



ORDER
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A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



February 2026

Issue 12

I can't believe it's February already. Seems like it was only yesterday we were celebrating Christmas. As most of you know February is the shortest month of the calendar year with only 28 days, but every four years its leap year which has 29 days. The Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term Februum, which means "purification", via the purification ritual which is held on February 15th the full moon in the old lunar Roman Calendar. The spiritual meaning of February is often associated with Love, Romance, Strength, and Courage. Also in the month of February the Catholic Church dedicates the month to the Holy Family.

We started the month of January with a few activities, but unfortunately, we had to cancel the Comedy night which was to be held on January 9th, but don't worry we are rescheduling the date, and I will keep you informed of the new date.

We did start playing Cornhole on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and currently have 9 Teams playing. I want to thank Brother Joel Sonny for coordinating the event, and I encourage anyone to come down to watch the games and cheer for your favorite teams. Games start at 7:00pm. Special thanks to Sisters Margery Schiff, and Heidi Banzinger who are assisting in selling refreshments. It's very much appreciated.



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Don't forget if you are looking to do something on Thursday nights you can join some of our members who get together to play Scopa or Briscola Italian cards. The doors are open and welcome you to come play cards.

On *February 13th*, the Lodge is having a *Pasta/Tombola Night* with a little touch of Valentines. The price is \$40 per person and includes Dinner, Dessert and Tombola/Bingo games. Please reach out to Brother Anthony Miceli 914 879-6884 or Brother Umberto Amato on 914 907-8755 for your reservations. Should be a fun night. So bring your friends and let's have some fun as we shout "Tombola".

I encourage everyone to join us on *Saturday March 14th*, as the Lodge celebrates *San Giuseppe & St. Patrick's*. It will feature traditional Italian & Irish food, and Music by DJ Nando. The price is \$55 per person. So bring your family and friends for an enjoyable evening. Reservations can be made by calling Chairperson Sister Lina Amello 914 522-6488 or Sister Roselle Cucuzza 917 440-9946.

Back by popular demand is our *Pocketbook Bingo on April 24th*. As you may know this event is one of our biggest fundraiser for the Lodge, and sells out very fast. If you never been to a Pocketbook Bingo I encourage you to come experience the fun and excitement, and who knows you just may win a designer pocketbook or some of the other many prizes we have to offer. Reservations are now being accepted. Please call Sister Pamela Danza on 914 980-1055.



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I need to send a very special thank you to Brother Honorable Francis Nicolai and to the Italian American Forum for their very generous donation of \$2,000 to Antonio Meucci Lodge Inc. The donation will be used to promote our Italian American Heritage and Culture through Scholarships and our Italian Heritage Festival this July. Thank you Brother Nicolai for always remembering the Lodge and the good work we do for our Children and the Community to promote our Italian Heritage.

The Grand Lodge of New York has a new updated website which I encourage you to look at. The website is nysosdia.org. It's very informative with a lot of information such as Membership Benefits, Scholarship Information, Golden Lion Publications, where to find other Lodges and so much more. It even links into our Lodge's website.

Most recently, I sent out to the members regarding the NY State Grand Lodge Scholarship opportunities. There are great Scholarship opportunities for our children where they can apply for either Undergraduate, Graduate, Grant or Vocational-Trade Scholarships. You can view the criteria on the nysosdia.org website or our website antoniomeuccilodge.com. Deadline for applications is **March 31, 2026**. I encourage our Children to apply for these Scholarships. Pretty soon the Antonio Meucci Lodge will be promoting our Lodge Scholarships for members Children and Grandchildren. I will keep you informed when they are available to apply.



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In regards, to the OSDIA Foundation I'm happy to report that the Order is growing in leaps and bounds with additional Lodges across the country. The latest Lodge is the Peachtree Lodge #3018 in Sandy Springs, Georgia. This new Lodge joins two others Lodges that were formed last year, which includes the Charlotte Lodge#3016 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Rainier Lodge #3019 of Parkland, Washington. Nice to know if OSDIA members relocate they have options to perhaps transfer to those Lodges.

Also the OSDIA is happy to announce the arrival of Giuseppe Pastorelli, the newly appointed Counsel General of Italy in New York. His appointment will greatly strengthen the ties between Italy and the Italian American community. Congratulations Giuseppe on your recent appointment.

I would like to send Get Well wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Nina Maria Chillemi, Rita Cestone, Antionette Cinicolo, Bettina DeFilippo, Anna Maria Forte, Angela Fragnito, Annette Gatti, Teresa Rivero, Brothers Tony Amato, Umberto Amato, Joseph Racioppo, and Vince Roselli. Also to our Lodge Deputy Margaret Forte who had surgery on her other knee. May they all experience good help real soon.



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I would also like to extend my deepest sympathy to First Gent Brother Frank Autera on the passing of his Father Vito in Stigliano, Italy. May he Rest in the Arms of the Lord.

The Italian American newspaper announced the death of Rocco B. Commisso, the owner of the Italian Soccer Club in Fiorentina and Chairman of New York based Mediacom Communications has died on January 16, 2026. Rocco who was born in Calabria, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 12, an built himself into one of the most successful and respected entrepreneurs not only in the United States but in Firenze. Rocco also owned the NY Cosmos, and played Soccer while attending Columbia University. May he Rest in the Arms of the Lord.

In our most recent *Avanti*, there was featured article on Fashion Designer Giorgio Armani who passed away in September 2025, and just recently we lost another legendary Italian Fashion Designer Valentino. Valentino Garavani was 93 years old, and died on January 19, 2026 at his home in Rome. The Designer was born in the Northern town of Voghera, Lombardy to a well-off Bourgeois Family, and was named after the Hollywood film star Rudolph Valentino. He will definitely be missed in the high-end couture fashion circles.

As many of you know Cyclone Harry tore through the East Cost of Sicily for nearly two days hitting the beautiful cities of



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Messina, Catania, Siracusa and a section of Santa Teresa di Riva leaving a track of destruction and water damage that was so horrific to watch. I know that some of our Lodge Brothers and Sisters come from that area of Sicily, and we send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers for everyone's well being and safety as the rebuilding process begins. Such a tragedy.

To all our members celebrating February Birthdays Buon Compleano. Especially Brother Steve Sorano who is celebrating a milestone birthday. Happy 75th Steve, and to everyone I hope you all enjoy celebrating your Birthdays.

Believe it or not on February 22, 2026 the Antonio Meucci Lodge will celebrate 112 years in existence. Our great Lodge was founded back in 1914, and we all should be proud that we belong to such a great Lodge filled with so much history and tradition. Happy Birthday to the Antonio Meucci Lodge.

I would like to wish all our February couples a very Buon Anniversario. I hope everyone has a wonderful time celebrating your anniversaries, and your day is filled with joy, happiness, and most of all love.

Sending Congratulation wishes to Brother Daniel Cochrane who recently graduated from the Westchester Fire Academy. Brother



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Daniel will work for the Harrison Fire Department, and is the Son of Sister Dina Roselli, Grandson to Brother Vince Roselli and Great Nephew to Brother Charlie Tota. So proud of you Daniel, I know this has been a long time dream of yours.

Congratulations to Nick Capicotto on his recent engagement to Kate. Nick is the Son of Brother Tony & Sister Margherita Capicotto, Grandson to Franca Capicotto and Aunt to Sister Antonella Capicotto-Delia. So happy for you guys.

Congratulations to Giulianna Miceli daughter of Brother Anthony and Sister Rosalia Miceli on her new job with the NYPD Forensic Investigations Division and its Police Laboratory. I know this was something you wanted to do for a very long time, and it finally happened. So proud of you Giulianna.

I invite all our members to attend our February General meeting which is on February 24th, 7:30 pm. We will have the great pleasure of initiating ten new members into the Lodge. Let's make them feel welcome with your presence.

In the month of February, Italy is know for celebrating some wonderful events and religious festivals. Carnevale is generally celebrated in February which is the pre-lenten festival 40 days before Easter. The biggest and most famous Carnevale in Italy is the Venice Carnival (Carnevale di Venezia) know for stunning masks, elaborate



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costumes, and grand masquerade balls. It also stems from the Latin word “carne levare” meaning “to remove meat”. This year on February 18th it’s Ash Wednesday which is know as Mercoledì Delle Ceneri. It marks the solemn end of Carnevale and generally on that day most Christians receive ashes and abstain from eating meat. On February 2, Italy celebrates Candlemas the Feast of the Candelabra. It is a traditional Christian Feast marking the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, and the purification of the Virgin Mary.

Other notable Italian events celebrated in February is the Feast Day of St. Agatha. This is a major religious day celebrated in Catania, Sicily from February 3rd-5th. It honors the Sicilian Virgin Mary known for Faith, Chastity and the Patronage of Breast Cancer. Also on February 3rd, St. Biagio Day is celebrated with a tradition of eating cakes like Panettone and drinking Wine for a blessing of the throat and good health. On February 14th, St. Valentines Day (La Festa di San Valentino) focuses primarily on romantic love with dinner and gifts like Baci chocolates and tradition of love locks on bridges. St. Faustino which is the Patron St of Brescia and is also known as Singles Day an alternate to Valentine’s Day is celebrated on February 15th.

Just a reminder that on February 6th is the opening ceremony of the 2026 Winter Olympics in the iconic San Siro Stadium (Studio Giuseppe Meazza), Milan-Cortina Italy. Some of the



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Musical Entertainment scheduled to perform is Mariah Carey along with Italian Tenor Andrea Bocelli. The Olympics will feature 16 Sports across 8 Categories with USA and Italy favored to win some major events in Skiing, Bobsled, and Ice Skating. If you are not aware Frank Del Duca who hails from Brooklyn, will represent Team USA Bobsled Team. His family has ties to Naples, and Palermo Sicily, and he is very proud of his Italian -American heritage, and has aspirations of bringing home the Gold for Team USA. We'll be cheering you on Frank. The 17 day event goes from February 6th-22nd and will be televised in the United States on NBC, USA Network, and streaming on Peacock. Should be a fun couple of weeks to watch sports and root for your favorite Country to win Gold medals.

In closing, although February is a short month it also has the most significant events and holidays that are recognized or celebrated. The whole month of February we celebrate American Heart, where the purpose is to raise awareness about Cardiovascular Health and Disease Prevention. Established in 1964, this February 2026 observance includes "National Wear Red Day" on Friday February 6th to promote Women's Heart Health. We also recognize Groundhog Day. On this day the tradition is that a Groundhog emerges from its burrow to predict the end of winter. If he sees its shadow it retreats for 6 more weeks of winter, if it doesn't see its



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shadow, spring will arrive early. I'm sure we are all wishing for an early Spring about now. Then of course we get to celebrate Valentine's Day with our love ones. February also marks the Birthday celebrations of Presidents Abe Lincoln & George Washington all wrapped up into President's Day on the 16th of the month. Here's wishing all those people who took Super Bowl boxes good luck. I'm sure the Super Bowl game will be an enjoyable one with the Seattle Seahawks vs the New England Patriots. May the best team win.

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

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille