



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

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December 2024 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

- 12/28/24 - Wilmington Lodge **Adult Christmas Party**
- 01/11/25 - Wilmington Lodge Trivia Night
- 01/31/25 - Grand Lodge Scholarship Deadline
- 02/08/25 - Wilmington Lodge **Valentine Bingo** (save the date)
- 02/23/25 - Grand Lodge Corn Hole Tournament
- 02/29/24 - National Scholarship Deadline
- 03/01/25 - Wilmington Lodge Scholarship Deadline
- 03/14/25 - Wilmington Lodge/Band Parents **Comedy Night**



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*

1/23/25 2/27/25 3/23/25 (afternoon meeting) 4/24/25 5/22/25 6/26/25 (no July meeting) 8/28/25 9/25/25 10/23/25 11/20/25 (3rd Thursday) (no December meeting)

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

1/9/25 2/13/25 3/13/25 4/10/25 5/8/25 6/12/25 (no July meeting) 8/14/25 9/11/25 10/9/25 11/13/25 12/11/25



DUES - Our Membership dues are \$50.00 per year and are due on January 1, 2025. Payment may be sent to Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy - PO Box 387 - Wilmington, MA 01887. You may also pay at a meeting.

“I would really appreciate it if everyone either sent in their dues in the mail or paid at the January meeting. As we are an all-volunteer organization, it is very uncomfortable for the officers to have to chase down members for their dues every year. We make it simple by mailing you a form and providing you with a yellow return envelope. Let's start off 2025 on a good note and send in your dues early. **THANK YOU ALL** in advance.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on the past year. I think we had a fun filled year with a lot of activities while also helping a lot of people. Yes, we did do events that helped people less fortunate, like the diaper drive or held fundraisers like the Yard Sale or the Comedy Night with the Band Barents, I also see these events as both Lodge and Community building events. We have so much fun doing these events, at least those of us who participate. So many people who attend from the community enjoy them and thank us for having them. The good name of the Wilmington Sons and Daughters of Italy gets spread throughout the Town and beyond - it's truly amazing!

But our lodge is much more than that, we also supported our local library, sports teams, High School teams and Theater/Arts and Choral Groups as well as Sons & Daughters of Italy Charities. We even ran a breakfast to honor our Community Veterans and our annual blood drive! Beyond all of that that we had fun within and for the lodge - we had a great Bocce league all summer, we ran two Sunday afternoon dinners to honor our senior members, we held a Valentines Bingo night, a Turkey Bingo night, a Trivia night, a jewelry making night, a series of Italian Heritage Month events and a Christmas crafts night that were all for members only! Not to mention a Clambake at Fosters and our Annual Memorial Mass to honor those members no longer with us. Also, we had a phenomenal Christmas Party (**actually coming on 12/28 - tickets still available**) for members and non-members alike, of which members paid half price. I would also add that a fantastic cookbook was created for the October Heritage Month Afternoon Lunch Meeting as well!

With all this said, these events and activities take planning and execution of many people. As we head into 2025, my Council and I are planning more exciting things for the members and the community at large. My hope is that members of the lodge will step in and join in on a committee or step forward and start one of their own to try something new. There is only so much the officers can do. This is your lodge. Take part, if you have an idea - stand up and be willing to take a leading role.

I look forward to another great year. Patricia and I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Fraternally yours,

John

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>

Plastic cap collection - Paul and Debbie Cipriani have a granddaughter in Michigan who is a Girl Scout and is collecting plastic caps to be recycled into benches. They can be any plastic caps, any color from water bottles, pill bottles, etc. We would like to help her by collecting caps. Contact Janet Engrem for pickup of caps. jkje@comcast.net 617-957-2460



December

Adult Christmas Party - We are planning to have an adult Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 28, 2024** at the Wilmington/Tewksbury Elks Hall - 777 South Street -

Tewksbury, MA. Featuring North End's own Street Magic Acapella 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. **See Flyer attached.**



January



Trivia Night - for **Wilmington Lodge Members only**. **Saturday, January 11, 2025** at the Methodist Church. Doors open at 6:30 PM where you will be given a raffle ticket to win **Door Prizes**. Grab some food and get ready because games will begin around 7:00 PM. \$15 pp. Send names and **check payable to Wilmington**

Sons of Italy to Julie Sbraccia-Manos - 29 Veranda Ave - Wilmington, MA 01887. This is before our January meeting so contact Julie if you'd like to participate! Committee members are Julie, Anna, and Lennie. Contact Julie 978-284-3260 or sbracciamanos@comcast.net

February



Valentine Bingo - Saturday, February 8, 2025 . Save the date



Grand Lodge Corn Hole Tournament - Sunday, February 23, 2023 at the Watertown SOI - 520 Pleasant St - Watertown, MA beginning at 9:30 am. \$25.00 pp (our lodge will pay this fee for our members).

Sign up in the book or let Lynne know by February 14, 2025.

March



Comedy Night - Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy and WHS Band Parents - Friday, 3/14/25. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Show begins at 9:00 pm. Please contact Kevin at 978-657-7734.

Wilmington Sons & Daughters of Italy Scholarships - Our lodge scholarships are available to children entering college in the fall of 2025. Deadline is **March 1, 2025.**

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



Grand Lodge Scholarships are now available. Deadline is **January 31, 2025.**

Application is attached. You may also apply online at <https://www.osiama.org/scholarships>

National Scholarships are now available. Deadline is **March 14, 2025.** Apply online.

<https://www.osdia.org/initiatives/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, Susan Connors, Samantha Davis, Lucas Gorham, Alicia Johnson, Paul Licciardi, Michelle Lima-Wolfendale, Alexis Mastronardi, Ray Mercuri, and Mary Renda.

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.

- December has two birth flowers: holly, symbolizing good luck and protection, and paperwhite narcissus, symbolizing purity and sweetness.
- December's traditional birthstone is **turquoise**. It is considered a symbol of good fortune and success
- December's Zodiac signs are **Sagittarius**: November 23-December 21 and **Capricorn**: December 22-January 19
- Some of the most prominent female pop stars of today, such as Britney Spears, Nicki Minaj, Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish, were all born in December.
- Other famous people born in December include Walt Disney, Woody Allen, John Kerry, Frank Sinatra, Brad Pitt, Jane Fonda, Ludwig van Beethoven, Kim Basinger, Julianne Moore.
- **December 1**: Rosa Parks Day
- **December 2**: Special Education Day
- **December 7**: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- **December 10**: Human Rights Day, Nobel Prize Day
- **December 11**: UNICEF Day for Change
- **December 15**: Bill of Rights
- **December 16**: Boston Tea Party Day
- **December 17**: Wright Brothers' First Flight Anniversary
- **December 21**: First Day of Winter/Winter Solstice
- **December 25**: Christmas Day
- **December 31**: New Year's Eve

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 our "PRAYERS AND GET WELL" wishes to Joseph Martell, Charlie DeStefano and Michael McCoy.



We send our prayers and condolences to Lee and Sheryl Farrar on the death of Lee's granddaughter, Scotti Lee.

We send our prayers and condolences to Carolina and Frank Prinzivalli on the death of Frank's mother, Vincenza Prinzivalli.

We send out prayers and condolences to Nina and Joe Maiella and Josie and Lennie Ciaccio and their families on the death of Nina and Josie's brother, Dom.



Congratulations to Brian and Amanda Caira on the birth of their son, Dominic Michael. Congratulations also to the Grandparents, Michael and Jane Caira and their family.



Congratulations to Lisa and John Lyons on the birth of their granddaughter, Maeve Annie.



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).