



La Bandiera

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



OTTOBRE 2024 MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA

Happy Italian Heritage Month Amici!

This is a busy and exciting month here at IHL.

We celebrate the history of Christopher Columbus on October 14. IHL participates in the annual Christopher Columbus festivities held down at Union Station. Read further down in the newsletter for further information.

The lodge will hold its monthly meeting on October 19th with a celebration of the man, Columbus himself as well as a celebration of Italian Heritage. Bring your family and friend photos and all will each have five minutes to share your story. Dinner will be served family style with some traditional goodies. If you haven't joined us in a while, please do. We'd love to see you.

Happy 90th birthday to the queen, Sophia Loren! What a life she's had.

On a sad note, we lost former member Kal Maiwand in September. Kal was a warm and good-natured gentleman and will be missed. Please keep his wife Nancy in your prayers.

Also, French icon and actor, Alain Delon, left us in August. He was a superstar in France but also in Italy. He lived in Italy for several years and made many movies with notable Italian directors. He made 90 movies and enjoyed meteoric fame in the 60's, 70's and 80's. He was known for his acting style and stunning good looks.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

All the best,
Dawn

Benvenuti !

Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax welcomes two new members this month:

Robert and Theresa Scola.

We will be excited to meet you both and welcome you to our upcoming lodge events.

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

President:

703-362-1724

Vice-President:

Imm. Past-President:

703-795-2231

Orator:

703-533-8064

Recording Secy.:

703-968-8330

Financial Secy.:

703-354-2454

Treasurer:

703-354-2454

Dawn Falsinotti

falsinotti@yahoo.com

James Cocco

jim@jwcoccopallc.com

Coletta Sciscilo

colette.sciscilo@gmail.com

Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com

Marianne Hallahan

rumbarunt@aol.com

Eleanor Lillo

delillo1@verizon.net

Dennis Lillo

delillo1@verizon.net

Lodge Trustees:

John Dovel

Michael Gering

Vivian Mott

Nancy Perrelli

Donna Stoll

Master of Ceremony: Roy Schender

Mistress of Ceremony: Sandy Schender

Guard:

Maria Carolla

Education Chair:

Membership Chair: Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs

sharon@tlc-nv.com

Webmasters:

Joe La Marca

Joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org

Publicity Chair:

Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com

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

IL CALENDARIO

Italian Heritage Month

10 ottobre	Lunch Bunch *	Noon	Ned's New England Deck, 10655 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax
14 ottobre	National Columbus Day Celebration	11:00 a.m.	Columbus Plaza Union Station Washington, DC
16 ottobre	Executive Council Meeting	6:30	Patriot's Pub & Grill, 10560 Main Street, Fairfax
19 ottobre	IHL Italian Heritage Night *** Guest Speaker: Joseph Scafetta, Jr.	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
19 ottobre	House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive		

- * RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti (falsinotti@yahoo.com)
- ** RSVP to Dennis Ferrara (dennisferrara@hey.com)
- *** RSVP to Eleanor Lillo (delillo1@verizon.net)

*Be sure to keep your eyes on il calendario.
October – Italian Heritage Month - is shaping up to be a busy month.*

We received notice that the “Italian Night” sponsored by the Moose Lodge has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for some time after the New Year 2025. This event was to be presented by IHL for the members of the Moose Lodge as well as IHL members and guests. We'll keep you posted when we have confirmed a new date.

For this month's Lunch Bunch on **Thursday, October 10**, we will gather at Ned's New England Deck, 10655 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax, to “discover the culinary charm of New England where best in class Lobster Rolls, North Shore Roast Beef Sandwiches, Fried Clams and Chowder take center stage.”

Monday, October 14 is National Christopher Columbus Day, and the annual celebration starts at 11:00 a.m. at Columbus Plaza, Union Station, Washington, DC. This year IHL sponsored a raffle for two of its members to attend the ceremony, wreath laying and a luncheon at the prestigious Monocle Restaurant on Capitol Hill. Congratulations to the two IHL raffle winners, Loretta D'Amico and Robert Sherretta. See the flyer in this edition for ceremony details.

IHL will hold its own celebration for *Italian Heritage Month* on **Saturday, October 19** at 5:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall behind St. Leo Church. This evening will feature IHL's Orator, Joseph Scafetta, Jr. who will represent Christopher Columbus and read excerpts from his book, followed by a family-style Italian dinner, and a celebration of all our IHL members and their Italian ancestries and heritage. This meeting will also be the first of two food pantry donation drives for the House of Mercy Food Pantry. More information is in this newsletter.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Laura Asiello	October 6
Paul Alligood	October 13
Dolly Dougherty	October 22
Colette Sciscilo	October 22
William Wiegand	October 22
Joseph Scafetta, III	October 28



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Lauri & Nathan Gwaltney	October 1
Carol Ann & Ken Linder	October 4
Susan & Frank Bonsiero	October 6
June & Joe La Marca	October 6
Nannette & Gerry Croce	October 8
Kathleen & Peter Ognibene	October 10
Gloria & Arthur Moscatello	October 22



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 October 19th so that donations can be collected for this local food pantry.

We have done this in the past as we came close to the Thanksgiving season and our members have shown much generosity.

Please bring any items that are packaged, canned, or boxed such as soups, rice, pasta, peanut butter & jelly, cereals, etc. No fresh foods or jars, please!

If you miss the opportunity in October, we will be collecting again in November, just in time for "Thanks-giving." As always, IHL is grateful for the opportunity to once again assist our community as a fraternal organization.

Cena e Conversazione

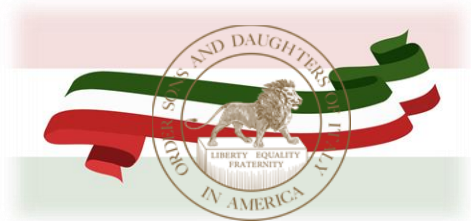
Carissimi,

Grazie a tutti per una splendida serata con la conversazione robusta nella bella lingua italiana e una cenone squisito. Conversation ranged from original poetry, reacquaintance with an old friend, a Roman holiday with children and grandchildren, the life and achievements of a famous actor recently passed, the amusing meeting that blossomed into a long marriage and the group's effort to solve *una cruciverba*. Thanks especially to our gracious hosts, Betsy and Carlo, who provided both the warm and comfortable setting and the delicious pasta al forno, and also to Dawn for the wonderful caponata and zucchini fritters, Francesca for a tasty green salad, Marianna for the perfect caprese salad, Dennis for the Sicilian meatballs and June and Joe for the delish tiramisu-take dolce. I attached some photos of our very successful *cena e conversazione*.

Un abbraccio,
Dennis Ferrara



The IHL Language Group customarily meets monthly at a member's home for "cena e conversazione", so at times participation might be limited, but that format might change with additional interest. Any lodge members who wish to learn and practice Italian with others in the lodge should contact Dennis Ferrara at dennisferrara@hey.com.



Italian Heritage Lodge #2517 “Meet and Greet” Pasta Dinner Saturday, September 28th

Our annual **Meet and Greet Pasta Dinner** was a fun night with delicious food, great conversations and social opportunities. This was truly a “meet and greet” for our members and guests, and for our executive council to display our lodge’s devotion to bring our members a truly lovely evening. *Grazie mille* to all who planned, executed and helped with the entire evening. All your dedicated efforts are always greatly appreciated.



*Photos submitted by Ellie
Lillo and Tess Sciscilo*

The Little Flower Farm, Nokesville, VA



At the IHL Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner on Saturday evening, The Little Flower Farm of Nokesville, VA made a presentation to our members. The presentation included the opportunity for our members to visit the "Bouquet Bar" to make their own arrangements to take home, and a fresh made bouquet was donated as a raffle gift.

The Little Flower Farm is owned by IHL member Jeff Sciscilo and his wife, Tess, and their family. The presentation detailed what goes into starting and maintaining a first-year small family business grown out of their love of beautiful things and the desire to spread this beauty to their friends and community.



IHL Italian Heritage Night
Saturday, October 19
Guest Speaker – Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

Joseph “Sonny” Scafetta Jr. is the eldest son of Giuseppe Scafetta who immigrated to Washington, D.C., in April, 1915, from the city of Vasto in the region of Abruzzo, Italy.

Sonny earned a B.S. from Penn State in 1969, a Juris Doctor in law from Pitt in 1972, a master’s degree in law from Georgetown in 1973, and an M.B.A. from GWU in 1983. He is currently employed part time as senior counsel for an intellectual property law firm in Alexandria.

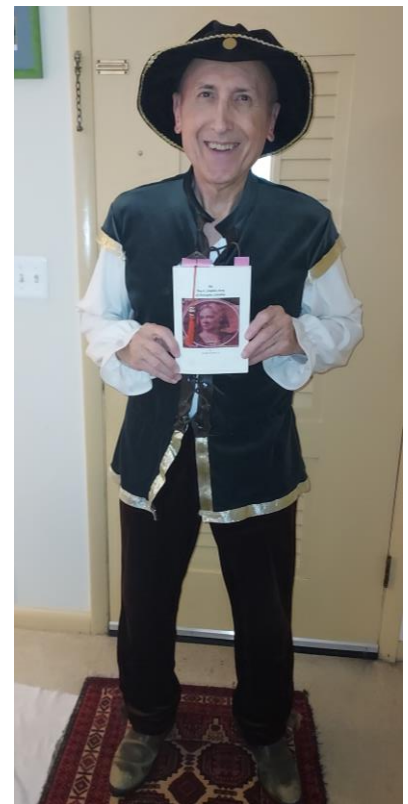
Sonny joined the Order in 1979, served as the president of the Avanti Italiani Lodge in Alexandria from 1981 to 1983, and was the Virginia state president from 1993 to 1995. He is currently the orator for the IHL

Sonny’s interest in Columbus began when he became a charter member of the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission in 1989. He joined the Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society in 1994 and served for ten years as its secretary. In 1995, he joined the National Christopher Columbus Association. He is currently serving on its board of directors. From 1997 to 2006, he was a history columnist for the monthly *Fra Noi* (Among Us) magazine published in Chicago. During his tenure, he published eight columns about various time frames in the life of Columbus. In the Fall 2005 issue of the Italian America Magazine, he had published a lead article entitled “Columbus & Indians” Friend or Foe?” In 2007, the Columbia Press Co. published his book entitled “The True & Complete Story of Christopher Columbus.” It sold out. Sonny will read to us from his book a 17-page chapter entitled “In Defense of Columbus.”

Sonny married Teresa Talierco on July 4, 1986, in Alexandria. They have one son, Joseph III. Both Teri and Joey are state delegates for the IHL. The family resides in Falls Church.

*Let’s give a warm welcome to our guest speaker,
Sonny Scafetta!*

Saturday, October 19 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Hall behind St. Leo Church
Cost \$15.00
RSVP to Ellie Lillo at delillo1@verizon.net



You are invited to the
National Columbus Day Ceremony

Monday, October 14, 2024
Ceremony begins at 11 a.m.

Columbus Plaza
Union Station, Washington, DC



Featuring Wreath Presentations, Patriotic Music, Remarks from the Diplomatic Corps, the Columbus Essay Contest Winner, and more.



Sponsored by the
National Christopher Columbus Association.

www.christophercolumbus.org

The Last Queen of Tinseltown: Sophia Loren Turns 90 With Style, Grace

Loren captivated Hollywood and inspired generations with her timeless beauty and extraordinary talent.

“There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.”

-SL



Born in Rome on Sept. 20, 1934, Sophia Loren — the Italian queen of Tinseltown — is one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood. Encouraged to enroll in acting lessons after entering a beauty pageant, Loren began her film career at age 16 in 1950. She appeared in several bit parts and minor roles in the early part of the decade, until her five-picture contract with **Paramount** in 1956 launched her international career. Notable film appearances around this time include *The Pride and the Passion*, *Houseboat*, and *It Started in Naples*, according to Wikipedia.

But critics didn't fall in love with Loren until her performance as Cesira in Vittorio De Sica's *Two Women*. Loren's performance earned her the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1962 and made her the first actress to win an Oscar for a foreign-language performance. Seemingly overnight, Loren went from a girl in poverty to silver screen royalty.

She holds the record for having earned six David di Donatello Awards for Best Actress: *Two Women*; *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*; *Marriage Italian Style* (for which she was nominated for a second Oscar); *Sunflower*; *The Voyage*; and *A Special Day*.

After starting a family in the early 1970s, Loren chose to make only occasional film appearances. In later years, she has appeared in films such as *Grumpier Old Men* (1995), *Nine* (2009) and *The Life Ahead* (2020).

Aside from the Academy Award, she has won a Grammy Award, five special Golden Globes, a BAFTA Award, a Laurel Award, the Volpi Cup for Best Actress at the Venice Film Festival, the Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival and an Honorary Academy Award in 1991. In 1995, she received the Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievements. In 1999, Loren was named by the American Film Institute as one of the 25 greatest female stars of Classic Hollywood Cinema, and at age 90, she is the only living actress on the list.

In late 2023, Loren fell at her home in Geneva, Switzerland. She suffered several fractures, including to her femur and hip. She underwent a successful surgery and has recovered from her injuries.

Article reproduced from *Italian Sons and Daughters of America*.

The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi: Honoring the Patron Saint of Italy



"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." -St. Francis

Every year on October 4th, Catholics worldwide celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, a beloved figure known for his profound connection to nature, dedication to humility and a steadfast commitment to serving the poor. For Italian Americans, the day holds special significance, as St. Francis is not only the patron saint of animals and the environment but also of Italy itself.

Born in Assisi in 1181, St. Francis grew up in a wealthy family, yet chose to abandon a life of comfort for one of simplicity and devotion.

His transformation led him to establish the Franciscan Order, a vocation that focuses on aiding the poor. His reverence for nature inspired Pope John Paul II to name him the patron saint of ecology in 1979.

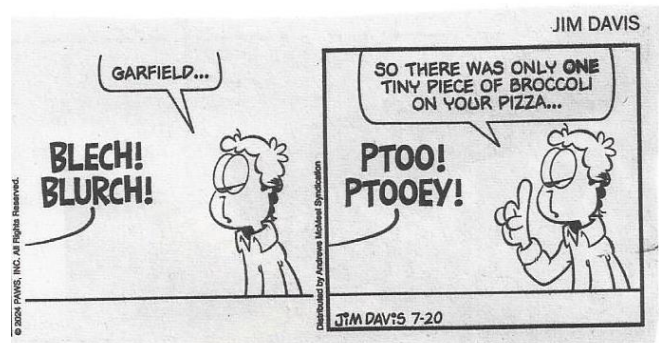
Throughout Italy and in Italian American communities, the Feast Day of St. Francis is celebrated with masses, processions, and the traditional "Blessing of the Animals." Parishes often invite families to bring their pets — dogs, cats, birds, and even reptiles — for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis's love for all living beings. In Assisi, where his basilica stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, thousands of pilgrims gather to pay tribute to the saint, whose legacy of peace and compassion resonates deeply today.

For Italian Americans, the day is a reminder of the cultural and spiritual roots that link them to their ancestors and the timeless values of faith, charity and respect for the environment.

Celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis is a way of embracing these traditions and passing them on to future generations, to ensure they remain a vibrant part of the Italian American experience.

Article reproduced from *Italian Sons and Daughters of America*.

Sonny's Funnies



La Bandiera Editor: Coletta Sciscilo (703) 795-2231 / Colette.sciscilo@gmail.com

Website: www.ItalianHeritageLodge.org Facebook: OSDIA Fairfax

Instagram: sonsofitaly_ihl2517

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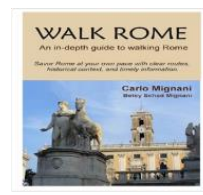
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”

www.walk-rome.com



4 J WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

Jeff Sciscilo, CFA

A registered Wealth Advisor

703-566-9573, Jeff@4jwealth.com

330 King St., Suite 10B

Alexandria, VA 22314

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