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 11
November 2026



AMERICA LODGE #2245

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Doris Collins* '09-'11
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Doris Collins* '12-'13
Sylvia Giglio '13-'15
Gloria R. Maffettone '16-'18
Vincent Giordano '18-'20

*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
Bocce Club	Marie Geneva Frank	516-852-1276
Bocce Club	Cindy Lampasi	516-690-1085
Book Club/Movie Night	Mary Sperrazza	516-993-8453
Budget Chairperson	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Carnevale	Karen Mollish	516-852-2823
Columbus Parade	Dennis Lyons	516-481-2077
CSJ Executive Board	Janis Parazzelli	516-358-1409
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Dinner Dance Journal	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
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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

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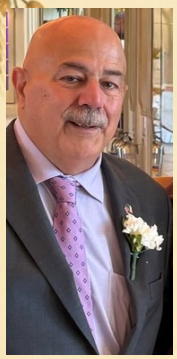
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®
America Lodge #2245
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nycmariap@optonline.net

www.Americalodge2245.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.



Giving thanks is a deliberate expression of gratitude by acknowledging our many blessings. November is that reflective month where our forefathers took time to acknowledge their bountiful harvest and blessings from the past year. That first Thanksgiving was celebrated over 400 years ago and it was not without its share of hardships. And while the food on our tables might look a little different from the original Pilgrims, I know if the Mayflower could have brought *antipasto, stuffed artichokes, baked ziti, broccoli rabe, pignoli cookies* and a little *espresso with some sambuca* in it, the meaning of that first Thanksgiving Dinner has not changed. On behalf of your dedicated and hardworking Officer Council, we want to wish and thank you for a year filled with love, good fortune and this wonderful Italian family that is America Lodge. Here's to wishing you all the best for a wonderful and joyous Thanksgiving.

I hope you were able to take part and fully celebrate October and Italian American Heritage month. Congratulations once again to our 55th annual dinner dance honorees Marie Geneva Frank, Cindy Lampasi, Lisa Teitz and District Deputy Anthony Vasaturo. The afternoon was a huge success, and I want to thank everyone who joined us to celebrate our honorees. I especially want to acknowledge and thank our Dinner Dance Chairperson Karen Mollish and our Journal Chair Debra Goldmann. The work that they put into this event is what made it such a huge success.

And while we honored District Deputy Anthony Vasaturo for his *past* efforts and contributions, America Lodge is both privileged and fortunate to have him return as our new District Deputy. This is Anthony's second time serving with us as he served as our District Deputy from 2017 through 2020. We want to welcome Anthony back and look forward to working with him once again. I also want to acknowledge and thank the Capriola's for their counsel and guidance. For our newer members, the husband-and-wife team of Anthony and Josephine Capriola became a pillar for America Lodge as they assisted and served us with back-to-back terms. Indeed, we have so much to be thankful for.

This issue of your award-winning newsletter finds America Lodge in full celebration participating in several Italian Heritage events during October. Once again, we were able to showcase items celebrating our Italian heritage at the Franklin Square Library. The two display cases by the front desk included clay pots used for preserving vegetables, an Italian passport, a *Capo Di Monti* figurine and many more interesting artifacts. Many thanks to the Franklin Square Library for generously allowing us the use of their display cabinets. We also had a strong showing at the Grand Lodge's Long Island Columbus Day Parade where our Recoding Secretary Cathy Walsh served as America Lodge parade honoree. Each year the Town of Hempstead has an Italian Flag raising ceremony and once again America Lodge's sea of red was there witnessing and celebrating this honor. It was a busy month for sure.

Finally, our annual Christmas party is on December 6th. Please see the flyer in this edition of your newsletter for ticket information and all the details. Get your tickets now.

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

Fraternally,

Joe



Welcome to your November Newsletter!



Thanksgiving with the Giorandino family.

As we welcome November, we are reminded of the many things we have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives, the friendships we share, and the wonderful sense of community that brings us together.

This month's newsletter is filled with memories from our Dinner Dance, Italian Heritage Month celebrations, Book Club movie night and more! From the events and activities to the smiles and fellowship captured in our photos, it is wonderful to look back on all that we accomplished together. These celebrations remind us of the traditions, culture, and pride that connect us to our **Italian roots** and make our America Lodge family so special.

I hope you enjoy looking through the many photos and reliving some of these special moments. Each one tells a little story of the friendships, dedication, and enthusiasm that make our Italian family such a wonderful community.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, may we remember to be **grateful** not only for what we have, but also for the **people who make our lives richer**. Wishing all our members and their families a happy, healthy, and blessed Thanksgiving!

Buon Thanksgiving!

Donna
ps…can you guess which one is me in the above photo?

www.americalodge2245.com

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 October 21st General Meeting we installed **5 new members**! Congratulations and welcome to: **Vittorio Cervone, Anita and Domenico Frantellizzi, and Francesca and Tony Neri.** As of this installation, we are at 247 members approaching our goal of 250!!



Thank you to all who have sponsored a new member or who have invited friends, family, co-workers or neighbors to a meeting or one of our many events. **YOU** are such wonderful stewards of America Lodge. One visit with us and it's easy to see that we live our motto ***"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.americalodge2245.com/Membership** for a membership application and consider bringing them with you to our November 18th 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

www.americalodge2245.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 3, America Lodge Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Franklin Square Library.
- November 7, America Lodge Casino trip to Windcreek Casino.
- November 9, America Lodge hosts "A Night at the Opera: Giacomo Puccini's Tosca!"
- November 10, America Lodge Mah Jongg. 3:30-6:00 pm.
- November 17, America Lodge Mah Jongg, 3:30-6:00 pm.
- November 18, America Lodge General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm. Membership Dues return date.
- November 22, Gift of Sight, 4:30-8:30. See flyer, page 21.
- November 24, America Lodge Mah Jongg, 3:30-6:00 pm.
- December 1, America Lodge Mah Jongg, 3:30-6:00 pm.
- December 6, America Lodge Annual Christmas Party. See flyer pg. 19.
- December 8, America Lodge Mah Jongg, 3:30-6:00 pm.

visit https://www.americalodge2245.com/events for Lodge events and details!

www.americalodge2245.com

Buon Compleanno to our Novembre Birthday celebrants!

Sandy Amendola, John Anteri, Silvana Apicella, Nicole Armocida, Anthony Buonfiglio, Joseph Calabrese, Luciano Capogna, Carmela Catsicas, Vittorio Cervone, Paul Colombi, Dorothy Corvese, Thomas D'Esposito, Lino Fratarcangeli, John Giuffré, Stephen Graziano, Annette Koziarz, JoAnn Maggio, Carolyn Reres, Veronica Sanchez, Diane Smith, Carol Sorace-Whalen, Linda Sucari, Roberta Tinelli, Enrico Viti.



Praise for Your Newsletter:

"OMG, WOW! LOVED, LOVED the October Issue! Read the entire issue online! Great job!" ~IPP Andrew Monteleone.

THANK YOU !!!

Good and Welfare:

Get Well Soon:

Paola Cinciripini, Robert Goldmann, Scott Goldmann, Past President Sylvia Giglio.

AMERICA LODGE #2245

2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUAL RENEWAL

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN…

I know it's hard to believe but it is almost that time of year where America Lodge will be mailing out the 2027 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 18th, 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, 2026 through December 31, 2026, you do **NOT** have to pay dues for 2027 as they were included in your 2026 payment.

Make check payable to America Lodge #2245

Please include below information with your payment:

Name:_____

Address:_____

City, State, Zip:_____

Phone #:_____

Email address:_____

Signature:_____

Make check payable to America Lodge #2245

Please mail payment to Financial Secretary:

Debra Goldmann, 16 Franklin Street, Williston Park, New York 11596

THANK YOU!

America Lodge appreciates your continued support and membership!

America Lodge #2245



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ...

2027 Membership Renewal

Benefits of Membership:

Stay Connected:

Enjoy our award-winning newsletter, informative website, and Facebook page for club news, updates, and upcoming events.

Celebrate With Us:

Our annual Anniversary Dinner Dance Gala brings members together for an unforgettable evening of food, friendship, music, and celebration.

Clubs & Connections:

Enjoy our Book Club, Bocce Club, Mah Jongg, and other opportunities to meet and connect with fellow members.

Investing in the Future:

Through our scholarship program, we help deserving students pursue their educational goals.

Membership dues:

$50*

**If you are a new member that joined from September 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, you do not have to pay dues for 2027 as they were included in your 2026 payment .*

"America lodge, Where Friends Become Family"

Giving Back:

We support local charities, organize food drives, and lend a helping hand to those in need in our community.

Fun All Year Long:

Join us for fishing trips, summer picnics, social gatherings, and activities for members of all ages.

Our Italian Heritage:

Keep Italian traditions, culture, and community alive for generations to come.

Culture & Entertainment:

From opera outings and movie nights to casino trips and special events, there's always something to look forward to.

Your dues help keep our club strong, our traditions thriving, and our Italian-American community connected.

America Lodge Il Dolce Libro Book Club

America Lodge Bocce Club

America Lodge Mah Jongg Club

Award Winning Newsletter

Renew your dues today!

Make checks payable to: America Lodge #2245

Mail dues to: Debra Goldmann, 16 Franklin St. Williston Park, NY 11596

www.americalodge2245.com

From the Bookshelf of Il Dolce Libro

Il Dolce Libro

Vivi, Ridi, Ama
Leggi



Il Dolce Libro Book Club
Open to any member of America Lodge #2245!

Contact Mary Sperrazza
(516) 993-8453
crazzzycomet@gmail.com
to join!!

Vivi, Ridi, Ama
Leggi

During the spooky month of October, America Lodge's Il Dolce Libro book club read Lisa Scottoline's psychological, gothic-tinged novel, *The Unraveling of Julia*. The novel received rave reviews from our group, and we highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys mystery, suspense, romance, and just a touch of the gothic.

We recently read another of Lisa Scottoline's novels, *Eternal*, but The Unraveling of Julia couldn't be more different. Eternal is a romantic love triangle set in Nazi-occupied Italy during World War II, while this novel takes place in the present day, traveling from Philadelphia to Milan and into Florence and the Tuscan countryside.

Our protagonist, Julia Pritzker, is still reeling from the traumatic murder of her husband when she receives an astonishing inheritance: a villa in the Tuscan town of Croce. Even more surprising, the villa once belonged to the mysterious Emilia Rossi, who may have been a descendant of the infamous Catherine Sforza. Julia's inheritance makes little sense—she was adopted and has no known living or deceased relatives.

Determined to uncover the truth about her biological roots, Julia throws caution to the wind and travels to Italy. There, she hopes to discover what connection she might have had to Emilia Rossi and why this mysterious inheritance has come to her.

But Julia soon finds herself caught up in something far more disturbing than a search for her family history. She is plagued by strange visions and terrifying nightmares, while the frescoes adorning the villa seem to come alive at night. As reality and the supernatural begin to blur, Julia turns to her belief in astrology, hoping it will help her make sense of the increasingly strange events surrounding her.

Along the way, Julia finds an unexpected ally in Gianluca Moretti, a librarian she meets in Florence—and before long, she begins to develop feelings for him. But can she trust him? And will the curse of Catherine Sforza claim Gianluca as Julia fears it claimed her murdered husband? Most importantly, will the curse follow Julia all the way from Philadelphia to Tuscany?

Give *The Unraveling of Julia* a read and find out!

As usual, the Il Dolce Libro book club met to discuss this book at the most perfect venue, The Davenport Press restaurant in Mineola. There is so much history at this unique eclectic restaurant. It was built in 1896 as the Nassau County Trust. In 1924 it was used as a printing company for 50 years before it was turned into a restaurant in 1978. Holding a lot of the memorabilia of the time, made it a fun space for our Halloween meeting (and I must admit, a bit spooky!) Check out the pictures on our Facebook link below! Many chose to dress as fortune tellers or gypsies for the event!

For those who read The Unravelling of Julia closely, coincidentally the medium Julia consults for help in discovering her past is named Helen Davenport!!

Looking forward to our next read and book club event!

~Mary

https://www.facebook.com/groups/841850551165483

November in Italy: A Time to Remember

Ognissanti, Il Giorno dei Morti, and the Italian Tradition of Remembering Family

November holds a special place in the Italian calendar. As autumn settles in and the days grow shorter, Italians traditionally turn their thoughts toward family, faith, and those who came before us. November 1 is *La Festa di Ognissanti* — All Saints' Day, followed on November 2 by *Il Giorno dei Morti*— All Souls' Day. Together, these days form a beautiful tradition of remembrance that has been observed in Italy for centuries.

November 1, Ognissanti — All Saints' Day, is a national holiday throughout Italy. Churches celebrate Mass honoring all the saints, both those widely known and those remembered only by God.

On November 2, Il Giorno dei Morti — All Souls' Day, Italians remember deceased relatives and friends. Many families attend Mass, clean and decorate graves, light candles, and take time to pray and reflect. This tradition is about more than sadness; it is a way to keep family memories alive. Children may learn about grandparents, great-grandparents, and other relatives they never had the chance to meet. Stories are retold, names are remembered, and family connections are renewed.

As with so many Italian customs, traditions vary by region. In Sicily, All Souls' Day has traditionally been associated with children receiving sweets and gifts from deceased relatives, who were said to return during the night to leave presents. One special treat is *frutta martorana*, beautifully decorated marzipan shaped like tiny pieces of fruit. Other regions enjoy seasonal foods such as *Ossi dei Morti* ("Bones of the Dead"), traditional cookies associated with this time of year.

And in Italy, food is never just food. A recipe passed down through generations can carry memories of a grandmother's kitchen, a village left behind, or a family celebration from long ago.

For those of us whose families came from Italy, these traditions can hold an even deeper meaning. Many ancestors arrived in America with very little; a suitcase, a few photographs, a family recipe, and memories of the towns and loved ones they left behind.

Today, we are the keepers of those memories. Perhaps this November is a good time to open an old family album, ask an older relative about an ancestor, prepare a favorite family recipe, or share the story of someone who came before us.

After all, remembering our ancestors is one of the ways we keep them—and our Italian heritage—alive.

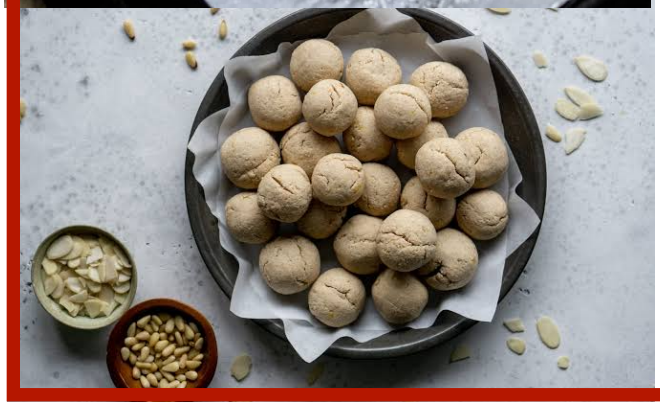












A Taste of Tradition

If your family wants to bring a little Italian flavor to the November observance, consider exploring some traditional foods associated with this time of year:

- ***Ossi dei Morti*** — crisp cookies whose name means “Bones of the Dead.”
- ***Frutta Martorana*** — colorful Sicilian marzipan shaped like fruit.
- ***Castagne*** — roasted chestnuts, a beloved autumn tradition throughout Italy.
- ***Pane dei Morti*** — a traditional “bread of the dead” found in parts of Italy.
- ***Fave dei Morti*** — almond cookies traditionally associated with All Souls’ Day in several Italian regions.

There is a wonderful Italian expression: **“Per non dimenticare” — “So that we do not forget.”**
Perhaps that is the perfect message for November.

We remember the saints.
We remember those who have passed away.
And we remember the ancestors whose courage, sacrifices, traditions, and love helped shape the families we have today.

Ricordare è amare. *To remember is to love.*

So this November, take a moment to remember someone special—and perhaps tell their story to someone in the next generation.



Town of Hempstead Italian Flag Raising Ceremony

















2026 Long Island Columbus Day Parade















America Lodge Italian Heritage Display at Franklin Square Library














America Lodge

55th

Anniversary Gala

Check out www.americalodge2245.com for more photos!












October General Meeting



















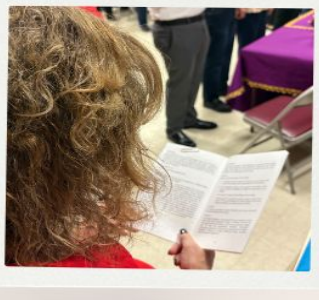










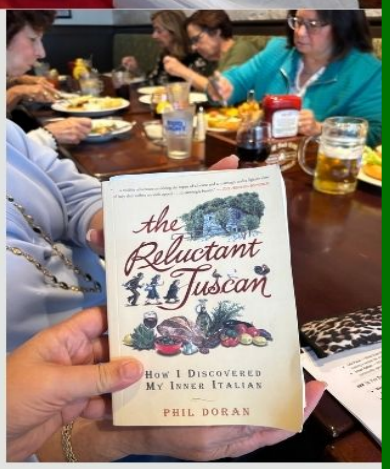














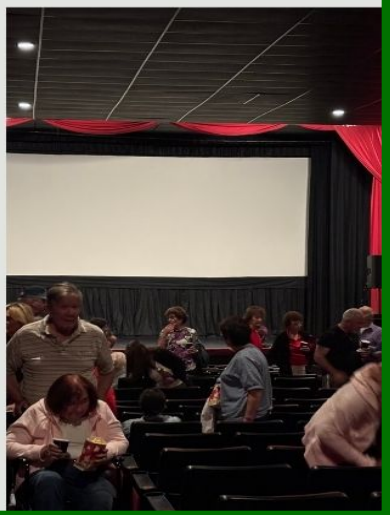


Il Dolce LIBRO

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN MOVIE NIGHT







Italian Night with the NY Islanders







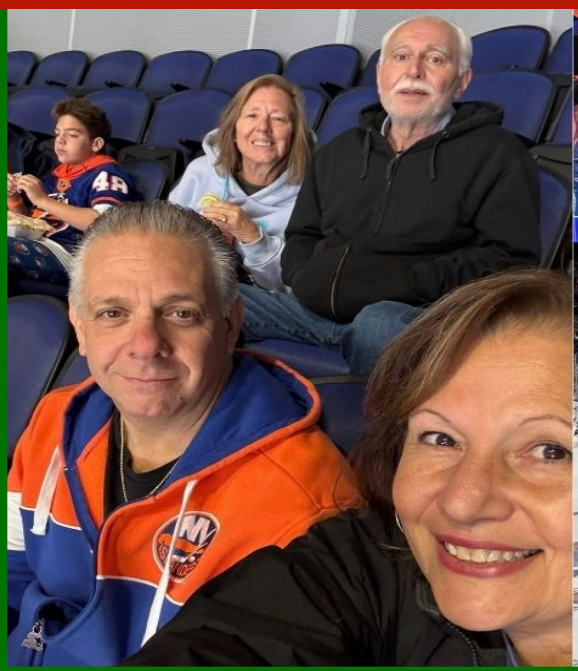
















America Lodge donates to the Ronald McDonald House









Lino and Franca Fratarcangeli and their bounty of Persimmons!





America Lodge Bocce Club wraps up another year of Bocce!



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

AMERICA LODGE #2245

Christmas PARTY



FOOD - DRINK - RAFFLES - DANCING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2026

3:00 -7:00 PM

St. Mary's/K of C, 78 Hempstead Ave., Lynbrook

$65.00 PER PERSON

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER $30.00 PER PERSON

BUFFET DINNER, BEER, WINE, AND SODA INCLUDED

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMERICA LODGE 2245

CONTACT MARIA PASSALACQUA (516) 456-3078 OR

DEBRA GOLDMANN (516) 729-7712

AMERICA LODGE #2245

PRESENTS A TRIP TO

WINDCREEK CASINO

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

COST $60.00 WITH $30.00 BACK

Bus leaves at 8:00 am promptly from behind Citibank on Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY

BAGELS & WATER SERVED ON THE BUS

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

Ellen Andrasick
245 Cleveland St.
Franklin Square, NY 11010
(516) 317-0686

SOLD OUT



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.

SOLD OUT

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

CLOSED FOR THE SEASON



AMERICA LODGE #2245

MAH JONGG

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD GAMES, GOOD TIMES!

All levels of Mah Jongg players are welcome!

Our group is growing, and we're excited to welcome new members to come play, socialize, and enjoy the game together.

Please note: This is an active playing group, rather than a group that provides lessons for new players. If you're interested in learning how to play, check your local library, senior center or Town recreation website for lessons.

Once you've learned the basics, come join us at the table! We'd love to have you play with us.

COME JOIN THE FUN!

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

Gift of Sight

New York State Grand Lodge Foundation
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
2101 Bellmore Avenue • Bellmore, New York 11710
(516) 785-4623 • (800) 322-OSIA • nysosdia.org

Mary Ann DeCostanzo
Gift of Sight Chairperson

Arthur Spera
State President

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR

2026 Annual

Gift of Sight Awards Luncheon

Honoring Those Who Make a Difference

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026
4:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Captain Bill's Bayview House
122 Ocean Avenue, Bay Shore, NY

Our Honorees

Dr. David Y. Rhee and Chairperson Emeritus Mary Naccarato
are most deserving of this honor.

Although we were disappointed to reschedule, we are excited to make this event even more special to recognize our award recipients.

We ask that you contact your members to inform them of this change. We do realize that there may be a change of attendees due to the date change. Once you have shared this information, please send an email to either me or Sabrina Savino, Registrar and Treasurer, listing those from your Lodge who will join us. ***Please respond to us no later than November 10, 2026** via email.*

As you can imagine, this is a huge undertaking, and we want everyone to feel welcome when they arrive at our event and find their table with ease.

This new date may be an opportunity for those that had a conflict of obligations with the original date; if they are available now, the Gift of Sight would be happy to open the reservations while adhering to the deadline of November 10. If for any reason you can no longer attend, we will issue a refund or discuss donation options.

Sabrina Savino's email is:
sabr10@msn.com

Mary Ann DeCostanzo email is:
decostanzo@optonline.net
(631) 848-3641

Fraternally,

Mary Ann DeCostanzo
Gift of Sight Chairperson

Mark A. Ventimiglia
Gift of Sight Vice-Chairperson

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

Joseph Sciame

Sons of Italy Foundation President
in recognition of his 40-year commitment to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

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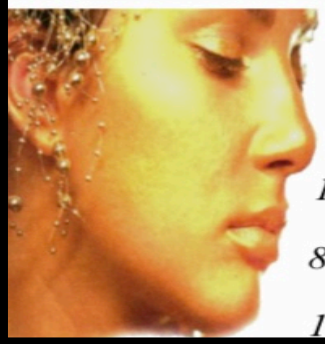
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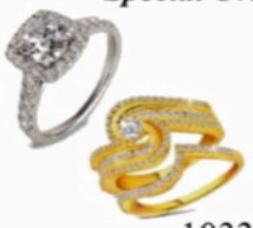
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