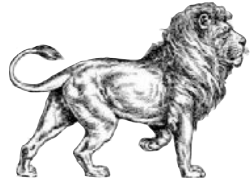
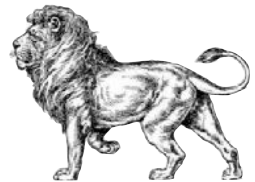


THE LION'S ROAR



AMERICA LODGE #2245



VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY **FRATERNITY**

Volume 54
Issue 10
October 2025

The background of the lower half of the page is a large, stylized image of the American and Italian flags waving. The American flag is on the left, and the Italian flag is on the right.

***ITALIAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH***

A M E R I C A L O D G E # 2 2 4 5

2024-2026 OFFICERS

President	Joseph Armocida	646-879-2842
Vice President	Karen Mollish	516-437-3278
2nd Vice President	Mary Versaci	516-270-3482
Immediate Past President	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Orator	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
Recording Secretary	Cathy Walsh	516-483-6483
Financial Secretary	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Corresponding Secretary	Donna Giorandino Johnson	518-681-7915
Treasurer	Lisa Spano	516-477-1561
Chaplain	Pierina Liberatoscioli	516-775-2107

TRUSTEES

Principal Trustee: Annette Koziarz
 Nancy Caracciolo
 Jo Ann Maggio
 Antonio Liberatoscioli
 Linda Camolli
 Dennis Lyons
 Michael Avallone
 Debra Goldmann
 Jean Fichtl
 Phyllis Ann O'Connell

SENTINELS

Josephine Carbone
 Sylvana Apicella

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Luigi Pinto
 Alfred Pittella

NEW YORK STATE GRAND LODGE PAST PRESIDENTS

*Joseph Montemarano
 Carolyn Reres

OSDIA NATIONAL TRUSTEE

Carolyn Reres

AMERICA LODGE #2245 PAST PRESIDENTS

Joseph Montemarano* '71-'73	Anthony Arena '97-'99
Peter Lanciotti * '74-75	Carolyn Reres '99-'2001
Matthew Nizza* '76-77	Barbara Giorandino* '01-'03
Salvatore Palmeri* '78-'80	Jo Zanghi* '03-'05
Herbert Capitolo* '81-'83	Frank Rossi* '05-'07
Charles Barragato* '83-'85	Joseph Giglio* '07-'09
Joseph DiGennaro* '85-'87	Doris Collins* '09-'11
Philip Friedlander '87-'89	Marty Raia* '11-'12
Frank Rossi* '89-'91	Doris Collins* '12-'13
Doris Collins* '90-'92	Sylvia Giglio '13-'15
Marie Pacacha Vooris '93	Gloria R. Maffettone '16-'18
Gloria R. Maffettone '93-'95	Vincent Giordano '18-'20
Christian Seidel* '95-'97	

*deceased



COMMITTEES

Annual Christmas Party	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
Annual Dinner Dance	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Annual Fishing Trip	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Annual Picnic	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Bocce Club	Marie Geneva Frank	516-852-1276
Bocce Club	Cindy Lampasi	516-690-1085
Book Club/Movie Night	Mary Sperrazza	516-993-8453
Bowling Tournament	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Budget Chairperson	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Columbus Parade	Dennis Lyons	516-481-2077
CSJ Executive Board	Janis Parazzelli	516-358-1409
CSJ Liaison	Jean Fichtl	516-354-6488
Dinner Dance Journal	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
Dinner Party/Pasta Night	Karen Mollish	516-437-3278
Gift of Sight	Jean Fichtl	516-354-6488
Good & Welfare	Tiziana Brugellis	516-491-7785
Grand Lodge Plenary	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Hospitality	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Lion's Roar Ads	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
Mah Jongg	Lisa Teitz	516-965-8465
Membership	Jo Ann Maggio	516-850-5288
Memorial Mass	Josephine Carbone	516-483-7320
Opera	Jo Falabella	516-354-2989
Post Office Box	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Scholarship	Mary Rose O'Hara	516-521-6275

ARBITRATION

Past President Sylvia Giglio, Joseph Camolli, Sally Nicoletti,
 Mary Sperrazza, Alternates: Jo Raia, Angelo LaVeglia,
 Phyllis Ann O'Connell.

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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Facebook: America Lodge #2245

America Lodge's mission is to celebrate our Italian culture and heritage by honoring our ancestors' visions of promoting, educating, supporting our members, and giving back to our communities. Joining together we create excitement, strengthen our bonds and advance the image of Italians everywhere.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Italian American Heritage Month! During the month of October, we recognize the cultural contributions and achievements of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans in the United States. This month is a great time to learn more about Italian-American history and culture (reading this month's newsletter and attending movie night), enjoy Italian cuisine (joining us at our Annual Dinner Dance on October 19th) and attend local and national cultural events celebrating Italian heritage (attending our Memorial Mass, supporting/walking in the Columbus Day Parade or attend our General Membership

meeting). As Italian Americans we have so much to celebrate, and so much to share.

As summer has turned to fall, everyone is starting to look forward to the upcoming holidays. It seems like every year it starts just a little earlier than last year. It was middle of September, and the Halloween decorations were on display. And we know the Christmas decorations can't be far behind.

September started off with our annual picnic at Plattduetsche Park, and it was a huge success. We had over 140 people attend and everyone had a great time. It was heartwarming to see such a large crowd and a special thank you to all our brothers and sisters that joined us from other lodges. I want to thank Maria Passalacqua and everyone who helped her organize the event. Thank you to everyone who donated gift baskets that were raffled off. We also had a special raffle of two baskets that helped support our scholarship program. And we even had a reporter from our local paper, the **Franklin Square Herald**, who wrote a fantastic article about the picnic and about America Lodge. This was our second mention in the Herald; the first covering our fishing trip. Many thanks to the Franklin Square Herald for helping us promote America Lodge.

In October there are many events that we will be participating in. On October 5th we will attend our touching and solemn annual Memorial Mass for our deceased members. Our book club will be hosting the movie "Cinema Paradiso" for Italian American Heritage Month on October 8th. We will join the Town of Hempstead Supervisor at town hall for the beautiful raising of the Italian flag ceremony on October 10th, and then on October 11th we will be wearing our red shirts and marching in the Grand Lodge's Long Island Columbus Day Parade.

But our premier event, the one we all look forward to, the biggest event for the month, will be held on October 19th when we will celebrate America Lodge's 54th Annual Dinner Dance at Leonard's Palazzo. We will be honoring National President Thomas Lupo, NYS Grand Lodge President Arthur Spera and our very own Donna Johnson Corresponding Secretary, editor of our Lions Roar and Website designer. This one event helps us remain financially viable throughout the year. This is our most important event, and I sincerely hope that you will join us in supporting our honorees and America Lodge. Please see the flyers in this issue to purchase your tickets.

As Italian Americans we have so much to celebrate, and this is our month to do it!

Fraternally,

Joe Armocida

President, America Lodge #2245



WELCOME TO YOUR OCTOBER LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

2023, 2025 Best Newsletter in NY!

2024 Most Informative Newsletter in NY!



October is Italian American Heritage and Culture Month, a time to celebrate the proud legacy of Italian Americans and their lasting contributions. This month, we highlight three fascinating stories:

First, we honor the brilliant innovator who created something we all use every morning to wake up—and here's a hint: it's not coffee! His invention has become a part of our daily routine, and his ingenuity continues to impact our lives.

Next, we explore the inspiring journey of a man who initially considered dedicating his life to the church but ultimately chose a different path—football. His passion for the sport and his remarkable achievements left an unforgettable legacy that continues to influence the game today.

Finally, we share the story of an Italian American who was born in the United States but built his flourishing business with inspiration drawn from the Old World. You know his name, but his journey and the roots of his success might surprise you!

As we celebrate Italian American Heritage and Culture Month, we honor those who came before us, keeping their traditions and lessons alive. By remembering their stories, we continue the legacy of our ancestors and celebrate the richness of our heritage.

Enjoy your Newsletter!
Ciao,
Donna

Columbus Day Quiz

The Columbus Day holiday began as a way to:

- a) Celebrate Columbus's first successful voyage to the New World in 1492, on the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria.
- b) To thank King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella for funding the voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492, which resulted in the European discovery of the Americas.
- c) To remember the largest single mass lynching in U.S. history that murdered 11 innocent Italian Americans in New Orleans.
- d) To give hard working Americans a three-day weekend because without Columbus Day, October would not have a holiday.

****Find the answer to this question on page 18!**





In Loving MEMORY



LUIGI PINTO

America Lodge said goodbye to our beloved brother Luigi Pinto. I have never heard such a beautiful eulogy or attended such a beautiful church service. I am so blessed that I knew this wonderful man; got to experience his warm, loving smile and tender heart. We can only pray that Luigi will continue to share his legacy of love, and that he will continue to bless us with his smile, while his gentle spirit makes us all feel special in the way that only he could do.

God Bless you, Luigi..Rest in Peace.



OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES
to the **Pinto** and **Liberatoscioli** families on the passing of

Luigi Pinto

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all..

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

Membership Corner

by Membership Chairperson, Jo Ann Maggio



We did not have a membership installation at our September 17th meeting, however we have several new members to install in October. We are coming up on the last quarter of this year and have done well with growing our membership.

Remember, new members are the key to keeping our Lodge vibrant and growing. Let's keep up the great work by talking to our family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about joining America Lodge #2245.

If you have any prospective new members, please reach out to Jo Ann Maggio at (516) 850-5288 or masav1128@yahoo.com for an application. You can also visit our website at www.americalodge2245.com/Membership. And if you're feeling neighborly, consider bringing a friend to our October 15th meeting!



Check out our Website and Facebook page! We post photos of our meetings and events, provide informative posts on our Italian Culture and Heritage and keep our members informed about Lodge and local events! Come log on and see what we're up to!

 Find us on
Facebook
America Lodge #2245

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **October 5, America Lodge #2245 Memorial Mass 9:45 am.**
- **October 7, 14, 21 America Lodge Mah Jongg** at the Franklin Square Library.
- **October 8, Il Dolce Libro Book Club Movie Night "Cinema Paradiso".** See flyer pg. 20.
- **October 11, LI Columbus Day Parade,** Lake Ave Firehouse, Deer Park. See info. on pg. 20.
- **October 14, America Lodge Council Meeting,** Franklin Square Library 7:00 pm. *note change in date!*
- **October 15, America Lodge General Membership Meeting,** Franklin Square VFW 7:30 pm.
- **October 19, America Lodge 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance** at Leonards. Contact VP Karen Mollish (516) 852-2823 or IPP Andrew Monteleone (516) 784-9142. See flyer pages 18 & 19.
- **November 15, America Lodge Wind Creek Casino.** See flyer pg. 20.
- **December 7, America Lodge Annual Christmas Party** *Save the Date pg. 21. More details to follow.
- **December 13, America Lodge Opera Matinee:** Umberto Giordano's Andrea Chénier. See flyer pg. 20.

BUON COMPLEANNO!
TO OUR OTTOBRE
CELEBRANTS!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Augusta Anzalone, Logan Balsan, Nancy Binda,
Frank Damiani, Jessie D'Esposito, Grazia DeCiantis,
Scott Goldmann, Paola Mancini, Susan McKee,
Carmela Schipani, Susan Somella, Maria Thaler.



CONGRATULATIONS



Art and Dot Corvese who celebrated their **50th wedding anniversary**
and
John and Lauren Giuffré who celebrated their **35th wedding anniversary.**

GET WELL SOON !!

Andrew Monteleone, Antonino Guarrasi,
Sylvia Giglio, Jean Fichtl, Enzo Davi.



A Juicy Tale...



Sicilian born **Anthony T. Rossi** came to the United States when he was 21. Armed with \$30 in his pocket, and rough, broken English, he and several friends planned to earn enough money in New York to finance an African expedition they planned to turn into a film.

In New York City he held various jobs and worked as a machinist's assistant, cab/limousine driver and grocer before abandoning his film making endeavors. He reportedly said, "I came first to New York. But I like the country so much, I don't leave." And he didn't leave, but after 20 years in NYC he relocated to Florida.

He moved to Florida with the intent of becoming a tomato farmer, but that venture failed. He opened a cafeteria which prospered, and eventually he owned restaurants in Miami and Bradenton. But the rationing caused by World War II crippled his restaurants, causing Rossi to seek other opportunities. During this time, Rossi became involved with the Florida citrus industry. Soon after closing his restaurants, Rossi began selling "gift fruit boxes" to famous New York department stores like Macy's and Gimbel's.

From this fruit venture, Rossi transitioned into juice and distributed fresh orange juice to local customers. In 1946, Rossi founded a small orange juice company in western Florida and thus began the Tropicana Products company. Tropicana's early distribution of fresh orange juice was by way of hand-delivered juice jars to nearby homes, but demand grew, especially in New York City. As the popularity of Tropicana products grew, Rossi bought a ship, the S.S. Tropicana which was used to ship up to 1.5 million US gallons of juice to New York each week.

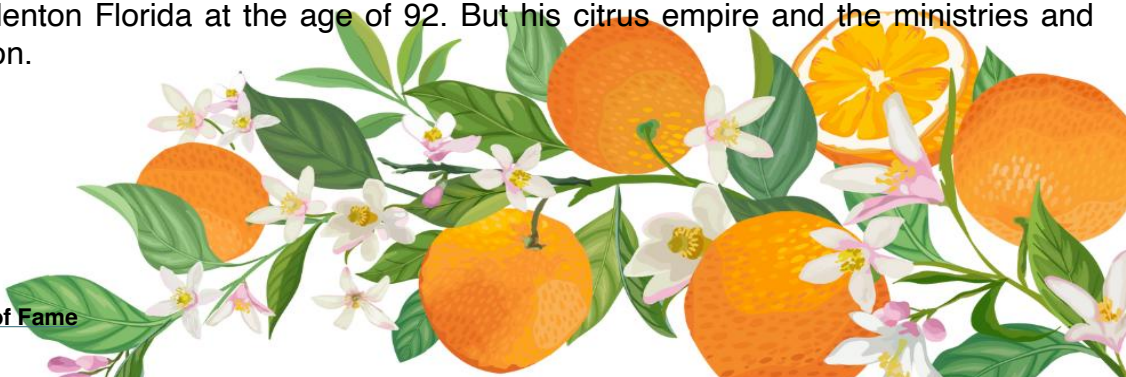
As the years progressed, Tropicana only continued to grow, causing Rossi to develop the Tropicana Juice Train in 1970. Tropicana orange juice was shipped in bulk, via insulated boxcars, in what was a mile long train with each boxcar carrying one million gallons of orange juice to New Jersey on a weekly basis. By the following year, the company was operating two 60-car unit trains a week. He not only dominated the market, but he also revolutionized the industry.

Rossi's immense success in the fresh orange juice market earned him the title: "The Father of Chilled Juice in Florida." In 1978, Rossi retired and sold Tropicana for nearly \$500 million.

Despite his enormous accomplishments, this is not what he wished to be remembered by. Rather, Anthony Rossi once stated that his organizations are here "to please the Lord, we don't try to please man. We try to get along with man in the best way possible – to love one another – but not to be better than anyone else. Pride is a sin." It was a traumatic event from Rossi's childhood that made him think more about God and spiritual things. A catastrophic earthquake and tsunami struck Messina when Anthony was 8 years old, flattening much of the town and killing thousands.

After selling Tropicana, Rossi used his money to begin several charitable Christian ventures including Bradenton Missionary Village, a home for retired missionaries, and Aurora Ministries, an organization that created and mailed audio tapes of scripture in native languages of dozens of countries worldwide. He also traveled back home to Italy annually from 1952, and in 1966 he helped to fund a church and mission there. Anthony died in 1993 in Bradenton Florida at the age of 92. But his citrus empire and the ministries and missions that he created live on.

Source:
A Juice Giant – Florida Currents
Our Story – Tropicana
Anthony T. Rossi - Florida Citrus Hall of Fame



"WE DIDN'T LOSE THE GAME; WE JUST RAN OUT OF TIME."



With football season in full swing, we thought you might want to learn more about one of the most famous football coaches who just happens to be Italian. He was inducted into Pro Football's Hall of Fame and under his leadership his team won five NFL Championships in seven years. In fact, the Super Bowl trophy is named in his honor: **the Vince Lombardi Trophy**.

There were three constants throughout Lombardi's life, his Roman Catholic religion, his family, and football. Although born in Brooklyn, both of his parents were from Southern Italy. His father and uncle were butchers and opened a shop in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. And even during the depression his family did well. Vince helped out in the family business although he knew he didn't want to become a butcher; he hated it.

Church was very important, and he enrolled in Cathedral Preparatory Seminary. Although he played on the school's baseball and basketball teams his performance was hindered by his poor athleticism and eyesight. Against school rules, he played football off campus. He decided not to become a priest but attended daily Mass throughout his life.

He joined St. Francis Preparatory school and made the All-City football team as a fullback. In 1933, he earned a football scholarship to Fordham University. Fordham's website says Vince Lombardi came to Fordham with a football scholarship in hand and a Brooklyn-sized chip on his shoulder. At five-foot-eight and 185 pounds, the stocky but undersized kid from Sheepshead Bay was determined to make an impression on the gridiron. Little did he know how lasting this impression would be.

After graduation he had a few coaching jobs, but the country was still plagued by the Great Depression. With his father's support and encouragement, he enrolled in Fordham Law School. However, he dropped out after only one semester due to his desire to start and support a family.

Lombardi's roommate Jim Lawlor introduced him to his cousin's relative; Marie Planitz. They wanted to get married but her stockbroker father did not like the idea of his daughter marrying the son of an Italian butcher from Brooklyn. This was a prejudice Lombardi knew well from outside their local neighborhood. He and his siblings were subject to the rampant ethnic discrimination that existed at the time against Italian immigrants and their descendants. Nonetheless, Lombardi and Marie wed on August 31, 1940.

Lombardi continued coaching football and following an assistant coaching job at West Point, he accepted his first position in the NFL with the New York Giants. Lombardi was known for his discipline, attention to detail, and focus on fundamentals. He emphasized teamwork, perseverance, and work ethics. His coaching style and philosophy had a profound impact on professional football.

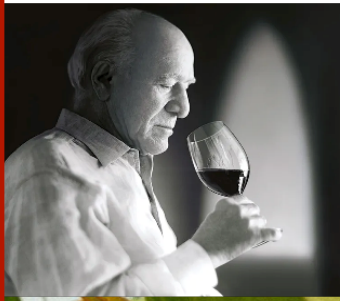
Vince Lombardi's achievements and influence also extend well beyond football. Lombardi's speeches and leadership principles left a lasting impact: "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence," "Winners never quit and quitters never win," "The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work".

Vince Lombardi's impact was significant, instilling values of discipline, hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. His emphasis on foundational principles, loyalty, and character-building provided a blueprint for success, teaching that true achievement comes from dedicated effort, not just natural talent.

Source:
Vince Lombardi | Official Website | Football Coaching Legend
Vince Lombardi - Wikipedia
Vincent T. Lombardi | Fordham

“Nella botte piccola c’è il vino buono”

(In small barrels, there’s good wine)



No other country in the world produces more wine than Italy. We know that wines are produced in regions, and wine grapes grow best between the 30th and the 50th degrees of latitude. This area is found in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, and not surprisingly, Italy and California share this area in common.

Some of America’s best wines were grown by first-generation Italian, **Robert Mondavi**. Mondavi’s parents emigrated from the Marche region of Italy and settled in Hibbing, Minnesota. When he was 10 years old his family moved to Lodi, California. His dad established a fruit packing business under the name C. Mondavi and Sons, shipping grapes to the east coast to be used for home winemaking. Robert graduated from Stanford University with a degree in economics and business administration and joined the family business. But in 1966, after a family disagreement, he started his own winery located in Oakville, within California’s Napa Valley region.

Robert Mondavi saw what few others did, that Napa Valley could rival the great wine regions of the world. He believed in wines that reflected their origin, shaped by soil, climate, and the hands that farm the land. He drew inspiration from the Old World and introduced innovative winemaking techniques that redefined standards of excellence.

Mondavi travelled the world promoting Napa Valley. He encouraged Americans to appreciate food and wine culture. And he brought culture to Napa Valley itself, founding a cultural center, an art school, and even restoring an Opera House. He dedicated himself to creating experiences that brought people together, blending the worlds of wine, cuisine, and the arts. Through vibrant cultural events and a spirit of hospitality, Robert invited all who visited to embrace a life of appreciation, conviviality, and community.

After decades of experiments and passion, his search for excellence was achieved when the Grand European Jury Wine Tasting of 1997 awarded the Robert Mondavi Chardonnay Reserve, first place. In 2005, Mondavi and his younger brother Peter made wine together for the first time since their feud. Using grapes from both family vineyards, they produced one barrel of cabernet blend, which was sold for \$400,000 under the name "Ancora Una Volta" ("Once Again") at the 2005 Napa Valley Auction.

Robert Mondavi received the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 2002, recognizing his lifetime contributions to the wine industry and his efforts in promoting Italian values of good food, wine, and culture in America. This honor is Italy's most senior order of merit. “My passion for bringing wine into the American culture was motivated by a desire to plant deep into the soil of our young country the same values, traditions and daily pleasures that my mother and father had brought with them from central Italy; good food, good wine and love of family.”

“In vino veritas”...In wine there is truth.

Source:

[Robert Mondavi - Wikipedia](#)

[Mission Accomplished - The Drinks Business](#)

[Experience Napa Valley Fine Wine – Robert Mondavi Winery](#)



Newsletter -Thank You!

The September Lion's Roar had a couple of articles that really surprised me with things I never knew.

What a great feeling I got reading how an Italian young man became the chief stone carver on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial. I will forever look at that Monument with so much pride knowing Luigi Del Bianco was involved.

The Bean Bags were another surprise, how 3 young Italian designers came up with that idea at the time. They were very popular when they first came out!

And finally, how inspirational to hear about the different Saints and to know all the work they did and how, the work we all do, parallel each other and the fact that these Saints all walk with us as we do them.

What a comforting feeling to know that. Great job Donna, great job Mark.
~Anthony Spano

America Lodge Annual Picnic in the Park - Thank you!

This year's annual picnic in the park was another fantastic event, with 144 members, family, and friends in attendance. We truly appreciate all who attended, especially the members from other OSDIA lodges. Once again, the staff and food from Plattduetsche were exceptional, with some even claiming the food was more delicious than last year.

Many people contributed to this event, starting with our two sponsors, **John Giuffré** and **John Koziarz**, who have generously supported this event for the past three years. Their unwavering support allows our members, friends, and family to enjoy the picnic at a reduced per-person price.

Special thanks to my co-chair, **Freddie Pittella**, who makes this event what it is.

Marie Geneva Frank played a crucial role in arranging and creating gift baskets. Year after year, **Jeannette, Bianca, and Angelo LaVeglia** showcase their creativity by transforming member donations into ten of the most beautiful raffle baskets. **Bill Teitz** went above and beyond by coming to my home to load the raffle baskets into his truck and assisting with their delivery and setup at the venue. **Jo Maggio, Nancie Caracciolo, Debra Goldmann, Lisa Spano, and Mary Rose O'Hara** diligently checked guests in, sold 50/50 and raffle tickets, and ensured everything ran smoothly. **Anthony Spano**, our own magician, captivated the audience with his enchanting walk-around magic. **Rosanna and Joe Weitekamp** brought along the games for the children to enjoy.

In terms of numbers, the picnic raised \$560.00 for our scholarship fund, and the combined profit from the raffle and 50/50 tickets amounted to \$3,090.00.

We were delighted to have **Elaine Phillips**, the Comptroller of Nassau County, present America Lodge with a congratulatory citation. Additionally, we had the pleasure of receiving visits from Nassau County Legislator **John Giuffré**, Town of Hempstead Supervisor **John Ferretti**, and Town Councilman **Thomas Muscarella**.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to **Joe Armocida** for once again entrusting me with the responsibility of chairing the picnic. Planning this event is a labor of love, and I eagerly anticipate continuing the tradition that our founding members established many years ago.

Maria Passalacqua
Chair, America Lodge Summer Picnic

America Lodge 3rd Annual Picnic





America Lodge Mah Jongg



Bocce at Rath Park



NY Grand Lodge Gift of Sight



District I Brunch



District I Brunch honoring National President Thomas Lupo and NY Grand Lodge President Arthur Spera





AMERICA LODGE #2245
2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL RENEWAL

AMERICA LODGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I know it's hard to believe but it is almost that time of year where America Lodge will be mailing out the 2026 dues notices.

Last year we tried something a little different by asking everyone via email to send in their dues and it was a huge success so we will be doing it again this year. We are requesting that you mail in your dues without receiving formal mailed notice. If we do not receive your dues by November 15th, notices will be mailed.

Dues are \$50.00 and checks should be made payable to America Lodge #2245.

IMPORTANT: If you are a **new member** that joined from September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, you do **NOT** have to pay dues for 2026 as they were included in your 2025 payment.

Please include below information with your payment:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail payment to:

Maria Passalacqua, 265 Cleveland Street, Franklin Square, New York 11010

THANK YOU!

America Lodge appreciates your continued support and membership!

BECOME AN OFFICER!



2026 ELECTIONS!

AMERICA LODGE #2245

It's That Time of Year Again...

America Lodge will elect our officers this February, and we wanted to invite **everyone** to learn more about our officer positions and responsibilities. We hope this information will help you discern whether you are ready to become an officer!

For any organization to succeed they must consider a *Succession Plan* (a pipeline of talent ready to fill roles in the future, ensuring continuity and growth). Because our officer positions are voted on, and elections are held every two years, America Lodge must always identify and prepare its future leaders. An effective Succession Plan calls for talented new officers to join the ranks of existing officers to bring **new** ideas, **new** leadership styles and **new** perspectives.

Some may ask, what are the qualities of an officer? Well, as an officer, you need to have initiative, ambition, good judgement together with a certain human kindness all cemented with an unfailing sense of courtesy and tact. At the heart of it all, officers are members just like **YOU**, who volunteer to help our Lodge and OSDIA grow and share our beautiful heritage.

Any effective leader knows that to be successful; you mustn't forget the past, you must build on it. America Lodge has a wonderful 54-year history, rich with visions and ideas which have all come to fruition. Together we stand, proud to be Italian Americans and celebrate everything our Italian forefathers and descendants gave the world.

Is now your time to step up and join our officer ranks? I think you will be surprised at how such a small contribution of your time can yield such great results. Your contribution helps us ensure the continued viability and strength of America Lodge. If you can't volunteer at this time, won't you please encourage and talk to someone about becoming an officer. Your support may be all they need...



PRESIDENT

ART. 22. The President is the highest-ranking officer and the leader of the Local Lodge and as such;

- (a) Calls and presides over all the meetings of the Council and of the assembly.
- (b) Sees that the laws of the Local Lodge are observed and the deliberation of the Council and of the assembly are carried out.
- (c) Sees that the laws of the Order are respected and observed, and the orders of the Supreme Lodge and of the Grand Lodge are obeyed.
- (d) Controls the affairs of the Local Lodge and supervises the performance of duties by the other officers of the Council.
- (e) Signs the minutes of the meetings of the assembly and all orders of payment, checks, correspondence, and all documents which invest the responsibility of the Local Lodge.
- (f) Unless the laws of the Local Lodge provide otherwise, the President appoints all committees of the Local Lodge, of which the President is an ex-officio member.
- (g) Refrains from making proposals at the meetings of the assembly; participates in discussions only to clarify the issues presented and votes only in case of a tie.
- (h) After hearing the opinion of the Orator, the President rules upon controversies involving the application of the laws. The member who disagrees with the ruling and the interpretation of the President shall appeal within 10 days to the State President in case the Local Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and to the National President, in case the Local Lodge is under the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge.
- (i) When disorder arises in the meeting of the assembly or of the Council, the President may silence or censure the member or members causing such disorder. If such member or members persist in causing disorder, the President may fine, silence or expel the member or members from the hall or suspend the meeting.
- (j) May appoint a Chaplain whose primary duties shall be to conduct, whenever practicable, all religious exercises of the Local Lodge. The Chaplain shall also perform such other duties relating to the office, as shall be assigned to the office from time to time by the President.

VICE PRESIDENT

ART.23. The Vice President is the second ranking officer of the Local Lodge. As such, the Vice President assists the President and takes the President's place when the President is absent or unable to act. In the absence of the President, the Vice President performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with like power which the President would have, if present.

RECORDING SECRETARY

ART. 26. The Recording Secretary is the custodian of the archives and the keeper of the seal of the Local Lodge. The Recording Secretary's duties are:

- (a) To take and record the minutes of the meetings of the Council and of the assembly, which minutes are to be at the discretion of the Local Lodge distributed to all members prior to the successive meeting or read at the successive meeting.
- (b) To make up and keep up to date the membership roll of the Local Lodge.
- (c) To care for correspondence and write letters which the Recording Secretary is directed to write by the President or other higher officer in the ranking units of the Order.
- (d) To be the sole officer through whom a member may communicate with the Grand Council.
- (e) To write and send notices for meetings.
- (f) To act as the clerk of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission when such Commission is in session, except in case the Recording Secretary is an interested party.
- (g) Within ten days after receipt, to forward to the State Recording Secretary all appeals referred or presented to the Recording Secretary by members because of administrative irregularities. The appeals when forwarded shall be accompanied by a report of the views expressed by the Council.
- (h) To carry out all orders which the Recording Secretary may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher-ranking officers of the Order. (Art. 26 revised 10/15/2021)

NEW YORK SUPPLEMENTAL BYLAWS

Article 26 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

B.L.2: If the office of Corresponding Secretary is established by a Local Lodge, pursuant to B.L.2 et seq. of Article 21 hereof, the duties of the Corresponding Secretary shall be as follows:

- 1. To maintain a file of all Local Lodge correspondence;
- 2. To write letters as directed by the President;
- 3. To notify members of meetings;
- 4. To make and keep up to date the Local Lodge membership lists;
- 5. To be the sole officer through whom a member may communicate with the Grand Council;
- 6. To read all pertinent correspondence at meetings; and
- 7. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President concomitant with the officer of Corresponding Secretary.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ART.27. The Financial Secretary is the collector and accountant of the Local Lodge. The Financial Secretary's duties are:

- (a) To collect dues and assessments, giving proper receipt therefor.
- (b) To write orders of payment, affixing the Financial Secretary's signature thereon, together with that of the President.
- (c) To present orders of payment to the Treasurer, who issues checks thereon, which checks the Financial Secretary presents to the parties to whom they are payable, exacting at the same time money due from such parties to the Local Lodge.
- (d) To make up and keep up to date financial records, particularly those entrusted to the Financial Secretary by the Grand Lodge or Supreme Lodge. Those financial records are: The ledger, the journal book, the financial statements, and the orders of payments.
- (e) To notify by mail those members who are in default with the payment of dues and assessments.
- (f) To announce members in default with the payment of dues and assessments to the assembly.
- (g) To communicate, at the end of each meeting of the assembly, the total collections and disbursements made on the day of the meeting.
- (h) To make a quarterly financial report, which report is to be audited and signed by no less than three trustees, a copy of which is to be sent to the State Financial Secretary.
- (i) To make payment of the Capita Tax, computed on the basis of the number of members listed on the membership roll at the end of each quarter, which payment shall be made, without the necessity of deliberation on the part of the assembly of the Local Lodge, not later than January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th of each year.
- (j) To carry out all orders which the Financial Secretary may receive, in matters affecting the office, from the President and from higher ranking officers of the Order.

TREASURER

ART.28. The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Local Lodge. The Treasurer's duties are:

- (a) To receive at the end of each meeting all money collected by the Financial Secretary and to issue proper receipt therefor.
- (b) To record in and keep up to date the Cash Book of the Local Lodge, in which record the Treasurer shall register monthly income and disbursements of the Local Lodge.
- (c) Not later than three days after each meeting, to deposit in previously designated banks the funds received by the Treasurer in accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge.
- (d) To issue and sign checks upon the receipt of proper order of payment and consign them to the Financial Secretary for delivery to the payee thereof.
- (e) To withdraw funds from savings accounts opened in the name of the Local Lodge; provided the withdrawal slip bears the signature of the President, of the Financial Secretary, and of at least one Trustee, in addition to the Treasurer's; and provided further that the assembly of the Local Lodge may dispense with the signature of the Trustee when deemed advisable.
- (f) To carry out such orders which the Treasurer may receive, in matters pertaining to the office, from the President or from the higher-ranking officers of the Order.

ORATOR

ART.25. The Orator gives opinion concerning the application and interpretation of the laws of the Order and sees that the laws of the Order are observed and properly applied. In matters which relate to the administration of the affairs of the Local Lodge, the Orator is subordinate to the President. In matter relating to the exercise of Judicial Power, the Orator is subordinate to the State or National Order. The Orator, either on the Orator's own initiative or upon complaint being made to the Orator, shall have power to prefer written charges against a member who has violated the laws of the Order.

TRUSTEES

ART.29. The Trustees supervise the affairs of the Local Lodge and are members of the Council. Their duties are:

- (a) To examine and audit the books kept by the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the Local Lodge.
- (b) To examine and audit the quarterly report of the Financial Secretary, certifying as to its correctness by affixing their signatures thereon; provided, however, that such report shall not be valid unless it bears the signature of no less than three Trustees in addition to that of the Financial Secretary.
- (c) To perform such additional duties, in matters pertaining to their office, imposed upon them by the laws of the Order or by the deliberation of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

MASTERS AND/OR MISTRESSES OF CEREMONIES

ART.30. The Masters and/or Mistresses of Ceremonies are officers of the Local Lodge who participate in ceremonial activities prescribed by the laws of the Order during the course of the meetings of the assembly of the Local Lodge.

GUARD

ART.31. The Guard is the doorkeeper of the Local Lodge. The Guard's duty is to exclude strangers from the meetings of the assembly and to admit those members who have identified themselves by announcing their presence to the President, who, in turn, orders the Guard to either admit or exclude such members.

LOCAL LODGE ARBITRATION COMMISSION

Art. 33. The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is the judicial tribunal of the Local Lodge. The rules and regulations which prescribe the mode of procedure, the jurisdiction, the powers and the revenue incident to the functioning of the Local Lodge Arbitration Commission are set for in the Judicial Code of the Order.

The Local Lodge Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) regular members, known as Commissioners, and five alternate members, known as Alternate Commissioners. The Local Lodge Commissioners and the Local Lodge Alternate Commissioners are elected at the annual meeting for electing officers of the Local Lodge for a period of one (1) year and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Local Lodges holding biennial elections shall elect their Arbitration Commission members for a period of two (2) years and shall serve until the successors are elected and installed. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be filled by the Alternate Commissioner who received the highest number of votes during the election of the Alternate Commissioners.

America Lodge 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance celebration

honoring

OSDA National President Thomas Lupo

NY Grand Lodge President Arthur Spera

and

America Lodge Corresponding Secretary, Award Winning Newsletter Editor and Website Creator,

Donna Giorandino Johnson

Sunday, October 19th 2025

The answer to the question in my Editor's message is "C": To remember the largest single mass lynching in U.S. history that murdered 11 innocent Italian Americans in New Orleans.

It happens only once a year. **And this year it promises to be the best ever!** When America Lodge is honoring the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America's new National President, Tom Lupo, new New York State President, Arthur Spera, and our very own Donna Giorandino Johnson, **we are pulling out all the stops.**

Leonard's Palazzo is one of the finest event venues on Long Island, as noted by the "wedding wire", and with over 2000 Google reviews, they are the perfect choice to host this year's event. **Accordingly, this year's menu will be incredible!**

It all starts at 12:00pm on Sunday, October 19th.

We thought it would be fun to share with you our delicious dining options. But the list is too long for one email. **So for the next three days we will share with you what to expect for our appetizers, entrees and desserts.**

For a little teaser...the Cocktail hour includes PREMIUM liquors, six cold displays, six hot hors d'oeuvres and the famous Palazzo Charcuterie displayed on butcher block! Then there is the first course appetizer. You will have YOUR CHOICE OF FOUR Entrees. And I hope you saved room, because we didn't forget about dessert. Wait until you see what is planned...

Of course there will be music and dancing, beautiful floral centerpieces, green, white and red napkins/linens. Five full hours of entertainment, food, family and fun, all for the same price as last year; only \$125. EVERYTHING IS INCLUDED!!

In tomorrow's email we will take a deeper dive into exactly what will be served during the cocktail hour. The list is extensive!!

Did you reserve your tickets yet? Trust us, you won't want to miss this year's Dinner Dance. **I can't remember when America Lodge last honored both our National and State Presidents during the same event. Tom and Arthur will share their visions for the future of the Order.** You can read the bios from this year's honorees in our wonderfully famous **Dinner Dance Journal!** You can also place a congratulatory advertisement supporting our honorees as well as America Lodge.

Yes, America Lodges 54th Annual Anniversary Dinner Dance will be EPIC! **The only thing that will make it even more special is you...** We hope to see you there! So stay tuned for tomorrow's email discussion about our cocktail hour. Who knew you could pack so much food and drinks into one hour?

To reserve your tickets please contact event organizers Andrew Monteleone or Karen Mollish. To place a Journal advertisement or booster, please contact Debra Goldmann.

Dinner Dance Cocktail Hour

This is where America Lodge's 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance begins...

Leonard's Palazzo's Grand Ballroom with its stunning custom made crystal chandelier, 27 foot onyx stone bar, expansive hand painted murals, sound-proof stage, and private bathrooms is over 7,000 square feet of opulence and beauty.

The Grand Ballroom is conveniently located on the first floor and easily accessible. It can accommodate over 800 guests and is described as a "spectacular haven of elegance and luxury."

The cocktail hour which begins at 12 pm includes Premium liquor, beer, soda, and juices served at the aforementioned onyx stone bar. Every table will have Cabernet and Pinot Grigio to enjoy without the need to visit the bar.

Our cocktail hour food choices are incredible!

The cold displays will feature:
Fresh mozzarella and tomatoes
Seasonal grilled vegetable medley
Edamame, corn, and farro salad
Insalata di Mare
Cold antipasto salad
Mediterranean salad

The famous Palazzo Charcuterie is displayed on magnificent butcher blocks and will include dry aged hot and sweet Italian sausage, imported cured meats, assorted hand-chiseled cheese wheels, toasted crostini's and flatbreads with toppings of bruschetta and crumbled goat cheese, and imported olives and Italian specialities.

If that weren't enough the hot displays feature:

Steak Tips
Calamari Fritte
Tuscan Chicken
Crispy Butterflied Shrimp
Eggplant Rollatini
Risotto Arancini

To reserve your tickets or place a Journal advertisement please contact Andrew Monteleone, or Karen Mollish. For Journal ads and Boosters please contact Debra Goldmann.

Wait until you see tomorrow's email with all of the entrees!!! Get your tickets now...

America Lodge #2245 Anniversary Dinner Dance

As promised America Lodge attendees and guests, below are your delicious entree selections. The impeccable table service will begin immediately following the opening remarks & blessing.

* Reception *

First Course Appetizer

Rigatoni Bolognese in a classic beef-based bolognese sauce

Entrees

Guest Choice of Four:

- Herb Rubbed Salmon Beurre Blanc
- Oven Roasted Filet Mignon with a warm demi-glaze of roasted shallots and a red wine reduction
- Herb Roasted Chicken Breast Seasoned French-cut chicken breast sauteed in a rustic shallot demi-glaze
- Melanzana Pomodoro - Wedge of eggplant topped with fresh parmesan, baked and layered

****All Entrees Accompanied by Chef Selection of Seasonal Vegetable and Starch****

Premium Bar (remains open for the event)

Gin, Bourbon, Whiskey, Scotch, Vodka and assorted flavors, Spiced and coconut rums, Southern Comfort, Campari, Tequila, Amaretto, Triple Sec, Peach Schnapps, Blue Curacao, Melon liqueur, House selection of Red and White Wines, Imported and Domestic Beers, Assorted soft drinks and juices. Cabernet and Pinot Grigio Set on Guest tables.

To reserve your tickets please contact Andrew Monteleone, or Karen Mollish. For Journal ads and Boosters please contact Debra Goldmann.

Wait until you see tomorrow's email with the best part....desserts!!! Get your tickets now...

We saved the best for last....

To help you make room for dessert and work off that incredible cocktail hour and delicious dinner, **DJ Music Flex** will entertain us and get us on the dance floor! DJ Music Flex has stellar reviews, lauding his performance, personality and playlists.

For dessert we will have:

Fresh Brewed Coffee, Tea, Espresso, Cappuccino Decaf & Regular
Occasion Sheet Cake: Yellow sponge cake with Chocolate Mousse filling.

Bakery Cookies
Biscotti Included on Guest tables

Ice Cream Sundae Bar

Assorted Ice Cream Flavors, Toppings Include: Whipped Cream, Chocolate Syrup, Rainbow Sprinkles, Chocolate Sprinkles, M&M's, Gummy Bears, Oreo Cookie Crumble, Heath Bar.

Our Annual Dinner Dance is less than a month away! Get your tickets now!! America Lodge is fortunate to host our newly elected National President Thom Lupo, our newly elected State President Arthur Spera and our very own Donna Giorandino Johnson. We are asking ALL America Lodge members to come and join us and show your support and appreciation for our honorees as well as to celebrate America Lodge's 54th year in the Order.

Please contact Andrew Monteleone or Karen Mollish for tickets. To place a journal advertisement or booster, please call Debra Goldmann.

We can't wait to see you on October 19th at 12:00pm. Get your outfits ready, your dancing shoes on and most of all come hungry and ready to celebrate this beautiful occasion!!





AMERICA LODGE #2245

Joseph Armocida, President

54th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Honoring

OSDTA National President Thomas Lupo,

NYS President Arthur Spera, and

*America Lodge Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Website creator,
Donna Giorandino Johnson.*

Sunday, The Nineteenth Day of October, 2025

Leonard's Palazzo

555 Northern Boulevard, Great Neck New York 11021

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Cocktail Hour, Dinner & Dancing, Open Bar and Music

Tickets are \$125.00 per person, paid in advance.

Please make your checks payable to **America Lodge #2245**

If you wish to reserve a table, it should be no more than 10 people.

Please return this form along with your reservation information and payment.

The Dinner Dance Committee will try their best to accommodate seating requests.

PLEASE RSVP BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Karen Mollish, 223 James Street, Franklin Square, NY 11010

Please contact Chairpersons Karen Mollish (516) 852-2823, or Andrew Monteleone (516) 784-9142
with any questions

NAME _____

NAME OF LODGE (If applicable) _____

Phone # _____ **Check #** _____ **Amount Paid:** _____

Number of Guests Attending _____

Please list the names of your guests whom you would like to be seated with on the back of this response.



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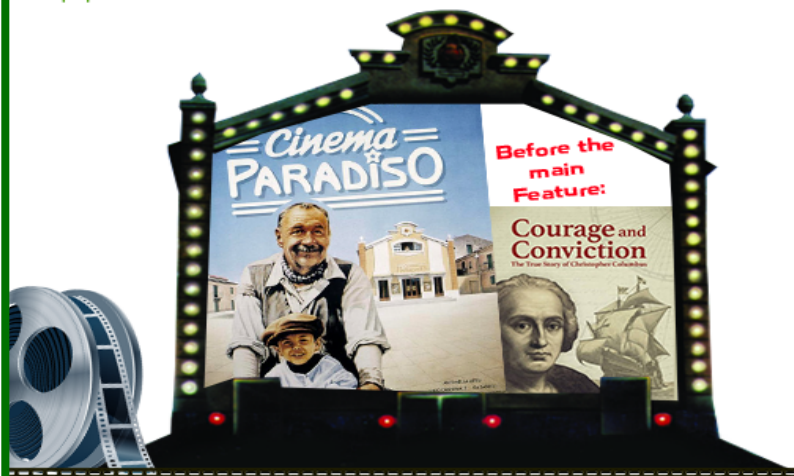
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Contact Opera Chairperson Jo Falabella (516) 354-2989

Make checks payable to America Lodge #2245 and mail to:
Jo Falabella, 51 Vassar Street, Garden City, NY 11530

The bus departs from the public parking lot behind Wendy's off Hempstead Turnpike in
Franklin Square. Please be there at 9:30 am as the bus will leave at 10:00 am SHARP.



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