



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213



September 2026

Issue 19

Welcome to the September Edition of my [Newsletter](#). I can't believe September is here. The days of summer just flew by in a blink of an eye. Now there is the hustle and bustle of parents preparing to get their children ready for another school year. Also during the months of August and September many of our members were either on vacation, or perhaps busy preparing to make their homemade tomato sauce, a time-honored tradition. There is nothing like homemade "Sauce" Yes "Sauce" on a Sunday afternoon with your pasta. To me what is more important is how we are able to pass down that tradition to our children, and hopefully to their children for generations to come. So if you have the opportunity to share some of your homemade sauce with your family and friends they will love you for it.

On behalf of the Antonio Meucci Lodge, I would like to take a moment to honor and remember the victims and families involved in the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. Twenty Five years have now passed. This horrific attacks on American people was the worst in US history when a United Airline flight struck the North Tower of the



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

World Trade Center, then seventeen minutes later another plane hit the South Tower. I was actually working at the time for Verizon at 375 Pearl Street, and from the 27th floor I saw the second plane hit the South Tower. That memory will always linger in my mind, and I will never forget what I saw that day. Many innocent lives were lost, and some of those lives hit very close to home as we lost Joseph Rivero, son to our Past President Teresa Rivero, and Brother Domenico Rivero. We also lost Michael McHugh, brother in-law to Brothers Carlo and Joseph Cermele, and nephew to Brother Mario Cermele, and so many others that had deep ties to our OSDIA family. Some of the others lost on that day were Michael Strada a dear friend's son of mine from the Donatello Lodge #2559, Captain Kathy Mazza (PAPD) Port Authority of NY/NJ), brothers John T. Vigiano (FDNY), and Joseph V Vigiano (NYPD) to name just a few. In fact in 2008, a new Lodge was formed in memory of the Vigiano Brothers, called the Vigiano Brothers Lodge #3436 in Port Jefferson, and the Captain Kathy Mazza Lodge #2163A in Bethpage was opened up in 2009 in her memory. Our Lodge planted a beautiful tree in front of our building in memory of Joseph Rivero. What a beautiful tribute to these heroic people who lost their lives that day. May they rest in peace along with all the others who lost their lives that day and know that they are dearly missed and remain in our hearts forever.

The *Spring/Summer Bocce* games are finally over, with the Final game played on Wednesday August 26th. There was definitely a lot of excitement and upsets as the games were being played throughout the tournament. Going into the Championship game it was Team Rosamilia in first place in their bracket, but the "Cinderella" story as



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Chairman Sam Amello stated was Team Amato. Team Amato, was comprised of Captain Brother Joe Amato, his wife Sister Toni-Marie, Sister Anna Masucci, Brothers Rocco Masucci and Brother Mike Gutta who came from the bottom of their bracket beating some fantastic and competitive teams to be in the Final Championship game. You know it was back in 1973 when legendary Yogi Berra coined the phrase "It ain't over till it's over". However, the winners of the Championship game was Team Rosamilia. Congratulations to Brother Joe Rosamilia, and to his sons Brothers Massimo, Roberto, and Maurizio, along with Brother Danny Miele, and Johnathan Etsy. I also would like to give a special thank you to Brother Joe Rosamilia who treated everyone to Pizza that night as the Medals were handed out, and for keeping the Bocce court in Tip Top shape. However, the actual Bocce Dinner was on August 11th, even though the winner wasn't declared at that time. It was an enjoyable BBQ dinner, with excellent food catered by Caperberry Events of Gedney Way. Special thank you to Chairpersons Sam Amello and Christopher Amello for Chairing the event this year. Everyone enjoyed the season, and to Brother Sam who worked so hard to accommodate people's schedules, vacations, and weather issues. Also thanks to Sister Lina Amello who helped coordinating the dinner that night and for helping out with all the games played.

Did you know Bocce goes back more than 7,000 to 9,000 years with primitive stone balls discovered in an archaeological site in Turkey? However, the direct roots of the modern game trace back to Ancient Egypt, where paintings of people playing a similar target-rolling game dated around 5200 B.C. Early versions spread from Egypt and



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Greece, where physician Hippocrates wrote about the therapeutic benefits of playing target ball games. The game was then adopted widely by the Roman soldiers. Emperor Augustus and other Roman leaders played standard forms of it. There are written records which show a formulated version of the game was actively played in Rome by 264 B.C. During the 1300s, Kings like Carlos IV and V of France banned the game because they felt it distracted men from practicing essential military archery. Even the Catholic Church banned Clergy from playing and condemned the activity as a form of illegal gambling. Despite these bans, the game survived underground and evolved into modern Bocce, eventually spreading globally from Italy. It is said that Italian General and Patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi helped popularize Bocce and established it as a widespread national pastime.

Congratulations to the members of the Antonio Meucci Lodge, as we were recognized in the *LA Italian America Magazine Summer 2026 Edition*, for coming in first place of all the Lodges in NY State for winning the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum “Dollar Challenge”. The Dollar Challenge was to assist the museum with the monies needed to help with operating funds to repair the museum which it so desperately needed. If you remembered we asked our members to donate \$1.00 based on our membership. Some of our members were very generous, plus the Lodge contributed some additional money. The museum actually collected \$10,743 through the Challenge across the country.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

The deadline for the CSJ (Commission for Social Justice) essay contest called the *John Dabbene Italian Heritage Essay Contest* is fast approaching. *The deadline is September 15, 2026.* The goal for this contest is to help students better understand their Italian Heritage and Culture. Any students from grades 7-12, can apply. To that end, I 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. One 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. Please note all information is posted on our website antoniomeuccilodge.com, as well as a separate email was sent out to our membership. *All applications must be received by September 15, 2026.* So I encourage our young students to participate. You never know, *You have to be in it to win it.* Remember last year we did have a winner when Emma Cannavo won and received \$200. She was so happy with that award.

I would like to send *Get Well* wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Heidi Banzinger, Roselle Cucuzza, Jenny Famularo, Dora Pallagrosi, Teresa Rivero, Charmaine Thomas, Brothers Umberto Amato, Tony Cestone, John Pezzullo, Vince Roselli, Anthony Vaccaro, and Peter Guastella son to Charles Guastella. May you all experience good health real soon.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

To all our members celebrating September *Birthdays*, Buon Compleanno. I hope you all enjoy celebrating your Birthdays.

To Sister Rosemary Reo, Happy 50th Birthday. You big Sister Dina spilled the beans all over Facebook wishing you a Happy 50th. Hope you enjoyed your day.

Here's wishing Brothers Frank Autera and Alex Famularo a very Happy Birthday, celebrating 75 years young. Wishing the both of you the happiest of Birthdays, and may your day be filled with all the happiness life has to offer.

Congratulations to all our September 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.

Congratulations to Sister Ashley DeMatteo who will be opening her second beauty salon ALBL North. (Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge), in Valhalla on September 3rd. Welcome to the neighborhood Ashley. So happy I can walk to your Salon to visit you.

Congratulations to Jake Strobel, son to Brother Richie and Sister Joanne Strobel who just got hired by the White Plains Fire Department. Jake will enter the academy on September 3rd. I know this has been a



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

long time dream of his to serve the community, and know he will make us proud. Good luck in the Academy Jake.

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the Buglione and Ricciardella families on the passing of Grazia “Franca” Ricciardella mother- in- law to Brother Frank and Rosita Buglione, and mother to Teo Ricciardella. She was also the Grandmother to Marco Buglione, a recent Scholarship recipient winner. May she rest in the arms of the Lord.

Also we lost a legendary singer Dolly Parton a few weeks ago. What can you say about an extraordinary singer, songwriter, and humanitarian. She was such a special person like no other. It was said Dolly loved Italian cuisine, and she gave classical singer Katherine Jenkins her blessing to record the first ever foreign language version of “ I Will Always Love You” in Italian as “L ‘Amore e Sei Tu”. If you get a chance you should listen to it. It will give you chills. We will miss you Dolly, and may you rest in peace surrounded by all your friends and family members who left before you especially your husband Carl.

If you are looking for some things to do in September to celebrate your Italian Heritage, then don't forget the Feast of San Gennaro in New York City's Little Italy. It's an annual 11 day Street Festival that honors San Gennaro (Saint Januarius), the Bishop of Benevento and



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

patron Saint of Naples, who was martyred in 305 AD. The Feast started in 1926 by Neapolitan immigrants, who immigrated to Mulberry Street and set up a small, one-day block party with food and decorated fire escapes to replicate the traditions of their homeland. The Festival continues to preserve ancestral religious devotion and celebrates Italian-American heritage and community. This year marks its 100 year anniversary of doing the Feast. The Feast will start on Thursday September 17 through Sunday September 27. As mentioned last month veteran Actor Armand Assante has been announced as the narrator of *The Streets of Little Italy: 100 Years of the San Gennaro*, a new documentary celebrating the centennial of New York City's iconic Feast of the San Gennaro. The film will explore the history, traditions and lasting legacy of one of the most recognizable Italian-American celebrations in the United States. So if you get to go I hope you enjoy it.

Did you know nearly 18 million people in the United States proudly identify as Italian American? They carry with them a rich and enduring heritage, shaped by traditions, language, incredible cuisine , and the inspiring stories of families who crossed the Atlantic in search of opportunity and a better future. From the vibrant streets of New York to the historic neighborhoods of Boston, Chicago, California and countless, other communities across this great county of ours. Italian Americans



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

have played a remarkable role in shaping the culture, history, and spirit of the United States.

One such person who truly appreciated Italian Culture, Music, and Cinema was legendary singer Elvis Presley. Elvis passed away at 42 years of age, on August 16, 1977, and always immortalized Italian Tenor Mario Lanza, and adored Italian Actress Sophia Loren while recording several major hits adapted from traditional songs. He recorded “It’s Now or Never” (from ‘O Sole Mio), and “Ask Me” (from Domenico Modugno “Io”). He also recorded “Santa Lucia” entirely in Italian with praised pronunciation, and of course he admired fellow artists Dean Martin, and Frank Sinatra. To this day his music is still timeless.

Recently it was announced by NIAF (National Italian Foundation) that Nettuno, Italy & Cooperstown, NY are now united by Baseball. Nettuno is a beautiful coastal town and commune in the Lazio region of central Italy located south of Rome on the Tyrrhenian Sea. It is famous for its medieval old town, sandy beaches, and World War II history. It’s also historically known as one of the baseball capitals of Italy. NIAF was honored to be represented by Board Member Debra DiMaggio, niece to legendary baseball player Joe DiMaggio, at the historic Nettuno City Council where they voted to officially unite Nettuno, Italy and Cooperstown, NY. At that session Nettuno unanimously recognized Baseball intangible cultural heritage, reaffirming the sport’s deep-rooted place in the city’s history and identity. That union demonstrates a shared passion for baseball while strengthening the cultural ties that connect Italy and the United States.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

For all our Book lovers, I would like to mention that our NY State Deputy Alfonso Squillante just wrote a book called *The Bread We Carried*. It's a tribute to the resilience, sacrifices and quiet heroism of Italian immigrant families in search of the American dream. The book can be purchased on Amazon for \$16.99. It should be a very interesting book to read, so if you purchase it, enjoy reading it.

It was also just announced that Leonardo Fabbri won Gold in Shot Put at the European Championship in Birmingham, England securing the top spot on the podium for Italy, along with his teammate Andy Diaz Wier taking Silver. What a proud moment for Italy to have two Azzurri athletes on the podium. So far this year Italy has been dominant in Paralympics Sled Hockey, Skiing, Tennis, Auto Racing and now Gymnastics. Go Italy.

An even more impressive announcement was made by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) that Italian Immigrant Luca Salvo Parmitano will be the 1st Italian born Space Station Commander to Pilot Artemis III in late 2027. Luca is an Italian Astronaut in the European Astronaut Corps for the European Space Agency (ESA), and a Colonel and Test Pilot for the Italian Air Force. He was born in Paterno, Sicily but considers Catania his home. Luca's resume is so impressive it's mind blowing. He graduated from Liceo Scientifico Statale "Galileo Galilei" in Catania, Italy. He also spent a year as an exchange student at Mission View High School in Mission Viejo, California with SFS Intercultural Programs. He continued his education and received a Master's Degree in Political Science at the



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, *Antonio Meucci Lodge #213*

University of Naples Federico II, Italy, with a thesis on International Law. He also graduated with his Pilot academic degree, from the Italian Academia Aeronautica, in Pozzuoli, Italy. Luca also completed basic training with the U.S Air Force and courses at the Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training Programs at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas as well as Pilot courses completed in Sembach, Germany. How impressive is that? Luca will make all of us very proud as he represents Italy on Artemis III.

On *August 4th*, our Lodge in conjunction with the City of White Plains Police Department and Fire Department participated in their *National Night Out* event. The event was free of charge and featured food, music, activities, bounce house, dunk tank etc. National Night Out is a nationwide community-building campaign that promoted police community partnerships, neighborhood and public safety. Since our Lodge is right in the middle of White Plains, I felt it was important to have a presence at this event. It was a great night and I need to thank Sisters Cathy Grisanti and Lina Amello for helping out. Also thank you to Brothers Frank Autera, Dominick D'Ambrosio and Mike DiSavino for putting up the membership tent for us. I really appreciated it.

Starting on *September 14th* our children from the ages (14-18) will be able to learn Latin, once a week via Zoom for one hour every Monday. The class will be taught by Nunzio Alessandro Sisto who is a Professor of Latin and the Classical Arts and Sciences, and are **Free of Charge**. *Why Not Italian You Maybe Asking Yourself?* Because Italian American families speak dialects of Italian which are not easily understood by other Italian dialects. Latin teaches the foundation of all dialects of Italian. Mr. Sisto is also starting a Wednesday night class for



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

adults covering Latin and Italian history. *If interested, please reach out to Mr.Sisto at Nunzio@YTOoA.org*

On Saturday night *September 19th*, our Lodge will host an *80's Revival Night* featuring the music of *Those Guys*. The band will play music from the 80's, Hairband Rock, and Power Ballads of the era. Of course there will be an Italian Buffet, Beer, Wine, Soda and Dessert. The price for the event is *\$70 per person*. Reservations can be made by calling Brother Richie Strobel on 914 672-6070. You can also see our website for more information. I encourage everyone to come and enjoy the great music of that era.

Our *Annual Family Picnic* is scheduled for the next day on *September 20th*, at Ridge Road Park Field #1 in Hartsdale, so come and join us. This is another great day of great food, games and camaraderie. The Chairpersons for this event will be Brothers Anthony Miceli, Nick Vaccarelli, Charlie Tota and Mario Cermele. *The price is \$55.00 per person*. Reservations can be made by calling Brother Anthony Miceli on 914 879-6884. Please see our website for the flyer.

On September 25th, the Lodge will host a *Pasta/Tombola* fundraiser for the CSJ and the Lodge. Brother Mario Cermele and Brother Chris Famularo will Chair this event. The cost is *\$40 per person*, and will have



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

multiple games of Tombola/Bingo and cash prizes. You can call Brother Chris Famularo for reservations on 347 203-5991. Please see our website for the flyer.

I'm also happy to say that our Lodge will be attending the *Gift of Sight* Annual Fundraising Luncheon on Saturday September 26th in Bayshore, New York. This year the event will honor past Chairperson Sister Mary Naccarato. As you are probably aware our Lodge has always supported this charity whose mission is to give medical and financial assistance to individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired and to future partner with other organizations to improve their quality of life. If anyone is interested in taking a \$10 Booster to support this worthy cause you can call Sister Lina Amello on 914 522-6488, as she will be coordinating this for our Lodge.

I think it's important for our members to know that our Lodge always gives back to worthy charities and causes in our community. We just donated \$1,500 to the *White Plains Beautification Foundation* which supports the Park across the street from our Lodge. We also just sent \$500 to *Friends of Karen* to help buy school supplies for critically ill children, and their siblings to start the new school year with backpacks filled with all the essential supplies they need. Thus relieving some of the parents' financial burden when they are consumed with caring for an ill child and giving them peace of mind knowing their children will be ready to start the new school year. We are also making a \$100 donation to support the *Harrison Professional Firefighters Golf* outing. All worthy charities.

At our next General meeting on *Tuesday September 22nd*, our Lodge will be initiating new members who are excited to join the Antonio



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

Meucci Lodge and be proud members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. So I invite you to come to the meeting that night and welcome these new members to our great Lodge. Help them feel welcome and try to get them involve in some of the wonderful things our Lodge has to offer. If you have any new applications of People who would like to join the Order please let me or Brother Joe Griffo know so we can include them that night at the ceremony.

I understand some areas of Italy, are oppressively hot now and are putting new pressure on Italy's world famous Parmigiana Reggiano industry. Rising temperatures can reduce milk production from dairy cows, while producers are spending more energy to keep aging warehouses at the controlled conditions required for the cheese. In the month of September Italy is known for a variety of festivals and holidays, including religious celebrations, historical reenactments, and harvest festivals. Key events include *Regata Storica* in Venice on September 6th, the *Festa della Rificolona* in Florence on September 7th. On September 8th the *Feast of the Madonna* is celebrated which honors the Virgin Mary and the *Volto Santo Festival* is a historic religious and cultural event held every year on September 13th in Lucia, Tuscany. On September 15th the *Feast of Our Lady of Sorrow* is celebrated which honors the grief and deep love of Mary, the mother of Jesus, during the suffering and death of her Son. Of course the famous *Feast of San Gennaro* in Naples is celebrated on September 19th which marks the dedication to Saint Januarius, the patron Saint of Naples. Additionally, September



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, *Antonio Meucci Lodge #213*

marks the start of the Vendemmia, or grape harvest particularly in Tuscany with numerous wine-related Festivals around the area.

Also in September, Italy is known to kick off the vibrant *Sagra* and harvest season. Communities across the country celebrate seasonal staples transitioning from summer to autumn, most notably grapes and wine (vendemmia) porcini mushrooms, pecorino cheese, figs, truffles and regional specialties like arancini, and grape flatbread (Schiacciata con l'uva)

September is packed with hundreds of quirky, fun and awareness-driven daily holidays, many of which focus on food, and hobbies. On September 5th it is National Pizza Cheese Pie Day followed by National Salami Day on September 7th. On September 16th, we get to celebrate National Play -Doh Day, and we also get to recognize National Chewing Gum Day on September 30th. For all the Coffee fanatics you have your own Day on September 29th, so drink all the coffee you want. Believe it or not, but on September 30th we get to celebrate National Stromboli and Extra Virgin Oil Olive Day. But I think the best day we celebrate in September is on September 13th, it's National Grandparents Day. So to all you Grandparents go celebrate the day with your grandchildren, give them a hug and tell them how much they are loved.



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President, Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

The month of September also celebrates some major health awareness days such as World Alzheimer Disease, Childhood Cancer awareness and Suicide Prevention Day, as well as National Heart, and Prostate Cancer Days, all charities that either the OSDIA or you personally donate too.

Before you know it, October will be here , so I want to make sure you mark your calendar for our annual *Columbus Wreath Celebration* at Tibbits Park in White Plains on *October 11, 2026*. This is where we get to pay homage to Christopher Columbus. This ceremony which has been performed by our Lodge for many years, and with all the controversy still surrounding Christopher Columbus these past few years, we should be proud that his Statue in White Plains was declared a historical landmark which means it can never be touched or taken down. Some of our members remember just how hard we fought to preserve and save that Statue with all the meetings we attended with the White Plains Common Council. Well it worked, and it's still there. As our Brother Mario Cermele always said *"We Named It, We Built It, We Served It, We Respect It, We Love It"*. The ceremony will start at 10:00 am followed by a Continental Breakfast at the Lodge. More information to follow.

Another exciting event we are planning is our Children Halloween *'Boo-Bash'*. The date is scheduled for *Sunday October 25th*, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm for Children 3-12 years old. *The cost is \$10.00*. Of course the little ones are always welcome to attend free of charge and experience all the excitement of this SUPER "EERIE-SISTIBLE" Halloween party. The event will have an Italian twist to



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

it as we celebrate Italian Heritage month in October. For reservations please call Brother Chris Famularo on 347 203-5991. You can view our website for the flyer.

In celebrating Italian Heritage month in October, I just sent out a survey to see if there is an interest in a *Movie Night*, where our Lodge would rent the LOOK Dine-In Cinema in Dobbs Ferry. The survey includes many movie options you would possibly like to see, centered around Italian Culture, History, Romance, Action, or Comedies. It's something different, that we can share with our members and friends. I need to thank Sister Michelle Spiniello for coordinating this for the Lodge. So I encourage you to complete the survey and let's go watch a movie.

I also want to congratulate the Podcast hosts of Brothers Nando Alpuche, Joe Griffo and Adam Pacecca on their 30th episode of the Podcast. They always have interesting people on their show. On their last edition they had Brother Mark Denunzio 2nd VP National OSDIA and Sister Eldora Perfilio VP of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and National Chairwoman of the Cultural Committee on the show. Both were very amazing individuals to listen to. What our members may not realize all the time it takes to prepare, interview, and edit these shows for your enjoyment. Thanks again for all your dedication and commitment as it is much appreciated.



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 and Sisters a very Happy Labor Day. Labor Day is a day that goes as far back as the nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well being. For others, Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer and perhaps the last getaway time families have together before getting the kids off to school. Whatever your plans are, enjoy that quality time with family and friends. But hopefully you won't forget us here at the Lodge as we are very busy planning activities and functions over the next couple of months. Hopefully we'll see you at our Picnic, 80's Night, Pasta/Tombola or some of the other events we have planned.

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

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA

A Message From the President,

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213