

Volume 6

Issue 4

Fall 2023

*A note from the  
Editor:*

***Benvenuta  
autunno!***

*This Fall edition of  
Il Giornale finds me  
literally  
experiencing a  
“change of  
seasons” in my own  
life! Turning 70 in  
late October AND  
retiring from my  
career, brings much  
reflection about life,  
family, friendships,  
and the lessons  
hopefully learned  
along the way.*

*Happy  
Thanksgiving and a  
Blessed Christmas  
season to all!*

*I look  
forward to hearing  
from our brothers  
and sisters who  
wish to keep  
everyone informed  
of current lodge  
news. Please  
submit articles and  
pictures to:*

**[colette.sciscilo@  
gmail.com](mailto:colette.sciscilo@gmail.com)**

# Il Giornale

Newsletter for the Grand Lodge of Virginia  
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

## **A note from the Grand Lodge President**

Cari amici,

I can't believe it has been over 6 months since I was sworn in as State President. As they say, "time flies". Oh, how true. Summer has passed and we are into some beautiful fall weather now. Soon we will all be wearing our scarves and mittens, but fear not, this is Virginia, and the weather will change soon.

There's not too much to report from the National Office. Our new President, Michael Polo, is hard at work creating his "team". He has implemented several committees to address issues that our organization faces. Just one example is the "Public Image Committee". The goal is obvious from the title. I'm excited to see what happens with these committees as they get started and are reporting to the membership. There is a plenary meeting coming up in March and I will have more to report after that meeting.

I'd like to remind our members that there are a lot of goods and services at discounted prices offered to us through OSDIA. I encourage everyone to check them out. Unfortunately, the osia.org members section is currently "under construction", but I trust it will be up and running very soon. I just wanted to mention it, so you were aware that such benefits are available. I have taken advantage of some of these and have been very satisfied with the results.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please make that effort to spend time with those that you love and enjoy the season.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo,

Aldo  
Grand Lodge President

# Local Lodges

## Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

**JULY – NOVEMBER 2023**

*(Submitted by Arthur Smith)*

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge has been busy the last several months celebrating Holidays, promoting fund raisers for our charities, and emphasis on increasing membership.

In July we celebrated Independence Day with our annual picnic. Our head cook was David Whiteside who braved the summer heat to cook hamburgers and hot dogs on the outside grill. Also included were many sides, including Jean Whiteside's world class baked beans. Fun was had by all!

August brought us the "dog days" of summer and GVL the opportunity to have a bake sale for our charities. Cakes, cookies, pies, brownies and a lot of very generous members and friends. A great success and loosening of belts.

Emphasis was then turned to another charity fund raiser, The Virginia Diner peanut sale, chaired by Anne Marie Vaughan. Again, our members opened their hearts (and wallets) to make this an outstanding event. What a wonderful group we have at GVL.

We cannot overlook our annual Brunswick Stew that was prepared with proceeds earmarked for Community organizations. Stew orders were "pre-sold" with 270 quarts ordered. We made 290 quarts, all sold on the day of the event. It was a great time of socializing and sharing.

In November we celebrated and honored our veterans. All were recognized and thanked for their service. President Mary Louise presented and donated hand painted stone markers for each branch of service.

At all meetings, the topic of membership is discussed. GVL is proud to say we have increased our membership by 12 since the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. It is refreshing to see so many folks express interest in their heritage. A special thanks to all for sharing our organization's goals and purpose.



*Goodies for our charity Bake Sale*



*Bernie Marrin and Aldo Funai stir the Stew pot with oversight by Andrew Lucchetti, Ray Gargiulo and Jack Boles*

*Andrew Lucchetti and Lin Sykes stir stew while Dexter Oliver assists, and (go figure) Aldo Funai offers "presidential" oversight*





*GVL President Mary Louise proudly displays her hand painted Military "stones", representing the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force.*



*President Mary Louise swears in some of our newest members including Sandy Rivera, Paula Bartolo, Gina Bartolo, Angelo Chinni, Mark Wixon and Barbara Wixon.*

# Peninsula Italian American Lodge

## APRIL – OCTOBER 2023

*(Submitted by Beverly Amante)*

PIAL has been busy since the last issue of *Il Giornale*.

*Our lodge awarded two scholarships to worthy Peninsula students.*



Scholarship winner Frederic Ramirez Melenciano with committee members Bob & Maryann Amato and Faye Boninu



Scholarship winner Justin Babilino with committee chair Michelle Romanello and President Briana Taravella Robison

*We also inducted two new members!*



*Allison Carli Diede*

*Stephani Cline*



As is our tradition, we held our annual picnic in May. It was a great success and we even had members from the Italo American Citizens Lodge join us. We had enough people to have a mini-Corn Hole tournament!

In October we held our annual Columbus Day celebration. It was held at Immaculate Conception Church in Hampton instead of our usual meeting place at the Knight's of Columbus. Because of the change in venue, we were able to have one of our two fundraising events, a lucky ticket drawing. The money from this raffle helps the lodge defray the cost of our Christmas Charity. Members are asked to donate items and, of course, purchase tickets to participate in the raffle!

Our meal was catered by a local restaurant that consisted of appetizer, salad, main course, and dessert. Bev Amante made a second dessert to share with the members, cannoli cupcakes.

Once again members of our sister lodge in Portsmouth joined us for this event.



As the holidays roll around, our members are excited to join together for both Thanksgiving and a Christmas celebration. More on those events in the next *Il Giornale*!!

PIAL 2145 sends special holiday blessings to all members of our sister lodges.

**May you all have health, happiness, and peace during this holiday season and throughout the coming year!!!**

# Italian Heritage Lodge

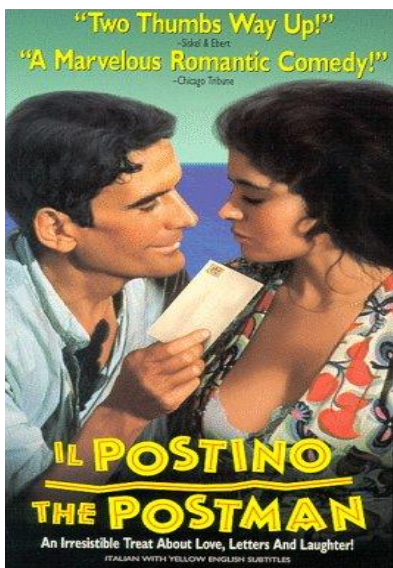
## July - October 2023

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)

IHL was happy to present to its members, families, guests, and prospective members a series of events during the months of July through October. The events and topics ranged from “summer fun”, Italian cultural experiences, as well as more current health issues important to all of us. Our “Cena e Conversazione” is going strong each month, we held our annual drive to collect food donations for the House of Mercy Food Pantry, we welcomed two new members, and on Veterans Day, we honored our members who proudly served our country.

### ***JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> BRUNCH & WHITE ELEPHANT SALE***

For our IHL Independence Day celebration we gathered for a wonderful brunch! The gathering also afforded IHL the opportunity to hold our annual White Elephant Sale. This year our theme was “Christmas In July” due to the generosity of the estate of the Signorelli family and the many Christmas items that were donated. All proceeds from the donations went to the IHL treasury.



### ***AUGUST – “UNDER THE BOARDWALK” SUMMER FUN***

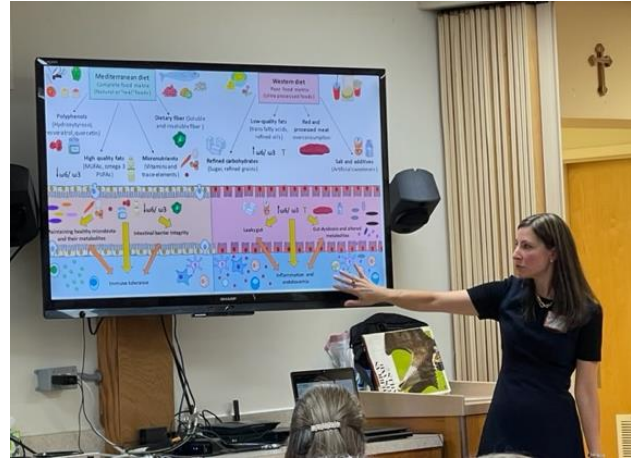
IHL kicked off “Ferragosto” with a night of summer fun, good food and frivolity. A fitting meal included grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and peppers, potato salad, corn on the cob, pistachio cake and s’mores!

We ended the evening watching *Il Postino*!

**SEPTEMBER - MEET & GREET  
SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Dr. Primeggia is an Infectious Disease Specialist employed by Virginia Hospital Center and is Chief of Infectious Disease there. She also is a Fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America. Her parents are IHL members, Carmine and Flo Primeggia.

We were grateful to Dr. Jen (and her family) for the time she devoted to speaking at IHL, answering questions, and socializing with our members and guests.



**NATIONAL COLUMBUS DAY CEREMONEY  
October 9, 2023**

Michael Gering, Guard, Italian Heritage Lodge, holds a wreath which he presented at the Columbus Day ceremony in front of Union Station in Washington, D.C.

Thank you, Mike, for representing IHL!

**OCTOBER – AUTUMN HARVEST DINNER With Guest Speaker Stefano Scafetta, retired  
Senior Conservator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.**

Mr. Scafetta spoke about his unexpected career change and his journey from Art History to Art Conservation resulting from the damage he witnessed from the 1966 flood in Florence, Italy.





# *My Grand Lodge of Virginia “Hall of Fame”*

*(Submitted by Jim DeLucia)*

*There is no Hall of Fame for the OSDIA Grand Lodge of Virginia. Having spent many, many hours researching the history of the Grand Lodge, I am in a unique position to share who would be part of the inaugural class of **my** Hall of Fame. This is the second in a series of articles in which I will share details about a person who had a significant impact on the Grand Lodge of Virginia or Local Lodges.*

## ***Louis Mangialetto***

It is doubtful many, if any, of our current membership knows the name Louis Mangialetto. It is a shame, as he was a fierce advocate for his fellow Italian immigrants, for honoring Christopher Columbus, presiding over several Italian clubs and for helping his community in a variety of ways including introducing legislation to help the down trodden.

Mr. Louis (Luigi) Mangialetto was born in Italy in the mid-1800s. He came to the US in 1883 and became a citizen in 1889 in Philadelphia. He migrated to Norfolk in 1890, eventually settling in Portsmouth, VA.

His last name is spelled in various ways in the newspapers, including Mangialetta, Mangialetti, and Mangialette. No matter how it is spelled, Mr. Mangialetto became very active and prominent in the Italian colony of the area. In 1897, he is the President of the Italian Benevolent Society of Norfolk and Portsmouth (Societa Italiana di Mutuo Sussorso e Beneficenza) and held a celebration in honor of Columbus discovering America.

In 1898, the Italian American Citizens club was organized in Portsmouth with the purpose of pleasure and political. It elected Louis Mangialetto as its first President. In 1901, we find that Mr. Mangialetto is corresponding secretary of the Victoria Emanuel III Beneficial Society. He also helped draft its constitution and by-laws.

At the same time, he is President of Italian American Citizens Association. We find that he is still President in 1902 and is reelected as President in February of 1909. The organization becomes incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia that year. The names on the state charter included Louis Mangialetto, Antonio Festa and Guiseppe N. Caprio. This made Mangialetto the first President of the newly Incorporated Italian American Citizens Association. Also in 1909, the Italian American Citizens Association launches an effort to erect a statue of Christopher Columbus in Norfolk.

In 1910, Mr. Mangialetto is President of the Cristoforo Columbo Association. This organization drafted a resolution urging the Commonwealth of Virginia to make October 12 a state holiday in honor of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America.

The year 1914 finds citizen Mr. Mangialetto drafting a bill for his State Delegate to introduce to the legislature to make Columbus Day a holiday.

In 1921, there is an article on the Italo-American Citizens' Education Club securing a permanent location. Mr. Mangialetto is its President. It is not clear if this was associated with the Italian American Citizens Association. Although with over 150 members and Mr. Mangialetto being a member of Italo-American Citizens Lodge there is probably an affiliation.

Still very passionate about Columbus Day, Mr. Mangialetto chairs the Columbus Day observance held jointly by Italo-American Citizens Lodge and its associated Ladies lodge Cornelia Dei Gracchi in October of 1923.

In December 1924, Mr. Mangialetto died at a hospital in Norfolk, where he had been for 10 previous days. His obituary noted he was prominent in several Italian societies including the Italo-American Citizens Association. It is also noted that he headed both Liberty Loan and the Red Cross. He was credited with securing passage of the compensation act that provided workmen's compensation for State employees. He pushed for the legislation after witnessing a fellow worker killed while removing guns from an old battleship. The employee's wife got nothing but a hat collection among the workmen to pay for the funeral. This prompted Mr. Mangialetto to rectify this.



## #growingupitalian

*The following article “Italian Family Traditions” was submitted by*

*Nancy Agosta Perrelli, Trustee, Italian Heritage Lodge*

I grew up in an Italian family in a small, close-knit New England city. My Mom, Carmela Calienni, immigrated to the U.S. from Oriolo, Calabria when she was 12 years old. My Dad, Emanuele Agosta, came over at age 17 from Pozzallo, Sicily. Several years later they met and married in Barre, Vermont. Four children were born to them in the early years of their marriage. I was the “surprise”, born nearly 20 years later, forever having the distinction of being called “the baby of the family” by my siblings.

My hometown was a wonderful place in which to grow up. Known as “The Granite Center of the World”, our small city was ringed with granite quarries in those majestic Green Mountains. I describe Barre as cosmopolitan. Because of the need for skilled stone workers, we had carvers and other stone artisans who emigrated from Italy, Spain, Scotland, Scandinavia, and Canada. Probably half of our population was Italian. In my neighborhood alone there were the Buttura, Bianchi, Tosi, Sanguinetti, Arioli, Pucci, Giaccherio and Puricelli families. So it’s not surprising that Barre had “tre mercati italiani” (three Italian markets).

When I think of my childhood, two things stand out: *cooking and music*.

My Mom was a fantastic cook who could put together a full meal in minutes when we had unexpected visitors. Unfortunately, she didn’t use recipes. So, my sister Lucy would watch my Mom as she prepared a meal and she would write everything down. I learned to cook from those recipes and when I had my own family I would make my Mom’s lasagna, melanzane alla parmigiana, braciole, stuffed shells, etc., as well as her pizzelle, biscotti, panettone and panforte. Like my Mom, I love to cook. And anyone who knows me knows that I love to bake. My favorite room in my house is the kitchen.

I think I’ve passed down my love of good food to my children and grandchildren. My daughter is probably the best cook in the family because she is more adventurous. The memory of teaching my young grandchildren to make stuffed shells will remain with me forever. Very messy, but lots of fun. Whenever my oldest grandson, now working in Chicago, comes home for a visit, he always comes to my house for a cooking lesson. My granddaughter, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, texted me with a photo and said “Hey, Nonny! I made your angel hair pasta with roasted tomatoes for dinner tonight”. Both are good cooks. My son has four boys, ages 10 to 16, and they all love to cook. We’ve had some fun baking sessions over the years.



Another tradition from my childhood that has carried through the years to my children and grandchildren is a love of music. Whenever we had company for dinner, following the meal my Dad would tell my siblings to get their instruments. My sister played the mandolin, one brother played the violin and the other played the accordion. I was too little to play an instrument, but I loved to sing and, because we spoke Italian at home, at a very young age I knew all the old Italian songs, Torna Sorrento, Santa Lucia, Bella Bionda, O Marie, O Sole Mio. Standing on a chair, I sang while my siblings played. (Around age 9 I moved from the chair to a stage and went on to sing with small local dance bands to earn pin money in college.)

When my daughter was a baby, I would sing Italian songs to her while pushing my grocery cart. Her favorite song was “Bella Bruna”. After she started talking, she would always say “Mommy, sing Bruna” when we went shopping. When babysitting my grandchildren, I would sing while feeding them. By the time they were toddlers, they had quite a repertoire!

My children and my six grandchildren have carried on that love of music, both instrumental (saxophone, violin, trumpet, bass, clarinet, piano, guitar, oboe) and vocal. My 10-year-old twin grandsons, selected to sing with a county-wide choral group, recently performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

I love that our family traditions will live on.



*“And anyone who knows me knows that I love to bake. My favorite room in my house is the kitchen.”*

Indeed Nancy – pictured are some of Nancy’s favorites: pizzelle, ossi di morte, biscotti, pignoli.

**Thank you, Nancy, for your contribution to this issue of *Il Giornale* and for sharing your Italian family traditions and especially your memories with us.**

**I am asking for contributions from all those who continue your family traditions – in as many ways possible – and how you share the Italian culture with your children, grandchildren, and family members. Many of our members are very interested in hearing about ways that we can ensure our culture and these traditions will pass from generation to generation.**

I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, and contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this quarterly *Il Giornale*:  
 Beverly Amante, Jim DeLucia, Aldo Funai, Michael Gering, Eleanor Lillo, Nancy Perrelli,  
 Joseph Scafetta, Jr., and Arthur Smith.  
 Mostly, I am grateful for the support of *i miei amici italiani!* ~ c.s.

*Never regret a day in your life:*

*Good days give happiness,*

*Bad days give experience,*

*Worst days give lessons,*

*And*

*Best days give memories.*

*Give  
Thanks!*

