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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, 5051 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94112. Be sure to notify your lodge Recording Secretary

A Message From The State President



by Lynn Lawrence-Murphy
State President

"Fratellanza"

This has been a busy month of travel for Bill & I. On Saturday, October 25th, we traveled to Encinitas to join the La Costa dei Fiori Lodge in celebrating their 37th Anniversary. Thank your officers and members for honoring me with your 2015 Leadership Award and thank you Susan Webb and family for your warm hospitality in having Bill and I stay at your house. The evening's theme was "Under the Tuscan Moon" and truly exemplified an Italian celebration with family (officers and members from many of the Southern Lodges), great food, music, dancing and romance. On Monday, October 26th, we attended the Napa Lodges' Dinner Meeting, and on Wednesday the Ukiah Lodge's Soup Dinner Meeting. Great job Presidents Anna Graeber and Renee Adair. On Sunday, November 1st, we travelled to Fullerton to attend the America Lodge's 84th Anniversary Party where they honored Monsignor Justin McCarthy and Nick D'Edigio (two outstanding contributors to the La Habra Community). Another wonderful time spent with family, friends, and more great food and music. Back home to Saint Helena's Dinner Meeting on November 4th. The following week, Bill and I travelled to Rancho Cucamonga to attend the West End's Dinner Meeting at Antonino's Restaurant (a lodge member's business). This was the beginning of a trio of welcoming and installing new members into

our Grand Lodge Family. At the West End Meeting in attendance were 8 guests and by the end of the meeting 6 had signed up and paid their dues with the others soon to follow in joining. All of them were eager to become part of our Italian Family Organization. Starting in January, West End will be offering Italian Language Classes on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Thank you Lou and Ted Seibel for housing Bill & I during our visit. The next few days we were at Disneyland where son-in-law John Costa ran a 5K race on Friday and daughter Donna Lee ran her first ½ Marathon on Sunday. So proud of both of you! Friday evening, November 13th, we attended the Saddleback Valley Lodge's Dinner Meeting where I had the honor of installing three new members (there were 2 more who couldn't attend), and another two more members are ready to sign up. It was so great seeing Andy Pampuro up and about and Louise his constant and loving care giver. Our prayers are with you for your constant improvement. Sunday, November 15th, we attended the Joanne Coccia's Meeting and Thanksgiving Feast (what a spread!). Again, I had the honor of installing a new member (a young man eager and ready to work for his new lodge). You have no idea how rewarding and exciting it is for me to see our lodges growing (an early response to my Thanksgiving prayers). Thank you all for your true commitment and devotion to our Order.

Back on the road, Bill and I travelled to Nevada. On Tuesday, November 17th, we attended the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge's Dinner Meeting in Sparks. Vice President John Strolla stepped in for President John Menicucci and ran an excellent meeting. The meeting and dinner well we attended. Thank you officers and members of the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge for being the host of our 2016 Convention this June at the Nugget. The next evening we attended the Cristoforo Colombo's Dinner Meeting

in Reno. November is their Charitable Giving Month and a check for \$250. was given to "Urban Roots" a group that conducts camps and sessions with children and adults on the importance of eating healthy nutritional foods as well as the growing of healthy vegetables. Another check for \$250. was given to "Honor Flight Nevada" a group that honors our War Veterans by flying them to Washington, DC to see the Memorials as well as meet with other Veterans from throughout the U.S. (they do 5 flights per year). President Pam Ricci crowned their new queen Carleigh Barber. Congratulations Carleigh. Mistress of Ceremony Silvana Ricci worked with the children (ages 2 – 10) during the meeting teaching them an Italian word that they also drew a picture of and shared with us at the end of the Meeting

More exciting news, the new Diamond Valley Lodge in Hemet, California will be opening on January 23rd, 2016. You are all invited to attend the installation of this new lodge and its officers. Please lend your support in welcoming this new lodge into our family. Invitations will be coming soon in the mail. Along with that I can announce that we now have 12 young ladies completing in the Queen's Contest. Please welcome and support these young ladies (they are the future of our Order).

What a wonderful way to end a year and to begin a New Year with the hope and excitement of seeing a bright, thriving, productive Grand Lodge in 2016.

Bill and I wish to extend our wishes for a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

The Grand Lodge Office will be closed the last weeks of December to celebrate the Christmas / New Year Holidays. Unless it is an emergency, please hold all calls and e-mails until January 4th when the girls will return.

Queen Contest

by Eva Lavezzari



all and keep selling those tickets.

The 2016 Queen Contest is off to a great start. We have 11 lodges that have girls participating in the contest. Make sure you call the Grand Lodge to request your tickets to sell. If you haven't already, please send your lodge queens contact information to the Grand Lodge and me. More information will be coming soon regarding details for the Convention in June. Good luck to you

**The Grand Lodge of CA
Presents A
New Lodge Installation
Diamond Valley Lodge
Hemet, CA**

Saturday, January 23, 2016 2PM

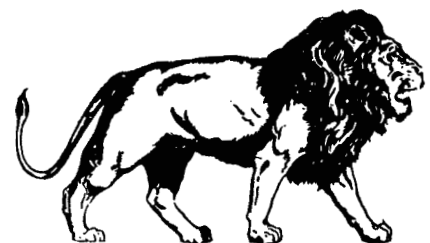
Anchor Bar Club Restaurant

2524 E. Florida Ave.

Hemet, California

**Please save the date and join us
in welcoming our newest lodge
and members**

**More information will be mailed
to Recording Secretaries soon**



SAVE THE DATE

HUMANIARIAN & LEADERSHIP GALA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

HILTON HOTEL, SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

HONOREES TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

From the Editor's Desk
by Andy Pampuro
apampuro@comline.com

Remembering When...
by Joe Simoni



For those of you wondering how I am doing let me tell you that I am getting better and better with each passing day. BUT, the doctors still cannot tell me what is wrong with me. The best diagnosis I have received is that I have Lupus. Lupus attacks the muscles in the body and that is probably why I lost the ability to swallow any food or drink any liquid. Until I am able to strengthen the muscles with lots of therapy I am stuck with this feeding tube which is the only way I can eat. Believe me it is no fun. How I miss my pasta.

It is good news that the Queen's Program is not dead.



Remember these old days when the musicians use to entertain us at the conventions? We had Joe Simoni, Charlie Bulanti and Amando Qualia. What a group.

The pageant will go on under the leadership of Eva Lavezari who will writing articles keeping you all up to date. In the meantime please support the Queen's Program by buying and selling the Queen's raffle tickets. You could be a

big winner.

Louise and I along with Debbie Ure would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy New Year filled with lots of love and good times.

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5051 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif. 94112
Phone: (415) 586-1316 - Grand Lodge FAX (415) 586-4786
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Andrew Pampuro, Editor
718 Avenida Majorca #D, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
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Grand Lodge of California Website
www.sonsofitalyca.org

GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA
5051 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 • Phone (415) 586-1316

State President
CAROLYN LAWRENCE-MURPHY
1475 Sulphur Springs Ave.
St. Helena, CA 94574
Phone: 707-963-0521
Cell: 415-819-0475 & 707-694-8621
Fax: 707-968-9709
Email: clawrence2844@sbcglobal.net

State First Vice President
ARLENE M. NUNZIATI
125 Humboldt Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone: 650-342-3313
Fax: 650-342-3310
Cell: 415-608-3313
Email: rlene49@pacbell.net

State Second Vice President
JOHN COSTA
1801 Trower Ave
Napa, CA 94558
Phone: 707- 483-9604
Cell: 707-483-9604
Work: 707-752-6123
Fax: 707-745-8111
Email: jc19632002@yahoo.com

State Third Vice President
TED SEIBEL
9063 La Grande St.
Alta Loma, CA 91701
Phone #: 909-987-5828
Cell: # 909-731-6999
Email: tseibel@roadrunner.com

Immediate Past State Pres.
CAV. MARIA FASSIO PIGNATI
268 Delmar Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
Phone: 650-574-5786
Cell: 415-370-3956
415-819-0475
Fax: 650-577-9349
Email: abondnza@aol.com

State Orator
SADIE PARISI TAMBURINE
1925 Circle Park Lane
Encinitas, CA 92024
Phone: 760-613-6178
Cell #: 619-677-7594
Work & Fax:: 760-634-1724
Email: sadie.k@att.net

State Recording Secretary
LORI ROSSI
4540 St. Andrews Ct.
Fairfield, CA 94534
Cell #: 209-404-1883
Email: loriathegrandlodge@gmail.com

State Financial Secretary
GABE DOMENICI
1034 Apple Blossom Ln
Corona, CA 92881
Phone # 951-737-4306
Work: 951-278-8780
Fax #: 951-278-1049
Cell: # 951-258-8130
Email: gdomen@pacbell.net

State Treasurer
BARBARA FUMOSA WISNIEWSKI
20987 Gunnison Ct.
Reno, NV 89508
Phone: 775-972-3894
Cell: 201-874-5946
Email: BarbReno1949@aol.com

State Trustee North
JOY BRUNO
1778 Nephi Drive
Fairfield, CA. 94534
Phone: 707-422-3391
Cell: 707-332-5623
Email: joy.b@comcast.net

State Trustee North
RICHARD LUZZI
7660 Myrtle Ave. #58
Eureka, CA 95503
Phone: 707-443-8669

State Trustee Central
PAULINE RICHMOND
26248 Road 188
Exeter, CA 93221
Phone & Fax: 559-592-5466
Cell: 559-731-4035
Email: rteelee@aol.com

State Trustee Central
FRANK LOCICERO
8639 Solera Dr.
San Jose, CA 95135
Phone: 408-532-8822
Cell: 408-710-4979

State Trustee South
MARCO ZONNI
13537 La Sierra Dr.
Chino Hills, CA 91709
Phone: 909-590-2204
Email: zonnim@yahoo.com

State Trustee South
AL TRENTINI
25572 Saltwater Dr.
Dana Point, CA 92629-1508
Phone #: 949-240-8578
Cell #: 949-436-0242
Email: nicolomac@cox.net

PAST STATE PRESIDENTS

JOSEPH LA BANCA (2007-2009)
17825 Contra Costa
Rowland Heights, CA 91748
Phone #: 626-965-3071
Fax #: 626-581-1267
Cell: 626-614-7413
Email: joelabanca@hotmail.com

VERA FERRARA GIROLAMI (2005-2007)
3115 Lake Albano Drive
San Jose, CA 95135
cell phone 209-604-3149
Email: algvera@sbcglobal.net

ROY T. VANONI (2003-2005)
2160 Land End Loop
Roseville, CA 95747
Phone & Fax: 916-872-4999
Cell: 530-520-4401
Email: rtvanoni@surewest.net

DAVID PRISCO (2001-2003)
1801 E. Collins #12
Orange, CA 92867
Cell: 714-292-1038
Phone: 714-292-1038

JOHN TEDESCO (1999-2001)
18 Carvel Place
Sacramento, CA 95835-2012
Phone: 916-419-6606
Fax: 916-419-6626
Work: 916-419-6616
Cell: 916-207-1603
Email: tedescojt@aol.com

ARTURO IBLETO (1995-1997)
1492 Lowell Avenue
Cotati, CA 94928
Phone: 707-795-1489
Fax: 707-792-2046
Work: 707-792-2712

RALPH AGNELLO (1993-1995)
226 N Carl Dr.
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: 559-627-3956
Email: alexgooddog1@gmail.com

FRANK J. DE SANTIS (1989-1991)
9562 James Circle
Villa Park, CA 92861
Phone: 714-637-7267
Fax: 714-550-9234
Work: 714-550-9155
Email: Frankjdesantis@yahoo.com

CHRIS LOTITO (1987-1989)
437 Audraine Drive
Glendale, CA 91202
Phone: 818-242-2469
Fax: 818-242-2002
Cell: 818-422-4927
Email: italianopapa@aol.com

LAWRENCE ROMANAZZI (1983-1985)
4625 West Allen Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: 559-732-0823
Fax: 559-732-0803

JOSEPH SIMILE (1975-1979)
1225 West Roseburg Ave.
Modesto, CA 95350
Phone: 209-524-5583
Fax: 209-578-5541
Email: joe-dot_simile@msn.com

GRAND LODGE QUEEN

EMILY ESLICK
4040 W. Robinwood Ct.
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone #: 559-799-2260

EMERITUS ROLL

Grand Lodge Queen Emeritus
DONNA ROMANAZZI GRIST
1029 North Atwood
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: 559-625-3115
Cell: 559-786-8124
Email: gristd124@comcast.net

CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Western Foundation
ROY T. VANONI
2160 Land End Loop
Roseville, CA 95747
Phone/Fax: 916-872-4999
Cell: 530-520-4401
Email: rtvanoni@surewest.net

Media
ANDY PAMPURO
718 D Avenida Majorca
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Phone: 949-855-4279
Fax: 949-206-0299
Cell: 949-637-5477
Email: apampuro@comline.com

Judiciary
HON. AL GIROLAMI
3115 Lake Albano Drive
San Jose, CA 95135
Cell: 209-531-6553
Email: alveragiro@yahoo.com

Grand Lodge Building
BILL MURPHY
1475 Sulphur Spring Ave.
St. Helena, CA 94574
Phone: 707-963-0521
Email: petalumabill@gmail.com

Budget and Finance
DAVID LAVEZZARI
6797 Reefton Ave.
Cypress, CA 90630
Phone: 714-897-8134
Email: taxcpa4you@aol.com

Scholarship
Students to Italy Program
ROSEMARIE VANDERHAAR
801 W. Duarte Rd. #1
Monrovia, CA 91016
Phone: 626-254-0449
Cell: 626- 222-77688
Email: rgeorev@aol.com

Italian Language & Culture
VITA ZACCARIA
8501 E. Orange St.
Downey, CA 90242
Phone: 562-861-1591

Youth
BRIAN WATSON
4308 North Dewitt
Fresno, CA 93727
Phone #: 559-323-0575
Email: brian.e.watson@irs.gov

Social Justice
TONY RICEVUTO
5356 Polizze Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89141
Phone: 702-896-1515
Email: Tony_Ricevuto@hotmail.com

Ritual and Protocol
DONNA LEE COSTA
1801 Trower Ave.
Napa, CA 94558
Cell: 707-312-8134
Email: 2begrumpy@gmail.com

Queen Contest
EVA LAVEZZARI
3329 Los Olivos Lane.
6797 Reefton Ave.
Cypress, CA
Phone: 714897-8134
Email: Stringina@asol.com

History
JOHN NARDI
861 Edgewood Rd.
Redwood City, CA 94062
Phone: 650-363-0120
Cell: 650-704-0606
Email: Janardi@gmail.com

Webmaster
NICKOLAS MARINELLI
540 F Street
Colma, Ca 94014
Phone #:
Fax #:
Work #: 650--755-1511
Email: Nickolas@OSIACA.org

Royal Court Of The Golden Lion
CHRIS LOTITO
437 Audraine Drive
Glendale, CA 91202
Phone: 818-242-2469
Cell: 818-422-4927
Fax: 818-242-2002
Email: italianopapa@aol.com

Leadership
ARLENE NUNZIATI
125 Humboldt Rd.
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone # 650-342-3313
Cell # 650-608-3313
Email: rlene49@pacbell.net

Membership
JOSEPH SIMONI
9-12th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: 650-349-7979
Cell: 650-867-1122
Email: accordnguy@sbcglobal.net

Birth Defects Libraries
HAZEL ANN CHRISTIN
2173 Knowlwood Dr.
Hanford, Ca 93230
Phone: 559-582-3597
Cell: 559-309-3597
Email: hazelannc@comcast.net

Athletic
MARY LOTITO
437 Audraine Drive
Glendale, CA 91202
Phone: 818-242-2469
Cell: 818-414-9908
Fax: 818-242-2002

Garibaldi Meucci Museum
JOY BRUNO
1778 Nephi Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534
Phone: 707-422-3391
Cell: 707-332-5623
Email: joy.b@comcast.net

Committee Member for
Alzheimers & Cooleys
Anemia Associations
MIKE CARROLL
P O Box 198
Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone: 707-938-1295
Email: mcarroll@pon.net

Hall Rental Manager
MIRELLA COLOMBANA
164 W. Moltke St.
Daly City, Ca. 94010
Phone: 415-309-3860
Cell: 415-239-7667

CONVENTION AND GRAND COUNCIL MEETINGS COORNINATOR

CHRIS LOTITO
437 Audraine Drive
Glendale, CA 91202
Phone: 818-242-2469
Cell: 818-422-4927
Fax: 818-242-2002
Email: italianopapa@aol.com

NATIONAL OFFICERS FROM CALIFORNIA

VERA GIROLAMI
National First Vice President

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News from the Central

by Arlene Nunziati
State 1st Vice President



Brrr it is cold! Winter has finally arrived. I just wish we would get some rain.

I again visited the C Colombo Lodge #1315 as an official visit and initiated a new member. What a delight to visit that lodge, energetic, they all work together, just a great evening. I was sorry that my friend from Pac Bell was ill and could not be initiated. That will be another night. They have many great events coming up and they have a queen for the first time ever.

We have eleven girls running for Queen this year. What an exciting year it will be! My lodge even has a Queen for the first time in over thirty-five years.

Speaking of Columbia Lodge, they had a great Polenta Dinner (one of my favorite meals) and then at the November meeting had a potluck dinner (which is always great) and a collection for Toys for Tots. All those great toys make me wish I had little ones around again!

January 23, 2016 will be the installation of our new Diamond Valley Lodge in Hemet. Another exciting event to look forward to. We haven't installed a new lodge in a few years.

Looking forward to many holiday parties with family and friends. The family will be home for Christmas so a family 49er game is planned. Let's go Niners!

Work is going slow on the upcoming GALA but we will get there; now working on honorees. Again mark the date; September 17, 2016.

Not really much to report this month, as Sons of Italy had to be put on the "back burner" as my parents were both in and out of the hospital all month.

Congratulations to my fellow Vice President John Costa on a successful run at Disneyland!

I hope that everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. Christmas is just around the corner. Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Prayers to our friends in Paris.

Ciao until next year.

News from the North

by John Costa
State 2nd Vice President



Where has the last six months gone since convention let alone 2015? The last month just flew by. I was traveling for a week for work, back for a couple of days and then Donna Lee and I went to Anaheim to participate in the Disney Half Marathon weekend. I ran in my First 5K & Donna Lee ran in her first half marathon, she finished her race in amazing time, (that's 13.1 miles). It was a lot of fun and we are looking forward to participating in others. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends.

The New Year is approaching quickly and let's welcome our newest lodge and members from the Hemet area. I look forward in meeting all of our new members at the installation of new lodge on January 23rd 2016.

If you're looking for that last Christmas gift, don't forget about the "365" raffle tickets, not only does this gives you a chance every day to win but it will help the Grand Lodge. If every member was to purchase one ticket and each lodge was to buy one ticket for the lodge, this would help. Think about it; remember you could be a multiple time winner.

As you have heard the Grand Lodge Queen's contest is a go. Let help support these young ladies.

As the Christmas holiday approaches and were are attending Christmas parties, let us also try to remember those less fortunate, by participating in toys for tots, food banks for example, lets help those around us in need also. In closing Donna Lee and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, and a wonderful New Year's holiday. Please be careful if traveling. I look forward to working with all of you in the future as your 2nd State Vice President for the coming year. Let us all work hard to make 2016 a very successful year!

Ciao

News from the South

by Ted Seibel
State 3rd Vice President
tseibel@roadrunner.com



On Jan. 23 there will be a new edition to our Order. The Diamond Valley Lodge is being installed in Hemet, CA. Let's celebrate with them.

Let's look at first impressions, specifically a potential new member's first impression at their first lodge meeting. Let's start with the most important question, "What first impressions are they getting from us?"

Every guest or visitor attending a lodge meeting is a potential new member. Are we really aware of the signals we are sending to them? Do we give them a relaxed fraternal setting or do we give them stress and worry? It's easy to distinguish what we're doing by simply looking through the sign-in-register under "Guests" and noting how many of them became a member compared to how many total guests there were in the same time period.

Keep in mind that putting forth our best behavior at a meeting when we have

a guest is not the way to get new members. People in general sense and feel when something isn't right. If they feel stress then they will usually move away from it. On the other hand, if we always maintain a relaxed fraternal setting during all our lodge meetings, then it becomes second nature to us and our chance of getting a new member increases tenfold.

Now let's look at, "What first impression are we getting from them." Believe it or not but, "Don't judge a book by its cover." is true. When I look around the room at our meetings, there is such a variety of members and they are all different, but they faithfully attend our meetings and we always have a high attendance record.

People come in all kinds of shapes sizes, voices, qualities, knowledge, talents and appearance. That's how God made us. We all look and act differently, because we are unique individuals and not robots or clones. So, our first impression of an unusual guest may turn out be our lodge President someday.

The clue was: "Criminal, Scheme". Now I didn't say they were all GOOD famous Italians. His real name is Carlo Pietro Giavanni Guglielmo Tebaldo Xxxxx.

We all know him as the creator of the (Charles) Ponzi Scheme.

Lou and I wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year

Photo Request! We need your help.

If anyone has any old photos of parties, dances, dinners, held at the Grand Lodge Hall years ago. We are trying to locate some. Thanks. They can be emailed to the Grand Lodge office.

It is time to renew your sponsorship of the II Leone

Please make out your checks to the Western Foundation and earmark it for the II Leone.

The cost is \$25 per person per year.

We did great last year raising \$8,200. Let's do better this year. God knows the paper can sure use the money to survive. Send your donations to me at 718 D Avenida Majorca #D, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. A new list will appear in the July/August issue.

I am thanking you all in advance.

Andy Pampuro

Editor

Lodge Websites & E-mail Directory

Anaheim Lodge
www.anaheim2076.org

Beatrice Portinari Lodge
OSIAVallejo@yahoo.com

C. Colombo Lodge
columbus220@aol.com

Camelia-Colombo Lodge
www.iinet.com/~osia1294

Cesare Battisti Lodge
www.sonsofitalypetaluma.org

Colombo-Stella Lodge
www.sonsofitalyfresno.org
sonsofitalyfresno@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Sons-Of-Italy-Fresno-Colombo-Stella-1149

Columbia Lodge
columbia_1940@yahoo.com
www.sonsofitalysanmateo.com

Cristoforo Colombo Lodge
www.rensonsofitaly.org

Dolly Sinatra Lodge
www.dollysinatralodgeosia.org
info@dollysinatralodgeosia.org

Enrico Caruso Lodge
visaliasonsofitaly.club.officelive.om

Fratellanza Garibaldina
www.osia1627.org

Giuseppe Mazzini
(http://www.giuseppemazzini.org)

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #1441
www.sonsofitaly1441.weebly.com

Grand Lodge of California
www.sonsofitalyca.org

Hacienda Lodge #2168
www.osiahaciendalodge.com

Hanford Lodge
http://sites.google.com/site/osia1543
msjbmam@comcast.net

Joanne Coccia Lodge
www.osiafontana.org

La Costa dei Fiori Lodge
www.sonsofitalysandiego.org
gdoty@roadrunner.com

Las Vegas Lodge
www.sonsofitalylasvegas.com
sonsofitalylv@yahoo.com

Monterey Lodge
www.sonsofitaly-monterey.org

Northern Solano Lodge
www.SOI2534.org

Pittsburg Lodge
soipittsburg1976@gmail.com

Pugliese Lodge
www.soipugliese1375.com

Renaissance Lodge
www.sonsofitalyca.org/renaissance
Renaissancelodge2259@yahoo.com

Rodolfo Valentino Lodge
www.rodolfovalentinolodge.com

Roma Lodge #1574
romalodge1573.org
romalodge@yahoo.com

Roseville Lodge
sonsofitalyroseville@gmail.com

Saddleback Valley Lodge
www.sonsofitalylagunahills.com
Nicolomac@cox.net

Salinas Lodge
ideal1940@yahoo.com

Santa Rosa Lodge
www.santarosasonsofitaly.org

Sgt. John Basilone
www.osiacorona.com

Shasta Lodge
www.reddingsonsofitaly.com
soishastalodge@charter.net

Vallejo Lodges
www.vallejosonsofitaly.org

Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519
www.sonsofitalychico.com

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If your lodge has an e-mail address or website and you would like to include it with the above list, please send it to me at apampuro@comline.com.

Commission for Social Justice

An Italian/American Veteran

by Tony Ricevuto

On Veterans Day the *Las Vegas Review Journal* ran a front-page article titled, “*I died in 1944*”. This article was written by Keith Rogers who interviewed Americo Benetti. His B24 bomber aircraft returning from a bomber mission was shot down attempting to return to their base in Italy. Mr. Benetti is a 94-year-old ex-prisoner of war who currently resides in Las Vegas, NV. I was immediately interested in Mr. Benetti’s life and obtain permission from Mr. Rogers and his editor, Mike Hengel to use the story for this article and to interview Mr. Benetti.

The *Review Journal’s* article is quite long and I will paraphrase some of it in order to provide information concerning the ordeal that developed the story. I was more interested in Mr. Benetti’s Italian heritage and how he came to become a US citizen.

Mr. Benetti was born in San Abrosio, Italy (near Milan) on November 24, 1921. His father left for America to join his two brothers who worked as stonemasons in San Fernando, California and that’s why he was named Americo. His father wanted to leave Italy. “My dad and Mussolini didn’t get along.” He would return to his native soil 16 years later to fight Benito Mussolini’s fascist forces who had teamed with Adolf Hitler’s Nazi Germany. He was brought to the United States by his mother when he was 7 years old and he traveled from Ellis Island by train to Los Angeles, California. He learned English and attended high school. In 1941 WWII started. Rather than wait to be drafted, he joined the US Army Air Corps in January 1942. He was assigned as a dive bomber/gunner on a Douglas A-20 Boston Havoc aircraft that was a low-flying bomber. After several tragedies and loss of lives, the Government disbanded the aircraft which was replaced with the B24. In 1943 he was assigned to the 459 bomber group 758th squadron near Bari, Italy. His position was the bottom gunner which was considered the most dangerous position in the aircraft. During this mission “we saw one plane blowup and 2 other take direct hits. Our plane lost 3 engines and we could not keep up with the formation.” They were on their way back to their base in Italy when his aircraft was attacked by Nazi fighter planes and he was severely wounded. He actually saw the Nazi fighter coming in at him from the tail end of his plane. “This was in range and I was shooting him and I knew I had him because I was looking at the tracers”. The waste gunner on the aircraft was killed which gave the German fighters a position not covered. From his perch under the belly

of the aircraft, Benetti saw 2 flashes from each wing of the attacking plane. “All of a sudden my leg, my thigh my arm my left shoulder and my left eye was gone, the bullets rip through his flesh.” The German pilot returned and strafed the bomber from front to back. He secured his parachute stood up and noticed one of his friends in the airplane was sitting down as if he was praying, but he was dead. He was able to emerge from the bottom turret and as he stood up he fell out of the bomb bay doors”. “I don’t remember how I opened the chute. I don’t remember nothing”.

He survived the descent landed in a Hungarian farmland. “I lay there and I hear, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble. Oh I landed a turkey farm and thought I saw 2 turkeys’. When I woke up there were people with pitchforks and clubs all around me and I passed out”. He remembered three German officers put him on a cart but he passed out again. He was eventually placed in a prison hospital in Hungary. To his surprise a young German officer came and saluted me. He told me, “I am the pilot that shot you that’s why I’m here. To see if you were dead or what. I followed you all the way down because I thought you were dead. The pilot said he was glad he did not kill him, saluted him and took off”. The remainder of the war he was hopscotching from prisoner of war hospitals and camps to another.

After being liberated as a POW in 1945 by Patton’s 3rd Army he was eventually flown to Modesto, California for additional operations and recuperation. While at the hospital he met his wife Mary Anne who was assigned to the Women’s Army Corps and they were married on August 12th, 1945. He retired from the military on January 26, 1946 as a Staff Sergeant and was awarded the POW Medal, Air Medal, and Europe/ Africa Middle East Medal. He return to San Fernando, California and worked for the city of Los Angeles for 27 years. He eventually moved to Colorado and operated several businesses. In 1986 he moved to Las Vegas and worked for American West airlines for 17 years until his retirement. His wife died in May, 2014 after 68 years of marriage. All three of Mr. Benetti’s sons served in the Vietnam War, one died of Agent Orange exposure in 2011. He is buried next to Mr. Benetti’s wife at the Southern Nevada veteran’s memorial cemetery in Boulder City, NV. Mr. Benetti is 100% disabled and resides alone near the Airport. He’s very proud of his Italian heritage and that he is an American citizen who emigrated from Italy and was able to serve his new country.

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Good Luck and thank you for your support.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

by Stephen Contrado, B.A., Th.M.
165 Nantasket Ave. #9
Hull, MA 02045
E-mail: stephencontrado@gmail.com

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria, on January 27, 1756. He was educated by his father, Leopold Mozart, who was concertmaster for the court orchestra of the archbishop of Salzburg and a celebrated violonist. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart started to play harpsichord when he was only 3 years old, and by the age of 5 he was composing music. His older sister also had musical talent. When Mozart was only 6 years old and she was 10, they gave concerts in Munich and Vienna.

Mozart’s first published works, four sonatas for harpsichord and violin, were published when he was only 8 years old. Three years later the Holy Roman Emperor, Joseph II, paid him to compose a light opera, and the Empress Maria Theresa asked him to compose a mass for her. He composed it and conducted it himself in her presence. This led to Mozart’s appointment as concert master of the cathedral at Salzburg.

Mozart became unhappy with the position when a new archbishop critical of music was appointed, but he could not resign according to the custom of the time until he reached the age of 21 years. By the time he reached 21 and resigned, he had composed more than two hundred works, including grand operas, masses, and symphonies. He was the finest pianist in Europe, one of the first organists, and one of the best violinists.

In 1769 he made an extensive tour of Italy. In Mantua, the Societa Filarmonica gave a concert of Mozart’s music in his honor. In Milan, Mozart received a commission to write an opera seria. In Bologna, Mozart was elected an honorary member of the Accademia Filarmonica after passing examinations although the rules forbade the admission of anyone under twenty. In Rome, Mozart gave further evidence of his genius. During Holy Week each year by papal decree Allegri’s Miserere, which was denied presentation anywhere else in the world, was performed. The only manuscript copy of it

was kept under lock and key. Mozart heard the Miserere twice and wrote the whole complicated polyphonic score from memory. The pope was so impressed he conferred the Cross of the Golden Spur upon Mozart for the achievement.

In 1777 Mozart became 21 years old. He left Salzburg and went to Munich, Mannheim, and Paris. Musicians in those days were barely paid enough to live on. So he could not earn money. He returned to Salzburg in 1779 and obtained a new and better contract with the archbishop. Between 1780 and 1791, the year of his death, he composed six operas. The best-known of those operas today are The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, and The Magic Flute.

In 1782 Mozart married Constanza Weber. They had several children, but only two lived past infancy. Poverty and illness harassed the family. In three months in 1788 he wrote his three greatest symphonies, the thirty-ninth in E flat, fortieth in G Minor, and forty-first in C (known as the Jupiter Symphony).

Mozart lived to be only 35. He died, presumably of typhoid fever, on December 5, 1791 in Vienna. The night before, he summoned a few friends to his bedside, and they sang “Lacrymosa” from his Requiem. Midway through the singing he burst into tears. That night he received extreme unction and bade his family farewell. He died the next morning. The rumor that the Italian composer Antonio Salieri murdered him is unsupported by reputable scholars.

A handful of friends attended his funeral service at Saint Stephen’s Cathedral. He was buried in a pauper’s grave with no tombstone or marking to designate the place. After a life of hard work and poor health, he left more than eight hundred compositions for orchestra, for piano, and for singers.

Mozart was a genius whose career owed much to Italian musical fundamentals. Italians Americans can rightly consider Mozart’s music as a part of our heritage.



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The Queen Contest Is On!

We are excited to announce that the Queen Contest will take place. The contest officially starts on October 1, 2015, so if your lodge would like to participate, it is not too late. If your lodge has a candidate, please let Queen Coordinator

Eva Lavezzari know. Her contact info is:

E-mail: Stringina@aol.com

Phone: (714) 897-8134



Arizona Grand Lodge

As winter approaches OSIA members throughout the country begin their exodus to a warmer climate. Why not Arizona? We have the best weather and lots of activities during our winter months at each of our OSIA Lodges. If you are coming to Arizona or you know anyone who is coming to Arizona, the Grand Lodge of Arizona welcomes everyone to attend any of our Lodges

Albert Bilotti Lodge #2540 in Mesa, AZ – President: Joanne Boudreau mswufa@yahoo.com;

Camelback Lodge #2633 in North Phoenix, AZ – President: Bonnie Giallo bonniegiallo1950@yahoo.com

Scottsdale Lodge #2335 in downtown Scottsdale, AZ – President: Lee Dolce Idolce@aol.com

Old Pueblo Lodge #2349 in Tucson, AZ – President: John Iannucci karen@people.com

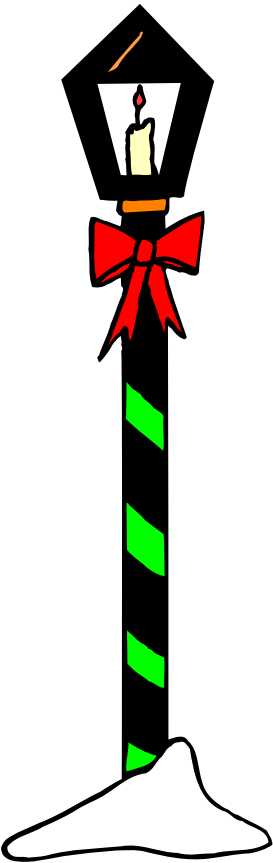
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Fraternally,
Marie Chiaramonte, State President
Arizona Grand Lodge
maria.nome@yahoo.com
602-595-2667

Lodge Anniversaries

December
Giuseppe Mazzini #2011 12/10/50

Congratulations!!!



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“NECROLOGIO”

Member's Name	Lodge	Lodge #
Bettie Varvello	Northern Solano	2534
Ines Mariano	Roseville	1413
John Spinelli	America	1609
Kate Belloli	Colombo-Stella	1149
Taylor Belloli	Colombo-Stella	1149
Cinzia Dicicco	Colombo-Stella	1149
Caitlin Elsasser	Colombo-Stella	1149
Helayna Weaver	Colombo-Stella	1149
Mariah Weaver	Colombo-Stella	1149
Osby Weaver	Colombo-Stella	1149
Margaret Boitano	Napa	2043
Mary Schwake	Napa	2043
Raymond Raineri	Diablo Valley	2167
William Moreno	Salinas	2082



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CELEBRITY ATTORNEY MARK GERAGOS (L) POSES WITH
IL LEONE SPONSOR ATTORNEY PHIL PRIVITERA (R).
GERAGOS REPRESENTED SUSAN MCDUGAL, PARDONED IN WHITEWATER.
PRIVITERA REVIEWS APPLICATIONS FOR JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS AS
AN ELECTED MASSACHUSETTS BAR JOINT BAR COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Saddleback Valley Lodge # 2566

Mission Viejo, CA
by Andy Pampuro, President

At our general meeting on Friday, November, 13th we had the honor of having our State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and her husband, Bill, paying us a visit. It was great because she was able to initiate three new members along with our State Deputy Rosemarie Vanderhaar. Those we initiated were Anne Foell, Tony Marraccino and Kerry Herington. It was announced that we have a queen. She is the daughter of our new initiate Kerry Herington and the granddaughter of our recording secretary Bernie Neil. She is Baylin Marie Herington. Hopefully we will be able to crown her our Queen at our January meeting. The meeting ended with lots of wonderful and delicious goodies.

On Sunday, November 15th the lodge celebrated it's 31st anniversary with a very nice dinner dance at the Vintage Steakhouse in San Juan Capistrano which was chaired

by our Immediate Past President and State Trustee South Al Trentini and lodge trustee Teresa Arieta who did a great job. Many thanks to member Lucky Lipa who sponsored our program book and the people who took out an ad. We were honored to have our State Third Vice President Ted Seibel and his wife, Lucille represent out State President. We also had in attendance Past State President Joe LaBanca and his wife, Mary, State Orator Sadie Tamburine and her husband, Sid, State Trustee South Marco Zonni and is wife, Nina, State Trustee South Al Trentini and his wife, Jean, our State Deputy Rosemarie Vanderhaar, Charlie Aita from the Anaheim Lodge, Linda Enneman from the America Lodge and Richard Salvatore and his wife, Margaret from the West Covina Lodge. We all enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful dance music to Wayne Pulcini.



Seated from l/r are our new members Anne Foell, Tony Marraccino and Kerry Herington.
Standing from l/r are our State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy, Lodge President Andy Pampuro and State Deputy Rosemarie Vanderhaar.



Representing our State President was State Third Vice President Ted Seibel and his wife, Lucille, our State Deputy Rosemarie Vanderhaar and lodge First Lady and President Louise and Andy Pampuro.



Chairs of the Saddleback Valley Lodge anniversary — Immediate Past President and State Trustee South Al Trentini and Lodge Trustee Teresa Arieta.

William Paca Lodge # 1960

by Carolyn Franklin
Mountain View, CA

Happy Birthday President Rosalia Margarit! Nov 11 is the big day and this time, lucky for us all, it was on a Lodge meeting day. Gloria Ravetto made a BIG cupcake for all to share and "Happy birthday to yooooo," was the anthem of the hour! Added to the birthday festival was the sausage polenta dinner – imagine big, juicy sausages smothered in mushrooms and red sauce over golden polenta – everyone's favorite. Carlo Marengo and Steven Margarit were the Chefs of the Hour stirring the magic meal for the diners. "Con la polenta c'e' buona la fame"!

All the Junior members were present - the best part of the evening is seeing how well the next generation is coming along. Aaron Davies is getting taller and taller - good for you! He came with his grandparents Russ and Marie Genna. Russ is doing very well after major surgery.

We were also happy to see Hank and Phyllis Gauthier after a long absence. Christine Rivas accompanied her father, our favorite long time member and many times Past President John Linda. "Porta aperta attende a casa."

Christmas is coming and our traditional wonderful dinner is on Dec13 at Shoreline, Mountain View. Hosted by Gloria Ravetto and Lorraine McCutcheon, this celebration is always beautiful and memorable. Try to come and be a part of the Lodge memories and celebrations.

"La tavola e' l'altare della famigliaa."

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!



Hanford Lodge # 1543

Hanford, CA
by Jackie Giacomazzi
jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com



Danny Dattola was presented as "Member of the Month" as the Hanford Lodge met in November to enjoy a "Thanksgiving Dinner" prepared as a potluck by members. Joan Little was chairperson. Members are getting ready to host its Christmas Party in December with Santa and holiday cheer. In January, plan to attend the annual polenta dinner hosted by the Leoni family....and SAVE THE DATE, February 10, 2016, as the Hanford Lodge hosts a "Sweetheart Serenade" fundraising dinner with a special menu and musical entertainment. BUON NATALE!!

Merry Christmas and
best wishes for the New Year

State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy
and husband, Bill Murphy Grand Lodge Home Chair

Best wishes for a
Happy Holiday Season

Arlene Nunziati
State First Vice President

A Blessed
Christmas

Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!

State Third Vice President Ted Seibel and wife, Lucille

Columbia Lodge # 1940

San Mateo, CA
By Brigid Bellone
www.sonsofitalysanmateo.com
Columbia 1940@yahoo.com

Over 100 ghosts and goblins invaded our meeting hall on Friday, October 30th, for our fund-raising Polenta Dinner which was served with gravy, chicken and sausage. The dinner was prepared by Chairperson Carla Del Carlo with lots of help from her husband, Adolfo, Andreina and Renzo Sandrini and Bob Tomasello. I cannot speak for others but my plate was spotless. To top it off, dessert was pumpkin pie, with whipped cream of course! The hall was happily decorated in Halloween fashion as well as the tables. There was some disappointment in that more guests did not dress in costume. After all, it is a great excuse for dressing up and having fun.

Among the many who attended was our queen, Valerie Celentano, and it was nice to meet and talk with her. Our

“treat” for the evening was music provided by our Lodge President, John Nardi and Grand Lodge Membership Chairperson, Joe Simoni. A great time was had by singing along with the old favorites. There was a contest for the best costume—it was a close call between the two witches and I am sorry to say that I did not get the name of the winner. Hope she was happy with her gift. We had about 22 raffle donations provided by several members and at the end of the evening, we drew the lucky tickets. Sad to say that we could not make everyone happy with the outcome. At the witching hour, everyone seemed to be happy and hopefully planning what they will bring to our next meeting and Pot Luck Dinner on November 19th. Ciao until then!



Hacienda Lodge # 2168

Vendemmia 9/27/15
by Marco Zonni, Past President

Dear friends and members of Sons of Italy. As I am writing this article on 10/16/15 the temperature outside is well over 95 degrees! I hope everyone got through the terrible heat wave this summer. It may not feel quite like autumn here in California, but in Italy the arrival of autumn is associated with “La Vendemmia” ~ grape harvesting to make wine, which occurs September into October. Grape picking is just one of the first steps in making wine and is one of the most celebrated occasions in Italy. During the Vendemmia, family, friends and entire villages come together in the “campagna”, or countryside, in the early morning hours to snip grapes off the vines and prepare them to be crushed and made into wine! This time of year revolves around the grapes! Just like the villages in Italy, the Hacienda Lodge once again came together to celebrate our 12th Annual Vendemmia Dinner Dance! There were over 100 guests in attendance. Both children and adults had a great time crushing and dancing around in a barrel of grapes. Reminding us of how our ancestors did it and in some places the tradition of stomping grapes is still carried out today.

Guests enjoyed a delicious meal cooked by Rick Guerra, Nina Zonni, yours truly and all kitchen helpers Sal Graziano, Ralph Nudo, Joe La Banca and for desert cannolis made by Nick D'Egidio and cup cakes by our ladies volunteers bakers, you know who you are.

Tony Caramitaro provided music for dancing and for stomping to all our favorite Italian songs. Luke Harrison organized the 50/50 raffle, Rick Scialla and Vito Laricchia attended bar.

I want to thank everyone involved in helping make this event a great success. It takes many helping hands to sell tickets, set up the hall, serve the food, bartending, clean up, etc. Thank you to Susan Scialla for getting gift certificates donated by local businesses used for door prizes. We also greatly appreciate all attending guests, especially State President Lynn Lawrence Murphy and husband Bill and all State Officers from near and far as well as lodge representatives. Once again a heart felt thank you to everyone who came together to make this happen! We hope to continue this beautiful tradition of coming together for “La Vendemmia” for many more years. Arrivederci e Mille Grazie!! L’unione fa’ la Forza! (Unity makes Power!)

Joy to You & Yours

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Vallejo Lodges

by Sharon Silveira

Generosity benefits more than the recipient. If you attended the Vallejo Lodges presentation to UC Davis Alzheimer's Research Center on October 29th in Sacramento, then you experienced the feeling that our donation could not be more appreciated. Our unrestricted funds allow them to purchase items and equipment that are not always funded by grants etc. They welcomed us with a continental breakfast. Dr. DeCarli and Dr. Mungas spoke to our group about their current research, future studies and possible prevention strategies. The Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Event has allowed us to make a substantial donation every year. Please mark your 2016 calendars for Saturday, May 7th. It takes a village---all of us working together to continue to make this event a success. A special thank you to Buck Kamphausen for providing such a great venue and a thank you to all who attend, donate wine, food or auction items.

Polenta and Stew....the ultimate Italian comfort food? Friday night, November 13th, the feeling of Fall in the air and tables full of people waiting for the big white platters of creamy polenta and the metal bowls of succulent stew. Josie Agosta and Don Cahan chair this dinner with help in the kitchen from Vera & Andy Siri, Elaine & Walt Quillin Bert Harris, Marlene Par, Tim Coragliotti and Steve Branch. Lots of hungry diners and so a big thank you to the servers:

Esther Asche, Gloria Haskins, Katelynn & Shelby Clemons and from SPSV: Nevaeh Seals and Zachary Barrera. The hectic Reception Table capably by Regina Coragliotti, Evelyn Fox and President Pamela Bini. Serving up the libations were Regina Watson and Rick Branch. Peter Mustico ran the dice game. Peter Wilson sold the 50/50 board and congratulations to Betty Cecchini for winning the \$250.00. Chelli Castagnola and Sharon Silveira sold the raffle tickets for the very loaded down prize table. Thank you to all who brought a raffle prize!

Sunday, December 13th join us for a Ravioli and Roast Beef Dinner. Social Time starts at 4 p.m. and musical entertainment will be provided by Violet Sparks accompanied by her Dad on the piano. Violet and her sister, Melody (one of our scholarship recipients) have their own CD of Christmas music titled A Sparkling Christmas. Donna Branch and President Ray Bini are chairing this dinner. Call for a reservation: Adeline Nettleton 642-3486/334-6480 or Josephine Agosta 642-1658/328-2610. Adults \$15. Children \$7.50. You can't win without a ticket.....and the 2016 Ways & Means tickets will be available very soon. A \$12.00 ticket gives you the opportunity to win \$100.00 each month. Only 300 tickets are printed. Thank you once again to Belva Gibson of Belva's Hair Designs for sponsoring the printing of the tickets.

Las Vegas Lodge # 2158

Las Vegas, NV
by Tony Ricevuto

Our monthly meeting was held November 11, 2015 at the Italian-American club. We only had 6 members present but proceeded to make the best of it that we could. Due to other commitments and health issues several of our members could not be present. Luigi and June Passarelli are still recovering from their health issues and of course we wish them well. The good news is that one of our past members renewed his membership and we have signed a new member thanks to Rita Ware. In the past meetings we have discussed where we are going with the Lodge. It's difficult to say how long we can survive as a Lodge but we are not giving up at this time. We discussed working with and contributing to Catholic charities and the Salvation Army in the future.

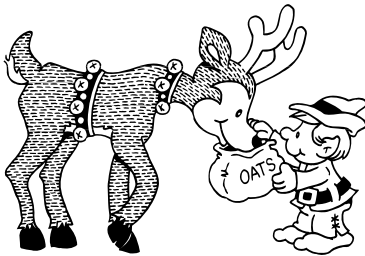
We currently have a membership consisting of 40 good people but it is rare that they will all show for the meeting. Phil Carlino was kind enough to bring photographs of the Las Vegas Lodge participating in a Veterans Day parade many years ago. Phil is probably our oldest member and loyal member and continues to support our Lodge. Mary is still working on trying to get us our 501 C nonprofit status but since she has a full-time job it has been difficult. With a nonprofit status there is a possibility that we can participate in some fundraisers in the future. We want to wish our brothers and sisters from all our associate clubs a very wonderful, blessed and peaceful Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Due to the Christmas holidays our December meeting date needs to be changed and will be announced in our December bulletin.

Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season



Immediate Past State President Maria Fassio Pignati and husband, Ugo Pignati

Merry Christmas!



Joe Simoni, State Membership Chair

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

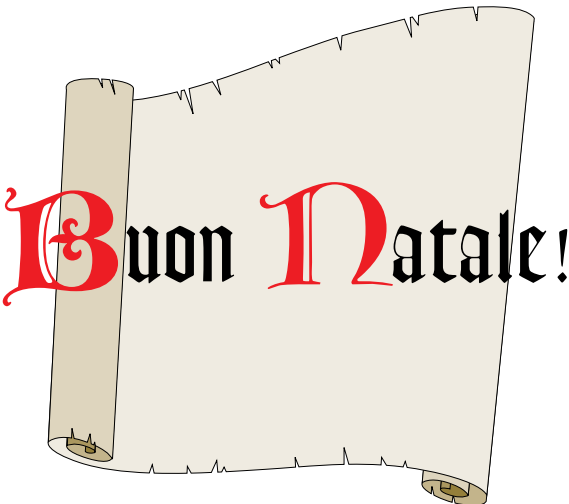


Vita Zaccaria,
Italian Language and Culture Chair

Christmas Greetings to One and All!



Pauline Richmond
State Trustee Central



UC Davis Presentation. Front row L-R: Delores Meyer, Evelyn Fox, Elaine Quillan, Dr. DeCarli, Beatrice President Pamela Bini, Donna Branch and Melanie Rushing. Back row L-R: Sharon Silveira, John Costa, Dr. Mungas, Rick Silveira, Rick Branch, Glen Rushing and Layne La Grande.




Our Queen of Polenta Josephine Agosta. In the background Don Cahan, Steve Branch and Bert Harris.




Merry Christmas
from
Hugh & Pam Ricci



Past State President
National First Vice President
Vera Girolami and
Judge Al Girolami
Judiciary Chair
extend their sincerest
holiday wishes.
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year




Happy Holidays!

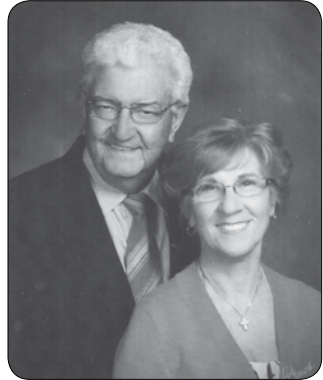


Merry Christmas
and best wishes
for the New Year!


**HOLIDAY
CHEER**



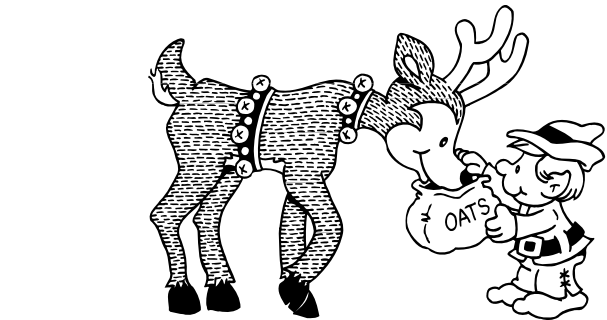
Past State President and Western Foundaton CAO Roy T. Vanoni
and wife, Yvonne



Have a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Mark Zonni
State Trustee South
and wife, Nina



Visalia/Putignano Sister City Committee Dedication Ceremony

by Mildred Romanazzi

On Sunday, October 25, 2015 the Visalia /Putignano, Italy Sister City Committee held a dedication ceremony honoring Ida Romanazzi and Pete Giotta at an open house at our Sister City trulli in Memorial Park at the corner of Main and Hall Street. Special invitations were sent to family members of Pete and Ida and to the Enrico Caruso Lodge. Committee members served dessert, coffee and tea to attendees.

Ida and Pete were instrumental in initiating the Sister City relationship along with Mayor Vito Vinella of Putignano back in 1979. They presented the proposal to Mayor Pete Peterson and the City Council of Visalia upon their return to Visalia and the City Council enthusiastically approved it and our Sister City Committee was appointed.

In 1982 the City of Visalia gave our committee permission to build a memorial of some type at Memorial Park and Pete suggested building a "Trulli" since that form of architecture is unique in and native to the area in Italy where Putignano is located. Pete was contractor for the building and afterwards served many years as chairman of the committee. Ida followed him as chair until health reasons forced her to decline reappointment and John Bianco took the position.

The plaque dedication was to honor their many years of dedication and service to the Sister City Program. Under their leadership there were many exchange visits between the two cities starting with the first in 1980 when fifty Italians including the Mayor and several city council members and wives of Putignano spent ten days visiting relatives and friends in Visalia. The following year a group of Visalians returned the visit and there have been student exchange programs and visits back and forth ever since. The latest was this fall when vice Mayor Greg Collins and his wife visited Putignano and were graciously received and entertained by the people of the city of Putignano.

Thank you, Ida and Pete for making it possible!
From the Visalia /Putignano Sister City Committee



The Visalia Trulli – The fountain in the foreground was gift from the city of Putignano to Visalia.



Inscribed on the plaque: "Una Buona Idea – In Memory of the Persons Most Instrumental in the Creation of The Visalia / Putignano Italy Sister City 1980"



Carmeline Giotta and Lawrence Romanazzi with the plaque honoring their spouses.



Visalia / Putignano Italy Sister City Committee: L-R Diana Certini, John Bianco (chairman), Nina Eager, Harold Tucker, Angie Buchholz, Louie Romanazzi (non-committee member), Mildred Romanazzi, Gail Certini, Dan Certini

Roma Lodge # 1573

Tulare, CA
by Larry Dutto

Nearly 70 members attended the November meeting of Roma Lodge on Monday, November 2nd at the International Agri Center social hall. They enjoyed a great meal of polenta and stew cooked by past president *Nick Canata and wife Kathy*. Extra tables had to be setup for the big crowd and the lodge held initiation ceremonies for six new members. With membership dwindling in most lodges, Roma Lodge, under the leadership of *President David DePaoli*, has been booming with new members being added just about every month. Since the lodge has decided to develop an annual program of work and make committee assignments and hold a dinner at monthly meetings, membership and attendance at meetings and activities have increased.

The lodge will hold their annual Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 6th and provide donations to the *Lighthouse Rescue Mission* in Tulare. The lodge will also host the United Lodges meeting on Sunday, December 13th. All of the Roma Lodge members would like to wish everyone a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the lodges and their members in California.



Roma Lodge Past President Nick Canata and wife Kathy made some wonderful polenta and stew for the Roma Lodge November meeting enjoyed by over 70 members.



New Roma Lodge members (l-r) Nathan Perry, Amy Perry, Isabella Perry, Mia Perry, Mackenzie Perry-Silva and Amelia Dutto with parents Amber and Daniel Dutto.



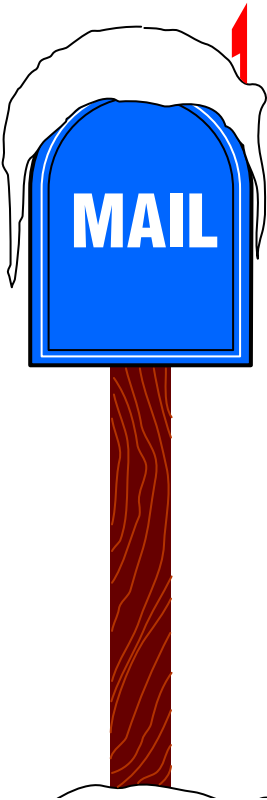
Roma Lodge members were on hand to bid their final tribute to 62 year member *Carmen Madala*. Carmen was a member of the "Greatest Generation" working on war planes at Tulare's Rankin Field while husband Frank was serving in WWII. Carmen was 92 years old and left carrying on the Italian Culture to daughter Marisa and husband Dr. Tom Evans who are lodge members. *Farewell Sister Carmen.*

Enrico Caruso Lodge # 1463

Visalia, CA

Our Lodge Queen has been having fundraisers for her quest for Grand Lodge Queen. She has had several and more are planned. Pauline Richmond is in charge of Bocce. She is planning on starting in January. She would like to have a tournament between the lodges. If your lodge is interested, contact Pauline at 559-731-5466 or 559-831-4035. We had our first drive thru spaghetti dinner. We had a good response and are planning to do more. Our Crab Feed was poorly attended. Everyone one had a great time. We are planning a trip to Knott's Berry Farm on Saturday, December 30. The cost is \$30 for juniors and \$33 for seniors. Our lodge is paying for the bus. If anyone is interested in joining us, call Nick Notarnicola at 559-592-7857. We are also in the planning stages of having a trip to San Anonia de Padua in Jolon, California in the spring. For more information call Danny Certini at 559-733-3914.

Ciao for this month.



Past State President
Joseph Simile
And Wife, Dorothy

Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Buon Natale



Merry Christmas
from
Past State President John Tedesco
and wife, Pam



May the Spirit
of Christmas
Be With You
Throughout the
Year



Past State President, Chris Lotito
Athletic Committee Chair, Mary Lotito

Our very best wishes for a happy
holiday season!



Andy & Louise Pampuro
Chairman, Media Committee



Ritual & Protocol Chair



A festive graphic with the words "SEASON'S" in large, green, blocky capital letters and "Greetings" in a red, cursive script font. Below the text are green holly leaves and three red berries. The background is white with faint, grey, star-like patterns.

E-mail: sonsofitalyca@aol.com

*The reason I didn't do this
when I had the chance was...*

www.ItalianCemetery.com
650-755-1511



Past State President Joseph La Banca and wife, Mary

VERTICALI

1. Sigla di Cagliari.

2. Renato che fu un famoso comico.

3. Fortuito.

5. Tenere a mente.

6. Smangiata per azione delle acque.

7. Tanto.

8. Gli extraterrestri.

9. Le usano i fantini.

10. Un carbone fossile.

11. Strumento musicale di terracotta.

13. Danno da mangiare e da bere ai clienti.

14. Antica città della Basilicata.

15. Un segno zodiacale.

16. Priva di firma.

17. Spaccone, smargiasso.

20. Lo spengono i pompieri.

28. Ottenere dalla vendita.

29. Calmante fatto con le erbe.

30. Francesco calciatore.

32. Un colle di Roma.

33. Poste in piedi.

34. Boccone che si inghiotte.

36. Immobile... come un gas.

37. Il nostro pianeta.

39. Si forma... in due.

41. Uno stile di nuoto.

42. Si cita con la Romagna.

47. Il nome della Sastre.

48. Punti... sulla stoffa.

49. Ornella attrice.

51. Ha soci con ta patente (sigla).

52. Tavola (abbrev.).

54. Olio inglese.

57. Il centro di Canton.

58. Prefisso iterativo.

60. Inizio di sfida.

61. Sigla di Bergamo.

CRUCIVERBA

1	2	3	4		5		6	7	8		9
10					11	12					
13				14		15				16	
17			18		19			20			
		21					22				
23	24		25			26					
27		28			29				30		
31				32							
33				34						35	
36			37						38		
		39			40		41				
42					43						

ORIZZONTALI: 1. La prende il sarto - 6. Gioco con tris e full - 10. Arma con frecce - 11. Il parassita della scabbia - 13. Questi... alla buona - 15. Arcaici altari - 16. Cast senza pari - 17. In fondo al parco - 18. La dice il prete - 20. Tra due tac - 21. Si accende e si ascolta - 22. Alberi da frutto - 23. Iniz. di Pavarotti - 25. Cattiva - 26. È scritta sulla confezione - 27. Conia le monete - 29. Segno che addiziona - 30. Antica lingua - 31. Condisce - 32. Un centro abitato - 33. Difettuccio - 34. Sostanza adesiva - 35. In alto - 36. Aosta - 37. Replica - 38. Moglie di Giacobbe - 39. Strutture tra piani - 41. Amanda dello spettacolo - 42. Dissodate - 43. Piccolissime.

VERTICALI: 1. Azione di farabutto - 2. Pieno di aculei - 3. Sport invernale - 4. Mezzo uovo - 5. Uguali in casa - 6. Gomma per suole - 7. Sono ventiquattro al giorno - 8. Lo teme il pugile - 9. Verbo... in lavatrice - 12. Combinazione - 14. Oraria per i ciclisti - 16. Vi lavora il clown - 18. Il nome di Liorni - 19. E va bene! - 20. Dopo bis - 22. Sosta - 24. Il padre di Achille - 26. Prodotto delle api - 28. Questa cosa - 29. "Colore" TV (sigla) - 32. La assume la modella - 34. Ha per capitale Santiago - 35. Vecchia Thailandia - 37. Buoni statali (sigla) - 38. Pronome di riguardo - 39. I confini della Svezia - 40. Imperia - 41. Consonanti in linea.

Reproduced from the weekly "Mini Relax."

For a subscription "sies@siesnet.it"

Answers page 20

Buon Natale

To all our Sisters & Brothers
from the Hacienda Lodge #2168

The officers and members
of the
Renaissance Lodge #2259
wish you and your family
a very joyous
Holiday Season!

President David Prisco

Our very best wishes for a happy holiday season

Sadie Tamburine, State Orator
and husband Sid Tamburine

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Have a "Ho Ho Ho"

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Valley Of The Moon Lodge # 1959

Sonoma CA
by Susan Antonini-Vice President
sda@napanet.net

21 BUSINESS DONATIONS-EVENT LED BY HELAINE FORTE...Nov. 7th.
The snack & dance was a fund raiser for Mary Torzelli...and a successful event at that! Nothing gets done without a leader...and Helaine has some great attributes....organized... amiable and it appears...a good dancer...and Italian... to boot. Reminds me of a quote..."Life is too short not to be Italian"...
(The event took many volunteers, thank you all...and a special thank you to Helaine.)
A LITTLE HISTORY about Mary....Mary had arranged for her group at ICF to learn to play guitar...and organized many activities for them.... she had no children of her own....she loved her ICF children and her sisters son.... Mary was at the fund raiser with family and friends...I can see why she is loved...a gentle soul...who dedicated her life to 'others'.

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW....
Sitting at the table next to Larry Lazzareschi I discovered that he apprenticed in SF on Van Ness Ave. The owners of the shop were Finish...he not only learned auto restoration but Finish traditions as well... saunas etc., came to Sonoma in 1970.
The back story is how Larry was raised...perhaps shared another time...

GUEST BRINGERS...Marilyn and Jack Doss...brought friend Linda Faimali Goodwin to our dinner in Nov....lives in Santa Rosa...from NJ of a BIG Italian family. Grandparents (Pepe) from Nocera Superiore IT near Napoli....founded in 7 BC..she shared a childhood tradition...Her family, aunts etc would gather and separate skins and pulp from Roma tomatoes...and put them in bottles shaped similar to wine bottles...her job was to stuff basil in the bottles..then her dad capped the bottles and they boiled them... was used in making sauces...

TRAVELERS...Len and Lori Poli visited Alaska this summer... Native American Art... an awesome Glazier Bay Cruise, Danali Park and a visit to see the Iditarod sled dogs...Whales, Moose, Bald Eagles (of course) Lori also did some research on her family history on Douglas Island near Juneau.
A note about the Iditarod... takes 16 dogs, 6 must be in tow line at the finish...9-15 days, 1000 miles of a hard grueling race..competition from 14 countries, youngest to win was 25 and oldest 53.

SOI JUNIOR MEMBER... almost official...
George Storck (11)...of 'GEORGE'S EGGS' our newest Jr. Member and business man... in volunteering he is

tops!
His mom, Jamie shared a delicious Salmon spread for crackers...

NEW Associate MEMBERS:
Theresa and Mario Pardini
Helene Waxman
Welcome folks!

MORE THAN DINNERS...to quote Karen Carroll..."it is like a family reunion"...
Martin Scorsese quote, "the soul of community is love"... now that's Italian.

RESERVATIONS: 3rd Tues. of the Month
Karen Carroll: 707-938-1295
Phyllis Serafini: 707-938-5691

CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 15th
ALL WELCOME!

SPECIAL BENEFIT FOR KSVY & the SONS OF ITALY -December 12.
Veterans Building..Sonoma (bar 5pm)
...celebrating Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday.
...reservations by Dec 7th .
...Dinner and Show \$25.
Make checks out to: SONS OF ITALY
MAIL TO: Sinatra Birthday Party c/o Bob Rodriguez 19432 Riverside Dr. Sonoma CA OR CALL: Stan Pappas 707-732-0387.
Stan Pappas Singing My Life Story with Guest star, beautiful Bria Sabella...and much more!!

WELCOME AS ALWAYS...
STATE DEPUTY Gloria Garibaldi and her daughter.

Tante auguri di Buon Natale!



First on the scene Annette Casabonne and Carmen Williams Lovers of Dance! (the Nov 7th Dance)



The Matt Gray Project....also played for the Mary Torzelli fund raiser.



Mary Torzelli with friends and family.



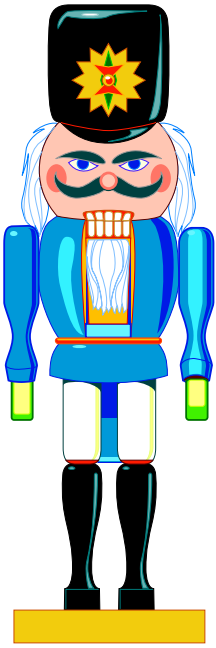
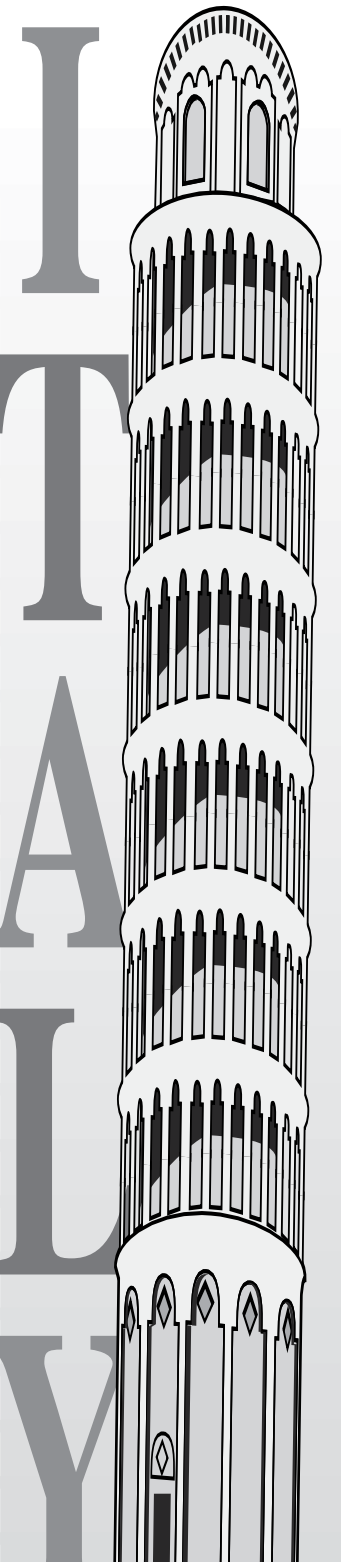
Crew of Show Case the Band, Kevin and Nikki -drummer!



Helaine Forte and SOI Pres Paul Grant...Welcoming friends....



One of the many attractions in Alaska for Len and Lori Poli was visiting the dogs that are used in the Iditarod 1000 mile dog sled race.



Holiday Greetings



from the Grand Lodge of California

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Terry Anderlini is a member of the Columbia Lodge # 1940



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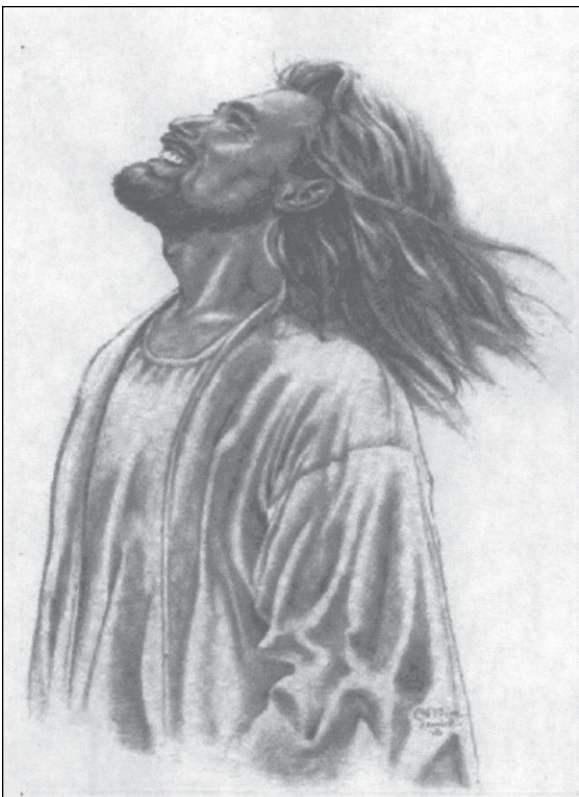


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*Praying for peace and harmony
throughout the world!
Merry Christmas to all!!*



*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.*



PUGLIESE LODGE #1375
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

President ~ Michael DiGiuro
Vice President ~ Carla Lotito Komar ~ Immediate Past President ~ Chris Lotito
Orator ~ Vita Zaccaria ~ Recording Secretary ~ Rosemarie Vanderhaar
Financial Secretary ~ Edithe DiGiuro ~ Treasurer ~ Palmie Crispi
Trustees : Michael Gatti, Mary Lotito, Sean Dankowski
Master & Mistress of Ceremony: Don Monteleone ~ Roberta Overton
Guard ~ Frank Monteleone, Historian ~ Sean Dankowski, Chaplain ~ Roberta Overton
Lodge Queen ~ Alexa Lotito

Scholarship & Students to Italy Program Chairperson ~ Rosemarie Vanderhaar
State Italian Language & Culture Chairperson, Columbus Civic Ceremony ~ Vita Zaccaria
Past State President - Chris Lotito - State Bowling/Bocce Chairperson - Mary Lotito

Wishing you all the many joys and
blessing of the holiday season



Past National President
Past State President
Frank J. De Santis and wife Eileen



Christmas Greetings
from the
Officers & Members of the
ANAHEIM LODGE #2076
Buon Natale

Eva Lavezzari, President

Celebrate

The Birth Of Christ

**Buon Natale e Felice
Anno Nuovo**

**Questa stagione di festa porti
pace e benedizioni a tutti**



Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar
Scholarship Committee Chairperson
Recording Secretary
Pugliese Lodge and United Lodges of So. Calif.



Roseville Lodge # 1415

Roseville, CA
by Roy Vanoni

Roseville Lodge initiated 8 new members at the November dinner meeting.

At the November officers meeting Susan Watson & her husband, Frank Carrion's applications were submitted & approved. Susan is the daughter of Roy & Yvonne Vanoni. John Watson & junior members, Sofia & Arianna were also initiated, & Victor DiGiovane & his children, Hannah & Carl. Our 4 junior members were eager assistants with our raffle & bingo at our summer picnic .

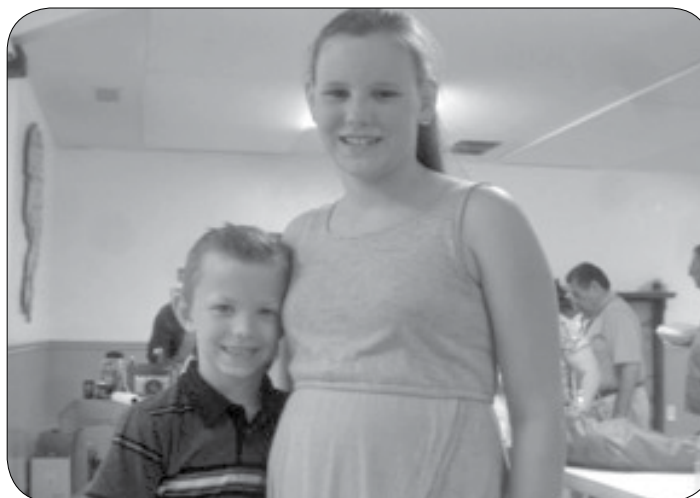
We welcome them all to our family of members & look forward to seeing all of you at future events.

On Columbus Day Lodge members participated with local Knights of Columbus at the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the site of the Columbus statue in downtown Roseville. The statue was donated to the City by the Roseville Lodge.

The monthly dinner was held in October at the Lions' Club Hall. Our November Thanksgiving included a turkey feast, the raffle of beau-

tiful gift baskets & bingo was enjoyed afterwards.

All are invited to enjoy our Christmas party on December 17. Menu will include roast beef & ravioli, vegetables, insalata, antipasto, wine, & cannoli from DiAnda's. Raffle tickets will be free to members, & included with dinner price of \$25. For Children under 13 there is no charge for dinner & there will be gifts from Santa for them. We invite all members to come & bring your families & friends to celebrate the holiday festivities.



Carl and Hanna DiGiovane, new jr. members.



John Watson with George Monzoli, financial secretary at Lodge dinner.



Sofia and Arianna Watson handing out raffle prizes.



**Buon Natale e Felice
Anno Nuovo**

**Questa stagione di festa porti
pace e benedizioni a tutti**



Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar
Scholarship Committee Chairperson
Recording Secretary
Pugliese Lodge and United Lodges of So. Calif.



Our cooks, Renzo Razzaroli and Tom Tommasi.



George Monzoli with his wife, Lilliana, receiving award from president, Marlene Cristanelli for 65 dedicated years of service to the Order OSIA.

Centinela Valley Lodge #1991

Torrance, CA
by Annette Porter

It has been so busy for our lodge the last month. Our October Halloween Dinner Dance was an enjoyable evening, we had many people dressed up in their costumes and the children sure enjoyed themselves running around and getting their trick or treats. The dinner was delicious, our cook did another outstanding job Mark Vaona. We also had members attend the America Lodge Anniversary, myself, Mark and Gilma Vaona, and Bob and Vickie Vaona it was a fun afternoon seeing everyone. We are preparing for our November Country Western Dinner Dance (fundraiser for STAR House) with an auction

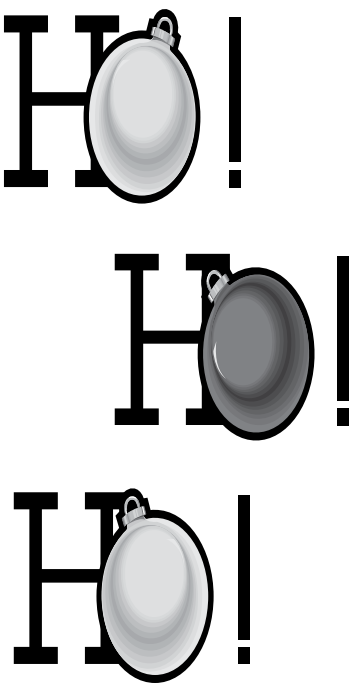
which is always a big success. The residence enjoyed their pasta, each time they come to the hall this is what they look forward to. We always look forward to having the residence come, it is such a rewarding event. We are also getting ready for the Christmas Party/Toys for Tots on Saturday December 5th and we are also hosting the United Lodges Christmas Party/Toys for Tots on Sunday December 6th. It will be a busy and fun weekend. Hope to see many of you. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time with your family and friends.



It is always enjoyable to have the little ones running around, listing to them laugh and meet new friends.



We seem to have more and more of the big kids dressing up and having their own costume contest. From the police officer and her prisoner to and sweet candy corn.



Merry Christmas to all from the members of the Joanne Coccia Lodge #2553

Manny Finazzi
President

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from the Staff of the Il Leone

The officers and members of the Saddleback Valley Lodge wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Andy Pampuro, President

Merry Christmas United Lodges of Southern California Gabe Domenici, President

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas

Lori Rossi, State Recording Secretary

The Officers, Members, Youth Group (the future of our Order) and Lodge Queen Karli Draxler of the Hanford Lodge #1543 wish everyone a very Merry Christmas


Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Past State President Arturo Ibleto & wife, Vicki


Merry Christmas




Merry Christmas
State Trustee North
Joy Bruno



Have a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Debbie Ure
Assistant to Andy Pampuro
Il Leone



Wishing everyone
un Buon Natale e un Felice Anno Nuovo!
Barbara Fumosa Wisniewski,
State Treasurer
and husband Ken



*Gli auguri piu belli
per Natale e per
l'Anno Nuovo!*



*The members of the C. Columbo
Lodge #1315, Antioch, California
wish everyone a joyous Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

Become a Sponsor
of Il Leone!

Rodolfo Valentino
Lodge # 1449
Clovis, CA
by Carole Watson, President;
Lou Catallo, lcatallo@aol.com, Historian

Last month, the Thanksgiving Dinner was as wonderful as could be expected: ham, turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy, string beans, etc., and desserts galore.

This month will be our yearly Christmas Holiday Dinner, December 21, so bring your appetites, your family, and friends. Reservations are required (contact Carol Watson at 299-1941, before Dec. 18th), because it will be catered, and we need to know how many folks to expect; for non-lodge members and guests, the cost is \$15. Also, a feature of our December Dinner is the Cookie Swap ... bring 3 dozen cookies and exchange them for 3 dozen cookies brought in by other members. This is also the time to bring in your **Toys for Tots** contributions of unwrapped toys to be donated to the program.

Have you paid your yearly dues yet? Bring your check and give it to Brian, or mail it to Brian Watson, 4308 North DeWitt Avenue, Fresno, CA

93727. For membership only, the dues are \$60 (still a bargain), and for those that wish the insurance component, the rate is \$75. Membership includes 6 issues of the Italian magazine and 11 issues of Il Leone, our regional newspaper.


For this Christmas and holiday season, may your troubles be less, may your blessings be more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door!

Just a reminder: our membership supports local charities, such as the Fresno County Food Bank (we make our donation in December, so bring your donation to Carol Watson to have it included); Miss Winkles Pet Adoption Center; Valley Children's Hospital; college scholarships; and more. We also indirectly support other organizations and charitable efforts by making out-of-lodge contributions.


A teacher opens a door, but, you must still enter yourself. -Chinese proverb. This is prime season, until January,

for scholarship applications, so get thinking forward to the coming year. Do you have a relative that could use a little boost or an assist while at college? If so, call our Scholarship Committee Chair, Isabel Ronzano, at (559) 297-0851. **The Deadlines:** for **Clovis Lodge scholarships**, the date is March 31, 2016; for **California State Grand Lodge Scholarships**: March 1, 2016; and for **National scholarships** the date is generally November to February of any year (for more information go to <https://www.osia.org/students/scholarships.php>.

Join Us: If you have friends or family that are looking for good fellowship and a place to hang out on the third Monday of each month, invite them to join you at our meetings, 6:30 PM, at Notre Dame Hall, 333 8th Street, at DeWitt Avenue. We feature short meetings, great companionship, and superb food; <http://rodolfo-valentinolodge.com/> is our web-site.



Cookie Time
by Mary Hudson
Member of the William Paca Lodge
Mountain View, CA



Cookies were unknown to us...the children of Italian immigrants. It was a few days before Christmas...Cookie Time!

There were seven of us. After dinner, Mama would lay the white tablecloth on the kitchen table to begin to make Italian Snowflakes. She poured two cups of whit flour in a heap on the tablecloth. To that, she added four eggs that she just gathered from the chicken house, one tablespoon of sugar, two or three tablespoons of Anise, and the juice from on fresh orange (about ½ cup).

2 cups flour
1 tablespoon of sugar
2-3 tablespoons of Anise
½ cup orange juice
4 eggs

Working with her hands, Mama would knead the ingredients into one big ball of dough. We watched. Mama would then heat up a big black pan on the wood stove. She greased it with two cups of Crisco. While Mama was busy rolling the dough into a long, thin, flat piece, Papa would watch the pan of hot Crisco. The flat pieces of dough were cooked in the hot oil. When they were done Papa would sprinkle the cookies with sugar and set them out to cool.

Remember there were 7 of us. So, we ate and laughed and we were so happy.


I am now 85 year old. I have always made Italian Snowflakes on Christmas and other special occasions. I don't work as had as Mama did. I use the electric mixer to mix the dough. After I have a nice round ball, I put the dough in the pasta machine and roll it out on setting #9. I cut the dough into thin strips on a whit tablecloth – just like Mama did. I also use an electric deep fryer to cook the Snowflakes. I heat the darling cooker up with two cups of Crisco and start cooking!! When the cookies are don, I place them on a platter and sprinkle them with sugar or powdered sugar. Friends and relatives just eat and eat.

This recipe is a one hundred year old secret recipe passed down from my mother's mother.

*Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year*



From The Members of the
Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463



"From Visalia With Love"

Colombo
Stella

Lodge # 1149

Fresno, CA
Olivia DeLiddo Gallegos,
President

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! I am having so much trouble believing this year is nearly over. Our little Lodge has had an incredible year. We have gained several new members, have had a successful Anniversary Fundraiser, had fun meetings with Bingo and movie nights, and had another Blessing through our relationship with the Isnardi Foundation.

We are in the midst of deciding which charities we will give donations to, and hopefully, next month, we'll have some exciting news to share with everyone.

Our Christmas dinner is Dec. 18th. It's on a Friday, and it will be held at Andiamo's in Clovis. If you intend to come, I have to have the EXACT number of people attending. If I tell them we are having 30 people come and only 25 show up, our Lodge will still have to pay for 30. Our Lodge is paying for members. So, it is imperative I have the correct number. We are having special guests from the Isnardi Foundation attend, Peter Tocchini and Judy Griffin. Please contact me or Grace Barra if you intend to come to the dinner.

I wish to express my gratitude and thankful to my Lodge members, for their hard work, dedication, friendship, and sense of family. This past year has been very difficult and being President of our Mother Lodge fills me with pride and a sense of purpose. So, thank you all, from the

Napa Lodge # 2043

Napa, CA
by Seth Rossi, Recording Secretary
napasonsofitaly@gmail.com

*In Loving Memory... It is with a very heavy heart
our lodge had to say farewell my
friend until we meet again to 4 of our family members.
Mary, Vito, Margaret and David you will forever
be in our hearts.*



Mary Cervone Schwake, Her personality filled the room, she just had a way of letting you know how important you were to her. Mary, you will be so deeply missed by every life you touched. We love and miss you. May God Bless and watch over the Cervone Family in this difficult time.



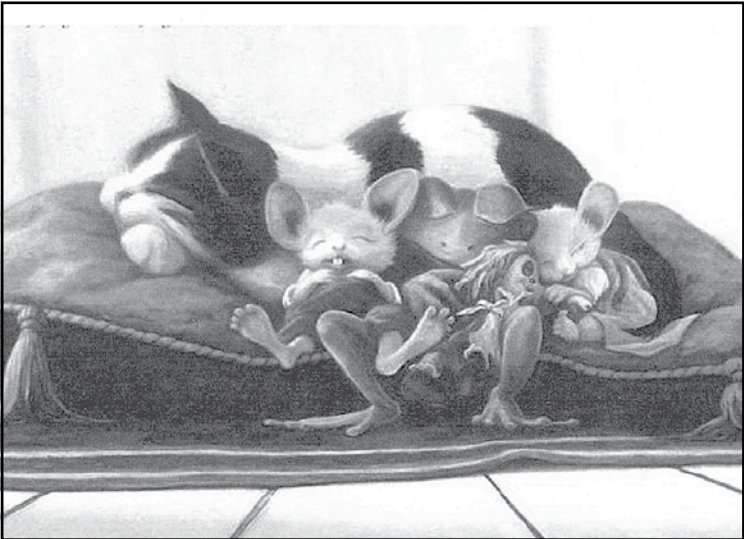
Vito Montelli, was a humble gentleman with many talents and a giving heart. You have left us with your ever lasting legacy and fond memories. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Montelli family.



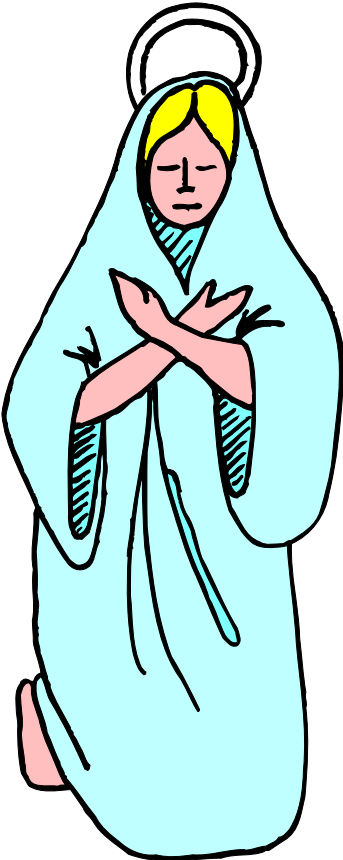
Margaret Mahoney Boitano, long time member of our lodge will be missed as she touched many lives while God gave her to us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Boitano family.



David Menicucci, although David was not a member, he is the brother of our sister Karen Menicucci. (inset) David was very close with his family and will be missed. Our prayers and thoughts go out to you Karen and your entire family, We love you Karen!



*Praying for peace and harmony
throughout the world!
Merry Christmas to all!*



Scarves for sale from Grand Lodge

\$15.00 each inc postage



America Lodge # 1609

La Habra, California
by Yolanda Campanelli, Historian

Sunday afternoon November 1, 2015, America Lodge #1609 celebrated its 84th Anniversary. Master of Ceremonies Leo Norton welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Lodge President Linda Enneman had a warm welcome for everyone as she introduced Grand Lodge of California Officers, Lynn Lawrence-Murphy State President and First Gent Bill, Sadie Tamburine State Orator, Sid Tamburine, Past State Orator, Joseph La Banca, Past State President and wife Mary, Ted Siebel State 3rd Vice President and wife Lucille, Marco Zonni State Trustee South and wife Nina, Al Trentini State Trustee South, Rosemarie Biagetti Vanderhaar, State Scholarship Chairperson and recipient of the Distinguished Member of the Year Award, Mark Vaona, America Lodge State Deputy and wife Gilma, America Lodge Members of the Year, Janice Bushaw and Marcia Sauer.

Anaheim Lodge President Eva Lavezzari and husband David Lavezzari State Budget and Finance, Centinela Valley Lodge President Annette Porter, Hacienda Lodge President Bill Viverto, and members of the Saddleback Valley Lodge, West End Lodge, St. Helena Lodge, Fratellanza Garibaldi Lodge, Joanne Coccia Lodge and Costa Di Fiori Lodge. Father Becker, Pastor and Father Martin, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church of La Habra, Hortencia Vizcarra, Director of La Habra Community Resources Care Center. Also attending this afternoon were America Lodge members, family and friends of the honorees, making this one of the largest anniversary celebration in recent years. A tribute to the two gentlemen we honored.

We recognized and Honor Monsignor Justin H. MacCarthy for his Pastoral service to the members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish for 35years and his service to peoples of all creeds who were found to be in need of help with temporary housing or sustenance. Additionally, we recognized his 50 years of priestly ministry here in Southern California after his ordination in Ireland, as well as his 5 years as Chaplain for the La Habra Police Dept.

We also recognized and honored Nick D'Edigio for his kindness to the America Lodge by allowing us to use Portofino's Restaurant for meetings and events, as well as, his service to the community by providing meals to seniors via Meals on Wheels at a minimum cost. He was especially kind to seniors in the program by meeting their special diet needs Nick's kindness and love was extended to individuals who

organized fundraising efforts hosted at Portofino's which were successfully held due to his attention to detail, fair pricing and the great service of his staff.

These two gentlemen are icons in the greater La Habra area and we are very proud to have had them as our Honorees for 2015.

As each Honoree was presented their award, they were greeted with standing ovations and much applause.

State President Lynn Lawrence-Murphy congratulated America Lodge on its continued success and wished them many more years together. She paid special tribute to the Honorees for their service to the La Habra community which parallels the ideals of the Sons of Italy, "Fratellanza" and doing good for others.

Chairman of the event Leo Norton, assisted by his wife Donna thanked his Co-chair Ann Eaton for a job well done and thanked Yolanda Campanelli for the excellent work on the Anniversary Program. After a fine meal and all the formalities were out of the way it was time for fun and dancing to the music of Tony Ciaramitaro. A great time was had by all and we are looking forward to celebrating another Anniversary.

On to other lodge business: Sunday November 15th was the annual Pot Luck, Toy and Food Drive. The lodge provided pasta, meatballs and sausage for the entree and members were asked to bring salads, dessert and drinks. The donated food and toys were left at the Center to be distributed to the deserving members of the community thru their Operation Santa Claus Program, so they too could have a Happy Holiday season. As usual the members were most generous.

The annual Christmas Party for America Lodge will be Thursday December 10th, 6:00 pm at Grazianos Restaurant in Yorba Linda. All are welcomed to attend. For tickets and information contact President Linda Enneman (714) 309-6112 or Co- chair Donna Norton (562) 694-1298

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from America Lodge 1609 Officers and Members -



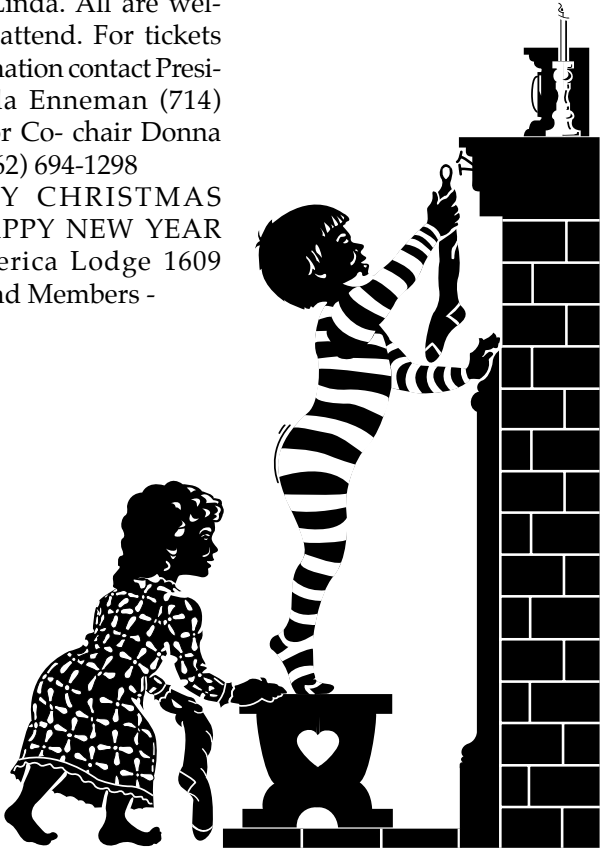
Leo Norton, Nick D'Edigio Honoree and Linda Enneman President.



President Linda Enneman, Honoree Monsignor Justin H. MacCarthy Master of Ceremonies Leo Norton.



Master of Ceremonies Leo Norton, State President Lynn Lawrence – Murphy, Linda Ennman President.



Puzzle answers from page 13

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