



La Bandiera

The Banner



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

**GIUGNO 2021
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Cari amici,

June welcomes the beginning of summer and the warmer weather. Considering how much time we've spent at home, everyone is anxious to get out and enjoy. As a lodge we had three lovely events in May. Italian Bingo was a lot of fun and well attended. Lunch Bunch and our first Happy Hour were also well attended and enjoyed by all.

Let's keep the ball rolling with our upcoming June 12th event, Game Night with Ravioli Dinner. We're going to play Monopoly, Scrabble, Scopa and any other games of interest. We're paying strict attention to Covid protocol and we welcome all to come out and socialize. Please pay attention to the calendar in the newsletter for items of interest.

Lastly, we have several open positions within the council of the lodge. If interested in service, please let myself or Colette know.

*All the best,
Dawn*

*Italian Book Club
Club del libro italiano*

*We are trying to get a feel for lodge interest in starting a
book club.*

*Exclusively Italian-themed books will be read, discussed
and critiqued.*

*Send in your thoughts and suggestions to President Dawn
and let's see what we can get started!*



**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2021-2022 OFFICERS**

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(This position is also open for anyone interested)

Guard:

Vacant

Education Chair:

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Membership Chair:

Sharon P. Strauchs
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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

June 12	Game Night and Ravioli Dinner*	6:00 P.M.	St. Leo K of C Hall
June 16	IHL Council Meeting	7:00 P.M.	Via Zoom
June 18	Lunch Bunch*	Noon	Uno Pizzeria & Grill 3058 Gate House Plaza Falls Church
June 20	<i>Buona Festa del Papà</i>		
June 24	Happy Hour	5:30 – 7:00 PM	Kilroy's 5250-A Port Royal Road Springfield
June 26	GLVA Convention	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	In-Person at Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
		OR	
June 26	GLVA Convention	9:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Zoom Convention
July 4	Fourth Of July Brunch	9:30 AM – Noon	K of C Hall

We are happy to return to our very popular monthly “Lunch Bunch” – Friday, June 18 at noon at Uno Pizzeria & Grill, 3058 Gate House Plaza, Falls Church. We will be dining al fresco and hope that all who feel comfortable dining outdoors and connecting in person with our members once again will attend. Please RSVP to President Dawn (falsinotti@yahoo.com) to make your reservation.

Moving from zoom to in-person outdoor dining for our May “Happy Hour” proved to be successful. Eleven members and guests met for “una bella serata” at Giardino Italian Restaurant. For all who feel comfortable meeting, we will meet on Thursday, June 24th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. for al fresco drinks and dining at Kilroy’s, Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5250-A Port Royal Road, Springfield. No RSVP is needed.

Celebrate July 4th - our Nation’s Independence – having brunch with your IHL fellow lodge members. More details to follow.

*“Happy Hour”
at
Giardino’s*



* RSVP required for these events – email Dawn at falsinotti@yahoo.com

Buon Compleanno
e Tanti Auguri!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Schender	June 18
Kerri Farrell	June 23
Omero Sabatini	June 26

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Fred & Ann Ingham	June 9
Bruno & Rosemary Viani	June 11
John & Nancy Tarlano	June 20
Mario & Judith Palmiotto	June 28

These positions are currently open on the council. If anyone is eager to be a positive part of IHL, we are always grateful for your help, ideas, and presence at the lodge.

Trustee: *Duties: Reviews Lodge financial records once a year; oversees the activities of the Executive Council.*

Guard: *Duties: Door keeper of the local Lodge; admits those to the Lodge assembly that belong and excludes others that do not; helps keep order whenever needed during official functions of the Lodge.*

Mistress of Ceremonies: *Duties: Ceremonial Officer of the Lodge; assists the President, in conformity of the laws and in ritual form during the installation of new Officers, initiation of new members, and other official ceremonies and functions.*

Effective July 1, 2021 our new dues structure will come into effect. Each member will be billed by email for the remaining 6 months of 2021 and prorated accordingly. You will receive an email from Laura Strong, our Financial Secretary, with new information on amount due and where to mail your dues payment. In January 2022 we will issue new invoices for that year.

37th Biennial Grand Lodge Convention Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

Here is the GLVA Biennial Convention information available to date:

Date: Saturday, June 26, 2021

Time: In Person: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM / VIA Zoom: 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Location: Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, 7342 Verdi Lane, Mechanicsville, VA.

Delegates: IHL has 5 delegates attending in person. President Dawn will attend by zoom.

Fees: There will be no convention registration fee, but the cost for lunch is \$15.00 per person.

Registration: Registration and luncheon forms have been sent to delegates.

**As mentioned, our monthly highlight of a member or members begins this month.
We hope that you enjoy “meeting” our lodge members.**

Meet Dennis and Eleanor Lillo

Eleanor and Dennis were married in 1977. They have two children, Cynthia born in 1979 and Alex born in 1981. Cynthia is married to Chris Williams and they have a son, Jon, who is twelve years old. They live in Woodbridge, VA. Alex and his wife Diane have two boys, Anthony who is nine and Daniel five. They recently moved back to Virginia from Baton Rouge, LA, as Alex changed jobs and is now working for Dupont Chemical Co. in Richmond, VA.

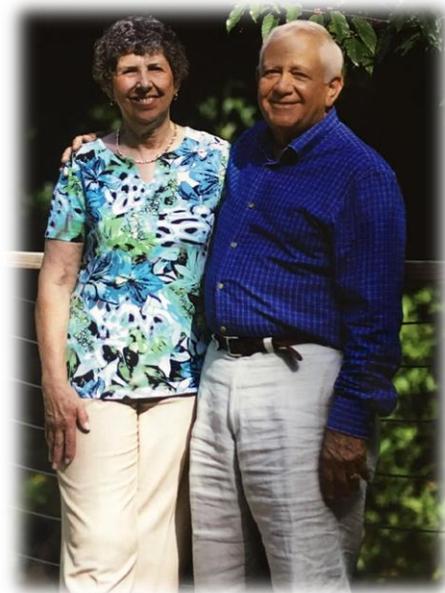
They are originally from Brooklyn, New York, both growing up in traditional Italian families with not a lot of money to speak of but never wanting for great Italian home cooking and good times with family and friends. Dennis’s mother’s side of the family, surname Cirelli, came from a small town in Basilicata called Marsico Nuovo, a typical Italian hill town in Southern Italy. His Grandmother was one of nine children. They were a close-knit family all living in and around Weehawken, West New York, New Jersey. But as in most families the children married and moved to several other states including New York, Connecticut and Virginia to name a few. To keep in closer touch, several of the Cirelli brothers came up with the idea of an annual family reunion centering around a bowling tournament followed by a dinner (in the beginning mostly sandwiches and beer). This tradition started in 1955 and continued through 2019. Unfortunately, due to the recent pandemic, it won’t resume until most likely 2022. When the Lillos joined the IHL it was a reminder of the camaraderie and good times they experienced during those many family reunions.

They have been members of the Italian Heritage Lodge (IHL) for the last twenty years. Dennis, through his job at the Defense Logistics Agency, met David Asiello, John and Laura Asiello’s son. He suggested they join the IHL due to their Italian heritage background. “It turned out to be one of the best decisions we ever made. Over the years we have forged lasting friendships with many of the members,” said Dennis.

Dennis has served in various positions on the IHL Council starting as a Trustee, President, Immediate Past President and currently as Treasurer. Eleanor has been serving as the Recording Secretary for the past seven or eight years. As you know, the IHL conducts events monthly such as Casino Night, White Elephant Sale, Bingo, an annual picnic, monthly luncheons, movie night, our always well attended Christmas Party as well as presentations with guest speakers usually involving aspects of Italian culture and history. Eleanor and Dennis have also held a bocce event in their back yard once a year in June. All of these events are always accompanied by some form of food and drink and at times various forms of entertainment.

As their children were growing up, Dennis coached baseball and soccer teams. He also was a Little League umpire for about twenty years. Eleanor fills much of her time beautifying the gardens in their front and back yards. She is also a member of the Victorian Society, Questers, Friends of Green Spring Gardens, and Vice President of the Green Thumb Garden Club of Ravensworth, while Dennis plays golf.

The Lillos have very much enjoyed their association with the IHL and look forward to many more fun times and the creation of good memories with old friends and new in the years ahead.



John and Laura Asiello are especially proud to announce that three Grandchildren are graduating after a vastly different school year.

First, is our Grandson **Kyle Lipton**, son of Steve and Ann Lipton - Lodge member. Kyle graduated on May 22nd from the United States Military Academy at West Point in a very impressive ceremony that we were able and proud to attend. Now a 2nd Lieutenant, Kyle will be heading to Fort Rucker Alabama, as he has chosen the Aviation Branch of the Army. He will be attending the United States Aviation School at Fort Rucker for Helicopter Pilot Training.

Adding to the excitement of graduation, Kyle proposed to his girlfriend, Erin Kelliher, on the lawn in front of the Flag where he had taken the Oath of Office and was Commissioned as an Officer in the U.S. Army. Erin and Kyle's Mom, Ann, participated in the Pinning Ceremony. The 2nd Lieutenant Gold Bars with the inscription "1971 – 2021" were presented by representatives from the US Military Class of 1971, 50 Year Graduate Hosts for the Class of 2021.

Next, graduating from West Springfield High School on June 1st is Granddaughter **Alexandria Strong**, daughter of Laura and David Strong - Lodge members. Lexi has been highly active in the Theatre Group at West Springfield HS and received the Five Star Award for having participated in numerous theatrical performances. She is also a member of the National Thespian Honor Society and the National Honor Society. Lexi was on the WSHS Dive Team and a member of the Varsity Choir. She will be attending James Madison University in the Fall majoring in Engineering and Technical Theatre.

Next to graduate is Grandson, **Dillon O'Connor** from Loudoun Valley High School on June 12th. Dillon has been a soccer star at Loudoun Valley HS all 4 years and, as a freshman, was a starter on the Junior Varsity Basketball Team and was moved up to Varsity before the season ended. Dillon is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Student Council Association, International Relations Club, and the Loudoun Valley Initiative Club. He will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the Fall, majoring in Global Business Studies and International Relations with a Minor in Spanish. Our Families are looking forward to visiting him in the beautiful Northeast.

Nonny and Poppy are very thankful to have been able to celebrate their successes with them over the years and plan to keep in close touch. Congratulations to all three!

2nd Lieutenant Kyle Lipton with Nonny and Poppy



2nd Lieutenant Kyle Lipton with his proud family and fiancé Erin



The three 2021 graduates, Kyle, Dillon and Lexi, with Nonny and Poppy

Our IHL Membership Chair, Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs, and also the Director of the Cortona Academy in Herndon, VA announces the graduation of 11 graduates of the Academy, also noting that

“Cortona 11” Break All Records!

Our eleven graduates have been awarded more than 1.336 Million in Merit college scholarships!

To her knowledge, no other school of their size in the Nation was able to do this, and especially during the Pandemic. Although this IS newsworthy, it is not a miracle, due in large part to the hard, hard, work and dedication by all of their students and great, great teachers. In describing Gradation 2021, Sharon says “We graduated our 11 seniors in style this past Saturday with our first ever ON-SITE graduation ceremony. We started planning this event months ago and worked hard to stay within all Covid guidelines, while still making sure to give the kids the fabulous day they deserved. We ate, we laughed, we cried, we danced, and most importantly, we celebrated these fine young men and women, proudly sending them off to their futures.”

The graduation ceremony featured guest speaker Kaja Perina, Editor of “Psychology Today,” delivering a beautiful speech asking seniors to look within themselves and realize their potential. To celebrate the day, Senior Lucas Marinetto, an Italian YouTube star and #1 tap dancer in America, performed a show-stopping routine for his classmates.

Congratulations Sharon on your great success this year. May it be first of many for you and your students of Cortona Academy.

**The Italian
Cultural Society**

of Washington D.C.

The Italian Cultural Society (ICS) is your home for cultural and social events in the Washington metropolitan area, and for courses to learn or improve your Italian!

By offering a wide variety of events and classes, they create opportunities to explore the many facets of Italian culture, and to strengthen bonds between the Italian and American people!

You can use your **OSDIA member discount** when signing up for ICS classes.

Check out their Kids & Teens Summer Camp, Cooking Course, Language Course, Music School features listening to music in *Italiano*, and for Travelers, there are courses and trips.

For more information visit nationaloffice@osia.org

**Order Sons and Daughters
Of Italy in America**



The U.S Postal Service issued a set of four Italian coffee drink stamps on April 9th. These forever stamps depict caffè latte, caffè mocha, cappuccino and espresso and are sold in booklets of 20 stamps for \$11.

Calling all gamers!
Mark your calendar for our June event
“Game Night & Ravioli Dinner”
Saturday, June 12 @ 6:00 p.m.
Knights Of Columbus Hall

**Join your fellow lodge members for
games of Poker, Scopa, Briscola,
Scrabble, Monopoly and others.**

**Enjoy a Ravioli and Salad dinner for \$5.00/person
(Wine and Sodas for bar donation)**



Current Virginia Covid Guidelines
will remain in place for this event.

RSVP by June 10th to
falsinotti@yahoo.com



Italian Bingo Night
2021





Rhubarb and Pistachio Semifreddo

Yes, this rhubarb and pistachio semifreddo recipe is intricate and time-consuming. But rhubarb season is so brief, why not celebrate it with a recipe that goes all out?

Semifreddo, which means “half cold,” is a rich frozen dessert comprising a base of egg yolks, sugar, and cream – it has a custardy, mousse-like texture, and it's often compared to the French parfait. Once you get the hang of the basics, it's a rather versatile dolce that can be adjusted according to the season year-round.

There's a month of rhubarb season left, so why not make the most out of it with this recipe?

Recipe Joëlle Néderlants/La Cucina Italiana

Time 50 minutes + 6 hours of cooling

Ingredients for 8-10 people

13 oz./400 g. fresh cream

1½ cups/280 g. sugar

11 oz./300 g. rhubarb

4 oz./ 100 g pistachios

3 ⅓ Tbsp./50 g egg white

3 large egg yolks

salt

Clean the rhubarb stalks and slice them into chunks. Place them in a saucepan with ½ cup/100 g. sugar. Cook them for about 10 minutes, then blend with the immersion blender and let cool.

Cook ⅔ cup/130 g. sugar in a saucepan, with 1 Tbsp. water. Bring it to 248°F/120°C. Use an electric whisk to whip the egg yolks. While whisking, slowly pour in the cooked sugar. Separately, whip the egg white with 3⅓ Tbsp./50 g of sugar and a pinch of salt, then add it to the yolks. Next, whip the cream and add it to the mixture.

Pour 1/3 of the cream and egg mixture in a loaf tin (length 12"/30 cm. in height and 3" /8 cm. wide). Slightly chop 1/3 of the pistachios and add them, then 1/3 of the rhubarb smoothie. Use the spoon's handle to mix it a little until the colors take on a variegated effect. Repeat the process two more times with the rest of the ingredients, until the mold is filled. Place in the freezer for at least 6 hours before serving.

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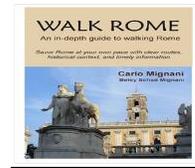


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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information.

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



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