



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*

OTTOBRE 2025
MESSAGGIO DELLA PRESIDENTESSA
ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Happy October amici,

This past Sunday we hosted our annual Pasta Dinner. Everyone enjoyed the pasta dinner and the presentation by Mike DeBonis of "Politico". He gave an insightful view of what is going on in Italy currently, politically with Prime Minister Georgia Meloni and the new Pope Leo.

We welcome two new members Alexander Genovese and Kathy Reiter. Auguri!

This weekend is the Festa Italiana D.C. hosted by OSDIA National Headquarters at National Harbor. We will be manning a booth and hope to get the word out on IHL. There is further information in this newsletter. Please, come and enjoy.

Our October event will be a celebration of Italian Heritage Month, concentrating on Italian family and traditions. Further information to be sent out later.

As we go to press, I learned of two losses in our lodge on October 1st. Marilyn Miyasato, wife of Jim Cocco, passed away after a long struggle with health challenges. Further information will be disseminated as determined. Also, Tom Cassella, father of Carol Cassella, died peacefully. A wonderful husband and father, he will be missed. Please keep Marilyn and Tom in your prayers.

*God bless,
Dawn*



*Sadly, we announce the passing of one of our dear members, Marilyn Miyasato, who was the beloved wife of Jim Cocco. During her long illness, Jim was her greatest supporter and caregiver through these difficult years. Our heartfelt prayers go out to Marilyn and the family during their time of sorrow.
May she rest in peace.*

IL CALENDARIO

OCTOBER - ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

4-5 ottobre	OSDIA Festa Italiana D.C.		Tanger Outlets National Harbor
8 ottobre	Executive Council Meeting*	6:30 p.m.	Kilroy's
13 ottobre	<i>Christopher Columbus National Holiday</i>		
13 ottobre	National Columbus Day Ceremony	11:00 a.m.	Columbus Plaza, Union Station, Washington, DC
18 ottobre	Italian Heritage Month Celebration**	5:00 p.m.	Knights Hall
18 ottobre	House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive		Knights Hall
25 ottobre	Cene e Conversazione***		
8 novembre	Salute To Veterans With Guest Speaker**	5:00 p.m.	Knights Hall
8 novembre	House of Mercy Food Pantry Drive		Knights Hall

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

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

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

Please review this month's edition of *La Bandiera* for upcoming events and other information.

First, OSDIA is hosting Festa Italiana D.C. this weekend at National Harbor. Page 3 details the whole event, kicking off Italian Heritage Month. Our Council members will be manning a table at this event.

IDL's celebration of our Italian Heritage and Christopher Columbus takes place on Saturday, October 18th at the Knights Hall at St. Leo's. All those who would like to share your Italian Heritage stories, please bring photos or other mementos in special remembrance of your family heritage.

In November, we will honor and salute our Veterans. On November 8th we will feature our guest speaker, Capt. (Ret.) Kathleen Principe Crockett and a Harvest Dinner.

At our October and November meetings 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 7 for what are acceptable donations.

Lastly, we are awaiting confirmation on the date for our *Festa di Natale*. Again, we will be collecting toys for the Hospital For Sick Children in Washington, DC.

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America to Host Festa Italiana D.C. at Tanger Outlets, October 4–5



WASHINGTON, DC.—The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® (OSDIA), the nation’s largest and oldest organization for Americans of Italian heritage, is excited to announce Festa Italiana D.C., a two-day celebration of Italian culture, food, and fun. The festival will help kick off Italian Heritage Month celebrations on Saturday, October 4, and Sunday, October 5, 2025, at Tanger Outlets National Harbor.

Festa Italiana D.C. will transform Tanger Outlets into a lively piazza, featuring authentic Italian cuisine, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, family-friendly activities, and artisan vendors. Visitors can enjoy regional specialties from local restaurants, sip Italian wines, browse handmade crafts, and experience the sights and sounds of Italy—all just minutes from downtown Washington.

“This festival will be a vibrant expression of our heritage and a chance to share the warmth and traditions of Italy with the broader community,” said Comm. Thomas A. Lupo, National President of OSDIA. “Whether you have Italian roots or simply love Italian culture, Festa Italiana D.C. offers something for everyone.”

This year’s presenting sponsor is **Galbani Cheese**, Italy’s favorite cheese brand, with **Maggiano’s Little Italy** supporting at the Rosso level. The festival is also media-sponsored by **CiaoDC**, the region’s premier Italian lifestyle platform, and proudly supported by donating sponsors **Venchi**, **Toscana Market** and the **Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society**.

Admission is free and open to the public. Festival hours are **10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4** and **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 5**. Parking is available on-site at Tanger Outlets National Harbor.

For more details, visit FestaItalianaDC.com



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You are invited to the

National Columbus Day Ceremony

Monday, October 13, 2025
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

Salute to Veterans – Saturday, November 8, 2025
Introducing Capt. (Ret.) Kathleen Principe Crockett

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.

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!



Attention IHL Members !!

At our September 28 Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner, two names were drawn from a random drawing to join with President Dawn to attend the National Columbus Day Ceremony at Columbus Plaza on Monday, October 13, 2025, and to also accompany her to the Monocle Restaurant after the ceremony for a complimentary luncheon. Congratulations to our winners, Robert Sherretta and Kathy Reiter.

Cena e Conversazione!

“Carissimi,

A big thank you to June and Joe for hosting our dinner last night. It was superb. Thanks also to Betsy for the seafood risotto, Nannette for the antipasto, Marianna for the caprese salad, June for the berry tiramisu and Dennis for bread and wine. It seemed to me that we were conversing more in Italian than usual. It was a very successful evening as evidenced by the fact that we remained at the table far longer than we typically do.” D.F.



Photos courtesy of Marianna Novielli



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.

Contact Dennis Ferrara at dennisferrara@hey.com for more information.

Keep your eyes open for information on upcoming IHL events for the remainder of the year:

October 18 & November 8 – House of Mercy Food Pantry Donations

October 18 – Italian Heritage Month/Columbus Day Celebration

November 8 – Salute To Veterans

December – Festa di Natale

Important Lodge Announcement

Grazie mille to Tommaso Ammazalorso for stepping into the Executive Council position of Recording Secretary. Tom's unanimous election to this office was held at our September 28 membership meeting.

Thank you, Tom, and to all those serving in the important positions of our lodge Executive Council. Your dedication, time and talents will always be valued and appreciated.



IHL FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE HOUSE OF MERCY FOOD PANTRY

Grazie!

Donations of canned, boxed, packaged and plastic jarred foods will be collected at our October 18 and November 8 meetings - all to be delivered before Thanksgiving.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Laura Asiello	October 6
Paul Alligood	October 13
Dolly Dougherty	October 22
Colette Sciscilo	October 22
William Wiegand	October 22
Joseph Scafetta III	October 28



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Laurie & Nathan Gwaltney	October 1
Carol Ann & Ken Linder	October 4
Susan & Frank Bonsiero	October 6
June & Joe La Marca	October 6
Nannette & Gerry Croce	October 8
Kathleen & Peter Ognibene	October 10
Gloria & Art Moscatello	October 22

Benvenuto !

Please welcome our newest member, Alexander Genovese from Stafford, VA.

Alex joined us on Sunday for our "Meet & Greet" and did not seem to be overwhelmed by the many hands he shook, and introductions made to his new "amici italiani." We look forward to seeing you, Alex, at many of our upcoming events and enjoy getting to know you!

Bisnonna Bakeshop is a small, family-owned and operated Italian artisan **pre-order only** bakery. *Bisnonna*, which translates to great grandmother in Italian, is a celebration of family traditions, nostalgic food memories, and caring for our loved ones through food. Our recipes are passed down from generation to generation and we're proud to always make our bakes from scratch and by hand. We specialize in classic Italian pastries, like our signature cannoli, sfogliatelle, and more!

Bisnonna Bakeshop is located at 10782-D Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax.



Mr. Mike DeBonis
Guest Speaker
Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner
Sunday, September 28, 2025

Mr. Mike DeBonis, Senior Congress Editor of *Politico*, received a warm welcome indeed at our annual IHL Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner, held this past Sunday evening.

Mike was our guest speaker who conveyed interesting, informative, and valuable information for his talk before the sizeable audience who were in attendance, including members, new members, and guests. He brought his expertise in local, national, and international politics, as a reporter and editor in several roles over his career.

Mike's topic for our *Meet & Greet Pasta Dinner* was the current political situations in Italy under the leadership of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and under Pope Leo, XIV, the shepherd of the Universal Church in Vatican City, and he did not disappoint with his detailed information on this vital subject, no doubt concerning to all listeners. Mike's talk kept the attention of those in attendance; he answered questions and stayed on to join IHL for a delicious Italian dinner to further converse with us.

Grazie mille to Mike for accepting the invitation to be a special part of our event.



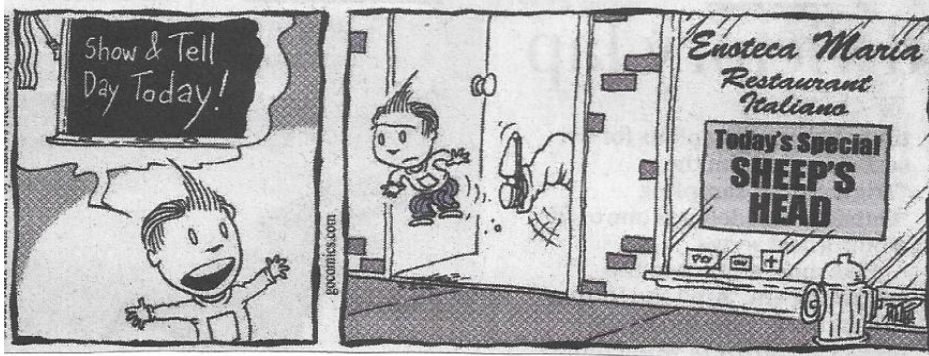
Sonny's Funnies



CLASSIC PEANUTS



MARK TATULLI



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



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ITALIAN HERITAGE LODGE #2517
2025-2026 OFFICERS**

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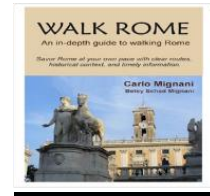
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CARLO AND BETSY MIGNANI have written a valuable guide to assist tourists who want to explore the Eternal City on their own with historical context and timely information. Available on Amazon, search “Walk Rome Mignani.”
www.walk-rome.com



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