



# La Bandiera

*The Banner*



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

**APRILE 2022  
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

*Welcome!*

*April showers bring May flowers.....and that's the theme of our next meeting on April 9th, Spring Fling. We will gather to celebrate Spring and all it has to offer. Eleanor Lillo will give a short presentation on the joys of gardening and getting our gardens, patios and yards ready for the season. We will have an interactive planting station and everyone will go home with their own custom made herb garden. Dinner will be a celebration of the best of the spring bounty. The exact menu to be emailed in the event reminder early next week. Please rsvp to me so we have an accurate count.*

*Congratulations to all our members that were recently sworn in to serve on the council. We appreciate your time and hard work for the lodge. Getting the lodge back on track after Covid is a high priority. Not to mention we have a lot of fun events and meetings planned.*

*Welcome to our new members, Gilber Misantoni, Vivian Mott and William Wiegard. We all look forward to getting to know them better.*

*Best wishes for a blessed and peaceful holy Easter.*

*See you on the 9<sup>th</sup>,  
All the best,*

*Dawn*

## *Member News.....*

*Benvenuti! to Gilber Misantoni, Vivian Mott and William Wiegard who have all just recently become members of the OSDIA Italian Heritage Lodge. Gilber attended our installation ceremony and luncheon and was introduced to us by Sonny Scafetta; Vivian and William found us through our website. Vivian and William have been attending some of our events recently and we are happy to welcome them as members.*

*Please maintain your prayers and good wishes for Francesco Falsinotti, Kevin Donaleski and John and Laura Asiello as they continue to recover from their health concerns.*

*If anyone would like to send get well cards to express their good wishes to our members, please email Colette so that she can provide addresses.*

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

**President:** Dawn Falsinotti  
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**Vice-President:** Charles Romano  
631-974-5040 crretired22@gmail.com  
**Imm. Past-President:** Colette Sciscilo  
703-795-2231 colette.sciscilo@gmail.com  
**Orator:** Joseph Scafetta, Jr.  
703-533-8064 joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com  
**Recording Secy.:** Marianne Hallahan  
703-968-8330 rumbarunt@aol.com  
**Financial Secy.:** Eleanor Lillo  
703-354-2454 delillo1@verizon.net  
**Treasurer:** Dennis Lillo  
703-354-2454 delillo1@verizon.net

**Lodge Trustees:**  
Carol Cassella  
Loretta D'Amico  
John Dovel  
Nancy Perrelli  
**Vacant**

**Publicity Chair:** **Vacant**

**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

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

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

## FUTURE LODGE EVENTS & OTHER IMPORANT INFORMATION

|          |                                |           |  |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| April 7  | GL & Lodge Presidents' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom meeting                                       |
| April 9  | Spring Fling*                  | 5:00 p.m. | K of C Hall  |
| April 13 | Lunch Bunch*                   | Noon      | Coyote Grill<br>10266 Main Street, Fairfax         |
| April 17 | <i>Easter Sunday</i>           |           |  |
| April 20 | Executive Council Meeting      | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom meeting                                       |
| April 26 | Happy Hour                     | 5:00 p.m. | P.J. Skidoo's<br>9908 Fairfax Boulevard<br>Fairfax |
| May 14   | Italian Bingo                  | 5:00 p.m. | K of C Hall  |
| June TBD | Bocce & Pot Luck               | TBD       | Home of the Lillo's                                |

\* RSVP to President Dawn (falsinotti@yahoo.com) for the Spring Fling and Lunch Bunch. There will be a cost of \$12.00 for the Spring Fling dinner and details will be sent out soon.



### APRIL ANNIVERSARY

Elisabetta & Armando Lazarte  
April 10



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Anthony Gelona    | April 1  |
| Susan Bonsiero    | April 3  |
| Carlo Mignani     | April 3  |
| Mary Kay Yates    | April 4  |
| Maria Buchert     | April 5  |
| James Cocco       | April 11 |
| Marianne Hallahan | April 15 |
| Teresa Scafetta   | April 15 |
| Flo Primeggia     | April 20 |
| Mike Maggio       | April 23 |
| Angelo Saladini   | April 23 |
| Fred Ingham       | April 29 |

# *INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON March 13, 2022*

*It was great to have so many members attending our Installation of Officers Ceremony, followed by a celebratory luncheon, to begin our new term for 2022-2023.*

*Our Orator, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., who was installed by Grand Lodge President Larry Brennan the previous day, did a wonderful job presiding over our ceremony with assistance from Joe La Marca.*

*We have missed the last two years of installation ceremonies and celebrations so this was particularly meaningful. We are grateful to those Officers and Trustees who served the past two years and congratulate the following members who are now assuming the mantle of responsibility for the growth of Italian Heritage Lodge.*

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>President:</i>              | <i>Dawn Falsinotti</i>   |
| <i>Vice President:</i>         | <i>Charles Romano</i>  |
| <i>Imm. Past President:</i>    | <i>Coletta Sciscilo</i>  |
| <i>Orator:</i>                 | <i>Joseph Scafetta, Jr.</i>  |
| <i>Recording Secretary:</i>    | <i>Marianne Hallahan</i>   |
| <i>Financial Secretary:</i>    | <i>Eleanor Lillo</i>   |
| <i>Treasurer:</i>              | <i>Dennis Lillo</i>  |
| <i>Trustees:</i>               | <i>Carol Cassella, Loretta D'Amico,<br/>John Dovel, Nancy Perrelli</i> |
| <i>Master of Ceremonies:</i>   | <i>Roy Schender</i>  |
| <i>Mistress of Ceremonies:</i> | <i>Sandy Schender</i>  |



**Front Row:** Marianne Hallahan, Dennis Lillo, Coletta Sciscilo,  
Carol Cassella, Charles Romano, Eleanor Lillo

**Back Row:** Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Dawn Falsinotti, Roy Schender,  
Nancy Perrelli, Sandy Schender, John Dovel

**Not pictured:** Loretta D'Amico

*It is always our goal to make each and every IHL event as successful, fun and meaningful as possible. It cannot be done without the help of so many members and the effort, talents and time that they volunteer for us.*

*Our thanks to Larry Brennan, Sonny, Joe and June, Jo Lowe, Dawn, Charlie, Eleanor and Dennis, Sandy and Roy, Nancy, Marianne, Carol, John, Loretta and Coletta.*

*Grazie  
Mille!*

**The IHL April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and event will be a “Spring Fling”. With her gardening expertise, Financial Secretary Eleanor Lillo will get our members ready for spring planting, flower growing and garden preparation. In Ellie’s own words she expresses her love of gardening and her dedication to the art of flower growing and landscaping.**

### **Eleanor Lillo**

“When talking with Laura Asiello I mentioned my interest in gardening and she invited me to attend a meeting that was being held in her home of the Green Thumb Garden Club of Ravensworth in Springfield. Over the past seven years I have moved up in the ranks and now am Vice President. Our meetings are held once monthly at a member’s home where sometimes we have a speaker or we may visit places such as the Meadowlark Botanical Garden for a Bonsai exhibit, P.A. Bowen Farmstead which is a diverse pasture-based & soy-free farm in Brandywine, MD, or Burnside Farms in Nokesville where there are over 30 varieties of sunflowers on more than 30 acres in the summer as well as more than 200 varieties of tulips and over 30 varieties of daffodils in the spring.

I am a member of FROGS (Friends of Green Spring Gardens) in Alexandria. If you have not visited Green Spring Gardens I highly recommend you do. It is a 31 acre public park, including a historic 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation house “Green Spring” where teas and lectures are held and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many workers and volunteers devote their time into the upkeep of the beautiful landscaping that is seen while walking through the gardens. One of the ways I contribute my time is ornament making for the Gardeners Holiday event. The proceeds from the ornament sales help towards purchasing items useful to the upkeep of Green Spring Gardens. We meet once weekly to sew the ornaments for the theme of the year. The picture shows the “Year of the Bird”.”





**Call for a Volunteer to Serve on the Board of the National Christopher Columbus Assn.**

*Contributed by Joseph Scafetta, Jr.*

The NCCA is an umbrella group of local Catholic, Patriotic, Italian-American, and Spanish-American organizations in the Washington area. Its sole purpose is to stage the annual ceremony in front of the Columbus statue at Union Station and to conduct a nationwide essay contest about Columbus for high school pupils. The NCCA and its predecessor organizations have done so since 1912. Besides the Italian Heritage Lodge, which became a member last year, other organizations belonging to the NCCA are local assemblies of the Knights of Columbus, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), National Italian-American Foundation (NIAF), Lido Civic Club, Abruzzo-Molise Heritage Society (AMHS), and Hispanic Council.

There is a 15-member board currently comprised of 11 men and two women from most of the above-mentioned organizations. At the present time, the NCCA Board has two vacancies. The NCCA President, James P. McCusker, has requested that I solicit a volunteer from the IHL, preferably but not necessarily a woman, to fill one of the vacancies because the IHL has no representative on the NCCA Board. (Although I was recently elected as the Orator of the IHL, I have been serving as the representative of the AMHS on the NCCA Board for two years.)

There are four NCCA Board meetings each year, in addition to the annual ceremony held in front of the statue on Columbus Day. The NCCA Board meetings are held in-person on the second floor in the Weichert Realty Office, 5034 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. Free parking is provided in a lot in the back of the building. The meeting room is opened starting at 7:30 p.m. when refreshments (subs, chips, wine, soda, water, etc.) are served. The meetings are called to order at 8 p.m. and generally last one to two hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18. A subsequent meeting is scheduled for September 21. NCCA Board members are expected to attend the annual ceremony which starts at 11 a.m. on Columbus Day in front of the statue. The annual meeting, which is open to all dues-paying members, in addition to the NCCA Board members, will be held on November 16.

If any IHL officer or member is interested in volunteering to serve on the NCCA Board, please call me at my home. My land line number is (703) 533-8064. When you come to the meeting on May 18, you will be appointed by the NCCA President as a Director. You will also be expected to stand for election for a three-year term at the annual meeting on November 16.

*Our genuine thanks to June and Roy for their hard work auctioneering for our annual White Elephant sale. We will report next issue on the total contributions which reflect the generosity of our members who purchased the donated items. Thanks to all who donated your items as it was a great benefit to IHL.*

*AD PAGE – Joe La Marca has assisted in updating our Ad Page, always found on the last page of each month's Newsletter. We are re-instating the Ad Page program with these updated costs: Member price - \$25/year; Non-member price - \$35/year. These prices will go into effect starting January 2022. If you would like to place an ad that will run each month, please send your business ad to Joe La Marca for inclusion. Our Financial Secretary will invoice you for the pro-rated yearly amount.*

**ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM OF NORTHERN VA**  
**Primavera 2022/Spring 2022**

Our classes are based on a COMMUNICATIVE approach to the Language. As grammar is definitively taught in our classes, *Speaking and Understanding of the Spoken & Written language is our 1<sup>st</sup> and main goal.*

Our classes are composed of 2 hours of instructions and a 10-minute break every 55-60 minutes.

Beginner classes: Will use the “**New Italian Espresso 1**” book for English speakers. This book set includes Textbook, workbook, audio visual DVD/CD **which will be used for about 2 Years . This is generally different for each class. It takes 5 to 7 sessions to finish this beginner course based on the speed of the class.** Teacher will purchase the books for the class. The cost for this 2-year packet is generally \$95.00 to \$105.00 based on shipping.

Beginners Reading Classes: Will use *Read and Think Italian*, and we will concentrate on the reading which have a recording. <https://www.amazon.com/Read-Think-Italian-Premium-Second/>

Pre-Intermediate review and conversation classes: Will be using *The Ultimate Italian Review and Practice*: USBN 978-1-260-45351-5. If you have the old edition no need to purchase the Second edition. The new edition has an online audio, but the book content is the same. This book is easily found online.

Intermediate: Will use the “**New Italian Espresso 2**” book for English speakers. This book set includes Textbook, workbook, audio visual DVD/CD **which will be used for about 2 Years . This is generally different for each class. It takes 5 to 7 sessions to finish this beginner course based on the speed of the class.** Teacher will purchase the books for the class. The cost for this 2-year packet is generally \$95.00 to \$105.00 based on shipping.

Intermediate/Advanced: Will use the Farinelli Guided Film Series. We will start with: *Pranzo di Ferragosto*. This book will be used for 1 session. Teacher will purchase the books for the class. The cost for book is generally \$45.00 + shipping TBD. Teacher will send the recorded section to watch in class each week prior to class.

Advanced: Will use the ALMA NUOVO ESPRESSO L5 (C1) with Audio CD and online video access. This book will be used for 4-5 sessions based on the speed of the class. Books can be easily found online on Amazon.

**Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding the schedule or the new session.**

**Abbracci,**

***Elisabetta Lazarte***

**Italian Language Program of Northern VA**

**703-887-1995**

***ElisabettaLazarte@gmail.com***

## REMEMBERING OUR ITALIAN GARDEN

Spring always brings back fond memories of times of great excitement for our family, particularly for Mom and Pop. It was the beginning of the planting season.

For days, the main topics were “how big a garden this year, what to plant and where to get the best seeds.” The early planting of onion, garlic and squash had begun in hopes that the “onion snow” had passed.

Many Italian families had gardens. It was a family thing. We had a small ‘orto,’ behind the house; Pop also had a Victory garden at work in one of the city parks. It was larger than the one we had at home and obviously needed more care. On weekends, the family hiked off to work the garden. Mom prepared a picnic basket filled with sandwiches of ‘prosciutto, capocollo, and formaggio,’ good crusty homemade bread, kool-aid, for the kids, and vino for Pop. What a fantastic view it was to look at the neighborhood and observe the beauty of the gardens in bloom. There were rows of red tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, string beans, leafy swiss chard, purple eggplants, zucchini and ‘cucuzza,’ squash with yellow flowers.

There also were lines of garlic and onion plants, and a variety of herbs, ‘rapini’ and ‘escarole.’ Depending on the size of their lots, some families even put up grape arbors, and a fig tree or two.

Italians loved the outdoors ‘al fresco,’ nurturing the earth to produce fresh, wholesome food for the family table. They took advantage of every bit of ground. Their gardens were the epitome of eco-friendly planting using water captured in rain barrels, home-made compost, and recycled seeds.

Pop’s stash included seeds from some of the healthiest of last fall’s plants and what he swapped with friends. He also had starter seeds that initially came from Italy.

To prepare for the season’s planting, Pop prepared a cold box made of lumber and a glass top, to help germinate the select seeds. When the seedlings were right, they made their way to the full garden.

Fresh and hearty vegetables were used daily at the table. Sliced tomatoes on crusty homemade bread, mozzarella with a few basil leaves created a tasty bruschetta. ‘Escarole’ with mini-meatballs made a hearty ‘minestrone’ soup. The yellow zucchini flowers dipped in an egg and flour batter, then fried, made a delicious delicacy. Green bell peppers, fried or stuffed with a mixture of ground meat and breadcrumbs were always a treat. At the end of the growing season, the tomatoes ended up in jars or made into a ‘conserva,’ a paste. Strings of long red peppers, and garlic, hung in the hot summer sun to dry.

A vegetable garden was an indispensable part of our life. It provided the fruit, vegetables, and herbs for the family.

Every plant grown by the Italian family was either eaten, jarred, dried, smoked, preserved, became a delicious sauce, or — last but not least — was pressed into wine.

The above article is taken from *La Nostra Voce*, Remembering Our Italian Garden, written by Tony Traficante, ISDA

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