



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***

LUGLIO 2026
MESSAGGIO DEL PRESIDENTE

Ciao Amici,

Summer is off to a great start. We all had a great time at our annual picnic and bocce tournament at the home of the Lillo's, and we are very grateful to them for their hospitality, Team USA is on a winning streak in the 2026 World Cup Soccer matches, and just around the corner on the 4th of July, our country will be officially 250 years old!

Which reminds me, we will be having a breakfast and a movie event on Sunday, July 12th. Come out and join us for a big breakfast buffet at the American Legion Hall followed by the screening of the movie "Young Washington", a movie about a young George Washington in the French and Indian War. If you are a history buff, you will surely enjoy this unique film. I saw the trailer for the movie, and it looks really fascinating. The flyer on page 3 of this month's newsletter gives everyone the specific details.

I hope everybody is enjoying the summer so far, please have fun and stay safe.

***Best,
Michael Gering
IHL President***

IL CALENDARIO

4 luglio

Happy Fourth of July – America's Independence
"250 Years"

12 luglio*

Breakfast

9:30 a.m.

American Legion Post 177
3939 Oak Street, Fairfax

And a Movie:

"Young Washington"

11:30 a.m.

Cinemark Fairfax Corner
Movie Theatre, 11900
Palace Way, Fairfax

12 agosto

Executive Council
Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Kilroy's
5250a Port Royal Road
Springfield

20 settembre

GLVA Quarterly
Meeting

11:00 a.m.

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

10 ottobre

City of Fairfax
Fall Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

* RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti (dfalsinotti@gmail.com)

See the flyer on page 3 of this edition of *La Bandiera* for more information about our July special event. We will be having a delicious breakfast buffet at the American Legion Post 177 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., then head to the Cinemark Fairfax Corner Movie Theatre to watch "Young Washington" for an 11:30 a.m. showing. *Please note that the American Legion will only accept cash for the breakfast buffet.*

Please read our lodge newsletter, *La Bandiera*, for information on upcoming events through the end of this year. Many fun things are planned, and we are still putting together details like dates, guest speakers, menus, etc.

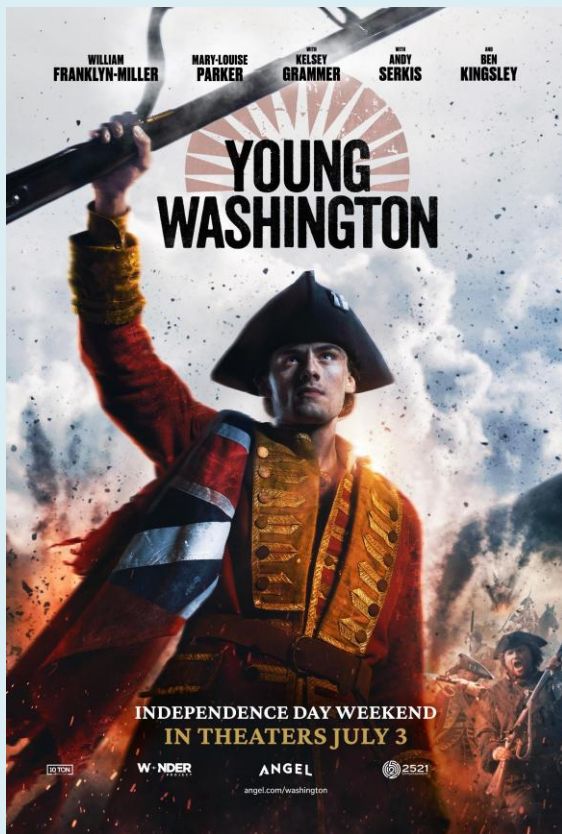
To pique your interest, we are planning a viewing of "Solo Mio" with a Summer BBQ lunch in August at the K of C Hall. Our annual September "Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner" is one of two events planned for that month. Chef Nick and IPP Dawn will also host a "Colonial's Kitchen" Fundraiser with a four-course dinner paired with accompanying wines. In October – Italian Heritage Month – IHL will participate in the City of Fairfax Fall Festival. That's Saturday, October 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will also gather at the K of C Hall again in October for a separate meeting/event to celebrate our Italian Heritage. In November, IHL celebrates 45th years since its Charter in 1981! And, of course, December is our annual Festa di Natale. So....keep your eyes open for more details about these events.

Upcoming IHL July Event

Please make your reservation with Dawn Falsinotti to join your IHL members for “Breakfast and a Movie” on Sunday, July 12th 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Breakfast Buffet at the American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. Cost is \$13.00 for a delicious buffet which includes made-to-order pancakes and omelets, biscuits and sausage gravy, bacon, home fries, fruits, pastries, and much more.....

Please note that cash only is accepted for the buffet.



Show Time: 11:30 a.m.

Purchase your tickets at the theatre.

Theatre Location:

Cinemark Fairfax Corner
Movie Theatre
11900 Palace Way, Fairfax

Rated PG-13

Running Time: 1 hour, 51 minutes

RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti at dfalsinotti@gmail.com



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Carol Ann Linder

July 27

MANTELLO WINS 2026 TONY AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION OF A PLAY

(Submitted by Joseph Scafetta Jr.)

Joe Mantello, 62, won the 2026 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play for his revival of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" on Sunday, June 7, at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. It is his third Tony Award. He won it for Best Direction of a Play previously in 2003 for "Take Me Out". He also won a Tony for Best Direction of a Musical for "Assassins" in 2004. The award ceremony for the 2025-26 Broadway season was telecast live on CBS TV and hosted by Pink.

Mantello was born in Rockford, Illinois. He is the son of Richard Mantello, who is a full-blooded Italian, and his wife Judy who is half Italian. He was raised Catholic. He made his acting debut on Broadway in 1993 and became a director in 2003. He is not married.

ITALIAN NAMED TO ARTEMIS III CREW

(Submitted by Joseph Scafetta Jr.)

Luca Parmitano, 49, was one of four astronauts named to the Artemis III crew by the National Air & Space Administration. The crew is scheduled to launch on a flight around the moon in 2027 to test some equipment before the Artemis IV crew lands on the moon in 2028.

Parmitano, a native of Paterno, Italy, has been a member of the European Astronaut Corps for the European Space Agency since 2009. He is also a colonel and a test pilot for the Italian Air Force. He was the first Italian to command the International Space Station during Expedition 61. He has spent a total of 367 days in space.

Dite “formaggio”

Amici!

Remember to take some awesome pictures this “Fourth of July” during your family, friends, neighborhood, church, etc. celebrations. Share your fun holiday get togethers, BBQs, picnics, fireworks, patriotic Red, White & Blue, vacation pics, or whatever way you celebrated our nation’s 250th Anniversary. Submit them to me at Colette.sciscilo@gmail.com to include in our August edition of La Bandiera.

Here are a few from our members this month!



*Joey Scafetta at the Polish
Russian Border
June, 2026
(submitted by Joseph Scafetta Jr.)*



Do you remember Rob, the fabulous singer who entertained us at the 2025 biennial convention? Rob is relocating to Texas and Dawn Falsinotti, Immediate Past President, paid a visit to him on his last performance at the Italian Oven in McLean. Wishing him buona fortuna and all the good that life has to offer in this new chapter.



Steve Kramer, Mike Gering and Jim Cocco attending the GLVA quarterly meeting and 250th Anniversary Celebration at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, June 27, 2026.

2026 Bocce Picnic

Our annual Bocce Picnic is a much anticipated event, and this year it was very well attended. Dennis and Eleanor Lillo graciously hosted, their children and grandchildren attended, helped with all the preparation, clean up, hosting our members, as well as playing in the tournament. A heartwarming "*Grazie Mille*" to all the Lillo's for a fabulous day of fun, good food and socializing with our many friends! A big thank you to our members who provided chairs and tables, arrived early to prep and stayed late to clean up. What a great summer event!





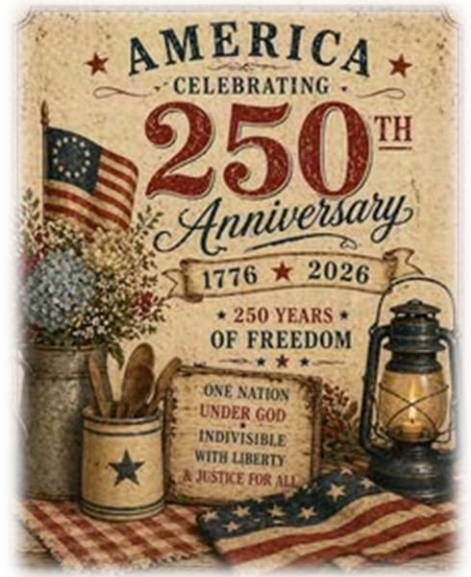


And the 2026 Bocce Champions
are.....
Anthony, Diana, Daniel and
Alex Lillo!



Pictures provided by Eleanor and Dennis Lillo, Coletta Sciscilo, and Ray Stoll

1776 to 2026 Vintage Timeline Trivia



- 1776** In what year was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
A) 1775 B) 1776 C) 1777 D) 1778
- 1787** Which document established the framework for the U.S. government?
A) The Declaration of Independence
B) The Articles of Confederation
C) The U.S. Constitution
D) The Bill of Rights
- 1803** What massive land purchase doubled the size of the United States?
A) Alaska Purchase B) Louisiana Purchase
C) Florida Purchase D) Texas Purchase
- 1861** What major event began in 1861 and lasted four years?
A) The Revolutionary War
B) The War of 1812
C) The Civil War
D) World War I
- 1865** What ended slavery in the United States?
A) The Emancipation Proclamation
B) The 13th Amendment
C) The Gettysburg Address
D) The Reconstruction Act
- 1898** Which war introduced the U.S. as a world power?
A) The Mexican-American War
B) The Spanish-American War
C) World War I
D) World War II
- 1920** What happened in 1920 for the first time in America?
A) Women won the right to vote
B) Prohibition began
C) The Revenue Act passed
D) The 19th Amendment was proposed

- 1941** What event on December 7, 1941, pulled the U.S. into World War II?
A) The attack on Pearl Harbor
B) The D-Day Invasion
C) The bombing of Hiroshima
D) The Battle of Midway
- 1945** In 1945, the U.S. and its allies won _____.
A) The Civil War
B) World War I
C) World War II
D) The Korean War
- 1969** In 1969, Americans took a giant leap when _____.
A) The Berlin Wall fell
B) Man landed on the Moon
C) The Vietnam War ended
D) The first Super Bowl was played
- 2001** What tragic event happened on September 11, 2001?
A) The Challenger explosion
B) Terrorist attack on the U.S.
C) Hurricane Katrina
D) The start of the Iraq War
- 2026** In 2026, America will celebrate how many years of independence?
A) 100 years
B) 225 years
C) 240 years
D) 250 years

***Here are a few local sources of information to celebrate our nation's
250th Anniversary of Independence:***

<https://America250.org>

<https://www.virginia.org> (Guide to VA250 events around Virginia)

<https://northernvirginiamag.com>

<https://dc250.us>

<https://Washington.org> (Guide to America's 250th Anniversary in Washington D.C. in 2026)

***Enjoy all the festivities and celebrations in our area as well as across our
great nation and please be safe!***

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ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE OF FAIRFAX #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>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>		<u>Membership:</u>
Chair:	Dawn Falsinotti	Chair: Dawn Falsinotti
Vice Chair:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.	Vice Chair: Steven Kramer
<u>Scholarship & Charity:</u>		<u>Publicity:</u>
Chair:	John Dovel	Chair: Joseph Scafetta Jr.
<u>Website:</u>		<u>Italian Language Group:</u>
Chair:	Dawn Falsinotti	Contact: Dennis Ferrara
Vice Chair:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.	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

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America National Offices:

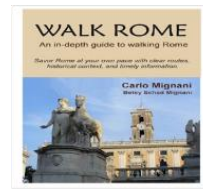
Steven Kramer, Budget, Audit & Finance Committee
Dawn Falsinotti, Convention Committee

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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

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