



Message From the State President

**News from the
Central**
Pauline Richmond
State First Vice President

**News from the
North**
Louis Lodi
State Third Vice President

**Emanuel Joseph
Finazzo**
1937 - 2022
By Anthony Finazzo



State President
Barbara Wisniewski

This month has been very active for our Local Lodges. With this being an election year, they have been recruiting new officers to take on new responsibilities. As members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, it is important for each of us to give a little time and energy to our Lodges. We are always in need of innovative ideas and new energy to keep our Lodges going in a growing direction. We can not afford to become stagnant. For those of us that are not able to take on an office, we must support our Officers in any way we can. Congratulations to all our new and returning Officers.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Saddleback Valley Lodge meeting to install new members. My apologies to President Hank Lowinger and the members of that Lodge. My First Gent, Ken, is down with a bad back. Hopefully, by the time you read this he will be back to his old self again. I'm afraid I'm not used to having him incapacitated. He has been my right hand during this term, and I am having a challenging time without his help.

I am writing this in our Grand Lodge building. After the electrical fire we still don't have power. We are working on getting repairs completed but, as I'm sure

you all know, there seems to be a short supply of service people and a lengthy list of those needing services.

Again, my sister and friend, Arlene Nunziati, put me up and drove me back and forth to take care of the business of the Grand Lodge. Brother Joe Simoni also assisted in my transportation! Thank you both for your help.

Thank you, Ervin, our office admin, for keeping our office running efficiently, even during this crazy time. Our Real Estate Broker, Bruno Baldini, has graciously allowed us to use an area of his office to conduct business.

I am looking forward to our annual trip to Palm Springs to attend the Dolly Sinatra Lodge's Golf Outing. It is always a fun time.

We lost a dear member of our Council this past month. State Orator, Manny Finazzo will be sorely missed. I loved his sense of humor. He always made me laugh.

Our Youth Chair, Brian Watson and Past State Queen, Jenny Watson Rivera lost their mother Carol Watson, long time President of the Clovis Lodge. She always had a kind word for all.

First Gent, Ken and I wish all of you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Till next month
Fraternally
Barbara



Dear Brothers and Sisters.... Have you ever thought about our organization and its members? Are we truly following the path and guidelines of OSDIA? When I think of our organization, I think of members who were/are remarkable members of a family. Have you truly realized what a marvelous organization you belong to? How much you have learned of your Italian Heritage? What friends do you have who are now like family? I have in fact, have friends/members that are so proud to be a part of this marvelous organization of Italian Americans. Show your pride and shine so that when people see us, they will say, "You are a remarkable OSDIA member!"

If we did not have all the remarkable brothers and sisters in our organization, SOI of the Americas would not have survived for over 117 years, with wars (World Wars I and II, Vietnam, etc.), Holocaust, 911, hurricanes, tornados, floodings, COVID-19, and other pandemics. If those members did not believe or have faith, as strong members who can do anything, we would not be here today. Our generation must follow members of the past and never stop doing work through OSDIA. We all know we have endured years of struggle and challenges that the majority have been able to overcome. I congratulate



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm sorry to start this article on a sad note but our dear friend Manny Finazzo passed away suddenly on October 15th. Manny held several positions over the last 20 years, currently as Orator of the Grand Council. I am sad to say that I did not know him well but to say hi in passing at conventions, until last year. I began to know him better when collaborating with him on the Grand Council. He was always there to help if I had a question about a rule or a bylaw. If he did not know the answer, he found out and got back with the proper explanation. He was so proud of his Italian Heritage as well as his Military Service. We sat down one night and talked for two hours. One of the subjects we spoke about was how we are losing our Italian Culture and Heritage. He loved The Sons and Daughters of Italy and had watched it slowly dwindle down from around 310 Delegates to less than 70. He told me we all must make an "all-out effort" to get our Lodges to express the importance of family unity. At Lodge meetings he said, "have one member stand up and talk of how their family always came together on Sundays to eat, drink and tell stories about Aunt Lil and Grandpa Frank, or the time that young Lucca took the car for a ride and couldn't reach the brake



Emanuel passed away on
October 15, 2022
He is now with his wife
Veta,
Brother Fred,
His Mom and Dad
with the rest of his relatives
Emanuel Joseph Finazzo
Obituary

Emanuel (Manny) Joseph Finazzo, age 85, of Fontana, California passed away on October 15, 2022, surrounded by family and close friends.

Manny was born August 27, 1937, in St. Louis, Missouri. He came to California as a child, joining the growing network of Italian families drawn by employment and kinship to the Inland Empire.

A proud member of the first graduating class of Fontana High School in 1955, Manny found employment at Kaiser Steel. He soon enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving actively from February 4, 1957 to February 17, 1959. He concluded his reserve commitment on February 3, 1963, having returned to what became rewarding employment with Kaiser Steel. He attended college, earning an Associate of Arts Degree in Industrial Management and gaining skills he demonstrated in future assignments in the industry. After Kaiser closed in 1983, Manny worked for Oregon



Holiday Ads

The holidays are slowly approaching which means taking out a holiday ad to wish your fellow members a great holiday. The ad runs 4X4 for only \$36. You can run your own ad or we can design one for you.

If you want a picture please send it with your ad. No charge for a picture. Send info to me and Debbie both.

Lodge Anniveraries

November
America #1609..... 11/20/31
Watsonville #2016 11/18/51
Saddleback Valley 11/17/84

ATTENTION PLEASE

Please help us out by becoming a sponsor of the IL Leone it is only \$25 per year.

We appreciate all your help.



(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

Grand Lodge of
California Website
OSIACA.org

GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA

5051 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 • Phone (415) 586-1316

State President Barbara Wisniewski 201-874-5946 BarbReno1949@aol.com 20987 Gunnison Ct. Reno, Nevada 89508	State Treasurer Lynn Lawrance-Murphy 1475 Sulphur Springs Ave., St. Helena, CA 94574 Phone: #:707-694-8621 Email: clawrencemurphy@gmail.com	PAST STATE PRESIDENTS JOHN TEDESCO (1999-2001) 18 Carvel Place Sacramento, CA 95835-2012 Phone #: 916-419-6606 Fax #: 916-419-6626 Work #: 916-419-6646 Cell #: 916-207-1603 Email: tedescojt@aol.com	GRAND LODGE QUEEN BRIANNA SIMON 1416 S GRAND ST VISALIA, CA 93292 (559)-280-2357
State First Vice President Pauline Richmond 559-731-4035 rteelee@aol.com 26248 Road 188, Exeter, CA 93221	State Trustee North Anna Graeber 707-287-5225 am.graeber@gmail.com 4206 Chardonnay Ct., Napa, CA 94558	ROY T. VANONI (2003-2005) 2160 Land End Loop Roseville, CA 95747 Phone & Fax #: 916-872-4999 Cell #: 916-540-6073. Email: rtvanoni@surewest.net	EMERITUS ROLL Grand Lodge Queen Emeritus DONNA ROMANAZZI GRIST 13725 S. Tamarak Dr. Plainfield, Il 60544 Phone #: 559-625-3115 Cell #: 559-786-8124 Email: gristd124@comcast.net
State Second Vice President Mark Vaona 310-347-5648 mvaona@gmail.com 2802 Knode St., Torrance, CA 90501	State Trustee North Renee Adair 707-972-1859 naynoeddie@yahoo.com 203 Gobbi St., Ukiah, CA 95482	VERA FERRARA GIROLAMI (2005-2007) 3115 Lake Albano Drive San Jose, CA 95135 Cell #: 209-604-3149 Email: algvera@sbcglobal.net	WESTERN FOUNDATION CAO Western Foundation MARK ROSSI 4540 St. Andrews Ct., Fairfield, CA 94534 Ph: 209-404-0692 Email: mercatoman1@gmail.com
State Third Vice President Louie Lodi 916-996-5634 Louis.ciao4now@gmail.com 1860 Urbano Way, Sacramento, CA 95833	State Trustee Central Pamela Buldo 559-799-8697 pjbuldo@aol.com 5820 W Harter Ct., Visalia, CA 93277	COMM. MARIA FASSIO PIGNATI (2009-2013) 268 Delmar Way San Mateo, CA 94403 Phone #: 650-574-5786 Cell #: 415-370-3956 Fax #: 650-577-9349 Email: abondnza@aol.com	Western Foundation Trustee JOE LAPORTA PO Box 637, Palm Springs, CA 92263 Phone: 760-219-9171 Email: joeydoor@dc.rr.com
Immediate Past State President John Costa 707-483-9604 jc19632002@yahoo.com 1801 Trower Ave. Napa, CA 94558	State Trustee Central Frank Locicero 408-5322-8822 8639 Solera Dr., San Jose, CA 95135	LYNN LAWRENCE- MURPHY (2013-2017) 1475 Sulphur Springs Ave., St. Helena, CA 94574 Phone: #:707-694-8621 Email: clawrencemurphy@gmail.com	CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES Media ANDY PAMPURO 718 D Avenida Majorca Laguna Woods, CA 92637 Phone #: 949-855-4279 Cell #: 949-637-5477 Email: apampuro@comline.com
State Orator Manny Finazzo 9093 Tangelo Ave., Fontana, CA 92335 909-728-1269 efinazzo@roadrunner.com	Head Trustee South Mary Jane Cambria 714-749-7777 MaryJane@mjcbambria.com 2539 Back Bay Loop, Costa Mesa, CA 92627		Media DEBBIE URE 22710 NE 88th Street Vancouver, WA 98682 Phone #: 360-852-8190 Cell #: 360-772-9050 Email: debbieure@gmail.com
State Recording Secretary Lori Rossi 209-404-1883 loriatthegrandlodge@gmail.com 4540 St. Andrews Ct. Fairfield, CA 94534			Judiciary HON. AL GIROLAMI 3115 Lake Albano Drive San Jose, CA 95135 Cell #: 209-531-6553 Email: alveragiyo@yahoo.com
State Financial Secretary David Lavezzari 714-403-9203 David@dplcpa.com 6797 Reefton, Ave., Cypress, CA 90630			Grand Lodge Building Grand Lodge Office 415-586-1316

Budget and Finance KAREN PEDRONCELLI 820 N Silvervale Dr. Visalia, CA 93277 Ph: (559)786-2380 Email: karen@pinecpas.com	Royal Court Of The Golden Lion SADIE TAMBURINE 1925 Circle Park Lane Encinitas, CA 92024 Ph: 760-274-6270 Email-sadieagos@gmail.com	Building Investment DAVID LAVEZZARI 6797 Reefton Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 Phone #: 714-403-9203 Emil: David@dplcpa.com
Scholarship Students to Italy Program ROSEMARIE VANDERHAAR 801 W. Duarte Rd. #I Monrovia, CA 91016 Cell #: 626- 222-7768 Email: rgeorev@aol.com	Leadership PAULINE RICHMOND 26248 Road 188 Exeter, CA 93221 Ph: 559-731-4035 Email: rteelee@aol.com	CONVENTION AND GRAND COUNCIL MEETINGS COORDINATORS LYNN LAWRENCE-MURPHY 1475 Sulphur Springs Ave., St. Helena, CA 94574 Phone: #:707-694-8621 Email: clawrencemurphy@gmail.com
Italian Language & Culture MARIA FASSIO PIGNATI 268 Delmar Way San Mateo, CA 94403 Phone: 605-574-5786 Cell #: 414-370-3956 Fax #: 650-577-9329 Email: Abondnza@aol.com	Garibaldi Meucci Museum JOY BRUNO 1778 Nephi Drive Fairfield, CA 94534 Phone #: 707-422-3391 Cell #: 707-332-5623 Email: joy.b@comcast.net	NATIONAL OFFICERS FROM CALIFORNIA VERA GIROLAMI Past National President CAROLYN LAWRENCE- MURPHY National Historain MARIA FASSIO PIGNATI SOI Foundation Trustee Chair of Douhet Mitchell Committee ARLENE M NUNZIATI Alzheimer's Committee Chair National Trustee BARBARA FUMOSA WISNIEWSKI
Youth BRIAN WATSON 4308 North Dewitt Fresno, CA 93727 Phone #: 559-285-6934 Email:Pumbaa673@yahoo.com	Social Media MARISSA LAVEZZARI 6797 Reefton Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 Phone #: 714-399-7263 Email: lavezzari.m28@gmail.com	CALIFORNIA NATIONAL DELEGATES BARBARA WISNIEWSKI LYNN LAWRENCE-MURPHY- MARK VAONA PAM BULDO HON. AL GIROLAM COM. MARIA PIGNATI ARLENE NUNZIATI VERA FERRARA GIROLAMI PAULINE RICHMOND
Social Justice TONY RICEVUTO 5356 Polizze Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89141 Phone #: 702-896-1515 Email: Tony_Ricevuto@hotmail.com	Birth Defects/Medical Charities MARY LUCIDO P O Box 198 8304 Grinnell Way, Sacramento, CA Phone #: 925-783-6329 Email: marylucido.1@gmail.com	ALTERNATES DONNA LEE COSTA JOY BRUNO
Ritual and Protocol MARLENE ROMANAZZI 1150 N Rossmoor Ct., Visalia, CA 93291 Phone #: 559-679-8208 Email: marlene@msrcpa.com	Hall Rental Manager BARBARA MUSELLI 5051Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94112 Phone #: 415-742-9366	STATE ARBITERS MARK ROSSI PAM RICCI JOSEPH SIMONI ANNETTE PORTER ANDY PAMPURO
Royal Pageant PAMELA RICCI 12540 Creek Crest Dr., Reno, NV 89511-7783 Phone #: 775-851-2169 Email: pam@riccihomes.com	Young Adult Outreach ELIZABETH LAVEZZARI 6797 Reefton Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 Phone #: 714-512-0806 Emil: e.m.lavezzari@gmail.com	
Webmaster ANNA M. GRAEBER 4206 Chardonnay Ct. Napa, CA 94558 Phone #: 707-255-5242 Cell #: 707-287-5225 Email: osia.ca.webmaster@gmail.com		

Emanuel Finazzo
Cont. from page 1

Steel and California Steel Industries. He retired in 2000, following a total of 39 years of service to the steel industry.

Manny met the love of his life, Veta (deceased 2016), in 1959, and they married in 1961. Manny is survived by his three children, Deborah Corcoran (Paul), Frank Finazzo (Frances), and Maria Finazzo-Labahn (Peter), six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, his brothers Frank Finazzo, Sr. (Frances, deceased 2022), Anthony Finazzo (Marie), his sister Frances (Finazzo) Sclafani (Frank), and many nieces, nephews and cousins ranging from Fontana, California to Cinisi, Sicily.

Manny loved sports, especially baseball. He took his passion to the baseball field where he coached his brother-in-law, cousins and son in the Police and Elks Little Leagues. For three years, he also coached his daughter's team in the Fontana girls' softball league.

Manny was a charter member of the Sons of Italy Joanna Coccia Lodge #2553, where he served as Trustee, Vice President, and President for four and a half terms. He was instrumental in the Club's purchase and sale of their building, located on Sierra Ave in Fontana. Manny also served as a Trustee for the Grand Lodge of California South,

and subsequently as Grand Lodge Orator, and greatly valued his friends and colleagues in this fraternal organization. He reveled in his Sicilian relations and heritage.

Manny was a gregarious, generous, yet humble man, who took unending pleasure in family and friends.

Visitation will be November 3, 2022 from 4:00 until 8:00 PM at Ingold Funeral & Cremation, 8277 Juniper Avenue, Fontana. Funeral services will be November 4, 2022 at 11:00 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 17080 Arrow Boulevard, Fontana. Services will be followed immediately by interment at Bellevue Memorial Park, 1240 "G" St., Ontario. A reception for family and friends will commence from 2:30 until 6:30 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn, 10543 Sierra Ave., Fontana.

In lieu of flowers, tax deductible memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, or the Emanuel and Veta Finazzo Memorial Scholarship Fund. Checks to the latter should be payable to "Sons and Daughters of Italy in America #2553," and must identify the E and V Finazzo Memorial Scholarship Fund in the memo line. They may be mailed to Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, C/O Paul Finazzo, 8888 Tamarind Ave, Fontana, CA 92335

State 1st Vice President
Cont. from page 1

each one of you for accepting the challenges. Thank you for all you do for your Lodges, Grand Lodge of California, and National Supreme Lodge.

Sunday, October 9, I was not able to attend the Columbus Day Celebration, at Mooney's Grove Park, hosted by the Roma Lodge #1573. From the information I gathered, the main dish, and paper products were supplied by the Roma Lodge. Members brought, water and beverages, salad, and dessert. Scheduled events: Bocce Tournament, Bingo, Bounce. I heard it was a wonderful day of returning to our traditional activities with family and friends. A great celebration of our Italian Culture. Thank you to the Roma Lodge for the invitation to join and sharing their Columbus Day Celebration. There was a dessert contest for adults and kids under twelve. The desserts for the contest had to be homemade. It was a fantastic fun day for young and old members, just like the old days!! With regrets I was not able to join in their festivities due to a family Birthday gathering.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, I attended the Rodolfo Valentino Lodge #1449 meeting with State Trustee – Central, Pamela Buldo making her State Officer visit. The lodge is doing well financially and meeting each month at Luna's restaurant in Clovis until they can return to the Norte Dame Hall where they previously met before Covid-19 epidemic! It was nice visiting with friends I have known since I was their State Deputy for years.

A sincere Thank You to the Lodges and members who participated in selling or purchasing tickets for the October Columbus Day Raffle every day a winner, to support the Grand Lodge Fund with the profits made from the raffle. Mille Grazie!!!

Wishing, All, a wonderful month of Celebrating Italian Heritage Month, plus Columbus Day. Hopefully, those Lodges who have photos of their Celebration of Columbus Day will share them with Call-to-Action Photos of Columbus Day Celebration Link I received from CSJ President, Robert Ferrito and shared with All September 15, 2022.

Ciao – Until next Month!

State 3rd Vice President
Cont. from page 1

pedal, oops!" Make the Lodge meetings today feel like their family did back in the old days when they got together. Don't just eat, have a raffle, then a meeting. Have the members talk to each other. Instead of sitting at the same place with the same people, try to move to a new area with other members. We tend to get in a rut. We do the same things over and over again. It was an honor and a privilege to become more closely acquainted with Manny this last year. I hope many of you will try to spend more time with your Pae-sano and the next time we get together, let's all talk. Manny, you will truly be

missed. God Bless.

I want to remind everyone that elections are this month. If you are not running for an office, please think about helping the newly elected officers and give them your support. If a Lodge is going to continue to be strong, members can offer to help set up tables, clean up, cook, or bring or help sell raffle prizes for fundraisers. There are so many things that make a Lodge great! If you do not run for an office, please offer to volunteer. Help your Lodge be great!!

Ciao for now,

Rodolfo Valentino Lodge #1449 Clovis, California

by Carol Watson, Presidenti and
Lou Catallo, Historian; (559) 299-2205 lcatallo@aol.com

Sadly, we note the passing of our president, Carol Watson. She has guided our lodge through many happy seasons and gave of herself willingly. As of this writing, I have no details. She will be missed by us all.

Last month (October) we met at Luna's with an expanded group, including Grand Lodge 2nd Vice President Pauline Richmond and State Trustee Central Pamela Buldo. Our own membership was well represented, and a good time was had by all. Discussions related to our winter schedule and the upcoming holidays.

Next month's meeting will be at Luna's at 6:30 PM, on the first Wednesday of October. Come and join the meal and conversation.

For the kids: February can't March, but April May.

As with most "Italian" food, the Italian Meat Sandwich is "All American". Seemingly made up of left-over beef from a wedding, Al Ferreri of Al's #1 Italian Beef, in Chicago, put the concoction together. Grilled "wet", "dry", or "au jus", it stayed under the radar for many years. His sandwich was made "au giardiniera", but at the San Jose fairgrounds, the Italian Society made their sandwich wet grilled with onions and sweet bell peppers. The crowds would typically wait in line for over 45 minutes for the treat.

In the Monte Poggiolo area of Italy humanity has been present for at least 850,000 years, the earliest of which were the Neanderthals.,

National Scholarships 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: Chi dorme non piglia pesci ...Those that sleep catch no fish.



Hanford Lodge #1543 Hanford, CA by Jackie Giacomazzi



Tom Loliva and Madalyn Ogburn are among the members to be initiated at the upcoming November "Thanksgiving Dinner" meeting on November 9. Election of officers will also be on the agenda. Happy Thanksgiving to all. Felice giorno del Ringraziamento!! (translation by Alexa)

2022 Italian Heritage Parade in San Francisco

by Maria Fassio Pignati, Chair, Italian Language, Culture, and History

San Francisco's 154th weekend celebration of Italian Heritage began on Friday night, October 7, with a lovely reception at the Italian Consulate hosted by our Consul General Sergio Strozzi for Queen Isabella and her Court, their parents, and the Italian Heritage Celebration Board of Directors. The next night the Italian Heritage Celebration hosted its first post-pandemic Grande Ballo at the beautifully historic former Hibernia Bank in San Francisco, with the crowning of Queen Isabella, Filomina Torchio Prudente Reilly, the knighting of Christopher Columbus as portrayed by Joseph Cervetto, Jr., and the presentation of the Royal Court (Princess, Duchesses, Contessas, Ladies in Waiting, Maidens, Crown Bearer and Scroll Bearer). It was a gorgeous event with over 300 people.

Sunday morning started with a solemn High Mass at Saints Peter and Paul. Attending was Queen Isabella and her Royal Court, Christopher Columbus, the Knights of Columbus, civic dignitaries, and members of the Order, including Columbia Lodge #1940 President Angelo Fanucchi and Recording Secretary Angie Fanucchi's granddaughter Gabriella Fanucchi-Raouf, who was the First Duchess. The Knights of Columbus formed an arch in church with their swords, under which the Queen and her Court and Columbus processed, all dressed in colorful period outfits. It was very regal. Across from the church there was a great exhibit of Ferrari sports cars that captured everyone's attention.

The next stop was Fisherman's Wharf to decorate our cars for the oldest continuous celebration of its kind in the United States. As the parade wound its way to North Beach, it was wonderful seeing thousands of people along the parade route, and you could feel the enthusiasm and happiness all around. The restaurants on the route

had outside tables that were packed with people. I was honored to represent our State President Barbara Wisniewski in a convertible. Right behind me in the next car was our lovely Miss California Gianna Benedetti from the Roma Lodge, who represented us beautifully. We were able to ride in the parade thanks to the continued generosity of Dick Ghilotti of Ghilotti Construction, who provided our cars, our drivers John Peretto and Tom Rainford, and antique vehicles that participated in the festivities, which featured about 88 entries from as far north as Sacramento, as far south as San Diego, as well as the Mummers' Aqua String Band, which came all the way from Philadelphia. This year's Parade Grand Marshal was Randy DeMartini, Executive Director of the Salesian Boys' and Girls' Club, and Larry Mazzola, Jr., the President of the SF Building and Construction Trades Council. The weather was nice and on the colder side, but unfortunately the fog came in enough that the Blue Angels, who flew into town for Fleet Week, had to cancel their daring air show. Despite this it was a great

weekend to show our Italian pride!

Once again.....Please make every effort to protect Columbus Day in the United States against the growing threats that have placed it in danger. If someone is trying to remove Columbus Day recognition from your area, contact your legislators and tell them to protect this holiday that honors not only the amazing achievement of an Italian navigator who opened up the world, but also the 26 million-plus Americans of Italian descent that helped create our great nation. While it is important that our indigenous brothers and sisters are justly honored for their ancient heritage, it should not be at the expense of ours. Our National Lodge, in conjunction with our Commission for Social Justice, is working hard to preserve this holiday. Please contact them for further information and to obtain pamphlets with historically correct information about the great navigator. Please don't think Columbus Day is safe, please don't wait for someone else to save it, and please don't wait until it is too late...act NOW to protect YOUR heritage for future generations.



2022 Queen Isabella and her Royal Court
(photo courtesy of Melissa Solari)



Past State President Maria Fassio Pignati with Cornelia-Vita Nuova Junior Member Georgia Chandler
(photo courtesy of Joy Pella Motl)



Miss California Gianna Benedetti from the Roma Lodge
(photo courtesy Gianna Benedetti)

Happy Thanksgiving

Barbara Wisniewski State President and Husband Ken

Become a Sponsor of Il Leone!

Dance

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

Weddings and other social events have dancing, either as the purpose for coming together or as an important part of the event. Someone asks you, “Would you like to dance?” How do you feel about it? Are you likely to accept or decline? What is dancing all about? Let’s explore some interesting elements of this social activity.

Have you learned to dance? What level dancer are you -- advanced or a beginner? Where did you learn to dance, and with whom? What dances do you know? You most likely have witnessed dancing change over time. Do you remember the “Twist” of the 1960s? Some dances have typically been slow, others fast. Some dances are performed by two people embracing each other or not, while some dances (folk dances, square dances, line dances) involve a group. Did you know some colleges offer dance as a major? Dance is considered an art. Ballet, for example, is a magnificent type of dance that requires years of training. Movement can be a wonderful way of expressing oneself.

Dancing took place in about every culture around the world before recorded history. It was a means to express feeling, and, maybe through magical thinking, influence the outcome of courtship, hunting, harvest, weather, or war. As ancient religions formed, dancing became an element in them of communicating with an imagined supernatural world and inducing trance. Dancing was associated with praying in many cultures. It was also an important way to celebrate successes and victories. Modern dance retains some remnants of these ancient ways, explaining some of its charm. We may simply perceive dancing as “fun.”

Dancing is associated with music, but it can be practiced without it. Some dances have ordered steps; others are spontaneous moves. Dancing can be performed indoors or outdoors. Dancing can tell a story people understand without words. Dancing has also inspired ways of dress and folk costumes. Coming-of-age ceremonies include dance. Schools sponsor proms and dances. Discotheques were once crowded halls for recorded music.

Dances take place in diverse situations. Some dancing is done by performers on stage. Drama may be derived from dance. Italian Americans have enjoyed ballroom dancing to orchestras and big bands. Dance halls were once popular venues for Americans. The waltz was the most popular ballroom dance. Some of the best music we listen to was written for the waltz. Americans became famous for dancing to jazz. The Italians are famous for the tarantella dance. The Irish are known for stepdance, the reel, and the jig.

Dances are easily recognized. They may include head and hand gestures. Zoologists say animals and insects dance. For example, honeybees dance to communicate information.



The Tarantella by Leon Bazille Perrault (1832-1908)

CRUCIVERBA

1. Dario premio Nobel.

2. Un atleta su due ruote.

9. Scherzo, burla.

10. Il signor... de' Tali.

11. Antica regione abruzzese.

13. Frutti tondeggianti.

14. Sminuzzato.

15. Premio sportivo.

16. Fiume asiatico.

17. Pesce di risala.

18. Ente supremo.

19. Calcolo bancario.

21. Le vocali di Lisa.

22. Roman regista.

23. Ufficio con mappe.

24. Animale strisciante.

25. Le prime consonanti.

26. Pregiato pesce di mare.

27. Tra due tic.

28. Darsi da fare.

29. Viene al pettine.

30. La bambina nel "Paese delle meraviglie".

31. Lo masticano i Malesi.

32. Il portico di Zenone.

33. Parte della nave.

34. Un "colore" televisivo (sigla).

35. Lusso per il sultano.

36. Compenso professionale.

37. La nota centrale.

1. Molto noioso.

2. Numero con due zeri.

3. La rocca di Priamo.

4. Questa cosa.

5. Articolo e nota musicale.

6. Relativo a una pianura

7. Animale che scava.

8. Rischio che si corre.

9. Antica città dell'Asia Minore.

12. Cassetta con api.

13. Come il sole al tramonto.

15. Mucchio di legna da ardere.

17. Come la luna con la gobba a levante.

19. Fare girare... la clava.

20. Corteo notturno con torce.

22. È piccante in cucina.

23. Recipiente per fusioni.

25. Città austriaca.

27. Simbolo della tribù.

28. Il disegnatore del Cippiuti.

29. Dio marino greco.

30. Attrezzo tessile.

31. Imbrogliaano al gioco.

33. Auto a Detroit.

35. Simbolo dell'ettaro.



Pauline Richmond
State First VicePresident

Have a
Happy
Thanksgiving



Our mission is to build bridges between the Sicilian village of Poggioreale and the thousands of descendants living in the United States. We offer college scholarships, family history, photos, reunions, and more.

PLEASE VISIT
www.PoggiorealeinAmerica.com

Scholarship deadline: April 1, 2023



Congratulations
Fresno
Colombo-Stella #1149
on 100 years!



Helping local home buyers
for **over 30 years.**

**Susan Campise &
Sarah Campise Hallier**

(559) 438-2111 | chlteam@chlfresno.com

DRE 01178326, 01318876, 01332793
NMLS 335251, 247957, 1490076

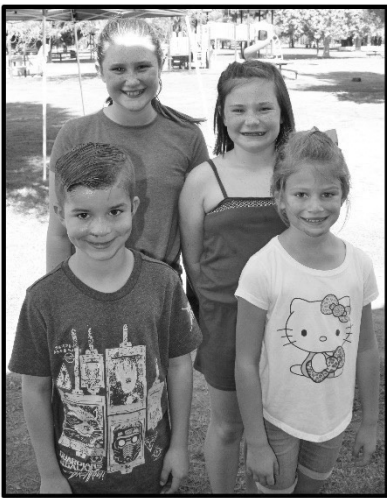
SERVING CALIFORNIA & TEXAS

Roma Lodge # 1573

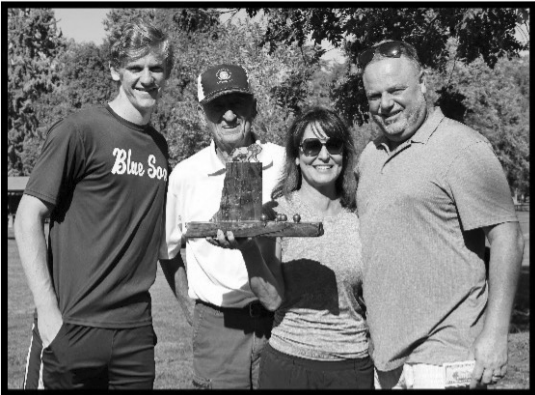
Tulare, CA

by Larry Dutto-President

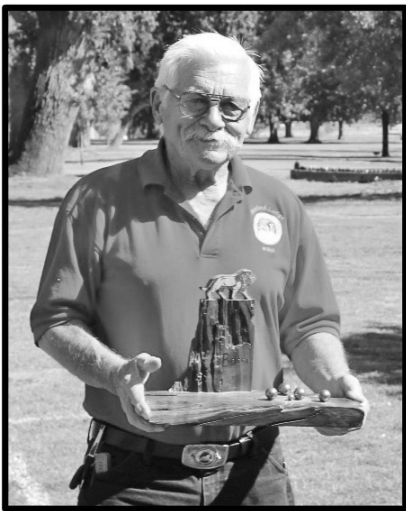
Roma Lodge members gave their final farewell to 60-year member **Leroy Beecher** who passed away in September after a lengthy illness. Leroy and wife Carolyn Beecher have been long time members and supporters of the lodge as well as Grand Lodge convention delegates, officers, United Lodge honorees and he served in many capacities for the organization. Leroy was Roma Lodge president in 1971-72 and served as a State Deputy for the Hanford Lodge for many years. He was an Eagle Scout, Cub Master, and Scout Leader for over 25-years and volunteered for many community groups and organizations in the Tulare community. He was an avid musician and played in the community operetta for many years, sang in his church choir, was a band booster and involved in a variety of other community activities. *Farewell Brother Leroy. May you rest in peace.*



Roma Lodge celebrated Columbus Day with a picnic and bocce tournament at Mooney's Grove Park in Visalia. Over 80 members and guests participated with some great food and fellowship. The event featured a junior member dessert contest. The winners were *Camden Taylor, Harper DePaoli, Adelyn Watkins, and Giulia Watkins*



Roma Lodge celebrated Columbus Day with a picnic and bocce tournament at Mooney's Grove Park in Visalia. Over 80 members and guests participated with some great food and fellowship. The event featured a junior member dessert contest. The winners were Camden Taylor, Harper DePaoli, Adelyn Watkins, and Giulia Watkins.



Master Craftsman

Tony Tesoriere displays the Champion Bocce Trophy he made nearly 50-years ago presented to the Roma Lodge bocce champions. Tony is a member of the Hanford Lodge.



New Member

Newest member of Roma Lodge is *Andi Clark* initiated at the October meeting. She is with parents *Anthony and Nicole Clark*. Andi joins sister *Ava James* and brother *Nolan* as Roma Lodge members.

Colombo-Stella Lodge # 1149

Fresno, Ca
by Olivia DeLiddo, President

Hello to everyone! On September 22, the Mother Lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary. We began as Cristoforo Colombo 1149, in 1922, added a ladies auxiliary, Stella d'Italia 1498 in 1928, and finally merged the two together in 1962 to become Colombo-Stella 1149.

We held a grand event at the Fresno Fairgrounds for nearly 230 guests. The evening began with cocktails and appetizers, and there was a tour available to the newly renovated Italian Heritage Museum for anyone who wished to see it. Our Master of Ceremonies Steve Barra, welcomed the crowd, introduced President Olivia DeLiddo who wore the same regalia her grandfather wore 100 years ago. Past State President Comm Maria Fasio Pignati honored the Mother Lodge by singing the Italian National Anthem and the National Anthem of the USA, beautifully.

Guests were served a delicious steak and rigatoni dinner, catered by Pardini's, with wine and all the trimmings, while Olivia and Steve spoke about some of the 100 years of history. Most of the Grand Council was in attendance. Many dignitaries were introduced, including our Past State Deputy Janis Hanson who served Colombo-Stella for about 30 years, our current State Deputy Lou Catallo, State President Barbara Fumosa Wisniewski, who presented the Lodge with a Certificate of Appreciation for our Centennial Anniversary, Past National President Vera Giralomi, and Past Hon Vice Consul to Italy here in Fresno, Edward L Fanucchi, amongst many others.

Guest speakers were Michael Giovannetti, who received a Sons of Italy scholarship in 1966 as a student on a Visa from Lucca, Italy. He still believes that it was his most important scholarship, allowing him to pay his tuition to Fresno State and begin his future. Our second speaker was Peter Tocchini, from the Isnardi Foundation. Peter spoke about how their association with our lodge has provided full ride grants to many of our youth members, enabling them to focus on



Italian Museum touchscreens.



Maria and Maurizio singing.



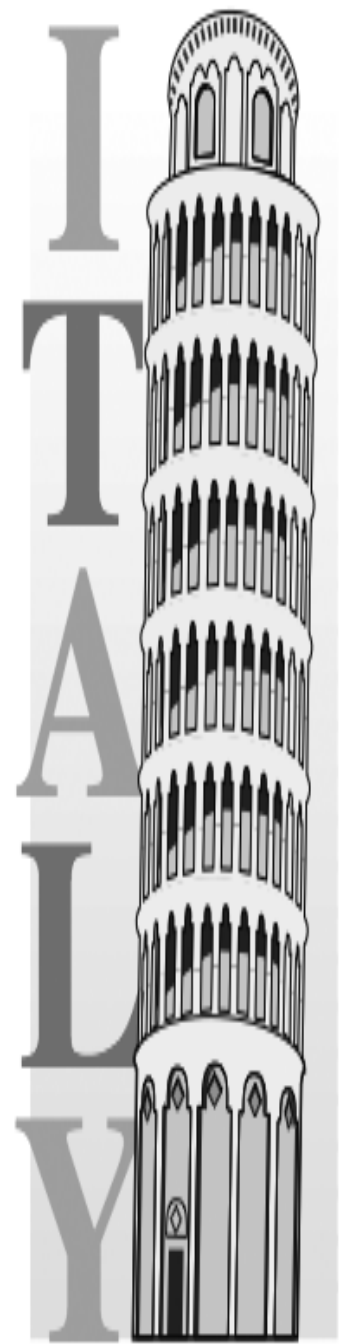
Cubicciotti vest and regalia.

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



C. Steve Olivia and Peter Tocchini.

Selling Homes Throughout The Bay Area

Adele Della Santina

"The Right Realtor makes all the difference."



650.400.4747
AdeleDS@aol.com
www.AdeleDS.com
CalBRE# 00911740

COMPASS

Expert in preparation, promotion, and negotiation!



2022 “IL LEONE” Sponsors

Please make your check out to the Westernm Foundation and earmark the IL Leone

Renee Adair	Lynn Lawrence-Murphy
Anaheim Lodge #2076	William Murphy
Alice Bankhead	Andy Pampuro
Beatrice Portinari Lodge #1626	Louise Pampuro
Pamela Bini	Maria Pignati
Giovanna Bilotti	Ugo Pignati
Donna Branch	Annette Porter
Rick Branch	Phil Privitera
Judith Ann Buldo	Hugh Ricci
C. Columbo Lodge #1315	Pamela Ricci
David Carboni	Pauline Richmond
Cesare Batistti Lodge #1518	Diane Robey
Columbia Lodge #1940	Al and Lillian Rossi
Joanne Coccia Lodge #2553	Bernadine Neil and Al Schlappy
John Costa	Shasta Lodge #2453
Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1534	St. Helena Lodge #2077
Diablo Valley Lodge #2167	Sadie Tamburine
Edithe DiGiuro	Jan Trigleth
Michael DiGiuro	Michael S. Turrini
Jacqueline Doti	Ukiah Lodge #2104
Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400	Debbie Ure
Gabe Domenici	Roy T. Vanoni
Mardell Domenici	Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519
Anthony Finazzo	Watsonville Lodge #2016
Marie Finazzo	West End Lodge #2127
Gina Gallucci	Barbara Wisniewski
Gloria Garibaldi	Ken Wisniewski
Mario Guardi	In Memory of Brother Fred
Mary LaBanca	Buerman, OBOSB Hand of
Zelda LeFrak	Help, From Ron & Ashley
Janey Leonardich	Latteri
Carla Lotito	In Memory of Mirella Bratte-
Mary Lotito	sani, Ceasars Restaurant, From
The Lowinger Family	Ron & Ashley Latteri
In Memory of Sandra Daniels	In Memory of Father John Mal-
Richard Luzzi	loy, From Ron & Ashley Latteri
Giovanna Michalski	In Memory of Father Larry N.
Michael Navone	Lorenzoni, From Ron & Ashley
Bernadine Neil	Latteri



Wear with Pride!



Only \$10.00

Sons of Italy Western Foundation is selling this beautiful OSDIA pin.

Italian Roots American Branches

1-1/2" across with a strong magnet that clings and will not blemish your clothing. All proceeds will benefit the Sons of Italy Western Foundation and the Sons of Italy Foundation.

We appreciate and thank you for your support!

For information or to purchase, please send an email to **italianrootspin@gmail.com**. Grazie!

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)

United Lodges of Southern California

By Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar



It's with much sadness that before I write the article about our United Lodges Columbus Day Dinner, I speak of the sudden passing of State Orator Manny Finazzo. He will be very much missed by all. We, of United Lodges of Southern California, were honored to have him represent our State President, Barbara Wisniewski at our Columbus Day Dinner.

On behalf of the officers and member lodges of the United Lodges of Southern California offer our heartfelt fraternal prayers and condolences to the Finazzo family.

On Sunday, October 9th, United Lodges celebrated Columbus Day with a dinner attended by our member lodges and guests. Prior to the dinner, a short meeting chaired by President Michael DiGiuro was held.

President DiGiuro then introduced State Orator Manny Finazzo, who spoke about the pending sale of the Grand Lodge building and the work is done in preparation of a move.

Brother Finazzo then spoke on Columbus and the ongoing work the Order is doing to keep Columbus Day and the importance of our Italian Heritage and Culture.

Following Brother Finazzo's comments, dinner was served. A Pasta Dinner with garlic bread from Guiliano's of Gardena was served along with salad, coffee or tea and spumoni ice cream wedges and cookies.

Those attending enjoyed an afternoon of socializing. Although this year, as we regroup following the pandemic, was a low-key celebration, we look forward to next year to one bigger and better.

IN MEMORIAM:
by Jackie Giacomazi



It is with a very heavy heart that I write a note “In Memoriam” for my dear friend, **Joanie Little**. After 2 ½ years of not being able to visit with her because of covid, she had asked me to pick her up to attend the September meeting, where she was to celebrate her 93rd birthday. Well, she became ill and was not able to attend. She passed away on October 9, (one day before I was going to say my “good-bye” to her). I still can’t believe it!! I miss her calls, which were always so cheery and positive. I miss picking her up to take her to meetings with me!!

Joan Ambrosini Little was born to Annibale and Antonia Ambrosini (Annibale was a founder of the Hanford Lodge) on September 15, 1929, in Hanford, California. She tells the story of how she was born the day the Hanford Sons of Italy charter was signed. When her mother died in 1941 (Joanie was 12 years old), she was raised by her father as a “ranch hand” on their family farm. She graduated from Hanford High School with the class of 1947. Until recently, her class would meet each year for a reunion. She married Warren Little, on October 11, 1957. They built a home, raised three sons (James, Craig, and Brian), while operating City Pharmacy in Hanford. They also operated an outdoor mall known as the “The Little Comer.”

Joanie joined the Hanford Sons of Italy on October 24, 1995. Since that day, she has given her utmost attention to the betterment of our Lodge. She served as a Head Trustee for many years, and created a Charities Account, from which donations were made to local charities. She chaired many Sauce Sales to help fund that account. Through the years, over 100 organizations benefited from her efforts!

In the community, Joanie personally donated to and promoted fundraising activities for a number of organizations including: The Cancer Society (2000 Certificate of Appreciation); Soroptimist International (Lifetime member); Chamber of Commerce (2012 Fred Martella Lifetime Achievement Award); Links for Life, Walk for Life, Daffodil Days; Kings County Historical Society; Kings Symphony Orchestra (Board member for 10 years) and of course, the Hanford Sons of Italy. Not only will there be a void in my life from her passing, but all the other people who she had come in contact with through her many friendships in the community. May Joanie rest in peace!!

Joanie was preceded in her passing by her father, Annibale; her mother, Antonia; her brother, Gene Ambrosini; sisters Millie Crispi, Inez Hite, Irene Natali, Mary Allen and son, James. She is survived by her sons: Craig (Karen); Brian (Denise); ten grandchildren: Keith Little, Steven (Heather) Little, Joe (Nah) Little, Susan Lilly, Brianne (Chris) Jackson, Jared (Amanda) Little, Gene (Joline) Escat, Julianne (Jared) Virgadamo, Brittney Little, and Bailey (Joshua) Willett. She was blessed with nine great-grandchildren: Jayce DeRuiter, Maddy Jackson, Jackson Virgadamo, Jensen Virgadamo, Wyatt Jackson, Harper Little, Koa Escat, Charlotte Willett and Warren Little. A graveside service will be held October 26, 2022 at 12 noon at the Grangeville Cemetery, 10428 14th Avenue, Armona, CA. The Hanford Lodge is honored to be able to give a final tribute to her at her grave site.

Eureka Lodge # 1274
Eureka, CA
by Joe Bonino

The October polenta and chicken Pinochi and Stagnoli scholarship fundraising drive thru dinner was held on October 16th. Thank you to all who worked so hard to sell tickets, gather the ingredients, prepare the meal, and serve at the drive thru. Two hundred and twenty-four dinners were served.

No meeting in November. The Christmas meeting is a Christmas dinner party tentatively scheduled for Sunday December 4th.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Polenta and chicken scholarship dinner cooks John Salizzoni, Nick Giannini, Joan Dawson, and Ron Dawson.



Humboldt Veterans Stand Down Italian dinner cooks Erling Dellabalma, Rich Barsanti, and Dave Olivieri.

Napa Lodge 2043
MARTHA CERVONE
1936 - 2022



With great sadness our lodge has had to say farewell to another sister. Martha was a member of our lodge for 54 years. Martha was a dedicated homemaker, devoted to her family, with a love of books and crossword puzzles. She readily helped with lodge dinner dances and meetings through the years and always had open arms for visitors at home. Martha will be missed by so many within our community and our lodge. Until we meet again sister Martha.

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.com
- 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.



News From Membership

by Dee Dee Drene
Grand Lodge Membership Chair



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to help grow our membership and promote the wonderful culture we share through our Italian Roots and American Branches.

It's been an exciting month of researching best practices and getting set up to help with ideas that will increase our membership and attract new members.

I met with our Web Master Anna Graeber, and she taught me how to create mailing lists, and postcards that go out to all people of Italian Heritage within a certain distance and invite them to a Lodge event or meeting. I tested it out for My home Lodge of Sacramento #1352 and it was a huge success. We had several people respond and even attend our dinner. They all said they were thrilled to receive the invitation and didn't know we existed prior to getting the postcard. Some have even joined the Lodge. Thank you, Anna, for sharing this amazing tool with me among many other things.

There were 3 Postcard Templates given to us by National and all we need to do is customize it for our events or create a new template to add in our own flair. Please see the example of the postcard below.



I also learned some great ideas on creating festive and fun newsletters. I have been looking at several Lodges Facebook Pages and they are very impressive. It's just another avenue to share the culture and festivities happening in your lodge. I have even found tasty recipes to try at home, some Italian history and language lessons. It's a perfect way to attract new members.

Please reach out to me if you want to learn how to set up the postcards in your lodge, create a festive and fun newsletter if yours needs a little TLC, or set up a Facebook Page for your Lodge. I am happy to share what I have learned, and you can add a little You into it. It's surprisingly easy to learn.

I am enthusiastically off to a good start, have much more to do and look forward to collaborating with all of you. My heart is Full.

Alla Prossima,
Dee Dee Drene
Grand Lodge Membership Chair
916-704-6745
Drenegirl@gmail.com



Sons & Daughters of Italy, C. Colombo Lodge

WE'RE BACK AND AT A NEW VENUE!

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY, C. COLOMBO LODGE #1315

INVITES YOU TO THEIR 11TH ANNUAL

CUCIDATI CONTEST & FALL FESTA

Profits go to C. Colombo Lodge #1315's Scholarship Fund

Everyone is invited to enter the Cucidati Contest:



- ✓ Minimum of 100 cucidati cookies must be submitted, **each at least 2-1/2 inches long.**
- ✓ Each contestant will receive 2 free entry tickets.
- ✓ Judges will award money prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners.
- ✓ People's Choice winner receives a prize.
- ✓ Cucidati classes will be available for those novice bakers, or anyone interested in entering the contest, more details below.

Saturday, November 12, 2022

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Pittsburg Youth Development Center

1001 Stoneman Avenue, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Entertainment: NickyD (DePaola)

Pre-Sale: \$10.00 Per Person

(Includes: Cup of Coffee & Sampling of Cucidati for People's Choice Award)

At the Door (limited): \$15.00 Per Person

(Kids under 6 years old are free)



Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon of Italian festivities at the Pittsburg Youth Development Center. Sample and vote for your favorite cucidati for the People's Choice Award. Sing along to Italian songs. Purchase homemade Italian baked goods, meatball sliders, arancini, sfingi, cannoli along with an espresso bar and Italian sodas.

- To enter the contest and/or sign up for Cucidati lessons, call Zeld LeFrak-Belleci at (925) 518-7110 or email zlefrak@aol.com
- For pre-sale tickets (\$10), call Pam Bustos at (925) 642-8658 or email pam.bustos2136@gmail.com

Grazie!

Puzzle Answers

F	O	C	I	C	L	I	S	T	A
A	C	E	L	I	A	T	A	L	
S	A	N	N	I	O	M	E	L	E
T	R	I	T	O	C	O	P	P	A
I	N	O	C	A	R	P	A		
D	I	O	R	A	T	E	O	F	
I	A	P	O	L	A	N	S	K	I
O	C	A	T	A	S	T	O	A	
S	E	R	P	E	N	T	E	B	C
O	D	A	T	A	T	A	C		
A	G	I	F	E	N	O	D	O	
A	L	I	C	E	B	E	T	E	L
S	T	O	A	C	A	R	E	N	A
P	A	L	H	A	R	E	N	T	
O	N	D	A	N	I	O	P	A	

C. Colombo Lodge # 1315

Pittsburg, CA
by Zelda LeFrak-Belleci

Getting Ready for the Cuciati Festival
The “Cuciat Queen” Opens her itchen to Teach the
Skills Needed yo Turn Out Delicious Italian Cookies



Grandpa Glenn Wilson delivered his three granddaughters and all the dried fruit they may need to the site to the Cucidati Cooking Class, Zelda’s kitchen. Seen above are the Petersil girls: Malone, Hope and Grayson cranking the old fashion food grinder, preparing the filling for cucidati under the watchful eye of their grandfather.



Tricia Russo Terwilliger, Debbie Billeci-De ASousa and Linda Russo Gioins try their hand at grinding the figs for cucidati filling. Among their “secret” ingredients were dried dates, apricots and a dash or two of brandy and Cointreau! The gals are getting ready to enter the Cucidati Contest hosted by C. Colombo Lodge in mid-November.



Under the direction of Paulette Lagana and Zelda LeFrak-Belleci, a series of cooking lessons were held featuring Italian specialty cookies. Pictured above are graduates of Cucidat Cooking Class, Session III. Ladies earning their diplomas are Gina Costanza, Liz Ferrante, Marietta Poldark, Mary Ann Smith and Physis Aubin.



Many hands are needed to organize the Cucidati Contest hosted b y C. Colombo Lodge. Seen above is the Executive Committee meeting at the home of Pam Bustos, Chair of the 11th Annual event. The group is about to taste a sample of the famous Italian fig cookie. Bottom row: Pam Bustos, Sue Coniglio, Katy Castro, Lisa Belleci-Navarro and Rosemarie DiMaggio. Top row: Dennis Clarke, Roseanne Ortland, Carol Hastings, Paulette Lagana, Lanette Clarke and Zelda LeFrak-Belleci.



The Cucidati Contest is a major fund raiser for C. Colombo Lodge. Members of the lodge come from Antioch, Brentwood, Pittsburg and Oakley. The money raised from this annual event goes to scholarships serving the students in each of those cities. Pictured above are Paulette Lagana and Zelda LeFrak-Belleci who lead the “prep classes” for those wanting to hone their skills before entering the 11th Annual Cucidati Contest.

Thanksgiving in Italy

There is something strange about the Thanksgiving holiday that sets it apart from other holidays. Perhaps it’s the expectation of a house full of relatives and friends or the aroma of a turkey baking in the oven which contributes to festive anticipation. Maybe the strangeness stems from the fact that it falls on a Thursday.

Generally, Thursdays have never really done anything for me. As far as I was concerned, Thursday was nothing more than a dull day which stood in the way and slowed down the arrival of Friday and its promise of the weekend. So it may very well have been the designation of Thursday as the day of the week to celebrate Thanksgiving which bestowed upon it a kind of dignity with a Sunday flavor.

To me, every Thanksgiving Day seemed like a Sunday. As far back as I could remember, while immersed in a Sunday kind of ambience, I would be pleasantly relieved when realizing that I had three more days of freedom before I had to return to school. I wondered if other people experienced this same phenomenon or if it was just me.

In preparation for this article, I spent a good deal of time trying to learn something about the way in which Thanksgiving is celebrated in Italy, only to come up empty-handed and hearing myself say, “Thanksgiving in Italy? Fahgettaboudit!”

Italy does not celebrate Thanksgiving as we know it.

Some parts of Italy observe a Harvest Festival, a kind of European Thanksgiving in September during which they thank God for a good harvest season. The literal translation of the phrase “Thanksgiving Celebration” in Italian would be La Festa del Ringraziamento, referring to a number of religious holidays observed throughout the year for patron saints. And while Thanksgiving is not a traditional holiday in Italy, it has become a traditional holiday for those Italians and many other ethnic groups who have left their native land and assimilated into American culture.



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.