



This year's Columbus Award recipient, Nancy Barbieri-Wolfe on the left and Ameritan Award recipient, Alfredo Massa on the right.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hard to believe, but the holidays are here and Christmas over by the time you receive this newsletter. I hope you had a happy Christmas and look forward to the New Year!

I think that the OSIA Grand Lodge of Maryland had a good and productive 2018 and I look forward to 2019. One of the main projects of which I am most proud — getting **our 'new' website** up and running. I sincerely thank Past President/National President **Dan Longo** for his help, without whom this could not have been successful!! Please look at the information about the new website in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, we didn't have our annual **Crab Feast** in August this year due to a date 'mix-up', but most definitely will in 2019.

Our **Memorial Mass** in September turned out great (many in attendance) with many more lunch participants than usual (59). St. Leo's Church in Little Italy genuinely helped us to celebrate our 'deceased' with **Fr. Bernie** officiating the Mass, along with their wonderful choir.

The **Columbus Gala** was a real celebration to the man we all love --- (NO not Santa Claus) -- Christopher Columbus! Celebration was held at Martin's East -- who always do a wonderful job for us - honoring our awardees -- Al Massa and Nancy Barbieri Wolfe



The OSIA annual Christmas party in December was a total success. Much fun, food, wine (donated by Vince Gallo), door prizes, music (Joe Hughes on accordion) and a raffle held for Autism which netted \$325.00 going directly into the Grand Lodge Foundation Fund. As an **FYI**: - all monies raised for *any* of our charities each year is ultimately presented to OSIA National at National Convention (2019). Maryland is generally in the top 5 states for the highest amount raised for charities. For a small state such as Maryland, that's huge! A **BIG 'THANK YOU'** to *all of you* for making that happen!

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Mike & Tresa Petrecca from the Belair Road Lodge at the 2018 Columbus Gala with Tresa's daughter, Sara Owens.

(continued from page one)

Lots of things resolved this year. **Lodge Presidents** - of every lodge - have been wonderful and very cooperative. I truly appreciate all of you and thank you so much! Wishing every lodge a successful 2019!

All Trustees are to be thanked. The audit done in November by the Trustees turned out well, with nothing out of order and everything in balance. I thank **Head Trustee Arline Panaggio** for her leadership.

To **Lauren DeFeo, the editor of the *il Giornale***, I sincerely thank. It's not an easy job trying to get any information to place in the newsletter. We are always looking for things/info/stories/recipes, etc. to report about/for our membership. Help her out!!

To **Loretta Butta Joyner, the OSIA Executive Secretary**, a big 'thanks' for everything she does for me and the Grand Lodge --- and lots of times at the last minute! I truly appreciate her help and support.

To **ALL my OFFICERS**— THANK YOU for your support and all jobs wells done by you on the committees you chair. How much I appreciate your help – no one person can do most things alone and make it a success! But, WE have done that together and as a team!

I hope I've covered everyone. Lots of people to thank.

Our membership is status quo at the moment. But, we are always trying to recruit. There is so much we Italians have and can offer as a people. PLEASE sign up your children, grandchildren and friends. We have 'social' members, too. **It's important to keep OUR heritage and culture alive!** ONLY YOU can help the OSIA do that.

Thank you for being a member --- I truly wish for you a **healthy, happy, 2019!**

As Tiny Tim once said ... God Bless us, one and all and, so say I. (If I misquoted him, you get the drift!!)

Anita Lombardi Riley

Did You Know???

1. Florence was Europe's first city to have paved streets in 1339. In other places in the failing Roman Empire, projects to pave roads were abandoned for fear it would help enemies attack faster.
2. The Ponte Vecchio Bridge over the River Arno in Florence was the ONLY bridge left standing after the bombings of WWII. It is said that Hitler spared the bridge because he thought it too beautiful to destroy.
3. We all know that Benito Mussolini was a Fascist, but, did you know that he was responsible for promoting Italian soccer to the international stage? He tried to ban the English-sounding word 'goal' and have the locals call 'meta' instead, but the attempted ban did not last long.
4. The first TRUE PIANO was invented by one man: Bartolomeo Cristofori of Padua.
5. The city of TURIN had a heavily subsidized auto industry so that it could provide vehicles to the military, which led to its bombing and destruction in WWII. Today, it is known as the "Home of Fiat."
6. The Italian flag is based on the French flag, from the time Napoleon brought troops and his flag into Italy in 1797.
7. 34% of Italians have never used the Internet.
8. The University of Bologna, in Italy, is Europe's OLDEST university in continuous use since 1088.
9. In 1454, a 'real human' chess duel was held to decide who would win the hand of a beautiful girl in Marostica in Italy.
10. The ice cream cone was invented by an Italian.
11. Depending on whether you get one or two invitations to a wedding: if you receive one, you only attend the ceremony - but, if you receive a second one, you're invited to eats and drinks, too.
12. In 2007, a dog named Rocco, discovered a truffle in Tuscany that weighed 3.3 pounds. It sold at auction for \$333,000 (USD) – a world record for a truffle!

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I AM PROUD TO BE AMERICAN AND PROUD TO BE ITALIAN

by Imelda Liberatore

It was December 8, 1957 in Italy's Port of Naples. As a musical band played on land the Italian National Anthem, L'Inno di Mameli, the TSS Olympia, a Greek Ocean Liner bound for Halifax, Canada and New York, USA, sounded its foghorn and pulled away from port.

On board the TSS Olympia, along with many other passengers, were my grandparents, my mother, my younger brother, my five year old sister and myself. I remember that moment as if it was yesterday. I can still see all the friends and relatives that had come to bid goodbye to the passengers. They were throwing confetti, waving flags, hats and scarves. I remember fixing my sights on them until they were just little dots, then they were no longer visible and was just water, sky and silence.

I still remember the many emotions I felt that day. The excitement of the prospect of seeing my father and brother whom we had not seen for two years. They had come to the U.S. before us. Our dad wanted to make sure that he wanted to bring his family to America.

The excitement of going to a new country with big cars, Hollywood and the many celebrities. New York with skyscrapers reaching towards the sky. Washington with its proud history which I had learned about in school. And, then there was the excitement of a new home in Baltimore.

But, I also remember the great sadness and emptiness I felt thinking that we had just left our house, shaded by pine trees, which had withstood earthquakes and World War II bombings. Leaving the green valley with the Aventino River which runs through it and our beloved Palena, our small town in the Abruzzo region, surrounded by the imposing Majella Mountain, and yes, leaving Italy, our country. The sadness of leaving my tearful friends whom I had shared so many experiences with and so much hardship because our childhood was spent in an area of Italy which was ravaged by WWII. The sadness of leaving my teachers, familiar places and our traditions.

There was great excitement, as well as great fear of the unknown.

I realized the deep significance of that day. It was for me, a life-changing day. Would I ever return to Italy? Would I ever see my friends again? Have picnics on our mountain with fragrances from a wide variety of wild flowers and herbs? Would the new place have bells ringing in the morning, noon and night like our bells did, resounding throughout the mountain range? The memory of that day has remained deep, in a quiet corner of my heart. Once in a while, it comes to the light to remind me where I came from.

The day before we packed as many of our belongings as we could in suitcases and a chest and left our house full of tearful friends and relatives bound for Naples. We spent our last night in a hotel in Naples' Piazza Cavour so we could be sure a surprise snow would not prevent our departure from Palena.

Our voyage on the TSS Olympia was for me, an adventure. I met many young people from Greece who were traveling together, but alone, without their families. They were emigrating to Canada. I could not speak their language and they could not speak mine, but we shared the same hope. The hope that our new future and new home was what we dreamed it would be. It was that hope that made us get along very well. But, sometimes I wonder, where are they now? Did their dream come true?

After having docked in Halifax for two days, we arrived in New York Harbor on December 19, 1957. My father and brother were waiting for us. The homes and stores were all decorated with colorful and festive lights for the Christmas holiday.

The country we came to and chose to adopt as our own, has been very welcoming and good to us. It has given us unimaginable opportunities and we are grateful for that. The people we have known over the years have been and are our friends. Baltimore, our beautiful city, has become our home. We chose to become American citizens. Our first language is English, while we still speak some Italian with the hope of passing the interest of that beautiful language on to our children and grandchildren.

We pledge allegiance to the Stars & Stripes with commitment and proudly sing a new national anthem written by Francis Scott Key right here in Baltimore. We have adopted many traditions unique to the American way of life as our own. Deep in my heart remains that quiet corner that preserves the best and unusual memories of a childhood in a small Italian town surrounded by the Majella Mountain and bells that still ring morning, noon and night. Memories that make me realize how fortunate I am to have lived in two beautiful countries. I am proud to be American and proud to be Italian!



The Order Sons of Italy
in America
Grand Lodge of Maryland
is proud to announce
the release of it's
NEW WEB SITE...

For the latest list of events,
membership applications
and reviews of the great
works we are doing

Visit us at
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Yearly Events

ITALIAN HERITAGE NIGHT

July 29 at Ripken Stadium



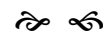
CRAB FEAST

August 26, 2018 in Rosedale



MEMORIAL MASS

September 9, 2018 in Baltimore



COLUMBUS GALA

October 27, 2018 in Timonium



COLUMBUS PARADE

October 7, 2018 in Baltimore



WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

October 7, 2018 in Baltimore



CHRISTMAS PARTY

2nd Monday in December in Towson



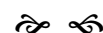
STREET FESTIVALS

September 30, 2019 in Annapolis!



BULL & OYSTER ROASTS

Local Maryland Lodges



SUPER RAFFLE

A winner every day!



MY FIRST COLUMBUS DAY EXPERIENCE

By Lauren DeFeo

On October 7, 2018, I walked into Saint Leo the Great's Roman Catholic Church in Little Italy Baltimore at 9:15 am thinking I was early for the 9:30 mass. However, a deacon was in the midst of saying the first half of a Hail Mary while the congregation completed it. It didn't take me long to realize I had arrived midway through a novena preceding the mass. I chose a pew off to the right, but near the front so I could admire this beautiful church which I had never been in before.

When the novena was finished, the Knights of Columbus, in full regalia, escorted Father Bernard Carmen up to the altar. Two guitar players and a female vocalist stood on the 'Blessed Mother Mary' side and two young boys, one covering a yawn, stood on the right side of the altar. I hope it's not sacrilegious to say so, but Father Bernie is a very entertaining priest. He kept us all interested and engaged. Occasionally, he would wave to someone a few pews back and even shouted, "But it's true!" to a toddler in the back who cried at the end of one of his statements. He has a wonderful talent which not only enables him to connect with his parishioners, but also to enlighten them.

After mass, I accompanied Mike Transparenti, the Grand Lodge Orator, back to the Little Italy parking garage to pick up the Bel Air Road Lodge's banner and a cooler full of sandwiches his wife, Fran had made. We walked a few blocks to 'part two' of the Columbus Celebration experience: the wreath laying ceremony. We met lots of other Columbus Day participants at the piazza and enjoyed the tremendous voice of John Cara who sang both the American and the Italian national anthems. Many Italian-American organizations presented custom-made wreaths which were then positioned around the Columbus statue. The winners of the 2018 Ameritan and Columbus awards, Al Massa and Nancy Barbieri Wolfe were both present. There were several inspiring speeches, but the most moving was by Don Castronova who has played the role of Christopher Columbus for the past 48 years! He informed us that Baltimore is the only big city that has not one, but three Christopher Columbus statues and proceeded to tell us when each one was built and dedicated. He thanked both his son and cousin who have helped him year after year to become Christopher Columbus. His voice revealed the importance of this special occasion as he thanked the committee for making it possible.

Bottled water, hot coffee and delicious cookies were provided by DiPasquale's Italian Deli and Vaccaro's Bakery – both legendary in Baltimore's Little Italy. This year's winner of the Columbus Day Award was Mary Mangione, mother of ten, grandmother of thirty-seven and great grandmother of nine! Al Massa very appropriately announced she had achieved what no man could! When the ceremony ended, I boarded a bus with the Transparentis and inhaled the delicious aroma coming from Fran's sandwiches during the short ride over to the Maryland Stadium Authority where the parade was assembling.

As I stepped off the bus, I caught a glimpse of something surreal. I had to hurry around two floats and a Iacaboni truck and there stood a huge, prancing, silver horse! It wasn't just ANY horse, it was a purebred Andalusian shipped directly from Spain. He was HUGE and beautiful, snorting and pawing the ground and absolutely stunning! He was 'dancing' along with many others just as gorgeous to music blaring out of oversized speakers mounted on a truck decorated with a Guatemalan flag.

There were female dancers with the most amazing, twirling dresses which appeared to be flying off the ground as they spun around. There were male dancers with big, hand carved masks, feathers on their heads and nutshells as leg warmers.

Holding their own despite the competition, the Italian American contingent included the Little Italy Lodge float, the Santa Maria, carrying Christopher Columbus and a number of LIL dignitaries, including President Bob Taylor and his lovely wife, Theresa. I marched with Marty Fuhr and Mike and Fran Transparenti in between the Grand Lodge FIAT driven by Vince Zaccaria with Grand Lodge President, Anita Lombardi-Riley, Immediate Past President, Frances A. Cipriotti and Gerry Pantaleo aboard and the Iacaboni truck. There was also an Italian American Businessmen's float, an Appian float, complete with a leaning tower of Pisa and members from the Antonio Gatto Lodge carrying their banner on foot.

The sun came out and the temperature went up just in time for the parade. The crowds were smiling and waving and the Baltimore City Police did a fantastic job keeping the streets clear on the parade route. I've gotta hand it to the three high schools whose marching bands participated in the parade: C. Milton Wright (Harford County), Towson High School (Baltimore County) and Poly-Western (Baltimore City). Students were wearing uniforms made for much cooler weather, toting various, and sometimes, really heavy instruments and high stepping - even dancing - the whole time! We marched for approximately one hour, starting at Camden Yards and ending at Amadeo's Osteria on the corner of Exeter and Bank Streets.

The annual Columbus Commemoration and Parade is held in honor of Christopher Columbus' epic voyage to the Americas. This year marks the Italian communities' 128th celebration of Columbus Day in Baltimore, the longest continuous observance in the country, endorsed by previous Baltimore mayors and Maryland governors.

I had a fantastic time and now I've caught the Columbus Celebration fever. Next year, I'm going to wear a much more festive outfit, bring an Italian cold cut sub, for the bus trip and ride my OWN horse in the parade!

PHOTO GALLERY

WREATH LAYING



Father Bernie Carmen and Vince Piscopo chatting at the Piazza during the 2018 Wreath Laying Ceremony in Little Italy.



Gerry Panteleo, GL President, Anita Lombardi-Riley and former GL President, Vince Zaccaria.



The Knights of Columbus Color Guard play a large part during the Columbus Commemoration in Baltimore.



Former Grand Lodge President, Frances A. Cipriotti with her son, Martin Fuhr, current Vice President of the Belair Road Lodge.



PHOTO GALLERY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

