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IN AMERICA

La Bandiera

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

FEBBRAIO 2025
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA

Cara amici,

I was disappointed we had to cancel our New Year's Brunch due to the snow. And it really didn't show. February, we have two events scheduled. Our Love Dance, "Una notte d'amore", and our Veteran's Luncheon. The Love Dance will be our nod to Valentine's Day, with a night of music and great food. Dance if you want but we'll be playing the best music from the past 50 years. The Veteran's Lunch will be a fun-filled lunch honoring the veteran's. Everyone is invited.

On another note, I am also a member of the Moose Lodge of Fairfax, Women of the Moose. Last Sunday, they held a Chili Cook-off in honor of the playoffs and yours truly entered. I was up against seven opponents. I won 1st place! I was proud to represent IHL.

*This is a busy month between Valentine's and President's Day.
I hope to see you at one or both of our events.*

*Much love,
Dawn*



IL CALENDARIO

12 febbraio	Executive Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Kilroy's
13 febbraio	Lunch Bunch*	Noon	Anita's 10880 Fairfax Blvd.
14 febbraio	<i>Saint Valentine's Day</i>		
15 febbraio	<i>Una notte d'amore **</i>	5:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
17 febbraio	<i>President's Day</i>		
22 febbraio	Cena e conversazione ***	TBD	TBD
23 febbraio	Veterans' Luncheon**	12 – 3:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
15 marzo	Installation of Officers** Ceremony and Dinner	TBD	Knights of Columbus Hall
25-26 aprile	Grand Lodge of Virginia 39 th Biennial Convention	All day All day	Fairfax, VA

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

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

*** RSVP to Dennis Ferrara (dennisferrara@hey.com)

Unfortunately, our first of the year meeting was canceled due to the weather, but IHL has many other events planned for the coming months, including two in February. President Dawn will provide updates on the Grand Lodge of Virginia 39th Biennial Convention which IHL is hosting here in Fairfax, our progress in revamping our IHL website, and the continuing process of our nominations for officers and trustees for the 2025-2026 term, who will be installed on March 15th.

We hope to have many of our members join us for our February celebration of St. Valentine's Day, "**Una Notte d'amore**" on **Saturday, February 15th at 5:00 p.m.** at the Knights Hall. The evening includes heavy appetizers, delicious desserts, refreshments, music, dancing, and a general fun time socializing with our members. The cost for members and guests is \$15 per person. Please RSVP to our Financial Secretary, Eleanor Lillo, at delillo1@verizon.net

Serving Those Who Served

Chef Nick - "The Colonel"
The Colonel's Kitchen



On Sunday, February 23rd our friend, Chef Nick – The Colonel – will prepare our Italian *pranzo* with the assistance of our IHL Veterans to serve to our members. If you are one of our veterans and would like to cook with Chef Nick, please contact our Master of Ceremonies, Roy Schender, (rschender@msn.com) to sign up for this fun and worthy event. You will have the pleasure of working in the kitchen with this very fine chef. See more information in the flyer in this newsletter. Sunday, February 23rd at 12:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, behind St. Leo Church, Fairfax.

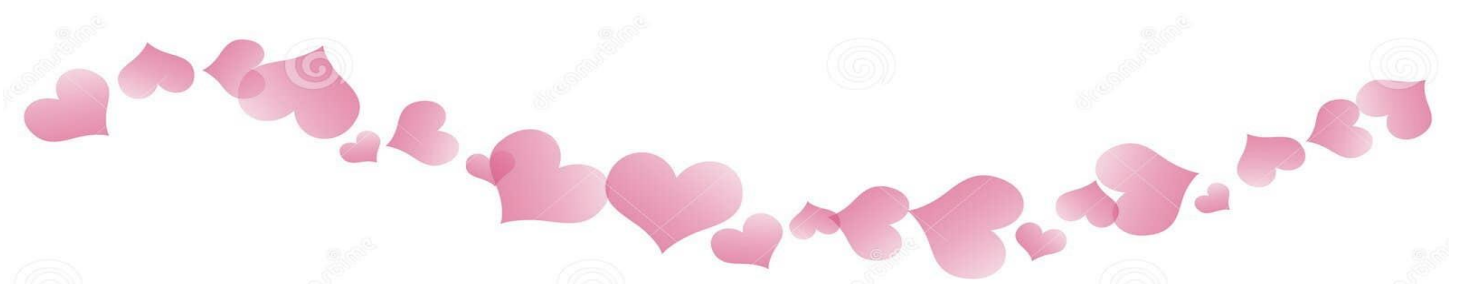


*On Saturday, February 15, 2025,
Italian Heritage Lodge will gather for a
night of love ~ ~
love of fellowship, food, fun
and music and dancing!*

*Come join us on Saturday, February 15 at
5:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall,
behind St. Leo the Great Church.*

*IHL will provide heavy appetizers, delicious
desserts, and refreshments.
Cost to members and guests is \$15.00*

*Please RSVP to Ellie Lillo at
delillo1@verizon.net*



Hello Fellow IHL Veterans and Members,

IHL #2517 is hosting a Veterans Luncheon on Sunday, February 23 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Knight of Columbus Hall (3702 Blenheim Blvd.) behind St. Leo the Great Church. Chef Nick, from The Colonel's Kitchen, and his culinary staff will be assisting us in preparing a delicious Italian meal to serve to our guests. Veteran's spouses are also invited and encouraged to attend. The Colonels Kitchen is a Non-Profit Organization that does a lot of great work for veterans and first responders.

We would like to know if you would be interested in participating in this great event.

Let us know your initial interest by Monday February 10, so we can gauge the headcount and food preparation requirements. Please also let us know if you know of other veterans that you may want to invite as guests of IHL. All IHL members are invited.

For more information about this event, contact Dawn Falsinotti at Falsinotti@yahoo.com.

*TO RSVP by February 10 to attend, please contact Ellie Lillo at delillo1@verizon.net
The meal cost is \$15.*

If you are a Veteran and would like to assist Chef Nick, please contact Roy Schender at rschender@msn.com by February 10



Serving Those Who Served



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Gering	February 2
Steven Kramer	February 9
Roy Schender	February 12
Theresa Scola	February 28

Notice of Nominations and Elections

In accordance with our Bylaws, an IHL Nominating Committee was elected at our meeting on November 9. We thank the members of the Nominating Committee for all their efforts: Teresa Talierco, Chairperson, John Asiello, Laura Asiello, Joseph La Marca and Frank Bonsiero. The process began in November and will carry through February with installation of new officers and trustees in March 2025. Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding nominations, voting process and the installation ceremony details.

The nominees for the 2025-2026 term, starting in March, are the following:

***President: Dawn Falsinotti
Vice President: Michael Gering
Immediate Past President: Colette Sciscilo
Orator: Joseph Scafetta Jr.
Recording Secretary: Marianne Hallahan
Financial Secretary: Steven Kramer
Treasurer: John Dovel
Five Trustees:
Vivian Mott
Eleanor Lillo
Maria Carolla
Donna Stoll
Ray Stoll
Master of Ceremonies: Roy Schender
Mistress of Ceremonies: Sandra Schender
Guard: Dennis Lillo***

According to the IHL bylaws, anyone who has been a member for at least six months may be nominated to oppose any of the above-named nominees at the January meeting, except in the case of the president, where the opposing member must have served at least one year on the executive council to be qualified as a presidential nominee.

IHL Annual Dues

In early December, each member received a “Dues Notice” by email from Eleanor Lillo, IHL Financial Secretary. Grazie mille to all our members who responded with their dues payment so promptly!

*Please read Ellie’s instructions in her email for payment amount and remittance.
Ellie’s contact information is: delillo1@verizon.net*

IHL La Bandiera Advertisement Page

The 2025 New Year brings the renewal of our La Bandiera Ad page (the last page of each month’s newsletter). There are currently two ad spaces available. The yearly ad price is \$25/members and \$35/non-members and your ad will run twelve times per year (once a month).

If you would like to renew or place a new ad in La Bandiera, please contact Joe La Marca (joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org) who will assist you with preparing your ad. Please send your ad fee to Ellie Lillo (contact her at delillo1@verizon.net).

“Cena e Conversazione” Saturday, January 25, 2025

Ciao Ragazzi,

Thanks to everyone who participated in January's pranzo at Alta Strada. I believe the daytime hour and restaurant venue worked out well. The atmosphere was welcoming, the food and service good and I heard a fair amount of Italian conversation from all sections of the table. But, the main data point from which I conclude success was the almost three hours we spent al tavolo. Check out the attached photo. – Dennis Ferrara



*If you have any questions about
the “Cena e Conversazione”
monthly gathering, please contact
Dennis Ferrara at
dennisferrara@hey.com*

A Notice to Our Members Regarding IHL Nominations and Elections and Delegates to the Grand Lodge of Virginia 39th Biennial Convention

Since there was no membership meeting in January due to inclement weather, nominations may be made from the floor for any one of the 15 positions on the Executive Council during the next regular meeting on Saturday, February 15. After nominations are closed, the election will be held immediately thereafter. Installation of the 15 elected officers will take place at the following regular meeting on Saturday, March 15.

Also, according to the IHL Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6a states: "In February of each odd-numbered year, the Lodge shall nominate delegates and alternates to represent the Lodge at the biennial Grand Convention, held on the fourth weekend of April.... Further nominations and election of delegates and alternates shall be held at the next regular meeting" in March. Anyone who has been an IHL member for at least six (6) months is eligible to be elected a state delegate, according to Article VI, Section 2.

The IHL is entitled to eight (8) state delegates because it has approximately 80 members. Anyone interested in being elected a state delegate should advise the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Teresa Talierco, by either telephone at (703) 300-4434 or by email at teresatalierco@gmail.com. She shall make the nominations from the floor at the next regular meeting on Saturday, February 15. The election of the eight (8) state delegates will take place at the following regular meeting on Saturday, March 15.

Please note that the IHL will be hosting the Grand Convention which will be held on Friday, April 25, in the Knights of Columbus Hall behind St. Leo's Church, 3700 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax, and on Saturday, April 26, in the American Legion Post No. 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. Since the IHL will be hosting the Grand Convention, our state delegates will not incur any travel or hotel expenses. However, there will be a registration fee of \$150 for each state delegate, half of which will be returned to you after you attend both sessions of the Grand Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Scafetta Jr.
IHL Orator



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La Festa Degli Innamorati

Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, with people showing their love in many ways – typically with gifts of candy, flowers, cards, and romantic dinners. Italy has a special connection to the holiday because its origins began during the Roman Empire, and Feb. 14 is the feast day of San Valentino – Saint Valentine.

There are several theories about who was actually the holiday's namesake. Several Christian martyrs who died for love's sake were named Valentine, but the patron saint is generally acknowledged to be a bishop from Terni, a small town in Umbria. Valentino defied the emperor's orders by secretly marrying couples, either because of their Christianity or to spare the husbands from war. For these "infractions," Valentino was martyred on Feb. 14 in the year 269.

In the fifth century, the Pope created a feast day for San Valentino, in an effort to stop the raucous Roman fertility festival of Lupercalia, when young couples participated in sexual game-playing from Feb. 13 to 15. St. Valentine's fame grew over the years as poets including Chaucer and Shakespeare wrote about this day of love. In the United States, Hallmark transformed the feast day into a full-fledged commercial holiday. And in Italy, La Festa Degli Innamorati is celebrated with some special traditions:

Baci – the Italian word for kisses – are popular Italian chocolates with a hazelnut filling, crowned with a whole hazelnut. The iconic blue foil wrapper also covers a tiny love note with a romantic quote. To celebrate its 100th year, Baci Perugina partnered with Dolce & Gabbana to create a special collection "Love and Passion" Baci. The Valentine's confection is a soft gianduia heart topped with a hazelnut and enriched with raspberry flavored crystals.

Locks of Love – A recent romantic trend is Lucchetti dell'Amore. Italian sweethearts profess true love for each other by locking a padlock in a public place – especially famous bridges in Rome, Florence and Venice – and then throwing the key away, typically into the water under the bridge.

The tradition continues all year and seems charming, but Italian authorities keep trying to stop it. The padlocks obstruct the historical beauty of old bridges, and the added weight of hundreds of abandoned locks threatens the structures' integrity. It has been a losing battle, and authorities periodically cut off the romantic locks.

Visits to Verona – In Verona, Italy – known as the city of Romeo and Juliet – a giant red heart is painted in the middle of historic Piazza dei Signori.

Illuminated heart-shape lanterns are also hung around the center of the city. There are free concerts, a contest for the most beautiful letter written to Juliet, and many local hotels and restaurants offer specials to attract couples to visit Verona for the weekend.

The Bishop of Terni – Many Italians believe that San Valentino was the Bishop of Terni, a town in the Lazio region. The beautiful Basilica di San Valentino has the tomb of Saint Valentine under the main altar. Each year on the Sunday before Feb. 14, engaged couples attend a special mass and exchange vows in front of the altar.

The Basilica di San Valentino also has a stained glass window showing San Valentino blessing the Christian Serapia and the Roman centurion Sabino, performing an illegal Christian-Pagan marriage.

In another local legend, the bishop grew roses in his garden and gave them to young people in his congregation. When one couple fell in love, others began to visit the bishop for flowers and his blessings, securing his reputation as a patron of lovers.

Orange is the new red? One Italian community celebrates La Festa Degli Innamorati in an unusual way – by blessing large amounts of oranges. San Valentino, the patron saint of Vico del Gargano in the Umbria region, protects local orange groves from the winter cold.

Vico del Gargano residents start Valentine's Day with a solemn mass, then parade through the village streets carrying a wooden statue of San Valentino decorated with citrus and laurel. Plants and fruits of oranges and lemons are blessed, and people eat the blessed oranges and drink orange juice to ensure joy and happiness.

The village is also famous for its Vicolo del bacio, a very narrow alley in the center of the historic district. Traditionally, lovers meet in the alley to exchange promises of love.

According to legend, kissing a loved one in Vicolo del bacio ensures their loyalty for life.

This article is written by Joyce Venezia Suss, a career journalist who is now Director of Special Projects for The Italian Cultural Foundation at Casa Belvedere, NYC, NY.

Three Italian Women Nominated for 2025 Best Supporting Actress Oscar

Submitted by Joseph Scafetta Jr.

Three Italian women were nominated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for the 2025 Best Supporting Actress Oscar which will be awarded on Sunday, March 2, in Los Angeles. The award ceremony will be televised by ABC starting at 7 p.m.

Monica Barbaro played the folk singer Joan Baez in *A Complete Unknown* about the early career of Bob Dylan. Ariana Grande had the role as a good witch in the land of Oz in *Wicked*, and Isabella Rossellini was an Italian nun in the Vatican during the election of a new pope in *Conclave*. All three films were nominated for Best Picture.

The three are competing against Felicity Jones who co-starred in *The Brutalist* and Zoe Saldña who co-starred in *Emilia Pérez*. These two films were likewise nominated for Best Picture. Zoe Saldña won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress. So, unfortunately, only one of the Italian women can win against tough competition.

Sonny's Funnies

FRANK AND ERNEST

TOM THAVES



ORANGE

HILARY PRICE



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

JIM TOOMEY



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	jim@jwcoccopallc.com	Vivian Mott
<u>Imm. Past-President:</u>	Coletta Sciscilo	Nancy Perrelli
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 <u>Membership Chair:</u>	Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs	
	sharon@tlc-nv.com	
 <u>Webmaster:</u>		
 <u>Publicity Chair:</u>	Joseph Scafetta, Jr.	
	joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com	

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Joseph Scafetta, Jr., Former State President
Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee
Marianne Hallahan, Arbitration Committee
Lodge State Deputy: Mary Louise Smith

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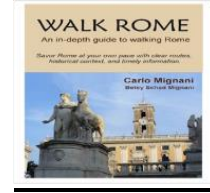
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search "Walk Rome Mignani." www.walk-rome.com



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