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



*November 2025  
Issue 9*

November has finally arrived, the days are getting shorter and the colder weather is definitely coming. Before you know it Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here. I can't believe I'm into my 8th month as President of the Lodge. The time is just flying by, and the Lodge has been so busy with so many amazing activities and events. The month of October was a busy month not only for the Lodge but for all Italian Americans as we celebrated Italian Heritage and Cultural Month. There were so many Festas, Parades and Cultural Events happening all across our area and for that matter around the State. We should be so proud as Italian Americans we can celebrate and share our Italian heritage with others.

We started off the month marching in *The Yonkers Columbus Day Parade* on Sunday October 5th. It was an absolutely beautiful sunny day for a Parade, and more importantly marching with our Brothers and Sisters from the John D. Calandra, Le Amiche and Maggiacomo Lodges. I need to personally thank Sisters Pamela Danza, Maria DiMiceli, Brother Gino DiMiceli their son Anthony for driving and showcasing their two Fiat cars in the parade, and to Brothers Guy DeSantis, Carlo Riccobono, Steve Saccomano, Sal Cappello and Sister Nadia Cappello doing double duty between our Lodge and the Mt. Vernon Bocce contingent. Thank you so much for volunteering to march.



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On Sunday October 12th, the Lodge held its annual *Columbus Wreath Celebration* at Tibbits Park in White Plains. It was a cloudy gloomy day but thankfully the weather held up for us to have the ceremony. This is always a very special day for the Brothers and Sisters of the Lodge. It's where we get to honor Christopher Columbus, and his contributions for discovering America. First and foremost, I need to thank our Master of Ceremony IPP Mario Cermele. I also need to thank our Guest Speaker Rita Maria Mioli-Carolini who did an amazing job with her tribute not only to Columbus but to all the contributions Italians have made to this Country in the fields of the Arts, Music, Science, Medicine, and Philosophy to name just a few areas. The Lodge received quite extensive coverage from Channel 12 News, and I would be amiss if I didn't thank Sister Lisa LaRocca for her help in promoting the ceremony. Thank you also to Sister Rosalia Miceli who wrote letters inviting our local dignitaries to the ceremony. In attendance was Mr. George Latimer U.S. House of Representatives, Karen Pasquale representing County Executive Ken Jenkins, Ms. Stefania Mignone Commissioner of Public Works City of White Plains, Brother Honorable Daniel Angiolillo, Brother Honorable Frank Nicolai, Mr. Lenny Lolis Republican Candidate for Mayor of White Plains, and Justin Brasch Councilman City of White Plains. Thank you to Sister Lucy Tocci who made two beautiful wreaths, one we placed at the Statue in White Plains, and the other one we placed in front of the Columbus Statue at the Lodge. Also a special thank you to Sister



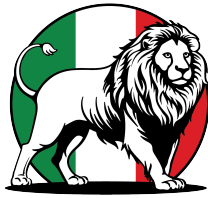
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Pamela Danza, and Brother Frank Autera for their help in preparing the continental breakfast at the Lodge.

The following day on October 13th, the Lodge was to march in the *NYC Columbus Day Parade*, however because Governor Kathy Hochul declared a State of Emergency due to the inclement weather that was expected on that day, the Parade was canceled. Too bad it was canceled because this year we as Italians Americans had so much to celebrate now that President Trump signed a Proclamation stating that he declared October 13th officially Columbus Day. I'm sure next year's Parade will be unbelievable as Italians get to celebrate the day, with no other Ethnic groups.

On Thursday, October 16th, Westchester County, and County Executive Ken Jenkins hosted Italian Heritage month with the *Raising of The Italian Flag*. This is a night we got to celebrate our Italian Heritage in Westchester County. At the ceremony, Ms. Lucrezia Lindia, an Italian Educator and Board Member of the Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee (IHCC-NY) presented County Executive Ken Jenkins with a beautiful picture of *Michelangelo*, who as you know was an Italian Sculptor, Painter, and a Architect of the Renaissance Era. Also in attendance was one of our Lodge member Sister Mara Persamperi President of the Westchester Coalition of Italian American Organization known as WCIAO.



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Sister Mara said, “ This annual celebration allows us to showcase the unity, and pride of our Italian -American community while also supporting the next generation through scholarships for Italian language students.”. At that event we witness John & Marie DeCiccio award Scholarships to some worthy High School Seniors from the local area. I would like to congratulate Brianna DeVito daughter of Brother Pete DeVito and Granddaughter of Sister Filomena DeVito who received a Scholarship from the Ace Endico Company which was presented to her at the Westchester Coalition of Italian American Organization (WCIAO) at Eastchester High School on October 27th, Thank you all who attended the ceremony, and congratulations to Brianna.

On Friday night October 17th we had the Championship [Bocce Dinner](#). We had a great night celebrating with the teams. The first place winners were Viva Las Vega, Brothers Carlo Riccobono, Sal Cappello, Vinny Azzone, and Lou Iannacchino, The Second Place winners was Graziella's Market, Brothers Angelo DiFeo, Nick Ciaramella, Pete DeVito , Mike Iannacchino, and JR Amorosa, and the Third place winners was Mt Vernon, Brothers Guy DeSantis, Chris Giordano, Steve Saccomano, Bill Clifford and Tommaso DeSantis. I would like to congratulate all the teams that played as it was a great tournament with a lot of fun and laughter. I would like to especially thank our Chairpersons Brother Joel Sonny, and Sister Margaret Bernabei for coordinating the event, and to



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all those people that helped with the refereeing, and setting up for the games. To Brothers Maurizio Rosamilia, Michael Chillemi, John Rubillo, and a special thanks to Brother Joe Rosamilia who got the court ready to play, and to all the other Brothers and Sisters who helped to facilitate the playing of the games on any given night. I need to give a special shout out to Brother Angelo Matteria. Besides donating his homemade mozzarella for the dinner that night, he and his wife Marietta were our most loyal spectators who came to watch just about every game played. Also congratulations to our two 50/50 winners, enjoy your winnings. Again, thank you and I'm sure next year's tournament will be just as fun. Can't wait.

On Sunday October 19th, it was another beautiful day to celebrate our Italian Heritage at the [Italian Heritage Festival in West Harrison](#). Our Lodge had a booth where we sold Beer, Wine and Water, but more importantly Sister Lucy Tocci was actively encouraging people to join our Lodge. I need to thank all our members for volunteering to help that day. I need to especially thank Sister Lisa Stumpo who made sure we had the one day permit required by the New State Liquor Authority and of course a special thank you to IPP Mario Cermele and Brother Anthony Miceli who helped coordinate all the merchandise needed to run our Booth. Thanks again to everyone that was there that day or stopped by to



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say hello. Great to see our Past President Tony Amato and Sister Tina there. So glad you are feeling better Tony.

On October 25th the Lodge hosted the [NYS Plenary Season](#). What a beautiful day it was as we welcomed State President Arthur Spera and State Officers and Guests to our Lodge. They came from near and far to attend the meeting. As you may know we were planning for this day for quite awhile. We got so many compliments on the food we prepared for them from a Hot Breakfast to an exceptional Lunch with all the little touches such as Hot Peppers, Prosciutto Bread, Homemade Wine, Gelato, Espresso as well as an amazing Viennese table of all Homemade Goodies baked by our members. I need to thank IPP Mario Cermele, and Brother Anthony Miceli for coordinating all the foods for the day. To all my volunteers Sisters Pamela Danza, Cathy Grisanti, Maria DiMiceli, Rosalia Miceli, Rita Maria Mioli-Carolini, and Lucy Tocci, Brothers Frank Autera, Gino DiMiceli, Mike DiSavino. To my amazing bakers, Sisters Tina Amato, Rita Cestone, Lucille Capossella, Rose Tassone, Lynda Innocenzi, Lucy Tocci, and Cathy Grisanti. Thank you so much. Some of the highlights of the meeting was that our very own IPP Mario Cermele was appointed Co-Chair to the Commission of Social Justice (CSJ). The new Chairperson of the CSJ is now Elenor Jobbagy. The two of them will replace John Fratta who was appointed CSJ Chairman National President. Congratulations Mario, we are so proud of you. If anyone is interested there is a Children's book you can purchase





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on Amazon called *The Case of Antonio Meucci & The Telephone Just the Facts, written by Frances Curceo*. It's a great read. Also I'm happy to report that our Grand Deputy Margaret Forte was reappointed as our Lodge Deputy. Congratulations Margaret we are so happy you are still with us as our Deputy.

This past Sunday on October 26th we had our first ever *Halloween Boo-Bash* party for our children. It was an absolutely fun day, and I'm not sure who had more fun the Children or the Adults. This idea was brought to the Board by Brother Chris Famularo and the Board members embraced the idea. I need to thank Brother Chris and his fabulous Committee Sisters Lina Amello, Pamela Danza, Lynda Innocenzi, Tina Salerno, Maria Theresa Quaranta, Brothers Frank Autera, Mario Cermele, new member Oscar Martini who supplied the music and took all the wonderful photos. I think the favorite part of the program for me was the Parade where the Children were escorted out to the pumpkin patch to select their Pumpkin to decorate. It was so cute. I need to personally thank the King of Hearts who donated \$250 for the event which paid for the Magician and we also had another donation from Brother Steve Sorano. Thank you all for doing a phenomenal job, and I can't wait to see what you have plan for next year.

I'm so excited that one of our new members Brother Carlo & Sister Lina Cannavo's daughter Emma Cannavo won the *John Dabbene Italian Essay Contest* for District IV. Emma had only 2 days to



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write her Essay, and she did it. The subject was *What My Italian Heritage Means To Me*. Emma wrote about her Father Carlo. I also need to mention that Emma is also the Granddaughter of Sister Rita Maria Mioli-Carolini. Emma will receive \$250, and her Award Certificate at our November General meeting. So lets' show our love and support to her. Our children are our future, and we should be so proud of their accomplishments.

As previously mentioned, you all probably know by now that President Donald J Trump signed a Proclamation giving Columbus his due justice by declaring October 13th, Columbus Day, a day that can no longer be shared with the Indigenous people. I have to quote President Trump because I find his words so profound. "I'm bringing Columbus Day back from the ashes, and to all those people who want to destroy Christopher Columbus, his reputation and all of the Italians that love him so much" Thank you President Trump, no finer words were ever said.

You also may not know but I think it is important to note that on October 1st Governor Kathy Hochul just awarded \$200,000 to the Italian American Museum which is located on Mulberry Street in NYC during Italian Heritage and Cultural month. The Governor wrote and I quote, " The contributions, accomplishments, values of our Italian American community are central to the culture of New York'. This donation is very impressive and perhaps we are starting





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to turn the corner on how people are starting to view Italian Americans and more, importantly the controversy of Christopher Columbus may finally be put to rest. Only time will tell.

As Italian Americans we should be so proud that the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy will be opening its third Lodge in Matera, Italy. The first one is in Rome called *Capitolo di Roma Lodge #3002*, and the second one is in Palermo, Sicily called *Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro #3009*. So if you are ever in Italy in those Cities you may want to visit them and introduce yourself as proud members of the *Antonio Meucci Lodge #213*.

On Sunday November 2nd, at 10:30 am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains, the Lodge will have its annual *Memorial Mass*. The mass will be performed in both Italian and English, and it is a time when we get to pay respect to all our Brothers and Sisters that came before us to make our Lodge what it is today. A Lodge that is over 111 years old, and filled with such rich tradition, and fond memories of what it was like before the modern digital world of cell phones and social media. This year alone, 6 of our long time members passed away, and we will give them their due respect at this memorial mass. Those that have passed away were Brothers Gene Miceli, Joseph Zingone, John Colantunno, Sisters Mary Morra, Mary Riguzzi, and Josephina DeMaria. May they all rest in the arms of the Lord. After the mass we will go back to the



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Lodge for some refreshments. I would like to thank Sister Rita Cestone for coordinating the Mass, Brother Vito Tassone for being the Lector for the Mass and to Sister Pamela Danza for hosting the event at the Lodge.

Another successful fundraiser for the Lodge has always been our [Pocketbook Bingo](#). This event which will be held on Friday November 14th, and I'm sorry to say that it's "**Sold Out**". I need to give a special thank you to Chairperson Cathy Grisanti and her fabulous committee for making sure the night is as successful as it has been over the last few years.

As we move into December the next event we do every year is our annual [Children's Christmas Party](#) for our members Children and Grandchildren from infancy to 9 years old. I personally look forward to this event every year, especially when I see the children come all dressed in their holiday outfits to enjoy the festivities we have planned, and seeing their excitement when Santa arrives. As in the past, the "[Antonio Meucci Theater Playhouse](#)" will put on our version of a Christmas theme show, of course it always has an Italian twist to it featuring some of our children, but more importantly back by popular demand is Brother Dominick D'Ambrosio our featured actor. You can see our [Website](#) for the flyer, and reservations for your child can be made by calling President Camille 914 772-1768 or Sister Pamela Danza 914 980-1055.



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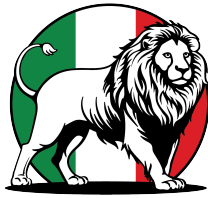
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At our last General meeting we had the election to replace two people as Commissioners of Arbitration and one Alternate Commissioner. The winners were Brother Sam Amello, and Brother Frank Autera. The Alternate is Sister Daniella Farduchi-Rose. Congratulations to all of you, and appreciate your willingness to join the Board. I also would like to extend my appreciation to Brothers John Rubillo, and Dominick D'Ambrosio who will be leaving the Arbitration Committee.

I would like to send Get Well wishes to all our members and friends not feeling well especially Sisters Nina Marie Chillemi, Ashley DiMatteo, Maryann Pellegrini, Vincenza Puja, Teresa Rivero, Dina Roselli, Rose Tassone, Brothers Tony Amato, Umberto Amato, Mike Grisanti, Charles Guastella, Joe Tanzi, Charlie Tota and Anthony Vaccaro. I would also like to send get well wishes to NYS Past President Carlo Matteucci. May you all experience good help real soon.

I would also like to express my deepest sympathies to Brother Dominick and Sister Angela D'Ambrosio on the passing of their Sister-in-Law Fanny Mondelli. May she rest in the arms of the Lord

To all our members celebrating November Birthdays Buon Compleanno. Also sending special birthday wishes to Brother Joseph Tassone who celebrated 80 years "young" in October. Also



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wishing all our November couples a very Buon Anniversario, especially to Brother Tony and Sister Margarita Capiccotto who celebrated 32 years of marriage. I hope you all have a wonderful day filled with joy, happiness, and love.

Also the month of November, is very busy in Italy right now as the year long celebration of the Rome Jubilee will come to an end on January 6, 2026. Many people made the pilgrimage to Italy this year not only to celebrate the Jubilee but to celebrate the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV the first Pope from the United States. November in Italy also features a few noticeable holidays such as All Saints Day (Ognissanti), on November 1st, its a day for honoring all the Saints, and All Souls Day (il Giorno del Mort) on November 2nd, for remembering and praying for all the deceased. Other celebrations include the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health (Festa della Madonna della Salute) in Venice on November 21st, which is a religious festival that commemorates the end of the 1630 plague in Venice. It also stands for gratitude to the Virgin Mary for saving the City from the devastating epidemic with the Basilica della Salute construction in her honor. Another holiday celebrated is the Feast of Saint Martin” (Festa San Martino) around November 11th, and its a festival deeply connected to agricultural traditions, especially wine and food which is marked by many festivals all across Italy especially in the smaller towns. I heard it through the “grapevine”, that there was some spectacular wine made by some of our members. Perhaps we should have our own in-house wine tasting



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contest to see who would be the winner. It could be a fun night for everyone to enjoy.

In closing, I would like to wish all our Veterans a very 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.

Brother Frank and I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. 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. With that being said, we should be proud that our Lodge was able to make a \$1,000 donation to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church to help with their annual Family Thanksgiving Celebration. This donation will help those families less fortunate and in need this Thanksgiving Day in the White Plains area.

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

Sempre Avanti,  
President Camille



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