



Northern Solano Lodge #2534

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MESSAGE FROM LAURE DEVINCENZI-NICHOLS

Did you know that the month of November derives its name from the Latin word 'novem' meaning 'nine'? November was originally the ninth month in the calendar established by Romulus circa 750 BC, which commenced the year in March. Subsequently, another Roman king reformed the calendar by adding two months – January and February. However, it was in 46 BC that the Roman calendar was replaced with the Julian calendar. Ultimately, the Julian calendar was succeeded by the Gregorian calendar to be better aligned with the solar year. Just as our ancestors observed their calendars, noting significant events, we, in the present day, do the same... and speaking of events...

Our festive, Italian-style Columbus Day Dinner Fundraiser was an enormous success! The total amount raised is the highest recorded to date! A sincere thank you to all those who participated in organizing this fundraiser, as well as to all the volunteers who devoted their time and effort in various capacities – from ticket sales, raffle prizes, setup, cooking, to bar service, and cleanup. And everything in between. Bravo!!

Veterans Day is November 11th. The Sons & Daughters of Italy in America, Northern Solano Lodge wish to honor all U.S. veterans, along with our lodge members and family members who have served our great nation in the Armed Forces. God bless them.

We will be holding our annual Christmas toy drive in collaboration with Toys for Tots. You can bring unwrapped gifts to our November meeting – November 20th.

Our annual lodge Christmas party will take the place of our regular lodge meeting in December – December 17th. The lodge Leadership Team is presently sorting the food details and cost as our meal will be catered. We will have more details shortly. The Christmas party serves as a wonderful opportunity to come together during the holiday season, celebrating as a family and expressing gratitude for all that we have achieved in 2025.

Mark your 2026 calendars for our Crab Feed on Saturday, January 24th. More info to follow.

In closing, the lodge Leadership Team wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Thanksgiving. "There is a calmness to a life lived in Gratitude, a quiet joy." - Ralph H. Blum



Buon Compleanno di Novembre

Lorrie Yount	1st
Joseph Niccoli	10th
Carol Urban	10th
Sean Houston	15th
Juanita Stopponi	16th
Anna Summerford	16th
Shirley Watkins	22nd
David MacKenzie	27th
Ron Trapani	29th



Buon Anniversario

Happy Anniversary to all members who are celebrating this month. Please let Mark know about your special occasion so we can share with your Lodge Brothers and Sisters.

Attivita di Novembre

- Nov 6th Board Meeting at 530 p.m. in the ARC Conference Room.
- Nov 12th Out to Lunch Bunch will be at Mel's Diner in Vacaville. Please contact Pam Boes at 707-448-7176
- Nov 13th The Book Club will meet at Linda Feins's home at 1 p.m. The book this month is "Marthas Vineyard Beach and Book Club" by Martha Hall Kelly. New members are welcome. For more information please call Linda at 707-374-3559
- Nov 14th Card night will be at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center from 4 PM to 8 PM. For more information please contact Juanita at 707-422-1921 or email her at juanita5230@sbcglobal.com. Everyone brings food to share before we play cards. If you like to play cards, please join us for a fun evening with food, drink, and good fun
- Nov 17th Please RSVP by November 17th for the monthly meeting so our kitchen crew will know how much food to prepare. Please RSVP by calling 707-365-1818 or emailing Loretta Graham at lgraham457@aol.com
- Nov 18th Food Bank. For more information please contact Saskia Lembesis at 707-631-1829.
- Nov 20th Our regular lodge meeting will be held at the Adult Recreation Center starting at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. followed by a short business meeting. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize. The proceeds from the raffle offset the cost of the meal.



TABLE DECORATIONS FOR LODGE MEETINGS



The decoration team for the month of November is Laretta Graham and Shirley Firpo with the help of Rosemarie Archer and Juanita Stopponi covering the tables.



SUNSHINE

Please remember to contact Joy Bruno if you know of any member that might need to be sent a card. Call Joy Bruno at 707-422-3391 and leave a message or email her at joy.b@comcast.net.

THANK YOU

Laretta Graham would like to thank all that contributed to the Shrimp Feed Fundraiser Raffle and Silent Auction.

Thank you to all that participated in the operation of the Fundraiser to make it a great and profitable event.

LODGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party will be on our regular meeting night in December. Watch or more information to come.



The October Who Am I winner was Don Craddock identifying the mystery candidate Linda Feins

The winner of the monthly free membership drawing was Lori Rossi. Congratulations!



TOYS FOR TOTS

Members can bring monetary donations or new, unwrapped toys to donate to our November meeting. The Toys for Tots campaign runs through December 20th. For anyone who is not able to come to the meeting they can contact me and I can coordinate a time to pick up the donations.

Please contact Rory at Roryusmc03@gmail.com or 760.835.4176



Dear Lodge Members,

In late 2022, I submitted my first “Who Am I?” story for La Voce. Over the past three years, I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know many of you better by sharing your life stories with our lodge community. To the 30 members who graciously allowed me to document and share their journeys—thank you for your time, openness, and participation.

As much as I’ve enjoyed this experience, it’s time for me to pass the baton—I have quite a bit on my plate right now. If you have a love for storytelling and enjoy connecting with fellow lodge members, I encourage you to volunteer as the next “Who Am I?” author. I know our members would truly appreciate seeing this wonderful tradition continue—celebrating who we are and strengthening the bonds within our lodge.

With appreciation, Charlene M Godden Ping

WREATH FUNDRAISER PROJECT



Please remember to order your Christmas Wreaths, sprays or center pieces. Flyers are attached to the email with the La Voce for orders. For more information please contact Caroline Abughazleh at 707-425-8242 or email her at caroline.abughazleh@gmail.com





I was born in the Netherlands (formerly Holland) and attended one year of school there. Despite the passage of time, I still remember the Dutch alphabet and can read a few basic words. When I was five years old, my family immigrated to the United States. We settled in Los Angeles, where I grew up. As the oldest child—and the first to learn English—I quickly became my parents’ translator and English teacher.

When I started school, my classmates often made fun of my unusual name. When I joined the Camp Fire Girls, we each chose a Native American name. I told everyone at school that my name meant “Rising Sun,” which helped me feel more confident and cope with the teasing. Life in Los Angeles was filled with beach trips, mountain adventures, and visits to museums. One of the best things about LA was the wonderful weather—so different from the cold of Holland.

I’ve been married to my husband for 48 years. We met seven years before we married, while attending junior college. I was in a summer school class when he walked in late, and the instructor announced there were no more seats. I called out that there was an empty one next to me—and that’s how our story began. He is my best friend and my soulmate. We have two daughters and two granddaughters, both now in middle school.

In 1985, we moved to Solano County when my husband received a great job offer. By then, the growing population, heavy traffic, and smog in Los Angeles had us eager for a change. When we arrived in Fairfield, we were thrilled to purchase an affordable home through a first-time buyers program.

Over the years, I’ve held a variety of jobs. One of my favorite roles was with Meals on Wheels, where I helped bring the Turkey Trot to Solano County. I’m proud that the event is now in its 17th year. My last job was in the travel industry, working with Linda Feins. My husband and I have been fortunate to do a lot of cruising—we love that once we drop our bags off on the ship, we don’t have to touch them again until the end of the trip. Hawaii remains one of our favorite destinations.

In my free time, I enjoy puzzles and watching cooking shows. One of my favorites is Guy Fieri’s Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. I find cooking shows relaxing and a wonderful escape—though I must admit, I don’t actually like to cook! My husband and I also enjoy attending festivals and fairs, especially Greek festivals, since he is Greek.

We joined the Sons and Daughters of Italy in February 2025 after Linda Feins encouraged us, and she was absolutely right—we love it! We’ve participated in card nights, gone out with the “Out to Lunch Bunch,” volunteered at the food bank, and recently started playing bocce. I’ve also volunteered to coordinate SOI members who help at the food bank, and I’m looking for a few more volunteers—so if you’re interested, let me know!

Do you know who I am?

Hint #1: A good teacher takes no s__s from her students and K__ cars come from South Korea. Put them together and you will know my six letter first name.

Hint #2: Solve the following clues to learn my three syllable last name. An arm or a leg is a l___, look up the Spanish word for kiss and drop the o from the end, and then add “is” for the last syllable.

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FULL PAGE	\$160.00	12 ISSUES

**FOR INFORMATION PLACING
YOUR AD PLEASE CONTACT**

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