

Volume 8

Issue 2

Fall 2025

*A note from the
Editor:*

***Benvenuto
autunno!***

*We are in the last
flings of Summer
when our treasured
memories can be
filed away after
hopefully some
grand and joyful
moments. Our
NoVA transition
into Fall has been
simply delightful.
After the Summer
heat and rain, crisp
morning air greets
us, as expected, but
it is followed by
pleasant afternoons
and evenings.
Sadly, my fig tree is
surrendering its last
bit of fruit – fruit
that was tender,
sweet and
“abbondante” for
which I was very
pleased! Wishing
you all the blessings
of this coming
season as we
approach
Thanksgiving – the
time we express
gratitude for all
things.*

*For future issues,
please submit
articles and pictures
to:*

[colette.sciscilo@
gmail.com](mailto:colette.sciscilo@gmail.com)

il Giornale

Newsletter for the Grand Lodge of Virginia
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America

A note from the Grand Lodge President

Cari amici,

Well, the 59th Biennial Convention of OSDIA is complete and in the books. From the reports I have received thus far, the only information I have is the new slate of officers. I have forwarded that information to all the members of the GLV. A full report on the convention should be forwarded to the membership in the very near future. When received, you will be copied.

One initiative that has been sent out to the State Presidents is the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Annual Fundraiser. The museum was recently adopted as one of the charities that OSDIA will support. After all, it is our museum. The luncheon will be held on Nov. 8, 2025 at Li Greci's Staaten, Staten Island, NY, if anyone cares to attend. More information is available on the museum's website. There are raffle tickets available and I will have some available at the September 21st GLV meeting.

I know we all are mourning the loss of our dear Sister and GLV Council member, Marianne Hallahan. I for one will miss her gentle demeanor and sweet smile. Rest in peace sweet lady.

I hope everyone has/had a good, safe Labor Day and the upcoming holidays are the best ever for you and your families.

Respectfully,

*Aldo Funai
Grand Lodge President*



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A personal note from Aldo, your GLV President:

I hope this letter finds everyone recovering from a great summer and looking forward to the upcoming fall season. Unfortunately, I can't say we, Carol and I, had such a great summer. The last year has been filled with numerous appointments with several specialists. I have, as I may have reported, a problem with low blood platelets. That issue impacted several other issues. My cardiologist discovered a blocked artery, possibly two, my urologist informed me I had an enlarged kidney. Well, nothing could be done due to the possibility of uncontrolled bleeding due to the platelets. Doctors could not determine the cause of the platelet issue. Two bone marrow biopsies later, still undecided. Finally, I was able to switch to a brilliant doctor at VCU Health. She still hasn't pinpointed the cause but has come up with a medication that has solved the problem, at least for now. That cleared the way for my cardio team to perform the necessary procedure to correct the two blockage issues on April 15 of this year. The heart is doing just fine now. Next came the kidney issue. So, this past July 21 my Urologist performed a procedure to correct the blockage causing the kidney to enlarge. I'll spare everyone the details of the next month, but it isn't pretty. Another emergency procedure was performed the next week, and I spent 8 days in the hospital recovering. It didn't work either. As I write this, I am scheduled to meet with another specialist on Sept. 5 to discuss the operation he will perform which he says has a 100% success rate. I'm praying he is right.

As a byproduct of the hospital stay, a lack of PT while I was hospitalized left me unable to walk for a couple of days. I have been taking in-home PT for that condition. I'm recovering slowly, but surely.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the National Convention in Florida. I greatly regret that. I was able to cancel my registration at the last minute and National refunded GLV all charges. Also, my airline ticket fees have been refunded to GLV. So, the GLV did not suffer financially for my not attending.

I am forever grateful for all the GLV members that have reached out to me with well wishes in the form of cards, calls, emails and all kinds of offers for support. It is a privilege to be a part of this familia.

Respectfully,
Aldo

Grand Lodge of Virginia Quarterly Meeting

The Grand Lodge of Virginia will meet for its quarterly meeting on *Sunday, September 21, 2025.*

The meeting will be held at the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315, 7342 Verdi Lane, Mechanicsville, VA.

Council members and lodge presidents are asked to arrive no later than 10:30 a.m.

for the Foundation meeting and meeting of the Lodge Presidents.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia's new website is up and running! The new website address is: www.vaosdia.org



New National Officers and Trustees Installed at OSDIA's 59th Biennial National Convention



OSDIA National Officers being sworn in during the 59th Biennial National Convention.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—On Saturday, new national officers and trustees were formally installed for the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA), the oldest and largest organization representing Italian-American men and women in the U.S.

These new national officers and trustees are comprised of OSDIA leaders from around the country who play important roles in growing and maintaining organizational success at all levels.

The installation ceremony took place in Orlando, Florida, during OSDIA's 59th Biennial National Convention (BNC), the largest and most significant gathering of the organization's leadership from around the country.

The new OSDIA national officers and trustees for the 2025-2027 term are as follows:

OSDIA Officers

National President: Comm. Thomas A. Lupo (NY)
 National 1st Vice President: Kevin A. Caira (MA)
 National 2nd Vice President: Dr. Mark DeNunzio (FL)
 National 3rd Vice President: Brian M. Andzik (OH)
 National 4th Vice President: Frank Gattuso, Esq. (NJ)
 National 5th Vice President: Robert M. Ferrito (NY)
 Immediate Past President: Michael G. Polo (CT)
 National Orator: Anthony J. Perfilio, Esq. (OH)
 National Recording Secretary: Lynn Lawrence-Murphy (CA)
 National Financial Secretary: Biagio J. Isgro, Jr. (NY)
 National Treasurer: Louis R. Santoro (NJ)
 National Historian: Florence Guidara (MA)
 National Chaplain: The Rev. R. Adam Forno (FL)

National Trustees

Arlene Nunziati (CA)
 Joseph Facciolo (DE)
 Gertrude Dorries (FL)
 Anita Lombardi Riley (MD)
 Denise Furnari (MA)
 Diane Santoro (NJ)
 Carolyn Reres (NY)
 Linda Buccini Anderson (NW)
 Jack Giambrone (OH)
 Catena Spiritosanto (PA)

Arbitration Commission

Maria Fassio Pignati (CA)
 Vincent Zaccaria (MD)
 Philip Privitera (MA)
 John Tornatore (CT)
 Gloria Marano (OH)

Alternate Commissioners

Joseph Ilardi (NY)
 Gina Toth Becker (PA)
 Rudy Viscomi (MA)
 Frank Froio (NJ)
 Joseph Dente (FL)

Guests and delegates sit during the opening General Session of the 2025 BNC, August 12, 2025.

Photos courtesy of Robin Haden





Festa Italiana DC: Join Us This Fall for All Things Italian!

October 4-5 | Tanger Outlets, National Harbor, MD

Celebrate all things Italian with us this October! Hosted at the bustling Tanger Outlets in National Harbor, MD, our inaugural Festa Italiana D.C. will draw in thousands from the surrounding Washington, D.C. area for a two-day-long celebration of Italian food and culture.

With a variety of local vendors, including a special cooking demonstration from Galbani Cheese, Festa Italiana D.C. will have something for everyone. General admission is FREE, with special ticketed events to be announced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

(Information provided by OSDIA.)

*The Vatican Canonizes Two New Saints
St. Peter's Square, Vatican City
September 7, 2025*



*Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati
April 6, 1901 – July 4, 1925*



*Saint Carlo Acutis
May 3, 1991 – October 12, 2006*

*Our members celebrating a milestone anniversary and
a "once in a lifetime" vacation!*



GVL President, Mary Louise Smith, and GVL Financial Secretary, Arthur Smith, celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with an Alaskan cruise. Congratulazioni!



IHL Trustee, Ellie Lillo, and IHL Guard, Dennis Lillo, viewed the great expanse of the African Plains in a hot air balloon ride. "It was an experience of a lifetime that we will never forget!"

Local Lodges

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge

August 2025

(Submitted by Virginia Lee Bowe)

Sorrento, Italy! Situated in the coastal region of Southern Italy; famous for their sun-soaked huge lemons where their Limoncello is unlike any other. Sound inviting? It was and we visited there right here at GVL (Giuseppe Verdi Lodge)!

An "Evening in Sorrento, Italy" was held on August 16, 2025. The atmosphere was amorous, the music was heavenly and the food was delizioso! Dancing and laughter filled the walls while the fellowship was meraviglioso! Our lodge was transformed with ambient lights, and the tables were donned with vibrant colors of lemon yellow and sapphire blue.

Music and food were prepared by our own "Freddy C" (Corritonne). Dinner began with an antipasto and was followed with a salad, caponata, lasagna, ziti with chicken, garlic bread and sweet Lemon Quadratinì wafers. Of course, after dinner we all enjoyed our Limoncello!

Our evening was movimentato and we hated to see it end. Who knows, maybe in the next few months we will visit Sicily?



Peninsula Italian American Lodge

August 2025

(Submitted by Beverly Amante)

Peninsula Italian American Lodge #2145 Awards the 2025 Gino A. Canale Memorial Scholarship

Each year, the Scholarship Committee for PIAL #2145 awards the Gino A. Canale Memorial Scholarship to a deserving senior from the Peninsula. This year's committee was made up of Bob Amante, Chairman, and members Bob Amato, Stasi Wipperman and Faye Boninu. We received 11 completed scholarship applications from area high school students. The voting was close but in the end our scholarship was awarded to Abigail Worrell from Smithfield High School.

Abigail lives with both of her parents, Justin and Lisa Worrell, and her older sister Kaitlyn Worrell. She graduated with honors from Smithfield High School with a 4.618 GPA. She was ranked third in a class of over 300 students! Along with her studies at Smithfield High School, she also took Dual Enrollment classes through Paul D. Camp Community College. She was president of the BETA Club, Historian of the National Honor Society, member of both the Spanish Honor Society and Math Honor Society (Mu Alpha Theta) and was also a member in many other clubs. She was on the Varsity Softball team for all four years of high school and was named Second Team All-Region, in her junior and senior years. She volunteered with many organizations such as *Kids In Need* and organized a fundraiser for this organization collecting over 500 school supplies for children across the nation. Abigail plans to attend the University of Virginia and major in Elementary Education. She hopes to one day become an Elementary school teacher.

Abigail and her mother joined 22 members of PIAL for our luncheon outing at Napoli E Ristorante Italiano in Carrollton, VA on Thursday, August 31st where we were able to finally meet her. Bob Amante, Scholarship Chairman, and Bob Mason, PIAL President, presented Abigail with a certificate awarding her the Gino A. Canale Memorial Scholarship.

Below are some pictures from the event celebrating Abigail's distinguished award including pictures of some of our members.



Gino A. Canale Memorial Scholarship 2025 recipient Abigail Worrell accepting the award from Bob Amante, Scholarship Committee Chairman.



Bob, Abigail & her mother Lisa.



Back row – Bob Amante, PIAL President Bob Mason and Scholarship committee member Bob Amato.

Front row – Abigail & her mother Lisa

Members of PIAL 2145 get ready for a great Italian meal at a great Italian Restaurant!



Roma Lodge

May 2025 - August 2025

(Submitted by Marie M. Siebeking)

In May the Lodge did not have a meeting, however, the members of the lodge attended a Memorial Day Wreath laying at the Veteran's memorial in Virginia Beach.



Attendees from left to right are: Tae Jackson, Nick Calabrese, Dono Gambino, Bryiana Bonner, Pres. Marie Siebeking, Kathryn May and John Luizzi

In June at our regular meeting, Marie presented the State Awards for contributions to the Roma Lodge during the past two years. They could not attend the Convention. And also showed off the State Merit Point, 3rd Place award to the members and posted it on our picture wall.



PRESENTATION OF STATE AWARDS TO JOHN LUIZZI AND PETER LANGLAND WHO WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE 2025 STATE CONVENTION



ROMA LODGE PRESIDENT MARIE SIEBEKING SHOWED THE MEMBERS AT THE MEETING THE LODGES 3RD PLACE MERIT POINT AWARD

August was a busy month. For our meeting on August 3rd our member Jim DeAngelo made pizzas for the members. We served pizza, salad and Birthday cake. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the varieties shown.




PEPPERONI THREE (3) CHEESE MARGARITA

AUGUST 3RD MEETING WAS A PIZZA AND SALAD PARTY. THE PIZZA MAKER WAS OUR MEMBER JIM DeANGLIO, HE AND HIS HELPER MADE FROM SCRATCH (17) 14 INCH PIZZA's IN THE VARITIES SHOWN,

Members above are John Gossner, Matt and Michelle Knox, Tae Jackson, Alex (Jim's Helper), Pres. Marie, Peter Langlands, Jim DeAnglio, Ellie Bove, Dono Gambino, Rick Langlands, John Luizzi, Bud Merrit and Paul Siebeking.

The lodge made a food donation to Firehouse #3 which serves the lodge. The group shown made 24 Meatball subs for each of three shifts at the Firehouse on three Wednesdays in a row. Along with the sub sandwiches, we provided a case of water, a large tray of cookies and a box of 50 Lays potato chips. They put everything together at the Lodge in an assembly line and then delivered them.



Shown in the firehouse picture are members: Paul Siebeking, Jim DeAnglio, Flo Alfano, Pres. Marie Siebeking, Tae Jackson, Ellie Bove, Gegi Bonner and Briyana Bonner, and the firemen and women who were on this shift. The other pictures are from the kitchen when we were making the sandwiches.



Roma Lodge ladies group started in August making Christmas decoration Pinecones. We intend to make around 100 to be donated to a nursing home in Virginia Beach. We have done this in the past with origami flowers. The group consists of volunteers who can make the get together to participate and have lunch and talk. It is a fun time.

Italian Heritage Lodge

May 2025 – August 2025

(Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo)

Italian Heritage Lodge has had a busy Spring and Summer. We continue to work on bringing new members into our lodge by word of mouth as well as local advertising. Our Executive Council members, led by President Dawn, are succeeding in bringing interesting and fun activities to our monthly meetings that our members enjoy. IHL Orator and Publicity Chairman, Sonny Scafetta, seeks out and invites guest speakers with a wealth of knowledge in the Italian culture realm. “Cene e conversazione” thrives under the organizational skills of Dennis Ferrara, handed down from Joe La Marca and before him, Carlo Mignani, who encourages the love of the Italian language to all, with high expectations for the “cena” part of the monthly group gatherings as well. Chef Nick has become a member, and we all have come to enjoy his expert training and meals. Truly, we are grateful for all the contributions by our council and members!

This summer we mourned the loss of two long time members, Marianne Hallahan and Fred Michaelangelo. However, our former Trustee, Vivian Mott, welcomed a beautiful, healthy baby girl! God blesses us in so many ways. Here are just some of our highlights these past few months, and also mentioning here our July 4th Brunch, Italian Bingo Night and Afternoon Movie & luncheon featuring “Nonnas”.

**May, 2025 - Dr. Steven Livengood’s Presentation on
“Constantino Brumidi & His Frescoes Inside the U.S. Capitol”**

Our guest speaker, Dr. Livengood, made a Power Point presentation about frescoes painted inside the Capitol building by Constantino Brumidi who was born in 1808 and died in 1880. Steve became interested in Brumidi while he watched the thirty-year project to bring Brumidi’s frescoes to vibrant restoration. He became friends with the curator who oversaw the restoration and with the art conservator who kept him informed about the triumphant revelation of Brumidi’s master works. For his work in publicizing and promoting the life and legacy of Brumidi, Steve was nominated for the honor of Cavaliere d’Italia.

“My one ambition and my daily prayer is that I may live long enough to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty.”

Constantino Brumidi 1808-1880



Rotunda
Apotheosis of Washington 1865



Fresco of Boston Massacre
Senate Appropriations Committee Room

June, 2025 – Bocce at the Lillo’s and Summer Cooking Class with Chef Nick

Our annual Bocce “tournament” and Summer Lodge Picnic was once again hosted by Eleanor and Dennis Lillo. It was a perfect day, with great picnic food, fun competition and very gracious hosts.

Grazie mille to the Lillos for their generous hospitality!



Chef Nick (above) instructing the cooking class on preparation of the evening’s menu: Italian Roasted Potatoes and Italian Beef Pinwheels with Chimichurri Sauce.

Steve (l) and John (r) – ben fatto ragazzi!



Marianne's family asked this Editor, but mostly a friend, to speak at Marianne's Celebration of Life on behalf of the Italian Heritage Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Here are my personal remarks for a dear friend to all of us.

My name is Colette and I am a past president of the Italian Heritage Lodge of Fairfax, Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. On behalf of our lodge President, Dawn, our Executive Council and our members, I would like to say a few words about our sweet Marianne.

Marianne joined the lodge in 2009 and was always a member in good standing. I, however, did not meet her until 2013, but in that short amount of time we became good friends.

There were different ways to participate in our IHL events every month, as well as volunteering for and being elected to various Council positions, including those within the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Marianne always jumped in eagerly to help, no questions asked, with a smile, and ready for fun. She was with us for almost all events, when her dance competitions didn't take her away from us! There was always that question "Where is Marianne?" "Oh, she's at her dance competition." You usually found her in the lodge kitchen, prepping meals, arranging antipasti trays, making insalata, or whatever was needed. When she finished those things, she moved out to the main hall to serve our members and guests, and when dinner was finished, she never failed to stay and clean up, even assisting others with our duties. If there was ever a lull in activities, she would talk about her last or next dance competition and even moved around a bit to show us her beautiful dance moves to the Italian music playing in the background.

I said "beautiful" but what I really meant to say is "elegant" for that is what I came to know about her over the years. There is a saying in Italy, "La Bella Figura" – which literally means "making a good figure." To Italians, presenting yourself well in thought, word, and deed is a matter of personal dignity. La Bella Figura alludes to the idea of putting your best foot forward, how good you feel about yourself, and how graciously you interact with one another. To Italians your life should be lived with a constant eye towards aesthetic beauty, dignity and civility. That's the way I felt about Marianne. I admired how she dressed, moved, always with a personal elegance about herself. She was a classic Italian lady to me.

When she and I were elected to positions in the Grand Lodge of Virginia, for many years we traveled together to meetings, several times a year. We would take turns being the driver and I was happy when she bought that new car. Often after the long rides home we would stop for dinner before parting ways. So much time together to talk about our lives, our loves, our past, our present and of course our futures, our Italian heritage and upbringing, how similar our childhoods were, food, money, children and grandchildren. Over the years, our relationship moved past just being Italian friends, to being lasting friends.

For all of us, Marianne's illness and passing was swift, shocking and very sad. I consider myself truly blessed to have been with her to visit and keep her company, giving her some comfort, and talking together as was always our delight. I want her legacy to be that she was loved by all, as she loved us, her children and family and especially her grandson, Keifer. She was very excited he would be attending college so close by. I know that she was looking forward to living those great college experiences that he would be having along with him. My heart is comforted by the belief that Marianne is watching over you Keifer, Maria and Kathy.

Riposa in pace, dolce Marianne.



#growingupitalian

Submitted by Coletta Sciscilo



In the 2011 episode of “*Two GREEDY Italians*” hosted by Antonio Carluccio and Gennaro Contaldo (S1 E1, “The Family”), the two chefs visit the Emilia Romagna region of Italy to explore “If Italian families still eat together like they used to and if mammas are still teaching their daughters how to cook and do the old ideas about Italian families still apply.”

This always inspires me to examine if I am doing the same and leaving my legacy of cooking and recipes to *la mia famiglia* as is our tradition. This year, my summer included a five-day “Summer Cooking Camp” with my 10-year-old granddaughter, who is already quite experienced in the kitchen at her young age. This camp allowed us to work one-on-one, with my goal being to bring her out of her comfort zone, introduce her to new kitchen utensils, cooking methods and terms, while also learning recipes beyond Italian dishes, all of them new to her. I set five days of dinners and desserts to include Italian as well as Greek and French dishes. We included beef and chicken, pastas, vegetables and crepes on the menus. All the dinners and desserts went home with her to feed her family, after all isn’t that what it is all about? The two chefs say, “In an Italian home, the most important thing is ‘*la tavola*’, the dining table.”

Some of our dishes included Greek *Spanakopita* where she learned to work with phyllo dough, quickly buttering and layering the sheets and then filling them with the feta/spinach/cheese mixture she prepared. We spent one afternoon making crepes (a skill we were both learning!) for *Crespelle alla Fiorentina* with a *besciamella* sauce. We used the rest of the crepes for a dessert bar, allowing the family to fill them with vanilla ice cream, top with fruit, Nutella, and whipped cream for a decadent offering. For fun we made *Zucchini Hush Puppies* with a homemade *Lemon Basil Sauce* – something she had never made nor eaten before. So much chopping garlic and zesting lemons!

In her lovely “thank you” letter to me, she declared her favorite dinner was “*Romano Chicken with Lemon Garlic Pasta*”, a dish she has since made on her own. Rave reviews from her family, too, and I am very proud that she had the confidence to make the dish...I think she might be ready for the “Four Ancient Pastas of Rome” classes.



I would like to acknowledge those who assisted and advised me, contributed articles, pictures and ideas for this quarterly *il Giornale*: Beverly Amante, Virginia Lee Bowe, Aldo Funai Jr., Dennis and Eleanor Lillo, Joseph Scafetta Jr., Marie M. Siebeking, Arthur and Mary Louise Smith, and Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

Mostly, I am grateful for the support of *i miei amici italiani!* ~ c.s.