

GRAND LODGE of MARYLAND



Il Giornale ~ Fall 2025

Letter from Immediate Past President

Ciao Brothers and Sisters,

The Grand Lodge of Maryland held its **55th Biennial Convention** on June 28th, 2025, where we hosted two special guests: National Vice Presidents **Mark DeNunzio** (3rd VP) and **Frank Gattuso** (5th VP). Brother DeNunzio presented the following - which will give you some insight as to what we do and who we are as a fraternal organization and membership benefits. Some of you may not know exactly what OSDIA does, so I hope you'll find this enlightening. Because we do good things! This overview is what OSDIA has done and continues to do ...

The Order of Sons & Daughters of Italy in America has been in existence for 120 years, founded by **Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro** in 1905, for the sole purpose of helping the many Italian immigrants adjust to a new country - America. He found housing, jobs, schooling to learn English, and helped them to learn about their new world.

We begin with **advocacy**. **The Commission for Social Justice (CSJ)** is OSDIA's anti-defamation arm, fighting tirelessly to protect and celebrate Italian-American culture. CSJ is at the forefront in efforts to preserve Columbus Day, avoid further destruction of Columbus statues, and oppose television ads and movies which depict Italians unjustly, ensuring our history and culture is honored and accurately represented. We have seen positive movement on this initiative from the White House and look forward to future updates on the progress to reinstate the celebration of Christopher Columbus!

CSJ has been instrumental in securing an apology from the City of New Orleans for the tragic 1891 lynching of 11 innocent Italian immigrants – one of the darkest moments in history. In October 2024, New Orleans installed a plaque at the lynching site to honor those who lost their lives, ensuring their memory is preserved and respected.

Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) is deeply committed to **philanthropy**. It has provided millions of dollars in scholarships to deserving students. The Foundation also supports critical organizations

such as [Alzheimer's Association](#), [Cooley's Anemia Foundation](#) and the [Flutie Foundation](#), among many other charities over the years, donating almost 200 million dollars. SIF has donated tens of millions of dollars to natural disaster relief efforts in Italy and the United States. The Order has funded medical research, historic preservation, and the restoration of national monuments, including the 911 Memorial in New York City.

Recently, the Supreme Lodge voted to make the [Garibaldi Meucci Museum](#), owned and operated by SIF, the fourth recognized charity for OSDIA. The museum is in Staten Island, New York, the original home of Meucci and where Garibaldi resided for four years with the Meucci family before returning to Italy to fight in the war.

Tangible benefits of OSDIA membership

- Receive access to exclusive discounts and programs, including Italian classes, genealogy research to help obtain Italian citizenship, and travel discounts, to name a few. After the recent decree by the Italian government limiting the ability to obtain dual citizenship, OSDIA advocated on behalf of those trying to do so. OSDIA organized a webinar featuring an Italian citizenship attorney from our lodge in Palermo, Italy - it was a huge success! (Did you know OSDIA is honored to have three established lodges in Italy?!)
- Members receive a quarterly copy of *Italian America* magazine, OSDIA's official publication. It is an excellent magazine in which you will learn about other Italian-American communities and notable Italians across the country and the world. Very recently, OSDIA has refreshed its logo, bringing it up to the 21st century. And an attractive logo it is!

Finally, please visit our websites - both [National's](#) and [Maryland's](#) ... there is much to read and learn about OSDIA and its 11 local lodges. Let's continue to preserve and celebrate our proud Italian-American heritage! I hope you have learned a bit more than you knew before about OSDIA, and might I add - be proud of it!

Grazie,
Anita Lombardi Riley
Immediate Past President

P.S. The Italian Relations & Culture Committee proudly announced the publication of its book, *Italian Holiday Celebrations & Traditions* of which Brother DeNunzio sold copies he brought to our convention. To purchase a copy for \$20, call 410-668-6742.



SUPER RAFFLE WINNERS

JANUARY

1	Joe Portera	17	Joanne McNichol
2	Joe Riley	18	Don Dalphonse
3	Barbara Loffler	19	Tom & Jacque Iacoboni
4	Kelly Riley	20	Stephen Tedeschi
5	Daniel Nardone	21	Charles Poggioli
6	Sandy Zitzer	22	Ronald Morazzano
7	Frances Cipriotti	23	Mary Zohlen
8	Lannea Petrecca	24	Ronald Morazzano
9	Eleanor Marano	25	Tom & Jacque Iacoboni
10	Dominic Marro	26	Della Lotman
11	Mary Giordano	27	Stephanie Riley
12	Tony Huckestein	28	Stephen Tedeschi
13	Stephanie Riley	29	Alice Sliwika
14	Dante DiCamillo	30	Amici e Fratelli Lodge
15	Tom & Jacque Iacoboni	31	Eleanor Marano
16	Deneice Fusco		

APRIL

1	Ken Hartman	16	Candy Ciamillo
2	Vera Girolami	17	Tracy Scagliarini
3	Logan Zellofer	18	Leo & Hania Romeo
4	Tina Wittstadt	19	Charles Poggiolio
5	Dion Guthrie	20	Tracy Scagliarini
6	Jeri Hartman	21	Olivia & Tom Kowiak
7	Josephine Palermino	22	Barbara Loffler
8	M. T. Bagileo	23	Fil Caccamisi
9	Janet Pantaleo	24	Hanna Guralnick
10	Anthony Spezio	25	Ronald Morazzano
11	Rose Leister	26	Nancy Penn
12	Caitlin Urick	27	Mary Zohlen
13	Don & Rosemary Rogers	28	Vito Potenza
14	Theresa Cook	29	Mary Giordano
15	Logan Zellofer	30	Vic Lombardi

FEBRUARY

1	Violet Riley	16	Leo & Hania Romeo
2	Ocean City Lodge	17	Joanne McNichol
3	Andrew Marro	18	Gerald Pantaleo
4	Mary Zohlen	19	Bob Gessinger
5	Joanne McNichol	20	Christine Reinhold
6	Andreana Lietuvnikas	21	Sheri Klein
7	Frances Cipriotti	22	Maria Ranieri
8	Sal Castorina	23	Eleanor Panessa
9	Catena Spiritosanto	24	Ronald Morazzano
10	Ann Bowman	25	Dylan Woods
11	Luke Roeder	26	Diane Zaccaria
12	Tony Walmsley	27	Mary Giordani
13	Tim Colmus	28	Sara Owens
14	Fran Transparenti		
15	Della Lotman		

MAY

1	Sue Ann Baietti	17	Sandy Zitzer
2	Joseph Wallace	18	Casi Lombardi
3	Fran Transparenti	19	Karen O'Leary
4	Mary Ellen Arena	20	John Calabrese
5	Violet Riley	21	Hanna Guralnick
6	Doma Sepczynski	22	Marty Fuhr
7	Arm Bowman	23	Amici E Fratelli Lodge
8	Joseph Zanetti	24	M.T., Bagileo
9	Janet Roca	25	Violet Riley
10	Maureen Eschbacher	26	Eleanor Panessa
11	Blake Spurlin	27	Timothy Colmus, Jr
12	Arlene Nunziati	28	Don Dalphonse
13	Rose Leister	29	Thomas Gewont
14	Eleanor Panessa	30	Monica DiCamillo
15	Angie Cassagnol	31	Maria Ranieri
16	Amanda Lietuvnikas		

MARCH

1	Emily Sacchetti	18	Philip Esposito
2	Gerald Pantaleo	19	Amanda Lietuvnikas
3	Vallen Clevenger	20	Janine Petragani
4	Belair Road Lodge	21	Mary Grubonski
5	Dylan Woods	22	Dominic Fornaro Lodge
6	Nancy Wolfe	23	Sal Castorina
7	Josie Spezio	24	Pat Reisner
8	Mary Alberta	25	Mary Gamble
9	Tom & Jacque Iacoboni	26	Gerald Pantaleo
10	Vera Girolami	27	Arlene Nunziati
11	Theresa Cook	28	Mary Maione
12	Mary Maione	29	Joan Peterson
13	Elisa Petragani	30	Joseph Zanetti
14	Victor Lombardi	31	Maureen Eschbacher
15	Patricia Potter		
16	Shalom Maimon		
17	Rose Marcin		

JUNE

1	Dave Manning	17	Stephen Tedeschi
2	Janet Pantaleo	18	Rose Marcin
3	Stephen Tedeschi	19	Judy Zanetti
4	Vincent DiCamillo	20	Kelly Riley
5	Joanne McNichol	21	John Zohlen
6	Anita Nucci	22	Lannea Petrecca
7	Mary Maione	23	John Saladino
8	Kelly Riley	24	Joe LeCompte
9	Sal Castorina	25	Carol Conn
10	Dominic Fornaro Lodge	26	Andrew Marra
11	Mary Maione	27	Janet Roca
12	Marty Fuhr	28	Rosemarie Johnson
13	Diane Zaccaria	29	Al Ferraro
14	Belair Road Lodge	30	Eleanor Panessa
15	Joe Traino		
16	Barbara Butler		

Annapolis Lodge Hosts Successful Spring Festa Celebrating Italian Culture and Community Giving

Annapolis, MD – May 4, 2025 — The Annapolis Lodge welcomed guests to its annual Spring Festa on May 4, transforming a rainy start into a vibrant celebration of Italian culture, community spirit, and charitable giving.

Despite early showers, the skies cleared and the community came out in full force to enjoy a festive day of music, food, and family-friendly fun. The event featured live performances by the Monaldi Brothers, Annapolis Blend, and the lodge's own talented house musicians, Gene Barbato and Dan Guay, creating a lively atmosphere throughout the day.

Over 20 vendors showcased artisan products, while children enjoyed face painting and arts and crafts activities. Inside the Lodge, members contributed a delicious array of traditional Italian dolce, adding a sweet touch to the celebration.

The Festa was not only a cultural gathering but also a successful fundraiser. Proceeds supported vital causes

including the Alzheimer's Association, the American Lung Association, scholarships, and local charities including the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, and the Light House Shelter.

"We are proud to continue our mission of celebrating Italian heritage while giving back to the community we love," said Lodge President Ray Gamble. "We are also grateful to our lodge members for their volunteerism."

The Annapolis Lodge is hosting our Fall Festa on Sunday, September 21 from 10am-3pm. We'd love to see you there!



OCEAN CITY LODGE

Local Students Awarded Scholarships By Ocean City Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge

Two graduating seniors from Stephen Decatur High School and one from Delmar High School have been selected to each receive \$3,000 college scholarships from the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy (SDOI). The organization each year awards scholarships to graduating seniors of Italian heritage.

This year's winners were Stephen Decatur students Ava Marie Snelsire of Berlin and Brooke Christine Berquist of Bishopville. Delmar resident Joseph Michael Anthony Morelli was the third recipient.

Ava Marie Snelsire will attend Hood College in Frederick, MD, to study biology, bio medical science, and sports medicine. She also has committed to play softball and field hockey at the school.

Brook Berquist plans to major in criminal justice at the University of Maryland, College Park. Joseph Morelli has been accepted to the University of North Alabama as a chemistry major.

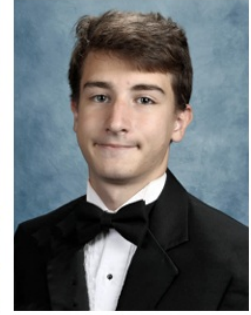
The Sons and Daughters of Italy of Ocean City hosts the annual St. Joseph's Day Festival in March, which is the organization's major fundraiser for its charitable giving and scholarship program.



Ava Marie Snelsire



Brooke Christine Berquist



*Joseph Michael Anthony
Morelli*



Ava Snelsire (L) and Brook Berquist receive their scholarship awards from SDOI Scholarship Committee member Judy DeLucco.



St Joseph's Day Festival

GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge awarded their scholarships at the State Convention Luncheon to the following students:

Annapolis Lodge
Edward August Pabst

Antonio Gatto Lodge
Amanda Marie Fairbanks

Harford County
Marina Grace Kuper

Little Italy Lodge
Madalyn Sadie Caiazzo
Frank Gibson Delosso

Towson Dulaney Lodge
Kathryn Christina Marzullo



WELCOME ITALIAN STUDENTS

Sons and Daughters of Italy Welcome Italian Students to Ocean City For Summer Work

As they do every year, the members of the Ocean City Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy welcomed Italian university students who travel to the resort city every year to fill Summer help jobs. This year 36 students from throughout Italy came to Ocean City to work at hotels, restaurants and amusement parks.

The first to arrive were treated to a typical American food often served in summer, fried chicken, smoked brisket, baked beans, mac and cheese and salad. For dessert they shared with members two sheet cakes one of which said in Italian Buona Estate a Ocean City. Translated it means Have a Nice Summer in Ocean City.

Then they were gifted with tote bags filled with some goodies and summer necessities assembled by Lodge members. Each student also received a Salisbury University shirt courtesy of members Pat and Al D'Annunzio, whose daughter attends the school.

One lucky Italian student won a raffle of a bike, a staple means of traveling by many foreign students in Ocean City each year. The bike was donated by a Lodge member and the winner said she would be sharing it with her fellow students.



Moving down the buffet line for their first taste of American summer fare



SDOI President Sue Ann Baietti (c) poses with the students and their welcome cakes.

VILLA ROMA TRIP

Thanks to great work by Imelda Liberatore and Angie DeSantis Kurek (with help from Ali Sliwka!), members, family and friends of several Maryland OSDIA Lodges filled a bus to spend four fun-filled days (and nights!) at the Villa Roma resort high in New York State's Catskill Mountains. Yes, it was rainy, chilly weather up there, even in late May, but that did not deter our group from having loads of enjoyable times.

After snacks, fun, raffles and games on the bus (with lunch at a traditional Cracker Barrel), the group settled in to their rooms after enjoying their first evening dinner, followed by many delicious home-style Italian meals, three times a day. We even attended a cooking demonstration, a Roman-style circus featuring Julius Caesar himself, and a San Genaro street festival.

Breakfast each day led to fun-filled activities before and after lunch including bocce tournaments, bowling, swimming, a pool-side hot tub, plus "horse races," several of which were somehow dominated by one well-known LIL member. We enjoyed outstanding professional nightly entertainment from singers, comedians, musicians. A nearly two hour concert in the Villa's huge indoor theater by a Fleetwood Mac tribute band made such a hit that some in the group said they performed way better than the originals. Rumors spread about forming an alternate Stevie Nicks fan club!

In summary, most of us (myself included!) would say that the trip came off as a total success in so many ways. All doubts about the dreary weather, food authenticity, or facilities and entertainment, got wiped away by the Villa Roma and its gracious staff.

So when do we go back? And won't we need two busses?

-- Albert Marra, Little Italy Lodge



send in your lodge's news & photos!

Grand Lodge Executives

STATE OFFICERS

Vincent Zaccaria - President
Mike Castino - First Vice President
Louis Marzullo - Second Vice President
Ali Sliwka - Third Vice President
Anita Lombardi Riley - Immediate Past President
Mike Transparenti - Orator
Albert Marra - Recording Secretary
Sue Palamara - Financial Secretary
Mike Petrecca - Treasurer

STATE TRUSTEES AT LARGE

Imelda Liberatore, Head Trustee - Harford County Lodge
Carol Rossi Conn - Montgomery County Lodge
Nancy Barbieri Wolfe - Little Italy Lodge
Kim Scolaro - Annapolis Lodge
Tina Wittstadt - Belair Road Lodge

ARBITRATION COMMISSION

Martin Fuhr, Chair - Belair Road Lodge
John Barbo - Annapolis Lodge
Carol Caiazzo - Little Italy Lodge
Doannie Tambascio - Annapolis Lodge
Kevin Lasko - Little Italy Lodge

NATIONAL DELEGATES

Anita Lombardi Riley - Dominic Fornaro Lodge
Frank Panessa - Annapolis Lodge
Mike Transparenti - Belair Road Lodge

NATIONAL TRUSTEE

Anita Lombardi Riley - Dominic Fornaro Lodge

PAST STATE PRESIDENTS

Frances Cipriotti - Belair Road Lodge
Daniel Longo - Harford County Lodge
Frank Panessa - Annapolis Lodge
Vincent Zaccaria - Little Italy Lodge
Anita Lombardi Riley - Dominic Fornaro Lodge

Local Maryland Lodges & Presidents

Amici e Fratelli Lodge #2673
John DiBattista
jdargentibizgroup@aol.com

Annapolis Lodge #2225
Ray Gamble
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Antonio Gatto Lodge #2459
Frank Ragone
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Belair Road Lodge #2265
Martin Fuhr
the_one08@hotmail.com

Dominic Fornaro Lodge #2475
Anita Lombardi Riley
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Forty West Lodge #2266
Ken Harness
(Acting President)
vze1r7rb@verizon.net

Harford County Lodge #2464
Mike Castino paisan@comcast.net

Little Italy Lodge #2286
Chris Pisano
littleitalylodge@gmail.com

Montgomery County
Lodge #2288
Mike Bertocchi
mike1970@aol.com

Ocean City Lodge #2474
Sue Ann Baietti
sueann1257@aol.com

Towson Dulaney
Lodge #2292
Filippo Caccamisi
cameophoto@aol.com

visit Grand Lodge of MD online >>>

Events



OSDIA COLUMBUS GALA 2025

sunday
october
26, 2025 | 1-5
pm
\$100



HONOREES

Columbus Award

Suzanna Molino

Director & Founder, Promotion Center
for Little Italy, Baltimore (est. 2010)

Ameritan Award

John Pica

President, Columbus Celebrations
President, Italian American Org. United

TICKETS

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Anita Riley 410-781-0206
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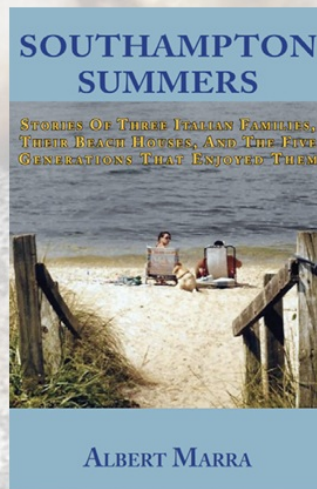
SOUTHAMPTON SUMMERS

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By Albert Marra

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Norfolk, VA

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Gabriela Christie Toletti, Ph.d.

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