

April Questo Mese Newsletter

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

Date Wednesday, April 1st, 2026



April | Aprile 2026

A MESSAGE FROM

National President, Comm. Thomas A. Lupo



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we welcome the month of April, I am encouraged by the progress taking place across our Order. The strength of OSDIA lies in the commitment of our members and leadership, and it is inspiring to see that dedication reflected in the work being done at every level of the organization.

This month, I am pleased to share the launch of our newly redesigned OSDIA national website.

This new platform represents an important step forward in how we communicate, engage, and connect with our members and the broader Italian American community. With enhanced functionality, updated resources, and a more dynamic user experience, the website will serve as a central hub for news, events, and initiatives across the Order.

Excitement continues to build for the 37th Annual National Education and Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala, which will be held on May 28, 2026, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. This year's gala will proudly celebrate the Region of Umbria, highlighting its rich cultural heritage, history, and contributions to both Italy and the Italian American experience. We look forward to honoring distinguished individuals whose leadership and service have made a meaningful impact, while also supporting the vital work of the Sons of Italy Foundation and investing in the next generation of Italian American leaders through scholarships.

This winter, lodges across the country came together to hold officer installation ceremonies. I would like to congratulate all of our newly installed lodge officers. Your willingness to step forward and serve reflects a deep commitment to our Order and to the continued growth of our organization.

March also provided an opportunity for reflection and celebration, as lodges across the country honored St. Joseph's Day. From St. Joseph's tables to local gatherings, these celebrations serve as a reminder of the values that unite us and the importance of preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

On another note, I was pleased to hear of the news that a statue of Christopher Columbus was recently erected at the north side of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House. The statue, which is a replica of that torn town in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2020, stands as a proud symbol of the many contributions the Italian American community has made to this great nation.

As we move further into the spring season, we remain focused on advancing our mission through service, leadership, and community engagement. The work we are doing today continues to build a strong foundation for the future of our Order, and I am confident in the direction we are heading together.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to OSDIA.

Fraternally,

Comm. Thomas A. Lupo

National President, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America



OSDIA Announces Umbria as 2026 'Region of Celebration'



The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) is proud to announce Umbria as its 2026 Region of Celebration, showcasing the culture, history, and traditions of Italy’s “green heart” at this year’s National Education & Leadership Awards (NELA) Gala.

Join us on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable evening featuring a cocktail reception, dinner, and entertainment.

Throughout the year, Umbria will be across OSDIA’s national programming, with special recognition at the NELA Gala and beyond. The NELA Gala has raised tens of millions of dollars for scholarships and charitable causes, including over \$600,000 in scholarships awarded over the past four years.

Celebrate Italian heritage and be part of a meaningful evening. Secure your tickets and explore sponsorship opportunities today.

Learn More & Buy Tickets



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OSDIA Launches New Website Experience

New 'Find a Lodge' Feature, Dedicated At-Large Member Dashboard, and More!



OSDIA is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned national website. The updated platform offers a more modern look, improved navigation, and enhanced access to news, events, and member resources. This new digital experience reflects the Order's ongoing commitment to growth, connectivity, and engaging the next generation, while continuing to honor our rich Italian heritage.

New Features Include:

- **Refreshed Look and Feel:** The new website features a modern design that enhances the overall user experience, making it easier to navigate, and engage on both desktop and mobile devices.
- **New “Find a Lodge” Feature:** With a more dynamic membership map, users can search by ZIP code to find lodges near them and apply to become members of local lodges directly through the website.
- **Updated At-Large Member Dashboard:** At-Large Members can now log in to a new and improved dashboard that allows them to view past magazine issues, manage dues, access member benefits, and update personal information, all in one place.
- **Dedicated SIF and CSJ Sites:** While still part of the main OSDIA.org website, the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) and the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) now have dedicated sites within the OSDIA domain, providing focused spaces to highlight our philanthropic initiatives and anti-defamation efforts.

Visit the New Website

[Visit the SIF Site](#)

[Visit the CSJ Site](#)



Join Us for Our Next Members Only Webinar!

Vanessa Racci: Jazz Appreciation Month and the Italian American Influence on Jazz

Join us on Friday, April 10 at 11:00 am EDT for a special Jazz Appreciation Month webinar featuring jazz vocalist Vanessa Racci. Known for her signature jazzy Italian style, Vanessa will take attendees on a journey through the rich history of Italian Americans in jazz while sharing the inspiration behind her unique sound and career.

Vanessa is also the founder of the nonprofit organization, *Italian Americans in Music*, which is



dedicated to preserving the legacy and advancing the future of Italian American contributions to the music industry.

Don't miss this engaging and educational conversation celebrating culture, creativity, and community. Even if you're unsure you can attend live, we encourage you to register to receive the recording after the event.

To learn more about Vanessa Racci and her nonprofit, visit vanessaracci.com

Click the "Register Now" button below to register* today! Not a member yet? Click on "Become a Member" to view our membership options.

Register Now!

Become a Member

Registration will close on April 8, 2026, at 11:59 PM EDT.



White House Installs 13-Foot Statue of Christopher Columbus

The new addition replicates a similar statue torn down in Baltimore, MD in 2020



On Sunday, March 22, 2026, a statue of Christopher Columbus was erected outside the White House in Washington, D.C. Installed at the north entrance of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the statue replicates a similar statue torn down in Baltimore, MD in 2020.

"This is a proud moment for Italian Americans across the nation," said John A. Fratta, President of OSDIA's anti-defamation arm, the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ). "Christopher Columbus represents the resilience and ingenuity of the nearly 17 million Americans of Italian descent, and to see his likeness so prominently displayed outside the highest seat of power in our nation's capital is deeply symbolic of our community's contributions to this great country."

In addition to being symbolic of the many contributions of the Italian American community, this new addition falls on the month of the anniversary of the 1891 New Orleans Lynching - the largest mass lynching in U.S. history, which contributed to the establishment of Columbus Day as a national holiday.



Italian America Magazine Launches Article Pitch Submission Form



Italian America, OSDIA's official quarterly magazine, and the most widely read publication for Italian American men and women in the United States, is dedicated to celebrating Italian heritage, culture, and community. We are seeking fresh voices and compelling stories to feature in upcoming issues.

Whether you have a personal story, cultural insight, historical feature, or creative piece, we invite you to submit a pitch (or a full story) outlining your idea. Story pitches should be limited to 250 words and address topics pertinent to the Italian American community.

Interested in contributing? Submit your pitch through our online form and become part of Italian America's storytelling tradition. Reach out to italianamerica@osia.org with any questions.

[Link to Submission Form](#)



OSDIA Spotlight:
Women's History Month Celebration

Carmel S. Marina Lodge 2580 | Paulsboro, New Jersey



Carmel S. Marina Lodge 2580 in Paulsboro, New Jersey hosted a heartfelt celebration in honor of International Women’s Day, bringing members and the community together for an afternoon dedicated to recognizing the strength, resilience, and contributions of women. The event featured a screening of *Cabrini*, an inspiring film highlighting themes of determination, faith, and service, values that continue to shape and uplift Italian American communities today.

The celebration paid tribute to the women who form the foundation of families and traditions, honoring mothers, daughters, sisters, and the generations of Italian women whose influence continues to be felt. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers and the warm participation of attendees, the event created a meaningful and memorable experience for all who joined in this special day.



[View More Photos Here](#)

Photos courtesy of Carmel S. Marina Lodge 2580 via Facebook.



Our Italian Roots | OSDIA Members Reflect on Their Ancestral Towns

● **Comune di San Demetrio ne' Vestini**
Region of Abruzzo – Province of L'Aquila



Lou Bruno (right) poses with San Demetrio Mayor Antonio Di Bartolomeo (left) after presenting his book of tribute, "The Love of San Demetrio."

By Lou Bruno | At-Large Member

It took the first 50 years of my life in America to piece together our family's history, and just one day in San Demetrio ne' Vestini, Italy, to complete the story. Everything I thought I knew, took on a whole new meaning.

Oh, I had expected to be greeted at the airport by my father's cousin, Ottorino, but I wasn't prepared for how his appearance strikingly mirrored that of my departed uncles whom I had loved so dearly. Even to this day, recalling my first "Bruno hug" in Italy, reduces me to tears.

I knew Ottorino would take me to the home in San Demetrio where my grandfather once lived, but it was riveting to hear that, 82 years later, the room where he died remained, “as it was.”

The cemetery, perched on a tiny hill, appeared like a small town. Along the pathway to the family mausoleum, my steps faltered as tombstones revealed the last names of childhood friends from my hometown of Midland, Pennsylvania.

In the mausoleum, face to face with the stone crypt baring his still handsomely crisp photo, I would finally “meet” my grandfather. Reverent silence lingered...

At sunset, Ottorino took us to the Bruno family’s land, which provided a panoramic view of San Demetrio and the cemetery below. (See "The Love of San Demetrio" book cover.) As he recounted the land’s rich history, Ottorino innocently revealed the climactic missing piece of the Bruno family’s history; a revelation only I could identify.

We owe our ancestors a debt of gratitude that we can never repay. Today, we stand on their shoulders, enjoying a view that they could only dream of. Writing their true story is simply a downpayment. When I left to visit “Our Italian Roots,” I thought I was going away; but what I discovered, was the journey home.



Ottorino takes Lou to visit the grandfather he never met...

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.



Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Honored with Street Naming on Staten Island



SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE JOIN THE
Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

FOR THE STREET DEDICATION CEREMONY HONORING

ANTONIO MEUCCI AND
GENERAL GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
1:00 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
WWW.GARIBALDI-MEUCCI.COM

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
17	18	19

The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum of the Sons of Italy Foundation is proud to announce the special street dedication ceremony honoring two towering figures in Italian and Italian American history: Antonio Meucci and General Giuseppe Garibaldi on Saturday, April 18th at 1:00pm on Staten Island.

In recognition of their enduring legacy and profound impact, the crossroads at the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum will be officially dedicated and renamed Giuseppe Garibaldi Way and Antonio Meucci Way. This historic occasion celebrates innovation, courage, and the lasting contributions of Italian heritage in America.

The ceremony will feature remarks, reflections, and the unveiling of the new street signs on the museum grounds. All are welcome to attend and join in this meaningful celebration of history, culture, and community as we honor two remarkable individuals whose influence continues to resonate today

See the Invite and Donate to the Event



Your Support is Still Needed!

Donate Today to Support Cyclone Relief Efforts



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

The Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) is continuing to raise critical funds to support our Italian brothers and sisters in the aftermath of Cyclone Harry, which has 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.

OSDIA is actively working alongside the Italian government to support affected communities. On February 4, 2026, OSDIA National President Thomas A. Lupo 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.

“Community has always been at the heart of our mission,” said Lupo. “The Sons of Italy Foundation stands ready to support the Italian community in their moment of need.”

For more than 60 years, the Sons of Italy Foundation has responded when disaster strikes.



From left to right: Marco Peronaci, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S.; Justin Smith, OSDIA Managing Director; Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy; Shayla Kaestle, OSDIA National Executive Director; and Comm. Thomas A. Lupo, OSDIA National President.

Your generosity will help bring relief and hope to those facing this hardship.

Click below to make your make a donation and pledge your support for Italians in need:

Donate Here



OSDIA Spotlight: Ocean City Lodge Celebrates St. Joseph's Day



Barbara Grasioli, Vice President of Ocean City Lodge 2474, along with her husband, Armando appeared on DelmarvaLife to share the lodge's traditions and its positive impact within the community. (March 2026)

In Ocean City, Maryland, Ocean City Lodge 2474 was recently featured on the local television program *DelmarvaLife* (WBOC) for its efforts to celebrate and preserve Italian heritage on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Vice President Barbara Grasioli, affectionately known as the "Meatball Lady," and her husband Armando (members since 2003) shared the lodge's history and its deep-rooted commitment to community, culture, and service.

The lodge supports more than 30 charitable organizations and awards at least three local scholarships each year, reflecting its strong philanthropic mission. Signature events, including the annual St. Joseph's Day celebration, serve as key fundraising opportunities. Held at a local church, the festival brings together members and the community for homemade food, cultural traditions, and meaningful giving, with proceeds supporting both charitable efforts and the church itself.

St. Joseph's Day remains a cherished Italian tradition rooted in faith, gratitude, and service to others. Through celebrations like these, Ocean City Lodge 2474 continues to honor its heritage while making a lasting impact in the local community.

Click here for the full story



News from the Boot

Check out the latest from Italy!

Italian Court Confirms Law



Limiting Citizenship Claimed by Descendants Abroad

La Voce Di New York

Italy's highest court upheld a new law limiting citizenship by descent, restricting eligibility to individuals with an Italian parent or grandparent rather than more distant ancestors. The decision marks a major shift from a principle dating back to 1861 and aims to reduce excessive applications and strengthen genuine ties to Italy.

[Learn More](#)



Italy buys Caravaggio painting for about \$35 million, one of its largest payouts for a single work

AP News

Italy has secured a rare portrait attributed to Caravaggio, depicting Maffeo Barberini before he became Pope Urban VIII. The acquisition ensures the culturally significant work will remain in Italy, highlighting the country's ongoing commitment to preserving its artistic heritage.

[Learn More](#)

Rome's Colosseum gets a fresh look that recreates the footprints



of long-gone columns

AP News

A recent restoration of Rome's Colosseum has unveiled a redesigned piazza that recreates the footprint of its original columns using travertine marble. The project enhances visitors' understanding of the site's historic scale while preserving its cultural significance and improving public access.

Learn More



Italian singer-songwriter Gino Paoli dies at 91

Reuters

Gino Paoli, a pioneering Italian singer-songwriter, has died at 91. A key figure in Genoa's influential music scene, he helped shape 1960s Italian pop with poetic, introspective songs like "Il cielo in una stanza" and "Sapore di sale."

Learn More

Raphael finally visits the Met — after a very long wait

Gothamist

After centuries of admiration and years of anticipation, Raphael's masterpieces have finally arrived at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in a rare, once-in-a-lifetime exhibition. Featuring over 230 works from around the world, the show offers an unprecedented glimpse into the mind and legacy of one of the Italian Renaissance's most influential artists.



Learn More



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.



"Sons & Daughters of Italy host Gaelic & Garlic dinner"

"Sons and Daughters of Italy Present Italian Dinner and 'The Italian American Dream' Musical Experience"

Florida Weekly

In Key West, Florida, the Key West Lodge 2436 treated the community to a special one-night-only Italian dinner buffet and musical performance of "The Italian American Dream." The event took place on March 19 and featured Nashville-based

22 News

In Springfield, Massachusetts, Springfield Lodge 353 recently hosted a "Gaelic & Garlic Dinner," bringing together Italian and Irish traditions in a celebration of culture and community. The event featured food, music, and fellowship, highlighting the lodge's ongoing commitment to honoring heritage while building connections across cultures.

[Read More](#)

musical artists Analisa & John at the Arthur
Sawyer American Legion Post.

[Read 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



April Lodge Anniversaries



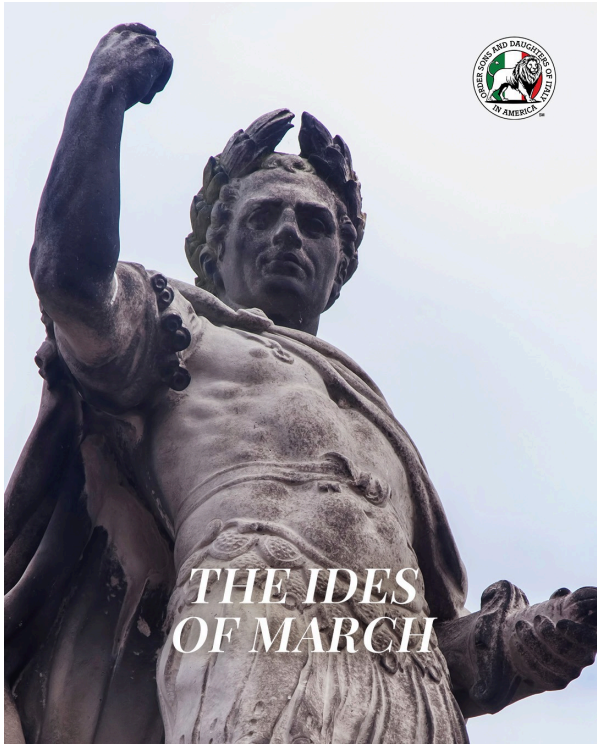
This past month, the following lodges reached important anniversaries. The National Office congratulates these lodges on reaching these important milestones and wishes them the best for the years ahead!

- **100 Year Anniversary:** Quattro Eroi Lodge 1414 | Franklin, MA
- **50 Year Anniversary:** Caesar Rodney Lodge 2359 | Dover, DE



SOCIAL MEDIA

Post of the Month



March 15th, the Ides of March, has echoed through history as the day that changed the course of Rome—and the world.

On this date in 44 BC, Julius Caesar, one of the most influential figures in ancient history, was assassinated in the Roman Senate, setting in motion the end of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire. Caesar was more than a leader and military strategist; he was a visionary whose ambition and reforms shaped Roman politics and society. His life reminds us of the fragility of power and the lasting impact of individual leadership.

The Ides of March is also a moment to reflect on Rome itself—a civilization whose art, law, and ideas still shape the modern world, reminding us of ambition and legacy. As we remember Julius Caesar and this pivotal moment, we honor a legacy that continues to inspire. History, like Rome, endures. 🏛️ ❤️

[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.



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!](#)

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