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A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



April 2026

Issue 14

Happy April Fools's Day. Spring is finally here and the days are definitely longer. I can't believe it's April already and we will be celebrating another religious holiday Easter or Resurrection Sunday on April 5th. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, occurring three days after his crucifixion, which signifies victory over sin and death.

On Tuesday *March 3rd*, at our General Meeting we had the great privilege of installing 10 new members. They are as follows: Sisters Andrea Broccio, Mary Jo Mastrogiamomo, Michelle Spiniello, and Illana White, Brothers Anthony Gerasi, Nick Marziliano, Romeo Spiniello, Christopher Sumpo, Christopher Turano, and Michael White. Congratulations to all of you. You joined a very active Lodge, and I know you will work well with us to promote our Italian Heritage.

On *Saturday March 14th*, the Lodge celebrated *San Giuseppe & St. Patrick's* in style. What a fabulous night. Not only did it feature traditional Italian & Irish food, Music by DJ Nando we also had a 50/50, and Door Prizes that were raffled off. Unfortunately, the Tarantella Dancers we had scheduled couldn't make it because one of the dancers broke her leg the night before. Hope she is feeling



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better and will be able to be with us next year. A special Thank you to Chairperson Lina Amello and her fantastic committee. Sister Lina had included all the personal touches of the story behind St. Joseph and St. Patrick as well as an altar that was set up with Bread baked by Brother Gino DiMiceli. The Bread is a Sicilian tradition of thanksgiving for deliverance from famine through the intercession of St. Joseph. Also thank you to Brother Nando who provided the music, and the food was prepared by Brother Mario Cermele and Sister Pamela Danza from Cermele's Catering. The Corn Beef was simply amazing. Also thank you to the King of Hearts who donated money for the beverages that night. Great job everyone.

On *Saturday March 21st*, some of us attended the Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge 40th Anniversary Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser. It was a great night with delicious food, music and so many raffles to choose from. But more importantly it was great to spend time with our Brothers and Sisters from other Filial Lodges.

On *Saturday March 28th*, our Lodge sponsored the *Funny Bunny Easter Egg Hunt in White Plains*, in conjunction with the City of White Plains Parks and Recreation Department. As previously mentioned the Lodge donated \$1,500 towards the event, and it was just another way that we are giving back to the community of White Plains. It was a fun morning spent with the children as they enjoyed the entertainment of Ned Gelfars a comedy juggler, and of course



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searching for the colorful eggs filled with candy. Special thanks to Chairperson Sister Caroline Baviello, and her Committee of Sisters Maria DiMiceli, Cathy Grisanti, Maria Malandro, Lisa Stumpo, Lucy Tocci and Brother Ray Tocci. Thank you Sister Caroline for coordinating this for our Lodge

On Friday April 10th, the Lodge will have a *Cigar, Steak and Lobster Tail night*. I'm getting such positive responses to this event, and from what I'm hearing there are women who will be attending because they actually enjoy smoking cigars. The cost is \$125.00 which will include 3 Premium Cigars plus a fabulous dinner of NY Strip Steak, Lobster Tails and Dessert. Please call Brother Antony Miceli on 914 879-6884 as reservations are going fast.

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. If anyone can help with some gift donations perhaps with gift cards to local Restaurants, Bakeries, Pizzerias, Deli's etc. it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact our Chairperson Sister Cathy Grisanti, on 914 523-6158.

Also we will begin our Spring/Summer Bocce Games. Brother Sam and Chris Amello will Chair this year's Season of the Bocce games, which are always very fun to play and watch. The games are also very competitive. If anyone is interested in playing please send



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an email to Sam Amrillo at amlbocce@gmail.com. We're looking to start the games around May 4th, so start to get your team together, and let's enjoy these games with our Brothers and Sisters.

There are two more interesting events we will be doing in May that may interest some of our members. At our last general meeting we had two guest speakers Chris Tuosto and Brian Viggiano from the Westchester Soccer Club speak to us regarding the newest Mens Professional Soccer team in Westchester County. The games are played at The Stadium at Memorial Field, Mount Vernon NY. After hearing Chris speak and the interest of our members we will be having a *Fundraiser on May 15th*, and actually go see the team play against the NY Cosmos. So for every ticket purchased at \$17.00 through the Lodge the WSC Organization will donate \$ 5.00 back to us. Brother Adam Pacecca will coordinate this for us. He can be reached on 860 271-6507.

Another fun night will be on *May 29th*, The Lodge will be having a *Country Western Line Dancing* event Chaired by Sister Lina Amello and Co-Chair Sister Lynda Innocenzi. This should be another fun night, so get your Cowboy Boots and Hats ready for this "*Sip & Stomp Your Boots*" party. The cost is \$80.00 pr person. Please see our website for all the particulars.

The following night on *Saturday May 30th*, many of us will be attending the *Legends in Concert at Stepinac High School*. Brother Nick



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Ciarmella has been actively involved in raising funds for the School, and again he asked if the Lodge would like to participate in this fundraiser event. For every ticket that is purchased through the Lodge at \$50 per ticket he will donate \$10.00 back to us. This is a Win-Win for both the School and the Lodge. If you are interested please let me know so I can arrange the purchase of the tickets. I can be reached on 914 772-1768.

I'm happy to announce that the *Antonio Meucci Lodge Scholarship Award* applications are now opened to receive applications. The Scholarships are available for both an Undergraduate or Graduate student to all our members Children and Grandchildren. I encourage our children to look into these opportunities and perhaps apply. The amount is \$1,500 you can possibly win towards your college education. You can visit our website antoniomeuccilodge.com. for the applications and criteria. Please note the *deadline is April 13, 2026*. I would like to thank Chairperson Sister Rita Maria Carolini for coordinating this for the Lodge. If anyone has any questions you can reach out to Sister Rita Maria Carolini on 914 656-4095. I would also like to mention that the *Frank Tarone Vocational and Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarships* will also be awarded to a worthy student at White Plains High School in May.

The CSJ is having an Essay contest called "*Discovering The Truth-The Louis J. Gallo Jr. Memorial Columbus Award*". The contest is for students in grades 11-12 for all children of Lodge members in good



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standing. The student must select one of the many Anti-Columbus myths/falsehoods being repeated today and prove it wrong using reputable sources. Cash prizes will be awarded. I recently, sent out an email regarding the criteria. The information is also posted on our website antoniomeuccilodge.com. I encourage our young students to take advantage of this opportunity. You never know they just may be a winner. *The deadline is June 1, 2026*

As previously mentioned last year President Trump signed a proclamation to bring Columbus Day back and recognizing his achievements in discovering America. On Sunday March 22nd, a new statue of him was installed at the White House. The statue was the one destroyed six years ago, when it was thrown into the City's Harbour in Baltimore, Maryland, Now it is proudly displayed in front of the Eisenhower Executive Building. We need to thank all the hard work that was done by the CSJ that made this happen. So if you are in Washington, DC you need to visit it.

The Grand Lodge is celebrating the *250th Anniversary* of our great country by doing a video to celebrate the contributions and achievements of Italian-Americans. To honor our families who made that journey, or perhaps some of us who are first generation Italian-Americans they are looking for pictures that document that journey. The pictures will be documented into a video to be shown at the State Convention this year. So if you have a family photo of the family members that came here, even you, please send the photo



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(1 per family), along with the family name and the year, so they will combine them into a video. Photos must be **jpeg or pdf**. You can send the photo to Joseph Ilardi at email ilardij@aol.com. *In the subject field put 2026 Convention Video*. Please submit your photos as soon as possible so it can be included in the video.

Also the Garibaldi Meucci Museum is having The Dollar Challenge. They are challenging **each and every** OSDIA member to contribute \$1.00 through their filial/subordinate Lodge for the Museums' upkeep. The museum is OUR OSDIA treasure and now OUR National Charity, and need the funds to help with the many repairs and maintenance needed on the building. Over the years our Lodge has always supported the museum because we felt an allegiance to it as it has our name associated to it. The challenge is where they are looking for a \$1.00 from every member of the Lodge. Since we had 341 members at the end of the year 2025 they are looking for at least \$341 or more. The Lodge winners will be those with the largest percentage of members contributing. The winning Lodge(s) name will be published in the *Italian American Magazine*, and a plaque with the Lodge names placed in the entry of the Museum I have a canister placed at our meetings where you can place your dollar. If at all possible can you assist in this contribution it will greatly be appreciated, and thank you to all that had already contributed so far. The *deadline is April 15th*.



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As you know every year our Lodge attends the NY State Grand Lodge Convention in Albany, New York, and once again, the Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. OSDIA will be having their 2026 Charitable State Programs Raffle. The prizes range anywhere from \$20,000 to \$500. The drawing will take place at the Convention on Saturday June 27th. In the past, some of our members have been lucky enough to win some money. If interested please reach out to Brother Anthony Miceli on 914 879-6884, we only have 25 tickets to sell, but we can get more if needed. The cost is \$100 per ticket. You can buy a ticket on your own or go in with people and share the winnings. *You need to be in it to win it.*

Just wanted you to know our Lodge donated \$500 to the *Friends of Karen Spring Time Holiday Meal Grocery Gift Card Drive* to help critically ill children and their families enjoy a special Easter, Passover or other springtime holiday meal. We need to be proud that our Lodge is in a position to make these worthy donations, and it's all because of you who so generously support our charitable endeavors like our fundraisers, parties, raffles, 50/50 etc. Thank you.

I would like to send **Get Well** wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Antionette Cinicolo, Nina Maria Chillemi, Rita Cestone, Bettina DeFilippo, Vincenzia Puja, Teresa Rivero, Nancy Vernillo, Brothers Tony Amato, Mario Cermele, Tony Mule, John Pezzullo, Vince Roselli, Joe Tanzi and Peter Guastella son to Charlie Guastella . May you all experience good help real soon.



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To all our members celebrating April Birthdays, Buon Compleano. I hope you all enjoy celebrating your Birthdays. Special Milestone Birthday wishes to Sister Cathy Grisanti, Dora Pallagrosi,, and to Brother Nick Fragnito who is turning 85 years “young”. I have to give special kudos to Brother Nick who comes and plays Cornhole at the Lodge. You’re a pretty good player Brother Nick.

I would like to wish all our April 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. Special Happy Anniversary wishes to Brother Tony and Sister Rita Cestone who are celebrating 65 years of marriage. Wishing you many more years of happiness.

Congratulation to Sister Tina Salerno who was elected as President of the Arbitration Committee of the Antonio Meucci Lodge. I know you will do a great job.

Congratulations to Sisters Maria Malandro and Lisa Stumpo who graciously accepted to be the new Directors of the Antonio Meucci Lodge Inc Foundation account. The change is because Brother Ray Tocci is moving to North Carolina, and Brother Mike DiSavino plans to spend more time in Florida. Sisters Maria and Lisa will work alongside Brother Umberto Amato as the new Directors. I want to personally thank Brother Ray and Brother



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Mike for all they have done in managing the account, and I know you will make sure the transition will be seamless.

Congratulations to our Orator Brother Nando Alpuche on his recent engagement to Liz, on Valentine's Day. So happy for you guys.

Also Congratulations to Sister Lina Carolini-Cannavo who accepted a position as the Principal of the Farragut Middle School in Hastings. So happy for you Lina, I know the students are lucky to have you in their school district.

Congratulations to the USA Sled Hockey Team who won the Gold Medal on March 15th, at the 2026 Winter Paralympics in Milan, Italy. They defeated Canada our arch rival to secure their fifth-straight Paralympic Gold Medal, and unprecedented achievement in a tournament. You made us proud guys. Go USA.

Deepest sympathy wishes to Sister Margaret Bernabei on the passing of her Aunt, Connie Perrotta. May she rest in the Arms of the Lord.

I also would like to extend my Deepest Sympathy to the Lanzilotta family on the passing of their Dad, NY State Past President Salvatore Lanzilotta. Brother Salvatore just so happened to be my Uncle, known affectionally as "Uncle Sonny". It was Uncle



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Sonny who started the Donatello Lodge #2559 in Westbury, and that is where I got my first induction into the Order Sons of Italy in America. Forty One years ago, the “Daughters” was not part of the logo, as that came many years later. Uncle Sonny was know for two profound statements which he lived by and still resonates with me. *“Say what you mean, but don’t say it mean”, and “The first time you enter my home you are a guest, the second time you are family”*. These are words to live by. You will be greatly missed Uncle Sonny, not just by the family but your OSDIA family as well. May you rest in peace with Aunt Rae.

This year Italy, our Mother Country has made us so proud especially in the fields of Sports, the Arts and Music. We all know just how well Italy performed at the Olympics coming in 3rd place with their medal count which was unprecedented but at the San Remo Music Festival (Festival della Canzone Italiana) which is held annually at the historic Teatro Ariston in the city of Sanremo located in the Liguria region of northeastern Italy we had an Italian-American singer win the competition. Sal Da Vinci a Neapolitan singer and actor who was born in New York City in 1969 while his father was performing in the United States but relocated back to Italy and was raised in Naples. Sal won the 76th San Remo Music Festival with the song *“Per Sempre Si”*, but are you aware it’s not often an Italian would win the competition. This past month the Oscars was televised and again not many people know that Italy holds the all-time record for the most Academy Awards (Oscars) for Best



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International Feature Film (formerly Best Foreign Language Film), with 14 wins. Italy has secured these victories from over 30 nominations, with classic films like *La Strada*, *Nights of Cabiria*, and *Life Is Beautiful* to name just a few.

What about the World Baseball Classic (WBC) which was very exciting to watch especially since here again Italy did advance to the semi-finals the first time in history, but unfortunately lost to Venezuela. The buzz was that Italy advanced to the finals because they had an Espresso machine in the dugout . Every time the team hit a home run they celebrated by taking shots of Espresso. Too funny. Too bad they lost because it would have been a great game to see USA vs Italy. On March 15th Andrea Kimi Antonelli who is only 19 years old became the first Italian to win the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix. Kimi as he is known by is the first Italian to win the F1 Grand Prix in 20 years since Giancarlo Fisichella in 2006. Also on Sunday March 22nd, Nadia Battocletti won her first Gold Medal, claiming the women's 3000m title at the World Athletics Indoor Championship in Torun, Poland, and USA's Emily Mackay took the Silver. Congratulations to all of you. You make us so proud to be Italian-American.

Spring time in Italy is just a beautiful time to visit this magical country especially in April. The whole month is dedicated to the wonders of Jesus Christ resurrection from the dead. Some say Easter has more meaning than Christmas. This year Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday March 29 and leads up to April 5th Easter Sunday. Holy Week



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encompasses Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday which is called Settimana Santa. Good Friday will be celebrated on April 3rd. This is where the Pope leads a torchlit Stations of the Cross procession at the Colosseum in Rome. Easter Sunday is celebrated on April 5th (Pasqua) marked by the Scoppio del Carro (Explosion of the Cart) in Florence's Piazza del Duomo and major Papal Masses in St. Peter's Square. Italy celebrates Easter Monday (Pasquetta) a public holiday traditionally spent with family, friends picnicking in the countryside. Another celebration Italy celebrates on April 21st is Natale di Roma which celebrates the founding of Rome with historical parades and fireworks. On April 25th, it is St. Mark's Day (Festa di San Marco) which is celebrated in Venice with a boat race (Regata di Traghetto) and processions honoring the City's patron Saint. It's also Liberation Day (Festa della Liberazione) a National holiday marking the end of WWII. In some areas of Italy on April 28th-29th Saint Biagio is celebrated with religious processions, fireworks, and street fairs.

As mentioned last month our *Italian Heritage Festival will be on July 26th*. We are in the beginning stages of planning the event but we will 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 Ruscito who will perform in the Food Court. I'm also very happy to announce our *Honoree this year will be 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 63 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



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Mario Cermele who are working very hard to make this a day to remember for all our Italian Brothers and Sisters. Definitely more information to follow over the next few months

I want to mention that the month of April is Stress Awareness,, Alcohol Awareness as well as Autism Acceptance Month. It is also Jazz Appreciation month, and we are very fortunate at our Lodge to have as a member Sister Vanessa Racci who is known as the Jazzy Italian Singer. April is also the official month for Parkinson's Disease and Cancer Awareness which is pretty much celebrated all year round. Some other National recognition days in April are National Beer, Earth and Pet Days, but the best National Day celebrated in April is National Carbonara Day. Carbonara is a classic Italian pasta dish originating from Rome & the Lazio region traditionally made with Pasta, Eggs, Pecorino Romano Cheese, Guanciale (Italian cured meat prepared from pork jowls) and Black Pepper. Who would have thought that eating Carbonara would be s National holiday. Mangiare.

In closing, Brother Frank and I want to wish all our Brothers and Sisters a very Happy Easter, Buona Pasqua and may your day be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with your family and friends.



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*A Message From the President,
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To all my Brothers and Sisters may you always remember our motto **Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.**

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille