receiving our monthly newsletter, please go to our website reddingsonsofitaly.com and read about our other events. Or email Carole D. at carole- dell44@gmail.com and get on our mailing list for the newsletter.

Spring is here along with daylight savings time. The weather is warming up; gar- den and baseball seasons are here. Hope you all have a chance to get out and enjoy these nice days



Viet Vets.



Fran and Theresa.



Julie and Paul.

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.*

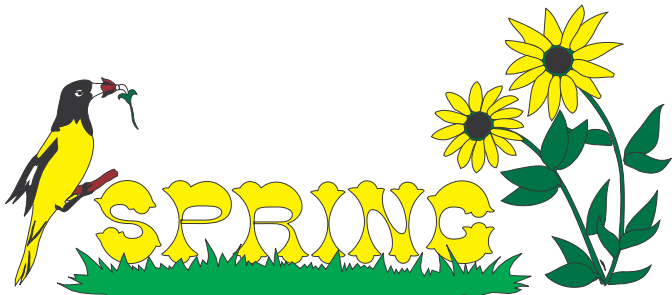
*I am an American without stint or reservation, loving this land as only
one who
understands history, its agonies and its triumphs can love it and serve it.*

*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.



Eureka Lodge # 1274

Eureka, CA

by Heidi Benzonelli, State Deputy Eureka Lodge

This Month we celebrated our Lodges 92nd Anniversary. John Salizzoni renowned local Chef and Eureka Lodge Vice President ran the show and what a great night it was! Long time lodge members honored for their service included: Vittorina Bisio 61 years, Aldo Bongio and Evelyn Bongio 60 years each, Anita Pera 58 years and Gioabbo Pera 55 years.



Vittorina Bisio has been a member of Eureka Lodge for 61 years, pictured here with her son Frank.



Anita Pera has been a member of Eureka Lodge for 58 years, pictured here with lodge member Annette De Modena.



Lodge members at the Anniversary Dinner, from the left: Alisa Luzzi - Jerland, Dianne Luzzi, Giuliana Stagnoli.

Also last month the lodge inducted new member Linda Poovey, Linda is a volunteer at Saint Joseph’s Hospital, a friend of Nancy Giannini’s, has been helping out at the Polenta Feeds and likes the idea of meeting new people, having fun and being of service to the community. Welcome Linda!



Linda Poovey receiving her Lodge Pin and packet.

In family news Vittorina Bisio’s grandson and Frank Bisio’s son Gianni Bisio went to Rwanda Africa to teach English in a University for 1 year. He recently returned from teaching for 3 years in Cambodia. We are all very proud of Gianni. Also, Ralph and Nancy Giannini, quite by accident, met State Deputy Heidi Benzonelli’s sister and brother in law from Washington State at Giants Training Camp in Arizona.



Don and Chris Barnes and Nancy and Ralph Giannini - Giants Fans!

If you are interested in attending any of our Lodge’s events or you would like to reach us directly, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Order.Sons.of.Italy.Eureka

Northern Solano

Lodge # 2534

Fairfield, CA

by Rick Tracy and Pam Boes

We open our article with the passing of our dear friend and longtime member Candida Battistuzzi Erwin. Candi, as she was known to many of us, was born in China, lived in the Philippines, moved to San Francisco and eventually settled in Fairfield Ca. After a funeral mass on March 4th, members gathered for a reception. There, Joy Bruno and Don Cradduck led us in a Sons of Italy farewell to a charming, elegant, and kind lady.

Due to the uncertainty and availability of crab we were forced to cancel our annual Crab Feed. As it has always been a major fundraiser supporting our scholarships and charities, we have replaced it with a chicken and pasta dinner to be held on April 23rd. The dinner has been planned and will be prepared by our own fantastic chefs and kitchen crew.

We are now into the soup night season hosted so far this year by Mattie and Rich Bi-aloblocki and Rich and Helen Barker. Thanks to their willingness to welcome us into their homes we have been able to continue this very enjoyable social event. In addition book club and card nights are still going strong.

Monday, March 7th saw seven Lodge members at the Contra Costa/Solano food Bank for 3 hours sorting canned and other non-perishable foods. Joy Bruno reported that 2,135 lbs of food was sorted and boxed. It was estimated by the Food Bank personnel that this would translate to 1,779 meals. Our regular participation in this local program is much appreciated.
Rick Tracy 707-429-3637
Pam Boes 707-448-7176

