



# La Bandiera

*The Banner*



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

**GENNAIO 2022  
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

## ***Felice Anno Nuovo***

*Happy New Year! I'm wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2022. May the lord bless you all, more than you can ask or imagine.*

*Since we reopened the lodge in May we've had a lot of fun events and good times. Covid has put a big damper on lodge activities and continues to do so. When will life return back to normal? We're living in some very difficult times.*

*Unfortunately we're going to have to postpone the White Elephant until maybe March. The White Elephant is always so much fun and we want it well attended. Right now too many people have been exposed to the various strains of Covid and are quarantined. We will continue with activities with the utmost of caution.*

*In January lodge dues invoices and newsletter ad invoices will go out via email. We appreciate each and every one of our members. So many of you have stayed away because of Covid and we miss you and look forward to seeing you soon. We've added several terrific new members to our roster and we can't wait for you to meet and get to know them.*

*We have a lot of fun things planned; now if we can just get rid of Covid.....*

*In the meantime, stay healthy. See you soon.*

*Dawn*

### **BENVENUTI!**

***IHL welcomes our new members –  
Michael & Angela Antonelli, Kevin Donaleski,  
Le Ann Strang and Mary Kay Yates  
We are excited to have you all as part of our IHL  
family and look forward to seeing you at future events.***

**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517  
2021-2022 OFFICERS**

**President:**

**703-362-1724**

**Dawn Falsinotti**

**falsinotti@yahoo.com**

**Vice-President:**

**Francesco Falsinotti**

**falsinotti@yahoo.com**

**Imm. Past-President:**

**703-795-2231**

**Colette Sciscilo**

**colette.sciscilo@gmail.com**

**Orator:**

**703-323-8294**

**Fred Michaelangelo**

**amichaelangelo@msn.com**

**Recording Secy:**

**703-354-2454**

**Eleanor Lillo**

**delillo1@verizon.net**

**Financial Secy:**

**703-942-6323**

**Laura Strong**

**strong104@live.com**

**Treasurer:**

**703-354-2454**

**Dennis Lillo**

**delillo1@verizon.net**

**Publicity Chair:**

**Joe La Marca**

**Joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org**

**(This position will be open in March 2022)**

**Guard:**

**Vacant**

**Education Chair:**

**Elisabetta Lazarte**

**Elisabettalazarte@gmail.com**

**Membership Chair:**

**Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs**

**sharon@tlc-nv.com**

**Webmaster:**

**Joe La Marca**

**Master of Ceremonies: Roy Schender**

**Mistress of Ceremonies: Vacant**

**Lodge Trustees:**

**Loretta D'Amico**

**John Dovel**

**Marianne Hallahan**

**Nancy Perrelli**

**Vacant**

**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**

**January 1, 2022**

***Buon Anno – Happy New Year***

<b>January 1</b>	<b>2022 Membership Dues and Ad Invoices will go out in January</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<b>OSDIA <i>National Leadership Grant</i> deadline – see info in Newsletter</b>
<b>March TBD</b>	<b>White Elephant</b>
<b>March TBD</b>	<b>Installation of Officers Ceremony and Dinner</b>

***For now, we are postponing the “White Elephant” previously scheduled for Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to reschedule for a Saturday afternoon in March. Our January monthly Lunch Bunch and Happy Hour will most likely be scheduled towards the end of this month. Watch for details by email of dates, times and locations for these once we see how the Covid health issues progress.***



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Carmine Primeggia	January 2
Mary Pellegrino	January 4
Art Moscatello	January 4
Dawn Falsinotti	January 5
Laura Strong	January 7
Francesca Mazarella	January 14
Michael DeMarco	January 17
Pam Pasquariello	January 21
Laurie Gwaltney	January 22
Fred Michaelangelo	January 22
Vincent Trobbiani	January 27
Maria Ingham	January 28

### ***The Election of Lodge Officers for 2022-2023***

***The Lodge will elect officers early next year for the 2022-2023 term. The following timetable is set out in the Lodge's By-Laws for the election of officers:***

***November, 2021 – The President will appoint three members to serve on the Nominating Committee. They are: Dennis Lillo, Eleanor Lillo and Loretta D'Amico.***

***December, 2021 – The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Dennis Lillo, shall report the nominations from the Committee.***

***(No nominations can be made from the floor at this meeting.)***

***January, 2022 – The January Newsletter will carry the results of the Nominating Committee.***

***Members may nominate from the floor at the January lodge meeting.***

***February, 2022 – Elections are held – no more nominations are permitted except in the case of withdraw.***

***March, 2022 – The newly elected officers are installed.***

***Any lodge members interested in serving on the Italian Heritage Lodge council for this period please notify a member of the Nominating Committee of your desire to serve on the council for the 2022-2023 term .***

***The following positions are currently in need of being filled on the IHL Board.  
These positions are voluntary for a one-year term.***

***Vice President  
Financial Secretary  
Recording Secretary\*  
Orator  
Guard  
Trustee (1 position)***

***\*Eleanor Lillo, current Recording Secretary, is willing to move into the Financial Secretary position if her position can be filled in the new term.***

***Sandy Schender has been nominated for the current open position of "Mistress of Ceremonies."***

***Please contact Dennis or Eleanor Lillo or Loretta D'Amico should you be interested in any of these positions. Descriptions of duties are listed in the By-laws on the IHL Website.***

***If you have been a member in good standing (for at least one year), we hope you will consider volunteering for any of these positions for the new term, March 2022 – March 2023. Our lodge cannot function with only a few members assisting and attending, even behind the scenes. Everyone's ideas, talents, suggestions, teamwork, and muscle are needed for IHL to be a success. We have braved Covid this past year and come out on top with many new members joining, thankfully. We are grateful for all of the assistance we have received to put forward events that may have been a bit scaled down, temporarily, but fun nonetheless.***



## ***IHL 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION***



**Thank you Dennis and Eleanor for your commitment to this Christmastime fundraiser to assist the young patients at the Hospital For Sick Children in Washington, DC. The value of the donated gifts from our members was close to \$500. Thank you to our members for your generosity during this season of blessings.**

**Eleanor and Dennis Lillo delivering gifts donated by IHL members to the Hospital For Sick Children in Washington, DC just in time for Christmas.**

*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.*

### ***OSDIA "NATIONAL LEADERSHP GRANTS"***

*Through the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF), and hundreds of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) has awarded nearly \$61 million in scholarships to date. In past years, the SIF has offered 10 to 15 merit-based scholarships (National Leadership Grants), ranging from \$4,000 to \$25,000, in a nationwide competition. Last year, students received a total of \$85,000 in merit-based scholarships!*

#### ***General Information***

***General Eligibility:*** *U.S. citizens of Italian descent (at least one Italian or Italian-American grandparent) enrolled in a four year undergraduate program or a graduate program at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2022 term. Previous SIF scholarship winners are not eligible. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific scholarships.*

***General Requirements:*** *Please see each scholarship description for its specific requirements. The following general requirements apply to all scholarships (except where noted):*

- Application Form: Must be submitted along with requirements for each scholarship.*
- Transcripts: For each scholarship, transcripts provided must be through the December 2021 term. All transcripts must be stamped by the institution.*
- Processing Fee: A \$35 non-refundable processing fee is required with each scholarship application. The fee includes a one-year At-Large Membership to OSDIA, with all At-Large Membership benefits.*

***Deadline:*** *The deadline for all scholarships (unless otherwise noted) is February 28, 2022. All requirements for a given scholarship must be met or the application will not be considered. All scholarship materials must be submitted online, and completed applications must be submitted by February 28, 2022. No exceptions will be made. The SIF takes no responsibility for incomplete or late applications.*

***Process:*** *Applications are screened by education professionals. Final selection is made by OSDIA's National Scholarship, Education and Culture Committee. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 1, 2022. Monetary awards are presented directly to the students' academic institutions in accordance with eligibility requirements.*

Google [nationaloffice@osia.org](mailto:nationaloffice@osia.org) to apply and for further information on these leadership grants.

## *The Feast of the Epiphany and the Flight of La Befana*

Drive down any neighborhood in the U.S. a few days after Christmas and you're likely to see holiday trees at the curb, ready to be picked up by the local trash men. I've seen my share with tinsel or fake snow still on them. For many, Dec. 26 is the day to un-decorate, but actually, "Little Christmas" is just getting started. Having been raised in Italy, I myself — like many of you — celebrate the blessed season until Jan. 6.

Jan. 6, which is exactly 12 days after Christmas, is when Italians and all Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the real last day of the Christmas season. If we want to get technical, the Christmas season actually starts on Christmas Day, and lasts until the Epiphany. The days prior to Christmas are part of Advent.

While Italians conjure up images of a friendly witch on a broom delivering small gifts to well-behaved children; the Epiphany, of course, has a much deeper, religious meaning.

According to the Gregorian calendar, Jan. 6 marks the day the Three Wise Men, also known as the *Magi*, find the newly born baby Jesus after a days-long, starlit search.

The Epiphany is also believed to be Jesus's Baptism day, which occurred some 30 years after his birth. The word itself is of Greek origin and means "*manifestation*" or "*to show or display*" to an audience.

Per the Catholic Church, the Epiphany rejoices the adoration of Jesus by the visiting Wise Men.

So where and how does the *Befana*, the friendly witch delivering goodies to all well-behaved Italian children, actually come into play?

Christian folklore tells us that the Three Wise Men approached a friendly woman and asked her to help them find Jesus. She did not know where he was, but since they were in for a long journey, she welcomed them in for the night. As she kept a very clean home, always sweeping and tidying up, she was more than able to accommodate the unexpected guests.

The next day, they continued on and invited the kind woman to join them in their search for the newly born King. She turned them down, saying far too much housework needed to be done.

Soon after, she had a change of heart and set out to catch up with the Magi and Jesus. She was unable to find them, so to this day she goes out on her broom, looking for the little baby. She enters every home with the hope of laying her eyes upon him, but when she doesn't, she leaves behind small toys or candy for the children she does find.

Jan. 6 really is the end of the Christmas season in Italy. The feast day of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) opens the Christmas season, and the Feast of the Epiphany closes it, much to the dismay of children all over, who have received batches of presents from *Babbo Natale*, and *La Befana*.

This article first appeared in *La Nostra Voce*, ISDA's monthly newspaper that chronicles Italian American history, culture and traditions.

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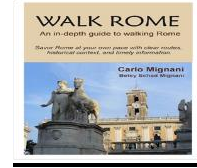
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