



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

La Bandiera

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

SETTEMBRE 2026
MESSAGGIO DEL PRESIDENTE

Ciao Amici,

Well Summer is coming to a close now and it's sad to see it go but don't worry, we have a lot of fun things planned at our Lodge. First and foremost is our annual Meet and Greet Pasta Dinner on Sunday, September 27th. Come out and enjoy a nice evening of fellowship with your Lodge brothers and sisters as we welcome new members and prospective members into our extended Italian family.

In October, Our Lodge will be represented at the Fairfax City Fall Festival Saturday, October 10th from 10-5, rain or shine. We're looking for volunteers to man the tent representing IHL for a one- or two-hour shift of their choosing. If interested, please contact Sonny Scafetta at 703-533-8064 and leave a message on his voice mail if he doesn't answer. He can also be reached by email at joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com.

Finally, Help! We need a webmaster! If you're a computer whiz, or even if you're not but know enough about webpages, we could really use your help. Please contact IHL Vice President Jim Cocco at jim@jwcoccopallc.com

Fall is a beautiful and restful season so get outside in the crisp autumn air, go for a hike, drink a nice hot beverage, and watch football!

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



IL CALENDARIO

20 settembre	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
26 settembre	Cena e Conversazione	6:00 p.m.	TBD
27 settembre	Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner*	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
10 ottobre	City of Fairfax Fall Festival	10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	City of Fairfax
10 ottobre	Italian Heritage Month Celebration*	5:00 p.m.	K of C Hall
12 ottobre	National Columbus Day Ceremony	11:00 a.m.	Columbus Plaza Union Station, WDC
TBD novembre	IHL's 45 th Anniversary Celebration*	TBD	K of C Hall
12 dicembre	Festa di Natale*	TBD	K of C Hall

* RSVP to Steven Kramer at: steven.kramer52@gmail.com

Please read our monthly 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...

Our annual September “Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner” is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th at the K of C Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come and meet our lodge Officers and Trustees, members and guests while enjoying an authentic Italian dinner and desserts.

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. The City's flyer is attached to your email. Please consider volunteering to assist Sonny Scafetta Jr. manning IHL's table for one or two hours, promoting our lodge and handing out lodge information.

On October 10th, IHL will officially celebrate Italian Heritage Month at the St. Leo Knights Hall. More information is coming regarding this special event!

The October 10th fundraiser to benefit “The Colonial's Kitchen” will be rescheduled for the Spring of 2027. This event will be a four-course dinner paired with wines that will complement each course. Chef Nick and “The Colonial's Kitchen” Culinary Team will cook a wonderful dinner for us for a very special evening! *Details will be made available soon.*

In November, IHL celebrates 45 years since its Charter in 1981!

And, of course, December 12th is our annual *Festa di Natale*.

So....keep your eyes open for more details about these events.



Italian Heritage Lodge #2517
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

“Meet and Greet” Pasta Dinner

Sunday, September 27, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Providence Hall

3702 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax

(behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church)

*Meet and Greet the Officers and Members of our Lodge
while enjoying an authentic Pasta Dinner and Desserts*

Cost \$15.00

RSVP to: Steven Kramer

Steven.kramer52@gmail.com / 703- 489-9279

Buon Appetito e Mangia Bene!





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Bifareti	September 6
Joe La Marca	September 6
Nannette Croce	September 14
Loretta D'Amico	September 17
Nancy Perrelli	September 17
John Innello	September 20
Vivian Mott	September 22

Cena e Conversazione

Carissimi,

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the cena and the conversazione—to say nothing about the spectacular weather, the visiting hummingbirds or the grazing deer, we enjoyed one of our more pleasant meetings. We dined all'aperto starting with antipasti that included prosciutto and melon among much more, and continuing with Francesca's pasta, Betsy's chicken involtini, and June L's Mediterranean salad and zucchini contorno. The wine flowed as we uncovered, with Carlo and Betsy's guidance, the secret life of the verb "stare," heard and translated Joe's joke, caught up with Fran's eventful August and learned some kitchen vocabulary from June L. We closed with apple pie and homemade vanilla gelato. ~ Dennis



The goal of the IHL Language Group is to promote our Italian heritage through language by creating opportunities to practice and improve our ability to speak Italian. To that end, we strive to create a friendly and pleasant environment for our meetings. Specifically, we meet monthly in a social setting to speak as much Italian as we can.

You are invited to the

National Columbus Day Ceremony

Monday, October 12, 2026
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

*Afternoon Matinee and Luncheon – Sunday, August 30th
Solo Mio and Mission BBQ*



We welcomed guests Terry and daughter Anna (left) and Zoey, niece of June and Joe La Marca (right) for the afternoon's social. All agreed the food was fantastic as was the movie. (Below, scenes from the Palio di Siena from Solo Mio.)



Some IHL member news:

We extend wishes to our current Guard, Past President and former Treasurer Dennis Lillo on his 80th Birthday! Tanti auguri e cent'anni Dennis!

Immediate Past President Dawn Falsinotti is home and recovering from surgery for a serious back injury. Rest, recover and renew yourself! Our best wishes to you for a quick recovery.

In a separate email I sent out information on the funeral for our former and beloved member Jane Musco, 99. Riposa in pace, Jane.

Soffioni Abruzzesi

(Sweet Ricotta Pastries)

Soffioni Abruzzesi are cute little Italian cupcakes or muffins filled with a fluffy, sweet, and lemony Ricotta cream – and are easy to make and so delicious!



Ingredients for Ricotta filling:

2 eggs, yolks and whites separated in 2 different bowls

5 tablespoons granulated sugar

¼ teaspoon lemon zest

7 oz Ricotta cheese, drained

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

¼ teaspoon lemon juice

Also:

2 sheets of puff pastry

Baking oil spray

1 tablespoon of powdered sugar for finishing



Preheat oven to 350°F. Separate the 2 egg yolks from egg whites and keep them in different bowls.

Mix the Ricotta filling: In the bowl with the egg yolks add the 5 tablespoons of sugar and ¼ teaspoon of lemon zest. Using a hand whisk, mix until the mixture is fluffy and light. Add 7 oz of drained Ricotta cheese, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and continue whisking until cream is smooth.

In a bowl with egg whites, add ¼ teaspoon of lemon juice. Using a hand mixer, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Using a spatula, slowly fold the egg whites into the Ricotta cream mixture.

Defrost and roll out the two sheets of puff pastry. Cut each sheet into 6 squares. Very lightly spray a regular muffin pan with baking oil. Place one pastry square into each of the muffin wells, leaving the extra pastry corners to the sides to cover the filling later.

Fill the squares with the Ricotta cream and fold over the flaps of extra dough to close the pastry.

Bake for 30 minutes. Without opening the oven door, reduce the temperature to 325°F and continue baking for about 15 minutes or until tops are brown. Dust the pastries with powdered sugar before serving.

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

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Lodge Trustees:

Alexander Genovese

Eleanor Lillo

Angelo Saladini Jr.

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Master of Ceremonies:

Roy Schender

Mistress of Ceremonies:

Sandra Schender

Guard:

Dennis Lillo

Programs & Activities:

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Dawn Falsinotti

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Membership:

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Publicity:

Chair:

Joseph Scafetta Jr.

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Joseph Scafetta Jr.

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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

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America National Offices:

Steven Kramer, Budget, Audit & Finance Committee

Dawn Falsinotti, Convention Committee

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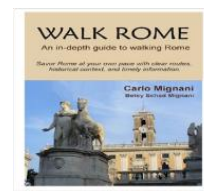
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