

ORDER SONS OF ITALY
IN AMERICA



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Keeping up with.....

Fiorello LaGuardia Lodge #2867

Volume 2, Issue 7

July – August 2012

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

On July 20, 2012 we held our very first Italian American Comedy Event at the Old Mill Yacht Club in Howard Beach. It was truly an amazing evening. I have received many calls and e-mail messages about our very first event. Everyone had a great time with Uncle Floyd and DJ music by Ciro and looking forward to attending our future events again.

Community leaders: NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo joined the fun along with Queens Borough President's Office Cultural Coordinator Suzie Tannenbaum and Special Assistant for Women's Issues Catherine Moore.

I could have not done this alone, and I want to thank Thomas Duldulao, Maryann Gallucci, and Jeff and Doreen Duldulao. Thanks to Paula Corazza for the beautiful basket she made. Thanks to Julia Nappi for handling many of the calls. And of course to our Lodge Members who participated and went out and sold tickets and purchased tables. A Special thank you to our Fiorello LaGuardia lodge Photographer Nick Beneduce for always having his camera ready to take photographs at all times.

Our event sold out. Thanks to the support of our OSIA Lodge brothers and sisters from Cellini Lodge, Lt. Joseph Petrosino Lodge, Per Sempre Ladies Lodge, Judge Frank A. Gulotta Lodge, Giovanni Caboto Lodge, Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, Mario Lanza Lodge, and Sons and Daughters Lodge for joining us in making our first event memorable.

We look forward to many more enjoyable events.

Fraternally,

Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone
President



Bill Aiello, Frances O. Scarantino, Deanna Liberatoscioli, Thomas Duldulao, Doreen Duldulao, Maryann Gallucci, Diedre Duldulao, Jeff Duldulao, Paula Corazza, Rosemary Ciulla-Frisone, Uncle Floyd, Joe Iobone, Julia Nappi, Giannina Cappello, Michael Cappello, Jennie Stuart, Anthony Corazza.

Photo courtesy of Nick Beneduce.

Visit us on the Web

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



Upcoming Events

9/4/2012—4th Annual State Golf Outing – Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course.

9/22/2012—Italian Concert..From Italy with Love at Hofstra University Monroe Theatre, featuring Christopher Macchio, Marissa Farmiglietti and Uncle Floyd. For tickets call 516-785-4623.

10/13/2012– New York OSIA Casino Night for Autism. Autism Fundraiser “Casino Royale” to be held at the Constantino Brumidi Lodge Hall, Deer Park at 7:00 p.m. Donation is \$75 per person

Buon Compleanno

July Birthdays

Rose Gallucci
Julia Nappi
Joy Patron

August Birthdays

Doreen Dululao
Linda Estremo
Jennie Stuart

Calendar

**Membership Meeting
@ Old Mill Yacht Club
163-15 Crossbay Blvd.
August 16th, 2012
@ 7:30p.m.**



Arriverderci Dialectti

by William Aiello

Most of my formative years were in southwest Queens. The communities: Woodhaven, Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Howard Beach were as much part of my life as family. There’s probably not one block west of , say, 126th Street that I have never been to, whether by foot, playing ball, by bicycle or as a passenger driver in an automobile. In the 1950’s and 1960’s, the largest ethnic group, by far, were Italians. So was Italian the most common language after English.

Families whos origins from throughout the mezzogiorno lived here. From Potenza to Bari, Campobasso to Sicilia, Napoli to Avellino. And so were the numerous dialects of the Italian language.

To understand why dialects existed we must look at history. The terrain, the economics and communications of the land also play an immense part.

Nearly all Southern Italy was poor, and most of the citizens were people from agrarian societies. Much of southern Italy was ignored by the feudal lords, papal states and kingdoms which comprised of mezzogiorno. Thus, it took longer for the industrial revolution to reach there than it did other parts of Europe.

As there was little industry or progress, many residents lived their lives as their ancestors did. For centuries, one family would occupy a town, commune or province and seldom venture at a distance, except to emigrate. Language, therefore, established its roots as people did.

With poor communications, little industry, a frequent mountainous terrain, which made construction of roads difficult, few schools offering formal education, and a fragmented nation, there wasn’t much opportunity to develop a solid, cohesive and common national language. The dialects that existed simply continued.

The immigrants who left Italy in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries naturally brought their dialects with them. As they settled in southwest Queens, as most other places in America, various dialects were spoken.

On one street where I lived were families speaking Molisano, Barise and Siciliano, among other dialects. Yes, I understood them, and my elder family members explained the dialectal variance. But some of those dialects seemed mighty strange. Of course, I realize my family’s version must have seemed strange to those unfamiliar with it.

In June 1946, Italian voters rejected the monarchy and a republic was established. One year after World War II ended, Italy was on its way to progress. The end of the war and a new government, brought progress, industry and a vast improvement in economy.

One of the very first things the new government did was determine that Italy needed one cohesive, proper national language to further unify the nation and its people. Communications improved, there was radio, television, cinema, mass publication of newspapers and magazines. The new republic embarked on a massive educational system. Telephones came into existence. The autostrada was built.

Certainly we have all seen the “I Love Lucy” episode from the 1950s when the Ricardos and the Mertzes are staying at a hotel in Italy where both guests and town residents share one telephone. Those days have long passed. Today, everyone has a telephone, with cell phones and smartphones as well.

The Florentine dialect was chosen to be the national language. Once spoken by the upper classes of Italian society, this was the dialect of Dante Alighieri, the Medicis, and Carlo Collodi (aka Lorenzini) author of “Pinocchio”. So it was goodbye Napoletano, arriverderci Siciliano, farewell Basilictano. On my first trip to Italy in 1976, thirty years after the republic was created, Florentine was spoken almost exclusively from north to south. A year later, travelling in the small, secluded towns of Sicily where some of my family originated, the native dialect wasn’t very common. It appeared, in fact that a lot of the citizens got a kick from it.

The Italian government made a wise decision to have everyone speak one common language. It went a long way towards unifying the nation. Regionalisms and slight variances in language do exist as they do in every nation, and no doubt in the home life the old dialects still exist. Ironically, after World War II it was probably more common to hear Abbruzzese or Calabrese in Ozone Park or Richmond Hill than in Pescara or Cantanzaro.

While I agree having one cohesive national language unifies a nation, sentimentally I kind of miss the old dialects. At least one department at Queens College is devoted to teaching Sicilian. The dialects of the Italian immigrants are part of our history. I’d like to see then preserved for posterity and a link to our past.

We are planning two cultural events for the fall season:

The Jersey Boys On Broadway – Date TBA
and

A visit to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum – Date TBA

Stay in touch for more details.....

Trivia

The first Italian-American to be elected as both governor and senator is this man who died twelve years ago this month. Can you name him and the state he governed / represented?

Answer to June Trivia question: District of Columbia.