



Wilmington Sons and Daughters of Italy
Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli Lodge
LODGE 2183 – P.O. BOX 387 – WILMINGTON, MA 01887

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December 2023 Newsletter

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Cheryl Licciardi

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Betty Sandquist

No monthly meeting this month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sons & Daughters of Italy Events

- 12/30/23 - Wilmington Lodge **Adult Christmas Party**
- 02/03/24 - Wilmington Lodge **Valentine Bingo** (save the date)
- 02/09/24 - Wilmington Lodge/Band Parents **Comedy Night**
- 02/17/24 - Grand Lodge Future of the Order **Retreat**
- 02/18/24 - Grand Lodge **Scholarship Deadline**
- 02/29/24 - National **Scholarship Deadline**
- 03/01/24 - Wilmington Lodge **Scholarship Deadline**



Lodge Meetings -4th Thursday of every month at the United Methodist Church - 87 Church St. - Wilmington, MA. *Socializing and Dinner begin at 6:30pm. Even if you are not planning to eat dinner, come early and socialize with your brothers and sisters of the lodge*

- 1/25/24 2/22/24 3/28/24 4/25/24 5/23/24 6/27/23 (no July meeting)
- 8/22/24 9/26/24 10/24/24 11/21/24 (3rd Thursday) (no December meeting)

Council Meetings -2nd Thursday of every month 7PM at the 4th of July Building.

- 1/11/23 2/8/23 3/14/24 4/11/24 5/9/24 6/13/24 (no July meeting)
- 8/8/24 9/12/24 10/10/24 11/14/24 12/12/24



DUES - Our Membership dues are \$50.00 per year and are due on January 1, 2024. Payment may be sent to Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy - PO Box 387 - Wilmington, MA 01887. You may also pay at a meeting.

Donation requests should be made using the form on the web site so that we have all the necessary information. Just click on donation request forms on the first page at <http://www.wilmingtonsoi.org>

Summer Outing - If someone would like to plan a summer outing such as the Salisbury Beach Cookout or anything else, please contact John - Jromano45@gmail.com 617-750-9749. Please note that if you'd like to get the Pavilion at Salisbury Beach you have to do it in January.

John was the guest Speaker at the **United Methodist Church Men's Club Breakfast** on Saturday, 12/16/23. Fred Hogan and Rob Pustizzi attended with him

Committees

Our lodge has five Committees. Each of these has an appointed Chairperson or two but all of them need committee members. **Please consider volunteering to be on one of these important committees.** It is a great way to get more involved in the lodge. Sign up in the book.

Italian Heritage Committee - coordinates activities during October which is Italian Heritage Month. We run activities with the Library throughout the month. Co-chairs are Michele Siracusa and Lennie Malvone.

Scholarship Committee - reviews the scholarship by-laws and chooses recipients based on their eligibility. The chairperson is Karen Scalzi.

By-Law Committee - reviews the by-laws and suggests any necessary changes. Janet Engrem is the chairperson.

Membership/Welcoming Committee - sets up a table at our lodge activities and provides folders with information such as brochures, Calendar of Events, newsletters. Also keeps in touch with members.

Media/Public Relations Committee - send information on Events and Happenings in the lodge, to local newspapers, on-line news sources. Co-chairs are Michele Siracusa and Lennie Malvone.

NEW Hospitality Committee - will plan and provide meals at the lodge meetings and also help with the set-up and cleanup of the meal as well. 3-6 people needed.

December



Adult Christmas Party -Saturday, December 30, 2023 at the Moose Hall - 140 North Street - North Reading, MA. Featuring North End's own Street Magic Acappella and D.J. AMO along with some reindeer games. Cocktails at 6:00 pm followed by a catered Dinner of surf and turf with all the trimmings provided by Mr. Jacks at 7:00 pm. Open to friends, relatives and other lodges for \$60.00 pp. (**Wilmington Lodge**

Members pay only \$30.00) Bring a \$10 scratch ticket for a scratch ticket swap (optional.) Contact Kevin Caira 978-657-7734 kevincaira57@gmail.com. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Kevin know. **Deadline for tickets is 12/23/23.** (see flyer attached)

February



Comedy Night - Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy and WHS Band Parents - Friday, 2/2/24. We are looking for donations to purchase \$200.00 worth of Scratch tickets. Cash donation of any amount or \$5 or \$10 scratch tickets are appreciated. Please contact Kevin at 978-657-7734. (see flyer attached)

Grand Lodge Future of the Order Retreat - Saturday, **February 17, 2024** at the Watertown Lodge - 520 Pleasant Street Watertown, MA. **For members ages 21 to 40.** Voice your concerns and ideas to grow our local lodges and to help build our Italian communities throughout Massachusetts. To register contact foto@osiana.org.

Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy Scholarships - Our lodge scholarships are available to children entering college in the fall of 2023. More information will be available in January.



Contact Karen Scalzi (978-423-0960) or e-mail kcscalzi@gmail.com.

Grand Lodge Scholarships are now available. Deadline is February 14, 2024. Apply online at <https://www.osiama.org/scholarships>

National Scholarships are now available. Deadline is February 29, 2024. Apply online.

<https://www.osia.org/programs/scholarships/>



La Befana, An Italian Christmas Tradition

La Befana Vien di notte con le scarpe tutte rotte, col vestito alla romana viva viva La Befana!

The Christmas season in Italy is one that begins with the Novena eight days before Christmas and lasts until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th.

Traditionally it is a spiritual event and not so much a secular event of gifting and gift exchange... except with the arrival of "La Befana." It is not that Italian children do not know of Santa or "Babbo Natale" (they do receive small, useful gifts for Christmas) but, in many regions of Italy, the exchange of gifts awaits the coming of La Befana on January 5th. That night, before going to bed, Italian children hang their socks along the chimney hoping La Befana will fill them with sweets and other treats. For children who were naughty, La Befana leaves hard black candy called carbone (charcoal), as a reminder to do better. In exchange, un goccia di grappa, pane e un po' di formaggio is offered to warm the chilled bones of La Befana and to help her on her way.

Tradition has it that La Befana, an old woman of modest means, lived in a shack at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. One night, the Three Magi, on their way to find the Christ child, stopped to ask for directions to Bethlehem and for food and shelter. In exchange for her help, the Magi thanked the old woman and invited her to join them in search of the baby Jesus. La Befana initially passed on the invite, saying she had to catch up on chores around the house. Later that night, while asleep, La Befana was awoken by an unusually bright light. Startled and afraid, she took it as a sign to follow the Magi in search of the Christ Child. Unfortunately, La Befana lost her way, failing to find the Wise Men or the manger.

And so, the story continues: Each year on January 5th (the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany), La Befana takes to the skies and resumes her search for the Christ Child. As she travels from house to house, she drops off treats to sleeping children in hopes that the baby Jesus might also be with them.



Happy December Birthday to – Petrina Botte, Wendy Carmona, Sue Connors, Samantha Davis, Lucas Gorham, Alicia Johnson, Michelle Lima, Alexis Mastronardi, Michael McCoy, Mary Renda, Bob Martin,

Here are some facts about this month!

December is universally recognized as a time for families to come together and celebrate various cultures, religions, and traditions that have been part of human history for centuries. This month is often referred to as "**the most wonderful time of the year**," and is marked by festive decorations, a sense of holiday cheer, and family gatherings. In December, individuals tend to contemplate the conclusion of the current year and the commencement of the next, often utilizing this period as an opportunity for introspection and setting goals for the forthcoming year. Regardless of whether one has been "naughty or nice," December has a way of inspiring a sense of magic in people's hearts

- Those born in December can be born under one of two very different star signs. **Sagittarius (11/23 - 12/21)** - said to be energetic and idealistic while also generous and open-minded. **Capricorn (12/22 - 1/19)** - said to be ambitious yet realistic, persistent yet practical.
- December's traditional birthstone is **turquoise**. It is considered a symbol of good fortune and success.
- December babies are lucky to have two birth flowers: **holly**, symbolizing good luck and protection, and **paperwhite narcissus**, symbolizing purity and sweetness.
- Some famous people born in December are Actress Zoe Kravitz, Pop Icons Britney Spears, Nicki Minaj and Billie Eilish, Hip-hop legend Jay-Z, Singer Taylor Swift, Actor Eugene Levy, Singer Christina Aguilera, Samuel L. Jackson, Singer Jimmy Buffett, Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington, Golf legend Tiger Woods and Walt Disney.

As December marks the end of the year, it's a time when many people reflect on their achievements, changes, and plans for the future. The celebration of New Year's Eve occurs on December 31st around the world, featuring lively festivities such as live music, drinks, fireworks, and a countdown to midnight. It's the only month that concludes with a kiss and a hug as people cheer and wish each other a Happy New Year.



Please report any sunshine to Linda Tobin. Please **let Linda know if someone** is sick, has surgery, or has a death in the family. Also good news such as births, weddings, etc. Linda's contact information is 978-604-4706 or e-mail beatlefanlinda@aol.com



We send out "**PRAYERS AND GET WELL**" wishes to Michael Caira, Jr., Jack Harding, Mary Buscone, Wendy Carmona, Julie Sbraccia-Manos, Ginny Pupa and Kenny Caira.



Congratulations to Jean Jordan on being awarded the Bishop Cheverus Award by the Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal O'Malley. The award is intended to honor local Catholics for long-time service to the Church, particularly those who do so without public recognition. In the past, the cardinal has described the Cheverus Awards as honoring the "unsung heroes and heroines" of the Archdiocese.

Please let me know if you have any **GOOD NEWS** that I can share with the lodge - **anything that we can celebrate!**



Please send any address or e-mail changes to Lynne_martell@comcast.net or 978-729-6044 (cell) 978-694-1632 (home).