



La Bandiera

The Banner



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

**DECEMBRE 2020
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Cari amici,

Merry Christmas a tutti,

It seems like an eternity since we've seen each other and gotten together. I'm home from the hospital and working to regain my health. I pray everyone is doing well and enjoying time with family and friends. Given the situation we will not be able to host the Christmas party. Let's plan on having a big post-Corona virus party as soon as possible.

We're going to host a zoom "Holiday Happy Hour" on December 7th from 5:30 to 6:30. This will give us an opportunity to catch up, visit and talk about what has been happening in our lives, along with holiday plans. We hope everyone will make plans to join us. You will be receiving details shortly by email regarding a zoom link for the happy hour.

*Until then,
Dawn*



December 1, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers of our Order,

If we learned nothing else this exceptional year of 2020 with all its divisions, disorder and discomfort, it is that life is in constant flux and continually invites us to become more mindful and charitable. The Advent-Christmas Season is a time to practice this mindfulness as reflected in the following story.

On Christmas Day a small manger scene sat on a hallway table in a neatly kept home. People hurried past it all day. They barely noticed the tiny figures gathered around the infant tucked in the straw. In the morning, children raced by it on their way to the Christmas tree. At noon, arriving guests pushed past it to get to the dining room. One accidentally knocked over a shepherd as his sweater brushed by it.

Later in the afternoon, a well-fed group of adults and children moved somewhat slowly by the manger again as they drifted from the dining room back to the living room. None of them stopped to look at the manger. None of them even noticed it, except two.

An elderly woman, walking with a cane, paused in front of the scene. Gently she set the shepherd back in an upright position. Then she looked at the Christ child in the middle of all the figures. As she stood there, she became aware of her small grandson standing by her side. As voices bellowed from the living room the two continued to look at the manger scene. A smile spread across the woman's face as the child took her hand. In the midst of a day filled with so much distraction the two of them quietly received God's gift. It's a gift wrapped with the most exquisite paper imaginable, a bundle of swaddling clothes.

This gift of God has been offered to each of us by the One whose birthday we prepare for during Advent and celebrate throughout the Christmas Season. Sadly, however, not all who profess faith in Christ will unwrap and discover the hidden splendor and grace of God's love for us. Others, thankfully, will have mindfully and "quietly received God's gift", then share it with others in a spirit of charity.

Brothers and sisters, as members of our beloved Order we have responded to this call of charity for well over a century. Our eternal inheritance, however, hinges on more than just charity. With an eye towards tomorrow our charity today must be implemented in such a way that it renews and reforms. Today's charity must be supported, promoted and ensured by tomorrow's social justice which fosters Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Despite the divisions, disorder and discomfort in these challenging times my hope, especially this Advent-Christmas Season, is that we will all become more mindful of God's greatest gift to us in "Emmanuel" ("God with Us"), as did the elderly woman and child in the story above. I encourage you to take a "mindful moment" be it a silent gaze into a nativity scene, reading seasonal scriptures/reflections, listening to seasonal hymns, meditation or whatever aids your prayer and paying attention. As you do, reaffirm your faith in Christ's presence and power among us that enables to make the world aright. He is the embodiment of love which is the essence of who we are and how we are called to care for one another. Therefore, let us implore the Prince of Peace, living through us by the power of His Spirit, to become more mindful in fostering the reconciliation, justice and healing that our world and nation needs --- that God asks of us in every season of our lives.

Buon Natale - Felice Anno Nuovo,
Rev. R. Adam Forno, National OSDIA Chaplain
NY State OSDIA Chaplain Emeritus

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

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	Vacant as of December 31, 2020	

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: Sharon Strauchs

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**

FUTURE LODGE EVENTS TO BE DETERMINED

December 7	IHL Holiday Happy Hour	5:30-6:30 P.M.	Zoom
December 7	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	7:00 P.M.	Zoom
December 9	Council Meeting	7:00 P.M.	Zoom
December 25	<i>Feast of the Nativity – Christmas Day Boun Natale</i>		
January 1, 2021	<i>New Year's Day Felice Anno Nuovo</i>		

Buon Anniversario !



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Amal Maggio	December 9
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Buon Compleanno
e Tanti Auguri!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rosalie Ciccotelli	December 2
Rosalind Michaelangelo	December 5
Betsy Mignani	December 6
Frank Bonsiero	December 8
Peter Ognibene	December 9
Palmer DeMeo	December 19
Rupert Harmon	December 19
Steven Lipton	December 21
Augie Taormina	December 24

A message to our President, from our Treasurer Cynthia Williams, who will be leaving her position as Treasurer at the end of this year:

“I have enjoyed being Treasurer for the past 5 years and attending many IHL events, however, I do not plan on continuing after this year. Being part of the lodge was enjoyable and I so loved meeting new people and doing new things! I feel like you all are an extension of my family. It just hasn’t been as enjoyable for me and my family for a while due to my husband’s health issues. Thank you for being a wonderful President! Of course I will finish out this year as Treasurer and will gladly pass the torch to the next willing volunteer. I know this year has been tough on us all. Stay strong and be well.

kindest Regards,

**Cynthia Williams
Treasurer IHL”**

If there is anyone who would like to volunteer for his position, please let Dawn know as soon as possible so a transition can be made smoothly at the end of the year.

Thank you Cynthia for a wonderful job you have done over these past 5 years. Your dedication to our lodge and your financial expertise were immeasurable. We are grateful for your friendship as well. Once our events resume, we will look forward to seeing you, Chris and John once again.



AND....a note from Carol Ann Linder who promises another interesting article coming soon.....

“Cara Coletta,

Grazie mille! Thank you so much for the lovely acknowledgement in the newsletter of my article in "ItalianAmerica" magazine. That was so very sweet of you. I was very excited that the article was published in their fall issue (as I had been told originally that it would be in the winter 2021 issue).

I have been keeping busy during this isolation. I wrote another story about my father during WWII and his relationship with Italian prisoners of war at Camp Shanks in NY where they kept the Italian and German POWs. The editor of "Italian America" is slating it for perhaps the summer 2021 issue. I know that Peter Ognibene has been writing for the magazine for years. But this is truly exciting for me!

Thank you again for your kind words.

**Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and safe winter.
Carol Ann”**

Italian Language Program of Northern VA – Elisabetta Lazarte, our lodge Education Chair, has sent out her upcoming schedule for the Winter 2020 language program, starting soon. Please contact her at elisabettalazarte@gmail.com or (703) 887-1995 to obtain the schedule of varying levels of language instruction, dates and times, and tuition costs. Classes will take place online via ZOOM.US. Elisabetta conveys “as always, and evermore, I am thankful to all of you for wanting to learn the ITALIAN language and Culture!”

***SPEAKING OF ELISABETTA**, please join me in extending “CONGRATULAZIONI”, to Elisabetta on the occasion of her becoming an American citizen. She will take her oath at a Naturalization Oath Ceremony this Friday, December 4th. I know that Elisabetta has been studying extremely hard to prepare for this undertaking and takes her citizenship choice seriously. Buona Fortuna, Elisabetta. Dio ti benedica!*

Dear Members and friends,

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
Meet & Greet Spaghetti Dinner
A Night of Italian Music
Bocce Event*

IHL DUES: IHL will be suspending the payment of current dues for December 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.

*Amanda Hertzog, President of Italo-American Citizens Lodge #1077, has asked me to pass along their flyer for their lodge’s **100th Anniversary celebration**. I am happy to provide the flyer to our members as an attachment to this email.*

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100th Anniversary

Italo-American Citizens #1077

We look forward to celebrating with our brothers and sisters a wonderful evening commemorating a great feat.

Date: Feb. , 2021

Location: Roma Lodge, VB

Time: Social Hour 5-6pm, Dinner 6-7pm, Presentation 7-7:30, and Dance 7:30-9pm

Tickets: \$25.00 (Will include water/sweet tea, appetizers, dinner, and dessert.)

Attire: Business Casual / Cocktail Attire

Please come out and be a part of our celebration! There will be a bar with wine and beer (\$3.00 each). You may bring your preferred drink of choice. We will also have a 50/50, silent auction, and a "Look Back at Our History" table.

****Due to COVID-19 dates may change. We will follow the Governor's recommendations and the Roma Lodge's request with concerns on gatherings.**

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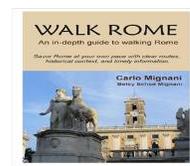
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information.

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



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