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**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA
WHOSE JURISDICTION COVERS
CALIFORNIA, NEVADA AND
KLAMATH COUNTY IN OREGON**



To All Members
If the address, name or title is not correct on the mailing label, please send it to the Grand Lodge, P.O. Box 2467 Fairfield, CA 94533
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Message From Your State President



State President
Arlene Marcucci Nunziati

“INSIEME”

Hi everyone! Welcome to 2024! I can't believe another year has gone by. Do you remember when we were children, (a long time ago) it seemed that the months crawled by. As we get older they just fly by!

I cannot believe I have been in this position already six months! Guess time flies when you are having fun. Thank you to my wonderful Officers and Committee Chairs for all their support. 2024 will be a new beginning for the Grand Lodge of California.

I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year with their families. I loved every minute of December, the lights and decorations, the cards, the holiday parties – love everything leading up to Christmas. It was so wonderful to hear of all the lodges' holiday parties!

Our Christmas was dif-

ferent but we were all together at the 49ers game and enjoyed it. I prepared our usual Christmas dinner (as close as I could) and we enjoyed it at the stadium! Good Luck to my beloved SF 49ers!

I had a lovely birthday and spent the day with Bill and Lynn Murphy packing up files in the temporary office. The following Saturday Lori and Mark Rossi transported all the boxes to our new home and closed down the temporary office. Thank you Mark and Lori.

We are now in our building and the offices are set up with our newly purchased furniture. My sincere appreciation to Lori who again traveled from her home to the new office to have all the furniture delivered and put where it belongs. It looks lovely. I can't wait for everyone to see our new building. This month I will travel there and spent a

few days and help to unload everything, file it away and decorate the walls!! It is a very exciting time for the Grand lodge of California! We will be holding our March Grand Council in our new home. Come and join us and take a tour. We will begin advertising for help in January so we can have someone in the office to answer your questions and the phones.

Lodges, please be sure to inform me and your State Officers when you are having an event, no matter how large or small. I want to visit you as do my other Officers. Be sure to notify our State Recording Secretary of address and officer changes.

Get well wishes to long time “brother” John Russo who had a setback in November but who is recuperating wonderfully! Get well wishes also to our Past State Officer Al Trentini Sorry not much to report these months as we all were busy with Christmas. Make a New Year's resolution right now to be more Italian at your meetings and to bring in one new member!

Ciao until next month.



Happy New Year



Past State President Maria Fassio Pignati
and husband Ugo

Become a Sponsor of Your IL Leone!

ATTENTION PLEASE

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Color Schemes

by Stephen Contrado, B.A., Th.M.

We are able to perceive a wide range of colors. People have always appreciated colors. People react differently to colors. One color can make a person feel differently from another. Many people have favorite colors. Colors can become distinctive brands. We are fortunate because some animals are believed to be color-blind.

Some aspects of color are subjective, varying among individuals. Other aspects are objective, agreed upon by groups for special purposes. Soft colors can have a relaxing effect, while bright colors can make us alert.

We can do bold or subtle things with color. Colors not only have esthetic value but also practical value. We color code things to make locating them easy. Some people believe they appear more attractive in certain colors. Some colors are cool, others are warm. Color is associated with pleasure and happiness. We call our happy events “colorful.”

Colors are emblems of professions. Policemen are clad in blue uniforms. Nurses once wore white uniforms. Lifeguards wear red bathing suits. Workers often stand out in their brightly colored vests. Colors are also used for religious purposes. Churches use colors to emphasize liturgical themes. Westerns brides take pride in their white gowns at their weddings. Clergymen wear black.

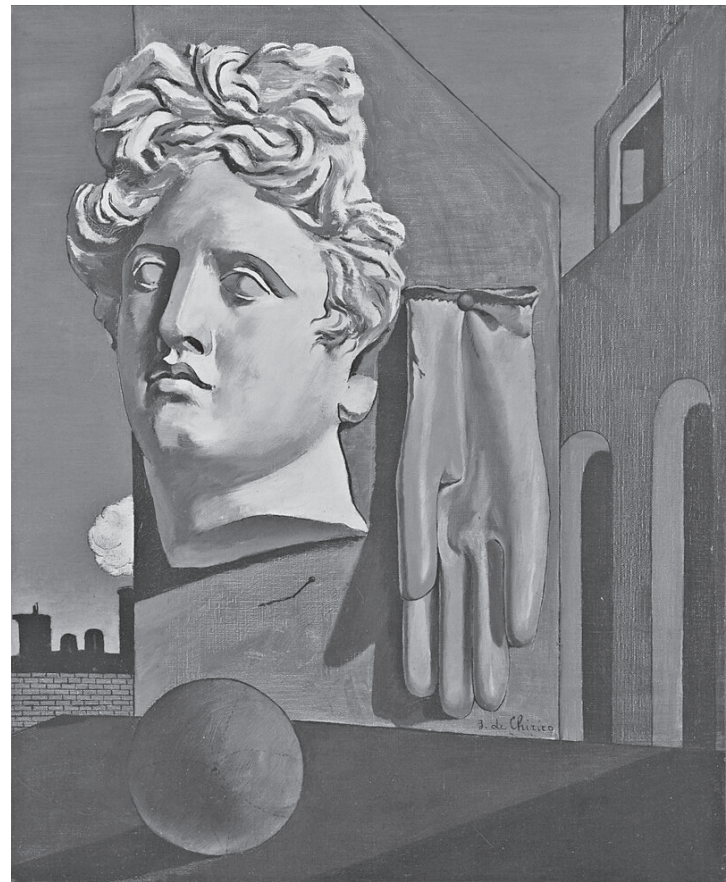
Color schemes play an important role in clothing fashions and in home decor. Colors even reflect political values; we speak of conservative color schemes and modern ones. National flags employ various colors.

Colors are an intrinsic part of fine art. Painters and photographers are experts in colors. And colors are studied by scientists and psychologists. Colors are important in commerce and advertising.

Colors tend to symbolize values. White signifies purity. Red signifies passion. Yellow speaks of friendship. Pink speaks of femininity. Blues are cool. Gold represents luxury. There are many shades of color that convey wonderful messages.

Mixing colors creates an infinite variety of images and significances. The balance of various colors creates interesting visual results. Large splashes of clashing color shout at us. Small spots of color gracefully and quietly drawn our attention.

The beauty of our world largely depends of its colors. And color plays an important role in nature. For example, brightly colored flowers attract insects to pollinate them. When we learn a foreign language it is important to learn its names for colors. Our dreams in sleep may accent feelings by means of colors. For many reasons, we ought to make a special effort to appreciate and employ colors.



C. Colombo Lodge # 1315

Antioch, CA
by Zelda LeFrak-Belleci



The *Summerset Singers* of Brentwood, California, host a holiday concert each December. C. Colombo Lodge member Maryann Smith has performed with the chorus for several years. Pictured second from left is a smiling Maryann acknowledging the members of the lodge that were in the audience applauding the choristers.



Dennis and Lanette Clark, pictured above, opened their home for cocktails before C. Colombo Lodge members headed off for a holiday concert. The Clarks spent 6 weeks turning their home into a winter fairyl-land with antique dolls, puppets, a candy cane village scene, a floor to ceiling pyramid display of Victorian homes and a “visit” to a carni



Enjoying the visit to a gingerbread village at the home of Dennis and Lanette Clark are Kim Milsap, Charles Paduano and Zelda LeFrak-Belleci. The trio joined other members of C. Colombo Lodge toasting the holiday season before going off to the Christmas Concert presented by the *Summerset Singers*.



At a recent holiday party, Members of C. Colombo Lodge were entertained by a quartet of “theatrical stars”. Spoofing the arrival of Santa Claus were Janet Castillo, Ernie Dinelli, Edna Esposito and Paulette Lagana. Much applause saluted the acting talents of the foursome!



C. Colombo Lodge heralded the Christmas holiday with a potluck dinner held at their new meeting site, the American Legion Hall in downtown Antioch. Lodge President Carol Esposito introduced her special guest, her nana and centenarian Carol Giannotti, pictured above.

Lodge Websites & E-mail Directory

- Anaheim Lodge
www.anaheim2076.org
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Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400

Palm Spings, CA
by Andy Casey

Change is a constant in life. There is an ebb and flow to life, most enjoyable at times, and then there is the sadness these times of change can bring. But we adjust to them, hopefully. Your favorite sports team, riding supremely at the top, is going to have the likes of a Joe Di Maggio or Kobe Bryant retiring, someone else lost to injury or sadly death, but we forge ahead to rise again! And that is the joy of new beginnings, a new start, and that time is upon our Lodge!

Our new President Frank DiSalvo is ascending to his new role, and stepping into the footsteps of retiring President Joe LaPorta. As Frank says in his November newsletter, "I can only hope I am able to do as good a job....." And we say, of course you can Frank, the rest of the team is largely intact to assist you as they did Joe. And like Joe, who had Laurie by his side all those magnificent years, you have Addy, and our fabulous volunteers, and members cheering you on, supremely confident that you can! We look forward to your Presidency, and once again thank Joe and Laurie for all their years of incredible service!

With the ebb and flow our membership is a changing tide too. Members move, some get sick and no longer can attend, and some sadly pass. Every member, and I underscore every, is a

valuable contribution to the success of our Lodge. And we all do our part, especially the volunteers, which without, there would be no Lodge. Then there are members that leave an even larger footprint on the Lodge and his fellow members. Such a member was Jack Brennan.

Colonel John "Jack" Brennan passed away 10/20/23. Leaving one hellva legacy! Jack served as an aide to President Richard Nixon from 1969 till Nixon's resignation, and then as Nixon's Chief of Staff, confident and often golfing partner. Jack had an incredible career, and I encourage everyone to read his life story on Wikipedia. You'd never have any idea of all that history if you ever met him at the Lodge. Jack was readily accessible to everyone, warm and quite humorous. And before I forget a proud Marine. I would often tease Jack that his table would have by far the most wine bottles on it, and that his friends kept the Italian wine economy thriving. He said to me, "Andy, these are all good friends, and since I invited them, I'm going to pay for their dinner. They in turn then feel that they need to supply the table with a bottle or two of wine, leading to an overflow and a lot of merriment!" But he did much more. Every year, before we had to close down for the pandemic, he would host a

bus to go to President Nixon's library and museum in Yorba Linda, and spend the trip talking of Nixon's Presidency and then guide them through the library. Jack, we miss you!

We also lost the love of my life Caryl Williams, and Lori Harvey's brother Pete. On the good side we had a substantial increase in new members. Such is the ebb and flow of life and members.

Another footprint is my hero, George Ciampa. George is struggling with health issues right now, and instead of striding through the door, he comes in a wheel chair. Still with all his considerable charm and elan! Carrying with him copies of his book or CD's for sale, because 98 year old George has quite a story. He stormed the beaches at Normandy on D Day, and would go on to produce six documentary CD's on his history in WWII. He also wrote a book called "Silent Dog-Tags", which recounts his service in WWII, and is a wonderful read, available on Amazon!

There are many more stories of members, their lives and contributions to our amazing Lodge. Perhaps they, or you, just competed in our fourth golf tournament. Yes, that's right!

YOUR LODGE JUST HELD OUR FOURTH, AND LARGEST, ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT! Joe LaPorta and Laurie had

an idea for a fun, fund raising golf tournament, with a gourmet Italian Buffet, and the tournaments have turned out to be a roaring success! We just concluded our fourth annual one at Indian Canyon Golf Resort on November 13th. Played on a spectacularly beautiful day, the tournament brought forth members from seven of our Western Lodges. That's fantastic!

Here's how amazing it has become. Joining in the festivities, either playing in, or dining, or both were members of the following Lodges: Torrance Lodge, Fontana Lodge, San Francisco - Italian Club, Sacramento Lodge, Klamath Falls Lodge, and San Diego Italian Club. Also present was Past National President Vera Girolami with husband Judge Al Girolami, 1st Vice President Mark Vaona and State Financial Secretary David Lauezzari. That's amazing participants!

And the winning teams were, FIRST PLACE: Anthony Contasi, Mario Vitale, Stefano DiMenna, Bob Sylvester. The SECOND PLACE team: J. R. Thomas, John Loera, Mike McCutchin, Richard Bruner. And the closest to the pin and winner of \$250.00 was Andy Herriott.

We will be into 2024 when you receive this newsletter, and looking forward to growing our membership. We have an incredible Lodge, and with it some of the best and foremost entertainment in the Coachella Valley and beyond: Frank DiSalvo, Michael D'Angelo and Larry Capeloto will all be back next year, better than ever! And Larry DelRose has assured me he's going to be here in January, with a, as of yet mystery guest. If you've been here when Larry performs, you know he's going to bring the best in San Diego with him! Ciao!



Jack Brennan standing between President Nixon and Carter.



First place winners



Jack Brennan standing between President Nixon and Carter.



Greetings from Virgilo Lodge #1586

Vallejo, CA
by Ray Bini President

We had our Christmas dinner celebration on December 2. A delicious dinner was served to 49 holiday spirited members that enjoyed roast beef and ravioli, salad and french bread. Everyone was in a very cheerful holiday mood and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to our wonderful committee for making it such a joyous Christmas celebration. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year for 2024.

Buon Natale.



Eureka Lodge # 1274

Eureka, CA
by Joe Bonino, Historian

The January potluck dinner meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 23rd. Cocktails at 4:30PM; dinner at 5:15PM; followed by our regular meeting. **Meeting begins at 6PM.**

Eureka Lodge **will** award the Irene and Paul Pinochi and Frank Stagnoli Scholarships this spring. Please remind your grandchildren or friends with children of Italian descent that application materials are available now from

their high school counselors or by calling Gene Perricelli at 707-443-0493 to have an application sent directly to them.

The Christmas dinner at Plaza Grill in Arcata was well attended and a very warm and cozy affair. Thank you Bill Chino for hosting the Eureka Lodge in such great style and with delicious food. (And the beautiful tree and decorations in the Jacoby Storehouse Building were outstanding as well.)

Hanford Lodge # 1543

Hanford, CA
by Jackie Giacomazzi
jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com



The Christmas Party Committee did a wonderful job organizing a fun event which drew a capacity crowd! left to right: Jackie Giacomazzi, chair; Louise Tesoriere, Louise (Lulu) Silacci, Michael Leoni, President. Michael will chair our annual Polenta Dinner on January 10. You are all invited to be our guests!! Happy New Year!!



Santa made an appearance and listened to the Christmas wishes for each child. This group was a little chaotic, but loads of fun and anxious to open their gifts!



Buon Compleanno was sung to two members who were celebrating their birthdays in December: Louise Silacci & Vincent Belezzuoli. (They each received a set of antlers as the birthday song was sung). Lulu announced that she was turning the "Big 7-0"!! Best wishes to both of these fine members!!! We also wish a very happy birthday to Nelda Brewer (not present) who will celebrate her 90th birthday in December.

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Ralph Giannini and Paul Ivancich dish up the tasty Humboldt Creamery ice cream.



Rosemary Fitzpatrick, Bonnie DuMond, and Nancy Giannini finish up the place settings for the Eureka Lodge polenta dinner.



Supporters of the Eureka Lodge Pinochi/Stagnoli Scholarships enjoy the chicken and polenta in the Eureka Elks Club facility.



In support of all the men and women
who have been called into military action.
You're in our hearts, in our thoughts, and in our prayers.



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Sailing September 27-30, 2024

On the Carnival Radiance



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Depart Long Beach, CA at 5 PM

Saturday

Fun Day at Sea (Meeting Day)

Sunday

Ensenada 8 AM to 5 PM

Monday

Arrive Long Beach 7 AM Depart around 9 AM

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8DBalcony

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100.00 Deposit per person required at time of booking. Balance due 10 July 2024. Space recall May 25, 2024.

Each Cabin Carnival will donate \$24.00 based on 2 people in the cabin for our Non-Profit group as a Fundraiser.

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Rodolfo Valentino Lodge # 1449

Clovis, CA
by Brian Watson, Presidenti; Gennaro anno 2024
Lou Catallo, Historian; (559) 299-2205 lcatallo@aol.com

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Happy New Year!



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Shasta Lodge # 2452

Redding, CA
by Carole Dellaragione

Hello from Redding,
It has been a busy December in Redding, but our catering is over for the year. We have a few weeks to take a break before we start activities mid-January. It's nice to have a little down time.
At our general meeting in December our charter was draped in Honor of Tina Lamanna who passed away early December. Tina had been a member for about 40 plus years and was First Lady for about fourteen years or so while Jim Lamanna was our President. Tina was always very active in lodge events until her health started failing. Rest in Peace our friend, you will certainly be missed.
In January we will also drape the charter in Honor of Dick Turner who just passed away on Dec. 19th.
We have a preliminary calendar of events ready for 2024. Our Crab Feed tickets will go on sale the first of January and we expect to sell out quickly for February 9th and 10th. Our Lodge Anniversary is in February but we have tentatively scheduled our anniversary party of May 4th
John DiMatteo and other members are busy with bell ringing for the Salvation Army this month. Some of our members were involved with the Holiday Wreaths for Heroes at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery. They helped fluff and place almost 5000 wreaths, and will help take them down after the first of 2024.
We hope all of you had a blessed and Merry Christmas and that your New Year is Happy and Prosperous.
Your friends at Shasta Lodge.



Dawn Hume and Lois Morgan decorating the lodge for Christmas.



Liz LaMarre, Nancy Wright and Charlotte Bailey helping with the Holiday Wreaths for Heroes at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery.



Sharon Pember and Rose Nobili raising money for the Salvation in Sprouts Market in Redding.

Roma Lodge # 1573

Roma, CA
by Larry Dutto

Photos were inadvertently omitted in our December issue

Roma Lodge 1573 held its 85th annual ravioli dinner. After taking a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, lodge members decided to continue this long held tradition and fundraiser. The picture on the right shows the 25th anniversary of of the dinner back in the 1960's when attendees got a dinner of ravioli, spaghetti, ½ BBQ chicken, salad, salami, cheese, wine and dancing to a live orchestra until 1 a.m. for only \$3.00. It was the social event of the year for the community with over 1,250 people attending. How times have changed.



Long time Roma Lodge member *Charlie Pitigliano* and grandson *Wessel Pitigliano* setup the Italian and American flags for diners as they drove through the takeout line to pick up their meals of ravioli, chicken, green beans, bread, and homemade biscotti cookies. Over 600 meals were distributed to individuals of the community.



Nearly 60 members sold tickets, worked long hours cooking and serving meals and celebrated **Italian Heritage Month** with the community. These pictures show our junior members helping with the cooking and distribution of our ravioli dinners. Juniors are our future. Without them there will be no future.



Austin Gentry handles the drive thru



Wessel Pitigliano, Kurt Sola, Vincent Sola and Reid Sola do the sauce cooking chores.

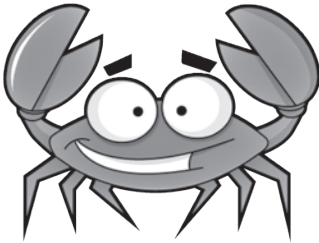


Sons & Daughters of Italy Northern Solano Lodge #2534 Annual Crab Feed

When: Saturday, January 27th 2024
Where: Adult Recreation Center
1200 Harry Price Drive. Fairfield
No Host Cocktails 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm
Cost: \$75 includes one complimentary glass of wine, beer, soda or water.

Please join us for an evening of fun, good food, friends, and fundraising. All you can eat, Salad, Pasta, Bread, Crab and Dessert. Live Dessert Auction, Raffle and a Silent Auction.

For tickets contact Carol Urban at 707-334-0611



Letters to the Editor

Mary Jane Cambria

Greetings members, I'd like to share with you my experience in Palermo this past December. I had the pleasure of meeting with the president of the Palermo Vincenzo Sellaro lodge, Tiberio Mantia and the members, they are a wonderful enthusiastic group. They have over 40 members already, Tiberio is a real connector, members are not just from Palermo but all different areas of Sicily. What they are asking from us is to help them with their structure planning organization et cetera and they very much want to have communication with our national president. It meant a great deal to them to have Bob Bianchi so involved and they're hoping for that to continue with the new president. They very much want to participate with us they really are an awesome group. Sabrina Gianforte invited Tiberio and myself to sit on a panel in the town of Montreal and we were able to share about Sons and Daughters of Italy the beginnings and today. We then had an amazing lunch demonstration by Chef Salvo Terruso, organized by Sabrina with pasta only made in Sicily. On my last day, one of the members who had not been able to attend the dinners or meet up with me made a special trip to the hotel, Rosamaria La Placa another very excited member wanting to communicate with us.

While at a dinner with about 20 members, I had the good fortune to sit next to the president of the newly formed Sellaro Foundation, Nunzia Imburgia and two of its members Marcello Barancotto and Dr Nunzio Panzarella. Evidently the town they live in is the town that Dr Sellaro lived in and cared for the members of the community, Pollizzi Generosa. They invited me to spend the day with them and the next day they picked me up; the mayor of the town Giuseppe LoVerol came with them (almost 2 hours each way) I was showed where Dr Sellaro lived, it was a tear jerk moment to see this humble home high in the Palermo mountains who began our order and helped our ancestors in so many ways. I took some pictures of his home they explained that the reason for the foundation is that this community has lost most of their medical facilities and they lack the medical care they need. They say New York has a huge hospital that Dr Sellaro began and they feel in his legacy there needs to be good medical care here for the people of Pollizi Genarosa. The mayor gave me a lot of pamphlets and books I can mail to whoever may want them.

They are looking forward to the national delegation visiting with them in the spring and hoping the national president will be attending.



Rodolfo Valentino

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by Brian Watson, President
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