
August Questo Mese Newsletter

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

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To: pirandellolodge@gmail.com

Sat, Aug 1, 2026



August | Agosto 2026

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Thomas A. Lupo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past month, the United States of America reached its 250th anniversary, a tremendous achievement that would not have been possible without generations of Italian immigrants who have contributed to building our country to where it stands today. I hope that each of you had an enjoyable Independence Day spent with family and friends, and I look forward to learning about the ways that each of you have celebrated this milestone in your lodges and communities.

At a national level, this past month has been busy and productive, as OSDIA leadership throughout the country prepares for our Summer Plenary, which will take place in-person from August 13-15 in San Francisco, California. I look forward to meeting with state leadership throughout the United States, and to hearing updates about the important work our lodges have done over the past six months to advance the mission of our Order.

On July 15th, the OSDIA's Government Relations Committee and the Commission for Social Justice co-hosted "Pillars of the Republic," an event that gathered members of the Italian American Congressional Delegation in celebration of America's 250th anniversary, and the many contributions of the Italian American community on the founding of our country. Click [here](#), or read further in this newsletter to learn more.

That weekend, on July 18, I had the pleasure of attending the OSDIA Grand Lodge of New York Family Charity Picnic, a community fundraising event that benefited Alzheimer's research, organizations benefiting individuals with autism, and cancer research. Later in the month, I attended the OSDIA Grand Lodge of New York Executive Board and Foundation meeting, where I had the pleasure of meeting with local lodge leaders to discuss a variety of important local and state issues.

On a separate note, I want to extend my gratitude to John A. Fratta, President of the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ), who has worked diligently this past month to ensure adequate representation of our community at all levels. This was particularly true in early July, when Little Italy—one of the most iconic immigrant communities in the U.S.—was left off of the New York City Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs' "Immigrant Enclaves Map." Due to pushback from the CSJ and other Italian American organizations, the historic neighborhood was added to the map; however, these types of issues serve as a reminder of the importance of the CSJ's mission, and the need for such advocacy on behalf of our community. Click [here](#) or read further in the newsletter to learn more.

Lastly, as I approach my first full year as OSDIA National President, I want to thank you, our members and supporters, for your grassroots efforts across the country to promote and preserve our shared heritage. I look forward to an equally positive and productive next year as National President, and to continue meeting with local leaders within their communities.

Fraternally,

Thomas A. Lupo

National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America



OSDIA Government Relations Committee Strengthens Ties with Italian American Congressional Leaders



On Wednesday, July 15, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) Government Relations Committee and OSDIA's anti-defamation and positive image arm, the Commission for Social Justice, co-sponsored an event at the OSDIA National Office, welcoming members of the Italian American Congressional Delegation in celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary.

Titled "Pillars of the Republic," the event was organized by OSDIA's Government Relations Committee with the aim of strengthening bipartisan ties between OSDIA and Italian American congressional leaders. Among those present at the event on July 15 were Nancy Pelosi, Speaker Emerita of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rosa DeLauro, U.S. representative for Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District, and Thomas Suozzi, U.S. representative for New York's 3rd Congressional District.

The event also commemorated OSDIA's role in creating the Italian American Congressional Delegation more than 50 years ago, which now unites nearly 200 members of Congress.



OSDIA National Leadership and members of the Government Relations Committee pose for a photo with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Rosa DeLauro.



OSDIA National Leadership and members of the Government Relations Committee pose for a photo with Rep. Thomas Suozzi.

On Monday, July 20th, OSDIA Government Relations Committee Chair Mike D'Amore and the committee's staff liaison Mia Galasso also attended a summer reception hosted by Michael Rulli, U.S. representative for Ohio's 6th Congressional District, which gathered members and supporters of the Republican Italian American Delegation on Capitol Hill.

"Both the Pillars of the Republic event and Representative Rulli's summer reception demonstrated that OSDIA's relationship with the Delegation's bipartisan leadership is as strong today as it was 50 years ago for one simple reason" said D'Amore of the events, adding that "some of our members are Democrats, some are Republicans, but they are all united by their love of the Italian American culture, and deserve to know that OSDIA is working on the relationships needed to properly steward that culture for another 250 years."



From left to right: Mike D'Amore, OSDIA Government Relations Committee Chair, Mia Galasso, OSDIA Finance and Operations Assistant, and Rep. Michael Rulli.



Intern with OSDIA: Apply Today for our Fall Media & Communications Internship





Interns from OSDIA's fall 2025 cohort pose for a photo at the 2025 Festa Italiana D.C.

Looking for a fall internship that builds your résumé and gives you real-world experience in the nonprofit sector? The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA)—the largest and oldest national organization for men and women of Italian heritage—is now accepting applications for its fall 2026 remote internship program!

As a Media & Communications Intern, you will directly assist the Editor-in-Chief of *Italian America* magazine with strategic communication and editorial efforts. You will also have a chance to earn a byline in *Italian America*, which reaches nearly 25,000 households quarterly.

The program will run from **September 8, 2026**, through **December 18, 2026**. Interns are expected to work 10–15 hours per week, Monday through Friday, with scheduling based on the applicant's availability. **Application Deadline: August 8th at 11:59pm ET.**

Click the button below to learn more and apply today!

Apply Here



CSJ Applauds Inclusion of Little Italy on NYC Immigrant Enclaves Map, Calls for Recognition of All Historic Italian American Communities





Featured image courtesy of Frank Schulenburg via [Wikimedia Commons](#). License: CC BY-SA 4.0

The Commission for Social Justice (CSJ), the anti-defamation and positive image arm of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA), recognizes the decision by the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to include Manhattan's historic Little Italy neighborhood on its Immigrant Enclaves map following strong advocacy and concern expressed by Italian American communities and organizations.

"We are grateful that Mayor Mamdani and the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs listened to the concerns of the Italian American community and corrected the omission of Little Italy from the Immigrant Enclaves map," said CSJ President John A. Fratta. "Little Italy is a historic and enduring symbol of the Italian immigrant experience in New York City, and its inclusion ensures that the contributions of generations of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans are properly recognized."

"However, we remain disappointed that this correction came only after significant pushback and that other historic and thriving Italian American communities continue to be excluded from the map," Fratta continued. "Neighborhoods such as Arthur Avenue in the Bronx represent vibrant Italian American enclaves with deep cultural, economic, and historical significance. These communities continue to preserve Italian heritage, support local businesses, and contribute immensely to the diverse fabric of New York City."

To read the rest of the article, click the button below.

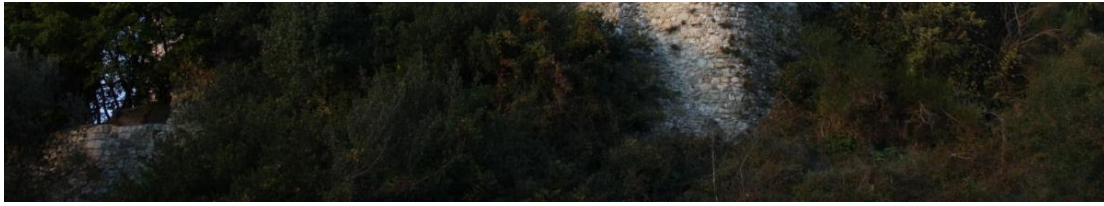
Learn More



Umbria Travel Spotlight

Albornoz Fortress, Province of Terni





The Albornoz Fortress in Narni.

Nestled among trees, the Albornoz Fortress sits imposingly over the town of Narni. Commissioned in the 14th century as one of the last acts of Cardinal Egidio Albornoz, the fortress was one of many built to reaffirm the Papacy's authority over regions it had only just regained.

Over its long history, the fortress passed through many hands, including several popes and noblemen. The fortress also bore numerous attacks, the most devastating of which was the 1527 Landsknecht siege. After returning from the Sack of Rome, mutinous imperial mercenaries turned their anger toward Narni and destroyed the city. The fortress withstood assaults in the following centuries until 1798, when French troops melted down its weapons for cannons. The fortress finally fell under the control of the Kingdom of Italy in 1860.

The fortress features four corner towers and a keep that rises four stories high. The keep features a distinctive corbel carved to look like a hand that symbolically supports the structure. Within its walls sit a courtyard and chapel.

An exhibition in its Piano Nobile reconstructs what a day in the Middle Ages would have looked like with reproductions of musical instruments, clothing, and weapons from the period. The fortress also holds the Street Art Museum. This is the first Italian museum dedicated to the urban arts and features around thirty works from Banksy and other renowned street artists.



The town of Narni is home to other historic architecture, including the church of San Domenico, the church of Santa Maria Imprensole, and the Priori Palace. Striking as well is the tour of the Narni Underground, which offers a closer look into the historic city.

Click below to learn more about the Albornoz Fortress on Umbria's official tourism website.

Learn More

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Our Italian Roots | OSDIA Members Reflect on Their Ancestral Towns

📍 Montecatini Terme | Region of Tuscany – Province of Pistoia



Left: A piazza in the town of Montecatini Terme. Right: Gina's cousin and her cousin's husband.

By Gina Natucci

Rainier Lodge 3019 | Tacoma, WA

The Town of my Italian Roots is Montecatini Terme, which is about 40 minutes northwest of Florence in the Region of Tuscany. My maternal great grandfather, along with his father, immigrated in 1895. The rest of the family, his mom and siblings, immigrated in 1900. The first time I went was for an ethnographic study for my undergraduate studies. Upon visiting, I connected with a 3rd cousin and her family and I felt instantly welcomed. I started making friends while there as well.

I do not speak Italian; however, I am learning. My cousin's husband does not speak any English so we made a pact that he will learn English and I will learn Italian.

To describe Montecatini, oh my! It's a lovely spa town. There is much shopping to do there as well as the *piazza* to go to. It also has a playground for children. The spas are plentiful in this town, such as the Tettuccio and Terme Redi which offer aqua therapy inhalation and a swimming pool. There used to be other spas, including Terme Regina, Salute and the Tamerici. Currently they are historical landmarks.

There is also the funicular up to the hillside town Montecatini Alto, which has olive groves on each side of the trolley that you can look at. There are two funiculars on one track, but when they meet in the middle, they go on different tracks then back to the one. They are called



Gigia and Gigio. They have been running since 1898 and are the original trolleys! There is also a carousel in the square of Montecatini Terme as well as a Ferris Wheel that tourists can enjoy.

I would suggest to anyone going to Italy, not to miss this area. I personally have a connection with this area since the Natucci's, Danesi's and Boni's (my family) were from this area. I take people there every year and we stay at my family's hotel, Albergo Natucci. Everyone there is very nice.



Do you have a story about your Italian roots? We want to hear them! Click the button below to access our submission form for OSDIA members.

Submit Your Story

"Our Italian Roots" is a series of stories from OSDIA members reflecting on their ancestral towns in Italy. The project, started by OSDIA's Culture Committee, was created to bring members closer to their roots and to highlight the vast cultural diversity of Italian towns and cities.



Exclusive Members-Only Webinar **Last Chance to Register for "STARS of the Spectrum"**

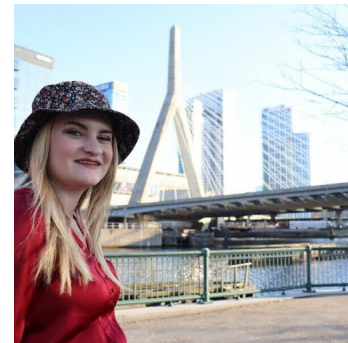
Only one day left to register for "STARS of the Spectrum," an OSDIA exclusive members-only webinar, on **Tuesday, August 4 at 1 pm ET**, showcasing the talents of some of the [Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism's](#) finest musicians.

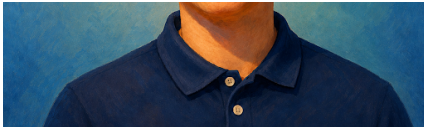
The Flutie Foundation is one of four national charities supported by OSDIA through its philanthropic arm, the Sons of Italy Foundation® (SIF). The organization is a leading advocate for people and families affected by autism, offering services and financial assistance to people and communities in need. SIF is one of the Flutie Foundation's five longest-tenured partners and is among its highest cumulative financial contributors.

The webinar will feature Cierra June and Stefano Micali. Cierra has been performing and competing in vocal competitions since she was six years old. She is currently a vocal performance major at St. Petersburg College and sings in a band. She hopes to be a performing artist, and that her music will inspire others with autism. Stefano is a singer and guitar player who graduated from Bunker Hill Community College in 2021 with an associate's degree in music. He is a member of the Spectrum of Sound Choir and recently recorded his first original song, "Enthusiasm."



During the webinar, Cierra and Stefano will give musical performances and will share how their experiences with autism have impacted their lives. The session will also include an exclusive cooking demonstration by Stefano, who works at [Chitarra Pastaria](#), a pasta start-up in Cambridge, Massachusetts with a staff





comprised entirely of adults on the autism spectrum.

Even if you're unsure you can attend live, we encourage you
to register*
to receive the recording after the event.

Register Today!

**Registration will close on Sunday, August 2nd at 11:59pm ET*



Exclusive Members-Only Webinar:
**National Literacy Month Spotlight: Tips & Tricks for
Running a Lodge Book Club**



Join us on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 1 pm ET** for our next members-only webinar in honor of National Literacy Month, where we will learn from two OSDIA members about their tips and tricks for running a successful local lodge book club and the best books and stories they have come across.

The webinar will feature **Mary Sperrazza**, founder of America Lodge 2245's Il Dolce Libro Book Club in Franklin, New York. Sperrazza first began the club in 2021 as a way to contribute to the lodge and bring new life into it. The club became a resounding success. She received a citation from the Town of Hempstead in 2025 for the book club's creation, and the lodge recently received the 2026 Community Engagement Award in recognition of the book club.





Mary Sperrazza



Carolyn Reres

Also featured at the webinar will be **Carolyn Reres**, who is currently serving as an OSDIA National Trustee, Past President of the OSDIA Grand Lodge of New York, and the State Historian of the Grand Lodge of New York. She also served two terms as National Historian. Reres is an original and loyal member of Il Dolce Libro.

In the years since its founding, the club has grown to over 40 active members due to its creativity in keeping members engaged. Their out-of-the-box thinking on how to run club meetings keeps members on their toes. Its success has led to the creation of other lodge clubs including Mah Jongg and Bocce. Lodge membership itself has grown as well, and the community has become close-knit and eager to support one another.

This exclusive webinar will invite you to hear how the club came to be, provide tips for creating your own lodge book club, and hopefully inspire you to get reading this National Literacy Month.

Register today to learn how to build an even stronger community in your lodge.

Even if you're unsure you can attend live, we encourage you to register*
to receive the recording after the event.

Register Today!

**Registration will close on Sunday, September 20 at 11:59pm ET.*



Italy's Court of Cassation Resolves the 'Minor Issue' *Restoring Citizenship Rights for Thousands of Descendants*





Photo courtesy of Jorge Franganillo via Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC BY 2.0](#)

On July 26, the Italian Court of Cassation, Italy's Supreme Court, ruled that minors who were dual citizens at birth would not lose their Italian citizenship due to a parent's later naturalization abroad, paving the way for thousands of Italian Americans to become Italian citizens.

This development reverses the restrictive interpretation of Italian citizenship law adopted in a 2024 memo distributed by the Italian Ministry of the Interior (Circular No. 43347), which provided new citizenship application guidelines for consulates and local municipalities. The memo stated that if an Italian citizen was naturalized in a foreign country while their child was a minor, the child would effectively lose Italian citizenship through descent, making it significantly more difficult for many Italian Americans to pursue dual citizenship.

While a specific timeline is unclear, Italian consulates and local municipalities are expected to update their internal practices to reflect this ruling. If this interpretation is not followed, applicants can pursue the matter with ordinary courts, where the ruling should be enforced.

For specific guidance on your application for Italian citizenship, we advise consulting an attorney who specializes in Italian citizenship matters. If you are looking for a recommendation, please don't hesitate to contact us at nationaloffice@osia.org.



Throughout the United States and Italy, OSDIA is home to nearly 400 lodges, and more than 100,000 members and affiliates. Through scholarships, cultural activities, philanthropic efforts, and advocacy on behalf of the Italian American community, our members are making a difference in their communities.





Event to raise funds for Derby firefighter ahead of kidney transplant surgery

CT Post

The Valley Regional Lodge 151 in Derby, Connecticut is hosting a fundraiser for a local firefighter, Chris Matto, battling kidney disease. The event will offer dinner and various raffles, with all proceeds going towards the Matto family.

Learn More



In East Meadow, Italian heritage takes center stage at Eisenhower Park

LI Herald

The OSDIA Grand Lodge of New York recently helped sponsor an Italian American Night in East Meadow, gathering members of the local community for a celebration of Italian music and culture.

Learn More



Ellen Andrasick is Nassau's senior woman of the year

Newsday

Ellen Andrasick, the trustee of America Lodge 2245 in Franklin, New York, was recently named Nassau's senior woman of the year for her volunteer fundraising work for charity. New York State Rep. Ed Ra praised her involvement with various projects, ranging from litter clean up to driving older community members to doctor appointments.

[Learn More](#)



News from the Boot

Check out the latest from Italy!

Italian-style community theaters are designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Finestre sull'Arte

UNESCO has officially inscribed Italy's 18th- and 19th-century "condominio" theaters — a network of community-owned playhouses across central Italy — on its World Heritage List. The decision came from the World Heritage Committee's 48th session in Busan, South Korea (July 19–29, 2026).



[Learn More](#)

Rome to host major exhibition of art by Keith Haring

Wanted in Rome



Beginning in October, Palazzo Braschi in Rome will host a retrospective dedicated to the late artist Keith Haring. The exhibition will display work from throughout his career, and have sections focusing on his work about various social issues. The exhibit will also showcase his work created in Italy that has since been lost but are preserved in photos.

[Learn More](#)

Euro 2020 winning coach Roberto Mancini hired as Italy manager

CNN

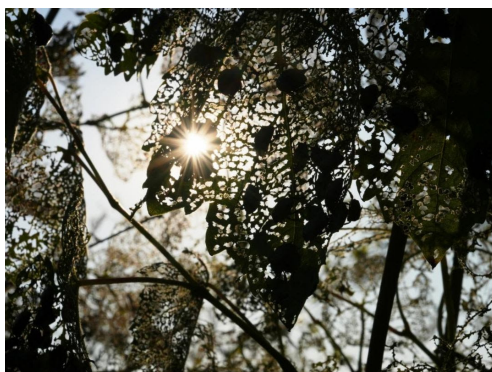
Italian soccer federation president Giovanni



Malagò announced Mancini as the new Italy coach on Tuesday [July 28], adding that Claudio Ranieri will become the new technical director after Paolo Maldini stepped down the previous day – just 16 days after being appointed.



Learn More



Japanese beetle advances through northern Italy's vineyards and orchards, frustrating farmers

AP News

Italian farmers have increasingly been struggling with the damage caused by the Japanese beetle. While the bug has long been a pest in the United States, it was only recently introduced to Europe, where it has proven to have an appetite for a wide variety of plants, threatening harvests.

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Inside iMembersDB

TIPS & TRICKS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF OSDIA'S OFFICIAL MEMBER MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

 **iMembersdb**
A MEMBER MINDER PRO COMPANY

What is iMembersDB?

iMembersDB is OSDIA's official membership management platform. With nearly 400 lodges throughout the United States, and tens of thousands of members, iMembersDB makes it easy to recruit, manage and engage members in one place.

iMembersDB is also home to all of your lodge member benefits. If you are a member of an OSDIA Lodge, you can access our exclusive discounts, digital access to [Italian America magazine](#), and more! **If you are an At-Large Member, log-in at the Members-Only Portal at osdia.org.**

How do I log into iMembersDB?

1. Navigate to imembersdb.com and select "Login to iMembersDB". (For the best experience, we recommend accessing iMembersDB from a computer, as it is not currently optimized for mobile devices. Additional information regarding the mobile app will be shared in a future edition.)
2. Enter your username (typically the email address your lodge has on file) and password and click "Log In." **NOTE:** If you have never logged into iMembersDB before, you will need to reset your password. Click "Reset Password" on the log in dialogue box to have a link sent to your email.
3. If you have any issues with logging in, please contact your local lodge or reach out to the OSDIA National Office at nationaloffice@osia.org or (202) 547-2900.

Stay tuned to future editions of *Questo Mese* for more details on how to get the most out of iMembersDB.

Visit iMembersDB

Become a Member



Help us Highlight Your Lodge's Festivals & Festas!

We are compiling a comprehensive list of OSDIA lodges that sponsor or participate in local Italian festivals and festas. This resource will help showcase the incredible cultural traditions happening across our organization and serve as a valuable reference for members nationwide.

To ensure your lodge is included, please take a moment to complete this short questionnaire at the link below:

Click Here for Submission Link



Reminder: OSDIA Membership Pins, Banners & Regalia for Sale through Russell Hampton!



Calling all local lodge leaders!

All official OSDIA membership pins, banners, regalia, Dante scholarship medals, and other branded merchandise are available for purchase through our partners at Russell Hampton.

If you are an officer at a local lodge and are interested in these items for your lodge, please purchase directly through the link below!

Order Through Russell Hampton



SOCIAL MEDIA

Post of the Month



Little Italy is Back on the NYC Immigrant Enclaves Map 🇮🇹 🗽

After backlash from the CSJ and other Italian American organizations due to the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs' exclusion of Little Italy on the recently released "Immigrant Enclaves" Map, Mayor Zohran Mamdani has responded to ensure that Little Italy will be added to the map. The CSJ applauds this decision, while calling on the city to recognize all historic Italian American communities.

The CSJ remains committed to advocating for accurate representation of Italian American history, culture, and contributions, and will continue working with community organizations and government leaders to promote a more complete and inclusive understanding of New York City's diverse immigrant communities.

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



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.





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