

# ***La Bandiera***



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



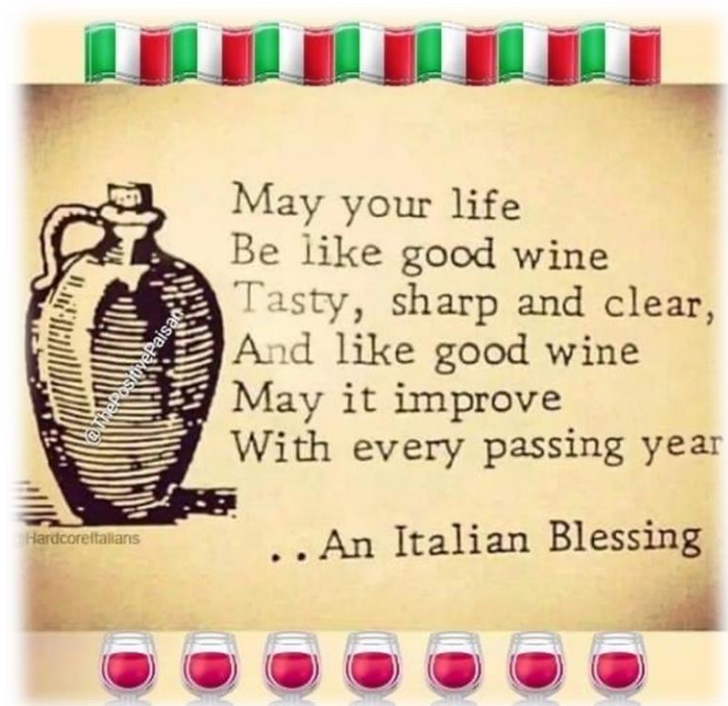
**GENNAIO 2024  
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

*Happy New Year everyone! Buon Anno!,*

*As we close 2023, we have much to reflect on. It was a stellar year for IHL with many fun, interesting and educational events. With our continued growth 2024 will be even better.*

*The Christmas party was a fun filled night and it was great to see so many of you there. Francesco Isgro', President, The Italian American Museum, gave an insightful and interesting presentation on Casa Italiana and the Italian-American Museum. The food was plentiful, the raffle gifts were a hit and Dirty Santa was enjoyed by all. My wish was that everyone has a joyous and healthy holiday season. In January we will slow down a bit and have an afternoon movie and lunch, "About My Father", starring Sebastian Maniscalco and Robert De Niro. We'll have a soup and sandwich lunch, featuring Lentil and Lasagna soups and a variety of Italian style sandwiches. Please join us as we relax and welcome in the new year together.*

*Blessings for the new year, Dawn*



**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**  
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**Recording Secy.:** **Marianne Hallahan**  
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**Financial Secy.:** **Eleanor Lillo**  
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**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**  
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**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



January 1, 2024

*Felice Anno Nuovo*

January 16	Lunch Bunch	Noon	Chuy's 11219 Lee Highway Fairfax
January 17	Executive Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.	The Esposito's
January 21*	<u>Sunday</u> Afternoon Movie Matinee Soup & Sandwich Lunch	Noon-3:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
January 27**	Cena e conversazione	6:00 p.m.	Home of June & Dennis Ferrara
February (TBD)	Venetian Carnivale	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
March 17	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
March (TBD)	Installation of Officers Ceremony & Dinner	(TBD)	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

January Lodge Meeting – From noon to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, please join IHL members and guests for an “Afternoon Movie Matinee and Soup & Sandwiches Lunch”. The featured movie will be “About My Father” starring Robert De Niro and Sebastian Maniscalco. Lunch will feature some of our favorite heart-warming winter soups and sandwiches. The cost for the movie and lunch will be \$10.00 per person.

The meeting will proceed with the lodge nominations for the 2024-2025 term of Officers and Trustees.

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

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



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Carmine Primeggia	January 2
Arthur Moscatello	January 4
Dawn Falsinotti	January 5
Maria Carolla	January 7
Pam Pasquariello	January 21
Laurie Gwaltney	January 22
Fred Michaelangelo	January 22
Vincent Trobbiani	January 27
Maria Ingham	January 28

### ***ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 TERM***

***According to our Bylaws, the IHL Nominating Committee was elected at our meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Nominating Committee consists of Chairwoman Teresa Talierco Scafetta, John Asiello, Laura Asiello, Sharon Strauchs, and Joey Scafetta, III, whose duty it is to solicit members who may be considering filling open council seats. The process begins in November and carries through February, with installation of new officers and trustees in March 2024. Please start thinking about whether you would like to be considered, to use your talents, skills, creativity and contribute in other ways to the success of our lodge.***

***At the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Teresa Talierco Scafetta, as the Chairwoman of the Nominating Committee, reported the nominations agreed upon by a majority of the Committee.***

***There is currently one vacancy: Vice President. 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."***

***Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding nominations, the voting process, and the installation ceremony details.***

## ***Benvenuti!***

*Welcome to our new members who have recently joined the Italian Heritage Lodge:*

*Gioia & Dennis Egan  
Robert Sherretta  
Christopher Stacy*

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

### ***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 is December 31, 2023. We appreciate those members who attended the **Festa di Natale** on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:delillo1@verizon.net)).*

### ***Italian Heritage Lodge Language Group “Cena e Conversazione”***

*The IHL language group met December 9th at the home of Gerard and Nannette Croce and enjoyed a wonderful potluck Italian meal (with Italian wine, of course). Conversation flowed in both Italian and English according to each person’s ability. After dinner most participants presented a topic of interest, often with prepared notes, to the group. Moreover, Peter Ognibene surprised and delighted the group by singing Dolce Sentire. Unfortunately, everyone was too immersed to take photographs or record any of the conversations.*

*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](mailto:dennisferrara@hey.com).*





## HARVEST DONATIONS FOR HOUSE OF MERCY FOOD PANTRY

*Immediate Past President Coletta Sciscilo visited the House of Mercy Food Pantry to drop off the food that was generously donated by our IHL members. This year, IHL contributed 100 pounds of food to the Manassas food pantry to be distributed to the local community during the holiday season. The food pantry volunteers were extremely pleased that IHL designated their pantry again this year and are incredibly grateful for our generosity.*



## *IHL delivery of Christmas gifts to the Hospital for Sick Children, Washington, D.C.*

*This is a long tradition of the Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax and one that our members have always taken to heart and have been generous to a fault.*



*“Thanks to the generosity of our IHL members we were able to donate \$690.00 worth of toys to the Hospital for Sick Children. Each year when we bring the toys, the staff cannot thank us enough for thinking of the children.”*

*Ellie & Dennis Lillo*



# DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER



*Our Festa di Natale was well attended, we greeted new members, enjoyed our distinguished guest speaker, singing, dinner, Santa gift swaps, festive decorations, raffles, and more!*



*IHL Member Maria Carolla, and her sister, Ann, serenaded our members and guests with their lovely operatic voices.*



# DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER



*Our Guest Speaker, Francesco Isgro', President of the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center, gave a Power Point presentation and a talk of a little more than an hour about the Italian-American Museum, in Washington, D.C. to our members and guests on Saturday evening, December 2, 2023 at the Knights of Columbus Hall behind St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax. Free copies of the latest issues of Voce Italiana monthly newspaper, of which he is the editor, were made available to members. An Italian Christmas dinner was served buffet style afterwards. The evening was concluded with the singing of Christmas Carols by the Carolla sisters. – Joseph Scafetta, Jr.*



*(Photographs taken and contributed by Eleanor Lillo)*



# Sonny's Funnies

LOOSE PARTS

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And for all our dog  
lovers.....

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**Instagram:** [sonsofitaly\\_ihl2517](https://www.instagram.com/sonsofitaly_ihl2517)

# *Italian Lentil Soup The Mediterranean Dish*

Suzy Karadsheh

Hearty, healthy, veggie-packed and delicious, this vegetarian Italian lentil soup recipe is the perfect way to welcome the New Year and bring a little good luck with it!

Lentils are a traditional part of an Italian New Year celebration. Their coin-like shape expanding as they cook is said to bring good fortune. But this hearty, healthy, veggie-packed lentil soup is useful well beyond your end-of-year menu! Nourishing and comforting in all the best ways, this flavorful recipe is easy to make, comes together in 40-ish minutes, and freezes well. Good fortune indeed!

This is a highly “memorizable” recipe: just sauté the vegetables, add the tomatoes, broth and lentils, and simmer until tender. Just three simple steps!

**Sauté the aromatics.** In a large Dutch oven, heat about 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium-high heat. Add 1 chopped onion, 4 minced garlic cloves, 2 chopped carrots, and 1 chopped celery rib. Season with a big pinch of salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally until the veggies are fragrant and somewhat tender, about 5 minutes.

**Simmer.** Add a (28-ounce) can of whole tomatoes and lightly crush with a potato masher or the back of a fork. Stir in 5 cup of vegetable broth, 1 bay leaf, 1 tablespoon [Italian seasoning](#), ½ to 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, and 1 cup of brown or green lentils. Season with another pinch of kosher salt and black pepper. Bring the soup to a boil, then lower the heat and partly cover the Dutch oven, leaving a little opening. Simmer for about 20 to 30 minutes or until the lentils are very tender and cooked through, but still intact.

**Finish and serve.** Turn off the heat and stir in 2 cups baby spinach, 1 cup chopped parsley, and a splash of red wine vinegar. Taste and season with more vinegar, salt, and pepper to your liking. Transfer to serving bowls and finish with a drizzle of olive oil and grated Parmesan cheese, if using.



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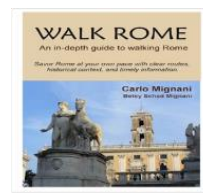
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