Il LEONE

Grand Lodge of California
ORDER Sons and Daughters of Italy IN AMERICA

November 2025
Vol. 78 No. 11

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

To All Members
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Message From Your State President

MARK VAONA

As fall continues and we begin to enter into the holiday season, October turned out to be busy and filled with memorable events. On October 9th I attended the 98th anniversary of the Enrico Caruso Lodge in Visalia. I had the privilege of presenting the '25' and '50' year member certificates, one of which was Marlene Romanazzi for her 50th. It was a great honor as I have known the Romanazzi's for a very long time and they have been gracious enough to share their home with me while I am in town. We also attended the dinner hosted by the Peninsula Italian American Social Club where we had our Grand Council Meeting in September.

As I shared last month, my wife, Gilma, and I were invited to participate in the Columbus Day celebration in San Francisco on October 11th. San Francisco hosts an annual Italian-American Heritage Celebration, which includes the Italian Heritage Parade and other events in the North Beach neighborhood. The parade is considered the oldest continuous celebration of its kind in the United States, first established in 1868. We really enjoyed our time with the many who participated. We especially enjoyed the company of our Immediate Past President Arlene Nunziati as she shared her home with us. Shortly after I took office, Maria Fassio Pignati, Past Italian Heritage Celebration President, asked me if I would participate in the parade. Maria and Ugo graciously picked Gilma and I up and Brother Ugo gave us a delightful tour of the area where he and Maria grew up. This included enjoying a beautiful service at Saints Peter and Paul Church, which happens to be where Maria's grandparents were married. I helped Ugo with the church collection and enjoyed the beautiful show. I say show because they had an entire cast dressed as Queen Isabella and Christopher Columbus and their court. They did a procession through the church and then during the mass and it was truly a beautiful tribute and celebration. Afterwards we enjoyed stopping at a few bakeries and then ended up at a couple of nearby Italian clubs, one of which is where Ugo and Maria's wedding reception was held. We enjoyed a great view from the venue's balcony which overlooked a park where some amazing Ferrari's were being displayed.

At that point it was time to head to the parade where Maria had arranged for us to ride in a 1947 Cadillac. The parade was exciting as the number of people who came out to celebrate was amazing! Everyone seemed so happy to be there as most supported the event with Italian flags and Italia shirts. It was so much fun as we really enjoyed the two-hour route, admiring the attendees sitting at the tables that lined the streets in front of the many participating restaurants where people ate and watched the parade. Once we finished, we participated in a delicious lunch that Maria Pignati had arranged. It was great meeting and connecting with so many people. I was especially touched when a young woman asked me if I knew her grandfather, who happened to be Al Affinito, which I did, and she seemed very happy he was remembered.

Riding in a 1947 Cadillac.

The crowds that came out were amazing!

Sidewalk restaurant seating was everywhere.

It is hard to put into words how proud I was to be invited and share in this special day with everyone celebrating Italians. A big thank you to Maria Pignati for inviting me as it will be something I look back on fondly for the rest of my life. I really look forward to next year's event as I am hoping to have more friends join us so they too can enjoy this annual event.

Continued on page 2

Message From Your Vice President, Northern Dist.

MARK ROSSI

As I work on this article, we are celebrating Columbus Day & Italian American Heritage month. This year with the help of President Trump and many Italian Americans across the United States, Columbus seems to be regaining momentum and finding his rightful place in USA history.

I attended the Napa Lodge meeting in September and will be attending their meeting in October, where I will be helping initiate 12 new members. Keep up the momentum Napa Lodge! In late September, I attended the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge meeting in Sparks, Nevada to help President Monica Domini initiate five new members. I had the pleasure of recognizing the efforts of their long-standing State Deputy, Donna Zutshi. Donna thank you for your many years of service to the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge! Monica, great job with the meeting, thank you to your father, Mario for making the incredible homemade sauce. Mr. Brown, it was very nice to meet you in person. Thank you to all the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge members for the hospitality and fraternity.

The following evening, I attended the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge meeting in Reno, Nevada. The Reno Lodge meets at the Reno Elks Hall and this relationship/partnership seems to be really working for the Reno Lodge. This may be a good model to use, if your lodge is struggling with membership or a place to meet. There were over 80 members in attendance. Special thanks to Maria Nelson for the extra hospitality! Lori and I assisted President Dawn Romero with initiating 5 new members. Dawn, you were the energizer bunny that evening, after entering the hall, I do not think you stopped moving until you left. Very nice job!! Thank you to all the Reno Lodge members for the hospitality and the wonderful gift basket.

Congratulations to Chris Cifelli from the Reno Lodge (Cristoforo Colombo) who will be the new State Deputy, for the Sparks Lodge (Giuseppe Verdi). Congratulations to Susan Cahan from the Northern Solano Lodge, who will now be the State Deputy for the Reno Lodge. The Order appreciates both of you for your willingness to step up and serve as a State Deputy.

The Vice Presidents continue to host a monthly Zoom meeting with the Lodge Presidents. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, but for the months of November and December we will have a modified schedule.

Continued on page 4

IL Leone Editor: Grand Lodge of California
Design & Production: Alison Williams

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To have your article included in the next edition of the IL Leone, email your article content and pictures to Alison Williams at sonsofitalyca@aol.com. Your article must be submitted no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the next edition. Please keep this date in mind as you get your final approval from your Lodge President. All articles received after the deadline will be held over for the next month.

Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.

Continued from page 1, Mark Vaona

After the celebration ended, Arlene, Maria, Ugo, Gilma, and I enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Sapore Italiano Ristorante. It was a great way to end a very memorable event. As we were winding down that evening from our busy day at Arlene's house, it was nice to see that the local TV news station had a piece on the parade and festivities. It was even fun to see myself on TV! I cannot thank all those enough who helped orchestrate this incredible weekend for Gilma and I. It is one I am very proud to have been a part of.

In closing, I want to thank all those who have served in the military as we celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11th. I also want to wish you all a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving as you celebrate family, food, and gratitude. ■

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Message From Your Vice President, Central Dist.

TINA SPARLIN

Greetings,

What a crazy couple of months for me. With the recent loss of multiple family members and friends, I reflect on the question: Why am I doing this? Why should I care? Do I really have time for this? Why belong? What's in it for me? I live a busy life bouncing between California and Washington helping with my grandbabies and supporting my still-working husband.

I am sure many of you have this thought as well. What am I getting out of being a member of the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy—California?

"What's in it for me" is an idiom and acronym (WIIFM) that refers to the personal benefits or gain an individual receives from a situation, action, or offer. The phrase is a fundamental concept used to motivate people by addressing their personal motivations and highlighting advantages relevant to them.

Let's take a look and see what we have to offer and answer some questions.

Are you attending your local meetings? If so, there are friendships to be made there. Some even lifelong friendships. Connections with people. You have something in common with those individuals. Get to know your fellow Italians.

Are you participating in committees either as a chairperson or a member? If so, you are being a team player. All working towards the same goal. You are setting examples for younger individuals to learn and be a part of. Leadership skills are learned.

Are you an officer? There are many leadership skills to build or teach depending on who you are. Others watch our officers, especially the youth. Are we striving to make positive changes that encourage the youth to be involved and keep individuals active.

Are we (your lodge) involved in our community? Working with our community to let people know who we are and how they can benefit from being a member.

During the flooding a few years ago, we had members lose their home and land due to the water levels. A couple of phone calls to other lodge members, they were able to move cattle and find a place to stay until the water receded and were able to return to their home.

We all look at our busy lives and tell ourselves that we don't have time to do these things but there is so much more that you can get out of being involved. You only get out of it what you put into it. Be proud of your heritage, get involved and be the change. Build those lifelong bonds that no one can break.

I am proud of my heritage and want to be the change to keep this organization going forward.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving. ■

SHASTA LODGE #2453

By Telly Vinci

Hello from Shasta Lodge!

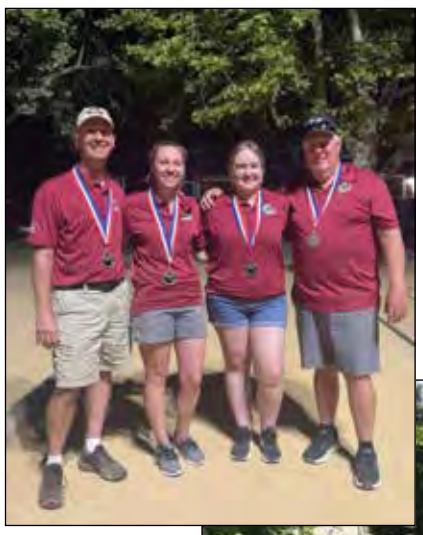
Another wonderful Paesano Days weekend has come and gone. Let me start by saying we had a new chairperson for our event this year and he did an amazing job. Thank you to Pat Karch for stepping up and taking the lead (and all of the other amazing volunteers who came together to make this another successful event). The term "it takes a village" definitely applies here. The weather was beautiful and we had several vendors as well.

We had around 165 cars/entries for the car show (congratulations to all of the winners and a huge thank you to Mike G for running the show). We served close to 850 dinners on Friday night, and of course our bocce tournament kicked off Friday night and continued Saturday morning into Saturday night with this year's winners going undefeated! It came down to the wire. They were tied at 12 and the girls threw a 3 bagger to take the win 15 to 12. Congratulations to the father/daughter duos Ben Price, Kaitlynn Price, Alyssa Parkinson, and Alan Parkinson of team Just Roll With It. Finishing second was Beersagna and third went to The Freds.

Also pictured below is a photo of some of our members enjoying their time in Reno at the Columbus Day Italian festival.

Stay tuned next month for information on more upcoming events! ■

1st Place Team Just Roll With It: Ben Price, Kaitlynn Price, Alyssa Parkinson, and Alan Parkinson (Below).



Continued from page 1, Mark Rossi

In November we will meet on Sunday the 23rd at 6:00 PM and for December we will cancel the Zoom meeting.

One of the requests from the Presidents meeting was additional iMembersDB training. In October we held two training session on Wednesday the 8th and we have additional training set up for Thursday November 6th at 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM. We will continue to set up training as needed.

We would like to create a team of members to help with content for social media. If you have some experience creating content for a business and are interested in helping, please send an email to the Grand Lodge with your contact information.

Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and hoping you are surrounded by family and friends with lots of love and laughter. ■

ROMA LODGE #1573

Roma Lodge held its 87th annual ravioli dinner to celebrate Columbus Day during Italian Heritage month at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. Over 700 meals were served and everyone enjoyed a great meal of ravioli, chicken, salad and string beans with all the fixings. This event has evolved over the past 80 years from a sit-down dinner for 1,250 people to strictly a drive through event. As one of our two major fundraisers for the year the lodge has moved the event to Columbus Day weekend so that the community recognizes the importance of Italian Immigrants to Tulare County.

Master sauce makers Josh (below left) and Dominic Pitigliano (below right) made 65 gallons of delicious sauce for the ravioli dinner. They have learned their craft from father Charlie Pitigliano who has overseen the operation for many, many years.

Charlie Pitigliano (right) coaches the next generation of sauce makers, his grandson Isaac Pitigliano (left).

Nothing But Compliments!

Master chicken BBQ chef Michael DePaoli (below left) works with Ben Filiponi and son Trevor barbecuing over 900 chicken breast for the Roma Lodge annual ravioli dinner drive through. We received nothing but praise and compliments on how the chicken was cooked to perfection and the taste was wonderful.

Sharon Connaughton recently moved from Pennsylvania to Bakersfield, California. She was a member of the Order and contacted Alison Williams of the Grand Lodge office and she sent us her information. Consequently Sharon has joined Roma Lodge, because there are no lodges in Kern County and she has attended our monthly meetings and helped with our annual ravioli dinner, driving over an hour each way to attend lodge activities. Roma Lodge members are glad she is now a member of our lodge.

Mistress of Ceremonies Joanne Beecher (left) helps with the initiation ceremonies of Sharon Connaughton (right) as a new member of Roma Lodge.

CASA of Tulare County

Roma Lodge presented a donation to CASA of Tulare County. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Enzo, Amelia and Domenica Curti participated in their fun run fundraiser and presented the check to CASA representative Iris Hampton-Feaver. The lodge also donated to the Tulare FFA and TheTulare Brass Band this past month. ■

C. COLOMBO LODGE #1315

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY, C. COLOMBO LODGE #1315

INVITES YOU TO THEIR 13TH ANNUAL

CUCIDATI CONTEST & ITALIAN COOKIE SALE

*This event supports our **Scholarship Fund for local students***

Everyone is invited to enter the Cucidati Contest:

- ✓ Minimum of 100 cucidati cookies must be submitted, each **at least 2-1/2 inches long**.
- ✓ Each contestant will receive 2 free entry tickets.
- ✓ Judges will award money prizes to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners.
- ✓ People's Choice winner receives a prize.
- ✓ Cucidati classes will be available for those novice bakers or anyone interested in entering the contest, more details below.

Saturday, November 15, 2025
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Pittsburg Youth Development Center
1001 Stoneman Avenue, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Entertainment: The EsposiTones
Pre-Sale Only: $20.00 Per Person
(Includes: Cup of Coffee & Sampling of Cucidati for People's Choice Award)
(Kids under 6 years old are free)
This is a CASH only event!
TICKET SALES END NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon of Italian festivities at the Pittsburg Youth Development Center. Sample and vote for your favorite cucidati for the People's Choice Award. Sing along with the EsposiTones to Italian songs. Purchase homemade Italian baked goods, caponata, meatball sliders, sausage sliders, cannoli along with an espresso bar and Italian sodas.

- **To enter the contest and/or sign up for Cucidati lessons, call Zelda LeFrak-Belleci at (925) 518-7110 or email zlefrak@aol.com**
- **For pre-sale tickets ($20), call Pam Bustos at (925) 642-8658 or email pam.bustos2136@gmail.com**

Grazie!

Cucidati Contest & Italian Cookie Sale • Nov. 15

2025 ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Maria Fassio Pignati, Chair, Italian Language, Culture, and History

San Francisco's 157th weekend celebration of Italian Heritage began on Friday night, October 10, with a lovely reception at the Italian Consulate in San Francisco, hosted by our new Consul General Massimo Carnelos, for Queen Isabella and her Court, their parents, and the San Francisco Italian Heritage Celebration Board of Directors. The next night the Italian Heritage Celebration hosted its beautiful Gran Ballo at the Westin St. Francis Hotel, with close to 300 people witnessing the crowning of Queen Isabella, Gianna Sangervasi Barnes, the knighting of Christopher Columbus as portrayed by Joseph Cervetto, Jr., and the presentation of the Royal Court (Princess, Duchesses, Contessas, Ladies in Waiting, Crown Bearer and Scroll Bearer, and 10 young Explorers). A big group, all dressed in gorgeous costumes reflective of the period.

Sunday, October 12, started with a solemn Mass at Saints Peter and Paul, known as the Italian Cathedral, at which Queen Isabella and her Royal Court, Christopher Columbus and his Explorers, the Knights of Columbus, civic dignitaries, and Board members processed in, walking under an arch formed by the swords of the Knights of Columbus. Very impressive! In Washington Square across the street, there was a great showing of Ferrari sports cars that everyone enjoyed, with strolling music by the Ron Borelli Band.

The next stop was Fisherman's Wharf to assemble for the parade. Representing our Grand Lodge was State President Mark Vaona, accompanied by our First Lady Gilma, riding in the lovely 1947 black Cadillac convertible driven by owner Mike Marchiorlatti, who was with his wife Helen. Bringing up the rear was Past State President and Past Italian Heritage Celebration President Maria Fassio Pignati in a classic red 1957 Chevy Bel Air driven by Omar Hassam, accompanied by his family. Above us there was a United Boeing 777 performing amazing acrobatics, considering its size, as part of a smaller version of Fleet Week. As the parade wound its way to North Beach, there were thousands of people cheering us on, clearly enjoying the great weather and delicious food provided by the many restaurants on the route who set out tables on the sunny day. There were about 80 entries from as far north as Napa, as far east as Pleasant Hill, and as far south as San Jose, and bands, floats, antique cars, novelty acts, ethnic groups and children's groups featured in the longest continuous celebration of its kind in the United States. This year's Parade Celebrity Grand Marshal was scheduled to be actor of stage, screen and television Joe Mantegna, but he and his family were sidelined with Covid. Joe, we missed you! Civic Grand Marshals were Sergio and Larry Nibbi of Nibbi Brothers Construction. Present at the parade were several members of the Columbia Lodge, including Immediate Past State President Arlene Nunziati, members of the Cornelia-Vita Nuova Lodge, whose Immediate Past President Angela Silva flew in from Washington DC to attend, and Danny and Laurie Lodolo of the Dolly Sinatra Lodge of Palm Springs. Italian Heritage Celebration President Paul Tonelli of the Bay Area is also a member of Dolly Sinatra. During and at the close of the parade, the Canadian Snowbirds zoomed overhead with a thrilling aerial show featuring nine planes, since the Blue Angels could not attend due to the government shutdown. It was a fantastic party in North Beach, or as the Italian Heritage Celebration Board likes to say, "The Best Day of the Year in the City" and it really was.

State President Mark and First Lady Gilma.

And once again...Please make every effort to protect Columbus Day in the United States against the growing threats that have placed it in danger. If someone is trying to remove Columbus Day recognition from your area, contact your legislators and tell them to protect this holiday that honors not only the amazing achievement of an Italian navigator who opened up the world, but also the many millions of Americans of Italian descent that helped create our great nation. While it is important that our indigenous brothers and sisters are justly honored for their ancient heritage, it should not be at the expense of ours. Our National Lodge, in conjunction with our Commission for Social Justice, is working hard to preserve this holiday. Please contact them for further information and to obtain pamphlets with historically correct information about the great navigator. Please don't think Columbus Day is safe, please don't wait for someone else to save it, and please don't wait until it is too late... act NOW to protect YOUR heritage for future generations. ■

Past State President Maria Fassio Pignati.

Queen Isabella and her Court, Christopher Columbus and the Explorers, Past Court members, Knights of Columbus and Board Members.

Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

Sons and Daughters of Italy Dolly Sinatra Lodge
"The Joe LaPorta Classic"

The Sons and Daughters of Italy, Palm Springs, was founded, endorsed and endowed by Dolly Sinatra (Frank Sinatra's mother) to celebrate Italian culture through educational scholarships, charitable contributions and the promotion of American citizenship.

The Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy, Dolly Sinatra Lodge #2400 of Palm Springs is a registered non-profit 501 (c)(8), FIN 95-3249151 organization.

The specific purpose of this letter is to request your sponsorship for the Annual Sons and Daughters of Italy Golf Tournament "The Joe LaPorta Classic" at Indian Canyon Golf Resort on November 17, 2025.

Categories of sponsorship range from product, service, monetary donations or the sponsorship of a hole. Our membership is comprised of many families living and working in the Coachella Valley.

We know you have many requests for charitable assistance and we thank you in advance for help with our fundraising efforts. Charitable efforts we support through the Western Associations include Cooley's Anemia Foundation Alzheimer's, American Cancer Society and scholarships to deserving college students.

Sincerely,

Larry Capeloto, President

The Dolly Sinatra Lodge
P.O. Box 637
Palm Springs, CA 92263
Tel: 818-269-7559

Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

Sons and Daughters of Italy
Dolly Sinatra Lodge

Golf Tournament

Monday November 17, 2025

Indian Canyons Golf Resort
1097 E. Murray Canyons Dr. Palm Springs, CA, 92264

Registration - Opens 7am

8:00 am - Shotgun start 4 Man Best Ball

$160 Members $175 Non-Members $44 Lunch Only

Includes green fees, cart, Italian Buffet

For info call or email
Danny Lodolo - 818.269.7559 - laurie9699@gmail.com
Dolly Sinatra Lodge P.O. Box 637 Palm Springs, CA 92263

Name (Sign up in 1-4 Players)	Phone/Email	Handicap USGA Index*	No Handicap	Division Your Age on July 22, 2019
1.		#		
2.		#		
3.		#		
4.		#		

Check only - No Credit Card Profits to Western Foundation Sons of Italy
Make check payable to Dolly Sinatra Lodge

Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

Sons and Daughters of Italy Dolly Sinatra Lodge
The Joe LaPorta Classic

Golf Tournament

Monday, November 17, 2025
Indian Canyon Golf Resort
1097 E. Murray Canyons Dr. Palm Springs, CA 92264

LUNCH BUFFET $44
Caesar Salad, French Garlic Bread, Chef's Sauteed Vegetables, Chicken Piccata, Penne Pasta Alfredo, Penne Pasta Primavera, Sliced Fruit Display and Dessert

Name	Phone	Email	Amt$

DANNY LODOLO 818.296.7559 LAURIE9699@GMAIL.COM
CHECKS ONLY - NO CREDIT CARDS
PROFITS TO WESTERN FOUNDATION
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DOLLY SINATRA LODGE

Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

Sons and Daughters of Italy
Dolly Sinatra Lodge

Golf Tournament

Monday, November 17, 2025
Indian Canyon Golf Resort
1097 E. Murray Canyons Dr. Palm Springs, CA 92264

YOUR SPONSOR
$100 NAME HERE $100

Contact Danny Lodolo 818.269.7559
or email: laurie9699@gmail.com
Check only - No Credit Cart Profits to Western Foundation
Make check payable to Dolly Sinatra Lodge

GOLF FUN

ST. HELENA LODGE #2077

By Kevin Coleman, Lodge President

St. Helena Lodge No. 2077 hosted a Special Screening of "Made in Italy" at the Cameo Cinema on Columbus Day.

Despite the (welcome) pioggia, St. Helena Lodge No. 2077 SOLD OUT tickets for its screening of Made in Italy, the 2020 film starring Liam Neeson at St. Helena's historic Cameo Cinema on October 13, 2025.

Lodge 2077 members Lia Cicuto, Kevin Coleman, Joel Kurtz, Roberta Oswald, Suzanne Roomian (and her husband Mark), Sharon Scott, and Toni Weems worked to create a menu of irresistible Italian delicacies that guests enjoyed before the film, including home made arancini, antipasti skewers, prosciutto palmier, sausage, and zucchini.

And for dessert, St. Helena's Roman Holiday served its extraordinary gelatos.

Guests also got to enjoy wonderful wines supplied by Nichelini Family Winery and Emmolo Wines, both of which have deep roots in the Napa Valley and the history of Lodge 2077.

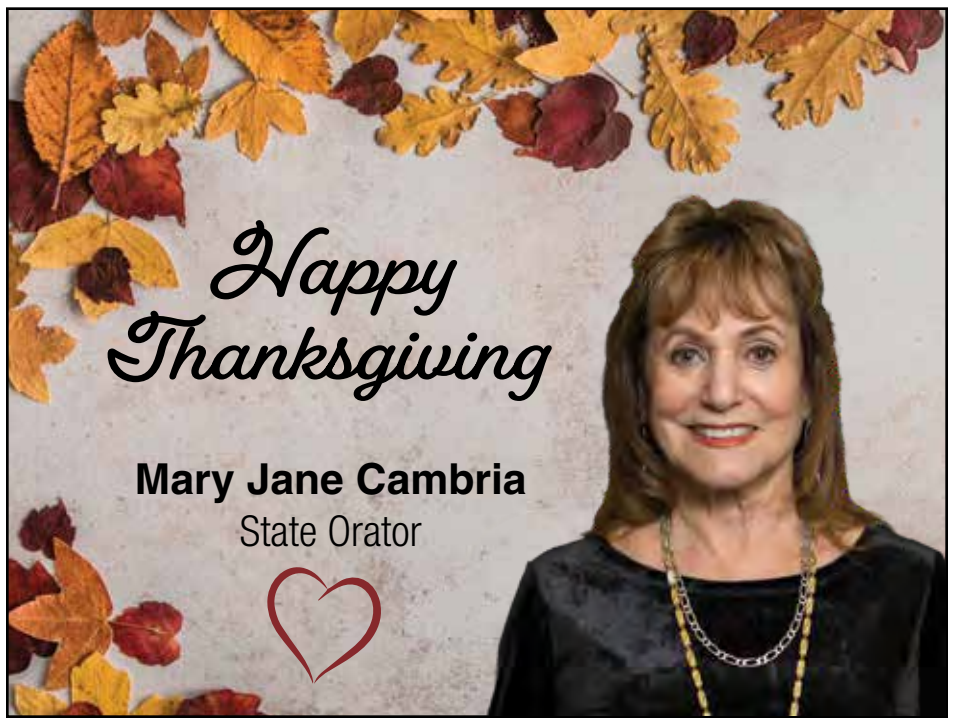
Grazie mille to the many people who made this event a great success!

Festa Italiana 2025

To kick off Italian Heritage Month, beloved St. Helena Lodge No. 2077 member Anthony Micheli put on another fantastico festival on October 4, 2025, at St. Helena's Lyman Park. Katie Sculatti opened the event singing the Italian national anthem as we raised the Italian flag.

Hundreds of people attended, enjoying pizza, tri-tip, pasta, and other Italian culinary delights. Plus, attendees were treated to live music and wines poured by supportive local wineries.

This was a massive effort undertaken by Anthony Micheli and his many volunteers (including a lot of Lodge 2077 members). The result was spectacular! Grazie mille! ■



HANFORD LODGE

By Jackie Giacomazzi

The Hanford Lodge enjoyed a potluck dinner featuring Italian dishes in celebration of Italian-American Heritage Month. On October 26, the Lodge will continue its celebration by having a spaghetti/meatball dinner & sauce sale with President Michael Leoni at the helm. The group is looking forward to its November "Thanksgiving" dinner with turkey with all the trimmings. Happy Thanksgiving to all! ■

UCCELLI SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

Maria Fassio Pignati, Past State President
CAO Western Foundation

On Friday, July 25, Paula Uccelli, our 2006 Western Foundation Humanitarian Award Honoree, presented the $2500 Pete & Paula Uccelli Foundation Scholarship to Tenley Flahavan of Mountain View, at a lovely luncheon at Vino Santo Ristorante in Redwood City. Tenley, who graduated from St. Francis High School with a GPA of 4.26, was accepted at fifteen colleges and universities, and will be majoring in Marine Science at UC Santa Barbara in the College of Creative Studies.

Tenley's goal is to earn a degree in both marine biology and educational marketing. This program will allow her to combine her passion for the ocean and the environment with her interest in communication and education. She is eager to develop innovative ways to advocate for the ocean such as creating workshops for young students that teach them sustainable practices through creative expression. She hopes to raise global consciousness on the great importance of having clean oceans and protecting our sea life from the ravages of pollution. Tenley's parents, Don (passed in April) and Christy have always been proud of Tenley and her older sister Haley, who won a Western Foundation scholarship in 2022. Her Italian great-grandparents came from Genoa to San Francisco in 1919, and the Italian she admires the most is St. Francis of Assisi.

Our Immediate Past State President Arlene M. Nunziati and yours truly were present at the luncheon, and we all had the opportunity to learn more about this outstanding young woman. Also present was Tenley's mom Christy. Congratulations, Tenley! We wish you much happiness and success in your future endeavors, and thank you for wanting to protect our precious environment. ■

Tenley Flahavan and donor Paula Uccelli.

IPSP Arlene Nunziati, Tenley Flahavan, Paula Uccelli, WF CAO Maria Fassio Pignati, and Christy Flahavan.

VIRGILIO LODGE #1586

By Ray Bini, Lodge President

Saluti tutti,

Greetings from Virgilio Lodge #1586 in Vallejo. And a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

We had a successful Chicken Marsala dinner and had the opportunity to honor Lodge Vice President and former Mayor of Vallejo Tony Intintoli with his 50 year pin. Tony has been a member since 1972 and we value his extensive civic experience and contributions to the lodge.

Pamela and I will be attending the Shrimp Feed at Northern Solano Lodge #2534 in Fairfield on October 18. Pamela and I will also be attending the golf tournament in Palm Springs along with lodge brother Fred Asche and his lodge sister wife Esther Asche.

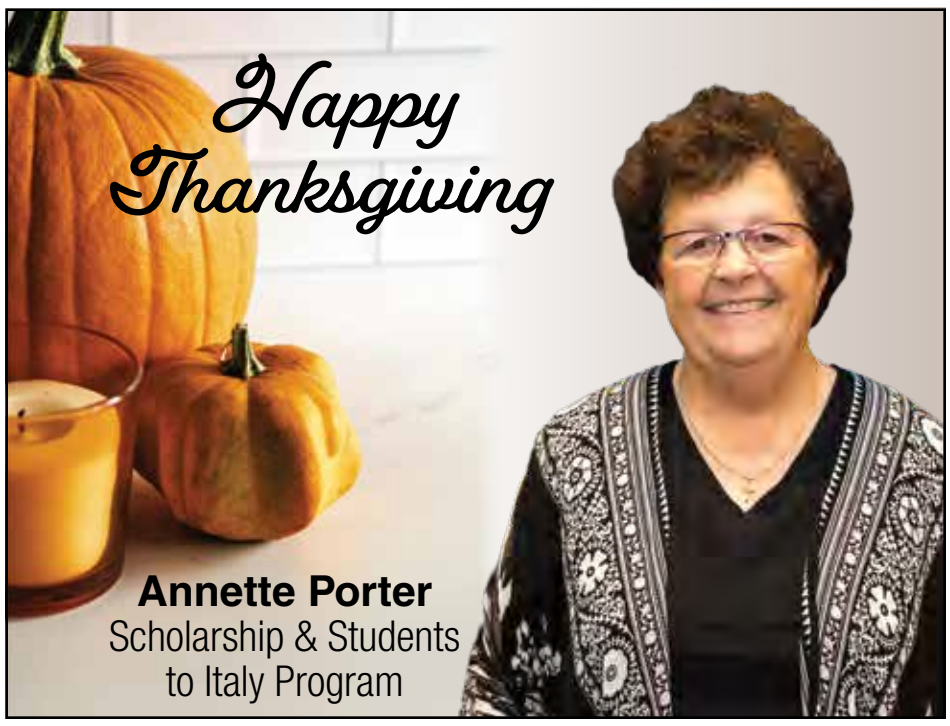
Pamela will be visiting several lodges in the north as State Trustee. I have accepted the position as State Deputy to the Northern Solano Lodge and look forward to working with Mark & Lori Rossi and crew.

Ciao for now! ■

Tony Intintoli receiving his 50 year pin. Left to right: John Costa, Past State President; Tony Intintoli, Virgilio Lodge Vice President; Helen Intintoli; Ray Bini, Virgilio Lodge President.

Thank You Anna Galbo-Graeber!

The Grand Lodge of California thanks Anna for her years of service as editor to the Il Leone!



GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA • LODGE DIRECTORY

ANAHEIM LODGE No. 2076
Anniv. May 3, 1958
ANAHEIM
PRES. MARIANN AITA
212 S. Kraemer Blvd., Unit 207, Placentia, CA 92870
(201) 562-4786
lovesemblem469@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Frances D'Errico
7424 E. Calle Durango
Anaheim Hills, CA 92808
(714) 469-1020
derricofa@sbcglobal.net
Meets 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m., NOT EVERY MONTH.
Contact Pres. Mariann Aita or Rec. Sec. Fran D'Errico for meeting date and location.
www.anaheim2076.org

CAMELIA-COLOMBO LODGE No. 1294
Anniv. June, 1924
KLAMATH FALLS, OR
PRES. OLIVER SPIRES
224 Mountain View Blvd.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
(541) 891-8617
ospires@charter.net
Meets 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m., 815 High St., Klamath Falls, OR 97603

C. COLOMBO LODGE No. 1315
Anniv. Aug. 31, 1924
ANTIOCH
PRES. ROSANNE ORTLAND
247 Mariposa Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(925) 783-8315
Queenrose85@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Pamela Bustos
1859 Chaparral Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(925) 642-8658
pam.bustos2136@gmail.com
Meets 2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., American Legion Hall
403 W 6th St.
Antioch, CA 94509
www.soiccololmbo1315.com

CENTINELA VALLEY LODGE No. 1991
Anniv. Mar. 20, 1949
TORRANCE
PRES. ANNETTE PORTER
19310 Ronald Ave.
Torrance CA 90503
(310) 245-4502
ampdynomom@aol.com
Rec. Secty. Vicky Tondolo
21302 Jaffrey Ave.
Torrance CA 90502
(310) 251-5710
BellaT437@sbcglobal.net
Meets 2nd Wed., 7:00 p.m., Order Sons of Italy Hall
1744 W. Carson St.
Torrance, CA 90501

CESARE BATTISTI LODGE No. 1518
Anniv. Jan. 28, 1929
PETALUMA
PRES. JOHN ALBINI
P.O. Box 2121
Sonoma, CA 95476
(707) 337-4695
John@albinisonoma.com
Rec. Secty. Anna Biggio
125 Rogue Moraes
Mill Valley, CA 94941
(415) 388-1998
sonoioann@gmail.com
Meets 3rd Thurs., 4:30 p.m., Herman Sons Hall
860 Western Ave.
Petaluma, CA 94952

COLUMBIA LODGE No. 1940
Anniv. July 30, 1944
SAN MATEO
PRES. ANGELO FANUCCHI
3721 Wilshire Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 678-1993
angsm42@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Angie Fanucchi
3721 Wilshire Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 228-6013
angsm42@gmail.com
Meets 4th Tues., 11:00 a.m., Peninsula Italian American Social Club, 100 North B St., San Mateo, CA 94401
columbia_1940@yahoo.com
www.sonsofitalysanmateo.com

COLOMBO-STELLA LODGE No. 1149
Anniv. Sept. 22, 1922
FRESNO
PRES. STEVEN BARRA
850 W. Jensen Ave.
Fresno CA 93706
(559) 974-2345
stevebarra@gmail.com
Interim. Rec. Secty.
Diane Barra
850 W. Jensen Ave.
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 974-2345
Meets 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m.
Contact Steven Barra for meeting details
www.sonsofitalyfresno.org
sonsofitalyfresno@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Sons-Of Italy-Fresno-Colombo-Stella-1149

CORNELIA-VITA NUOVA LODGE No. 1198
Anniv. April 21, 1923
SAN FRANCISCO
PRES. JENNIFER DE PALMA-CHANDLER
3825 Webster St
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 637-7080
ladonnadepalma@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Maria Fassio-Pignati
268 Delmar Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
(415) 370-3956
abondnza@aol.com
For lodge meeting date and location please contact lodge Rec. Secty.

CRISTOFORO COLOMBO LODGE No. 1534
Anniv. June 14, 1929
RENO, NV
PRES. DAWN ROMERO
12410 Westridge Dr.
Reno, NV 89511
(775) 350 2442
romerowestridge@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Margaret Raulino
2350 Roanoke Trail
Reno, NV 89523
(530) 318 2173
tahoeeyedocs@sbcglobal.net
Meets 4th Wed., 6:00 p.m., Reno Elks Lodge
597 Kumle Lane
Reno, NV 89509
www.renosonsofitaly.org

DIABLO VALLEY LODGE No. 2167
Anniv. Feb. 13, 1966
PLEASANT HILL
PRES. LINDA PARENT TASCA
4014 Lynwood Ct.
Concord, CA 94519
(925) 825-2560
lptcatlady@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Francine Loyd
225 Rainbow Dr.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 933-1578
Meets 2nd Thurs., 12:00 noon, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

DOLLY SINATRA LODGE No. 2400
Anniv. May 29, 1977
PALM SPRINGS
PRES. LARRY CAPELOTO
80245 Royal Dornoch Dr.
Indio CA 92201
(760)219-3267
Rec. Secty. Donna Martella
78234 Grape Arbor Ave.
Palm Desert CA 92211
(510) 821-7000
Meets 2nd Tues., 6:00 p.m., Dolly Sinatra Lodge Hall, 1700 Sahara
Palm Springs, CA 92262
www.dollysinatralodgeosia.org
info@dollysinatralodgeosia.org

ENRICO CARUSO LODGE No. 1463
Anniv. June 27, 1927
VISALIA
PRES. LARRY ROMANAZZI
1150 N. Rossmoor Ct.
Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 733-1461
larry@msrcpa.com
Rec. Secty. Pam Buldo
(559) 799-8697
pjbuldo@aol.com
Meets 2nd Thurs., 5:30 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Meeting, Whitendale Center
630 W. Beech
Visalia, CA 93277
visaliasonsofitaly.club.offificelive.com

EUREKA LODGE No. 1274
Anniv. Mar. 16, 1924
EUREKA
PRES. JEREMY SORCI
725 6th Street
Eureka, CA 95540-2841
(707) 499-6674
jeremy.sorci@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Laura Lazzarotto
2911 C Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 499-6674
Meets 4th Tues., 6:00 p.m., St. Bernard's Parish Hall
7th & "I" St.
Eureka, CA 95501
sonsofitalyeureka@gmail.com
Facebook.com/Order.Sons.of.Italy.Eureka

FRATELLANZA GARIBALDINA LODGE No. 1627
Anniv. Apr. 17, 1932
SAN DIEGO
PRES. JOHN ORSINI, Jr
4098 Avati Dr.
San Diego, CA 92117
(619) 992-1927
johnorsini12@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Anthony Contasti
2246 Union St.
San Diego, CA 92101
acontasti1@cox.net
Meets 3rd Tues., 5:30 p.m., 5717 Pacific Center Blvd., #100, San Diego, CA 92121
www.sonsofitalysd-1627.org

GIUSEPPE VERDI LODGE No. 1441
Anniv. Sept. 6, 1927
SPARKS, NV
PRES. MONICA DOMINI
3550 W. Plumb Lane
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 843-3733
monicadomini@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Cathleen Sarratea
2069 Meritage Dr.
Sparks, NV 89434
(775) 322-5331
lambchopcs@yahoo.com
Meets 4th Tues., 6:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church-Social Hall
2900 N. McCarran Blvd.
Sparks, NV 89431
www.sonsofitaly1441.weebly.com

HACIENDA LODGE No. 2168
Anniv. Apr. 17, 1966
WHITTIER
PRES. BILL VIVERTO
1021 Clintwood Ave.
La Puente, CA 91744
(626) 261-2879
bverdo@aol.com
Rec. Secty. Carrie Harrison
2520 Summershade Dr.
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 400-9663
OPCarrie@cs.com
Meets 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Whittier Elks Lodge
13620 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90605
www.osiahaciendalodge.com

HANFORD LODGE No. 1543
Anniv. July 27, 1929
HANFORD
PRES. MICHAEL LEONI
315 W. Earl Way
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 212-8773
mleoni1080@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Thomas Loliva
2465 Claret Ave.
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 623-6860
Meets 2nd Tues., 6:00 p.m., Kings County Historical Society Meeting Hall
14060 Hackett St., Hanford (Grangeville), CA 93230,
www.sonsofitaly1543.org
www.sonsofitaly1543.org

JOANNE COCCIA LODGE No. 2553
Anniv. Feb. 19, 1984
FONTANA
PRES. MICHAELYNN MINICUCCI
140 W. Pioneer Ave., #101
Redlands, CA 92373
(909) 855-5437
michaelynn66@live.com
Rec. Secty. Josephine Dudeck
108 Cascade Ct.
Redlands, CA 92373
(951) 347-1516
jdudeck68@gmail.com
Meets 3rd Sun., 12:00 p.m., Fontana Elks Lodge
1540 W. Rialto Ave.
Fontana, CA 92335
www.facebook.com/JoanneCocciaLodgeSOIosia_2553@yahoo.com

LA COSTA DEI FIORI LODGE No. 2424
Anniv. Oct. 22, 1978
ENCINITAS
PRES. TONI McMAHON
Sons and Daughters of Italy, North County San Diego
P.O. Box 231724
Encinitas, CA 92024
(760) 822-2338
tonimcmahon64@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Marina Jurich
4511 37th St., Unit 6
San Diego, CA 92116
marinajurich1@gmail.com
(619) 871-4006
Meets 1st Wed., 6:00 p.m., Sky Loft Community Center
1475 Sky Loft Lane
Encinitas, CA 92024
www.sonsofitalysandiego.org

MODESTO LODGE No. 2021
Anniv. March 23, 1952
MODESTO
PRES. MELANIE PARKER GOMEZ
3912 Maui Terrace
Modesto CA 95355
(650) 678-0479
mparker2010@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Sara Shupp
1136 El Vicino Ave.
Modesto CA 95350
(209) 480-8857
Meets 2nd Fri., 6:00 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church 617 W. Orangeburg Ave.
Modesto, CA 95350

NAPA LODGE No. 2043
Anniv. Mar. 28, 1955
NAPA
PRES. MARISA SILVA MILLER
101 Hillside Ave.
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 477-5538
napasonsdaughtersofitaly@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Jenny Gass
4445 Stillson St.
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 307-3866
napasonsdaughtersofitaly@gmail.com
Meets 2nd Monday
Chef David Thater
RSVP Marisa Miller
(707) 477-5538
Happy Half Hour Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Native Sons Hall
937 Coombs St.
Napa, CA 94559
www.napasonsanddaughtersofitaly.com
napasonsdaughtersofitaly@gmail.com

NORTHERN SOLANO LODGE No. 2534
Anniv. Jan. 16, 1983
FAIRFIELD
IMM. PAST PRES. MARK ROSSI
4540 St. Andrews Ct.
Fairfield, CA 94533
(209) 404-0692
mercatoman1@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Shirley Firpo
8057 N. Meridian Rd.
Dixon, CA 95620
(707) 678-2455
slfirpo@jps.net
Meets 3rd Thurs., 6:00 p.m., Fairfield Senior Center
1200 Harry Price Dr.
Fairfield, CA 94533
www.OSDIA2534.com

PUGLIESE LODGE No. 1375
Anniv. Sept. 5, 1925
LOS ANGELES
PRES. MICHAEL DiGIURO
1957 Mt. Shasta Dr.
San Pedro, CA 90732
(310) 292-8802
mgdigiuro@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Rosemarie Vanderhaar
801 West Duarte Road #I
Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 222-7768
rgeorev@aol.com
Meets 1st Thurs., 6:00 p.m.
1744 West Carson St.
Torrance, CA 90501
www.soipugliese1375.com

Please check your lodge information to make sure it is all is correct. Any changes or if your lodge has an e-mail address or website and you would like to include it in the list, please e-mail Alison at: sonsofitalyca@aol.com

GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA • LODGE DIRECTORY

RENAISSANCE LODGE No. 2259
Anniv. Mar. 4, 1972
ORANGE
PRES. FRED FASCENELLI
10901 Vida Dr.
Villa Park, CA 92861
(714) 417-0196
fascenelli@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Grace Scoma-Cosman
230 E Riverdale
Orange, CA 92865
(714) 606-4131
gsachef@att.net
Meets 3rd Wed., 7:00 p.m.
Renaissance Lodge
1526 Brookhollow Dr., #76
Santa Ana, CA 92705
www.sonsofitalyca.org/renaissance
Renaissancelodge2259@yahoo.com

RODOLFO VALENTINO LODGE No. 1449
Anniv. Apr. 4, 1927
CLOVIS
PRES. BRIAN WATSON
4308 N. Dewitt Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 285-6934
pumbaa673@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Meri Sorrells
3341 N. Emperor
Fresno, CA 93737
(559) 292-3469
Meets 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m.
Luna Restaurant
349 Pollasky Ave.
Clovis, CA 93612
www.rodolfovalentinolodge.com

ROMA LODGE No. 1573
Anniv. May 25, 1930
TULARE
PRES. LARRY DUTTO
1804 South Tamarack
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 901-4683
larrydutto@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Renee Marinelli
6528 West Mary Street
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 732-8258
r.marine@sbcglobal.net
Meets 1st Mon., 6:30 p.m.
International Agri Centre-Social Hall, 4450 S. Laspina, Tulare, CA 93274
www.romalodge1573.org
romalodge@yahoo.com

SACRAMENTO LODGE No. 1352
Anniv. Jan. 7, 1925
SACRAMENTO
PRES. DAN MARINELLI
340 Cabot Court
Granite Bay, CA 95746
(916) 698-2928
dan.r.marinelli@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Pam Stewart
7243 Pine Grove Way
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 205-5328
tom-pamstewart@sbcglobal.net
Meets 2nd Wed., 5:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Hall
5961 Newman Ct.
Sacramento, CA 95819

SHASTA LODGE No. 2453
Anniv. Feb. 23, 1980
REDDING
PRES. JIM NOBILI
2391 Cumberland Dr.
Redding, CA 96001
530-243-4127
rjnobili@sbcglobal.net
Rec. Secty. Sharon Roberts
1767 Capistrano Walk
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 356-6078
jimandsharon@charter.net
Meets 3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m.
Sons of Italy Hall
4850 Cedars Rd.
Redding, CA 96001
www.reddingsonsofitaly.com
soishastalodge@charter.net

ST. HELENA LODGE No. 2077
Anniv. May 28, 1958
ST HELENA
PRES. KEVIN COLEMAN
1245 Tucker Rd.
Calistoga, CA 94515
(415)533-2920
kcoleman@nutihart.com
Rec. Secty. Debbie Polverino
410 La Fata St., Suite #200
St. Helena, CA 94574
707-290-0519
debbie@divinecompliance.com
Meets 1st Wed., 7:00 p.m.
Native Sons Hall
1313 Spring Street
St. Helena, CA 94574
www.sdoia2077.org

UKIAH LODGE No. 2104
Anniv. Apr. 24, 1960
REDWOOD VALLEY
PRES. DONNA MOSCHETTI
134 Court St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 462-2402
sdogali@outlook.com
Rec. Secty. Mary Lynn Hunt
2581 Mill Creek Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 462-7935
ml_laviletta@msn.com
Meets 4th Wed., 6:00 p.m.
8650 E. Road
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

VALLEY OF THE MOON LODGE No. 1959
Anniv. May 17, 1947
SONOMA
PRES. MOLLY CASELLI
643 5th St. W.
Sonoma, CA 95476
(628) 234-5514
Caselli1959@yahoo.com
Rec. Secty. Vikki Torzilli
P.O. Box 637
El Verano, CA 95433
(707) 479-1895
lenoxinteriormotifs@comcast.net
Meets 3rd Thurs.

VINCENZO BELLINI LODGE No. 2519
Anniv. May 29, 1982
CHICO
PRES. TONY GEORGE
1925 Nord Ave.
Chico CA 95926
toeknee05@sbcglobal.net
(530) 519-8595
Meets 3rd Thurs., 6:00 p.m., ARC Pavilion
2040 Park Ave.
Chico, CA 95928
www.sonsofitalychico.com

VIRGILIO LODGE NO. 1586
Anniv. Jan. 4, 1931
VALLEJO
PRES. RAY BINI
128 Nalisty Drive
Vallejo CA 94590
(707) 688-3751
Raymond.Bini@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Pam Bini
128 Nalisty Drive
Vallejo CA 94590
(707) 567-2938
porterbini@gmail.com
Meets 2nd Tues., 6:00 p.m.
O.S.I. Hall, 621 Carolina St.,
Vallejo, CA 94590
www.vallejosonsofitaly.org

WATSONVILLE LODGE No. 2016
Anniv. Nov. 18, 1951
WATSONVILLE
PRES. JANEY LEONARDICH
940 Green Valley Rd.
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 722-7958
sweeete940@gmail.com
Rec. Secty. Casey Clark
30 9th St.
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 210-9577
kc4pres@yahoo.com
Meets 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.
Watsonville Women's Club
12 Brennan St.
Watsonville, CA 95076
www.sonsofitalywatsonville.org
sonsofitalywatsonville@yahoo.com

WEED LODGE No. 1269
Anniv. Jan. 6, 1924
WEED
PRES. BRENDA ZANDONA
2030 S. Old Stage Rd.
Mount Shasta, CA 96067
(530) 926-0229
brendazandona@outlook.com
Rec. Secty. Marjorie Carneiro
17310 Nagle Court
Weed, CA 96094
(530) 410-5790
mwcarneiro@sbcglobal.net
Meets 1st Wed., 6:00 p.m.,
Sons of Italy Memorial Hall,
155 Clay St.
Weed, CA 96094

Please check your lodge information to make sure it is all is correct. Any changes or if your lodge has an e-mail address or website and you would like to include it in the list, please e-mail Alison at: sonsofitalyca@aol.com

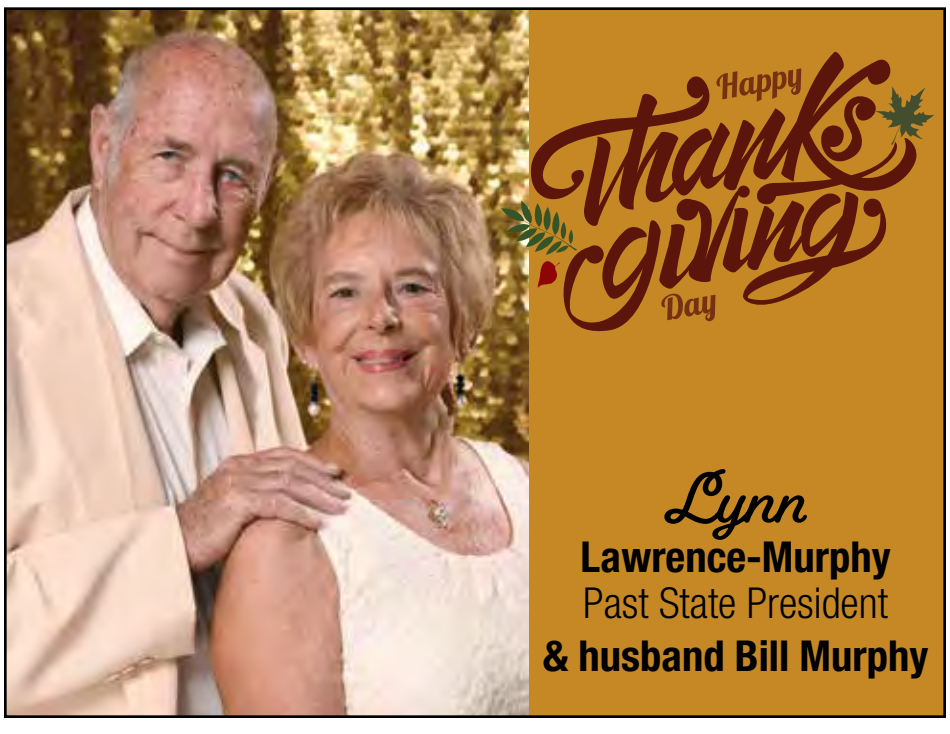
State Deputies Needed for Northern, Central & Southern Districts

Have you served as a Lodge President or Lodge Officer?

Would you be willing to share your experience with a Lodge President and Lodge Council?

Please contact your area Vice President if interested: Mark-Northern, Tina-Central, Paul-Southern

Overview of Duties:
- Represent the Grand Lodge President and Grand Council at Lodge Meetings
- Be a mentor and sounding board for a Lodge President and Lodge Council
- Preside over Officer installations and a new member initiation ceremonies
- Help Lodge Presidents mediate disputes
- Report Lodge activities quarterly to the area Vice President
- See more State Deputy information in the bylaws, page 17



Frank Locicero's Downsizing Holiday Fair • Nov 14–16

@Order Sons and Daughters of Italy - Grand Lodge of California

@sonsofitaly_ca

NOVEMBER 2025

Nov 1. . . . . All Saints Day
Nov 2 . . . . . Daylight Saving Time Ends
All Souls Day
Nov 4 . . . . . Election Day
Nov 6 . . . . . iMembersDB Zoom Training, 1:00 and 6:00 PM
Nov 11 . . . . . Veterans Day
Nov 14-16 . . Frank Locicero's Downsizing Holiday Fair
Nov 15. . . . . C. Colombo Lodge #1315 Cucidati Contest & Italian Cookie Sale
Nov 17. . . . . The Joe LaPorta Classic Golf Tournament
Nov 23 . . . . Lodge Presidents' Zoom Meeting, 6:00 PM
Nov 27 . . . . Thanksgiving Day

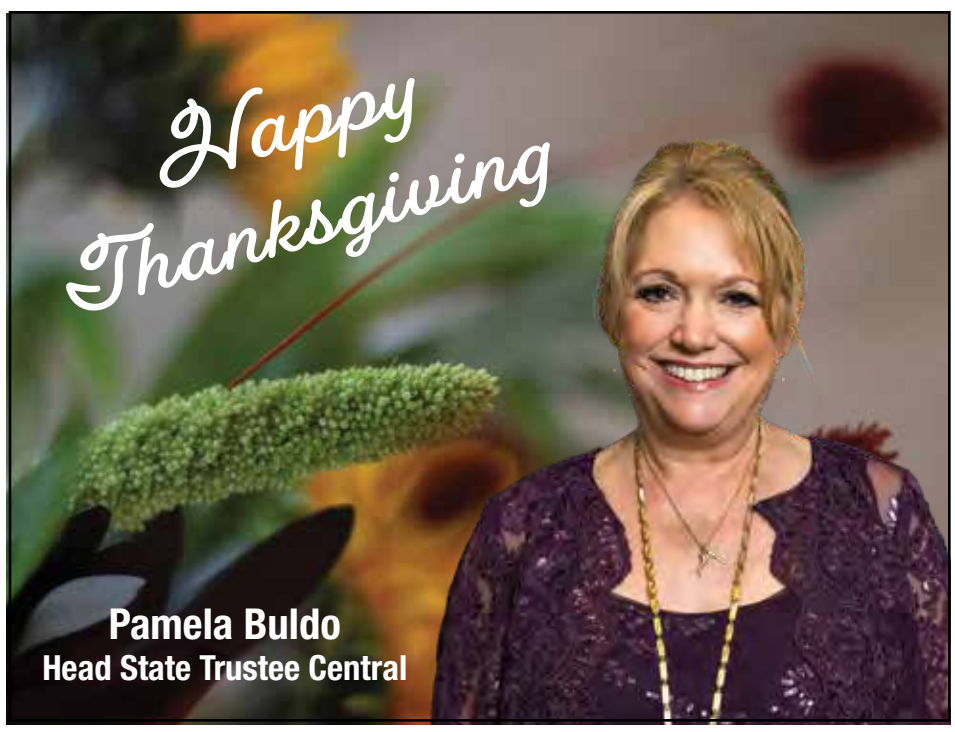
DECEMBER 2026

No Lodge Presidents' Zoom Meeting

Reminders, Updates, and Information

NOTE DALL'UFFICIO

By Alison Williams, Grand Lodge Office Manager

In order to save postage, I have been going through our Il Leone mailing list and eliminating sending multiple issues to the same address if the recipients are married or are junior members. Please let me know if you or someone in your Lodge is not getting the Il Leone. Also let me know if you do not want to receive the printed Il Leone but will read it or download it from our website. Thank you!

The Grand Lodge is looking for ideas to post on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Please send events, photos, and stories to sonsofitalyca@aol.com. And be sure to follow us! Let the Grand Lodge help show what you are doing, especially if you do not have a social media presence for your lodge, ■