



La Bandiera



The Banner
Newsletter of
The Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax #2517
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

FEBBRAIO 2023
MESSAGGIO DEL VICE PRESIDENTE

Welcome,

Winter keeps threatening us but never really attacks. Thank goodness for Mother Nature's indecisive behavior.

As we move into 2023, we are hopeful that our lodge continues to be active and grows with the welcoming of new members. January was an unsettling time for our lodge family as we mourned the passing of our brother, Francesco Falsinotti. His smile and quick wit will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Please remember him and Dawn, as well as their family, in your prayers.

We are planning a busy February and hope to see many of you at the various events that are scheduled. As we look forward to spring, let us all plant seeds of good things to come and watch them blossom.

May your pasta always be "Al Dente"

Charlie Romano VP

The loss of my dear husband Francesco has been devastating to me and my entire family. He was a loving tour de force in all our lives and his loss is immeasurable. The outpouring of love and support we've received has been truly kind and generous. We will hold this affection close to our hearts. Many thanks, Dawn.

On January 11, 2023, Francesco Falsinotti, 67, peacefully passed into the arms of our Lord. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Dawn, his children Sister Agnese of Cornwall, UK, Lara, Forte dei Marmi, Italy and Alex, Fairfax, VA. Francesco was a loving husband, father, son, uncle and friend.

Francesco was born in Pietrasanta, Italy in 1955 and was the devoted son of Adolfo Falsinotti. He is also survived by his sister, Ana Maria Falsinotti and brother in law Baptista Ciambelli, Massas, Italy, brother in law Francis Crookston, Fairfax, VA, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He grew up in the seaside town of Forte dei Marmi and at a young age developed a lifelong love for soccer. His team INTER MILAN. He served and was a decorated member of the Italian Army. While growing up in Pietrasanta, known for marble and sculpture schools, he began working in the marble trade and quickly became a much sought after marble artisan craftsman. He took his skill throughout Italy, Europe, and the Middle East, eventually settling in the United States. Moving to the Washington D.C.

area in 1989, he quickly rose to prominence within his industry. He worked for Washington Marble & Granite for 32 years. In 1991 he met his beloved wife, Dawn. A lifelong lover of animals, he doted on his pets. He belonged to several groups including OSDIA (Order Sons & Daughters Of Italy In America) as well as soccer and racing clubs.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Francesco's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2022-2023 OFFICERS**

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Financial Secy.: Eleanor Lillo
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Lodge Trustees:
Carol Cassella
Loretta D'Amico
John Dovel
Nancy Perrelli
Vacant

Master of Ceremonies: Roy Schender
Mistress of Ceremonies: Sandy Schender

Guard: **Vacant**

Education Chair: Elisabetta Lazarte
Elisabettalazarte@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs
sharon@tlc-nv.com

Webmaster: Joe La Marca
Joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org

Publicity Chair: **Vacant**

Lodge Members Serving on the Grand Council of Virginia:
Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Former State President
Marianne Hallahan, Trustee
John Asiello, Arbitration Committee

IL CALENDARIO

February 7	Executive Council Mtg.	6:00 p.m.	The Esposito's
February 11	Elections, Dinner and Guest Comedian <i>Pasquale Talarico*</i>	5:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
February 14	<i>St. Valentine's Day</i>		
February 16	Lunch Bunch*	Noon	
February 22	Happy Hour	5:00 p.m.	Coyote Grill 10266 Main Street, Fairfax
February 22			Brio Italian Grille 11776 Fair Oaks Mall
March 1	Deadline for Virginia OSIA Foundation Scholarships vaosia.org/scholarships.html		
March 11	Installation Of Officers Ceremony and Dinner with Guest of Honor, <i>Bishop Emeritus Paul S. Loverde</i>	TBD	Knights of Columbus Hall
April 28-29	GLVA 38 th Biennial Convention		Roma Lodge Virginia Beach, VA

It is important that as many members as possible be present at the February meeting for further nominations, if any, and the election of lodge officers and trustees going into the next term, March 2023 - February 2024. On pages 5-6 of this newsletter, you will find the list of members nominated and the procedures that will be followed if further nominations are made from the floor and for the election itself that evening. This meeting will also serve as the opportunity for nominations of IHL delegates to the Grand Lodge of Virginia 38th Biennial Convention that will take place in Virginia Beach, VA, on April 28 and 29, 2023. More information about the convention is in this newsletter and all forms will be attached to your email.

Our menu for the IHL February 11th meeting will be light appetizers, manicotti, meatballs and sausage, sautéed broccoli, insalata, and an assortment of desserts for a cost of \$15.00 per person.

Plans are still being formulated for the March 11th Installation Ceremony and Dinner with guest of honor, Bishop Emeritus Paul S. Loverde. A separate email will go out soon with information about this event.

*** RSVP to Colette Sciscilo (colette.sciscilo@gmail.com)**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mike Gering	February 2
Roy Schender	February 12
Dot Saia	February 17
Brian Givens	February 26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Laura and John Asiello

February 17



Pasquale Talarico



Joey Scafetta, III, and Pat Talarico

The special guest at our February 11th meeting will be comedian, Pasquale Talarico. Pat, as his family and friends call him, was born in Washington, D.C., in 1981. He graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic High School in Olney, Maryland, in 2000. He then went to the University of Delaware where he played soccer. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 2004. After graduation, he relocated to Los Angeles where he attended acting school. During his time there, he appeared as an extra in TV commercials, movies, and comedy shows. When he did not get a big break, he returned in 2006 to Washington where he was admitted to the Theater Lab School in 2007. He graduated in 2009. However, he decided to change careers and became a soccer coach for children. In 2012 he was hired to teach physical education in the K-12 Stone Ridge School in Bethesda. There he wrote comedy shows for students. He taught there until March 2020 when the school closed because of the covid-19 pandemic. Because he could no longer conduct in-person physical education classes, he applied for and was hired as a personal assistant and strength trainer for what Pat calls “a wealthy, young, privileged, white male” in Falls Church to where he moved. During his free time, Pat writes comedy skits and has appeared at various local comedy clubs in the D.C. area. For our February meeting, Pat has written a special comedy routine which he calls “Pat & His Uncle Sonny.”

Benvenuti !

IHL welcomed three new members to our lodge.

Gerry and Nannette Croce and Tony Andreoli became members this past month. Tony has jumped right in and has met a good many of our members already. We hope to see Gerry and Nannette very soon at future events.



Sadly, we received word of the passing of one of our most beloved members, Josephine Lowe. Jo, as all affectionately called her, passed away in late October. Over the years, Jo served our lodge well as Financial Secretary and Lodge Trustee with her kind friendship and leadership.

Your lodge council at work.....

Report of the Nominating Committee

At the November meeting, the following members were elected to the Nominating Committee:

Chairperson: Teresa Talierco Scafetta,
former president of the Avanti Italiani Lodge and the George Washington Lodge;

Sharon Strauchs, current lodge membership chairperson;

David Strong, former lodge orator;

Laura Strong, former lodge financial secretary; and

Joey Scafetta III, a member since 2016.

At the December meeting, the following nominations were made for the 2023-2024 term:

President: Dawn Falsinotti (who has already served more than two terms)

Vice President: Charles Romano (who has served one term)

Immediate Past President: Nicolette Sciscilo (automatic)

Orator: Joseph Scafetta Jr. (who has served one term)

Recording Secretary: Marianne Hallahan (who has served one term)

Financial Secretary: Eleanor Lillo (who has served one term)

Treasurer: Dennis Lillo (who has served one term)

Trustee: John Dovel (who has already served two terms)

Trustee: Nancy Perrelli (who has already served two terms)

Trustee: Carol Cassella (who has served one term)

Trustee: James Cocco, CPA (former State Trustee & George Washington Lodge President)

Trustee: Vivian Mott (who is a member since February 2022)

Master of Ceremonies: Roy Schender (who has already served two terms)

Mistress of Ceremonies: Sandra Schender (who has served one term)

Guard: Michael Gering (who is a member since February 2022).

“Elections”

At the next membership meeting on **Saturday, February 11**, the president will call for any additional nominations for the Executive Council from the floor. If there are none, then the slate of nominees announced by the Nominating Committee in December will be elected by acclamation at the February meeting.

(“Elections” continued...)

If there are additional nominees from the floor at the February meeting, then the nominator needs to announce the position for which the nominee has agreed to run. If the person nominated by the Nominating Committee is eligible for another one-year term, then there will be an election by ballot for the contested position at the February meeting.

On the other hand, if the person nominated by the Nominating Committee is not eligible for another one-year term because s/he has already served two consecutive terms but the Nominating Committee did not find another qualified and willing member for the nominee's position, then the nominee of the Nominating Committee is "knocked out" of the position for which s/he was nominated and the nominee from the floor, if the only such nominee, will be elected at the February meeting.

The Nominating Committee's nominees who have already served two consecutive terms are the following: President Dawn Falsinotti; Trustee John Dovel; Trustee Nancy Perrelli; and Master of Ceremonies Roy Schender. To be eligible to be elected president, the nominee from the floor "must have served at least one year on the Executive Council", according to Article VI, Section 2, of our lodge bylaws. To be eligible to be elected either trustee or master of ceremonies: "Candidates ... must have been members of the Lodge for at least (6) months", according to the same section of the bylaws.

IHL Annual Dues

In January 2022, IHL instituted the collection of lodge dues on a calendar year basis. In early December of 2022, each member should have received a “Dues Notice” by email from Eleanor Lillo, IHL Financial Secretary. Please read Ellie’s instructions in her email for payment amount and remittance process for your 2023 membership. Ellie can assist our members with renewing their memberships and can be contacted at delillo1@verizon.net or (703) 354-2454.

IHL La Bandiera Advertisement Page

The beginning of 2023 also brings the renewal of our *La Bandiera* Ad page (the last page of each month’s newsletter). There are currently two ad spaces available. The yearly ad price is \$25/members and \$35/non-members and your ad will run twelve times per year (once a month). If you would like to renew or place a new ad in *La Bandiera*, please contact Joe La Marca (joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org) who will assist you with preparing your ad. Please send your ad fee to Ellie Lillo (contact information is listed above).

The annual ***White Elephant*** will take place as a lunch event and **at a future date to be determined.**

Start rummaging through closets, attics, and garages, for your new, old, used, slightly used or regifting items to donate for sale and come ready also to bid on others’ donated items. There is no need to price items as our experienced auctioneers will do that for us. This is a combined lunch event and the menu will be posted in an upcoming issue of *La Bandiera*. In the past, members have donated toys, china, small kitchen items, tablecloths, artwork, candles, and the like. So, if you are looking for a way to get rid of “unwanted or unneeded” items in your home, please donate them to IHL for our annual treasury fundraiser. At same time, you will have fun bidding and outbidding each other and may find some new “treasures” of your own.

IHL Language & Dinner Group

After the long hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, the IHL Language Group assembled once again this past Saturday evening for dinner, language study and conversation in “*la bella lingua Italiana*”. Much thanks go to June and Dennis Ferrara who organized, arranged, emailed, hosted, cooked and welcomed this month’s attendees into their home. After the initial greetings and formalities, several clusters formed to catch up with one another. Members chatted over antipasto and wine before settling down to a dinner of salmon with pistachio, saffron risotto, broccoli and salad. Dessert was a “capolavoro” cake baked by Sharon Strauch’s granddaughter, Julia - the talented, young baker who was once featured in *La Bandiera*. Only then did the group depart the table, which with the abundance of food and wine resembled the kind of Italian family dinners depicted in the movies, to tackle the evening’s reading of an amusing story, “*La Gallina Analfabeta*” (“The Illiterate Hen”). Discussion focused on translation and vocabulary and touched on a few grammar points and verb tenses to refresh everyone’s knowledge of “*la bella lingua*”.

Stay tuned for location of next month’s language group dinner and meeting. You can email Dennis at dennisferrara@hey.com if you have questions or are interested in joining.



“Grazie per questa serata elegante. Il salmone era splendente!”

- Sharon



Le belle signore!



Tony Andreoli conosce
Joe e Peter

In Ken and Carol Ann Linder's Christmas letter, Carol exclaims that the most exciting event for her this year was seeing another one of her articles in print when *ItalianAmerica* magazine published "Pennies for the Peddler" in their Spring 2022 issue. She was thrilled to be published for the second time.

Carol details the story of her maternal grandmother's Great Depression era family business, "The White Lily" enterprise to get her family out of debt in the 1930s. "The White Lily" was a huge success and became the family's business for the next 30 years. After hearing this success story told at every family reunion, Carol finally got the opportunity to share it with a wider audience.

Carol is delighted to send out copies if anyone is interested, so please contact Coletta so that your request can be passed on to Carol (colette.sciscilo@gmail.com).



GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA
ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
38TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION – APRIL 28-29, 2023
CELEBRATION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLVA

The Grand Lodge of Virginia (GLVA) will hold its 38th Biennial Convention at the Roma Lodge, Virginia Beach, VA on the weekend of April 28-29, 2023. The convention will also be a celebration of Grand Lodge of Virginia's 100th Anniversary.

Italian Heritage Lodge is entitled to nine delegates, not including our President, Dawn Falsinotti, and Trustee, Marianne Hallahan, as she is currently an IHL member serving on the grand council of GLVA. At our February meeting, delegates will be nominated to attend the convention. Delegates must be regular members for at least one year and cannot be social members. Election of delegates will be held at our March meeting. Non-delegates are welcomed to attend and separate forms will be attached for those members. Non-delegates are not charged a registration fee but will be charged for meals.

Attached to this email are the corresponding forms for delegate and non-delegate registration, convention materials, meal selections, and T-shirt orders. The registration deadline is **March 31, 2023**. Your registration fee of \$140 includes a Thursday evening hospitality event, Friday evening dinner, Saturday morning and afternoon snacks and lunch, Saturday evening Banquet, convention materials, Program, 100th Anniversary Celebration Book, and gift bag. Holiday Inn: Virginia Beach – Norfolk is holding a block of rooms for GLVA. Information about room reservations will be sent out upon request. Ads can also be placed in the Convention program.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Virginia OSIA Foundation Scholarships is **March 1, 2023**. There are three scholarships available, so please visit the Grand Lodge of Virginia website to review the application process. Visit <https://www.vaosia.org> for more information and to contact Kathy Drummond, the Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

Julia Rad, granddaughter of Sharon Strauchs, was featured in *La Bandiera* as a talented young baker. At the Italian Language Dinner, Sharon provided “la dolce” baked by Julia. As you can see from the picture, the Italian Cream Cake looks wonderful and delicious! Here is an update on Julia and her life at age 15:

“I started baking when I was very young. I would bake cookies with my Nonna for the holidays. We would start baking right as the “leaves turned to flame” we would say. We would bake different types of cookies, freeze them, and thaw them for the whole family to eat on Christmas Eve. I also loved watching Giada make delicious dishes at my Nonna's house and think to myself ‘*Someday that is going to be me with my own baking channel.*’ When I was about 8 years old, I started experimenting on my own in the kitchen. When I would get home from school I would go straight to the kitchen and start baking. Some days it would be three-tiered buttercream cakes, and other times it would be traditional chocolate chip cookies.

I get my inspiration from everything around me. Whether it's decorations or things I see during my day, or a delicious flavor combination I think of at school, I'm always coming up with new flavors and designs to try out. I love going to

local bakeries or traveling to taste other delicious foods from different cultures and coming back home to try and recreate it. When I was 11, I became interested in competing with my baking skills. So, I started going through the casting process for many big baking competitions including HBO, Disney Channel and Food Network. Unfortunately, I never made it onto any TV shows, but I learned so many valuable life skills going through and getting far into these casting processes which will help me when I'm getting a job in the future. One day, my dream will be to have my own Baking Show.”

If you are interesting in learning more about Julia's business, placing an order or looking at other delicious desserts she has made, visit her website at <https://theradbakery.wixsite.com/mysite> or visit her Instagram @the_rad_bakery

Italian Cream Cake
(Coconut Cake, Cream Cheese Frosting)



Venchi Tysons Corner opens its 1st gelato boutique in Washington, D.C.

Venchi's website boasts that with more than 140 years of history, they are bringing the Italian lifestyle to the world! With more than 350 chocolate recipes and 90 gelato flavors, they now operate 150+ boutiques in more than 70 countries!

“Our chocolate recipes are made with carefully selected and natural ingredients such as Piedmont Hazelnuts, Green Pistachio from Bronte, and Sicilian Almonds. Our gelato is freshly made every day and we now have vegan options as well! Visit us and enjoy chocolate & gelato at this location!”

Contact va.tysonscorner@venchi.com for store hours and address.

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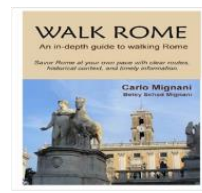
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”

www.walk-rome.com



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