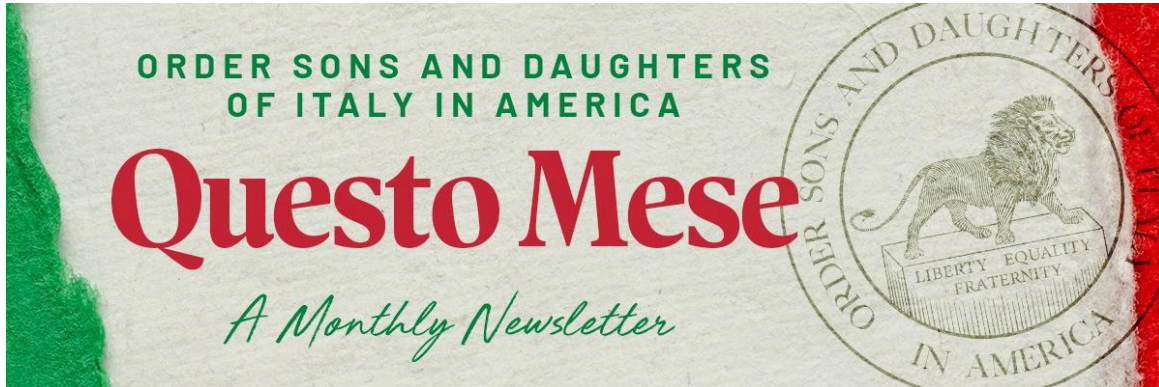




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A MESSAGE FROM

**National President, Michael G. Polo**



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

I sincerely hope all of you enjoyed a *Buona Pasqua* and Holy Week. I celebrated joyfully with family in Connecticut.

While also in D.C., I was able to witness the major effort to refurbish our headquarters. The National Office has gone under a significant “spring cleaning,” and an aesthetic upgrade is in the works thanks to the Sons of Italy Foundation which owns the building. We were also able to add two new employees to our National Office staff: Dalia

Schulman is our new Program Coordinator, and Jane Ellis is our new Bookkeeper. Welcome to OSDIA!

A highlight of March was certainly the Supreme Council plenary session on March 1st and 2nd. This session was virtual, and I attended from the National Headquarters in D.C. along with more than a dozen others who, like me, feel such events are better in person. Going forward, I am committed to making sure that all plenary sessions, starting with the next session scheduled for St. Louis this August 8-10, will be entirely in person. The session in March was productive and inspired a Special Supreme Convention session for April 6<sup>th</sup> to finalize some of the initiatives born from the latest plenary.

March also welcomed the release of the film *Cabrini* in theaters. Many, like myself, who were granted access to not only the film but its producers, cast, and crew, were particularly excited about this magnificent film being shared with the public. Every single aspect of *Cabrini* speaks to not only the extraordinary accomplishments of Mother Cabrini but also to the struggles, perseverance, and contributions of Italians in America. Such films advance our mission to fight defamation and champion our heritage. The overriding themes of compassion, community, and service are particularly important as we move forward with our mission.

Another aspect of our mission, outreach, and collaboration, was advanced through a trip I took to Canada to attend the annual gala of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in Canada (OSDIC). The gala was attended by 1,400 people and was a highly successful event that raised \$750,000 for a local hospital. It is my intention to reestablish close relations with our Brothers & Sisters in Canada, and much of my time there was dedicated to this goal. I'm happy to report that the leadership of OSDIC shares this objective, and I look forward to returning to Canada in May for the swearing-in of their new officers.

I also traveled in March to Seattle to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> year of membership of Lucy Colarossi Salle, a member of the Grand Lodge of the Northwest. This was truly an honor, and it's incredibly important that we recognize such individuals on occasions that represent their commitment to our beloved Order. Congratulations, Lucy!

After Seattle, I flew to New York to attend the Grand Lodge of New York's *41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration* of the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ). The brunch event honored New York OSDIA State Immediate Past President, Tony Narcaratto, and Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, Founder and President of the Italian American Museum. Also recognized was State Past President Michele Cangiano Ment for her significant support of the CSJ. Occasions such as this allow for our CSJ to continue the essential work of fighting defamation, promoting a positive image of Italian Americans, and preserving the legacy of Christopher Columbus who is a symbol of the incredible contributions those of Italian descent have made to America.

By now you have received via email a survey with regard to a new logo for the organization to upgrade the OSDIA brand. The survey closes on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and we encourage all to participate as we are strongest when a collective of voices are heard. As an incentive, those who participate will be put in a drawing for a \$100 gift card.

Have a safe, productive, and enjoyable April.

*Sempre Avanti!*

Respectfully,

**Michael G. Polo**  
**National President**  
**Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**



## **OSDIA National President Joins OSDIC 36th Annual Gala in Support of Children's Hospital Foundation**

OSDIA National President, Michael G. Polo, was honored to join the distinguished gathering at the 36th Annual Gala of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in Canada (OSDIC) Garibaldi Lodge, held on March 9th in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This year's Gala resonated with purpose as it rallied support for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba's "Better Futures Campaign". Highlighting the evening was the presentation of the prestigious SDOI Heart of the Lion Lifetime Achievement Award to Joe Leuzzi, recognizing his remarkable contributions to the community. The event witnessed inspiring remarks from OSDIC National President Carmine Filice, OSDIC Garibaldi Lodge President Carmine A. Zirino, Gala Director Frank Occhino, as well as the esteemed presence of Manitoba Premier, Hon. Wab Kinew, and Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham. Their words underscored the significance of this Gala in advancing the welfare of children across Manitoba.

Under the adept guidance of Mark Scaletta and Travis Giavedoni, the Gala shone as a beacon of hope, rallying support and resources toward vital capital improvements and programs for the children of Manitoba. Watch [here](#) for the Gala's highlights.



*From left to right, Carmine A. Zirino, Michael G. Polo, Hon. Wab Kinew, Dr. Lisa Monkman, Carmelo Alongi, Carmine Filice.*



## **Celebrating Tradition: Feast of St. Joseph at Garibaldi Meucci Museum**

On March 19, 2024, the Garibaldi Meucci Museum in Staten Island, NY, came alive with the vibrant festivities of "La Tavola di San Giuseppe," the Feast of St. Joseph. The event honored an age-old Italian tradition brought to America by early immigrants. Originating in Southern Italy, this celebration pays homage to St. Joseph amidst a spread of symbolic foods.

These offerings, including breads shaped to represent St. Joseph and Jesus, artichokes, oranges, lemons, fava beans, and delightful zeppole, hold deep cultural significance. The altar adorned with candles, flowers, and a statue of St. Joseph welcomed Father Carlos Limongi of St. Joseph's Church, who blessed the table. The event, held in the historic 1843 Meucci home, owned and administered since 1919 by the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America and thru the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) drew a gathering of 65 guests. Fran Cicero, AnnMarie Cicero, Carol Berardi, and Joseph Sciamè were acknowledged for their contributions to the event's success.

Among the attendees were OSDIA members Marianne Bortone Prince, Carl Ciaccio, Louis Barrella, and Andrew Cotto, along with local community members, making it a memorable celebration of heritage and tradition.





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## Discover Liguria Region

For our March region of the month, OSDIA National President Michael G. Polo was joined by Marilisa Villanacci, a specialist in Experience Tourism from the regional agency for tourism promotion In Liguria. Marilisa shared captivating insights into the rich cultural tapestry, breathtaking attractions, and mouthwatering gastronomy that Liguria has to offer. From mouthwatering gastronomy to vibrant festivals, there's something for everyone in this enchanting region. And guess what? She also delved into the fascinating history behind the Bank of America, founded by the visionary Italian American Amedeo Giannini, hailing from the beautiful city of Genoa. Watch the full presentation [here](#).



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## Take the survey and you could win a \$100 Amazon gift card!



Our organization has partnered with AB Research to conduct a study to obtain feedback regarding potential updated logos.

Below is a link to the survey. We would like to hear your thoughts about the different logo

options being considered. The survey should take around 5 minutes to complete and all information will remain anonymous. To thank you for your time, we will enter you in a lottery for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

### Take Logo Survey



## Upcoming Events

# Initial plans announced by IALF for the 500th Anniversary of Giovanni da Verrazzano

The Italian American Leadership Forum (IALF) is gearing up to mark the 500th Anniversary of Giovanni da Verrazzano's historic voyage. With plans underway, including events starting April 17, 2024, the IALF invites organizations to join in commemorating this milestone. Michael G. Polo, IALF Chair, emphasizes the importance of uniting to honor Verrazzano's legacy and inspire future generations.

From the Consul General of Italy to New York, Fabrizio Di Michele's support to symbolic ferry rides and symposia, various initiatives promise to make this celebration memorable. Highlights include a commemorative poster, dinners reflecting Verrazzano's era, and wreath-laying ceremonies. This occasion not only celebrates Verrazzano's Atlantic exploration but also underscores the 'Spirit of Discovery'. Join us in paying homage to the renowned explorer and exploring his historical significance.

[Click here](#) to read the press release and list of events.



# SAVE THE DATE

Sons of Italy Foundation® presents

## The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual NATIONAL EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP AWARDS Gala

Celebrate the Region of Sicily with us.  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING &  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER  
Washington, D.C.



Thursday, May 23, 2024 | More details coming soon at [NelaGala.org](http://NelaGala.org)



### SOCIAL MEDIA

## Post of the Month

Italians when they  
see another Italian:



If becoming a member of a local  
OSDIA lodge was a meme, it would  
be this one! 🇮🇹

Visit this post on Facebook and make sure you're  
following OSDIA on social media (links below)  
for regular posts and content celebrating Italian  
heritage, history and culture!

[Visit Post](#)





## Follow Our Social Channels!

Follow us for daily content celebrating all things Italian-American!

Join our social family today and be part of our mission to preserve our cherished heritage and build a brighter future together. US ❤️ IT



Advertise Your  
Business on  
the OSDIA Website!

Have you thought about advertising on the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America website? You can advertise in our online business directory today!

For more information,  
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Advertise on our website!



Advertise Your  
Business in *Italian  
America* Magazine!

Want the opportunity to showcase your business for a nationwide readership of Italian Americans? You can always promote it in our *Italian America* magazine! For more information,

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Advertise in *Italian America*!





## Member Benefits

### Enhanced Italian learning experience for OSDIA Members

Embark on a linguistic journey with OSDIA and Fondazione Italia! The Italian Relations, Culture, Language and Travel Committee is proud to partner with Fondazione-Italia (a language school certified by the Italian Consulate in Los Angeles) to offer a variety of online Italian Language Classes.

For a limited time (until April 30) OSDIA members will be eligible for a 20% discount on all online courses from Beginners Level 100 to Advanced Level 500. After April 30 a 10% discount will apply for all OSDIA members.

Registration for any of these courses can be completed directly on the website:

<https://italianfoundation.org/class-category/adult-classes/>

OSDIA members enjoy 20% off any group session - Use code **OSDIA20** at checkout.



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**Text OSDIALENOVO to 833-344-0228** to receive exclusive limited time offers.

**For assistance with purchases,** call: 1-800-426-7235 (M-F: 9am-9pm ET, Sat: 9am-6pm ET)

## Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!



To subscribe to our growing YouTube channel, **CLICK HERE**, to go to the OSDIA YouTube channel. Then click on the red "SUBSCRIBE" button. It is free to subscribe and will help you access all the free content that OSDIA produces!

You must have a YouTube account to subscribe to a channel. **CLICK HERE** for a tutorial on how to set up an account if you don't already have one!

Thank you for your help and please share and tell your friends and fellow members!

**Subscribe Here!**



## OSDIA on Social Media



Make sure to follow OSDIA on Social media to stay up to date on all things OSDIA, Italian-American and Italy related! From news and history, to recipes and photos, and everything in between!



Order Sons and Daughters  
of Italy in America

[Shareable Link](#)