



La Bandiera

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



**DICEMBRE 2024
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Merry Christmas and Buon Natale a tutti!

As we gather with family and friends during this most special time of the year, let's all remember all those less fortunate. This is the time of giving and there are so many great charities that need help.

It's also a time to reflect on the fun times we've shared this year at IHL. It's been a busy year and 2025 will be even bigger. IHL will be hosting the biennial Virginia State Convention in spring. Details are being finalized and will be disseminated shortly.

Our Christmas party is coming up on the 7th. Always festive and fun filled, we have a night planned with good food and lots of good cheer. Dennis will be making his incredible eggnog, we'll play yankee swap and celebrate all our traditions of past. Please read the flyer further down in the newsletter for more details.

Please come and let's celebrate Christmas together. I look forward to seeing all of you.

***Merry Christmas and blessings to all,
Dawn***

***Dawn Falsinotti
President, IHL***



IL CALENDARIO

5 dicembre	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Zoom
7 dicembre	Festa di Natale **	5:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
12 dicembre	Lunch Bunch *	Noon	Red Lobster, 10325 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax

25 dicembre *Buona Natale*

* RSVP to Dawn Falsinotti (falsinotti@yahoo.com)

** RSVP to Eleanor Lillo (delillo1@verizon.net)

Notice of Nominations and Elections

In accordance with our Bylaws, the IHL Nominating Committee was elected at our meeting on November 9. The Nominating Committee consists of Teresa Scafetta, Chairwoman, Laura Asiello, John Asiello, Frank Bonsiero, and Joe La Marca. This fantastic team will solicit members who may be considering filling open council seats. The process begins in November and carries through February with installation of new officers and trustees in March 2025. Please start thinking about whether you would like to be considered, to use your talents, skills, creativity and contribute in other ways to the success of our lodge. Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding nominations, voting process and the installation ceremony details.

IHL Annual Dues

In early December, each member will be receiving a "Dues Notice" by email from Eleanor Lillo, IHL Financial Secretary.

*We encourage those who will be attending the **Festa di Natale** to bring your payment to this event on December 7th. Otherwise, please read Ellie's instructions when you receive her email for payment amount and remittance.*

House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive

Molto Grazie to all who contributed to our annual food drive to benefit the House of Mercy Food Pantry.

Food was collected at our October and November meetings and all food was delivered before Thanksgiving in time for the holiday. The volunteers at the food pantry were once again most grateful for our contributions.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rosalie Ciccotelli	December 2
Rosalind Michaelangelo	December 5
Betsy Mignani	December 6
Frank Bonsiero	December 8
Peter Ognibene	December 9
Gerry Croce	December 16
Augustine Taormina	December 24



U.S. Postal Service issues Christmas stamp showing Madonna and Child by another Italian painter

Contributed by Joseph Scafetta, Jr.

The United States Postal Service issued its annual Christmas stamp on September 14, 2024, showing a Madonna and Child painting from the workshop of the Italian artist, Giovanni Battista Salvi, known as Sassoferrato. The unveiling ceremony took place in a ceremony inside the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The domestic postal rate marked on the stamp is “forever” which is currently 73 cents. The stamp will be sold in a booklet of 20 for a year at your local post office. The United States Post Office Department issued its first Madonna and Child stamp in 1966.

The original painting hangs in the Indianapolis Museum of Art and is an oil on canvas 18 13/16 inches wide by 25 1/8 inches high. The precise year in which it was painted is unknown. It is also unknown whether Sassoferrato himself or one of the apprentices in his workshop is the actual artist.

Giovanni Battista Salvi was born in the town of Sassoferrato (population: 7,177 in the 2016 Census) in the province of Ancona in the region of Marche on August 25, 1609. His father was the painter, Tarquinio Salvi, who gave him basic training. He then went to work as an apprentice under Domenichino in Bologna. He next returned to his hometown where he opened his own workshop. He died there on August 8, 1685, about two weeks shy of his 76th birthday.



Few public commissions by Sassoferrato exist because he concentrated on producing multiple copies of various styles of devotional images for private patrons. There are over 300 works by him in public collections throughout the world. Almost all his surviving drawings are held in the British Royal Collection at Windsor Castle.



Buon Natale e Felice Anno



*The IHL Festa di Natale will be held on Saturday, December 7th
at 5:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall
(behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church)
3700 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax.*

*Join in the Christmas season festivities with good food and fun as
we celebrate with our IHL brothers and sisters, their families,
and guests. The evening's menu will include appetizers, chicken
entree from Mamma Lucia's, Manicotti, seasonal roasted
vegetables, salad and dessert.*

\$20.00 - IHL Members ~ \$25 - Non-members

*"Santa Swap"
Bring a \$15
wrapped
gift to swap*

*Christmas
Raffles!*



*Christmas
Cheer!*

*Homemade
Eggnog*

*Bring an unwrapped gift to put under our
Christmas tree for those children who will be
spending Christmas in the hospital. All
donations will be taken to the Hospital For Sick
Children in Washington, D.C. before Christmas
Eve. Please make your unwrapped gift at least
a \$10 item.*

*RSVP by December 2nd to Eleanor at
delillo1@verizon.net*





*James Gearing presents
"Traditional Italian Winemaking"
Saturday, November 9th*



*Photos submitted by
Ellie Lillo*



Italian Immigrants Sparked NYC's Rockefeller Center Tree Tradition

Even the biggest traditions can grow from the simplest acts of gratitude.



In 1931, with the Great Depression casting a long shadow over the country, a crew of Italian immigrants began excavating the foundation for what would become Rockefeller Center. Grateful to have work when so many were struggling, they decided to bring some holiday cheer to the grinding and risky work site in Midtown Manhattan.

By Christmas Eve, they had pooled their money, purchased a modest 20-foot balsam fir and decorated it with whatever they could find: cranberries, paper garlands, tin cans, even foil wrappers from blasting caps. That simple tree marked the humble beginnings of what we now know as the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree tradition.

By 1933, the tradition had grown significantly. That year, Rockefeller Center raised its first official Christmas tree — a 50-foot fir wrapped in 700 lights.

Today, the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree stands as a towering symbol of the holiday season.

Adorned with 50,000 LED lights and topped with a dazzling Swarovski star comprised of 3 million crystals, the Norway Spruce will come to life on December 4, 2024, marking the official start of the Christmas season.

The tradition's lasting significance lies in its origins: a simple act of gratitude and hope during one of the nation's darkest times.

What began as a small gesture by hardworking immigrants has become a cherished part of the holiday season, reminding us of the resilience, community and spirit that continue to define this celebration.

Article credit by Italian Sons & Daughters of America, Sunday Supper; Photo credit by AP

Sonny's Funnies



**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2024-2025 OFFICERS**

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Mistress of Ceremony: Sandy Schender

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Membership Chair: Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs
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Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee
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Lodge State Deputy: Mary Louise Smith

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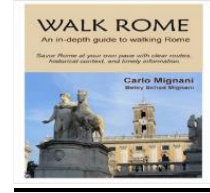
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search "Walk Rome Mignani." www.walk-rome.com



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