

Volume 6  
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# Il Giornale

Newsletter for the Grand Lodge of Virginia  
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

*A note from the  
Editor:*

***Benvenuto  
inverno!***

*Our Virginia lodge families find themselves in the midst of a mild winter, thankfully. Hopefully, the coziness of a winter fire warmed us during the holidays as we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends. As we begin this Lenten season and prepare ourselves for Easter, we look towards the warmer spring months, the time when there is a sense of renewal, new birth, and growth for all our members. I look forward to hearing from our brothers and sisters who wish to keep everyone informed of current news. Please submit articles and pictures to:*

***[colette.sciscilo@gmail.com](mailto:colette.sciscilo@gmail.com)***

## **A note from the Grand Lodge President**

Cari amici,

Welcome to 2023. Yay, we made it through another year! I hope this edition of *Il Giornale* finds everyone in good health and good spirits.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention will be held at the Roma Lodge in Virginia Beach on April 28 and 29. The Convention Committee has put a lot of work into making this event a success since this is the first full convention since the Pandemic. I encourage you to attend, whether as a Delegate or Non-Delegate. It will be the first time in over 3 years that we will have the opportunity to be together in person. I know there are a lot of great things that will occur during the Convention.

I would also like to ensure that members of all lodges in Virginia are aware of the many resources that the national office of OSDIA has made available to us over the past two years, for example:

### The Weekly Italian TV Show

Every Sunday at 8:00 p.m. you can tune in to “The Italian America Show” from your computer or phone, using the link <http://News12.plus/NYC>. The program features interviews with prominent Italian Americans from all walks of life, such as the arts, sports, the food world.

### YouTube Channel

Go to YouTube and search for “Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America”. You will find various videos, conversations, and repeats of interviews on “The Italian America Show”.

Be sure to hit the red subscribe button (it’s free) and click on the bell to be notified when something new is being presented.

### OSDIA Facebook Page

Go to Facebook and search Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America and you will find lots of information about the organization and our Italian heritage.

And last, but not least, there is an updated OSIA website: [www.osia.org](http://www.osia.org).

I hope to see many of you at the Convention. Until then, ciao.

Larry Brennan  
Grand Lodge President



*Grand Lodge of Virginia  
38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention  
And  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*



The Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, will hold its 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention on the weekend of April 28-29, 2023. The convention and all related celebrations will be held at the Roma Lodge #254 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Marie Siebeking (Roma Lodge), Amanda Hertzog (Italo American Citizens Lodge) and Beverly Amante (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) are coordinating the convention. Jim DeLucia (Peninsula Italian American Lodge) is working on gathering information for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

In conjunction with the convention, we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. At present, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities will be held at both evening dinners with most of the celebration being held on Saturday evening.

All current and former members of lodges in Virginia are encouraged to attend!

Most or all the information has been sent out to lodge presidents for dissemination to their lodge members. This information includes registration forms for delegates (**deadline is March 31, 2023**) and non-delegates (**deadline is April 3, 2023**), hotel information, meal costs and meal selection form, program ad information, purchase information for both the Convention program and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration commemorative book, and signature pages for your lodge to be inserted into the Convention program book.

If you have any questions about the convention, please contact Marie Siebeking at [kp59pe@cox.net](mailto:kp59pe@cox.net), Amanda Hertzog at [Amanda.pelt@hotmail.com](mailto:Amanda.pelt@hotmail.com), or Beverly Amante at [beverlyamante@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyamante@gmail.com)

If you have something you think might be of interest for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please contact Jim DeLucia at [JimDeLucia@aol.com](mailto:JimDeLucia@aol.com)

# Local Lodges

## Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

**JULY 2022 – JANUARY 2023**

*(Submitted by Mary Louise Smith)*

Along with vacations and hot weather, Verdi Lodge seems to have maintained an average of 60-65 members present at its monthly meetings.

In July, we held our usual Independence Day celebration. It was wonderful seeing many of our younger members and families attending. Along with the famous 4<sup>th</sup> of July hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by David Whiteside and crew, entertainment was provided by our one and only Freddy C and the young and old had no problem getting out of chairs to participate in the fun.

President Aldo Funai and member Joe Betzala reached out to vendors to have shirts embroidered/printed with our logo and lodge name. At our August meeting those members who donned their new attire posed for a “Verdi” picture.

In November Arthur Smith and the “guys” made and sold 283 quarts of Brunswick Stew. This was a fundraiser for the First Responders. Stew this year was “Bubba’s Stew Making” in memory of Bubba Gragnani who was dedicated in helping Arthur every year.

GVL recognized all its Veterans for their dedication and service to the USA at the November meeting.

New windows were installed throughout the entire building. Now we can open windows on pleasant weather days.

In December, we held our Christmas Party. We enjoyed gift exchanging and the Basket Auction which also was a fundraiser for the First Responders and again Holiday music by Freddy C. What a great meeting to end 2022. The fun did not stop there as during our January, 2023 lodge meeting, Virginia Hudert was delighted to once again be the Story Teller of “LaBefana” while the members were enjoying their desserts. As Virginia was ending the story, we unexpectedly had a guest enter our building sweeping her way around the members, leaving all with small treats. Befana was welcomed, and a fun afternoon was enjoyed by all.



*GVL recognizing our  
Veterans*

# Giuseppe Verdi Lodge



*Bubba's Stew Making*



# Italian Heritage Lodge

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)



IHL continues to grow as we welcomed five new members in the last few months. Besides bylaw amendments and other housekeeping matters, IHL donated 100 pounds of food to the House of Mercy Food Pantry in time for the Thanksgiving holiday and participated in the “Walk To End Alzheimer’s” as a vehicle for our yearly fundraiser. Our Executive Council created a new, updated IHL Banner to replace our original banner. In November we honored our lodge veterans and welcomed guest speaker John Howard who introduced and spoke about the book “Living To Be 100”. Our *Festa di Natale* was well attended with members and guests bringing much cheer and festivity to the evening. IHL made its annual donation of toys to the Hospital For Sick Children in Washington, D.C. and our Christmas cookie fundraiser, *Homemade Christmas Sweets from Nancy’s Kitchen*, was a hit again this year. This year we added to the fun with “Yankee Swap” to the delight of everyone. January brought the return of our Italian Language Group with members eager for *cena e conversazione*. We are looking forward to the month of March when we will welcome our honored guest Bishop Emeritus Paul S. Loverde of the Archdiocese of Arlington. His attendance will coincide with our Installation Ceremony and Dinner.



*This January, IHL mourned the passing of Francesco Falsinotti, 67, lodge member and beloved husband of our President, Dawn. Francesco was born in Pietrasanta, Italy and grew up in the seaside town of Forte dei Marmi and at a young age developed a lifelong love for soccer. He served and was a decorated member of the Italian Army. While growing up in Pietrasanta, known for marble and sculpture schools, he began working in the marble trade and quickly became a much sought after marble artisan craftsman. He took his skill throughout Italy, Europe, and the Middle East, eventually settling in the United States. Moving to the Washington D.C. area in 1989, he quickly rose to prominence within his industry. He worked for Washington Marble & Granite for 32 years. A lifelong lover of animals, he doted on his pets. He belonged to several groups including OSDIA (Order Sons & Daughters Of Italy In America) as well as soccer and racing clubs.*



# Roma Lodge

(Submitted by Marie Siebeking)

This is what has been happening at Roma Lodge #254 the last quarter.

Everyone was disappointed when the Neptune Festival Parade was cancelled due to inclement weather, especially since our members put so much time in preparing for the parade. The date for the next Neptune Parade will be September 2023.

Our Columbus Day Dinner Dance on October 8<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Approximately 100 people attended. Food was catered by Primo's and was excellent. All enjoyed dancing to the DJ Shannon's music. Some of our past members attended and some were reinstated. We received many requests to have another event soon.

I want to thank Ellie Bove, Tony & Flo Alfano, John Luizzi, and Jim DeAnglio, (Jim joined at the November meeting and helped with the baskets), and Paul Siebeking who all helped me deliver 10 baskets of food and five turkeys to each of their six VETSHOUSES in Virginia Beach on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Sr. Chief Smith, USN (ret) and his helper, Michelle, were so pleased to receive the food. The two women's houses are a duplex house and are considered one house. We repeated the VETSHOUSE donation for Christmas on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. We spent almost one hour with Sr. Chief Smith who explained the operation of the VETSHOUSE and the stringent requirements if you live there. After talking to the Sr. Chief and his assistant Michelle Stallings, the lodge decided that this is going to be one of our annual charity support events. Attached is a photo of the VETSHOUSE donations.

Roma Lodge's Christmas Party was held on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The lunch was free to members but guests paid \$10.00. Our table decorations were a free raffle of one bottle of wine donated by Roma Lodge and a handmade wine bottle topper of a Christmas gnome donated by our President Marie Siebeking. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

**Jim DeAnglio, Paul & Marie (Pres.) Siebeking  
Ellie Bove. Navy Sr.Chief Willard Smith,  
(Incharge of operations at Vetshouse, Inc.)  
(11/18/22)**

**Ellie Bove, Pres. Marie Siebeking, Michelle  
Stallings (Operations Assistant Vetshouse)  
Tony & Flo Alfano & John Luizzi (12/19/22)**

**20 BAGS OF FOOD AND 10 TURKEYS**

**Roma Lodge #254  
Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Donations  
To Virginia Beach's Five Veterans Houses**

# Peninsula Italian American Lodge

*(Submitted by Beverly Amante)*

**The Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 has had a lot happening since October.**

**In October, we had our annual Columbus Day celebration. The event was held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton. Member Jim DeLucia did a presentation on facts or myths about Columbus. I think most of the members learned something that they didn't know!**

**Our meal was partially catered by Sweet and Savory, a local caterer brought to our attention by one of our members. Bob made a soup to go along with the meal and Bev made dessert.**

**We had the privilege of having our Italian Liaison Officer, his replacement and two other Italian officers who were in the area for schooling, join us for dinner.**



*State President Larry Brennan makes a great dish washer!*

**Member Frank Tambone, Col. Stefano Panoni, outgoing Italian Liaison Officer, US Army TRADOC, Ft Eustis, Tenente di Vascello Francesco Franchini, Tenente di Vascello Michele Torraca and Major Leonardo Coranese, incoming Italian Liaison Officer, and member Angela Tambone.**



**In November, we celebrated Thanksgiving together at the Knights of Columbus Hall (our usual meeting place). Jim & Terry DeLucia coordinated the event. Members were asked to bring a side dish and the club provided hams (Jim & Terry) and mashed potatoes (Bob Mason). Michelle Romanello brought some of our merchandise to sell which allowed us to raise enough money to up our local Christmas charity giving to \$500.00!**

**Too busy having fun so I forgot to take pictures!!**

## Peninsula Italian American Lodge

In December, we were once again at ICC for our Christmas celebration. Bob Amante made a soup to share with members, but the rest of the meal was catered by Sweet & Savory. There was plenty of food for all. We had a raffle, but the highlight of the day was a visit from Santa!



*Fr. John Grace helps Bob serve the salad.*



*A visit from Santa !*





## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Virginia OSIA Foundation  
Grand Lodge of Virginia  
Order Sons and Daughters  
of Italy in America

The Virginia OSIA Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) announces that it is offering three academic scholarships for the academic year 2023-2024 for students enrolled in a degree-seeking undergraduate or post-graduate degree program in a college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The deadline for applications is **March 1, 2023**, for all applications and required documents.

For further questions, please contact Kathy A. Drummond, Scholarship Committee Chair, at [anello1@verizon.net](mailto:anello1@verizon.net) or 703-368-5039.

# Celebrating the Inauguration of the Installation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia

(Submitted by Jim DeLucia)

At the Grand Lodge of Virginia convention, to be held in Virginia Beach at the Roma Lodge, we will celebrate the Centennial of the start of the Lodge. There will be presentations on both Friday and Saturday nights. This article will cover a few of the items.

The Installation took place at the Hotel Jefferson in Richmond, Virginia on November 12, 1922. It was attended by several notables including the Supreme Venerable of OSIA, the bishop of Richmond, the Governor of Virginia, the mayors of Richmond, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News, as well as representatives of the Royal Italian Consul of both Philadelphia and Norfolk. This was a big deal.

At the time of the installation, there were 8 lodges in the state: Giuseppe Verdi, Richmond, Queen Margherita, of Richmond; Roma, Gorizia, Cuore di Maria of Norfolk; Dante Alighieri, of Newport News; Italo-American Citizens, and Cornelia, of Portsmouth.

The final session of the installation took place at Columbo Hall in Richmond. The national OSIA Supreme Venerable Giovanni Di Silvestro spoke. One of the things he emphasized to the Grand Lodge of Virginia was “The order has two essential aims. First, to lead the newcomers within the wonderful spirit of America and its institutions, and to have them participate with a feeling of civic responsibility to the political life of the land, so accomplishing a patriotic duty which America has a right to expect from the millions of people who select this as their land of adoption. And, second, to keep the cultural relations with the land of their origin.” The Grand Lodge of Virginia continues to strive for both aims.

## Carnevale in Italia



In the north and the south, in February, every city in Italy is invaded by masks, confetti, lights and colors that create a unique party atmosphere. The oldest carnival of Italy takes place, since 1500, in Foiano della Chiana in Toscana. In the same region, it should be remembered the *Viareggio* carnival is famous for the parade of floats with papier mâché statues that represent people in history, fantasy and above all politics.

But surely the most famous event is the *carnevale di Venezia*, with its elegant masks and costumes that crowd every corner of the city - bridges, canals, and squares of Venice turning the city into a giant theatre stage to watch jugglers, acrobats, and musicians.

The words *carne* (meat) and *levare* (to lift) marks the time before Lent when Christians would forgo the consumption of meat; it was a time of feast and overindulgence before the fast.

# Parliamo Italiano!

## Buone Feste!

### Words and phrases:

a cake  
Grandmother  
my party  
a present  
I have  
today

### Parole e frase:

una torta  
Nonna  
la mia festa  
un regalo  
ho  
oggi



## Familiar Phrases

### Words and phrases:

Happy Holidays!  
Happy Birthday!  
Best wishes!  
Cheers!  
Merry Christmas!  
Happy Easter!  
Happy New Year!  
Congratulations!  
  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
Have a safe trip!  
Have a good vacation!  
Have fun!  
  
Enjoy your meal!

### Parole e frase:

**Buone Feste!**  
**Buon Compleanno!**  
**Tanti auguri!**  
**Salute!**  
**Buon Natale!**  
**Buona Pasqua!**  
**Felice Anno Nuovo!**  
**Complimenti! Or**  
**Congratulazione!**  
**Ringraziamento!**  
**Buon viaggio!**  
**Buona vacanza!**  
**Buon divertimento! Or**  
**Divertiti!**  
**Buon appetito!**



## Conversazione

*Nonna, oggi è il tuo compleanno!*  
*Sì, Lucia, oggi è il mio compleanno.*  
*Tanti auguri a te, Nonna.*  
*Grazie. Vieni alla mia festa?*  
*Sì, Nonna, e ho un regalo per te!*

*Can you translate this Italian conversation?*



*Festa di  
San Giuseppe  
19 marzo*



St Joseph's Day is celebrated on March 19 and always falls during Lent. According to legend, there was a drought and famine in Sicily many centuries ago. The villagers prayed to St. Joseph and asked his intercession before God. Their prayers were answered. With the ending of the dreadful famine, a special feast of thanksgiving was held in his honor. In many Italian homes, churches, and community centers, it is tradition to set a special table to San Giuseppe, to honor him and to provide food for the homeless and hungry. The doors of Italian homes were opened to family and friends as well and favorite foods were served, including sweets such as Zeppole and beautiful loaves of braided breads in the shape of a staff or a cross. Italians also served pasta with breadcrumbs – “Carpenter’s Pasta” – to symbolize the sawdust from St. Joseph’s workshop, and Fava beans, which survived the famine and saved the Sicilian people from starvation.

The heart of this tradition can be found in these three aspects:

*Veneration*—special recognition of St. Joseph at the “table”.

*The Table*—both a kind of “altar of reverence”, and a communal celebration.

*The Poor*—The intention of all the gifts is to help those in need.



*St. Joseph's Table*

*Prepared by the  
students of*

*#growingupItalian*

I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, and contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this quarterly *Il Giornale*:

Beverly Amante, Larry Brennan, Jim DeLucia, Kathy Drummond, Eleanor Lillo, Nancy Perrelli, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Marie Siebeking, and Mary Louise Smith.

Mostly, I am grateful for the support of *i miei amici italiani!* ~ c.s.