THE LION'S ROAR





AMERICA LODGE #2245



VFW Hall 68 Lincoln Road Franklin Square, NY 11010

LIBERTY EQUALITY FRATERNITY

Volume 54 Issue 6 June 2025



AMERICA LODGE #2245

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Vincent Giordano '18-'20

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*deceased



COMMITTEES

Annual Christmas Party	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Annual Dinner Dance	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
Annual Fishing Trip	Andrew Monteleone	516-784-9142
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
Bowling Tournament	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Budget Chairperson	Maria Passalacqua	516-456-3078
Columbus Parade	Dennis Lyons	516-481-2077
CSJ Executive Board	Janis Parazzelli	516-358-1409
CSJ Liaison	Jean Fichtl	516-354-6488
Dinner Dance Journal	Debra Goldmann	516-729-7712
Dinner Party/Pasta Night	Karen Mollish	516-437-3278
Gift of Sight	Jean Fichtl	516-354-6488
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Post Office Box	Angela Pinto	516-775-1713
Scholarship	Mary Rose O'Hara	516-521-6275

ARBITRATION

Past President Sylvia Giglio, Joseph Camolli, Sally Nicoletti, Mary Sperrazza, Alternates: Jo Raia, Angelo LaVeglia, Phyllis Ann O'Connell.

THE LION'S ROAR NEWSLETTER

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

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Facebook: America Lodge #2245 www.americalodge2245.com

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

Honor is a beautiful word in the English language. On Memorial Day, America Lodge was honored to stand united and march with the VFW and other members of our community to recognize our nation's military and the men and women who gave their life in defense of our country. And it was only a few hours later that America Lodge was again honored to perform the Ritual Ceremony in memory of our dearly departed Charter Member Cathrine "Cathy" Palmeri. This touching ceremony begins when our members enter the funeral home chapel, standing on both sides of the casket. But on this day our attendance was so great and large that we surrounded the entire room. Our eulogies celebrated everything Cathy gave to the world, her family and her devotion to our

beloved lodge. As president, the most emotional part of the ceremony is when I get to place our membership pin over the heart of our deceased member. We can only pray that Cathy feels our love as we honored her 54 years of dedication, sacrifice, and service to America Lodge. May she rest in eternal peace. I want to sincerely thank our members who participated in one or both of these events.

As we move into June we start our summer season. Whether you celebrate it on June 1st, meteorological summer, or June 20th, the summer solstice, June is the month that we celebrate summer, fathers and graduates. Father's Day is a special time when we thank our fathers, grandfathers, and any father figure in our lives. We can offer a prayer for all our fathers and grandfathers that are no longer with us, as we remember their contributions to our lives.

June is also a time for scholarships. At our June meeting we will be awarding three scholarships to children/grandchildren of lodge members. In addition, we will be giving out seven scholarships to our local high schools. This year America Lodge is honored to have three of our members' children or grandchildren, who will receive the Grand Lodge scholarship awards. They are Olivia Giordano, Elena Moryl, and Alaina Pinto. Congratulations to all our dads, grads and scholarship winners.

I want to recognize and thank some of our members and Town of Hempstead (TOH) Commissioners as this year our bocce season at Rath Park was in jeopardy since the TOH parks department started a much-needed renovation of the picnic area. Unfortunately, this blocked us from accessing the bocce courts. I was able to reach out to our lodge member and Town of Hempstead Councilman, Thomas Muscarella, to see if he could help us. He was able to reach out to the Town of Hempstead Deputy Parks Commissioner Dominick Colasanto, and they were able to give us access to the courts from the sidewalk by putting in a new gate. Many thanks to both for saving our bocce season. Next, I want to thank Franklin Funeral Home and Bruno and Nanci Caracciolo for providing limousine transportation for our America Lodge members who were unable to march in the Memorial Day parade but still wanted to participate. This wonderful and kind gesture is greatly appreciated.

Now that it's summer, enjoy your award-winning newsletter by the pool, at the beach, or on the bocce courts. Until our next event or meeting, I look forward to seeing you.

Fraternally,
Joe Armocida
President
America Lodge #2245

have a happy THER'S DAY

WELCOME TO YOUR JUNE NEWSLETTER!



We are celebrating Father's Day and Founders Day. June is the month that we honor our father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Father's Day in Italy is celebrated on March 19th to coincide with St. Joseph's Day (Joseph being the presumptive father of Jesus). Here in the United States Father's Day (Festa del Papà) is celebrated the third Sunday in June. The more formal word "father" is translated in Italian as padre and a charming equivalent to papà is babbo. Buona Festa del Papà!

In June, we also celebrate Founders Day. In 1904, Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro conceived the idea of uniting all Italian Americans into one large fraternal organization. On June 7, 1905, he held an organizational meeting at his home. Present were Antonio Marzullo, a lawyer; Ludovico Ferrari, a pharmacist; Giuseppe Carlino, a sculptor; and Pietro Viscardi and Roberto

Merlo, two barbers. The first formal meeting of the Order was held three weeks later. At that meeting, Sellaro was elected Supreme Venerable (now known as National President) of the Supreme Lodge of the Sons of Italy. The name of the group was soon changed to L'Ordine Figli d'Italia in America (the Order Sons of Italy in America. Sellaro wrote the Order's national constitution and founded the first local OSDIA lodge, Mario Rapisardi Lodge #1, on August 31, 1905.

Our Newsletter this month pays tribute to our founder, Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro with colors of purple and the Aster flower. I encourage you to learn more about our founder and the reason why we chose the color purple and the Aster flower by reading the information we have on our website https://www.americalodge2245.com/osdia!

Our lodge lost a dear Charter member. We pay tribute to Cathy Palmeri on the following page. Rest in Peace, Cathy.

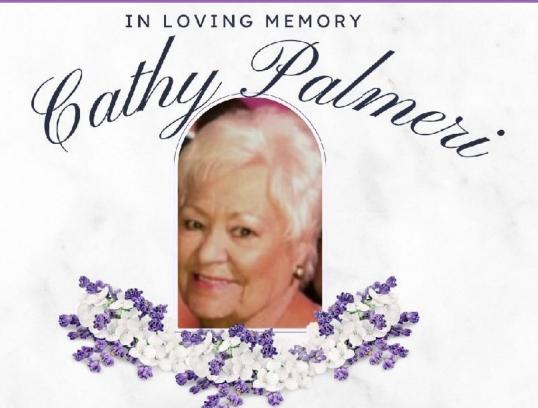
Since we are celebrating Father's Day this month, I hope you enjoy the article on "Father(s) of the Fatherland" on page 13.

We also have a great **Member Spotlight** this month! Enjoy learning more about this "magical" person and if you ever want to be highlighted in our Newsletter, just drop us a line! We love to highlight our members!

America Lodge is out there, showing up and supporting our communities and OSDIA lodges. We have tons of **photos** to highlight what we've been up to.

Enjoy your Newsletter and Buona Festa della Papa! To our dad's that are no longer physically with us, we love you always.. Donna





America Lodge has lost not only a Charter Member but also a dear friend, advisor, and historian—Cathy Palmeri. Cathy cherished sharing her knowledge and recollections of our esteemed America Lodge. Her enthusiasm was palpable when discussing the Lodge's formation or the inception of its Newsletter. She relished sharing photographs and memorabilia that showcased the history of America Lodge.

Recently, I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with Cathy, reminiscing about old photographs of Lodge dinners, celebrations, installations, feasts, and conventions. America Lodge is fortunate to have members who were part of our initiation. It is imperative that we honor those who came before us and remember our origins to establish the foundation of the Lodge we hold dear today. I am deeply grateful for having known Cathy and shared countless memories with her and her family. Cathy's memory will continue to inspire all that we do within America Lodge to foster its growth and prosperity.

Donna Giorandino Johnson

Below is an excerpt from an interview we did with Cathy back in 2022 for our Newsletter:

"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Nothing gets done with one person alone. Everyone shares the responsibility to encourage growth and camaraderie. Know that whatever job or responsibility you take on to assist the lodge, it's important and necessary. Just do your best.

Thank you for all that you have done for America Lodge! Our Lodge is rich in culture and rich in history. Be very **proud** of all the accomplishments of our predecessors. They got us to where we are today. Please continue with your efforts to allow America Lodge to grow and thrive. Your new ideas and new programs are an important offering which will continue our wonderful and beautiful legacy.

Your role and The Lion's Roar: My very first assignment with America Lodge in September 1971 was to create and publish a newsletter. Together, with Fred Tomasone, an attorney, we named it "The Lion's Roar" which provided our members with all necessary information about what was happening in the Lodge and by using a manual typewriter! It was suggested that the Lodge chronicle all the events we were having, the awards received for growth and diversity, the talent shows, our Scholarship program, our annual Feasts, our summer picnics in parks and at the beach, our annual Spring dances and holiday parties, and travels. I grew up in America Lodge and was happy to work on any committee. I served as an Officer for all my 50 years with America Lodge."

Membership Corner

by Membership Chairperson, Jo Ann Maggio



At our May 21st General Meeting we installed two new members. Please welcome:

Francesca Damiani and Ann Marie Drosman!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



BENVENUTO!

Please continue to talk to your family members, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about joining America Lodge #2245. If you have prospective new members, please reach out to Jo Ann Maggio at (516) 850-5288 or madsav1128@yahoo.com for an application, or visit our website at www.americalodge2245.com/Membership. Consider bringing a friend to our June 18th meeting! Remember, new members are the only way to ensure that we continue to grow so that we can remain a vibrant Lodge!



WWW.americalodge2245.COM

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

- June 3rd, America Lodge Council Meeting. Franklin Square Library. 7:00 pm
- June 18th, America Lodge General Membership Meeting (Scholarship awards!) Fr. Sq. VFW 7:30 pm.
- June 26-29, 2025 NYS OSDIA Grand Lodge Annual Convention, Albany, New York.
- July 28th, Italian Night at Eisenhower Park presents Giada Valenti. 7:00 pm.
- August 9, 2025 America Lodge Annual Fishing Trip. See flyer, page 17. Contact Michael Avallone.
- August 25, NYS OSDIA Annual State Golf Outing, Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course; dinner to follow. Contact Luigi Squillante (516) 456-2541.
- September Gift of Sight Luncheon. See America Lodge Chairperson, Mary Versaci.
- September 6, 2025 America Lodge Annual Picnic. See flyer, page 18. Contact Maria Passalacqua.
- October 11, 2025 LI Columbus Day Parade, Lake Ave Firehouse, Deer Park. See flyer, page 16.
- October 19, 2025 America Lodge #2245 **54th Anniversary Dinner Dance** at Leonards. See flyer, page 19.



Book Club

June 10th: "Beautiful Ruins" Macaroni pay one price night at Spuntino, Williston Park. \$20.00 per person plus tip.

July 9th: 7:00 pm Adriana Trigiani presents "The Lake Como Show: A Book Tour Like

No Other." The Madison Theatre at Molloy University. \$55.00 per person.

July 25th: reading "Average Joe" with a visit from Joe Piscopo at Rath Park.

Mah-Jongg

June 3rd and 17th from 3:30-6:00 pm at the Franklin Square Library. Contact Lisa Tietz.



BOCCE

Thursdays at Rath Park.

Contact Marie Geneva Frank or Cindy Lampasi



THANK YOU FOR READING OUR NEWSLETTER AND VISITING OUR WEBSITE!

"I loved the picture in the Happy Mother's Day article-the prettiest flower in that picture was the one holding the pot of flowers! Arlington National Cemetery "Decoration Day", that article gave me chills reading it! The story of Maria Montessori was so impressive, with her being the first woman to graduate with a medical degree and how she soared from there. She left this world with a legacy of her approach to education for every human being today. And the sea of red that everyone saw and noticed at the Plenary was clearly a show of how the women of the America Lodge #2245 can and do work together to get things done. That is why it is "appropriately" called The Sons and Daughters of Italy! Great job once again, Donna & Mark! Thanks for the pleasurable reading!" ~Anthony Spano

"Great job on the Newsletter! ~Sally Nicoletti

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!

Thank you!! We love to hear from you!





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

Chave a Dream

These words were spoken by OSDIA Founder Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro 58 years before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. uttered the famous phrase. It appears Dr. Sellaro also had a very similar dream.

Dr. Sellaro is known for using the phrase "I have a dream" in the context of his dream for Italian integration in America during his Inaugural address in 1905.

Dr. Sellaro's Inaugural Address was visionary. In the last paragraph of his speech, Dr. Sellaro said, "It is because of this that today I have a dream, and hope that someday, even if it takes a hundred more years before we are fully accepted, our children and their children's children, even if they carry a single drop of Italian blood, will be able and proud to continue to carry on our traditions, our culture and our language. It is up to us, and what we do today!"

The ideals of his speech are deeply rooted in equality, "...because of the fierce and undeserved prejudice and discrimination that we have had to suffer...". Could it be that Dr. Sellaro was thinking about the 1891 New Orleans lynchings and murders of 11 Italian Americans? The largest single mass lynching in American history. An event that out of tragedy brought America its Columbus Day holiday.

Dr. Sellaro's address was a message of hope, love and family. "But today I must also share with you that we are also the most courageous for having made the decision to come here, to have left behind our motherland and our families, in the hope, not to find a new life, but to earn a better one." "One of our most important objectives should be to reclaim the rest of our family members left behind, and as soon as possible. "...By staying united and helping one another we will realize everything and anything we wish to achieve."

On June 22, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America will commemorate our 120th anniversary. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro for his visionary "dream" where, "Today we are gathered together for one main purpose, that I want to believe someday will become a very important part of American history." That as Italians, "...we achieve(d) our rightful place of influence and respect...in making this country greater than ever before."

Inaugural Address

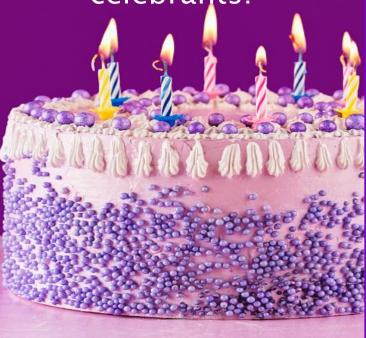


HAPPY Dietholay

Joseph Benincasa, Michael Brogna,
Antonia Croce, Katherine Falco, Ros Kelly,
Antonio Liberatoscioli, Joann Bambino
Marzocchi, John Paul Moryl,
Anthony Mossa,
Sally Nicoletti, Victoria Palumbo,
Alfred Pittella, Dennis Walsh.

BUON COMPLEANNO

to our June "GIUGNO" celebrants!



CONGRATULATIONS



Jo Raia
on the birth of her
greatgranddaughter,
Wren Lillian Raia.

Grandparents Christine and Victor Rossi, and Great Grandma Annette Koziarz on the birth of Rocco Anthony!



NY Grand Lodge Scholarship winners Olivia Giordano, Elena Moryl, and Alaina Pinto!

Jenna Andrasick who graduated with her Masters in Special Education.

We're thinking of you, get well soon!

Andrew Monteleone, Ann Marie Monteleone, Luigi Pinto, Pina Carbone, Sylvia Giglio, Scott Goldmann, Chris Mollish.



Member Spotlight ~ Anthony Spano



This month we'd like to spotlight one of our more magical members, Anthony Spano. Although he and Lisa have been members of America Lodge for less than two years, both have greatly contributed to America Lodge, our meetings and events.

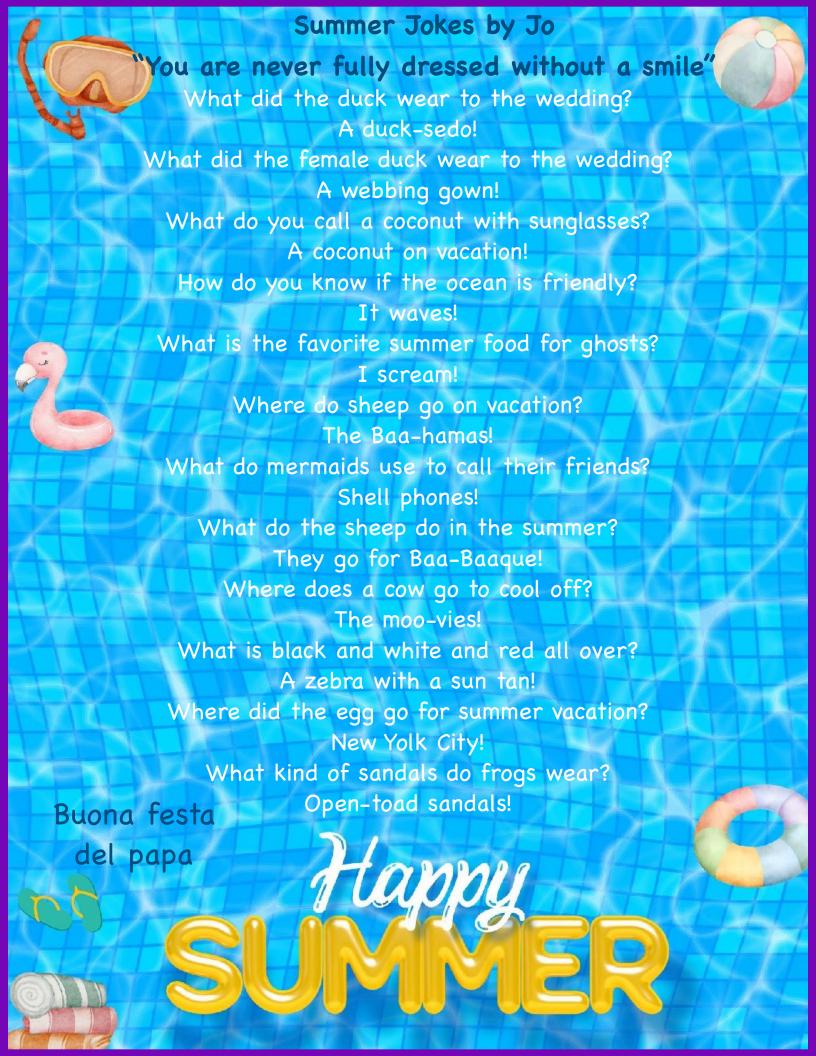
Anthony can trace his family's roots back to Bari, located on Italy's east coast on the Adriatic Sea. He has been fortunate enough to visit Italy twice and on one of those trips was able to take his mom. He said his mom always wanted to visit Italy and what a special time and special place for them to share together.

Anthony grew up in Flushing/Queens and attended Catholic grammar and high schools. After graduation he joined his uncle's business where he drove a fuel oil truck for 34 years. I also drove a fuel oil truck during college and remember those experiences well. Transporting hazardous materials is a great responsibility. Regardless of the weather, time of day/night, there is always an emergency where a customer needs you. Anthony is proud to say in all those years of driving a large commercial truck that he never had an accident.

After September 11th, Anthony began a second career as a New York State Court Officer. As a Court Officer it is your duty to maintain order and provide security within court facilities. A Court Officer must attend the New York State Court Officer's Academy before they graduate as "peace officers" in the Unified Court System. This four-month Academy prepares them for physical training, defensive tactics, basic life support, and firearms training. Recruits must also complete classes in New York State Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, court structure, etc. (In case you are interested, the last day of the exam is June 11, 2025). After 14 years of exemplary and dedicated service, Anthony retired...again.

His next career/adventure is a bit trickier! You might have enjoyed his "talents" at Carnevale or during the summer picnic. I'm referring to his magic shows. It appears that Anthony is not only a working magician, member of three magic clubs, past president of the Long Island Magic Club, but he-our America Lodge spotlight member- won Magician of the Year in 2006! WOW!!!

Anthony is an accomplished bocce player and he and Lisa teamed up last year to win second place in the Grand Lodge's Walk-for-a-Cure. He is a fervent reader of your Lion's Roar newsletter, often writing about the stories he reads. You might catch him on the north shore, in Port Washington, at his favorite restaurant "Toscanini" dining on his favorite meals either Chicken or Shrimp Parmigiana. But take note when you see him, or he might just disappear!!



"Fathers of the Fatherland"



The honor of being called *Pater Patriae* or Father of the Fatherland, first began in Ancient Rome as a title that was granted by the Roman Senate. Wikipedia notes that during the Roman Republic, it was only given two times: to Camillus and Cicero. Under the Roman Empire, it was granted to Roman emperors, after many years of successful rule. Not all emperors, however, were offered the title and only 23 emperors received this honor.

During Italy's fight for unification, many Fathers of the Fatherland would emerge. But only one would take a crown to become the first King, since the 6th century, of an independent and united Italy.

Victor Emmanuel II, born in Turin in 1820, became King of Sardinia following his father's abdication. After numerous battles for Italian Independence, First Italian War of Independence (1848-1849) the Second Italian War of Independence (1859) and the Third Italian War of Independence (1866), it wasn't until Rome became the new capital of Italy that the total process of unification was completed.

The unification of Italy, known as the Risorgimento, was accomplished through a series of wars, political maneuvering, and ultimately, a combination of military victories and diplomatic agreements. And because the unification of Italy was so complex of a process, involving various key figures: Giuseppe Garibaldi, Camillo Benso di Cavour, and Giuseppe Mazzini, Italy is now said to have many "Fathers of the Fatherland."

Giuseppe Garibaldi, a brilliant military leader and revolutionary, contributed significantly to the unification through his "Expedition of the Thousand" and the conquest of Sicily. **Camillo Benso di Cavour**, as the Prime Minister of Sardinia-Piedmont, was the architect of the unification process, skillfully navigating political alliances and international diplomacy to achieve Italian unity. **Giuseppe Mazzini**, a key figure in the nationalist movement, founded the "Young Italy" organization, which promoted the idea of a unified Italian republic and inspired generations of Italian nationalists.

Victor Emmanuel died in Rome in 1878 and was buried in the Pantheon. The Italian national Victor Emmanuel II Monument in Rome, containing the Altare della Patria or Alter of the Fatherland, was built between 1885 and 1935 in his honor. The Victor Emmanuel II National Monument, also known as "Mole del Vittoriano" or simply the "Vittoriano", and "Altare della Patria", is now considered one of Italy's national symbols.





Above: America Lodge attends the 105th Anniversary of Loggia Glen Cove!

Below: America Lodge attends the NYS Grand Lodge Walk for a Cure!



AMERICA LODGE MEMBERS AT THE FRANKLIN SQUARE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!







AMERICA LODGE #2245 MEMBERSHIP EVENT

at the

Franklin Square Chamber of Commerce 2025 Spring Fair

Saturday, June 7th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Come join your America Lodge sisters and brothers to promote membership in our Lodge!

Contact Jo Ann Maggio if you can help out! You don't have to commit to the entire time, any assistance during the event is greatly appreciated!





We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation...

Please help us today by providing gently used clothing to individuals and families in need on Long Island.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Spring Clothing Drive at

St. Catherine of Sienna Church
Saturday, June 14th, 10:00am - 2:00pm
Collection truck will be in school parking lot
on Holzeimer Street

Partner with us as we help people here on Long Island!

Your donation reduces the amount of waste in our communities and also assists those in our neighborhoods who are struggling.



Save the Date

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Annual

Long Island Columbus Day Parade

Lake Avenue Firehouse, Deer Park Town of Babylon

Breakfast 11:00 am, program at noon with a parade kick-off at 1:00 pm. Following the parade will be an Italian Food Festival at the Constantino Brumidi Lodge #2211

2075 Deer Park Avenue, Deer Park NY.







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 funfilled 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!



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!

\$45.00 per person



Saturday September 6, 2025

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The Plattduetsche Park

Restaurant

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 Ist Vice President Thomas Lupo,

> New York State 1st Vice President Arthur Spera,

> > and

Donna Giorandino Johnson America Lodge #2245 Corresponding Secretary, Website creator and Award winningNewsletter 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 **COLDWELL BANKER** AMERICAN HOMES



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Stephen P. Graziano Owner - Manager









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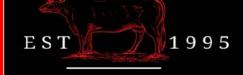
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