

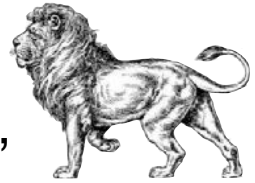
THE LION'S ROAR



ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA®

AMERICA LODGE #2245

"AMERICA LODGE, WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY"



VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY **FRATERNITY**

Volume 55
Issue 9
September 2026

A decorative border at the top of the page featuring autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, along with small white flowers and clusters of berries. The word "September" is written in a large, elegant, dark red cursive font, centered within this border. The background of the page is a light yellow with scattered autumn leaves and flowers.

September

AMERICA LODGE # 2245

2026-2028 OFFICERS

President	Joseph Armocida	646-879-2842
Vice President	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
2nd Vice President	Karen Mollish	516-852-2823
Immediate Past President	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Orator	Michael Avallone	917-299-7251
Recording Secretary	Cathy Walsh	516-483-6483
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Corresponding Secretary	Donna Giorandino Johnson	518-681-7915
Treasurer	Lisa Spano	516-477-1561
Chaplain	Pierina Liberatoscioli	516-775-2107

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NEW YORK STATE GRAND LODGE PAST PRESIDENTS

*Joseph Montemarano
Carolyn Reres

OSDIA NATIONAL TRUSTEE Carolyn Reres

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Joseph Montemarano* '71-'73	Anthony Arena '97-'99
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Philip Friedlander '87-'89	Marty Raia* '11-'12
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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	Karen Mollish	516-852-2823
Annual Fishing Trip	Michael Avallone	917-299-7251
Annual Picnic	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
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Bocce Club	Cindy Lampasi	516-690-1085
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Columbus Parade	Dennis Lyons	516-481-2077
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CSJ Liaison	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
Dinner Dance Journal	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
Gift of Sight	Lisa Spano	516-477-1561
Good & Welfare	Lillian Armocida	516-458-2123
Hospitality	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Italian Heritage	Phyllis-Ann O'Connell	516-603-7832
Lion's Roar Ads	Ellen Andrasick	516-317-0686
Mah Jongg	Lisa Teitz	516-965-8465
Membership		
Memorial Mass	Josephine Carbone	516-483-7320
Opera	Jo Falabella	516-354-2989
Scholarship	Mary Rose O'Hara	516-521-6275

ARBITRATION

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

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

Editor - Donna Johnson mdjohnson1020@gmail.com
Content and Proofreaders - Donna and Mark Johnson
Printer - Richard Farruggia
Mailing - Ellen Andrasick

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®
America Lodge #2245
PO Box 337, Franklin Square, New York 11010
President: Joseph Armocida 646-879-2842
joearmocida@aol.com
Vice President: Maria Passalacqua 516-456-3078
nycmariap@optonline.net

www.Americallodge2245.com
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



As we begin September, we welcome meteorological and astronomical fall on September 1st and 22nd respectively. It seems like we were just welcoming summer! Hopefully everyone has had a great summer and our gardens will get to enjoy some more warm weather before it becomes too fall-like.

I want to thank our 1st Vice President Maria Passalacqua for hosting our August meeting. There are always a lot of moving parts to running a meeting and I heard Maria did a fantastic job! The council had some absences and our Corresponding Secretary Donna Johnson and Treasurer Lisa Spano were working double duties to fill in. It was a great team effort and my sincere thanks to everyone for stepping up and getting things done. At the August meeting we honored the **Luigi Pinto Scholarship** winner. This was a proud

moment for all involved. I am also aware of the acceptance to change the date of our scholarship awards from June to May so that more of our scholarship honorees are able to attend the ceremony. Lastly, I want to thank everyone who supported our Back-to-School drive and brought in school supplies for the St. Catherine's Parish outreach/St. Vincent de Paul Society. What a wonderful way to help children begin their school year.

Let's talk about September. Not only does this month bring us fall, we celebrate **Labor Day**, **Back to School**, we remember **9/11**, **Patriots Day**, and mark its 25th anniversary. A remembrance service is planned by the Franklin Square and Munson Fire Department on Sunday, September 13th at 6:00 PM. We will meet at Rath Park to gather, support and honor those lost. More information will be provided, so please check your e-mail in the next few days.

You know summer can't be over until we enjoy our **annual Picnic in the Park** on September 19th at the Plattduetsche Biergarten. Please make sure to get your tickets and join us for another great occasion with delicious food, hundreds of raffle baskets (okay maybe that's a little exaggeration) and lots of fun. Your newsletter is packed full of great information and flyers for more information about this and all of our activities. Make sure you read it cover to cover!

Did you receive your invitation to our **55th Annual Dinner Dance**? This gala event will take place on October 18th at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck. This year's honorees, past America Lodge District Deputy Anthony Vasaturo, America Lodge Bocce Club creators and chairpersons Marie Geneva Frank and Cindy Lampasi and our Mah Johnng Club creator, organizer and chairperson Lisa Teitz. This promises to be a wonderful event filled with fraternal celebrations, incredible food and drinks, great entertainment and dancing! Please reserve your seat and prepare your Journal Advertisement today.

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

Fraternally,

Joe

P.S. I want to wish my daughter Nicole and all of the teachers, staff and administrators a wonderful start to the 2026/2027 school year. Good luck to all and may you have a successful and rewarding journey.

BUON ANNO SCOLASTICO!



www.americalodge2245.com



Welcome to your **SEPTEMBER** Newsletter

Benvenuto, Settembre!



There is something about September that feels familiar to so many of us. The days begin to change, summer slowly gives way to autumn, and we settle back into the rhythms of everyday life. For many, it brings memories of *la scuola*—new books, new shoes, and the excitement of beginning another school year. For others, September may bring memories of Italy, family, and traditions passed down through generations.

In this month's newsletter, we celebrate **September, Italian style!**

We look at **“Back to School—Italian Style,”** taking a look at what *la scuola* is like in Italy and some of the traditions surrounding the start of a new school year. Perhaps it will bring back a few memories of your own—or remind you of stories shared by parents or grandparents.

We also turn our attention to **Gerolamo Cardano**, a fascinating Italian inventor and Renaissance thinker whose life and accomplishments are worth discovering. His story is another reminder of the many contributions Italians have made to the world throughout history.

September also asks us to pause and remember. **September 11, 2001** remains a day forever etched in our memories. We honor those who lost their lives and remember the courage, sacrifice, and compassion shown by so many in the days that followed. **We remember. We will never forget.**

And then there is **la vendemmia**—the grape harvest. In Italy, September brings the vineyards to life as grapes are gathered and another harvest begins. For many Italian families, *la vendemmia* evokes wonderful memories: the vineyard, the baskets of grapes, the anticipation of the new wine, and, most importantly, family and friends working together. It is a tradition that reminds us that some of the most meaningful parts of our heritage are found not only in history, but around the table and in the stories we share.

As Italian-Americans, we are fortunate to carry these traditions with us. Some were brought across the ocean by our *nonni* and *genitori*; others have become traditions of our own. They connect us to Italy, to our families, and to one another.

So as we welcome **Settembre**, let's take a moment to appreciate the memories, traditions, and stories that make our Italian heritage so special.

Buon Settembre, buona vendemmia, and buona lettura!

Ciao,

Donna

The Lion's Roar Newsletter
2023 Best Newsletter Award
2024 Most Informative Newsletter Award
2025 Best Newsletter Award
2026 Best Editor Award



Membership Corner

At our August 19th General Meeting we read 2 applications and are looking forward to installing several new members at our upcoming September 16th meeting.

We are still celebrating our Country's 250th birthday and we are well on our way to growing America Lodge #2245 to 250 members. ❤️🤍❤️ Thank you to all who have sponsored a new member or who have invited friends, family, co-workers or neighbors to any of our events to see what America Lodge is all about! One visit to an event, and it's easy to see that we are **AMERICA LODGE..WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY!**

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 consider bringing a friend with you to our September 16th 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!



WWW.americallodge2245.COM



www.americallodge2245.com

Find us on
Facebook
America Lodge #2245

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 1, America Lodge Council Meeting. Franklin Square Library, 7:00 pm.
- September 13, Franklin Square Community 9/11 Remembrance, Rath Park 9-11 Memorial, 6:00 pm.
- September 16, America Lodge General Membership meeting. Franklin Square VFW, 7:30 pm.
- September 19 America Lodge Annual Picnic in the Park. Contact Maria Passalacqua for tickets!
- September 22, OSDIA webinar on Il Dolce Libro featuring America Lodge member Mary Sperrazza!
- October 1, Italian Heritage Movie "Under the Tuscan Sun" at the Bellmore Show Place. See flyer pg 16.
- October 4, America Lodge Annual Memorial Mass, St. Catherine of Sienna, 9:45 am.
- October 10, NY OSDIA District I and II LI Columbus Day Parade, Deer Park Lake Ave Firehouse.
- October 18 America Lodge Annual Anniversary Dinner Dance. Contact Karen Mollish for tickets!
- November 7 America Lodge Casino trip to Windcreek Casino. SOLD OUT!
- November 9, 7:30 pm, America Lodge hosts "A Night at the Opera: Giacomo Puccini's Tosca!" SOLD OUT!
- December 6, America Lodge Annual Christmas Party. SAVE THE DATE! More details to come!

visit <https://www.americallodge2245.com/events> for Lodge events and details!

America Lodge Mah Jongg

- September 1, 15, 22, 29
- October 6, 13, 20th.

www.americallodge2245.com

America Lodge Bocce

Thursday's at Rath Park
5:00 pm!

Buon Compleanno

to our

September "Settembre"

celebrants!

**Lillian Armocida, Camille Benincasa, Joann Brogna, Angela Campagna,
Lucille Cavaleri, Frank Corona, Kevin Denning, Giuseppa Fusezi,
William Gallo, Debra Goldmann, Helen Goldmann, Jeanette LaVeglia,
Marc Anthony Montemarano, Vincent Muscarella, Maria Nubile,
Enia Poliseno, Philip Pursino, Alexandra Saldarriaga, Maria Scaffa,
Lisa Teitz, Julie Tomeo, Paul Van Wie.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Letters to the Editor...

**"Thank you for another fantastic
issue!"
Lisa Teitz**

**"Beautiful Newsletter!"
John Giuffrè**

**"The Best!"
Lillian Armocida**

**"Absolutely awesome!"
Lisa Spano**

**"Our Newsletter is the best by far!"
IPP Andrew Monteleone.**

**... "I totally agree!"
Laura Taglienti IPP Vigiano Bros Lodge**

**"What a pretty and uplifting newsletter for the month of August! Such vibrant
articles. For the holiday of Ferragosto, if I lived in Sicily, I'd be the one to get
up early to get the best spot on the beach for our family to enjoy! And I am
definitely going to make that "Granita al Limone" it looks so refreshing!
And speaking of refreshing, Buon Compleanno to the prettiest flower of
August, our very own Donna Johnson...oh, and her husband Mark Johnson
too. He's not a bad looking flower either! Thank you both for this month's
exciting articles!"
Anthony Spano**

**"Just also wanted to say that the
Newsletter is so wonderfully done and I
enjoy all the issues. Have a great weekend"
Angela Campagna**

Thank you!

OSDIA2245 FOUNDATION, INC.

After 55 years the members of America Lodge are finally ready to embrace the addition of a new structure. For many, the change may go unnoticed but others will find that this shift better aligns us with our OSDIA National and New York Grand Lodge partners.

For months, we have investigated, discussed and contemplated becoming a non-profit organization. Legal fees, paperwork filings, and state registration hurdles are balanced by no federal income tax on revenue tied to our core mission. Additionally, financial gifts often qualify as tax-deductible contributions. And corporate shields will protect our leaders and members from any potential organizational debt and legal actions.

For those of us who have heard about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax code 501 (c) (3) but don't know what it is...

Wikipedia notes that 501(c)(3) organizations are commonly referred to as charitable organizations. Their primary purpose is to serve the public interest by engaging in activities such as religious, educational, scientific, or charitable work. They must operate exclusively for exempt purposes, and any earnings must be used to further their mission. A 501 (c) (3) is a special federal tax-exempt status granted by the IRS. As part of this transformation, you may have noticed America Lodge has added a foundation: **OSDIA 2245 Foundation, Inc.**, which will support our charitable endeavors. Here is what Google's Artificial Intelligence (AI) has to say about us:

"OSDIA2245 Foundation, Inc. is a charitable non-profit organization located in Franklin Square, New York. It serves as the philanthropic and fundraising arm tied to America Lodge #2245 of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA), supporting community charities, cultural preservation, and educational programs."

For some events, like our upcoming 55th Annual Dinner Dance on October 18th at Leonard's Palazzo, we are asking checks be made payable to the America Lodge Foundation. That is all a part of the change, and you may see more of it.

Over the many months that this process has taken place, we have had countless opportunities to examine and re-examine if this structure is right for us. Adding a non-profit arm better aligns with our goals at a local, state and national level. It helps us help you by better serving the communities and supporting our mission where *together we create excitement, strengthen our bonds and advance the image of Italians everywhere.*

We will continue to keep you updated about our new 501 (c) (3) status and its numerous benefits. Many thanks to our leaders who had the vision, sense of purpose and long-term focus to guide America Lodge into this successful new future. Thank you for having the courage to face our challenges, the commitment to see us through them and competence to do your job well.

MEMORY AND LIGHT

It's been 25 years since the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. **The 9/11 Memorial and Museum** reminds us that 100 million Americans are too young to remember the day that changed our city and nation forever. They go on to say, September 11, 2001, remains a defining moment in our nation's 250-year history. For those who witnessed that day, we are the storytellers and stewards of its meaning.

In Italy, Padua serves as the primary site for their annual 9/11 commemorative ceremonies. Since 2005, people have converged in Padua's center to appreciate **The Memory and Light monument**- a 56-foot-tall structure designed by architect Daniel Libeskind.



The choice of Padua as the ideal location for the monument was summarized by the American consul Deborah Grace, at the laying of the first stone: *"Padua is a city that has a long tradition of tolerance, which is home to one of the oldest universities in Europe, where the teaching of Galileo Galilei has left its mark ... [in fact] Padua is the cradle of civilization and culture, [...] from the Middle Ages, when students from all over Europe came to these streets [...] Padua still teaches us today that we must not be afraid of science [...] Instead, we must be afraid of ignorance and intolerance which are the main causes of violence and fanaticism."*

The Memory and Light monument is engineered to look like a massive, open luminous book made of glass and steel. The "pages" of the book are designed to evoke the steel and glass architecture of the original Twin Towers. The "open book" design lets in the light as a symbol of universal values such as peace, freedom, coexistence and the union of cultures. Anchored inside the glass structure is a 20-foot (six-meter) twisted steel beam salvaged from the south tower and donated to Italy by the U.S. State Department. And symbolically, one of the main glass walls is mathematically aligned in the precise geographical direction of the Statue of Liberty.

Italy is also helping us remember the 25th Anniversary by creating **The World Trade Center Responder Bell**- a special commemorative bell cast to honor the 9/11 first responders. It was crafted at the Marinelli Foundry in Agnone, Italy, which has been operating continuously since the Middle Ages. The bell serves as a lasting symbol of remembrance for the bravery, sacrifice, and endurance of rescue and recovery workers.

Craftsmen in Italy worked alongside historical archivists to create a lasting symbol of international solidarity for the 25th anniversary. The collaboration between New York emergency leaders and Italian artisans underscores how shared tragedy fosters global connection.

The World Trade Center Responder Bell is scheduled to be officially unveiled at the New York City Fire Museum during their September 11 Memorial Ceremony.



Back to School... Italian Style!

As September arrives, students across Italy are preparing to return to school after one of the longest summer vacations in Europe. While classrooms in the United States are already buzzing with activity, many Italian students won't head back until early or mid-September, depending on the region where they live.

Have you ever wondered why Italian schools have such a long summer break? The answer lies in history. For generations, many Italian families depended on agriculture, and children often helped with farming during the hot summer months. Schools also lacked air conditioning, making it difficult to hold classes during Italy's warm summers. Although life has changed considerably, the tradition of a long summer holiday remains a cherished part of Italian culture.

Italy's educational traditions stretch back more than 2,000 years. During the Roman Empire, children from wealthy families studied reading, writing, mathematics, literature, rhetoric, and philosophy. Following the fall of Rome, monasteries and cathedral schools preserved knowledge throughout the Middle Ages. Italy also became home to some of the world's oldest universities, including the University of Bologna, founded around 1088 and widely recognized as the oldest continuously operating university in the world.

The Renaissance brought a renewed appreciation for learning. Italian scholars emphasized the study of history, literature, philosophy, and the classical languages, helping shape education throughout Europe.

Modern public education began to take shape after Italy became a unified nation in 1861. One of the new government's goals was to create a shared national identity by expanding education, improving literacy, and encouraging the use of standard Italian instead of regional dialects.

Today's Italian school system includes preschool, five years of primary school, three years of lower secondary school, and five years of upper secondary school. Students entering high school choose from several educational paths, including academic, technical, or vocational programs. At the end of their studies, they take the Esame di Stato, commonly called the Maturità, an important examination that marks the completion of secondary education and opens the door to university or the workforce.

As another school year begins in Italy, it reminds us that education has always been an important part of Italian culture—from the classrooms of ancient Rome to the universities of the Middle Ages and the modern schools of today. Whether students are studying Latin, science, music, or art, they continue a tradition of learning that has influenced the world for centuries.

We wish all students, teachers, and families a successful and rewarding year ahead.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Italy



ITALIAN SCHOOLS

Fun Facts About Italian Schools

 **School Doesn't Start on the Same Day.** Unlike in the United States, there isn't one nationwide first day of school. Each Italian region sets its own calendar, so students in Milan, Rome, Sicily, or Venice may all begin on different dates in September.

 **No Yellow School Buses.** Most Italian students walk, ride bicycles, take public transportation, or are driven to school by family. Bright yellow school buses are uncommon.

 **Lunch Is a Big Deal.** Many elementary schools serve freshly prepared hot lunches that often include pasta, vegetables, fruit, and bread. School meals emphasize balanced nutrition and are an important part of the school day.

 **Different High School Choices.** At age 14, students choose the type of secondary school they want to attend. Some focus on university preparation (Liceo), while others specialize in technical or vocational subjects that prepare students for specific careers.

 **The Maturità.** Italian students complete their secondary education by taking the Esame di Stato, often called the Maturità. This comprehensive examination includes written tests and an oral interview and is an important milestone before entering university or beginning a career.

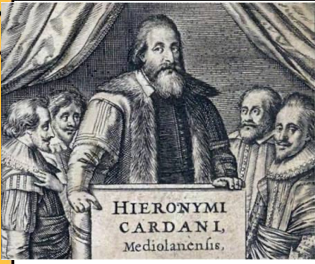
 **Grading Is Different.** Italian schools traditionally use a 10-point grading scale. In many schools, 6 is the minimum passing grade, while 10 represents outstanding achievement.

 **One of the World's Oldest Universities.** The University of Bologna, founded around 1088, is generally recognized as the oldest continuously operating university in the world and continues to welcome students from around the globe.

As students return to their classrooms, Italians often wish one another "Buon anno scolastico!" (Happy school year!) It's a simple but heartfelt way to wish students, teachers, and families a successful year of learning.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH A RENAISSANCE GENIUS: THE EXTRAORDINARY

GEROLAMO CARDANO



Pavia, Italy is a historic university city located in the Lombardy region of northern Italy. It's about 22 miles south of Milan. Known as the "City of a Hundred Towers" and a former medieval capital, it offers a rich mix of Romanesque architecture, vibrant student life, and scenic river views.

Because its September and everyone is getting ready for back to school, we wanted to introduce you to a famous 16th-century Italian Renaissance man known for his pioneering work in algebra, founding the early study of probability, practicing medicine, and creating mechanical inventions. He invented early mechanical devices- including the combination lock, gimbal rings used in navigation, and the universal joints found in cars today. If, however, you are a student of higher mathematics, you may remember the Cardano-Tartaglia formula for solving cubic equations.

Of course we are talking about **Gerolamo Cardano**. This humanist, physician, mathematician, astrologer, and professor of medicine, practiced both mathematics and medicine simultaneously and became one of the most sought-after doctors in Milan. But it was his unique opinion concerning the deaf that may have contributed to one of the most famous classical symphonies of all time; Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Dr. Cardano said that deaf people were capable of using their minds and argued for the importance of teaching them. Cardano was one of the first to state that deaf people could learn to read and write without learning how to first speak.

Bone conduction hearing is a method of transmitting sound through the skull rather than air, bypassing the tiny bones of the ear. Gerolamo Cardano realized that when a rod was placed between someone's teeth and attached the other end to a musical instrument, the person could hear the music despite their hearing loss. Published in 1550, "De Subtilitate" was one of Cardano's most famous and widely read works during his lifetime, cementing his reputation across Europe far beyond his mathematical and medical accomplishments. This work was among the first to describe bone conduction hearing.

Bone conduction technology continues even today. Open ear headphones allow what Popular Mechanics calls safer listening because hearing what's going on around you—while you chat and listen to music and drive and exercise—is kind of important.

Although his life was difficult and troubled, he wrote countless theoretical works. And in a fitting tribute to his masterful creations, Italian astronomer Giovanni Riccioli named one of the moon's craters, Cardanus, after Gerolamo Cardano in 1651. Its designation was officially adopted by the International Astronomical Union in 1935. Gerolamo Cardano was known as a great mathematician and doctor of medicine whose strong and difficult nature got him ostracized for most of his life in prestigious circles. However, despite these challenges, he printed 131 works and had 111 books in manuscript by the time he died. Even in his autobiography, Cardano wrote of himself "I am not very respectful and do not mince words." If you want to read further, we have attached links to this brilliant and very interesting man.

La Vendemmia:

An Italian Tradition of Harvest and Community



As summer draws to a close in Italy, vineyards across the country come alive with one of the year's most anticipated traditions: **la vendemmia**, the grape harvest.

La vendemmia is much more than the picking of grapes. It is a celebration of the land, the changing seasons, family, and community. Depending on the region, grape variety, and weather, harvesting may begin in late summer and continue into early autumn. In many vineyards, grapes are still carefully picked by hand before being taken to the winery to begin their transformation into wine. However, practices vary considerably by region and winery.



Traditionally, la vendemmia was a time when families, friends, and neighbors worked together in the vineyards. The work could be demanding, but it was also a joyful social occasion. After a long day of harvesting, people gathered around tables to share food, conversation, music, and, eventually, the year's new wine.

The traditions surrounding the vendemmia vary throughout Italy. In the north, central regions such as Tuscany and Umbria, and the vineyards of the south and islands, each have their own grapes, wines, foods, and customs associated with harvest season. Yet the underlying spirit remains remarkably similar: gratitude for the year's harvest and appreciation for the people who make it possible.



For Italians and Italian-Americans alike, **la vendemmia** symbolizes the close relationship between food, wine, family, and the rhythms of nature. It reminds us that some of Italy's most cherished traditions are rooted not only in what is produced, but in the people who come together to produce and celebrate it.

So, as we welcome the arrival of autumn, we might raise a glass to la vendemmia—a tradition that brings the Italian countryside, its flavors, and its sense of community to life

Salute !



America Lodge #2245

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2026



AMERICA LODGE #2245 MAH JONGG CLUB

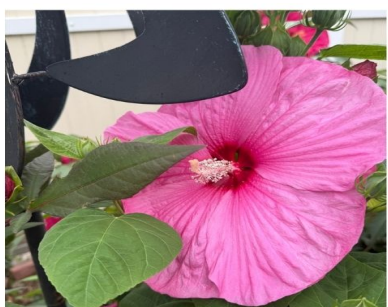




AMERICA LODGE SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY! BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA PARISH OUTREACH/ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



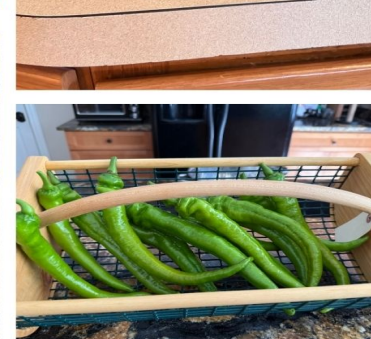
ANGELA CAMPAGNA'S BEAUTIFUL FLOWER GARDEN



Maria Passalacqua's tomatoes



Donna Johnson's tomatoes & peppers





America Lodge #2245
Annual

PICNIC

in the Park



**INVITE
YOUR
FAMILY,
FRIENDS,
&
NEIGHBORS!**

**RAFFLE BASKETS,
50/50
and MORE!**



**FOOD,
GAMES,
& FUN!**

PLATTDUETSCH PARK
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM

- \$50.00 PER PERSON.
- \$20.00 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER.

- FULL BUFFET LUNCH WITH SOFT DRINKS.
- CASH BAR.

CONTACT MARIA PASSALACQUA
(516) 456-3078



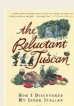
America Lodge #2245
Il Dolce Libro
Book Club

Celebrate Italian Heritage Month

Thursday October 1, 2026



Join us for an enchanting evening where literature and cinema come together
"under the Tuscan sun."



Featured Book: The Reluctant Tuscan
Feature Presentation: Under the Tuscan Sun



THURSDAY, October 1
• Benvenuti! (Welcome!) - 6:30 PM
Begin the evening with a lively discussion of The Reluctant Tuscan, followed by book trivia and prizes.

• Feature Presentation - 7:00 PM
Relax with a small drink, fresh popcorn, and a screening of **Under the Tuscan Sun**.

Admission: \$15 per person
Includes a small drink and popcorn.

Whether you've turned every page of the book or simply want to lose yourself in the beauty of Tuscany for an evening, **all are welcome.**
"La dolce vita awaits..."
Contact Mary Sperrazza (516) 993-8453



America Lodge #2245
55th Anniversary Dinner Dance
honoring
America Lodge Past District Deputy
Anthony Vasaturo
and
America Lodge members
Marie Geneva Frank, Cindy Lampasi,
and Lisa Teitz



Save the Date

Sunday, October 18th, 2026
12-5:00pm
Leonard's Palazzo, Northern Blvd, Great Neck
Contact Karen Mallish
Annual Dinner Dance Chairperson
(516) 852-2823

**JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL**

Christmas

PARTY



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2026
3:00 - 7:00 PM
ST. MARY'S, HEMPSTEAD AVE, LYNBROOK

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®
America Lodge #2245

Presents

Giacomo Puccini's

Tosca

Monday, November 9th, 2026 at 7:30 pm
The Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center



Tickets for the Opera and Bus are \$150.00
Ticket for the Opera only (no bus) is \$100.00

Payment must be received by October 5, 2026

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 2:30 pm as the bus will leave at 3:00 pm SHARP.

AMERICA LODGE #2245
PRESENTS A TRIP TO

WINDCREEK CASINO

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

COST \$60.00 WITH \$50.00 BACK

Bus leaves at 8:00 am from the bus stop in front of Citibank on Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY

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RSVP WITH NAME, PHONE # AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO:

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America Lodge Bocce is Back!

Officially starting after Mother's Day
Thursday's 5:00 pm at Rath Park, Franklin Square

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

Contact Marie Geneva Frank (516) 852-1276 or
Cindy Lampasi (516) 690-1085
for more information!



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No experience? No problem!

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Tuesday's at the Franklin Square Library from 3:30-6:00 pm.
Contact Lisa Teitz (516) 965-8465 for information and dates!

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Gift of Sight Annual Fundraising Luncheon

Saturday, September 26, 2026

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Excellence in Leadership Award - Mary Naccarato

Arthur Spera - President
Mary Ann DeCostanzo - Chairperson
Mark A. Ventimiglia - Vice-Chairperson

Questions call: Mary Ann DeCostanzo
(631) 848-3641





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Attendee Names

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2 _____
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5 _____

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2026**

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OUR ANNUAL*

****Let's all March in the Long Island Columbus Day Weekend Parade****

Saturday, October 10, 2026

The Deer Park Lake Avenue Firehouse is the starting point of parade route with
Breakfast at this location starting at 11:00 A.M. and program starting at 12 noon in
the same location.

1:00 P.M. is Parade kickoff time.

*****Join Our Parade Grand Marshals:*****

*State President OSDIA Arthur Spera
State OSDIA First Lady Joanne Spera
National OSDIA President Thomas Lupo
OSDIA State Chaplain Rev. Fr. Anthony Saliba
Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter
North Hempstead Town Supervisor Jen DeSena*

Parade Kickoff Start Time is 1:00 P.M.

Floats, Banners, Music, and other attractions will be there for all to enjoy.

**Parade followed by a Festival with fun and festivities at the
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GARIBALDI-MEUCCI MUSEUM



NOVEMBER 7

2026

SAVE THE DATE



38TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

Saturday, November 7, 2026
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Honoring
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A photograph of a family walking outdoors. A man in a light blue denim shirt over a grey V-neck sweater is pushing a black baby stroller. A woman in a white denim shirt and blue jeans walks beside him. A baby is visible in the stroller. In the background, a large bridge with a steel truss structure is visible under a clear sky.

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