
March Questo Mese Newsletter

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America <nationaloffice@osia.org>

Mar 1, 2025



March | Marzo 2025

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Michael G. Polo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to March, and Happy Women's History Month! This year, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) will be turning 120, and throughout our organization's history, women have played a pivotal role at all levels.

In that vein, I want to highlight the great work the OSDIA Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) has done to advance the future of our organization. This past month, the WLC unveiled their new initiative: the OSDIA Mentorship Program. This program was announced to OSDIA leaders throughout the country last month during our 2025 Virtual Winter Plenary.

More information is detailed further on in the newsletter, but in essence – this program will pair experienced members holding positions in their lodges with newer members to mentor them on various duties. This program - open to any and all OSDIA lodge members - won't

just increase engagement among younger members of the Order, but it will also equip our future leaders with the necessary knowledge about their roles. I would like to give a special thanks to the entire WLC, but especially its Co-Chairs: Linda Buccini Anderson, Marjorie Focarazzo, and Carolyn Lawrence-Murphy, for working with the National Office to make this program a reality.

As we head into March, I want to again encourage all who are eligible to apply for the 2025 SIF National Leadership Grant Program, which every year awards tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to well-deserving Italian American students. **Applications close in two weeks**, so be sure to click the link further on in this newsletter, and submit your application soon!

Finally, I'm excited to announce that among our member benefits are now exclusive webinar opportunities on various topics pertinent to the Italian American community. Last month, our National Office hosted an Italian real estate webinar—the first in a series—with the next one being hosted later this month. Stay tuned for even more webinars, including exclusive At-Large Member-only opportunities.

As always,
Sempre Avanti!

Fraternally,

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



OSDIA Women's Leadership Committee Launches Mentorship Program

This past month, the OSDIA Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) launched the OSDIA Mentorship Program, an initiative that seeks to encourage current or past lodge leaders to become mentors and share key information about their roles with their potential successors, or mentees. This program is open to all OSDIA members, as long as they meet the requirements below.

An OSDIA Mentor should be a person who has experience or knowledge in specific roles who is willing to share, guide, build confidence, and be a resource for a new, inexperienced member. They help individuals understand the dynamics of the organization, how to prepare for future involvement, and better understand the expectations of OSDIA.

An OSDIA Mentee should be a current or newly elected officer/committee chair or new to the organization and has shown interest in moving forward within OSDIA leadership roles. This can be within their own lodge, the Grand Lodge, or the Supreme Lodge.

How does the program work?

After mentors and mentee sign up for the program, the Resource Committee, the group who oversees the applications and assesses the needs and wants of the participants, assigns matches.

This committee would monitor the guidelines and expectations of the pairing and assess the connection for a 6-month period. If the partnership works, there shouldn't be a need to monitor further.

Benefits of the Program

- Nurtures and guides members in officer roles.
- Shows incoming members there is support in taking on a leadership role in OSDIA.
- Builds a database of OSDIA mentors at all levels to help build and teach our future.

If you have any questions about the Mentorship Program, please reach out to programs@osia.org

Become a Mentor

Become a Mentee



2024 SIF Scholarship Recipient: ‘As a direct result of my scholarship, I am not strained by financial anxiety’



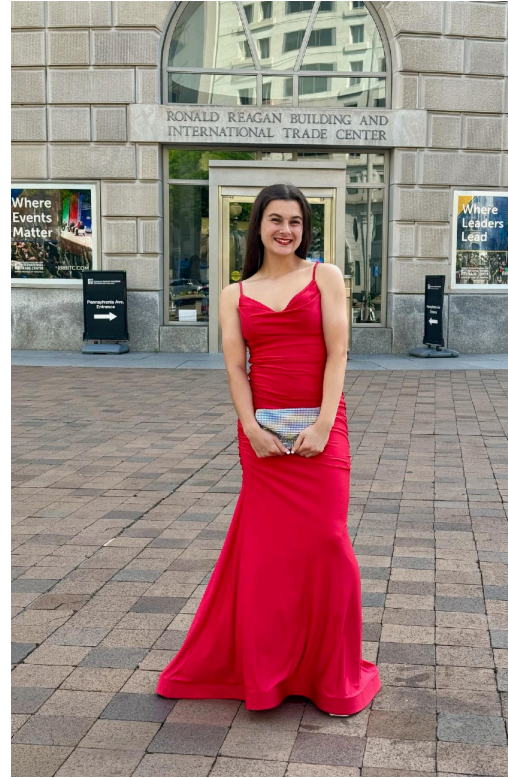
Isabella D'Agostino poses for a photo during the 35th Annual National Education and Leadership Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

In 2024, the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) awarded a record-breaking \$175,000 in scholarships to 16 well-deserving Italian and Italian American students. Of the 11 students recognized in-person during the 2024 National Education and Leadership Awards Gala was Isabella D'Agostino, who was awarded the Charles Evans Scholarship. Isabella now attends Rutgers University in New Jersey and is working toward a bachelor's degree in Italian Studies with an International Business minor.

“Thanks to the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, my academic and cultural ambitions have become a reality as I entered college,” said Isabella, adding that “My passion for my Italian heritage and the Italian language has led me down a wonderful path.”



A photo of Isabella with her scholarship certificate during the 2024 NELA Gala in Washington, D.C.



A photo of Isabella in front of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, where the 2024 NELA Gala was hosted.

Reflecting on her college experience so far, Isabella said that “As a direct result of my scholarship, I am not strained by financial anxiety, and I am fully engaged in college life both academically and socially.”

Isabella said she has now found a position within the Rutgers University Italian Department, working closely with several of her professors and managing the department's social media accounts. She is now fluent in Italian, seeking to learn more about other aspects of Italian culture.

“I will always appreciate their support and guidance, and I look forward to collaborating with the OSDIA in the near future,” she said.

Applications for the 2025 SIF scholarship cycle will be closing in **two weeks, on March 14th**. If you are interested in applying, or know someone who might be, find more information [here](#) or further in the newsletter.



OSDIA Spotlight: *Guardiani Italiani di Cleveland Lodge #217* in Cleveland, Ohio



On February 1, the Guardiani Italiani di Cleveland Lodge #217 hosted a prize presentation at its *Accademia del Vino* event. In attendance were 118 guests, who sampled various wines from Central and Southern Italy. Among the wines were tintilia rosé, Lacryma Christi, aglianico, negroamaro, and primitivo from Molise, Campania, and Puglia, paired with antipasti, shrimp, orecchiette-rapini, chicken, salad, arrosticini di agnello, and roasted vegetables.

Guests of honor included: National Orator, Anthony J. Perfilio, ESQ.; Grand Lodge of Ohio Vice-President, Eldora Perfilio; Akron Lodge #685 Orator John Mancinelli; Highland Heights Mayor and Lodge #217 member Chuck Brunello, Jr.; and Sicilian Tenor Aaron Caruso.

Aaron entertained the crowd and sang traditional Sicilian songs like *Finiculi*, *Finicula*, and Italian songs like *Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu*.

Want your local lodge to be featured in our next spotlight? Email sweinmann@osia.org for consideration.



February Lodge Anniversaries

On February 2nd, the Michelangelo Lodge #2343, in Villas, New Jersey reached its 50-year anniversary. The National Office congratulates the Michelangelo Lodge for reaching such an important milestone, and wishes them the best for the years ahead!



Final Call for Our Biennial Convention Award Nominations!

Today, March 1, 2025, is the last day to add your nominations for our 2025 Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award and Guglielmo Marconi Award, both of which will be presented at our 59th Biennial Convention in Orlando, Florida this August. Don't miss out, and click the button below to add your nominations today!

These prestigious awards are to be presented in person during our national convention, so nominees must be present to accept.

The Sellaro Award is the highest honor given to a member of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. This award was originally created to honor those who have dedicated their time and effort on behalf of the Order and who have distinguished themselves by exemplifying the ideals and principles of the Order's founder, Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro.

Sellaro Award Criteria:

- The nominee must be an active *regular* member of the Order, with a minimum 10 years of membership. Social or honorary members are not eligible for this award. Neither would any current line officer of the Supreme Council.

The Guglielmo Marconi Award is the highest award given by the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. It is presented to an American individual whom OSDIA believes has contributed to our beloved nation and exemplifies OSDIA's creed and way of life, in a manner that best expresses the ideals for which the Order stands.

If you have any questions about award criteria, reach out to programs@osia.org. **The nomination deadline is March 1, 2025.**

[Sellaro Nomination](#)

[Marconi Nomination](#)



It's Not Too Late: Two Weeks Left to Apply

for SIF Scholarships



It's not too late! Applications for the Sons of Italy Foundation's (SIF) National Leadership Grants will be closing in two weeks.

These merit-based scholarships vary from \$5,000-\$15,000 each year and are given to selected individuals* of Italian descent**, enrolled in 4-year undergraduate programs, graduate programs, or professional schools at an accredited academic institution for the Fall 2025 term.

The deadline for applying is March 14, 2025, so get your application in soon! To apply, click the button below. For a list of our frequently asked questions, please click [here](#).

** U.S. Citizens and Green Card holders*

*** At least one Italian or Italian American grandparent*

Apply Today



Register for Part 2 of OSDIA'S Exclusive Webinar Series: From Dream to Deed: Navigating Italian Property Taxes



Photo of a rustic Tuscan villa. Photo courtesy of [Pexels/Alec D.](#)

Are you interested in purchasing a home in Italy, but curious about Italian tax laws and their implications for citizens vs. noncitizens?

Join us on Wednesday, March 19th at 11:00AM EST for part 2 in the “Dream to Deed” webinar series, exclusively available to OSDIA members. Our next webinar will provide an overview of how Italian real estate taxes work, and other considerations to weigh when purchasing a home in Italy.

The webinar will feature Giandomenico De Tullio, Managing Partner at De Tullio Law Firm, which has offices in Rome and Martina Franca, and manages property transactions throughout the entire Italian territory. Giandomenico is a multilingual lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in cross-border property transactions. As a distinguished professional in his field, he has been featured in prominent publications such as The Times for his expertise.

Giandomenico is also a proud member of the Capitolo di Roma Lodge #3002 in Rome, Italy, made up of professionals and entrepreneurs with strong social, cultural, and business ties to the United States. Chartered in 2019, Capitolo di Roma is also OSDIA's first lodge to be established in Italy.

Register Today



Interested in Writing for OSDIA's Official

Magazine? We Want to Hear from You!



Photo of a person reading from a magazine. Photo courtesy of [Pexels/Gül Işık](#)

Do you have a story idea about impactful work an OSDIA member or a lodge is doing in their community? Are you interested in writing for the most widely read magazine for people of Italian heritage in the United States? We want to hear from you! For consideration in Italian America magazine, which reaches more than 25,000 people each quarter, please submit your story pitches to italianamerica@osia.org.


Story pitches must be no more than 250 words and be a topic pertinent to the Italian American community. Preference will be given to story ideas featuring OSDIA members or lodges, but all stories of interest to the Italian American community will be considered.



Coming Soon: NELA 2025

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 • WASHINGTON, DC



The 36th Annual
NATIONAL EDUCATION
& LEADERSHIP AWARDS
Gala

Join us on **Thursday, May 22nd** at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC!

This year, we will celebrate the Region of Lombardy and honor individuals who have made meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond.

We'll also shine a light on the bright future of our Italian-American youth and the impactful work of the Sons of Italy Foundation.

Mark your calendars and prepare for an unforgettable evening of recognition and giving back!

[Add to Calendar](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA

Post of the Month



Little Italy Spotlight – Cleveland, Ohio

“Nestled in the heart of Cleveland, **Little Italy CLE** is a testament to the city’s rich immigrant history. In the late 1800s, Italian immigrants, many of them from Southern Italy, began settling in this area, drawn by opportunities in the booming industrial economy. Over time, they built a vibrant community filled with Italian-owned businesses, churches, and markets, creating a neighborhood where food, family, and faith were at the core of daily life.”

[Visit Post](#)



Refer Your Friends & Family!



Invite your friends and family to celebrate our rich heritage, make lasting connections, and be part of our vibrant community.

[Become A Member](#)





Support Our 2025 Scholarship Awards

Through the Sons of Italy Foundation® (SIF), and tens of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® (OSDIA) has awarded tens of millions of dollars in scholarships to date.

If you want to support the cause, and help propel future Italian-American students to new heights, make your donation at the link below!

[Make A Donation](#)



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.



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



Save 10% on Italian Classes with Fondazione Italia!

Are you looking to improve your Italian skills? Don't miss out on this members-only opportunity. For an exclusive 10% discount on all online group classes at Fondazione Italia Language school, click the link below. Use the code **OSDIA10** to claim your discount.

Fondazione Italia hosts an online class called "Italian 100 Twice a Week," which will be starting on March 18th, so be sure to sign up soon!

Book a Class





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](#)