



LODGE NEWS



LAM Holds Christmas Dinner

Thanks to all who attended the annual Christmas Dinner at Presidential Caterers. It was a wonderful event that was very well attended. During the dinner President Bernadette Wesler presented the lodge scholarship to James Joseph Mullen III. Accepting on his behalf was his mother, Kathleen Mullen, as James remained at Penn State U. studying for his exams.



Officers having a good time at the Christmas Dinner Grace and Vice President Joe D'Orazio



Kathleen Mullen receiving James Mullen's scholarship from President Bernadette Wesler



Lou and Secretary Denise Bernardini with President Bernadette Wesler

District 9 Scholarship Applications Announced

District 9 is accepting Scholarship applications for the Fall 2020 school year. This scholarship is open to members, children or grandchildren of members who complete high school at the end of this school year and enter any institute of higher learning in the District 9 area (Monte Grappa 1507 Colver, Pasquale Codispoti Somerset County Lodge 1780, Johnstown 1614, Fratellanza – Italiana Patton 310, Monte Carmelo – Northern Cambria 1259, Altoona City 1415).

- Each applicant must submit a transcript bearing the high school's seal and signed by the school principal, guidance counselor, or other appropriate staff member.
- Letters of recommendation
- 500 word essay on "What my Italian heritage means to me"
- Deadline is April 1, 2020

Any questions and more information please contact Rose Marie Vinglas at rvinglas411@hotmail.com

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Keeping Tradition Alive



Angelo Mancini, District 5 Trustee, helped his 10 year old granddaughter, Analise Varani, make traditional homemade Italian cookies. Mancini said his family celebrated the traditional Italian feast of the 7 fishes on Christmas Eve, which included crab dip, shrimp cocktail, baked clams casino, mussels marinara, seared scallops, and baked bronzino fish.



Panepinto

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THE LORD OF DISTANCES: The Amazing Story of Francesco de Pinedo

By
Peter Tafuri

Everyone is familiar with Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart, yet an equally great aviator has been all but forgotten, Francesco de Pinedo. Born in 1890 to a noble Neapolitan family, he graduated from the Royal Italian Naval Academy and served in the Italian-Turkish War in 1911, during which Italy was the first nation to use aircraft in a military operation. He became a pilot, served in World War I, and afterwards went on to accomplish some of the world's most spectacular feats of aviation, proved the feasibility of long distance air travel, established the use of the seaplane, and the pre-eminence of Italy in the new age of the air.

Record Setting Aviator

His first record setting achievement occurred in 1925, when he and his mechanic Ernesto Campanelli flew the Gennarielo (named after San Gennaro, the patron Saint of Naples) on a 55,000 mile round trip. They went from Italy to south Asia, Indochina and Australia, which continent he was the first to reach from the European mainland, and the first to circumnavigate by air. Then it was on to Japan, they being the first to make the flight from Australia, and finally home. All this was also the first such use of a seaplane. It was an incredibly difficult accomplishment; supplies, runways, spare parts and even such basics as engine oil were virtually nonexistent along most of the route and it required great courage, ingenuity and perseverance to go on. They had an open cockpit, and were battered by rains; when low on oil, they had to use castor oil purchased in a market in India; a copper frying pan bought in Baghdad was used to patch a leaking tank! In 1927, he, along with Carlo Del Prete and Vitale Zacchetti flew the Santa Maria from Italy to Brazil, a dangerous crossing where they encountered storms, sweltering heat and other perils. They pressed on to Rio de Janeiro, where they were given a hero's welcome, complete with parades and festivals. From there they went to other countries in South America, and then on to be the first to fly across the Amazon rain forest, a remarkably perilous feat. Much of the region was unexplored, there were no landing strips, and fuel and supplies uncertain.

They followed the course of the Paraguay River, which was so overgrown they had to fly but a few feet above the trees to stay on course. Low on fuel, they managed to reach a small settlement and land in the river. They were able to refuel, but the jungle was so thick they had to find a boat to tow the plane over 200 miles to an area clear enough for a take-off. All along the way they suffered from the oppressive heat and swarms of insects; if they capsized, piranhas would have devoured them. Finally, they were able to take off, flew over the Andes, but again almost ran out of fuel, barely making it to a small settlement, where the inhabitants managed to come up with enough gas to get them going again. In gratitude, de Pinedo carried a sack of letters out with him, the first air mail ever for the region.

Dangerous Skies

Soon after departure, they encountered a storm so bad that they had to land on the Madiera River; they managed to pilot the plane along it until finally being able to take-off. They made it to the city of Manaus, where they received a hero's welcome. The next day they flew back over the jungle, following the Amazon River. Another violent storm battered them, nearly destroying the plane. Through sheer courage, they were able to finally reach Para, on the Atlantic.

Then it was across the Caribbean to New Orleans, achieving the honor of being the first foreign airplane to fly to the United States. They then flew across the West, landing in a lake in Arizona. There, misfortune struck again; a cigarette tossed by a careless American worker caused a fire which destroyed the plane. Undaunted, they took a train to New York to await the arrival of the Santa Maria II. They flew back to New Orleans, throughout the Midwest and then on to Canada, where they expected to be the first to cross the North Atlantic. They were delayed by a violent storm; Charles Lindbergh, Lucky Lindy, beat them by less than two days, ironically aided by the frontal wind from the storm.

After a dangerous flight, which included an emergency landing in the ocean, the Santa Maria II eventually arrived in Rome. The trip, which lasted four months and covered 30,000 miles, had been spectacular; yet all the publicity given Lindbergh obscured it. Undeterred, he again set out for a record. In 1933, he planned to set a long distance record by flying from New York to Baghdad, when tragedy struck. While taking off, the plane crashed, hurling him from the cockpit. Nevertheless, his first thought was to save it. He rushed back to shut off the engine, when it exploded, killing him.

Personal Attributes

Francesco de Pinedo was noble in every sense. He had an aristocratic bearing, always managed to look his best, never boasted or promoted himself in any way, was deeply religious, and was uncompromisingly kind and generous. Thus, he personally forgave the worker who was responsible for the loss of the Santa Maria.

His prediction that anyone would be able to follow the trails he blazed by merely purchasing a ticket soon came to pass. Sadly, unlike the publicity savvy Lindbergh and Earhart, this incredible pioneer of the air is virtually unknown; his book relating the spectacular 1927 flight, *Il Mio Volo attraverso l'Atlantico e le due Americhe* has yet to be translated into English. Along with Marco Polo, Columbus and the host of other great Italian explorers, he has earned his place of honor!

Chaplain's Corner

Continued from Page 2

their last breath, pronounce the name or names of loved ones around their bed.

All of this is not mere sentimentality or human weakness. The importance of names has a strong foundation in Sacred Scripture. From the naming of Eve, meaning "mother of all the living," to Abram's name being changed to Abraham, meaning the "father of many peoples," to John the Baptist's father being struck mute when he hesitated to obey the command of the angel concerning the naming of the son to be born, to Simon's name being changed to Peter because he would be the "rock" on which the Church would be built, to Saul having his name changed to Paul, indicating his new life in Christ, as well as several other incidents in Scripture, we are confronted with the importance of a name in the work of salvation.

If all this is true of these names, how much more true

would it be of that "name above every other name," as St Paul calls the Name of the Messiah: the name of Jesus! This name, which means "Savior," tells us everything that Our Lord is for us: Savior in the Manger, Savior at Nazareth, Savior in the teachings of the Gospels, Savior in bearing our sins as He carried His Cross and, most especially, Savior as He died for our salvation. How much respect and love, then, should we show towards this Holy Name? Yet, many use it as a curse! Imagine taking the name of someone you love and using it as a curse? This is what we do when we take the Name of Jesus or of God or of Christ in vain!

At Christmas, we saw the Image of the new born Savior of the world, Who is called Jesus, which means *Savior*. Let us rekindle a great love for this greatest of names. Let us never use it disrespectfully, or allow others to do so in our presence.

Courses On Climate Change Are Now In Session

By
Julianna Cerruti

Climate Change is a huge hot button issue today. It is something the younger generation has made a huge push for in recent years. They've called for action in many different ways, such as eating and purchasing organic foods, making better use of renewable energy, and making the switch to a "green" commute.

However, all this research on how to live a sustainable lifestyle had to be done on one's own time. Now, Italy has become the first country to mandate classes on climate change.

The minister on education, Lorenzo Fioramonti, is credited with this new change. There will be a mandatory one hour per week, dedicated solely to climate change education in all state schools. They are also revamping all core classes such as math and

science to be taught from the perspective of "sustainable development". These changes are set to begin with the next school year.

Fioramonti has been a big advocate for climate change. He even encouraged students to take part in the climate protests in lieu of going to school those days. He wants Italy to be the first country that puts the environment and societal issues at the heart of their education system. So far, it appears as though Fioramonti is well on his way to achieving that goal.

Currently, they are in the process of rewriting the education model for the entire country of Italy. With the environment at the core of all future education in Italy, the hope is that more and more people will start to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Italian Migration To Pennsylvania

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(like my great-grandfather who came from Puglia and worked at Stetson Hats in North Philadelphia), or as skilled carpenters in factories like RCA / Victor. Others employed their skills on public works and throughout private industry, as masons, bricklayers, farmers, plumbers, electricians, and railroad workers like those of the Pennsylvania Railroad that employed at least 11,000 Italian immigrants and operated classes that helped over 2,000 of them learn English! And, of course, many Italians became successful private shop owners, merchants, and restaurant operators.

Immigration Origins

The largest numbers of immigrants came from Italy's poorer regions in the South like Campania, Calabria, Puglia, and Sicily, but many also came from Northern Regions like Piedmont and Tuscany, or Abruzzi in Central Italy. The steady flow of immigrants continued until laws reducing all immigration were enacted by 1924. During the 1930's, some Italian opponents of Benito Mussolini's Fascist regime came to the United States and Pennsylvania.

Following World War II, in which over 600,000 Italian-Americans served, Italian immigration resumed by those escaping the devastation the war had brought to Italy.

From the early days of immigration, Italian Church congregations and affiliated schools, mostly Catholic, but also of other Christian denominations, that quickly formed with newly arriving congregants and clergy, were among the most important centers of Pennsylvania's Italian neighborhoods. These Catholic parishes, and Protestant churches such as the Italian Methodist Church, formed groups like the Italian Immigrants Assistance Society to aid newcomers in finding housing, employment and medical aid. Numerous social clubs and organizations which are the predecessors of our Grand Lodge of the Sons & Daughters of Italy and our member Lodges, also helped facilitate integration into American society while keeping Italian heritage and culture alive.

Charles Baldi

In spite of incidents of discrimination towards them by other earlier established

ethnic immigrant groups and the long-established community at large, Pennsylvania's Italians worked hard to integrate and become important members of our community in religion, politics, law-enforcement, industry, banking and the arts. Some other great examples of Italian-Pennsylvanian contributions to our community include Charles Baldi, of Salerno, Italy, who came to Philadelphia in 1876 and started a coal mining business in Pottsville. He later became a realtor, banker, then publisher of La Opinione, a widely read Italian-language newspaper.

Mr. Baldi also financially supported multiple Italian-American clubs and associations, and was heavily involved in efforts to improve public education. In the field of law and politics we have Walter E. Alessandrini, who was born in Philadelphia in 1912 to Italian immigrants. He later graduated from Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania, School of Law, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II. He went on to become so accomplished and highly respected as an attorney that

he was appointed by Governor William W. Scranton as Attorney General of Pennsylvania in 1963. Sadly, AG Alessandrini was killed in a plane crash near Harrisburg in 1966 at the beginning of his campaign for Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. In law and politics we also have the great Frank Rizzo, born in 1920 in South Philadelphia, Frank went on to become Philadelphia's first Italian-American Police Commissioner in the 1960's and two-term Mayor in the 1970's. In the arts we have Frank Vittor, who was born in Mozzato, Italy, in 1888. In 1917, Mr. Vittor visited Pittsburgh and was encouraged to remain there by prominent astronomer, Dr. John A. Brashear, who admired his bronze sculptures. Mr. Vittor did stay in Pittsburgh and taught art and sculpture at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and was the founder of the Pittsburgh Society of Sculptors. He was sometimes referred to as the "sculptor of presidents" due to his famous busts of Calvin Coolidge, Woodrow Wilson, and Theodore Roosevelt. In music we have Mario Lanza, who was born in Philadelphia

in 1921 and later called by some "The greatest voice of the 20th Century." Mario was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II where he entertained troops and made films and recordings to help the war effort, going on to become one of the most successful singers and film stars of post-World War II America.

Most importantly, let us never forget Italian-American Immigrants and their descendants who fought and died preserving our freedom in the U.S. Military Forces, like Hero Philadelphia Cop and talented boxer, 31 year old Army National Guard Specialist, Gennaro Pelligrini, ("One Punch Gerry"), who was killed in action alongside three fellow Army National Guardsmen in Beyji, Iraq on August 9th, 2005, when their Humvee ran over a bomb while on patrol, and was then attacked by insurgents brandishing rocket-propelled grenades. Gerry loved interacting with the people of Iraq, just as he had with the citizens of Philadelphia, and was said to have given sandals to over 300 Iraqi children!

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:

- *information that you provide to us in an application or other form;
- *information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- *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.

Advertising Information

Deadline for advertising: Two weeks before issue date

Ad Size	Inches	Flat Rate
Full Page	10" X 14"	\$600.00
Half Page	10" X 7"	\$325.00
1/4 Page	5" X 7"	\$165.00
1/8 Page	5" X 3 1/2"	\$85.00
	4" X 2"	\$50.00

For 4 color advertisements add 25%

For further information please call Linda Mondelli at (215) 592-1713. Issue dates vary, time sensitive ads cannot 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 advertisements.) IF you prefer to e-mail the material, please send a TIFF or JPEG format. Send all artwork in PDF format.

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If you are changing your address, please notify the Grand Lodge at the following email address:

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1518 Walnut Street, Suite 1410
Philadelphia, PA 19102 w

Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information

Addendum to Privacy Policy Statement Providing Specific Procedures

Administrative Procedures

In response to Insurer requests:

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

Technical Safeguards

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

Physical Safeguards

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

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