



IL LEONE

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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

A Message From The State President



by Lynn Lawrence-Murphy
State President
"Fratellanza"

We turn our heads and here we are with Filial Lodge Elections upon us once more. All of us saying, "Where did those two years go?" I would like to thank all of you who have served as Lodge Officers and Chairs these past two years. I know it takes a lot of hard work and commitment to run a lodge and keep it moving forward. For those who will run again, I thank you in advance, and I would like to extend an invitation to all lodge members to think about running for an office. To quote Uncle Sam "We need you". May I say, "Your Grand Lodge and Filial Lodge need you!" If you are unsure of what the responsibilities are for any of the offices, refer to your State By-Law Book where each officer's responsibilities are clearly stated. As a past lodge officer and a state officer, I can tell you it is hard work, but the rewards in the end make it well worth every dime you donate, every minute of your precious time, and your generous talents. Please be willing to commit for the love of our Order and our members, and the fraternity of being an Italian American Family. Nominations and Elections take place in the months of October and November. If you would send your Roster of New Officers completed with addresses, phone numbers and e-mails as soon as possible to the Grand Lodge Office, Il Leone and other lodges, it would expedite and facilitate communication. In a spirit of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity may you be guided in your

election decisions.

On Sunday, September 25th, Bill and I along with State Orator Sadie and Sid Tambourine, State 3rd Vice President Ted and Lou Seibel and members from the Dolly Sinatra Lodge, West End and Las Vegas Lodges attended the Las Vegas Lodge's Dinner Show Fund Raiser at the Italian American Club in Vegas. An outstanding evening of entertainment was donated by Dolly Sinatra Vice President Frank Di Salvo and his friends to support the struggling Las Vegas Lodge – an example of true fraternity and support from one Lodge member for his fellow brothers and sisters of the Order. Thank you Frank and Company for your willingness to reach out and help your Grand Lodge Brothers and Sisters. A fun night was had by all, great food, great company and a terrific show! The following weekend it was down south to attend the Southern California United Lodges' Meeting and Columbus Day Celebration. The Centinela Valley Lodge hosted the Event, twelve of the sixteen lodges in the south were represented at this Columbus Day Celebration. It definitely shows how strongly our members feel about the importance of Columbus Day and our Italian Heritage. They also raised \$250.00 at this event for the victims of the recent earthquake in Italy. A check for \$250 was sent to Western Foundation to help us reach our goal of \$10,000. A big thank you to the members of the Centinela Valley Lodge for the wonderful meal prepared by your kitchen crew under the supervision of Mark Vaona, President Annette Porter and great libations served by bartender Steve Guthrie. Columbus Celebrations also took place in Reno, Nevada, on October 8th and 9th with the Christoforo Columbo Lodge having booths at the Festa, at the Bower's Museum in Orange where Past State President Joe La Banca was honored by the Renaissance Lodge Foundation, in San Diego where they honored Sadie and Sid Tamburine at

THE "BATTLE OF THE GRAND LODGES"

Joseph Simoni
Chair - Membership Committee

In order to attract new and retain existing members, the National Membership Committee is hosting a membership drive for all Grand Lodges that began in January 2016 and ceases at the end of January 2017. Monetary awards for the top 4 winners are:

First Place	\$1,000.00	Second Place:	\$750.00
Third Place:	\$ 500.00	Fourth Place	\$250.00

The monetary awards to the top 4 Grand Lodges will be based on the results of the highest *Net Increase* of active members at the end of March 2017. It is important not only to bring in new members, but to retain the ones you already have.

In addition, and with the blessing and approval of our worthy State President, **the top 5 lodges with net increases** will receive the following **decrease in their 2nd Quarter 2017 PER**

CAPITA YEAA!!!

First Place:	10%	Second Place:	8%
Third Place:	6%	Fourth Place:	4%
Fifth Place;	2%		

REMEMBER: All awards are based on the percentage of **Net** increases (New **and** Existing members) listed on your Per Capita report as of the end of Q1 2017.

their Columbus Day Ball, in San Mateo, Visalia and in San Francisco. The Modesto Lodge had a float in the San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade with their Lodge Queen Natalia Cipporeni representing their lodge. Our Grand Lodge Queen Mary Lucido, your State President and First Gent rode in two cars donated by Ghilotti Brothers Construction also participated in the Italian Heritage Parade. That evening, Bill and I, Michael and Edith Di Guiro, Immediate Past President Maria and her sister-in-law Vivian attended a post parade dinner at the Italian Athletic Club where we had the opportunity to meet San Francisco's new Consul General Lorenzo Ortona and his lovely wife Sheila. Our own Web Master Nickolas Marinelli served as Master of Ceremony. Remember, keep those petitions coming in regarding Saving Columbus Day, and keep informed and pro-active in your communities on this most important

issue. Thank you Bonnie Sims from the Camelia-Columbo Lodge in Klamath Falls for staying on top things and representing us at their Council Meeting where the issue of Abolishing Columbus Day was being discussed, and We Won the Battle this time. On Wednesday, October 12 (the true Columbus Date). Recording Secretary Lori Rossi, Bill and I travelled to Fresno to meet with the staff of the Double Tree to set things up for our 2017 State Convention. We also met with host Lodge President Olivia Deliddo Gallegos; Carol Watson, Rodolfo Lodge President; Louise Silacci Hanford Lodge President and Nick Notarnicola, President of the Visalia Lodge. We left feeling we were all in sync as to what duties each of us have to carry out next. Mark your Calendars June 21st to June to June 25th for our next State Convention in Fresno, California.

While taking a few days of vacation in Carmel, we at-

tended the Monterey Lodge Dinner Meeting on October 18th, then we headed up to Napa for their meeting on Thursday October 20th, returned to Carmel, and then headed down to Encinitas to celebrate the La Costa Dei Fiori's 38th Anniversary. Our Grand Lodge Queen Mary Lucido joined us along with several of our State Officers, Chairs and fellow brothers and sisters from neighboring lodges. October always turns out to be a truly busy month, but one where we Italian Americans joyously gather together to celebrate and share our rich heritage with family, friends and our communities. .

In closing, Bill and I wish you all a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. I want you to know that I am thankful on each of the 365 days of the year for the true devotion and dedication each of you give our Grand Lodge and the Order.

Fraternally!



Andrew Pampuro, Louise Pampuro and Debbie Ure wish you
a very Happy Thanksgiving.

SAVE THE DATE

C. Colombo Lodge is firming up plans for the 7th Annual Cucidati Contest. Put on your aprons, get out the bowl, find nona's recipe for those very yummy fig cookies. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top vote getters. While waiting for the results of the contest, guests can avail themselves of an array of delicious Italian food items, musical entertainment and singing along with our wandering troubadour! For more information call Zelda Belleci (925) 432-2012.

Date: Sunday, December 11, 2016
Place: Antioch Historical Museum
1500 West 4th Street
Antioch, CA 94565
Time: Doors open to the public at 2 PM
Lots of Free Monitored Parking



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News from the Central

by Arlene Nunziati
State 1st Vice President



It has been a very sad month for us and our Sons of Italy family. We lost many members. Sincere condolences to the families of Joy Bruno, Janis Hansen, Judy Buldo and Russ Belleci.

Our new and condensed bylaw books are printed and have been distributed to the lodges. Each State Deputy will also receive a new book to include in their deputy binder. Please contact the Grand Lodge office if you need a copy.

I have CSJ raffle tickets to sell if anyone would like to purchase a ticket or a portion of a ticket. This is a fundraiser for the CSJ and is tax deductible. \$100.00 per ticket.

Lodge Recording Secretaries please don't forget to copy the Grand Lodge office when inviting the State President to your events.

I attended a very nice BBQ hosted by the Giuseppe Mazzini Lodge earlier in the month. It was a great BBQ and so much delicious food! Thank you everyone for your hospitality.

I have been away in Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee with my daughter Linda celebrating our upcoming birthdays. What a great trip! Memphis was great and Graceland spectacular. Toured all over. As I write this in Nashville, will be touring all over this great city also. Looking forward to dinner with Amelia Varni, granddaughter of First National Vice President Vera Girolami.

Celebrated Columbus Day at the Peninsula Italian American Social Club where a delicious dinner was served and a great procession and event celebrated with Queen Isabella and Christopher Columbus.

Bye u'all!!



News from the North

by John Costa
State 2nd Vice President



The fall chill is in the air; time to get the extra blanket out. The Western Foundation golf tournament was held on October 17th and was a success. The weather was great and hats off once again to Michael Smith and the members of the Vincenzo Bellini lodge for hosting an outstanding event. Thanks to all the lodges and members who help support this event. I finally put that frozen meatball in the hole, but two others did also, and I was not successful in the putt off, maybe next year.

By the time you have read this, the Sacramento Lodge will have had their Shrimp Feed on November 6th which I will be attending and looking forward to.

I would like to thanks all of

the Veterans who have served in our armed forces as we celebrate Veterans Day, Thank You for all your sacrifices you have made for all of us.

November is the month when new officers are being elected to run our local lodges. I would like to congratulate those who have been elected to be the leaders of your local lodges.

Donna Lee and I will be heading to Anaheim again this year in the middle of November to participate in the Disneyland Avengers Half Marathon weekend, I will be running in the 5K race and Donna lee will be running in the 10K race one day and then the half marathon (13.1 miles) the next day. Feet don't fail us now.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches lets us be thankful for or health, family and friends as we gather together, remember those who are spread all over this world.

In closing Donna Lee and I wish all of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving! Reminder, not that many shopping days till Christmas, have you started your shopping yet? There is still time to get on the "nice" list.

Ciao



Become a Sponsor of Il Leone!

Lodge Anniversaries

November	
America #1609	11/20/31
Watsonville #2016	11/18/51
Saddleback Valley #2566	11/17/84

Congratulations!!!

News from the South

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



It may not be rolling fast, but the ball is rolling. We have another new lodge developing in Murrieta, CA, which is located a little north of Temecula. Also, we're getting closer to the possibility of a lodge in the NW Los Angeles County area.

If you belong to the Sons of Italy (SOI), then you're a volunteer that works and supports the organization for free. There is no pay (per niente, gratis). At the very least, we may get an 'Atta boy' or 'Atta girl', which is always welcomed and appreciated.

Now, a few leaders in the SOI have a problem with their expectations of a member. Expecting more is natural, but when a member has trouble living up to the expectation, then they may be looked down on. What a foolish thing to do, to take away a member's self-esteem and enthusiasm. People know when they can't keep up with an assignment

and they probably beat themselves up, more than anyone else can. They don't need to be put on the spot. They are not employees.

Good leaders will watch over their members, notice when one is struggling or falling behind and assign another member to help with the task. Never, ever, forget that volunteers work out of the goodness of their heart and know they take home the fact they have helped their community or someone in need and that is what they feel good about.

So, keep an eye open for someone that looks stressed over an assignment and either lend a hand or ask someone to get help. Remember, your leaders are also volunteers and may not yet have all the necessary experience to lead effectively.

We are all trying to reach the same goal and no one person can do it alone. We should be aware of our brothers and sisters around us. If we see someone struggling, please don't say to yourself, "I'm glad I'm not in his/her shoes." Rather, reach out. It really is that easy. Perhaps you will make a lifelong friend. Fraternity has many meanings, and one of them is caring for and protecting one another as brothers and sisters do.

A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality. — John Lennon



NEL RIMPIANGERNE LA PERDITA, CI ASSOCIAMO AL LUTTO ED AL DOLORE DEI LORO CONGIUNTI AI QUALI INVIAMO LE NOSTRE CONDOGLIANZE.

"NECROLOGIO"

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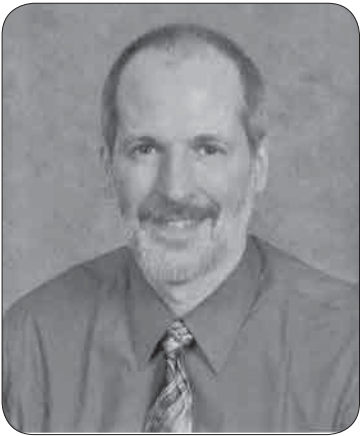
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Answering Columbus’ Critics

by Paul Basile



Spanish philosopher George Santayana once noted that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. When it comes to Columbus, the Italian-American community seems condemned to have history rewritten right out from underneath it for the same reason.

To be fair, backing Columbus has been a no-brainer for much of the last century. His mind-boggling accomplishments had earned him the adoration of Americans in general along with a special place in the hearts of Americans of Italian descent.

Defying conventional wisdom as well as outlandish odds, he sailed west toward the Indies and into the great unknown. In doing so, he stumbled upon continents undreamt of by his European contemporaries. It was an unparalleled act of determination, bravery and maritime skill that utterly transformed the world.

In recent decades, however, Columbus has come under increasing assault from Native Americans and other activists who have portrayed the once-sainted explorer as a racist slave trader and genocidal barbarian who wasn’t even Italian and who rode on the coattails of at least two predecessors.

Fueled by indignation and no small amount of misinformation, they have engaged in a nationwide campaign to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day, enjoying considerable success on the state and local levels.

Hawaii, Oregon, Alaska and South Dakota declared the second Monday in October Indigenous Peoples Day or Native American Day and/or eliminated Columbus Day entirely. Among the major municipalities across the country to follow suit are Berkeley, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.; Portland, Ore.; Lawrence, Kan.; Anchorage, Alaska; Cambridge, Mass.; and Denver, Colo.

Most of these campaigns were pursued despite the fact that the United Nations had declared Aug. 9 the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples in 1994.

And now that movement has taken root locally, with the Chicago Public Schools system eliminating Columbus Day as an official holiday in 2012 and Evanston and Chicago recently joining the ranks of those cities that have declared the second Monday in October Indigenous Peoples Day.

So which portrayal do we believe — Columbus as paragon or pariah — and which path should our metropolitan area follow?

In pursuit of answers, I’ve turned to Joseph Scafetta Jr., Don Fiore, Professor William J. Connell and J. Romero. Their research and insights have been instrumental in formulating the following responses.

Was Columbus Italian?

The question continues to stir debate, but the best evidence indicates that he was born Cristoforo Colombo in the Ligurian capital of Genoa to Domenico Colombo, a wool weaver, and his wife, Susanna, the daughter of a wool weaver.

Did Columbus actually “discover” America?

Only from a European perspective. Clearly the Native populations beat him to the punch by tens of thousands of years, trekking thousands of miles from Asia across the frozen Bering Straits during the last Ice Age. Out of respect for these ancient explorers, “encounter” is a more appropriate term for what Columbus accomplished.

Was Columbus the first to “encounter” America after the Native populations?

Technically, no. The Viking explorer Leif Erikson sailed from Greenland to what is now Newfoundland, Canada, around 1000 A.D., returning home after a few years on the far side of the Atlantic. But Erikson’s journey had no historical ripple effect while Columbus’ turned the world on its head. In the 1950s, a map charting Erikson’s travels turned up in Spain along with claims that it was available to Columbus before he set sail. The map was later proved to be a forgery. Recent “evidence” that the Chinese made their way to the West Coast 70 years before Columbus also has been debunked.

Was Columbus a saint?

By no means. As a person, he was a decidedly mixed bag: arrogant, impetuous, short-tempered and a social climber along with being well-meaning, keen-minded, devout and above all indefatigable and courageous. Motivated by profit to pursue a western route to the East, he resorted to desperate measures when the gold and silver he sought couldn’t be found on the tiny islands he encountered. And while he was a bold navigator, he was far less successful as an administrator. Unable to adequately control his crew, they committed a variety of transgressions against the Native populations that contributed to an escalating cycle of conflict with neighboring tribes.

Was Columbus a racist?

Not by the standards of the day. A devout Christian, his first impressions of the Native populations were overwhelmingly positive. In the journals of his first voyage, he described the Tainos and other tribes as “well-made” with “fine shapes and faces.” Praising their generosity, innocence and intelligence, he considered them likely converts to Christianity because “they have a good understanding.”

Was Columbus a slave trader?

Not in the final analysis. True enough, he spoke of the suitability of the Natives as slaves upon his first encounter, and he later began to advocate for slavery out of desperation when his hunt for the riches of the Orient didn’t pan out. But in the end, the 300 Natives he enchained were actually prisoners of war taken during a counterassault launched after Columbus returned on his second voyage to find that the men he had left behind had been slaughtered by neighboring tribes. After he shipped another 30 POWs back to Spain, Queen Isabella put a stop to the practice before it could go any further.

Did he engage in genocide?

Not by any standard. Columbus took no Native lives himself and ordered the taking of Native lives only in retaliation for lives previously taken.

Did Columbus despoil paradise?

Define paradise. Most of the native tribes that Columbus encountered were hunter-gatherers who depended on slash-and-burn cultivation. Far from peacefully coexisting, they engaged in bloody tribal wars and, in some cases, slavery, torture and cannibalism.

Why do Native Americans revile Columbus?

Because he opened the door to the systematic conquest of their land and the decimation of their peoples and culture. The treatment of America’s Native populations ranks among our nation’s greatest disgraces, and for that our Native brothers and sisters deserve our most profound respect and regret. But to accuse Columbus of this travesty is akin to blaming the creator of a door for those who pass through it.

By contrast, Andrew Jackson led brutal campaigns against the Creeks and Seminoles as an Army general, and as president, he ordered the removal of the entire Choctaw nation from its land during the infamous “trail of tears and death.” Then there was Colorado Governor John Evans, who orchestrated one of the worst acts of genocide against a Native tribe in American history. Surely the time and energy of modern-day activists would be more meaningfully spent advocating for a name change to Jackson Boulevard or Evans’ namesake town, Evanston.

Why do Italian Americans revere Columbus?

Back in 1892, when Columbus was first celebrated on a national level, Italian immigrants were widely perceived as sub-human criminals, washing up on American shores like so many rats. The year before, 11 Sicilian immigrants who had been unjustly accused of a crime in New Orleans were pulled from their prison cells and lynched by a mob led by prominent politicians.

By 1972, when President Nixon signed legislation officially declaring the second Monday in October Columbus Day, the Italian-American community had been relentlessly associated with organized crime for more than four decades. “The Godfather” film trilogy was launched that same year, hard-wiring Hollywood to portray us almost exclusively as mobsters for decades to come.

In the face of more than a century of discrimination and stereotyping, Columbus stood out as one Italian of whom the entire nation could be proud. It seems beyond cruel to now demonize him, especially given the magnitude of his accomplishments, the flimsiness of the case against him and the emotional stake our community has in the debate.

So what are we to make of Columbus’ mixed legacy?

In this warts-and-all world in which we live, few of our heroes have survived unscathed.

Was Thomas Jefferson a champion of independence or a wild-eyed revolutionary who believed, and I quote, that “the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants”?

Was Mother Teresa the Angel of Calcutta or a provider of minimal and unsanitary care to her desperately poor charges? Was Steve Jobs a technological visionary or a control freak who ascended to prominence on the backs of his associates? Is America the birthplace of democracy or a nation crippled by seemingly irreconcilable political differences? The answer to all of the above is “yes.”

You can’t consign the world’s heroes to history’s scrapheap because they have feet of clay, otherwise the world would have precious few heroes left. Their imperfections mustn’t be allowed to diminish their deeds. Rather, we must embrace the good while allowing for the bad, learning from their mistakes as well as their virtues.

Take a closer look at the map of the world above. It was drawn in Columbus’ workshop in 1490, two years before his fateful

voyage. That’s how the world “looked” back then: Europe, Africa and Asia to the east and nothing to the west but open sea. By sheer force of will and incomparable daring, Columbus changed all that, paving the way for the founding of America.

If you believe in America, despite all of its flaws, how can you not view Columbus as one of our nation’s greatest heroes, despite all of his flaws?

Given their tragic history, the Native-American community will never embrace him as such. Our best hope is that we can convince them to share our pain, leave our hero be and walk shoulder-to-shoulder with us toward a brighter future for both of our communities.

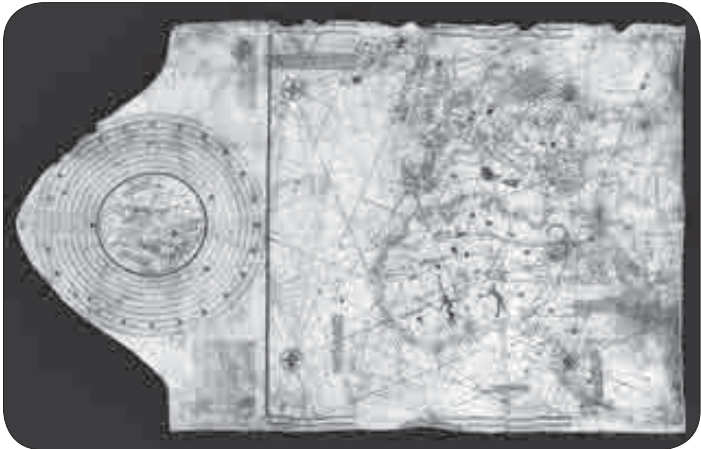
Paul Basile is the editor of Fra Noi, the Chicago-area Italian-American magazine. Copyright 2016 Fra Noi Inc. © Reprinted with permission.



The Admiral of the Ocean Sea



Columbus’ birthplace in Genoa



“The world” before Columbus set sail

Commission of Social Justice

by Tony Ricevuto

In November we will be voting to elect politicians for various positions with the national state and local offices at risk. It is important that we cast our vote as citizens of our great country and to elect someone who you feel is qualified to lead. Voting is a privilege and can affect us in so many ways if we are not careful and advise our politicians that we as constituents have power derived from our Constitution. What does that power provide us? Number one our Constitution gives us freedom, safety and right to worship plus so much more. It also gives us the power to elect people who will respect our values and ideas and that is what makes America a great country. Our forefathers who immigrated from Italy had to endure great hardships to provide future generations with values and culture. In order to protect us as Italian-Americans and promote equal treatment and respect, organizations such as the Order Sons of Italy were established.

In 1979 the Commission for Social Justice was founded as the anti-defamation arm of OSIA in order to promote equal treatment, respect and freedom and eliminate stereotyping of Italian-Americans. What really is social justice? There are many definitions mainly that ensures the protection of equal access to resources, rights and opportuni-

ties, as well as taking care the least advantaged members of society.

In today's culture, social justice has changed society. Since our forefather's time social justice now compels that everyone regardless of nationality deserves equal economic, political, social rights and opportunities. This is opened the door for cultural groups to demand changes. One of the biggest obstacles facing us today is that social justice groups are demanding that Christopher Columbus Day be changed to Indigenous People day. They blame atrocities attributed to Columbus as the basis for eliminating Columbus Day. Many politicians in various cities have supported this movement. The CSJ has proposed to contest their arguments but many states cities and municipalities have eliminated honoring Columbus. These social justice groups have gained popularity and are able to convince politicians due to their voting power. We are losing our ability to honor Columbus and our culture has suffered. Politicians understand the power of our collective votes. We need to stand together and convince our state and city governments that we as Italian-Americans have the fortitude to stand up as a determined group to protect our heritage.

Scholarship Committee

I understand that some of you tried to print out the 2017 scholarship forms on the website but found only the forms for 2016. If you continue to have trouble accessing the 2017 forms please contact me. My e-mail address is rgeorev@aol.com.

Thank you,
Rosemarie Vanderhaar,
Scholarship Committee Chairperson



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Shasta Lodge # 2453

Redding, CA
by Carole Dellaragione

Greetings from Shasta Lodge,

Well, Paesano Days was a big hit in Redding. We served about 850 meals on Saturday night. And had a great day Saturday with the Meatball Sandwiches and Sausage Sandwiches. And of course the canoli sold out in record time on Saturday. I took a look around both days and we had over 80 members and volunteers work anywhere from a couple of hours to all day both days. This event is only successful because of the many people who help with the raffle, the heritage booth, the vendor/crafters, the bocce tournament, the buying of food, the hauling of food and equipment, the setup, the cooking, the serving, and of course the cleanup. Congratulations to these workers for helping make Paesano Days a big success.

We had 37 teams for our bocce tournament. Rick Bosetti and his Dad Paul Bosetti rolled the ceremonial first balls. The courts were Rick's vision for the park and what a great addition to the park. There are already groups of people showing up to play. We had many articles in the local paper talking about the courts, and of course giving kudos to Shasta Lodge.

The following weekend we hosted the Anderson High School class of '76's 40th reunion. They had about 165 people and I don't think anybody left before the DJ did. What a nice, and fun, group of people. Some of our members took the weekend to enjoy the El Dorado's Italian Festival in Reno, too.

After a weekend off (first in five weeks) we will host Wings of Angels this weekend. This is always a big event raising money to help families with seriously ill children. This year they will be helping two very young children, one 11 month old boy with Leukemia and a young girl battling Osteosarcoma. We are hoping to match last year's 700 dinners, to help Dan and Donna in their fund-raising.

We held our first night of nominations for 2017-18 officers and only had nominations for about half the people we need on the council. We hope to fill the slate at the November meeting. I know there must be a few more members who will step up and join our council.

A few of us plan to join our State Trustee of the North Rich Luzzi at his Eureka Lodge's Polenta feed on the 30th. This is always a great event and we enjoy meeting the members of their lodge.

We had our first big rain of the year last weekend and after lots of work on our parking lot last year, it wasn't too bad this year. Just a few puddles. We are having some great fall weather.

Remember to honor our Veterans on November 11th. They will be dedicating the Viet Nam Monument at Northern California Veterans Cemetery that day.

Hope you all had a fun Hallowe'en and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Your brothers and sisters from Redding.



Food line at Paesano Days inside the fence on Friday.



The rest of the line outside the fence. Big Crowd.



Paul Bosetti and Rick Bosetti with the memento given to celebrate the ceremonial first roll at the new bocce courts.

Dolly Sinatra Lodge # 2400

Palm Springs, CA
by Andy Casey

I was eager to tell you about all the changes at the club that President Joe LaPorta and his crews had created over the summer. But that will have to wait till next month, as we now mourn the passing of arguably the strongest contributor to creating our lodge and it's success, Evy Cuccharella, who succumbed to cancer Monday, Oct. 3. Evy had suffered over the last few years in silence, but the disease limited her attendance and previous magnificent accomplishments, due to the devastating nature of the disease. But no one who knows the history of our Lodge disputes the fact, but if not for Evy, our Lodge might not even exist!

Evy, was a member for over 35 years, but not just a member, she was instrumental in creating so much of our Lodges activities, amongst which was the creation of our Wednesday night dinners every week with entertainment, running the cooking department and creating the menu, and even making the meatballs herself. She was the guiding light and spark that ignited so very much. Do you enjoy the Christmas dinner, the St. Patrick's dinner and the annual Honoree dinner and dance? Well they were all started by Evy!

Evy was right there every year at the State conventions, contributing whenever she was needed. She also started trips by club members to all kinds of destinations, even putting together cruises! She even started Chinese cooking classes for Lodge member! It was her extreme warmth and drive that assisted her in recruiting more new members than anyone else! And she was a key factor in obtaining the property and our Lodge building. It's almost incomprehensible to think of our Lodge today, and how this one person could in part be the catalyst for so much of what is today, and how we are all happy benefactors of her energy, personality and drive.

This is my fourth year with the Lodge, and though I knew Evy, I was never aware of all she had done and accomplished, because Evy wouldn't breath a word of her accomplishments. Our President, Joe LaPorta, who took over the reins of our Lodge six years ago, and who himself has reenergized the members and membership and club activities told me of Evy, and he stands in awe of this truly inspirational person who did so much to put our Lodge on the map. Evy, you were very loved and will be sorely missed!



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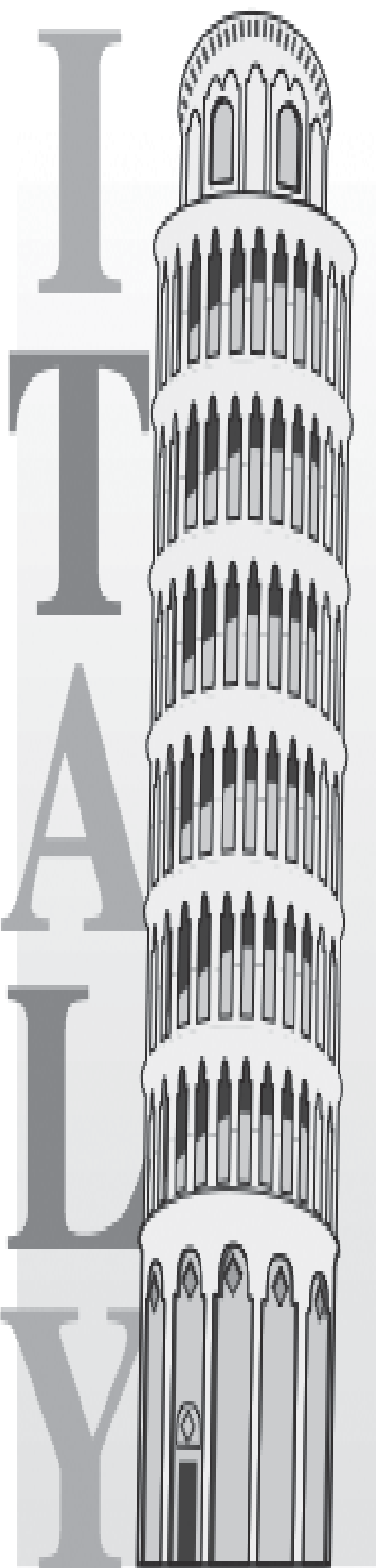


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Terry Anderlini is past president of the State Bar of California and has been serving satisfied clients for over 40 years.

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San Francisco Celebrates Columbus Day 2016

by Imm. Past State President Maria Fassio Pignati

Columbus Day weekend began on Saturday, October 8 with the Celebration's annual Banquet and Ball, which was held this year in the Peacock Room at the Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill. At this beautifully elegant event we witnessed the knighting of Christopher Columbus by Queen Isabella, whose entourage included her Princess, Duchesses, Contessas, Crown Bearer and Scroll Bearer. We were also fortunate to have our new Italian Consul General Lorenzo Ortona, and his lovely wife Sheila, present with us the entire weekend.

Sunday morning began with solemn High Mass at Saints Peter and Paul, the Italian cathedral in North Beach. Present was Queen Isabella Alexandra Cotroneo and her Royal Court, Christopher Columbus as portrayed by Joseph Cervetto, Jr., the Knights of Columbus, dignitaries, as well as many people in the congregation, including our State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy and First Gent Bill, Imm. Past State President and National Trustee Maria Fassio Pignati, State Queen Mary Lucido, and visiting Pugliese Lodge President Michael Di Giuro and First Lady Edithe. It is always impressive to see the Knights of Columbus form an arch with their swords, under which the Queen and her Court and Columbus processed, all in gorgeous period costumes, followed by local dignitaries, while an operatically trained choir, organist and trumpeter performed in the choir loft. A little slice of heaven!

After Mass, we were driven down to the assembly area near Fisherman's Wharf to decorate our cars for the start of the Columbus Day Celebration Inc.'s 147th annual Italian Heritage Parade, the oldest continuous celebration of its kind in the United States. We were very well represented by our State President Lynn and First Gent Bill, who rode in a bright blue convertible, and were followed by another shiny convertible in which sat our lovely State Queen Mary Lucido. In addition, Modesto Lodge Queen Natalia Cipponeri rode in her own convertible further back in the parade. For the first time in many years, yours truly was not a member of our Grand Lodge parade unit with the State President, but instead I walked with the COMITES – the Committee for Italians Living Abroad, of which I am a non-elected member representing the Sons and Daughters of Italy. Once again, our State President

and State Queen were able to ride in the parade thanks to the continued generosity of Dick Ghilotti of Ghilotti Construction, which provided the cars and several antique trucks that participated in the festivities, which featured 93 entries from as far north as Lynnwood, WA and as far south as San Diego. The parade route was filled with thousands of spectators, especially on such a beautiful day, some standing in the incredibly warm weather while many were seated at tables on the sidewalks of North Beach, enjoying delicious Italian food and vino in the warm sunshine. This year's Parade Grand Marshal was Olympic Gold Medalist skater and television personality Brian Boitano. Civic Grand Marshal was radio personality Paul Tonelli, who is also the P.A. announcer for the San Francisco '49ers. This wonderful afternoon ended with an always exciting air show provided by the truly amazing and nerves-of-steel Blue Angels, who returned to San Francisco for Fleet Week. Afterwards we went to the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club across from the Cathedral for a wonderful post-parade dinner with close to 300 people in attendance... our great MC was Webmaster Nickolas Marinelli.....this was the end of a great, proud day in our Italian community and OSIA family.

In closing, I'd like to once again mention what bears repeating and repeating.... please make every effort to protect Columbus Day in the United States against the recent growing threats that have placed it in danger! If someone is trying to remove Columbus Day recognition from your area, please 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. Our National Lodge, in conjunction with our Commission for Social Justice, is circulating a petition asking for signatures to save Columbus Day. Their goal is to get 100,000 signatures and then at that point ask the White House to rededicate the Presidency to both the holiday and to our Italian community, asking the President to host an official yearly signing ceremony in honor of this holiday. If you would like a copy of the petition to circulate, contact the Grand Lodge. 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

State President Lynn and First Gent Bill in their convertible.



Our lovely State Queen Mary Lucido.

l to r: Immediate Past State President Maria Pignati, new Italian Consul General Lorenzo Ortona, and Pugliese Lodge President Michael Di Giuro at the post-parade dinner.



Columbus Day Celebration by the United Lodges of Southern California

by Andy Pampuro

For the first time in many years the United Lodges of Southern California did not have a Columbus Day celebration either on the Los Angeles County Mall or at the Casa Italiana. There were many reasons for this but none the less we did have a Columbus Day celebration. It was held at the Centinela Valley Lodge hall on October 2nd with an attendance of around 100 people from the various lodges in the south plus many Grand Lodge Officers and Committee Chairs. The dignitaries were our State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and her husband, Bill, who is also the Grand Lodge Home Chair, State Third Vice President Ted Seibel and his wife, Lucille, State Orator Sadie Tamburine and her husband, Sid, State Financial Secretary Gabe Domenici and his wife, Mardell, Head State Trustee Pauline Richmond, State Trustee South Al Trentini and his wife, Jean, State Trustee South Marco Zonni and his wife, Nina,

Past State President Joseph LaBanca and his wife, Mary, Past State President David Prisco, Media Committee Chair Andy Pampuro and his wife, Louise, Budget and Finance Committee Chair David Lavezzari and his wife Eva who is the Queen Contest Committee Chair, Scholarship Committee Chair Rosemarie Vanderhaar and Birth Defects Libraries Committee Chair HazelAnn Christin.

We must thank the Recording Secretary of the United Lodges, Rosemarie Vanderhaar for chairing this wonderful event and we must thank even more the President of the Centinela Valley Lodge Annette Porter and her members for their wonderful hospitality. We enjoyed a great dinner ending with delicious dessert provided by the Saddleback Valley Lodge.

We heard some singing done by an entertainer by the name of Michael Sinatra who was enjoyed by all.

We held a very successful raffle which consisted of many money gifts and a beautiful tray of homemade cookies made by Nina Zonni. As a result of the success of the raffle we were able to donated \$250 to the earthquake relief fund. Since our State President Lynn was in attendance President of the United Lodges Gabe Domenici presented the check to her. She graciously accepted with heartfelt thanks.



United Lodges President as well as our State Financial Secretary Gabe Domenici and our wonderful State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy.



Our entertainer Michael Sinatra and chairlady of the event Rosemarie Vanderhaar.



STATE OFFICERS seated l/r Head Trustee Pauline Richmond, State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and State Orator Sadie Tamburine. Standing l/r State Trustee South Marco Zonni, State Financial Secretary Gabe Domenici and State Third Vice President Ted Seibel. Missing State Trustee Al Trentini who arrived after all the pictures were taken.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND PAST PRESIDENTS Seated l/r Past State President David Prisco, State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and Scholarship Committee Chair Rosemarie Vanderhaar. Standing l/r Media Committee Chair Andy Pampuro, Queen Contest Committee Chair Eva Lavezzari, Birth Defects Libraries Committee Chair HazelAnn Christin and Past State President Joseph LaBanca. Missing is our First Gent Bill Murphy who is the Grand Lodge Home Committee Chair who was too busy taking his own pictures.



President of the Centinela Valley Lodge Annette Porter and Past President Mark Vaona with a couple of helpers who prepared the great meal we all enjoyed.



The beautiful and delicious rum cake furnished by the Saddleback Valley lodge and enjoyed by all.



Italian Article by Luke Lindgren

Ciao a tutti!



My name is Luke Ciaglia Lindgren and I was lucky enough to receive a Student to Italy grant for the Summer 2016, and was extremely fortunate that the SOI state board extended my trip so I could visit family in Napoli, Sorrento, Salerno and Collarmele, located just outside of Avezzano in L'Aquila.

For my first month in Italy, I studied at Siena Italian Studies located on the Fontebranda. Every day, I went to a class to help improve my Italian, because I only knew broken dialectal – Neapolitan and Abruzzese. Three days a week I attended The History of Italian Emigration. I learned to have a deeper respect for the struggles and plights of the many Italians who were denied entry into the United States during the postwar era; simultaneously, I learned more about my own family and the difficulties of leaving, the decision to stay, and how some wish they had. Every Thursday, we had 'Feels Class' – a reflective writing workshop – which was aimed at getting students to understand the differences in social customs between Italy and the United States.

But my time in Siena was not just studying. I was fortunate enough to be there during the Palio, a famous horserace dating back to Medieval Italy, and to get to experience the week of festivities beforehand, going to Provas, the parades, the Tartaruga contrada dinner, and the after parties at Lupa, who won for the first time in nearly 30 years. At these dinners and parties, I got to experience a pride in local culture and customs we rarely see in the United States, where we feel more of a 'National' identity – American – whereas in Siena, they viewed themselves by their contrada, then as Sienese, as Tuscans, and finally Italians. I felt a generosity towards their brotheren, each contrada would host a 'discoteca' for two weeks of the summer, put on with their money, open to everyone in Siena.

I ordered a glass of white wine for lunch at a bar, and sipped it for an hour watching people go by. I'd sip an espresso or Café Fredo with nothing to do but relax. Completely different than home, where everyone rushes from A to B back to A and then to C. There, the quality of life is still placed higher than the value of money. Some people like that, and others don't. But like everywhere, things are changing, and more young people want to do everything now. I am happy that I was able to experience an hour-long coffee break, where nothing but spending time with friends – or alone, reflecting – still exists. I hope one day I will learn to implement these traits as an American. But while I was there, I sure knew how to spend my days like a true Italiano.

My host family I stayed with was amazing. My host 'Nonna', as I affectionately call her, lived with her partner, children, and grandkids on a large olive orchard bordering the old city wall, which had been handed down for generations. They made olive oil, prosciutto, and the strongest vinegar I have ever tasted. I also think they are some of the few people who have told me I don't eat enough. When I had to leave Siena, I was both sad and excited. Sad to leave the town that I had come to know so well, but happy to see my family.

I had been to Italy once before but had not met everyone. La nonna mia ha cinque sorelli in Napoli, ed io ho motto cugini, zii e zie in motto di Campania. My cousins taught me more Italian, filling me in on local words and phrases, tenses that I hadn't covered in Siena, and introduced me to many people who wanted to learn English. They taught me family recipes, spoiled me with sfogliatelle napoletane, pizza from my cousin's restaurant, and they took me to Capri and Ischia.

I had never been to my Nonno's town, Collarmele, before this past summer. I met so many more amazing people who all wanted to teach us about what it meant to be Abruzzese, and who wanted us to experience everything – the beautiful mountains and valleys, ancient castles, lunches and dinners. I also got to learn the status of my Italian citizenship, and that it still was stuck in L.A., despite almost a year's passing. I met my cousin who was in charge of the process, and eventually learned that I am related to the entire town by 4 or 5 generations.

After Italy, I was able to explore more of Europe with my family before heading off to UCSD where I study Nanoengineering. I would like to thank the State Board and the donors who made this trip possible for me. It was truly a life-changing experience that allowed me to visit my Nonni's country and have an even deeper connection with them. Also, being able to study and travel abroad while learning a new language while thriving in a strange environment before leaving for university is a life-skill I am grateful I now have.

If you'd like to read more, I have a Tumblr that I set up while I was in Europe that goes into much more depth and covers the entirety of my trip – almost two months. <http://social-travels.tumblr.com/>.

Honor Flight Southland

by Hank Lowinger

I had the honor of being the Guardian for my father-in-law Joseph (Al) Alfieri for the entire weekend. Our experience started on Friday October 7 at 4:30 am and concluded Sunday at 4 pm.

For those who have not heard of the Honor Flight, I was introduced to it by one of our members Tony Marraccino, he explained that it was a way to honor those men and women who served in both the Second World War and Korea. These individuals were responsible for our current lifestyle and security. They gave selflessly so that we and future generations could enjoy true freedom. Had they not been successful, there is a very good chance we could be speaking German or Japanese at this time.

The procedure for the weekend is as follows: All Veterans and their Guardians meet at the Los Angeles Airport. Our group had a total of 36 Veterans and 36 Guardians. All Veterans are accompanied by a Guardian, this could be a brother, sister, son, daughter or grandson. In my case it was son-in-law. The requirement for the Guardian was to be able to assist the Veteran during the weekend. This included pushing them in wheelchairs (if needed) making sure they eat properly and keep hydrated. It is not a "family" vacation. The whole reason for the Honor flight is to allow these vets the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow vets. In our case all the vets were stationed (at one time or another) in the Pacific theater of the war.

The Veterans received a resounding show of appreciation as we went thru the airport. I cannot begin to tell you how I felt pushing Joe with all these people coming up and shaking his hand and thanking him, along with all the other Vets, for their service to this country.

Our flight took us to Washington D.C. to see all the war memorials and also Arlington Cemetery to see the changing of the guard (very emotional experience for everyone), over 400,000 men and women are buried there. As a side note there are 32 funerals a day, every day and they feel the cemetery will be full by the year 2025.

The different memorials included Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Army along with the Vietnam wall and the Korean wall. Our most special memorial was the WWII Memorial. While there we met with Senator Bob Dole who met us at the entrance. He took the time to stop and talk to every Veteran. Other places we went were the Lincoln Memorial along with many sites in the D. C. area.

Each night we had a dinner where the Veterans could interact and talk with each other.

When we returned on Sunday to the LA airport we were greeted with a military band, flags and hundreds of people, many of them family members who came down to greet their loved ones, along with many members of all divisions of the military in their dress uniforms. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of all the passengers who were not expecting to see all of the Veterans coming off the plane and thru the airport. There was, hand shaking, hugs, thank you and even some kisses on the cheek (from strangers). I am sure Al was not expecting to receive such a response from strangers.

It was truly emotional and moving experience for me and I am sure Al agrees.

I have invited the Co Chairman of Honor flight to come to one of our meetings next year to talk about what they are trying (and accomplishing) for all our Veterans. Our Lodge will be sending out a flyer to all the other Lodges as an invite to that meeting.



Veteran Joseph Alfieri with son-in-law Hank Lowinger. Both are members of the Saddleback Valley Lodge.

Lodge Websites & E-mail Directory

- Anaheim Lodge
www.anaheim2076.org
- Beatrice Portinari Lodge
OSIAVallejo@yahoo.com
- C. Colombo Lodge
www.soiccololmbo1315.com
- Camelia-Colombo Lodge
www.iinet.com/~osia1294
- Cesare Battisti Lodge
www.sonsofitalypetaluma.org
- Colombo-Stella Lodge
www.sonsofitalyfresno.org
sonsofitalyfresno@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Sons-Of-Italy-Fresno-Colombo-Stella-1149
- Columbia Lodge
columbia_1940@yahoo.com
www.sonsofitalysanmateo.com
- Cristoforo Colombo Lodge
www.renosonsofitaly.org
- Diamond Valley Lodge #2991
osia2991@aol.com
- Dolly Sinatra Lodge
www.dollysinatralodgeosia.org
info@dollysinatralodgeosia.org
- Enrico Caruso Lodge
visaliasonsofitaly.club.officelive.com
- Eureka Lodge
<https://sites.google.com/site/eureka1274/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Order.Sons.of.Italy.Eureka/>
- Fratellanza Garibaldina
www.osia1627.org
- Giuseppe Mazzini
<http://www.giuseppemazzini.org>
- Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #1441
www.sonsofitaly1441.weebly.com
- Grand Lodge of California
www.sonsofitalyca.org
- Hacienda Lodge #2168
www.osiahaciendalodge.com
- Hanford Lodge
<http://sonsofitaly1543.org/>
silaccilu@gmail.com
- Joanne Coccia Lodge
ociafontana.org
- La Costa dei Fiori Lodge
fdefalco@sbcglobal.net
- Las Vegas Lodge
www.sonsofitalylasvegas.com
sonsofitalylv@yahoo.com
- Monterey Lodge
www.sonsofitaly-monterey.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.sonsofitalylagunahills.com Nico-lomac@cox.net
- Santa Rosa Lodge
www.santarosasonsofitaly.org
- Sgt. John Basilone
www.osiacorona.com
- 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
- William Paca Lodge #1960
www.sonsofitalymountainview.org
- West Covina Lodge
soi2056@live.com
- West End Lodge
www.sonsofitalywestend.org

If your lodge has an e-mail address or website and you would like to include it with the above list, please send it to me at apampuro@comline.com.

Justification For The Sale Of The Grand Lodge Building

September 27, 2016

Background

The question of selling the building has been discussed for at least twenty years. This the first time it appears that the proposal is being given serious consideration. A little over a year ago the Building Feasibility Committee was formed and tasked to determine whether it was in the best interest of the Order Sons of Italy, Grand Lodge of California, to sell the building. I was made Chairman and eight other members were assigned to the Committee. We have now reached the point where we believe that to have enough information to present to the Grand Lodge to decide, through the Delegates, whether we should sell or not sell. To help in making this decision we will be presenting a pro paper and a con paper. I have been assigned to do the pro paper and It will be released in the next El Leone. The con will also be released in the El Leone. At a later date a vote will be taken by the members/delegates.

This will probably be the most important decision the Grand Lodge have to makes through its members and delegates. I can't stress how important it will be for all the Lodges/members to thoroughly discuss all aspects of the pros and cons of this issue. Also, please keep in mind that any decision must be in the best interest of the Grand Lodge of California and all of its members.

Building and Community information.

The two story building was constructed in 1955/56, complying, or not, with the building codes in effect at that time. Since then, no upgrades or modernization has occurred except for the banquet room. The electrical and plumbing are original. It has no fire alarm system, no elevator and does not meet American With Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Relative to ADA and current building code requirements, the building does not have to meet these requirements un-

less structural changes are planned and permits have to be pulled. The changes could be as simple as changing the size of a window or changes to a door. We would then be required to meet current building codes and ADA requirements. The cost based on the age and size of the building could run between \$250,000 and \$500,000. The above information was obtained from two building contractors who have built extensively in Southern California. I don't think we have the money to upgrade the building; and even if we did, we would end up with a beautiful building in a depressed area and it is doubtful that building income would increase.

Ethnically, the area is about 50% Asian, 29% Hispanic and 21% white. Also, in the immediate area most incomes are below \$45,000. In addition, population in the area has dropped about 5% from 2010 and 2013 and was expected to continue to drop. There is no longer an Italian presence in the community as there was in the past.

At this point I would like to offer an observation which may sound a little as an argument against selling, but it is not. I call the area depressed based on is how it has been described to me and what little I have seen. I see the area surrounding our building as a lower income neighborhood similar to where I grew up. It is not a slum with boarded up shops and houses. What it needs is redevelopment which I have heard is not in the offing except for individual developments projects such as that across from our building. Without it the area will continue to become more depressed and market values may begin to fall. I have seen this happen in my home town and in Southern California. Of course it could stay the same for many years.

A second point is the concerns expressed by some members that it is a dangerous area. I don't know what the crime rate is the area. I have only been

there during the day and it has always been peaceful. At night it has always been out of the building and into the car and gone. Some don't have this impression and think it is safe.

Based on the above we have two choices, keep the building as is and muddle along and hope that we can somehow increase the building revenue and have one more fundraiser. The other option is to sell the building.

Why should we sell the building?

As you know the Grand Lodge authorized an appraisal do be done by an MAI Appraiser. The firm of Hamilton, Ricci & Associates, was contracted with to perform the Appraisal. The Appraisal has been completed and it came in at \$5,000,000. It is interesting to note that the two Real Estate Agents that provided us with an informal market value estimates came in between \$3.75 mil and \$5.75mil.

I understand the one or more individuals have indicated that the Appraisal was not "professional", one reason being that a photo out of four was not of our building. Mr. Ricci has been contacted to answer the concern. My understanding is that the firm of Hamilton, Ricci, and Mr. Ricci, in particular, is a very highly respected Appraiser in the Bay Area. In addition to the Appraisal, he also indicated that it could take up to a year to sell the building, that is if the decision is made to sell.

Building losses are reflected in the P & L for the years January 2006 through December 2015. The building had a loss in eight of the ten years for a total loss of \$98,069.96. It has been argued that these losses should not include depreciation. If you exclude it, we had losses in five of the ten years with a positive income of \$8,699.72.

I don't agree that depreciation should be included in computing profit and loss. For example, we had to purchase two stoves

for the kitchen at a cost of \$12,000. The expense posted the year of purchase reflected not the \$12,000 but a much lesser amount, the depreciation amount. The balance would be reflected in succeeding years. If you don't reflect it as a cost in succeeding years where do you show that expense, where does it go?

In my opinion, the total cost that must be shown as an actual expense in the year incurred or in subsequent years. Also keep in mind that at some future date, possibly in the next year or two, there will be little or nothing to depreciate which will result in our losses being "true losses".

As the building age's maintenance and repair costs will increase. Many items are not currently being done because we don't have the funds. For example, the building has needed painting for some time. The cost of painting the building could run as high as \$20,000. What if a water pipe broke? You know what plumbing repair costs are today. I know that we would get it fixed but where would we get the money? As the building ages, maintenance and repairs will increase. We don't have a building contingency fund.

Membership is lagging! Based on the figures I have been able to gather, we have lost almost 2000 members since 2010 and about 13 local lodges. For the first half of 2016 we have lost a net of about 200 members. I realize that there are lodges that are doing very well but there are a great number that are on the edge. Having talked to some of these lodges they say they are hanging in but the future is not very positive. The point being that with fewer members there will be less revenue. It may be time to seriously consider how we are going to significantly reduce costs, especially fixed costs.

An opportunity to stabilize the Grand Lodge's financial health. Based on the Appraisal on \$5,000,000 if the Grand Lodge were to sell the building, it would have the opportunity to

purchase a smaller building closer to what the Grand Lodge needs, for much less, in a much better area and possibly have some funds left over for future building needs such as maintenance and repairs. In fact the Grand Lodge could buy a building with more space than we need and rent out the excess space. This would probably mean relocating outside the "high rent area", possibly to a smaller more centrally located area.

My understanding of the tax ramifications of selling the building is limited. I have talked to a tax preparer and he indicated that there would be are no taxes due if the replacement property is "like property" and it has either been purchased within the last year or will be purchased within three years. In addition, the cost of the new property must be equal to, or greater than the cost of the new property. I think we could end up paying some taxes if the total revenue is more than what we pay for the new building. But it could still be worth paying some taxes if, overall, it is to the Grand Lodge's fiscal advantage. I think we should take advantage of this opportunity that has come our way as it may not come again.

As I indicated above, both the Pro and Con papers will be appearing in the next issue of the Il Leone. Additional information concerning this issue will forthcoming in the near future.

Al Trentini, Chairman
Building Feasibility Committee

(Revised October 10, 2016)



The Grand Lodge Home Decision

The decision of selling the current Grand Lodge Home in San Francisco is one of the most important actions any Grand Council may recommend to the Grand Convention. It is very important that this recommendation be based on facts and not assumptions (propaganda), as it was presented by the supporters of the sale of the property.

The following statements can be substantiated with documents and analyses duly researched in the archives of the Grand Lodge. My source of information is the current records in QuickBooks at the Grand Lodge and the vast collection of copies of documents accumulated during my tenure as State Financial Secretary from 1979 to 1989, and 1993-1995; State Vice President from 1995 to 1999; State President from 1999 to 2001 and Immediate Past State President from 2001 to 2003. In total, over 20 years as a member of the Grand Council.

Prior to my tenure as State Financial Secretary, I collected at Grand Convention financial reports typically distributed to State Delegates. Also, I was given by my predecessors some older reports dating back to 1960 (the Building was constructed in the mid 1950's).

When presented with the information provided by some members of the ad-hoc committee, it was notable that the emphasis of the recommendations was towards the sale of the building; however, the supporting theories were based on the incorrect interpretation of financial statements data and several wrong assumptions:

ASSUMPTION #1 THE BUILDING HAS COST THE MEMBERS A LOT OF MONEY-

Truth - The members of the Grand Lodge of California did not pay for the construction of the building, nor for its use and operations.

The building was constructed in the mid 1950's. I was not a member at the time. However, it could be detected from the records of the early 1960's that the building cost of approximately \$255,000 had been financed by generous members and Local Lodges using Notes Payable bearing reasonable interest rates and without resorting to a mortgage. Those Notes Payable were repaid during the late 70's and early 80's. They were paid in full by 1986. Some lenders/members elected to donate the monies due them. The remaining funds were generated through the cash flow of the catering operations which were run by several Building Managers over a number of years.

FACT #1:

MEMBERS DID NOT PAY FOR THE INITIAL COST OF THE BUILDING.!!!!

ASSUMPTION #2- THE BUILDING IS LOSING MONEY-

Truth – The Building has not required cash from member dues and has saved the Grand Lodge members having to rent an office for ever and ever, keeping the per-capita tax lower by an average of at least \$ 5.00 per member per year over the last ten years.

- An analysis of the most recent ten years provides the following information:
- 1- The building was paid for by donations from generous members and Lodges donations (not dues) and its catering operations' cash flow to repay the Notes Payable;
 - 2- Its depreciation expense deductions of its original cost and later additions covered by the revenues generated during its operation provided cash flow to recover more than its operating expenses leaving a cash profit of \$ 8,700 for the period from 1/1/2006 to 12/31/2015. (Members interested in the details of the Building Operations P&L Comparison 2006-2015 are welcome to request a PDF copy to tedescojt@aol.com);
 - 3- The **savings** realized for not having to rent office space could be estimated to exceed **\$400,000** over the same ten years (\$ 2,500 per month for 120 months plus property taxes and insurance of \$10,000 per year for 10 years).
 - 4- The Grand Lodge Home building facilities were instrumental in the support of the Bingo Fundraising program. The most recent years of the Bingo Fundraising operation (a period of 10 years from 1995 thru 2004) **generated over \$246,000** in the name of Bingo Workers and **another \$246,000** allocated to a long list of charities.

FACT #2:

THE BUILDING OPERATION CARRIED ITS OWN WEIGHT, PROVIDED CASH TO THE GRAND LODGE BUDGET AND HAS SAVED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND LODGE.

THERE IS NO REASON TO RUSH INTO A POORLY DEVISED PLAN

Hopefully this information may put to rest the panic caused by the **“wrong reasons”** for selling the Grand Lodge Home and redirect the focus on the **“right reasons”** for selling the Grand Lodge Home.

Some of the “right reasons” to sell the Building may be:

- In the next few years the property may need significant repairs/upgrades. Where would the funds come from?
 - If a buyer were to show interest in the purchase of the property, all the elements for the sale of the building need to be in place to react promptly to such offer.
 - The necessary tax accountant's opinion (in writing) must be obtained to determine the amount of tax liability potentially generated by the sale of the property (Specifically, since the Building depreciation was used as a tax deduction for an activity non-exempt from taxation, recapturing such depreciation with the sale of the building will trigger a taxable event). (One way to avoid any tax consequences is to donate the property to the Sons of Italy Western Foundation; then, sell the property and buy a new home to host the Grand Lodge office in exchange for the administration services to the Foundation.)
- A new location to buy/relocate a new Grand Lodge Home has to be identified

- and approved/ratified by the Grand Lodge members (State Delegates) to prevent squabbles after the organization is forced to relocate due to the sale of the building. The new location must meet all of the following criteria:
- Recently (less than 10 years) built facilities with potential of rental income;
 - Proximity and easy access to a major metropolitan airport;
 - Proximity to moderately priced hotel facilities for lodging;
 - Proximity to high quality food establishments;
 - Centrally located based on the residence of the majority of current members (not Grand Lodge geographic boundaries).
 - This could be the right time to capitalized the potential gain of the real estate currently owned and convert it into a newer facility that may not require potential renovation costs and be designed for a different use which is easier to manage (i.e.: office and meeting hall rentals).
 - Obtain a “fair” (not pie in the sky) appraisal of the property to verify that there is adequate value to undertake all the extra expenses involved in the transactions including the permanent increase in property taxes currently “frozen” by Prop.13, which will most likely double or triple with a new higher value property.

Without having obtained all of the above answers, it is way too premature and imprudent for the Grand Council to recommend anything to the State Delegates.

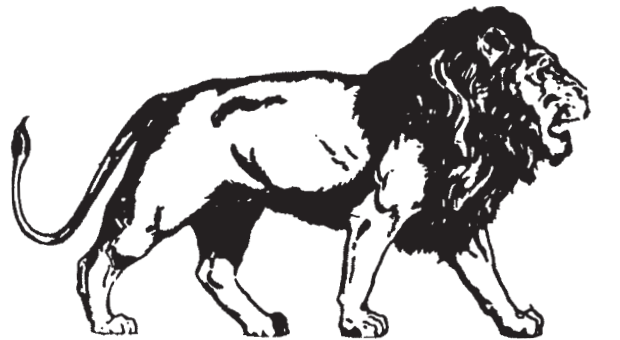
There is plenty of time to gather all of the answers, submit the “facts and only facts” to the State Delegates immediately after their election for the 2017-2019 term so that they can understand all the important elements involved in relocating the Grand Lodge Home.

Then and only then a vote to authorize the Grand Council to sell the building and buy a “new home” under certain conditions and parameters should be considered by the State Delegates at the 2017 State Convention.

I have taken a significant amount of my personal time to research the accurate data and to assist the Grand Council in this complex project.

I sincerely hope I have not wasted my time and/or yours and, at the same time, convince those who have been misguided by the Propaganda to reconsider their opinion of this very important matter.

Respectfully and Fraternally, prepared and submitted by John Tedesco, Past State President.



Sale of the Grand Lodge Building

by Barbara Fumosa Wisniewski
Grand Lodge Treasurer

Members of the Grand Lodge of California:

For those that don't know me, my name is Barbara Fumosa Wisniewski. I am your elected Grand Lodge Treasurer. I was asked to present information against the sale of the Grand Lodge building to be published in the Il Leone for all our members to review. The packets, with all the background information will be sent to the Convention Delegates to review and ultimately, vote as to whether to sell the building or not.

First, let me say that I have no sentimental attachments to the building. I have however, reviewed the information supplied to us and am happy to speak in favor of not selling the building.

The building is not falling apart as some would have us believe. I would hope that most of you have taken the time to visit the building to see for yourself. The structure is sound per the appraiser retained by the Building Feasibility Committee. Normal repairs would have to be made on any building we own. As far as Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, we are grandfathered into past requirements and are under no obligation to upgrade the building to current standards.

The area that the building resides in is developing and gaining in value at this time. The OSIA building is paid for and should, and will be making money for us through rentals. At this time rental property is in high demand in the area, especially commercial, and we have a winner here with a lot of space to rent or lease out. We now have a rental agent that is working to have the building make money for us, not just pay for itself. That could assist in holding down per capita taxes. There has been much said about the demographics of the neighborhood. I don't feel that the demographics has anything to do with the value of this property nor the potential for rentals.

Our building is currently taxed at 1% of its 1975 appraisal with periodic changes limited to no

more than 2% per year per Prop 13. Any new building would at least double our property taxes per year if we spend \$2 million or more on the new structure.

The sale of the building will also create taxes on the sale as well as any monies not reinvested and this could be in the neighborhood of 40%. We would also be liable for commission which would not be recouped.

We have already spent \$3,000.00 for an MAI appraisal and will have to invest at least another \$5,000.00 for a tax attorney to advise us on the complete tax picture if we sell the building. This is money that was not allotted in the budget and is coming out of other line items.

Going down a road I don't want to visit, many of our members believe that the Grand Lodge of California doesn't have long to be in existence, because of our declining membership. Why would we go through all of this for only 5-10 more years as some of the naysayers among us believe is all we have left?

There will not be any additional money to use for per capita, or other uses, as I have heard expressed by some members. Any money the Grand Lodge gets from the sale of the building will need to be used for a new home and would have to be put away for future expenses. Would it be wise to spend everything that has taken us so long to accumulate? This cannot be an issue.

If we want to reduce expenses, selling the building is not the way to do it. It will ultimately increase our expenses by way of property tax if we buy, rental expense if we rent, and taxes on any monies we ultimately make in the sale.

I once believed that we could sell the building and find a suitable location to relocate. After reviewing all the information that we have received, I will vote to keep the building. I feel it is best for the Grand Lodge of California and will proceed with that in mind. We all need to

remember we are a fraternal Order and should do what is best for the Order not what we think is best for a particular district or lodge.

I respectfully ask that when the detailed information is received by the

delegates that it is brought before the members at our meetings and is reviewed by all. This will assist the delegates in making an informed decision on how to vote on this matter, leaving all

our preconceived notions behind, when the ballots are received in December.

I would like to thank Heidi Benzonelli, and Michael Carroll for their input.

Thank you for your time.

Keep Our Grand Lodge!!!

by Heidi Benzonelli
State Deputy Eureka Lodge
Grand Lodge Building Sale Committee

Dear Fellow Members and Lodge Delegates.

I have had the pleasure to visit the Grand lodge and assess the economic opportunities this space holds for our Order. And wholeheartedly recommend KEEPING the Grand Lodge and focusing on realizing the revenue potential of this gem.

When I visited the Grand Lodge, I spent time in the Outer Mission, visited with locals and determined that this neighborhood is beginning to experience gentrification and economic growth. The neighborhood is residential, mixed use, there is a 60 unit apartment complex going up across the street and we are 2 blocks from San Francisco City College. The residents are mostly working folks who commute into the city for work and students. The ethnicities are mixed it is a medium income neighborhood. There are over 60,000 Italians in San Francisco.

Our parcel itself boasts 16 parking places, which are nearly non existent in the outer Mission, with room in the middle for a food truck and a double sided Billboard with one side rented. The building is roughly 17,070 square feet, the downstairs has a permitted commercial kitchen (2750 sq ft), a snack bar/coffee kiosk that is presently used for storage (560 sf) located right next to the front door that opens onto Mission Street, a large bar with a liquor license (1750sf) and a dance hall (or restaurant) with room for seating and a stage, capacity 325, (3250 sf). Upstairs is the offices of the Grand Lodge, another small office, 2 large meeting rooms and a considerable amount of stor-

age for our archives etc.

This building in presently underutilized, but well maintained. I see this as not only an income generating opportunity but a chance to bring new, young blood into the space and likely into the membership. I also ran a financial analysis of a start up walk in coffee shop, no seating (it just needs to be empties of storage and cleaned). A standard 1st year starts up coffee kiosk using extremely conservative financial estimates yields \$10800/per month with \$2800 (25% margin) in monthly profit. These are all VERY conservative estimates. The average profit margin from research gives coffee shops a 65% margin (\$7000 profit) with 5% growth per year for 3 years. You know what young people do? They drink coffee, expensive coffee. Who remembers the line from the Sopranos. Tony orders a cappuccino and the lady at Starbucks says \$4.50 please, he says. "\$4.50 for Italian coffee, how did we miss this? ".

We don't have to run this. We lease it, or partner, did you know that BAIA Business Association of Italy and America in has a Networking Forum? This is where Italians in San Francisco advertise jobs, and business opportunities, these are business people, Italians and Italian Americans (Young Italians) making business happen in San Francisco and Internationally.

This is an opportunity to outreach to a young Italian entrepreneur interested in running a little coffee bar. Rent for the coffee bar increases the revenue to the Grand Lodge, and opening the doors to the neighborhood brings

people in, young people, we breathe life back in the building, and into the Order. Across the street, construction is beginning on 60 new apartments. Do you know how much coffee construction workers drink? This is presently a missed economic opportunity.

Frankly, we are in the business of running the Order, not the building. There are people who are good at this, but we ARE the OWNERS of this building and permitted commercial kitchen, liquor license, which by the way you cannot GET anymore in SF, bar, coffee counter, parking lot and billboard and ALL of these things have value, we pay for them every year they should be effectively utilized for profit.

We are asking to reduce expenses of running the Grand Lodge by selling the lodges only assets, we have not adequately investigated increasing the revenue by effectively utilizing what we own.

When I look at the Grand Lodge, I see a bustling morning coffee house, a food truck in the parking lot, a little grass swatch between those trees out front, a place to tie up your dog while you grab a cup... for that matter, for the next Italian Entrepreneur, a Sinatra Style 50's bar and Hipster Swank dinner house, new young energy, and if we play our cards right, interest in membership for the next generation of Order Sons of Italy.

My recommendation is to KEEP the Grand Lodge and focus on realizing it's revenue potential.

Madonna

by Stephen Contrado, B.A. Th.M.
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Hull, MA 02045
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Madonna is known as the “Queen of Pop” and is credited for influencing many other artists. She was born to Silvio Anthony “Tony” Ciccone (b. 1931) and Madonna Louise Fortin (1933 -1963) in Bay City, Michigan, on August 16, 1958. Her father’s parents were immigrants from Pacentro, Italy, and her mother was of French-Canadian ancestry.

Madonna was born into a Catholic family. Because she had the same name as her mother, family members called her “Little Nonni.” She has two elder brothers and three younger siblings. She took “Veronica” as a confirmation name.

Madonna attended Rochester Adams High School where she was a straight-A student and a member of the cheerleading squad. She received a dance scholarship to the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Madonna moved to New York City in 1977 to pursue a career in modern dance. She performed in the music groups Breakfast Club and Emmy. She signed with Sire Records (a label of Warner Bros. Records) in 1982, releasing her self-titled debut album the following year. She followed it with a series of successful albums, including the Grammy Award winners Ray of Light (1998) and Confessions on a Dance Floor (2005).

Madonna said that the first song to make a strong impression on her was “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’” by Nancy Sinatra. She said the song summed

up her own “take-charge attitude.”

Madonna has written and produced most of her songs. Many of them have reached number one on the record charts, including “Like a Virgin,” “Papa Don’t Preach,” “Like a Prayer,” “Vogue,” “Take a Bow,” “Frozen,” “Music,” “Hung Up,” and “4 Minutes.” She has sold more than 300 million records worldwide and is recognized as the best-selling female recording artist of all time by Guinness World Records.

Madonna’s popularity grew with her film roles in Desperately Seeking Susan (1985), Dick Tracy (1990), and Evita (1996), which earned her a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress.

Madonna’s art collection is worth an estimated \$100 million. She is an admirer and collector of the paintings of Tamara de Lempicka, a leading representative of the Art Deco style, who is a favorite artist of many Hollywood stars. Madonna has lent Lempicka’s paintings to events and museums. Madonna also featured Lempicka’s work in her music videos.

In 2008, Billboard magazine ranked Madonna at number two, behind The Beatles, on the Billboard Hot 100 All-Time Top Artists. It makes her the most successful solo artist in the history of the American singles chart.

Madonna’s spouses were Sean Penn (m. 1985; div. 1989) and Guy Ritchie (m. 2000; div. 2008). She has four children.

Napa Lodge # 2043

Napa, CA
by



Sylvia and her co-hart in crime Rita DeZorzi

Loved visiting with her friends!

Our Sister Sylvia Varni (Imperiale) passed away in the company of her family Oct. 2nd, 2016 at the age of 90. She was born a second generation San Franciscan July 10th, 1926. Sylvia came to Napa with her husband, Boch Imperiale, and her daughter, Joanne, in 1951. she enjoyed traveling with family and friends, especially to visit her cousins in Italy. Sylvia enjoyed many activities and was a proud 35-year active member and officer of the Sons of Italy, Napa Lodge #2043, as well as an active member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Altar Guild. One of Sylvia's many hobbies included bocce ball, playing on both the Sons of Italy team in Napa and the Belle Donne at the Farmers Market League in St. Helena. Many wanted to make sure Sylvia was on their team as playing against her team was not a good idea, she was quite the bocce player! Another great love of Sylvia's and never a fair-weather fan. Sylvia avidly rooted for the San Francisco Giants, 49ers and Golden State Warriors. Many games were spent on the telephone chatting with Rita DeZorzi as they were both right there on the field with the teams through every play. If that is not enough, she also was a regular participant in the senior classes at Synergy exercising away. We will always remember our sister Sylvia as a tireless and devoted friend as well as a passionate and skilled cook who gladly donated her time and treats to many bake sales, dinners and charities throughout the last 65 years in Napa. Sylvia. You will be truly missed, we cannot imagine the Napa Lodge without you! We Love you!

Donations may be made to the St. Thomas Aquinas Altar Guild, St. Thomas Aquinas Church for whatever is needed for the church in Sylvia's memory, or to the Western Foundation of the Sons of Italy for a scholarship in her memory.

Joanne and Adam... Thank you for sharing your Mom aka 'G-Ma' with us for so many years!

Please join the Royal Court of the Golden Lion.
Any donation would be appreciated.
It is for a good cause. Call Chris Lotito
for more information.

Sons of Italy Shirts

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

Ladies Shirts Now \$15

Men’s Shirts Now \$10



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



Madonna, Rebel Heart Tour, 2015.

7th ANNUAL CUCIDATI CONTEST COMING UP

Calling all men and women who love to bake!
In time for the holidays, C. Colombo Lodge will be hosting the 7th annual contest for THE most delicious cucidati cookies. The event takes place just before Christmas. These traditional fig cookies will be judged on texture, filling, appearance and taste. Brothers and sisters from lodges throughout California are encouraged to submit a batch of fabulous cucidati. Remember: there is no need to share your own secret recipe for these yummy Italian cookies!

Enter the 2016 Cucidati Contest

Date: Sunday, December 11, 2016
Time: Cookies delivered in person must be turned in between 11:30 - 12:30
Place: Antioch Historical Museum
1500 W. 4th Street
Antioch, CA 94509
Doors open to the public at 2 PM
Mailing: Cookies may be mailed to Zelda's home arriving by Saturday 12/10/16
Zelda LeFrak-Belleci
143 Buchanan Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Prizes: Cash awards for the top three winners
For more information contact Zelda at (925) 518-7110 or via email: zlefrak@aol.com.
You can also check the flyer sent to your lodge.

An Invitation to NON Bakers

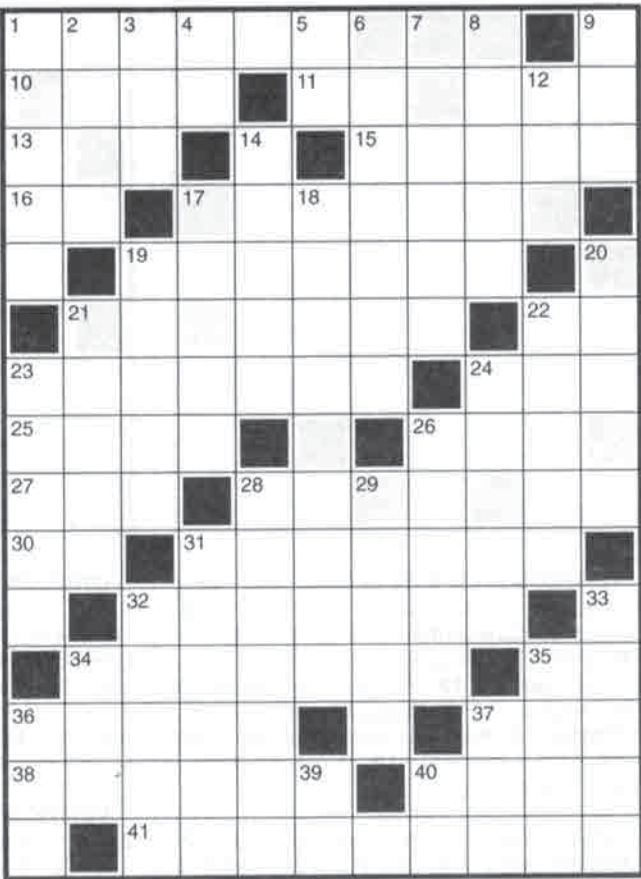
Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon of fun & music & Italian culture in the beautiful Antioch Historical Museum. Greet brothers and sisters from other Sons of Italy Lodges. There will be plenty of homemade sweet treats for sale at the Enormous Bake Sale Tables. Taste free samples of the cucidati and cast your ballot for the People's Choice Award.



ORIZZONTALI

CRUCIVERBA

1. Si usa per sigillare.
10. Non si deve nutrire.
11. Penisola ucraina con Sebastopoli.
13. L'attrice Massari.
15. Fuggiti dalla prigione.
16. Sigla di Mantova.
17. Scritta in versi.
19. Nome di donna.
21. Riassunto.
22. Lo scrittore Verga (iniz.).
23. Superare la soglia.
24. Verso di cornacchia.
25. È soggetta a lussazioni.
26. Re... di Shakespeare.
27. Questo... in famiglia.
28. Atleti che sollevano.
30. Sigla di Como.
31. Non colpite o venute meno.
32. Si eseguono al festival.
34. Il salto più pericoloso.
35. Fine di partita.
36. Lucio cantautore.
37. Segno che moltiplica.
38. Un colpo che può fare cadere.
40. Facce, volti.
41. Lo mantiene chi non firma.



- VERTICALI
1. Completamente pieno, riboccante.
2. Paradiso terrestre.
3. Malvagia.
4. Sigla di Aosta.
5. Avanti Cristo.
6. Suddito di Minosse.
7. Educati... e non militari.
8. Un letto tra due alberi.
9. Sigla prima di TV.
12. Moltiplica per sei.
14. Si chiude uscendo.
17. Sedile di legno.
18. Situazione imprevista e pericolosa.
19. Dà spettacoli sotto il tendone.
20. Risparmiatori... esagerati.
21. È raffigurato con l'aureola.
22. Inferriate... riconoscenti.
23. Da bagno... in bagno.
24. Recipienti di vimini.
26. Corde per Tarzan.
28. Luogo paludoso.
29. Ettore regista.
31. L'attore Brando.
32. Presa sul ramo.
33. Il nome del regista Argento.
34. Maresciallo (abbrev.).
35. Prova attitudinale, collaudo.
36. Il primo numero pari.
37. Porta romana... devota.
39. Sigla di Enna.
40. Il poeta Monti (iniz.).

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

Answers page 18



*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.*



Hanford Lodge # 1543

Hanford, CA
by Jackie Giacomzzi
jackiegiacomzzi@gmail.com



Joan Little and Bodhi Cuddalore Patta show off their costumes at the October meeting of the Hanford Lodge. Joan will be chair of the upcoming Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lodge's November meeting and little Bodhi will return home to Amsterdam. Happy Thanksgiving to all!!



Costumed members pose following the costume parade at the October meeting. Shown are: Tony and Louise Tesoriere, Mia Giacomazzi with son Bodhi and daughter, Lilianna. CuddalorePatta, President Louise (Lulu) Silacci (Chewbacca), Jackie Giacomazzi (Day of the Dead), Chair of the event, Julie Giacomazzi with sons, Miro and Gio. A good time was had by all!!



The Junior Members took over the officer's chairs at the October meeting. Back row: Matthew and Nayeli Tesoriere, Anna Marie Tesoriere, Raymond Tesoriere, Jake and Tyler Strutz. Front Row: Serena Alvarez, Gio Giacomazzi, Lilianna CuddalorePatta and Miro Giacomazzi. These members did a great job leading the meeting. (Some sitting in the chairs, some running around the hall!!)

C. Colombo # 1315

Antioch, Ca
by Zelda LeFrak-Belleci



There she is, the lovely Grand Lodge Queen! Following mass held at Saint Peter and Paul's Church, Mary Lucido helped to celebrate Colombus Day at the traditional parade in San Francisco. Pictured above is Queen Mary waving at the crowds that thronged the streets of North Beach. Even though a full time college student, Queen Mary has begun her travels throughout the state, visiting lodges and giving time to various Sons of Italy celebrations.

Saddleback Valley Lodge # 2566

Mission Viejo, CA
by Andy Pampuro, President

We never did have our picnic as planned. We had to cancel the event as the Tall Ships came into the Dana Point Harbor and the traffic would have been horrendous.

Instead we made arrangements to have our picnic at the Norman Murray Senior Center on September 25. It turned out to be one of the hottest days we have seen this year. In spite of the heat we had a nice crowd who enjoyed the day of great food. The people brought all kinds of good food plus the lodge provided the sausages and hamburgers, watermelon and drinks.

At our meeting on September 16th our members brought their favorite salads for all to enjoy. Believe me, they were all delicious. Many thanks to Michelle Lowinger who spearheaded this night. This month we will be initiating some new members. We will also have the nominations of our next group of officers.

Our lodge anniversary will be coming up on November 12th. Hope to see many of you there. It should be a great evening.

On behalf of the lodge we would like to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving. May you spend the day with your loved ones.



As hot as it was some of our members stayed until the bitter end.

Northern Solano Lodge # 2534

Fairfield, CA
by Pam Boes and Rick Tracy

The season of holiday planning and enjoyment has begun. Halloween is behind us and Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching.

Our September general meeting was made special by an outstanding dinner created by the team of David Rico, Carla Garbani-Gamez, Vince and Carol LaNovara, and Angie Caserza. Our chefs are always finding something new and delicious to tempt our taste buds.

The membership passed a resolution to donate funds for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Italy.

Albert Galli has again coordinated the annual Wreath fundraiser. This has been an excellent and profitable event to support our many charities. Thank You Albert for your time and dedication to this project.

The annual Veterans Stand Down, at the Dixon Fairgrounds was held on October 10 - 14th. Participation by our Lodge was coordinated by Carla Garbani-Gamez. On October 11th, Sharie Anaclario, Dee Dee Carrasco, Angie Caserza, Roy Pimentel, David Rico, Brenda Krch, and Rick Tracy joined Carla. During the 8 hour shift, they sorted and distributed clothing followed by serving dinner to 150 veterans. Hearing the stories of the services provided by the brave veterans attending was humbling.

On October 16th Sue Bell, Lina Craddock, Janice De Pasquale and Maria Reginato contributed their time and Italian culinary skills with a booth at the Celebration of Cultures at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Thank you all for promoting our Italian culture in the Fairfield community.

Our Lodge meeting in October will include a food drive with donations to be given to the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank. Our lodge members are regular volunteers at the local food bank.

October is also the month for the Nomination of Officers. Thanks to those who have already agreed to be nominated for the coming term.

er, scheduled for October 22nd, promises to be a "sell out" event. A report on this special night will be included in the Il Leone next month.

Heads up for our November meeting that will include election of officers and the "Toys for Tots" drive. We have participated in the annual toy drive for many years and have been impressed by the generosity of our members.

December will see the annual Children's Christmas Party on December 3rd as well as our annual pot luck Christmas dinner at our regular Lodge meeting.

We are sad to announce the passing of member Sharon Witkowski. Our condolences to her family.

Our Lodge extends sympathy and prayers to President Joy Bruno on the recent passing of her daughter Terri Welch and daughter-in-law Linda Gamss.

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Nevada Property News

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A portion of each sale from this ad will be donated to the Il Leone general fund

Centinela Valley Lodge #1991

Torrance, CA
by Annette Porter

Our September Country Western Dinner Dance was an enjoyable evening. The dinner was enjoyed by all in attendance, thank you to Chef Mark Vaona, Annette Porter and Joe and Mary Grace Grammatico for a delicious steak and chicken dinner. Our entertainment for the evening was Time Machine. The dance floor was hopping with many dancing with the residence, they sure do enjoy line dancing. This evening was a fundraiser for S.T.A.R. House. The residence from S.T.A.R. House always enjoy coming to the hall for pasta, they say it is their second home. Thank you everyone that supported this fantastic evening. We were able

to raise quite a nice sum of money for S.T.A.R. House. We will be having our Christmas Party and Toys for Tots with the Marines this year again. I also heard that Santa Claus will be coming by. Mark your calendar Saturday December 3rd, doors will open at 2:00pm. By popular demand we are bringing back the production company and they will be performing "The Sopranos Last Supper" on Saturday March 25, 2017. "You'll sing! You'll dance! You'll laugh yourself silly!" Tickets are on sale, first come, first serve bases. Tickets are limited, you must pay at the time you make your reservation. Adults \$45.00 per ticket for Show and Dinner.



Here are a few of our lovely members - Serafina Accetta, Judy Von Muller and Betty Sandroni enjoying themselves. These ladies are a big part of our lodge.



The residence and guest are up on the dance floor line dancing. Time Machine enjoys playing for this event every year.



This is a few of the residence that we support every year. Enjoying the evening with each other.

Earthquake Relief Fund

In August, 2016, a series of earthquakes and after shocks struck the Italian region of Lazio, killing over 70 people and injuring hundred more. In addition the earthquakes have left thousands homeless and have resulted in a great deal of damage and loss of productivity for the region. One of the hardest hit areas was Amatrice, a town of approximately 2,000 people. The earthquake reportedly struck in the middle of the night so that many never had a chance to escape the destruction. To assist the victims of the earthquakes and to help with recovery efforts, the Sons of Italy Western Foundation has established an Earthquake Relief Fund. The people of the Lazio region need our help. Therefore, a goal of \$10,000 has been established for this fund raising effort. Please make your donation to Western Foundation and send it to the Grand Lodge Office, 5051 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112-3473. Mark on your donation that it is for The Earthquake Relief Fund. Remember, **all contributions to this fund are tax-deductible.** Thanks you for your concerns and generosity.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING
LETTER TO YOUR FAMILY:

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making any final arrangements.*

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

The Italian Cemetery
Stewards of Your Family's Heritage Since 1899
www.ItalianCemetery.com
650-755-1511



Eureka Lodge # 1274

Eureka, CA
by Heidi Benzonelli, State Deputy Eureka Lodge

In August the Eureka Lodge Hosted Mezzo Agosto, a pot-luck, community gathering, bbq and bocce day of fun.



Ben Herman, Vittorina Bisio and Traudy Gretchen fun and friendship at Mezzo Agosto in Eureka.

In September, the Eureka Lodge hosted the annual Italian Festival and Bocce Tournament the turnout was great, the sun was shining and Members, Neighbors, Friends and the Community turned out and had a Blast!



Italians for Legalization (of Marinara that is) Butch Bondi (Santa Rosa Lodge) and Dave Olivieri.



Joe Pera, enjoying the sun on a beautiful day with food and friends.



Nick Giannini (with A LOT of Peppers).

And although the day was full of great competition and sportsmanship, lots of good ole bocce rivalry and fun...the bracket was swept by... “Hard Corps”. Hard Corps is a cobbled together group of CCC retirees that stole the show for the XXXth (we are not counting anymore) time! Watch out for these guys, coming to a tournament near you, AND they have lots of time to practice. We’ll see you next year Hard Corps!



Ralph Giannini rolls for a casino during Mezzo Agosto.



I vincitori italiani Festival torneo di bocce: Larry “scivoloso” Hand, David “bandito” Boyd, Grant “the plant” Weaver and Bob “casino” Cox.

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

William Paca Lodge # 1960

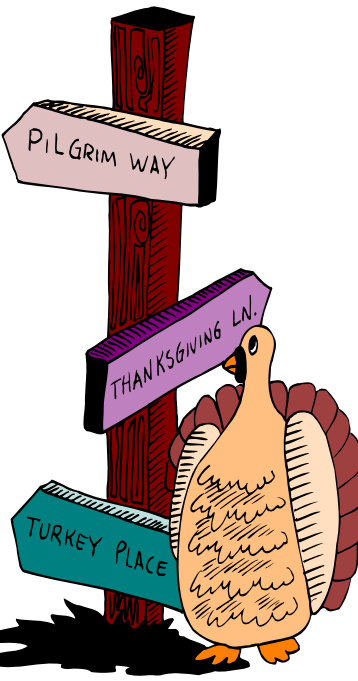
Mountain View, CA
by Carolyn Franklin

October has been immortalized by wine, women and song. For the women, we have beautiful Italians tutti simile Mona Lisa. For the music, Joe Simoni carried our spirit into the air with our old favorites – “Volare”, and our all time favorite “It’s Amore”. All we need is a Strauss waltz and a glass of chianti to complete the festivities! We have always taken the world by beautiful women and song!

Yes! The October dinner was a fete to remember. Eugene and Peggy Ludwico steamed up the sauerkraut, pork chops and mashed potatoes – a favorite of everyone. President Rosalia Margarit mixed crisp lettuce with ice cold vegetables as the opening salad. Dessert was a dream confection of lemon cup cakes from the kitchen of Jo Savelly. As my very favorite cousin used to say, “Darmi buono se ne vuoi buono.”

Apparently being a little bit under the weather doesn’t affect Jo Savelly’s bowling score. She scored 120 recently - a big number on any team. Jo’s teammates consistently bowl in the hundreds, and why not? One big hitter is 97 and another is 99! Ya can’t keep a good gal down! Ogni frutta per la sua stagione.

Paula Chidichimo was on the east coast at a class reunion. She picked Fall to travel, the most beautiful season of the year in the east with red, gold and yellow foliage. Let’s hope she remembers to come home to the Golden State! Ognuno ci sa a casa sua.



Eddie Fornari Morgan, Nick Giannini and Ralph Giannini, the BBQ masters!



Enrico Caruso Lodge # 1463

Visalia, CA
by Nick Notarnicola

Our Youth Group had a successful yard sale October 1st and 2nd. On October 2nd, we had a Spaghetti Drive-thru Dinner chaired by Allan Spano that was well received. On October 9th, Frank and Maria Parisi chaired our annual Columbus Day Picnic. Frank spoke a few words about Christopher Columbus. On October 18th, we received a proclamation from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors proclaiming October as Italian Heritage Month for the County of Tulare. We were joined by the Roma Lodge of Tulare. David Depaoli, President of the Roma Lodge, and Nick Notarnicola, President of the Enrico Caruso Lodge, said a few words. The presentation was made by Supervisor Alan Ishida. There were about 20 Sons of Italy members present. We had our nominations and Larry Romanazzi will be our next President. The annual Crab Feed is on Saturday, November 12. On November 28th, our Grand Lodge Miss Italy and Lodge Queen Christine Bianco will be in the Visalia Christmas Tree Parade. A committee chaired by Frank Parisi is working on a new Lodge Membership Directory. Our last directory is 10 years old and a lot of correction needed to be made. We hope to have it printed by the end of the year. Today, as I am writing this article, we will be having a funeral for one of our members, Tony Buldo. As one of the speakers at the rosary said last night, Tony was always late, but he was early for his death.

Ciao for this month.

May the spirt of
Thanksgiving
fill your
life with
joy and
happiness



Rodolfo Valentino Lodge # 1449

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

November and December Dinners: Mark your calendar: **November 21, at 6:30 PM**, with turkey being provided for our Thanksgiving dinner; just bring a dessert and/or side-dish. All are welcome for this event. **For December 19**, same time, the dinner will be catered and free for members; \$15 for non-members –still a great bargain. For this event you must RSVP to our president, Carol Watson, by **December 15, at 299-1941** so that we can be assured of enough food to be ordered. For those that wish to exchange gifts, bring one to get one; the same applies to the Cookie Exchange: bring a dozen and get a dozen of mixed cookies to take home.

Last Month: Our October Fest Pasta Dinner was a great success! Time and again folks kept telling us how wonderful experience they were having. Our kitchen staff started days earlier, “killing the onions” for the pasta sauce base, stewing the tomatoes, herbs and beef, buying all the supplies and baking/cooking it all up. A special thanks for all those that helped in the preparations, serving, and clean-up. We did it so well that we can do it all over again in six months to celebrate our 90th year in Clovis. There was a raffle prize for every third person that attended the dinner! Rick DelCarlo and Josh Bravo provided the dance music and entertainment.

Also: We all have spent our entire lives surviving diseases, illnesses, and accidents. Now is not the time to quit. Flu and cold season is upon us and a Flu Shot is better and cheaper for us anytime, and is 70% more effective than no flu shot at all, so, get a shot now (don’t get the nasal spray, it is only 3% effective). Stomach flu is not “the flu”; it is caused by another type of virus, bacteria, or parasites. A “cold” is caused by a separate virus, so anti-bacteria shots won’t work on them; to keep colds at bay, drink 6 ounces of red wine a day (more is not better), get your rest, use zinc lozenges, and get some exercise (so says the esteemed Dr. Oz). Stay healthy; we want you here tomorrow.

Learning is a life-long experience, but to learn faster and better, avoiding all the errors, consider a scholarship. Apply for one to save you, your student, or your grandchild some money in college. Call our Scholarship Committee Chair, Isabel Ronzano, at (559) 297-0851, for information on this topic. **The Scholarship Deadlines are:** for **Clovis Lodge**, March 31, 2017, (but start now); for **California State Grand Lodge**: March 01, 2017; and for **National Lodge** the date is generally November to February of any year (for more information go to <https://www.osia.org/students/scholarships.php>); National scholarships are for \$500 to \$5,000.

Join Us: If you have friends or family that are looking for good fellowship and a place to hang out on the third Monday of each month, invite them to join you at our meetings, 6:30 PM, at Notre Dame Hall, 333 8th Street, at DeWitt Avenue. We feature short meetings, great companionship, and superb food. Our web site is <http://rodolfovalentinolodge.com/>.



Vallejo Lodges

by Sharon Silveira

FORE!... and there are several theories about the origin of the word....I never heard during the Western Foundation Golf Classic held on Monday, October 17th, at the Butte County Country Club in Chico. The day started with the Frozen Meatball Putting Contest. Rick Silveira had one stop on the lip of the cup. John Costa and Rick Branch sunk the putt and entered a 3 way tie. Unfortunately neither John nor Rick won the Putt-Off. Next came lunch---sausage & pepper sandwiches, salad and tortellini with pesto sauce sponsored and cooked by Recology. Time for the golfers to climb into their carts and go to their starting holes. Vallejo was well represented by Beatrice Trustee Donna Branch, Virgilio President Ray Bini, Past President Fred Asche, Treasurer Rick Branch, Financial Secretary Rick Silveira, and our own State 2nd VP John Costa attired in a blinding neon green Mickey Mouse golf shirt. 5 p.m. found the golfers returning to the Country Club for an extensive raffle, live auction and dinner. An amazing event. Kudos to the Vincenzo Bellini Lodge of Chico.

Delizioso...definitely the word to describe the Ham & Pesto dinner held on Sunday, October 16th and chaired by Regina Coragliotti & John

Costa. The raffle table overflowed with prizes. The lodges appreciate both your attendance and your generosity. Welcoming you and taking your \$\$ were Jessica Ray & Pamela Bini. Pouring your libations Ray Bini. Working their magic in the kitchen were Rick & Donna Branch, Glenn Rushing, John Costa, Steve & Lucy Branch. Applause for our servers Shebly Clemons, SPSV students and our head server Donna Lee Costa, Grazie Mille!

Circle some dates on your calendar...Tuesday, Nov. 8th, join us for a turkey dinner at 6:30 and stay for the meeting. We will have nominations for officers for the 2016-2018 term. Thursday, Nov. 17th we will be visiting UC Davis Alzheimer's Research in Sacramento for a breakfast reception at 9 a.m. **RSVP to your president by Nov. 10th.** All members are welcome to attend. Friday, Nov. 18th is our Polenta & Stew Dinner. Reservations a must: Adeline 642-3486 or Josephine 642-1658. Sunday, Dec. 11th will be the Roast Beef and Ravioli dinner.....and in addition there will be entertainment by the talented Sparks family prior to dinner. Why stay at home and miss all of this??? Come and be part of the Vallejo Lodge Family.

Vi aguro buona salute e felicità



Vallejo golfers.

PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 13

P	E	R	I	F	E	R	I	A	N	I
A	R	I	D	I	T	A	M	L	S	D
S	T	U	R	A	M	S	A	L	T	O
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R	E	D	M	B	O	R	O	D	I	N
E	M	O	M	B	R	O	N	E	N	E



Roma Lodge # 1573

Tulare, CA
by Larry Dutto

Roma Lodge #1573 celebrated Columbus Day on October 9th with over 50 members and guests attending the event held at the World Ag Expo picnic grounds in Tulare. It was a beautiful day with great food and fun for the whole family. The annual Roma Lodge Bocce Tournament was enjoyed by all in attendance. Members of the Hanford Lodge were invited to the festivities that featured a great raffle and bocce tournament.

Michael DePaoli and Matt Watkins served as co-chairs

for the event and barbecued tri-tip, Italian Sausage and hotdogs for the attendees. All the members participated by bringing raffle prizes, side dishes and desserts. The lodge provided a bounce house for the children and Ben Curti served as bocce tournament director for the event. Melissa Watkins and Maci Daramy coordinated the raffle and dessert prizes. Columbus Day pictures and Roma Lodge information and activities can be viewed online at www.romalodge1573.org

Cesare Battisiti Lodge #1518

Petaluma, CA
by Les Villanyi

Petaluma lodge members enjoyed a wonderful meal of Risotto and chicken prepared by Giaco Manni, Angelo Leone, Don De Carli, and Jon Petty. Thank you gentlemen! It was excellent. This month we had our nominations and will finish them off next month with an other round and then the election.

Our meeting on November 10 will of course commemorate veterans as we enjoy a sumptuous turkey dinner.

I am very excited to hand over the reins to a new president because we need new ideas and new circles of influence and of course...new members!

Our annual Christmas Party with polenta and stew will take place on Friday December 9. We invite all of you to come... but you need to make reservations!

Stay tuned to the really important election results ...those in our lodges. Vote!

365 Fund Raiser - Winners

Sept. 16-30

16	\$25.00	Avery Watson
17	\$25.00	Chantel Fazio
18	\$25.00	Lola D'Adrea
19	\$25.00	Barbara Winsniewski
20	\$25.00	William Murphy
21	\$25.00	Elaine Qillin
22	\$25.00	Frank Locicero
23	\$25.00	Patti Hulman
24	\$25.00	Mirella Colombana
25	\$25.00	Mac Comparetto
26	\$25.00	Tim Coragliotti
27	\$25.00	Terri Welch
28	\$25.00	Montery Lodge #2003
29	\$25.00	Gerrie Giotta
30	\$50.00	Emilio & Lorenzo Nunziati

Oct 1-15

1	\$25.00	Judy Dutra
2	\$25.00	Gerard Marc Aurele
3	\$25.00	Arlene Nunziati
4	\$25.00	Robert Ardrca
5	\$25.00	Judy Bellino
6	\$25.00	Frank Navetta
7	\$25.00	Mary Lombardo
8	\$25.00	Agatha Martino
9	\$25.00	Donn Walgamoth
10	\$25.00	Rick Scialla
11	\$25.00	Gene Della Maggiore
12	\$500.00	Chantel Fazio
13	\$25.00	Larry Cissney
14	\$25.00	Ugo Pignati
15	\$25.00	Lilianna Patta

America Lodge #1609

La Habra, CA
by Yolanda Campanelli, Historian

America Lodge started the month of October by going to the United Lodges Columbus Day celebration on October 2nd. Attending were President Linda Enneman, Lucy Sacco, Ida Sacco, Joe Rossi, Dee Tucker, Yolanda Campanelli and President Enneman's great niece Jaden. We were challenged by State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy to contact our local State Officers to continue to recognize the importance of Columbus Day. On the following Sunday President Linda Enneman and Dee Tucker went to the Bowers Museum for their Columbus Day event. In attendance were many United Lodge members. You'd think that United Lodge had called a meeting, just about every member was there.

For fun President Linda Enneman dressed as The Wizard attended the Anaheim Lodge Halloween Party Din-

ner on Friday, October 14th. All who wanted to dress up could, her 4 year old great nephew Lincoln, came as Batman, 9 year old great niece Jaden, came dressed as a Black Cat, her youngest sister Carmen was A Disco Chick and Lodge member Dee Tucker as a Lady of the Evening dressed in all white. The kids played various games. The games had all their interest until the Trick or Treating part of the evening took over. Each child went table to table Trick or Treating. And of course, the Italian dinner was fabulous too. A great time was had by all.

America Lodge will be having nominations in October and elections in November. We will publish the results next month.

President Linda Enneman and Yolanda Campanelli attended the Costa Dei Fiori Anniversary Dinner on Oc-

tober 22nd, an outstanding, beautiful event.

On Sunday November 6th is the day we celebrate our 85th Anniversary with a luncheon at Westridge Golf Club, at which time we will be honoring two members of the La Habra Community, Mary Lou Dorado and Jeanne Simonian for their volunteer efforts on behalf of La Habra High School Students over 30 years. The true spirit of volunteerism.

November 20th is the annual Pot Luck Dinner, Food and Toy Drive. The items donated will be distributed to families in the La Habra Area so they may have A "Happy Holiday Season"

December is almost here and plans are being made to have a super Christmas Party so the members can have a "Happy Holiday" together.

America Lodge#1609 members wish everyone a "Great Holiday Season" Ciao.



Roma Lodge Columbus Day co-chairs Michael DePaoli and Matt Watkins.



Dessert contests winners (l-r) Melissa Watkins with daughter Adelyn, Leslie DePaoli and Joann Beecher.



Roma Lodge 2016 Columbus Day Bocce Champions (l-r) Matt Watkins, Larry Dutto, Michael DePaoli and Justin Curti with daughter Domenica.



Anaheim Lodge # 2076

Anaheim, CA
By: Fran D’Errico
Recording Secretary

Ciao, To all our brothers and sisters in the Anaheim Lodge, and to all the Lodges of Sons of Italy. With the Holidays fast approaching, and elections of new officers for the lodges, everyone will be very busy. Here is a bit of what we have been doing and what is coming up.

“WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING”

On Saturday September 24th

Anaheim Lodge held their Annual **“CASINO NIGHT”**. We had an array of great gifts ton raffle off with the winning tickets. There were free snacks and hot dogs. Everyone had a great time playing their favorite games, be it cards roulette, or craps. We had guests from other lodges, which is always nice to support each other’s lodges at their various functions.

On Friday October 14th,

Anaheim held their Annual **“HALLOWEEN PARTY”**. This is always a top notch party for the kids, to enjoy themselves. Our menu consisted of **“WORMS”** (spaghetti) **‘EYE BALLS”** (meat balls)and salad. Then the kids did their **“TRICK and TREAT-ING”** around to all the tables to fill their bags with goodies, provided by everyone who attended. There is always a variety of good treats. Then there is the Bingo, which Big Kids(Adults), and little kids looks forward to playing.

“UPCOMING EVENT”

Saturday November 19th, the Anaheim lodge will host its Annual **“THANKSGIVING DINNER”**.

Dinner is cooked by the officers of the lodge, with the festive flavors of Turkey, Ham, Mash Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Salad and of course Apple and Pumpkin Pies with Ice Cream. For more information look at the coming flier or contact President Eva Lavezzari.

Saturday December 17th, The Annual **‘CHRISTMAS PARTY”**. There will be a dinner, Santa Claus, and lots of Fun and games. Look for your flier coming soon in the mail with all the details. For those members and other lodges wishing to attend please con-

tact Eva Lavezzari.

“WHAT OUR JUNIOR MEMBERS ARE DOING”

We the members of the Anaheim Lodge would especially like to thank Raul Lemus our Jr. member; and Son of members Valerie and Raul Lemus, and grandson of Joe and Carol D’Ordine, on a fantastic job with graduating High School with high honors. Raul is thankful for the David Prisco scholarship he received from the Sons of Italy at the Convention this past summer. He left for College in Santa Clara on Sept. 16th. He will be taking Finance, Business Management and Music classes. We wish him a Blessed future.

(PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS, SEND ME YOUR ARTICLE AND I WILL WRITE IT UP IN THE IL LEONE).

Schedule of Upcoming Events:

Anaheim Lodge will be busy at the next few meetings set up our events schedule for 2017.

Look for the information to be in your mail and posted here in the Il Leone.

MEMBERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP AND IF YOU NEED OURS,

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 oriented and we still encourage this standard in our lodge. We all want our Italian Heritage to continue for generations to come.

From Your Friends at the Anaheim Lodge, wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your day with the family. Keep our Service Members, who are away from their families at this time of the year in your prayers.

God Bless those servicing and protecting our country, and Arrivederci until next time.



I am 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.