

Volume 7
Issue 1
Winter 2024

*A note from the
Editor:*

***Benvenuta
inverno!***

*With precious
memories of our
holidays tucked
away and as we stay
bundled and warm
against the
remaining winter
months, we also
look towards Spring
which is just
around the corner.
This issue looks at
our local lodge
activities,
community
enrichment, and
honoring Italy's
Fallen Soldiers. A
special interview of
Italian American
TV screenwriter
Nick Antosca closes
this issue.*

*I look
forward to hearing
from our members
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,

Well March is almost here, and it will certainly be an exciting time for our Lodge. All our Local Lodges will be installing their officers for the coming year. Although most of the positions remain unchanged, it's the start of a new Lodge year and everyone should be thinking of ways to support our mission and enhance the membership experience. Let's all put our heads together and come up with plans to entice younger folks to join our ranks (have you heard that before). It's doable and I know those ideas are out there roaming around in some member's head. So let's get them out of our heads and on paper. Get them to your membership chairman or Lodge President.

The big news right now around OSDIA, as all of you must have heard, is the upcoming movie "Cabrini". It will premiere on March 8th. I hope everyone has had at least the chance to see the trailer. Many may have attended the online sneak previews held by National. I was very impressed with what I saw and look forward to seeing the entire film. It made me realize just how much my grandparents must have had to endure to come to this country in the early 20th century. God Bless them for getting on that boat and giving me the opportunity to live my life in this great country.

I will be seeing a lot of you next month as I will be attending installation ceremonies for four of our five lodges. I look forward to being with you and appreciate your giving me the opportunity to be your State President.

Dio benedica ciascuno di voi,

Aldo
Grand Lodge President

Local Lodges

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

December 2023 & January 2024

(Submitted by Mary Louise Smith)



State President Aldo transforms into Elfie the Elf sharing good times during Verdi's Christmas luncheon!!

Santa's helpers who brought us Christmas joy taking charge of serving our Christmas luncheon!

*L-R
Amber,
Bailey,
and
Aubree*



Clay Patrick and Harper

La Befana returned in January sweeping up crumbs and visiting with members.



Members of Hanover Fire and Rescue, recipients of Verdi donation.

Left to right: FF Mike Nocera, FF Max Broughman, Lt Brian Grimes, FF Ethan Rakes, Lt. Chris Fessler, District Chief Weet Baldwin and Financial Secretary, Arthur Smith.

Arthur Smith presenting donation to 911 Communications Deputy Director Charlie Udriet!



Peninsula Italian American Lodge

November 2023

(Submitted by Beverly Amante)



A special Event and a special person



33+ years of service

In the State of Virginia, there are 15 National Cemeteries. One of those cemeteries is in Hampton Virginia. If you were to wander around the Phoebus section of this cemetery you would come across the graves of 55 German sailors and 5 Italians: one Army Corporal, three Army Privates and a Navy Captain. The Italians were all WWII POW's.

Italian Liaison Officers for US Army TRADOC have honored the fallen soldiers during a Memorial Day Service held during the 2nd week of November for over 33 years. This year's ceremony was held on November 9th and was led by Italian Liaison Officer Col. Michele Strippoli and German Liaison Officer Col. Stephan Lissina.

Members of the Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 have participated in this ceremony for at least the past 33 years. Part of the ceremony is the reading of the Soldiers Prayer in both Italian and English. It has been our honor to do both readings as we celebrate these men who never made it back to their homeland.

Although the reader of the prayer in English has varied over the year, one of our members, Rinaldo Brolli, has been the only person who has read the prayer in Italian for the past 33 years.

It is a great honor to have Rinaldo as a member of our lodge and to know that, at age 98, he is still able to participate in this solemn ceremony.

Some photos of the event:



2016:

Rinaldo Brolli (91 years old)



2019:

*Members of PIAL: Back row: Bob Amante
Front row: Anne Caruso, Jim DeLucia, Rinaldo Brolli and Terry DeLucia*

2023:

*Rinaldo posing with officers from
different countries. The officer to his
left as you look at the photo is
Italian Liaison Officer
Col. Michele Strippoli.*



PREGHIERA DEL SOLDATO

Signore Iddio
 che hai voluto distinta in molti popoli
 l'umana famiglia da Te creata e redenta,
 guarda benigno a noi
 che abbiamo lasciato le nostre case
 per servire in armi l'Italia.
 Aiutaci, o Signore, affinché,
 forti della Tua fede,
 affrontiamo fatiche e pericoli
 in generosa fraternità di intenti,
 offrendo alla Patria
 la nostra obbedienza ed il nostro sereno
 sacrificio.
 Fa che sentiamo ogni giorno,
 nella voce del dovere che ci guida,
 l'eco della Tua voce.
 Fa che i Soldati d'Italia
 siano di esempio a tutti i cittadini
 nella fedeltà ai Tuoi Comandamenti ed alla
 Tua Chiesa,
 nell'osservanza delle patrie leggi,
 nella consapevole disciplina verso l'autorità
 costituita.
 E concedi che l'Italia nostra,
 che é rispettata ed amata nel mondo,
 meriti la protezione Tua
 e la materna custodia di Maria,
 anche in virtù della concordia operosa dei
 suoi figli.
 Così sia.



"To All Fallen Soldiers"
 HAMPTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
 (Phoebus Section/Addiction)
 West County Street, Hampton, VA



2023:

Rinaldo Brolli (98 years old)

THE SOLDIER'S PRAYER

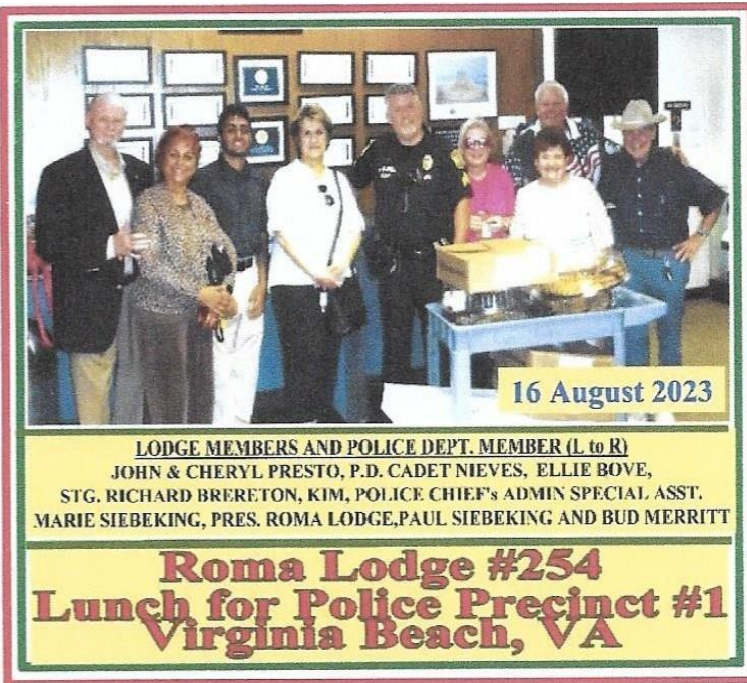
Lord our God
 you created us with distinctive features
 and You created the different peoples of the Earth
 who were redeemed by Your death and
 resurrection.
 Now we pray that you will shower on
 those who left their homes to serve their country
 your generous benevolence.
 Help us Lord, so that, strengthened by our faith in
 You, we may face our work and fears
 in a generous fraternity of aims,
 offering our Country our obedience and
 willingness to serenely offer our supreme
 sacrifice in its service.
 And Lord, make the Italian soldier an example
 to his brothers, sisters, and fellow citizens,
 so that all of us will remain loyal
 to your Commandments and Your Church,
 And Lord, help us always to be law abiding
 and consciously disciplined to all constituted
 authority.
 And Lord, we pray that our Country;
 which we respect and love, will deserve Your
 protection under the maternal custody of
 Mary and the active concord of its Sons.
 Amen

Roma Lodge

August 2023 – February 2024

(Submitted by Marie Mascaro Siebeking)

Roma Lodge has been rather busy this period, in August we delivered lunch sandwiches to the police precinct that is responsible for our lodge. There was enough food to serve all the shifts that day. They were extremely happy with the support from our group.



**Lunch donation to Police
 Dept. Precinct #1**

(August 16, 2023)

In September we held a Labor Day picnic which was enjoyed by all, lots of food and friendship. At the end of the month, the lodge participated in the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Parade at the ocean front. Great time, and participation by our members and good advertising for our lodge! Our Past State President, Larry Brennan, participated and is in the front row, the parrot head member at the right end of the banner. (September 30, 2023)



In November we celebrated Veteran's Day at our meeting on the 5th. We invited the veterans from VetsHouse of Virginia Beach, although only half of their members got there, several got lost and did not make it. We celebrated the visiting veterans and those members of the Roma lodge that are retired or active members of the Armed Forces. On the 17th of November, we delivered Thanksgiving meals to the Veterans at the VetsHouse. We delivered five turkeys and 10 Bags of food to support the five Veterans houses in Virginia Beach. They were extremely grateful for all the food.



Veterans Day Celebration luncheon for VetsHouse of Virginia Beach and Roma Lodge Veterans (November 5, 2023)

FOR CHRISTMAS AND THANKSGIVING, ROMA LODGE #254 DONATED FIVE TURKEYS AND TEN BAGS OF FOOD FOR THE FIVE VETSHOUSES OF VIRGINIA BEACH.

Turkey and Food Bag Donations



Members helping with delivery



Our Christmas party was held on Sunday afternoon, December 3, 2023. Sixty-six members and four guests from the Peninsula Italian American Lodge attended. The hall looked very festive, and we had an excellent meal prepared by our members. Our biggest event of the day was Frank Cubillo who sings “Frank Sings Frank” came to perform. Everyone enjoyed Frank and had many good vibes. All our widows who don’t get out that much anymore really enjoyed themselves. Our oldest member Ione Langlands, who is 98, said “I made her Christmas” as Frank sang and danced with her.

***CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
AND ENTERTAINMENT
“FRANK SINGS FRANK”
BY FRANK CUBILLO***



**Roma Lodge #254 Christmas Luncheon
3 December 2023
“Frank Sings Frank” Entertained All**



**Roma Lodge #254 Food Donation
To Vetshouses of Virginia Beach
20 December 2023**

***CHRISTMAS
FOOD
DONATIONS
TO
VETSHOUSES
OF VIRGINIA
BEACH***

On December 20th Christmas food bags were delivered to the VETSHOUSE of Virginia Beach. Five VetsHouses were given two full bags of food and a case of water each. They were very thankful. I would like to thank all the members who donated food to this cause.

We will be collecting food or monetary donations all year long for next year’s Holiday baskets.

At our January meeting we received the nominations for the Roma Lodge Council for 2024 and will vote on the new officers on the 4th of February. Our installation will be on the 5th of March. Our Deputy, Bob Amante, will preside over the ceremony.

Italian Heritage Lodge

November 2023 – February 2024

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)



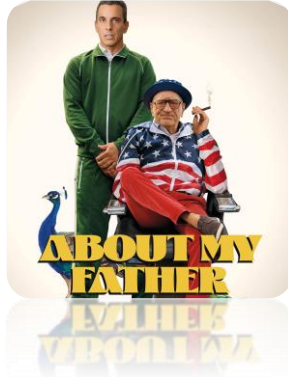
For our November/Veteran's Day evening on Saturday, November 18, 2023, the guest speaker was Ronald G. Capalaces who is the author of "When All the Men Were Gone," a memoir of his boyhood growing up during World War II.

*Festa di Natale
December 2, 2023*



Our Guest Speaker, Francesco Isgro', President of the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center, gave a Power Point presentation and a talk about the Italian-American Museum, in Washington, D.C. to our members and guests on Saturday evening, December 2, 2023 for IHL's Festa di Natale. An Italian Christmas dinner was served buffet style afterwards. The evening was concluded with the singing of Christmas Carols by the Carolla sisters. IHL continued their tradition of making generous toy donations to the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C. and were collected and delivered by Eleanor and Dennis Lillo in time for Christmas.

Afternoon Movie and Winter Luncheon
January 28, 2024



Carnevale di Venezia
February 18, 2024
An afternoon of celebrating Carnevale, enjoying Cicchetti and a dinner of typical Venetian cuisine.



Piacere! It's a pleasure to meet you, Nick Antosca.

Full disclosure, you are my nephew and even though I am aware of your amazing accomplishments, I would like our readers to know more about you, your Italian-American heritage, your love of your Italian heritage and culture, and the things you have been doing to obtain a dual citizenship.

You were born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and moved to Maryland at a young age. You were named after your paternal great-grandfather, Nicola Andosca, who came to America from Naples, in the Campania region of Italy. He entered the United States through Boston but settled in New Jersey. He lived a long life and died at the age of 97 when you were young. What else do you remember about him, and do you recall his presence in your life?



He died in 1984, didn't he? I was not even two years old then! I don't think I have any memory of him at all. What I do have is stories of him from my dad and other folks in the family. What I've heard is that he was beloved by his kids, that he worked as a butcher, and that he never learned to read — which is one reason why there are multiple spellings of his (our) last name, including Andosca and Andosci. My mental image of him comes from the few photos I have and my dad's descriptions.

After graduating from Yale, you took up residence in Manhattan to pursue your writing career. You published your first novel "Fires" when you were quite young if I recall, in your early 20s. And how many books have you written and published since then? What in your writing career made you move to Los Angeles to pursue a more demanding career in television screenwriting? Did you think you were ready for that change and were there challenges along the way?

I guess that I have published five books, if you count short story collections and novellas. But my books weren't published widely in prestigious New York presses, and I wasn't making a living at writing fiction. I just enjoyed writing ever since I was a very little kid, when I used to draw stories about dinosaurs killing pirates and have my dad write the dialogue in bubbles, so writing is what I did in my free time during my twenties. I was going to work at my day job in New York as an assistant at a hedge fund, making spreadsheets, staying late enough to order dinner, writing at night at my office desk, sometimes sleeping under my desk, taking a shower at the gym in the morning, and returning to work.

Then the financial crisis of 2008 hit, and I was laid off. By that time, I had become very interested in the ambitious storytelling that was happening in TV. So along with my best friend, Ned Vizzini, who was also a fiction writer, I started teaching myself to write TV. In 2010, we moved to LA. There were certainly some challenges in breaking into the TV industry. For one thing, everyone else was trying to break in at the same time. We were trying to study the scripts of shows that we admired in order to learn the craft of TV writing. We went to the Writers Guild of America headquarters and asked to check out copies of the pilot scripts for the shows *Dexter* and *Breaking Bad*. A few minutes after we sat down, two young guys who looked just like us walked up to the desk and asked for the exact same scripts. I took that as a message from the universe that I was not special and there were many, many other people trying to get the same jobs I was trying to get.

What are some of your television credits?

I created or co-created the shows *The Act*, *A Friend of the Family*, *Brand New Cherry Flavor*, *Candy*, and *Channel Zero*. I also executive produced the show *Chucky*, based on the Child's Play franchise (about Chucky the killer doll). Before that, I worked on other shows including *Hannibal* on NBC and *Teen Wolf* on MTV.

I understand that recently you have been diligently pursuing a dual citizenship. Both of your great-grandfathers legally immigrated to America, your maternal great-grandfather came from Bari, Italy, whom I know you never met. I imagine this process has been time consuming and exhaustive in some ways, so how close are you to obtaining your citizenship?

Not close. I haven't even been able to get an appointment at the Los Angeles consulate. They're endlessly booked up. I hired an Italian law firm that specializes in citizenship applications, but apparently they can't do anything until I get an appointment.

You and your wife, Ali Pechman who is also a writer, have traveled very often to Italy, didn't you also honeymoon there? Do you have a favorite city, region? I hear from our family grapevine you and Ali plan to purchase a home there at some point in the future. Can you elaborate on that rumor?

We love Ravello in particular. That's where we went on our honeymoon. Actually, we went all up and down the Amalfi coast, but Ravello was the best of many beautiful towns. When you go up the road from the port, there are vineyards on one side and lemon groves on the other. When I was on the Amalfi coast, I wanted to say that I felt the connection to the place because of our family history in Italy, but the truth is, I think it's just such a beautiful land that it's hard not to feel a connection to it. We've gone back since, and also to Ischia. We have certainly thought about moving to Italy at some point.

I love that you are staying connected to your Italian heritage through travel, extensive family research, and future plans to return to your roots in Italy. Do you use or plan to use any of these references in your work? I recall that "Fires" incorporated some of our family's characteristics in it.

I don't have any plans at the moment to write something that incorporates Italy specifically into one of my shows, but when I finish what I'm working on now, I would love to do that. I'd love to actually shoot in Italy. It would be a dream.

Being a Los Angeles resident, do you ever frequent LA's Little Italy, that is Sonoratown? There is a large, vibrant Italian American population there with many Italian restaurants, bakeries, and cafes. I am told it is rich with Italian heritage.

I rarely go to Sonoratown, but I do go to Italian restaurants all the time in LA. My favorites are Union Pasadena, which has a fantastic torchetti with Calabrese pork ragu and ricotta, and Osteria Mozza, which has been around so long that I don't know if it's considered cool anymore, but I really think is the best Italian food in LA. We also used to frequently go to a small Italian grocery store called Mario's when we lived in Glendale.

Nick, I very much appreciate your time in allowing me to interview you for *Il Giornale*, the newsletter of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. I know that your professional life takes up so much of your time traveling, on and off the set writing and doing re-writes, and assisting with productions of your numerous projects. *Grazie mille!*

Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo



Nick enjoying the breathtaking scenery of Ravello, Italy



Nick and Ali on their honeymoon in Ischia, Italy.

I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, and contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this quarterly *Il Giornale*:

Beverly Amante, Nicholas Antosca, Aldo Funai, Eleanor Lillo, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Marie Mascaro Siebeking, and Mary Louise Smith.

Mostly, I am grateful for the support of *i miei amici italiani!* ~ c.s.