



La Bandiera

The Banner



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

OTTOBRE 2020 – ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA

Cari amici,

Since our President, Dawn, was recently re-admitted to Fair Oaks hospital, I am penning a short message in her absence. Dawn's blood infection has returned from an earlier procedure so please keep her in your prayers for a quick release from the hospital and a return home to convalesce.

Our September lunch was enjoyed by those few in attendance. We were able to dine outside on a good weather day, with delicious Italian food. It was good to see one another again.

At our Grand Lodge of Virginia quarterly zoom meeting, President Larry Brennan suggested that the GLVA subscribe to Zoom so that all Virginia lodges can join and schedule meetings, etc. as needed. It will be set up and maintained by Larry and Beverly Amante (scheduling) so that things run smoothly. I would like to start this process and work with them so that IHL can resume monthly Executive Council meetings on zoom to discuss any business needed; I will keep our Council members updated.

In the meantime, please enjoy our beautiful fall weather and the change of the season in all of its stunning glory.

Coletta

We sadly announce that Joyce Taormina, wife of Augie Taormina and a faithful lodge member, died of congestive heart failure and was laid to rest in a private ceremony last Friday. Joyce had been a music teacher in the Fairfax County schools for many years. She requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the charity "Hungry For Music,"

<https://hungryformusic.org/>

Our lodge members will remember Joyce as a very kind and lovely lady who was always with a smile. Joyce will be missed very much and we extend our deepest sympathies to Augie, his family and friends for their very sad loss.

Please contact Colette Sciscilo for Augie's address should you wish to send cards or notes of sympathy and comfort to the family.

† Riposare in pace cara amica†

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

<u>President:</u>	Dawn Falsinotti	<u>Lodge Trustees:</u>
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<u>Vice-President:</u>	Joe Cardinale	John Dovel
703-910-7163	joe.cardinale@italianheritagelodge.org	Marianne Hallahan
<u>Imm. Past-President:</u>	Colette Sciscilo	Dennis Lillo
703-795-2231	colette.sciscilo@gmail.com	Nancy Perrelli
<u>Orator:</u>	Fred Michaelangelo	
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<u>Financial Secy:</u>	Dot Saia	
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<u>Treasurer:</u>	Cynthia Williams	

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

SAVE THE DATES - FUTURE LODGE EVENTS

OCTOBER IS ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

October 12	<i>Christopher Columbus National Holiday</i>		
November 11	<i>Veterans Day</i>		
November 14	(TBD)		K of C Hall
November 26	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
December 7	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	7:00 P.M.	Zoom
December 12	Festa di Natale	6:00 P.M.	K of C Hall

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Buon Anniversario !



Ken & Carol Ann Linder	October 4
Joe & June La Marca	October 6
Frank & Susan Bonsiero	October 6
Chris & Cynthia Williams	October 8
Peter & Kathleen Ognibene	October 10
David & Laura Strong	October 18
Art & Gloria Moscatello	October 22

Buon Compleanno
e Tanti Auguri!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Laura Asiello	October 6
Marisa Scala	October 11
Paul Alligood	October 13
Bruno DiConi	October 21
Dolly Dougherty	October 22
Colette Sciscilo	October 22
Joe Signorelli	October 27

Our apologies to Carol Cassella for omitting her birthday in August. August 25th is a special day for you and family and we hope that you had a fantastic celebration!

A Few Reasons Why We Celebrate Columbus Day

Several states have renamed Columbus Day and memorials to Columbus are under attack by iconoclastic vandals. Commemorations are at an all-time low while public opinion polls show only a 56% favorable opinion of Christopher Columbus. Even though the holiday was instituted in 1934, the roots of this holiday are deeply ingrained in our American culture. Below are a few reasons why we can hold our heads high as celebrants of Christopher Columbus Day:

Italian heritage: *Columbus Day is still a celebration of triumph for America's Italian-descendant population. Joseph Sciorra, an Italian American studies professor at Queens College in New York said: "There's an emotional bond to Columbus. I've read poetry which has – says, you know, when I look at the figure of Columbus on a statue, I don't see Columbus. I see my grandfather. I see the sort of worker's hands in his hands. I see the visage, his visage. And I see that of my grandfather. So there's a really emotional bond there."*

Flawed heroes: *Americans once revered men of uncommon tenacity such as Christopher Columbus as "flawed heroes." According to Catholic historian Warren H. Carroll, "Columbus was a flawed hero – as all men are flawed, including heroes – and his flaws are of a kind particularly offensive to today's culture...But heroes and the inspiration they give are essential to uplift men and women.... Heroes need not be perfect; indeed, given the fallen nature of man, none can be perfect. It is right to criticize their failings, but wrong to deny their greatness and the inspiration they can give."*

Greatest achievements: *Historical figures should be honored by their great achievements, their vision, and not their mistakes or weaknesses. Columbus was a great man with an adventurous spirit, sailing the seas to prepare to establish a new world. He was a brilliant man in his own right, a master navigator and admiral. Columbus' resourcefulness in using very rudimentary ocean navigation methods and information to find a reliable route to North America (even though he was intending on finding Asia) is still worthy of admiration.*



The above information taken from: The Daily Citizen; The Hayride

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 October 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.

Italian Language Program of Northern VA – Elisabetta Lazarte, our lodge Education Chair, has sent out her upcoming schedule for the Fall 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!”

IHL By-laws: The revised/updated By-laws for IHL have been signed by our officers and sent to the Grand Lodge of Virginia for a vote of approval and then signatures by the appropriate GLVA officers. I am still awaiting final word that they have been signed off on by our President Larry Brennan and Orator Paul Siebeking. Grazie to both men for guiding our lodge and assisting with all of the procedures. Once again I greatly appreciate and most certainly thank Joe Scafetta for his expertise in fashioning a new set of By-laws.



Italian American Heritage Month

Italian American Heritage Month is celebrated every year to honor and recognize the centuries of achievements, successes, and valuable contributions of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans. It occurs in October to overlap with the federal holiday of Columbus Day, which is celebrated on the second Monday of each October. Italian American Heritage Month was first celebrated in 1989 by a special proclamation of both Congress and President George H. W. Bush.

Over 5 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 2000. Currently, there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent residing in the United States. This makes Italian-Americans the fifth largest ethnic group in our nation. Each year Italians around the country take time to celebrate their heritage, history, and culture with festivals and parades. The largest parade occurs on Columbus Day in New York City and has over 35,000 marchers!

Joe Scafetta wrote these heartfelt remembrances of two OSDIA members who sadly lost their lives in the September 11 attacks on our country. If you did not have the chance to read these words before, I am reprinting for the Newsletter. cs

“September 11 is a tough day for me too. In August 2001, I attended the National Convention in Florida and met again Peter B. Gay Jr. who I had first met at the 1993 National Convention when I went as the newly elected state president of Virginia. Peter was a Massachusetts delegate and he gave me and other delegates a fancy pen holder which I took home and placed on my office desk. It has a brass plate on it and it is inscribed with his name on it and the dates of that national convention in August 2001. About three weeks later, he was a passenger on the first plane which crashed into the World Trade Center. Peter was 52. In August 2005, I went to the centennial national convention in New York City and I visited Ground Zero with my wife Teresa and our 7-year old son, Joey III. Later that day, I met Peter B. Gay Sr., a former national president, and I told him that we had seen his son's name on the list of casualties at Ground Zero. I then asked him if he had visited the site. He replied: "No, it will be too hard for me to go there." Peter Senior died not too long afterwards. He was 95.”

“Saturday, September 8, 2001. I was working the food booth for the George Washington Lodge at the Italian Festival in Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. I and my wife Teresa were members of the GW Lodge at that time. Towards the end of the day, one of the GW members, John Sammartino, came to the booth with his wife and 7-year old daughter. His parents were emigrants from Pescara which is a large city in Abruzzo on the Adriatic sea coast. My father was an emigrant from Vasto which was another Adriatic sea coast city in Abruzzo, so John and I had a friendly relationship. After I served John and his family, I asked him if he was planning to come to the next lodge meeting on Sunday, September 16. He said that he had to fly to Los Angeles on Tuesday but he expected to be back by Friday, September 14. I then asked him if he was going for pleasure with his wife and daughter. He replied: "No, the trip is strictly for business for my employer." John was on the plane which crashed into the Pentagon on Tuesday, September 11. John was 37. On September 11, 2001, the memorial park was dedicated at the Pentagon. I went there for a visit with my wife and son. In the following month of October, I went to the GW lodge meeting and I saw John's mother there. So, I went over to her and I told her that we had visited the memorial park. She replied that she and her husband Frank went to an earlier unveiling for families of the victims. She was always with her husband, so I asked her: "Where's Frank?" She replied more or less: "He died after our visit to the park but before the official opening on September 11." Mrs. Frank Sammartino died shortly thereafter.”

We Will Never Forget

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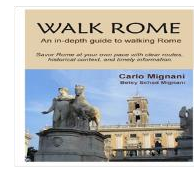
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information.
Available on Amazon, by searching
“Walk Rome Mignani”
Website: www.walk-rome.com



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