

# July Questo Mese Newsletter

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

Date Wednesday, July 1st, 2026 at 9:00 PM



July | Luglio 2026

A MESSAGE FROM

## National President, Thomas A. Lupo



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Last month, OSDIA reached its founding anniversary, and as Independence Day approaches in the coming days, we are reminded of what it takes to build something worth carrying forward. I hope this summer is bringing you rest and renewed energy, and I've been heartened to see the continued dedication our members and officers bring to strengthening both our organization and our communities.

On June 22, 1905—121 years ago this past month—Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro and five fellow Italian immigrants founded our organization in New York City's Little Italy, under the original name Ordine Figli d'Italia. What began as a mutual aid society, offering members support with education, citizenship, and health benefits, laid the foundation for the work OSDIA carries forward today: championing the wellbeing, education, and heritage of Italian Americans across the country.

Also of note last month were the state conventions of the Grand Lodges of California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. I would like to extend my congratulations to each of these Grand Lodges for hosting such successful events. I'm also pleased to note that representatives from OSDIA national

leadership were present at each convention, greeting members and Grand Lodge leaders as they shared updates and news from their state.

Moreover, I want to thank all OSDIA members and supporters for raising more than \$60,000 over the past several months in support of Cyclone Harry relief. These critical funds will be allocated evenly between two local restoration projects: Piazza Nosside in Locri, Calabria, and Sotto il Pozzo in Aci Castello, Sicily. Both projects were recently selected and approved by the Sons of Italy Foundation board, ensuring that funds reach impacted communities quickly. While we have come a long way through our grassroots fundraising efforts, there remains an opportunity to expand your impact by [making a donation](#). For more information on these projects, read further in this newsletter.

On a final note, as we approach Independence Day and the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, I want to take some time to reflect on the many contributions Italian Americans have made to the fabric of American life throughout our history. It is often overlooked that our nation's very name traces back to Amerigo Vespucci, the Italian explorer whose maps first identified the New World as a separate continent.

I would also like to highlight the story of Filippo Mazzei: a close friend of Thomas Jefferson and a passionate supporter of the American Revolution, whom many historians credit with inspiring the phrase "all men are created equal" in the Declaration of Independence. Decades later, it was another Italian, Constantino Brumidi, who spent over twenty years painting the halls and dome of the U.S. Capitol, leaving behind some of the most enduring artistic images of American democracy. And in the generations since, millions of Italian immigrants and their descendants have added their labor, service, and spirit to building this nation, from the railroads and factories to the battlefields and boardrooms of this great country.

As we celebrate this milestone year for our country, and celebrate within our local communities and lodges, let us recognize the role our community has played, and continues to play, in building this great nation over the past two and a half centuries.

Fraternally,

Thomas A. Lupo

*National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America*



## **SIF's Cyclone Harry Relief Fund Surpasses \$60,000 and Identifies Local Recovery Efforts to Support**



*A community in Southern Italy in the aftermath of Cyclone Harry. Photo courtesy of Exploring Italy via Facebook.*

As a result of grassroots fundraising across the United States, OSDIA has raised more than \$60,000 to benefit Cyclone Harry relief in impacted areas across Southern Italy.

The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF), OSDIA's philanthropic arm, has recently approved two local projects in southern Italy, and funds will be split evenly between the two local restoration projects in communities impacted by the storm: Piazza Nosside in Locri, Calabria and Sotto il Pozzo in Aci Castello, Sicily. The money raised will go directly towards assisting those affected.

Cyclone Harry caused devastating destruction across Southern Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia. Families have been displaced, homes destroyed, and entire communities are facing widespread flooding, infrastructure damage, and prolonged power outages.

Earlier this year, OSDIA National President Thomas A. Lupo and OSDIA National Executive Director Shayla Kaestle met with Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani, and Ambassador Marco Peronaci at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to coordinate ongoing humanitarian relief efforts, joined by other Italian American leaders. Since then, OSDIA has continued to actively work alongside the Italian government to support affected communities.

While the support of our members has already raised life-saving support, **we still need your help to reach our goal of \$100,000.**

Click below to learn more and help us amplify our impact within affected communities.

**Learn More & Donate**



# OSDIA Grand Lodge Convention Spotlight

## California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York

This past month, the OSDIA Grand Lodges of California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York hosted their state conventions, each of which convened members and leaders throughout each state to share updates and news from local lodges.

Members of OSDIA national leadership were proud to be present at each of the four conventions, meeting with local leadership and dedicated members from around the country. See below for spotlights on each of the four recent Grand Lodge conventions.

### Grand Lodge of California

June 24-June 27, 2026 | Sacramento, CA



*From left to right: Arlene Nunziati, OSDIA National Trustee, Mark Vaona, President of the OSDIA Grand Lodge of California, Mark DeNunzio, OSDIA National 2nd Vice President, Maria Fassio Pignati, Sons of Italy Foundation Trustee, Shayla Kaestle, OSDIA National Executive Director, and Lori Rossi, Recording Secretary of the OSDIA Grand Lodge of California.*

### Grand Lodge of Connecticut

June 20, 2026 | Derby, CT



*From left to right: Robert M. Ferrito, OSDIA National 5th Vice President, Joseph Bellizzi, President of the OSDIA Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and Dan Onofrio, Past President, OSDIA Grand Lodge of Connecticut.*

### Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

June 27, 2026 | Watertown, MA



### Grand Lodge of New York

June 25-June 28, 2026 | Albany, NY



*Leaders from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts pose for a photo at their 112th state convention. Photo courtesy of the Piave Fiume Lodge 1036 via [Facebook](#).*

*From left to right: Robert M. Ferrito, National 5th Vice President, Arthur Spera, President of the Grand Lodge of New York, Thomas A. Lupo, OSDLA National President, and Biagio J. Isgro, Jr., OSDLA National Financial Secretary.*



## **Phoenix Lodge 3017 Instituted in Phoenix, Arizona**



*(Left to right:) Michael Bonano, Guard; Nicholas Pelusio, Master of Ceremonies/Trustee; Christopher Cuffaro, Trustee; Mary Fennello, Financial Secretary; Debbie Joy, Trustee; Michelle Micalizzi, Vice President; Michael Farrar, President; Dan Kaestle, New Lodge Formation Committee Chair; Marie Chiamonte, Leonardo DaVinci Lodge President; Paul Ghiglieri, Chaplain/Trustee; Mary Lou DeSanto, Trustee; Kathleen Bonano, Treasurer; Donna Adams, Trustee.*

The New Lodge Formation committee is pleased to announce the institution of the Phoenix Lodge 3017 on June 25, 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The ceremonies were conducted by New Lodge Formation Committee Chair, Dan Kaestle; and Leonardo DaVinci Lodge President, Marie Chiamonte.



*Mike Farrar sworn in as the president of the new lodge 3017.*



*The Phoenix Lodge initiated 27 eager Italian Americans after a wonderful Italian meal at Tommy V's. All of the membership was not able to attend, the total charter members stands at 32.*



## Umbria Travel Spotlight

### Lake Piediluco, Province of Terni



*Lake Piediluco is Umbria's second largest lake.*

Surrounded by forests and mountains, Lake Piediluco has captivated travelers for generations. It was written about in the works of Richard Lassels, Goethe and Lord Byron, and was depicted in numerous paintings by artists such as Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot.



Its shoreline extends about 8 miles among the hills of the Umbrian Apennines. Along with Lakes Lungo, Ripasottile and Ventina, Lake Piediluco is part of what remains of *Lacus Velinus*, a vast basin that was drained when the Romans created Marmore Falls in the 3rd century BC. It also provides a habitat for water birds such as Grey Herons and Kingfishers, birds of prey such as the Short-Toed Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon, and several native and non-native fish species such as

the Eel, Brown Trout, and Pumpkinseed Sunfish.

The lake has been a fruitful site for archeological research. Evidence dating back to the Bronze Age has been found, including fibulae, weapons, and chariot wheels. It has also been home to several legends, the most famous of which is the story of a dragon that hid among the marshes and poisoned the land with its breath.



One of the best ways to get to know the lake and its surrounding area is with a boat tour. During the tour, local guides share stories about the lake and its history, including experiments performed by Galileo Galilei and the visits of actress Brigitte Bardot. The lake's regular winds and lack of strong currents makes it ideal for kayaking, pedal boating, and rowing, allowing for a visit that can be both relaxing and active.

Click below to learn more about Lake Piediluco on Umbria's official tourism website.

## Learn More

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*Photos courtesy of the Region of Umbria via [umbriatourism.it](http://umbriatourism.it)*



# Our Italian Roots | OSDIA Members Reflect on Their Ancestral Towns

📍 **Comune di Lioni | Region of Campania – Province of Avellino**



*Fran posing with her newly found cousins, Gaetano and Lina in Lione, Italy.*

**By Frances R. Curcio**

*Father Vincent R. Capodanno Lodge 212 | Staten Island, New York*

My cherished grandfather, Salvatore Cipollaro, was only 14 years old when he left Contursi, in 1904 to journey to America. He left his parents and several siblings. I was curious about his sisters: Did they marry? Did they leave Contursi? These questions went unanswered during my first visit 15 years ago, when I started to search for my roots.

The key to my success was a 1962 postcard from Lioni, sent from my nonno to my aunt. Nonno was visiting relatives in an unidentified house pictured on the postcard. Lioni is a small town with about 6,400 people in the Province of Avellino. I was excited to have this scrap of information, but in which house did Nonno stay? I decided to travel to Lioni to find out.

I flew to Naples and asked my driver to escort me to Lioni. He said the scene on the postcard may not exist anymore because an earthquake in 1980 claimed over 2,700 lives and left 400,000 homeless. We walked around, but we did not meet anyone. We went to the *municipio* (town hall), during which the clerk checked records that survived the earthquake. After a while, she returned with a card, noting the death of Cristina Cipollaro Carfagna, born in 1872 to Alfonso and Margherita Cipollaro — my nonno's parents. I found my nonno's sister! The clerk said there were still Carfagnas in Lioni.

After visiting the *municipio*, we returned to the street on the postcard. An elderly man saw us and asked if we needed help. My guide said we were looking for Carfagnas. The man's eyes opened wide. He excitedly said his wife is Carfagna, and invited us into his house. He told her I was visiting from America, looking for Carfagnas.

"Who are you?" she asked. I replied, "I am the granddaughter of Salvatore Cipollaro." In shock, she said his nickname, "Totore!" She recalled his visit in 1962! We hugged and cried. Her husband had tears of joy with disbelief that I had found them!

We spent the afternoon together. I return to Italy every year, and I am a proud carrier of an Italian passport and author of "[Mio Nonno Totore and the American Dream.](#)"

**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.*



**OSDIA Member Mary Ann Re Named Vice Chair of  
the Italian American Museum of Washington, D.C.**



*Photo courtesy of LAMDC via [Facebook](#).*



*Photo courtesy of the Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center.*

Following a board meeting on May 31, 2026, the Italian American Museum of Washington, DC (IAMDC) elected Mary Ann Re, longtime educator and [OSDIA Gold Member](#) as its Vice Chair.

Re, who has extensive experience in higher education, cultural programming and Italian American studies, joins a number of other distinguished elected leaders. Prior to this role, Re was the first Director of the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America at Montclair State University and was Executive Director of the [State of New Jersey's Italian Heritage Commission](#) (NJIHC). Re is also a current member of the OSDIA National Scholarship Committee, which heads the rigorous selection process for the Sons of Italy Foundation National Leadership grant program.

In addition to Re, IAMDC announced that S. Joseph Bruno, CPA will serve as Chair of the Board. Gene L. Dodaro, former Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) was also announced as joining the IAMDC's Board of Directors and its Corporate Board.

"The Board is fortunate to benefit from the collective experience and dedication of its members, said Francesco Igrò, Esq., President & CEO of IAMDC. "Together, they bring exceptional expertise in public service, education, nonprofit leadership, finance, and cultural advocacy."

OSDIA extends a heartfelt congratulations to Re for this recognition of her extensive work in Italian American studies, and wishes her the best as she steps into this important new role.

Click the button below to read more about the IAMDC's new leadership.

[Read IAMDC's Press Release](#)



## **Exclusive Members-Only Webinar: Building Brain Healthy Habits**

Join us on **Monday, July 13th at 1 pm ET** for *Building Brain Healthy Habits*, our next members-only webinar hosted in partnership with the [Alzheimer's Association](#).



The session will be led by **Janis Jasinsky**, a community educator for the Alzheimer's Association. Jasinsky's experience caring for her mother with Alzheimer's and vascular dementia sparked her involvement with the organization. She has been raising money and awareness for the organization for over 15 years, and has been a volunteer community educator for the past 12 years. In this role, she has educated the public on the issues related to Alzheimer's. She also teaches a class on assisting aging loved ones through the

Clark College Economic and Community Development program.

Research shows there are everyday habits that can protect the brain as it ages, reducing the risk of cognitive decline. This webinar will explain those habits and the importance of brain health, and will provide guidance for creating a personalized plan to implement brain-healthy habits.

Register today for our fascinating and informative presentation on the most up-to-date brain science.

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

**Register Today!**

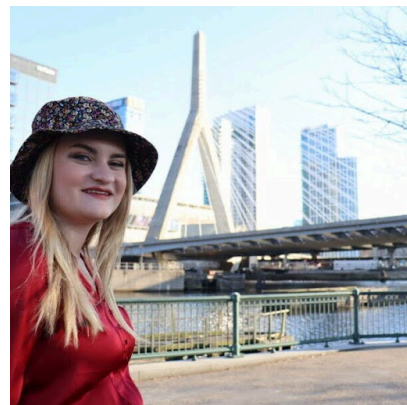
*\*Registration will close on Saturday, July 11th at 11:59pm ET*



## **Exclusive Members-Only Webinar: STARS of the Spectrum**

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

The webinar will feature **Cierra June** and **Stefano Micali**. June has been performing and competing in vocal competitions since age six. She is currently a vocal 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. Micali is a singer and guitar player. He graduated from Bunker Hill Community College in 2021 with an Associates Degree in music. He is a member of the Spectrum of Sound Choir and recently recorded his first original song, "Enthusiasm."



Through speeches and musical performances, the two will share their experiences with autism and how it has impacted their lives.

This presentation is put together by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, a longtime partner of OSDIA and its philanthropic arm, the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF). The SIF is one of the top five longest tenured partners to the Flutie Foundation and one of its highest cumulative financial contributors.

**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*



## OSDIA Spotlight: Florida Lodge Hosts America250 Event in Honor of Military Veterans



*President Maddie McNeal and the veterans awarded a pin in honor of their service.*

The [Joseph B. Franzalia Lodge 2422](#) of Fort Walton Beach, Florida recently held a celebration for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The event brought together generations of families and guests. The event included bocce, a shared picnic meal, and a tribute to local military veterans.

The bocce tournament united players of all ages and skill levels, bringing laughter, cheers, and lively debates over the winners. The tournament showcased community bonds and the ongoing preservation of traditions for younger generations.

The picnic combined Italian dishes and American picnic classics. Over the meal, people chatted and connected, a welcoming atmosphere filling the space.

The day was completed with a special ceremony dedicated to honoring military veterans. Lodge President Maddie McNeal presented each veteran with a commemorative pin. The pins served as a lasting token of appreciation for the veterans' bravery and sacrifices celebrated on this anniversary.

President McNeal also expressed her gratitude for the Lodge's members and ongoing work.

“Through our charity, our scholarships, our veterans' initiatives, and our community outreach, we carry forward the values of our ancestors while lifting up the next generation,” said President McNeal. “We don't just remember history; we actively serve it. As America enters its next 250 years, let us pledge to keep our heritage alive, to keep our community strong, and to always honor and look after the veterans who kept us free.”



*Attendees compete in bocce tournament.*



*Members and guests enjoying the food provided.*



*Both the American flag and the Italian flag were displayed at the event.*



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.



*OSDIA in Wakefield, MA Supports Local Charities*

**Patch**

Wakefield Lodge 1734 in Wakefield, Massachusetts, held a presentation for members about the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, where a representative of the organization performed an Italian aria and an original song. The Lodge also held a sheets and towels drive for Mission of Deeds.

[Learn More](#)



*Italian festival fills Town Hall lawn*

**Amityville Record**

Constantino Brumidi Lodge 2211 in Deer Park, New York helped host the Town of Babylon's annual Italian Food Festival. Featuring food and live music, the festival brought people together while encouraging attendees to donate to a Pasta & Sauce Food Drive.

[Learn More](#)



*Manetta honored with Golden Lion Award for Community Leadership*

**Babylon Beacon**

Councilman Anthony Manetta received the Golden Lion Award from the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America New York State Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. for his service to the Town of Babylon.

[Learn More](#)



*Winthrop Mixed Lodge 2057 celebrates its 70th anniversary*

**Winthrop Transcript**

Winthrop Mixed Lodge 2057 recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. Since its founding in 1956, the Lodge has supported various charities, as well as education at the local high school. The celebration included dinner, a raffle, and music.

[Learn More](#)



## News from the Boot

Check out the latest from Italy!

*NASA picks Italian Astronaut Parmitano as pilot for Artemis III mission*



**Wanted in Rome**

Luca Parmitano was chosen to join the Artemis III mission planned for 2027, making him the first European astronaut selected for any Artemis mission. The mission will be the first to test moon landers from SpaceX and Blue Origin in space,

working towards future lunar landing missions. Parmitano has already spent 366 days in space over two missions to the International Space Station and has carried out six spacewalks.

## Learn More

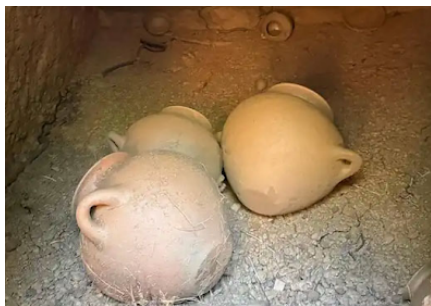
### *Bologna's niche festival of forgotten films captures the streaming generation*

#### **The Guardian**

Bologna's Il Cinema Ritrovato is a nine day film festival known for showing restored and rediscovered films. Now in its 40th year, the festival draws tens of thousands of viewers eager to see the films, some of which are over a century old.



## Learn More



### *Second intact Etruscan tomb discovered in Italy's San Giuliano Necropolis*

#### **Archeology Magazine**

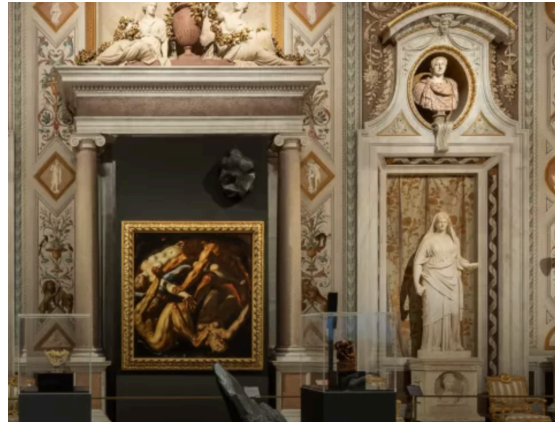
Another Etruscan tomb was discovered in San Giuliano. Many other tombs found in the area were looted centuries ago, but this one remains intact.

## Learn More

## *Galleria Borghese celebrates Ovid's Metamorphoses with exhibition*

### **Wanted in Rome**

Rome's Galleria Borghese is showing *Metamorphoses. Ovid and the Arts* throughout the summer. The exhibition draws on Ovid's epic poem and focuses on the theme of transformation as a powerful force for both destruction and creation. A collaboration with the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the works of Michelangelo, Rodin, Brancusi, and several other renowned artists.



### **Learn More**



## *Giovanni Malagò elected new Italian soccer fed chief*

**ANSA**

Giovanni Malagò was elected president of the Italian Soccer Federation after Italy's third consecutive year of failing to qualify for the World Cup. Malagò is the former chief of the Italian Olympic Committee, and is currently focused on consolidating the team.

### **Learn More**



## **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](#)



## June Lodge Anniversaries



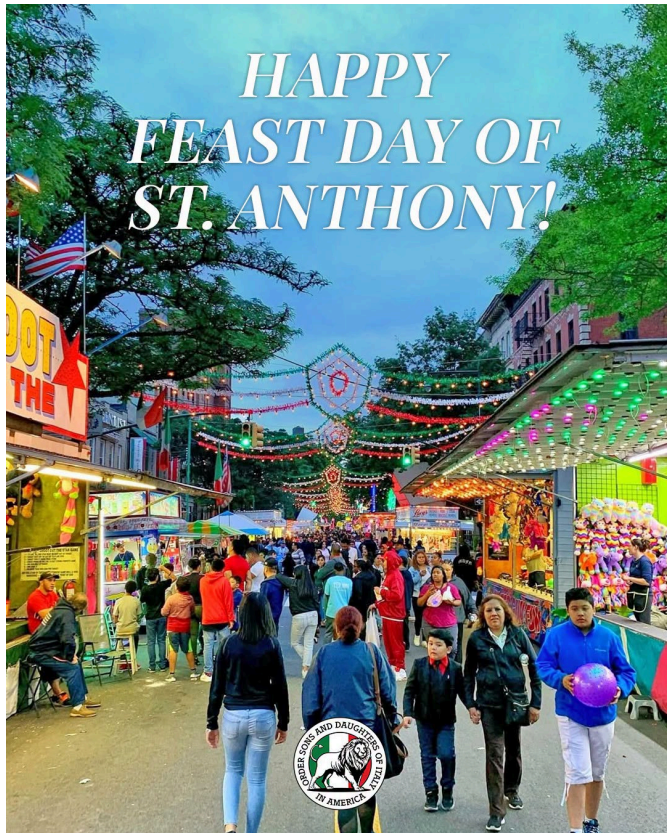
This past month, the following lodges reached important anniversaries. The National Office congratulates these lodges on reaching these important milestones and wishes them the best for the years ahead!

- **100 Year Anniversary:** Braintree Ladies Lodge 1422 | Braintree, MA
- **50 Year Anniversary:** Giovanni Caboto Lodge 2372 | Bellmore, NY



**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Post of the Month**



Buona Festa di Sant'Antonio!

Known as the patron saint of lost items and champion of the poor, the Feast Day of St. Anthony represents a deeply-rooted tradition of community care and charity, and is celebrated worldwide by millions of Italians and Italian Americans alike.

Some of the largest celebrations will be taking place both today and later this summer in New York City and Boston's North End.

This weekend, the Bronx Feast of St. Anthony in New York City will be wrapping up its five-day celebration along Arthur Avenue and East 187th St. The festivities will include a traditional statue procession, live music, carnival rides, and Italian street food.

[Visit Post](#)



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

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## 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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