



ORDER
Sons and
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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 2025
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA**

Cari amici,

Happy March amici! Spring is right around the corner with Mother Nature teasing us with some warmer days. I'm ready to move forward.

First, I want to thank Chef Nick and his team, Chef O and Chef Jeff, for our veterans outreach cooking class held last week. It was educational, fun and delicious; just look at the pictures.

Our next event is March 15th, Installation of Officers. Please come and support the new officers for 2025-2026. Dinner will be an early spring menu. Join us for the ceremony and fellowship.

Many of us are busy planning the upcoming State Convention hosted this year by our lodge. There will be more information forthcoming and many opportunities to help ensure its success. A schedule of activities will be disseminated shortly.

Don't forget St. Patrick's Day for those of us who are Irish. Slainte!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Installation on the 15th.

***Best,
Dawn***

IL CALENDARIO

12 marzo	Executive Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Kilroy's
15 marzo	Installation of Officers** Ceremony and Dinner	5:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Hall
17 marzo	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>		
19 marzo	<i>Festa di San Giuseppe</i>		
19 marzo	Lunch Bunch*	Noon	Olive Garden 12980 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax
22 marzo	Cena e Conversazione***	TBD	TBD
23 marzo	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	11:00 a.m.	Giuseppe Verdi Lodge
20 aprile	<i>Easter Sunday</i>		
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)



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Carol Goldstone	March 5
Gilbar Misantoni	March 7
Sharon Strauchs	March 14
Kevin Donaleski	March 25



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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
Dinner & Ceremony



Saturday, March 15, 2025
Knights of Columbus Hall
Behind St. Leo's Catholic Church
3700 Blenheim Boulevard
Fairfax, Virginia

5:00 PM – Arrival and Social Begins
6:00 PM – Installation of Officers Ceremony
7:00 PM – Dinner
7:45 PM – Coffee and Dessert

Event Cost: \$15.00 per person

RSVP by March 10th to:

Eleanor Lillo (703) 354-2454,
delillo1@verizon.net, 5104 Colebrook Place,
Alexandria, VA 22312



Serving Those Who Served

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

Chef Jeff, Chef Nick and Chef O demonstrating to our class of veterans and guests how to prep for our Chicken Marsala pranzo



The set up for our afternoon cooking class was carefully orchestrated by the chefs so as to provide for all of our needs, ingredients, utensils, including food safety.



The cooking class began in the kitchen with instruction and demonstrations by Chef O. We learned preparation, method and the recipe for Chicken Marsala. The cooks then moved into the main hall where stations were set up with all ingredients and cooking utensils.



The McCarthy Family Chefs

*Chefs
Sandy
and
Roy*



Chefs Steven and Alex



Chefs Colette and Dawn

Photographs courtesy of Eleanor Lillo and Nancy Perrelli

Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax #2517 Annual Audit from January 2024 to February 2025

On Sunday, February 23, 2025, the Trustees of the Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax #2517 met at the Knights of Columbus Hall, St. Leo Church, to perform the 2025 annual audit. The Trustees were Donna Stoll, Nancy Perrelli and John Dovel.

Present as well was Eleanor Lillo, the lodge's Financial Secretary. All monies (checks, deposits, financial statements, reimbursement vouchers, etc.) were reviewed for the period from January 2024 to February 2025. The resulting review found that the accounts were accurately reported, and all current balances are correct.

***Ciao,
Eleanor Lillo
IHL Financial Secretary***

Results of Nominations and Elections and Notice of Installation Of New Officers and Trustees

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 was carried through February when the members were elected, with installation of new officers and trustees to be held on March 15, 2025. Members will be kept updated through La Bandiera regarding the installation ceremony details.

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

***President: Dawn Falsinotti
Vice President: Michael Gering
Immediate Past President: Coletta 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***

Here is President Dawn's note of thanks to Chef Nick and his team who recently taught a cooking class to our lodge Veterans.

"All,

Many thanks to new IHL member Chef Nick, The Colonel's Kitchen, for a terrific cooking class on Sunday. Veterans and IHL members came together and cooked a delicious Chicken Marsala lunch. We were also introduced to Chef O and Chef Jeff, who gave us lots of cooking and food safety tips. Many thanks to this team and their generous spirit. Very successful, we hope to do it again in the fall. Kudos to Chef Nick and his team." Dawn

As you can see, Chef Nick is our newest IHL member. Many of our members have already met him over the past few months and now some have worked with him in our kitchen preparing an Italian meal. Benvenuto Chef!

We were all surprised to see John and Laura Asiello at the Veterans Luncheon on Sunday, February 23rd. They both look terrific and are doing well. They both expressed their gratitude for your many prayers, cards and well wishes.

Thoughts and prayers also for Joe La Marca who has undergone knee surgery recently and is also recovering from a back vertebrae fracture. You know he is being well cared for by his loving wife June who is making sure he grows stronger with his series of exercises. Get well wishes, thoughts and prayers for our dear friends Joe and June!

"Cena e Conversazione"
Saturday, March 22, 2025

The next monthly "Cena e Conversazione" is currently scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2025. The time and location are being planned. If you have any questions about the "Cena e Conversazione" monthly gathering, please contact Dennis Ferrara at dennisferrara@hey.com

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.

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

At the lodge's monthly meeting in February, there were no nominations made from the floor for any one of the 15 positions on the Executive Council. After nominations were closed, the election was held immediately thereafter. The installation ceremony 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. The lodge's eight (8) state delegates have been designated. The Nominating Chairperson, Teresa Talierco, shall make the nominations from the floor and 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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Pasta e Piselli

I found this to be the ultimate in a warming, healing, comfort food this winter. It is still delicious as we are moving from late winter into early spring weather. It is just as satisfying when you substitute peas with frozen chopped spinach. When plating for yourself and family and before serving, a few turns of cracked pepper and grated Pecorino Romano on each bowl, then topped with a small sprinkling of fresh parsley is “perfetto” – you won’t be disappointed! ~ C.S.

Ingredienti:

*2 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
2 ounces Pancetta, finely chopped
1 small shallot, finely minced
1 package of frozen petite peas
4 cups chicken broth (or low-sodium store bought)
1 ½ cups ditalini pasta
Grated Pecorino Romano cheese
Salt for pasta water
Pepper
Chopped fresh parsley*

Istruzioni

In your medium pot, heat the olive oil on a medium heat. When olive oil is heated, sauté the pancetta and onion until lightly browned. Add the chicken broth and frozen peas and bring to a simmer (never boil!). In a separate pasta pot, bring the water to a boil, add salt, then the ditalini. Cook the ditalini until al dente, then add the ditalini to the broth with a spider spatula. Keep the soup at a simmer until all is combined and ready to eat. After plating each bowl, add cracked black pepper, grated Pecorino Romano cheese and a sprinkling of fresh chopped parsley to each.

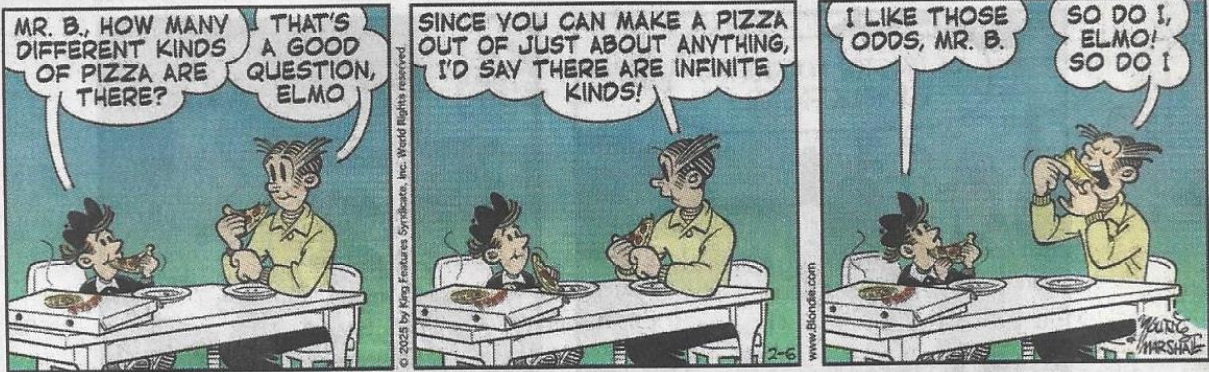
*I miei nipoti Giuseppe e Giovanni Carlo
aiuta la nonna a preparare la pasta e
piselli per il pranzo.*



Sonny's Funnies

BLONDIE

DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



BIG NATE

LINCOLN PEIRCE



GARFIELD

JIM DAVIS



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Imm. Past-President:

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Orator:

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Recording Secy.:

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Financial Secy.:

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Donna Stoll

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Mistress of Ceremony: Sandy Schender

Guard:

Maria Carolla

Education Chair:

Membership Chair: Sharon Peruzzi Strauchs

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Publicity Chair:

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Coletta Sciscilo, Trustee

Marianne Hallahan, Arbitration Committee

Lodge State Deputy: Mary Louise Smith

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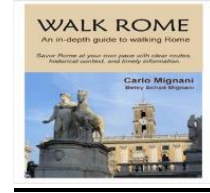
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search "Walk Rome Mignani." www.walk-rome.com



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