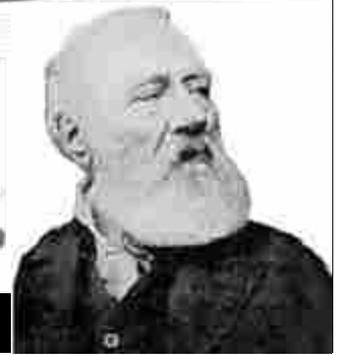
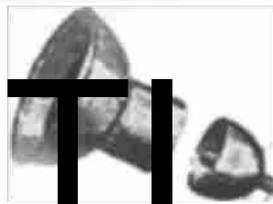


Fall 2018

# AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213, OSIA • White Plains, NY



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## Upcoming Events

- November 4**  
Memorial Mass at Mt. Carmel
- November 14**  
Officers' Meeting
- November 27**  
General Meeting
- November 30**  
Designer Pocketbook Bingo
- December 9**  
Children's Christmas Party
- December 12**  
Officers' Meeting
- December 31**  
New Year's Eve Party
- January 9**  
Officers' Meeting
- January 22**  
General Meeting

## REMINDERS

- NO General Meeting in December



## A Message from your PRESIDENT Mario Cermele

My Brothers and Sisters,

I feel truly blessed as I write this message. We're coming off a wonderful month where we celebrated our culture and heritage with tremendous pride and great joy, knowing that we made important strides in protecting our history and the recognition of our Italian American accomplishments for future generations.

It was such an honor for me to take part in the Italian Heritage and Culture Month events and it was so inspiring to see the tremendous turnout. I truly believe that most of our Members feel as I do, cherishing the ability to express our pride in being Italian and knowing that we are making a difference. For those who were not able to attend any of the events, I hope as you read about our celebrations—at the Wreath-Laying Ceremony, the Columbus Dinner Dance, the NYC Columbus Day Parade and others—you will feel that pride, too. Thank you to everyone who helped make the month of October a successful one!

One of the better parts of being successful is the attraction that it brings and, for a Lodge that benefits from word of mouth, now is the time to spread the word about our organization. We are in a terrific position to take on new Members so please think about your friends who may benefit from being a part of us. Yes, we are a dynamic group but more importantly, we are a group who share and support each other in good times and in bad.

Now, as we turn our attention to the holiday season, I think it's important to mention that not everyone is as fortunate and, because we are in a position to do so, we have the ability to help our neighbors, especially the children and families in need. The Lodge is once again holding our annual charity drives for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I would encourage everyone to help make the holidays a little brighter for those who could use it most. Please see Sis. Pamela Danza and Sis. Lucy Tocci about helping to spread the holiday spirit and read more about our drives on page 6.

Regarding the holiday season, we do have a number of events coming up where we can enjoy spending time with our family and friends in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Our Children's Christmas Party and New Year's Eve Parties (read more about them on page 3) are sure to be enjoyable. One thing that I'm sure we'll all be glad to say "auld lang syne" to is—our bathrooms! We'll be starting renovations in January so that will be a welcome relief.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season if I don't get to see you personally at the Lodge or around. Buon Natale, Felice Anno Nuovo e Sempre Avanti!



## Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

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White Plains, New York 10606  
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### OFFICERS 2015-2018

**Mario Cermele, President**  
(914) 325-1239 ■ mcermele1@verizon.net

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Vito Cirioni, 2nd Vice Pres.

Teresa Rivero, Immediate Past President

Catherine Mignini, Orator

Caroline Baviello, Recording Sec.

Paola Pesaturo, Corresp. Sec.

Annamaria Forte, Financial Sec.

Cathy Cafagno, Treasurer

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Nick Vaccarelli

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### Past Presidents

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Teresa Rivero • Frank Tarone

Rose Tassone • Charles Tota

### Chaplain

Joe Tanzi

### State Deputy

Cathy Lembo Lloyd

The *Avanti* is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 and is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. Please submit all items for publication by the next day after the General Meeting preceding the month of publication. Contact Pres. Mario Cermele for all submissions at (914) 325-1239.

# 2018 COLUMBUS DAY WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY



Continuing an annual Lodge tradition commemorating Columbus Day that has spanned over 100 years, Members placed a wreath at the statue of Cristoforo Colombo in Tibbits Park in White Plains on Sunday, October 7. The ceremony at the now-designated historical landmark on North Broadway was well-attended by many Members, who later continued the celebration at the Lodge's breakfast reception following the tribute.

White Plains Historical Preservation Commission Member and former City Councilman Larry Delgado was this year's key-note speaker for the ceremony, an honor most befitting his instrumental contributions to securing the statue's new legal status. Hon. Delgado quickly noted that this was the first commemoration to take place with the statue now having the strong protections of the White Plains Historic Preservation Law. "I think I just saw a smile on Columbus's face when I mentioned that!," he exclaimed to an approving crowd.

The orator went on to thank the Meucci Lodge Membership, and especially Pres. Mario and Bro. Tony Capicotto, who voiced their strong support for the designation and then began to explain why the statue was deemed worthy of designation as a landmark.

"First, it's a beautiful marble statue and base carved in Carrara, Italy, under the direction of sculptor Peter Celi of the Bronx. It was commissioned in 1913 at a cost of \$3,000 which was raised by Italian residents of the then Village of White Plains. It's important to note that \$3,000 in 1913 is the equivalent of over \$78,000 today which shows the level of sacrifice and commitment made by those Italian residents over 100 years ago. We can only imagine the pride they must have felt when the Monument was dedicated in 1915," he said.

Hon. Delgado continued to describe that the monument was important because it honored Columbus as "a person with a vision, with incredible perseverance, courage, and the skills of a great mariner and explorer whose voyages changed world history." He followed with the fact that Columbus' voyages resulted in a dramatic expansion of the known world. Because of Columbus, immigrants, first from Europe and then from all over the world, sought political and religious freedom, economic opportunity and a better life in America.

"We remember and cannot forget the hardships, discrimination, injustice and stereotyping faced by early Italian immigrants. To those Italian immigrants and immigrants from

*(Continued on page 7)*

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## ON, ABOUT AND AROUND THE LODGE

OFFICERS' MEETINGS are on WEDNESDAYS at 8:00 pm sharp.  
(The 2nd Wednesday of every month.)

November 14 • December 12 • January 9

GENERAL MEETINGS are on TUESDAYS at 8:00 pm sharp.  
(The 4th Tuesday of every month.)

November 27 • NO December Meeting • January 22

## Designer Pocketbook BINGO

Friday, Nov. 30

Play for authentic  
designer handbags!

- Doors open at 6pm
- Games begin at 7pm
- \$40 in advance
- \$45 at the door
- RSVP by Nov. 17

50/50  
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Door Prizes!

Hot dogs and snacks  
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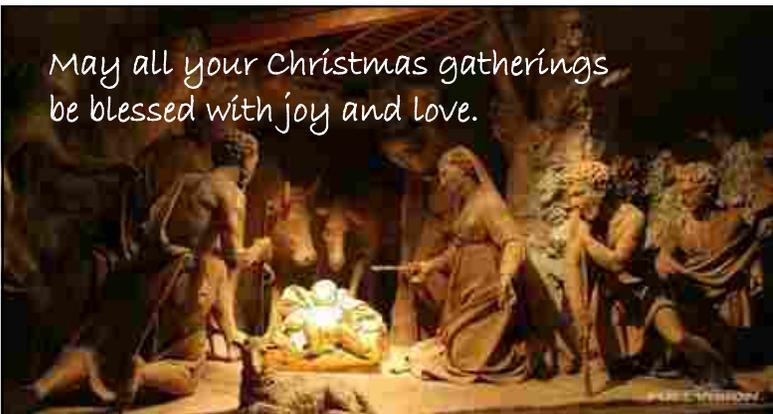
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Sis. Lucy Tocci at (914) 683-5448.

May all your Christmas gatherings  
be blessed with joy and love.



Have an idea for an event or want to chair an event? Let  
President Mario know! Call him at (914) 325-1239.

### PLEASE NOTE

- All events are held at the Lodge unless otherwise indicated.
- Members are NOT required to RSVP for general meetings.

Santa says it's time for our annual  
**CHILDREN'S  
Christmas  
Party**

Sunday  
December 9  
1:00 PM

FREE For Kids of All Ages!

Join us for Entertainment, Desserts,  
a Present for Each Child, a Visit from  
Santa and a Special Surprise!

Presents given to all children and grandchildren of Lodge  
Members between the ages of infants to 9 years old. Please  
RSVP ASAP with each child's name, sex, and age: Sis. Camille  
Tarone at Tarone96@aol.com, (H) 914 946-5694 or (C) 914  
772-1768 or Sis. Pamela Danza, (C) (914) 980-1055.

**PLEASE BRING BAKED GOODS FOR OUR DESSERT TABLE!**

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

Monday, December 31  
7:00 pm

**D.J. DANCING HORS D'OEUVRES BUFFET DINNER**

Please RSVP and bring a dessert to  
share. Members: \$50 pp, Non  
Members: \$60 pp; free for children  
ten and under and \$20 for children  
11-15.

Contact: Sis. Teresa Rivero,  
Chairperson, at (914) 997-7388.

# SNAPSHOTS

A LOOK AT LODGE LIFE AND EVENTS IN PHOTOS

## OLDIES NIGHT - SEPTEMBER 22



**Bro. Nick Cafagno and Sis. Paola Pe-saturio** chaired our very successful Entertainment Night, which presented in the form of an “Oldies Night” with music of the 50’s and 60’s. The sold-out event brought back wonderful memories of the Do Wop era with DJ Dennis “Dion” Nardone and singer “Cadillac Chris” Ruggiero. Everyone had a great time and danced all night long, and were also treated to a cigar presentation from the Tobacconist of Greenwich. Thanks to all who helped, especially **Pres. Mario and Sis. Pamela, Sis. Tina and Bro. Tony Amato, Sis. Lucy and Bro. Ray Tocci, Sis. Camille and Bro. Frank Tarone, Sis. Flavia and Bro. Luigi DiNota, Sis. Cathy Grisanti and Sis. Cathy Cafagno.**

## NYC COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - OCTOBER 8



Antonio Meucci Lodge Members joined the over 35,000 marchers who paraded up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on Columbus Day in what is termed as “the largest celebration of Italian-American culture in the world.” For many, the parade celebrates the spirit of exploration and courage that inspired Christopher Columbus’ 1492 expedition and the important contributions Italian Americans have made to the United States. Despite the ongoing controversy regarding the renowned explorer, the mood was festive with many spectators cheering the marchers along while waving Italian flags and dressed in red, white and green. Many millions more tuned in via television and on line to watch the grand spectacle, now in its 74th year.

**(Opposite page)** “The Magnificent Seven”—the Lodge’s living presidents: current president Mario Cermele, immediate past president Teresa Rivero, and former presidents Antonio Amato, Antonio Capicotto, Frank Tarone (who was unable to attend), Rose Tassone and Charles Tota—were honored at the annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance at the Surf Club in New Rochelle on Sunday, October 21. State Grand Lodge Officers were on hand to unveil a special plaque with the names of our 3 founders and all our past venerables/presidents. Along with outstanding food and service by the Surf Club, a special highlight was Co-Chairperson Pamela Danza’s spirited reading of each of the living presidents’ accomplishments and signature actions. Congratulations to Sis. Pamela and Co-Chair Rose Tassone on a wonderful evening, with special appreciation for all the hard work securing journal ads by Dinner Journal Chairman Tony Amato and the Journal Committee.

For the latest calendar information, check out the calendar section of our website at [www.antoniomeuccilodge.com/calendar.htm](http://www.antoniomeuccilodge.com/calendar.htm) or at [www.facebook.com/meuccilodgewhiteplains](https://www.facebook.com/meuccilodgewhiteplains). Don't forget to like us on Facebook!



## COLUMBUS DINNER DANCE - OCTOBER 21



# IN THE NEWS

Have any news to share?  
Call Pres. Mario Cermele  
at (914) 325-1239.

## What's Going On With Our Members

### CONGRATULATIONS to

**Sis. Caroline Baviello** and her husband Joseph celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 9. Here's to many more great years together!

The shout-outs continue to our ever-helpful Members who continue to go above and beyond for our Lodge.



### THANK YOUs to:

**Sis. Marguerite Capicotto** for uploading photos to our Facebook pages; **Bro. Tony Capicotto** for making our new website; **Bro. Nick Cafagno**, who crafted a letter to the Journal News for their lack of coverage of our July Italian Festa; **Sis. Giovanna Vaccaro** for her generous donation of the raffle prizes for our recent Pasta/Tombola night; and **Bro. Luigi DiNota and Bro. Charlie Guastella**, who helped with the Lodge plantings.



## ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH CO-PARTNERING EVENTS



As a member of WCIAO, the **Westchester Coalition of Italian American Organizations** ([www.wciao.org](http://www.wciao.org)), the Meucci Lodge participates in the key events celebrating October as Italian Heritage and Culture Month (IHCM). *(On the left)* On October 16, the **Executive Proclamation Ceremony**, where the Westchester County executive officially proclaims October as IHCM, was held at Eastchester High School. The event was held at our Lodge for many years but happily, due to the increase in participation, is now held at its new location. At the event, high school students who excel in the study of the Italian language were honored, including **Giuliana Miceli**, daughter of **Bro. Anthony Miceli** and **Marcello Capello**, son of **Bro. Sal** and **Sis.**

**Nadia Capello**. Pres. Mario was on hand to congratulate the academically-talented duo and their parents.

*(On the right)* Members of the Lodge, along with **OSIA State President Robert Ferrito** and **WCIAO President Carlo Sclafani**, were invited by **Westchester County Executive George Latimer** to attend a special evening reception in honor of IHCM on October 24. Hon. Latimer, whose mother is of Italian ancestry, praised Prof. Sclafani's and WCIAO efforts in promoting our heritage and culture. He was happy to host the leading local Italian organization and their respective presidents and members in celebrating our special month.

## ANNUAL LODGE CHARITY DRIVES



Once again, the Lodge's charity drives will help benefit the city's youth and needy families via donations to the White Plains Youth Bureau. Under the coordination of **Sis. Pamela Danza** and **Sis. Lucy Tocci**, the Lodge will be undertaking

two efforts, a **Thanksgiving Day Dinner Food Drive** and a **Holiday Toy Drive**.

For the Thanksgiving Day Drive, Sis. Pamela and Sis. Lucy will be collecting cash donations up until November 9 that they will then use to purchase food store gift cards. No food items please, but gift cards from Shop Rite or Stop & Shop are accepted. For the Holiday

toy drive, the co-chairs will also be accepting cash donations that the Youth Bureau will then use to purchase toys. Checks made payable to the City of White Plains Youth Bureau and unwrapped toys are also acceptable.

Please *do not* make any checks payable to the Lodge. The deadline for the Toy Drive is December 7.



## COLUMBUS WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY (Continued from page 2)

all other countries, Columbus was a symbol of hope, ratification that they truly belonged here, and that Columbus, as the first Italian 'immigrant' to the Americas, he had opened the door for them also," he remarked.

The key note speaker concluded by stating that Columbus Day is a day that brings us together "in the spirit of celebration, appreciation and fellowship" to recognize "the innumerable achievements, contributions, and sacrifices, in every field of endeavor, made by Italian Americans for the benefit of our great nation."

The Lodge's observance of Columbus Day comes at a time when the Italian culture, heritage, historic contributions and honor have been challenged and diminished by organizations now trying to

apply 21st Century standards to 15th Century life. NYC's Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers spent the last quarter of 2017 reviewing whether the statue of Columbus in Manhattan's Columbus Circle was a "hate symbol" and warranted removal. While they concluded the statue can stay, informational plaques explaining historical context may be affixed on or near it. The Columbus Heritage Coalition, an organization fighting to preserve Italian American history and to which OSIA belongs, is fighting this, saying that "any attempt to create and place plaques near the Columbus statue that depicts him in a negative light is offensive. That action would symbolize a threat to every ethnic group in our nation that wishes to publicly commemorate one of their own."

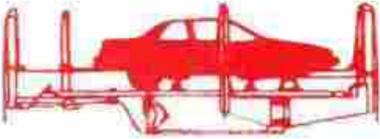
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