

Winter 2018

AVANTI

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



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Upcoming Events

- January 9**
Officers' Meeting
- January 22**
General Meeting
- February 3**
Superbowl Party
- February 13**
Officers' Meeting
- February 26**
General Meeting
- March 13**
Officers' Meeting
- March 23**
St. Joseph's Dinner Dance
- March 26**
General Meeting
- April TBD**
Paint Your Own Canvas Party

REMINDER

- Dues statements have been sent out. Kindly remit your dues as soon as possible.



A Message from your PRESIDENT Mario Cermele

My Brothers and Sisters,

Felicissimo Anno Nuovo! I want to wish each and every one a new year full of health, happiness and riches, with an emphasis on health. It has been truly a tough past year, but remembering our Brothers and Sisters who have passed and their devotion and affection to all the ideals that we hold dear have helped us through many challenges. Our mission is to continue and make them proud.

As my term comes to end this March, I have much to be grateful for. Your friendship and dedication have meant the world to me and have enabled us to accomplish a great deal, especially in this last year. We have done tremendous charitable work, both at our Lodge and state levels, and have made a difference in the lives of those throughout Westchester County and in our own City of White Plains. Good job by all! I am also delighted with our lodge renovations. They have refreshed our spirits and are now on display for all to see.

If I can close my presidency with one thought it would be this: In the times when we face the challenge of staying focused on our agenda, *just persevere*. Remember our motto, "L'Unita fa la Forza," and we will prevail. Together, we have and are a force of good, hard-working, proud, strong and focused individuals who as one can continue opening doors for our future generations. Our generosity, our charitable contributions, our efforts to bring comfort are second to none.

I am truly excited about this coming year for our new slate of officers under the guidance of our new president, Brother Antonio Amato. Let us all help with our continued goal to make our Lodge and our Order a guiding force—a beacon of light to be recognized for all the wonderful work that we perform and have performed. I encourage us all to give our new President all our full and unwavering support.

Many old and new events are planned for this coming year; be part of them, help in any way you can and don't falter when sometimes things don't go our way. Please remember we are all volunteers and all our paychecks are the same. Our rewards are the priceless smile in that moment of need, a simple "thank you" because someone heard from us, a fraternal well wish in a moment of tragedy, a laugh down memory lane, the joy in tasting an old recipe—this my Brothers and Sisters, is why we do it and who we are. So join us, *we are your extended family*.

To All: Thank You for all your help during my administration. Grazie Mille!

SEMPRE AVANTI



Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

279 Maple Avenue
at Antonio Meucci Place
White Plains, New York 10606
(914) 761-9073
www.antonioeuclidodge.com

OFFICERS 2015-2018

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

Vito Cironi, 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
Luigi DiNota, Principal Trustee

Trustees

Tina Amato • Umberto Amato
Rita Carolini • Rita Cestone
Domenic D'Ambrosio • Flavia DiNota
Michael DiSavino • Cathy Grisanti
Charles Guastella • Lenny Mignini
John Rubillo • Camille Tarone
Vito Tassone • Lucy Tocci
Nick Vaccarelli

Ceremonial Officers

Tony Cestone • Mary Morra

Sentinels

Tony DiMaria • Maria Pippo

Arbitration Committee

Lina Amello • Nick Fragnito
Domenic Rivero • Laura Staglione
Joseph Tassone • Santina Tassone

Past Presidents

Antonio Amato • Antonio Capicotto
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.

- LODGE MATTERS -

Voting will take place at our March General Meeting for the Members listed below. Please come out and show your support for your Brothers and Sisters.

2019-2021 Slate of Officers

President—Antonio Amato
Imm. Past President—Teresa Rivero
1st Vice President—Vito Cironi
2nd Vice President—Rita Cestone
Orator—Catherine Mignini
Recording Secretary—Caroline Baviello
Financial Secretary—Annamaria Forte
Treasurer—Lina Amello
Corresponding Secretary—Flavia DiNota

Ceremonial Officers

Tony Cestone
Mary Morra

Sentinels

Lenny Mignini
Antonio Pippo

Trustees

Tina Amato
Umberto Amato
Antonio Vincenzo Capicotto
Rita Carolini
Michael DiSavino
Rachel Filastro
Cathy Grisanti
Charles Guastella
Maria Pippo
Camille Tarone
Nick Vaccarelli

Arbitration Committee

Sam Amello
Antonella Capicotto DeLia
Concetta Bevilacqua
Domenic Rivero
Salvatore Sattiato
Laura Staglione
Joseph Tassone
Vito Tassone
Nancy Vernillo

Restroom Renovations



The 70's called and wanted their bathrooms back, and we were only too happy to oblige! While they served us well for many years, the lodge ladies and mens restrooms, original to the 1978 building, were definitely ready for an update. After 3 months of estimating and planning

by **Bro. Luigi DiNota** and his design-sensible committee and 3 more weeks of solid work, the makeovers are complete. "Great work and wonderful results were delivered," said Pres. Mario, inviting everyone to come out and see them. Thanks to all for your help!

EVENTS CALENDAR

ON, ABOUT AND AROUND THE LODGE

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

January 9 • February 13 • March 13

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

January 22 • February 26 • March 26



Lodge Opens at 4:00 pm

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and Cold Buffet and Drinks**

Contact: Bro. John Rubillo, Co-Chair,
at (914) 368-8873 or Pres. Mario, Co-
Chair, at (914) 325-1239 for further
information.

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.

— SAVE THE DATES —

- March 23 - St. Joseph's Dinner Dance
April TBD - Paint Night
May TBD - Scholarship Night
June - Bocce
July 21 - Italian Festa at the Kensico Dam
Aug 3 - Ferragosto at the Lodge
Aug TBD - Padre Pio Visit
Aug 18 - Labor Day Picnic
Sept 21 - Entertainment Night
Oct 13 - Wreath-Laying Ceremony
and Breakfast
Oct 14 - NYC Columbus Day Parade
Oct TBD - Columbus Day Dinner Dance
Nov 3 - Memorial Mass
Dec 6 - Pocketbook Bingo
Dec 8 - Children's Christmas Party
Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Party

Let's Party Together!



**RENT THE LODGE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT !
Call Pres. Mario at 325-1239.**

SNAPSHOTS

A LOOK AT LODGE LIFE AND EVENTS IN PHOTOS

POCKETBOOK BINGO - NOVEMBER 30



The Lodge's first Pocketbook Bingo Event was a resounding success! The evening saw a packed hall of happy fashionistas gleefully awaiting their chances to win a new designer accessory—just in time to perfectly complement their holiday outfits. There were few disappointments; even if attendees did not personally experience bag bliss, they had a great time playing bingo and browsing the festively-wrapped prizes. The event went so well that our chairwomen plan to do it again this year on December 8. Thanks so much to our hard-working event committee, pictured above: **First Lady Pamela Danza, Sis. Flavia DiNota, Chairpersons Lucy Tocci, Cathy Grisanti and Rita Carolini; Sisters Tina Amato, Caroline Baviello and Rose Tassone.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 9



Sis. Camille Tarone and her Committee had a great time helping Santa (played for the last 30 years or so by **Bro. Pat Carolini**, shown at left with Domenic [Riverso] Hoffmann), and Mrs. Claus (**Sis. Catherine**

Mignini) celebrate with all the good little girls and boys of our Lodge families. Everyone had fun with the entertainment, story-reading and dozens of delicious desserts. Thanks to all who helped make this a great day!



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - DECEMBER 31



The lodge was abuzz with revelers who partied until midnight and beyond to usher in 2019 at our annual New Year's Eve Party on December 31.

According to **Chairwoman Teresa Riversono**, everyone had a fantastic time with the "unbelievable music," copious appetizers and buffet dinner foods and great dancing. "You could see the happiness in everyone's faces, they really enjoyed it," she gushed.

Of particular note was the DJ's efforts to match the music with a visual presentation on our big screen TV. Everyone loved the use of that technology to see and hear their favorite artists so a big shout out to you, DJ Fernando.

A huge thank you to **Pres. Mario and First Lady Pamela** for doing a wonderful job catering the food and to **Bro. Luigi DiNota** ("*il pilastro*" according to Sis. Teresa), who helped "with everything." Many thanks also to those who brought desserts to share and help start off the new year on a sweet note!



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 proud father **Pres. Mario, First Lady Pamela** and happy mother Valerie Cermele on the engagement over the Christmas holiday of Dr. Amy Cermele to Mike Olio. A November 2019 wedding is planned. May your wonderful journey be filled with love and happiness!

Tanti Aguri to our fellow OSIA Sisters of Le Amiche Lodge, who celebrated their 35th Anniversary this past December. Several of our Members, pictured at right, helped our Sisters celebrate this happy occasion at their gala event. The Lodge was founded by Sis. Genevieve Lembo and friends in 1983.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT THE LODGE

The Christmas Sprit abounded at the Lodge this year with all the many contributions of our Members who did their part to make the season a merrier and brighter one. Whether it was helping to create a more joyous atmosphere with cheery or sacred décor or emulating Santa as one of his real-life helpers, several of our Members warrant a little extra recognition for their special efforts.

We, and especially the children, know that Christmas would not be Christmas without a tree. **Sis. Mary Morra and Bro. Charlie Tota** made sure that no one would be disappointed by beautifully decorating our Lodge tree so that it sparkled and shone throughout December. With its glittering lights and perfectly-placed ornaments, the traditionally decked-out tree brought about the festive and warm holiday ambiance that is synonymous with the yuletide and delighted kids of all ages. Thank you both so much!



Just as Christmas is not the same without a tree, Italians know that *Natale* is not the same without a depiction of the Nativity in the form of the *Presepio*, or crèche. As he has done for several years now, **Bro. Domenico Rivero** set up the diorama he created and donated to the Lodge along with the traditional figurines representing the holy family, wise men and shepherds. A backdrop painting of the Christmas star by his son-in-law, Richard Hoffmann, completed the scene. While many *Presepe* feature a manger scene, Bro. Domenico's depiction of a cave is a nod to St. Francis of Assisi. The saint is credited with popularizing this tradition when in the 13th century, he built a manger and celebrated Mass in a cave in the small town of Greccio. Thank you, Bro. Domenic, for paying tribute to the true spirit of the holiday. You brought simple beauty and reverence to our celebrations, helping us honor a long-time ritual that connects us to our past, culture and faith.



Our Membership is already familiar with the wonderful displays throughout the year in the glass display cases in our entryway by **Sis. Catherine and Bro. Lenny Mignini** and, for the Christmas season, the designs were equally delightful. The talented duo whimsically captured the spirit of winter with their vignettes, especially their tiny blizzard of frosty snowflakes against a deep red background. Thank you, Sis. Catherine and Bro. Lenny, for playfully expressing what most of us feel—that it truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

What is Christmas if not a time for sweetness? For many, it's a time to indulge in decadent desserts and classic treats. But not all Christmas sweetness is of the confectionery kind. Last, but certainly not



least, in our list of stellar efforts to ensure Christmas spirit at—and about—the Lodge are the sweet and generous efforts of **Sis. Lucy and Bro. Ray Tocci**. The husband and wife team have doubled as secret Santa's helpers for many years by donating hundreds of toys annually to local needy children. This year, they joined other Lodge Members in donating the many toys collected throughout the year and stored at their home until Christmastime (some pictured above) to the White Plains Youth Bureau (see related story on page 7). Many thanks to both of you for truly embracing the Christmas spirit of giving and spreading cheer in such a sweet way!

Holiday Charity Drives Report

Thanks to the generosity of the Membership, the Lodge's two Holiday Charity Drives helped a number of White Plains families have a brighter 2018 holiday season.

Unlike the prior year, both drives were done in partnership with the White Plains Youth Bureau. Our first drive was done to help needy families have a nicer Thanksgiving. We collected \$1,100 for gift cards that were used to purchase holiday meals.

The second drive was to help children have a merrier Christmas and ensure that Santa would not pass them by. Members donated \$800 in cash and many assorted toys that were distributed by the Youth Bureau directly to the children.

Thank you so much to everyone who showed their generosity this season and to our chairpersons, **Sis. Pamela Danza and Sis. Lucy Tocci**, for coordinating these worthy endeavors.

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