



**Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America/
New York State Commission for Social Justice**

Arthur Spera, OSDIA/NYS President
Eleanor Jobbagy, OSDIA/NYS CSJ Chairperson



NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

PROUDLY SPONSORS

“THE JOHN DABBENE ITALIAN HERITAGE ESSAY CONTEST”

To: NYS Lodge Presidents and Lodge Members

If you are a member in good standing in one of our local lodges and have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew who will be in grades 7 through 12 in September 2026, that child is eligible to enter our **“John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest.”**

The goal of this essay contest is to help students better understand their Italian heritage and culture. To that end, we hope that as parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, you will sponsor and encourage a family member to participate. The interaction between you and the student may present an opportunity to further enhance your family's knowledge of your Italian heritage.

A winner will be chosen from each district throughout the State from each grade category. Each winner will receive a \$200 award for his or her essay.

Sponsoring lodge presidents will be responsible for validating their member's standing within the lodge by signing the Application form.

Accompanying this letter is the Application form. Please read it carefully and comply with the requirements.

All essays must be mailed and RECEIVED by SEPTEMBER 15, 2026. Mail to:

**Geraldine Iannello Graham, Chairperson
John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest
53 Brookside Drive
Smithtown, NY 11787**

Questions may be emailed to geraldine@sellarolodge.org