



# La Bandiera

"The Banner"

Newsletter of:  
THE ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517  
Order Sons of Italy in America



## DECEMBER 2016 / PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Carissimi amici,*

I am sending out to all of you and your families, my heartfelt wishes on this Thanksgiving holiday weekend. I am trusting that we may all look around at the many blessings showered upon us, be it our loving family members, the gift of friendships we share, the appreciation of a good job, the delicious food we know how to prepare and that nourishes our bodies, the warmth and coziness of our homes, our health that allows us to arise and work and play each new day, the kindness of strangers, our cherished memories of those we love and have lost, and above all the love that fills our hearts each day in thankfulness for this precious life.



**December 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Party** - Our Christmas Party flyer located in this newsletter will give many of the details for our Christmas celebration with family members, relatives and friends. If you have not already done so, please contact John or Laura Asiello by phone or email to give them the name, age and gender of a child you are bringing, ages 12 and under, so that they may receive a gift from Santa.

### Christmas Party Checklist

- ✓ Call John or Laura to RSVP for children
- ✓ Bring a Pot Luck Meal:  
Entrée / Side / Dessert
- ✓ Bring an unwrapped toy (\$10 or less) for  
Hospital for Sick Children
- ✓ Rehearse Christmas Carols to sing
- ✓ Get excited for a special  
Visitor



A presto!  
Coletta

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Visit our lodge website at [WWW.ITALIANHERITAGELODGE.ORG](http://WWW.ITALIANHERITAGELODGE.ORG). Check the website for breaking news between newsletter editions.

**SAVE THE DATES - FUTURE LODGE EVENTS**

December 3	Christmas Party ECHO Christmas Basket	6:00 PM	St. Leo K of C Hall
December 15	Lunch Bunch	Noon	Esposito's in Fairfax
January 14	White Elephant Sale	6:30 PM	St. Leo K of C Hall
February 11	Casino Night	6:30 PM	St. Leo K of C Hall
March TBD	Installation of Officers	TBD	TBD
June 1, 2017	35 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention	TBD	TBD

## LODGE ANNOUNCEMENTS



### DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Thursday, December 15th, 2016 at Espositos Restaurant, located at 9917 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax, VA. Espositos is known for its wood-fired pizzas, subs, salads, soups, home-made pastas and entrees. Entrees range from \$8.95 to \$12.95. So come and join your fellow IHLers for a wonderful eating experience. Please let Dennis know if you plan to attend so he may include you in the reservation. Call him at [703-354-2454](tel:703-354-2454) or email at [delillo1@verizon.net](mailto:delillo1@verizon.net).

*House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive* –A great big “*Grazie*” to all of our members who generously contributed to the House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive. The value of the pantry items totaled \$85.00 and was enough to feed several families. The food donations are often very slim and House of Mercy often has to purchase the bulk of the food they distribute. House of Mercy appreciates every food donation they receive and are so grateful to those who provide them.

*A Message from our Orator, Dot Saia* - It is time to think of the less fortunate during the holidays. As in the past, I will be around with my “*Christmas Basket*” at our December lodge meeting to collect money for needy families in our area. The names of these families are provided to me from ECHO, Ecumenical Community Helping Others. Each of these families will receive a \$50.00 Giant gift card to help with their Christmas dinner. The number of families we can help depends on your generosity. *Thank You, Dot Saia*

*Annual Walk-A-Thon for Charity:* Our total – so far – for donations towards our Walk-A-Thon charity drive is \$810.00 divided between Alzheimer’s, Autism and Cooley’s Anemia. The donations will be sent to the Grand Lodge of Virginia so that IHL may receive credit for our charitable work thus far. Please contact Dennis Lillo or Colette Sciscilo if you have not donated and are interested in donating before year end.

*Congratulations* to Renee Signorelli for winning the Thanksgiving turkey and basket of trimmings at last month’s Bingo Night. And a special *Thank You* to Tony Musco and Colette Sciscilo for donating these items as the final prize of the evening. Thank you also to those members who donated other game prizes and for the delicious food we all enjoyed that evening.

Below is a thank you note from Dolly Dougherty, wife of Walter Dougherty, to our lodge members:

*“Dear Friends at the IHL,  
I was so touched by the beautiful card and the letter sent to St. Jude’s  
in Walter’s honor. Your words of kindness brought tears to my eyes!  
I am truly blessed to be part of this wonderful family!  
Love Always”*

**Grand Lodge of Virginia 2017 Scholarships** - Kathy Drummond, Virginia OSIA Foundation, has informed us that the applications for 2017 scholarships can now be accessed and downloaded on line at [www.vaosia.org/scholarships](http://www.vaosia.org/scholarships), but I am also attaching a word document for your ease of review and printing. Best of luck to all of our students who apply for these scholarships.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>Rosalie Ciccotelli</b>	<b>12/2</b>
<b>Rosalind Michaelangelo</b>	<b>12/5</b>
<b>Elizabeth Mignani</b>	<b>12/6</b>
<b>Frank Bonsiero</b>	<b>12/8</b>
<b>Peter Ognibene</b>	<b>12/9</b>
<b>Laura Frappolo</b>	<b>12/16</b>
<b>Palmer DeMeo Sr.</b>	<b>12/19</b>
<b>Steven Lipton</b>	<b>12/21</b>
<b>Jack McVickar</b>	<b>12/30</b>



*Buon  
Compleanno*

**ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 3, 2016**



This year's Christmas party is Saturday evening, December 3, 2016. Due to the extended length of the program and the young age of the primary audience, the social will begin at 6:00 PM. For the younger attendees, the program will include a reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas'* and all can join in as we sing Christmas carols. There will also be a guest from the North Pole.


**IMPORTANT:** It is especially important that you call in your reservation since Santa Claus will be making a surprise visit with a present for each child 12 and under. Members who are bringing children 12 and under are asked to call John or Laura Asiello at 703-321-7840 or email [jfasiello@aol.com](mailto:jfasiello@aol.com) to provide the name, gender, and age of the child, no later than November 26, 2016. This will give Santa time to select a gift for each child.

**POTLUCK:** The meal will be the traditional pot luck, with a focus on entrees or side dishes that will feed at least 6 to 8 people as there is usually a large turnout for this meeting. Anyone wanting to bring something additional can bring a dessert or appetizer.

**GIVE A GIFT:** In keeping with the giving spirit of the holiday, members have the opportunity to participate in the following: each child or any other member or guest attending the meeting is invited to bring and place under the tree an unwrapped gift costing not more than \$10.00. Please put a tag on it indicating appropriate age and gender. The hospital, where the gifts will be taken, has requested that the gifts not be wrapped as they cannot give the children gifts without inspecting them. The gifts brought to the party will be taken to the Hospital for Sick Children on December 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in accompanying these gifts to the hospital should contact John Asiello at 703-321-7840. Children are especially welcome to help take these gifts to children less fortunate.

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