

La Bandiera



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

**APRILE 2024
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Happy Pasquetta or Easter Monday in Italy. It is long considered an important day of relaxation “scampagnata” (jaunt to the countryside). In fact, that is the main way to celebrate Pasquetta – pack a picnic and head to the country! Hordes of people go to the mountains, the hills, or the beach, or their own family’s country property, to enjoy a picnic or a barbeque outdoors. It is the holiday that heralds spring and is a festive, enjoyable day.

Congratulations to the 2024 – 2025 newly inducted Executive Council. Last Sunday we hosted the Installation with Aldo Funai, President of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. It was our honor to host Aldo and his wife Carolyn at our lodge and we thank them both for coming. A lunch of Lasagna, salad and decadent Pistachio Cake and Tiramisu was served. Many thanks to all who came out to support your new officers.

We are in the final stages of launching a new IHL website. We’re all excited and this new website will make communications with our members much easier and more comprehensive. We’ll let you know of the launch date.

See you all on April 20th when we host Michael Markowitz. Michael will present on the coinage of the Papal States and Vatican City.

Happy Spring!

*Dawn Falsinotti
President, Italian Heritage Lodge*

**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2024-2025 OFFICERS**

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Vice-President:

Imm. Past-President:

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Orator:

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Recording Secy.:

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Financial Secy.:

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Dennis Lillo

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John Dovel

Michael Gering

Vivian Mott

Nancy Perrelli

Donna Stoll

Master of Ceremony: Roy Schender

Mistress of Ceremony: Sandy Schender

Guard:

Maria Carolla

Education Chair:

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

Lodge State Deputy: Mary Louise Smith

IL CALENDARIO

April 10	Lunch Bunch*	Noon	Uno Pizzeria & Grill 3058 Gate House Plaza Falls Church
April 15	Deadline for VA OSIA Foundation Scholarship Applications		
April 17	Executive Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Uno Pizzeria & Grill 3058 Gate House Plaza Falls Church
April 20	Dinner and Guest Speaker* Michael C. Markowitz “Coinage of the Papal States And Vatican City” (\$15.00/person)	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
April 27	Cena e conversazione**	6:00 p.m.	Hosted by Francesca Mazarella
May 18	Italian Bingo*	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
June 15	Bocce at the Lillo’s***	Noon	Hosted by Dennis & Ellie Lillo

Please note the updated information for our annual “Bocce at the Lillo’s” which is planned for Saturday, June 15th at noon. See our flyer in this Newsletter.

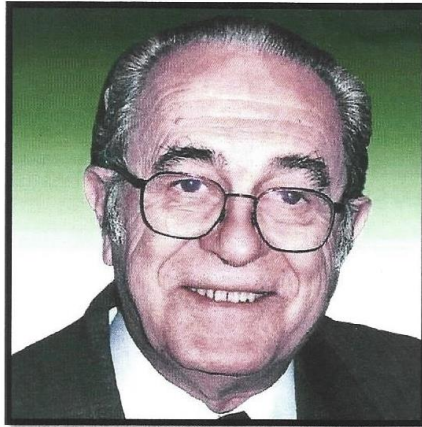
- * RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti (falsinotti@yahoo.com)
- ** RSVP to Dennis Ferrara (dennisferrara@hey.com)
- *** RSVP to Eleanor Lillo (delillo1@verizon.net)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Susan Bonsiero	April 3	Donna Stoll	April 16
Carlo Mignani	April 3	Flo Primeggia	April 20
Jim Cocco	April 11	Stephen Ulissi	April 21
Gioia Egan	April 14	Angelo Saladini	April 23
Marianne Hallahan	April 15	Fred Ingham	April 29
Teresa Scafetta	April 15	Christopher Stacy	April 30



IN LOVING MEMORY



Omero Sabatini

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dearest friend and member, Omero Sabatini. Omero passed away on March 5, 2024, with his Funeral Mass being held at Holy Rosary Church in Washington, D.C. on March 13. He is survived by his second wife, Belinda, and his two sons, Giuseppe and Sean.

Omero was a Past President of the Italian Heritage Lodge, serving two terms, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, as well as a former Past President of Abruzzo-Molise Heritage Society in Washington, D.C. and is being remembered as having brought authentic Italian culture and wisdom to our IHL lodge meetings and activities.

Omero was a retired American diplomat with extensive experience in promoting intercultural relations and translating from and into Italian. He interpreted at the highest levels of government in both the United States and Europe, published numerous booklets and articles on international affairs in English, as well as human interest stories in Italian. The Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C. proudly recognized his contribution to the Society's goal of promoting Italian culture in the Nation's Capital and the rest of the country.

Many of our members will remember Omero's presentation of his book "Promise of Fidelity" which was his abridged translation and adaption of "I Promessi Sposi" by Italy's foremost novelist, Alessandro Manzoni. The book was widely received and applauded for his adaption and translation of this literary masterpiece, bringing out the richness and grandeur of Manzoni's style.

His last booklet "America's Italian Heritage" will captivate anyone who is "of Italian origin, a lover of things Italian or if you like American history." It touches on subjects such as historical, scientific, cultural, and economic heritage, and geographic names, things that originated in Ancient Rome that impact and are part of our daily American life.

Riposa in pace nostro caro amico.



The Esposito's - The End of An Era

On March 10, the Esposito's closed its doors permanently. It was a popular Fairfax Mom and Pop Italian food establishment managed by Maria Esposito for over forty years. Esposito's, Maria, and the staff will be much missed by the community it served. Serving predominately Neapolitan style dishes and great pizza, Esposito's was awarded many

accolades through the years. Given just two weeks by the landlord to close, the buzz to go by for one last meal was overwhelming. Lines graced the door every last night with Fairfax residents that have been frequenting this restaurant for many years wanting to show their appreciation and say their good-byes. It functioned like a family. The goodbyes were bittersweet and heartwarming at the same time. Esposito's has a special place in my heart. Not only did I work there for over 30 years, but I met my darling husband Francesco in 1991 and as they say, the rest is history. Many friendships born; many souls lost. A much beloved gathering spot whose stars blazed bright for many years. Esposito's will be missed immeasurably by many. – Dawn Falsinotti

Italian Heritage Lodge Language Group "Cena e Conversazione"

"Last night we enjoyed a bella cena at the Cortona Academy. Thanks to Sharon Strauchs for providing the lovely setting and everyone for the dinner contributions. Good food and a little wine loosened the conversation, which alternated between Italian and English as the topics and our ability varied. We were a small group, so everyone had many opportunities to put their Italian to work. Sharon, Peter, Francesca and Kathleen are pictured in the attached photo." – Dennis Ferrara

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

The goal of the IHL Language Group is to promote our Italian heritage through language by creating opportunities to practice and improve our ability to speak Italian. To that end, we strive to create a friendly and pleasant environment for our meetings. Specifically, we meet monthly in a social setting to speak as much Italian as we can.



GUEST SPEAKER
MICHAEL C. MARKOWITZ
SATURDAY, APRIL 20 @ 5:00 P.M.
Knights Of Columbus Hall
(Dinner cost is \$15.00 per person)

Michael C. Markowitz

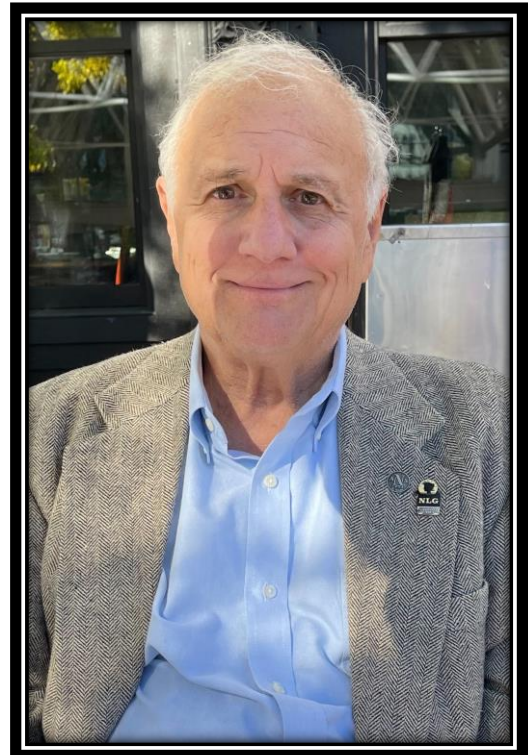
Michael C. Markowitz will give a talk about the coinage of the Papal States and Vatican City at our monthly membership meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2024. He will show some coin samples from his collection. He will make a Power Point presentation to be followed by a question-and-answer period.

Mike was born in New York City. His mother's Italian family name was Genga. His father's ancestors emigrated from Romania. Mike attended the University of Rochester, then the University of California, Irvine. He worked for many years in the aerospace industry in southern California. He moved to northern Virginia in 1991 where he is a senior research specialist for the Center for Naval Analyses.

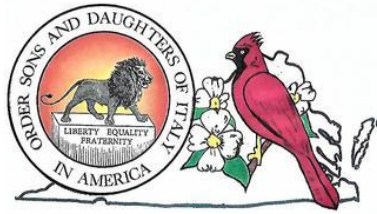
Mike is a contributing writer on ancient and medieval coins for CoinWeek.com. He is a member of the American Numismatic Society and the Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington, D.C. Additionally, he is the vice president of the Fairfax Coin Club.

Mike has said that one of the greatest thrills of his life was spending an afternoon inside the coin vault of the archaeological museum in Siracusa, Sicily. As a lifelong bachelor, Mike resides in Fairfax where he is married to his coins.

Let's give a warm welcome to Mike Markowitz!



(Submitted by Joseph Scafetta, Jr.)



The Virginia OSIA Foundation 2024 Scholarships

The Virginia OSIA Foundation is pleased to announce that four academic excellence-based scholarships totaling \$3,500 are available for 2024. The Foundation encourages eligible and deserving students to apply for any or all these scholarships.

Available scholarships for 2024

The Virginia OSIA Foundation Scholarship -- \$1,000.00

The Joseph Fulton Memorial Scholarship -- \$1,000.00

The John F. Asiello Scholarship -- \$1,000.00

The Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship -- \$500.00

For the first three scholarships, applicants must be accepted into or currently enrolled in a full-time undergraduate (four year minimum) or graduate degree program in any course of study at an accredited institution of higher learning. For the Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship, students must be accepted into or currently enrolled in a community college or trade school.

Deadline

***Applications must be postmarked no later than
April 15, 2024***

Kathy A Drummond, Scholarship Committee Chair, at
anellol@verizon.net or 703-368-5039.

For applications in word version or pdf, please visit the Grand Lodge of Virginia website: vaosia.org/scholarships.html

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 TERM

According to our IHL Bylaws, the Nominating Committee, together with our regular members, elected a new slate of officers and trustees, who were thereby officially installed at our “Installation of Officers Ceremony and Luncheon” on Sunday, March 24, 2024. State President, Aldo Funai, presided over the ceremony. The Nominating Committee consisted of Chairwoman Teresa Talierco Scafetta, John Asiello, Laura Asiello, Sharon Strauchs, and Joey Scafetta, III, with assistance from IHL Orator, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., whose duty it was to solicit members who may be considering filling open council seats. Much appreciation goes to our Nominating Committee for their dedication to this important lodge process and especially to State President Aldo Funai for visiting IHL, meeting our members, and presiding over the ceremony.

IHL proudly announces our incoming Officers and Trustees who have volunteered their time, talents, and efforts for the benefit of our lodge and our community at large. We congratulate them for this achievement and wish them “Buona Fortuna” in the coming year as we give them our assistance and dedication to our fraternal organization. We offer our gratitude and appreciation to our Executive Council members in their 2023-2024 term who made this past year successful and fun, while working so hard to bring amazing events to our members each month.



2024-2025 IHL Officers & Trustees

Front Row: Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Orator; Sandra Schender, Mistress of Ceremonies; Dennis Lillo, Treasurer; Eleanor Lillo, Financial Secretary; Marianne Hallahan, Recording Secretary; Coletta Sciscilo, Immediate Past President; James Cocco, Vice President; Dawn Falsinotti, President.

Back Row: Maria Carolla, Guard; Roy Schender, Master of Ceremonies; Donna Stoll, Trustee; Vivian Mott, Trustee; Michael Gering, Trustee; John Dovel, Trustee.

Missing: Nancy Perrelli, Trustee

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS AND LUNCHEON

March 24, 2024



Grand Lodge of Virginia President, Aldo Funai, traveled from Richmond with his wife Carolyn to preside over our Installation. After his brief remarks, Aldo officially installed our new Officers and Trustees.



Molto grazie to our valued members who work so hard to plan, prepare and serve our meals – Dawn, Marianne, Donna & Maria – so that we can all enjoy them! Always a job well done by our set up and clean up crew for all our events!



New IHL member Stephen Ulissi is welcomed by Gilber Misantoni



(Photographs submitted by Eleanor Lillo and Tommaso Ammazalorso)

IHL Bocce at the Lillo's



When: Saturday, June 15, 2024

Where: 5104 Colebrook Place
Alexandria, VA 22312

Time: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Hosted by
Eleanor and Dennis Lillo

Menu: Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with all the Fixings,
Sausage & Peppers, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Desserts
& Cold Beverages

There will be a charge of \$15 per person for this event.
Make check payable to IHL and mail to 5104 Colebrook Place,
Alexandria, VA 22312.

Please confirm your attendance by June 10th!

**RSVP who will be attending and who will
play in the bocce tournament.**

By email: delillo1@verizon.net

By telephone: (703) 354-2454

**This event is sponsored by the
Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax
for Lodge members and their families.**



Come and enjoy the fun!

The Amazing (and Daring) Adventures of The Lillo's

By Dennis Lillo

Eleanor and I recently returned from a trip to Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, and Antarctica. We toured Buenos Aires for three days visiting historical sites including the Recoletta cemetery where Eva Peron is entombed in a mausoleum.

We flew from there to Ushuaia at the Southernmost tip of Argentina in Tierra del Fuego where we boarded our ship the L'Austral for a two-day voyage through the Drake Passage to Antarctica. This is where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans meet near Cape Horn. This passage is known for the possibility of very rough seas. However, one can experience what is known as the Drake Lake or the Drake Shake. Fortunately for us we mostly experienced the former except for a few hours during the first night when we experienced the "Shake." We were on the fourth deck of six and the waves reached as high as our balcony.

Upon reaching the Shetland Islands and the Antarctica Peninsula we left the ship twice a day for six days in Zodiacs, landing on islands populated with thousands of Gentoo and Adelie penguins, fur seals, leopard seals and saw several pods of Humpback whales. The Zodiacs are motorized rubber rafts that held up to ten of us with a guide. As there are no ports or docks in Antarctica we were required to step briefly into the water before stepping onto shore. Of course, we were well prepared to do that with sixteen-inch-high boots covered with rain pants. We also wore several layers of clothing as well as a parka provided by Tauck, which we were allowed to keep. And since it was still summer there the temperature range on any day was between 25 and 35 degrees, not really any worse than what we left in Virginia in February.



Gentoo
mother
penguin
with
chicks





Adélie penguins



Leopard seal



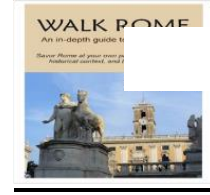
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”
www.walk-rome.com



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