

La Bandiera



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



NOVEMBRE 2023
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA

Dear amici,

At this month's meeting we will remember all those Veterans who have served our nation courageously and with honor. We can never thank them enough for their service and all they have sacrificed for us to enjoy the freedom and lives we live in this great country. I'm looking forward to our guest speaker, Mr. Ronald Capalaces. He will discuss growing up during WWII and will be a front row perspective on this most horrific time of history and I'm sure very interesting. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, let's not forget those that are not as fortunate as we are.

On November 21st, I'm going to lead a field trip to A. Litteri, a 100-year-old Italian grocery store in Washington, DC. Litteri's has an extensive wine selection and every Italian specialty item you would want at a grocery store price. Not to mention, pasta, sauces, meats and cheeses, etc. that you can't generally find in this area. I'm sure by the time we go, there will also be many Italian Christmas items. Those interested, we will carpool into the district, with a meeting place determined later. Those interested please contact me at Falsinotti@yahoo.com.

I hope to see all of you at our Veteran's Day Presentation and Dinner. Please don't forget we are collecting food items for the House of Mercy. Please bring your contribution to the meeting.

*All the best,
Dawn*

Benvenuti!

IHL welcomed two new members in October:

Ray and Donna Stoll of Fairfax

Ray and Donna, 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.

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

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Publicity Chair:

Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

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Lodge Members Serving on the Grand Council of Virginia:

Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Former State President

Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee

Marianne Hallahan, Arbitration Committee

Charles Romano, Arbitration Committee

IL CALENDARIO

November 8	Lunch Bunch	Noon	Mamma Lucia 9650 Main Street, #40 Fairfax
November 11	<i>Veteran's Day</i>		
November 14	Executive Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.	The Esposito's
November 16	Happy Hour	500 p.m.	Taco Rocks 2930 Chain Bridge Rd. #102, Oakton
November 18	Holiday Dinner* with Guest Speaker Ronald G. Capalaces	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
November 18	House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive		
November 21	Italian Field Trip*		A. Litteri's Washington, D.C.
November 23	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>		
December 2	<i>Festa di Natale</i> Holiday Dinner* with Guest Speaker Francesco Isgro	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
December 2	Cena e conversazione**	6:00 p.m.	TBD
December 25	<i>Buon Natale</i>		



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

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Judith Palmiotto	November 6
Emelia Demeo	November 12
Ken Linder	November 18

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Maureen & Charlie Romano

November 21

Eleanor & Dennis Lillo

November 26



According to our Bylaws, the IHL Nominating Committee will be elected at our meeting on November 18. This Nominating Committee will 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. Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding nominations, voting process and the installation ceremony details.

IHL Annual Dues

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

In early December, each member will be receiving a “Dues Notice” by email from Eleanor Lillo, IHL Financial Secretary.

*We encourage those who will be attending the **Festa di Natale** to bring your payment to this event on December 2nd. Otherwise, please read Ellie’s instructions when you receive her email for payment amount and remittance.*



***National Columbus Day Ceremony
October 9, 2023***

***Michael Gering, Guard, Italian
Heritage Lodge, holds a wreath
which was presented at the
Columbus Day ceremony in front of
Union Station in Washington, D.C.***

***Thank you, Mike, for representing
IHL!***



HARVEST DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

In the months of October and November (at our monthly meetings) we will be asking for food donations to assist the “House of Mercy” Food Pantry in Manassas. Baskets were set out on October 21st so that donations could be collected for this local food pantry, and we will again collect food donations on Saturday, November 18th. We have done this in the past as we came close to the Thanksgiving season and our members have shown much generosity.

Please bring any items that are packaged, canned, or boxed such as soups, rice, pasta, peanut butter & jelly, cereals, etc. No fresh foods or jars, please!

If you missed the opportunity in October, we will be collecting again on November 18th, just in time for “Thanks-giving.” As always, IHL is grateful for the opportunity to once again assist our community through its members as a fraternal organization.

Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

***Join IHL for our
November Lodge Dinner
With Guest Speaker
Saturday, November 18, 2023
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Hall
(behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church)
3700 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax***

***Our Guest Speaker will be
Ronald G. Capalaces, author of
“When All the Men Were Gone”, a memoir of his boyhood
growing up during World War II.***

***The event cost is \$15.00 and will also feature a
delicious Italian dinner.
5:00 - 6:00 - Aperitivo Hour
6:00 - 6:15 - Lodge Meeting and Announcements
6:15 - 7:00 - Ronald Capalaces Presentation
7:15 - Dinner is served***



RSVP to Dawn at falsinotti@yahoo.com

Join IHL as we honor our Veterans!
Saturday, November 18, 2023

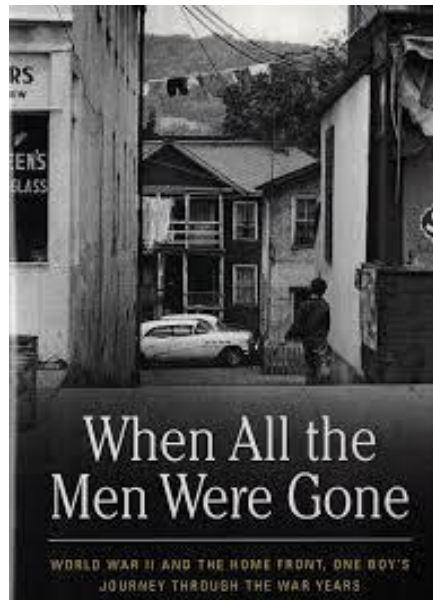
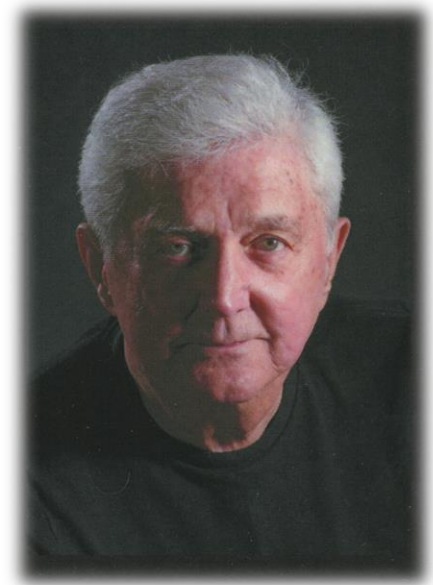
Ronald G. Capalaces

For our November/Veteran's Day evening on Saturday, November 18, 2023, the guest speaker will be Ronald G. Capalaces who is the author of "When All the Men Were Gone," a memoir of his boyhood growing up during World War II.

Ron's career was producing television and film productions for clients. After he retired in 2000, Ron and his wife moved to Irvington, Virginia. They now reside in McLean, Virginia.

Ron was born in Binghamton, New York. During World War II, Ron's father was a U.S. army soldier fighting in North Africa. His father was killed in combat there in 1943, when Ron was ten years old. After graduating from the local high school, Ron attended Harper College in Binghamton, now a campus of the State University of New York (SUNY). He later married Marie with whom he has five daughters.

Ron will speak for about a half hour about his boyhood. A question-and-answer period will follow. Copies of Ron's book will be available for sale to interested members for \$26 each. Ron will autograph your copy upon request, at no extra charge. An Italian dinner will be served after Ron's talk.



This page contributed by Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

Francesco Isgro'
Guest Speaker for the IHL Festa di Natale
December 2, 2023



Francesco Isgro' was born in Sicily and immigrated with his family to the United States when he was a teenager. After finishing high school and college in New York, he joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Central Africa where he put his knowledge of French to good use. He moved to Washington in 1978 and graduated from the Antioch School of Law, now the David C. Clark School of Law in the District of Columbia. After he was admitted to the D.C. bar, he earned a Master of Laws degree in International Law from Georgetown University and spent his entire career as an immigration attorney in various roles with the U.S. Department of Justice. While working for the government, he also taught immigration law for a decade at Georgetown University Law Center and another decade plus at his alma mater.

After retirement, he became the president of the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center and was a co-founder of the Italian-American Museum, both in Washington, D.C. He is also the editor of the Voce Italiana monthly newspaper. Francesco is a member of the Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society and the Lido Civic Club where he is past president. In 2019, he was bestowed the title of Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy) by the Italian government for his promotion of Italian culture and friendly relations between the United States and Italy.

He and his wife Anna have two daughters and live in McLean. Francesco will speak to us at our Christmas party on **December 2** about the Italian-American Museum and Voce Italiana.

*Let's come out and give a warm welcome to our guest speaker,
Francesco Isgro'!*

Cena e Conversazione

Our September 16th dinner and Italian conversation, hosted by Nancy and Kal Maiwand, was a great success. Thanks to everyone for their contributions and to the perfect weather that allowed us to dine *al fresco*. The group dined on antipasto, baked ziti, pesto ravioli, braciole, insalata, dessert and wine, with the Italian conversation lesson prepared by Dennis Ferrara.

Here's a photo of the IHL Language Group meeting at Ken and Carol Ann Linder's home on October 28. After enjoying potluck Italian food and beverages, the eager Italian language learners spoke or read in Italian and translated their stories of recent individual and family activities and adventures.



Autumn Harvest Dinner with Guest Speaker Stefano Scafetta Saturday, October 21, 2023

Stefano Scafetta, retired senior conservator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM), was the guest speaker before members of the Italian Heritage Lodge in the Knights of Columbus Hall behind St. Leo's Church in Fairfax on Saturday evening, October 21, 2023. Mr. Scafetta started his Power Point presentation by showing a 17-minute documentary about the 1966 flood in Florence, Italy, where he was studying art history at the time. As a result of the damage which he witnessed, he decided to switch his studies to art conservation. During his 34-year career working at the SAAM, he conserved mostly 19th-century American paintings.

He showed photographs of four paintings which he conserved before, during, and after treatment. They were: "Columbus Before the Queen" (1844) by Peter Frederick Rothermel (1812-1895); "Torre degli Schiavi" (Tower of the Slaves) (1860) by Thomas Hiram Hotchkiss (1834-1869); "Portrait of Elizabeth Winthrop Chanler" (1893) by John Singer Sargent (1856-1925); and "Portrait of Don Jose' Mas Ferrer (1795) by Jose' Campeche (1751-1809). Mr. Scafetta's presentation was followed by an autumnal Italian dinner.

AUTUMN HARVEST DINNER



IHL members and guests enjoying dinner and our guest speaker, Stefano Scafetta, discussing his art conservation career with the Smithsonian American Art Museum.



(Photographs taken and contributed by Eleanor Lillo)

Big, Uncomplicated and Loud: My Italian American Family

Siamo genti forti. Non abbiamo fatto tutta questa strada solo per abbandonarlo!

By: [Tony Traficante](#), ISDA Contributing Editor

Image Credit: Celia Cunningham ISDA

While FDR had his fireside chats, I experienced porch side chats where I learned much about my heritage.

It is well known that weekly Sunday suppers were a special time for large Italian families. It was a day of rest, except of course for Italian mothers — but they loved it, as they had an opportunity to enjoy the company of relatives and visiting friends.

Life was simple and uncomplicated. There was a weekly routine that was only interrupted by a wedding, religious service, celebration, or social activity at the local ISDA lodge. Routine, habit, and custom created stability for Italian immigrants. It was a form of security and basic to their survival.

Homemade pasta, a traditional custom, was the norm for Sunday supper, at least back then. The day promised good food and time to catch up with family affairs and neighborhood happenings. No one was permitted to leave the table until dinner was over for all. And even if they had such gadgets, you wouldn't dare have a cell phone, with texting features, at the table!

Sundays ended with the adults sitting on the front porch enjoying conversations with a “*digestive*,” or a cup of coffee (not necessarily in that order).

We kids were out in the alley playing a variety of street games until it got dark, then we went to roost on the porch steps. It was here I learned much about the world of our parents and friends. Listening to them reminisce about their way of life in Italy, and the circumstances of their existence as new immigrants in the United States, was both fascinating and distressing.

Most of our neighbors and friends came from some of the poorest regions of Italy. What my parents called “*La meridionale*,” others called “*Il mezzogiorno*.” Many were farmers, laboring in the fields for hours under a hot sun. Naturally, they became dark complexioned, “*un po' più abbronzati*.” And for this, they suffered intolerance and bias from the American community. They were ridiculed, too, for their dress, the way they talked, their customs and even the things they ate.

Some complained that their treatment as immigrants in America was not much better than what they left behind. *“Cambiano i suonatori ma la musica è sempre quella.”* The players may have changed, but the music is always the same.

The American labor force accused the Italians of taking their jobs *“Ma che,”* the Italians replied! *“Facciamo il lavoro che nessuno voleva fare!”* They did the work no one else wanted to do! They did it to survive and feed their families.

“Era una vita dura.” There is no question that it was a difficult time for many immigrants. Those who hung in there said, *“Siamo genti forti. Non abbiamo fatto tutta questa strada solo per abbandonarlo!”* We are strong people, they said! We did not come all this way only to give up.

For my parents, education was a constant topic of preaching. You must learn the American ways and customs. America is our home now, and your birthright, they said. *“Certo,”* certainly, it is OK to speak our language at home.

They wanted us to fit in but not forget our heritage. Be proud Americans, they said. But never be ashamed of your heritage. It, too, is a story you must know and preserve.

“E’ vero che anche noi siamo cittadini americani,” and we are proud and thankful for that!

“E pure, il nostro sangue sarà sempre quella di Italia.”



Article taken from “Italian Sons and Daughters of America” Sunday Supper

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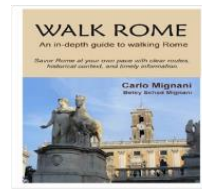
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