



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***

NOVEMBRE 2025
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA

Cari amici,

As we move into the busiest time of the year, please let's not forget those that are struggling with life's challenges. This is the giving time of year for all the blessings that we have. Whether you give to a specific charity or just give of yourself, it is greatly appreciated.

Our participation was limited this year in the NCCA Columbus Day celebration due to the government shutdown. Several of us attended and I did dedicate a wreath. The pageantry is always impressive, and we salute Christopher Columbus.

I'm proud to say we've recently added several new members. Kathy Reiter, Francesco Isgro, Kaitlin Elder, and Mike Welch.

We encourage everyone to get involved with lodge activities. We always need helping hands and encourage you to serve where you wish. Please ask any of us how to get involved.

We're very excited about our November 8th event and guest speaker, Capt. (Ret.) Kathleen Principe Crockett, USAF.

See you all on the 8th.

***Con affetto,
Dawn***



IL CALENDARIO

8 novembre	Salute To Veterans With Guest Speaker Capt. (Ret.) Kathleen Crockett**	5:00 p.m.	Knights Hall
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8 novembre	House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive		Knights Hall
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11 novembre

Veterans Day

27 novembre

Happy Thanksgiving

4 dicembre	GLVA Quarterly Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Zoom
6 dicembre	<i>Festa di Natale**</i>	4:00 p.m.	Knights Hall

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

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

On November 8, we will honor and salute our Veterans and feature our guest speaker, Capt. (Ret.) Kathleen Principe Crockett and a Harvest Dinner. Capt. Crockett will speak about “*The Italians of Washington from 1880 to 1940.*” RSVP to Steve Kramer at steven.kramer52@gmail.com

At our November meeting we will be collecting food for the House of Mercy Food Pantry as we have done for many years now, thanks to your generosity. The food will be delivered in time for Thanksgiving. Look for the notice on Page 6 for what items are acceptable donations.

Our annual *Festa di Natale* will be held on Saturday, December 6th beginning at 4:00 p.m. Again, we will be collecting toys for the Hospital For Sick Children in Washington, DC, so please bring an unwrapped gift with a value of at least \$10.00 to place under the Christmas tree. Gifts will be brought to the hospital in time for Christmas.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Judith Palmiotto	November 6
Emilia Demeo	November 12
Ken Linder	November 18
Robert Scola	November 27



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Eleanor & Dennis Lillo
November 26

Salute to Veterans – Saturday, November 8, 2025
Introducing Capt. (Ret.) Kathleen Principe Crockett
“The Italians of Washington from 1880 to 1940”

Our guest speaker for the Italian Heritage Lodge dinner on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 5 p.m., will be Captain (Ret.) Kathleen Principe Crockett, USAF. She began her master's degree in history at the University of Massachusetts Boston while still on active duty and is writing her thesis on the early Italian community of Washington, D.C., exploring how it developed differently from other East Coast Italian enclaves. So, the title of her Power Point presentation is “The Italians of Washington from 1880 to 1940.”

Kathleen was born in Frederick, MD, to Nan Principe and Dennis Crockett. Her maternal grandfather, Louis Principe, was born in Washington on November 11, 1918, to Italian emigrants from Campania, Cosimo Alberto Luigi Principe and Elizabeth Geltrude Ricci Pollio, who immigrated to Washington around 1898 and 1892, respectively. Inspired by her grandfather's dedication to family history, Kathleen grew up surrounded by stories that shaped her love of history and genealogy.

She graduated from Walkersville High School in MD and then Texas A&M University in 2014 with a degree in history and a minor in military history. A member of the Corps of Cadets and Air Force ROTC, she commissioned in the Air Force, following in the footsteps of both her grandfathers. She served as a Logistics Readiness Officer at Dyess AFB (TX), Eglin AFB (FL), Robins AFB (GA), and in Kuwait. Her work spanned everything from mass movement planning and supply chain management to aircraft fueling operations, vehicle maintenance, and global cargo movement. Her proudest work was leading recovery efforts after Hurricane Michael and the day-in-day-out leadership of airmen ranging in units from three to three hundred.

In 2020, Kathleen was diagnosed with three rare kidney diseases, requiring emergency dialysis and ultimately a kidney transplant. Two years later, she received that gift of life from a fellow Air Force officer. During her recovery, she became a spokesperson for the Air Force Wounded Warrior (AFW2) program, sharing her story to inspire resilience and compassion. She has since returned to service as a civilian Executive Officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection at the Pentagon – her dream job!

Kathleen lives in Silver Spring with her husband, Major Zachary Millander, their two dogs, and two cats. They have no children. In her free time, she remains deeply involved with the Civil Air Patrol, which she has served since 2005, and she loves fitting in as many Broadway shows as her schedule allows.

She is grateful for the opportunity to share her work today and especially excited to connect with the Italian heritage community that shaped her grandfather's childhood in Washington, D.C. For Kathleen, this research is more than an academic project; it is a way to honor the sacrifices and traditions of those who came before us, to celebrate their resilience, and to ensure that their voices remain part of the city's historical narrative.



Let us give a warm welcome to Captain Kathleen Principe Crockett!



Buon Natale e Buon Anno Nuovo



The IHL Festa di Natale will be held on Saturday, December 6th beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall (behind St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3702 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax)

Join in the Christmas season festivities spreading good cheer, 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, Holiday Ham and Turkey, festive foods and desserts.

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



Christmas Cheer!

Christmas Raffles!

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, please 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 Thursday, December 4, to Steve Kramer at steven.kramer52@gmail.com



Jim Cocco has informed us of the "Celebration of Life Memorial" for his beloved wife, Marilyn Miyasato. Marilyn will be remembered, and her life will be celebrated on Saturday, November 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax Station, VA. Her obituary can be viewed at this link:

<https://obituaries.carewellcremations.com/marilyn-miyasato>

May she rest in peace.

Benvenuti !

Please welcome our newest members,

Kathy Reiter, Francesco Isgro, Kaitlin Elder and Mike Welch.

We look forward to seeing you, Kathy, Francesco, Kaitlin and Mike, at many of our upcoming events and enjoy getting to know you all!

Benvenuti nella nostra famiglia italiana.

Congratulazioni!

Steve Kramer, our IHL Financial Secretary, can now add one more title to his association with Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. Steve, who also currently holds the office of State Recording Secretary, Grand Lodge of Virginia, was recently asked to join OSDIA's National Audit and Budget Committee. His duties began on October 1, 2025. Congratulazioni to Steve! We are proud of you and know that you will represent IHL and GLVA superbly as you serve in this new capacity.

Notice of Nominations and Elections

According to our Bylaws, the IHL Nominating Committee will be elected at our meeting on November 8. This Nominating Committee 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 2026. 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 Steven Kramer, IHL Financial Secretary. We encourage those who will be attending the **Festa di Natale** to bring your payment to this event on December 6th. Otherwise, please read Steve’s instructions when you receive his email for payment amount and remittance.*

IHL FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE HOUSE OF MERCY FOOD PANTRY

Grazie a tutti!

Donations of canned, boxed, packaged and plastic jarred foods will be collected at our November 8 meeting - all to be delivered to the food pantry before Thanksgiving. It was a good showing of your generous donations at our October meeting and it was greatly appreciated. As always, IHL is grateful for the opportunity to once again assist our community as a fraternal organization.



Cena e Conversazione!

“Carissimi,

Our small, intimate October cena e conversazione was a big hit. Francesca provided an exquisite selection of antipasti and a delightful account of her trip through Puglia, Calabria and Sicilia, highlighted by meeting cousins in her ancestral village. June L. and Joe provided a wonderful salad with homemade dressing along with a timely discussion of Halloween in Italy and a reading of two autumnal poems celebrating the season. Dennis and June F. tried new recipes and told some family stories that led into a discussion about researching ancestry. We all enjoyed Marianna’s delicious pie and lively presentation on Italian hand gestures and their meanings. Enjoy the photos below, and as promised, also find a link to a page on the familysearch.org website which gives a starting point to a rich archive of Italian demographic records, though many are image-only and require some Italian language ability along with a lot of persistence.” D.F.



Photo courtesy of Dennis Ferrara

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Festa Italiana D.C.



On October 4 & 5, 2025, IHL members manned tables and greeted festival goers at OSDIA's inaugural *Festa Italiana D.C.* The festa was held at the National Harbor, Tanger Outlets, on two very beautiful Fall days. Over the two days, President Dawn Falsinotti, Vice President Mike Gering, Financial Secretary Steve Kramer, Orator Sonny Scafetta, Trustees Donna Stoll, Ray Stoll and Tom Ammazalorso, and Chef Nick staffed our IHL table, handed out brochures with lodge information and conversed with festival attendees about OSDIA and IHL. President Dawn was asked to participate on the *Festa Italiana D.C.* Planning Board for next year, 2026.



*Photos courtesy of Donna Stoll
and Steve Kramer*

*National Christopher Columbus Ceremony
Casa Italiana, Washington, DC
October 13, 2025*



President Dawn Falsinotti presents a wreath on behalf of the Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax at the National Christopher Columbus Ceremony at Casa Italiana, Washington, DC.

*Italian Heritage Month
Saturday, October 18*



John Asiello displayed for us the Flower Bouquet that his mother carried for her wedding 103 years ago. Smaller bouquets were Corsages and Boutonnieres for the wedding Party.



Memories of Francesco Falsinotti



Sonny Scafetta gave a thorough review of his Italian ancestry especially noting his uncle Antonio Scafetta's death on June 12, 1911, when he was killed on a Washington, DC trolley line and of his brother David Paul Scafetta who was murdered on April 12, 2004 by three robbers in Philadelphia.



One of our newest members, Alexander Genovese, provided us with information about the formal military career of his father, Francesco Saverio Genovese.



Great job Marianna Novielli, on the detailed background of your maternal and paternal Italian ancestries.



Photos courtesy of Colette Sciscilo and Ray Stoll

Sonny's Funnies

BLONDIE



BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



**ORDER SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA
ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2025-2026 OFFICERS**

<u>President:</u> 703-362-1724	Dawn Falsinotti falsinotti@yahoo.com	<u>Lodge Trustees:</u> Maria Carolla
<u>Vice-President:</u> 703-678-9361	Michael Gering mdgering@hotmail.com	Eleanor Lillo
<u>Imm. Past-President:</u> 703-795-2231	Coletta Sciscilo colette.sciscilo@gmail.com	Angelo Saladini
<u>Orator:</u> 703-533-8064	Joseph Scafetta Jr. joseph.scafetta.jr@gmail.com	Donna Stoll
<u>Recording Secretary:</u> 703-831-7551	Tommaso Ammazalorso tammazza@gmail.com	Ray Stoll
<u>Financial Secretary:</u> 703-489-9279	Steven Kramer steven.kramer52@gmail.com	
<u>Treasurer:</u> 703-241-7775	John Dovel jhn.dovel@gmail.com	
<u>Master of Ceremonies:</u>	Roy Schender	
<u>Mistress of Ceremonies:</u>	Sandy Schender	
<u>Guard:</u>	Dennis Lillo	
<u>Programs & Activities:</u>		
Chair:	Dawn Falsinotti	
Vice Chair:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.	
<u>Scholarship & Charity:</u>		<u>Publicity Committee:</u>
Chair:	Joseph Scafetta Jr.	Chair: Joseph Scafetta Jr.
Vice Chair:	Ray Stoll	
<u>Membership:</u>		<u>Italian Language Group:</u>
Chair:	Michael Gering	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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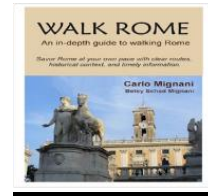
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”
www.walk-rome.com



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