



THE TIMES



SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY

PHILADELPHIA PA, September 25, 2019

Dunphy Humbly Accepts Grand Lodge Gold Medal

With a grace and dignity which justified his selection, Francis Dunphy accepted the Gold Medal of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy on Friday night, June 14, 2019 at the FOP #5 Hall in Philadelphia, concluding the 55th Biennial Convention. Along with Phil Martelli, both were named Co-Gold Medal Honorees but Martelli was unable to attend due to his new professional commitment in Michigan.



Coach Fran Dunphy at Podium

Dunphy was the all time winningest basketball coach in Philadelphia Big Five history, having accumulated a total of 580 wins between 310 victories at the University of Pennsylvania, along with an additional 270 wins at Temple University.

Other Accomplishments

His basketball accomplishments were not the only reason that the retiring coach from Temple was feted, but also for the fact that he was an educator, having received a Master's Degree in Counseling and Human Relations at Villanova, after receiving his undergraduate Degree from LaSalle University as a player, but also the fact that along with Martelli has been the driving

Roxborough Lodge Surprises The Blasis At President's Affair

The President's Dinner, which was held on the first night of the Convention, Thursday, June 13, 2019, ended up with a surprise when the members of Roxborough Lodge #2217 honored their longtime leaders, Judge Robert S. and Alice D. Blasi



Blasis' receive citation

Judge Blasi, who is serving his second term as Director of Insurance, along with his wife, Alice, have been longtime anchors of the Roxborough Lodge #2217, with Blasi always being the

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force in the Philadelphia Area for Coaches vs. Cancer for more than twenty years and for no small measure that his mother's maiden name was DiDomenico.

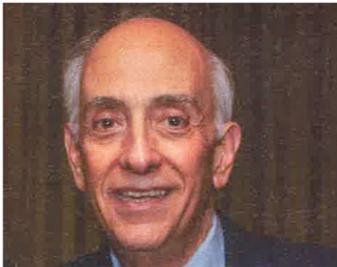
Dunphy has been involved with Coaches vs. Cancer for more than 20 years and in his acceptance speech, he

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MISSION STATEMENT
The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
Sons and Daughters of Italy
"Promoting a positive image
of Americans of Italian
Heritage within the
framework of American
society through involvement
in cultural, educational,
social and charitable
endeavors."

Paolucci Retires As Exec. Director Of Grand Lodge

Michael N. Paolucci, Jr. has retired as Executive Director of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania which became effective September 1, 2019. Paolucci, who had been Ex-



Michael Paolucci

ecutive Director since prior to the Grand Lodge resignation from the National organization, began his service in September of 2011.

Paolucci has had health problems which go back to last year which culminated in a massive operation and hospitalization. He was unable to come to the office and as a result of the serious surgery,

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PENNSYLVANIA GRAND LODGE INSTALLS CERRUTI AS PRESIDENT AT CONVENTION



Grand Council Officers Posing After Installation at 2019 Convention

Michael Cerruti was installed as President of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy immediately prior to the Gold Medal Banquet at the FOP Lodge #5 Hall in Philadelphia by past Gold Medal Honorees, Judge John Foradora and Francis Recchuiti on Friday night, June 14, 2019.

His installation ceremony took place along with the other Grand Lodge Officers who had been nominated and elected by acclamation earlier in the day. The ceremony was witnessed by over two hundred guests took place in the beautiful lobby of the building at the conclusion of the cocktail hour of the 55th

Biennial Grand Lodge Convention.

Cerruti's Background

President Cerruti is a Philadelphia Command Police Sergeant who is a member of Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085 which is headquartered at the FOP Lodge Hall. He previously served as President of his local Lodge, State Trustee for District 1 and most recently as Grand Lodge First Vice President.

Rose Larsen Mumbauer was installed as the State First Vice President. Mumbauer, who is a Past President of the Ufficiale Bersaglieri Lodge #138 of Williamsport, is an airplane parts company Executive and will be receiving her MBA from Notre Dame in May of 2020. She previously served as Commission for Social Justice President and also as the President of the Dante Commission.

Other Officers Elected

Long time Capital City Lodge #272 member, Edward Carabin stayed on as Second Vice President and he previously had served a number of years as the President of the Benefit Insurance Commission for the Grand Lodge. Maryann Nativio of the Ladies of Connellsville Lodge #1686, a retired Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Administrator, was placed as State Third Vice President, having previously been Grand Lodge Recording Secretary.

Outgoing President

Richard Barber of Liberty Lodge #206 of Brockway, was installed as State Immediate Past President. Philadelphia trial lawyer, Amato San-

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CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS FROM OPENING TO CLOSE

In addition to the installation and the presentation of the Gold Medal, the Banquet Night starting with the cocktail hour was a full and complete evening.

The police officers' bagpipe squad dressed in their regalia of kilts entertained the cocktail hour before the Installation. The cocktail hour itself was a splendid affair with butlered hor d'oeuvres and a special hor d'oeuvres table in addition to the open bar.

String Band Appearance

Also appearing during the cocktail hour was the Mummies String Band which was a delight for the crowd.

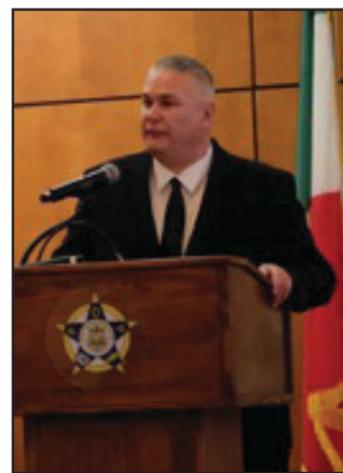
During the banquet and after the meal was served, a great disc jockey who was current and organized, played music for dancing and the crowd's entertainment.

The night itself was a fitting conclusion to a successful 55th Biennial Grand Lodge Convention which actually started on Wednesday night with the final outgoing Grand Council meeting.

Sessions on Time

For sessions which outgoing President Rick Barber let longtime member Fran Recchuiti act as Chair ran on time for the two days and

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President Cerruti Addresses Members



String Band Entertains Delegates



Police Officer's Bag Pipe Band

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY**TIMES**

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STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Msgr. Charles L. Sangermano

**COLUMBUS IS OURS!**

One of the infamous institutions that were established in many of the countries that came under the communist yoke after World War II, was the dreaded 'reeducation camp.' The leaders of these regimes knew that they could not succeed as long as there remained a living memory of the proud past of its peoples, and their national heroes. In these camps, the 'science' of torture and brainwashing was perfected, leading to the 'reeducation' of its unfortunate victims.

In this process, one of the first goals was the cleansing of the mind of its self-esteem, pride and confidence in the former institutions of the country. National heroes were depicted as evil and former systems were derided. Once the mind had been weakened through lack of sleep, frequently assisted by mind-altering drugs, all resistance fell away and the 'residents' of the reeducation camps were ready to believe anything. Distorted or exaggerated 'facts' concerning formerly admired leaders and national historical events were used to destroy all sense of pride in one's country and confidence in its traditions. Only after the completion of this process, was the mind 'emptied' of its past and ready to receive the imposed doctrine of the new state.

You will receive this issue of our Order's newspaper shortly before or after the celebration of Columbus Day. For well over a hundred years, this celebration has been a centerpiece of the Italian-American community. It has become a focal point to recall, to honor and be proud of the many accomplishments of those of Italian extraction in the United States; accomplishments which are very well documented with facts.

I had the honor of being responsible for the Church of Saint Mary Magdalen de Pazzi in South Philadelphia, the first Italian National Parish in the United States. Among the many interesting artifacts I found there,

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Grand Council 2019-2021

Michael Cerruti-State President

Rose Larsen Mumbauer-State First Vice President

Edward Carabin-State Second Vice President

Maryann Nativio-State Third Vice President

Richard Barber-State Immediate Past President

Amato Sanita, Esq.-State Orator

Melody Yeardie-State Recording Secretary

Vaughn Piper-State Financial Secretary

Gregorio Santiago-State Treasurer

Frank Palumbo-State Historian

Hon. Robert Blasi-Director of Insurance

Joseph V. Galati-President, Mortuary Fund Commission

Steve DeFrank-President, Dante Commission on Education/Culture

Santo Bocchinfuso-Commission for Social Justice

Anthony M. Lizza-State Past President

Joseph Sanders-State Past President

Monsignor Charles Sangermano-State Chaplain

State Trustees

Joseph Merenda-District 1

Angelo Mancini-District 5

Robert Piccolo-District 7

Rita Ruhl-District 8

Gina Mastrine-Sowers-District 9

Anthony Ferlazzo-District 10

John Menefee-District 11

Victor Nardelli-District 15

From the Pen of the President**BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

I would like to introduce myself and personally thank everyone that attended convention and put their faith in me and my team and elected us as your new Grand Council.

I am Mike Cerruti from Lodge 2085 Custodes Pacis where I was trustee and President and a proud member for 29 years. I am proud father of three children and married to a wonderful woman for the past 25 years. I am the oldest of four (all brothers) and uncle to 15 nieces and nephews.

I strongly believe that the Grand Lodge is here to serve the local lodges and the local lodges exist to serve the members. I believe that we have much to offer in ways of exploring and learning of our culture, history, values and traditions.

We are the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania sons and daughters of Italy. In Pennsylvania Italians represent almost 1.5 million people. When I hear that number, I am so impressed with that number and the contributions that we as a people make to society every day. Imagine our organization with 5 percent of that number. I know some are thinking that I am crazy to think this way, that could never be accomplished. Well let's explore this for a minute. We have a membership committee that is enthusiastic and exploring new ideas and ways to bring new members into our great organization. Another way is to talk about and show to others what this organization is all about, our culture, traditions and contributions to society. Imagine the possibilities of growth all the positives that come with it.

The newspaper is vital for our organization to inform our members of what is occurring in our commonwealth but so is other forms of communications Facebook, twitter, emails to name a few. We must embrace this technology and allow it to help us grow as an organization.

We as a board have many ideas to help us grow and become stronger but this is where I need each and everyone's help. Let's talk about all the positive and possibilities of this great institution. Let's continue to be proud Americans of Italian descent. Continue our great traditions expand our contributions to society.

I look forward to hearing from each and every one about positive ideas to move us forward please contact me at the Grand Lodge where I am every Tuesday.

**Fraternally,
Mike Cerruti
State President**

Robert and Alice Blasi

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Financial Secretary and Alice doing all of the jobs while never holding an official office.

Under the Blasi's guidance, the Lodge met on a monthly basis for many years in a number of different location and most recently arrangements have been made to have monthly meetings at the Venetian Club in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia.

Retired Judge

Judge Blasi retired as the Administrator of the Municipal Court in Philadelphia and was also designated as Common Pleas Court Judge. Alice, while being a stay-at-home mom for a while and raising two boys, retired as a City of Philadelphia Municipal employee. Prior to going on the bench, Judge Blasi practiced and was a Democratic Ward Leader in Philadelphia.

The Blasis, in addition to having two children, have five grandchildren and live in the

Roxborough section of Philadelphia. Judge Blasi graduated from Simon Gratz High School, Temple University, and Widener Law School. The former Alice D'Amato was a graduate of Yeadon High School in Delaware County.

Sculpture Given

The presentation of a beautiful crystal glass formation sculpture from the Lodge was also supplemented with a Citation from the Pennsylvania Senate as proposed and read by Senator John Sabatina who personally read the same at the surprise presentation.

Outgoing President Rick Barber of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was also feted and passed out awards to people who had served with him and received an emolument for the charity of his choice from the L.A.M. Valley Forge Lodge #1776 President, Bernie Barbone Wesler.

Paolucci Retires

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had been also regimented with chemo therapy and radiation. Having lost a tremendous amount of weight and unable to drive, he has undergone a long period of recuperation and is successfully emerging from the battle, with recent tests showing the complete absence of continuing activity.

In the process, Paolucci has lost fifty pounds, was recommended that he remove himself from any stressful activities, and recognizing that he had served the Grand Lodge for seven productive years, realized that it was time to retire.

Successful Career

Paolucci had previously retired from the Principal Financial Group where he had spent thirty five years where he worked as the Regional Director of Marketing and Customer Relations in the Philadelphia National Accounts Office and further had been a Supervisor of Claims in Administration.

He came on to supervise the Grand Lodge office staff on a part time basis and, in fact, devoted himself effectively in bringing the Benefit Insurance Commission back into compliance with the Pennsylvania Insurance Commission Regulations and reorganizing actuarial standards and dealing with additional compliance issues.

He had previously been involved with Sons of Italy as the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President of the L.A.M. Valley Forge Lodge #1776; served as the State President of the Commission for Social Justice; and later on, went on to serve as the National President of the Commission for Social Justice, Order Sons of Italy in America.

He had graduated with a Degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Temple University and worked with Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company as a Management trainee and became an expert in insurance before being employed by the Principal Financial Group.

Grand Lodge Moved

When the Grand Lodge was able to negotiate out of the horrendous lease at the Curtis Building, Paolucci supervised the packing and moving the Grand Lodge office to its present location which is located on the 14th floor of 1513 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19104, with the new orders saving the Grand Lodge about \$5000 a month.

The office staff, who were also involved with the move, includes Marlene Mattarazzo administrator, Linda DiDonato, who is the bookkeeper and Linda Mondelli as membership director and general services coordinator.

A Lifetime of Service

Prior to his illness, he had also been very active in the St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Parish in Newtown Square and as a member of the Knights of Columbus, having risen to and served as the Grand Knight of Mater Dei Council.

Living with his wife, Marie, in Broomall, the Paoluccis are now empty nesters and hopefully in the future, Paolucci will be able to resume a complete solid food diet regimen. He can be reached through the Grand Lodge for those who wish to contact him and wish him well as does THE TIMES.

Dunphy Humbly Accepts Grand Lodge Gold Medal

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demonstrated the passion and ability that he had in actually seeking the follow up in what the organization does, in addition to contributing money for both research and treatment. He gave a couple of anecdotes about some of the work that he has done with Coaches vs. Cancer and was presented a check that had been raised at the Convention from the charities in the amount of \$20,500.00 which he acknowledged was a surprise and that he was also pleased that our organization was demonstrating that interest.

Friend of the Lodge

Dunphy had previously appeared at both Conventions and Purple Aster Balls in the past as a representative of Coaches vs. Cancer, and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania had been actively contributing for a number of years to that cause.

In addition to accepting the Gold Medal, Dunphy was also presented with a Citation from State Senator John Sabatina which had been passed in Harrisburg with a Resolution recognizing Dunphy and Martelli for the work that they had done and the awarding of the Gold Medal.

Dunphy entertained the crowd with stories about his Italian mother, and about his Italian uncles who made sure that his father passed muster when his mother dated his father and how the DiDomenico brothers were there to make sure that his father was acceptable.

Original Neighborhood

He talked about growing up in Southwest Philadelphia and attending Malvern Prep where he had the background of a good education and then LaSalle University where he played under all time great player and Head Coach, Tom Gola, and helped the Explorers to a 23 and 1 record as a Junior.

Prior to becoming the Head Coach at Penn, Dunphy served as an assistant at Army, the Head Coach at his alma mater, Malvern Prep, and later as an assistant at LaSalle, American University, back to LaSalle, and finally as an assistant at Penn and became the Head Coach there in 1989. His head coaching career between Penn and Temple spanned 30 successful years.

Distinguished Educator

As an educator, both on and off the Court, Dunphy spent 12 years in Temple's prestigious Fox School of Business where he has co-taught an Honors

Course entitled "Management, Theory and Practice: & From the Locker Room to the Board Room." He also had previously been a lecturer at the Wharton Executive Education Program at the Wharton School at Penn.

Received Smith Award

In 2018, Dunphy received the prestigious Dean Smith Award from the USBWA for his Coaches vs. Cancer work and his service and tireless dedication to those in need. In addition to the Coaches vs. Cancer, he has devoted a tremendous amount of time to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Philadelphia's Board of Directors.

He has made sure that his basketball teams participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program each year. He is a member of the Philadelphia CYO Hall of Fame and also the Big Five Hall of Fame.

His 17 NCAA tournament appearances as a coach; 14 Conference championships; 8 Big Five titles and 1 NIT slot is an outstanding career accomplishment which puts him in an elite status as a coach, but he is even more complete as a person and a role model, which his fellow Italian Americans in the Grand Lodge can respect and appreciate.

Cerruti Installed as President

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ita, Esquire, from the Greater Roxborough Lodge #2217, was retained as State Orator for another term and Melody Yearde of the Rosa Garabaldi Lodge #1818 of Brownsville became State Recording Secretary. Vaughn Piper of Civilta e Progresso Lodge #649 of Scottsdale became State Financial Secretary.

Gregorio Santiago, another Philadelphia Police Officer and member of Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085, moved over to become State Treasurer, with his Lodge Brother, Frank Palumbo, also a Philadelphia Police Officer and member of Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085 of Philadelphia, becoming State Historian.

Commission Presidents

Retired Philadelphia Municipal Court Administrative Judge, the Honorable Robert Blasi, longtime President of Greater Roxborough Lodge #2217, continued on as the Director of Insurance as will Joseph V. Galati, the founder of the Galati Lodge and also longtime member of Capital City Lodge #272 of Harrisburg, and the former Gold Medal Honoree, retained the position of President of the

Mortuary Fund. Steve DeFrank, President of the Capital City Lodge #272 of Harrisburg also took on the position of President, Dante Commission on Education and culture of the Grand Lodge, while Santo Bocchinfuso, of the Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085, returned again to serve as President of the Commission for Social Justice.

The two Past Presidents that round out the Grand Council in those positions will be Scottsdale's Anthony M. Lizza of Civilta e Progresso Lodge #643 and Joseph Sanders of the Giosue Carducci Lodge #146 of Lock Haven.

New Trustees

State Trustees that were selected and installed were Joseph Merenda of the Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085 for District 1; Angelo Mancini of the L.A. M. Valley Forge Lodge #1776 for District 5; Robert Piccolo of the York Lodge #528 as State Trustee for District 7; and Rita Ruhl of the Alpine Star Lodge #1827 of Lock Haven as the State Trustee for District 8.

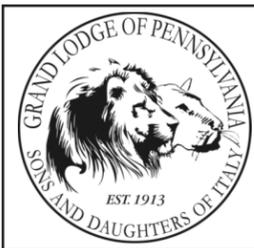
Gina Mastrine-Sowers of the Monte Grappe Lodge #1507 of Colver in Cambria



New Officers Sworn In
County will serve as State Trustee for District 9; Anthony Ferlazzo of Due Palme Lodge #189 of Clearfield will be State Trustee for District 10; John Menefee of Civilta e Progresso Lodge #643 of Scottsdale for District 11 and Victor Nardelli from the Colombo Lodge #1348 of Monaca will continue as State Trustee for District 15.

An Exciting Future

The election took place in the afternoon and as previously indicated was by acclamation and the new Officers will serve until the 56th Biennial Grand Lodge Convention to take place in 2021. This Grand Council represents experience, interest and also new blood with fresh ideas which will benefit our members for the future. The new Grand Council had its first meeting Saturday morning.



LODGE NEWS



Roxborough Lodge Person Of The Year Set For October 17

The Greater Roxborough Lodge #2217 will host its annual Person Of The Year Award ceremony on Thursday night, October 17th, 2019.

This 44th annual dinner will honor Dr. John Cacciamani, who is the Chief Executive officer of the Chestnut Hill Hospital.

The event will start at 7:00 PM at the North Hills Country Club. Cocktails and dinner will precede the ceremony and for more information and to make reservations, please call Robert Blasi at 215.482.1507

District Nine Scholar Award To Vinglas Kin

The 2018 District 9 \$500 Scholarship Award was presented to Jack Robert Murphy, Grandson of past District 9 Trustee, Rose Marie Vinglas. Jack is attending Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA and majoring in Exercise & Sport Science – Fitness Professional.

One of the requirements of the District 9 Scholarship is to write a 500 word essay on "What my Italian heritage means to me". The following is an excerpt from the essay submitted by



Jack Robert Murphy

Jack: "Being exposed to my Italian culture and heritage has helped to shape me into the person I want to become. I will carry on my Italian traditions". Jack comes from a long line of members of the Altoona City Lodge #1415.

Along with his grandparents, Luke and Rose Vinglas, his mother, sister, and aunt. They have together over 150 membership years of serving the Altoona City Lodge.

L.A.M.-VALLEY FORGE LODGE #1776 HAS MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS INCLUDING SPEAKER PROGRAMS

L.A.M.- Valley Forge Lodge #1776 has dinner meetings the second Wednesday of every month at Pepper's Restarunat in King of Prussia. After the review of the communications, the board meeting agenda and actions and their followers a speaker who will speak about Italy and/or Italian American events.

Below is a photograph from the March meeting where President Bernadette Wesler presented Chris Vesco a certificate of appreciation for discussion the benefits of marijuana and talking about her connection with



Chris Vesco receives certificate three dispensaries in the area.

The only speaker for the May meeting was Erica Plotegher who was born and raised in Italy and runs special concierge trips to Italy. In addition to the certificate of appreciation, President Bernie presented her with a Lodge golf shirt when she filled out her application to become a member.



Erica Plotegher at May meeting

As other organizations join the L.A.M. for its activities, members of the Lodge attended and participated in the Associazione Regionale Abruzzese Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet at Drexelbrook on May 1,



Members of the Lodge 1776 at Regionale Abruzzese Dinner

Patton Lodge 310 Awards Scholarship



Scholarship Awardee Matthew Illig With Presenters

Matthew Illig attended Cambria Heights High School in Patton, PA. He was selected by a committee who was very impressed of his volunteer activities. Matthew is very active in the Patton Fire Company with more than 500 hours of training and

60 fire calls. As the woodwind section leader, he has marched in many local holiday parades. He is also active in his local church by participating in weekly services, fundraising efforts, general maintenance and decorating for the holidays.

The award was present-

ed by George Baranick and John Rowland of Lodge 310 at the Cambria Heights Honors & Awards presentation. This is the first year the club presented this scholarship. The scholarship was made possible the fundraising efforts completed throughout the year at the club.

L.A.M.-VALLEY FORGE LODGE #1776 CARRIES ON ITALIAN TRADITIONS

L.A.M.-Valley Forge Lodge #1776 of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy has continued the tradition of participating in the Italian feast of the Italian parishes on Sundays this past summer.

The lodge has a collection of all of the banners of the regions of Italy and this past summer presented themselves for the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Black Horse in July and also at the Holy Saviour and MSS

organizations participate, the L.A.M.-Valley Forge Lodge turnout is always the largest.

For the State Convention, Joe D'Orazio, Vice President of the Lodge prepared stands for each of the banners and they encircled the convention hall where the delegates met and it added a festive spirit to the proceedings.

In the old days, these Italian festivals attracted thousands of participants and the parishoners would pin



Lodge Participation at Holy Saviour Procession

Feast which took place in August. In each of these processions with the Saints and the other local Italian

money on the statues of the saints, but in modern times the only money is given to the vendors.

Brownsville Lodge Goes To The Theater

On Sunday July 28, 2019, 15 members of Rosa Garibaldi Lodge #1818 spent the afternoon at the State Theatre in Uniontown watching and enjoying a live presentation of Mama Mia.

The cast included a few local residents of Brownsville and some high school students from the Uniontown area. The talent of each individual was awesome! If you enjoy the music of Abba, you need to see this production.

We later dined at Marilyn on Main, a quaint restaurant across the street from the State Theatre. All in attendance had a wonderful time and look forward to our next outing. We are planning another trip in the near future, possibly to the Lancaster area.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Melody Yeardie
Treasurer/Financial Secretary
Publicity Chair for Rosa Garibaldi Lodge #1818



LODGE NEWS



Festivals and Street Fairs: An Italian Tradition

As you may have noticed, along with the warmth of the summer season come street fairs and festivals, many are ethnically oriented. Pardon my prejudice but I feel the best are the Italian “festas.” There you will see the bustle of people moving about under the red and white striped canopies of the booths set up for hours of evening fun and fellowship with friends, neighbors and family. All, of course, centered about a variety of delicious ethnic food. Add some good music to the mix and you are in for a very pleasant evening under the stars.

My parish church, St. Rita of Cascia, located in Connellsville, Western Pennsylvania recently held their 91st annual Street Fair in the Church parking lot on July 11th, 12th and 13th. St. Rita’s is an Italian parish formed in 1914 by an Italian priest from the Bronx. He had the Church built by 1915 with the first Mass celebrated on Christmas Eve of that year. Less than two decades later the parish began a yearly street fair in the summer, as is so common in many Italian parishes. The annual summer event is dedicated and celebrated around the feast day of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. This feast day, devoted to our Blessed Mother under the title “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel” is an Italian tradition celebrated in Italy and brought to America by our ancestors.

Parish Celebrates

As part of our parish celebration Mass on Saturday evening was followed by a procession from the Church to the street fair grounds. Members of our Christian Mothers organization carried the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on a palanquin (an open litter carried by means of poles) and placed the statue in the center of the festival area. The procession was accompanied by music played by the Molinaro marching band.

The actual feast day of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is July 16th. Devotion to her began in the 12th century when hermits living on Mt. Carmel near the Fountain of Elijah in northern Israel, dedicated a chapel to her. By the 13th Century they became known as “Brothers of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.” Soon they celebrated a special Mass in honor of Mary. In 1726, their devotion became a celebration of the universal Church under the title “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.” For centuries the Carmelites have seen themselves as specially related to Mary.

Continuing Italian Culture

Several saints have credited Mary with miracles on their behalf. There is a tradition – which may not be historical- that states Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, a leader of the Carmelites, and gave him a scapular, brown in color and a modified version of her own garment (see picture above). She told him to promote a devotion to it. The scapular symbolizes her special protection and calls wearers to consecrate themselves to her in a special way. When Our Lady gave St. Simon Stock the scapular she said: “Receive this habit of thy Order. This shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire. It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger and a pledge of peace.” This information on Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was obtained from a post by the Franciscan Media where more information is available on the history of this devotion.

Many members of Ladies Lodge #1686, most of whom belong to the Christian Mothers of St. Rita’s, participated in the festival in the preparation of food and as workers in the booths. In addition the Lodge sponsored a booth at the festival.

The Italian culture is alive and well in many festivals that focus more on the Italian cultural heritage versus having a religious or Church affiliation. The Primo Italiano Lodge, #2800, from Washington, PA is hosting an Italian festival on September 27th and 28th, 2019 on the streets of downtown Washington. They have hosted a festival since 1980 when they organized the affair in order to keep the Italian traditions alive and for the express purpose of preserving the Italian culture in the County of Washington. Admission is free and so is the fun and entertainment. Activities include demonstrations of the Italian dance, the Tarantella, a winemaker competition, meatball contest, the opportunity to play bocce and of course plenty of Italian food and great music. For more info and pictures of past events go to “The Washington Italian Festival presented by the Primo Italiano Lodge #2800” on Facebook.

So if you haven’t been to a festival lately I hope this article may have given you the desire to do so. There are plenty of opportunities remaining as summer and the festival season are not over. Check you local newspaper or go on line and “Google” festivals in your local area. Then go and have fun!



The crowd enjoying the evening at the St. Rita of Cascia Street Fair in July. The Church is in the background.



Demonstration of the dance, the Tarantella, at the Washington County Italian Heritage Festival in 2018. Festival sponsored by the Primo Italiano Lodge, #2800.



Statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on display at the St. Rita of Cascia Street Fair following the procession from the Church.

Your Lodge News Could have been here if a member of your lodge had taken the time to email a short story and photo to Lawrence McGlynn at lmcg19143@gmail.com, or the Grand Lodge at info@sdoitaly.com

The Forerunners of Columbus: Early Italian Forays into Africa

By Peter Tafuri

Political correctness aside, Christopher Columbus is arguably the greatest and most important explorer of all times, changing the world and the very course of history. Vespucci, Verrazano, and the Cabots are just some of the other Italians who lead the Age of Discovery. As Americans, we focus largely on the exploration of the Western Hemisphere, but what lay south and east of Europe was also mostly unknown before that time, and there were many Italians who ventured into it, one of whom was **Alvise Cadamosto**.

Born into a prominent and wealthy Venetian family in 1432, he went to sea at the age of ten, sailing to North Africa, the Greek islands and other ports in the Mediterranean. At the time Venice was the greatest commercial and naval power in Europe. Her fleets carried on a robust trade with the Turks and Saracens, and occasionally engaged in hostilities with them to protect against their onslaughts. Already an experienced trader, Cadamosto was appointed an officer of the marines which protected ships sailing to Egypt and later Flanders. It was on a voyage to the latter that his role as one of the great explorers was to begin.



African Adventures

In 1454 his ship put in at Portugal to wait out a prolonged storm. At the time that nation was just beginning to venture down the unknown coast of Africa. Learning of this, Cadamosto was eager to join in, and was immediately given command of a vessel by Prince Henry the Navigator.

He set out the next year and eventually anchored off what is now northern Senegal, essentially the limit of that part of the then known world. There he met Budomel, the king of the region, and was invited to travel inland to stay with his nephew, prince Bisboror, and thus became one of the first Europeans to explore the interior of sub-Saharan Africa. He spent a month there carefully noting local politics, customs, ceremonies, food, plants, animals and numerous other details of this new world. Upon returning to his ship, he decided to venture into the unknown and sailed south.

Antoniotto Usodimare

Shortly after, he met up with two other Portuguese ships and teamed up with the commander of one, **Antoniotto Usodimare** of Genoa. The latter had been a prominent merchant and banker, but fell into debt and went to Portugal to remake his fortune.

They eventually put in off the coast of southern Senegal, and sent an interpreter ashore to greet the natives, who immediately murdered him. Wishing to avoid hostilities, they set sail and soon discovered the Gambia River. Despite being constantly fired upon with arrows from the natives there, they went up it around 60 miles, but had to turn back to save themselves from a massive canoe attack, and returned to Portugal.

Cadamosto's Major Contributions

Besides expanding knowledge of the world on this voyage, Cadamosto also contributed to navigation and astronomy. That far south, the all important Pole Star, was almost invisible, but a new constellation, the Southern Cross, appeared. He was the first person to record and draw it and thus guided future sailors.

In 1456 he and Usodimare led three ships back to Africa. They soon enough encountered a storm and sailed over 300 miles out to sea to escape it, probably further than anyone had ever gone from there before, and made another discovery, the Cape Verde Islands. Finding them uninhabited, and nothing of commercial interest, they made their way to the Gambia River.

This time they were not attacked, and were able to communicate with the natives, who said they were warriors of one of the Mandinka kings who had small realms along the river and were part of the Empire of Mali. They went to the court of one and stayed as welcome guests for over a week, did some trading, but contracted malaria and headed back to sea to escape the unhealthy environment.

For Part Of Africa

Determined to continue their explorations, they headed further south, discovering more rivers along the way, finally anchoring in the largest of them, the Geba, in what is now Guinea-Bissau, just a little north of the Equator. They conducted what trade they could with the inhabitants, but finding nothing of much value, and still suffering from malaria, they returned to Portugal.

Usodimare, who made enough from his expeditions to regain his wealth, returned to Genoa where he died in 1462. Cadamosto remained in Portugal where he engaged in trade and commerce, returned to Venice in 1463, continued in business, rose in prominence, served as a diplomat, and eventually became captain of a fleet.

Chaplain's Corner

Continued from page 2

were those recalling the Columbus Celebrations of 1892, the four hundredth anniversary of Columbus' voyage. I noticed that, while the Italian community of Philadelphia played a role in the celebrations, it was also very much an American celebration. Hence, the famous Columbian Exposition held in 1893 in Chicago, which drew over 27 million visitors from throughout the world. The main attraction of the Fair, celebrating this anniversary, was a large pool, representing the long and arduous voyage Columbus took to the New World. This was a celebration of America and its connection to Columbus.

With the arrival of numerous immigrants from Italy to our country, and their contributions to it, Columbus Day became a day to honor both America and its citizens who trace their origins to the great Admiral from Genoa. In recent years, the exaggeration of certain facts, the ignoring of others and the impossible task of imposing our expectations on a world of over 500 years ago, have caused the name of Christopher Columbus to be dishonored in some quarters. Despite the rational answers given to many of the criticisms and even a movie which debunked many of them, this critical movement will probably not come to an end very soon.

On the occasion of the four hundredth anniversary mentioned above, Pope Leo XIII wrote an encyclical recalling Columbus' zeal for the Catholic Faith. In recalling this, Pope Leo wrote: "Columbus is ours." Indeed, for many reasons, as Americans; as Americans of Italian extraction; and, for those of us who are Catholics, Columbus is indeed ours! While we all seek truth, let's not make ourselves modern victims of invisible, but just as powerful, 're-education camps!'

Italian-American Heritage Month

October 12 had traditionally been in American history celebrated as Columbus Day, when it was officially documented that the New World had been discovered by Christopher Columbus,

The Sons and Daughters of Italy have been able to organize the Italian Caucus legislators in both the Senate and the House in Harrisburg to have proclamations for Italian American Heritage Month in October.

While Columbus has come under attack by a whole array of radical groups, it is still undisputed that he kept precise records

in his daily log of the travel going westward from Spain and his arrival upon the shores somewhere in the Dominican Republic.

Columbus Day has become the day for Italian Americans to celebrate their heritage. It must be noted that the largest number of casualties in World War II of any ethnic group were Italian Americans.

This year, the legislators and the Sons and Daughters of Italy will meet at the Capitol and celebrate the proclamation of October as Italian American Heritage Month and continue to celebrate Columbus Day.

Cadamosto's Death and Legacy

Of more importance to posterity was his book, *Il Navigazioni* (The Navigations), the first account of the exploration of West Africa. In it, he accurately described the land, rivers, people, places, flora, fauna, trade, customs and a host of other details, which made it an invaluable contribution to the knowledge of that then mostly unknown part of the world, and a guide for future explorers.

Before the book itself was published, his accurate maps of West Africa were printed in 1468 in an atlas by Grazioso Benincasa. Although there is no way of knowing, perhaps they were used by Columbus, who before his epic voyages, sailed along the African coast to learn firsthand about the currents, winds and positions of the stars.

Cadamosto died on a diplomatic mission in 1483. The Age of Discovery, like too many human discoveries, certainly had its negative consequences, which sadly seem to be all that is emphasized of late, but the world and life as we know it would not exist otherwise. Alvise Cadamosto and Antoniotto Usodimare earned their place of honor among those who made it so.

Una Scatola di Informazioni Bocce - An Ancient Game

By
Anna L. Forte

Mario Pagnoni in his book *The Joy of Bocce* indicates there is no documentation of the history of this sport. However, there are some fascinating facts that evidence bocce as the ancestor of all ball games. A professor of Egyptology at the University of London discovered an Egyptian tomb from 5200 B.C. giving evidence of a bowling game played by young boys tossing balls or polished stones. Some wall paintings and vases also depicted similar games in progress.

Potential Origins

Possibly, the Egyptian inhabitants became the first bocce players. They were followed by the Romans who played with rounded rocks and the Greeks who exercised by throwing varied size balls for distance practice.

During the Punic Wars, the Romans modified the sport by rolling balls along the ground to strike a stationary target to pass the time between battles. This pastime grew in popularity but Charles IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, had a ban placed on the game. He felt the soldiers were not concentrating fully on the war. Eventually, the game spread throughout the Middle East and Asia.

Foreunner of Variations

The first authentic bocce balls were designed by Luigi Boccahrini (nicknamed Bocci) and they were made from willow tree roots. Interestingly, bocce became the forerunner of the French game *petanque** as well as English lawn bowling.

Today, bocce is a great game for individuals who are physically challenged for you need only roll a ball to participate. Other than bocce balls, there is no required equipment or expensive wearing gear. If a court is not in your vicinity, you can use your backyard or even the neighborhood park. During low tide the beach can also serve as the court.

Rules of the Game

The game is played with eight large balls and one small ball referred to as the pallino (Italian for little ball). Generally, four of the large balls are red-

dish-brown, four are dark green, and the pallino is yellow. The object of bocce is to roll the big balls as close as possible to the pallino.

The game runs to 12 points, 16 points, 21 points, or another score that is acceptable to all the participants. There are many variations to the rules so it is difficult to elaborate on the subject. However, groups affiliated with the United States Bocce Federation have attempted to establish a standard set of rules.

Personal Memories

My earliest memory of bocce was watching my grandfather and his pals measuring to find out which ball was closest to the pallino. Mamma mia! What commotion! What heated arguments as choice words flew around. I especially enjoyed watching the measurement that included devices such as feet, hands, fingers, string, tape, or specialized implements to determine who would receive the point.

Italian immigrants brought this game with them and played in their backyards and social clubs. While many of these clubs are still in existence, boc-



Typical equipment used in Bocceball

ce has become a game for everyone. What once was considered an Italian older men's game seems to have spread from the Italian-American communities to grassy backyards throughout the states.

In fact, a few years ago, the competition known as the World Cup of Bocce was held in the Imperial Ballroom of Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Bocce, a favorite game in Italy, is played today in Australia, South America, other countries and is spreading throughout our country.

**petanque -French game that uses small metal balls that are placed in an underhand with palm down.*

FINALMENTE IL GIORNALE RITORNA

Finalmente dopo quattro anni il giornale dei Figli e Figlie D'Italia ritorna a tutti I membri dell'organizzazione.

Grazie all'insistenza del Presidente della Grande Loggia dello Stato MICHELE CERRUTI, il giornale ritorna piu grande e piu informante di prima.

Lui a dato ordini a tutti gli uffuciali della Grande Loggia di scrivere e dare informazioni a tutti I membri dell'organizzazione.

Grazie mille Signor Presidente finalmente tutti I nostri membri saranno notificati e riceveranno informazine di quello che succede nello State.

Dal' est al' oest e dal nord al sud tutti sar-anno notifiicati alla stessa volte.

Se ave e informazione che volete fal sapere a tutti fratelth e sorelle per piacere scrivete e man ate tutto all 0 della Grande Loggia per il prossmo glornale.

[se avete fotografie per piacere man atele per la pubhcaz, one del giornale]

Convention Highlights

Continued from Page 1

finished on time giving the attendees a chance to dress for Friday night dinner.

Final Banquet Successful

During the two days, the buffet lunches were served and in addition to the President's Dinner there was the Gold Medal Banquet. In the morning, there was a tasty continental buffet that was spread out prior to the morning sessions for which the members were able to partake.

The Radisson Hotel located approximately four and a half minutes from the FOP Hall was a comfortable facility and access back and forth was supplied by the Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085 members for those who did not want to drive.

Hospitality Suite

At the hotel, there was a hospitality suite which was open and utilized by the attendees on both Wednesday after the Grand Council meeting and on Thursday and Friday after the festivities at the FOP Hall with beer, wine, refreshments and the Italian delicacies which some of the lodges had brought and supplied.

From the opening of the Convention with the Special Police Color Guard on Thursday morning to the Convention adjournment after the banquet, the delegates had an enjoyable and successful Convention.

Tragedies In Connellsville President Dies; Lodge Fire

The old saying that when it rains it pours happened on the 16th of July at the Francesco Fiorentino Concordia Lodge #454 in Connellsville Pa. The Lodge members were just mourning the passing of their Lodge President Francesco Russo, when their Vice President Tim Sines Sr. received a call notifying him that their Lodge Building was on fire.

The bottom floor, which housed a bar, and the meeting area was completely destroyed. Their main floor that housed a bar that was just remodeled two years prior received so much damage that the building is no longer usable.

Tim Sines Sr. immediately notified Past State President Anthony Lizza, who went to assess the situation and to render any possible help. When he arrived the fire had already been brought under control and some of the different fire companies that responded were already leaving.

Neighboring Lodge Civiltà e Progresso was made available to their members

for meetings, hall rentals, and any activities they may want to schedule.

Civiltà e Progress also asked the Ladies of Connellsville Lodge to use their building if and when they need to use it.

In the true sense of Brotherhood, their members were asked to combine their yearly picnic with the Scottsdale Lodge. Work is in progress to hold a fundraiser for the Lodge to be hosted at the Scottsdale Lodge, which is always ready to help those in need, as they have held events in the past to raise money for all kinds of local charities and individuals who are in need of help.

With the passing of their long-time President, all day-to-day business of the Lodge has fallen on the shoulders of Vice President Tim Sines Sr. He has been doing a fantastic job keeping their membership up to date and dealing with the insurance company, paying bills, ect. He scheduled August 21st as the day to hold elections of new President and other offices available.

Judge McLaughlin Explains Receiving Dual Citizenship

Superior Court Judge Maria McLaughlin is now of two worlds, having received dual Italian-American citizenship last year.

"For me, it wasn't just for fun," McLaughlin said. "It was because I have a son who was enrolled at the Culinary Institute of America, and it was his dream when he graduated to go to Italy and work."

Without dual citizenship, McLaughlin explained, her son would not have been able to work in Italy.

Benefits of Citizenship

"For practical purposes, they can put him on payroll," McLaughlin said. "He can get health insurance, a bank account. If you're American citizen, you can't do these things. It's so difficult for Italians to hire Americans with visas. There are so many things you have to complete just to have an employee stay over there."

McLaughlin herself was interested in obtaining Italian citizenship along with her son because of familial

connections and the ease that being a citizen creates while traveling.

"For me, it's definitely for pleasure," McLaughlin said. "Because it's nice to get off the plane and going into the Italian citizen line. It's easier for a number of things; if I ever wanted to retire there a couple months out of the year it's certainly nicer to be a citizen."

Year-Long Process

The process, however, is laborious and can be tedious, McLaughlin said, and can take up to a year.

"If I'm giving anyone advice," McLaughlin said. "Number one, get on the computer and make your appointment (with the Italian consulate) if you are in Philadelphia, because the appointments are so backlogged. You probably won't get an appointment for a year. And that gives you a year to do all of the documents."

McLaughlin said that a lot depends on how far back you can trace your family line so that you can

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Judge McLaughlin Explains Dual Citizenship

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prove the veracity of your claim, and all documents attesting to your heritage must be originals. American documents being sent to Italy must be affixed with an Apostille seal, which according to the State Department, verifies that these documents are official.

Significant Documentation

“You also need to make your family tree,” McLaughlin said. “I ran into a kink because... my great-grandmother was born before the 1940s and women were not considered citizens in Italy at that time, so it was no good.”

“It’s two appointments,” McLaughlin said. “The first is for them to go through all of your documents to make sure you have everything in order. They then give you another date to come back.

If they approve it, they send all the documents to where your family is from.”

The second appointment is to finalize the applicant’s passport. McLaughlin said that there is no telling how long this part of the process could take.

Consul General

“The Consul General was wonderful to me because they knew my son was going to work there,” McLaughlin said. “We were time-constrained so they actually called Italy. I told them that my son wouldn’t have this job without the citizenship, I’m very thankful.”

McLaughlin shared some of the minor details that can derail an application.

“My grandfather’s name wasn’t his name,” McLaughlin said. “He was Charles here, but he had

(a different name) in Italy. My grandmother was Philomena, but she was born Filomena. I had to file for a court order to legally change the name. I filled out an affidavit that stated that none of my living relatives were opposed to me changing my grandmother’s name from Philomena to Filomena. Everything has to match up with the original documents.”

Great Experience

Despite, and perhaps because of, the year-long process, McLaughlin said she was very pleased to have gone through with the experience.

“I loved the experience,” McLaughlin said. “It was something I could do with my sons. We’re very proud of our Italian heritage, we’re very proud of our Irish heritage.”

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