

Volume 7
Issue 2
Summer 2024

*A note from the
Editor:*

***Benvenuta
estate!***

My first summer as a retiree is going surprisingly well. I am filling my newfound hours with exercise, yoga and attention to caring for those old bones and the aches that come with them. I have also been given the opportunity to express an artistic side of myself by joining with my daughter-in-law in marketing and design for her new flower farm. What joy and what amazement in seeing God's beautiful creations up close and designing them for the happiness of others! May your summer be just as blessed with the beauty awaiting you in each new day.

*Please submit
articles and pictures
to:*

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

Il Giornale

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

A note from the Grand Lodge President

Cari amici,

Summertime is upon us and plans for that vacation should be well underway if not finalized. Some have already completed some vacation time. Part of my vacation plans are attending the OSDIA Plenary session in St. Louis this August. I look forward to meeting with members of the National Council to share ideas and plan the future of our Order.

During the last quarter, elections were held and officers for the 2024-2025 year were selected. I was able to attend and participate in four of five lodge's installation ceremonies. It was indeed an honor to do so. My wife and I really enjoyed meeting members that we did not know and enjoying meals at each of the meetings. I can't thank everyone enough for their hospitality and cooperation.

Currently the big news at National is finalization and selection of a new logo for OSDIA. The final vote was taken in June and December 2024 via ZOOM meetings. I was fortunate to have been a part of that meeting. The new logo has a new "look" for the traditional Lion on our current logo. The Lion is shown on a background of green, white and red. Around the center of the circle are the words "SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA". There is also a version that can be used where the round logo won't fit, etc. I will be sending a copy of the logo out after it is presented at the Grand Lodge meeting on June 23rd.

I want to remind everyone how critical it is for our organization, especially our State Lodge, to seek out new members and bring back ones that have strayed away. Our numbers are falling and that is not good at all. We need to maintain 400 members statewide to continue as a Grand Lodge. Currently we are under that number. We have until the next National Convention (August 2025) to get back to 400+ members. I'm confident we can do that, but it will take all of us to do that. So, reach out to family and friends (and strangers) that you think would be good members. We need "workers" not just numbers. Once they get to meet our members and see what a great group we are, you'll have them hooked.

I hope everyone has a fun-filled, very safe summer.

Aldo Funai
Grand Lodge President

Local Lodges

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

February 2024 - May 2024

(Submitted by Mary Louise Smith)

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL AT GIUSEPPE VERDI LODGE!!

At the end of February, we held a *Murder Myster Dinner* as a fundraiser at the lodge. It was enjoyed by all who attended, and we look forward to future MMDs.

In March, a few of us attended the *Cabrini* movie. I hope all were able to see it.

In April we had a workday sprucing up the building and grounds.

We have also started playing games at the lodge after our meetings to encourage members to hang out and get to know each other and our interests.

The Ladies of the lodge have formed a Luncheon group, The Rosetta's, where we plan to meet once a month to share good times with each other. Our first was held in May in Goochland, Va. at the Sunset Grill, and with the weather being so cooperative, we were able to sit outside.



***Murder Mystery Dinner at GVL the end of February!
Good Times had by all and a nice fundraiser event.***



Outing to “Cabrimi” movie on opening day.



Military stones placed in Honor & Memory of GVL’s Veterans.



Playing cards after monthly meeting.



New Ladie’s group, The Rosetta’s, enjoying our first outing.

Peninsula Italian American Lodge

March 2024 – May 2024

(Submitted by Beverly Amante)

PIAL 2145 Installs New Officers

On Sunday, March 17, 2024, the Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 met at Anna's Pizza & Italian Restaurant in Poquoson, VA for the installation of our 2024 officers. About 35 members attended the ceremony. State President, Aldo Funai, presided over the installation. Past State President and current State Orator Paul Siebeking acted as the Herald while Past State President and current State 2nd Vice President Marie Siebeking and State Financial Secretary Beverly Amante acted as Assistant Heralds.

Our new officers are:

<i>President</i>	Briana Taravella Robison
<i>Vice President</i>	Mary Dolores Ciraulo
<i>Past President</i>	Beverly Amante
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Bob Amante
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Terry DeLucia
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim DeLucia
<i>Orator</i>	Barry Robison
<i>Guard</i>	Stasi Wipperman
<i>Master of Ceremony</i>	Robert Amato
<i>Trustee</i>	Betty Dexter
<i>Trustee</i>	Lee Jamilik
<i>Trustee</i>	Marie Wynne
<i>Trustee</i>	Barbara Martone Jamilik
<i>Trustee</i>	Michelle Romanello



From left to right front row: Marie Siebeking, Paul Siebeking, Briana Taravella Robison, Mary Dolores Ciraulo, Terry DeLucia, Barry Robison, Lee Jamilik, Bob Amato

Back row: Aldo Funai, Barbara Jamilik, Michelle Romanello, Bob Amante, Jim DeLucia, Betty Dexter, Stasi Wipperman, Marie Wynne



Our members and guests enjoy an Italian Meal before the installation.



PIAL 2145 – Annual Picnic 2024

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, members of the Peninsula Italian American Lodge came together for their annual picnic. For many years now, we have been holding our picnic at the Bethel Farm Camp in Hampton. The area is run by Langley Air Force Base. It is comprised of several covered shelters as well as a camp site and even has a paintball park. To use one of the shelters, someone who is active duty or retired military must rent it. Thanks to member Bob Amante, we have been able to secure a shelter.

This year we had over 40 members and guests join us! The great thing was that we had a lot of our younger members and their children participating. We even got a new member! It's a great place for children as they have a playground that includes a climbing wall.

Members feasted on hamburgers, hot dogs and, of course, sausage, peppers and onions (we are Italian!) that were provided by the lodge. The lodge also provided the condiments and fixings and members were asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share with the group.

Members played bocce, other games and, of course, we had a usual corn hole competition.

The weather was great, and a good time was had by all. Below are some pictures from the event.



***PIAL
2024 Annual Picnic***



Roma Lodge

March 2024 – June 2024

(Submitted by Marie Mascaro Siebeking)

Our March meeting and luncheon was held on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2:00 PM in the Ballroom. At this meeting we had the Installation Ceremony for the elected officers for 2024, presided over by Roma Lodge's Deputy Robert Amante, and assisted by Herald John Gossner and Assistant Herald Paul Siebeking.



ROMA LODGE #254 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS,

MARCH 3, 2024

FRONT ROW (LEFT to RIGHT): PETER LANGLANDS, TREASURER, ELLIE BOVE, VICE PRES., JOHN LUIZZI, ORATOR, FLO ALFANO, RECORDING SECRETARY, ANTHONY ALFANO, IMMED. PAST PRES., MARIE MASCARO SIEBEKING, PRES., STATE ORATOR PAUL SIEBEKING, HERALD.

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): MATT KNOX, TRUSTEE, BUD MERRITT, TRUSTEE, DONO GAMBINO, TRUSTEE, LOLA MUSARRA, TRUSTEE, MICHELLE KNOX, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, RICK LANGLANDS, GUARD, ROBERT AMANTE, ROMA LODGE'S STATE DEPUTY, PRESIDING OFFICIAL

On Sunday, April 14th at Roma Lodge we held our Memorial Mass for 30 of our deceased members since January 2020. May They Rest in Peace with the Lord.

I would like to send out a heartfelt **Thank You** to all the volunteers that helped and especially the Steering Committee (Florence Alfano, Ellie Bove and Marie Siebeking.)

Volunteers: Paul Siebeking, Tony Alfano, John Luizzi, Michelle Knox, Matt Knox, Bud Merritt, Rick Langlands, John Gossner, Peter Langlands, Tracy Alfano, Judy Martin, Nick Calabrese, and Lola Musarra.

I especially want to thank Father Eric from Saint Mark Church, Virginia Beach, for his gracious help and kindness, for celebrating Mass for our deceased members who passed away. It was a pleasure meeting him.

After the Mass, everyone enjoyed a catered dinner. I have received many thank you call and notes for honoring our deceased members.

ROMA LODGE #254 MEMORIAL MASS FOR OUR DECEASED MEMBERS (APRIL 14, 2024)



2020 Helen Pichardo
Bob Andes
Jim Novelli
Betty Merritt
Joe Casto
Frank Robinson
Mario Esposito
Thomas
Mariconda
Mary Soccia

2021 Angie Hughes
Pat Grillo
Harold Stepp
Ann Cerino
Brigida Peck
2022 Roberta Berardini
Bernard Galante
Frances Fay
Judith Destefano

Antonietta Hardee
Karen Paternite
Filomena Wins
2023 Vincent Barresi
Thomas Orłowski
Frank Speeney
Willie Jones
Bob Wilkes



VICE PRES. ELLIE BOVE & PRES. MARIE MASCARO SIEBEKING PRESENTED FLOWERS TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS.

THE MEMORIAL MASS WAS CELEBRATED BY FATHER ERIC ASAMOAH, PRIEST AT ST. MARKS CATHOLIC CHURCH

"MAY ALL OUR DECEASED MEMBERS REST IN PEACE WITH THE LORD"



ROMA LODGE #254 PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIRGINIA BEACH ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY ON MEMORIAL DAY MAY 27, 2024 AT THE TIDEWATER VETERANS MEMORIAL

LEFT TO RIGHT: FLORENCE ALFANO, LORAIN KONKEL, JOHN LUZZI, ELLIE BOVE (VICE PRES.) KAYTHRYN MAY, DONO GAMBINO, DOLORES CLARK

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Roma Lodge participated in the Virginia Beach Annual Memorial Day Ceremony, which was held on Monday, May 27th from noon to 1:00 PM at the Tidewater Veterans Memorial 1000 19th St., across from the Virginia Beach Convention Center.



**ROMA LODGE MEMBER AT JOHN ARAGONA's
PICTURE DONATION**

At our June 2nd meeting, John Aragona's grandsons came to the lodge to donate a picture of their grandfather to Roma Lodge. John Aragona, a Norfolk/Virginia Beach real estate developer, donated the land off Lynnhaven Parkway on Magic Hollow Blvd. for our Roma Lodge #254 building on June 16, 1976, when the deed was recorded, for the sole purpose of building a cultural and social center for Italian-American members and friends in the Virginia Beach and Norfolk area. The groundbreaking for the lodge took place in November 1976. The lodge was built by the members' funds to cover the loan for the construction of the building.



**ROMA LODGE #254 RECEIVED DONATION OF
JOHN ARAGONA's PICTURE FROM HIS
GRANDSON's. JOHN DONATED THE LAND FOR
ROMA LODGES BUILDING. ON 06/16/1976. THE
PICTURE WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE LOBBY.
LEFT TO RIGHT: ANTHONY SANCILIO/ MARIE
MASCARO SIEBEKING, PRES./JOHN ARAGONA's
PICTURE / JOHN SANCILIO**

Italian Heritage Lodge

March 2024 – June 2024

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)

The IHL Nominating Committee, together with our regular members, elected a new slate of officers and trustees, who were officially installed at our “Installation of Officers Ceremony and Luncheon” on Sunday, March 24, 2024. State President, Aldo Funai, presided over the ceremony. Much appreciation goes to our Nominating Committee for their dedication to this important lodge process and especially to State President Aldo and Carolyn Funai for visiting IHL, meeting our members, and presiding over the ceremony.

IHL proudly announces our incoming Officers and Trustees who have volunteered their time, talents, and efforts for the benefit of our lodge and our community at large. We congratulate them for this achievement and wish them “Buona Fortuna” in the coming year as we give them our assistance and dedication to our fraternal organization. We offer our gratitude and appreciation to our Executive Council members in their 2023-2024 term who made this past year successful and fun, while working so hard to bring amazing events to our members each month.



2024-2025 IHL Officers & Trustees

Front Row: Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Orator; Sandra Schender, Mistress of Ceremonies; Dennis Lillo, Treasurer; Eleanor Lillo, Financial Secretary; Marianne Hallahan, Recording Secretary; Coletta Sciscilo, Immediate Past President; James Cocco, Vice President; Dawn Falsinotti, President.

Back Row: Maria Carolla, Guard; Roy Schender, Master of Ceremonies; Donna Stoll, Trustee; Vivian Mott, Trustee; Michael Gering, Trustee; John Dovel, Trustee.

Missing: Nancy Perrelli, Trustee

***Installation of Officers Ceremony and Luncheon
March 24, 2024***



Grand Lodge of Virginia President, Aldo Funai, traveled from Richmond with his wife Carolyn to preside over our Installation. After his brief remarks, Aldo officially installed our new Officers and Trustees.



***“Coinage of the Papal States And Vatican City”
April 20, 2024***

We were pleased to welcome Michael C. Markowitz, a member of the American Numismatic Society and Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington, D. C. as well as the Vice President of the Fairfax Coin Club and contributing writer on ancient and medieval coins for CoinWeek.com. Mr. Markowitz gave a presentation about the coinage of the Papal States and Vatican City at our monthly membership meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2024. He made a Power Point presentation and showed some coin samples from his collection, followed by a question-and-answer period.



**Italian Bingo
May 18, 2024**



Fantastic Italian prizes and food were on hand for our annual Italian Bingo night!



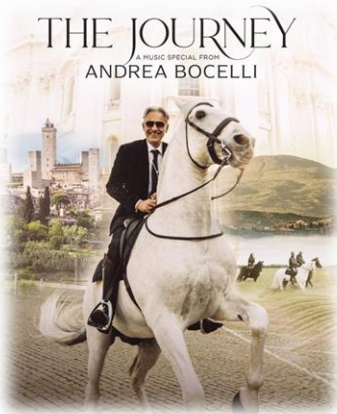
**Bocce and Picnic
June 15, 2024**



“Bocce at The Lillo’s Picnic and Tournament” was enjoyed by all. We were graced with beautiful weather, delicious food and a wonderful time to relax and share in our friendships. Our sincere gratitude to our hosts Ellie and Dennis Lillo.



**The Journey: Andrea Bocelli
June 22, 2024**



My Grand Lodge of Virginia Hall of Fame

(Submitted by Jim DeLucia)

There is no Hall of Fame for the OSDIA Grand Lodge of Virginia. Having discovered many 'heroes' of Virginia OSDIA while researching the history of the Grand Lodge, I thought I could share the stories of those that would make the inaugural class of my Hall of Fame. This is the final in a series of articles that I shared details about a person who had significant impact on the Grand Lodge of Virginia or Local Lodges.

If there is one individual that should be selected as an inaugural Hall of Fame class, it would be Mr. Iaccheri. He seems to appear at every significant event for the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Italo Dailio Iaccheri was born in Barga, Tuscany, Italy in 1884. At the age of 19, he immigrated to the United States. Mr. Iaccheri was educated, speaking four languages including English, Spanish and French. He was an accountant by trade, working in several different banks.

The Order of Sons of Italy in America was founded in June of 1905. Mr. Iaccheri became active with the Order in 1906 and was an ardent member for 64 years until his death in 1970.

In 1915, Iaccheri is holding the position of Venerable of Bovio Lodge, of West Hoboken N.J. He is also the secretary of the Grand Lodge of the United States (now known as the Supreme Lodge). In February of that year, he traveled to Richmond. There, he was the one who instituted the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, No. 315 on Sunday, February 21, 1915.

We see Iaccheri appearing in Virginia again. This time, he is in Richmond for the weekend of November 12, 1922. He was a Supreme Trustee and was one of the members to the Supreme Lodge to travel with Venerable Giovanni DiSilvestro. That was the weekend that the Grand Lodge of Virginia was instituted and Iaccheri was there.

During the mid-1930s and through the war years, the Grand Lodge of Virginia goes into hiatus. After the war years, the Lodges in Virginia began to grow and with it the need to have a Grand Lodge. On November 4, 1949, the Supreme Venerable came to Richmond to once again stand up the Grand Lodge of Virginia. At this new “first convention,” Italo D. Iaccheri of the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge was installed as the first Grand Venerable of the newly formed Grand Lodge. Mr. Iaccheri would be elected for successive terms (eight years) and did much to invigorate the Grand Lodge. Iaccheri is the only documented person to attend both the initial inauguration of the Grand Lodge in 1922 and re-introduction of the Grand Lodge in 1949.

Mr. Iaccheri died in 1970, actively serving 64 of the 65 years of Sons of Italy existence.

A note from the Editor: Grazie mille to Jim DeLucia for sharing these past “Hall of Fame” submissions. They are truly all our “heroes” not just for their impact in our state, but for the significant ways in which they persevered in their efforts to organize, invigorate, and serve our Grand Lodge. Many of them immigrated at very young ages but instantly infused Italian cultures and traditions into the local and state lodges, and many of them were very successful in their own lives while advocating for those less fortunate. These are indeed heroic acts – to come to a foreign land, work and make friendships, and leave lasting legacies to future generations of Italian Americans. – c.s.

Announcement from Commission For Social Justice, June 2024

In April, CSJ President Robert Ferrito sent a call to action. Chicago City Council Alderman Lamont Robinson proposed to rename Columbus Drive after former President Barack Obama. This is again the repeated disrespect shown to the Italian-American community. CSJ has asked for a retraction from the Chicago City Council.

Let us all stand united in preserving our history and heritage.

Submitted by Marie Mascaro Siebeking, GLVA 2nd Vice President and CSJ Chair

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

Beverly Amante, Jim DeLucia, Aldo Funai, Eleanor Lillo, Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Marie Mascaro Siebeking, and Mary Louise Smith.

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

Destroyer John Basilone Completes Acceptance Trials

SAM LAGRONE
MAY 27, 2024 10:27 AM



Destroyer John Basilone (DDG-122) returns from Navy acceptance trials on May 23, 2024.

BIW Photo

Guided-missile destroyer *John Basilone* (DDG-122) completed its Navy acceptance trials ahead of delivery to the service, shipbuilder General Dynamics Bath Iron Works.

On May 23, Arleigh Burke-class Flight IIA destroyer completed its final set of acceptance trials in the Atlantic with the Navy Board of Inspection and Survey embarked and returned to the Maine shipyard.

“During acceptance trials, a Bath Iron Works crew operates the ship and demonstrated its hull, mechanical and electrical systems performed as expected. The INSURV team determines whether the ship’s systems are operational prior to the Navy taking delivery,” reads the statement from BIW.

Basilone is one of the last Flight IIA configurations of the Burke class, outfitted with the older AN/SPY-1D (v) air search radars before the Navy will transition to the Flight III destroyers that are built around the AN/SPY-6 air and missile defense radar.

The destroyer is named for Marine Gunnery Sgt. Basilone who was awarded the Medal of Honor following actions during the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II. He died in combat during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. He was the namesake for the former Gearing-class destroyer USS *Basilone* (DD-824) that was decommissioned in 1977.

The current destroyer is part of a 2013 multi-year contract award between the Navy, BIW and HII Ingalls Shipbuilding.

The commissioning for the destroyer is planned for later this year.

In addition to *Basilone*, Bath has Flight IIA Arleigh Burke-class destroyers *Harvey C. Barnum Jr.* (DDG-124) and *Patrick Gallagher* (DDG-127) and the Flight III configuration destroyers *Louis H. Wilson, Jr.* (DDG-126), *William Charette* (DDG-130), *Quentin Walsh* (DDG-132) and *John E. Kilmer* (DDG-134).

The above announcement was presented by Marie Siebeking, 2nd Vice President of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, CSJ Chair, and President of Roma Lodge, Virginia Beach, VA, at the GLVA June Quarterly Meeting.

John Basilone was born in Buffalo, New York, on November 4, 1916. He joined the U.S. Army in 1937 and served in the Philippines. On June 3, 1940, he transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps and was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In August 1942, he took part in the invasion of Guadalcanal. Two months later, as a gunnery sergeant, he led a unit which held off an attack by a numerically superior Japanese force. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He returned home, got married, and helped to sell U.S. war bonds. He then returned to active duty.



On February 19, 1945, the first day of the invasion of Iwo Jima, he was killed when an enemy mortar shell exploded in front of him. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism that day. He was only 28 years old when he died. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the 1990s, the Order launched a campaign to have a U.S. stamp issued in his honor. One of the active writers on Basilone's behalf was Virginia State President Joseph Scafetta, Jr. This stamp was issued on November 10, 2005.

The above related article was submitted by Joseph Scafetta, Jr.