

25th Anniversary Edition
History of the Italian Heritage Lodge
Order Sons of Italy in America
Lodge No, 2517



1981-2006

Dedicated to the memory of Herbert A. Nummenkamp

Acknowledgements for The 25th Edition of the History of the Italian Heritage Lodge 1981-2006

Written by:

Charles J. Nardiello, Past Lodge Historian

Assisted by Albert Alfano

Anthony Finocchiaro, Present Lodge Historian

Published/Coordinated by Paul P. Agosta, Jr

Assisted by Susan M. Agosta

Cover Illustration by Nicole M. Agosta

Dedicated to Herbert A. Nunnenkamp

**Please send any corrections and additions to the Lodge Historian, Anthony Finocchiaro. These corrections and additions will be added to the Lodge history as it is updated.
Note: Many old pictures could not be used due to the transfer of technologies were incompatible.**

Dedication

This history is dedicated to

Herbert A. Nunnenkamp

March 5, 1929 – July 10, 2006



Herb Nunnenkamp was a great humanitarian! A beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather. An USAF Veteran and generous member of many organizations. He was the heart and soul of this lodge! He was everywhere, helping and leading by example. He was my friend and I miss him already!

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“History of the Italian Heritage Lodge, Number 2517, Fairfax, VA”

Introduction: In celebration of our twenty-fifth anniversary of the Italian heritage Lodge of Fairfax County, Lodge Number 2517, in Virginia, we have written this history to preserve the charitable, civic, patriotic, and social contributions of our members, but past and present. We believe that all future members of our Lodge and all other OSIA Lodges will continue this legacy. All information through the year 1999, unless otherwise noted is from the “History of the Italian Heritage Lodge”, written by Charles J. Nardiello and assisted by Albert Alfano. All information from the year 2000 on, unless otherwise noted was written by Anthony Finocchiaro. This History of the Italian Heritage Lodge is dedicated to Herbert A. Nunnenkamp, who passed away this year.

Order of Son’s of Italy in America (OSIA) National and State Organization:

The Order Sons of Italy in America is the largest and longest-established national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States. OSIA was established in June 22, 1905 as a mutual aid society for the early Italian immigrants, today OSIA has more than 600,000 members and supporters and a network of more than 700 chapters coast to coast, making it the leading service and advocacy organization for the nation's estimated 26 million people of Italian descent.

In 1959, OSIA established the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) as a philanthropic arm of OSIA. Since established, SIF has sent over \$85 Million to scholarships, medical research, disaster relief, and other charitable organizations. In 1979, OSIA established the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ), as the anti-defamation arm. CSJ is committed to fighting racism, prejudice and the stereotyping of Italian-Americans and others.

Its mission includes encouraging the study of Italian language and culture in American schools and universities; preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history and heritage; supporting charities; and promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia was founded in 1922 with more than 500 members from a few lodges in the Tidewater-Richmond areas. The only remaining lodges in that area are Roma Lodge No. 254, founded in 1914 and Verdi Lodge No. 315, founded in 1915. The Grand Lodge of Virginia continues to thrive through a wide variety of community, cultural, social, charitable, educational patriotic, youth and civil activities. Currently the Grand Lodge of Virginia has nine local lodges dispersed through the state.

Establishment of the Lodge:

The lodge had little difficulty getting started. In the fall of 1981, Nino Belfiore commenced a meeting in his home consisting of Louis Blasiotti, Victor Hammerly and Eugene Zang.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the reasons for forming an Italian Heritage Lodge. It was decided that there was a need for such a lodge. The lodge would be special, not only dedicated to the principles as stated in the Constitution of the Order Sons of Italy in America, but a special emphasis be placed on the members’ belief in God, in fellowship, heritage, culture and charity. It was resolved that a set of principles be drawn up by the founders which would clearly state the guidelines of the lodge, and be

presented to prospective members in a kit along with a brochure outlining the above goals. On October 26, 1981, the founding fathers mentioned above met to determine the name of the lodge. It was resolved that the name of the lodge would be "Italian Heritage and Fellowship Society". It was the second lodge in Fairfax County, Virginia. A statement of principles was generated and a statement of purpose was unanimously accepted and incorporated.

The purpose of the fellowship was that we are truly brothers and sisters in the eyes of God, and in the sense that we share a common heritage that is wealthy in tradition and cultural expression. Through this common bond we can maintain and nurture the rich patrimony of our forefathers and savor the fruits of their legacy.

The lodge has a broad range of goals to strive in promoting intellectual advancement of its' members, render financial aid to worthy candidates, propose intellectual endeavors, encourage constructive activity and participation in all levels of government, stimulate a sense of pride in our heritage through programs involving lectures, audio visual presentations, group trips to historical places of interest, monitored group discussions, learning (by studying and doing) crafts of our forefathers, learning the origin of words in the Italian language, practice and learn conversational Italian, as well as regional Italian dialects and folk dances, field trips to pursue fellowship and/or drawing or painting talents, games and fun – bocce, morra, and others – dinners, picnics, bazaars, theater, dances, parties, promote social awareness and education so the the Order will be recognized in local communities.

Membership is open to all. Regular membership is open to men and women of Italian birth or descent and their spouses. Social membership is offered to all others. Minimum age is eighteen.

The Italian Heritage Lodge was officially chartered on November 15, 1981. The third meeting was held on January 9, 1982 at St. Timothy's Roman Catholic Church Social Hall in Chantilly, Virginia. A total of thirty five prospective members were in attendance. Nino Belfiore welcomed all of the guests with a talk about the organization and the goals of the Lodge.

A fourth meeting was commenced on January 18, 1982 at the home of Nino Belfiore. Those in attendance were: Nino Belfiore, Louise Blasiotti, Victor Hammerly, Ersilia Origlio, and Eugene Zang. People who attended the January 9th meeting were contacted about application dues and election of officers. The first official meeting took place on February 13, 1982. Victor Hammerly suggested a joint installation ceremony to be held at Cameron Station on March 13, 1982. Congressman Frank Wolf was contacted to speak. Eugene Zang contacted (Orator) OSIA Peter Boromeo regarding embassy cultural programs to be part of the lodge program.

It was also decided that the Lodge would have 12 meetings per year, on the second Saturday of each month from 7:00 to 11:00. Nino wrote a notice for the Comstock Newsletter soliciting members from the townhouse community and to use their

community room. Nino also contacted churches in Annandale and Fairfax about utilizing their facilities for monthly meetings.

The next meeting was held on February 1, 1982 at the home of Nino Belfiore. It was decided to have two speakers at the next meeting. One was Richard Petta to discuss OSIA's goals and achievements. The other speaker was going to be Dr. Maria Wilmeth to elaborate on this society's purpose and direction. The first official meeting of the Society Lodge No. 2517, order Sons of Italy in America, was conducted on February 13, 1982 at Robert Frost Intermediate School. At this meeting, twenty five applications were received for membership (including four transferring from other lodges). The installation of these new members was held March 13, 1982. See pages 4, 5, and 6 for a list of these members at these various meeting.

One of the founders of this new lodge, Nino Belfiore, addressed the members and introduced Maria Wilmeth who spoke to the group, challenging them in the areas of education and social services. Mr. Richard Petta, National Trustee from Arlington, Virginia, was present to conduct the installation of officers.

Those officers were:

President:	Nino Belfiore
Vice President:	Eugene Zang
Orator:	Lucy Baldessarini
Recording Secretary:	Kathleen Belfiore
Financial Secretary:	Mary Zang
Treasurer:	Pablo Hammerly
Trustees:	Paul Deceglie
	Ersilia Origlio
	John Olvierio
	Edith Olvierio
	Damanie Apesa

The newly elected president chose to postpone the election of five other officers, i.e. Past President, Master of Ceremonies (2), and Guard (2).

Conclusion:

The Italian Heritage Lodge continues to grow in both influence and members and as a positive institution within our society, our community and our nation.

**Italian Heritage, Cultural and Fellowship Society
Order Sons of Italy in America, Lodge No. 2517
List of Officers 1982**

President:	Nino Belfiore
Vice President:	Eugene Zang
Orator:	Lucy Baldessarini
Recording Secretary:	Kathleen Belfiore
Financial Secretary:	Mary Zang
Treasurer:	Pablo Hammerly
Trustees:	Paul Deceglie Ersilia Origlio John Olvierio Edith Olvierio Damanie Apesa
Program Committee Chairperson:	Lucy Baldesarini
Membership Committee Chairperson:	Ersilia Origlio
Publicity Committee Chairperson:	Lucy Baldesarini

Italian Heritage, Cultural and Fellowship Society
Membership and Attendance
Lodge 2517

January 9, 1982

George Amato
James Asente
Marie Back
Kathleen Belfiore
Cecelia Biedrzycki
Edward Biedrzycki
Laurie Biedrzycki
Louis V. Blasiotti
Kathy Cullather
Cathy Deceglie
Paul Deceglie
John DeLellis
Laura DeLellis
Evelyn DePalma
Maria Hammerly
Pablo Hammerly
Victor Hammerly
Michael Jackson

Toni Jackson
Ray Milograno
Theodora Milograno
Dr. Charles A. Nardiello
Ersilia Origlio
Nancy Petosa
Pat Petosa
Richard Petta
Rose Sgro
JoAnn Stefanick
Letizia Teganini
Silvio Teganini
Clare Wilson
Gino Zang

First Official Meeting of the
Italian Heritage, Cultural and Fellowship Society

February 13, 1982

Jan Landerghini
John Oliverio
Edie Oliverio
Marie Back
Victor Hammerly
Pablo Hammerly
Maria G. Wilmeth
Ivan Dietrich
Mafalda Dietrich
Vito Vitucci
Virginia Vitucci
Lucy Baldessarini
Kathy Cullather
Ersilia Origlio
Gino Zang
Mary Zang
Rosa Zang
Lucrecia Zang
Claire Wilson
Ennio Giusti
Terese Giusti
Nino Belfiore
Kathleen Belfiore
Louis V. Blasiotti
Richard Petta

Italian Heritage, Cultural and Fellowship Society
Lodge 2517

March 13, 1982

Domenic Apisa
Joseph Arnoto
Patricia Arnoto
James Asente
Lucy Baldessarini
Kathleen Belfiore
Nino Belfiore
Cecelia Biedrzycki
Marie Black
Bertha Cullather
Paul Deceglie
Mafalda Gloria Dietrich
Ennio Giusti
Maria Hammerly
Pablo Hammerly
Victor Hammerly
Edith Oliverio
John Oliverio
Ersilia Origlio
Letizia Teganini
Silvio Teganini
Maria Wilmeth
Clare C. Wilson
Eugene E. Zang
Mary Zang

**Italian Heritage, Cultural and Fellowship Society
Order of the Sons of Italy in America, Lodge #2517
List of Officers 1983**

President	Victor Hammerly
Vice President	Charles Nardiello
Orator	Pablo Hammerly
Recording Secretary	Evelyn DePalma
Financial Secretary	Gene Fisher
Treasurer	Ray Milagrano
Trustees	Ersilia Origlio
	Camille Malm
	Lillo Glorioso

Italian Heritage, Cultural and Fellowship Society
Order of the Sons of Italy in America, Lodge #2517
List of Officers 1984 and 1985

President	Victor Hammerly
Vice President	Charles Nardiello
Orator	Pablo Hammerly
Recording Secretary	Mary Catalfamo
Financial Secretary	Lillo Glorioso
Treasurer	Carl Malm
Trustees	Frank Catalfamo
	Eugene Fisher
	Camille Malm
	Mary Nardiello
	Ersilia Origlio

During Mr. Hammerly's tenure (1983 through 1985), there were many items which had to be considered to continue and passively expand the principles that the founders developed, such as the purpose of the Lodge, how to conduct the General Monthly meetings, setting monthly dues, location of current and future meetings, mailings of the newsletters, guest speakers, shortening the name of the Lodge to the Italian Heritage Lodge, #2517.

It was through Mr. Hammerly's constant drive, determination to work together, and to plan and get the cooperation of his officers that the Lodge has continued today.

Italian Heritage Lodge
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1987 and 1988

President	Maria Hammerly
Vice President	Vincent Siligato
Past President	Victor Hammerly
Orator	John Asiello
Recording Secretary	Connie Harper
Financial Secretary	Lillo Glorioso
Treasurer	Eugene Fisher
Trustees	Warren Wells
	Pablo Hammerly
	Pina Siligato
	Russell Fisher
	Jean Chitren

Every month our lodge sponsored one or two activities; summer picnics at Ft. McNair organized by the Asiellos, BBQ at the Glorioso home, wine and cheese parties, pot lucks and folk dancing. Also, we had Thanksgiving celebrations, Christmas parties with La Befana and Santa, sing-alongs with Lillo Glorioso and his accordion, Round Tables at the beginning of each year so members had the opportunity to tell the officers what kind of activities they wanted, Valentine's parties, champagne brunches, anniversary parties, Alexandria Festival, guest speakers and Christmas Dinner at La Bella Roma Restaurant. We also participated in the Leukemia Telethon and Macy's "Cause for Celebration" party. Our Lodge received our first award: a beautiful silver plated bowl, as first place in the State Merit Point Contest, for cultural and social activities as well as membership growth.

Italian Heritage Lodge
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1989

President	John Asiello
Vice President	Sal Amgrosino
Past President	Maria Hammerly
Orator	Pablo Hammerly
Recording Secretary	Laura Asiello
Financial Secretary	Victor Hammerly
Treasurer	Jean Chitren
Trustees	William Fote
	Alfred Michaelangelo
	Rosalind Michaelangelo
	Carol Ventua-Verespej

**Italian Heritage Lodge
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1990**

President	John Asiello
Vice President	William Fote
Past President	Maria Hammerly
Orator	Pablo Hammerly
Recording Secretary	Laura Asiello
Financial Secretary	Alfred Michaelangelo
Treasurer	Charles Nardiello
Trustees	Sal Ambrosino
	Elizabeth Fote
	Carl Malm
	Barbara Rogers

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1991

President	John Asiello
Vice President	Jerry DiCerbo
Past President	Maria Hammerly
Orator	Carl Malm
Recording Secretary	Laura Asiello
Financial Secretary	Alfred Michaelangelo
Treasurer	Charles Nardiello
Trustees	Mary Nardiello
	Mille Malm
	Barbara Rogers
	Pat Wells
	Warren Wells

During this period, the two main objectives were: 1) To strengthen and increase the membership base, and 2) To formulate a foundation of leadership that will carry on the goals and objectives of the Italian Heritage Lodge as established for years to come.

“Welcome Dinner Italiano” event was established which served as a membership drive and is credited as a major source for increasing membership.

“Membership Appreciation Month” was established which served to honor our members. Certificates were presented, and a scholarship was presented to our guest speaker to be given to one of her students of Italian.

Membership roster was authenticated in order to form a solid base for growth. Membership increased 20% in six months.

The Italian Heritage Lodge Newsletter was established as a monthly newsletter and took on a new form. The newsletter took on the roll of becoming the major source of communications within the membership.

A master program schedule for 1990 was published and included the date, time, activity, and the theme for each monthly meeting. This served as a promotional sheet for obtaining new members as well as providing our members with information for advanced planning.

Lodge Photo Album became a major source of our historical data along with our newsletters, which reported on all past and future events and activities.

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1992

President	Jerry DiCerbo
Vice President	Alfred Michaelangelo
Past President	John Asiello
Orator	Carl Malm
Recording Secretary	Ann Lipton
Financial Secretary	David Asiello
Treasurer	Charles Nardiello
Trustees	Julie DiCerbo
	Millie Hogg
	Mary Nardiello
	Millie Malm

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1993

President	Jerry DiCerbo
Vice President	Alfred Michaelangelo
Past President	John Asiello
Orator	Carl Malm
Recording Secretary	Mary Villano
Financial Secretary	David Asiello
Treasurer	Charles Nardiello
Trustees	Rosalie Alligood
	Kim Hogg
	Millie Hogg
	Mary Nardiello
	Millie Malm

Dr. Jerry DiCerbo became president of the Italian Heritage Lodge in the spring of 1992 on the tenth anniversary of the Lodge. As president for two years, Dr. DiCerbo worked to improve the Lodge by emphasizing the importance of our Italian culture – a trademark of our Lodge, and by working to build our financial strength.

With the council's support, the Lodge started investing in a mutual fund, which we have contributed to on a regular basis since 1993. We are a recognized social organization with the IRS for tax purposes and we moved our banking account from Manassas to a more convenient location in Springfield. Our Lodge was the first to sell pizza at the Italian Festival, and we discussed and started a number of other fundraising activities such as silent auction and bingo.

Of all our activities during those two years, the Lodge continued to be identified with our belief and support for family and friends. We carried on this tradition with monthly activities that included folklore dancing, videos and travel logs and guest speakers. Finally, we nominated one of our members, Loana Kane, for the Cornaro Award for outstanding community service.

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1994

President	David Asiello
Vice President	Rosalene Feller
Past President	Jerry DiCerbo
Orator	Carl Malm
Recording Secretary	Mary Villano
Financial Secretary	Richard Feller
Treasurer	Charles Nardiello
Trustees	Rosalie Alligood
	Kim Hogg
	Millie Hogg
	Dot Saia
	Joseph Saia

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1995

President	David Asiello
Vice President	Joseph Saia
Past President	Jerry DiCerbo
Orator	Carl Malm
Recording Secretary	Ann Lipton
Financial Secretary	Rosalie Alligood
Treasurer	Charles Nardiello
Trustees	Julie DiCerbo
	Kim Hogg
	Millie Hogg
	Josephine Nunnenkamp
	Dot Saia

During Mr. Asiello's two years as president, we participated in numerous charitable events including raising money for Cooley's Anemia Foundation and the Alzheimer's Foundation, and providing Christmas gifts for the children at Children's Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children. Culturally, we were active participants at the Italian Festival in Old Towne. In addition, we continue to provide educational and cultural videos, guest speakers, Italian music and excellent Italian recipes to our members. Also, many younger members started taking an interest in the Italian culture and we honored one of our young members, Matthew Michaelangelo, with an award for his essay in the Christopher Columbus Essay Contest.

We continued to have our monthly social events and general membership meetings where we shared fellowship, food and fun as an extended family. Events included Mother's and Father's Day socials, holiday parties, summer picnics and formal events such as the Installation of Officers.

Some of our achievements were: An increase in membership of over 30%, the financial stability due to excellent management and dedicated savings, and focused communication through our Lodge newsletter.

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1996

President	Josephine Nunnenkamp
Vice President	Joseph Saia
Past President	David Asiello
Orator	Dot Saia
Recording Secretary	Kelly Asiello
Financial Secretary	Rosalie Alligood
Treasurer	Herb Nunnenkamp
Trustees	Beneto Isaja
	Ann Lipton
	Debbie Lombardino
	Anthony Marasco
	Alfred Michaelangelo
Newsletter Editor	John Asiello

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1997

President	Josephine Nunnenkamp
Vice President	Rosalie Alligood
Past President	David Asiello
Orator	Dot Saia
Recording Secretary	Kelly Asiello
Financial Secretary	Debbie Lombardino
Treasurer	Herb Nunnenkamp
Trustees	Ann Alfano
	Arthur Moscatello
	Ann Lipton
	Augustine Taormina
	Leonard Verga
Newsletter Editors	John Asiello
	Debbie Lombardino

Increase in membership from 69 to 109.

Established use of ritual at meetings.

Made lap robes for residents of Adult Day Care Center.

Participated in celebrations of Italian Day and October Italian Heritage Month by teaching residents of Leewood Adult Daycare Center bocce, Italian card games and dances, made pizzas, showed museum and OSIA films.

Participated in a high school Homecoming Fair.

Attended Columbus Day ceremonies in Washington DC for the first time and presented a wreath.

Arranged for a trip to Ellis Island.

Adopted a logo and new name for our newsletter, "La Bandiera".

Worked toward establishing a Lodge scholarship.

Participated in Viva Vienna Fair for the first time.

Represented the Lodge on Grand Council as State Fundraising Chair and on State Scholarship Committee.

Established the position of Lodge Historian.

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1998

President	Herb Nunnenkamp
Vice President	Debbie Lombardino
Past President	Josephine Nunnenkamp
Orator	Carmen DeFranks
Recording Secretary	Dot Saia
Financial Secretary	Paul Agosta
Treasurer	Arthur Moscatello
Trustees	Al Alfano
	Ann Alfano
	Rosalie Alligood
	Augustine Taormina
	Leonard Verga
Newsletter Editors	John Asiello
	Debbie Lombardino

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 1999

President	Herb Nunnenkamp
Vice President	Ann Alfano
Past President	Josephine Nunnenkamp
Orator	Carmen DeFranks
Recording Secretary	Dot Saia
Financial Secretary	Paul Agosta
Treasurer	Arthur Moscatello
Trustees	Al Alfano
	Rosalie Alligood
	Catherine Jamieson
	Johanna Messier
	Gloria Moscatello
Newsletter Editors	John Asiello
	Debbie Lombardino

Herb Nunnenkamp was elected president of the Lodge in the fall of 1997 shortly after the Lodge President Josephine Nunnenkamp resigned to become the State Trustee. At the time, Lodge Vice President Rosalie Alligood did not wish to be installed as president of the Lodge. The main task undertaken was to continue to drive for membership in the Lodge, which had grown considerably in the past year and a half. The next consideration was to work on ideas to increase the funds in the treasury. The Alexandria Italian Festival was to be cancelled for 1998 (our main fundraiser) so we had to find other sources of income. In 1998 we participated in the Viva Vienna Festival with a membership booth, which was successful, and a food booth which was not.

Since the membership enjoyed a minimum of business at meetings, whenever possible, we tried to limit the business portion to 20 minutes.

The Lodge enjoyed many other regular social activities in 1998 such as the annual picnic, dinner theater show in Alexandria, the "Welcome Italiana" meeting, the Octoberfest and Italian dinner, the "White Elephant" auction and our Christmas party.

Herb Nunnenkamp was elected for his 2nd term for 1999. The Lodge was the host lodge for the 1999 Biennial Virginia Grand Lodge Convention in June. In addition, we will try to make our participation in the Viva Vienna a financial success and we participated in Alexandria for the Italian Festival in the fall.

The Italian Heritage Lodge # 2517
Order of The Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 2000

President	Paul Agosta
Vice President	Art Moscatello
Imm. Past President	Herb Nunnenkamp
Orator	Cathy Jamieson
Recording Secretary	Golria Moscatello
Financial Secretary	Dot Saia
Treasurer	Laura Jean Strong

Trustees: Rosalie Alligood, ,Luca D'Andrea,Gene LaColla,Debbie Lombardino, Dave Strong
Editor—La Bandiera, Herb Nunnenkamp
Membership Chair Barbara Mancini
Lodge Members who are Officers of the Grand Lodge:
Jo Vidiri Nunnenkamp State 2nd V.P,
John Asiello State Recording Secretary

The year started with our annual “Round Table” meeting to discuss this year’s agenda. February saw us celebrating Valentines’ day .A wonderful Champagne Brunch was held at the Fort Myers NCO Club in March. This was followed by the Installation of Lodge Officers, of which, State President Kathy Drummond, assisted by Walter Junger, State Orator, officiated. We celebrated the Lodge’s 18th Anniversary in April. In May, first we celebrated Mothers’ Day honoring all our Mothers. Later in the month, we participated in the Viva Vienna Festival. The weather left much to be desired, however all who attended had a wonderful time. We honored all our fathers with our Fathers’ Day celebration. This brought us to our annual picnic, which included bocce games for adults and children. A good time was had by all. The Lodge held its Aug meeting at the West End Dinner Theater. We were treated to a fine dinner and a wonderful performance of “Lend Me a Tenor”. In September, we participated in the Alexandria Italian Festival. This was followed by our annual “Welcome Dinner Italiano” Both events were very successful. This led us to our combination Columbus Day, Oktoberfest, and Halloween party. The Lodge laid a wreath at the Columbus Statue, Union Station, DC on Columbus Day. We honor all Veterans at our November meeting. Our year ended with many Christmas related activities, such as our “Adopt a Family” in which we provide food clothing and toy for a family so that they may enjoy Christmas. We delivered gifts to the Children Hospital to help brighten their day. Our last event was our Christmas Party. The evening began With La Befana reading a story to all the children. Suddenly Santa appeared with gifts for the children. During the year we awarded a \$500 scholarship to Dianne Accettalla a student at Nova. We made donations to Project Linus, Cooley’s Anemia, Alzheimer Association and the Commission for Social Justice. One of the goals of this administration was to work more closely with other Italian-American Organizations. It was a very good year.

The Italian Heritage Lodge # 2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 2001

President	Paul Agosta
VICE President	Art Moscatello
Imm. Past President	Herb Nunnenkemp
Orator	Gloria Moscatello
Recording Secretary	John Dovel
Financial Secretary	Dot Saia
Treasurer	Laura Jean Strong
Trustees: Laura Asiello, Lucio D'andrea, Gene La Colla, Ann Lipton, David Strong.	
Mistresses of Ceremonies: Rosalie Alligood and Millie Hogg	
Sentinal	Joe Saia
Editor, La Bandiera	Herb Nunnenkemp
Membership Chair	Barbara Mancini
Lodge Members who are Officers of the Grand Lodge;	
Jo Vidiri Nunnenkemp State 2 nd . VP	
John Asiello State Recording Secretary	

The year started with our annual "Round Table Discussion". Our agenda for the year was set. We celebrated Valentines Day at our Feb meeting. Every one present learned how to dance the "Tarantella". Installation of our New Lodge Officers took place in Mar, which was preceded by a wonderful brunch at Fort Myers NCO Club. We held our 1st. "Casino Nite" at our April meeting. A good time was had by all and we raised \$200 for our treasury. In May, we celebrated Mothers Day and had a presentation, by Richard Camaur, on Italian Genealogy. This was followed by the Lodges participation in the "VIVA Vienna" Festival. We celebrated Fathers' Day with a presentation on the role of fathers in the "Italian Family". July, Aug and Sept were very festive months for our Lodge. We held our annual "Picnic" in July. We ate terrific food and held a Bocce Tournament, which was won by Fred Michaelangelo and Steve Lipton. This was followed by an outing to watch the Potomac Cannons play in Wilmington. Aug had us partying at "That's Amore" restaurant in Sterling Va. Sept had the Lodge participating in the "Alexandria Italian Festival", we had a very enjoyable time and it was a great financial success for the Lodge. We held a second restaurant night, which was 'Opera' night at Trattoria da Franco. This proved to be just as successful as our July outing. We welcomed our new members formally into the Lodge at our annual "Welcome Dinner Italiano" in Oct. The Lodge laid a wreath at the Columbus Statue, Union Station, DC on Columbus Day. A Financial Planning Presentation was given by Barbara Mancini at our Nov meeting. We ended the year with our annual Christmas Party. LaBefana was on hand to read a story to all the children. Santa Claus found time in his busy schedule to stop by with a bag of toys to give to all the children. We once again provided food, clothing ,toys and gift certificates to a family to brighten their Christmas as part of our adopt a family program. We delivered toys to the Children's Hospital and made our usual donations to Cooley's Anemia Fund, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Commission for Social Justice. Jerry DiCerbo's daughter was the recipient of one of OSIA State Scholarships

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 2002

President	Art Moscatello
Vice President	Lucio D'Andrea
Imm. Past President	Paul Agosta
Orator	Dave Strong
Recording Secretary	Gloria Moscatello
Financial Secretary	Laura J. Strong
Treasurer	Dot Saia
Trustees	Jerry DiCerbo, Gene LaColla, Ann Lipton, Jo Lowe and Barbara Mancini
Editor La Bandiera	Herb Nunnenkamp
Membership Chair	Barbara Mancini
Master of Ceremonies	John Dovel
Mistress of Ceremonies	Millie Hogg
Sentinel	Joe Saia
Lodge members who are officers of the Grand Lodge:	
State 2 nd Vice President	Jo Nunnenkamp
State Recording Secretary	John Asiello

We held our annual "Round Table Meeting" in January, at which time we discussed the activities and goals we would aim for in 2002. Building on last year's success, we held another "Casino Night" in February. March saw us celebrating the Installation of Officers with a champagne brunch at the Fort Myers NCO Club. The ceremony was presided over by our own Jo Nunnenkamp, State 2nd Vice President and Marie Cimino of the Mother Cabrini Lodge. Our Lodge celebrated its' 21st anniversary at our regular meeting in April. We honored all mothers at the May meeting. A special presentation on the life of Garibaldi was given at this meeting. We once again participated in the Viva Vienna Festival. Through the efforts of Dave Strong and others, a Bocce Ball League was formed with ten teams in it. Dave was named the coordinator. We celebrated Father's Day at our June meeting. We held our annual picnic in July. Good food was the hit of the day. Our members enjoyed a champagne brunch at Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna – this served as our August meeting. September was a very busy month. We participated in Alexandria's Italian Festival, which is always a wonderful event. This was followed by a wine tasting party on Sep 14th. We held our "Welcome Italiano" dinner in October at which time 20 new members were installed into the Lodge. A short film on Cooley's Anemia was shown in November. Art Moscatello was involved in a serious car accident and would be incapacitated for many months. Our Vice President Lucio D'Andrea became acting President during Art's absence. Christmas party with LaBefana and Santa making magical appearances to entertain the children. As part of our "Adopt a Family" program, we again provided food, clothing, toys and gift certificates to a family to brighten their Christmas. We delivered toys to the Children's Hospital and made our donations to the Cooley's Anemia Fund and the Alzheimer's Association. The Lodge awarded its' annual scholarship to Dave Strong. Again, a very good year.

The Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 2003

President	Omero Sabatini
Vice President	Jerry DiCerbo
Imm. Past President	Art Moscatello
Orator	Gene La Colla
Recording Secretary	Gene Swann
Financial Secretary	Dot Saia
Treasurer	Laura Strong
	Trustees

Paul Agosto ,Art Esposito, Jo Lowe, Barbara Mancini and Dave Strong.

Master & Mistress of Ceremonies: John Dovel and Jo Esposito

Editor –LaBandiera :Herb Nunnenkamp. Membership Chair Barbara Mancini

Sentinel : Joe Saia

Lodge Members who are officers of the Grand Lodge: Jo Vidiri Nunnenkamp State
2nd. Vice President, John Asiello Recording Secretary

We started the year with the “Round Table” discussion of the agenda for the upcoming year. Building on the past we again held a “Casino Nite” in Feb. This has become a popular event.. Winners choose gifts from 50 donated items. March had us enjoying a “Champagne Brunch” at the Fort Myers. Marie Cimino of Mother Cabrini Lodge , State Pres. Kate Drummond and our own J. Nunnenkamp and J Asiello presided over the installation of officers Ken Cuccinelli, Virginia State Senator described how growing up in a Italian family played a role in making who he his .He shared some family stories with us at our April meeting. We celebrated “Mothers Day” at our May meeting, Jerry and Julia DiCerbo’s daughter Adrienne spoke of her experiences during a recent trip to Italy. The Lodge participated in the Viva Vienna Festival over the Memorial day weekend. Olga Mancuso. Director of Casa Italiano helped us celebrate “Fathers Day” with a talk on “Italian Language & Culture “ in the Washington area School Systems. We were informed in June that the Di Cerbo’s son Gregory was awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship. July was picnic time. We play bocce, learned how to play briscola and ate good food. August saw Lodge members going to the West End Theater for lunch and a performance of the musical “1776”. Sept had us participating in the Alexandria Italian Festival. This event was not only enjoyable, but we earn much needed fund for our treasury. At our Sept meeting we held our “Welcome Dinner Italiano,” at which time we thanked our membership and welcome new members. October is Octoberfest time. “Auction Night” held in Nov. is always fun and raised \$250 for our treasury. Our social year came to an end with our Christmas Party.. La Benfa was there to read a story to the children. Then magically Santa arrived with his bag of goodies. We continued our many traditions at Christmas time, such as “Adopt a Family”. We provide food, clothing, gift certificates and toys for the children. We deliver toys to the Children Hospital and make donations to Cooley’s Anemia Fund and the Alzheimer’s’ Association. This was once again a good year for the Lodge.

The Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America

List of Officers 2004

President	Omero Sabatini
Vice President	Frank Marcinkowski
Imm .Past President	Art Moscatello
Orator	Gene LaColla
Recording Secretary	Gene Swann
Financial Secretary	Dot Saia
Treasurer	Laura Strong

Trustees

Art Esposito, Joe La Marca, Jo Lowe, Barbara Mancini, Frank Michaelangelo.
Master and Mistress of Ceremony : Joe Dovel Jo Esposito.
Sentinal, Joe Saia. Editor ,La Bandiera Herb Nunnenkamp
Membership Chair, Barbara Mancini
Members who are Officers of the Grand Lodge; Jo Vidiri Nunnenkamp, !st. V. Pres
John Asiello Trustee

At our annual "Round Table " in Jan. , we discussed ways in which we could improve the Lodge. We celebrated Valentines Day at our Feb. meeting. Casino nite, which has become a popular fund raiser for us, was also eld on that night. Installation of officers took place on March 14th, at a brunch held at the American Legion Post 177. Joe La Marca, our resident Golf pro, held the Lodge's first annual golf outing on March 22nd Barbara Mancini gave a wonderful presentation on her recent travels abroad, at our April meeting. We learned that Lodge brother Jerry Di Cerbo has developed a serious illness requiring both a liver and kidney Transplant. May saw us honoring all our Mothers and also participating in the Viva Vienna Festival. It was the Fathers turn to be honored at our June meeting. We installed our new members at that Time. July was Picnic time with its good food and various games. George Asiello and his soon to be wife, Beth Stein won the bocce tournament. The Lodge members enjoyed a fine dinner at "Opera Nite." At the Trattoria Da Franco in Old Town. Sept. is always a busy month for the Lodge, saw us holding our "Welcome Italiano Dinner" at our regular meeting. It is our way of saying thank you to our members for supporting the Lodge. Later in the month, we participated in the Alexandria Italian Festival. This event , always an enjoyable day also provides the Lodge with much needed funds. We had our Octoberfest and Columbus Day celebration in Oct. The food was a great combination of German and Italian food. Joe La Marca treated us to a presentation on his trip, with OSIA, to Sicily and Rome at our Nov meeting. We honored all veterans at this time. We celebrated Christmas at our Dec meeting. La Befana stopped by to read a story to the children and was followed by a visit from Santa. We followed our tradition of "Adopting a Family" for Christmas. We provided them with food, clothing, gift certificates and toys for the children. Sothey could all enjoy Christmas. We delivered gift to the Children's Hospital and made our usual donation to Project Linus Cooley's Anemia Fund and the Alzheimers Asso. Received news that Brother Jerry Di Cerbo is recovering from his illness.

The Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
List of Officers 2005

President	Dot Saia
Vice President	Fran Marcinkowski
Imm .Past President	Omero Sabatini
Orator	Jo Lowe
Recording Secretary	Victor Haburchak
Financial Secretary	Jo Esposito
Treasurer	Art Esposito
Trustees:	Anthony Finocchiaro ,Joe La Marca , Art Moscatello, August Taormino, Joseph Realbuto
Master and Mistress of Ceremony	Phil Traina ,Margaret Finocchiaro
Sentinel;	John Dovel: Editor, La Bandiera Herb Nunnenkamp.
Membership Chair;	Barbara Mancini.
Members who are Officers of the Grand Lodge;	Jo Vidiri Nunnenkamp 1 st .V.P.
John Asiello	Trustee.

We started the year with our “Round Table “ to discuss the agenda for the year. The year started very festive with a combined Valentine party and popular Casino Nite at our Feb meeting. This was followed by a brunch at Fort Myer and the “Installation of Officers, which was presided over by Lou Moschetto, our State Representative in March. This festive atmosphere ended in April with the news that brother Art Esposito had passed away and that sister Barbara Mancini was seriously ill in Norway . Herb Nunnenkamp was appointed and later elected to complete the term as Treasurer. Paul Alligood agreed to replace Herb as the editor of La Bandiera. Phil Traina replaced J Realbuto, who moved away, as Trustee. Gene La Colla then replaced Phil as Master of Ceremony. Things got somewhat back to normal in May with the celebration of Mothers Day and the news that Marge Finocchiaro had completed her chemo treatments and seemed to be on her way to recovery in May. All the Fathers were honored in June. Our annual Picnic in July seemed to pick up everyone spirit. There was good food and a bocce match won by Jo Nunnenkamp and Chuck Nardiello. Frank Marcinkowski arranged a trip to a Winery for a wine tasting party in Aug. Sept was its usual busy time for the Lodge with our participation in a rainy but still wonderful Alexandria Festival.

We held our Octoberfest and Welcome Italiano Dinner in Oct, both events were delightful. We held a white elephant sale and auction at our Nov meeting. La Befana got our Christmas Party started by reading a story to the children The appearance of Santa with his gifts brought smiles to the faces of all the children. We continued our tradition of “Adopting a Family” for Christmas We delivered gifts to the Childrens’ Hospital and made donations to the Cooley’s Anemia Fund and the Alzheimers Association. Thanks to Art Moscatello we were able to get Annendale Terrace Elementary School to introduce Italian to their students. We also began a conversational Italian language class for our members. On 25 June 2005, Herb Nunnenkamp was selected as the Grand Lodge of Virginia’s Walter Junger Humanitarian Award Finalist!

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order of the Sons of Italy in America
Activities and Committees
(Both past and present)

'100 Club' 50/50 Drawing	Knights of Columbus Hall Cleaning
Activities Committee	Leewood Adult Daycare Center – Italian
Day	
Annual Alexandria Italian Festival	Lodge Anniversary Celebration
Annual New Member Welcome Dinner	Lodge Cookbooks
Annual Vienna Days festival	Lodge Logo Contest
Archives Committee	Lodge Mutual Fund
Auctions	Membership Recognition
Awards and Recognition Committee	Membership Committee
Christmas Party	Mother's and Father's Day
Celebrations	
Columbus Day Celebration	Newsletter Advertisements Committee
Columbus Day Dinner Dance	Nominating Committee
Columbus Essay Contest	Participation in State Lodge Convention
Easter Pot Luck Dinner	Phone Tree Committee
Family History	Picnic Committee
Family Picnic and Family Outings	Program Committee
Fundraising Committee	Participation in State Lodge
Outreach Weekend	
Hospitality Committee	Scholarship
Installation of Officers	Sunday Brunch
Italian Card Games – Briscola & Scopa	Valentine's Day Celebration
Italian Films	Visit Children's Hospital
Italian Heritage Banner	West End Dinner Theater
Italian Heritage Foundation	Wolf Trap
Italian language Classes	

How Italian Culture Influenced the World!

Throughout the ages, Italian genius has shaped the world- starting with the Romans to the modern Italian American singers – Italian culture has influenced all of civilization.

Though Greece is credited for Democracy, it was Direct Democracy. The Roman Republic, prior to the Roman Empire, was an early example of Representative Democracy, providing the framework for modern Republics. Primitive by our standards, however, the framework is there. Starting in 500 BC, this early framework began to take place, and continued to evolve towards a more representative model, ending only when the empire was established. Branches of government, balance of power, election of two consuls – who had elected terms of one year, election of Senators and of magistrates (judges) were part of this Republican government.

With the Roman Empire and its successful expansion throughout most of Europe, parts of Africa and Asia, Rome spread other ideas. The Roman language (Latin) was the official language of the empire. Latin is the root for many different languages, and Latin words have extended to many other languages. With the Roman Empire and Latin, it also brought Roman roads, Roman law, the Roman calendar and influence of Rome on warfare.

The calendar of Julius Caesar, with a slight modified by Pope Gregory XIII, currently functions as the worldwide norm. Rome first codified its' laws – the 12 tables, around 450 BC, including civil law. The law kept pace with Roman society as it grew in complexity and comprehensiveness. Spread throughout the Empire, it became the standard that most societies used after Rome fell. It is the basis for modern law. The modern roads of today in the Roman Empire's areas are built on top of old Roman roads, using the lines of communication and commerce developed by the Romans. Many military terms, organizations, and traditions had their origins in Rome.

An early explorer, trader and writer, Marco Polo is crediting with opening up the trade routes to the Orient, including the Silk Road in the middle 12th century. An early scientist, Galileo, in the 1600s perfected the telescope, studied the planets, and pushed the theory that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the universe. He also developed the framework for the scientific method.

Many of the early explorers to the new world were Italians in the service of others. Christopher Columbus, Verrazano, John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) and, of course, Amerigo Vespucci – whose first name gave America its name.

Cicero Machiavelli's impact on political theory, based on his book "the Prince", continues to shape the political landscape. Saint Thomas Aquinas continues to impact religious philosophies. Dante's work, titled "Divine Comedy" on the journey through heaven, hell and purgatory is considered one of the greatest literary works, second only to those of Homer and Shakespeare. Leonardo DiVinci and Michaelangelo, quintessential Renaissance men, are unequaled in the world of art.

In the field of music, Bartolomeo Cristofori invented the piano in the 18th century. Antonio Stradivari perfected the violin. Verdi and Rossini were instrumental in the development and the popularity of the opera. Pavarotti still thrills audiences with his opera songs. In more modern times, Italian Americans lead the way in music heard around the world. This includes Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett.

In the 13th century, the world's first medical college was established in Salerno and the world's first medical university in Bologna. The University of Bologna was also the world's first university for the study of law.

Italian monks, from the fall of the Roman Empire through the Renaissance, preserved the written traditions and history of earlier times. Without these Monks, many historic works, including the bible, Greek, Egyptian, and Roman history and classics, would have been lost to history.

Roman architects, engineers and builders have inspired past and present builders with magnificent and historic buildings. Also Bernini, with his baroque style of art and architecture added to this type of brilliance.

Italian saints were an inspiration to the Roman Catholic Church – these included Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Saint Benedict.

Italian influence on inventions is also great. Though DaVinci was a great artist, he was one of the greatest thinkers and inventors of mankind. Volta and Galvani did the early work on electricity. The term voltage came from Volta's name. Marconi invented the radio. Antonio Muezzi built the first working telephone (though unpatented) – years before Alexander Graham Bell. Enrico Fermi, an Italian American, is considered the "The Father of the Atomic Age". Enzo Ferrari was a great racing car builder (as well as driver).

The best, of course, is saved for last! – Italian FOOD!! Italian food, in some form or fashion, can be found throughout the world. Believed invented in Asia, both pizza and spaghetti have spread to many cultures and countries. Both can be found in any large American cities' restaurants and many American homes. Also, classic French cooking has its' origins in Italy. In 1533, when Catherine DeMedici arrived in France to marry Prince Henry of France, some of the items she brought with her were forks – the French were still eating with their fingers – and Italian chefs. Those Italian chefs, with Catherine's influence, helped transform French cooking into what eventually became the grand cuisine of France!

Italian Genius, from ancient Rome to 21st Century America, has provided many gifts to Mankind.

NOTE: Most of this information comes from “Sprezzatura, 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the word”, written by Peter D’Epiro and Mary Desmond Pinkowish, Copyright 2001, Random House, USA.

Italian Immigration to America

At the turn of the 20th century, a growing tide of Italians, largely from the south, immigrated to the United States where work was plentiful and opportunity appeared limitless.

They left Italy in search of opportunities their homeland denied them. In southern Italy, for example, noble families owned half of all the farmland. As a result, millions of peasants were sharecroppers, lucky to find work six months out of the year because the landowners were careless about farming and productivity suffered accordingly.

When they did work, the peasants had to give as much as half their crops to the landowners. These peasants were also taxed by the newly formed united Italian government, which most didn't recognize. They had their sons drafted into the Italian military and watched their children die from poor nutrition and inferior medical care.

The exodus of Italians from their villages more than a century ago has no parallel in history. Out of a population of 14 million southern Italians, an estimated five million left by the outbreak of World War I. It is the largest recorded exodus of a single ethnic group in history.

Most of these immigrants came to the United States during "The Great Migration" between 1880 and 1922. In 1923, the United States restricted the immigration of southern and eastern Europeans, but by then more than 3 million Italians had become permanent U.S. residents.

The descendants of those early Italian immigrants number nearly 16 million, according to the U.S. census of 2000, although through intermarriage, the number of people in the United States with at least one Italian grandparent is estimated to be about 26 million.

The U.S. Census Bureau also reports that Italian Americans are the nation's fifth largest ethnic group with two-thirds of them in white-collar positions in business, medicine, law, education and other professions.

Social scientists strive to explain how so many millions of Italian immigrants achieved success in America despite the challenges of a new language, foreign economic and commercial practices, and the initial prejudice and hostility of an American society unfamiliar with Italians and their customs.

Despite these barriers, the Italian immigrants and their children became part of American society in less than 100 years. Their story is remarkable and inspiring.

THE JOY OF GROWING UP ITALIAN

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I was well into adulthood before I realized that I was an American. Of course, I had been born in America and had lived here all of my life, but, somehow it never occurred to me that just being a citizen of the United States meant I was an American. Americans were people who ate peanut butter and jelly on mushy white bread that came out of plastic packages. Me? **I was Italian.**

For me, as I am sure for most second-generation Italian American children who grew up in the 40's or 50's there was a definite distinction drawn between US and THEM. We were Italians. Everybody else - the Irish, German, Polish, Jewish --- they were the "Med-I-cans". There was no animosity involved in that distinction, no prejudice, no hard feelings, just - well - we were sure ours was the better way. For instance, we had a bread man; a coal and iceman, a fruit and vegetable man, a fish man and we even had a man who sharpened knives and scissors. He came right to our homes or at least right outside our homes. They were the many peddlers who plied the Italian neighborhoods. We would wait for their call, their yell, and their individual distinctive sound. We knew them all and they knew us. Americans went to the stores for most of their foods. What a waste.

Truly, I pitied their loss. They never knew the pleasure of waking up every morning to find a hot, crisp loaf of Italian bread waiting behind the screen door. And instead of being able to climb up on the back of a peddler's truck a couple of times a week just to hitch a ride, most of my "Med-i-can" friends had to be satisfied going to the A&P. When it came to food, it always amazed me that my American friends or classmates only ate turkey on Thanksgiving or Christmas. Or rather, that they **ONLY** ate turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. Now we Italians, we also had turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce, but only after we had finished the antipasto, soup, lasagna, meatballs, salad and whatever else Mama thought might be appropriate for that particular holiday. This turkey was usually accompanied by a roast of some kind (just in case somebody walked in who didn't like turkey) and was followed by an assortment of fruits, nuts, pastries, cakes and of course, homemade cookies. No holiday was complete without some home baking; none of that store bought stuff for us. This is where you learned to eat a seven-course meal between noon and 4 p.m., how to handle hot chestnuts and put tangerine wedges in red wine. I truly believe Italians live a romance with food.

Speaking of food! Sunday was truly the big day of the week! That was the day you'd wake up to the smell of garlic and onions frying in olive oil. As you lay in bed, you could hear the hiss as tomatoes were dropped into a pan. Sunday we always had gravy (the Med-i-cans called it SAUCE) and macaroni (they called it PASTA). Sunday would not be

Sunday without going to Mass. Of course, you couldn't eat before mass because you had to fast before receiving communion. But the good part was we knew when we got home we'd find hot meatballs frying and nothing tastes better than newly fried meatballs and crisp bread dipped into a pot of SAUCE.

There was another difference between US and THEM. We had gardens, not just flower gardens, but huge gardens where we grew tomatoes, tomatoes and more tomatoes. We ate them, cooked them, and canned them. Of course, we also grew peppers, basil, parsley, lettuce and zucchini. Everybody had a grapevine and a fig tree and in the fall everyone made homemade wine, lots of it. Of course, those gardens thrived so because we also had something else it seemed our American friends didn't seem to have. We had a Grandfather!! It's not that they didn't have grandfathers, it's just that they didn't live in the same house, or on the same block. They visited their grandfathers. We ate with ours and God forbid we didn't see him at least once a day. I can still remember my grandfather telling me about how he came to America as a young man, "on the boat". How the family lived in a rented tenement and took in boarders in order to help make ends meet. How he decided he didn't want his children, five sons and two daughters, to grow up in that environment. All of this, of course, in his own version of Italian/English which I learned to understand quite well.

So, when he saved enough, and I could never figure out how, he bought a house. That house served as the family headquarters for the next 40 years. I remember how he hated to leave, would rather sit on the back porch and watch his garden grow and when he did leave for some special occasion, had to return as quickly as possible. After all, "nobody's watching the house". I also remember the holidays when all the relatives would gather at my grandfather's house and there would be tables full of food and homemade wine and music. Women in the kitchen, men in the living room and kids, kids everywhere. I must have a half million cousins, first and second and some who aren't even related, but, what did it matter. And my grandfather, his pipe in his mouth and his fine moustache trimmed, would sit in the middle of it all grinning his mischievous smile, his eyes twinkling, surveying his domain, proud of his family and how well his children had done. One was a cop, one a fireman, one had his trade and of course there was always the rogue. And the girls, they had all married well and had fine husbands and healthy children and everyone knew respect.

He had achieved his goal in coming to America and to New York and now his children and their children were achieving the same goals that were available to them in this great country because they were Americans. When my grandfather died years ago at the age of 76, things began to change. Slowly at first, but then uncles and aunts eventually began to cut down on their visits. Family gatherings were fewer and

something seemed to be missing, although when we did get together, usually at my mother's house now, I always had the feeling he was there somehow. It was understandable of course. Everyone now had families of their own and grandchildren of their own. Today they visit once or twice a year. Today we meet at weddings and wakes.

Lots of other things have changed too. The old house my grandfather bought is now covered with aluminum siding, although my uncle still lives there and of course my grandfather's garden is gone. The last of the homemade wine has long since been drunk and nobody covers the fig tree in the fall anymore. For a while we would make the rounds on the holidays, visiting family. Now, we occasionally visit the cemetery. A lot of them are there, grandparents, uncles, aunts, even my own father.

The holidays have changed too. The great quantity of food we once consumed without any ill effects is no good for us anymore. Too much starch, too much cholesterol, too many calories. And nobody bothers to bake anymore - too busy - And it's easier to buy it now and too much is no good for you. We meet at my house now, at least my family does, but, it's not the same.

The differences between US and THEM aren't so easily defined anymore, and I guess that's good. My grandparents were Italian Italians, my parents were Italian Americans, I'm an American Italian and my children are American Americans. Oh I'm an American alright and proud of it, just as my grandfather would want me to be. We are all Americans now - the Irish, Germans, Poles and Jews. U.S. citizens all - but somehow I still feel a little bit Italian. Call it culture, call it tradition, call it roots, I'm really not sure what it is. All I do know is that my children have been cheated out of a wonderful piece of their heritage. They never knew my grandfather.

ANNEX A: CHARTER OF THE ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE



SUPREME LODGE

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

we, Supreme Council of The Supreme Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America, hereby do hereby certify that the following is the duly authenticated copy of the Charter of the Italian Heritage Lodge, No. 12507, of the District of Columbia, D.C., as the same is now amended.

Alma Carlo Baffone

President

Supreme Lodge

is hereby duly authorized to be the Italian Heritage Lodge, No. 12507,

under the authority of the Supreme Lodge, No. 12507.

and to be the duly authorized representative of the Order Sons of Italy in America, in connection with the District of Columbia, D.C., as the same is now amended.

IT IS NEVERTHELESS UNDERSTOOD THAT:

1. The above and subject of preceding charter, being a duly authenticated copy of the same.

2. It is hereby certified that the same is the duly authenticated copy of the same as recorded by the same Supreme Lodge.

The Supreme Council of the Order Sons of Italy in America, hereby do hereby certify that the same is the duly authenticated copy of the same as recorded by the same Supreme Lodge.

CHARTER

we hereby do hereby certify that the same is the duly authenticated copy of the same as recorded by the same Supreme Lodge.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

we, the National Council and District Councils of the Order Sons of Italy in America, do hereby do hereby certify that the same is the duly authenticated copy of the same as recorded by the same Supreme Lodge.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

NATIONAL RECORDING OFFICER

Alma Carlo Baffone

Alma Carlo Baffone



ANNEX B: PICTURES



Members of the Italian Heritage Lodge at the 1989 State Convention



Apr 1991: Lodge Anniversary Dinner (L-R: Ersilia Origlio, Carl and Camile Marm, Mary and Charles Nardiello)



Aug 1991: Lodge Picnic at Ft McNair (L-R: Anne Lipton and Julie DiCerbo)



Sep 1991: Welcome Italiano, Dinner



Dec 1991: Lodge Christmas Party (Children are Nanny and John Alligood, Rhea Michaelangelo as La Bafana and Santa)



December 1992: Lodge Christmas Party



November 1993: New Member Recognition Bunch



March 1994: Lodge Installation
(I.-R: David Asiello and Jerry DiCerbo)



November 1994: Welcome Italiano Dinner
(John and Laura Asiello flanked by Linda and Ed Majca)





Above: June 1995 Lodge Auction: (L-R) David Asiello, Millic Hogg, and Camille Malm. Below: Nov 1995 Lodge Meeting.





Above: April 1996 Anniversary Dinner: Herb and Jo Nunnenkamp, with Grandchild Julianna and Phillip and friend. Below: Nov 1997 Lodge Auction – Anne Alfano, David Strong with niece, Haley Lipton.





1997 Lodge Picnic: Above: Grill Duty - Joe and Dot Suia. Below: Bocce Ball Tournament - (L-R) Herb Nunnenkamp, Paul Agosta Jr, Paul Agosta III, John Asiello





Mar 1999 Installation of Officers



State Officers at the Installation

(Left to right: State Orator: Walter Junger, State President: Kathy Drummond, Her mother: Mrs Jo Drummond, Walter's Wife and Daughter: Mrs. Mary Bruttomesso Junger and Ms Kathy Junger)

Summer 1999: Lodge Members at the State Convention



August 1999: West End Dinner Theater



Old Town Alexandria Italian Festival Sep 2002 (L – R: Herb Nuppenkamp, Ron Claitch, George Asiello, Paul Agosta, John Asiello, and Gene LaColla)



Via Vienna Italian Festival May 2004 (L – R: John Asiello, Phil Triana, Art Moscatello, and Anthony Finocchiaro)



Dec 2004: Children at the Lodge Christmas Party



Dec 2004: Lodge Christmas Party (L-R: Santa with Kyle Lipton and Rosalie Alligood as La Bafana)





Installation of Officers March 2006

