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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
mailing label, please send it to the Grand Lodge,
5051 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112.
Be sure to notify your lodge Recording Secretary

Message From the State President



State President
Barbara Wisniewski

With the holidays past, we have had more time to work on the business of the Grand Lodge. The Council will be looking for a new Office Manager as of February first. We will be looking for a qualified member or someone outside of the Order, if necessary.

Several of the Council members assisted in the move to our temporary office. I would like to thank them publicly for their time and energy. Third Vice President, Louie Lodi spent a lot of time packing, loading items in San Francisco, and taking items to the new temporary office in Sacramento. Recording Secretary, Lori Rossi, spent a lot of time sorting items in San Francisco and then placing them in the new temporary location. Financial Secretary, David Lavazzari spent time sorting through many boxes of financial papers, making sure we weren't shipping and storing duplicate information. He also worked with Louie to get the computers, still in the building, to Sacramento. I would also like to thank Dan Marinelli for his time driving to San Francisco to assist in picking up the computers that were in our Realtor, Bruno Baldini's office. Our Treasurer, Lynn Lawrence Murphy, helped to consolidate files and marking what we were tak-

ing. Our Second Vice President, Mark Vaona, came and installed our computer system, including internet and phone. He hooked up the server, and the copier so Lori can access our records from home. She will be coming into the office one day per week. We have not been advised as to when that might be. Arlene Nunziati came in and helped to identify historical items that we want to keep forever. Our Office Administrator, Ervin Siach, continued to keep our business going through all this mess! We will all miss Ervin but he has decided to become a member of our Columbia Lodge so we will continue to call him brother.

Please continue to call the office at 415-586-1316 and leave a message or contact us at sonsofitalyca.com. If you are mailing anything to the Grand Lodge, please use our new PO Box address, Grand Lodge of CA OSDIA, PO Box 2467, Fairfield, CA 94533. The mail will be picked up and addressed often.

Your Council has spent many hours on Zoom working to make the transition to our new location smooth. I feel that many of the decisions are the Council's responsibility not mine as President. I love that we can discuss these things on Zoom and vote for the best interests of the Order. Don't ever doubt that each decision is come to by assessing what is best for the good of the Order. We all work with that as our prime objective.

We have seen the results of working together here at the Grand Lodge. We were even able to get our Lion down from the hall of mirrors and the directory at the entrance to the hall

of mirrors. I pledged to our Past Presidents that I would make sure that no part of our history would be lost. I spent time in San Francisco and Sacramento with our Council members making sure everything came with us. I would like to thank our Membership Chair, Dee Dee Drene for assisting me in sorting many files and putting them back into the file cabinets in our temporary office.

I would like to welcome all the new Local Lodge Officers. Please look to those that held your position previously. They can guide you as you proceed to make the Office your own. We on the Grand Council are also always available to assist when you have a question. Please feel free to call on us. You should all have a copy of our most recent Grand Lodge By Laws. That is the rule of the Order. Please contact the office for a copy if you do not have one. We can get it to you electronically if you are technologically able to download and print or just keep it for reference.

I hope you have contacted your Grand Lodge Deputies and area Vice Presidents to assist with the installation of your new Officers. It is not too late to do so. We will make every effort to assist.

I am asking for positive thoughts and prayers for our Past President John Tedesco for a full recovery. He is working with Physical Therapy to get back on his feet.

I want to thank all who have expressed concern for the First Gent, Ken. He is still under the doctor's care with no real diagnosis yet on his back. If you could keep him in your thoughts, I would so appreciate it.

Cont. on page 3

News from the Central

Pauline Richmond
State First Vice President



Dear Brothers and Sisters.

There are many members that have asked "What does the State and National Lodges do for us?" I would like remind all the Lodge Presidents, State Officers & Past State President, State Committee Chairpersons, to share the information that I pass on from the State and National office to all our members.

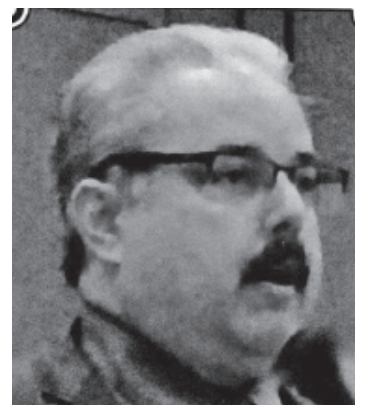
When we take the time to read, participate and click on to the various links included in my articles; the information keeps all members up to date with information on what is being accomplished by our State and National Officers and Office staff that keep OSDIA moving forward with the times!

When we stay connected, it helps us remember our Italian Heritage and keeps us motivated to be a member of OSDIA, the oldest Fraternal organization of 117 years!

Thursday, December 8, 2022. I attended the Christmas Party of the Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463. A delicious catered dinner was served by lodge members at 6:00pm with Santa making a visit with gifts for the children in attendance. Three names were drawn; each person was given a gift and got to sit on Santa's lap to tell him what they wanted for Christmas! I was one of the lucky winners!! There were a lot of laughs and fun, making the party enjoyable.

News from the South

Mark Vaona
State Second Vice President



It's been an interesting few months. I spent half of November in Europe investigating the Italian Influence on food in Budapest, Vienna and Prague. It was an informative trip but the food was very different from what I expected.

The Grand Lodge has a temporary office in Sacramento. I drove to Sacramento on Sunday December 18 and was able to get all the computers, printers, copiers and phones back online. Our new landlord has been very gracious in giving us access to their high-speed internet at no charge. Our State Vice President from the North Louis Lodie was a tremendous help and I want to make sure he gets recognition for his hard work. He drove back to San Francisco to pick up the Server and workstation at the real estate office that was graciously giving us a space to work after the power problems at the Grand Lodge. Which allowed me to wire and set up everything in one day instead of two. I ask that everyone be patient as the Grand Lodge Officers are working hard to get the office staffed and back up to speed.

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday. Stay healthy and let's wish for a Great 2023.

Sincerely,
Mark Vaona

State Vice President of the South.

Happy New Year!!

Lodge Anniveraries

JANUARY

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



(USPS 257-300)

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

5051 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif. 94112
Phone: (415) 586-1316 - Grand Lodge FAX (415) 586-4786
Deadline Date for all material - the 20th of the preceding month

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

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We appreciate all your help.

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State First Vice President
Cont. from page 1

On Sunday, December 11, 2022, I attended the Christmas Party of the United Lodges of the San Josquin Valley, Luncheon at the Spaghetti Factory in Fresno, CA.; hosted by the Colombo-Stella #1149. In the spirit of Christmas, donations were accepted for the Margaree Mason Center’s “Safe House” in the form of gift cards: Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, CVS, Walgreens.

Central Lodges attending were Roma #1573, Hanford #1543, Colombo-Stella#1149, Rodolfo Valentino #1449, Enrico Caruso #1463.

The weekend of December 17 and 18, 2022, I traveled with State Trustee – Central Pamela Buldo, and lodge member Judie Buldo to the Joanne Coccia Lodge #2335 Christmas luncheon/meeting. The meeting open with the induction of their Lodge queen and crowning of Jes-

sica Ragsac in Fontana, Ca. The Past lodge queen Susi Ragsac and mother presented her daughter Jessica with a beautiful bouquet of roses. Violinist Isabell Ragsac, sister of queen Jessica entertained the members and guest. After the ceremony, the meeting continued following with a lovely, delicious buffet luncheon! The hospitality shown to us was wonderful and much appreciated.

Lodge President Paul Finazzo does an outstanding job of leadership with his members as well as the lodge officers. It was a fun filled weekend meeting and visiting with members that I had not seem in a long time! A fantastic memorable weekend thanks to the Joanne Coccia Lodge #2553.

Wishing All a Healthy Prosperous Happy New Year!

Ciao – until next month

Happy New Year




Mary Lucido
Past Grand Lodge Queen




With the heaviest of hearts, our sister Dorothy has gone to meet her beloved Charlie to dance with him for eternity in heaven. Dorothy was a very active member of our lodge for 57 years. She loved visiting our filial lodges, had a sense of humor that had everyone holding their side from laughing and she loved her children and grandchildren with the biggest heart anyone could imagine. Sister Dorothy, you are and will be missed until we can meet again.

The Grand Lodge of California
has a **new temporary mailing address.**
This address will be used for all business of the
Grand Lodge of California
and the Sons of Italy Western Foundation
Please keep this information handy



Grand Lodge of CA OSDIA
P.O. Box 2467
Fairfield, CA 94533



Youth Commottee
by Brian Watson

Saluti Fratelli e Sorelle,
Felice Nuovo Anno! I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season this year. On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you to everyone for the calls, cards, thoughts, and prayers with the passing of my mother Carol Watson. She truly loved the order and was my number 1 supporter with the youth program. She will be forever missed. I am still planning on providing a free convention package for the youth members who would like to attend but we will need your help again. I am calling on all parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to support the Little Lion Program again.

We will be heading back to the “Biggest Little City in the World” and the kids had a blast last time we were there. I have some exciting things I am working on for the Youth at the next

convention. The Reno Rodeo and white-water river rafting are 2 fun ones I am looking forward to. There may be a free evening for the adults, and I will try and plan the rodeo night the same evening so that anyone wanting to participate on a fun evening with the youth can attend.

With a no cost convention youth package for the kids I am calling on everyone to please support the Little Lion Program either as an individual, as a lodge, or as both. I have again set up different levels of support for the program. Those who donate over \$100 will be part of the elite Platinum level, donations up to \$100 are in the gold level, up to \$50 donations are silver level and the bronze level is up to \$25.

This is a great way to invest in our youth and the future of our organization.

For those of you who were at convention and saw the looks on the faces of our youth members could see how excited they were about being a part of the order and how they want to do more with their lodges and other youth members.

If you have a youth member who would like to attend convention this year ask them what kind of things would be exciting for them to do and to learn about and call, email, text, or write me and let me know what’s on their minds.

Fraternally,
Brian E. Watson
Youth Committee Chair
4308 North DeWitt ave
Fresno, Ca 93727
(559) 285-6934
Pumbaa673@yahoo.com

Happy New Year!

Pugliese Lodge #1375
Christmas Party

by Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar
Recording Secretary

On Sunday, December 11th, the officers and members of the Pugliese Lodge enjoyed the annual Christmas Party. It was held at the beautiful new Raffaello's Ristorante in San Pedro. President Michael DiGiuro ordered a delicious menu for the occasion.

The meal started with appetizers of bruschetta, roasted red peppers and fried calamari (my favorite).

Next came a European green salad with Raffaello's signature dressing and homemade Italian bread. The main course followed with two kinds of penne pasta, served with red sauce or pesto sauce and roasted chicken. For dessert, we enjoyed spumoni ice cream, thanks to members Ed and Mary Ann Spatola. First Lady Edithe Di Giuro

gifted everyone with small white ceramic bowl filled with Christmas chocolates. All guests attending were asked to bring one new unwrapped toy that would be donated to the "Toys for Tots Drive" Thank you to John Donato who made arrangements to give the toys.

Special thanks to Francesca Taylor, the lodge's Italian Culture & Heritage chairperson, taking pictures of the event. It was a wonderful afternoon of Holiday Fraternalism and so glad that the rain had stopped before most of us left home.

Lastly, a very special and grateful thank you to Raffaello's Ristorante and staff for the delicious food and the five star service. The staff was professional and attentive, Grazie Mille.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo

Pugliese members enjoying the Christmas Party at Raffaello's Ristorante



Office Manager
Sons and Daughters of Italy Grand Lodge
of California-Sacramento

Job Title: Office Manager

Supervisor: Barbara Wisniewski State President
The Order Sons and Daughter of Italy in America is a fraternal order with principles based on Liberty, Equality & Fraternity. Now in its 118th year (1905-2023) the Order was founded for the purpose of bringing together the people of Italian descent.

General Job Description:
Ideal position for a highly organized individual who can work mostly alone to manage a multi-faceted office of a charitable, fraternal non-profit organization.

Location in Sacramento.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:
Manage office that assists 40 individual lodges
All correspondence: written, email and regular mail
Bookkeeping
Manage membership lists
Manage mortuary and death claims
Process bank deposits and bring to bank as needed
Assist with coordination of Annual Convention
Liaison to Il Leone (Grand Lodge Newspaper)
Liaison to Western Foundation-Our 501c3 Charitable Organization

Process the following:
-Invoices for office expenses
-State Deputy Reports
-Supply orders submitted from individual lodges
-Address changes from lodges or post office

Qualifications for the Job:
Education:
Minimum High School Diploma or GED

Key Competencies:
Computer skills: Email, spreadsheets, accounting, membership lists.
Strong customer service ethic
Functioning knowledge of Microsoft Office
Functioning knowledge of Quickbooks

Italy fun facts

Italy is shaped like a high boot. If you open the map of the world and zoom in onto Europe, you will see a boot-shaped country protruding into the Mediterranean Sea – that's Italy. It is a coincidence then that Italian shoes are some of the best in the world? There is even a saying, 'Long-legged Italia, kicked poor Sicily, right into the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.'

As Italy is a peninsula largely located in the Mediterranean Sea, it has over 7,600 kilometers of coastline with some amazing beaches.

The population of Italy is a little over 60 million people. That makes Italy the world's 23rd country by population. After Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, Italy is the fourth most populated country in Europe.

The Italian island of Sardinia is one of five regions in the world to be called a Blue Zone. A Blue Zone is where a higher than usual number of people live much longer than average. The other 'Blue Zones' include Okinawa (Japan); Nicoya (Costa Rica); Icaria (Greece); and among the Seventh-day Adventists in Loma Linda, California,

Rome, the capital of Italy, is one of the oldest cities of the world – it was founded in 753 BCE.



Become a Sponsor of Il Leone!

The Pencil

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

165 Nantasket Ave. # 9

Hull, MA 02045

The pencil is an amazing tool. It fits nicely in our hands and is used for doing many tasks. The pencil is a writing instrument, but it is as important for marking surfaces. Workers use pencils to make measurements for cutting, artists use pencils for drawing, and women use pencils to highlight their eyebrows. Children learn to write using pencils. And students use pencils to solve math problems.

The core of the pencil is made of a material called “graphite,” a gray or black, soft and greasy, pure form of carbon. Graphite is mixed with clay to form the core. The mixture of clay and graphite varies. A soft core has a large amount of graphite that makes a black mark. Adding clay makes the core harder and makes a lighter mark.

Pencil drawings use a range of pencils with different cores to give the lines and shading various effects or tones. Sets of pencils of finely graded degrees (6B, 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB F, H, 2H, 3H, 4H) are sold at art supply stores and online. The pencils commonly used in the home and at school are graded 2HB. The pencil point can be sharpened. Most pencils are made with an eraser at the top.

Many people wrongly believe the core of the pencil is made of lead. The Romans sometimes used lead to make readable marks and the term has been handed down. The modern pencil was created in the 16th century, after the discovery in Cumberland, England, of mines of a mineral called

graphite. Some writers claim an Italian couple in the 1560’s named Simonio and Lyndiana Bernacotti designed the first modern, wood-encased pencil. But the claim lacks evidence.

Wood usually surrounds the graphite core of a pencil, but pencils are manufactured using other materials. Mechanical pencils made of metal or plastics are designed to hold graphite that is lowered to the point.

Graphite pencils were once painted with lead paints, and chewing the pencil or breathing the paint could cause lead poisoning. The first pencils were made by hand, then by machines. Casper Faber founded the first pencil factory near the town of Nuremberg, in Bavaria, Germany. In the United States the first pencil factory was built by descendants of Faber. According to Henry Petroski, the father of Henry David Thoreau operated a pencil factory in Concord, Massachusetts, using graphite found in New Hampshire, and Henry found a way to make a good pencil.

Study the drawings done by great artists. Museums often contain superb collections of Italian drawings. These works represent every school of Italian art from Venice to Naples. Among them are the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, and Annibale Carracci. Great discoveries have been made and recorded by means of a pencil. The Italian word for pencil is “matita” or “lapis.”



PHOTO (Wikipedia): The top and point of a graphite pencil used for drafting and design.



Pinocchio!

An Opera for All Ages

by Natalia Valli

Supertitles in English
Staged with FULL Orchestra
Conductor Oliver Chan

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Show Dates and Times TBA

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213-248-2510

Eureka Lodge # 1274

Eureka, CA

by Joe Bonino

At the October meeting the membership voted to henceforth begin Eureka Lodge meetings at 6PM.

Next meeting is a potluck/meeting on January 24th. Social hour begins at 4:30PM and dinner at 5PM. Meeting begins at 6PM.

Eureka Lodge will award the Irene and Paul Pinochi andvFrank Stagnoli Scholarships this spring. Please remind your grandchildren

or friends with children of Italian descent that application materials are available now from their high school counselors or by calling Gene Perricelli at 707-443-0493 to have an application sent directly to them.

Our new Lodge President is Jeremy Sorci and Vice-President is Steve Pera. The new Immediate Past-President is, of course, John Salizzoni. We all thank

him for his service as President these past five years under the trying pandemic related circumstances. Thank you very much John!

The Christmas dinner at Plaza Grill in Arcata was well attended and a very warm and cozy affair. Thank you Bill Chino for hosting the Eureka Lodge in such great style and with delicious food.

C. Colombo Lodge # 1315

Antioch, CA

by Zelda LeFrak-Belleci



C. Colombo Lodge #1315 has not forgotten the men and women who have served in the U.S. Military: The Veterans. Each month Lisa Belleci-Navarro creates an original design. The Card Committee then produces 100 tray favors to be delivered to the Martinez Veterans Hospital complete with the C. Colombo logo on the reverse side. Dennis Clarke has assumed the role of delivery man. He adds a personalized message on the back of each card: “From a Veteran - For a Veteran”. Seen above is Dennis Clarke on the right who presented the tray favors to John Lawson, Volunteer Co-ordinator at the Martinez facility.

Modesto Lodge # 2021

Modesto CA

by Donna Ferreira



On Tuesday, October 4, 2022 the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors proclaimed October 2022 as Italian American Heritage Month in Stanislaus County. Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America - Modesto Lodge President, Louise Nishikawa accepted the proclamation from County Supervisor, Vito Chiesa. Also present was Past President, Mary Miceli and Trustee, Joe Miceli. Thank you County Board of Supervisors for your continued support of Italian American Heritage



Rodolfo Valentino

Lodge # 1449

Clovis, CA

by Brian Watson, Presidenti

and Lou Catallo, Historian

Words to live by: John Lennon once said “.count your age by your friends, not years; count your life by smiles, not tears.”

The feds are considering stopping the free COVID shots, which they pay almost \$600 per shot, so get your shots now while they are still free; while you are out there, get your flu shot too.

Last month (December) we lost our long time member and friend, Charlie Caparelli. He joined the lodge in the early 50’s just to keep company with his monther, Mary, but stayed with us after she passed away. He ran his own auto-body shop for many years and was widely known in Clovis.

We held our meeting at Luna’s with good food and friends. A few topics were discussed, but nothing was voted on.

Future month’s meetings will be at Luna’s at 6:30 PM, on the first Wednesday, Come and join the meal and conversation. Our lodges are seeing many changes; join us and express your ideas.

For the kids: A real Italian ghost dines on spooketie..

When dining in Italy, don’t ask for salad dressing or other condiments. Olive oil is the only acceptable “condiment” in Italy, so, do not ask for “Ranch” on that salad you ordered.

The only three active volcanos (Stromboli, Vesuvius, and Etna) in Europe are located in Italy, and Italy is the focus of earthquakes.

College is a good place because it keeps you off the streets until your mature enough to live with the rest of sockiety, but, while you are there, you need the resources to pay your way, so, try the Sons & Daughters of America National Scholarships, which are again being offered; check this issue of Il Leone for details. Also, the University of California in Fresno offers students Italian-oriented scholarships ... call them for details.

Say it in Italian: Tutto Fumo e Niente Arrostro – “All Bark and No Bite.



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.



Roseville Lodge # 1413

Roseville, CA

by Jan Abriani

Our November dinner was dedicated to Renzo Razzaroli, who recently passed away. He was not only our Lodge’s Vice President for many years but also one of our outstanding cooks. Renzo loved the Sons & Daughters of Italy, his native Luca, Italy and being Italian.

We had over 75 people in attendance for a delicious roast beef dinner with all of the trimmings. As always, our lodge exudes warmth, camaraderie and the love of our Italian heritage. Our raffle was enjoyed by all, and a portion of the proceeds went to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.



Our cooks and President, Marlene Cristanell.



A memorial to Renzo Razzaroli.

Cesare Battisti Lodge # 1518

Petaluma, CA

by Ernie Giono

The Cesare Battisti Lodge #1518 is finally able to move back to Petaluma where it was founded in 1929. We are meeting at the Veteran’s Building at 1094 Petaluma Blvd, South, Petaluma, California. At present, we will meet for lunch on the first Wednesday of each month.

John Albini is the new president replacing Ernie Giono who held that position for three years.

The Vet’s Hall is huge, and clean and they even gave us a storage closet to keep our supplies in. We are hoping to increase our membership with this new move. Pass the word around and come and join us January 4th at noon. Why not bring a friend or two? Reservations necessary by calling 707-588-1942. Past President Ernie Giono

Conference
of Presidents
of Major Italian
American Organizations



Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court rules Marconi Plaza Columbus statue cannot be removed by city.

It’s official: South Philadelphia’s 146-year-old Columbus statue is staying put in Marconi Plaza, and the plywood box — concealing the monument from public view — must be removed, a panel of Commonwealth Court judges ruled on Friday.

The appeals loss is a bitter one for Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, who was openly criticized by Common Pleas Court Judge Paula Patrick last year over his attempt at removing the statue.

“It is baffling to this court as to how the City of Philadelphia wants to remove the Statue without any legal basis. The city’s entire argument and case is devoid of any legal foundation,” said Judge Patrick, who first ruled on the matter in August 2021.

“As a proud Citizen of Philadelphia, I am delighted that both Judge Patrick of the Court of Common Pleas and the Judges of the Commonwealth Court have boldly reaffirmed that the rule of law still matters,” said George Bochetto, a nationally renowned attorney who spearheaded the legal effort to preserve the statue. “That we are not a society ruled by cancel culture mobs. That all ethnic groups can proudly protect and honor their diverse heritages.”

Bochetto is involved in a second lawsuit, which he filed on behalf of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations (COPOMIAO), over Mayor Kenney’s decision to unilaterally change the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day in Philadelphia.

The lawsuit, with the 1492 Society and Philadelphia Councilman Mark Squilla as co-plaintiffs, is playing out right now on the federal level.

“Members of the media rolled their eyes at our legal efforts. Now, suddenly, with major wins in Syracuse and Philadelphia, with lawsuits playing out in Chicago, Pittsburgh and in the federal courts, with the White House’s revived recognition of Columbus this past October, and with major Columbus parades seeing meteoric boosts in attendance, it’s more than apparent that public opinion is changing and that legal precedents are being set that will protect our Italian American history,” said Basil M. Russo, who serves as National President of COPOMIAO.

- LIST OF UNITED LODGES
- NORTH BAY
SHARON SILVEIRA
1818 Vervais Ave.
Vallejo, CA 94591
707 644-5304
ravioli_spaghetti@yahoo.com
- SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
PAULINE RICHMOND
26248 Road 188
Exeter, CA 93221
Phone: 559-592-5466
rteelee@aol.com
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL DIGIURO
1957 Mt. Shasta Drive
San Pedro, CA 90732
Phone: (310) 522-9224 Email:
mgdigiuro@yahoo.com



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In Memory of Father Larry N.
Lorenzoni, From Ron & Ashley
Latteri



NOTICE OF AVAILIABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Sons of Italy Western Foundation announces the availability of scholarships for graduating seniors from the Class of 2023.

Scholarships are available for the following categories:

- Academic Awards for graduating high school seniors
- Italian Language Study Grants for graduating high school seniors for the summer of 2023
- Athletic Award for graduating high school seniors pursuing a career in sports or a sports related field.

Requirements for Scholarship or Student Grant are as follows:

- Applicant **MUST BE** wholly or partially of Italian descent
- Applicant **MUST BE** enrolled in an accredited College, University or Community College in the fall of 2023.

Application forms are available ONLINE at The Sons & Daughters of Italy, Grand Lodge of California website at www.osiaca.org, click on the link for SCHOLARSHIPS.

For additional information, please contact Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar; email: rgeorev@aol.com
or cell/text: 626/222-7768

DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1, 2023(Postmarked)

THE NEW YEAR

by Diana S. Minsky

Let the bells ring
Out welcoming a
Bright New Year
A toast to prosperity
And a healthy nation
Living with out fear
To you and all you
Hold dear, enjoy
The coming of 2023
Wishing all a Happy
New Year



Dolly Sinatra Lodge # 2400

Palm springs, CA

by Andy Casey

Our Lodge just finished a wonderful year! A year that saw us rebound from the misery and confinements of the Covid pandemic, along with the restrictions of Palm Springs City Hall, but here we are again, standing tall and enjoying the dining and the talents of our entertainers.

And as always the sum total of our experience, and it is an amazing great time, is due to our volunteers and President Joe LaPorta. The volunteers keep the drinks flowing at the bar, make and deliver the dinner and lastly the entertainers come forth to amaze us with their versatility and talent! As Frank DiSalvo always says, we are the envy of all the other Lodges...

It was a year in which we held our third open golf tournament and buffet, which was a big success in November. Played once again under beautiful skies, and surrounded by our majestic mountains, at Indian Canyon Gold Resort. First place Team was Robert Ardalino, Steve Nolf, Bobby Bell and Brad Green. Second place team was Frank Billante, Lou Pinotti, John Battilla and Charlie Roti. And closest to Pin was Steve Nolf. Pictures of the winners and more surround the article. The buffet, raffles and silent auction followed the tournament, and benefitted the Western Foundation of Sons and Daughters of Ita-

ly, to the tune of a \$6,000.00 donation from our Lodge! Looking forward to our next tournament!

Last year also brought us a visit from past national President Vera Girolami and her husband The Honorable Judge Al Girolami. It's always an honor and joy to host fellow Lodge members, from other Lodges, who visit us while visiting/ vacationing in the Coachella Valley!

And to make the year complete we were indeed honored to have Mr. Entertainment himself, Larry DelRose, complete with his many props, AND another entertainer accompanying him as well. This time it was a magnificent ventriloquist from San Diego, Joe Gandelman. Joe brought not one or two, but I believe six of his dummies, each one babbling away, growling away and insulting Joe. They were all a delight, as was the evening with Larry and his cornucopia of props and bits! HOPE WE'LL SEE HIM, FRANK, MICHEAL, AND LARRY, and their various guests throughout the coming year.

Hopefully we can get back to our annual dinner and dance event, with Honoree again, and many more events. In other words we're hoping to have a fantastic 2023, to see you all in great health and happiness. We have a spectacular lodge, volunteers, entertainers and members!

Hanford Lodge #

Hanford, CA

by Jackie Giacomazzi



Jackie Giacomazzi and Louise Tesoriere pose with Santa at the Hanford Lodge Christmas Party. Jackie and Louise chaired the pizza party with all the trimmings.



The children had a great time receiving a gift from Santa and telling him their Christmas wishes. All are invited to attend our Polenta & Stew dinner to be held on January 11 hosted by the Leoni and Nardini families.

Eureka Lodge # 1274

Eureka, CA

by Joe Bonino

At the October meeting the membership voted to henceforth begin Eureka Lodge meetings at 6PM.

Next meeting is a potluck / meeting on January 24th. Social hour begins at 4:30PM and dinner at 5PM. Meeting begins at 6PM.

Eureka Lodge will award the Irene and Paul Pinochi and Frank Stagnoli Scholarships this spring. Please remind your grandchildren or friends with children of Italian descent that application materials are available now from their high school counselors or by calling Gene Perricelli at 707-443-0493 to have an application sent directly to them.

Our new Lodge President is Jeremy Sorci and Vice-President is Steve Pera. The new Immediate Past-President is, of course, John Salizzoni. We all thank him for his service as President these past five years under the trying pandemic related circumstances. Thank you very much John!

The Christmas dinner at Plaza Grill in Arcata was well attended and a very warm and cozy affair. Thank you Bill Chino for hosting the Eureka Lodge in such great style and with delicious food.

Lodge Websites & E-mail Directory

- Anaheim Lodge
www.anaheim2076.org
- Beatrice Portinari Lodge
OSIAVallejo@yahoo.com
- C. Colombo Lodge
www.soiccololmbo1315.com
- Colombo-Stella Lodge
www.sonsofitalyfresno.org
sonsofitalyfresno@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Sons-Of-Italy-Fresno-Colombo-Stella-1149
- Columbia Lodge
columbia_1940@yahoo.com
www.sonsofitalysanmateo.com
- Cristoforo Colombo Lodge
www.rensonsofitaly.org
- Dolly Sinatra Lodge
www.dollysinatralodgeosia.org
info@dollysinatralodgeosia.org
- Enrico Caruso Lodge
visaliasonsofitaly.club.officelive.om
- Eureka Lodge
sonsofitalyeureka@gmail.com
Facebook.com/Order.Sons.of.Italy.Eureka
- Fratellanza Garibaldina
www.osia1627.org
- Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #1441
www.sonsofitaly1441.weebly.com
- Grand Lodge of California
www.sonsofitalyca.org
- Hacienda Lodge #2168
www.osiahaciendalodge.com
- Hanford Lodge
csantagata916@gmail.com
- Joanne Coccia Lodge
ociafontana.org
- La Costa dei Fiori Lodge
www.sonsofitalysandiego.org
- Napa Lodge
napasonsofitaly.org
- Northern Solano Lodge
www.SOI2534.org
- Pugliese Lodge
www.soipugliese1375.com
- Renaissance Lodge
www.sonsofitalyca.org/renaissance
Renaissancelodge2259@yahoo.com
- Rodolfo Valentino Lodge
www.rodolfovalentinolodge.com
- Roma Lodge #1574
romalodge1573.org
romalodge@yahoo.com
- Roseville Lodge
sonsofitalyroseville@gmail.com
- Saddleback Valley Lodge
www.saddlebackvalley2566.com
malfieri1@aol.com
- Santa Rosa Lodge
www.santarosasonsofitaly.org
- Shasta Lodge
www.reddingsonsofitaly.com
soishastalodge@charter.net
- Vallejo Lodges
www.vallejasonsofitaly.org
- Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519
www.sonsofitalychico.com
- Watsonville Lodge #2016
www.sonsofitalywatsonville.org
sonsofitalywatsonville@yahoo.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.

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Happy New Year



Anaheim Lodge # 2076

Anaheim, CA
by Fran D’Errico
Recording Secretary

“THE ANAHEIM LODGE #2076, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL THE FELIA LODGES A PROSPEROUS and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023 (FELICE ANNO NOUVO).”May you all be healthy and safe and 2023 bring PEACE & HAPPINESS to our world.

ANAHEIM LODGE #2076, WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MAY 20, 2023

What has been happening at the Anaheim Lodge?

We have had a few events to keep us busy and to bring an end in celebrating 2022.

October 22th, Anaheim Lodge had their Annual Casino Night. It was an awesome turn out as always. With your ticket to buy Casino Chips, you also received a Pasta Dinner before the gambling and fun started. There were so many gifts, that everyone was gambling to get the tickets for the end of the evening to see what they wanted.

November 19th, was the Harvest Festival. We had a dinner of Soups and Stew, Salad and Crusty bread. Also we asked that everyone coming please donate a toy for “The Spark Of Love”. Then our President Mariann Aita brought the donated toys to the Placentia Fire Station. After the delicious dinner we played BINGO, which is a favor for all, the young and older crowd.

December 17th, was our Annual Christmas Party. We decided to do something different in dinner. We had Sub sandwiches,

Pasta Salad, chips, dessert, and on all the tables a delicious relish dish. Then we did the Annual “Right Family Game”. BINGO was also played, like I have said many times, Bingo is one of the favorites of the guests and members of the Anaheim Lodge.

It was also such a joy to have our younger members who all grew up in this Lodge from babies, to be here at the Party. Some were home from College, graduates of College and High School. Santa was so happy.

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

For more information please feel free to contact any of the officers from the Anaheim Lodge.

Also for Dates and Times of Meetings and Events if you need that information.

God Bless those Serving and Protecting our country and those who protect and service us here at home every day.

Arrivederci, and Stay Safe and Healthy until we all meet again in the New Year of 2023.

Dolly Sinatra Lodge # 2400

Palm Springs, CA
by Andy Casey

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was the evening with Larry and his cornucopia of props and bits! HOPE WE’LL SEE HIM, FRANK, MICHEAL, AND LARRY, and their various guests throughout the coming year.

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and dance event, with Honoree again, and many more events. In other words we’re hoping to have a fantastic 2023, to see you all in great health and happiness. We have a spectacular lodge, volunteers, entertainers and members!



The Winners



2nd Place winners.



Joe Gandelman, Ventriloquist



Joe Vera and Al



Joe and Panton G.



Cristoforo Colombo Lodge # 1534

Reno, NV
by Historian, Maria Nelson.

Felice anno nuovo! We had a fun and successful 2022. Great attendance at all our monthly dinner meetings and a sold out crowd for our big fundraiser. We have initiated several new members and have a new President this coming year. We are still looking for a new financial secretary to fill Madeleine Zunino's position as she has been doing it for many, many years. We gave away scholarships to some wonderful young adults and gave to our chosen charities.

At the end of June, Dawn Romero, Hugh and Pamela Ricci, and Ken and Barbara Wisniewski attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Anaheim. President, Barbara, did a great job and all of us at our Lodge are proud she is our State President.

In August we had our annual picnic at Idlewild Park. We had a great turn out, the weather was perfect, and everyone had a great time with the Salami Toss and Corn Hole games. The food was traditional Italian sausage & peppers and sides by the members.

In September we had a really wonderful presentation from Lorena and Marco, the owners of Bella Italia, a great little Italian import store in Reno. They brought some of their most popular items and explained the importance of good pasta, good sauce, and good canned tomatoes. They shared many of their wonderful Italian ingredients with us.

In October we nominated our officers. All positions were open and we were hoping for some new blood. The Eldorado Italian Festival was also in October. Our Lodge had their sauce booth manned by Barbara Wisniewski and her crew. The Bonaldi/Ricci's had their sauce booth as well as Chef Joe Eidem and we enjoyed a wonderful day with many, many people tasting our sauces. Also the Washoe County Commissioner's officially declared October Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month and presented our State President, Barbara, with a Proclamation. We initiated 7 new members this month and welcomed them with open arms.

November is our Community Giving Month. This year we again gave to Awaken which helps youth who are caught in sex trafficking, and Honor Flight Nevada which sends Veterans to visit Washington, DC to see

their memorials. Our President, Pamela Ricci, presented these organizations with checks to help their really wonderful causes. We also voted and elected our new officers for the 2023-2025 years. We are glad to have some new people in office but still desperately need a financial secretary.

December was our annual Christmas party at the Elks. Of course, Santa came and gave presents to all the children. Antonio Ricci, Frank Picone and their crew all made and served a fabulous Christmas dinner for us. We enjoyed everyone's company, the great food and the excitement and smiles on the children's faces anticipating Santa's arrival.

Sam Olson headed our raffle. Dawn Romero sold the tickets, Silvana Ricci helped pick the tickets, and Andrew & Matthew Moore helped give out the raffle prizes. Many won some fun and wonderful prizes.

We are happy and blessed for a great 2022 and look forward to some new and exciting things in 2023.

Thank you for reading about our Lodge. Tanti auguri di buon anno! (Many wishes for a good year).

Please visit our Face book page at Reno Sons of Italy and our website for more information: www.renosonsofitaly.org. Learn more about our Lodge, your Italian heritage and upcoming events.



Lorena from Bella Italia talking about her imported Italian ingredients.



Sons of Italy sauce booth at the El Dorado Italian Festival



Bonaldi/Ricci sauce booth at the El Dorado Italian Festival



State President Barbara Wisniewski and Pamela Ricci with Santa



The Moore brothers helping with the raffle prizes at our Christmas dinner.



John Yuspa from Honor Flight and Amy Guinon from Awaken. These are two of the charities we sponsored this year.



New members: Jim and Margaret Raulino; Patti Cafferata; Robin Brooke; Felvia and Dick Belaustegui; Roy Caporale.



Cooking the sausages at our annual picnic!



Barbara Wisniewski receiving the Proclamation from the Washoe County Commissioners.

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 known 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.