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## *A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213*



*October 2026*

*Issue 20*

Welcome to the October Edition of my [\*Newsletter\*](#). Autumn is finally here, with cooler temperatures and shorter days. I personally like this time of year especially when I see all the beautiful colors of the leaves changing on the trees and knowing Halloween will be upon us in a few short weeks. I especially enjoy it when the little ones come trick-or-treat-ing in their costumes with their bright smiles asking for their treats. My house is already decorated and just waiting to celebrate the day with whoever knocks on the door. This time of the year is also when all the sports enthusiasts look forward to Sunday and Monday night football or perhaps they are waiting for the World Series to begin. Go Yankees. However you spend your time, enjoy it. Autumn is also a time when some of our Brothers and Sisters will start to make their homemade wine or perhaps jar their Olives. Another time- honored tradition to be passed down to our children and grandchildren. I would love to taste some of that wine or try some of the Olives.

Unfortunately, we started September on a somber note with the passing of our Past President Sister Teresa Rivero. Sister Teresa was a proud and passionate Italian American who lived her life with a vibrant spirit, a deep devotion to her family and friends and an



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unwavering love for her Italian American heritage. Her Italian roots shone through everything she did and she leaves behind a legacy of love, faith and culture that will not be forgotten. On her prayer card there was a quote from St. John Bosco also known as Don Bosco “Everyone and Everything is won by the Sweetness of our Words and Works”. Such powerful words. So it’s with a heavy heart and great sadness that we say goodbye to Sister Teresa. To the entire Riverso family Sister Maria, William and Ralph although your mom has passed away she will always be in our hearts. May she rest in the Arms of the Lord.

On Saturday night *September 19th*, our Lodge was to host an *80’s Revival Night* featuring the music of *Those Guys*, unfortunately we are postponing the event to a later date. We will keep you posted on the new date, and hope you will join us as we go back in time with the great music of the 80’s.

Our *Annual Family Picnic* was held on Sunday *September 20th*, at Ridge Road Park Field #2 in Hartsdale. Rain or Shine couldn’t keep us away from having a good time, and believe it or not it did rain all day but we made the best of it. There was an abundance of food where we served a lunch of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken, Sausage & Peppers, Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, along with all the condiments to go with it. That was followed by Dinner of Steak , Vegetables, Potatoes and Corn on the Cob. Of course we also had Watermelon, and an amazing Dessert table for everyone to enjoy.



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Special thank you to our Chairpeople for the day. Brothers Anthony Miceli, Nick Vaccarelli, and Charles Toto, and let's not forget Brother Mario Cermele and his staff from Cermele's catering who made sure we had a great time. Unfortunately, because of the rain we didn't have our usual Egg Toss, Tug of War or Balloon Toss, but there were people playing Italian cards, Mahjong, and other board games, all while enjoying the music we had streaming from our playlist. I need to personally thank all our Brothers and Sisters that came to help in the morning and evening to set-up and breakdown as it was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Brothers Frank Solak, Dennis Capossella, Frank Autera, Juan Sierra, Sisters Bernadetta Vaccarelli, Rosalia Miceli, Pamela Danza and Cathy Grisanti for helping. I also want to thank our Lodge District Deputy Margaret Forte and the members from Le Amiche Lodge for attending. To all the lucky winners who won bottles of wines and of course to Sister Jackie Sierra who won the 50/50. Congratulations.

At our last General meeting on *Tuesday September 22nd*, our Lodge initiated 4 new members who were excited to join the Antonio Meucci Lodge and be proud members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. Those initiated were Sister Roxanne Surace, Brothers Marco Buglione, Mauro DeCillis and Paul Mangieri. We also installed Brother Gino DiMicelli as our new interim Orator. I would like to thank NY State Recording Secretary Remo Carriero, and our Lodge Deputy Margaret Forte for doing the ceremonies. To the newly installed members you joined a very



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active Lodge. A Lodge that is very proud in supporting not only the local community of White Plains, but we also donate money to a vast number of charities at both the Grand Lodge and the local surrounding areas in Westchester County. We are also proud to support our young adults through our Scholarship program. It's even nicer when these Scholarship winners join the Lodge. One of those previous scholarship winners was Marco Buglione, I know your parents were very happy to see you get installed that night. Congratulations to everyone.

*On Friday September 25th* , the Lodge hosted a *Pasta/Tombola* fundraiser for the CSJ (Commission for Social Justice). Brothers Mario Cermele and Chris Famularo Chaired this event to an overwhelming success. There were multiple games of Tombola/Bingo with cash prizes, along with a 50/50 and raffles, and an abundance of food, along with Watermelon, Fruit, Cookies, and Cannoli's. I need to thank all those that helped to make the night a success. To Brothers Frank Autera, Gino DiMiceli, Anthony Miceli, Sisters Caroline Baviello, Maria DiMiceli, Pamela Danza and Cathy Grisanti. I appreciate all your help that night. I also want to thank all our members for attending this worthwhile fundraiser event to support the CSJ.

Unfortunately, because of the inclement weather on Saturday September 26th, the *Gift of Sight Annual Fundraising Luncheon had to be postponed until Saturday November 14th*. This year's honoree will be past Chairperson Sister Mary Naccarato. As you are probably aware our



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Lodge has always supported this charity whose mission is to give medical and financial assistance to individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired and to future partner with other organizations to improve their quality of life. It's always an emotional event and I'm sure that day will be no different.

I would like to send *Get Well* wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Andrea Broccia, Heidi Banzinger, Roselle Cucuzza, Jenny Famularo, Cathy Lembo-Lloyd, Dora Pallagrosi, Daniela Rose, Laura Stagliano, Charmaine Thomas, Brothers Umberto Amato, Nick Fragnito, Lucio Gatti, Frank Landi, John Pezzullo, Vince Roselli, Charles Tota, and Peter Guastella son to Charles Guastella. May you all experience good health real soon.

To all our members celebrating October *Birthdays*, Buon Compleanno. I hope you all enjoy celebrating your Birthdays. You know some famous people born in the month of October were Luciano Pavarotti, Giuseppe Verdi and Bruno Sammartino the famous Italian-American professional wrestler. I still remember how my grandmother idolized Bruno, and made sure her grandchildren watched him wrestle on TV.

Congratulations to all our October couples celebrating their anniversary, a very *Buon Anniversario*. I hope everyone has a



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wonderful time celebrating your Anniversaries, and your day is filled with Joy, Happiness, and most of all Love.

Congratulations to Brother Gino DiMicelli who was appointed as the new interim Orator replacing Brother Nando Alpuche, and to Brother Christopher Famularo who is now our new Principal Trustee. I would like to thank Brother Nando for all his years of service on our Executive Board and congratulations on your new home that you purchased in Long Island.

Congratulations to Louis Carolini who just accepted a Guidance Counselor position at Sturgis Charter School in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Louis is the son of Brother Pat and Kim Carolini. I know this has always been Louis' aspiration to be a guidance counselor, and just goes to show that hard work and perseverance pays off.

Congratulations to our NY State Chaplain Anthony Mario Saliba who was elevated to Monsignor by the Bishop of Rome. He will be ordained at St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Deer Park, NY on October 4th.



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Recently, I just read of a 13 year old Italian boy named Dominic Auricchio from Westfield, New Jersey, who has felt a calling to the priesthood since an early childhood. At age four he dreamed that God told him to become a Priest. A connection that has remained steady ever since, as he continues on his path to becoming a Priest. Congratulations Dominic on your chosen profession to serve the Lord and the Catholic community.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Sister Vicky Puja and the entire Puja family on the passing of her brother Joseph Abatino. May he rest in the Arms of the Lord.

Very interesting American Film, Director, Producer & Screenwriter Martin Scorsese is in advanced talks with Italy's Ministry of Culture known as Ministero della Cultura or MIC located at College Romano Palace in Rome, Italy to donate his entire 50 year personal film archives to the City. This would include his original scripts, costumes, props, filmmaking equipment and any correspondence with producers relating to his movies. What a windfall for Italy.

Did you know that back in October 17, 1904 the Bank of Italy was formed, in San Francisco, California. It was founded by an Italian Immigrant Amadeo Peter Giannini, the son of immigrants from Liguria, Italy. Amadeo was born in San Jose, California in



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1870 and raised with the values of hard work, sacrifices, family and community. Giannini started the bank specifically to serve working-class immigrants and small businesses who were turned away by other mainstream banks. The institution went on to pioneer modern branch banking and famously provided immediate, handshake-based loans to help rebuild the city after the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The Bank of Italy continued its massive expansion across California when it officially changed its name to Bank of America in 1930.

October is always a very busy month as we celebrate our Italian Heritage and Culture, especially with all the Festas, Parades and Fall Harvest activities around the area. So I want to make sure you mark your calendar for our annual *Columbus Wreath Celebration* at Tibbits Park in White Plains on *October 11, 2026, 10:00 am*. This is where we get to pay homage to Christopher Columbus. This ceremony which has been performed by our Lodge for many years, and with all the controversy still surrounding Christopher Columbus these past few years, we should be proud that his Statue in White Plains was declared a historical landmark which means it can never be touched or taken down. Some of our members remember just how hard we fought to preserve and save that Statue with all the meetings we attended with the White Plains Common Council. Well it worked, and it's still there. As our Brother Mario Cermele always said "*We Named It, We Built It, We Served It, We Respect It, We Love It*". The



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ceremony will start at 10:00 am followed by a light Breakfast at the Lodge. This year our guest speaker will be Joseph Spedaliere an educator who spent over 25 years in the White Plains High School district teaching Italian to students. I encourage everyone to join us on that day.

Are you aware that it was also President George H.W. Bush who signed a proclamation designating Columbus Day October 9, 1989 as a day to honor the history, traditions, and contributions of millions of people of Italian descent. But it is our current President Donald J. Trump since he has been in Office recognized the many contributions of Christopher Columbus through his actions. He has promoted Christopher Columbus and our Italian-American heritage by issuing official holiday proclamations and in March 2026, he installed a Columbus Statue on the White House grounds near the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. He also rehabilitated the Christopher Columbus Memorial Fountain outside Union Station in Washington, D.C., restoring its plumbing and turning the water back on for the first time since 2007. He consistently issues annual proclamations honoring Columbus and the contributions of Italian Americans. Last year on October 9, 2025, Trump signed a high-profile Columbus Day Proclamation, where he declared *Columbus “the original American hero”* and told his cabinet *“We’re back, Italians! We love the Italians”*. He is also responsible for restoring a statue of a monument that was pulled down and thrown into Baltimore’s Harbor during the 2020 social justice protests. His



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administration stated “*the statue was erected to honor the Italian-American community and reject what they call attempts to erase history*”. Thank you President Trump for recognizing not only Christopher Columbus but all Italian Americans. We need to also thank the CSJ (Commission of Social Justice) for all the hard work they do to fight the fight of any injustice that may arise not only with Columbus but with other stereotyping against Italians.

The following day on Monday *October 12th*, we will have the opportunity of marching in the *82nd Annual New York City Columbus Day Parade*. The parade, hosted by the Columbus Citizens Foundation, is the largest celebration of Italian-American culture and heritage in the nation. If anyone is interested in marching please let me know ASAP. Currently, there is one bus between District IV and V that we will share, however if there is an interest of more people that would like to go another bus may need to be secured. The parade is a rain or shine event, and the bus will leave from F. Ruggiero Funeral Home in Yonkers. So let's show our pride and march in the Parade on that day.

Another first time event our Lodge will be doing in October, is a *Movie Night*, where our Lodge is renting the LOOK Dine-In Cinema in Dobbs Ferry. Based on the survey that our members took, the consensus was a comedy. So the movie we will see is “*It Started in Naples*” starring Sophia Loren and Clark Gable. The date is *October 18th, 5-7 pm*. If anyone is interested in attending you can reach out to Sister Michelle Spiniello on 347 283-9810. It should be a fun night to spend with your Brothers and Sisters.



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On Wednesday [October 21st](#), Westchester County, and County Executive Ken Jenkins will host Italian Heritage month with the [Raising of The Italian Flag](#). This is a night we get to celebrate our Italian Heritage in Westchester County. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 pm in front of the Michaelian Office Building on Martine Ave in White Plains. There will be a reception to follow at 5:30. If anyone would like to attend the reception please send an email to [communications@westchestercountyny.gov](mailto:communications@westchestercountyny.gov) no later than Wednesday October 14th. Hope to see you there.

On [Friday October 23rd](#), we will be having our [Lobster Tail, Steak and Cigar night](#). This event was supposed to happen in June but needed to be postponed due to the death of one of our members. I am happy to say we reschedule it for Friday October 23rd 7:00pm. It's a casual night to enjoy a great dinner, which includes 2 Premium Cigars, Door Prizes, Raffles, 50/50. The cost is \$120 per person. All are welcomed to attend. You can make your reservations by calling Brother Anthony Miceli on 914 879-6884. You can also view our website for the flyer.

Another exciting event we are planning is our Children Halloween '[Boo-Bash](#)'. The date is scheduled for [Sunday October 25th](#), from 1:00 pm - 4pm for Children 3-12 years old. [The cost is \\$10.00](#). Of course the little ones are always welcome to attend free of charge and experience all the excitement of this SUPER "EERIE-



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SISTIBLE” Halloween party. The event will have an Italian twist to it as we celebrate Italian Heritage month in October. For reservations please call Brother Chris Famularo on 347 203-5991. You can view our website for the flyer.

Before you know it November will be here and I want to mention some other events the Lodge will be hosting. On *Sunday November 1st, at 10:30 am* at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains, the Lodge will have its annual memorial mass. The mass will be performed in both English and Italian, and it is a time where we get to pay homage to our deceased Brothers and Sisters who came before us to make our Lodge what it is today. A Lodge that is over 112 years old, and filled with such rich tradition, and fond memories of what it was like before the modern digital world of cell phones, social media and AI. After mass we will come back to the Lodge for a light meal. This year alone, 4 of our long time members passed away, and we will give them their due respect at this memorial mass. Those that have passed away were Past President Teresa Rivero, Sisters Rita Cestone, Sister Grazia (Franca) Ricciardella, and Brother Ray Tocci.

On *Friday, November 6th*, we will host a Comedy night featuring Chris Monty, Joe Portillo, and Karen Margaret. The price is \$45 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Sister Roselle Cucuzza 917 440-9946 or Brother Anthony Gerasia 914 262-6693.



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So come and enjoy a night of fun and laughter.

Also let's not forget our always successful *Pocketbook Bingo* fundraiser. This event will be held on *Friday November 13th*, and sells out very fast. If you are interested in coming please make your reservations by calling Sister Pamela Danza on 914 980-1055. There will be 10 games of Bingo where you can win a Designer Pocketbook, along with Door Prizes, Raffles and so much more. So don't miss out on this Holiday extravaganza of Pocketbook Bingo.

Italy does not have any standard nationwide public holidays they celebrate in October. However Halloween, celebrated on October 31st, is a holiday that has gained popularity worldwide, and Italy is no exception. The origins of Halloween date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. Halloween evolved, incorporating various traditions and becoming particularly popular in the United States. Its modern form, characterized by costumes, trick-or-treating, and spooky decorations, has spread globally, including Italy. However, in the month of October Italy is known for wine harvest celebrations and food festivals across the various regions. Such notable ones are the Alba White Truffle Festival in Piedmont, the delicious EuroChocolate Festival in Perugia, and the various Chestnut Festivals Sagra della Castagna. Also Rome is famous for its Film Festivals and smaller wine events generally called Sagra dell'Uva. But let's not forget Italy will most noticeably



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celebrate on October 4th the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 12th Columbus Day, October 15th the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila, a Catholic, feast day recognizing the revered Spanish mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Church, followed by October 31st, All Hallows's Eve or Halloween. So whatever your plans are, enjoy them.

In the month of October there are many National Health days that are celebrated all month long, like National Health Literacy, National Domestic Violence Awareness, National ADHD Awareness, National Physical Therapy, National Down Syndrome Awareness and National Breast Cancer Awareness. I like to mention that my Sister-in-law Jennifer Buffalino just wrote a book that can be purchased on Amazon for \$14.99 called *Dressed & Confident: A Woman's Guide to Getting Dressed after Mastectomy*. She's a Board-Certified Mastectomy fitter and wrote the book to make the journey a little easier for women who have questions after breast surgery. It's a straightforward, compassionate book to address many of the questions women may have.

Since October is Italian Heritage month there are quite a few days during the month you can celebrate by eating lots of food Italians love to eat. First and foremost all month long it's National Pizza Month. On October 9th it's Beer and Pizza day, followed by on October 11th Sausage Pizza Day, and October 17th it's Pasta Day just to name a few. October is also known to celebrate Apple



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and Pumpkin pie days, which I love a good Apple Pie A La Mode. I also want to mention that on October 5th we get to celebrate all our wonderful Teachers. We definitely salute all that you do as you shape the minds of our children.

In closing, hopefully you will enjoy all the many Festas, Parades and Cultural Italian activities the month of October has to offer as we celebrate our Italian Heritage with Pride and Dignity. Brother Frank and I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Columbus Day as we celebrate *The Man, The Myth, the Legend*, and a very Happy Halloween to all. Stay safe, and hopefully we will see you at one of our upcoming events or a General Meeting.

To all my Brothers and Sisters may you always remember our motto **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

Sempre Avanti,  
President Camille



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