

La Bandiera



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



**FEBBRAIO 2024
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Ciao Amici,

February is the month of love.... love for family, friends, animals, mankind, and all things Italian. It's also a busy month with an extra day, February 29th.

For our meeting we will gather and celebrate Carnevale di Venezia. A fun night is planned with Cicchetti and a dinner of typical Venetian cuisine. We'll explore the customs and majesty of Carnevale, and everyone will get to wear a mask. Don't forget Venice's favorite cocktail, the Peach Bellini.



Make sure you don't forget those you love on Valentine's and also Lent begins on the 14th. President's Day is on the 19th. A day to celebrate so many incredible visionaries that brought us to this point.

If you haven't sent in your 2024 dues, a gentle reminder, please do so.

So much going on... Please join us at Carnevale di Venezia. I look forward to seeing you then.

Warmly, Dawn

Benvenuti!

*Welcome to our newest member who recently joined the
Italian Heritage Lodge:*

Stephen Ulissi

*We all look forward to meeting you Stefano and getting to know you over
our various monthly events and are happy to have you as part of our
Italian American family.*

**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2023-2024 OFFICERS**

President:
703-362-1724
Vice-President:

Dawn Falsinotti
falsinotti@yahoo.com

Lodge Trustees:
Carol Cassella
James Cocco
John Dovel
Vivian Mott
Nancy Perrelli

Imm. Past-President: **Coletta 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

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

Guard: **Michael Gering**

Education Chair: **Elisabetta Lazarte**
Elisabettalazarte@gmail.com

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

Webmasters: **Joe La Marca**
Joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org

Publicity Chair: **Joseph Scafetta, Jr.**
joseph.scafetta.jr.@gmail.com

Lodge Members Serving on the Grand Council of Virginia:

Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Former State President
Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee
Marianne Hallahan, Arbitration Committee

IL CALENDARIO

February 6	Lunch Bunch	Noon	Chuy's 11219 Lee Highway, Fairfax
February 13	Executive Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.	The Esposito's
February 17	Carnevale di Venezia*	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
February 19	President's Day		
February 22	Happy Hour	5:00 p.m.	Guapo's 3052 Gate House Plaza Falls Church
February 24	Cena e conversazione**	6:00 p.m.	TBD
March 17	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
March 24	Installation of Officers Ceremony & Luncheon	Noon	K of C Hall
April (TBD)	Guest Speaker	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
May (TBD)	Italian Bingo	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
June (TBD)	Bocce at the Lillo's	Noon	Home of Dennis & Ellie Lillo

On **Saturday, February 17th** we will hold "Carnevale di Venezia" which celebrates the annual festival held in Venice, Italy and is famous throughout the world for its elaborate costumes and masks. Our festival meal will cost \$15 per member and will feature Venetian cuisine and Peach Bellini.

Carnevale in Italia

In the north and the south, in February, every city in Italy is invaded by masks, confetti, lights and colors that create a unique party atmosphere. The oldest carnival of Italy takes place, since 1500, in Foiano della Chiana in Toscana. In the same region, it should be remembered the *Viareggio* carnival is famous for the parade of floats with papier mâché statues that represent people in history, fantasy and above all politics.

But surely the most famous event is the *carnevale di Venezia*, with its elegant masks and costumes that crowd every corner of the city - bridges, canals, and squares of Venice turning the city into a giant theatre stage to watch jugglers, acrobats, and musicians.

The words *carne* (meat) and *levare* (to lift) marks the time before Lent when Christians would forgo the consumption of meat; it was a time of feast and overindulgence before the fast.

* RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti (falsinotti@yahoo.com)

** RSVP to Dennis Ferrara (dennisferrara@hey.com)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mike Gering	February 2
Roy Schender	February 12
Brian Givins	February 26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

Laura & John Asiello
February 17



Congratulations to Kerri and John Farrell on the birth of their third child, Juliette Rose. Juliette joins her brothers Jack (5) and Mitch (2), who have welcomed her with open hearts and arms.



IHL Annual Dues

Last January, IHL instituted the collection of lodge dues on a calendar year basis.

In December, each member received a “Dues Notice” by email from Eleanor Lillo, IHL Financial Secretary. Membership renewal costs will remain the same and are \$35.00 for a single person and \$65.00 for a married couple. The deadline for renewing your membership was December 31, 2023.

*We appreciate those members who attended the **Festa di Natale** on December 2nd and submitted their yearly dues then. Please read Ellie’s instructions in her email for payment amount and remittance.*

IHL La Bandiera Advertisement Page

The 2024 New Year 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 her at delillo1@verizon.net).

Italian Heritage Lodge Language Group “Cena e Conversazione”

“Thanks to everyone who contributed to and participated in January’s dinner. We ate well and conversed in Italian, admittedly sometimes mixed with English, throughout the evening. We welcomed two newcomers, Stefano e Marianna, whom we hope to see return. I would have liked to include some photos here; but, unfortunately, I’m bad at remembering to snap them. Had I remembered, there would be scenes of heaping platters of Francesca’s elegant antipasti, Pietro’s famous pasta con pesto, Dennis’s colorful pollo alla romana, June L’s crispy insalata followed by June F’s decadent dolce. (When have you been in a room with two Junes at the same time?) All that food was accompanied by Stefano’s seemingly, but maybe not, homemade bread and Marianna’s curated selection of Italian wines. There then would be the photo of the nine of us at the table telling each other our stories, with unexpected interjections of Italian poetry. But, alas, there are no photos. Perhaps we should establish an official position of photographer for our cene.” – Dennis Ferrara

The IHL Language Group customarily meets monthly at a member’s home for “cena e conversazione”, so at times participation might be limited, but that format might change with additional interest. Any lodge members who wish to learn and practice Italian with others in the lodge should contact Dennis Ferrara at dennisferrara@hey.com.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 TERM

According to our Bylaws, the IHL Nominating Committee was elected at our meeting on November 18, 2023. The Nominating Committee consisted of Chairwoman Teresa Talierco Scafetta, John Asiello, Laura Asiello, Sharon Strauchs, and Joey Scafetta, III, whose duty it was to solicit members who may be considering filling open council seats. The process began in November and carries through February, with installation of new officers and trustees in March 2024.

At the December 2, 2023 meeting, Teresa Talierco Scafetta, as the Chairwoman of the Nominating Committee, reported the nominations agreed upon by a majority of the Committee.

There were two vacancies: Vice President and Trustee. According to our bylaws at Article VI, Section 2, which states in part: "To be elected Vice President, ... a candidate must have been a member of the lodge at least one year. Candidates for all other elected officers must have been members of the lodge for at least six months. The provisions of this section shall not apply where eligible and willing candidates are not available."

At the membership meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024, further nominations were made from the floor to fill out the slate of officers. The nominees for all positions are:

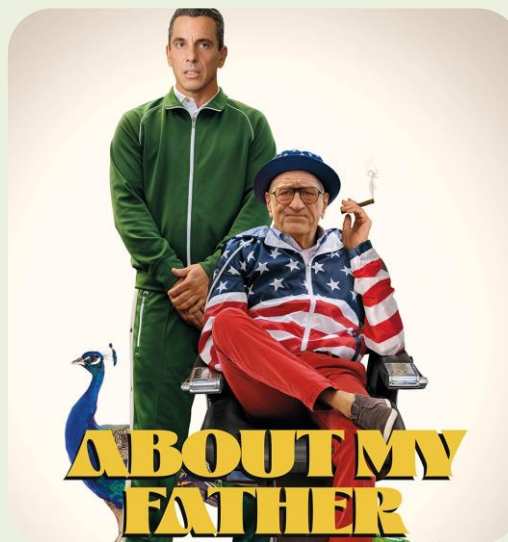
*President: Dawn Falsinotti
Vice President: James Cocco
Immediate Past President: Nicoletta Sciscilo (automatic)
Orator: Joseph Scafetta Jr.
Recording Secretary: Marianne Hallahan
Financial Secretary: Eleanor Lillo
Treasurer: Dennis Lillo
Trustees, in order of seniority:
 John Dovel
 Nancy Perrelli
 Vivian Mott
 Michael Gering
 Donna Stoll
Master of Ceremonies: Roy Schender
Mistress of Ceremonies: Sandy Schender
Guard: Maria Carolla*

According to our bylaws, Article VI, Section 1 states: "The officers/members shall be elected in February for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are installed. The officers shall assume the duties of their office upon installation during the month of March."

Article VI, Section 3, Subsection (c) states: "At the February meeting, no additional nominations shall be permitted except in the case of death or withdrawal of previously nominated candidates."

Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding nominations, the voting process, and the installation ceremony details. Grazie Sonny for keeping our members informed during our nomination process.

JANUARY AFTERNOON MOVIE ...



Our January meeting and gathering featured the movie "About My Father" starring Robert De Niro and Sebastian Maniscalco.



IHL members enjoying the Matinee and also spending time meeting and getting to know our new members.

AND WINTER LUNCHEON

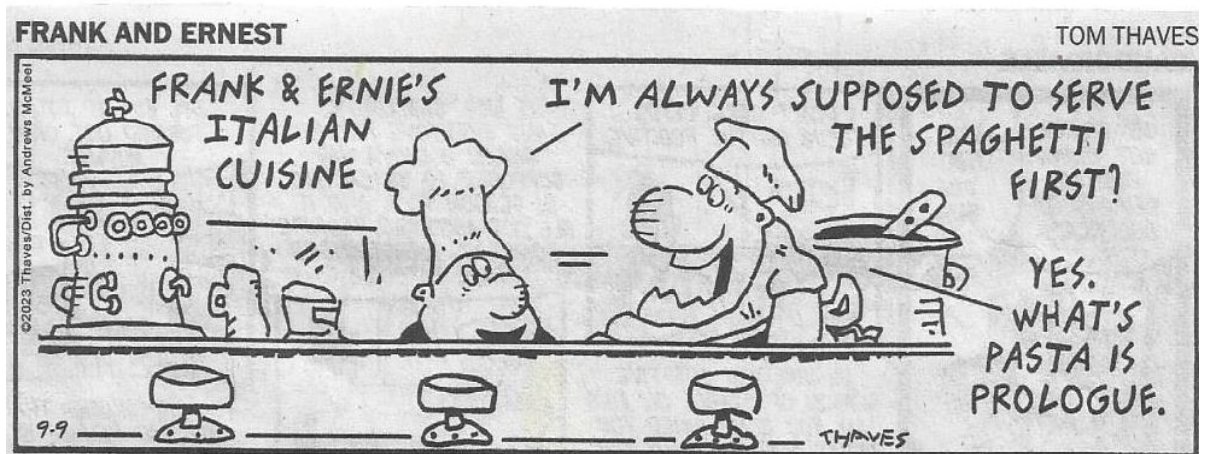


Our winter luncheon consisted of delicious Lentil Soup and Lasagna Soup, both made by our hard-working kitchen ladies, Dawn, Marianne and Donna; Italian subs and Paninis too! (made by Colette and Sandy)



(Photographs taken and submitted by John Dovel and Eleanor Lillo)

Sonny's Funnies



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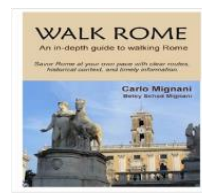
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”

www.walk-rome.com



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