

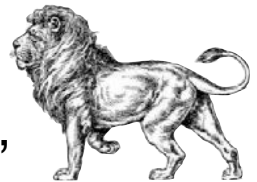
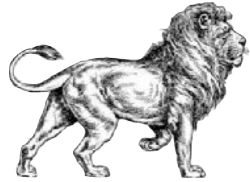
THE LION'S ROAR



ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA®

AMERICA LODGE #2245

"AMERICA LODGE, WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY"



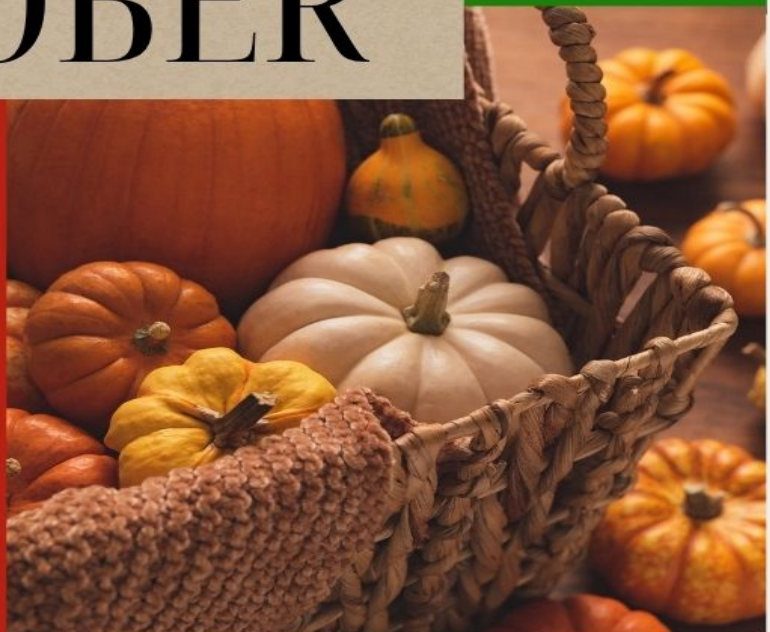
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THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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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.



October is Italian-American Heritage and Culture month. It was first celebrated in 1989 when Congress designated October to honor and educate everyone to the contributions and achievements of Italian immigrants and their descendants. Over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the U.S. between 1820 and 1992 and today there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States. Best of all, you only have to say “America” to celebrate how much Italy has given these United States. After all, America was named after an Italian explorer and geographer, Amerigo Vespucci. ***America, a beautiful Italian name...***

What a busy month September has been. It started out with an America Lodge membership tent at the three-day St. Catherine of Sienna Family

Festival. We had a great turnout of members promoting our lodge to prospective new members. And best of all, we will welcome some new members because of their efforts to tell the America Lodge story. At our September meeting there were over 100 members in attendance and we installed **13 new members!** We are well on our way to our goal of growing America Lodge to 250 members by the end of the year. **As of last count we are over 240!**

September ended with our annual picnic at the Plattduetsche Park Bier Garten. Maria and Lisa put on an incredible event and the weather could not have cooperated any better. It was a beautiful day to socialize, eat, relax, eat, win prizes and gift baskets, eat, drink and enjoy everything it means to be part of our great OSDIA and America Lodge family. Our feather flag was proudly on display to announce our presence, as tables were adorned with colors of the Italian flag. There were over 150 people in attendance and raffles were dedicated to both our scholarship and general funds. See Maria's *Picnic by the Numbers* on page 15 for details! Many thanks to our sponsors, brothers and sisters from other lodges, our members and the visiting dignitaries. This issue of your award-winning newsletter has photos of the picnic and even more on our **website!**

Can you believe our 55th ***Annual Dinner Dance Gala*** is almost here? The event will be held on October 18th at Leonard's Palazzo. This year's honorees are America Lodge members **Marie Geneva Frank, Cindy Lampasi, and Lisa Teitz** and America Lodge past and now current District Deputy **Anthony Vasaturo**. It is our privilege to recognize and thank them for everything they have done for the Order and America Lodge. Please contact Karen Mollish 516-852-2823 to get your tickets and reserve your seats. **We need to send in a final count and want to make sure you are included.** Get your tickets today!! We are also creating a beautiful keepsake souvenir journal where you can congratulate our honorees. Journal Chairperson Debra Goldmann 516-729-7712 is ready and waiting to place your advertisement.

We call this event our Gala, but it is so much more than that. Technically a Gala is a grand, formal public celebration, party, or special event that includes dinner, entertainment, dancing, or charitable fundraising. Yes, it is all that but our Gala is also a nod to our magnificent history, our achievements, past and present, our story, and as Dr. Sellaro said, *“for our descendants and members who are Italian born ...who came to America in the hope, not to find a new life, but to earn a better one...”*

As we go into October, Italian-American Heritage and Culture month, let's celebrate everything we share... even if (*sic*) you ...carry a single drop of Italian blood (*sic*) you will be able, and proud, to continue to carry on our traditions, our culture and our language. Wishing you a very happy Italian-American Heritage and Culture month.

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

Fraternally,

Joe





BUON OTTOBRE, CARI AMICI!



There is something about October that makes us want to slow down, enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn, and appreciate the traditions and people that make life so special.

In this issue, we are celebrating **Italian Heritage** and fall with a combination of both! Have you heard the story of ***The Witches of Benevento***? See how this story connects a walnut tree to literature.

Do you know why we celebrate **Columbus Day**? For many Italian Americans, the day represents more than Christopher Columbus. It also reminds us of the discrimination faced by Italian immigrants, including the tragic **1891 lynching of 11**

Italian immigrants in New Orleans. Remembering this history helps us understand why preserving our Italian-American heritage remains so important.

Pastina...Oh, pastina! It's ***The Little Bowl That Feels Like a Hug***. Some foods are more than food—they are memories. A little bowl of pastina can take us right back to childhood and to the people who cared for us. I think many of us will recognize that feeling!

It's That Time Again. **Membership Renewal!** October also means it's time for our annual membership renewal dues (see pg. 13). Please take a moment to renew on time as it helps us avoid unnecessary mailing costs and keeps our membership information current. Your dues help make our activities, celebrations, charitable projects, and time together possible. Every member matters, so renew your membership, stay connected, and help keep our lodge strong!

So Much to Celebrate! Our **Annual Anniversary Dinner Dance** is just ahead, and we are honored to celebrate **Marie Geneva Frank, Cindy Lampasi, and Lisa Teitz** for their many contributions to our lodge. These women have helped bring activities such as our Bocce Club, and Mah Jongg Club to life, creating more opportunities for friendship and participation. We are also pleased to honor **Anthony Vasaturo** as our Past District Deputy. Please join us in celebrating our honorees for their dedication and service.

Before we know it, we'll be trading autumn colors for Christmas lights! Our **Annual Christmas Party** is December 6th. And don't forget our **Ronald McDonald House collection**. Please bring your donations to our **October 21st meeting**. Thank you to everyone who helps our lodge continue its tradition of giving back.(see both flyers on pg. 19)

As we celebrate **Italian-American Heritage Month**, let's remember that our heritage isn't only found in old stories, recipes, traditions, or photographs. **It lives in us**—in the food we share, the stories we tell, the traditions we pass down, the friendships we make, and the way we come together to help others.

Enjoy this beautiful October, enjoy this issue, and most of all, enjoy being part of our Italian-American family!

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 September 16th General Meeting we installed **13 new members!** Congratulations and welcome to:

**Ann Bauer, Lynda Capozziello, Lillian Chajkewicz, Denise DeSanti,
Frank De Domenico, Delia Egan, Phyllis Marchetti, Irene Razza, Denise Rigopoulos,
Joseph Sansone, Diane Smith, Jean Treglia, Anthony Wieser.**

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.americallodge2245.com/Membership for a membership application and consider bringing them with you to our October 21st 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

- **October 1, Italian Heritage Movie "Under the Tuscan Sun" at the Bellmore Show Place. See flyer pg 19.**
- **October 4, America Lodge Annual Memorial Mass, St. Catherine of Sienna, 9:45 am.**
- **October 6, America Lodge Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Franklin Square Library.**
- **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!**
- **October 21, America Lodge General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Franklin Square VFW.**
- **November 7, America Lodge Casino trip to Windcreek Casino. SOLD OUT!**
- **November 9, America Lodge hosts "A Night at the Opera: Giacomo Puccini's Tosca!" SOLD OUT!**
- **November 18, America Lodge General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm. Membership Dues return date.**
- **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

• October 6, 13, 20th.

www.americallodge2245.com

America Lodge Bocce

Thursday's at Rath Park
5:00 pm!

Buon Compleanno
to our

Ottobre

Birthday Celebrants!

**Augusta Anzalone, Logan Balsan, Nancy Barbanell,
Frank Damiani, Grazia DeCiantis, Jessie D'Esposito,
Scott Goldmann, Paola Mancini, Anna Maola,
Susan McKee, William Monreale, Gary Montemarano,
Gabriella Montoni, Irene Razza, Joseph Sansone,
Carmella Schipani, Susan Somella, Maria Thaler**

Happy Birthday!



Get Well Soon

**Robert Goldmann, Scott Goldmann,
Past President Sylvia Giglio**





CELEBRATING Italian Heritage THROUGH TRADITION

Italian heritage is more than a connection to a country or a family name. It lives in the traditions we share, the stories we tell, the foods we prepare, and the customs we pass from one generation to the next. During **Italian-American Heritage Month**, October gives us an opportunity to celebrate the many parts of Italian culture that continue to shape families and communities today.

Language: More Than Words. Language is one of the most meaningful ways culture is passed down. For many Italian-American families, words and phrases heard from parents or grandparents become a connection to earlier generations. Italy itself has a rich linguistic diversity, with regional dialects and variations that reflect the country's history. Learning even a few Italian words can be a way to strengthen that connection. Whether it is *ciao*, *grazie*, *buongiorno*, or a phrase remembered from a grandparent, language can carry memories and traditions along with it.

Food: Recipes With a Story. Italian food is perhaps one of the most recognizable parts of Italian culture, but its significance goes far beyond what is on the plate. Recipes are often connected to family, place, and memory. A recipe for pasta, sauce, bread, cookies, or a holiday dish may have been passed down through several generations. Often, the recipe isn't even written down—it is something learned by watching a parent or grandparent cook. These foods can tell us where our families came from and remind us of the people who taught us how to prepare them. Italian cuisine also reflects Italy's regional diversity. A traditional dish from Sicily may look very different from one found in Tuscany, Naples, or Lombardy. Celebrating Italian food therefore also means celebrating the many different cultures and traditions found throughout Italy.

Family and Community. Family is another important part of Italian-American heritage. For generations of Italian immigrants, family and community provided support while adapting to life in a new country. Extended families often lived close to one another, shared meals, celebrated holidays together, and helped preserve familiar customs. Today, those traditions can look different from family to family, but the importance of gathering together remains a meaningful part of Italian-American culture. A Sunday meal, a holiday gathering, or simply spending time with grandparents and relatives can become a tradition in its own right.

Keeping Traditions Alive. Italian-American Heritage Month is ultimately an opportunity to remember that heritage is something we can actively preserve. We keep it alive when we learn a family recipe, practice the language, listen to Italian music, learn about our ancestors, celebrate a holiday, or simply ask a grandparent to share a story. Traditions may change as they are passed from one generation to the next, and that is part of what makes them meaningful. Each generation adds something of its own while carrying pieces of the past forward.

This October, Italian Heritage Month gives us a chance to celebrate not only where we come from, but also the traditions we continue to share, preserve, and create together.

“Buon Mese dell’Eredità Italiana!” “Happy Italian Heritage Month!”

Why We Celebrate Columbus Day

I love asking people at events or parties "Do you know why we celebrate Columbus Day?" Don't worry, many Italian-Americans don't know the meaning behind Columbus Day or why we celebrate it. We wrote an article titled *History's Greatest Paradox* where we discussed why we celebrate Columbus Day. The article is linked above and found on our website. This year however we wanted our Columbus Day discussion to go from a paradox to an irony...

Officially, Columbus Day was created to honor the greatest mass lynching in U.S. history. Eleven working-class Italian immigrants were lynched in New Orleans, nine days after the men had been acquitted in the murder of New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessy Jr. Here comes the irony. Chief Hennessy was gunned down in October just three days after Columbus' October 12th historic landfall. But who was David Hennessy, Jr. and why did his deathbed utterance lead to a national disgrace?

Verylocal.com describes New Orleans as cauldron of political and ethnic conflicts ready to explode. France's policy to release criminals from its prisons and send them to the Louisiana colony contributed to the city becoming host to numerous thugs, gamblers, prostitutes and con men. It was also known that the Hennessy family was no stranger to controversy, conflict or even arrest.

Just as the Civil War was starting, David Hennessy Jr. was born. His father David Hennessy Sr. served as a cavalry officer in Union occupied New Orleans. After the war his father was caught lying trying to collect his deceased brother's Army benefits. Hennessy Sr. was cleared of the charges, not because they weren't true, but because several character witnesses testified to his bravery in the war. Emboldened by this court room victory, he took a job as a police officer in the newly formed Metropolitan Police Force. Unfortunately, it was said that his police position only made the senior Hennessy's character worse. Hennessy Sr. was arrested multiple times before he was shot inside the 8th District Court Coffeehouse and later died of his injuries.

Hennessy Sr.'s former cavalry commander was appointed head of the Metropolitan Police and took pity on the younger Hennessy. He gave him his first job on the police force as a messenger boy. Hennessy Jr. took to police work much like his father before him, and, at the age of 17, officially joined the force as a patrolman. And just like his father before him, David Hennessy Jr. was not immune to arrest or killing. He confessed to killing his rival in self-defense. Not everyone agreed with the verdict, and a New Orleans State editorial called him a murderer outright. The resulting controversy caused Jr. to resign in disgrace from the Metropolitan Police Force in April 1882. However, six years later the New Orleans Mayor appointed David Hennessy Jr. Chief of Police. Part of his being appointed to the chief position was the agreement that he'd consolidate the police force. This caused many to lose their jobs and made him no friends at the police station. All of this to say, nearly anyone could have been responsible for his subsequent assassination. But because he uttered the anti-Italian slur "dago" on his death bed, only Italian men were investigated, questioned, and arrested.

If you Google "why do we celebrate Columbus Day" you will not find anything about the 11 innocent men who were lynched by a vigilante mob. Moreover, it is reported that no action was ever taken against those who participated in the lynchings. Even the New Orleans mayor at the time said, "These men deserved killing and they were punished by peaceable and law-abiding citizens." According to The New Orleans Advocate, the 11 victims, all of whom were acquitted by the criminal courts, were identified as fruit peddlers **Antonio Bagnetto**, **Antonio Marchesi** and **Antonio Scaffidi**; dockworker **James Caruso** and **Rocco Geraci**; cobbler **Pietro Monasterio**; tinsmith **Loreto Comitit**; street vendor **Emmanuele Polizzi**; fruit importer **Joseph P. Macheca**; ward politician **Frank Romero**; and rice plantation laborer **Charles Traina**. These men are why we celebrate Columbus Day.

By Harper's Weekly - <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015011448161&seq=849&page=34>
weekly v.34 1890 p.872, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=16993674>



Antonio Scaffidi, Joseph P. Macheca, Antonio Bagnetto, John Matranga, and Pietro Monasterio.



Italian Halloween Trivia



Did you know?

The Italian word for Halloween is generally still Halloween—
but you'll also hear the phrase **la festa di Halloween**.
And “trick or treat?” can be translated playfully as: **Dolcetto o scherzetto?**
Literally: “Little treat or little trick?”
Try saying it with dramatic Italian hand gestures.
It's much more fun that way. 🇮🇹

Can You Guess:

1. Which Italian city is famously associated with witches?

- A. Venice
- B. Benevento
- C. Bologna

2. Which number is traditionally considered unlucky in Italy?

- A. 7
- B. 13
- C. 17

3. What is a strega?

- A. A witch
- B. A ghost
- C. A fortune teller

4. What is il malocchio?

- A. The evil eye
- B. A magic potion
- C. A haunted house

5. What might you put near your doorway to distract a legendary janara?

- A. A pumpkin
- B. A broom
- C. A bell

Answers:

1. B — Benevento 2. C — 17
3. A — A witch 4. A — The evil eye
5. B — A broom



The Witches of Benevento

From a Mysterious Walnut Tree to a Famous Italian Liqueur

If you were asked to name Italy's most famous city of witches, you might not immediately think of Benevento. But for centuries, this historic city in Campania has been known as *la città delle streghe* – the city of witches. And the story begins with a tree.

Il Noce di Benevento – the Walnut Tree of Benevento. According to local tradition, a great walnut tree once stood near the Sabato River, where mysterious nighttime gatherings were said to take place, with dancing, feasting, and rituals. The legend is connected to the Lombards, who made Benevento the capital of a powerful duchy in the sixth century. Later Christian traditions portrayed these gatherings as pagan, and eventually demonic. Local tradition says that Saint Barbato, the seventh-century bishop of Benevento, ordered the sacred tree destroyed. One version of the story even claims that when the tree was uprooted, a serpent emerged from its roots – interpreted as the devil himself.

The tree disappeared. The legend did not. By the Middle Ages, Benevento had become famous for stories of witches gathering beneath the walnut tree. Known as **le Janare**, these legendary witches were said to practice magic, cast spells, and possess supernatural powers. Their stories became part of the wider European tradition of the *sabba delle streghe* – the witches' sabbath.

The legend became so widespread that it even appeared in witchcraft trials. In 1428, Matteuccia di Francesco was tried for witchcraft in Todi, Umbria. During her interrogation, she reportedly described an ointment and incantation that would transport her to the walnut tree of Benevento: "Unguento, unguento, mandame a la noce de Benivento..." "Ointment, ointment, send me to the walnut tree of Benevento..." Whether anyone actually believed witches were flying there is another question. But the story had certainly traveled.

Italian folklore even offered a practical solution if a Janara visited your house at night: leave a broom near the door. According to one tradition, the witch would become distracted counting its bristles. And while she counted, the sun would rise. Witch problem solved.

Stories like these gave people imaginative explanations for illness, bad luck, frightening nighttime experiences, and other mysteries. And eventually, Benevento's witches found their way into a bottle.

Strega – meaning "witch" – is Benevento's famous golden herbal liqueur. Produced in the city since the nineteenth century, it was deliberately connected to the witch legend. Its label even depicts witches dancing around a walnut tree. Then the story took another unexpected turn.

In 1947, writers Maria Bellonci and Goffredo Bellonci established the Premio Strega, one of Italy's best-known literary prizes. The prize was supported by Guido Alberti, the Benevento industrialist associated with the company that produced Strega liqueur. Today, Premio Strega is associated with Italian literature rather than witches. But the name still carries a piece of Benevento's old legend.

From a mysterious walnut tree, to witches, to liqueur, and finally to literature – it's quite a journey for one tree.



The Little Bowl That Feels Like a Hug



Long before comfort food became a hashtag, Italian nonna's had already figured it out.

Their answer was tiny: a handful of little pasta, a pat of butter, a shower of Parmigiano. Maybe an egg. Maybe a ladle of broth. Nothing complicated. Nothing fancy. Just a warm bowl of pastina.

These days, you may have noticed pastina making the rounds online—tiny stars bobbing in golden broth, stirred into something somewhere between soup and porridge. It may look like a new food trend, but in Italian kitchens, pastina has been comforting people for generations. You might even say it is the original Italian comfort food! The name itself simply means "little pasta," and pasta comes in equally little shapes: stelline, or tiny stars; acini di pepe; and other small varieties that cook quickly and practically beg to be eaten by the spoonful.

For many Italian families, pastina is among the first foods given to babies. And it doesn't lose its appeal with age. It becomes the thing you make when you're sick, heartsick, exhausted, or simply craving something that tastes like home.

There is no one right way. That's part of the charm. Pastina is less a recipe than a tradition with plenty of room for interpretation.

The simplest version, in bianco, skips the egg altogether. Pastina is cooked in broth and finished with butter and Parmigiano, creating a soft, mellow bowl that's especially appealing when you're under the weather.

For something richer, there's stracciatella-style pastina, where a beaten egg is stirred into the hot pasta at the end. The egg cooks into delicate ribbons, adding richness and protein.

Prefer your comfort food extra cozy? Use less broth and let the pastina sit for a minute before serving. It will thicken into a spoonable porridge. Or go the other direction and add more hot broth for a lighter, soupier bowl.

And broth isn't mandatory. Water works, too—just give the finished bowl a little extra help from butter, cheese, and seasoning.

Maybe that's why pastina has earned the affectionate nickname "Italian penicillin."
It isn't medicine, of course.

But generations of Italian families understood something long before the internet did:
sometimes the cure for a difficult day is wonderfully uncomplicated.

A little pasta. A little butter. A little cheese.

And a bowl that feels like a hug.

<https://www.ditalia.com/pages/recipes/authentic-italian-pastina-recipe>



THE VEILED CHRIST



Over 150 years after the death of Michelangelo, who was known as one of the greatest artists, sculptors, and painter's in history, an Italian sculptor from Naples was born. **Giuseppe Sanmartino** followed in the master's tradition of carving hyper-realistic human form out of Carrara marble. In his most famous work, The Veiled Christ (Il Cristo Velato), he depicts the dead body of Jesus Christ lying on a couch, covered by a thin, transparent marble shroud. The veil is so finely carved that it reveals all of the anatomical details, facial features, and suffering from Jesus' crucifixion. The hands, slightly curled in

surrender. The feet, bearing the last echoes of agony. The face, serene yet marked with the profound weight of death.

The Veiled Christ's production was originally assigned to sculptor Antonio Coradini, however, he died a short time after his appointment. When Sanmartino took over the project, rather than mimicking Corradini's style, he surpassed it, elevating the art of veiled figures giving you the sensation that you are in the presence of something beyond time, beyond craftsmanship. The mastery of the Neapolitan sculptor lies in his successful depiction of the suffering that Christ had undergone during the crucifixion through the veil.

The Veiled Christ is on display at the Museo Cappella in Naples. The chapel houses almost thirty works of art. Because of its popularity and limited space, tickets often sell out weeks in advance. [Italy Magazine](#) says, if you only see one sculpture in Naples, make it this one. Every year some 650,000 people visit the Veiled Christ and describe it as one of the greatest sculptures of all time. What makes it an artistic masterpiece, known throughout the world and studied by many art historians, is the marble veil, which manages to resemble a soft cloth. Reviewers on Tripadvisor said, "Words are not enough. You have to see it to believe the emotions that the statue of the Veiled Christ and the chapel as a whole can give you." With one reviewer saying, "it will leave your speechless."

[Arttourinternational](#) said, what makes Veiled Christ more than just an artistic triumph is its emotional depth. This is not just a technical masterpiece; it is an invitation into sorrow, redemption, and transcendence. Unlike other sculptures of Christ, which often depict the suffering or the divine, this one lingers in the space in between, the quiet aftermath of sacrifice.

The Veiled Christ is renowned because it seems almost impossible. How can a sculptor make marble seem transparent? And yet for over 273 years The Veiled Christ in Naples continues to make history by leaving even the most skilled observers in awe.

[The Veiled Christ | Sansevero Chapel Museum](#)



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.

Please include below information with your payment:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Signature: _____

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 September General Meeting



THANK YOU

Thank you to the 155 members, family members, and friends who made this year's annual picnic in the park another great success. It was especially wonderful to welcome members from other OSDIA lodges.

Special thanks to my co-chair, Lisa Spano. Her partnership is an essential part of what makes this event so special.

Many people contributed to the success of this event, beginning with our two sponsors, John Giuffre' and John Koziarz. Both have supported the picnic for the past three years, and their continued generosity allows us to lower the price per person.

This wonderful event would not be possible without the help of so many people. Marie Geneva Frank helped arrange and create the gift baskets. Year after year, Jeannette, Bianca, and Angelo LaVeglia use their creativity to transform member donations into some of the most beautiful raffle baskets. Bill Teitz, Steve DiTusa, Anthony Spano, and Freddie Pittella came to my home to load the baskets, deliver, and set them up at the venue. Donna Johnson helped at the check-in table, while Mary Rose O'Hara, Steve DiTusa, and Debbie Goldmann sold 50/50 and raffle tickets. Our own magic man, Anthony Spano, performed walk-around magic with Steven Rodman.

Once again, the staff and food at the Plattduetsche were outstanding. Some attendees even said the food was more delicious than last year.

Picnic by the numbers: \$1,470.00 was raised for our scholarship fund, along with a generous personal donation from Art and Dottie Corvese. Scholarship baskets, general basket raffle and 50/50 ticket sales, together with member attendance, brought our combined profit for the day to \$4,656.00.

In closing, a special thank you goes to Joe Armocida for once again placing his trust and confidence in Lisa and myself to chair the picnic. Planning this event is a true labor of love, and I look forward to continuing the tradition established many years ago by our founding members.

Fraternally yours,
Maria & Lisa



MAH JONGG



CHANGE



Capodanno

All men are by nature equally free and independent. Such equality is necessary in order to create a free government. All men must be equal to each other in natural law.



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TO BE SELF EVIDENT THAT ALL
MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.**

-AN ITALIAN IDEA

CREATED BY ENZO DAVI

[illegible]



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



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WHAT WE'RE COLLECTING:



Board games
Puzzles

Age appropriate Card games



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DONATION DEADLINE:

**All items will be collected at the
October 21st General Meeting.**



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America Lodge #2245
55th Anniversary Dinner Dance



honoring

America Lodge Past District Deputy
Anthony Vasature

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 Mellish

Annual Dinner Dance Chairperson

(516) 852-2823





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 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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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!



L.I. Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
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Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer and
Councilman Anthony Manetta along with
NYS OSDIA President Arthur Spera
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
Constantino Brumidi Lodge #2211 to welcome all!
2075 Deer Park Avenue, Deer Park N.Y. 11729**

**Bring Family - Bring Friends - Celebrate Italian Heritage!!
ALL GROUPS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND MARCH WITH US!!!**

**Entertainment and Plenty of fun for all to Enjoy!!
INFO. NEEDED CALL KEITH WILSON@516-633-1435**

Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 12:30 PM

Mass of Thanksgiving

Celebrating 25 Years of Priesthood of Fr. Anthony Saliba



Join us as we thank God
for 25 wonderful years of
Priestly service and celebrate
the many blessings received
along the way.

There will be a reception
afterward at Fr. Behan Hall.
Everyone is warmly invited to
join this joyful celebration!



**"What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD."
(Psalm 116: 12-13)**



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Thursday, October 22

**6:00pm doors open
7:30 pm puck drop**

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact:
AnnMarie Llardi at 917-674-8042 or Email Jack.Novarro@newyorkislanders.com

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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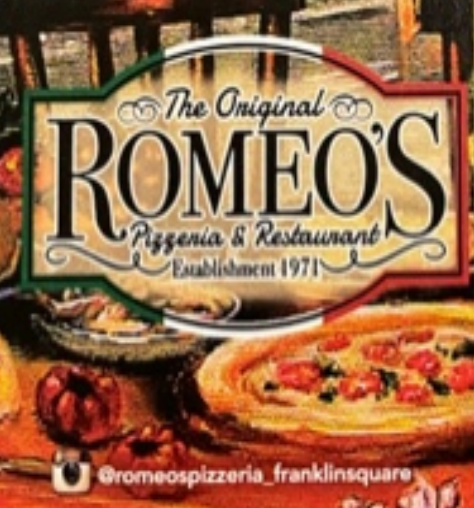
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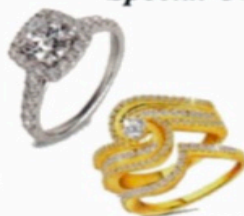
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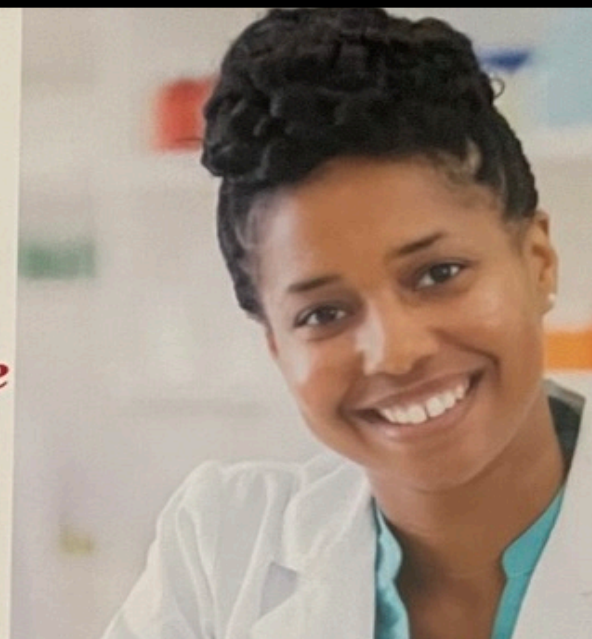
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A photograph of a family walking outdoors. A man in a light blue denim shirt over a grey V-neck sweater is pushing a black stroller with a baby inside. A woman in a white denim shirt and blue jeans walks beside him. The background shows a large, industrial-looking structure, possibly a bridge or stadium roof, with a warm, golden light suggesting sunset or sunrise.

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