



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

La Bandiera

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

APRILE 2026
MESSAGGIO DEL PRESIDENTE

Ciao Amici,

Here we are again, starting a new year at Italian Heritage Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. We have a lot of fun things planned for this coming year but first, I want to take time out to thank our Immediate Past President, Dawn Falsinotti, for her dedicated and faithful service as Lodge President. Dawn has worked very hard over these past years to put on some really fantastic social events. She is also a great cook and has done a great job of keeping us all well fed at these events. Thank you so much Dawn!

As for upcoming events, we will have a guest speaker, Anthony DeSantis, who will be talking about his book “The Stowaway in First Class”, a story about his Italian immigrant father and his journey to America. This will be on April 18th. On May 23rd we will have Italian Bingo.

Also on May 23rd, we will be accepting nominations from the floor for Orator and for five members of the Arbitration Committee. We will then have the election of the Orator and the election of the Arbitration Committee. We hope you can join us for these events!

Also, for members of the Executive Committee, we will have our Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Regional Library, located at 10360 North Street, Fairfax.

As your new President I look forward to serving you. If you have any suggestions, ideas for new and interesting activities or just ideas in general, please let me know.

***Best,
Michael Gering***

IL CALENDARIO



5 aprile *Feast of the Resurrection*

8 aprile Executive Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Fairfax Co. Library
10360 North St., Fairfax

15 aprile Deadline for Virginia
OSIA Foundation Scholarships

18 aprile Dinner & Guest Speaker* 5:00 p.m. Knights Hall/St. Leo
author Anthony DeSantis
“The Stowaway in First Class”

25 aprile Cene e Conversazione TBD

10 maggio *Festa della Mamma*

23 maggio Italian Bingo** 5:00 p.m. Knights Hall/St. Leo

13 giugno Bocce Picnic*** Noon–4 p.m. The Lillo’s
(20 giugno *Rain Date for Bocce Picnic*)

21 giugno *Festa del Papá*

- * RSVP to Colette Sciscilo (colette.sciscilo@gmail.com)
- ** RSVP to Steve Kramer (steven.kramer52@gmail.com)
- *** RSVP to Ellie Lillo (delillo1@verizon.net)

Our IHL calendar is starting to fill up for Spring and Summer events. So, please stay tuned for updated information as the days and months go by. You will be informed through the monthly *La Bandiera* or frequent emails and reminders.

Anthony DeSantis, who is the author of “The Stowaway in First Class”, will be our guest speaker on *Saturday, April 18th at 5:00 p.m.* at the Knights Hall. After his presentation, Mr. DeSantis will sign books, and all can participate in our monthly raffle. We will have a delicious dinner of either Tuscan Chicken over Penne – OR – Braciolo with Polenta. You will need to make a reservation for your entrée choice so please RSVP to Colette at colette.sciscilo@gmail.com and state your choice for dinner. There is a flyer with more information in the April *La Bandiera*!

Italian Bingo, our annual favorite, takes place on *Saturday, May 23rd at 5:00 p.m.* The cost for playing 15 games of bingo, pizza and beverages is \$25. Come for the fun and great Italian prizes!

It’s Bocce time again! Our annual Bocce Picnic will be held on *Saturday, June 13 (WITH A RAIN DATE OF SATURDAY, JUNE 20)*, noon to 4:00 p.m. Dennis & Ellie Lillo will host our lodge members, families and guests who come ready to play and eat! More information will be updated soon.

*Please join us for our April lodge dinner and presentation by
our guest speaker and author
Anthony DeSantis
“The Stowaway in First Class”*

Saturday, April 18 at 5:00 p.m.

*Knights of Columbus
Providence Hall
3702 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax
(behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church)*

Dinner Menu:

Aperitivos

Entrée Choice: Tuscan Chicken over Penne

~ OR ~

Braciole with Polenta

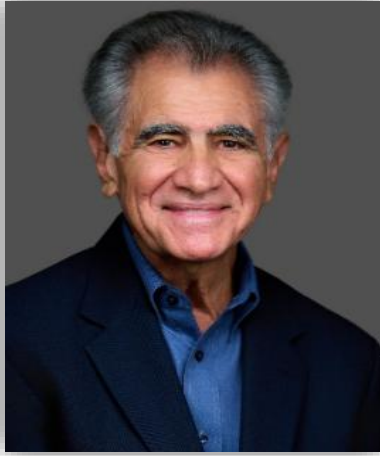
Roasted Vegetables & Salad

Desserts & Coffee

Cost \$15.00 (pay at door)

*Please RSVP by April 16 **with your entrée choice to**
colette.sciscilo@gmail.com*





Join us for an authentic Italian dinner as
we welcome guest speaker
Italian American author, Anthony DeSantis
of "The Stowaway in First Class"
on Saturday, April 18, 2026

Aperitivos will be served at 5:00 p.m.
Tony will begin his presentation at 6:00 p.m.
followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.
in the Knights of Columbus
Providence Hall
3702 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax
(behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church).

Author Anthony DeSantis will present his book, a soon-to-be movie, with a behind-the-scenes journey of bringing a family legacy from print to film. Tony will be highlighting his passion for his heritage and his father's immigration story as the 'stowaway' main character of the book. Tony shares his excitement of his story about immigration, Italian heritage, the importance of knowing your family's history and the encouragement to record them. Hear highlights of the book currently being written to become a movie.

PLUS Q & A giveaways, *book signings and more!

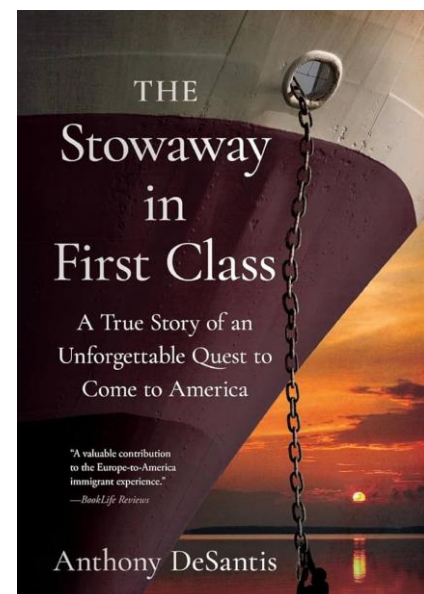
Attendees will be enamored by Tony's story.

* Books will not be sold on site as it is encouraged to pre-order for our event book signing.

Order books at: www.anthonidesantis.com

IHL Book Raffle at event!

You must RSVP and make a dinner choice for this event to: Colette.sciscilo@gmail.com
See page 3 of this newsletter.



ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE

"ITALIAN BINGO NIGHT"

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

5:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

ST. LEO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

3702 BLENHEIM BOULEVARD, FAIRFAX

(BEHIND ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH)



15 Bingo
Games
and
Pizza Dinner
for \$25.00

WIN Italian Prizes:
WINES,
CHOCOLATES,
COFFEE, PASTA,
OLIVE OIL,
CERAMICS, SOAPS,
& MORE

RSVP to Steve Kramer: steven.kramer52@gmail.com

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
2026-2027 Term
Installation Ceremony, March 22, 2026

The new Executive Council members for this coming year were installed on Sunday afternoon, March 22, 2026.

President:	Michael Gering
Vice President:	James Cocco
Immediate Past President:	Dawn Falsinotti
Financial Secretary:	Steven Kramer
Treasurer:	John Dovel
Recording Secretary:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.
Acting Orator:	Tommaso Ammazalorso
Guard:	Dennis Lillo
Trustees:	Alexander Genovese
	Eleanor Lillo
	Angelo Saladini Jr.
	Charles Santangelo
	Coletta Sciscilo
Master of Ceremonies:	Roy Schender
Mistress of Ceremonies:	Sandra Schender

We are grateful to Aldo Funai, President of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and his wife, Carolyn, who took time on their Sunday to travel to Northern Virginia and join us for IHL's Installation Ceremony and Luncheon. Aldo presided over the ceremony, and Teresa Scafetta acted as the Herald.

Many people are involved and dedicated to making these events go smoothly, with much preparation and attention to detail, from menu planning, cooking, decorating, set up and clean up and more. Please let's thank those who gave their time and efforts to make our Installation another success!

Dawn Falsinotti, Steven Kramer, Colette Sciscilo, Eleanor Lillo, Sandra Schender, Mike Gering, Roy Schender, Tommaso Ammazalorso, Dolly Dougherty, Kathy Reiter, and Pam Pasquariello.





*In the group photo, from left to right, in the front row, they are:
Guard Dennis Lillo, Treasurer John Dovel, Financial Secretary Steven Kramer, Recording Secretary Joseph Scafetta Jr., Immediate Past President Dawn Falsinotti, Vice President James Cocco, and President Michael Gering.*

*In the back row, from left to right, they are:
Master of Ceremonies Roy Schender, Mistress of Ceremonies Sandra Schender, Trustee Alex Genovese, Trustee Charles Santangelo, Trustee Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee Angelo Saladini Jr., and Trustee Eleanor Lillo.*



*Trustees Alex Genovese (left)
and Chuck Santangelo (right)
meet GLVA President Aldo*



*State President Aldo
congratulates newly
installed IHL President
Mike Gering (left) and
Vice President Jim Cocco
(right)*



Steve & Aldo

Photographs courtesy of Eleanor Lillo, Joseph Scafetta Jr. and Coletta Sciscilo



*Mister & Mistress of Ceremonies
Roy & Sandy Schender*



*The Kitchen Crew:
Dawn, Kathy, Steve & Coletta*

*Newly installed IHL President
Mike Gering presented Immediate
Past President Dawn Falsinotti
with an award for her dedication,
devotion, outstanding efforts, and
lengthy time served as IHL
President from 2019 to 2026.*



Chef Nick & Bella



Photographs courtesy of Eleanor Lillo, Joseph Scafetta Jr. and Coletta Sciscilo



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Charles Santangelo	April 5
Jim Cocco	April 11
Teresa Scafetta	April 15
Flo Primeggia	April 20
Stephen Ulissi	April 21
Angelo Saladini Jr.	April 23
Chris Stacy	April 30

Cena e Conversazione!

"Carissimi,

Thank you all who contributed and participated in our March dinner., We ate very well and used the opportunity to profitably exercise our Italian language skills. In particular, thanks to June and Joe for hosting and the delicious eggplant lasagna main course. Also, thanks to Nannette for the salad, Francesca & Marianna for the desserts and I'll take credit for the antipasto. I am attaching a couple of photos (pay attention to the mirror for the one at the table).

*Un abbraccio,
Dennis"*



*Inquiries should go through Dennis Ferrara for the next monthly gathering of
Cena e Conversazione. dennisferrara@hey.com*

Italian Americans Win Two Oscars

(contributed by Joseph Scafetta Jr.)

Two Italian Americans won Oscars at the 98th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Joe Letteri shared an Oscar with his team for Best Visual Effects for the science fiction sequel “Avatar: Fire and Ash”. It was the sixth Oscar for the Pennsylvania native.

Gary Rizzo shared the Oscar for Best Sound with his team which worked on the film “F1” about Formula One auto racing. It was the third win for the 54-year-old New Jerseyite.

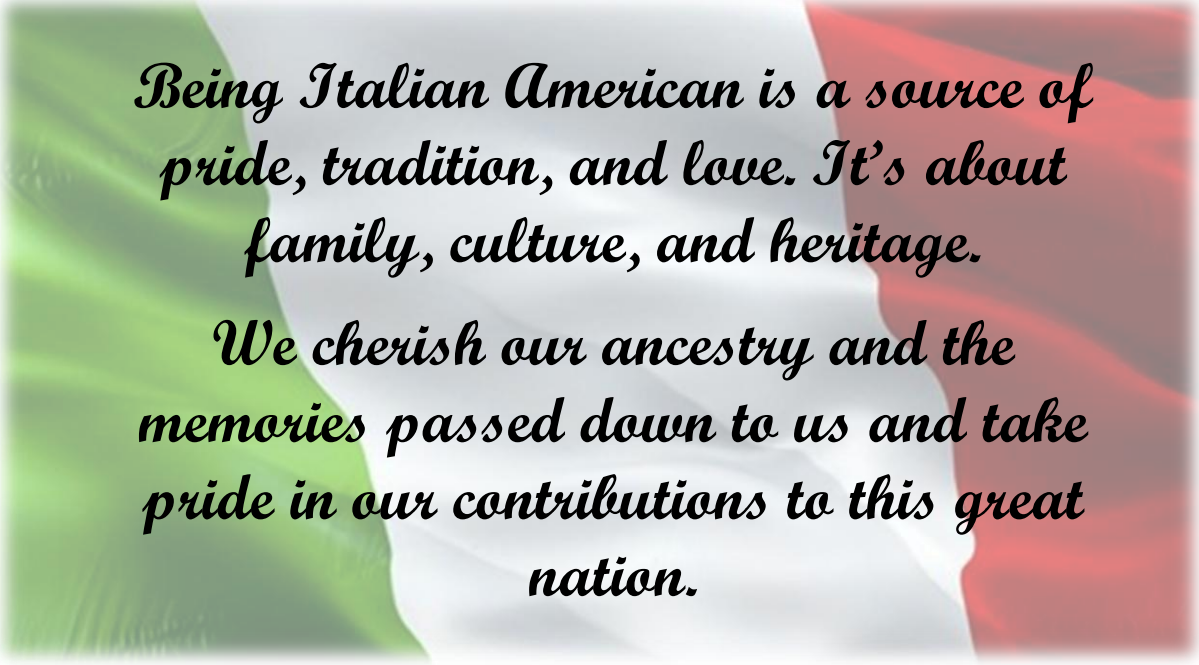
Four other Italian Americans received nominations but did not take home the coveted prize in their categories.

Los Angeles native, Leonardo DiCaprio, 61, was nominated for Best Actor for his role in “One Battle After Another” which won the Oscar for Best Picture. It was his sixth nomination for Best Actor. He has won only once in 2016 for his role in “The Revenant”.

Fellow Californian, Stephen Mirrione, 57, was nominated for Best Film Editing for his work on “F1”. Although he did not win this year, Mirrione did win an Oscar in 2000 for editing the film “Traffic”.

Miyako Bellizzi, the product of an Italian father and a Japanese mother, was nominated for the first time for the Best Costume Design Oscar for the film “Marty Supreme”. Although the movie garnered nine nominations in different categories, it took home no Oscars.

Jennifer Venditti, another first-time nominee, was up for an Oscar, also for “Marty Supreme”, for the inaugural Best Casting award. However, she lost to Cassandra Kulukundis who selected the cast for “One Battle After Another” which won the most Oscars: six.



*Being Italian American is a source of
pride, tradition, and love. It's about
family, culture, and heritage.*

*We cherish our ancestry and the
memories passed down to us and take
pride in our contributions to this great
nation.*

**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2026-2027 OFFICERS**

<u>President:</u> 703-678-9361	Michael Gering micgering@gmail.com	<u>Lodge Trustees:</u> Alexander Genovese
<u>Vice-President:</u> 703-980-6575	James Cocco jim@jwcoccopallc.com	Eleanor Lillo
<u>Imm. Past-President:</u> 703-362-1724	Dawn Falsinotti dfalsinotti@gmail.com	Angelo Saladini Jr.
<u>Acting Orator:</u> 703-831-7551	Tommaso Ammazalorso tammazza@gmail.com	Charles Santangelo
<u>Recording Secretary:</u> 703-533-8064	Joseph Scafetta Jr. joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com	Coletta Sciscilo
<u>Financial Secretary:</u> 703-489-9279	Steven Kramer steven.kramer52@gmail.com	
<u>Treasurer:</u> 703-241-7775	John Dovel jhn.dovel@gmail.com	
<u>Master of Ceremonies:</u>	Roy Schender	
<u>Mistress of Ceremonies:</u>	Sandra Schender	
<u>Guard:</u>	Dennis Lillo	
<u>Programs & Activities:</u>		
Chair:	Dawn Falsinotti	
Vice Chair:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.	
<u>Scholarship & Charity:</u>		<u>Publicity Committee:</u>
Chair:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.	Chair: Joseph Scafetta Jr.
<u>Membership:</u>		<u>Italian Language Group:</u>
Chair:	Dawn Falsinotti	Contact: Dennis Ferrara dennisferrara@hey.com

Lodge Members Serving on the Grand Council of Virginia:

Joseph Scafetta Jr., Former State President and Trustee
Steven Kramer, Recording Secretary
Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee
Joseph Scafetta III, Trustee

La Bandiera Editor: Coletta Sciscilo (703) 795-2231 / Colette.sciscilo@gmail.com
Website: <https://italianheritagelodge.org> Facebook: OSDIA Fairfax
Instagram: sonsofitaly_ihl2517

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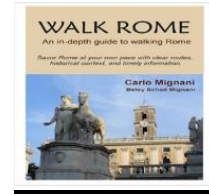
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www.walk-rome.com

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