



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



June 2026

Issue 16

Welcome to the June edition of my *Newsletter*. I'm still catching up from my amazing vacation to England and France. The sights, history and culture were unbelievable to experience. What's more unbelievable is how much the Roman architecture is deeply rooted into both countries. You may not be aware but the top 5 most photographed sights in the World, are the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Colosseum in Rome, the Sagrada Família in Spain, the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, and Big Ben in London. So happy to say I visited all 5 of these sights, and if you never been to any of these countries I suggest that you make the journey. You won't be disappointed.

Time is definitely flying by. It seems like we were just celebrating Christmas, and here we are with Summer starting on June 21st. Once again, the Lodge had a busy month of May with so many events and activities. As I always say there is something for everyone to enjoy. The Championship game of Cornhole was played on Friday May 22nd. The winners were Team Ferrari which consisted of the Rosamilia Family Brothers Giuseppe, Massimo, Maurizo and Roberto, along with Brothers Gerry Padula, Danny Miele and Malek. Team Goodfellas came in 2nd place which was comprised of Brothers John Rubillo, Danny Cassanelli, Sal



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Cappello, and Mike Fascilla. Third place winners was Team Air Mailing with Brother Anthony Luciano along with his family and friends. I know everyone had a great time playing and can't wait until next year to start up again. We also celebrated Brother Sal Cassanelli 95th Birthday. Truly amazing. I would like to thank Brother Joel Sonny for coordinating this event. You did a fantastic job. I also need to thank Sisters Margery Schiff, and Heidi Banzinger for handling the refreshments being sold when games were played. Special thank you to Maurizio Rosamilia for donating all the Espresso and Cappuccino's coffee served the night of the Championship Dinner. It was totally delicious. The event also made a nice profit for the Lodge. Again, congratulation to all the winners, and the players of this year's Cornhole Tournament.

The Spring/Summer Bocce games have begun under the direction of Chairpersons Brother Sam and Chris Amello. There are 15 Teams playing which consist of both men and women. We play Monday thru Thursday nights weather permitting. I encourage people to come and watch the games which are very exciting and root for your favorite team. You won't be disappointed. Unfortunately, my team has yet to win a game, but we are having fun playing.

The card players have been actively playing Scopa and have now been playing Mahjong on Thursday nights. I must say the competition has been intense and very interesting to watch them



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

play. If interested in playing Mahjong you may want to reach out to Sister Roselle Cucuzza on 914 440-9946 for more details.

On *May 14th*, I was happy to attend the White Plains High School Scholarship Award ceremony along with Sister Rita Maria Carolini, and Sister Rosemary Cirioni. We were excited to present a \$1000 Scholarship to Justin Djelosevic who received *The Antonio Meucci Lodge/Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarship*. Justin was awarded this Scholarship for his dedication in his pursuit of perfection in the study of the Italian language. This year was the first time we presented *The Antonio Meucci Lodge/Frank Tarone Vocational/Technical Scholarship*. This \$1000 award went to Fernando Benites who will be pursuing a career to be an Electrician. Brother Frank always believed that young people will obtain success in life through a strong work ethic and passion for their chosen career, and there was nothing wrong with being a “*blue collar*” laborer. Congratulations to both these young men. You made your family, school and us here at the Lodge very proud.

On Friday *May 15th*, we attended the Westchester Soccer Club Soccer game at The Stadium at Memorial Field, Mount Vernon. What a beautiful Stadium to watch an event. The WSC played against the NY Cosmos. What a fun night to be with our Brothers and Sisters. We had a lot of laughs and enjoyed each other’s company while watching the game. It was an exciting game right up to the very end, but unfortunately the team lost in a final shoot out



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

2 to 3. Thank you Brother Adam for coordinating this event for the Lodge. The Lodge also received some money back for every ticket sold so that was also nice.

This year, the FIFA World Cup Soccer will start on *June 11th and end on July 19th*. For all you Soccer enthusiasts this should be an exciting time to watch the games. Too bad Italy isn't playing but USA will play Paraguay on June 12th. Let's Go USA. Also if you are not aware the final game of the Soccer tournament can be seen Free of Charge at the Kenisco Dam Plaza, Valhalla. It will feature the live broadcast on jumbo outdoor TV screens. Match time is 3:00pm. I would advise to get there early to watch and enjoy the game.

Unfortunately, the *Country Western Line Dancing* scheduled for May 29th is being *postponed to another date to be determined*. I need to thank the hard work of Chairman Sister Lina Amello and Co-Chairs Sister Lynda Innocenzi and Santina Tassone, and I know the next scheduled date will go off without a hitch. We will keep you posted on the new date for the "*Sip & Stomp Your Boots*" party.

On *Saturday May 30th*, 31 of our Brothers and Sisters attended the *Legends in Concert at Stepinac High School*. Brother Nick Ciaramella has been actively involved in raising funds for the Stepinac High School, and again he asked if the Lodge would like to participate in this fundraising event. Since it was a Win-Win for both the School and for the Lodge of course we said yes. But I have to say



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

whoever did attend was not disappointed. The musical acts were phenomenal and it brought back some great memories of the music of the 50's, 60's and 70's. Some of the acts that performed was Strawberry Fields, a tribute to the Beatles, the amazing Bobby Wilson who sang tunes from his late father Jackie Wilson, The Jersey Four tribute to Frankie Vali and the Four Seasons, and I personally enjoyed the The Rat Pack with Marilyn Monroe. I even got selected to go on stage with them, and did the Rockettes kick line to *New York, New York*. I may have made a fool of myself but it was all in fun. A great night to hear great music, and share some laughs. Thanks brother Nick, we will definitely be there next year.

At our *General Meeting on May 26th*, not only did we do an initiation of 5 new members, we also awarded Scholarships to 8 worthy Children/Grandchildren of our members. Each student received \$1500. Congratulations to Ava Amarosa, Marco Buglione, Jeffrey D'Ambrosio, Brianna DeVito, Jonathan DiFonzo, Paola DiMiceli, Jessica Reo, and Ava Zingone. I would like to personally thank Chairperson Rita Maria Carolini, and her amazing Committee of Sisters Jean Borelli-Illardi, Pamela Danza, AnnaMaria Forte, Cathy Grisanti, Rosalia Miceli, Lucy Tocci, and Brother Joe Tanzi. I also need to thank Sister Lina Carolini-Cannavo a past Scholarship recipient who gave an inspiring message to our Scholarship winners. Thank you Sister Lina.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

I also need to Congratulate those students who won NY State Grand Lodge Scholarships. Marco Buglione won the *“Barbara Lupo Memorial Scholarship”*, Jonathan DiFonzo won the *“Joe DiMaggio Lodge #2248 Scholarship in Memory of Collette Cannizzaro and Christopher Columbus Lodge #3692 Scholarship in Memory of Deceased Members”*, Leana Doohan the *“Franca and Antonio Capicotto Family Scholarship”*, Jessica Reo won the *“LeAmiche Lodge #2550 Scholarship and Christopher Agostino in Memory of Deceased Members of the Anthony Maggiacomo Lodge #2320 Memorial Scholarship”* and Brianna Devito won the highest Statewide Scholarship Award which was the *“Nicholas J. Lomuscio Memorial Scholarship and Fiorito/Fay Italian Studies Scholarship”*. Congratulations to all these winners as well. We are so proud of your accomplishments and we wish you the best in your future endeavors. You made our Lodge very proud, and hopefully one day you will join us as a member.

Congratulations to *our newest members* of the Lodge that was installed that night. Brothers Michele Castellano, Anthony DiMiceli, Frank DeVito, Frank Costa and Sister Rosina Costa. You joined a great Lodge, and I know you will work diligently with us in order to make our beloved Order stronger in the achievement of our common goal.

Thank you to our NY State President Arthur Spera, First Lady Joanne Spera, National 5th Vice President Robert Ferrito, State Recording Secretary Remo Carriero, State Trustee Vito Catania,



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

and Past First Lady Lina Ferrito for attending that night. . A special thank you to our Lodge Deputy Margaret Forte for always being there for us, and for recognizing our State Scholarship winners as she was also the District IV Scholarship Chairperson. Your presence that night not only enhanced the importance of recognizing the scholastic achievements of our children, but the importance of bringing new members into the Order. Thank you so much.

Also that night our Lodge Brothers and Sisters got to say goodbye to two long time members Sister Lucy and Ray Tocci. Unfortunately, Brother Ray was not feeling well that night. If you haven't heard as of yet Sister Lucy and Brother Ray will be moving to North Carolina next month. I know our Lodge will truly miss them, but I also know they will not be leaving the Order as they will be joining the Triangle Lodge in North Carolina. It is our loss but there gain. We will miss you guys so much.

I would also like to extend my Congratulations to Dr. Tyler Eglauf who received his Doctor of Chiropractic Degree from Keiser University of Florida. Tyler joined his father practice Eglauf Wellness Center in White Plains. Tyler is the proud son and grandson of members of the Eglauf/Amato families. I know everyone is so proud of you Tyler, and I also noticed you joined the Bocce tournament, hopefully next you will become a member of the Lodge to carry on the legacy of your family who are proud members of the OSDIA.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Congratulations to Melissa Peller who graduated from Pace University and received a BS in Nursing. Melissa is the granddaughter to Sister Rose & Brother Joe Tassone, and the niece to Brother Vito & Sister Santina Tassone. I'm so happy for you Melissa, seems like it was only yesterday you would help with the Children's Christmas parties at the Lodge. You're going to be a fantastic Nurse.

Congratulations to Brother Pat Carolini on his upcoming retirement from RyeNeck Schools. There is nothing like retirement, but I'm sure your wife Kim will keep you busy with that "*Honey-Do*" list. Now you really will have the time to spend with the new grandbaby due in July. Enjoy Pat, you earned it.

To Brother Oscar Martini who just informed me that he has joined the United States Army. Brother Oscar will be stationed at Fort Totten Army base in Bayside Queens. We applaud you Oscar for wanting to serve your Country, and know you will serve us proudly. Good luck and stay safe.

I need to send a special thank you to those Brothers who assisted with getting the flowers planted at the Lodge. First and foremost to Brother Antonio Amato who scouts out the flower deals, to Brother Mario Cermele with his workers that loaded all the flowers and Top Soil into the van, to Brother Nick Vaccarelli who



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

got them delivered to the Lodge. Special thank you to Brother Frank Autera and new member Brother Anthony Gerasia who did the actual planting. You guys did a fabulous job. Also a special thank you to Brothers Mike DiSavino and Dominick D'Ambrosio who are always ready to lend a helping hand with things needed done at the Lodge when asked. I really appreciate it guys.

Coming up this month are a few events I want you to be aware of, as you may want to attend. Back by popular demand will be another *Lobster Tail, Steak and Cigar Night*. The date will be *June 12th*, again Chaired by Brother Anthony Miceli. So if you missed the last one in April here's your opportunity to come experience a great night of delicious food and cigars. Reservations can be made by calling Brother Anthony Miceli on 914 879-6864. Please see our website for more information.

I am proud to announce that on *June 14th, the Commission of Social Justice* will host there 43rd Anniversary Celebration at Russo's on the Bay, and will be honoring one of our members *Sister Joan Prezioso, Past President of the Italian Welfare League*. Sister Joan we are so proud that you are being recognized for all your achievements in working with this very worthy organization that helps support Italian American children in need also known as "I Nostril Bambini". The organization's main objective is to help children who are facing life challenges due to illness, disabilities, or unfortunate circumstances. This is a well deserved honor for Sister Joan.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

I would like to send *Get Well* wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Antionette Cinicolo, Rita Cestone, Jenny Famularo, Cathy Lembo-Lloyd, Dora Pallagrosi, Teresa Rivero, Nancy Vernillo, Brothers Carmine Prezioso, Vince Roselli, Joe Tanzi, Anthony Vaccaro, Peter Guastella son to Charles Guastella and Rosa Grisanti daughter of Sister Cathy & Brother Mike Grisanti. May you all experience good help real soon.

To all our members celebrating *June Birthdays*, Buon Compleano. I hope you all enjoy celebrating your Birthdays. I especially want to send Birthday wishes to Brother Salvatore Cassanelli 95 years “young”, and to Sister Lillian Innocenzi who is also celebrating a milestone birthday of 85 years “young”. Happy Birthday.

I would also like to recognize the birthday of Dominican Sister Francis Dominici Piscatella, an Italian American nun from Long Island who turned 113 years old, and has been a religious Sister for 95 years. She once again, captivated international attention after Guinness World Records named her as the world’s oldest nun two years in a row. Truly amazing, and hopefully she experiences many more years of longevity.

In keeping with the religious best wishes I need to mention that Former E.L.F. (Eyes, Lips, Face) Cosmetics Co-Founder Scott-



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Vincent Borba was recently ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest on May 23rd, in Visalia, California. After stepping away from the beauty industry in 2021 he donated his entire fortune to charity so he could enter St. Patricks Fresno Seminary & University and this past month at the age of 52 was ordained as a Catholic Priest. You can say he found a higher calling in serving the Lord, and as he said *“he has never been more happy and at peace with the direction of his life”*.

Congratulations to all our June couples celebrating their anniversary 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.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Brother Dr. Pat Egulaf his wife Sister Diana Amato-Egluaf and the entire Egluaf family on the passing of Dr. Pat's father, Dr. Douglas Egluaf. May he rest in the arms of the Lord.

My deepest sympathies are also extended to the Puja family on the loss of Sister Vincenzia Puja sister Pasquian Greto. May she also rest in the arms of the Lord.

I also have to mention the recent passing of Alex Zanardi an Italian racing driver and para-cyclist from Bologna Emilia-Romagna. After a devastating race car accident where both his legs had to be amputated he re-invented himself as a para-cyclist. His



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

story has been an anthem to life, strength and resilience. His legacy goes beyond medals and titles, it is an example of how to get back up, even in the most difficult times. His name will forever be imbued with values of strength, dignity, and hope. May he also rest in the arms of the Lord.

On *June 14th*, we celebrate Flag Day. On this day we get to commemorate the Continental Congress adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the Official U.S. American flag going back to the year 1777. Yeah for the Red, White and Blue our American flag.

I also would like to wish all our Fathers a Happy Father's Day. In Italy Fathers' Day is celebrated on March 19th in conjunction with the Feast of St. Joseph (San Giuseppe) which is also known as La Festa dei Papa. It's a time to celebrate the fathers in our lives, but it's also a time to reflect on our heavenly Father Jesus Christ. Here in America Fathers's Day is celebrated on June 21st. So to all our Fathers's and Father figures in our lives. Happy Father's Day.

June in Italy is warm rather than oppressively hot, making it a popular time to visit before mid-summer heatwaves. On June 2nd Italy is known to celebrate Festa della Repubblica a national, holiday celebrating the birth off the Italian Republic with military parades, particularly in Rome. The Feast of St. Anthony of Padua is celebrated on June 13th. Celebrations honors the famous Franciscan Friar and Patron Saint of



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

lost items, travelers, and the poor. The day is usually marked by special masses, the blessing of bread and worldly processions. On June 16th, Italy celebrates Luminary di San Ranieri (Pisa). Thousands of candles light up the banks of the Arno River to honor the Patron Saint of Pisa. San Giovanni the Feast of Saint John the Baptist is celebrated nationwide on June 24th, which highlight fireworks and boat parades on Lake Como. June 29th, Italy celebrates Saints Peter and Paul especially in Rome. It's a significant holiday featuring special religious services and fireworks, marking the City's patron Saints. These are all special events that can be enjoyed while visiting Rome in the month of June

On *June 25th -28th* 10 members from the Lodge will attend the NYS OSDIA 118th Annual Convention at the Crown Plaza in Albany NY. This year Sisters Roselle Cucuzza, Pamela Danza, Dora Griffo. Rosa Lippolis, Rosalia Miceli, Brothers Mario Cermele, Joe Griffo, Anthony Miceli, and Adam Pacecca will join me as we do the work of the Order. I believe Brothers Anthony and Joe will enter their Homemade Wine into a contest. Not sure if they are also entering their Homemade Sopressata as well. At the convention the Lodge will make our yearly donations to the various charities we support, and the winner for the \$100 raffle tickets will be drawn. Hopefully we have some winners, and I will keep you posted next month.

As mentioned last month our *Italian Heritage Festival will be on July 26th*. We are working very hard on this event, and hopefully Mother Nature will cooperative with great weather, but we need the help of our Brothers and Sisters with the festivities that day. Right now I'm happy to say we have music by Pane E Cioccolato, Ella Cristina, and DJ Rocco



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Ruscito who will perform in the Food Court. I'm also very happy to announce our *Honoree this year is Brother Michael Bellantoni*. Brother Michael has not only been a longtime member of the Lodge but he owns Bellantoni Landscaping in White Plains, serving the community of White Plains for more than 60 years. We couldn't have picked a better person to honor this year than Brother Michael. Also special thank you to Chairpersons Sister Cathy Grisanti and Brother Mario Cermele who are working very hard to make this a day to remember for all our Italian-American ancestors. The Lodge is looking for any support possible with Sponsorships, Donations, Vendors, etc. You can see our website for more information. Also our members should have received raffle tickets in the mail. Your support would greatly be appreciated as we raise money to support all our charitable donations especially for Scholarships throughout the year. Volunteers are also needed for that day, If interested you can call or text Caroline Baviello 914 760-4095. We will start to have more regular meetings as we get closer to the event date, and you will be notified by a separate email when to attend those scheduled meetings.

I want to mention that the month of June we get to celebrate Alzheimer and Brian Awareness, as well as Pride Awareness month. We also get to celebrate Pet appreciation week for our cute furry animals that bring us so much comfort and joy. We also get to celebrate on June 4th, National Cheese Day. It's a day dedicated to enjoying and exploring varieties of Cheese from Cheddar to Brie, to Mozzarella. In June, Italy is known to celebrate their vibrant produce like Zucchini Flowers, Tomatoes, Eggplant & sweet stone fruit like Apricots, Figs & Cherries, as well as refreshing Panzanella Salad



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

with Prosciutto. I especially enjoy making Zucchini flowers all summer long. It's a great treat to enjoy in the summer. As soon as the flowers bloom in the morning I'm picking them to make Zucchini fritters.

I recently came across an interesting article where the company Ferrero will start the production of *Nutella* in the United States. This will be the first time *Nutella Spread* will be produced in a factory in Franklin Park, Illinois. This Italian food giant Ferrero will spend over \$75 Million on this manufacturing project. What a great boost for our economy. Hopefully more Italian companies will open businesses here in the United States.

As mentioned in my last Newsletter that on July 4th we will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States, which marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. With that being said there will be lots of events and celebrations that will happen around the country and in Washington D.C. One such event will be the *Freedom 250 Grand Prix* car race, but here again, did you know that the Maserati 250F car will be celebrated as the 2026 Goodwood Revival, while Ferrari 250 GTO is also being celebrated as two iconic racing cars to be used in the auto race. Here again, Italy is entwined into our American roots. We should be so proud of all the things our *Mother* country has brought to America.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

In closing, Brother Frank and I want to wish all our Brothers a very Happy Fathers's Day. We also want to make sure all our Brothers and Sisters have a Happy, Safe, and Healthy, Summer. If you are planning a vacation whether local or abroad may you enjoy those times spent with family and friends. Congratulations again to all our graduates. Here at the Lodge our Brothers and Sisters are so proud of your accomplishments and know you will excel as you continue to pursue your life time goals. Also congratulations to all the new members who just joined the Lodge. I know you will work diligently along side us to make our Lodge move forward.

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

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille