

La Bandiera



*The Banner
Newsletter of
The Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax #2517
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America*



**AGOSTO 2024
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Greetings amici,

Okayuncle, too hot for me already. Shaping up to be the hottest summer on record. For those who love it, enjoy. I'm enduring. The best is enjoying the fantastic bounty of summer produce, especially the tomatoes.

In the newsletter is an article from July's "Voce Italiana" on Salvatore Esposito, a Neapolitan immigrant who arrived in America and tells his family's story. Sal happens to be the cousin of my dear friend Maria. The story of the Esposito's, their struggles and successes, is the epitome of the Italian American experience.

Has everyone been watching the Olympics? Lots of controversies this time. Simone Biles and Katie Ledecky, truly amazing athletes. Sad for Angela Carini, the boxer from Italy. All the years of hard work and training to end up fighting a man. Let's hope the IOC reviews their current policies and makes changes that are fair in the future. Gold so far: USA 9, Italy 5, with surely more to come. Cute story further in the newsletter about an Italian who lost his wedding ring.

Kudos to the National Park Service for the immediate cleanup at the Christopher Columbus statue at Union Station. Pro-Hamas protesters defaced and vandalized the statue and area around Columbus Circle. And on that note, the annual Columbus Day celebration is right around the corner.

And I couldn't close without remembering the life of Corey Comperatore. While attending a rally for former President Trump he was murdered during a failed assassination attempt. He dove on his wife and daughter to protect them and lost his life. He was a proud Italian American, husband, father, firefighter and pillar of his community. He was beloved and will be missed by many.

Our August 24 event is Game Night and BBQ. See you all then.

Keep cool.

*Best regards,
Dawn*

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IL CALENDARIO

13 agosto	Lunch Bunch *	Noon	Silver Diner 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway
24 agosto	Summer Game Night & BBQ *	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
24 agosto	Cene e Conversazione **	6:00 p.m.	TBD
TBD settembre	Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall

* RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti (falsinotti@yahoo.com)

** RSVP to Dennis Ferrara (dennisferrara@hey.com)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Dennis Egan	August 10
Marianna Novielli	August 11
Tommaso Ammazalorso	August 13
Russell DeRose	August 20
Carol Cassella	August 25
Dennis Lillo	August 25
Gloria Moscatello	August 26
Joanne Cooke	August 28
Eleanor Lillo	August 28
Joan Tortorelli	August 28



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Flo & Carmine Primeggia	August 13
Betsy & Carlo Mignani	August 22



Summer Game Night And Barbeque



Join your IHL brothers & sisters in games of
Scopa, Tombola, Scrabble,
Cornhole, Cards, Monopoly, and other games of
skill while enjoying a barbeque dinner and
refreshing summer drinks !!

Saturday, August 24, 2024

At 5:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall

(Behind St. Leo Church)

\$15.00 per person

RSVP to Dawn at falsinotti@yahoo.com

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
Commission for Social Justice
Call To Action by Robert Ferrito

Stop Massachusetts Anti-Columbus Bill

The anti-Columbus Day bills, H2989 (sponsored by Rep Christine Barber (D), Somerville) and S1976 (sponsored by Sen Joanne Comerford (D), Northampton) have received a favorable recommendation from the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight and have been sent to the House Committee on Steering, Policy, and Scheduling. The groups trying to cancel Columbus Day are already emailing this new committee

Native Americans in Support Of Christopher Columbus

Italian Americans and the Native American Guardian's Association have united in support of Christopher Columbus. Italian American One Voice Coalition has hosted Solidarity meetings with our Native Americans on a regular basis and we now have a united front against the cancel culture that has pitted our communities against each other. The time has come to cancel the cancel culture.

Chicago Board of Education – renaming of Christopher Columbus Elementary School to Ruth Bader Ginsburg Elementary School

The Chicago Board of Education has recently approved the renaming of Christopher Columbus Elementary School to Ruth Bader Ginsburg Elementary School. This is an unforgivable affront to the Italian American community and a tasteless attempt to erase the legacy of Christopher Columbus. Robert Ferrito, President of the Commission for Social Justice, wrote to the Chicago Board of Education demanding the decision be revoked. "While Ruth Bader Ginsberg is certainly a figure worth honoring, it shouldn't come at the expense of the more than 500,000 Italian Americans in Chicago who have contributed so much to this city," wrote Ferrito in the letter.

Chicago City Council – renaming of Christopher Columbus Drive after President Barack Obama

A Chicago City Council Alderman proposed to rename Columbus Drive after President Barack Obama, again showing disrespect to the Italian American Community.

Protesters deface Columbus Circle Monuments

In July, thousands of demonstrators filled the streets of downtown Washington, D.C. and marched toward the U.S. Capitol. The Columbus Memorial Fountain in Columbus Circle outside of the historic Union Station was defaced. Other monuments, like the Freedom Bell and various statues, also suffered damage.



Italian Olympian Steals the Show With Apology to Wife Over Wedding Ring

"It will forever remain in the river bed of the city of love. May it be a good omen to return home with greater gold."



Image Credit
Erik van Leeuwen

Italy's Olympian high jumper, the always-unpredictable Gianmarco Tamberi, must've seen his (marital) life flash before his eyes, as his wedding ring flew off his finger and vanished into the Seine River during the Games' opening ceremony in Paris.

"I'm sorry my love, I'm really, really sorry," Tamberi wrote in an open letter of apology he posted on Instagram on Saturday to his wife of two years, Chiara Bontempi.

"Too much water, too many kilograms lost over the last few months and maybe the uncontrollable enthusiasm of what we were doing. Probably all three things," added Tamberi, who shared flag-bearing duties for Italy with fencer Arianna Errigo during Friday's ceremony, which featured boats parading athletes instead of the usual procession inside a stadium.

Last month, Tamberi pretended to hide springs in his shoes when he won gold at the European Championships then jumped into the arms of Italy President Sergio Mattarella.

And when he shared gold in the high jump with his good friend Mutaz Barshim at the 2020 Tokyo Games, Tamberi celebrated exuberantly..

He was only the second athlete in Team Italy's history to achieve the feat.

While Tamberi looks to take home a medal again, he views the wedding ring mishap as a good omen, writing: "It will forever remain in the river bed of the city of love. May it be a good omen to return home with greater gold." Fortunately, for the Olympian, his wife has agreed to forgive him.

Italian Sons and Daughters of America, *Sunday Supper*

Salvatore Esposito's path to the American dream

by Sophia Williams*

With a cheerful greeting to each patron who strolls into the Italian Oven restaurant in McLean, Va., Neopolitan Salvatore Esposito runs a very personal establishment dedicated to pleasing Italian and Italian American palates. Esposito knows his regulars by name and prides himself on his tableside flambés. It's been a long and circuitous journey from his native Naples to the D.C. area but it's also been a successful and rewarding one, as Esposito said in this interview with *Voce Italiana*.

Tell us about your roots and your move to the United States.

I was born in Naples in 1960. Before coming to America, I got a job at a hotel in London as a tableside chef. One day my wife Joan noticed an ad on the subway saying the Hilton Hotel was looking for staff to work at a new hotel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I was interviewed and got the job and so in 1971, I came to Washington, D.C., where I had relatives, and then I drove to Lancaster.

I only worked at the Hilton for a few months, because my barber, Tony, told me that the Lancaster Country Club was looking for someone to work in the restaurant. I worked there for a while and later interviewed for a job with Cascade Lodge in Eastern Pennsylvania, home of Lafayette College. I told the owner that I had a deaf son and that we had already found a school for him in Lancaster. But he told me that there was an expert, Ellen Bebe, who could help my son. I took the job and the first thing that happened was like a miracle. My son, who had refused to wear a hearing aid, once he saw other patients with them on, he said, where is mine? So my son became a very good kindergarten student.

Why did you return to the D.C. area and what was your vision for the Italian Oven restaurant?

I returned to Washington in 1978. My uncle was here and he asked me to come and learn to make pizza. So, I moved to McLean, where my son could have good teachers. I worked for my uncle in his restaurant and I learned how to make pizza. My uncle then sold his restaurant and I became a wine Salvatore Esposito's path to the American dream salesman. In the evening I would work at various restaurants, such as Tiberio, Il Giardino as a table side chef.

In 1978 we opened a restaurant called Pizza 'n Pasta in Arlington. In 1980 we opened Pizza 'n Pasta Too, also in 1982 we opened Pizza 'n Pasta the Original Esposito in Fairfax. It was there where we brought in a pizza oven from Naples. This was an interesting story. The customs official didn't know that it was a pizza oven since it was only the interior and required the installation of bricks here in the States. This, I believe, was the first one in the Washington area. We could not trademark the Pizza 'n Pasta name because it was common, so we decided to change it to the Italian Oven, and in the middle of the O, we put Pulcinella, a Neapolitan clown, so people would know where I came from.

In 1985, we bought a Chinese restaurant in McLean and we opened the Italian Oven, where we are still located. I retired in 2000, and leased the restaurant, and moved to North Carolina and played golf. Isn't that beautiful?

The Italian Oven was renamed Pulcinella but my manager, chef, and everybody else ran this place. Then I had two surgeries on my knee, so no more golf. My son was in Seattle and to make the story short, he took over the restaurant and I came back to work at Italian Oven for my son -- for zero pay.

What do you think differentiates Italian and Italian American restaurants?

The movie Big Night answers this question, If you watch the movie you see two immigrant brothers Primo and Secondo who own a restaurant in New Jersey. Secondo, also a waiter, goes back into the kitchen and tells Primo, the chef, that a customer who just ordered risotto also wants meatballs. Primo says absolutely not because it's not Italian. Across the street they serve spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna and meatballs but not here, he says.

One day they decide to cook for Louis Prima, the famous Italian American singer and band leader who was coming to town. They think it will put their restaurant on the map. So they prepare this big meal, but Louis Prima never shows up. The place closes, and at the end of the movie they fight on the beach because the chef Primo wants to cook Italian, and Secondo wants the place to be Italian American.

I'm Italian American, so I think it's okay if people love spaghetti and meatballs, but if somebody comes here wanting pasta al dente, I'll cook it for them, because that's how Italians eat it.

To answer your question, I achieved the American dream because I served spaghetti and meatballs.

What other Italian restaurants would you recommend to our readers?

One of my favorite restaurants was Tiberio owned by Giulio Santillo, because he carried the freshest products and served his customers in style. These days I prefer seafood restaurants. But I hope to open a place on Wisconsin Avenue, called the Georgetown Pantry. It will have a wine bar, and gourmet food. People can drink a glass of wine, have a little arancini, some bruschetta, and white pizza. In the beginning, we want just a few tables. We want people to "mangia mangia."

What were your favorite dishes to eat growing up?

Everything my aunt in Naples made. When I would go to her house we started with fritto misto calamari, then a pasta dish, and then braciole Neapolitan style. Never anything fancy, but it was the best.

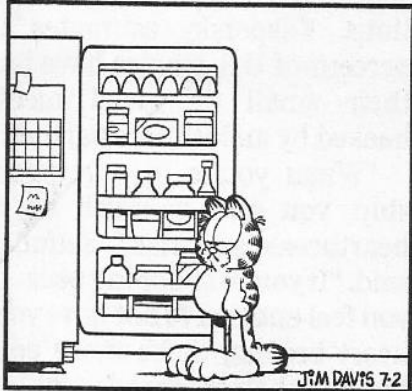
Can you share a favorite recipe with our readers?

I like to cook Bananas Flambé tableside for my customers, but it's a dangerous procedure because you are playing with fire, and I don't want to endanger any of your readers. They can come by my restaurant and I will give them a demonstration!

*Sophia Williams, a student at Georgetown University, is a recipient of the 2024 Italian Legacy Grant from the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center Inc./ IAMDC

Sonny's Funnies

GARFIELD



JIM DAVIS



PICKLES



BRIAN CRANE



GARFIELD



JIM DAVIS



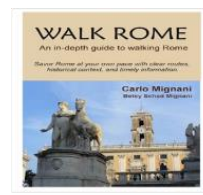
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”
www.walk-rome.com



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