



### Northern Solano Lodge #2534

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### MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE RORY NICHOLS

Fall has always held a special place in Italian culture. In Italy, autumn is a season of harvest, family gatherings, and appreciation for the fruits of the year's hard work. Vineyards and olive groves provide important symbols of this season, while communities come together for festivals celebrating food, wine, music, and local traditions.

For generations, Italian families have gathered around the table in the fall to share meals made from the harvest and to pass traditions from one generation to the next. Food has always been about more than simply eating—it has been a way of preserving family history, bringing people together, and maintaining a connection to one's roots.

That same spirit is at the heart of Northern Solano Lodge. Whether we are sharing a meal at a Lodge meeting, enjoying a picnic, participating in a community-service project, or simply gathering together to visit with one another, we are continuing a tradition that has been passed down through generations of Italian families.

With that spirit in mind, I want to thank everyone who attended our annual Lodge picnic. It was great to see so many members, families, and friends enjoying good food, conversation, and fellowship.

A special thank you to everyone who helped put the picnic together. From planning and preparing the food to setting up, serving, organizing activities, cleaning up, and taking care of all the details behind the scenes, your time and effort made the event a success. These activities don't happen without members willing to step forward and help, and we truly appreciate everything you do.

It was also especially encouraging to see some new faces and potential new members at the picnic. I hope everyone who joined us for the first time had a great time and learned a little more about what Northern Solano Lodge has to offer. We hope to see you again at an upcoming meeting or activity—and perhaps welcome you as a new member of our Lodge family.

As we look toward the coming year, I also want to remind everyone that nominations for Lodge officers are now open. Our election will take place in November, with the installation of our newly elected officers scheduled for January.

Leadership is an important part of keeping our Lodge strong and moving forward. Northern Solano Lodge has a proud history, but our future depends on members who are willing to become involved and help shape the direction of the Lodge.

If you have ever thought about becoming more involved, now is a great time to consider joining the Lodge Board. You don't have to have all the answers or years of experience. What matters most is having an interest in helping our Lodge succeed and a willingness to contribute your ideas, time, and talents.

See page 2 for continuation

## Board's Message continued

Serving as a Lodge officer can be a rewarding experience. It gives you an opportunity to help plan activities, support our scholarship and community-service efforts, promote our Italian heritage, welcome new members, and help determine what Northern Solano Lodge will look like in the years ahead.

Our Lodge belongs to all of us, and its future will be shaped by those who are willing to participate. If you are interested in a leadership position—or simply want to learn more about what is involved—please speak with one of our current officers or members of the Lodge Board. We would love to have you become more involved.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make our picnic such a success, and thank you to all of our members for everything you do to make Northern Solano Lodge a vibrant part of our community.

Buon autunno, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Lodge activities!

Rory Nichols, Trustee

### TABLE DECORATIONS FOR LODGE MEETINGS

The decoration team for the month of September is Juanita Stopponi and Nancy Page.



### SUNSHINE

Please remember to contact Joy Bruno if you know of any member that might need to be sent a card. Call Joy Bruno at 707-422-3391 and leave a message or email her at [joy.b@comcast.net](mailto:joy.b@comcast.net).

### RAFFLE PRIZES FOR COLUMBUS DAY FUNDRAISER

Please contact Laretta Graham at 707-365-1818 with any donations for the raffle or silent auction. Now is the time to gather the gifts so Laretta has time to complete the beautiful baskets for the raffle. Gift cards from your favorite restaurant or store are always a good donation.



### WEAR YOUR BADGES

Badge checks will be in force at the meetings. There will be a \$1 fine for not wearing your badge. The fine will be used to help with the dinner expenses. Contact Don Cradduck to make you a new badge if yours is missing.

## Buon Compleanno di Settembre

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Hannelore Baffico | 1st  |
| Dolores Brown     | 1st  |
| Nick Lembesis     | 1st  |
| Sharon Rico       | 1st  |
| Jeanne Craddock   | 6th  |
| Roy Pimentel      | 9th  |
| Bill Colombano    | 12th |
| Joan Miller       | 14th |



|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Fiona Spratt     | 15th' |
| Paulette DuClair | 17th  |
| Frank Lopez      | 17th  |
| Taylor Falati    | 17th  |
| Joy Bruno        | 23rd  |
| Loren Bruno      | 23rd  |
| Carol Ristan     | 27th  |
| Gloria Terry     | 29th  |

## Buon Anniversario

Happy Anniversary to all members who are celebrating this month. Please let Mark know about your special occasion so we can share with your Lodge Brothers and Sisters.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**OCTOBER 24—COLUMBUS DINNER FUNDRAISER**

## Attività di Settembre

- Sept 3rd Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the ARC Conference Room.
- Sept 11th Card night will be at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center from 4 PM to 8 PM. For more information please contact Jerry Firpo at 707-678-2455 or email him at [jfirpo@jps.net](mailto:jfirpo@jps.net). Everyone brings food to share before we play cards. If you like to play cards, please join us for a fun evening with food, drink, and good fun
- Sept 14th Please RSVP for the monthly meeting so our kitchen crew will know how much food to prepare. Please RSVP by calling 707-365--1818 or emailing Laurretta Graham at [lgraham457@aol.com](mailto:lgraham457@aol.com)
- Sept 17th Our regular lodge meeting will be held at the Adult Recreation Center starting at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. followed by a short business meeting. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize. The proceeds from the raffle offset the cost of the meal.
- Sept 21st The Book Club will meet at Linda Feins' home at 1 p.m. The book this month is "Becoming Madam Secretary" by Stephanie Dray. New members are welcome. For more information please call Brenda at 707-422-9777.
- Sept 22th Food Bank. For more information please contact Saskia Lembesis at 707-631-1829.
- Sept 29th Out to Lunch Bunch will be at Dynasty in Fairfield at 12:30 p.m.. Please contact Helen Barker for more information at 707-428-6093,

## Final Report on School Supply Drive for Fairview Elementary

On August 13th, Jerry Firpo, Laure DeVincenzi and Charlene Ping delivered school supplies and items for the school store to Fairview Elementary. Laure took photos that were posted on the Sons and Daughters of Italy's Facebook page. We had the opportunity to see the student store and visit a couple of classrooms. Everything was running like clockwork and we were impressed by the staff and students. I received some late donations they were delivered the following week.



Thanks for your amazing support! We had \$1,803 to spend and you can see from the photo above that it bought a lot of items for the school. In addition, donated supplies valued at approximately \$698 were collected. The total value of our 2026 school supply drive was \$2,501. I'm sure there will be a lot of smiling faces when students see all the great things they can purchase at the "store" with the "money" they earn from working hard at school. Great job everyone!



NORTHERN SOLANO LODGE #2534

# COLUMBUS DAY *Dinner* FUNDRAISER

*Honoring Our Heritage • Strengthening Our Community*



**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 24, 2026**



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**DINNER  
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**FOR TICKETS  
CONTACT**

Lauretta Graham ✉ [lgraham457@aol.com](mailto:lgraham457@aol.com) ☎ 707 365-1818  
or Carol Urban ✉ [curban44@aol.com](mailto:curban44@aol.com) ☎ 707-334-0611



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*Proud of Our Past, Committed to Our Future!*



## SEPTEMBER TRIVIA



1. The name September comes from the Latin word "septem." What does "septem" mean?  
A) 5<sup>th</sup>  
B) 7<sup>th</sup>  
C) 9<sup>th</sup>
2. Which holiday honoring the labor movement is celebrated on the first Monday in September in the United States and Canada?  
A) Memorial Day  
B) Labor Day  
C) Veterans Day
3. What significant astronomical event usually occurs around September 22nd or 23rd, marking the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere?  
A) Summer Solstice  
B) Winer Solstice  
C) Autumnal Equinox
4. Which world-famous German Festival, renowned for its tents, beer, and carnival rides, traditionally begins in mid-September in Munich?  
A) Cologne Carnival  
B) Berlin Festival of Lights  
C) Oktoberfest
5. Held in mid-to-late September, which Italian city welcomes the global elite, models, and designers to showcase the women's spring/summer fashion collections?  
A) Milan  
B) Genoa  
C) Rome
6. Formula 1 racing fans descend upon the historic Autodromo Nazionale Monza outside of Milan every September for one of the fastest and loudest races of the season – what is the name of the race?  
A) The Italian Grand Prix  
B) NASCAR  
D) Go-Go Putt-Putt
7. September marks the start of peak "leaf peeping" season. Which US region is world-famous for its vibrant autumn foliage during this time?  
A) The Pacific Northwest  
B) New England  
C) The Desert Southwest



## Italy's Grape Harvest (La Vendemmia)

September is the peak month for Italy's grape harvest, known as *La Vendemmia*, alongside seasonal crops like porcini mushrooms, figs, and pomegranates.

The grape harvest, or "vendemmia," is a central event for every Italian winery, when the fruits of a year's work are finally gathered. September is the month when grapes reach full ripeness, and the harvest begins, followed by the fermentation process that will turn the clusters into wine. The tradition of the vendemmia is an ancient rite passed down through generations, remaining a fundamental part of Italian culture.

The rolling hills of Tuscany, the lands of Piedmont, the vineyards of Sicily, and Puglia all come to life during the harvest, attracting not only workers but also numerous tourists eager to experience this unique moment. Many wineries offer the chance to participate in the harvest, involving visitors in grape-picking activities—a practice that offers an authentic glimpse into the world of wine production.



### Answers to September Trivia

1. B) September was originally the 7th month in the ancient Roman calendar, which began in March.
2. B) Labor Day is celebrated on the 1st Monday of September in the US and Canada.
3. C) The autumnal equinox marks the astronomical start of fall, when day and night are of roughly equal length.
4. C) Although it ends in October, Oktoberfest traditionally begins in the third week of September.
5. A) Milan
6. A) The Italian Grand Prix
7. B) New England



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