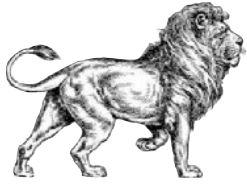


THE LION'S ROAR



AMERICA LODGE #2245

“AMERICA LODGE, WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY”



VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY **FRATERNITY**

Volume 55
Issue 4
April 2026



AMERICA LODGE # 2245

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AMERICA LODGE #2245

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*deceased



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Nancie Caracciolo, Mary Versaci, Dennis Lyons, Linda Camolli, Nicole Armocida. Alternates: Cindy Lampasi, Mary Rose O'Hara, Mary Sperrazza.

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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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



On behalf of your newly installed officers, we want to wish you and your families ***Buona Pasqua a tutti***- Happy Easter! And in the spirit of spring and in celebration of our Risen Lord, send us photos of you, your children or grandchildren in your Easter bonnets and we will feature them in our next issue of the Lion's Roar.

Our March meeting and officer installation was an incredible event. America Lodge was privileged to have had in attendance OSDIA New York State President Arthur Spera and First Lady Joanne who participated in the ceremony.

We also shared the evening with several state officials as well as numerous lodge presidents and our fellow lodge brothers and sisters. Our friend, and worthy OSDIA National President Thom Lupo, was with us in spirit as, unfortunately, he had a scheduling conflict. We spoke the next day, and he expressed that he was sorry that he was unable to attend.

It warmed my heart as I looked over a full house, packed with lodge members. As I said during my speech, America Lodge has so many things to be proud of. From our famous "sea of red" at Walk for a Cure, Memorial Day and Columbus Day parades, to last year's hosting of the Spring Plenary, or our representation at the Italian-American Night at Eisenhower Park or the raising of the Italian Flag at Hempstead Town Hall. We've been featured in the LI Herald and once again ***America Lodge was awarded Best Newsletter in New York***. It's hard to believe, one year ago, we launched our website, and to date we've welcomed over 1632 visitors from all over America. Best of all, we continue to grow! And as I said in my speech, to honor America, America Lodge wants to grow to 250 members in celebration of our country's 250th semi-quincentennial anniversary. I know we can do it!

I know none of this could have been possible without YOU and I again want to thank you for everything that you do to support America Lodge; to celebrate our wonderful Italian culture and heritage, to the way you beautifully give back to our communities and members. I am honored to have been installed for a second two-year term, and I am looking forward to seeing what we accomplish in the next two years. I again want to thank our mistress of ceremony, past lodge president, past state president and current national trustee Carolyn Reres. Carolyn's attention to detail made the night a huge success. I also want to thank Nassau County District 8 Legislator John Giuffrè for his heartfelt presentation and announcement, as well as congratulate, our very own Ellen Andrasick for representing Nassau County by being honored at New York State's 50th Annual Older Americans Conference celebrating outstanding volunteerism and community leadership. America Lodge truly has so much to celebrate!

Looking forward, we still have a few numbers left in our share the wealth board that supports our scholarship program. In addition, as I mentioned at our February meeting, we are bringing back our raffle that we used to run years ago. This time with a twist. Fifty percent of the proceeds will be split between three prize winners (25%, 12.5% and 12.5%), twenty five percent will go the Marty Lyons Foundation which is the Grand Lodges newest charity (see this issue of your newsletter for a great story on the MLF) and twenty five percent will go to the lodge and our many endeavors. See the flyer in the newsletter as well as your mailbox!

I am looking forward to all the things we have planned and are working on for the rest of the year. Don't forget to read your award-winning newsletter, cover-to-cover, to rejoice in the significance of the resurrection and how, as Italians and Italian-Americans, we welcome Easter as a rite of spring.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event, if not before.

Fraternally, Joe

BUONA PASQUA



Buona Pasqua



Spring has officially arrived and with it comes one of the most joyful and meaningful times of the year.

In this issue, we're celebrating the season in true Italian fashion. You'll discover the delicious traditions behind Italy's Easter pies on pages 8 and 9. Following on page 10, take a closer look at the beautifully crafted chocolate eggs that fill shop windows each spring. Next, page 11 uncovers the fascinating way the spring equinox helps determine when Easter is celebrated each year.

We also take a moment to reflect. On page 12, our piece on Festa della Liberazione reminds us of the strength and spirit behind Italy's fight for freedom, while a look at Naples' last numeraio on page 13 offers a glimpse into a fading tradition and the everyday stories that make a place so unique. Thank you to Vice President Maria Passalacqua for suggesting this interesting story.

And because spring is all about fresh starts and beauty, we couldn't resist a visit to the breathtaking Garden of Ninfa—a place that truly feels like stepping into a dream this time of year. The story and photos on page 14 are amazing!

Finally, on page 15, we're honored to highlight a new NY OSDIA Grand Lodge Foundation® charity, the Marty Lyons Foundation, whose incredible work continues to bring hope and happiness to families who need it most—a perfect reminder of what this season is all about.

So whether you're here for the food, the history, or a little inspiration, we hope this issue brings a smile to your face and a spring to your step.

Wishing you a joyful Easter and a wonderful season ahead!




Buona Pasqua!

Donna

Membership Corner

America Lodge #2245 is celebrating our Country's 250th birthday with a charge to our members....**Let's grow America Lodge #2245 to 250 members !**

Celebrating 250 Years of the USA

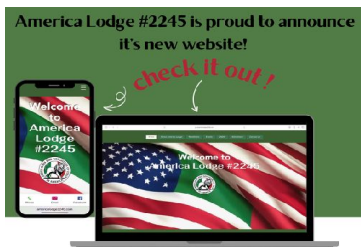
Honoring 250 years of the United States with Italian heart, rich heritage, and 250 proud members leading the celebration    From tradition to togetherness, we're bringing the spirit of Italy to this historic American milestone—one unforgettable celebration at a time!



Let's keep the momentum going by spreading the word about America Lodge! Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about joining our *famiglia*—new members are the heartbeat of a vibrant and thriving Lodge. If you know someone who may be interested, visit our website www.americallodge2245.com/Membership for a membership application!

And if you're feeling especially neighborly, we'd love for you to bring a friend to our April 15th General meeting—we can't wait to welcome them!


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!



WWW.americallodge2245.COM



www.americallodge2245.com

 Find us on
Facebook
America Lodge #2245

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 8 America Lodge Council Meeting *****NOTE CHANGE IN DATE!***** Fr. Sq. Library, 7:00 pm.
- April 15 America Lodge General Meeting. FS VFW, 68 Lincoln Rd. 7:30 pm.
- April 18 Italian Heritage Day trip. Contact Phyllis-Ann O'Connell.
- April 25 Wind Creek Casino trip. Contact Ellen Andrasick.
- May 5 America Lodge Council Meeting. Fr. Sq. Library, 7:00 pm.
- May 20 America Lodge General Meeting. FS VFW, 68 Lincoln Rd. 7:30 pm.
- June 25-28 NYS OSDIA Annual Convention, Albany, NY. **America Lodge Delegates attend.**
- July 15 America Lodge General Meeting/BBQ to celebrate America's 250th! **See flyer pg. 20.**
- July 25 America Lodge Annual Fishing Trip. **See flyer pg. 21.**
- September 19 America Lodge Annual Picnic in the Park. **See flyer pg. 22. SAVE THE DATE!**
- October 18 America Lodge Annual Anniversary Dinner Dance. **SAVE THE DATE!**

visit www.americallodge2245.com for Lodge events and details!



APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 EASTER	6	7	8 America Lodge Council Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14 America Lodge Mah Jongg	15 America Lodge General Meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21 America Lodge Mah Jongg	22	23	24	25 America Lodge Wind Creek Casino trip
26	27	28 America Lodge Mah Jongg	29	30	1	2

B U O N

Compleanno

to our "Aprile" celebrants

Christine Balsan, Nancy Blandino,
Domenico Cervini, Paola Cinciripini,
Arthur Corvese, Francesca Damiani,
Sylvia Giglio, Vincent Giordano, Barbara Kobler,
Pierina Liberatoscioli, Joseph Montemarano, Anne
O'Connell, Janis Parazzelli, Christa Pepe,
Antonetta Rossi, Mary Sperrazza, William Teitz,
Sandra Tinelli, Cathy Walsh.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Get Well Soon

Nancy Binda



Our Condolences

**Josephine (Pina)
Carbone on the
passing of her
sister, Grazia.**

"WOW!! Donna, another fabulous edition of the Lion's Roar. I have tears in my eyes from reading about Saint Joseph, which was my dad's name and it has always been a big celebration in our family for as long as I can remember. The big debate is always .. should the pastry be filled with cannoli cream or custard? For me it is custard. My sister would disagree... On page 15 is the list of the new officers who will be sworn in at our March meeting. Seeing my name listed as Vice President makes me so immensely proud to be part of this lodge. I cannot wait to share the news with my family in Palermo. Thank you for posting all the photos of our past events. Seeing all that we have done and all the incredible events we can look forward to is very exciting. We truly have something for everyone! Bravo Sorella!!"

~Maria Passalacqua

"What a great read for what I consider the best month of the year - Marzo! Wow, so many interesting articles but the two that stand out most to me was the "Ides of March" which always fascinated me and the one that hits me in the mid-section (my stomach) "Italian Peas and Pasta"! I can eat that over and over and never get tired of it.

Thanks for the beautiful articles you give us to read, Donna and Mark."

~Anthony Spano

THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU!!!

The Easter Pies of Italy

Many traditional Easter foods are famously rich—a true celebration after 40 days of Lenten fasting. Among the most beloved are Easter pies, both sweet and savory, often featuring eggs and grains to symbolize new life and the spring harvest.

These pies are typically served at Easter brunch or as appetizers and desserts. They're a labor of love: homemade crusts, carefully layered fillings, delicate lattice tops, and patient baking and cooling before being sliced. Today, many Italian specialty grocers offer them ready-made, helping busy families keep the tradition alive.

Pizza Rustica is a hearty, deep-dish savory pie served at room temperature. Known by many regional names, it's traditionally made with a lard-based dough and filled with layers of cured meats—like prosciutto, mortadella, and sausage—and rich cheeses such as ricotta. Some versions mix everything into a quiche-like filling, while others include greens or sliced eggs. Dating back to the 17th century, it evolved as Italian immigrants adapted recipes using ingredients available in the United States.



On the sweeter side, *Pastiera* is a classic lattice-topped pie from southern Italy, especially Naples. Made with ricotta or farmer's cheese, cooked wheat berries, sugar, milk, and candied citrus, it has origins tracing back to the 1600s. Over time, variations have emerged using rice, pasta, or pastina, while modern cooks often rely on pre-cooked wheat to simplify the process.



Torta Pasqualina, another traditional favorite, features puff pastry filled with spring greens like spinach or chard, with whole eggs baked inside. Some devout families prepare it with 33 layers of pastry, symbolizing the years of Jesus' life.



Whether savory or sweet, simple or elaborate, Easter pies carry more than just rich fillings—they hold stories, traditions, and a little bit of love in every slice. From generations of hands weaving lattice crusts to families gathering around the table, these pies are as much about togetherness as they are about taste. And when that first slice is served, it's not just a dish—it's a small, delicious reminder that spring has arrived, bringing renewal, joy, and something sweet to share.

CREDIT: <https://casa-belvedere.org/the-easter-pies-of-italy/>

EASTER DISHES

ENJOYED ACROSS ITALY

A REGIONAL MAP

THE SYMBOLS OF EASTER (NATIONAL FAVORITES)

UOVA DI PASQUA



COLOMBA PASQUALE



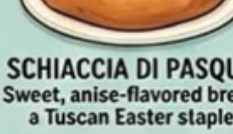
TORTA PASQUALINA.
Iconic savory pie with 33 layers, greens, and whole eggs.



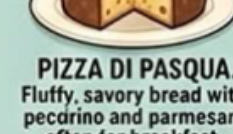
FUGASSA VENETA.
Traditional soft Venetian sweet Easter bread, often anise-flavored.



EMILIA-ROMAGNA
LASAGNE VERDI.
Green spinach pasta sheets with ragù and béchamel.



SCHIACCIA DI PASQUA.
Sweet, anise-flavored bread, a Tuscan Easter staple.



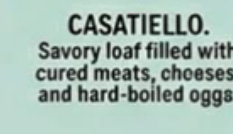
PIZZA DI PASQUA.
Fluffy, savory bread with pecorino and parmesan, often for breakfast.



11
PARDULAS.
Ricotta and saffron tartlets, pinched into star shapes.



8
PASTIERA NAPOLETANA.
Sweet tart with ricotta, cooked wheat berries, and orange blossom water.



10
CASATIELLO.
Savory loaf filled with cured meats, cheeses, and hard-boiled eggs.



10
PECORELLA PASQUALE.
Lamb made of marzipan, filled with citrus or pistachio.



6
ABBACCHIO ALLA ROMANA.
Roast lamb, slow-cooked with garlic, rosemary, and white wine.



7
AGNELLO CACIO E UOVA.
Lamb cooked in a creamy egg and pecorino sauce.



9
Scarcella.
Decorated sweet bread, a symbol of good luck and rebirth.



9
SCARCELLA.
Decorated sweet bread, a symbol of good luck and rebirth.



9
CUDDURA CU L'OVA.
Sweet, twisted bread used to hold whole eggs.

BUONA PASQUA - ENJOY THE TRADITIONS!

The Magic of Italy's Chocolate Easter Eggs

In Italy, Easter isn't complete without a beautifully wrapped chocolate egg known as an **uovo di Pasqua**. But this isn't just *any* sweet treat. It's a tradition that blends craftsmanship, surprise, and celebration into one unforgettable experience.

Unlike the solid chocolate eggs you might be used to, Italian Easter eggs are typically large and hollow. Their delicate shells are made from milk, dark, or white chocolate, often crafted with impressive attention to detail. But what truly sets them apart lies inside.

Each egg holds a hidden surprise, carefully sealed within. For children, it might be a toy or collectible. For adults, the gift can be more meaningful—anything from small gadgets to jewelry. The joy comes not just from eating the chocolate, but from cracking open the egg to discover what's inside.

Presentation is part of the magic. These eggs are wrapped in vibrant foil, tied with ribbons, and displayed like gifts. In fact, giving a chocolate egg is very much like giving a present. Families exchange them, friends gift them, and in some cases, they even play a role in romantic gestures—yes, some proposals have been hidden inside these chocolate shells.

You'll find a wide range of options across Italy. Supermarket versions are affordable and often themed for children, while artisan chocolatiers create high-end eggs that can be customized with a specific surprise inside. These handcrafted versions elevate the tradition into something truly personal.

Some of Italy's most iconic chocolate brands have helped shape and popularize this Easter tradition. **Ferrero**, one of the country's most famous confectionery companies, produces a variety of chocolate eggs and is also behind the globally recognized Kinder Surprise—a smaller, everyday version inspired directly by the Italian Easter custom of hiding a toy inside a chocolate shell. **Perugina**, founded in 1907 and known for its fine chocolates, is especially associated with Easter eggs wrapped in colorful foil and widely sold during the holiday season. Meanwhile, **Venchi** represents the artisanal side of Italian chocolate-making, with a heritage dating back to the 19th century and a reputation for high-quality, handcrafted creations.



At its heart, the Italian chocolate Easter egg is about more than chocolate. It's about anticipation, generosity, and the simple joy of surprise. It transforms a holiday treat into a shared moment—one that's as meaningful as it is delicious.

<https://www.ferrero.com>, <https://www.perugina.com>, <https://www.venchi.com>



Did you know the Spring Equinox helps decide the date of Easter?

Have you ever noticed that Easter seems to move all over the calendar? Some years it's in March, other years it lands deep in April. Unlike Christmas, which is always December 25, Easter changes every year.

The reason has something to do with the spring equinox...and even the moon! This might sound surprisingly astronomical for a Church feast day, but the system actually goes back to the early Church and the Council of Nicaea in 325.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way: "*At the Council of Nicaea in 325, all the Churches agreed that Easter, the Christian Passover, should be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon (14 Nisan) after the vernal equinox.*" -CCC 1170

In simpler terms, the Church follows a three-step rule:
-First, the Church marks the spring equinox (traditionally March 21).
-Then it waits for the first full moon after that date.
-Easter is then celebrated on the first Sunday after that full moon.

The equinox and the moon change slightly each year, the date of Easter moves as well. This means Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

Why the Equinox? The choice is not random.

The Resurrection of Christ took place during Passover, which itself follows a lunar calendar connected to the spring season. By linking Easter to the equinox and the full moon, the early Church preserved that biblical connection while ensuring the celebration always fell on a Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

So, when the days begin to lengthen in spring and the full moon rises after the equinox, the Church knows Easter is close. It's a beautiful reminder that the entire created world - sun, moon, and seasons - quietly points toward the Resurrection.

The Church has always understood that time itself is ordered toward Christ. As the Catechism says:

"The mystery of the Resurrection...permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him." - CCC 1169

So, the next time someone asks why Easter changes every year, the answer is surprisingly poetic....It's written in the sky, the seasons, and the calendar of the Church.

FESTA DELLA LIBERAZIONE

April 25

Remembering Freedom: Italy's Festa della Liberazione

Every year on April 25, Italy pauses to remember a defining moment in its history—Festa della Liberazione, or Liberation Day. It's a national holiday that commemorates the end of Nazi occupation and Fascist rule during World War II, marking the country's return to freedom and democracy.

The date traces back to April 25, 1945, when Italian resistance fighters—known as the partigiani—launched a nationwide uprising against occupying Nazi forces and the remnants of Mussolini's regime. Within days, major cities in northern Italy, including Milan and Turin, were liberated. It was a turning point that led to the eventual end of the war in Italy and the fall of dictatorship.

Today, Liberation Day is both a solemn remembrance and a vibrant celebration. Across the country, ceremonies, parades, and gatherings take place in town squares and at war memorials. Political leaders, veterans, and citizens lay wreaths to honor those who fought—and often died—for Italy's freedom.

Music also plays a powerful role in the day's commemorations. The folk song "Bella Ciao," once sung by resistance fighters, has become an enduring symbol of defiance and liberation. You'll often hear it performed in public spaces, with crowds joining in—a shared act of remembrance that connects past and present.

For many Italians, the holiday is also a time to gather with family and friends. With spring in full bloom, it's common to celebrate outdoors with picnics, meals, and local festivals. This blend of reflection and togetherness captures the spirit of the day: honoring sacrifice while embracing the freedoms that came after.

More than just a historical anniversary, Festa della Liberazione remains deeply relevant. It serves as a reminder of the cost of freedom and the importance of protecting democratic values. In remembering the courage of the past, Italy renews its commitment to the future. Liberation Day is not only about looking back—it's about understanding what it means to be free, and why that freedom must never be taken for granted.



The *Numeraio* Pasquale De Stefano

The Last Living Number Painter in Naples



In the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, Naples pulses with life—its markets alive with color, conversation, and the familiar charm of hand-painted signs. These bright placards, once created to help vendors communicate in a time of widespread illiteracy, grew into a beloved expression of the city's spirit.

The craft of the *numeraio*, or sign painter, dates back to the late 1800s, when itinerant artists traveled from stall to stall painting bold, easy-to-read signs in vivid colors and decorative lettering. What began as a practical service soon became an art form—one that reflected Naples's love of beauty in everyday life.

Today, that tradition is quietly fading. Pasquale De Stefano, 77, is believed to be Naples's last *numeraio*, carrying on a craft passed down through generations. Two of his brothers practiced the craft, as did their father and grandfather, along with members of several other Neapolitan families. Now, Mr. De Stefano, 77, is upholding the tradition on his own. In his family's small, timeworn workshop, he continues to paint each sign by hand, just as his father and grandfather once did—steady strokes preserving a piece of Naples's soul.

While a surge in tourism has brought new attention to his work, it has also reshaped the city, as modern signs and souvenir shops replace long-standing artisanal traditions. De Stefano now stands as both a reminder of Naples's past and a guardian of its character.

For now, his signs still hang in markets and along bustling streets, offering color, warmth, and a human touch. But as the city changes, their future feels uncertain. As De Stefano simply says, "Poetry lives in what's made by hand."



Thank you to Maria Passalacqua for suggesting this story!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/03/arts/design/naples-italy-painter.html>



The Garden of Ninfa: Where Ruins Bloom



Tucked into the Italian countryside, the *Giardino di Ninfa*, “Garden of Ninfa”, is often described as one of the most romantic gardens in the world. But behind its peaceful beauty lies the story of a city that once thrived—and was later forgotten.

Long ago, Ninfa was a lively medieval town, shaped by noble families and positioned along an important travel route. It grew in importance for centuries, even hosting significant religious events.

But in the late 1300s, the city was destroyed during

a period of conflict and never rebuilt. As malaria spread through the surrounding land, the remaining residents left, and Ninfa slowly faded into silence.

For hundreds of years, the abandoned city stood still—its churches, towers, and streets gradually overtaken by nature.

Everything changed in the late 19th century, when the Caetani family returned to the site. Instead of rebuilding the city, they chose to transform it. They cleared the overgrowth just enough to reveal the ruins, then began planting trees, flowers, and climbing roses. Their vision was simple: let nature and history exist together.



Over time, the garden grew into something truly unique. Later generations of the family continued to shape it with a light touch, treating the space like a living painting—never too controlled, always in harmony with its surroundings.



Today, the Garden of Ninfa is a place where crumbling stone walls are wrapped in blooms, and quiet streams flow past ancient ruins. It's not just a garden, but a reminder that even lost places can find new life—sometimes more beautiful than before.

The New York Sack Exchange

If you read the title quickly, you might be expecting an article about mutual funds but instead we are going to discuss football and how a member of the NY Sack Exchange is changing the world!

New York Jet fans may fondly remember 1981 when the Jets had a defensive line that led the NFL with 66 sacks powering the Jets to the 1982 AFC Championship game. Homage.com describes four bulldozers, Joe Klecko, Mark Gastineau, Marty Lyons, and Abdul Salaamall, who were all drafted by the Jets to help fuel the franchise's turnaround. Their success was so iconic that they were invited to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange. However, one member of this esteemed group realized there is more to life than football.

Marty Lyons entered the NFL following a successful career as an All-American defensive tackle at the University of Alabama. He was a first-round draft pick in 1979 when he was drafted by the New York Jets. Shortly after joining the Jets, Marty volunteered with the Leukemia Society of America. Marty, a 6'5" 269 pound defensive lineman, became a "Big Brother" to a 3-year-old boy named Keith who was battling leukemia. Marty describes how in 1982 he experienced "life's extremes" in just six days: the birth of his first child, a healthy son, followed four days later by the sudden passing of his father, Leo, then two days later by the passing of Keith, the three-year-old boy he mentored. These experiences profoundly affected Marty's attitude toward life, fame and his fellow human beings.

With the encouragement and assistance of his family and friends, Marty became determined to establish a foundation dedicated to granting the wishes of seriously-ill children. **The Marty Lyons Foundation** has kept hope alive in the hearts of children aged three (3) to seventeen (17) years old, who are diagnosed with a terminal or life-threatening illness, by making their special wishes come true. What began with a small group of six people on Long Island, including Kenny Schroy, Marty's teammate with the New York Jets, has grown into a national organization with 11 chapters across 14 states, granting over 8,800 wishes and raising over \$45,000,000.

These children's wishes have included trips to Disney, cruises to the Caribbean, swimming with the dolphins and even fishing in Key West. Some kids want to meet their favorite celebrity or receive tickets to a concert or sporting event. Children who are home-bound because of medical treatments may request a computer or laptop to provide them with a window to the world, while others need generators to support life-saving medical equipment. There was a most heartfelt wish from a southern child to see snow in Vermont. Once in progress, a wish can take anywhere from a week to a year – or sometimes longer – depending on the type of wish and the child's health status.

The NYS Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. is happy to announce the recent addition of The Marty Lyons Foundation as a new state charity. And on February 28, 2026, The NYS OSDIA Foundation hosted a "Casino Night" with all proceeds benefiting the Marty Lyons Foundation. Together, we can help a child and make a difference...that's what we do as members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®.

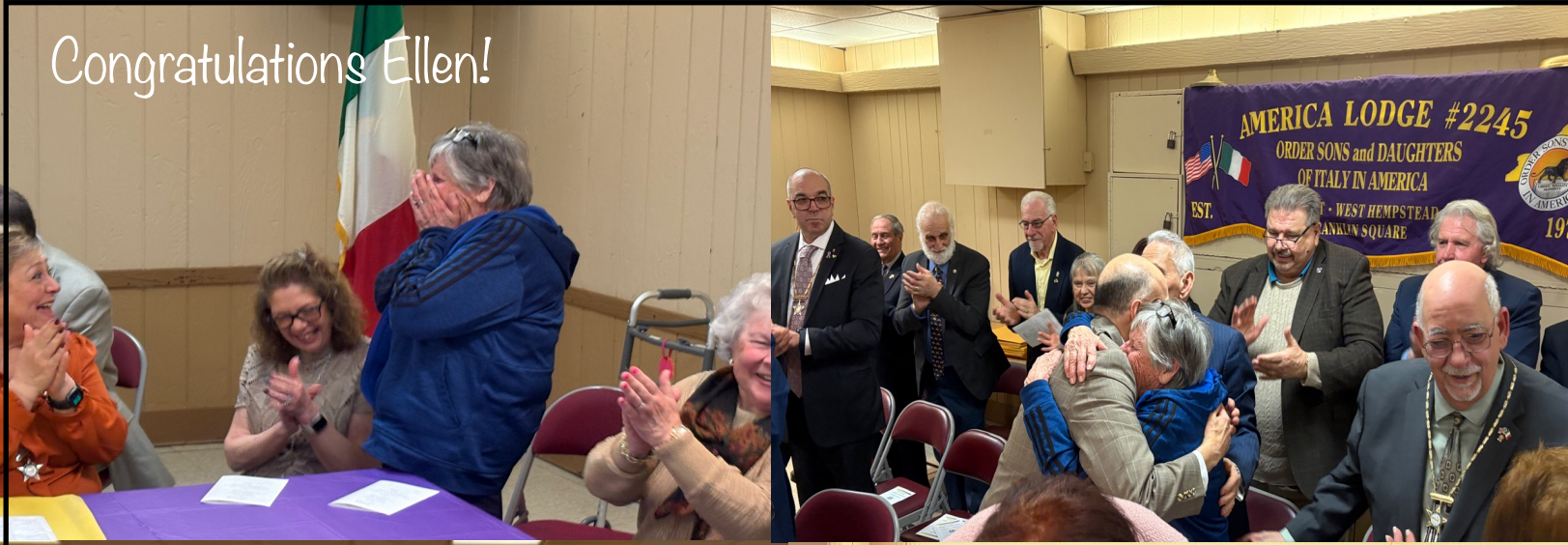
**Source: The New York Sack Exchange: The New York Jets' Dominant Defense – HOMAGE
Our Mission and History
Charities – Order Sons And Daughters of Italy In America**

AMERICA LODGE #2245 2026-2028 OFFICER INSTALLATION



View all photos on our website: <https://www.americ lodge2245.com/events>

Congratulations Ellen!



Pictured: NYS OSDIA President Arthur Spera, America Lodge President Joe Armocida, Ellen Andrasick, Nassau County Legislator and America Lodge member, John Giuffr  and representing Town of Hempstead Supervisor, John Ferretti, is America Lodge member Matt Capp.

Nassau County Legislator John Giuffr  nominated America Lodge member Ellen Andrasick, for the 2026 Nassau County Senior of the Year Award. Mr. Giuffr  received notification in time to surprise Ellen and members of America Lodge with his announcement during the lodge's installation ceremony. Ellen, along with several other seniors from across New York State, will be honored at the 50th Annual Older Americans Conference in Albany. Ellen will represent Nassau County for her outstanding volunteerism and community leadership.

Many believe that it was Theodore Roosevelt who famously said, *"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care..."*

Well, Franklin Square and indeed America Lodge is proud to know Nassau County Legislator John Giuffr . Mr. Giuffr  has a distinguished resume which includes earning his bachelor's degree at Columbia College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned a law degree, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he was an editor of the Journal of International Business Law. John was admitted to the New York bar in 1988 and is admitted to practice in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, as well as the Federal courts in New York City and Long Island. He is a sustaining member of the Nassau County Bar Association where he serves on the Ethics Committee. John serves on the Zoning Board, teaches Sunday School, and is active in the local business community. But it was during America Lodge's Installation ceremony where John Giuffr  spoke to the audience and showed everyone just how much he cares...

"If I can help anybody, I don't care where you live. I can't guarantee results, but I can guarantee effort...And if I can help somebody, it makes my day...So don't hesitate to call or ask, I will try...whatever I can do."

Thank you John for all that you do for our community, our lodge and helping to make our world a better place.



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Mah Jongg Dates- Tuesday:
 April 14, 21, 28 3:30-6:00 pm
 May 5, 12, 19, 26 3:30-6:00 pm



America Lodge President, Joe Armocida and 1st Lady Lillian attend the Franklin Square & Munson Fire Department Installation Dinner along with IPP Andrew Monteleone and wife Annmarie. Center is America Lodge member, Dennis Lyons.



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25% to the Marty Lyons Foundation® and 25% to America Lodge.

*Distributions are based on funds collected.

Three tickets are enclosed.

Make check payable to: **America Lodge #2245** and return in the enclosed envelope.

For more tickets, contact Joe Armocida (646) 879-2842.

Drawing takes place June 17, 2026 at 7:30 pm during our General Meeting at the Franklin Square VFW, 68 Lincoln Road, Franklin Square.

Every ticket makes a difference!



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America Lodge #2245

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50% of proceeds go to prizes:

1st prize is 25% of total proceeds, with two additional prizes of 12.5% each!

25% to the Marty Lyons Foundation® and 25% to America Lodge.

*Distributions are based on funds collected.

Drawing will be held on June 17, 2026, 7:30 pm during our General Meeting at the Franklin Square VFW, 68 Lincoln Road, Franklin Square.



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Contact Annual Fishing trip Chairperson Michael Avallone (917) 299-7251

**SAVE THE DATE!!
July 25, 2026**

details to follow..



www.americallodge2245.com



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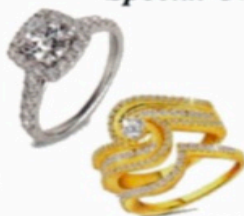


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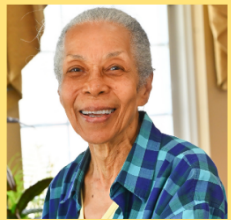


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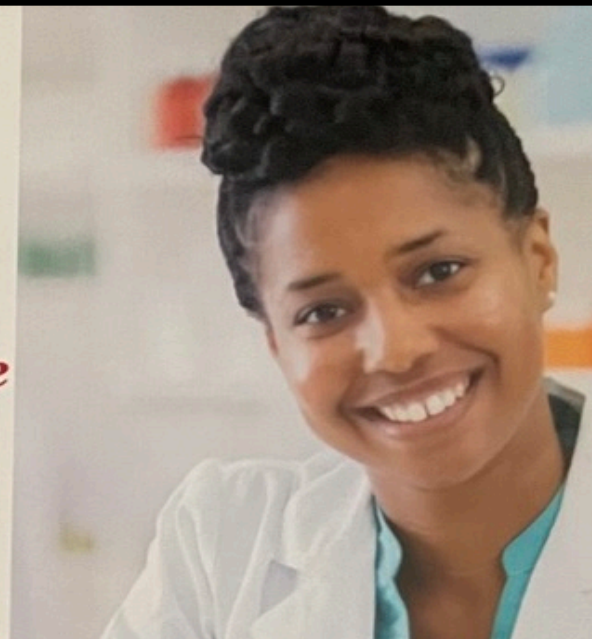
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