



# Judge Frank A. Gulotta Lodge No. 2180 Order Sons of Italy in America



**NEWSLETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**



## A Message from our President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Christopher Columbus - We are fast approaching Columbus Day, October 12, the holiday that many Italian Americans and the entire nation celebrates all their achievements and those of their forbears in coming to the United States from their homeland Italy. Indeed the Sons of Italy hold Columbus and Columbus Day in very high regard sponsoring parades and festivities in many cities around the country. There is also at this moment a war of words being fought on Facebook which may soon hit the newspapers in regard to the many statues and monuments to Christopher Columbus around the country, especially the one at Columbus Circle in New York City. In fact Mayor Bill DeBlasio has stated that whether the statue will be allowed to stay there is under deliberation.

In the late 1400's Columbus was convinced that he could reach the East Indies, meaning Southeast Asia, China and Japan by sailing westward. Eventually the Spanish Crown supported him with three ships and a crew mostly made up of released prisoners from Spanish jails. Instead this voyage led to the first lasting European contact with the Americas leading to a lengthy period of exploration, conquest and colonization lasting several centuries. Eventually Columbus made four voyages across the Atlantic. It is felt that those four voyages and Columbus's efforts to establish settlements on the Island of Hispaniola initiated the permanent European colonization of The New World.

Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1937 because it appears that President Roosevelt at the time was under pressure from the Italian American Community and Congress to officially recognize the achievement and contribution of Italian Americans, many of whom had fought in WW I. Today. Seventy years later politicians are under pressure from various ethnic groups such as Native Americans and many Hispanic American groups and their far left sympathizers to abolish Columbus Day because his discovery somehow led to the death and destruction of many hundreds of thousands of Native Americans both north and south and eventually led to slaves being brought to the Americas from Africa. They wish to replace Columbus Day with a national holiday of celebration of Native Americans and the removal of monuments to Columbus because they are insulting to Native Americans.

Columbus may be a flawed character as so many of us are. But Columbus Day as President Roosevelt viewed it and so many others do now, is a celebration of the achievements of Italians in America, of the fierce determination we see in ourselves to fight for something we believe in, in Columbus's case, that the world could be circumnavigated. It is also a day when Americans of all walks of life recognize how different their lives might be were not for the Italian influence on America, from its name to the spirit and achievements of so many politicians, sports figures, teachers and entertainers of Italian heritage and to its favorite foods.

I believe Columbus Day will prevail as will his statues,  
Mille Grazie, Pat Scida



Please join  
us for our  
General  
Membership  
Meeting  
Wednesday  
September  
13, 2017

**8:00PM**

At the  
Senior  
Center  
6 James  
Street  
East  
Rockaway  
NY 11518

**All are  
welcome  
Bring a  
friend**



## September Birthdays

Rita Corso

Liz Modugno

Nick Fiorentino

María Fiorentino

Joseph Pontecorvo

## LODGE UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 16<sup>th</sup> 2017** - Saturday, Casino Bus Trip to the SANDS. There is a "Wait List". Questions cal Gae DiRienzo- 837-0748

**October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017** – General membership meeting and **Heritage month**. Come join us to watch **MY ITALIAN SECRET**. Refreshment will be served.

## ANNOUCEMENTS

Paula DePietro Has retired! She has worked 28 years in the school system, 22 of them at East Rockaway High School . Best of luck, Paula.

Continued get well wishes to Nancy Pintabona  
Get well wishes to Ralpa Nicolosi.

## NYS Grand Lodge Upcoming events

Sun Sep 17, 2017

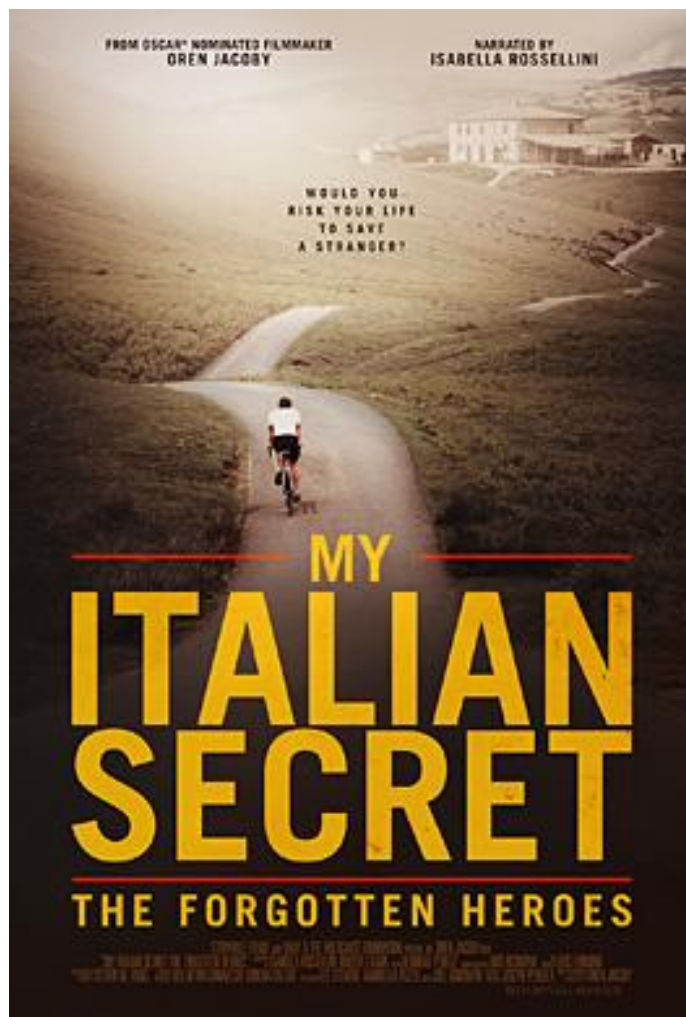
Hofstra Italian Experience Festival at Hofstra University

Sat Sep 30, 2017 @12:00PM -

NYOSIA Grand Lodge Foundation Gift of Sight Annual Awards Luncheon

Sat Nov 11, 2017 @11:00AM -

NYOSIA 29th Annual GaribaldiMeucci Museum Fundraiser Luncheon



**MY ITALIAN SECRET: The Forgotten Heroes** was written, produced and directed by Oscar nominee Oren Jacoby.

It tells the story of brave Italians, including Gino Bartali - the famous cycling champion, who defied the Nazis and Fascists to hide, rescue and protect thousands of innocent Jewish people and others in Italy during the Holocaust. The film is narrated by Isabella Rossellini with Robert Loggia as the voice of Gino Bartali.


Come join us October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at our general membership meeting and Heritage month to watch **MY ITALIAN SECRET**. Refreshment will be served.

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