

Spring 2018

# AVANTI

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



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## Upcoming Events

- May 9**  
Officers' Meeting
- May 22**  
General Meeting/Scholarships
- June 9**  
Elvis Night
- June 13**  
Officers' Meeting
- June 26**  
General Meeting
- July 12\***  
Bocce Championship Finale  
\* May change weather pending
- July 11**  
Officers' Meeting
- July 22**  
Kensico Dam Heritage Festival
- July 24**  
General Meeting

### REMINDERS

- 2018 Dues Statements have been mailed out. *Please be prompt in remitting your dues!*



## A Message from your **PRESIDENT**

Mario Cermele

My Brothers and Sisters,

I think I speak for many of us when I say how wonderful it is to finally have the warmer weather back with us again. And just in time, too, because we have so many projects and events planned for this spring and summer, we need all the help from Mother Nature we can get!

First, I want to tell you about a policy change that we have voted on as a Lodge. After careful consideration, we have decided to have a different pricing structure for members and non-members for certain events. Although there were a few nays, the majority agreed that this policy brings us more in line with many other organizations and is a necessity for our financial health. Please keep this in mind when considering having your guests come to our events.

My next announcement is a long over-due one, and it concerns renovations at the Lodge. I think we can all agree that our kitchen and bathroom, while functional, could use a little over-hauling. We are putting together a committee to get preliminary ideas and plans together. **Then we'll need to set priorities and put a budget in place.** I know we have many talented Members out there and we can definitely use your skills, **so please join our committee and let's get those ideas coming in.**

And speaking of all our talented Members, we want to show our deep appreciation for all you do by inviting you to come to our annual picnic as our guest. If you are a Member in good standing, we will waive your entrance fee as our way of saying thanks for all you do. Just let me or Bro. Charlie Tota know.

**I'm rather pleased at all the innovative and new ideas that we've actually been implementing this year. There's been a number of new things that we have tried, both to get our name and reputation as solid citizens out there and to help our community, especially the kids.** You can read all about how we sponsored the White Plains Funny Bunny Morning and are sponsoring the Winston-Salem Dash of the White Plains Little League in this issue. **We're also trying to partner with other similar organizations. We'll be working with Edgemont Elementary School in Scarsdale on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at their "Festival of Nations" promoting Italian culture and donating some DVD's. All these great ideas were brought to us by our Members; keep up the good work.**

As always, we are busy with fun social and cultural events at our own Lodge. So please take a look at the **calendar and pen us in your datebooks because we have a number of things going on.** I'm very excited about our bocce tournaments that will take place over the spring and summer, as these always bring out a great crowd. I look forward to seeing everyone and having a terrific time. I am definitely brining my A-game and so is my team! Thank you to Bros. Joe Amato, Vito Cirioni and Mike DiSavino for all their hard work organizing the tournament.

Now let's all go and enjoy that great weather together!

SEMPRE AVANTI



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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.

## Resources for Italian Americans: The Columbian Lawyers Association



This year on January 27th, Rina Capicotto, daughter of Bro. Antonio and Sis. Franca Capicotto, was installed as President of the Columbian Lawyers' Association of Nassau County. Proudly counting among its 250 members prominent jurists, practicing attorneys and law students of Italian American descent, the group provides many networking opportunities, a professional forum for exchanging ideas and organizes various Italian-themed social events throughout the year. We asked Rina to fill us in on how the organization fosters and promotes Italian culture and comradery in the law and legal community and what she hopes to accomplish in her new role.

1Q. The stated goals/objectives of the organization are "the enhancement and awareness of Italian-American culture as it applies to the development of law and the furtherance of justice and equality." How has the organization done this recently?

1A. We hold monthly meetings featuring Italian American speakers (Italian judges, Italian scholars and Italian authors) and provide required continuing legal education courses for practicing attorneys. These courses to our members are given primarily by Italian American judges and attorneys. We also hold many cultural events celebrating Italian culture, such as opera singers, wine tasting, etc. Every year, we award a scholarship to a law student of Italian descent and also invite law students to our monthly meetings.

As our name is derived from the famous Italian explorer, we are active in honoring him every year with a ceremony around Columbus Day and we march in the NYC Columbus Day parade. We were also active in distributing a petition to support keeping the Columbus statues and Columbus Circle and made members aware of the issues surrounding them.

2Q. What are some of the issues involving Italian Americans that the organization deems to be of concern and why? What have you done or are currently doing to help resolve them?

2A. Employment and discrimination are two areas of concern. The association assists law students of Italian descent with scholarships and invites them to our monthly meetings so that they can network and have employment opportunities. Our monthly meetings and events foster fellowship among Italian American attorneys to facilitate the practice of law and enable our members to advise and support each other. We are all working together to achieve justice and equality for clients. We help fight anti-discrimination of Italian Americans and Italian American attorneys by inviting Italian judges, scholars and authors to speak at our events and we educate others about our rich culture. We also help to preserve Columbus' reputation and good name (see above regarding our ceremony and petition).

3Q. What are some of the challenges facing young Italian American law students today and how can your organization help them?

3A. Some discrimination still exists for Italian Americans in any field, and it is difficult for any young attorney starting out to find employment. By inviting knowledgeable and influential Italian Americans, either in the legal or other professions, or in the cultural realm, we enforce positive image of Italian Americans both among our members and in the legal profession as a whole. By inviting law students to our monthly meetings and events, assign-

ing a seasoned member to introduce them to other members and facilitate meeting and speaking to judges and other experienced attorneys, we assist that law student in finding employment, in feeling comfortable speaking to judges and experienced attorneys, which will help them in the practice of law, and in establishing contacts whom they can call upon to discuss legal issues facing them in their cases/practice of law.

4Q. What advice do you wish someone gave you as a young Italian American attorney starting out that you would give to the children or grandchildren of our Lodge members considering law school today?

4A. I joined the Columbian Lawyers almost immediately after graduating from law school, and it has been of great assistance to me in building my practice, in learning to be comfortable speaking with judges, and in forming friendships among other attorneys with similar background as I have. I wish I had known that I could have joined the CLA as a law student. I would recommend joining the Columbian Lawyers and other professional organizations that allow law student members, while in law school.

5Q. What is your primary objective as president and what do you hope to change in the organization and why?

5A. My objectives are to continue the work that the organization has begun by securing informative speakers who will not only assist in imparting legal knowledge, but also knowledge about other professions and about our culture. I invited the new bishop of Rockville Center to my first meeting as president. He spoke about the impact that attorneys can have on our society—effecting change, spreading missionary spirit and fostering justice for all people. The president of the Association of Italian American Educators is speaking at my second meeting. She will speak about the efforts of her organization and of the Italian Consulate to keep the Italian language and culture in our education system. She is also involved in the Columbus Heritage Organization and will speak about that organization's efforts to promote Columbus.

I hope to increase the number of continuing legal education courses for our members. I also have an Italian lawyer scheduled to speak in the fall about wine law, which will be accompanied by a wine tasting evening.

Lastly, we have 250 members, and I am hoping to increase our membership, especially with younger attorneys.

Rina is a practicing attorney specializing in family law, wills & estates and real estate. She resides on Long Island with her husband Joseph Lee, an attorney with whom she has a practice, and has 2 children, Marc (22) and Cara (20).

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## ON, ABOUT AND AROUND THE LODGE

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

May 9 • June 13 • July 11

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

May 22 • June 26 • July 24



# ELVIS

## Night

At The Lodge!

**Saturday  
June 9 • 8 p.m.**

\$30 Members  
\$35 Non-Members

Price Includes Appetizers,  
Antipasto, Pizza and Soda with  
**1 1/2 Hour Elvis Show!**

Contact: Bro. Umberto Amato,  
Chairperson, at (914) 907-8755.  
(Thank You Very Much)

## ANNUAL LODGE PICNIC



Come Enjoy a Wonderful Day  
With Family and Friends . . . and  
**if You're a Member, it's FREE!**

If you are a Member in good standing as of July 1, 2018, we invite you to attend our Annual Labor Day Picnic Weekend at no charge. Please come and enjoy the day on us—we truly are grateful for your help and support! Please RSVP with our chairman, Charlie Tota at (914) 924-0347 or with Pres. Mario at (914) 325-1239. More details to come.



**August 26, 2018 • Ridge Road Park**

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. A contact number is provided in case you have questions about the meeting itself.

## ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL AT THE DAM

**Sunday, July 22 • 12-8 p.m.**

Annual Festa of all things Italian featuring music, food, dancing and vendors at the Kensico dam in Valhalla. Featured performers are:

- N.Y. #1 DJ Fernando
- 9-year-old rising star Romina Perri
- Biagio Benevenga, who will perform original Italian remixes; and
- crowd favorites Don Felice & Band and Alfio.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Lodge booths. Please contact Sis. Cathy Cafagno at (914) 761-9073 for more info or to help out.

# SNAPSHOTS

A LOOK AT LODGE LIFE AND EVENTS IN PHOTOS

## ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER DANCE - SATURDAY, MARCH 17



Photos by Bro. Joe Tanzi

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).

## FUNNY BUNNY MORNING - SATURDAY, MARCH 31



Photos by Sis. Paola Pesaturo

(Above) The Lodge was happy to sponsor the city's FUNNY BUNNY program at the White Plains Performing Arts Center on March 31 in celebration of Easter. A helpful group of Meucci volunteers handed out 800 party bags filled with Easter goodies to the White Plains families that attended. The 3 live stage performances featured music and magic, a visit by Mayor Thomas Roach and of course, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cottontail.

This was the first time the Lodge sponsored the annual event, after Bro. Nick Vacarelli made the suggestion at a Lodge general meeting to do something

for needy children for the holiday. Sis. Pamela Danza reached out to her contact at the White Plains Youth Bureau and after working with Fran Croughan, White Plains Recreation and Parks Deputy Commissioner, the board approved the \$1500 donation. A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success: Pres. Mario Cermele, Paola Pesaturo, Joseph Tanzi, Leonard Mignini, Diane Eglauf, Gianna Eglauf, Sara Amello, Christopher Amello, Angelina Fuca, Gianna Fuca, Nadia Cappello, Antonella Cappello, Caroline Battiatto, Dina Roselli, Lais Siquera and Isabella Siquera.

(Opposite Page) The Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated by about 130 partygoers at the Lodge on Saturday, March 17 thanks to the fabulous efforts of chairs Umberto Amato and Annamaria Forte and their committee. The entertainment was provided by DJ Teddy and the food was provided by Piz-za Gourmet. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed each other's company

by eating great food and dancing. A special thanks to Joe Tanzi who was our photographer for the night and thank you to the entire committee who helped set-up on Thursday and Friday night: Lucy and Ray Tocci, John and Filomena Rubillo, Lenny and Catherine Mignini, Caroline Baviello, Nancy Vernillo, Joe Tanzi, Flavia and Luigi Dinota. Great job everyone!

# IN THE NEWS

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

## In Memoriam

Sincere condolences to the family of Bro. Michael and Sis. Cathy Grisanti on the passing of their son Joseph. All of your Lodge Brothers and Sisters extend our deepest sympathy.

We also extend our most heartfelt sorrow to the family of Bro. Ernesto Capalbo on his sudden passing. Bro. Ernesto will be sorely missed for his generosity and loyalty to the

Lodge. For many years, his eponymous restaurant provided a place for many Members' family gatherings and his pizza was a staple at our Lodge meetings. Rest in peace, Brother.

## What's Going On With Our Members

### GET WELL WISHES to

Sis. Anna Girodano and Bro. Charlie Tota in their recoveries. **We hope you're feeling better.**

### CONGRATULATIONS to

Bro. Tony and Sis. Franca Capicotto on their daughter Rina's installation as president of the Nassau County Columbian Lawyer's Association (see related story on page 2). The installation took place at a gala event at the Carlton in East Meadow on Jan 27 (see photo on right).

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU to

Bro. Domenico Rivero for working so diligently to help prepare our bocce court for our upcoming tournaments. Bro. Domenico spent



several hours raking and leveling the court to bring it to optimum playing condition. The Adult Tourny begins May 7 and will run to July 12, weather pending.



Sis. Franca and Bro. Tony with Rina at the gala dinner celebrating their daughter's installation as president of the Nassau County Columbian Lawyer's Association.

## Inspiration From the Next Generation: Westchester Wunderkind Ashley Lauren Cermele

*We hope to begin a new series interviewing successful business or community-minded professionals of the "Next Generation," the children or grandchildren of our Members. More specifically, we'd like to share how their Italian American backgrounds have helped shape their lives. Please let us know of any inspiring candidates. This issue we interviewed Ashley Cermele, the daughter of*

*Pres. Mario Cermele. An award-winning (The Knot Wedding Site) makeup artist and hair stylist, Ashley started her own company at age 25 providing on-location glam services for special events, mainly weddings. Her services quickly grew in demand and with it, so did her team. In 2016, she opened Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge in her hometown, Tuckahoe, where she and her employ-*

*ees, including a special bridal team, provide full service hair and makeup services for weddings, proms, photo shoots and other events. Last year, at 29, she was named a "Wunderkind" (most impressive business pros under 30) by Westchester Magazine and has just won their coveted "Best in Westchester" award for "Wedding Hair," (she won for Make-up Artist" in 2017 and also won in 2014).*



**1Q.** You've said that "creating is [your] passion, whether it be a full face of makeup or a company that people can trust

**in."** How has your Italian American upbringing influenced your creativity?

How has it influenced the way you run your business?

1A. My Italian American upbringing has influenced my creativity in so many ways. Growing up with my dad in the food industry I was always in the kitchen of the deli helping out, filling orders and creating platters for parties. Dad would always say "be passionate about everything and have pride for what you do because 'we're Italians and Italians are full of pride.'" I wasn't too sure of what he meant when I was

younger but now owning my own business, I 100% believe in this. My business is run like a family. We are team who works together for a common goal. We support one another and I think that is a huge important aspect of Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge.

2Q. Where do you get your inspiration for your style ideas from? Do you ever look to the Italian fashion industry for hair and makeup ideas?

2A. Inspiration for me comes from everywhere. I love feeding off my clients' personalities which allows me to create a personalized look for each. This past September I took my first trip to Italy and it was AMAZING! The beauty of the culture and the buildings, the people and the fashion of course caught my eye.

3Q. I imagine you are going into your busiest season right now. What are some of the looks that your clients are asking for and who inspired them? Are there any looks that Italian American brides seem to favor?

3A. This is our busy season! Our season is from April to October with May and June being the busiest. The great part about being a hair

stylist and makeup artist is that there are no rules and you can create an endless amount of looks. But one look that I feel will never fade is the Smokey eye [dark eye shadow color fading to a light color eye shadow with a dark bottom lash line]. This is a look the Italian American brides love!

4Q. Do you have any Italian or Italian American style icons? What do you like about them?

4A. The beautiful and iconic Sofia Loren and Monica Bellucci. They are both beautiful and represent Italian women in a respectful, strong manner.

5Q. What advice would you give to a young Italian American interested in a career in the beauty industry?

5A. My advice to any young Italian American interested in the beauty industry is follow your heart, be passionate about your work! Never stop learning because this industry is forever changing! And be open to feedback—grow from it; never take it as a negative.

*For more on Ashley and her wonderful talents, visit [www.ashleylaurenbeauty.com](http://www.ashleylaurenbeauty.com).*

## Lodge Steps Up to the Plate as Little League Sponsors for Winston-Salem Dash 7 Year-Olds



Bocce is no longer the only sport the Lodge is involved in during the late spring/summer months—now, it's also time to batter up! The Lodge recently became a sponsor of the Winston-Salem Dash, the White Plains Little League's Minor A team for seven year-olds. "Our" team plays every Saturday (except the Memorial Day Weekend) at Eastview Middle School Field 60 beginning April 21 through June 9.

The Dash, named after the Chicago White Sox Minor League Farm Team, will sport our Lodge name on the player's uniforms. The Little League's website will also list us as a sponsor with a link back to our site. Let's all hope for a winning season, and if you can make it to a game to support the kids, go for it!



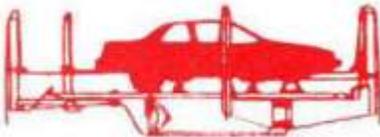
### GAME SCHEDULE

Apr 21	9:00 AM	Durham Bulls (H)
Apr 28	12:00 PM	Eugene Emeralds
May 5	12:00 PM	Bradenton Marauders
May 12	9:00 AM	Aberdeen Iron Birds (H)
May 19	9:00 AM	Charleston River Dogs
Jun 2	9:00 AM	Eugene Emeralds (H)
Jun 7 TH	6:00 PM	Eugene Emeralds (H)
Jun 9	12:00 PM	Bradenton Marauders (H)
Jun 16	10:30 AM	Aberdeen Iron Birds

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