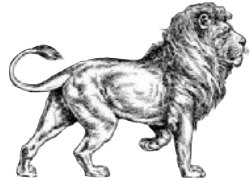
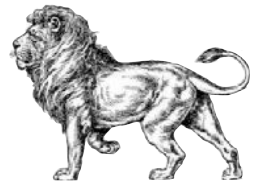


THE LION'S ROAR



AMERICA LODGE #2245



VFW Hall
68 Lincoln Road
Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY FRATERNITY

Volume 54
Issue 8
August 2025

August



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 Mary Sperrazza, Alternates: Jo Raia, Angelo LaVeglia,
 Phyllis Ann O'Connell.

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



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, whether you have gone away on vacation or enjoyed a staycation- a stay at home vacation, summer is one of my favorite seasons. You can go to the beach, work in your garden, watch a ballgame (no matter who you root for) or my favorite is to go fishing. And speaking of fishing, I heard that our wonderful newsletter editor will keep her tradition of awarding the front cover of your Lion's Roar to the winner of the biggest catch. Get your cameras ready!! This is going to be a great time for everyone!

At our July meeting we installed one new member, and we also had several people joining us for the first time. We would love to welcome them back at our August or September meeting to become America Lodge members. If our end of the meeting ice cream and iced tea social wasn't enough, maybe it's the many activities and events we have scheduled this year, or maybe it will be the touching and heartfelt **Editors Message** in this month's issue showing just how

supportive, how important, how caring membership in America Lodge can be. By joining the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, you aren't just a member in the oldest and largest Italian American fraternal organization, you are becoming part of our family.

Are you looking forward to our upcoming events? In August, we have our **fishing trip** on the 9th. As always, it's great to spend some time together and hopefully bring home dinner. On **September 6th** we have our annual picnic at Plattduetsch Park. Many thanks to our wonderful and generous sponsors **John Koziarz and John Guiffre** who enable us to offer a reduced price for the picnic. It is a fun time, and it fills up fast so get your tickets early. On **October 19th** we will hold our gala event. If you can attend only one event every year make it our 54th annual dinner dance. This year we will be honoring Thomas Lupo current National 1st Vice President, Arthur Spera NYS Grand Lodge President and our very own Donna Johnson, Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Website designer, and one of our Facebook Administrator's. Please see the various flyers Donna designed for these events in this issue of your newsletter.

On **October 5th** we will offer our annual Memorial Mass for all our members that we have lost. This touching tribute to those who have gone home is one of the many ways we honor and remember our departed loved ones.

We are also planning other events that we will be sharing in the near future. But for a sneak peek, how about a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino. Last year so many enjoyed it, that Ellen is busy planning it again. And don't forget our annual Christmas party! This year we'd like to set aside some time to sing all of your favorite Christmas songs. Ho, ho, ho...

Stay cool and I'll see you on the fishing trip!

Joe
President, America Lodge #2245
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

August



I would like to begin my Editor's Message by offering my profound and sincerest gratitude to all of you. I have lived "a year in the last 5 weeks." First it was the devastating and unexpected loss of my sister which took my knees right out from under me. Having to suddenly leave the Grand Lodge Convention after only 2 hours and make travel plans to Texas for a funeral was devastating. I thought I was preparing myself for my upcoming hip replacement surgery, but I guess that turned out to be one of my least worries. We traveled to Texas to participate in one of the most beautiful memorials that I could have witnessed. There were so many there that people were standing outside of the room. I was so deeply honored to be one of those who got to eulogize my beloved sister. The stories, photos, laughter and tears were so beautifully touching. I could not have wished for a more perfect way to send my sister off to heaven.

Once home, I had 2 days to get my head ready for my total hip replacement surgery in Boston. As I write this, I am 2 weeks out from surgery and healing, both mentally and physically.

As you may know, loss (in my case my incredible sister and my hip bones), whether expected or not, changes and affects your life. Sometimes, the changes are yet to be realized only to unfold during the days, weeks, months or even years ahead. What hasn't changed, however, is my love for you all. The cards, texts, phone calls, emails, flowers, soup, dinners, biscotti and LOVE that I have received from you has truly been what has gotten me through this 'year in 5 weeks'. I have found that not only are we tied together by our love of this wonderful Italian heritage, but we are bound together by our LOVE for one another. And when one of us is down, the rest of us pull together. THAT may be the true meaning of La Famiglia.

So, thank you for picking me up, sending me your love, and showing me that no matter what, we are always here for one another.

I hope you enjoy this August edition of your Newsletter. And a very special thank you to those who contributed and helped me put it together.

Donna

Membership Corner

by Membership Chairperson, Jo Ann Maggio



At our July 16th meeting, we installed a new member. Please welcome **Harriet Verde** to our Lodge and this wonderful family!

The summer months can be a bit slow for new members since many people travel and take time away from home. That's why it's even more important that we keep talking to our family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about joining America Lodge #2245.

If you have any prospective new members, please reach out to Jo Ann Maggio at (516) 850-5288 or masav1128@yahoo.com for an application. You can also visit our website at www.americalodge2245.com/Membership. And if you're feeling neighborly, consider bringing a friend to our August 20th meeting!

Remember, new members are the key to keeping our Lodge vibrant and growing. So, let's spread the word and make sure we have a full house!



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!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **August 9, America Lodge Annual Fishing Trip.** Contact Michael Avallone (917) 299-7251.
- **August 25, NYS OSDIA Annual State Golf Outing,** Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course; dinner to follow.
- **September 6, America Lodge Annual Picnic.** Contact Maria Passalacqua (516) 456-3078.
- **September 13, Gift of Sight Luncheon,** Verdi's of Westbury 12-4 pm.
- **October 5, America Lodge #2245 Memorial Mass** 9:30 am.
- **October 11, LI Columbus Day Parade,** Lake Ave Firehouse, Deer Park.
- **October 19, America Lodge #2245 54th Anniversary Dinner Dance** at Leonards. Contact VP Karen Mollish (516) 852-2823 or IPP Andrew Monteleone (516) 784-9142.
- **November 15, America Lodge #2245 Wind Creek Casino Trip.** Save the date. Details to follow soon.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Buon Compleanno

Happy Birthday

to our August "Agosto" birthday celebrants!

Michael Avallone, Victor Francois, Helen Geneva, Antonino Guarrasi, Donna Johnson, Mark Johnson, Maria Passalacqua, Angelo LaVeglia, Philip Munda, Charles Piccirillo, Christine Rossi, Santino Sarrica, Susan Dunn, Steve Ditusa, Fred Tomasone, Mary Versaci, Lora Vita.

Congratulations to 1st Vice President, **Karen Mollish** and husband Chris Mollish on the birth of their 3rd grandchild; their first granddaughter, Valentina Theresa who was born to daughter and son in law Marissa and Valerio Scarapicchia on Tuesday, July 29th. She was 6 lbs 13 oz and 19.5 inches long. Congratulations to all!



Congratulations to **Marie Geneva Frank** who was the proud recipient of the OSDIA NYS Grand Lodge Membership referral jacket for her wonderful efforts in brining in new members to America Lodge! Wear your jacket in good health, Marie!!



Congratulations to **Mary Sperrazza** who was recognized with a Citation from Nassau County Executive, Bruce Blakeman at the Italian American heritage summer concert at Eisenhower Park.



Get Well Soon

Luigi Pinto, Cathy Walsh, Antonino Guarrasi, Sylvia Giglio...
our thoughts and prayers are with you..

Thank you!!

My Brothers and Sisters of America Lodge,

Thank you for the beautiful introductory article in your newsletter. I am both humbled and overwhelmed to be your State President. I hope to visit you at your lodge meeting in the coming months. Once again, thank you very much.

Fraternally Yours,

Arthur Spera

State President

NYS Grand Lodge OSDIA

Congratulations on achieving the Best Newsletter Award. After reading the July edition, it is easy to see why!

Thank you,

Joe Adamo

President, Sgt. Basilone Lodge 2442

So well deserved in receiving BEST NEWSLETTER, you do an amazing job!! Thank you!
~Susan McKee

Thank you!!
We love to hear from you!



America Lodge #2245 is proud to announce
it's new website!

check it out!



Are you enjoying our Newsletter and the
Website? Click here and let us know!

The Festival of San Salvatore and an ancient Sicilian Celebration

On August 6th, Cefalú celebrates San Salvatore, its patron saint. This annual festival in the Sicilian city features processions, celebrations, and traditional dishes like “Pasta a Taianu” which is made with meat, tomatoes, eggplant, and pecorino cheese.

The festival's history is closely linked to the Duomo di Cefalú, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built during the Norman era. The festivities center around the Christ Pantocrator, an image of Jesus that appears on the festival flag and remains above the cathedral throughout the event.

Each day brings new events, including concerts, firework displays, and food vendors. On the final day, crowds gather in the harbor to watch the “Ntinna a mari” competition. This traditional game involves 17 boys or men from fishing families of Cefalú who must walk on a 16-meter-long wooden beam, fixed to the pier and made smooth with animal fat, to catch the flag on its end, which depicts the face of the patron saint.

The “Ntinna a mari” embodies Cefalú's culture, highlighting values like religiosity, brotherhood, warmth, cheerfulness, and respect for traditions.



THE COLOR OF SUMMER



The color of summer is here, and it started with a chocolate bar. Pistachio (both the food and the color) is all the rage right now. The nut entered the limelight over the past several months after various food creators popularized “Dubai chocolate,” an indulgent chocolate bar filled with pistachio cream, tahini, and shredded phyllo dough. Now, pistachio is everywhere! You can find it in ice cream, coffee, cookies, salad, martini’s and tiramisu just to name a few.

The Bronte pistachio collection, a community celebration, embodies the pride of belonging to a generous land.

Renowned for their superior quality and economic and cultural value, Bronte’s pistachios, known as ‘green gold,’ flourished in Sicily centuries ago during Arab domination.

Bronte’s farmers have perfected cultivation and harvesting techniques, passing down knowledge and traditions through generations. This has earned the Bronte pistachio an international reputation for excellence.

One of the pistachio’s peculiarities is its two-year harvest cycle. During this rest period, the plant accumulates energy, ensuring a high-quality harvest in the following year. During the ‘dumping’ year, the plants don’t bear fruit, but farmers still care for them by pruning trees and maintaining the soil, preparing it for the next harvest. This two-year cycle is why the pistachio of Bronte is so appreciated: patience and care yield fruit with intense flavor and superior quality.

The harvest period varies from year to year due to climate and location, typically beginning in mid-August and lasting until early September. Despite modern technology, the collection of pistachios in Bronte remains entirely manual due to the uneven and challenging lava soil. Pickers use canvas bags or plastic baskets to collect the nuts, though upside-down umbrellas under tree branches served as ‘nets’ in the past. Manual harvesting remains a distinctive element of pistachio production.

After harvesting, pistachios undergo ‘smallatura,’ a process that removes the outer hull using specialized machines. Shelled pistachios are then dried in the sun or under ventilated tunnels for 5-6 days to preserve their quality. Once dried, they’re stored in warehouses awaiting shelling, which can take months and is scheduled based on market needs to ensure a steady supply of fresh, high-quality nuts.

Bronte pistachios are processed into various food products beyond simple dried fruit. They’re the main ingredient in spreads, ice creams, desserts, and even sausages.

In Sicily, pistachios are the star of traditional sweets like cannoli and refreshing Sicilian granita. Beyond desserts, the pistachio di Bronte is increasingly used in savory dishes like pesto’s, pasta condiments, and bruschetta. Its rich flavor enhances various dishes, making it a valuable kitchen ingredient.

The Bronte pistachio collection, a vital part of the local economy and a centuries-old tradition, is cultivated with patience and skill, making it a true Sicilian treasure. The harvest celebration strengthens the bond between the land and its people, showcasing the passion, tradition, and innovation that goes into every aspect of pistachio production, from planting to dish.



ITALIAN WITH GLORIA

by America Lodge Past President
Gloria Maffettone

**Trenta giorni ha novembre
Con Aprile, giugno e settembre
Di Ventotto ce' né uno
Tutti gli altri ne han trentuno**

**Thirty days has November
with April, June and September
of Twenty-eight there is only one
All the others have thirty-one**

**Buongiorno lunedì,
come sta martedì,
Molto bene mercoledì, dica a
giovedì
Di venire venerdì con sabato
A pranzo domenica!**

**Good morning Monday,
How are you Tuesday,
Very well Wednesday, tell
Thursday
to come Friday with Saturday
Lunch on Sunday!**

Fun Facts About Italy

The name Italy comes from the word Italia, meaning "calf land," perhaps because the bull was a symbol of the southern Italian tribes.

When McDonald's opened in Rome in 1986, food purists outside the restaurant gave away free spaghetti to remind people of their culinary heritage.

The pre-dinner passeggiata or evening stroll is one of Italy's enduring activities where Italians stroll about the streets to see and be seen.

When European Jews were being persecuted during WWII, it was not unusual for some Jews to hide in Italy's ancient catacombs.

Influenced in part by the French flag, the Italian flag has evolved over several hundred years. The flag's colors are green, white and red representing hope, faith and charity.

A Dream Come True by Fred Pitella

I was asked once "what is a Giglio?" A Giglio is a tower erected to honor a Saint. Standing over 70 feet tall and weighing approximately 4 tons, it requires the collective effort of around 120 individuals to lift, carry, and dance with it down the street while a band plays on its platform. This tradition, an Italian American custom in Brooklyn spanning over a century, holds a special place in my heart.

Growing up in Brooklyn, my father would always take us to the feast, and it was my mother's favorite. I would often dream of one day being a part of the procession and carrying the Giglio.

My dream finally came true when I recently participated in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel feast in Brooklyn. I was honored and exhausted as I proudly carried the Giglio. The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast, a traditional NYC Italian Street Festival, offers food vendors, rides, and games for families. Since 1887, the Italian American community has celebrated their faith, culture, and family traditions on Williamsburg's streets. Each July, revelers from all over participate in the Dancing of the Giglio, a centuries-old tradition.



For twelve days, the streets surrounding the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel transform into a vibrant festival with food vendors, rides, games, and daily entertainment. The beloved feast has been an integral part of the community since 1887, when immigrants from Southern Italy brought their cherished celebrations to America. Over the years, it has preserved many old-world traditions while adapting to life in the United States.

In the late 19th century, Italian immigrants from Nola settled in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Devoted to their faith, especially their patron saint, San Paolino, they formed the Società M.S. San Paolino to honor San Paolino. In 1903, they organized the inaugural Giglio Feast in Brooklyn. For over five decades, the society, in collaboration with The San Paolo Society, has organized the feast, preserving their hometown tradition in their new country. In the 1950s, the festival's leadership transitioned to The Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which merged the Giglio Feast with the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Since then, it's been celebrated annually in July, culminating on July 16th, the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This fusion of traditions creates a unique celebration that harmonizes religious, cultural, and community elements.



In contemporary Brooklyn, the Giglio Feast continues this centuries-old tradition. The centerpiece is the magnificent Giglio adorned with flowers, saints, and angels. The event is filled with music, dance, and a spirit that evokes the old neighborhood traditions.

The Giglio Feast is a must-do in Brooklyn! It brings together generations of Italian Americans and welcomes folks from all walks of life. It's a celebration of history, devotion, and lively festivities. The next day, my shoulder was so sore I had trouble lifting my coffee cup! But it was totally worth it! As I was lifting the Giglio, I felt my Mom and Dad smiling down on me!

How Popes spend their summer vacations

Leo XIV is taking some well-deserved time off to kick back and relax after all the hubbub surrounding his election in May as the first North American Pope.



View of the papal palace of Castel Gandolfo / Photo: Stefano Tammaro via Shutterstock

The newly pegged pontiff recently rode out the July heat in **Castel Gandolfo**, the traditional holiday residence of popes dating back to the 16th century. According to *The Guardian*, he's slated to return in mid-August.

The sprawling complex and gardens of Castel Gandolfo, built on the ruins of an ancient Roman villa, is located about an hour south of Rome in the lakeside town of the same name.

According to *Vatican News*, the property was acquired by the Holy See in 1596 from a noble Roman family, and finally incorporated into its assets in 1604. It was Pope Urban VII who ordered the transformation into an apostolic summer digs, becoming the first pontiff in history to “vacay” there.

The tradition of popes taking breaks outside of blisteringly hot Rome endured until Leo's predecessor, Pope Francis (who famously shunned pomp and privilege) declined to use it, opting for humble “staycations” in his papal apartment in Rome.

As a result, Castel Gandolfo was opened to the public in 2016, allowing visitors to roam its Renaissance-era gardens and take a peek into some of the opulent rooms inside the estate.

The palace will continue to be a museum, with Leo spending his holiday in a renovated Villa Barberini — a relatively smaller estate next door, boasting views of Lake Albano, along with gardens, olive groves, orchards, and a paved stone walkway. Not bad.

AMERICA LODGE GENERAL MEETING



ITALIAN AMERICAN NIGHT AT EISENHOWER PARK



AMERICA LODGE MEMBERS' GARDENS



Joe Armocida



Andrew Monteleone



Lisa & Anthony Spano



Art Corvese



Marie Geneva Frank



Mary Sperazza



Mary Sperazza



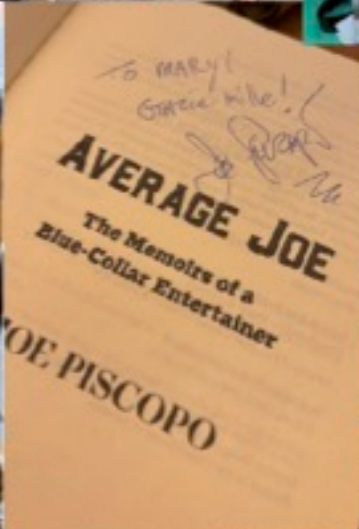
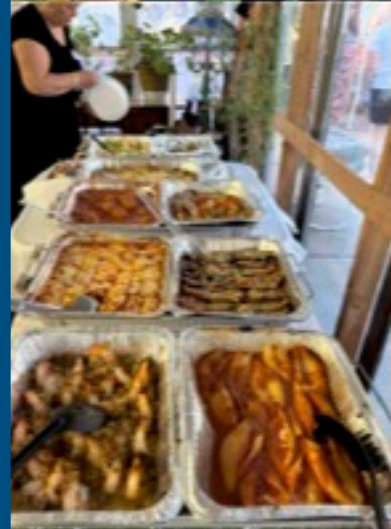
Mary Sperazza



Mary Sperazza



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AMERICA LODGE MAH JONGG



AMERICA LODGE BOCCE





AMERICA LODGE #2245 ANNUAL FISHING TRIP SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

Once again, America Lodge will set sail on the beautiful Captain Eddie B III. We leave the dock at 7:00 am SHARP for a memorable 5-hour charter. This spectacular and fun-filled voyage will return at 12:00 pm and is open to all lodge members, family, and friends.

All fishing gear, tackle, and bait are included. No need to bait the hook or touch the fish, as the expert and friendly deck hands will take care of all that for you!

A delicious bagel breakfast and hero lunch are included! All you need to bring are your drinks and your camera...you know, to photograph "the one that got away."

DETAILS:

 **ADULTS: \$75.00, CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER: \$35.00**

 **7:00 AM SHARP - 12 NOON**

 **CAPTREE BOAT BASIN, CAPTAIN EDDIE B III**
<http://www.captaineb3.com>

 **CONTACT Chairperson, Michael Avallone (917) 299-7251 or Co-Chairperson, Andrew Monteleone at (516) 784-9142 to reserve your spot!**



AMERICA LODGE #2245

ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

Join us at our
Annual Picnic in
the Park for an
afternoon of
relaxation,
laughter, and
connection with
our Italian
family!

**Raffle baskets
and 50/50.**



SAVE THE DATE !!

Saturday September 6, 2025

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**The Plattduetsche Park
Restaurant**

Adults \$45.00
Per-person
Children 12 and under
\$20.00
includes hot buffet and
soft drinks. Full bar
available for purchase.

For More Information
contact:

Maria Passalacqua
(516) 456-3078

America Lodge #2245

*54th Annual Anniversary Dinner Dance
honoring*

*Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America®
National 1st Vice President
Thomas Lupo,*

*New York State President
Arthur Spera,
and*

*Donna Giorandino Johnson
America Lodge #2245
Corresponding Secretary, Website creator and
Award winning Newsletter Editor*

*at
Leonard's Palazzo
555 Northern Blvd
Great Neck, NY 11021
Sunday, October 19th, 2025*

*12:00-5:00 pm
\$125.00 per person*

*Contact Karen Mollish (516) 852-2823 or
Andrew Monteleone (516) 784-9142*

Gift of Sight
Annual Fundraising Luncheon

New York State
Order Sons and Daughters of
Italy in America

****Save the Date****

Saturday, September 13, 2025
Verdi's of Westbury: 12—4 pm

Biagio Isgro Jr - State President
Mary Naccarato - Chairperson
Mark A. Ventimiglia - Vice-Chair

Humanitarian Award - Mario & Pamela Cermele

GOS Excellence Award - Robert Graham



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL

LONG ISLAND

COLUMBUS DAY

PARADE



OCTOBER
11, 2025



TOWN OF BABYLON

Floats, Banners, Music and other attractions
will be there for all to enjoy. Following
the parade will be an Italian Food Festival at the

Constantino Brumidi Lodge #2211

AMERICA LODGE #2245

BEST
NEWSLETTER
2025



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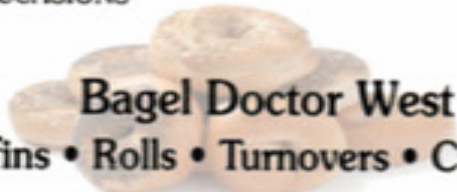


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