

“IL GIORNALINO BASILONE”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



FEBRUARY 2012 EDITION

NAMED BEST NEWSLETTER IN NEW YORK STATE 2011 !

LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

PRESIDENT — Patricia M. Summers
VICE PRESIDENT — Joan Tasoglu
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT — Clifford W. Miller
ORATOR — Sebastian Torrigiano
RECORDING SECRETARY — Margaret Maier
FINANCIAL SECRETARY — Carol A. Salvo
TREASURER — Joseph Vultaggio
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY — Dorothy Curto
PRINCIPAL TRUSTEE — Frank J. Salvo
TRUSTEE — Jacqueline C. Costantino
TRUSTEE — Natali Ierardi
TRUSTEE — Luisa Potenza
TRUSTEE — Harold B. VanSise
MASTER OF CEREMONY — Robert Donato
MISTRESS OF CEREMONY — Christine Felice
SENTINEL — Joseph Coniglione

COMMISSIONERS OF ARBITRATION

Janice Gallagher (Commission President)
Vincent Cavaleri ~ Janis Luchetti
Leonard Maddalena ~ Vincenza Vultaggio



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since our last meeting, your officers and I have been hard at work planning activities for the new year. Off and running on Jan. 4, we met at the Donato home for an intensive organizational meeting.

Our first “Let’s Eat Out” for the year at Mama’s in Oakdale on Jan. 16 was a big success. The food was fabulous and the camaraderie, as always, was obvious. Our first Social Night this year is on Feb 16 (Thursday) 6:30 to 9. (More info at our meeting.)

Our second comedy club event at McGuire’s in Bohemia is on Feb. 26. Doors open at 1 p.m. for lunch (optional) and the show starts at 3:30. The regular \$14 tickets are available to us for \$10 and two drinks are required. These can be soda, seltzer, beer, wine or a mixed drink. Discounted tickets must be purchased in advance or you can pay \$14 at the door. This will be our “Let’s Eat Out” event for February so please try and join us. The menu has a nice variety and the food is always delicious. (We’ll have tickets at the February meeting.)

*February 29, at 7 p.m., our planning session for the Chinese Auction will take place at Sayville Library (downstairs). Anyone interested in helping us this year **must attend** this important meeting. We will be reviewing our donations to date, deciding on assignments for that night, and organizing our “army” of volunteers. Only one more meeting (Apr. 4) will follow so we have a lot to do! (We’ll have tickets at the February meeting; \$15 will cover admission, 26 bidding tickets, coffee/tea and desserts.)*

On Mar. 5, we will have our Installation Dinner. Our regular meeting is suspended to allow time for a ceremony followed by a wonderful catered dinner. Our committee chairs, Sister Dottie and Sister Madeline M., and Sister Joan, Brothers Seby and Cliff, all met for a planning session to insure a successful party. Please plan on joining us for a fun evening and to congratulate our new officers. This is a free event for our members, families and friends. More info at our next meeting.

A big thank you again to our Nominating and Election Committees. Everything went very smoothly this year under the guidance of Chairman Carlo.

And on Jan. 27, Cliff and I, along with Joe and Vincenza, joined over 200 people at the Winter Charity Ball, co-chaired by our own Sister Madeline M. who did an extraordinary job (as always). One of the Honorees was a colleague of mine for 30 years, Richard Castellano, and so I was extremely happy to share in his big night. Anyone who knows Richie will agree that it is a well-deserved honor.

There are so many things in the works for our lodge. Please come to our February meeting and be a part of it all!

Fraternally,

Patricia

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 2012

DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM

MEETING STARTS 7:15 PM

SOCIAL TIME 8:30 – 10 PM

ACAMPORA RECREATION CENTER
39 MONTAUK HIGHWAY
BLUE POINT, NY



CULTURE PRESENTATION:

Patricia Summers, Chairperson

AGRITURISMO

Have you heard of "agriturismo"? Italy is the number one tourist destination specializing in this: vineyards, castles and family estates all turned into bed and breakfast opportunities for the savvy traveler who knows how to find them.

Participating in activities is always an option but why not learn how to make cheese, wine or the perfect frittata? Many offer an unusual insight into the daily life of the typical Italian home.

Join us at our next meeting for ideas to help you incorporate these adventures into your next trip.



ALPS



LAGO DI GARDA



LAGO DI GARDA



OSTUNI



SANTA MARGHERITA



SARDEGNA

“PROVERB OF THE MONTH”

(From Our Culture Chair, Patricia Summers)

"L'abito non fa il monaco."



(The habit doesn't make the monk.)

In other words...

You can't judge a book by its cover.



LIBRARY DONATION

(SHARING OUR ITALIAN CULTURE)

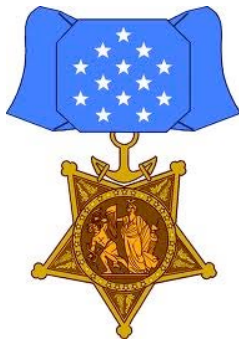


OUR LODGE DONATED A COPY OF THE NEW O.S.I.A. "ITALIAN COOKING" COOKBOOK TO THE SAYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, AS PART OF OUR ONGOING EFFORT TO SHARE AND PRESERVE OUR RICH ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE. PICTURED IS LODGE PRESIDENT PATRICIA SUMMERS PRESENTING THE O.S.I.A. COOKBOOK TO SAYVILLE LIBRARIAN JONATHAN PRYER.



FEBRUARY 19, 1945

A Hero Was Lost



USMC GUNNERY SERGEANT
JOHN BASILONE
KILLED IN ACTION
IWO JIMA ~ FEBRUARY 19, 1945

~ Let Us Never Forget ~



OUR JANUARY MEETING **(JANUARY 9, 2011)**



ALL EYES ARE GLUED TO THE SCREEN DURING CULTURE PRESENTATION ON THE RENAISSANCE



SOME OF THE GIFT BASKETS FOR OUR UPCOMING CHINESE AUCTION ARE JUDGED BY MEMBERS DURING 'BEST GIFT BASKET' CONTEST



THIS MONTH'S HAPPY 50/50 WINNER RECEIVES HER PRIZE



B U O N C O M P L E A N N O !

(HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS WHO BECOME ONE YEAR "BETTER" THIS MONTH !)

Gloria Chirico (February 3rd)
Julianne Sirianni (February 7th)
Robert Donato (February 20th)
Beth Anne Gullo (February 24th)



ITALIAN TRIVIA TIME!

TRIVIA CHALLENGE:

LA MUSICA!

1. Where did the first opera house open in 1637?
2. Born in Cremona in 1644, I am known as the greatest violin maker of all time. The Latin version of my name is inscribed on every instrument I ever made. Who am I?
3. Who was considered the greatest master of Baroque music in the 18th century?
(Hint: He wrote "The Four Seasons".)
4. The hymn "Gesu Bambino", written by Pietro A. Yon in 1919, is sung by Italians on this holiday.
5. Which bandleader made a name for himself performing on New Year's Eve telecasts from Manhattan?
6. This great Italian opera tenor was the very first to sell over one million albums.
7. This present-day tenor holds a Doctorate of Law from the University of Pisa and sang at the closing ceremony of the 2006 Olympic games in Torino.
8. This Italian expression means to sing without music or background sounds.
9. Where does the majority of "Madame Butterfly" take place?
10. This great opera is Giuseppe Verdi's last one and based on Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor".

(Answers on page 13 of this newsletter.)

EATING OUT - TOGETHER

MAMA'S PIZZA, PASTA & SEAFOOD – OAKDALE
JANUARY 16TH





“OUR HERITAGE” QUIZ



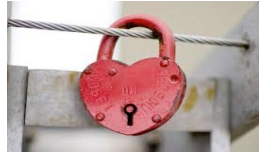
VILLAGE OF RACALMUTO, SICILY
(WHOSE ANCESTORS CAME FROM THIS TOWN? – FIND OUT AT THE MEETING!)



ANSWER TO JANUARY’S HERITAGE QUIZ:
(VILLAGE OF MONTE LONGO, CAMPOBASSO)



ANSWER: CLIFF’S GRANDFATHER



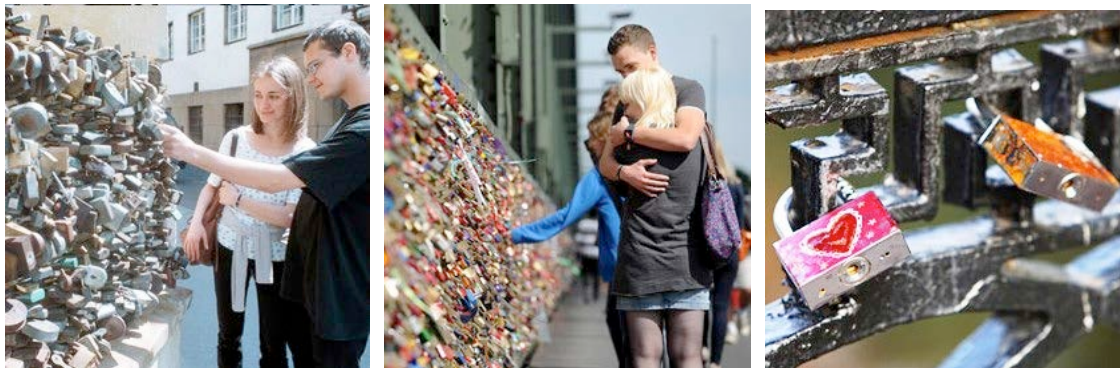
Valentine's Day, Italian Style

Centuries ago, Valentine's Day was actually celebrated as a Spring Feast. This gradually died off, and Italians today refer to the day as "il giorno degli innamorati". A lot of Italians consider this a custom imported from the US, like Halloween. But in many areas of Italy, ancient customs tied to love and betrothal focus on this holiday. In Torino, for example, engagements are usually announced on February 14.

All over Italy, stores sell small china baskets filled with chocolates to give to one's valentine. And the most famous Italian chocolates, Baci, made in Perugia and sold world-wide, are filled with hazelnuts and wrapped with a love quote written in four languages.

Today, many couples go out to dinner and exchange token gifts. Many young people strapped for money buy a small padlock and attach it to a bridge as a symbol of their love.

Since Italy is such a romantic destination, every day there can feel like Valentine's Day!





LET'S VISIT . . .



FERRARA !

A former fortified city in the heart of Emilia Romagna, Ferrara combines history, beauty and romance. Her cathedral is both Gothic and Romantic styles, the Estense Castle is a fabulous example of military architecture (complete with moat, dungeons, drawbridge), the Church of Sant'Antonio contains excellent frescoes from the 13th and 14th centuries and the Casa Romei (Palazzo dei Diamanti) was a luxurious private Renaissance residence.

The Museo Nazionale Archeologico is interesting with many artifacts from this area. During the last weekend in May, the city hosts the Palio di Ferrara, a dramatic horse race around the oldest square in Italy, preceded by a historical Renaissance parade. (check it out at www.paliodiferrara.it)



TRUFFLES : **THE “BLACK DIAMONDS OF** **THE CULINARY WORLD”**

In 2007, the world’s most expensive truffle sold for \$330,000. This is not really surprising since the going rate for truffles is now \$250 - \$450 a pound. And the finest truffles in the world – as well as the most expensive – are found in Italy.

Since the time of the Roman Empire, truffles have been prized as delicacies, medicines and aphrodisiacs. Among the world’s foods, truffles are THE most expensive. White truffles are found almost exclusively in Italy, and only during October and November. They must be tracked down by specially trained dogs or pigs. These “Alba Madonna” or white variety come from the Piemonte area of northern Italy, and almost always around the city of Alba. (Some are also found in Tuscany in the hills around San Miniato.) They grow underground around the roots of oak, hazel, beech or poplar trees.

Black truffles are found in Umbria, the heart of Italy, especially around the city of Perugia. They can range in size from a small grape to a large potato. The one that sold for \$330,000 weighed 3.3 pounds and was unearthed near Pisa in one of the largest discoveries of the century. Black truffles are milder in flavor than white ones, shaved carefully over steaming pasta or used in frittata.

Today, more and more dogs are being trained to search for truffles because they don’t eat them. Pigs do not have to be trained (they have an instinctive urge to find them) but they are crazy for truffles and are not easily deterred from enjoying them. Some commercial endeavors have been tried but nothing can compare to the earthy taste of a fresh truffle. And that’s why they cost so much!



TRUFFLE DOGS HUNTING IN UMBRIA



A TRUFFLE PIG



A TYPICAL TRUFFLE DOG



“Cupid, draw back your bow And let your arrow go...”

Did you know that Cupid (from the Latin word *cupido* meaning desire) was originally a character in Roman mythology? He was the son of Venus, the goddess of love, and Mars, the god of war. In Greek mythology, he is known as Eros.

In Grecian art he was portrayed as a strapping young man but around the time of the Renaissance in Italy they made him more of a cherub. The bow and arrow were added later because according to the legend, if Cupid’s arrow found you, you were instantly filled with erotic desire.



MEMBER’S MARKETPLACE



CAR FOR SALE

**2003 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE 4-DOOR SEDAN - PEARL GREY - EXCELLENT CONDITION 58,000 MILES
ONE OWNER – FULLY LOADED – MUST SEE - \$11,300**

**(2.4 LITER 4 CYCLE TWIN CAM 16 VALVE VVT-I ENGINE, FRONT WHEEL DRIVE 4-SPEED
AUTOMATIC ECT-I TRANSMISSION, A/C, HEATED SEATS, HEATED MIRRORS, WOOD GRAIN
INTERIOR, ALUMINUM WHEELS, SLIDING MOON ROOF, AM/FM 6 CD IN DASH SPEAKERS)
CONTACT LODGE SISTER MARIA @ 718-347-2967 (OR) 516-477-1424**



“ITALIAN TRIVIA” ANSWERS

- (1) Venezia**
- (2) Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737)**
- (3) Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)**
- (4) Christmas**
- (5) Guy Lombardo**
- (6) Enrico Caruso**
- (7) Andrea Bocelli (1958-)**
- (8) “a capella”**
- (9) in 19th century Japan**
- (10) Falstaff**

WINTER CHARITY BALL 2012

(JANUARY 27, 2012 – CHATEAU BRIAND, CARLE PLACE)

THIS WAS OUR LODGE'S CONGRATULATORY JOURNAL AD . . .

*Our Sincere and Wholehearted
Congratulations to
These Most Deserving Honorees*

** Linda Mangano **

** Richard Castellano **

** Louis & Mary Carnesecca **



From the Officers and Every Member of
SGT. JOHN BASILONE LODGE # 2442

Patricia M. Summers, President

~ GOD BLESS AND PROTECT OUR TROOPS ~



OUR PRESIDENT EXTENDS OUR LODGE'S CONGRATULATIONS TO HONOREES LOU CARNESECCA (ST JOHN'S BASKETBALL COACH) AND RICHARD CASTELLANO (NORTHPORT H.S. COACH) AT THE GALA EVENT

TRAGEDY AT SEA

By now, the world has heard about the tragedy off the coast of Tuscany and the search for survivors. But what few people know about is the generosity and kindness of the people on the island of Giglio who opened their homes, churches and shops to help the shipwrecked passengers and crew.

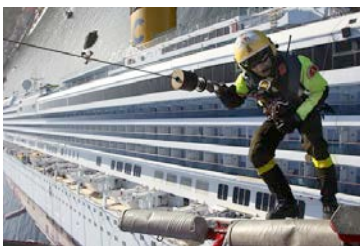
Almost immediately, masses were said to pray for survivors. The local priest Don Lorenzo wanted to make a symbolic gesture that would help people deal with the chaos and sadness that resulted from one of the worst naval accidents in Italian history. Altar boys and girls carried bread to the altar (symbolizing the food that the islanders willingly shared), a rope used to haul survivors to safety, a tarp (representing the protection that was so spontaneously given), and a helmet and life vest.

As official investigators, divers, government personnel, cruise company executives and others focused on the legal issues and rescue attempts, the people of Giglio did what Italians do best. They came together and offered whatever they had to ease the pain and suffering of others, without being directed to do so, or paid, or forced. As always, the local people focused on the survivors, making sure the children had milk and cookies, families stayed together, and everyone had dry clothes and a place to sleep.

We should all be very proud.



ITALIAN POLICE ESCORT BISHOP GUGLIELMO BORGHETTI TO SHIP TO PRAY FOR VICTIMS



ITALIAN FIREFIGHTER IS LOWERED FROM HELICOPTER ONTO CAPSIZED SHIP



ITALIAN COAST GUARD DIVER SEARCHES FOR VICTIMS INSIDE SINKING SHIP



ITALIAN POLICE DIVERS SEARCH FOR MORE SURVIVORS



ITALIAN NAVY DIVERS PREPARE TO ENTER SUBMERGED SHIP



ITALIAN FIREFIGHTERS ARE LOWERED TO SIDE OF SHIP



GIGLIO RESIDENTS GAVE RESCUED PASSENGERS BLANKETS BEFORE TAKING THEM TO THEIR HOMES



LOCAL RESIDENTS RUSHED TO CONSOLE AND COMFORT THOSE RESCUED FROM CRUISE SHIP



THE STRICKEN COSTA CONCORDIA LIES CAPSIZED JUST OFF THE ISLAND OF GIGLIO



REST IN PEACE

MARCELLE MILLER

Editor's Note: My sincerest thank you to each and every one of you for your kind words, emails, cards, letters, calls, flowers and for coming to my mother's wake. It meant so much to me and helped a great deal. Mille grazie.



This completes our February Newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it!

Fraternally Yours,

Cliff Miller

(Newsletter Editor)

God Bless & Protect Our Troops . . . Wherever They May Be!

