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il Giornale

Grand Lodge
of Maryland

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Letter from the President

Buon Pasqua to all my Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this finds you well. It is now the 1st Anniversary of a not-so-good – or happy – anniversary - although it will be etched in our minds for a long time! This is a year – amazingly – that our children and grandchildren will be talking about to their children!! That's something, huh?

Hard to believe it's been a year since this all began – question is – when is it going to end? How normal will life be again? I suppose taking one day at a time for now is all we can hope for - other than the vaccines that are being distributed presently (thanks to God) but by all means, continue to WEAR YOUR MASKS!

Not much to report to you in the way of activities, etc., unfortunately. We, the Grand Lodge of Maryland, along with all of our Local Lodges are still hanging in there. We are meeting each month by ZOOM. Honestly, whoever invented ZOOM should get a 'Nobel Prize' for it. Although not able to meet 'in person', Zoom has been holding it all together for most of us this past year and it is so nice to see people on screen if unable to do so in person. Love seeing the casualness of dress, bad hair days, no make-up, etc. – you know the way we generally look every day in our own homes when not going out anywhere! At least, that's true for me!

The Grand Lodge has had no 'fund raisers' this past year. Our trip to New York City that supports the Scholarship Fund has been re-scheduled again for October 6, 2021. We will visit the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, 911 Memorial, and lunch in Little Italy. Keeping my fingers crossed that it will happen this time!! I'll keep you posted. (FYI: Grand Lodge scholarship application deadline for those interested, has been extended to May 31st. Call Rosalie Ranieri for more information @ 410-866-8494.)

Our 100th Birthday/Anniversary shirts are still available. We appreciate all who purchased one. They are nice looking shirts – AND – it's golf season! SO ... call Grand Lodge office if interested.

Our annual 'Columbus Gala' is still in limbo again for this year. We have to wait and see if things improve and if the rules change in order to 'get together' in a group setting. We want to honor 'our' hero Christopher Columbus in some way. It's important as Italian-Americans to celebrate him! The fight to keep Christopher Columbus alive and well for Italians/Italian-Americans here in the United States is still not over. Myths about him need to be dispelled.

I do want to thank all of our advertisers for joining us again this year. We have a 'new' ad joining us – Fiore Winery. (An aside: My grandfather's name was Fiore - meaning 'flower'!) I ask and hope that you will patronize our Brothers and Sisters who advertise if they can be of service to you. Thank you.

That's about it for now. I am hoping as time goes by, there will be more reporting and events happening for all to participate in and hear about. I think we miss it! If you have something to report to us for the newsletter, please contact us. We would love to hear from you.

Thanks for being an OSIA member and for your support. Although it means a lot to the Grand Lodge, it means more that you're supporting our heritage and culture. I thank all the local Lodges and Presidents for all they do as well. Until next time ...

Fraternally and sincerely,
Anita Lombardi Riley
President

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Italian Celebrity! by Anita Lombardi Riley



Did you know that Jim Croce was not only a singer and great songwriter - but an Italian American, too? I didn't – until a few years ago. I never made the connection.

Although he does look like the stereotypical Italian – I thought he could be Greek, Middle Eastern or Jewish. Of course, finding out he was of Italian heritage was all the more reason for me to like him and his music. But, honestly, it really didn't matter. I liked his music!

My husband was a big Croce fan and when picking up the grandkids from school every day, played nothing but Jim Croce or Frank Sinatra in the car on the way home! Therefore, my grandkids got to know Croce and Sinatra music word for word. At one point a teacher asked one of my grandsons – who was singing a Croce song while helping her after school – how he knew Jim Croce songs? He said – my grandfather plays his songs all the time in the car! But, I digress.

Jim Croce's grandparents, Pascal and Carmella Croce, landed in Cape May, N.J. from L'Aquila in the Abru-

zo region. Jim Sr., Croce's father, was their eldest son. He was the one who was to help his parents raise the children – speaking English and Italian – paving the way for their futures.

Jim Croce was born on January 10, 1943 in South Philadelphia. By the age of 5, he was playing the accordion and by his 20's was touring in folk bands. Every Friday night the family would get together to share a meal and listen to Jim, then a sophomore at Villanova, play his guitar and sing.

He married Ingrid, who had been singing with him when they first met and later became girlfriend/boyfriend. She tells that after being invited to a fabulous Italian meal at his home, Jim would sing a couple of songs and then invited his mother Flora to sing with him noting that she had a beautiful voice. His father always had a phonograph going and seldom was without a stack of records from jazz to big bands. Obviously, music was in the genes!

She says that there were aunts, uncles, cousins everywhere and it was a wonderful way to meet 'La Familia'. Does that ring a bell, anyone? Jim had a few successes and Ingrid feels (me too) that he had a bright and great future ahead of him. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. After wrapping up a recording session and ending a tour, he hopped on a small chartered plane to travel to his next gig in Texas. The plane crashed and he was killed at the age of 30. After his death, interest surged in his recordings. The day after his death the song "I Got A Name" was released, according to plan, and went to the "Top Ten".



z-

An 'Easter' Pie

Little Italy Lodge Cook Book: Recipe: Alice Redmond

FILLING

2 Oz. (1 thick slice) of cooked ham, capicola,
Geona salami, mortadella, prosciutto,
pepperoni and provolone, Swiss and
white box cheese.
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
6 hard boiled eggs
2 lb. ricotta cheese
1 large egg – beaten

DOUGH

1 ¼ cup flour
½ tsp. salt
¼ cup shortening
1 tbsp. water
1 Egg

DIRECTIONS:

Cube all meats and cheeses. Combine with the rest of the filling ingredients and refrigerate at least 8 hours. Mix ingredients for dough and roll as for tarts or large ravioli. Fill and score. Brush tops of pies with mixture of egg yolk and water. Bake on cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 12 – 15 minutes.



SPOTLIGHT ON.....



HOW PROUD WE SHOULD BE OF OUR 'YOUNGER' ITALIAN AMERICANS!

Granddaughter of our Executive Secretary, Loretta Butta Joyner, Jami Mayo, is a research coordinator at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit. Jami has been dedicated to drug science and addiction research since earning her B.S. Degree at University of Maryland, College Park. Her career has recently expanded after being given the opportunity to lead a trial that examined sleep disturbances across the lifespan and drug-related dream experiences throughout recovery, in persons in treatment for opioid use disorder. This trial was one of the first of its kind, and the results have just received approval to be reported in their own publication. Jami, has achieved co-authorship of the publication, alongside her research team at Johns Hopkins. Her project is currently being processed by various journals of addiction science and will be issued in summer 2021.

Congratulations to Jami for a job well done!

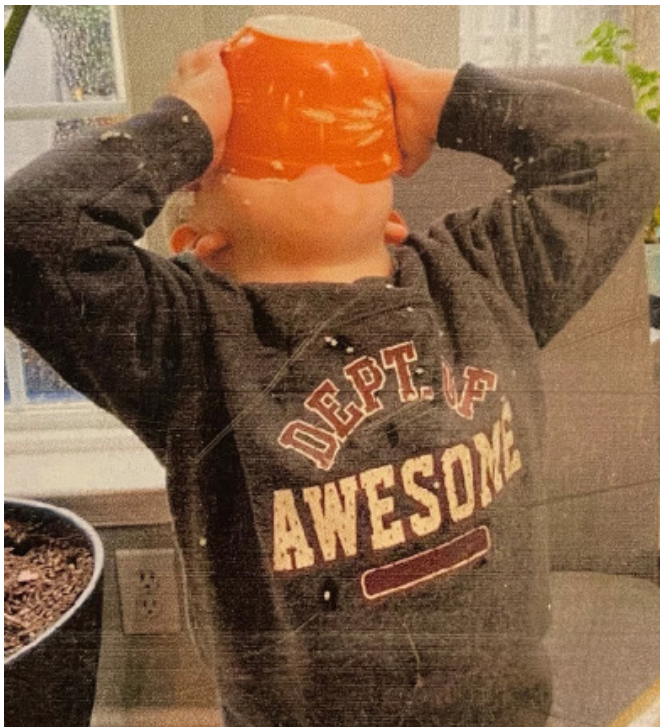
EASTER FOOD IN ITALY

In Italy, the Easter blessing in the local churches is a tradition – people bring a basket filled with hard boiled eggs, a bottle of wine, salt, special Easter bread and various other foods that are eaten on Easter Sunday. Traditionally, the food served on

Easter is Lamb, but it also has its typical specialties. Dishes vary from region to region, and sometimes from family to family within the region. There are many dishes that are common throughout Italy, with only ingredients varying. The common dishes provide a sense of continuity with our heritage while those dishes particular to an area highlight the uniqueness of the regions from which they hail. The abundance of rich food confirms that all the deprivations and sacrifices of Lent are over. The limitations and penitence of the forty days that precede Easter are therefore replaced by the return to Joy! Eggs are used in Easter baking to symbolize life, fertility and birth. They may be used to decorate rustic breads, cakes or to prepare some types of pizzas. Bread has always played an important role on festive occasions. Bread is the primary staple in the Italian diet. It is considered the staff of life. At Easter, the types range from simple to quite complex, from a simple pizza to a rich egg bread. The Easter Dove consists of a soft, raised dough and can be filled with chocolate or candied fruit and may be shaped as a lamb (Pagnello) or the dove (Colomba).

Another dish which is often prepared for Easter throughout Italy's regions are pies or tortas made from cheese and meats such as sausage or prosciutto. In Sicily, one is comprised of macaroni, pork, cheese, and eggs. The Calabrian version is made with ham, sausage, hard-boiled eggs, mozzarella and ricotta. In the North, they prefer a torta Pasqualina which contains spinach, ricotta cheese, and eggs. All Italian households conclude the meal with a tray of fruit and dolci (sweets) served with coffee, liqueurs or wine. ***Buon appetito!***





*Leo's (age 3) shirt says it all about
great-grandmom
Loretta Butta Joyner's pastina!
HMMMM ... *delizioso!**

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- 6 Maureen Eschbacher
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- 8 Marge Hayes
- 9 Joe Portera
- 10 Joe Riley
- 11 Marsha Goldman
- 12 Jeff Drake
- 13 C. Spiritonsanto
- 14 Kevin Fusco
- 15 Jerry Pantaleo
- 16 Stephanie Riley
- 17 Michael Ferraro
- 18 Michael Polo
- 19 Clare Berenato
- 20 Emma Roeder
- 21 Jerry Kerner
- 22 Kathi Young
- 23 Betty Leitch
- 24 E.M. Bush
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- 26 Barbara Wisniewski
- 27 Dolores Gregory
- 28 Vera Girolomi
- 29 Don Rogers
- 30 Edward Julio
- 31 Mark Roeder

January

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- 2 Colin Riley
- 3 Sandra McGrath
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- 5 Toni Hughes
- 6 Donald Rogers
- 7 Katie Clarke
- 8 Vince Zaccaria
- 9 Michael Stidham
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- 28 John Barbo
- 29 Sara Guay Taylor
- 30 Anita Riley
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February

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- 2 Jon Miller
- 3 Casi Lombardi
- 4 Ardele Smith
- 5 Kathy Caccamisi
- 6 Frances Cipriotti
- 7 Phil Caccamisi
- 8 Camillo DiCamillo
- 9 R&M Giordano
- 10 Ron Kashkashian
- 11 Wendy Siegelman
- 12 Gail Randall
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- 14 Rosanna Ottenstein
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By Albert Marra

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- Gabriela Christie Toletti, Ph.D.

Check out *Southampton Summers* at Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com. For a signed copy, contact the author at SouthamptonSummers@gmail.com.

Elements of a Traditional Italian Garden

By JANET BAYERS



Traditional Italian gardens are formal in design, with symmetrical, geometric beds and garden “rooms” delineated by hedges and walls. Plants are less important for their color value than as design elements, such as for clipped topiary. Flowers are few. Water, statuary, private spaces and a promenade or formal pathway are all elements that contribute to the Italian garden.

Design

Symmetry is paramount in Italian gardens. Beds, or parterres, are shaped geometrically in squares, rectangles or triangles, eschewing the curves and sweeps common to English borders, for example.

Because many Italian gardens are on hillsides, they are laid out on several levels, or terraces, offering places to stand and enjoy the surrounding view as well as see the garden from above. Order and balance are the design goals, illustrating man’s power over nature.

Promenade

The promenade is a wide, usually raised, pathway flanked by formally clipped hedges where a family or visitors may stroll to view the garden. Its purpose is both for seeing and being seen, and it provides a stage from which the owner can survey his holdings. Hardscape – stone walkways, patios and walls – is a signature element of the Italian garden, rather than expansive lawns.

Secret Garden and Grotto

A hideaway in the garden that might contain a vine-draped pergola or just a tucked-away bench provides an intimate getaway space. Often an Italian garden includes a grotto – an artificial cave filled with sculpture and furnishings where one can sip wine in a refreshingly cool space.

Water

The sound and cooling effects of water are essential elements of the Italian garden, whether from bubbling fountains, pools or cascades. Often, an ornate stone fountain shooting arcs of water forms the focal point of the garden. In old Italy, water triggers under the pathways would send water shooting out of hidden pipes when stepped on.

Statuary and Stoneware

The garden is considered an extension of the entertainment area of the home, so it is decorated in the same manner, with plenty of art. Sculptures of gods, goddesses and heroes of ancient legends are common. Lemon trees, potted in stone urns, are a favorite decoration for the patio or seating areas.

Plants

Traditional Italian gardens have few flowers. The plants are mainly evergreens, manicured into geometric hedges or topiaries. Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), boxwoods (*Buxus* spp.) and junipers (*Juniperus* spp.) are some of the plants commonly used to form living walls and delineate different parts of the garden. Other green plants are massed within the borders of the geometric beds. Italians also like to cover stone walls with trellised foliage vines or climbing roses.



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