



UPCOMING EVENTS

September

9/9 Board Meeting
9/20 Annual Picnic
9/22 General Meeting and
Initiation new members
9/25 CSJ Pasta/Tombola Night

October

10/7 Board Meeting
10/11 Columbus Wreath
10/14 Board Meeting
10/18 Movie Night
10/12 NYC Columbus Parade
10/25 Children's Halloween Boo
Bash
10/27 General Meeting

November

11/1 Memorial Mass
11/6 Comedy Night
11/11 Board Meeting
11/13 Pocketbook Bingo
11/24 General Meeting

December

12/6 Children's Christmas Party
12/9 Board Meeting
12/29 No General Meeting



Antonio Meucci
Lodge 213
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Sons and Daughters of Italy
IN AMERICA

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

To My Brothers and Sisters,



Welcome to the Autumn/Winter addition of the Avanti. These past few months the Lodge has been so busy with events and activities. We celebrated the accomplishments of our children by awarding numerous Scholarships, attended the NY State convention, hosted the Italian Heritage Festival at the Kensico Dam, and even had time to enjoy playing Bocce. Of course it doesn't stop there as we continue to plan additional

events like a Movie Night, the Picnic and will be hosting a Pasta/Tombola night to raise money for CSJ (Commission of Social Justice), followed by our always successful Pocketbook Bingo in November.

The month of October is also very busy as we celebrate Italian Heritage month across the Nation. I encourage you to come to our annual Wreath Ceremony on October 11th, Tibbits Park, followed by a Continental Breakfast. We are also hosting a Boo Bash Halloween party for our children, and are in the planning stages of renting a movie theater to see an Italian theme movie in celebration of our Italian heritage.

On November 1, we will have our Memorial Mass in Italian/English. The mass recognizes all our deceased members of the Lodge over the years. It will be held at Mt. Carmel Church, White Plains at 10:30. It saddens me to say this year we lost three longtime members of the Lodge. Sister Rita Cestone, Brother Ray Tocci, and our Past President Teresa Riveroso. May they all rest in the Arms of the Lord.

Since the Avanti is only being printed quarterly and mailed to those people who do not have an email address, I strongly suggest you share your email so you know more timely what is happening at the Lodge. I write a monthly Newsletter which is quite informative, however it does not include any pictures. If you want to receive my monthly Newsletter please send an email to antoniomeuccilodge213@gmail.com, and we will be happy to add you to the list.

I would like to wish everyone Happy Halloween, Happy Veteran's Day, Happy Thanksgiving, and hopefully I will see you a general meeting or an event.

Sempre Avanti



THE AVANTI is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge N° 213 and is published quarterly. Please submit all items for publication by the next day after The General Meeting preceding the month of publication. Contact Margherita Capicotto for all new submissions at fivecaps@optonline.net



**Antonio Meucci
Lodge 213**
ORDER
Sons and Daughters of Italy
IN AMERICA

**Antonio Meucci Place
279 Maple Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606
(914) 761-9073**

www.antonimeuccilodge.com

OFFICERS 2026

President: Camille Tarone
Vice President: Anthony Miceli
Second Vice President: Cathy Grisanti
Immediate Past President: Mario Cermele
Orator: Gino DiMiceli
Financial Secretary: Joe Griffo
Treasurer: Lina Amello
Recording Secretary: Caroline Baviello
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalia Miceli
Principal Trustee: Christopher Famularo

Trustees:

Tina Amato, Rita Carolini, Maria DiMiceli, Christopher Famularo, Dina Roselli, Charles Guastella, Maria Malandro, Antonella Capicotto DeLia, Nick Vaccarelli

Ceremonial Officers:

Heidi Banzinger, Roselle Cucuzza

Sentinels:

Adam Pacecca, Lynda Innocenzi

Arbitration Committee:

Frank Autera, Sam Amellio, Richard Strobel, Anna Maria Forte, Tina Salerno (Pres)

Past Presidents:

Antonio Amato, Antonio Capicotto, Mario Cermele, Teresa Rivero, Frank Tarone, Rose Tassone, Charles Tota

Chaplain:

Joe Tanzi

District Lodge Deputy:

Margaret Forte

LAMOSIA:

Pamela Danza (Treasurer)
Antonio Amato (Past President)
Rose Tassone ((Past President)
Teresa Rivero (Past President)
Charles Tota (Past President)
Mario Cermele (Past President)

Antonio Meucci Lodge#213 Inc Directors:

Umberto Amato, Lisa Stumpo, Maria Malandro

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Luca DelConte**, son to Brother Ivano DelConte who was just named All League and All Conference as well as Section 1 Class C All Tournament Team. Congratulations to **Melissa Peller** who graduated from Pace University and received a BS in Nursing. Congratulation to **Brother Oscar Martini** who joined the United States Army. Congratulations to **Dr. Francesco Casale** who just received his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Congratulations to **Brother Frank Autera** on the engagement of his son Vito Autera to Krista Pappas. Congratulations to **Sabrina Masucci** on her marriage to Kevin. Congratulations to **Brother Dominick and Sister Damiana DiMiceli** on the birth of their daughter Rosalia Sofia. Congratulations to **Michael Colasuonno Jr** on his recent engagement to Shelly Prestamo. Congratulations to **Sister RitaMaria Carolini and Brother Sergio LaNotte** on their recent engagement. Congratulations to **Jake Strobel** who was hired by the White Plains Fire Department. Congratulations to **Sister Ashley DeMatteo** who opened her new beauty salon ALBL North. (Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge), in Valhalla on September 1st. To **Brother Gino DiMiceli** who will now be the Orator, replacing **Brother Nando Alpuche**, and to **Brother Chris Famularo** who was appointed Principal Trustee. Thank you Brother Nando for your service.



If you have moved, changed email or phone please notify us with your new contact information so we can keep our records up to date. Contact
Camille Tarone
at 914-772-1768 or
email: tarone96@aol.com

Milestone Anniversary & Birthday Wishes

Brother Salvatore Cassanelli, 95 Years young, Sister Lillian Innocenzi who also celebrated a milestone Birthday of 85 years "young". Happy Birthday. Brothers Frank Autera, Alex Famularo 75 years young, Sister Rosemary Reo and to all the others we don't know about Happy Birthday.

Get Well Wishes

To All our Brothers, Sisters and extended family

Tony Amato, Umberto Amato, Mario Cermele, Antionette Cinicolo, Nina Maria Chillemi, Jenny Famularo, Lucio Gatti, Peter Guastella, Dora Pallagrosi, John Pezzullo, Daniela Rose, Charmaine

Thomas, Laura Stagliano, Andrea Broccia, Josephine Scopelliti, Nancy Vernillo, Giacomo Vernillo, Vince Roselli, Joe Tanzi, Carmine Prezioso, Anthony Vaccaro, Heidi Banzinger, Carl Calabro, Nick Fragnito, Nick Santoro, Gerard Pizzo, Tony Santoli, Steven Sorano, Roselle Cucuzza, Tony Cestone, Charles Tota

Deepest Sympathy

May they all rest in the arms of the Lord

To **Brother Ron Cardillo** and his family on the passing of his son-in-law Kenneth Montgomery Brown. To **Brother Dr. Pat Eglau** his wife **Sister Diana Amato-Eglau** on the passing of Dr.

Pat's father, Dr. Douglas Eglau. To **Sister Vincenzia Puja** on the passing of her sister Pasquian Greto. To **Brother Felice "Don Felice" Cristofaro** on the passing of his brother Angelo "Mike" Cristofaro. To **Sister Vicky Puja** on the passing of her Sister-in-Law Rosemarie Abatino To **Brother Frank Buglione** on the passing of his Mother-in-law Grazia "Franca" Ricciardella

LODGE NEWS



Scholarship Winners

The Antonio Meucci Lodge#213 Scholarship Awards for 2026,

Congratulations to Ava Amarosa, Marco Buglione, Jeffrey D'Ambrosio, Brianna DeVito, Jonathan DiFonzo, Paola DiMiceli, Ava Zingone and Jessica Reo. Our Guest Speaker that night Sister Lina Carolini-Cannavo as she returned to address the new Scholarship winners. Also in attendance was State President Arthur Spera, First Lady Joanne Spera, National 5th Vice President Robert Ferrito, Past First Lady Lina Ferrito, State Officers Remo Carriero, Vito Catania. A special thank you to the Scholarship Committee led by Sister Rita Carolini, and her Committee members Sisters Jean Borelli-Illardi, Pamela Danza, Anna Maria Forte, Cathy Grisanti, Rosalia Miceli, Lucy Tocci, and Brother Joe Tanzi. Their tireless efforts and commitment were instrumental in the selection process.



White Plains High School:

Congratulations to WHPS Senior Justin Djelosevic on receiving the *Antonio Meucci Lodge/Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarship*. Sister Rosemary Cirioni awarded Justin at the Scholarship ceremony at WHPS. Also congratulations to Fernando Benites on receiving the *Frank Tarone Vocational Scholarship*. President Camille Tarone and Chairperson Sister Rita Maria Carolini presented Fernando with his award



Mahjong Anyone?

Thursday nights have expanded to Mahjong! Learn about your Cracks, Bams and Dots!



LINK UP

Check us out on our social media pages to stay up to date on current events at

The Antonio Meucci
Lodge#213

Facebook:

Antonio Meucci Lodge
213

White Plains

Instagram:

@Antonio.Meucci.Lodge



LODGE NEWS



Scholarship Winners

Congratulation wishes are also extended to who won NYS 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"*.



LODGE NEWS



AML Gives Back

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a \$1,500 donation to Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains for their annual Festa Italiana.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge donated at the convention \$2,500 to these worthy Charities, Cooley's Anemia, Gift of Sight, Cancer Research, Autism, Alzheimer's, The Garibaldi Meucci Museum, the Veterans Assistance Fund. In addition we made another \$120 donation to the NYS Grand Lodge Charity Picnic to support Alzheimer's, Autism and Cancer Research.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a donation of \$1,500 to the White Plains Beautification Foundation. This money will support the park across the street from the Lodge.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a donation of \$500 to the *Friends of Karen*, to help buy school supplies for critically ill children, and their siblings start the new school year with backpacks filled with all the essential supplies they need.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made \$100 Sponsorship donation to the Harrison Professional Firefighters Golf Outing.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a \$300 donation to the Garibaldi Meucci Museum to buy 3 Bricks in the name of Rita R Cestone, Ray Tocci, Teresa Riverso.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS INSTALLED IN MAY

Congratulations to *our newest members* of the Lodge that were installed in May. Brothers Michele Castellano, Anthony DiMiceli, Frank DeVito, Frank Costa and Sister Rosina Costa.



CONGRATULATIONS

Team Rosamilia: "Ferrari" Brothers Massimo, Roberto, Maurizio, & Joe Rosamilia, Brother Danny Miele, & John Etsay. Second place winners Team Amato. Brother Joe Amato, Sister Toni Marie Amato, Sister Anna Masucci, and Brother Robert Masucci. Special thank you to Chairperson Brother Sam Amello & Chris Amello for Chairing this years tournament. Great time had by all.



2026 Heritage Festa



LODGE EVENTS



Honoring Christopher Columbus

October is traditionally when we celebrate Italian Heritage month and I encourage everyone to come to the Columbus Wreath Statue celebration at Tibbits Park in White Plains on October 11th, 10:30 am, followed by a continental breakfast at the Lodge. I ask you to join us as we celebrate just how proud we are the be Italian.

Halloween

Halloween is celebrated on October 31st, it is a holiday that has gained popularity worldwide, and Italy is no exception. Italy's adoption of Halloween can be attributed to the influence of American pop culture through movies, television, and the internet. The holiday's themes of fun, fantasy, and a touch of fright have resonated with Italians, leading to its rapid integration into Italian society. Happy Halloween

Veterans Day

Happy Veterans Day. This is a very special day where we need to give thanks to all our men and women who so proudly served in our Armed Forces. We thank you for your Courage, Honor and Sacrifice in protecting our American freedoms.

Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving to all my Brothers and Sisters. This is another special day we should enjoy with family and friends and reflect on just how blessed we are and if possible we should try and give back to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Visit our Calendar of Events for the most up to date information and full listing of events and flyers

OFFICER's MEETINGS

2nd Weds of Every Month @ 7:30pm

Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14, Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 13, Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10

GENERAL MEETINGS

4th Tues of Every Month @ 7:30pm

Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27, Jun 24, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28, Nov 25

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

HEADLINE ACT
CHRIS MONTY

From the movie Mail Cop 2 with Kevin James
National Headliner
The Long Island Italian Legend

FEATURE ACT
JOE PONTILLO

From Amazon Prime TV

EMCEE & HOST
KAREN MARGARET

From The Laugh Lounge and The Broadway Comedy Club

COMEDY SHOW

ANTONIO MEUCCI LODGE
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00PM
SHOWTIME 8:00PM

SNACKS WATER, COFFEE & DESSERT INCLUDED
BEER & WINE AVAILABLE
50/50 RAFFLE

\$45/PERSON 21 & OVER
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

FOR TICKETS & INFO CONTACT:
Sis. Roselle Cucuzza (917) 440-8946
Br. Anthony Gerasia (914) 262-6693

*Comedian Line-Up Subject To change Without Notice

Antonio Meucci Lodge, N° 213 • 279 Maple Avenue • White Plains, NY 10606 • Ph. (914) 761-9073

MAMMA MIA!
CALLING ALL LITTLE MONSTERS!
CHILDREN'S BOO-BASH

Casa dei Mostriattoli

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

1-4 PM

AGES 3-12
For children or grandchildren of lodge members

Bro. Christopher Famularo
347-203-5991
famularoc76@gmail.com

★ Come in Halloween costume!

\$10 donation for each child attending

RSVP by October 12

Payments: Cash, Check or Zelle

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213
279 Maple Ave. White Plains, NY 10606
Sons and Daughters of Italy in America



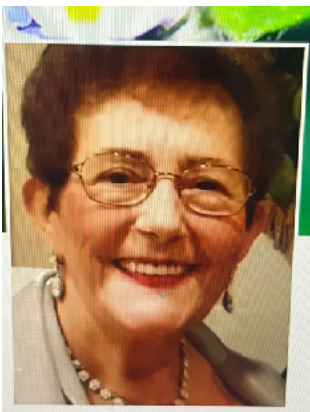
Rita R Cestone

Deepest sympathy and condolences to Brother Tony Cestone, and the entire Cestone and Mignini families on the passing of Sister Rita R Cestone. Sister Rita was a long time "Honorary" Member of the Antonio Meucci Lodge, and held many positions on our Executive Board. She has been recognized with the distinct honor of both "Woman of the Year", and "Hall of Fame" tributes. Sister Rita will be sorely missed. May she rest in the Arms of the Lord.



Raymond "Ray" Tocci

Brother Ray was a long time member of the Lodge, and he was also a Past Director of the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Inc. which handles financial donations of our 501(C) (3) account. Not even a month ago, he and Sister Lucy moved to North Carolina to embark on a new adventure to be with family living in the area. He was a quiet dignified gentleman who will be sorely missed. Deepest sympathies and condolences to Sister Lucy on the passing of Brother Ray.



Teresa Rivero

Deepest Sympathy and condolences to the Rivero family on the passing of Sister Teresa. Sister Teresa was a Past President and a proud and passionate Italian American. She lived her life with a vibrant spirit, a deep devotion to her family, and friends, and an unwavering love for her Italian American heritage. Her Italian roots shone through everything she did and she leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and culture that will not be forgotten. She has been recognized with the distinct honor of both "Woman of the Year", and "Hall of Fame" tributes. Sister Teresa will be sorely missed. May she rest in the Arms of the Lord.

25th Anniversary of 9-11

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

World Trade Center, then minutes later another plane hit the South Tower. 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.(FDNY), and Joseph V Vigiano (NYPD) to name just a few. May we never forget those heroic people who died that day.



Grand Lodge Information

~~Congratulations extended to the following winners of The CSJ Essay contest called “*Discovering The Truth-The Louis J. Gallo Jr. Memorial Columbus Award*.”~~ The student had to select one of the many Anti-Columbus Myths/Falsehoods being repeated today and prove it wrong using reputable sources.

The 2nd place winner was **Jonathon DiFonzo**, and the 3rd place winner was **Brianna DeVito**.

CSJ: *The Commission of Social Justice* hosted their 43rd Anniversary Celebration at Russo’s on the Bay, and honored one of our members *Sister Joan Prezioso, Past President of the Italian Welfare League*, Congratulations Joan well deserved.

Garibaldi Meucci Museum: The Garibaldi Meucci Museum had a special Street dedication ceremony honoring the two influential figures for which the Museum was named after. They are Antonio Meucci and General Giuseppe Garibaldi. In recognition of their enduring legacy and profound impact, the crossroads will now be called *Antonio Meucci Way* and *Giuseppe Garibaldi Way*.

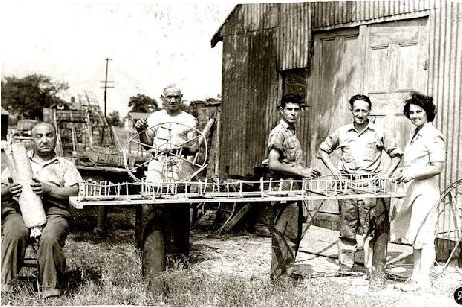
Dollar Challenge: Congratulations to the members of the Antonio Meucci Lodge, as we were recognized in the LA Italian America Magazine Summer 2026 Edition, for coming in first place of all the Lodges in NY State for winning the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum “Dollar Challenge”. The Dollar Challenge was to assist the museum with the funds needed to help with operating funds to repair the museum which it so desperately needed. The Lodge sent \$750

Convention: This year at the convention the Lodge was recognized with the award for the most informative *Newsletter*. Thank you to Brothers Nando Alpuche, Joe Griffo and Sister Margherita Capicotto for assisting with putting together the Avanti

Congratulations to **Brother Anthony Miceli** for coming in Second Place in the Home-Made Wine competition and for being elected Alternate Commission of Arbitration for the NYS Grand Lodge.



CULTURAL CLASSROOM



The Grucci family emigrated from Italy in 1870. The father and son worked as barbers before opening a fireworks factory on Long Island, supplying small Italian festivals and religious feasts. During the Great Depression, the company manufactured explosion simulators for U.S. military training. Their foundation and innovation carried them to six generations of growth: in 2013, the family set a Guinness World Record for the largest firework display, staged over Dubai. Their work has also included sponsoring Olympic ceremonies and producing the largest pyrotechnic show on record for America's bicentennial, featuring a 600 by 900 foot American flag rendered entirely in fireworks.

By: Marcello Gonzalez
(Son of Sister Valerie Maccarrone)

CUCINA C O R N E R

Calabrian Marinated Eggplant (*Melanzane all'Aceto*)

This is a quick, fresh version of the classic marinated antipasto that you can make and enjoy the same day.

- **Prep time:** 20 minutes (plus 2 hours chilling)
- **Cook time:** 10 minutes
- **Servings:** 4 (as an appetizer)

Ingredients:

- 2 medium, firm eggplants
- 4 tablespoons white wine vinegar (or up to 1/2 cup water-vinegar mix for boiling)
- 1–2 fresh Calabrian chili peppers (sliced)
- 2–3 garlic cloves (thinly sliced or minced)
- A handful of fresh basil leaves or wild mint
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- High-quality extra virgin olive oil
- Fine sea salt



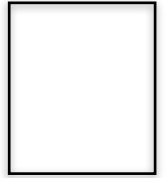
Instructions:

1. **Prep the Eggplant:** Wash and trim the eggplants. Slice them lengthwise into 1/2-inch thick slices, then cut those slices into medium-sized sticks or wedges.
2. **Blanch:** Bring a large pot of salted water to a rolling boil. Drop the eggplant sticks into the water and cook for about 8 to 10 minutes. They should be completely soft but still hold their shape without turning into mush.
3. **Cool & Drain:** Drain the eggplant in a colander and immediately run them under cold water to stop the cooking process. Gently press them with a clean kitchen towel to squeeze out excess water.
4. **Marinate:** Transfer the drained eggplant to a shallow dish or bowl. Toss with the white wine vinegar, sliced garlic, chili pepper, dried oregano, and fresh basil. Drizzle generously with extra virgin olive oil until well coated.
5. **Rest and Serve:** Cover the dish and let it rest in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours to let the eggplant absorb the garlic and chili flavors. Bring it back to room temperature before serving with toasted bread.



AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge N° 213
279 Maple Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606



The Avanti will be published 4 times a year. Please mark your calendar for the events you would like to attend so you don't miss out on our wonderful events throughout the year.

LET'S PARTY! THE LODGE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!

**MEMBERS FEE FOR RENTAL \$500 (PLUS INSURANCE)
PRICING EFFECTIVE 2025**

CONTACT BROTHER MARIO CERMELE AT (914) 325-1239 FOR AVAILABLE DATES



Antonio Meucci
Lodge 213

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