

October Questo Mese Newsletter

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



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October | Ottobre 2024

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Michael G. Polo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the month of October, I would like to wish you all a happy Italian American Heritage Month. I would also like to thank everyone in the OSDIA family for the birthday wishes last week. September was a busy, yet exciting, month, as many lodges held Festas and prepared for Italian American Heritage Month celebrations. I had the opportunity to attend a local Festa hosted by the John Pirelli Lodge #1633 in Dayton, Ohio on



September 6th, which was a wonderful celebration of Italian food and culture.

October began for me in Boston, Massachusetts, where I attended the Italian American Heritage Month celebration at the State House on October 1st, marking the 25th anniversary of Italian Heritage Month in Massachusetts. On October 6th, I will be joined by Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) President Robert Ferrito in New Orleans, for the unveiling of a CSJ-sponsored memorial plaque, honoring the 11 Italian immigrants who were lynched there in 1891.

I will then be visiting New York City on October 7th to attend A Chance In Life's 79th Annual Gala, during which Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) President Joseph Sciame will be named among four other distinguished honorees. I also have the privilege of attending other events held by esteemed organizations like the Columbus Citizens Foundation and the Italian Welfare League.

I am also excited to announce that OSDIA will be leading the Columbus Day Parade in New York City on October 14th, a day which will begin with a breakfast hosted by the Italian American Museum, the Lt. Det. Joseph Petrosino Association in America and the NYS Grand Lodge Foundation. Upon leaving New York, I will be closing out the month in Washington, D.C. at the National Italian American Foundation's 49th Anniversary Gala on October 26th.

I am honored to be able to attend so many important Italian American Heritage Month and Columbus Day celebrations, and I hope to see many of you there.

As always: Sempre Avanti!

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



Celebrating Italian Heritage: 47th Annual Italian Fall Festival at John Pirelli Lodge

From September 6-8, 2024, OSDIA National President Michael G. Polo and National Executive Director Shayla Kaestle attended the 47th Annual Italian Fall Festival hosted by the John Pirelli Lodge in Dayton, OH, which has more than 500 members. They were warmly welcomed by National Trustee and Festival Chair Brian Andzik, Local Lodge President Jack Giambrone, Grand Lodge of OH President Dave Corsi, National Orator Tony Perfilio, and hundreds of members and volunteers.

During the event, they explored the lodge's expansive 10-acre property, enjoyed authentic Italian

cuisine, including cannoli and cookies, tasted flights of Italian wine, and participated in bocce games on one of the lodge's six courts. The festivities also included live music, featuring the crowd favorite, Aaron Caruso, and interactive games showcasing the diverse regions of Italy.

The annual Fall Festa raises funds for various local, state, and national charities, and this year's event was the lodge's largest fundraiser yet. We congratulate the John Pirelli Lodge on a record-breaking year and look forward to many more successful festivals in the future!



Annapolis Lodge #2225 Hosts Annual Festa Italiana, Raising \$25,000 for Charity

On Sunday, September 15, Lodge #2225 in Annapolis, Maryland, held its annual Festa Italiana, bringing the local community together to celebrate Italian American culture while raising funds for charity. The event featured a wide array of Italian food and beverages, with local vendors offering assorted Italian goods. Live music entertained attendees throughout the day, and lodge members sold traditional Italian desserts like cannoli, pizzelle, and sfogliatelle inside the lodge.

"This is a chance for people in the community to connect with their Italian roots," said Lodge President Ray Gamble. He emphasized the importance of providing the local community with an authentic Italian cultural experience, calling the Festa a *"slice of Italian culture."*

The event annually raises approximately \$25,000 for charities such as the Alzheimer’s Association, the Cooley’s Anemia Foundation, and Help Our Military Heroes. Ray also noted that part of the funds support the lodge’s scholarship program, with different activities during the day dedicated to various charitable causes.

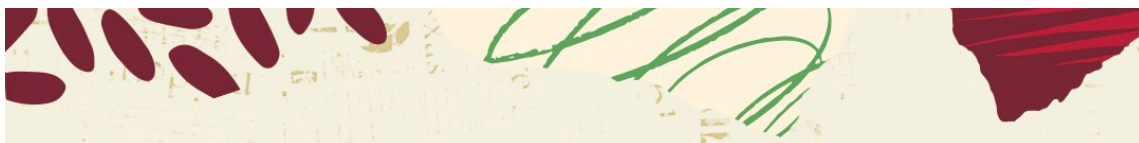


Spotlight on Calabria: A Beautiful Journey Through Italy's Hidden Gem

In September, we celebrated our region of the month, Calabria, with a wonderful meeting that highlighted the beauty of this captivating Italian region. Our National President, Michael Polo, led insightful discussions with representatives from Calabria's tourism office, Luca Fregola and Ernestina Maria Bilotto. They delivered a presentation showcasing Calabria's stunning geography, must-visit attractions, rich history, diverse culture, and unique culinary traditions.

The meeting featured personal stories from all participants, reflecting their deep connections to Italy and the undeniable allure of Calabria.

Don't miss the chance to explore Calabria further—watch the meeting on our YouTube channel by clicking [HERE](#).



Discover Calabria Region

FEATURING



Michael Polo
OSDIA
President



Luca Fregola
Calabria
Straordinaria



**Ernestina Maria
Bilotto**
Calabria Straordinaria



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Feast of Saint Francis

Festa di San Francesco d'Assisi Patrono d'Italia

Saint Francis of Assisi, born in Umbria in 1118, is the patron saint of animals and nature. Known for his devotion to "Lady Poverty," he renounced wealth to live like Christ, following Matthew 10:7, 9-11: *"Provide neither gold nor silver...for the workman is worthy of his meat."* Saint Francis left a lasting impact on Christianity, building schools, hospitals, and restoring San Damiano. He is also credited with creating the live nativity scene, a tradition that continues worldwide.

His Feast Day, celebrated on October 4, marks his transition to heaven and is a day of reflection. In Italy, Assisi honors him with religious services and oil-lit ceremonies at the Basilica of St. Francis. Some regions bless pets in honor of his love for animals.

In lodges, celebrations could include volunteering, cooking mostaccioli (a favorite of St. Francis),

making Tau crosses, or hosting candlelight ceremonies. Outdoor activities like hikes or learning St. Francis's prayers offer meaningful ways to connect with his legacy.

[HERE](#) you can find a resource of 23 reports about Italian holidays; the history, how they are celebrated in Italy, and recommendations for incorporating projects or events into Local and Grand Lodges.



OSDIA Is Now Seeking Submissions For Two New Impact Projects!

Our Public Image Committee is rolling out a new project to enhance OSDIA's social media presence and impact, and we need your help! The first component of this initiative is called "*Italian at Heart*." It is a comprehensive photo and story campaign, inspired by "*Humans of New York*," in which different OSDIA members of all ages are artfully photographed and tell a brief story. Stories should be good-hearted, positive, and uplifting and inspire conversation and engagement. Researchers have suggested that humans are intrinsically connected to their individual experiences and that personal storytelling is a way of making sense of life and moving forward. For more information and a submission form click on this link: [Italian at Heart Submission Form](#).

The second component is called "*Recipe Collection*." We are collecting culturally relevant member recipes to share on OSDIA's social media channels. The link is: <https://wkf.ms/3YjL3xG>

These projects are being administered by the OSDIA National Public Image Committee in collaboration with the Future of the Order (FOTO) Committee. Please direct any questions to



A New Website Experience is Coming Soon

Following the launch of our new logo, we're thrilled to announce that a complete website revamp is underway! The new website will offer streamlined navigation, faster access to key resources, and a user-friendly interface designed for seamless use across all devices. Efficiency and ease of use are our top priorities, ensuring that you can find everything you need quickly and effortlessly.

We're committed to staying relevant and meeting your needs while building a website that strengthens our membership and community. Thank you for your continued support and patience — we can't wait to unveil the new site soon!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Posts of the Month

Me: "Can I have money to go out?"

Mom: "There's pasta in the fridge,
you're not going anywhere"



When your fridge is stocked with
leftovers, why bother with a
restaurant?

Homemade Italian perfection beats dining out every
time!

[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

A promotional banner for the Lenovo Semi-Annual Sale. On the left, several Lenovo devices (laptop, tablet, smartphone) are displayed, showing various content. On the right, the text reads "Semi-Annual Sale is back!" in a large, bold font. Below this, it says "Get deals up to 68% off". A black button with white text says "Shop Now". To the right of the button, the text "Smarter technology for all" is written in a smaller font, with the "Lenovo" logo in a red box to its right.

Semi-Annual Sale is back!

Get deals up to 68% off

Shop Now

Smarter technology for all

Lenovo

Massive Savings Await!

Save big during our Semi-Annual Sale, running **through October 13**. Find fantastic deals on our most popular products. Shop, save, & earn with My Lenovo Rewards. Don't miss these incredible deals!

Shop Now: www.lenovo.com/us/en/osdia

Text **OSDIALENOVO** to 833-344-0228 to receive exclusive limited time offers. For assistance with purchases, call: 1-800-426-7235 (M-F: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET, Sat: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET).



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!



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[Shareable Link](#)

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