



THE TIMES

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY



PHILADELPHIA, PA OCTOBER 2020

Italy Rebounds from Virus After Protracted Shutdown

Italy, once a hot spot of the corona virus pandemic and cautionary tale of the virus' rapid infectiousness, has since become an example of containment, with the country's confirmed cases and deaths at its lowest point since February.

The country, which has had 244,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and nearly 35,000 deaths, saw only 114 new confirmed cases as of July 14. This number is in stark contrast to the 6,557 confirmed cases on March 21, the pandemic's peak.

HARDEST HIT

Italy's northern Lombardy region was hit the hardest by Covid-19, with 95,000 confirmed cases and over 16,000 deaths. But the area now has reason to celebrate, with Hospital Papa Giovanni XXIII, located in Bergamo, Northeast of Milan, celebrating its last discharged ICU patient with severe symptoms of Covid-19 last week, according to reporting by The New York Times.

As the country takes a moment to breathe and relish its

containment of a virus that is currently ravaging aging the United States, an unlikely favorable outcome has emerged: space and access for local Italians to the country's most renowned attractions typically mobbed by tourists.

In early June, Italy opened up some of its most prized tourist spots such as The Uffizi in Florence, The Museo dell' Opera del Duomo (Museum of the Works of the Cathedral) in Florence, The Colosseum in Rome, the Vatican Museums, the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Pompeii archaeological park.

TOURISM OFF

According to CBS News, the magnificent sites, which usually see 8,000-16,000 people daily, were reduced to 600 visitors at the Uffizi on its first Sunday and 2,000 visitors at the Colosseum on July 6. Although the pandemic has been a brutal hit to the Italian economy, the lack of tourists has allowed locals the space to enjoy their heritage.

After this traumatic experience (continued on page 4)

COLUMBUS UNDER ATTACK AGAIN, AGAIN, AND AGAIN



The Columbus statue in Marconi Plaza before and after city intervention

Columbus monuments and statues throughout the country have now become the target of vandals, looters, and arsonists under the guise of "peaceful protesters." Throughout the country Christopher Columbus monuments and statues have become targets of destruction and the defense of same and the defendants of these public statues are being deemed vigilantes and law breakers.

The best example of what has recently occurred was in Philadelphia where the Christopher Columbus statue in Marconi Plaza has become a target for removal, after being in its location for more than 44 years without complaint or objection. Before that it sat in Fairmount Park for over 100 years from the Centennial celebration in 1876.

HISTORICAL MONUMENT

Unlike other statues or monuments, because in Philadelphia the Historical Commission had previously designated the statue, it could not be removed without hearings before the Historical Commission of Philadelphia and its Art Commission and License and Inspection Permit.

Meanwhile, in Baltimore the Columbus statue which was dedicated by President Ronald Reagan during the Mayoral term of Thomas D'Allesandro, Nancy Pelosi's brother, was dragged down from its pedestal and thrown

down into the Harbor. The Christopher Columbus statue which stood for over 100 years in New Haven was removed after being threatened.

OTHERS REMOVED

The Christopher Columbus statue in Chicago was removed in the middle of the night by the City to "protect it", causing damage in the process after being defended by the police who couldn't arrest anybody for two days.

In Boston, similarly, the statue of Christopher Columbus had to be removed after it was damaged by another "peaceful protest," against alleged police brutality towards Blacks which was accompanied by looting, fires and assaults. This was similar to Philadelphia's "peaceful protests."

VIRTUAL HEARINGS

The hearings that took place in Philadelphia followed the assault upon the Columbus statue and because of the pandemic were held by Zoom and telephone over a two-day period on a Wednesday and Friday at the end of July before the Art Commission and the Historical Commission.

The Mayor's office said that the reason for the request for removal was that those who were upset about the alleged brutality stories that surfaced concerning Christopher Columbus and the prospect of (continued on page 6)

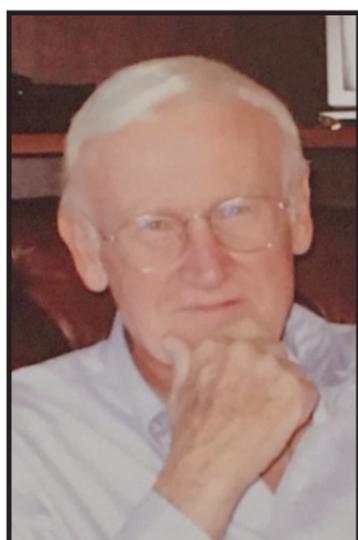
TREMENDOUS GRAND LODGE LOSS AS DR. EDMUND JOSEPH FORTE DIES

Dr. Edmund J. Forte, a Grand Lodge intellectual icon, passed away this Spring at 88 years of age. He was married to his wife Anna whom he met at his first teaching job, and they were together and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

He was born on May 22, 1931 to John and Anna Forte and graduated from South Philadelphia High School for Boys and went onto obtain his Bachelor's Degree from West Chester before beginning his first teaching job at Vare Junior High School.

ADDITIONAL DEGREES

He later earned a Master's Degree from Temple University and a Ph.D. from Walden University. Later, he also was awarded and completed a National Science Foundation Fellowship Grant for advance



Dr. Edmund Joseph Forte study at the University of Pennsylvania.

Although he was born in the United States, he was raised in an Italian speaking household, both of his parents being from the Province of Chieti in Abruzzo and with his father dying at an early age, his mother, Anna Forte,

raised him as a single parent.

SURVIVED BY FAMILY

He is survived by his wife and life mate, Anna Lelii Forte and his final words to her were "I Love You More Than Ever." The Forte's had two children, Edmund (Ned), (Josephine) and Barbara (Christopher) as well as the three grandchildren, Michael, Eric and Ava Rose. Due to the pandemic, the funeral services were private at D'Anjolell with a memorial service planned later.

In 1967, Doctor Forte was part of the original membership of the Columbus Forum Italian Educators Lodge. He served in various capacities and subsequently became president of that lodge. He then rose onto other offices, having served as a District

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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."

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY TIMES

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STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by: *Msgr. Charles L. Sangermano*



Photoshop is a remarkable computer tool that makes it possible to create, change, and combine images. If you don't understand it, you and I will consult an eight-year-old who will know all about it! There was a forerunner of this process, which made use of it in a sinister manner. During the reign of terror that held sway in communist Russia for about seventy years, photos were routinely "adjusted." In that system, a tyranny based on the whim of the latest communist leader, rather than on a natural and just law, a person could be exalted today and "deleted" tomorrow. In a rather primitive and crude form, photos of Party leaders would have an individual or individuals removed when they had fallen out of favor. The West often found this amusing and articles were written in the free world, comparing "before and after" photos. Here today, gone tomorrow. Hero yesterday, villain today. No one knew who would be next.

This is topical right now, because it seems that there are those who would "photoshop" our history. Historic statues, many of great beauty, and often depicting individuals who, imperfect though they were, made great contributions to the history of our country, are being destroyed. This topic has a place here for two reasons: in some cases, religious leaders have had their images destroyed. Father Junipero Serra, considered one of the great founders of California, where many city names still reflect their origin as Missions begun by Father Serra, had his image destroyed in San Francisco, a city named for the founder of his Religious Order. It is well documented that he was a great friend of the native peoples and often defended them from those who would harm and exploit them. In Saint Louis, young Catholics made a human chain, opening themselves to great abuse, in order to defend a beautiful statue of Saint Louis. The statue of this man of great sanctity and benefactor of the poor, had already been defaced and was threatened with destruction.

The other reason is the attack on Christopher Columbus and his images. Documents prove that the overriding desire of Columbus was to spread the message of the Gospel to another part of the world, and to reward his benefactors, who financed his journeys, with products from new lands. Europeans came to a different part of the world, where the native populations had not built up a resistance to European diseases, and many native people contracted these diseases. This was the result of an unknown element of medical science, not a purposeful genocide. Similarly, Columbus should not be held responsible for the abuses of some of the colonizing soldiers who came after him. Columbus has been honored in our country, by mutual consent, over the course of our history, making him a unifying force in American patriotism. He has also come to symbolize the contributions of Italian Americans to the United States.

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From the Pen of the President

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I hope this finds you well. I am deeply troubled with the blatant racism and prejudice that we as of Italian descent are currently facing. This ugliness is no longer subtle and not without harm.

The movement that is flowing across our great country is one of hatred and mis truths. This movement is a direct attack on our history to remove our history with Christopher Columbus being one of the main targets.

It is with great sadness and anger that I watch on the nightly news of statues of this great and brave explorer being torn down and broken into many pieces. Then to add even more insult, the statues that were protected by the local community are now covered in tarps or plywood on the pretense to protect the statue.

We have local politicians referring to people of the local community that stood watch and protected their statue from lawlessness and harm as vigilantes while the groups causing all the mayhem and destruction are referred to as protesters.

One of the reasons that our organization came about was the discrimination that forefathers faced. Our organization has fought for our members and stood tall when facing the attack that came our way. We started our own insurance company to help members at one of the most devastating times affecting their families. Our CSJ (commission for social justice) was started to give a loud voice to fight the ugliness and to promote all the positive that we as a people do. Our Dante commission was started to honor our children that excelled in the classroom and went on to higher education to help people from all walks of life.

There are several things that we as an organization can do to fight this blatant prejudice, each lodge must hold a voter registration drive and to make sure all eligible citizens are registered to vote. The Italian population in Pennsylvania is a very large segment and when we come together we can bring about positive change.

Another area that helps bring about change and is a voice for every member is our C and E trust and, this needs your support as well. The easiest way to show your support is through our Smile Amazon account. Lastly, the area that would help to combat the ugliness is bringing in new members, remember there is strength in numbers. If every member signed up just one member imagine the possibilities. We have an obligation just as our forefathers before us to combat what confronts us, for our children, grandchildren, and all Italians Americans. We must allow our children to walk with heads held high and not fear reprisals for being Italian American.

**Fraternally,
Mike Cerruti
State President**

Rob Martinelli and the Delaware Valley Italian-American Herald

By

Joseph Cannavo

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Robert F. Martinelli each month the Delaware Valley's Italian-American Herald reaches out to the region's extensive Italian-American Community.

Rob Martinelli is CEO and President of Today Media, a family owned Media Company that specializes in regional publications, events, websites and custom communications that help people get the most out of living in their communities.

FAMILY BUSINESS

Rob started in the second-generation family business in 1982 as Publisher of Delaware Today magazine. He continues in that role as Delaware Today celebrated its 57th birthday this year.

In 1996 Rob started Main Line Today magazine. In September 2014 Today Media launched the Delaware Business Times serving the Delaware market with local business information in print, online and in person with numerous events.

PUBLISHED MAGAZINE

In 2014 after obtaining the rights to the Delaware Valley Italian-American Herald from the Italian-American Press and Radio Media obtaining the rights, he took the publication to a new level and through his support and dedication Today Media continues to serve the region's Italian-Americans its most read publication by.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Rob also holds a law degree and is admitted to the New York State Bar. Rob does not currently practice. He is a graduate of Holy Cross College in Massachusetts and Pace University School of Law in New York.

Rob is a member of the Past President's Council of the City and Regional Magazine Association the largest trade organization for city and regional magazines. He served as President in 2003 and in 2012 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the organization.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Rob is active in his community. He is past president of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Delaware and currently sits on their Board of Directors, Rob is president of the Today Media Charitable

Foundation which runs the Best of Parties for the local magazines. These parties have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for children charities and cultural arts groups.

CHARITY AWARD

In July 2000 Rob received the Delaware State Chapter of the March of Dimes Medal of Honor – its' highest award for service and commitment and in November 2000 the Jane Maroney Advocacy Award in recognition of tireless efforts in advocacy for Delaware's mothers and babies.



Rob Martinelli

In 2014 Rob was named The Man of the Year by the Christopher Columbus Monument Committee.

Rob is also a member of the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee of Christiana Care and a member of the board of the Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation.

AWARDS RECEIVED

Rob is a patron of and avid supporter of Italian-American culture, as evidenced by his leadership role in ensuring the Delaware Valley Italian-American Herald continues to flourish, and in his service as a Board member and President of the Delaware's Società da Vinci.

Most recently Rob was honored as recipient of the 2019 Rev. Roberto Balducelli, OSFS Memorial Award by The Columbus Day Committee of Wilmington DE. He is an avid golfer and enjoys music. He is married to Alice, has a daughter Christen, a graduate of Delaware Law School of Widener University, and is practicing law in NJ, and a step daughter Jackie who has a Masters in Broadcast Journalism and is with CBS 60 Minutes.

TREMENDOUS GRAND LODGE LOSS AS DR. EDMUND JOSEPH FORTE DIES

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Chairman and then onto the Grand Council as State Trustee from 1979 to 1983.

NEW LODGE FORMED

In 1985, along with his wife and two colleagues, Doctor Forte initiated a drive and formed the Benvenuto Lodge in Delaware County and became president which had a focus on cultural appreciation and rose from the original 25 enrollment to over 190.

STATE OFFICES

In addition to serving on the Grand Council as a State Trustee, Doctor Forte was also President of the Dante Commission on Education/Culture from 1995 to 1999.

With his wife Anna who had preceded him as President of the Dante Commission, they wrote the "Cultural Corner" for the Sons of Italy Times which used to come out every two weeks. He later served as State Treasurer for two terms for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL OFFICES

In addition to serving the State, Doctor Forte was also a Nation Trustee and chaired The National Education Committee. He also was recognized as the person who had the vision to develop the conceptual model that eventually led to the creation of the Endowment based component of the Sons of Italy Foundation.

As National Education Committee Chairman, he was responsible for providing leadership to convince the College Board to reinstate the critically important SAT Achievement test in the Italian language. This was after he had designed and administered a student summer study in Italy Program.

ABRUZZESE POST

Along with his wife, he was very active in the Associazione Regionale Abruzzese, chairing the election committee almost from the beginning of that organization formation, and subsequently as a result of his work receiving the Distinguished Services Award from the Delaware Valley Association and the Gold Medal from the National Abruzzese Association for significant contribution in the interest in Italian community, (Federal of Abruzzese Associations).

He was also recognized by the President of Italy with the

title of Cavaliere for his efforts in the Italian American community, (*Ordine Della Stella Solidarieta Italiana*).

COAST GUARD

His initial teaching career was interrupted in the 50's when he honorably served our country in the United States Coast Guard. After his return to teaching, which was in mathematics and physical sciences, he was appointed to the position vice principal in 1965 and in 1966 he became a principal.

As an administrator with the Philadelphia School District, he served both as an elementary and secondary school principal and also became a Central Office Project Director.

While in Central Office Administration, Doctor Forte designed model programs to assist under achieving students. Programs that he developed and directed and that were maintained for years were "Checkpoint," "Benchmark" and "Academic Resource Center", which all received national recognition.

SUPERVISOR POSITIONS

As a result of his accomplishments and educational success, he was appointed to the position of Superintendent of District VII of the Philadelphia School System in 1987 and assumed the responsibility for the instructional programs of students in 33 schools from kindergarten to grade 12. In 1989, he was appointed as the Superintendent of the Southwest Region of the Philadelphia School District.

When he retired in 1993, his colleagues wrote in tribute that "from the classroom to the principal's office, from Central Office Program Management to Regional Leadership, all who have served with him and for him agree that Ed Forte stands for integrity and excellence.

ADMIRED COLLEAGUE

As an administrator, he possesses a warmth, caring and empathy for children, colleagues and parents. While his retirement signifies the tremendous loss to the school district, the effects of his leadership will linger in all who have been touched by his kind but effective style.

After retirement from the Philadelphia School District, Doctor Forte accepted a po-

sition with the Black College Satellite Network to serve as a distance learning coordinator for the United States Education Network. His responsibilities included the development of program design and organizational procedures for distance learning through the use of interactive television.

He utilized the voluntary services of his wife Anna to write original materials and teach Italian lessons for the elementary grades via interactive television.

VIDEO CLASSES

Through their efforts, Italian lessons became available for all in every elementary classroom and home within the City of Philadelphia and tapes of these lessons continue to be broadcast weekly by PBS Television Channel 35 and viewed through the Philadelphia-metropolitan area.

In this time of the pandemic and education being at a distance, it is interesting to note the Doctor Forte was 20 years ahead of the times with regard to his accomplishments and the introduction of this type of informational programming for education.

CIVIC DUTIES

His involvement was not just limited to education and Italian originations, but he was appointed to and served on the Board of the Convention Center in Philadelphia and was a member of the Citizen's Committee on public education in Philadelphia.

He has served on many scholarship committees including the Dr. William Ross Scholarship Fund and for a number of years was the treasurer of Italian Language Preservation Foundation established by the Consul General of Philadelphia.

LIFE PARTNERSHIP

He always included his wife as his partner, his soulmate, and his compatriot in many of his ventures and they were indeed a dynamic duo. Being justly proud of their son, the doctor, and their daughter, the lawyer, was also part of their crowning achievements.

With all of his activities, he also served as an adjunct professor at Drexel University. Doctor Forte always felt that his most significant accomplishment as a Dante Commission President was associated with his efforts in

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LODGE NEWS



Chaplain's Corner

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In Columbus, Ohio, a statue of the City's namesake, a gift from the city of Genoa in 1955, was removed; Columbus statues were torn down or defaced in St. Paul, Boston and Richmond. In South Philadelphia, it was only individuals from the community who saved that statue from destruction. In Newark, the Columbus statue was saved from a scheduled midnight removal by the City authorities, by private entities, who only had several hours to respectfully remove it. It is interesting to note that Italian Americans were one of the largest, if not the largest, single ethnic group fighting in America's Armed Forces during the Second World War. Many of those young men were no older when they went off to war than those destroying these images now. Those young soldiers, many of them children of Italian immigrants themselves, gallantly went off to "fight for freedom." Freedom for what? To use opportunities for building and creating, as in the "real" photoshop, or for mindless revenge, as in the "other" version?

75th Anniversary of Liberation Day As Italy Celebrates Independence

By Courtney Costanzo, Custodes Pacis Lodge #2085

April 25, 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of Liberation Day, or Festa della Liberazione, in Italy. This is a national holiday in Italy celebrating the fall of Mussolini's Italian Social Republic and the end of the Nazi occupation of Italy in 1945. On this day, Italians honor those who served during the Italian Resistance, as well as all Italian veterans.

FESTIVITIES

This day in Italy is usually celebrated with parades, marching bands, concerts, food festivals, and political rallies throughout the country. Venice celebrates one of its most important festivals on this day, the Festa di San Marco, which honors St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice. In Rome, the president visits the Ardeatine Caves Mausoleum, a national monument commemorating the 300 Romans killed by the

Nazis at this spot in 1944.

Unfortunately, this year saw a very different celebration. With corona virus lockdowns still in effect throughout the country, Italians were forced to celebrate at home.

CELEBRATORY

Despite the devastating effects of the virus on the population, many citizens came out to their balconies to sing Bella Ciao, the anthem of the anti-fascist regime, and to wave flags. Italian President, Sergio Mattarella, paid tribute by laying a wreath at the unknown soldier war memorial in Rome.

ITALIAN REUNION

This just goes to show the great patriotism of Italians, even during a terribly uncertain time. We all look forward to resuming our normal lives and celebrating all these great holidays next year! Hopefully we will all meet in Italy.

L.A.M. Valley Forge Lodge #1776 Efforts Help Local Food Bank

By Bernadette (Barbone) Wesler, President

This pandemic has made it necessary to cancel activities that we had scheduled. Our charter night was to be March 28 our Charity Golf outing was to be June 10th and our monthly dinner meetings all had to be canceled until further notice. This week we had our first board meeting since Feb 24th. Not all board members attended which I totally understood.

We did honor social distancing, some wore masks and the meeting went well. We are hoping to resume our dinner meetings in September.

QUARANTINE EFFECT

When the quarantine began the Lodge was informed that our local food bank under Catholic Social Services was in desperate need of food. I contacted Patrick, who was our guest speaker in February and asked how we could help. He stated that due to COVID-19 they would prefer a monetary donation to avoid multiple contact with people. We immediately gave them a \$300 donation.

LODGE DONATION

We then sent a mass email to our lodge members asking for monetary donations to be sent to the lodge Lock box. Within 2 weeks we had received \$1850 from our members. I could not have been more proud of our members and their quick response.

I personally delivered the first check for \$1200 to the food bank. The parking lot driveway was backed up with cars in line to get food for their families. As you can imagine I got very emotional. Thanking God for the blessings I have. A job, a pay check and food to name a few. I parked my car and observed the actions of the many volunteers.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

No one could go inside so each car would pull up to the front and the volunteers would come out with grocery bags loaded with food. They would put it right in their car and there was no contact. The cars moved quite quickly through this process.

I saw Patrick and gave him the check and said more would be coming. He was so grateful for the donation. I left there in tears. These volunteers stepped up in this time of fear and panic to help these people who have lost their jobs and cannot feed their families.

Norristown was not the only place suffering, I am sure there are similar stories all over PA. I just wanted to share my story.

So although we were unable to have our monthly meetings the Lodge stepped up in support of our local community. I could not be prouder to be their president.

Italy Rebounds

(continued from page 1)

rience, people really need to return not only to normalcy but to the nourishment that beauty and history can give. Fr. Timothy Verdon, director of the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, said in an interview with CBS News.

Similarly, those who venture to the sites usually mobbed with tourists won't have to deal with squished spaces and tourists taking selfies. The Uffizi in Florence requires masks, a quick thermal scan, and social distancing via marked spots on the floor.

The Musco dell'Opera dell' Duomo is using social distancing necklaces that buzz to alert visitors that they're too close to one another. At The Colosseum only groups of 14 can enter with a gap of 15 minutes between each group.

ADVANCE PURCHASE

Visitors must purchase their tickets online, wear face masks, have their temperature taken before entering, and keep at least 1 meter away from each other, according to The Guardian.

"Coming close to a masterpiece like Botticelli's Birth of Venus, they bump into somebody else or somebody else's selfie, but (now) they can really concentrate on the work of art," Eike Schmidt, director of the Uffizi Gallery, said to CBS News.

Submit to The Times

While the pandemic has certainly disrupted our lives and every aspect of society, there is some good coming from this situation. All over the world, we are seeing people pull together in ways we did not think possible.

How are you spending this time? Are you trying new recipes, catching up with members from other lodges over the phone or Internet?

Are you brushing up on your Italian language skills? What are members of your lodge doing to keep up with lodge business?? Let us know!

Remember your Vote
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Remember to Vote



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LODGE NEWS



Benvenuto Lodge #2572 Announces Update and Outlook for the Future

Hello fellow members, I hope that this article finds you well and coping as best as you are able, under the current circumstances.

This year has been rough for the Benvenuto Lodge, considering weather at the beginning of the year and then, the pandemic, beginning in March - however we are holding up.

Firstly, we have had very little activity, this year. 2020 is the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Benvenuto Lodge and we are going to have a big celebration at the Drexelbrook Caterers, in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. Also our involvement with the June 2020 Italian-American Heritage Festival, in Media Pennsylvania has been pushed forward to 2021 as the Festival was canceled.

In January, our meeting involved a group round table discussion about our own families' roots. Where all of our members of their families originated, in Italy. In February, we were scheduled to have Judge Paul Panepinto speak, March was slated to see author Charles Sacchetti speak about his Italian roots and growing up in Southwest Philadelphia. Our April meeting was due to be our 35th Anniversary Luncheon, ending with the Philadelphia Mandolin Ensemble in May. All of that, except the January meeting was canceled.

NORMAL BREAK

We took our normal June through August break and were slated to start up again in September.

Due to the fact that our lodge consists of all members over 60, including myself, we made a conscious decision to postpone our lodge meetings, until we can reasonably expect to hold safer meetings. We hold our meetings in a local church hall and maintain a good rapport with the church and congregation. I have spoken to the church staff and we remain in good standing, until we're ready

to resume. I believe other lodges may begin holding meetings but their meeting locations allow for better opportunities to social distance. We wish them all well and can't wait to get started ourselves and soon will be sending our normal dues notices, expecting all our members to return.

Slightly off topic, I am disappointed in the reactions, around the country, to Columbus and statues of Columbus. History is history and tearing down statues does not change the fact that these historical figures existed. Certainly, in this great country, where we or our ancestors came, for a better life, we can acknowledge all of our contributions. Contributing to keeping our history alive, in these matters are two great attorneys - Fran Recchuiti (our legal counsel) and Philadelphia attorney, George Bocchetto.

LOST MEMBERS

Lastly, we lost a few members this year, Dominic Costanzo, 99 and WW2 Veteran, Josephine DeGeorge, Lydia DiPietro, Dr. Nicholas Patruno and Tally Pitacco.

Lastly, I would like to personally acknowledge the passing of Dr. Edmund Forte, founder of Benvenuto. Amongst many of his accomplishments was the establishment of a chair for Italian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Anna were my first real introduction to Benvenuto and the Sons & Daughters. Ed and Anna were my mentors and my friends. Anna remains my friend, to this day. I hop, everyone that knew and remembers Ed, thinks about all the hard work he and Anna did to make this lodge and organization strong. Nothing comes easy, but with friends and support, it is easier and makes for a more secure future

Best wishes, continued good health and see you soon!

**Joe Finio, President,
Benvenuto Lodge #2572**

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

During the pandemic I have continued to think how the Grand Lodge could continue to serve our members in new and exciting ways.

I want to share one of many thoughts and gather what interest there would be on this endeavor.

A book of the month club, the Grand Lodge would work with different book warehouses and or publishers to get the best price for our members. The books would focus on Italian culture, history, novels and Italian authors.

REASONABLE COST

The only cost would be the price of the books and shipping from the Grand Lodge, which will be mailed to each member monthly. The Grand Lodge would also set up a zoom account to allow for the club to meet and discuss.

This is a great way for members across the state to get together and have a great time as well. This is especially important as lodges have not had the opportunity to meet for several months due to CO-VID-19. It also allows us to come together in winter months as well when driving could be dangerous. When the weather is good, lodges could host the club get together while on zoom to go across the state.

I would love to start this for our members and would like to hear from our members of their interest in such a club. Once I hear from everyone to gather the interest, the Grand Lodge will move forward and have the club up and running by new year if not sooner.

MEMBER BENEFIT

This is being offered to our members and as such cost is always on the forefront, the more members that are involved the bigger the discounts we receive, also at times paperback would also result in a bigger discount.

I can be contacted either through email at mikec@sdoitaly.com or through the office at 215-592-1713.

I look forward to hearing from everyone with their thoughts.

Mike Cerruti - President

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*information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public, information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know what information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal financial and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us at the address shown above, to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information

Addendum to Privacy Policy Statement Providing Specific Procedures

Administrative Procedures

In response to Insurer requests:

- No information provided except to owner and in writing; exception, if owner appears in person, upon proper identification, information provided;
- No information over the phone;
- Written request must be from owner;
- Access to some files limited to specific office personnel (small office, only 4 employees).

Technical Safeguards

- Access to computer files by specific password for each employee;
- Access to specific areas, such as annuities, limited to specific employees;
- Each employee must use an individual login access;
- Computer transaction record of all changes by login access;
- All computer files backed up daily. Stored in fire proof safe;
- Computer back up files stored off premises on a weekly basis.

Physical Safeguards

- Entrance to building is locked and only persons having specific business with the organization are permitted to enter;
- Visual and voice connection are required prior to admission to the premises;
- All insurer files are in fire proof, locked files;
- All files and desks closed and locked at the end of each day.

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

***Public Information** means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal, State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

***Non-Public Information** means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

***Consumer Reporting Agency** means an entity which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual; general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

Queen Christina: Roman Renaissance Woman

BY: PETER TAFURI

Italy has long been one of the world's most popular travel destinations, and many a person has diligently saved to make the trip, but few can claim to have given up as much as Queen Christina, who renounced the kingdom of Sweden to live in Rome.

She was born in 1626, the only surviving legitimate child of King Gustavus Adolphus, who made it clear that she was to succeed him to the throne. Following his death, she became Queen at the age of six.

She received an excellent education, studying the Greek and Roman classics, religion, philosophy, history, political science, music and drama, and became fluent in a number of languages, including Italian. Her intelligence and love of learning were often remarked upon.

EARLY POLITICIAN

In 1644 she put her political skills to use by negotiating a favorable peace treaty with Denmark and four years later was instrumental in finally ending the Thirty Years War. As part of the settlement, she was given a vast collection of art and books, which she put to good use in furthering her studies.

She regularly corresponded with the leading intellectuals of her day, including the mathematician, scientist and philosopher Blaise Pascal and Rene Descartes who she persuaded to come to Sweden to give her private lessons in religion and philosophy, beginning at 5:00 AM each morning in her unheated library. He succumbed to pneumonia in the winter of 1650.

She sincerely mourned his death, but was probably consoled by the numerous other luminaries who flocked to her court, including Antonio Brunati, who designed and built a spectacular theatre in the royal palace, where Italian operas under the direction of Antonio Albrici were performed.

CATHOLIC CONVERT

Her interest in religion led her to study Catholicism, and she decided to convert in 1652, ironic since her father had been a champion of the Protestant cause during the Thirty Years War. She secretly made it known to the Portuguese ambassador, since its practice was forbidden in Lutheran Sweden; two Italian Jesuits had to come in disguise to see if she was sincere. They found she was, and

informed the Pope and King of Spain, who sent another Italian, Antonio Pimental de Prado as Ambassador to facilitate things. She befriended the latter and made him first knight of the Amarantha Order, a secret society of which little is known.

ABDICATION OF THRONE

Even before this she had tired of life in Sweden and the travails of ruling, and in 1654 finally abdicated the throne and left the country. She was baptized in Brussels later that year, and made a triumphal entry into Italy in 1655, greeted with enthusiasm and spectacular celebrations all along the way. She settled in the Farnese Palace and devoted herself to the study of the culture she loved better than the royal throne. The Accademia Reale (Royal Academy of Arcadia) was founded by her in 1656 for the pursuit of music, literature, science, drama and such; among its members was the greatest artist of the age, Bernini, who became a close friend of Christina's, and the noted traveler and explorer Francesco Negri. Unfortunately, she was extravagant and generous to a fault, and ran out of money, a problem exacerbated by the failure of the Swedish government to pay her promised stipend. She decided to visit France, where in secret negotiations it was proposed that she would be made Queen of Naples and Sicily. However, before this could happen she had one of her courtiers executed for treason, which, while perfectly legal, caused a stir. She returned to Rome and eventually settled in the Riario Palace, which she turned into a cultural and intellectual center that included a spectacular collection of art and books. Amongst her achievements was the founding of contemporary Rome's first public theatre, the Tor di Nona in 1671.

BECAME A WRITER

She also devoted herself to writing and composed an autobiography, lives of Alexander the Great, Cyrus and Julius Caesar among other works, and became a noted patron of musicians, including Alessandro Scarlatti and Arcangelo Corelli. She also promoted the radical idea for its time of religious tolerance and helped suppress antisemitism. In addition, she studied astronomy and mathematics with Giovanni Domenico Cassini (after whom the space probe is named) and Giordano Vitali, and had a laboratory where she experimented in alchemy and chemistry.

While traveling through southern Italy she contracted a strep throat which progressed to pneumonia, to which she succumbed in April of 1689. She was given an elaborate public funeral by the Pope and was entombed in St. Peter's Basilica, where her monument may be seen to this day. Her book collection is now part of the Vatican Library. Italian by choice, she was one of the great woman of Italy.



“Queen Christina’s Monument”

Columbus Statue

(continued from page 1)

violence because citizens were defending the statue created the need for its removal.

LODGE PROPOSAL

Coming to the defense of the preservation of Christopher Columbus at its location in Marconi Plaza, Francis Recchuiti was designated by the President of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to be its spokesman and offer the solution of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

We would pay for the design installation and maintenance of a video security system to protect the statue from vandals in such a way so that the miscreants could be identified, prosecuted, and convicted.

INCASE STATUE

We also offered to encase the statue completely in unbreakable glass. This offer fell upon deaf ears of the Philadelphia City Administration who have decided that in order to protect Columbus, he has to be placed in a secret warehouse.

The Art Commission met again and issued a decision that the statue was to be moved to an undisclosed warehouse which decision was immediately appealed to the court of Common Pleas by George Bocchetto, Esq., who obtained an injunction preventing any further activi-

ty until the city could respond and there was a full court hearing.

DEFENSE NECESSARY

Notwithstanding all of this, the Italian-American community throughout the country has been indirectly attacked with these assaults upon Columbus. When the protest was organized against the Columbus statue in Philadelphia, local residents took up the defense of same and were characterized by the media as being “dangerous and armed with bats and weapons, including and assault rifle.”

PHILADELPHIA RIOTS

Understand that the assault upon the Columbus statue took place after a couple of weeks of rioting in Philadelphia in which the police were not given the opportunity to arrest lawbreakers, and further so-called protesters never received any parade permits.

It is interesting to note that the present Mayor of New Orleans recently apologized on behalf of the City for the largest mass lynching in this country which occurred in 1891, which consisted of dragging out 11 Italian Americans out of the cell and hanging and shooting them.

Recognition of historical facts is no longer a prerequisite
(continued on page 8)

REMEMBER TO VOTE

Dr. Edmund Forte

(continued from page 3)

uncovering publicizing and helping to create the DiVito Chair and Italian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

DI VITO CHAIR EFFORT

He learned that the University had received a substantial bequest in the millions from the Estate of Mariano DiVito, who had been the maitre' d at the Union League, and his bequest was to establish a Chair in Italian studies in 1988.

By 1995, seven years after receiving the bequest, the university had not established the Chair. Representing the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Ed's vigorous efforts convinced Penn they had to immediately appoint a chair which occurred, with the DiVito Professor of Italian, finally made in 1997.

CERTIFY TEACHERS

He also was involved in the establishment of a certification program to prepare and certify teachers of Italian and as a result, Penn became the sixth college in the state to have a Teacher of Italian Certification Program in order to help cure the shortage of certified teachers of Italian in Pennsylvania.

His love of the Italian Language, Italian opera, and Italian literature led him to also serve as a longtime volunteer consultant with the Piccola Opera Company of Philadelphia that existed for many years. He was the epitome of a gentle man, determined, erudite, genial, soft spoken but determined and accomplished.

At Least Ten Inventions From Italy's Finest Minds

by: Jakob Eiseman

It's no surprise that Italian culture has been one of the most influential on global advancement and entertainment alike. But, there are some daily commodities, devices and practices that come from Italy that people use professionally and personally every single day without even realizing. Here are some examples:

Banking

While there are records of borrowing, lending and storing money come from Assyria and Babylonia the modern idea of going to a bank to store and withdrawal money dates back to 1407 Genoa, where the Banco di San Giorgio opened as the first state deposit bank, funded by the Republic of Genoa. This form was adapted over time from the 1300s Medici Bank of Florence which operated fully independently under the Medici family.

Anemometers

An anemometer is a device that measures the speed and direction of gusting wind. The inventor, Leon Alberti created the prototype in the mid-1400s as part of the Italian Renaissance. Anemometers are commonly found on the roofs of homes, and are used in large form by meteorologists and scientists.

Dolly Shots

A dolly shot in a film is when the camera follows someone as they move from one area to another, often imploring a rail system or a vehicle to keep the camera steady as it pans. The first major film to use this technique was 1914's "Cabiria," directed by Italian director Giovanni Pastrone known for his work on early 1900s films such as "The Warrior," and "The Fire."

Blue Jeans

Many know the story that jeans were invented by Latvian-American immigrant Jacob Davis and German-American immigrant Levi Strauss for the many members of the California gold rush. What most people do not realize is that the product is based entirely off of the cotton corduroy that was produced in Genoa decades prior, and is even cited as the inspiration by the Levi jeans company. The name jean is a derivative of the name Genoa, as fabric from there was often called jeanne cotton.

Parachutes

There are legendary sketches of parachutes by inventors and artists like Leonardo da Vinci, but the first blueprint for what would eventually become a prototype parachute was designed in Venice by Fausto Veranzio in 1615. While there is no firm evidence that the first prototypes built from these blueprints were found in Italy, many attribute them to the Italians since the engineer behind them is unknown and the relics were discovered in western Europe.

Newspapers

The newspaper you are reading now, and all papers for that matter, are deeply rooted in Italian culture. The first paper, and the first thing that every journalism student learns about is the Roman acta diurna, a government bulletin that was placed in public areas altering citizens to news and events. Fast forward out of Ancient Rome and into Renaissance Venice and you get the first monthly, handwritten bulletin in the world, the notizie scritte which would shape early news conventions and lead to papers as we have them today.

Incandescent Light Bulbs

This one comes with an obvious caveat. Thomas Edison did invent the light bulb so an Italian cannot take credit for the invention. But, Edison's lamp bulbs only lasted around 40 hours by their peak production. Italian inventor Alessandro Cruto used Edison's groundwork to create a light bulb with a carbon filament that would last up to 13 times longer and burned even brighter. Lights might not be Italian, but without Cruto, you would have to change the bulbs nearly every three days.

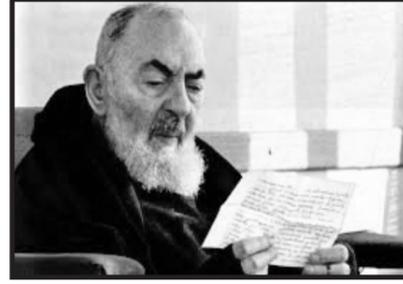
Dentures

The Etruscans' might not be known for their dental hygiene, but the first pair of false teeth were invented in what is now Tuscany in the seventh century B.C.E. They were first created by fixing together bone, wire, and animal teeth. By the fifth century B.C.E. the Roman empire had gotten a hold of dentures from Northern Italy and populated them around Europe.

Padre Pio: His Life Story and Why He Matters Now

By: Aidan Tyksinski

With the way that everything has happened this year in America and the world, it can be easy to lose faith. Faith in society, faith in our government, and faith in people. So instead we put our faith into other things. We put our faith into God, into our religions, and into miracles. We hope and pray that there will be a miracle, that our prayers will be answered. And at some points we can lose our faith in the idea of our prayers being answered, or miracles happening. Then I read the story of someone like Padre Pio, and my faith is restored.



Padre Pio was born as Francesco Forgione on May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy. Pio was baptized and was later an altar server at the Church of St. Ann. Padre Pio later joined the Friary of St. Francis, and in 1910 was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of Benevento. He also served in the 10th Company for the Italian medical corps after being drafted for World War I.

After returning from war, Padre Pio began to show his strong connection to the supernatural. In September, 1918 the 5 wounds of Christ Crucified appeared on Padre Pio, and bled for the next 50 years up until his death. For months, Church officials and doctors questioned the authenticity of the wounds. However, in 1919, it was proven that the wounds on Padre Pio were a true stigma of unexplained forces, making Padre Pio the first stigmatized priest ever in the Catholic Church. However, this would not be the last time that Padre Pio showed his connection to the supernatural.

Padre Pio had to use intercession to cure people. There was no case that was more evident of this than the curing of Gemma di Giorgi. Born without pupils and unable to see, doctors were positive that Giorgi would never be able to see. A family friend of the Giorgi's said that the family send a letter to Padre Pio to see if he would pray for her. The nun then had a dream that she took Gemma to see Padre Pio, and the day after the dream a letter arrived to the nun from Padre Pio, saying he would Pray for Gemma. The nun quickly told the family to travel to see Padre Pio.



On the boat trip to see Padre Pio, Gemma, unexplainable, began to see the ship and the ocean. When she saw Pio, Gemma never asked Pio a grace for giving her vision. Distraught, Gemma's grandmother went to confession to Padre Pio and told him Gemma had forgotten to ask for grace. Father Pio then said to her "Do you have faith, my daughter? For the Child must not weep and neither must you for the child sees, and you know she sees." The grandmother realized Pio was talking about Gemma being able to see on the ship, and that Gemma could now see.

The story of Padre Pio is one of amazement, supernatural, and hope. It helps us remember that even in our toughest times there is someone who is watching over us, and will answer our prayers when we least expect.

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HyperSearch

You've probably never heard of HyperSearch. That is because how most people use the internet. Created by Massimo Marchiori, professor at the University of Padua, it is a search engine system that not only ranks pages on popularity and accuracy to your search, but also in relation to each other, giving you results that are more fulfilling and high-quality. The creators of Google say that without Marchiori's invention of HyperSearch, Google's search algorithm would barely function.

The Film Festival

While film festivals might seem like a thing of the past because of the Coronavirus, for 88 years Venetians have been indulging in the cinematic arts of the highest quality. The oldest, and longest running, film festival in all of the world started in Venice in 1932 and is a part of the Venice Biennale, one of the oldest art exhibitions in the world.



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Columbus Statue
(continued from page 6)

site for knowledge in the 21st Century when people decide that history needs to be re-written or removed. It was even suggested during the hearings that rather than Columbus, the Italian American population should adopt other Italians as their hero and Columbus in Philadelphia could be replaced with a statue of Garibaldi who has not connection with this country.

INSULTING LANGUAGE

Imagine the arrogance of even making that suggestion that the Italian Americans can no longer come together under the memory of the great navigator for whom the fed-

eral district of this country is named. The absurdity of naming Italian American heroes by the mob of anarchists is a final insult to the ethnic Italian Americans.

During the hearings, the committee presented no expert testimony. The defenders of Columbus presented two experts who had studied and translated the original logs and writings from the ten-year period into the 1500's.

RUMORS UNFOUNDED

Although these rumors and innuendos are absolutely historically inaccurate and scholars who have studied the original writings of the time of the Columbus journals and original manuscripts have de-

termined that in fact Christopher Columbus was probably the first civil rights activist in the new world.

In trials that occurred later, Columbus testified as to his actions and in fact it was those that followed him that had committed the atrocities that have been attributed unfairly to him. There is a fairly long and complete record of these trials.

The Republican National Convention included in its platform a plank in August that Columbus Day should continue as a National Holiday.

LODGE STANDS STRONG

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has taken steps to insure that it will be avail-

able any time there is an opportunity to testify about the continuation of Christopher Columbus monuments and why Columbus Day should continue to be recognized as a separate holiday.

Meanwhile in Philadelphia, the Columbus monument remains behind a boarded up wooden shield unable to be appreciated while hearings continue.

In subsequent issues, the Grand Lodge will continue to report on the Philadelphia battle and other Columbus matters throughout the country. Remember, the Pennsylvania Legislature has once again designated October as an Italian-American Culture Month.

For advertising information please call Linda Mondelli at (215) 592-1713. Issue dates vary, time sensitive ads can not be guaranteed due to material available for sufficient content to publish paper; call to confirm date of issue each month.

****PLEASE NOTE****

Advertising material must be camera-ready, (WE DO NOT DESIGN ANY ADVERTISEMENTS.) If you prefer to email the material, please send a TIFF or J PEG format. Please send all artwork in PDF format.

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