



# AVANTI

ANTONIO MEUCCI LODGE N° 213 • OSDIA • WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Calendar of Events 2026

#### January

- 1/14: Board Meeting
- 1/27: General Meeting

#### February

- 2/11: Board Meeting
- 2/13: Elvis Night
- 2/24: General Meeting & Initiation

#### March

- 3/11: Board Meeting
- 3/14: St. Joseph & St. Patricks
- 3/24: General Meeting



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



To My Brothers and Sisters,

**Happy New Year** and welcome to the Winter 2026 Quarterly Edition of the *Avanti*. Putting this Newsletter together every three months takes time and I would be amiss if I didn't mention the dedicated people working behind the scenes to make this happen with Pictures of Past Events, Human Interest Stories, information on OSDIA at both the State and National levels. To Brothers Nando Alpuche, Joe Griffo and Sister Margherita Capicotto thank you so much for putting this Edition of the *Avanti* together.

This past year, the Lodge was so busy with events that were not only successful, but made you proud that you are a member of a very active and strong Lodge. But what I'm most proud of was that our Lodge hosted the NYS Plenary Session in October with our newly elected NYS President Arthur Spera also in attendance was National President Thom Lupo, and National 5th Vice President Robert Ferrito. At that meeting IPP Mario Cermele was announced as Co-Chair of the NYS CSJ. Other highlights was the *John Dabbene Italian Essay Contest* and the winner for District IV was Miss Emma Cannavo daughter of members Brother Carlo and Sister Lina Cannavo who wrote a beautiful essay on *What My Italian Heritage Means to Me*, also IPP Mario Cermele and Sister Pamela Danza were recognized by the NYS Gift of Sight with an Humanitarian Award. However, through the support of our members we were able to award \$20,000 in Scholarships to very worthy and deserving students. I'm also happy to report that our Lodge through your support and generosity were able to donate thousand of dollars to such worthy charities like the Italian Welfare League, Gift of Sight, CSJ, Cooley's Anemia, Mt. Carmel Church, Friends of Karen, and Rosary Hill to name just a few.

The year 2026 will be no different. We have many activities and events already planned for the year, which I'm hoping that our members will attend and support so we can continue to do the good work of the Order.

As previously mentioned the *Avanti* is only printed quarterly and mailed to those people who do not have an email address, however I do write a monthly Newsletter to keep you abreast on what is going on in the Lodge. If you want to receive the Newsletter please send an email to [antoniomeuccilodge213@gmail.com](mailto:antoniomeuccilodge213@gmail.com), and we will be happy to add you to the list.

Another way to keep abreast with Lodge news is to listen to our monthly Podcast the Lion's Den hosted by Brothers Nando Alpuche, Adam Pacecca and Joe Griffo. It's very informative with interesting guest speakers. Thanks guys for doing this.

In closing, until our next Edition of the *Avanti* I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year, a Happy Valentines' Day, and if you are attending any Carnevale parties as we start to prepare for the Easter Season enjoy them and stay safe. Brothers and Sisters may you always remember our motto **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

**THE AVANTI** is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge N° 213 and is published quarterly. Please submit all items for publication by the next day after The General Meeting preceding the month of publication. Contact Margherita Capicotto for all new submissions at [fivecaps@optonline.net](mailto:fivecaps@optonline.net)



**Antonio Meucci  
Lodge 213**  
ORDER  
Sons and Daughters of Italy  
IN AMERICA

# OFFICERS 2025

**President:** Camille Tarone  
**Vice President:** Anthony Miceli,  
**Second Vice President:** Cathy Grisanti  
**Immediate Past President:** Mario Cermele  
**Orator:** Nando Alpuche  
**Financial Secretary:** Joe Griffo  
**Treasurer:** Lina Amello  
**Recording Secretary:** Caroline Baviello  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Rosalia Miceli  
**Principal Trustee:** Gino DiMiceli

**Trustees:**  
 Tina Amato, Rita Carolini, Maria DiMiceli  
**Christopher Famularo, Lucy Tocci, Dina Roselli, Charles Guastella, Maria Malandro, Antonella Capicotto DeLia, Nick Vaccarelli**

**Ceremonial Officers:**  
**Heidi Banzinger, Roselle Cucuzza**

**Sentinels:**  
**Adam Pacecca, Lynda Innocenzi**

**Arbitration Committee:**  
 Sam Amello, Richard Strobel, Frank Autera, Anna Maria Forte, Tina Salerno

**Past Presidents**  
 Antonio Amato, Antonio Capicotto, Mario Cermele, Teresa Rivero, Frank Tarone, Rose Tassone, Charles Tota

**Chaplain:**  
**Joe Tanzi**

**District Lodge Deputy:**  
**Margaret Forte**

**LAMOSIA:**  
**Pamela Danza (Treasurer)**  
**Antonio Amato (Past President)**  
**Rose Tassone ((Past President)**  
**Teresa Rivero (Past President))**  
**Charles Tota (Past President)**  
**Mario Cermele (Past President)**

**Antonio Meucci Lodge#213 Inc Directors:**  
**Umberto Amato, Michael DiSavino, Raymond Tocci**

## Congratulations

**Brother Frank Amato and his wife Krista** on the engagement of their daughter Julia to Gaetano. Julia is also the granddaughter of Brother Tony and Sister Tina Amato

Congratulations to the **Eglauf and Amato families** on their Son and Grandson Tyler who is joining his father Chiropractic office Eglauf Wellness Center

Congratulations to **Brother Carlo & Sister Lina Cannavo's** daughter Emma Cannavo who won the *John Dabbene Italian Essay Contest* for District IV. Emma received a check for \$200, and an Award Certificate.

Congratulations to **IPP Mario Cermele** who was appointed Co-Chair of the NYS Commission of Social Justice (CSJ.)

Congratulations to **Sister Maria Theresa Quaranta** who wrote her second book. It's a Christmas book for Children called *Festeggiamo Il Natale Con Mariiii!!!*. The book can be purchased on Amazon.

Congratulations to **Sister Rosemary Reo**, on

Rosemary's daughter Jessica who just signed her National letter of intent with LeMoyne College to play Division 1 Lacrosse. Jessica's grandfather is **Brother Vince Roselli**, her Aunt is **Sister Dina Roselli**, and Grand Niece to **Brother Charles Tota**.

Congratulations to the new addition to the Arbitration Board, **Brothers Sam Amello, Frank Autera, and Alternate Sister Daniella Farduchi-Rose**

Congratulations to **Brother Carlo Riccobonno** who was re-elected as President of the West Harrison Volunteer Fire Department. I also want to congratulate his son Anthony who was just hired by the Westchester County Police force. So proud of both of you.

Congratulations to **Sam Pezzullo son of Brother John Pezzullo** who wrote and directed a Mockumentary called "The Premier" and was most recently interviewed on Good Day NY by News Anchor Rosanna Scotto. You made us proud Sam.

## Get Well Wishes

**To All our Brothers and Sisters and Extended Family**

Tony Amato, Umberto Amato, Heidi Banziger, Ron Cardillo, Nina Marie Chillerni, Antionette Cinicolo, Betty Corvino, Angela D'Ambrosio, Ashley DiMatteo, Anna Maria Forte, Margaret Forte, Nick Fragnito, Connie Morabito, Mike Grisanti, Maryanne Pellegrini, Vincenza Puja, Joe Tanzi, Teresa Rivero, Vince

## Deepest Sympathy

Deepest sympathies to the Tornatore Family on the passing of Carol Tornatore Mother to **Brother Anthony Sr, and Grandmother to Brother Anthony Jr, and Sister Daniela**

**To NYS Past First Lady Madeline Matteucci** on the passing of her husband **NYS Past President Carlo Matteucci**

**To Brother Dominick and Sister Angela D'Ambrosio** on the passing of their **Sister-in-Law Fanny Mondelli**.

**To the Colantunno Family** on the passing of **Brother John Colantunno**, a long time Honorary member of the Lodge

**To the DeMaria, & Malandro Families** on the passing of **Sister Josephine DeMaria, a long time member of the Lodge**.

**To Brother Roberto Caso and his wife Grace**, on the passing of his Father-in-Law **Bernardo Ferrera**

**May they all rest in the arms of the Lord.**



If you have moved, changed email or phone please notify us with your new contact information so we can keep our records up to date. Contact

Camille Tarone  
 at 914-772-1768 or  
 email: tarone96@aol.com

**If you would like to publish milestones i.e. weddings, births, anniversaries etc. please contact Sr. Margherita Capicotto at 914-980-7987 and your information will be added to next AVANTI.**

### OFFICER'S MEETINGS

2nd Weds of Every Month @ 7:30pm  
 Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8,  
 May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug 12,  
 Sep 9, Oct 14,  
 Nov 11, Dec 9

### GENERAL MEETINGS

4th Tues of Every Month @ 7:30pm  
 Jan 27, feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28, May  
 26, June 23, July 28, Aug 25, Sep  
 22, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22

## ITALY'S CELEBRATED HOLIDAYS, EVENTS AND RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

### JANUARY

**January 6th:** Epiphany which marks the end of the Christmas season, and features the folklore figure La Befana. It's a celebrates the arrival of the "Magi (Wisemen) to visit baby Jesus

**January 17:** The Feast Day of San Antonio Abbot—considered to be the Father of the monks

### FEBRUARY

**Carnevale is generally celebrated in February. This pre-lenten Festival is the highlight of the month, 40 days before Easter.**

**February 2:** Candlemas is known as the Feast of the Candelora. It is a traditional Christian feast marking the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. And the purification of the Virgin Mary.

**February 3-5:** The Feast Day of St. Agatha. This is a major religious day celebrated in Catania, Sicily. It honors the Sicilian Virgin Martyr known for her faith, chastity and patronage of breast cancer.

**February 3:** St. Biagio Day celebrates with a tradition of eating cakes like panettone and drinking wine for a blessing of the throat and good health.

**February 14:** St. Valentine's Day (La Festa di San Valentino) focuses primarily on romantic love with dinner and gifts like Baci chocolates and a tradition of love locks on bridges.

**February 15:** St. Faustino's which is the Patron St. of Brescia and is also known as Singles Day an alternative to Valentine's Day.

**February 18:** Ash Wednesday is known as Mercoledì Delle Ceneri. It marks the solemn end of Carnevale festivities like Venice's famous masked balls and feasts and the beginning of Lent.

### MARCH

**March 8:** Festa Della Donna (Women's Day) in Italy is celebrated, as a vibrant occasion honoring woman's achievements, solidarity and the fight for equality, marked by gifting bright yellow mimosa flowers.

**March 9:** The Feast Day of St. Frances of Rome (Santa Francesca Romana). The City's co-patron saint known as a model of mercy, a founder of a lay Benedictine order (Oblates of Mary), and the patron Saint of drivers, with special car blessings.

**March 15:** The Ides of March, while not a public holiday it celebrates the anniversary of Julius Caesar's assassination in 44BC, marking its date associated with betrayal and ill-fortune, famously "Beware the Ides of March" by Shakespeare.

**March 17:** On this day Italy celebrates National Unity, Constitution Day and Flag Day (Festa dell'Unita Nazionale, della Costituzione e dell'Inno) marking the anniversary of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861.

**March 19:** St. Joseph Day Festa di San Giuseppe celebrates the foster Father of Jesus, as a patron of workers, families and the poor traditionally marked by feasting, on special foods like Zeppole. It also coincides with Italy's Father Day.

**March 29:** This year Palm Sunday is celebrated on March 29th. It is the Christian moveable Feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The Feast commemorates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



## PRESEPIO ITALIANO

### A Living Tradition of Faith, Craft, and Community

Every December, as Italy prepares for Christmas, a familiar scene begins to appear in homes, churches, and public squares: the **presepio**. More than a simple nativity display, the Italian presepio is a cultural cornerstone—an art form, a family ritual, and a centuries-old storytelling tradition that

continues to shape the country's holiday identity.

#### St. Francis and the Birth of a Tradition

The roots of the presepio reach back to **1223**, when **St. Francis of Assisi** organized the first live nativity scene in Greccio, Italy. His intention was simple: to make the story of Christ's birth tangible for ordinary people. Using a humble cave, live animals, and local villagers, he transformed scripture into an accessible, emotional experience.

From this moment, the presepio evolved from a devotional practice into a widespread custom. By the Renaissance, churches commissioned elaborate nativity sculptures, and noble families displayed finely crafted scenes in their palaces. But it was in the homes of everyday Italians that the presepio truly took root—becoming a multigenerational craft and a cherished symbol of Christmas.

#### The Neapolitan Presepe: Where Art Meets Theatrical Life

Nowhere in Italy has the presepio reached greater artistic heights than in **Naples**. The **Neapolitan presepe**, flourishing especially in the 18th century, transformed the nativity into a vibrant tableau of daily life. While the Holy Family sits at the center, the surrounding scene explodes with activity: market vendors, musicians, beggars, nobles, fishermen, tavern keepers, angels, artisans—each figure capturing a slice of Neapolitan culture.

What sets the Neapolitan style apart is its blend of sacred and secular. The contrast was intentional. In the bustling villages and alleyways, artisans used the nativity to depict the social world around them, reminding viewers that the divine enters the everyday. The result is a presepe that feels as alive as Naples itself—dramatic, layered, colorful, and endlessly detailed.

#### Figurines and Craftsmanship: A Handmade Legacy

The magic of the presepio lies in its artisans. Traditionally, figurines (**pastori**) were sculpted in terracotta, with hand-painted faces and carefully tailored miniature clothing. Many included real fabric, silk, and even jewelry. Scenes were built using cork, moss, paper-mâché, and wood, all arranged into intricate landscapes of mountains, grottoes, and village streets. In Naples, **Via San Gregorio Armeno**—known as "Christmas Alley"—remains the beating heart of this craft. Workshops here produce figurines year-round, combining ancient techniques with contemporary creativity. Alongside the traditional shepherds and kings, artisans famously sculpt modern political figures, celebrities, and local characters—an evolving commentary on current events that keeps the presepe relevant and playful. The Tradition Stands Today! Across Italy, the presepio remains a treasured Christmas ritual. Families still pass down handmade figurines, churches stage large-scale nativity scenes, and towns compete in presepe exhibitions.



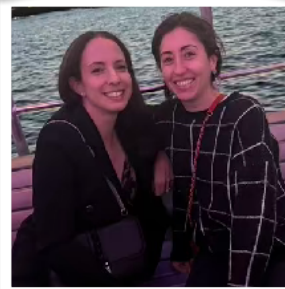
# LODGE NEWS



## HONORS FROM "GIFT OF SIGHT"




The OSDIA Gift of Sight is a philanthropic program by the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. The NYS Grand Lodge Foundation of the Gift of Sight provides medication/financial help for vision problems, sponsoring surgeries (like cataract removal), funding eye care research/equipment, and offering scholarships to Italian American Students with visual impairments, to restore sight and support for those in need. This year the NY State Gift of Sight honored Immediate Past President Mario Cermele and Sister Pamela Danza with a Humanitarian Award. They also got to name the seeing eye dog, which they chose the name Chiara which means Bright and Clear.



## ALL ABOARD! THE LIBERTY CRUISE SAILS IN NEW YORK!

Most New Yorkers have never been to The Statue of Liberty... I guess as NYers, we take it for granted... But, on September 21st AML's Social Committee, led by Vice President Anthony Miceli decided to change things up and give our members the opportunity to visit Lady Liberty. The members sailed down The East River marveling at the lights of New York City while enjoying dinner and listening some fine Italian music. . We were fortunate enough to see a fireworks spectacle near the Brooklyn Bridge and ultimately sailed toward The Statue of Liberty. Countless stories of members and their ancestors landing at Ellis Island to live The American Dream echoed across the decks. It was an evening not soon forgotten. So much so, that The Committee is now in talks about visiting The Ellis Island Museum and Liberty Island in the Summer! More information to come!



**LINK UP**

Check us out on our social media pages to stay up to date on current events at

**The Antonio Meucci Lodge#213**

**Facebook:**

Antonio Meucci Lodge 213

**White Plains**

**Instagram:**



### Columbus Wreath Celebration at Tibbits Park



On Sunday, October 12th, the Lodge gathered at Tibbits Park in White Plains for its annual **Columbus Wreath Celebration**. Although the day began under cloudy skies and a rather gloomy atmosphere, the weather held steady, allowing us to carry out the ceremony without interruption. This event has always been a deeply meaningful tradition for the Brothers and Sisters of the Lodge, a moment when we come together to honor Christopher Columbus and reflect on his historic role in the discovery of America.

The program was guided with great care by our Master of Ceremony, IPP Mario Cermele, whose presence and leadership ensured the ceremony flowed smoothly. We were also privileged to hear from our Guest Speaker, Rita Maria Mioli Carolini, who delivered a heartfelt

and inspiring tribute. Her words not only honored Columbus himself but also highlighted the extraordinary contributions Italians have made to this country across so many fields — from the arts and music to science, medicine, and philosophy. Her remarks reminded us of the breadth and depth of Italian influence woven into the fabric of American life.

The Lodge was fortunate to receive extensive coverage from Channel 12 News, and we are especially grateful to Sister Lisa LaRocca for her efforts in promoting the ceremony and helping to share our story with the wider community. Sister Rosalia Miceli also played a vital role, reaching out to local dignitaries with invitations that brought distinguished guests to our gathering. Among those in attendance were Mr. George Latimer of the U.S. House of Representatives, Karen Pasquale representing County Executive Ken Jenkins, Ms. Stefania Mignone, Commissioner of Public Works for the City of White Plains, Brother Honorable Daniel Angiolillo, Brother Honorable Frank Nicolai, Mr. Lenny Lolis, Republican Candidate for Mayor of White Plains, and Councilman Justin Brasch of the City of White Plains. Their presence underscored the importance of the occasion and the respect our Lodge commands within the community.

The celebration was enriched by the contributions of many of our members. Sister Pamela Danza and Brother Frank Autera prepared a welcoming continental breakfast at the Lodge, ensuring that fellowship and hospitality were part of the day. Lucy Tocci created two beautiful wreaths, one placed at the Columbus statue in White Plains and the other at the statue at our Lodge, adding a visual symbol of remembrance and honor to the ceremony.

This year's Columbus Wreath Celebration was a testament to the dedication and unity of our Lodge. Despite the gray skies, the spirit of the day was bright, filled with pride in our heritage and gratitude for the many hands that made the event possible.



### HALLOWEEN BOO BASH

On October 26th, Brother Chris Famularo and his committee helped organize the Halloween Boo-Bash for Children of The Lodge. Costumes, trick or treat giveaways and kid friendly games entertained children in a fun filled afternoon that was "Spooky Fun".

### YOUTH IMPRESSES NYS GRAND LODGE

Emma Cannavo, a young middle school student from Harrison, New York impressed readers with her passionate essay entitled, "What My Italian Heritage Means to Me". Her proud outlook on her heritage earned a win in The John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest, a \$200 Prize, and high praise from the NYS Commission for Social Justice. This achievement marks another high point for OSDIA's District 4 and The Antonio Meucci Lodge Family.





## NYS Plenary Session at the Lodge

On October 25th, the Lodge had the honor of hosting the **New York State Plenary Session**. It was a truly beautiful day as we welcomed State President Arthur Spera, along with State Officers and guests who traveled from near and far to join us. This gathering had been in the works for quite some time, and the effort was evident in every detail. The hospitality of our Lodge shone brightly, with many compliments received on the food and atmosphere. From a hearty hot breakfast to an exceptional lunch, every meal was prepared with care and tradition. Guests enjoyed special touches such as hot peppers, prosciutto bread, homemade wine, gelato, espresso, and an extraordinary Viennese table filled with homemade treats lovingly baked by our members. The culinary offerings were a true reflection of our Lodge's spirit of generosity and pride in Italian heritage. A heartfelt thank you goes to IPP Mario Cermele and Brother Anthony Miceli for coordinating the food service, and to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the day a success. Sisters Pamela Danza, Cathy Grisanti, Maria DiMiceli, Rosalia Miceli, Rita Maria Mioli-Carolini, and Lucy Tocci, along with Brothers Frank Autera, Gino DiMiceli, and Mike DiSavino, all contributed to the smooth running of

the event. Our talented bakers — Sisters Tina Amato, Rita Cestone, Lucille Capossella, Rose Tassone, Lynda Innocenzi, Lucy Tocci, and Cathy Grisanti — deserve special recognition for their delicious creations that delighted everyone in attendance. The meeting itself was filled with important highlights. We are proud to share that our very own IPP Mario Cermele was appointed **Co-Chair of the Commission of Social Justice (CSJ)**, joining new Chairperson Elenor Jobbagy. Together, they will carry forward the work of John Fratta, who has been appointed CSJ Chairman by the National President. Congratulations, Mario — the Lodge is proud of your leadership and commitment. We also celebrate the reappointment of **Grand Deputy Margaret Forte** as our Lodge Deputy. Her continued guidance and support mean so much to us, and we are grateful to have her remain in this role. Finally, for those interested in exploring Italian-American history further, we recommend the children's book *The Case of Antonio Meucci & The Telephone: Just the Facts* by Frances Curceo, available on Amazon. It is a wonderful read that highlights the legacy of Antonio Meucci, a figure of great importance to our heritage.



## POCKETBOOK BINGO FILLS THE BAG

“The Bingo-ettes” packed the house once again this past November for their Pocketbook Bingo Event. Bingo players filled the hall hoping for a chance to win prizes and the coveted designer purses while having fun and raising funds for The Lodge. This year tickets sold for \$50 each, included three bingo cards, daubers and featured light refreshments for attendees.

Pocketbook Bingo, chaired by 2nd VP Cathy Grisanti, is The Lodge's largest fundraiser event and sells out every time it's held. So be sure to reserve early for your chance to win a designer handbag.



# AML213 GIVES BACK!

## Donations To Rosary Hill and Others



On December 16, 2025, Press Camille Tarone, Second VP Cathy Grisanti, Sister Lucy Tocci and AML Inc. Directors Brother Ray Tocci & Brother Mike DiSavino visited Rosary Hill to deliver AML's donation. The Lodge was pleased to contribute \$1,000, along with cookies and chocolate, in support of the sisters and the patients they so lovingly care for. Upon their arrival the nuns and patients were gathered together enjoying a movie, which limited the opportunity for individual visits. As a result, Sister Stella Mary, who oversees the administrative office, was the only one available to greet us. She graciously accepted the donation on behalf of the community, and we were grateful for the opportunity to support the important and compassionate work being done at Rosary Hill.



The Lodge donated \$1,000 to Mt. Carmel Church for their annual Family Thanksgiving celebration to help those in the community in need.

Another Holiday donation that was made in December was \$2,500 to **The Friends of Karen**. The King of Hearts donated an additional \$400. This organization helps children by providing comprehensive support to families with a child diagnosed with life threatening illness such as Cancer.

# MEUCCI 213 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

New members that were installed in September, with another installation to be held in February 2026.

Sisters Donna "DQ" Boyer, Lina Carolini-Cannavo, Deborah DeMasi, Donna Fama, Brenda Magnotta, Valerie Maccarrone, Marianne Pellegrini, Brothers Antonio Aversa, Carl Calabro, Carlo Cannavo, Gaetano Gizzo, Robert Jaffe, Christopher J. LaRocca, Alfonso Magnotta, Oscar Martini, Michael Mascia, Christopher Pellegrini, and Roger Pellegrini. We also had one member who transferred to our Lodge Elaine Nikolakakos. The Lodge currently has a total of 341 members with more members who will join our ranks in February 2026.



## KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER

Our lodge celebrated the season with its annual **Kids Christmas Party on December 7, 2025**, welcoming **40 children** and their families for a joyful afternoon of holiday fun. This year's festive gathering featured an **"Alfonso and the Chipmunks" theme**, creating a playful atmosphere filled with music, laughter, and Christmas spirit. A highlight of the event was a special **visit from Santa Claus**, portrayed by **Pat Carolini**, who delighted the children with photos and holiday cheer. Entertainment was provided by **Mr. Macaroni**, whose lively performance kept the young guests engaged, while an **Italian-themed Christmas presentation** added a meaningful cultural touch. The celebration also included a **live performance featuring Mrs. Claus**,

portrayed by **Caroline Baviello**, alongside **Domenick D'Ambrosio, Lina Amello, Maria Malandro, and Adam Pacecca**, joined by other members in festive costumes. The performance brought smiles to children and adults alike.

The afternoon concluded with the distribution of **Christmas gifts donated by lodge members**, ensuring every child left with a smile. The event was a wonderful reflection of our lodge's commitment to family, tradition, and the joy of the holiday season.

The 2025 Kids Christmas Party was more than a holiday gathering—it was a celebration of unity, culture, and the enduring joy of Christmas seen through the eyes of our children. A sincere thank-you goes to everyone who volunteered, performed, and contributed to making this event such a memorable success. We look forward to continuing this cherished tradition for years to come.



# GIORGIO ARMANI

## The Quiet Architect of Modern Elegance



**When simplicity becomes a statement.** On September 4, 2025, the fashion world lost one of its greatest visionaries: Giorgio Armani passed away at 91, leaving behind a legacy that reshaped how we think about clothing, identity, power, and elegance.

### From Humble Beginnings to a Revolution in Style

Born on July 11, 1934, in Piacenza, Italy, Armani initially followed a conventional path — he enrolled in medical school before leaving to explore other interests. In 1957, his journey into fashion began modestly: a window-dressing job at the Milan department store La Rinascente.

After years honing his craft — including a formative period designing menswear for Cerruti 1881 — Armani took a bold leap. In 1975, alongside friend and business partner Sergio Galeotti, he launched his now-iconic fashion house, marking the beginning of a new chapter in global style.

What followed was nothing short of a revolution. Armani challenged the prevailing norms of rigid tailoring by introducing unstructured jackets and soft-shouldered suits that draped naturally over the body. This refined yet relaxed silhouette — pared down to simple trousers, a monochrome palette, and effortless tailoring — would become a signature.



### Defining the Power Suit — and Changing How the World Dressed

Perhaps the most iconic moment in Armani's career arrived in 1980, when actor Richard Gere wore an Armani suit in the film *American Gigolo*. The sleek, clean lines and confident ease of the ensemble

captured global attention — and within years, the “power suit” became a staple of executive life, red-carpet glamour, and urban sophistication alike.

Armani's influence went beyond menswear. He blurred conventional gender boundaries by adapting masculine tailoring for women — pioneering pantsuits and structured elegance that empowered women's presence in business, culture, and beyond. As he once stated: he “softened the image of men, and hardened the image of women.”

Over decades, Armani became a red-carpet staple, dressing icons across generations — not with flamboyance, but with subtle luxury: gowns, suits, and evening wear defined by minimalist precision, impeccable fabrics, and effortless grace.



### Empire of Elegance: More Than Just Clothes

Armani's vision extended beyond runway looks. Under his stewardship, the brand blossomed into a full-fledged lifestyle empire: ready-to-wear lines, haute couture under

Armani Privé, accessories, fragrances, cosmetics, home furnishings, books — even restaurants and luxury hotels.

At the time of his death, the business, privately held and mostly controlled by him, was valued at more than **US \$12**



**billion**, with revenues of billions and an influence that spanned continents. Armani's emphasis on independence — refusing buyout offers from fashion conglomerates — ensured his brand remained true to his vision. His impact also reached the arenas of sports and global events. Armani designed uniforms for Olympic teams and major football clubs, and even owned the Italian basketball club Olimpia Milano.

### A Legacy That Transcends Trends

Giorgio Armani did more than design clothes: he redefined elegance, reshaped how people saw power and presence, and crafted an aesthetic that remains timeless. From war-time Italy to global runways, from retail windows to Hollywood screens, his journey transformed fashion into a language of quiet confidence.

With his passing, the world lost a creator who believed there was “no virtue whatsoever in creating clothes ... that are not practical.” Yet his most enduring gift may be this: proving that simplicity and subtlety — when guided by imagination and precision — can speak louder than flash ever could.

As the industry reflects on his life and work, it's clear: Armani didn't just dress people. He dressed generations — in elegance, in dignity, in a way that will outlast any passing trend.



# CULTURAL CLASSROOM

## SCIENCE LAB



**Rita Levi-Montalcini (1909-2012)** was an Italian-Jewish neurologist and Nobel laureate renowned for discovering the Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), crucial for nerve cell growth, earning her

the 1986 Nobel Prize in Medicine with Stanley Cohen, and significantly advancing understanding of tumors, developmental issues, and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, all while overcoming severe anti-Semitic restrictions during WWII by setting up a secret home lab, becoming a lifelong advocate for science, and later serving as an Italian Senator for Life.



## TRAVEL - MODENA

Modena is a city in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region. It's known for its balsamic vinegar and opera heritage, plus Ferrari and Lamborghini sports cars. The Enzo Ferrari Museum has exhibits on the life and work of the car designer, in his childhood home, plus iconic models in a futuristic building. In the 18th-century Museum Palace is the Estense Gallery, with works by Tintoretto and Correggio, plus a bust by Bernini.

# CUCINA

---

## C O R N E R

### Chicken Tetrazzini

**Prep Time:** 20 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 20 minutes  
**Total Time:** 40 minutes  
**Servings:** 6  
**Calories:** 458 kcal

**Ingredients**

- 8 ounces dry linguine pasta cooked to package instructions and drained (half a 1 pound package)
- 1 eight ounce pack sliced crimini (baby portabella) mushrooms
- 1 yellow onion diced
- 3 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 3 1/2 Tablespoons butter
- 3 Tablespoons all purpose flour
- 1 cup chicken stock or broth
- 1 cup milk any type (I used 2%)
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (may vary, based on saltiness of your butter, broth, parmesan)
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese divided
- 1 pound chicken thighs or breasts cooked and shredded or cut into bite-sized pieces (I used my Instant pot shredded

chicken. I have also used store-bought rotisserie chicken.)

- cooking spray

**Directions**

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Add some cooking spray to a large non-stick pan or dutch oven, and preheat over medium heat.
3. Add onions and sliced mushrooms to the pan, and cook until tender, about 8 minutes.
4. Reduce heat to medium-low, and add the garlic, and cook another minute.
5. Add the butter to the pan (leave the mushrooms, garlic and onions in there), and let it melt.
6. Sprinkle the flour, and stir to incorporate (about 30 seconds).
7. Add the wine, and deglaze the pan using a wooden spoon to scrape up brown bits and mix in flour.
8. Add chicken stock, milk salt and pepper, and stir to incorporate.
9. Bring to a simmer and stir often (almost continuously) to avoid scorching. The sauce will thicken pretty quickly, after a minute or 2.
10. Turn off the stove, remove from heat, and add the cup of parmesan cheese, stirring to incorporate.

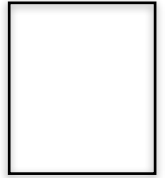


RECIPE BY **snak**  
CONTRIBUTOR: ANTONIO MEUCCILODGE



# AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge N° 213  
279 Maple Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10606



The Avanti will be published 4 times a year. Please mark your calendar for the

**LET'S PARTY! THE LODGE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!**  
**MEMBERS FEE FOR RENTAL \$500 (PLUS INSURANCE)**  
**PRICING EFFECTIVE 2025**  
**CONTACT BROTHER MARIO CERMELE AT (914) 325-1239 FOR AVAILABLE DATES**



Antonio Meucci  
Lodge 213

ORDER  
Sons and Daughters of Italy  
IN AMERICA