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Summer 2021  
osiamd.org

# *il Giornale*

Grand Lodge  
of Maryland

Volume 1  
Issue 3  
OSIAPublisher@  
gmail.com

## Letter from the President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Like the old TV series show sings - WELCOME BACK!! (Welcome back Kotter was the show in case you're trying to figure it out - and our Italian friend John Travolta's big break!)

Alleluia!! I think we are getting back to some normalcy - at least, I hope so! I don't know about you, but I was beginning to get depressed. Very little real 'outside' contact and not getting a little hug once in a while was beginning to get to me. But, I think I am now on the mend. I hope you are, too!

There really isn't much in the way of reporting 'happenings' due to the pandemic and all the rules. But, with some breathing room the past week or so, I do believe we are going to see some light at the end of this very long tunnel. Already, a couple of our larger lodges have begun to get back into the swing of things. So, take some deep breaths and ... engage!

The Annapolis Lodge had a curbside 'Sweets' sale a couple of weeks ago and sold out of all of their product. The Little Italy Lodge had a Sunday dinner, as well, and that, too, was successful! Other lodges are beginning to plan their lodge events- and so is the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Here are a couple of dates for your calendar that I hope you will make an effort to be part of:

**August 1** - Italian Heritage Day at Ripken Stadium to honor all of the Scholarship winners from the Grand Lodge and Local Lodges

**August 22** - Grand Lodge Crab Feast

**September 26** - OSIA Memorial Mass & Lunch @ St. Leo's to honor our deceased members

The bus trip set in October to benefit our Scholarship Fund is a 'wait and see' at this point. It's a good trip, but whether or not I can fill the bus (all due to the virus, of course) is another question. I am carefully watching and listening. I will keep you posted.

October is also the month in which we will honor Christopher Columbus. (The Grand Lodge will have more on that later.) But, remembering the destruction of the Columbus statue in the Little Italy Piazza last year and re-naming of the holiday, to me, is very good reason to make sure we 'celebrate' Columbus in some way. I hope you help us do that. (Read the article in this newsletter regarding the holiday.)

Meanwhile, continue to stay healthy. I hope that we will get to see each other 'in person' very shortly and we can celebrate these events together. Have a great summer!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Anita Lombardi Riley  
President



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# A MEMORY OF SAMUEL A. CULOTTA

By Anita Lombardi Riley

It's always nice – and interesting - to know good things about others --- how he/she may have helped in some way for their country, city, state or even the – Order Sons of Italy in America! This is where Sam Culotta comes in here ...

Sam was a good guy! Sam was a member of the Order Sons (Daughters) of Italy for over 70 years prior to his death in September, 2015, at the age of 91. Sam was an attorney. As gentle and calm as Sam always appeared to be (to me), I believe he could be (and probably was) a force to reckon with when needed, as well. I believe that showed by his hard work and dedication within the Order and for the Order. Sam was extremely proud of his heritage.

Sam served as the Grand Venerable (name used in those days for President) of the Grand Lodge of Maryland from 1959 through 1967. He also served as the National Deputy from 1961-1965; appointed by the Supreme Venerable (National President) John Ottaviano to be Chairman of the Committee to declare Columbus Day as a national holiday! What an undertaking!

As the National Deputy and also the Chairman of the Columbus Day Committee, Sam met with President Lyndon Johnson on two occasions for discussion. He met with numerous Congressional leaders and appeared before various committees of Congress asking for two things: the elimination of the National Origins System from our Immigration Laws – and the enactment of Columbus Day as a 'national' holiday!

Sam's leadership, hard work and dedication, along with his recognition before many of the committees of Congress – and the support from Maryland's Senator J. Glenn Beall who graciously sponsored Bill 108 helped to make Columbus Day a national holiday. Baltimore Mayor Theodore McKeldin and others, were a tremendous help in Sam's accomplishing this enormous task. Sam was known and respected by all of them.

With so much support behind him, he then asked to meet with President Johnson to discuss the two issues he had presented to Congress. OSIA Supreme Venerable Ottaviano, along with other OSIA persons were present, as well. Their meeting was held in the Cabinet Room of the White House. The discussion of Immigration legislation

AND the adoption of Columbus Day (October 12) as a 'national' holiday were the only topics to be discussed.

At the end of the meeting, President Johnson announced not only his support of the proposed Immigration legislation Sam had proposed, but ALSO the establishment and his support of Columbus Day being named a 'legal' national holiday! How wonderful was that?!

After the announcement of his support, President Johnson even took the time to write an article about our 'new' holiday in the July, 1964 issue of the OSIA News.

Even though it took a couple of years to happen, as most things do in Washington --- on June 28, 1968, President Johnson signed into law establishing Columbus Day (October 12) as a national holiday, giving Sam one of the pens used to sign our holiday into law! Sam was recognized and praised by many – not only Italian Americans. Sam's leadership skills, constant persistence, dedication and pride for his heritage in making this national holiday become a reality, was difficult to ignore.



In the President's office at the White House, June 2. Seated, left to right, Luigi Antonini, President of the Italian-American Labor Council; President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Supreme Venerable John Ottaviano, Jr. Standing, left to right, are George Baldanzi, Vice President of the Italian-American Labor Council; E. Howard Malisani, Secretary of the Italian-Labor Council; Salvatore Noto, Assistant to Mr. Antonini; Sam Culotta, Grand Venerable of State of Maryland; Vincent La Capria, Vice President of the Italian-American Labor Council. On the desk by the President is a copy of the "Purple Aster," the history of the Order Sons of Italy by Ernest L. Biagi, presented to Mr. Johnson by the Supreme Venerable.





At an OSIA Columbus Day Banquet held in Worchester, Massachusetts, Supreme Venerable Ottaviano said: "I want to publicly express my gratitude to our Supreme Deputy, Sam Culotta, who more than anyone else, threw himself wholeheartedly into the project. Sam went after his Congressional delegation with a ferocity that would not take 'no' for an answer. One of his Maryland Senators, J. Glenn Beall, appeared and testified before the committee. I received correspondence from all of the Congressmen of the great State of Maryland, all of whom promised support. In fact, Congressman Mathias wrote that the House Sub-Committee had approved the legislation."

I write this watered-down article for three reasons: (1) what a great accomplishment; (2) there are very few of us (maybe you) today who actually knew of Sam and what he made happen for 'us' beginning 57 years ago; (3) most importantly, to make you aware that Maryland's Sam Culotta, OSIA Grand Lodge of Maryland, played the largest role in making Columbus Day a holiday for Italian-Americans to celebrate. Keeping our Columbus Day celebrations, our statues in place, educating of the real history of Columbus, etc., should be important to ALL Italians and Italian-Americans. It's our heritage and our culture at stake. It should, and needs to be preserved.

Italians and Italian-Americans have contributed much to this country and to the world. We should be very proud! Let's not lose the holiday Sam worked so hard to get for us. Do what you can, when you can, to keep Columbus alive.

Oh, dear ... I almost forgot to mention another very important role that Sam played for us, as well. Sam was our 'original' Christopher Columbus representative for the OSIA in our parades, wreath laying ceremonies, etc. for many years. He was always there, every year, almost up until the year of his passing, to celebrate Columbus Day and our heritage! (See pictures)

I thank Sam's wife Leah for this information and pictures. I am proud to have known Sam and happy to let you know about Samuel A. Culotta and his invaluable contributions to the Order Sons of Italy in America, Grand Lodge of Maryland -- and our country.

**Heartfelt thanks  
and appreciatio!**





# LONG LOST TREASURE FOUND!

Harford County Lodge Member and President, Debbie D'Adamo, described the scene at the Lodge at the Knights of Columbus in Forest Hill. In her own words.....

"The Harford County Lodge meets at the Knights of Columbus in Forest Hill. I've always been curious about an overgrown patch of land behind the building. Upon inspection, I realized that it was a bocce court!

After I received permission, I decided to present my Lodge with a suggestion. At our Monday night meeting I suggested that a few people join together to clean and redo the court. Just 2 days later, I received pictures of our small team transforming the patch into a beautiful new court.

It's amazing what a team of older men and women can do when they put their hearts into it! The pictures tell the story.

Many thanks to Rita Perra, Danny Ferraro, Max Perra, Frank Speciale and Guitano De Mateo for all they did!

If there's a Lodge out there who'd like to challenge us to a game, let me know by email at [deborahdadamo@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdadamo@gmail.com)! "





## How did the Italian 'pie' get to become America's favorite?



*As the story goes in an American Profile article that I read a few years ago - in 1897, Gennaro Lombardi, an Italian immigrant from Naples, opened a grocery store and bakery in Manhattan's Little Italy neighborhood. He began to sell slices of baked bread topped with tomatoes and fresh mozzarella cheese at the cost of a few pennies. His Naples-style New York 'pizza' (tomato pie) was similar to the pizza made in his homeland, but was slightly Americanized – by necessity. In New York, the fuel of choice was coal, not wood, and mozzarella was made from the milk of cows, not water buffalo.*

*Fellow immigrants welcomed the familiar tastes and Lombardi acquired a business license to sell his 'pizza' in 1905, becoming the 'first' pizzeria. Through the decades, his pizzeria evolved into a high-end Italian restaurant. In 1984, the restaurant closed because business slowed and the brick oven had deteriorated due to the repeated vibrations from the subway beneath the restaurant.*

*Ten years later, John Brecio convinced the grandson of Gennaro – Gerry Lombardi - to re-open Lombardi's, but a block away from the original site. The walls of the restaurant are lined with pictures of celebrity diners such as actor Jack Nicholson among many others.*



*The rest is history, 'Tomato pies' became known as 'pizza' during the 1950's. As Nick Azzaro, owner of Papa's Tomato Pies in Trenton, NJ tells it because, he says, neon sign makers charged by the letter and the shorter word was less expensive!*

*From an ethnic food served in Italian neighborhoods, pizza's popularity spread like melted cheese and has become an all-American favorite that is served in over 65,000 Italian restaurants across the United States.*

*Whoever you talk to, whatever ethnic background – 'pizza' is known world-wide and no matter where you get it --- it's always 'delizioso'!*

## Ricotta Cookies

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 Cup Butter (softened)
- 1 Egg (beaten)
- 1/4 Cup Ricotta
- 2 Cups flour (sifted)
- 1 Tsp. Vanilla
- 1/2 Tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1/2 Tsp. Salt



Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Blend the butter with the ricotta until creamy. Add vanilla, then add sugar gradually, until well blended. Add the egg and slowly stir in other (dry) ingredients until well blended. Drop dough mixture in teaspoon amounts onto a slightly greased cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes.

Makes 30 – 36 cookies.

## ANNUAL CRAB FEAST

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 22**

**1 - 5 pm**



**Rosedale Gardens**  
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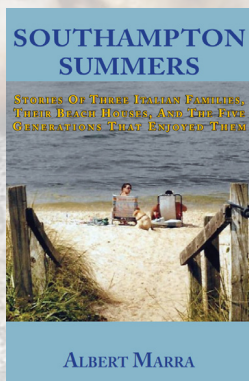
## SOUTHAMPTON SUMMERS

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New Dominion Press  
Norfolk, VA

*"The family stories also transported me to other times and other places. Several memories, feelings, and emotions about my childhood re-emerged. Dr. Marra has the skill and gift of telling stories in a way that we can all relate to regardless of where we are from."*

- 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](mailto:SouthamptonSummers@gmail.com).

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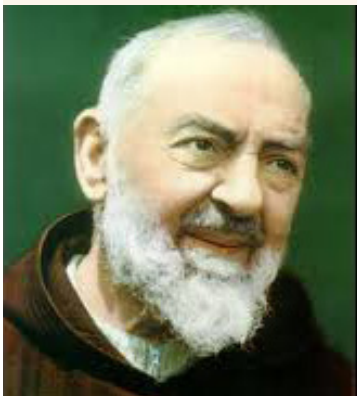
## CONGRATULATIONS, CLARA MARTONE!

Winner of the OSDIA  
National Slogan Contest



Annapolis Lodge member Clara Martone was selected as the winner of the OSDIA national slogan contest in a live Facebook event on June 9. Clara's slogan, **"Italian Roots, American Branches,"** was selected by voting of OSDIA members. In an interview with hosts Bob Bianchi and Lisa Marie Falbo, Clara described the inspiration for her slogan.

*"My family and I were inspired by our own family history when we created the new slogan. My grandparents immigrated from southern Italy in the early 20th century - my grandfather in 1914 and my grandmother in 1921. Putting down roots together in Pennsylvania, they went on to have 10 children- seven daughters and three sons. By 2021, that family of twelve had grown to have more than 100 descendants. My grandparents were always proud to be Italian and continued many Italian traditions and customs, but they very much wanted their children to be fully American. They instilled in their children, who passed it on to the successive generations, the value of hard work. My grandfather was a coal miner and, when the mines closed, my grandmother went to work in a sewing factory. From these two hardworking Italian immigrants our family grew and spread throughout the country. We are teachers, other school workers, mechanics, journeymen, nurses, doctors, lawyers, engineers, merchant seamen, government workers, military members, artists, IT professionals, students, college professors, and just about any other job that you can think of. Like many who came from poor Italian immigrants, our family, while maintaining our Italian culture, has made substantial contributions to our "new" country and the American way of life, all of us branching out from our strong Italian roots."*



### *Saint Padre Pio - An Italian Saint*

The Italian Capuchin Saint, Padre Pio, was ordained on August 10, 1910, at the age of 23. In 1912, he received intermittently the invisible stigmata. Christ's sacred wounds were invisibly imprinted on his hands, feet and side. The wounds could not be seen, but the pain and swelling of them were there. In 1916, his superiors sent him to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo. He lived there until he died.

On September 20, 1918, at 31 years of age, a piercing cry escaped his lips during his thanksgiving after Mass. He was pierced and bleeding from five deep wounds in his hands, feet and side. The stigmata had become visible and was to remain with him until shortly before he died. He was the first priest to be so honored. There have been about 300 stigmatisms in the history of the Church. During his long life, Padre Pio accomplished many deeds that were far beyond the scope of ordinary mortals. He died a holy death on September 23, 1968 at 2:30 AM with the words 'Jesus and Mary' on his lips and his rosary in his hands. He was beatified in May 1999 and Pope John Paul II canonized 'Padre' Pio of Pietrelcina, a saint of the Church in Rome on June 16, 2002, with over 500,000 people in attendance.

Interesting tidbit: There is a custom of blessing oil in honor of a Saint or Blessed, having a long history in the devotional life of the Church. I have received blessed oil from St. Padre Pio as many of you have received from various organizations, as well. When pilgrims would go and pray at the tombs of Martyrs for spiritual help, the tombs would have oil lamps burning to light and bear witness to the Saint's life. For those who could not visit these tombs, the pilgrims who did visit brought home oil from those lamps to use in blessings for their family and friends, that when applied a healing would occur through the act of faith.

Healing occurred through the act of faith that the application of the oil invoked. The oil is to help implore God's loving tender mercy for the sick, and to affirm our faith in the communion of the Saints.

# DID YOU KNOW “WOMEN” INVENTED THESE?

**Margaret A. Wilcox** invented the **car heater** in 1893.  
She also invented a ‘combined’ clothes and dishwasher.

**Anna Connelly** invented the **fire escape** in 1887.

**Dr. Maria Telkes** invented **solar heating for residential housing** in 1947.  
She was also a psychiatrist in addition to being a Solar-Power pioneer.

**Maria Beasely** invented the lifesaving **life raft** in 1882.  
She also invented a machine that makes barrels.

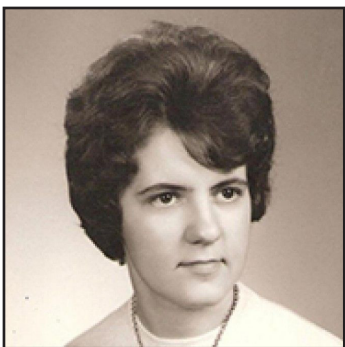
**Florence Parpart** invented the **electric refrigerator** in 1914.  
She also invented an improved street cleaning machine.

**Ada Lovelace** is essentially the **first computer programmer** due to her work with Charles Babbage at the University of London in 1842. Her notes were the key to helping Alan Turing's work on the first modern computer in the 1940's.

**Josephine Cochrane** invented the first **dishwasher** in 1887.  
Before her time, she even marketed her machine to hotel owners.  
She opened her own factory without the help of a man!

**Hedy Lamarr**, the world famous 30's and 40's film star invented a **secret communication system** during World War II for radio-controlling torpedoes. This technology also paved the way for everything from WI-FI to GPS

**Stephanie Kwolek** invented the **life-saving material** that is 5 times stronger than steel and used to make bulletproof vests in 1965.





## SUPER RAFFLE WINNERS

### *March*

- 1 Ralph Petragrani
- 2 Tina Wittstadt
- 3 C. Poggioili
- 4 Luke Roeder
- 5 Jon Miller
- 6 Maryrose Barron
- 7 Catena Spiritosanto
- 8 Camillo DiCamillo
- 9 Marti Quinn
- 10 Nick Fuhr
- 11 Susan Cascio
- 12 Aela Riley
- 13 Toni Hughes
- 14 Ron Kashkashian
- 15 OSDIA Lodge #2225
- 16 A. Loffler
- 17 Thomas Pomilla
- 18 Robert Gessinger
- 19 Dawn Ptaszynski
- 20 Dudley Leitch
- 21 Gary Honeysett
- 22 Dawn Ptaszynski
- 23 Dominic Fornaro Lodge
- 24 Gino Polsinelli
- 25 Kathie Caccamisi
- 26 Bart Gewont
- 27 Mary Frances Transparenti
- 28 Charlie Zannino
- 29 Margaret Olieveri
- 30 Casi Lombardi
- 31 Betty Leitch

## SUPER RAFFLE WINNERS

### *April*

- 1 Mary Maione
- 2 Arline Panaggio
- 3 Al Hansen
- 4 Jan Barbato
- 5 Tony Huckenstein
- 6 Mildred Roberts
- 7 Jim Scrivani
- 8 Dinah DiCamillo
- 9 Charles Derick
- 10 C. Poggioli
- 11 Dion Guthrie
- 12 Phyllis and Tom Bolling
- 13 Joe Portera
- 14 Tia Scagliarini
- 15 Corinne Gamble
- 16 Hope Haar
- 17 Ann Angeletti
- 18 Casey Wittstadt
- 19 Scott Fraser
- 20 Sara Owens
- 21 Jerry Kerner, Sr.
- 22 Phil Cascio
- 23 Angie Cassagnol
- 24 Mike Transparenti
- 25 Steven DeGeorge
- 26 Amici Fratelli Lodge
- 27 Mary Filling
- 28 Laura Wanderling
- 29 Regina Morini
- 30 Ann Marie Profili

## SUPER RAFFLE WINNERS

### *May*

- 1 Kirk Miller
- 2 Josephine Saunders
- 3 Mary Alberta
- 4 Joseph Kostelac
- 5 Mike Petrecca
- 6 Don Oakley
- 7 Charlie Ferraro
- 8 James Miente
- 9 Isaac Eskinazi
- 10 Brian Balmages
- 11 Rosemary Gear
- 12 Charlie Zannino
- 13 Mary Maione
- 14 Alyssa Barbato
- 15 Charlie Zannino
- 16 Kirk Miller
- 17 Hope Haar
- 18 Don Oakley
- 19 Harry Maggio, Sr.
- 20 Sueann Baletti
- 21 A. Loffler
- 22 Trish Woods
- 23 Joseph Kostelac
- 24 Rosanna Ottenstein
- 25 Vinnie Mollicone
- 26 Rico DiCamillo
- 27 Dottie Pinto
- 28 Alex Driscoll
- 29 Joanne Marinik
- 30 Catena Spiritosanto
- 31 Barb Graziosi

## (How about a) WIN~WIN~WIN~WIN?!

The Grand Lodge of Maryland (GL-M) 100th Anniversary shirts are still available - but only for a limited time!

Purchase a shirt (or more, for family and friends), at \$30 per shirt (including tax and delivery), and –

**WIN** – You get an attractive, comfortable short-sleeve collared summer shirt!

**WIN** – You get to help the GL-M and OSDIA preserve our heritage and good works!

**WIN** - You get to share in the GL-M significant achievement of 100 years of service.

**WIN** – Perhaps, most important, you help provide scholarships to Italian-American members and their offspring who will carry our pride and heritage forward proudly!

(All profits from the shirt sales benefit the GL-M Scholarship Program!)

Interested?? Shirts in assorted sizes are in stock and/or available by order!

Contact 1st VP Tony Montcalmo (text or call 410-428-7939) and your shirt(s) can be on the way!



Order Sons of Italy in America  
Grand Lodge of Maryland  
P. O. Box 85, Perry Hall, Maryland 21128

VISIT US AT [WWW.OSIAMD.ORG](http://WWW.OSIAMD.ORG)



## Did you Know?

A strawberry isn't a berry, but a banana is

Cashews grow on trees

Chocolate milk was invented in Ireland

Carrots were originally the color PURPLE

Ripe cranberries will bounce like rubber balls

Betty White IS actually older than sliced bread

"Spam" is short for spiced ham

Popsicles were invented by an 11-year-old in 1905

There are over 7,500 varieties of apples throughout the world

It would take you 20 years to try them all if you had one each day

The twists in pretzels are made to look like "arms crossed in prayer"

Now You know!

BUONA ESTATE A TUTTI

