

ORDER SONS OF ITALY
IN AMERICA



Your Council

President	Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone
Vice President	Geoffrey Duldulao
Immediate Past Pres.	William Aiello
Orator	Giannina Cappello
Recording Secretary	Maryann Gallucci
Financial Secretary	Paula Corazza
Treasurer	Michael Cappello
Corresponding Secretary	Julia C. Nappi
Principal Trustee	Joseph Iabone
Trustees:	Joy Patron Deana Liberatoscioli Jennie Stuart Irving Stuart
Mistress of Ceremony	Frances O. Scarantino
Sentinel	Anthony Corazza
Chaplain	Joy Patron
Deputy	Gina Ferrara

Committee Chairpersons

Fundraising Chairpersons:

Giannina Cappello
Anthony Corazza
Geoffrey Duldulao

Membership Chairpersons:

Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone
Thomas Duldulao

**Newsletter Chairperson
& Editor**

Maryann Gallucci

Public Relations Chairperson

Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone

Refreshments Chairperson

Paula Corazza

Scholarship Chairperson

Julia C. Nappi

Sunshine Chairperson

Joy Patron

Cultural Chairperson

William Aiello

Visit us on the Web

<http://www.nysosia.org/lodge.asp?LodgeNumber=2867>

Keeping up with.....

Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge #2867

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2012

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters

This is a very exciting time for me as a new President. I will be attending the New York OSIA 106th annual State Convention held at the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center Callicoon, New York. Joining me at the convention will be our Immediate Past President William Aiello and Marcellino Frisone our Lodge Arbitrator, as we represent Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge# 2867 at the convention for the very first time.

I am proud to announce that we have our very first event scheduled called the "Italian-American Comedy Show. Our guest comedian will be Uncle Floyd. It will be held on Friday July 20th time 7:00p.m at the Old Mill Yacht Club in Howard Beach. Reservations only - no tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information you can contact Jeff D. at 347-604-4216, Julie Nappi at 718-848-5567 or e-mail me at roequeens@yahoo.com

Great news - at our last general meeting we welcomed three new members to our lodge: Maryann Carey - District Manager of Community Board No.9, Frank Pantina - Pharmacist and owner of Cross Bay Chemist, and Marc De Simone of Liberty Mutual. They will be installed at our next general meeting, which will be held on June 21st.

With our deepest gratitude, we are proud to be participating in the Howard Beach Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28th. We are marching with friends and family in the Community to pay tribute to the brave hearts who gave the ultimate sacrifice. We salute the valor and courage of our soldiers who gave their lives to protect us and our freedom.

Fraternally,
Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone
President





Upcoming Events

May 28, 2012 – Memorial Day Parade –

Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge will meet at Howard Beach train station- Coleman Square at 10:30 A.M.

May 31, 2012 – June 3, 2012

106th Annual State Convention at Villa Roma Resort

June 9, 2012 –Italian Night at

Eisenhower Park, East Meadow 7:00pm

June 9, 2012 –Italian Night at

Eisenhower Park, East Meadow 7:00pm

June 10, 2012 – CSJ Solidarity

Breakfast – Verdi's of Westbury 9:30am.

June 23, 2012 – Garibaldi-

Meucci-Museum Trip. Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge 11:00A.M.

July 20, 2012 – Fiorello

LaGuardia Lodge Presents An Italian-American Night of Pasta & Comedy with "Uncle Floyd." 7:00pm @ Old Mill Yacht Club – Howard Beach

Buon Compleanno

May Birthdays

Jeff D.

June Birthdays

Nick Beneduce
Anthony Corazza
Marc DeSimone
Frank Pantina

Calendar

Membership Meeting
@ Old Mill Yacht Club
163-15 Crossbay Blvd.
June 21st, 2012
@ 7:30p.m.



Why Don't Italians Stick Together and Oppose Animosity?

by William Aiello

For nearly a century it has been noted that Italian-Americans don't stick together and defend their culture and image. Anyone who has studied Italian-American history, immigration, politics and ethnology will acknowledge that. It has been discussed by politicians, historians, professors, writers, and the media. Just about everyone will agree with that much. What they don't agree on is why.

As early as the 1910s, after the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, historians and labor leaders took notice of the fact. Nearly all the victims were Jewish and Italian immigrants, mostly women. In the aftermath of the disaster – the worst in New York City history until the attacks of 9/11 ninety years later – most of those who fought for better working conditions, labor laws, safety and evacuation procedures were Jewish. Politicians quickly made note of this, which is why they were more eager to appeal to those voters, than Italians who did not speak up or vote.

In the 1970s I recall discussing the issue in a college class, and a few scattered voices admitting that Italians got short shrift from the media, schools and politicians for this very reason. Evidently, little changed in over half a century.

While other ethnic and racial groups were quick to react when being discriminated against, maligned, negatively stereotyped, or overlooked, it was much different with Italian-Americans. With them, little more than a whimper would be heard. Why is that?

Well, here's one theory.

Other groups had long histories of being oppressed by outsiders. Blacks were subject to segregation and Jim Crow laws in the South. The Irish were oppressed for centuries by the British. Jews in Europe were restricted to ghettos. The word "ghetto", in fact, comes from the Venetian "ghèto", referring to that part of the city where Jews were restricted. In time, it came to designate such part of a city anywhere in Europe.

In each case, the oppression was inflicted upon these groups by others. With Italians, the experience was much different.

Prior to Italian unification in 1861, there were vast differences between what would become northern and southern Italy. The north was industrial, elite, wealthy. The south was poor, agricultural, not formally educated. It was from this portion, the land known as the mezzogiorno – Napoli and south -, from which the majority of Italians would emigrate.

When unification did occur, the south was a land of extreme poverty. The Italian monarchy, in collaboration

with the aristocracy of the north, the Catholic Church, and feudal lords, did little to help the mezzogiorno.

Essentially, Italians saw that it was their own people who were responsible. They became untrustworthy of government and institutions such as the Church. Emigration was the only recourse for many.

In the early days, the overwhelming majority of Italians who left did not go to America. Some went to other parts of Europe, some to Australia or northern Africa. But for the most, the land they headed to was Latin America.

They not only went, but Italian immigration was encouraged. This was particularly the policy of the new nations of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Venezuela. The latter's name is Spanish for "Little Venice".

As we know, Latin America was basically colonized by the Spanish and Portuguese, and to a lesser degree by the French and Dutch. But it was those new nations settled by the Spanish and Portuguese that openly welcomed Italians. Of the Catholic faith, similar in culture and language, requiring skills Italians were good at, and a familiar climate – Italians met little resistance.

By the late 1800s these South American nation's immigration policies were changed. Realizing the negative effects of uncontrolled immigration and overpopulation, they ended immigration. It is a policy America would be wise to follow.

Immigration to Latin America ended, but not the poverty and oppression in Italy. Italians had to find a new place to emigrate to. Again, some chose other parts of Europe, Australia, northern Africa or Canada. But for the majority, well over 90%, America was the new destination.

Italians who heard of warm welcomes in South America were not prepared for the cold reception they'd get in America. They were despised, the most hated and detested of all immigrants. Coming in large numbers did not help. So much were they disliked, that it was primarily their presence which prompted Americans to take action against immigration and pass the Johnson Act in 1924.

Change in immigration policy did not change Americans' perceptions. The Depression offered virtually no opportunity for Americans, Italian or other, to leave the areas they lived in and associate or assimilate. World War II and the portrayals of Italians in the mass media added to misconceptions. Italian suspicions of institutions like government, schools and the Church kept many from being active. Their arrival in America was the first time in history that they encountered strong animosity from people or societies other than their own. They had no concept of how to confront it.

The fact that in 2012 Italians have been generally accepted into American society and excelled in just about every field has not altered their reluctance to unite when being maligned or denigrated. One can only look at programs like "Jersey Shore" and "The Sopranos" to discern that there aren't many Italians who express their dissatisfaction and opposition. We all know very well just what the reaction would be if, say, Hispanics or gays were negatively portrayed.

So that's my view of why Italians don't unite. What are your views? I'd be interested to know.

Trivia

This song was originally written in German for "The Threepenny Opera". In the 1950s it was reorchestrated for the new sound of music known as rock 'n roll. Recorded or offered to numerous singers, among them Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Les Paul and Mary Ford, no version was successful and others turned it down feeling teenagers would never go for it. Then in 1958 this Italian-American singer recorded his swing version, and in 1959 it became a tremendous success, so much so it is still heard on radio stations today. Can you name the singer and song?

Answer to April Trivia question: Joe DiMaggio