



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***

**GIUGNO 2026
MESSAGGIO DEL PRESIDENTE**

Ciao Amici,

Summertime is finally upon us and now it is time for some fun in the sun! Just a friendly reminder, we will be having our annual bocce picnic and tournament at the home of Dennis and Eleanor Lillo on Saturday, June 13th, (Rain date is Saturday, June 20th). Please RSVP by June 9th.

I want to extend my congratulations to Tommaso Ammazalorso for his election to Orator at our last meeting on May 23rd. I also want to congratulate John Asiello, Barbara Bifareti, Loretta D'Amico, Robert Sherretta, and Sharon Strauchs on their election to the Arbitration Committee. All of us in the Lodge want to sincerely thank you for offering to serve us as Officers.

Also on May 23rd, we had our Bingo night. It was a fun night of games and prizes, and everyone really enjoyed themselves. I want to give a special thanks to Dawn Falsinotti for planning the event and for picking out some really fun and interesting prizes and to Steve Kramer who did an excellent job of calling the numbers.

June 21st is the Summer solstice, and it is also Father's Day so remember your Papa! And last but not least, our state quarterly meeting and picnic is Saturday, June 27th at Giuseppe Verdi Lodge in Mechanicsville, so be sure to RSVP for that.

The summer is just getting started so have fun and be safe!

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

IL CALENDARIO

2 giugno *Festa della Repubblica Italiana*

9 giugno	E.C. Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Burke Center Library 5935 Freds Oak Road Burke
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13 giugno (20 giugno)	Bocce Picnic* <i>Rain Date for Bocce Picnic</i>	Noon–4 p.m.	The Lillo's
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21 giugno *Father's Day*

27 giugno	GLVA Quarterly Meeting AND USA 250 th Anniversary Celebration Picnic**	11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Giuseppe Verdi Lodge 7242 Verdi Lane Mechanicsville, VA
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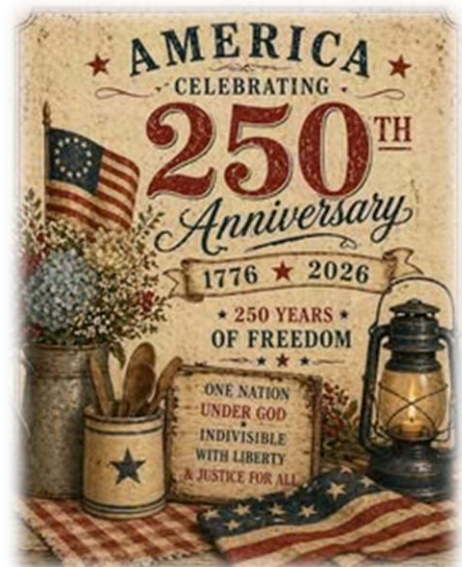
27 giugno	Cena e Conversazione***	6:00 p.m.	TBD
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4 luglio *Happy Fourth of July – America's Independence*
"250 Years"

- * RSVP to Ellie Lillo (delillo1@verizon.net)
- ** RSVP to Mary Louise Smith (MLSmith912@comcast.net)
- *** RSVP to Dennis Ferrara (dennisferrara@hey.com)

It's Bocce time again! Our annual Bocce Picnic will be held on *Saturday, June 13th (WITH A RAIN DATE OF SATURDAY, JUNE 20th)*, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Dennis & Ellie Lillo will host our lodge members, families and guests who come ready to play and eat! See the flyer in this issue of *La Bandiera*. Please be sure to RSVP by June 9th.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia has invited all IHL members to their picnic celebrating our nation's 250th Anniversary. It will take place on *Saturday, June 27th* at Giuseppe Verdi Lodge following the quarterly meeting. Please see the flyer in this issue for more information.



IHL Bocce at the Lillo's



When: Saturday, June 13, 2026
RAIN DATE IS: Saturday, June 20, 2026

Where: 5104 Colebrook Place
Alexandria, VA 22312

Time: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Hosted by
Eleanor and Dennis Lillo

Menu: Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with all the Fixings,
Sausage & Peppers, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Desserts
& Cold Beverages

**There will be a charge of \$20 per person for this event.
Make check payable to IHL and mail to 5104 Colebrook Place,
Alexandria, VA 22312.**

Please confirm your attendance by June 9th!

**RSVP who will be attending and who will
play in the bocce tournament.**

By email: delillo1@verizon.net

By telephone: (703) 354-2454

**This event is sponsored by the
Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax
for Lodge members and their families**



Come and enjoy the fun!

GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA QUARTERLY MEETING

and

USA 250th YEAR CELEBRATION

The Grand Lodge of Virginia extends an invitation to your membership in joining a day of Celebration of our country's 250th Anniversary of Independence.

!!COME JOIN US!!th

WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2026
7242 Verdi Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

TIME: 1:00 p.m.
After Grand Lodge Quarterly Meeting
Bocce, Cornholes, Bingo, Music

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs provided by GLVA.
Everyone asked to bring a covered dish!

Please coordinate with Mary Louise Smith, GVL
How many will be attending?
What dish will you bring?
(MLSmith912@comcast.net) or
(804) 241-2185





JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Schender
Robert Sherretta

June 18
June 25

On Saturday evening, May 23rd, several elections for IHL offices for the current term took place. Tommaso Ammazalorso was elected as Orator and members of the Arbitration Committee are John Asiello, Barbara Bifareti, Loretta D'Amico, Robert Sherretta and Sharon Strauchs. Congratulations to all in your new positions!



Three Italian Americans Nominated for Tony Awards

(submitted by Joseph Scafetta Jr.)

Three Italian Americans are nominated for Tony Awards for their work during the 2025-26 Broadway season. Gina Gionfriddo is a nominee for the Award for Best Revival of a Play for “Betsy Shaw”. Christopher Gattelli is nominated for the Award for Best Director of a Musical for “Schmigadoon!”, and Joe Mantello is nominated for the Award for Best Director of a Play for “Death of a Salesman”. They are competing against four other nominees in each of their respective categories. There are 14 categories altogether with three to six nominees in each. The 79th annual awards will be presented on Sunday, June 7, in the Radio City Music Hall in New York City and aired live on CBS.

Cena e Conversazione!

“Carissimi,

Grazie a tutti per la bellissima sera domenica scorsa, in particular to Betsy and Carlo for hosting and providing the fantastic osso buco and spinach. Thanks also to Francesca for the exquisite salad and bottle of wine, to June and Joe La Marca for the perfect dessert and the carrots. I'll take credit for the antipasto and second bottle of wine. We enjoyed an interesting conversation – in Italian, of course – about the immigrations that populated Italy over the centuries while we partook of such a good meal. I especially liked the format that Joe introduced with his scherzo in which we read a bit of the article that Carlo and Betsy provided on immigrations and then translated what we read before adding in our own stories and knowledge of history. Un abbraccio, Dennis”



*Buon cibo.
Buon vino.
Buon amici.*



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

Italian Bingo Night

May 23, 2026

We had terrific attendance for our annual Italian Bingo Night, with members and guests enjoying the food, games and Italian prizes! Things can get tense at times, but it is always a fun social time, and everyone goes home happy for having spent the evening together.



*Dawn
shows us
her fun
prizes!*

Pictures provided by Ellie Lillo

June 12 - June 14, 2026

Sails on the Potomac: Alexandria Commemorates America's 250th

Alexandria will be hosting **Sails on the Potomac** from June 12 – 14, 2026 as a Sail VirginiaSM 2026 Affiliate Harbor. From the creation of the Fairfax Resolves to being the hometown of George Washington, Alexandria played a unique role in the birth of our new nation and its impact on today. Join us as we commemorate America's Story with music, family activities, exhibits, tours, public art, educational programs and more!

With centuries of history and hospitality to its credit, Sail VirginiaSM 2026 Affiliate Harbor Alexandria offers an array of historic and cultural attractions. As the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, **Sails on the Potomac** will highlight Alexandria's role in helping construct the foundation of the revolution. Sails on the Potomac will host the tall ships GAZELA, KALMAR NYCKEL, PROVIDENCE and SULTANA as part of their event.

Additionally, enjoy live music all three days as the ALX Jazz Fest expands for its 48th year as part of **Sails on the Potomac**. It's happening Friday, June 12 through Sunday June 14, featuring a full weekend of performances that highlight the city's musical past, present and future. Admission to the festival is free.



***Here are a few other 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 of the festivities and celebrations in our area and please be safe!

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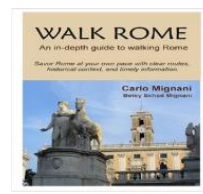
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”
www.walk-rome.com

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