

ORDER SONS OF ITALY  
IN AMERICA



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*Keeping up with.....*

# Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge #2867

**Volume 2, Issue 4**

**April 2012**

***President's Message***

Brothers and Sisters

I start this month's newsletter as my first term as President. I am proud to announce our membership is growing and to accommodate our expansion we are holding our monthly member meetings at the Old Mill Yacht Club. Five new Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge Brothers and Sisters were installed at our April meeting. We welcome Thomas Duldulao, Nicholas Beneduce, Linda Estremo, Marianne Minucci-Scudiero, and Elaine Boccio.

I am very excited to announce our new member Thomas Duldulao will be our Commission for Social Justice Liaison. I know that Thomas will represent our Lodge with honor and respect.

Also, a big thank you to Nicholas Beneduce, who has volunteered to be our Lodge photographer.

From the onset of the establishment of our Lodge, we have always received full support and generosity from numerous Lodges. As always, I believe we should support our other lodges by attending their fundraisers. For the month of April I attended two events: The Lt. Joseph Petrosino Lodge #285 celebrated their 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Russo's on the Bay. The Mario Lanza Lodge #2491 celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Luncheon at Alba Restaurant. Both were wonderful events and great chance to meet with other Lodge Brothers and Sisters.

We have some interesting events scheduled. Make plans to come and join us for some fun, friendship, and learning about our rich and colorful culture.

Fraternally,

Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone

President



Pictured L. to R.: MaryAnn Minucci-Scudiero, Linda Estremo, President Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone, Nicholas Beneduce, Thomas Duldulao.  
Photo by Nicholas Beneduce



**Upcoming Events**

**April 27, 2012 – 7:00pm**  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Lion Dinner  
Garden City Hotel

**April 29, 2012 – 39<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
State Bowling Tournament  
Farmingdale Lanes. 8:30a.m.

**May 12, 2012-** Annual Walk  
for Education & Culture –  
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow  
8:30a.m.

**June 9, 2012 –Italian Night** at  
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow  
7:00pm

**June 10, 2012 – CSJ Solidarity**  
Breakfast – Verdi's of Westbury  
9:30am.

**2012 MEETING DATES**

Our member meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month.

The following are the dates of the meetings for the year **2012:**

January	19
February	16
March	15
April	19
May	17
June	21
July	19
August	16
September	20
October	18
November	15
December	20

**Buon Compleanno**

**April Birthdays**

Deanna Liberatoscioli

**Calendar**

**Membership Meeting**  
**@ Old Mill Yacht Club**  
**163-15 Crossbay Blvd.**  
**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**@ 7:30p.m.**



**FACING INTOLERANCE**

by William Aiello

Encountering intolerance is not a pleasant experience. But it can be profitable, for both victim and perpetrator, when handled properly, with an open mind and tactful behavior.

In 1985 I attended a convention in Columbus, Ohio. Going to the registration desk for my badge, I had no idea what was about to happen. Showing my credentials to the registry employee, he looked at my multivocalic name, heard my non-Midwestern accent, and asked where I was from and the ethnicity of the name. Telling him I was from New York and the origin is Italian, he said something completely unexpected and shocked me beyond belief. He explained that he didn't like Italians because during World War II Italy declared war on the United States.

I could have just taken my badge and bitterly walked away. But two lessons came to me: strike while the iron is hot, and one gets further with honey than vinegar. There was no one else at registry, so the opportunity was there. It was now or never.

I told this man he was wrong to feel as he did. During WWII, Italy was not the only country at war with America. Japan attacked and we were at war with it, as well as Germany, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. If he were to hold grudges against all Americans who claimed those ancestries, he'd have animosity against nearly 40% of the American population.

He grinned, nodded and looked at me pensively. Had I perhaps gotten to first base?

Next, I told him that the fact that America was at war with Italy was indeed a dilemma for Italo-Americans who had to choose between siding with the nation they called home or their ancestral homeland. If he had any doubts about Italian-Americans' loyalty during the war, he could rest assured that almost unanimously, they fought for the American side with pride, commitment and spirit. Italian-Americans were roughly 14% of all troops fighting for the USA. Due to cultural and language reasons, many served as agents or spies. They played a key role in the ultimate Allied victory. Again, a grin and somewhat of a sign that I had made a good point. Maybe I was at second base.

I was in the Columbus area for six days, and only got to see a little of it. But I noticed Italian restaurants and at least one grocery with Italian products. Thus, it appeared the metropolitan area had at least a moderate Italian presence. Italians are Italians, so geography had no significance in my next point.

I asked this man if there were any neighborhoods in Columbus or towns in the suburban area where Italians were predominant. He responded yes. Did he know any? Again, yes. Did he notice Italians were of a family and home oriented culture? They took pride in their homes. Weren't the lawns mowed and manicured, the flowers in bloom. streets clean and relatively graffiti-free. crime low

where Italians were numerous? Reluctantly, he nodded. I told him he had no reason to worry that Italians were going to bring down any part of Columbus they lived in.

Hmm...did I get to third base? It seemed like progress was being made.

Finally, I mentioned that hopefully his perceptions of Italians were not what he was getting from the media. Did he believe that Italians were as portrayed in "The Untouchables" or movies like "Key Largo"? Remember, this was 1985, and network television didn't always portray us kindly either. I wasn't much of a TV junkie, so had to evoke the characters of the most recent series in my memory. The two which came to mind were Fonzie from "Happy Days" and Vinnie Barbarino from "Welcome Back, Kotter". The former took place in the 1950s and the latter was not typical of the Italians I knew. I told him that Italians are writers and politicians, singer and artists, musicians and architects, judges and movie directors. Not Fonzie and Barbarino. The 1985 prominent Italians I gave as examples were Geraldine Ferraro and Tony Bennett, Licia Albanese and Gay Talese, Peter Rodino and John J. Sirica. Indeed, Richard Celeste, Governor of his state of Ohio at the time, claimed Italian heritage.

It was felt I better end my discussion here; otherwise it sounded more like a college lecture. Perhaps, just perhaps, I hit a home run.

Did my attempt to change this man's negative views of Italians do any good?

This occurred twenty-seven years go. I can't remember his name and barely recall what he looked like. Two more convention days, I never saw him again nor will I ever know if my efforts to reform his intolerant views had any success.

I'm not saying we must carry a set of mini-encyclopedias with us or have our smartphones programmed to a set of websites whereby we can quickly have access to all the historical facts we need. What I am saying is that silence gets you nowhere. In cases like this your best weapons are facts and a polite but firm demeanor.

This is only one of many times I've had to deal with prejudices and misinformed minds. I'm sure all of you have had to deal with it also. Successful or not, I rest content that twenty-seven years ago I met someone biased and intolerant and did my best to defend my heritage civilly.

**Look who's arrived...**

Michael and Giannina Cappello have added a new branch to their family tree! On Easter Sunday April 8, 2012, Rosa Cappello was born. Baby Rosa was welcomed into the world weighing 7lbs. 9oz. and 21 inches long. She is being loved and adored by siblings Philip and Liliana.

We welcome our first Lodge baby. Congratulations to the Cappello Family on their new bundle of joy!

**Trivia**

This Italian-American professional baseball player once married to Marilyn Monroe will be honored by the United States Postal Service on a commemorative postage stamp in 2012.

Answer to February Trivia question: Milliner