



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*

MARZO 2026 MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA

Ciao Amici,

Spring is right around the corner. Much anticipated after the frigid winter weather we've had. Later this week a warmup is expected and I'm ready to spring forward. Speaking of, we move to daylight savings this Saturday. Yay, more light!

This past weekend, Mike Markowitz presented the "Coinage of Venice". Always engaging, he brought several actual coins to observe. He spoke of some of the history of Venice, especially during the Italian Renaissance. He'd like to come back and give a presentation on Sicily, and I told him we'd look forward to his return.

We have several open positions that need to be filled: Orator and the formation of an Arbitration Committee. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact me at dfalsinotti@gmail.com. I will answer any questions you might have.

Over the past year I've asked for additional volunteers to assist in the kitchen, floor and clean-up, in meetings, in the newsletter and in person. We've reached a critical stage. In order to keep our meetings and monthly events happening we need help. If we cannot get additional help, there will be no choice but to drastically curtail activities. I am asking for three volunteers to step up for the March 22 installation luncheon. If no one steps up, the menu will be cookies and coffee. Please respond to me at dfalsinotti@gmail.com. Any effort will be appreciated.

Congratulazioni to the 2026-2027 Officers and Executive Committee members. Let's make this another stellar year!

We have a Dr. in the house.....Steve Kramer, our Financial Secretary and my sous chef, has received his Doctorate. He is now Doctor in Education (Ed.D.) Educational Leadership and Organizational Innovation. *Congratulazioni* Dottore Stefano.

Please check il calendario on page 2 for all our upcoming events, especially this Sunday's Soups, Sandwiches & A Movie – "Marriage Italian Style". I hope to see many of you then!

Con affetto,

Dawn



IL CALENDARIO

8 marzo	Soups, Sandwiches & A Movie* <i>Marriage Italian Style</i>	12 Noon	Knights Hall/St. Leo
11 marzo	Executive Committee Mtg.	6:30 p.m.	Knights Hall/St. Leo
15 marzo	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Guiseppe Verdi Lodge
17 marzo	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>		
19 marzo	<i>Festa di San Giuseppe</i>		
22 marzo	Installation of Officers Ceremony & Luncheon*	12 Noon	Knights Hall/St. Leo
TBD aprile	Dinner & Guest Speaker Anthony DeSantis "The Stowaway in First Class"		Knights Hall/St. Leo
TBD maggio	Italian Bingo		Knights Hall/St. Leo
TBD giugno	Bocce Picnic		The Lillo's



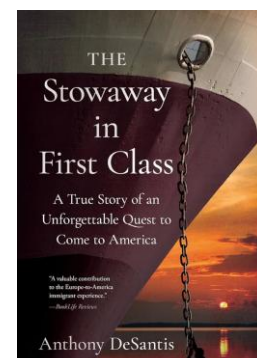
* RSVP to Steve Kramer (steven.kramer52@gmail.com)

Our IHL calendar is starting to fill up for upcoming 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 individual emails and reminders.

Coming up quickly, on Sunday, March 8 at noon, is the rescheduled Soups, Sandwiches & A Movie, featuring "Marriage Italian Style". You will not want to miss Steve Kramer's "Seafood Stew" and Dawn's "Lasagna Soup".

Also in March, is the ceremony and luncheon to install our officers and trustees for the new term, 2026-2027. It will be held at the Knights Hall on Sunday afternoon, March 22. Please refer to the flyer in this newsletter for the time and cost and check your emails frequently for any updates. Since this event is so close to Festa di San Giuseppe, we will be preparing a "St. Joseph's Table". If you are inclined to donate something for our table, such as zeppole, breads, desserts....., please let us know!

We are also finalizing a date for our guest speaker, Anthony DeSantis, who is the author of "The Stowaway in First Class". An April date will be provided after coordination with the author and the Knights for the hall availability.





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*Please join us in wishing our new Officers and Trustees
"Buona Fortuna"!*

Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax #2517
Installation of Officers & Trustees 2026-2027
Luncheon & Ceremony



Sunday, March 22, 2026
Knights of Columbus Hall
(Behind St. Leo's Catholic Church)
3700 Blenheim Boulevard
Fairfax, Virginia
12:00 PM – Luncheon
1:00 PM – Installation of Officers Ceremony
1:30 PM – Coffee and Dessert

Event Cost: \$15.00 per person

RSVP by March 20th to:
Steven Kramer, Financial Secretary
Steven.kramer52@gmail.com

Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
2026-2027 Term
Elections of Officers & Trustees
February 28, 2026

IHL elections of Officers and Trustees for the 2026-2027 term were held on February 28, 2026. *Congratulations* to all our returning and new Officers and Trustees for this coming year. Installation of our Officers and Trustees will take place on Sunday afternoon, March 22nd at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The following members were elected for the new term:

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

Three Italian-American women won medals for the United States during the 2026 Winter Olympics held in northern Italy. Hayley Scamurra, 31, shared the gold medal with 22 other players in the ice hockey team competition. Scamurra also shared the silver medal with her teammates during the 2022 Winter Olympics. Isabeau Levito, 18, shared the gold medal with 15 other Americans in the figure skating team event. Mia Manganello, 36, won the bronze medal in the women's mass start speed skating race. The Italian-American men were shut out.

Norway won the most medals, 41. The USA finished second with 33: 12 gold, 12 silver, and 9 bronze. Italy finished third with 30: 10 gold, 6 silver, and 14 bronze. Twenty-nine other countries won at least one medal. Sixty-four other countries also participated but failed to win any medals.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kaitlin Welch	March 4
Carol Goldstone	March 5
Gilbar Misantoni	March 7
Sharon Strauchs	March 14
Robert West	March 18
Kevin Donaleski	March 25
Kathy Reiter	March 26

Cena e Conversazione!

"Carissimi,

It was good to see everyone last night. I think we all enjoyed our overdue gathering, judging from the unusually late hour at which we broke up. Thanks, Peter and Kathleen, for hosting, the pesto ravioli and tagliatelle, focaccia and penguins. We ate especially well: from Marianna's antipasto, Nanette's involtini, Francesca's insalata, my broccoli rabe, to June's strawberry tiramisu. It was good to fare due chiacchiere over such a delicious meal.

*Un abbraccio,
Dennis"*



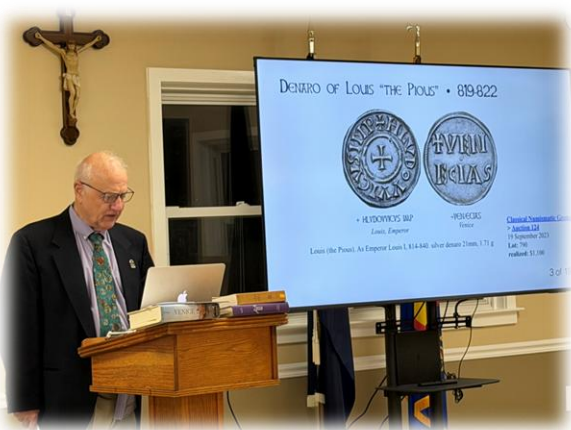
*Inquiries should go through Dennis Ferrara for the next monthly gathering of
Cena e Conversazione. dennisferrara@hey.com*

ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

“Coinage of Venice”

Presented by Michael Markowitz

Mike Markowitz worked for many years in the aerospace industry in southern California. He moved to northern Virginia in 1991 where he is a senior research specialist for the Center for Naval Analyses. Mike is a contributing writer on ancient and medieval coins for CoinWeek.com. He is a member of the American Numismatic Society and the Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington, D.C. Additionally, he is the vice president of the Fairfax Coin Club. Mike joined us a second time for a PowerPoint presentation on the coins of Venice.



*Photographs
courtesy of
Eleanor Lillo*

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY 2026

St. Patrick's Day falls on March 17th each year. Whether you're Irish or not, chances are you've celebrated St. Patrick's Day at some point in your life. People of all backgrounds love to go to St. Patrick's Day parades, wear green clothing, and decorate with shamrocks.

Though the day has morphed over the years into more of a secular celebration, St. Patrick's Day was originally a religious holiday intended to commemorate the life of Saint Patrick, the man credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

Who Was Saint Patrick?

Born in Britain, Saint Patrick was captured by slave traders when he was 16 and brought to Ireland to be a shepherd. After six years of imprisonment, he escaped back to Britain. While imprisoned, though, he had become a devout Christian. He is said to have had visions from God, telling him to go back to Ireland and spread the gospel. He spent the next twenty years preaching and teaching in Ireland and creating churches and monasteries throughout the country.

There are a number of ways to celebrate the "Wearing of the Green." You could drink a green beer or an Irish stout, sing *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* or *Danny Boy* with friends, or just sit around your television watching old Bing Crosby or John Wayne movies. While all these activities are fun, and traditional, one of the best ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day is to sit down to a wholesome Irish meal with family and friends.

The shamrock is the most iconic symbol of St. Patrick's Day, but what do you really know about this tiny three-leaved plant, and why is it associated with the holiday?

Legend and tradition state that the shamrock was a vital part of Saint Patrick's teachings. He used its three rounded leaves growing on a single stem as a natural symbol to simplify the concept of the Trinity. It is also said that the deep green color of the shamrock, which became Ireland's emblem, cancels out the superstition that it is bad luck to wear green.



ST. PATRICK



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Joseph Scafetta Jr.

Membership:

Chair:

Michael Gering

Italian Language Group:

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

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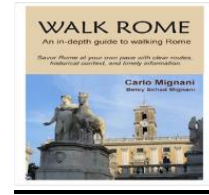
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