



La Bandiera

The Banner



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

**AGOSTO 2020
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Cari amici,

The dog days of summer are upon us and let's hope August is kinder with not so many 90 degree days. Many of you know I was in the hospital for several weeks. I have been home for a month or so recuperating and getting stronger every day. I still have a ways to go but am optimistic I'll be back to normal in the near future. Many thanks to those who reached out to me with your kind thoughts.

Most of us never expected the Covid to last so long and cause so much heartache and death. Thank goodness Italy has been able to flatten the curve but friends and family report they are still struggling to find some sense of normalcy. I miss all of you and know we are all anxious to see each other and gather again. We're considering late September but cannot make any concrete plans due to the ever changing situation with Covid. If you're having a hard time dealing with the isolation or any reason please reach out to one of us. We need to be here for each other.

I received my copy of *ItalianAmerica*, the summer edition and have really enjoyed some of the articles, especially the article, "I Gatti di Roma," by our esteemed lodge member, Peter Ognibene, about the cats of Rome. And also the article on Italian Ice, a summertime favorite. As a child in NYC this was a daily treat during the hot weather.

**Stay cool.
All the best,
Dawn**

Ferragosto

Ferragosto, or Assumption Day, is an Italian national holiday and holy day of obligation in the Catholic Church. Celebrated on Aug. 15, Ferragosto is the height of the Italian vacation season. While many businesses in the larger cities may be closed, museums and tourist shops will be open and bustling.

This national holiday has a history that goes back centuries, even before the Catholic holy day, to the founding of ancient Rome itself. The Roman emperor Caesar Augustus (Octavian), the first Roman emperor, held the first iteration of Ferragosto, called the Feriae Augusti, in 18 BCE. The date commemorates Augustus' victory over his rival Marc Antony at the Battle of Actium.

**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2019-2020 OFFICERS**

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Publicity Chair: **Joe La Marca**
joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org
(This position is also open for anyone interested)

Sentinel: **Sal Guli**

Education Chair: **Elisabetta Lazarte**
Elisabettalazarte@gmail.com

Membership Chair:
Webmaster: **Joe La Marca**

Master of Ceremonies: **Roy Schender**
Mistress of Ceremonies: **Vacant**

Lodge Members Serving on the Grand Council of Virginia:
Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Former State President
Coletta Sciscilo, Second Vice-President
Marianne Hallahan, Trustee
John Asiello, Arbitration Committee
Tony Musco, Arbitration Committee

SAVE THE DATES - FUTURE LODGE EVENTS

September 19 (Tentative)	Installation Ceremony and Dinner	6:30 P.M.	K of C Hall
October 10	(TBD)		
November 14	(TBD)		
December 12	Festa di Natale	6:00 P.M.	K of C Hall

Buon Anniversario !



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Carmine & Flo Primeggia	August 13
Rupert & Sharon Harmon	August 17
Carlos & Betsy Magnani	August 22
Robert & Joanne Reed	August 28

*Buon Compleanno
e Tanti Auguri!*



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

John Tarlano	August 6
Joyce Taormina	August 9
Robert Reed	August 11
Tommaso Ammazalorso	August 13
Lou Moschetto	August 14
Russ DeRose	August 20
Carol Casella	August 23
Dennis Lillo	August 25
Gloria Moscatello	August 26
Eleanor Lillo	August 28
Joanne Cooke	August 28

† *The passing of our former member, Anthony Finocchiaro* †

Anthony's daughter, Donna Fallas, has informed the lodge of the passing of her father and shares this note with us:

My dad was an active member of the Sons in Italy in Fairfax from around the years 2002-2014. He suffered from dementia from 2015 till the present. During this time he had withdrawn from most of his socializing, but I know that my mom and him (my mom Margaret died in 2010) made some friends who they always enjoyed spending time with. I'm not sure if there are any members who would still remember my dad, but I'm sharing his obituary just in case. Nothing made my dad prouder than his Italian heritage.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church-va/anthony-finocchiaro-9283160?client=safari>

If you wish to send cards or notes of sympathy to the family, please contact Joe La Marca or Colette Sciscilo.

A thoughtful and proper response was sent to Donna from
Joe La Marca on behalf of IHL:

Your dad was well liked and well respected in our lodge and contributed greatly to its management. For many years he provided valuable guidance to us in financial affairs as an active member of our Executive Council. He was a gentleman and a professional. Please accept our sympathy for your loss and the loss to the Italian-American community.



Dear Members and friends,

We have received word from the Grand Lodge of Virginia as well as directives from National that for the time being, all future events will be indefinitely postponed until it is safe to socialize. These will include the following events:

*Monthly Executive Council Meetings
Monthly Lunch Bunch
Monthly IHL Italian Language Group
Installation of Officers Dinner and Ceremony
Casino Night
A Night of Italian Music
Bocce Event*

IHL DUES: IHL will be suspending the payment of current dues for August until further notice. We realize that because of work/salary situations, many members will be unable to submit their annual dues at this time. Since this is a fluid situation and since we have been unable to hold events, please bear with us as we assess an appropriate solution. If you have any questions, please contact either Dot Saia or Dawn Falsinotti.

Installation of Officers and Dinner: We are hoping to hold the installation of officers and dinner sometime soon at the Knights Hall. The date and time, along with the dinner details, will be forthcoming once finalized.

The Summer 2020 edition of ItalianAmerica features another of Peter Ognibene's articles (his tenth contribution), entitled "I Gatti di Roma – Roaming the Ruins of Rome."

With photographs taken by his wife Kathleen, Peter provides a capsule history of how this two-acre expanse of Roman ruins was transformed into a place of care and compassion. The article also provides information on how individuals can help the sanctuary as it deals with the COVID-19 pandemic from which Italy continues to recover.

You may recall that this past Autumn, Joe and Teresa Scafetta produced a Centennial Commemorative Calendar for Women's Suffrage and offered it for sale to IHL members.

Since then, Joe has written a final installment in a series of articles celebrating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, published in the DC Bar's Washington Lawyer magazine, July/August 2020 edition.

The article is entitled "Women's Suffrage – A Story of Courage & Perseverance"

Congratulations to all for your great work!

(See also Joe's article on the following page about the life and career of Italian-American baseball pitcher Johnny Antonelli)



I came across this picture recently of the last Lunch Bunch we attended - March 11th.

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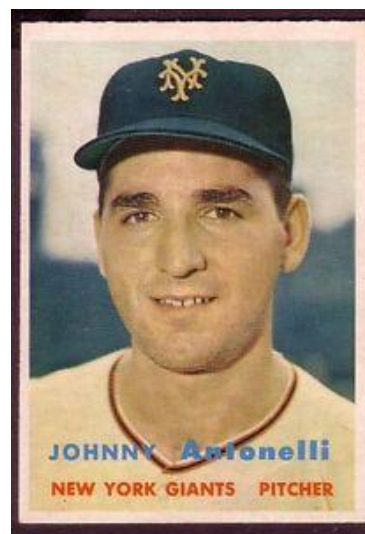
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Johnny Antonelli

Written and contributed by Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

John August Antonelli was born in Rochester, New York, on April 12, 1930. His father, Augusto, was born in the municipality of Casalbordino, a coastal town on the Adriatic Sea, just north of the city of Vasto, in the province of Chieti, in the region of Abruzzo. (In the 2007 census, Casalbordino had a population of 6,410.) Johnny's father immigrated to New York in 1913. Johnny's mother, Josephine Messore, was born in Buffalo. Both of his mother's parents were born in Italy.

The Bonus Rule went into effect in 1947 to prevent rich teams from signing all the top prospects. Johnny was a left-handed pitcher at Jefferson High School from which he graduated in June 1948. Nine of the 16 major league teams in existence at that time bid for his services. On June 29, 1948, he signed with the Boston Braves for a bonus of \$52,000. He went straight to the majors, so he never pitched in the minor leagues. On July 4, 1948, five days after signing, he pitched his first game for the Braves. Boston went on to win the 1948 National League pennant.



In early 1951, Johnny was drafted into the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia. At the end of his two years of service, he rejoined the Braves for the start of the 1953 season at their new home in Milwaukee. As a regular member of the starting rotation, he finished fifth in the National League with an earned run average of 3.18.

In February 1954, he was traded to the New York Giants in a six-player deal for veteran outfielder Bobby Thomson who had hit the pennant-winning home run in 1951. In the middle of the 1954 season, Johnny was selected for the National League All-Star Team. During the entire season, he won 21 games and lost only seven. He led the National League with the most shutouts (six) and with the lowest earned run average of 2.30. In the World Series against the Cleveland Indians, he won Game 2 and earned a save in Game 4, as the Giants won in a four-game sweep. As a result, he was given *The Sporting News* Pitcher of the Year Award. He then made the National League All-Star Team each year from 1956 through 1958.

In 1959 the Giants moved to San Francisco where he again made the All-Star Team and won the first game against the American League on July 7. By the end of the season, he was tied for the lead in the National League for shutouts with four. In early 1961 he was traded to the Cleveland Indians. On July 4, 1961, his contract was sold to the Milwaukee Braves. At the end of the season, his contract was sold again, this time to the expansion team New York Mets. Instead of reporting to the Mets for Spring training in 1962, he decided to retire at the age of 32.

In 14 major league seasons, he appeared in 377 regular-season games, winning 126 of them against 110 losses. He pitched 102 complete nine-inning games, had 25 shutouts with the opposing team not scoring a single run, and also had 21 saves as a relief pitcher. He struck out 1,162 batters and walked only 687. His career earned run average was 3.34.

After his baseball career, he returned to his home town of Rochester where for many years he ran a chain of 28 Firestone Tire stores. He died in Rochester from cancer on February 28, 2020, six weeks before his 90th birthday. He is survived by his second wife, Gail Harms, four children, Lisa, Donna, Regina, John Jr., and ten grandchildren. His first wife, Rosemarie, died in 2002.



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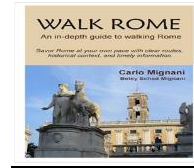


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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information.

Available on Amazon, by searching
“Walk Rome Mignani”
Website: www.walk-rome.com

FM

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