



# ***La Bandiera***

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



**NOVEMBRE 2024  
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

***Cari amici,***

***November begins our favorite time of the year. The holiday festivities, the food, the traditions, the joy, all the things that stir our memories of treasured times with family and friends.***

***We have a busy month planned. Our November meeting will be a discussion on homemade winemaking with Mr. Gearing. Dinner will be served featuring butternut squash stuffed shells, pork tenderloin, roasted vegetables, salad and dessert. All for \$15.***

***Don't forget to bring your food donations for the House of Mercy food pantry. We'll be collecting at the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.***

***Big plans are in effect for our annual Christmas Party. Please read through this newsletter. Lots of great information provided to keep you informed.***

***See you all on the 9<sup>th</sup>.***

***Best regards,  
Dawn Falsinotti,  
President, IHL***

***Benvenuta!***

***Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax welcomes our new member this month:***

***Steven Kramer of Alexandria.***

***Steve attended our Italian Heritage Month event and we hope to see him at many more upcoming events as he joins our Italian family.***



## IL CALENDARIO

6 novembre	Executive Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Kilroy's Springfield
9 novembre	Harvest Dinner & Guest Speaker **	5:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
9 novembre	House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive		
11 novembre	Veterans Day		
13 novembre	Lunch Bunch *	Noon	Chutzpah Deli 12214 Fairfax Towne Center
28 novembre	Happy Thanksgiving		
7 dicembre	Festa di Natale **	5:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
25 dicembre	Buona Natale		

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

\*\* RSVP to Eleanor Lillo (delillo1@verizon.net)

### *Notice of Nominations and Elections*

*According to our Bylaws, the IHL Nominating Committee will be elected at our meeting on November 9. This Nominating Committee will solicit members who may be considering filling open council seats. The process begins in November and carries through February with installation of new officers and trustees in March 2025. Please start thinking about whether you would like to be considered, to use your talents, skills, creativity and contribute in other ways to the success of our lodge. Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding nominations, voting process and the installation ceremony details.*

### *IHL Annual Dues*

*In early December, each member will be receiving a "Dues Notice" by email from Eleanor Lillo, IHL Financial Secretary. We encourage those who will be attending the **Festa di Natale** to bring your payment to this event on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, please read Ellie's instructions when you receive her email for payment amount and remittance.*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Judith Palmiotto	November 6
Emilia Demeo	November 12
Ken Linder	November 18
Robert Scola	November 27



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Eleanor & Dennis Lillo  
November 26



## HARVEST DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

*In the months of October and November (at our monthly meetings) we will be asking for food donations to assist the "House of Mercy" Food Pantry in Manassas. Baskets will be set out on November 9<sup>th</sup> so that donations can be collected for this local food pantry. Thank you to all who contributed at our October meeting.*

*Please bring any items that are packaged, canned, boxed or in plastic jars, such as soups, rice, pasta, peanut butter & jelly, cereals, etc. No fresh foods or glass jars, please! The food donations will be delivered before Thanksgiving.*

*We have done this in the past as we came close to the Thanksgiving season and our members have shown much generosity. As always, IHL is grateful for the opportunity to once again assist our community as a fraternal organization.*

# **Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**



*Join IHL for our  
Thanksgiving Harvest Dinner  
With Guest Speaker*

*Saturday, November 9, 2024*

*5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

*Knights of Columbus Hall*

*(behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church)*

*3700 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax*



*Our Guest Speaker will be  
James Gearing, President of the Washington Winemakers.  
James will give a talk and Power Point presentation on  
“Traditional Italian Winemaking”.*

*The event cost is \$15.00 and will also feature a delicious Italian  
dinner of pork tenderloin, butternut squash stuffed shells,  
roasted vegetables, salad, bread and Italian desserts.*

*5:00 - 6:00 - Aperitivo Hour*

*6:00 - 6:15 - Lodge Meeting and Announcements*

*6:15 - 7:00 – James Gearing Presentation*

*7:15 - Dinner is served*



*Please RSVP to Ellie Lillo  
at [delillo1@verizon.net](mailto:delillo1@verizon.net)*



*Guest Speaker James Gearing  
President, Washington  
Winemakers  
Saturday, November 9, 2024  
5:00 P.M.  
St. Leo Church  
Knights of Columbus Hall*



*James “Jim” Gearing was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1948. His father was Philip Gearing and his mother was Mary Hill Byrd, neither of whom had any Italian roots. He graduated from Terry Parker High School in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1966, and went to college at Florida State University where he participated in the Italian Study Program. He graduated in 1970. He worked as a software programmer, systems analyst, system designer, and database designer for 45 years.*

*Jim is currently President for Life of the Washington Winemakers (WW) which is a group that buys wine grapes and wine grape juice once a year from California. The WW routinely buys a tractor trailer load full of grapes. The WW received a tractor trailer with about 40,000 pounds of grapes and juice during the last weekend of September.*

*Jim has two adult children, a son who lives in Berkeley, California, and a married daughter who lives in Fort Worth, Texas. His daughter has two young daughters and a third one on the way.*

*Jim will be speaking to us with a Power Point presentation for about a half hour on the topic of “Traditional Italian Winemaking” on Saturday, November 9, starting about 6:15 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3702 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax, behind St. Leo’s Church. Doors will open at 5 p.m. for a social hour. Jim’s talk will be followed by a question-and-answer period. A traditional harvest dinner will be served starting about 7 p.m.*

*Let’s give a warm welcome to Jim Gearing!*



*Italian Heritage Lodge #2517*  
*“Italian Heritage Month”*  
*Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>*

IHL Orator, Joseph “Sonny” Scafetta Jr., was given a warm welcome as he spoke at our Italian Heritage Month celebration. Dressed in an authentic Christopher Columbus costume, Sonny read excerpts from his book “The True & Complete Story of Christopher Columbus,” specifically a chapter entitled “In Defense of Columbus.” Sonny also enthusiastically answered our members’ questions on the subject.

Following a family-style Italian dinner, IHL members also presented pictures and crests, along with their family ancestral stories and remarks.







*President Dawn*



*Sharon proudly displays the Peruzzi family crest.*



*Sonny & Robert*

*Robert & Dawn*

*Loretta, Dawn & Mike*



*National Columbus Day Ceremony  
October 14, 2024 - Washington, DC*

*Photos submitted by Ellie Lillo and Robert Sherretta*



# Sonny's Funnies





**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517  
2024-2025 OFFICERS**

<b><u>President:</u></b>	<b>Dawn Falsinotti</b>	<b><u>Lodge Trustees:</u></b>
<b>703-362-1724</b>	<b>falsinotti@yahoo.com</b>	<b>John Dovel</b>
<b><u>Vice-President:</u></b>	<b>James Cocco</b>	<b>Michael Gering</b>
	<b>jim@jwcoccopallc.com</b>	<b>Vivian Mott</b>
<b><u>Imm. Past-President:</u></b>	<b>Coletta Sciscilo</b>	<b>Nancy Perrelli</b>
<b>703-795-2231</b>	<b>colette.sciscilo@gmail.com</b>	<b>Donna Stoll</b>
<b><u>Orator:</u></b>	<b>Joseph Scafetta, Jr.</b>	
<b>703-533-8064</b>	<b>joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com</b>	
<b><u>Recording Secy.:</u></b>	<b>Marianne Hallahan</b>	
<b>703-968-8330</b>	<b>rumbarunt@aol.com</b>	
<b><u>Financial Secy.:</u></b>	<b>Eleanor Lillo</b>	
<b>703-354-2454</b>	<b>delillo1@verizon.net</b>	
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Dennis Lillo</b>	
<b>703-354-2454</b>	<b>delillo1@verizon.net</b>	
<b><u>Master of Ceremony:</u></b>	<b>Roy Schender</b>	
<b><u>Mistress of Ceremony:</u></b>	<b>Sandy Schender</b>	
<b><u>Guard:</u></b>	<b>Maria Carolla</b>	
<b><u>Education Chair:</u></b>		
<b><u>Membership Chair:</u></b>	<b>Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs</b>	
	<b>sharon@tlc-nv.com</b>	
<b><u>Webmasters:</u></b>	<b>Joe La Marca</b>	
	<b>Joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org</b>	
<b><u>Publicity Chair:</u></b>	<b>Joseph Scafetta, Jr.</b>	
	<b>joseph.scafetta.jr.@gmail.com</b>	

**Lodge Members Serving on the Grand Council of Virginia:**

Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Former State President  
Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee  
Marianne Hallahan, Arbitration Committee  
Lodge State Deputy: Mary Louise Smith

**La Bandiera Editor:** Coletta Sciscilo (703) 795-2231 / Colette.sciscilo@gmail.com  
**Website:** [www.ItalianHeritageLodge.org](http://www.ItalianHeritageLodge.org) **Facebook:** OSDIA Fairfax  
**Instagram:** sonsofitaly\_ihl2517

*Please patronize our advertisers*



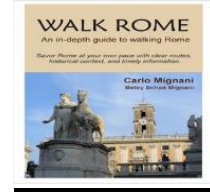
**RE/MAX ALLEGIANCE**  
**June La Marca, ABR, CRS, GRI, CDPE**

Life Member, Top Producer  
Relocation Specialist

5641 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, VA 22015

Office -703-250-8500, [june@junelamarca.com](mailto:june@junelamarca.com)

Cell -703-477-7312, Fax 866-269-0389



**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](http://www.walk-rome.com)



**4 J WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC**

**Jeff Sciscilo, CFA**

A registered Wealth Advisor

**703-566-9573, [Jeff@4jwealth.com](mailto:Jeff@4jwealth.com)**

330 King St., Suite 10B

Alexandria, VA 22314

**YOUR AD HERE**

**Cortona Academy, Grades 7-12**



**Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs, Director**

Since 1992, one of the best

private academies on the East Coast

Discounts for IHL members, families and friends

**[Www.CortonaLearning.com](http://Www.CortonaLearning.com)**

**703-464-0034; [Sharon@TLC-NV.com](mailto:Sharon@TLC-NV.com)**

**YOUR AD HERE**