

Volume 5
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Fall 2022

Il Giornale

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

*A note from the
Editor:*

***Benvenuto
autunno!***

*The past months
reflect our summer
excitement –
whether it is
vacationing with
family, visiting
local, regional or
far off lands, these
times leave us with
memories of
meaningful and
lasting joys. We
look forward now to
the autumn months
when we celebrate
Italian Heritage
Month, Christopher
Columbus Holiday,
our veterans, and
Thanksgiving. I
look forward to
hearing from our
brothers and sisters
who wish to keep
everyone informed
of current news.*

*Please submit
articles and pictures*

to:

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

A note from the Grand Lodge President

Cari amici,

Ciao, I hope this edition of *Il Giornale* finds everyone in good health and enjoying the fall foliage. It is hard to believe how fast this year is going.

Our National President, Bob Bianchi, continues to be hard at work trying to modernize the organization. The national website www.osia.org has been updated along with the creation of a Facebook page (Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America); there is a YouTube page as well. And for those on Instagram, you can follow with these hashtags: #OSDIA, #ItalianAmerican.

We held an all-presidents zoom call in early October to which all local lodge presidents and counsel members were invited. It was very informative, and our National President provided all the good things that have occurred recently and are about to occur within the Order.

As a reminder, the weekly TV show called *The Italian America Show* airs every Sunday at 8:00 PM ET. You can join by typing www.http:news12.plus/nyc/ We have a commercial on the show listing all of our lodges and our website, so check it out!

Also, soon to be posted on YouTube are videos of grand lodges (including GLVA), called “this is us.” It is a collage of lodge events put to music and promoting OSDIA.

If all the items I have listed above sound confusing to you, just reach out to your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to help you get connected to any or all the above items.

Speaking of children and grandchildren, we are looking for each grand lodge to have a social media contact to help us promote OSDIA. This person does not need to be a member. This person will help us with ensuring we are providing all the numerous social media events to lodge members. They will become a part of the Grand Lodge council heading up the social media committee.

We are also looking for young adults to join a young adult national counsel group. This group will be meeting with the national president and discuss ways to help promote OSDIA within the young adult area (which is needed to sustain this great organization). If you have a 16-18 teenage or 20’s member or children of members that would be interested in joining, please reach out to me and I will get them in contact with the counsel leader.

You all should have received the latest Italian America quarterly magazine. We have a new editor and look forward to a lot of great articles.

I hope you enjoy Thanksgiving with your family and friends and look forward to the Christmas holidays in person this year.

Please submit articles and pictures to: colette.sciscilo@gmail.com so that we can continue to showcase all the hard work the various lodges are doing.

I hope to see you at the next Grand Lodge Quarterly Meeting on December 11th at 10:30 a.m. at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge in Mechanicsville, VA.

Larry Brennan
Grand Lodge President

Grand Lodge of Virginia
38th Biennial Convention
And
100th Anniversary Celebration

The Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, will hold its 38th Biennial Convention on the weekend of April 28-29, 2023. The convention and all related celebrations will be held at the Roma Lodge #254 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Marie Siebeking (Roma Lodge), Amanda Hertzog (Italo American Citizens Lodge) and Beverly Amante (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) are coordinating the convention. Jim DeLucia (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) is working on gathering information for the 100th Anniversary celebration.

In conjunction with the convention, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. At present, 100th Anniversary festivities will be held at both evening dinners with the majority of the celebration being held on Saturday evening.

All current and former members of lodges in Virginia are encouraged to join us if they can.

Since we are still in the planning stages, more information will be coming out in December. This information will include: hotel information, meal costs, plans for the convention and plans for the 100th Anniversary celebration.

If you have any questions about the convention, please contact Marie Siebeking at kp59pe@cox.net, Amanda Hertzog at Amanda.pelt@hotmail.com, or Beverly Amante at beverlyamante@gmail.com

If you have something you think might be of interest for the 100th anniversary, please contact Jim DeLucia at JimDeLucia@aol.com

Local Lodges

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge



Miss Sydney Coursey is the granddaughter of Bea and Linwood Sykes and the recipient of the 2021 Joseph Fulton Memorial Scholarship. She is also the newest and youngest member of Giuseppe Verdi Lodge.

Please enjoy reading Sydney's 2021 winning Scholarship essay below. She attends James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, majoring in Sociology.

(Submitted by Bea and Linwood Sykes)



My Italian Heritage and History

By Sydney Coursey

My Italian heritage has greatly impacted my life for as long as I can remember. One of my favorite memories in my lifetime will be spending holidays at Nonna and Nonno's house with my whole family and eating an Italian dinner made by my grandparents. I was immersed into the Italian culture of food and family traditions from the moment I was born, and I am forever grateful for that. My Italian heritage brought a sense of community into my life outside of school and other extracurriculars that I do. I have visited the lodge where many of my family members are members and have always felt welcomed with open arms and accepted. I will always remember visiting the lodge around Christmas when I was younger and getting so elated over the festivities that were celebrated with this community. One of my fondest memories of Christmastime at the lodge was when I got to be an angel in the Christmas play.

Along with all my great memories given to me from my Italian heritage, my family has also taught me how to have a great work ethic. I am very fortunate to have my family to look up to and see their work ethic. My parents, along with my Nonna and Nonno have always supported me the best that they could in whatever I wanted to do. The best example of this I can think of is when I was in the third grade, I wanted to sell my own products made from duct tape, like wallets and hair bows. My Nonna got me the opportunity to have my very own booth at the Italian festival that year. This opportunity gave me a brief glimpse into the real world and really encouraged me to work hard in my life. At this point in my life, I would like to pursue a possible career in law. This is something that really excites my Nonna and she shared with me that her brothers both worked in law and my Great Uncle was actually one of the first Italian-American judges in Richmond. That fact really put me in the mindset that, if I can put my mind to it, I can accomplish my goal. This also made me embrace my Italian heritage even more and want to work to achieve great goals like my family members have. Some of my ancestors arrived in America from Ellis Island and learning of the hardships they encountered just to get here has made me feel that more encouraged to carry on their legacy and pursue greatness.

My Italian heritage and history are a big part of who I am and something that I want everyone to know about me. Each one of my family members have been great role models to me and have shown me how to be strong and independent. The welcomeness of the Italian community is something I wish everyone could experience. The work ethic I have learned from my family is something that I look forward to bringing to my professional life. I have learned to truly embrace who I am as a person, and I cannot wait to carry on the Italian traditions I have to my future family.

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

Giuseppe Verdi July 4th Picnic

(Submitted by Mary Louise Smith)



YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE LODGE ARE READY TO EAT !



LINE DANCERS



JOE BETZALA STRUTTING HIS STUFF



JUNNY SYKES STANDING FOR THE AIR FORCE ANTHEM "WILD BLUE YONDER"

Italian Heritage Lodge

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)

IHL kept a steady hand as we moved forward past the pandemic. We welcomed more new members and some returning members as we continued to offer fun social events, our monthly Lunch Bunch and recently added Happy Hours. Some themes this summer were our second annual July 4th Brunch, Beach Blanket Bonanza and the annual Spaghetti Dinner Meet & Greet, which featured guest speaker Chad Sarchio, Esquire. Mr. Sarchio is a former President of the DC Bar and spoke to an enthusiastic audience about his Italian-American upbringing, his military service and professional career.



Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax President, Dawn Falsinotti, and Vice President, Charles Romano, presented a wreath on behalf of IHL and as a member of the National Christopher Columbus Association.

Monday, October 10, 2022 ***Christopher Columbus National Holiday***

Columbus Circle at Union Station, Washington, D.C., is adorned with the many wreaths presented by Embassies, Fraternal, Civic, Service, and Patriotic Societies. This event was sponsored by the National Christopher Columbus Association.



Roma Lodge

(Submitted by Marie Siebeking)

Roma Lodge #254 Flower Donation August 30, 2022



Members (L to R): Barbara Murphy, Cheryl Presto, Flo Alfano, Lorraine, Denise Rapp, Ellie Bove, Pres. Marie Mascaro Siebeking, and Charlotte Modelinski(Director of Life Enrichment)



A group of women and men worked from early March 2022 almost every week to make unique Origami flowers with four flowers in each of 120 mini terracotta pots. They were delivered to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, assisted living in Virginia Beach by the team members who were available on the delivery day. The Lodge received a thank-you letter for the flowers, stating that they appreciated the tedious effort that went into producing them and giving them something that would last, real flowers are nice but never last too long.

Roma Lodge donated food for lunch at Station #3 in Virginia Beach, which covers the area where the Lodge is located. We made three deliveries of food, one for each duty shift of A, B, and C. The Firemen were happy to receive support from the community.



Lunch for Firehouse #3 Virginia Beach, VA Donated by Roma Lodge #254 to 3 Shifts

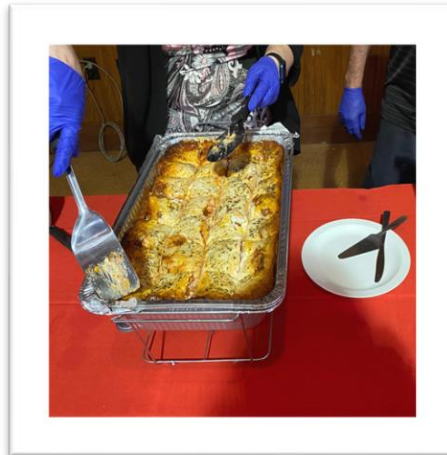
Peninsula Italian American Lodge

(Submitted by Beverly Amante)

The Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 celebrated Italian Heritage/Columbus Day on Sunday, October 16, 2022, at Immaculate Conception Church in Hampton, VA. Forty-five members and guests attended the function. This included our State President, Larry Brennan, who helped to serve and did most of the dishes, family members of some of our lodge members as well as the Italian Liaison Officer Col. Stefano Panoni who is assigned to US Army TRADOC at Fort Eustis. Col. Panoni brought with him three other Italian officers who are in town for training. (See picture with table of younger looking guys.)

Our dinner included Italian Wedding Soup made by Bob Amante, Cannoli for dessert made by Bev Amante, and Lasagna, Caesar Salad and garlic bread which was catered by Sweet & Savory Chefs LLC.

The afternoon included a presentation by Jim DeLucia of a YouTube video, "Columbus: Fact or Fiction" that has been endorsed by the CSJ branch of OSDIA. You can find the video at <https://youtu.be/jVOcXLHj6kQ>, as well as a raffle and 50/50. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and getting together with fellow members of the lodge and guests to celebrate Italian Heritage Month and Columbus Day.



Peninsula Italian American Lodge

Italian Heritage and Christopher Columbus Day Celebrations



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Virginia OSIA Foundation
Grand Lodge of Virginia
Order Sons and Daughters
of Italy in America

The Virginia OSIA Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) announces that they are offering three academic scholarships for the academic year 2023-2024 for students enrolled in a degree-seeking undergraduate or post-graduate degree program in a college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2023, for all applications and required documents.

For further questions, please contact Kathy A. Drummond, Scholarship Committee Chair, at anello1@verizon.net or 703-368-5039.

Italian Culture and Heritage

(Submitted by Jim DeLucia)

Centennial: *In 1922, the Supreme Lodge of OSIA established the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Since this is the centennial celebration year, we will cover events leading to its establishment.*

The October 18, 1922 edition of *The Times Dispatch* announced: “Several Hundred Prominent Italians Are Expected to Assemble in Richmond.” The article stated that the Grand Lodge in Virginia of the Order of the Sons of Italy in America would be installed and instituted in Richmond. It was expected that many leading Italians from across the country would attend.

In addition to the members of the Grand Lodge of Virginia attending, the supreme officers of the Supreme Lodge would also attend. They included the Supreme Venerable, Giovanni M. Di Silvestro, of Philadelphia.

At that time, there were eight lodges in Virginia. The ones still in existence are Giuseppe Verdi Lodge No. 315, Roma Lodge No. 254 and Italo-American Citizens Lodge No. 1077. The remaining five Lodges no longer in existence are: Queen Margherita No. 1014, of Richmond; Maria Gorizia No. 619 and Cuore di Maria No. 1081 both of Norfolk; Dante Alighieri No. 552 of Newport News; and Cornelia No. 1096 of Portsmouth.

It was expected dignitaries in attendance would include Richmond Mayor Ainslie, and Virginia Governor Trinkle. The induction ceremony was scheduled to take place on November 12, 1922, at the Jefferson Hotel.

Festivals Celebrated In Italy During October

Christopher Columbus

Don't remember where it was written, but to paraphrase someone: “Christopher Columbus may not have been the first to discover America, but surely, he was the last!” Now think about that. It says it all. Tell me Columbus doesn't matter, ha.

Festivals in Italy

In October, some of the largest festivals celebrating truffles take place in Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria, Le Marche and Emilia Romagna regions.

Holidays in October

October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis (Festa Di San Francesco). To interject a little personal note, my Grandfather died on that day many years ago. His name? Francis of course. My Grandfather was born on July 31, the feast day of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. My Grandfather's middle name? Ignatius.

Grand Lodge of Virginia Quarterly Meeting

**The Grand Lodge of Virginia will meet for its quarterly meeting at 10:30 a.m. on
Sunday, December 11, 2022.**

The meeting will be held at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315 in Mechanicsville, VA.

Council members and lodge presidents are asked to arrive no later than 10:00 am.

It will be determined at a later date if there will be foundation and local lodge presidents meetings.

Parliamo Italiano!

buon appetito!

Words and phrases:

a cappuccino
 a water
 cheese
 tomatoes
 a beer
 a sandwich
 a white wine
 breakfast
 lunch
 dinner
 I'll have
 Please
 first courses
 second courses
 Let's eat!

Parole e frase:

un cappuccino
un'acqua
formaggio
pomodori
una birra
un panino
un vino bianco
colazione
pranzo
cena
(Io) prendo.....
Per favore
primi piatti
secondi piatti
Mangiamo!



Familiar Phrases

Words and phrases:

Of course!
 Fine. Okay.
 Welcome back!
 I am sorry.
 How much is....?
 Excuse me! (formal)
 Excuse me! (informal)
 See you soon!
 See you tomorrow!
 Happy Birthday!
 My name is

Parole e frase:

Certo!
D'accordo.
Bentornato/a!
Mi dispiace.
Quanto costa?
Scusi!
Scusa!
A presto!
A domani!
Buon Compleanno!
Mi chiamo



Conversazione

Scusi, io prendo un cappuccino, per favore.
Certo, signorina. Desidera dessert?
No, grazie.
E Lei, signora?
Prendo il vino bianco, per favore.
Certo, signora.

Can you translate this Italian conversation?

White Chicken Lasagna

Ingredienti:

12 lasagna noodles	5 oz. fresh spinach
4 cups cooked chicken	3 garlic cloves, <u>minced</u>
1 Tbsp. olive oil	½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. pepper
1 medium onion – finely chopped	15 oz. ricotta
4 Tbsp. unsalted butter	1 large egg
1/3 cup all-purpose flour	¼ cup parsley
2 ½ cups chicken broth	¼ cup parmesan cheese
1 ½ cups half and half	3 cups mozzarella cheese
A pinch of grated nutmeg	

Preheat oven to 375°

Cook noodles in large pot of salted water until al dente. Drain and rinse to keep from sticking together. Shred chicken.

Place large saucepan over medium heat, add olive oil and sauté onions until softened. Add butter and whisk in flour – cook while whisking about 3 minutes.

Add chicken broth, half and half, nutmeg, salt and pepper and simmer 5 minutes. Add garlic and spinach and set aside.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl mix together the ricotta, egg, 2 cups mozzarella (reserve 1 cup for topping) parmesan cheese and parsley.

Assemble:

Add a small amount of béchamel on the bottom of a 9 X 13 casserole dish, add 4 noodles, ½ ricotta filling, ½ of the chicken and 1/3 of the béchamel with spinach. REPEAT. Add last 4 noodles, remaining sauce and sprinkle reserved mozzarella cheese.

Cover and bake for 45 minutes, uncover and bake until brown and bubbly (about 10 minutes). Let rest 15 minutes before slicing.

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

Beverly Amante, Larry Brennan, Sydney Coursey, Jim DeLucia, Kathy Drummond, Eleanor Lillo, Nancy Perrelli, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Michelle Romanello, Charles Romano, Marie Siebeking, Mary Louise Smith, and Bea and Linwood Sykes.

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