



Northwest Italian News

PUBLISHED BY ORDER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY IN AMERICA* — GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTHWEST

USPS 397-200, VOLUME XLIII, NO.10, December, 2023

Coming Events!

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Bellevue Lodge Christmas Party
Noon - 3:30

Optional Gift exchange
Cost and Menu TBD
Linda Jacobin to reserve
lindalkitten@gmail.com

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Grand Lodge Crab Dinner
Holy Family Church, Auburn
Contact: Debbie Sonstele
Sonsteli4@hotmail.com
see ad page 2 ...

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Amerigo Vespucci Valentine Day
Spaghetti Dinner
Contact: Joe "Chiacchieri"
Chicano 360-581-1072
cjchicano@comcast.com

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Tacoma Lodge Presents:
"TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
TOURNAMENT"
Slavonian Hall 2306 N 30th St,
Tacoma, WA 98403 More info to
follow
Contact: David Madrid
Cell: 253-961-6526
Email: dsjrmadrid@gmail.com
www.davemadridspotlight.com

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Spring Grand Council, Embassy
Suites-Lynnwood
Contact: Tony Anderson
osdia1957@gmail.com

From the Office of State President Linda Buccini Anderson



First, I want to thank Mike Sepal from the Auburn Lodge for coordinating the group for the 58th Veterans Day Parade. We had thirty marchers & three cars for those who could not march. Following the Parade the Ladies led by Antonette Muir, Lina Stella Gagnon, and our National Trustee Rosetta Stella Beyersdorf served us homemade turkey soup along with Italian salads, coffee from Cafe

D'arte & dessert. What a wonderful day to honor our veterans and our recently passed Brother Ronnie Beyersdorf!

"Buon Natale," The holidays are such a special time for all of us. It is funny how many people looking on make the misconception I made about an Italian Christmas. That was no matter where someone came from in Italy, we all did the same thing. Well, I was wrong.

One Christmas as part of our lodge party each of us talked about our own traditional Christmas and there were many different traditions. Many times depends on where your family originally came from. If you were near the sea, you more than likely did the seven fishes, others inland did Italian meats and cheeses, Sausage, ham, meatballs, and some like my family did "American" dinners. In my case my grandparents although proud to be Italian, wanted their family to be "American" That is one of the many reasons I joined the Sons and Daughters of Italy, which was to find my Italian culture. Take the time to talk with your fellow members and learn how their holidays were celebrated.

I am pleased to see more lodges are finding a way to make families a part of their meetings. Building fun as well as fond memories with your families at your lodge is building your lodge's future. Not only are the parents more likely to get involved but their children can too as well as being your lodge's future. New members are the building blocks of a lodge. Remember, you were that new member once. As you got comfortable you started getting involved and helping more, not by just moving tables & chairs, but by becoming a committee chair, or in an officer's role.

That is what I mean by new members are the building blocks of your lodge. If you are not reaching out, and welcoming new members, you are counting down the days to the end of your lodge, & no one wants that. So, get excited, and energized, and share that you are part of the Sons and Daughters of Italy, and people will want to join. I am looking forward to a fun and successful year for all of us.

Buon Natale and Buon Anno Nuovo



Linda Buccini Anderson, President, Grand Lodge of the Northwest
(253) 225-2483 linda@glnw.org

Coming Events!

Sunday August 25, 2024, Noon - 4:30 pm
Cataldo Lodge Annual Picnic, Elks Picnic Shelter
4131 Pine Road, Bremerton
Contact Bill Haberstock 360 373-4341

Saturday, May 11, 2024 Starts at 6:00 pm
Auburn lodge annual Wine Tasting
Holy Family Church 505-17th St. S.E.
Price \$35.00 per person
No one under 21 years of age

Saturday, March 23, 2024
Tacoma Lodge Presents:
"TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER TOURNAMENT"
Slavonian Hall 2306 N 30th St, Tacoma, WA
98403 More info to follow
Contact: David Madrid
Cell: 253-961-6526
Email: dsjrmadrid@gmail.com
Web: <https://davemadridspotlight.com>



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
It is with much sorrow that I must inform you that **Sharon Pioli**, wife of Paul Pioli, our Grand Lodge Financial Secretary, passed away recently. A memorial service is being planned for January to allow family members living out of the area to be part of this ceremony. Our hearts and prayers go out to Paul and his family for their loss.

Cards for Paul and his family can be sent to the following address:
542 N. 73rd St., Seattle, WA. 98103-5133

Respectfully;
Linda Buccini Anderson



Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

*Grand Lodge of the
Northwest*

Annual Crab Dinner

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Holy Family Church - 505 17th St, Auburn, WA

\$60.00 per person

Doors open at 6pm - Dinner served at 7pm

Crab, Pasta, Salad, Dessert, Coffee, Bottled Water, Beer & Wine * Raffle Prizes Galore!!!



**Seating Limited to 250 People
Buy Your Tickets Early!**



THIS EVENT SELLS OUT EVERY YEAR - DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
Ticket sales will end February 1, 2024 or when sold out.



To-go pick-up sales are also available separately- also \$60 ea.

For Information and Ticket Sales - Contact:
Debbie Sonstelie (253) 797-9515 Sonstelie4@hotmail.com

**American-Italian Club
#2172 Spokane WA**

Ciao a tutti, Spokane received our first winter/snow dusting! Temps have dropped and fireplaces are roaring. Winter is near! Although the weather has turned a bit nippy, our lodge has turned up the heat by being very active. At our November meeting, we have already started to prepare for 2024, by setting up committees and encouraging our members to sign up



and help support the club in our upcoming events and goals. Of course, we were not disappointed our members graciously signed up for the committee

of their choice to dedicate their time and support to help us make 2024 a successful year. Club member, Mary Bell, started a food campaign. She collected canned goods and non-perishables for a family in the Spokane community. Marilee Reagor chaired the committee for "KREM 2's TOM'S TURKEY DRIVE", at Rosauer's Markets. Tom's Turkey Drive and 2nd Harvest collaborated for another successful partnership in helping those families in need.

Thank you, Mary Bell, and Marilee Reagor, for your leadership roles in chairing these important endeavors.

It always feels good to know that we can help those in our community that need our support. Alyssa Venable has been doing a fantastic job as our Social Night Chairperson. We recently went to Downriver Grill and enjoyed a wonderful evening sharing conversation, great food, and libations. The Gorgonzola Fries and Beignets were to die for!! So Yummylious. President Judy Anselmo presented Merit Pins to Donna Clark, Ansano Giuntini, Georgia Seeberger, Tina Santorsola, Kim Assay, and Linda Marcus. These members have contributed significantly to the club and have gone over and above their normal club duties. On December 10th, we will be holding our annual Christmas Party at the Ruby River Hotel in downtown Spokane. This year we chose to hold a



luncheon instead of a dinner. Hopefully, holding the event earlier will encourage more members to attend by not having to travel at night, especially in inclement weather. At our upcoming December General Meeting, we have decided to hold another party and will table all Business until January 2024.

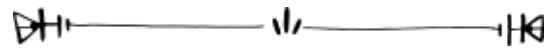
Se vedi unaslitta nel cielo, se vedi una cometa che ti mostra il cammino, e arrivato il Natale.

If you see a sleigh in the sky, you see a comet showing you the way, Christmas is here. Buona Natale

Respectfully submitted

Linda Marcus, Recording Secretary #2172

lindamarcus@hotmail.com



**Amerigo Vespucci
#1814 Aberdeen, WA**

Season's Greetings to all from the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge #1418! Amerigo Vespucci Lodge enjoyed spaghetti, provided by President Joe Chicano, along with delicious sides, salads, desserts, and appetizers, provided by members at our November meeting. The Christmas Dinner meeting will be on December 13, 2023, at 5:30 pm. Dennis Rogers is providing the prime rib. Lodge members signed up for other dinner items. Members agreed to have a Silent Auction at the dinner

*Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
from the Amerigo Vespucci #1814 Lodge
Aberdeen, Washington*



meeting, Kerin Covall and Tammy Lund volunteered to run the Silent Auction. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to the McKinney Vento Act at Hoquiam and Aberdeen schools.

Our February Valentine Spaghetti Dinner is Saturday, February 17, 2024, at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Aberdeen. Mark Percini is taking ticket orders for the dinner. Tickets are \$20. All those interested in purchasing tickets can contact Mark at (360) 532-1983 or email ppercini@comcast.net. There is a 120-seating limit. Take-out is also available. There will be a "Wheelbarrow Raffle" along with other raffle items and baked goods at the dinner. Thanks to all the members who have contributed. We will continue to collect items through our January meeting, Wheelbarrow Raffle tickets are \$5.00 or 6 for \$20.00.

President Joe Chicano reported from the Grand Lodge Council meeting that there is a video on the Grand Lodge website that he recommended members log in and see. The Grand Lodge of the Northwest has assigned Mary Jane Rogers as the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge ambassador. The Grand Lodge Crab Feed is February 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Auburn Catholic Church. The van is not available, so those going will carpool. Members must purchase their own tickets through Debbie Sonstellie at (253) 797-9515 or online at Sonstellie4@hotmail.com. Amerigo Vespucci Lodge will provide a raffle basket for the Crab Feed. Lodge members approved purchasing a quarter-page Christmas ad in the NWIN. A slate of proposed nominated 2024 Officers for Amerigo Vespucci Lodge was presented by the nominating committee. Past President Richard Luzzi commended Joe Cornell for his dedication and service to the kids of Gray Harbor, and President Joe Chicano presented him with a merit pin. We are all wishing Rena Gegen a speedy recovery from her surgery. Anyone wishing to send her "get well" wishes can send it in the care of Ed Gegen, 2015 N Ave., Anacortes, WA 98221.

Wishing everyone a "Buon Natale."

Judith Braddon, reporter

Auburn #1955 Auburn, WA

Auburn Lodge took a moment to give thanks at our November meeting. Members donated \$240 and 5 large boxes of non-perishable food items to the Auburn Food Bank. This month's meeting also featured a kid's activity table in the back. I just think it's great that we're including our families and involving the "future members" of our beloved order, and I wanted to thank Debbie Sonstellie for setting it up.

On Saturday, November 11th, the Auburn Lodge had 19 attendees represent us in the Auburn Veterans Day Parade. Attendees braved the rain and the cold, with the sun emerging just in time for the march! Afterward, they shared a meal at Les Gove that President John Partridge described as simply "delicious!" The Auburn Lodge thanks Doug Chiechi for donating the sausage for our luncheon. Of course, a big shout-out goes to Mike Sepal for taking charge of organizing this event. Well done, Sir!

Please note that our December meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13th (one day early) due to conflicts with the hall. As always, doors open at 6, abridged meeting at 7, followed by dinner, Christmas



festivities, and the raffle at Holy Family. As is custom at our Christmas meeting, please consider donating non-perishable food items or cash to the Auburn Food Bank. Rumor has it that Santa, the big man himself, has agreed to make a special appearance at our December party!! For anyone bringing a "future member" to see Santa, please discreetly bring a well-labeled parcel for distribution (Santa's eyes ain't what they used to be).

AMERICAN-ITALIAN CLUB NO. 2172

Spokane, WA

Meets the 2nd Wednesday
of each month at 6:00 PM

ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH, O'MALLEY HALL
330 E Boone Ave
Spokane, WA 99202
509-487-8552

Judy Anselmo, President

509-496-0031 judyVandyke@hotmail.com

Linda Marcus, Recording Secretary

509-891-0916 linda-amarcus@hotmail.com

AMERIGO VESPUCCI LODGE NO. 1814

Aberdeen, WA

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month
5:30 PM Social, 6:00 Dinner,
6:30 PM Meeting

ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTER

306 East 3rd, Aberdeen, WA

President Joe "Chiacchieri" Chicano

360-581-1072

cjchicano@comcast.com

AUBURN LODGE NO. 1955 Auburn, WA

www.auburnsonsofitaly.org

Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month
Doors Open at 6PM for Social Hour
Meeting at 7:00PM

Dinner and Raffle following
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH HALL
505 17th Street SE - Auburn, WA. 98002

President John Partridge

jpartridge427@gmail.com

253-350-4922



In closing, I wanted to wish all Auburn members the happiest of holiday seasons! Please celebrate with your loved ones and make fond memories. This time of year can be a lot, so please also reserve some time to care for yourself, too! Sincerely,
 Francesco Ortenzo, Immediate Past President



**Bella Vita
 #2285, Olympia, WA**

Buon Natale, Bella Vita!
 Hope everyone had a wonderful Giorno di Ringraziamento!! November was a great month visiting with everyone. Thank you to Shirley Garrison, Maria Marabella, and Amy and Elliott for preparing a delicious



variety of pasta dinners! Also, Thank You to Jim Vettori who prepared homemade meatballs in his special sauce. And lastly Thanks to all who added to this meal with salads, appetizers, and desserts. Bella Vita had a grand feast! Each lodge has its forte and Bella Vita's "forte" is our delicious dinners and time we share

together! Great to see members make an effort to come to our lodge despite the distance and the weather. As we approach the new year it is my hope that Bella Vita will continue enjoying our First Thursday of the Month meetings together with delicious foods, wines, and socialization. Our guest Naomi who visited in October returned last month to share her Cultural event: the story of her childhood with dazzling memories of



her adulthood adventure through southern Italy with her mom! At our December meeting, Bill Haberstock will be preparing and selling his famous

cannoli. We thank him in advance for driving out to Olympia and baking for us. For our last 2023 meeting Pam is roasting a Turkey...not a Pig! Thanks to all who are adding to this feast! Let's celebrate our Christmas cheer with Pam's Turkey and all the trimmings!!
 Sunshine Committee: Feel Better Wishes go out to Tony Anderson, Mathew Williams, Jim Vettori, and Joe Marmo.

Election time is upon us. All positions are open. If you are interested in being an officer please let President Sophia know. We also need to know if you would like to continue as a current officer. Remember it is now a 2 year commitment. We need to hear from you before January. We are having elections at our January meeting! Officer update: It is time for our President Sophia to say farewell and step down from her presidential position! Sophia has enjoyed her time building and supporting Bella Vita. Sophia's best part of being Bella Vita's President was getting to know and appreciate each member. She loves each one of you! She is thankful for the time she shared building fun memories and especially seeing sparkling smiles on your faces! The unconditional love and care amongst our members made President Sophia especially smile

**BELLA VITA LODGE NO. 2285
 Olympia, WA**
 Meets the 1st Thursday of each month
 Social at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm
Meeting starts at 6:30pm
MCLANE GRANGE
 931 Delphi Rd SW, Olympia 98512
Sophia Risorto, President
 760-333-7964 bellavitalodge@gmail.com
Vera DiGiulio Kay, Vice President
 (360) 581-9856
**Shirley Delauranti Garrison,
 Recording Secretary**
 253-677-8420 shirleygarrison46@gmail.com

**BELLEVUE LODGE NO. 2377
 Bellevue, WA**
 Meets the 1st Thursday
 of each month / Social: 5:30 PM
 Dinner at 6:30 PM / Meeting to Follow
UNITY CHURCH
 16330 Northeast 4th Street
 Bellevue, WA 98008
Mary DeMatteo Sangalang, President
 (425) 649-2250 / collectingroots@msn.com
Michele Guerrini, Recording Sec.
 (425) 746-2487 / guerrini@aol.com

**BLACK DIAMOND
 LODGE NO. 1809
 Black Diamond, WA**
 Meets the 2nd Friday of each month
 Social Hour 6:30 p.m. • Dinner 7 p.m.
 Meeting 8 p.m. and Raffle following
**BLACK DIAMOND
 COMMUNITY CENTER**
 31605 Third Ave (SR 169)
 Black Diamond, WA 98010
Janice Malvesti-Cole, President
 360.463.4671
jmalvesticole@gmail.com

and warmed her heart! Bella Vita truly cares about each other! And your President Sophia truly cares about you! This was the reason she cherished being your President! Let no one disrupt our Bella Vita! It is her hope that the next Bella Vita President will enjoy leading this small but spicy group just as much as she did! Buona salute e abbracci a tutti!
 Wishing everyone Buone Feste! Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo! Ci vediamo nel 2024!



**Bellevue
 #2377, Bellevue, WA**

Hello Friends, The Bellevue Lodge had its Lodge meeting on November 2nd. Michele Guerrini, Mary DeMatteo Sangalang, and Linda Caputo made spaghetti with sausages and salad for dinner. The dinner was so good it was hard for me to keep myself from going back for seconds. But if I had I probably would have had room for the pumpkin pie that Linda Jacobin made, which definitely should not be missed. It was not as rich as most because it was made from scratch and didn't contain any dairy, but had more spices than most pumpkin

pies, but just the right amount for a delicious dessert following a delicious meal. In Lodge news, we will soon be sending out applications and instructions to our members for our Lodge Scholarship. There is one \$1000 scholarship available for eligible applicants: children and grandchildren of members who will be attending college or vocational school. Next month in lieu of our regular Lodge meeting, we will have our Lodge Christmas Party at Enzo's in Issaquah on December 10, from noon to 3:30 pm. And finally, Brandi Le Barbara visited our Lodge meeting and is interested in joining. Brandi lives in Bellevue and likes to collect different Scotches. I think that Brandi will find the Bellevue Lodge to be a good fit as many of our members are also interested in liquori alcolici. In sunshine news, Bill Guerrini just turned 98. Bill's daughter Michele also has a birthday this month, but I don't know how old she is and even if I did it wouldn't be polite to say. Our deputy, Rosetta Beyersdorf, went to Italy and had just returned so she was not able to make our Lodge meeting. We sure look forward to seeing her again. We will not be having a Lodge meeting in December but instead will be having our Lodge Christmas Party.



Our next Lodge meeting will be January 4th at Unity Church, 16330 NE 4th Street, Bellevue WA: 5:30 Social Hour with wine and appetizers, 6:30 Dinner (\$10), 7:15 Meeting, and Raffle (please bring something to donate for the raffle table if you can) Tickets 6/\$5 or \$1 each.

Buon Cannoli!
 Greg Osgood



**Black Diamond
 #1809, Black Diamond, WA**

The Black Diamond Lodge members wish you heartfelt Auguri per le Feste Natalizie (Best Wishes for the Christmas Holidays). The beautiful Charcuterie Board

**CATALDO LODGE NO. 2280
 Bremerton, WA**
 Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month — Social-5:30 p.m./ Potluck-6:00 p.m./Meeting-7:30 p.m.
VFW HALL
 190 S. Dora, Bremerton, WA
MAILING ADDRESS:
 P.O. Box 4243
 Bremerton, WA 98312-0243
Bill Haberstock, President
 (360) 373-4341 / habpal@hotmail.com

CLE ELUM LODGE NO. 1968
 Meets the 2nd Sunday of Each Month
 Potluck Dinner 5:00 p.m.
 Meeting and Raffle follows
**CLE ELUM
 COMMUNITY CHURCH**
 201 East 3rd Street
 Cle Elum, WA
 Michael Butorac, President
 (509) 674-2940/
mbutorac_cabin@hotmail.com
 Mailing Address: PO Box 361
 South Cle Elum, WA 98943-0361

**MILLE CUGINI LODGE NO. 2659
 Marysville, WA**
MARYSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
 6805 Armar Rd, Marysville, WA
Patrick Jacoby, President
 (425) 478-0757 patrick@glnw.org
Rebecca Helling, Recording Secretary
 (425) 422-7434 txt
 Meets the 2nd **Thursday** of each Month
 Doors open at 6:00, Dinner is at 6:30
 7:00 Meeting



raffle was conducted at our Thanksgiving meeting and won by National VP Tony Anderson. When you receive this edition of the NWIN, the desserts from our Fall Fundraiser will have sweetened the

Thanksgiving celebrations at many households. Once again, we invite you to join our Christmas festivities and exuberant ornament exchange on December 8 (please see our Facebook invitation for details).

The early Italian immigrants had a burning desire to succeed and assimilate into their newly adopted country, so to assist in obtaining that goal they formed beneficial aid societies based on ethnic lines. The Black Diamond Sons of Italy was an organization born out of this desire. Leonardo Folino shares the following vignettes from his extensive research as a docent for the Black Diamond Museum to complement his writings in the December 2022 edition of the NWIN. He explains how the Lodge was organized through the efforts of many Italians in Black Diamond. Marie Merlini Freeman



told Leonardo that her mother did not know how to drive a car, so one of Marie's Uncles would drive her around to the various Italian farms to sign up prospective

members. A May 1948 article by Tony Fantello in the *Lo Svegliarino* (forerunner of the NWIN) mentions the helpful effort of Dominic Agari, James Vernarelli, and Margaret Vernarelli to organize the Black Diamond Sons of Italy.

"Our membership was well over a hundred members when we first organized but it dwindled during the

war years and now the peace is here again, the membership is again coming up. We hope to get to our pre-war number as soon as possible."

"Many of the officers have held offices practically since the lodge organized, such as Frank Costi in the office of Treasurer. Many others have held offices for two or three terms and more. These officers have to be commended for their work because they keep the lodge together."

As a result of their combined diligence, the Black Diamond Sons of Italy was chartered in 1937 under the sponsorship of the Loggia Tacoma 1175. Today we have eight Lodge members who are descendants of the Black Diamond chartered members and who continue to honor the tradition of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. For 86 years the Sons of Italy has been a part of the tapestry of the Black Diamond community through war, demise of the coal industry, and regeneration as a suburban oasis. Mirroring the determination of the ancestors, the Black Diamond Sons of Italy members strive to go forth to serve their communities.

Leonardo Folino



Cataldo

#2280, Bremerton, WA

Hello to everyone. We had a great turnout for our annual soup potluck. What a wonderful event it turned out to be! We had 12 pots of soup and everyone had some wonderful soups. This has become a yearly treat 1 week ahead of Thanksgiving to have a traditional Thanksgiving holiday for the holiday.

We are very pleased to have another new member to our lodge. Joy Rubens has been initiated as a Cataldo Lodge member and we are very happy to have her with us. Her husband Barry was also there.

The chef of the month is available for January, April, May, and/or June at this time. Maria Marsala has reported there are 127 people on the list and 16 members have joined our lodges. The crew that worked on the cannoli sale inside the building and out of the weather sold enough to raise \$850 in sales and were

OLYMPIC PENINSULA LODGE NO. 2733

Port Angeles/Sequim, WA
Meets 3rd Sunday of each Month
Social begins at 12:30pm
Meeting begins at 1:00pm

Bethany Pentecostal Church
508 S. Francis St, Port Angeles
WA 98362

Armando Muggia, President

muggiaac@gmail.com 360-461-5574

SEATTLE FEDELE LODGE NO. 1390

Seattle, WA
Meets 3rd Thursday of each Month
Dinner at 6:15 PM
Meeting Follows at 7:00 PM

OUR LADY OF MT. VIRGIN CHURCH HALL
2800 S Massachusetts St
Seattle, WA 98144

Laura Salle
Lsalle@comcast.net
206-371-1662

TACOMA LODGE NO. 1175

"The Mother Lodge of the Northwest"

Tacoma, WA

Meets the 1st Wednesday
Social 5:30, Meeting 6:30
Dinner Follows ~7:15
TOTEM YACHT CLUB
5045 Highlands St
Ruston, WA 98407

David Madrid, President

(253) 961-6526
motherlodge@yahoo.com



sold out by 3:00 p.m. Thank you to all of the members who assisted. That includes Bill Haberstock, Jackie Haberstock, Steve Lebeda, and Laura St. Clair. The next cannoli fundraiser will occur on December 2nd at the same place.



Jim Colello recently passed away, He will be missed.

Our annual picnic will take place on Sunday, August 25, 2024. This is always a fun event

with games, food, and white elephant raffles to be bid on. This is held in Bremerton at 4131 Pine Rd. NE, near the Elks lodge. It was nice to see Joseph, Nicole, and their children Sophia and Michael again.

Guests also include Joseph Alivia and Darlene Haberstock. It is great again to have more children coming to the lodge meetings. Other guests include John Kurlinski, Gina Natucci, and our state deputy Linda Buccini Anderson. Linda always brings us new ideas and suggestions. Cataldo Lodge donated \$1000 to the VFW which was very appreciated as noted by Tommy Thompson.



Also, our Cataldo Lodge donated \$100 to several food banks which were greatly thankful. Nominations will be held in January. The election is held in February. Steve Lebeda is in charge of the election process and is a great coordinator. Birthdays for December include Don Giamona – on 12/22, Steven Lebeda on 12/18, Diane McBain on 12/18, and Rachel McBain on 12/14. Buon Compleanno a Tutti!!!

HO HO HO! A SURPRISE FOR ALL! SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN!

Sincerely, Diane Clementi



Cle Elum #1968, Cle Elum, WA

It's been said and repeated that more Americans travel on the Thanksgiving Holiday than at any other time of the year. For many it is an adventure to be cherished, thus our ability to relate to the trials and tribulations

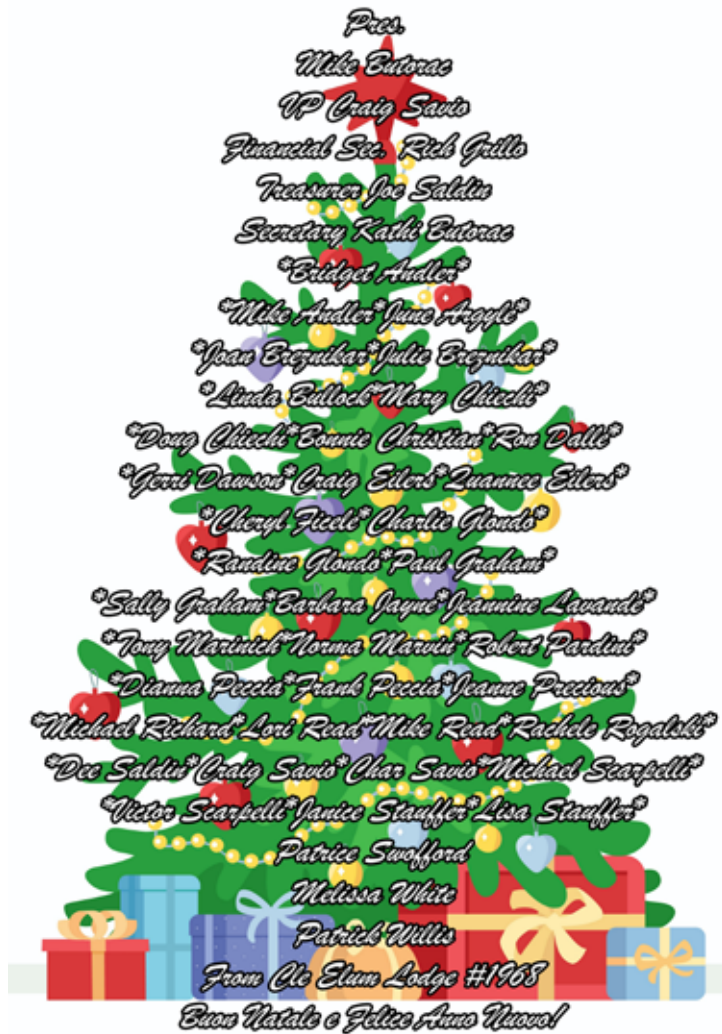


encountered by Neal and Del in one of our fondest holiday movies; Planes, Trains, and Automobiles. Members and Guests of Cle Elum Lodge, traveling

TRE CITTÀ LODGE #2881
TRI-CITIES, WA
Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month
Social/Dinner 5:30 pm
Meeting follows at 7:00 pm
Bella Italia Restaurant
7000 W. Okanogan Pl., Kennewick, WA
Marcel Bergeron, President
509.554.4924 / marce.bergeron@gmail.com
John Cacioppo, Recording Secretary
360-509-8287/john.cacioppo2@gmail.com

VANCOUVER LODGE NO. 2690
Vancouver, WA
Meets the 2nd Thursday
of each month
FAMILY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
3500 N.W. 129th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685
6:30 p.m. Dinner
Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
ROSANN GRZESIEWSKI, President
360-601-8410 ro_gar@comcast.net

YAKIMA LODGE NO. 2732
Yakima, WA
Meets the
3rd Thursday
of each month at 5:30 PM
HARMAN CENTER
101 North 65th Avenue
Yakima, Washington 98908
Robin Costanzo-Miller, President
(509) 452-5389
e-mail c/o gmawidner@yahoo.com



from near and far, gathered together on November 12th, in friendship and fraternity, to enjoy a potluck Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Our turnout for the meeting was our largest in some time, thus requiring two large turkeys, several side dishes, and numerous desserts, plus a couple of gallons of turkey gravy. Following the dinner Lodge President Mike Butorac welcomed all those present which included guests Dan and Kathy Rempe, John and Betsy Medrano, Jerri Pardini, spouse of Lodge Member Robert, Virginia Depicolzuane and her son Ed, the family

of our late former member Lou, and Bob Bullock, spouse of Lodge Member Linda. Our newest member, Jeannine Lavande, was initiated into the lodge by President Mike and acting Herald, Craig Savio. Our membership continues to grow with the receipt of two more applications from Kathy and Daniel Rempe of Sammamish. Welcome to Cle Elum Lodge.

Other business considered by the Lodge included the appointment of Recording Secretary Kathi Butorac as Ambassador Program representative to the Grand Lodge and holding our Christmas Dinner and meeting on December 10th at the Sunset Café in Cle Elum.

We will have a gift exchange. To participate, please bring a gift of \$15 value. A nominating committee for the selection of next year's officers was formed and includes lodge members Dee Saldin, Linda Bullock, and Tony Marinich.

Also, we will continue to hold our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Scholarship Auction at the Putnam Centennial Center in March. A congratulatory note was extended to lodge member Rachele Rogalski as a winner in the GLNW Calendar Raffle drawing. I'm hoping I'm next!

On Thursday, following the meeting, lodge members and friends rallied at the Silvio Pellico Cemetery in the Roslyn Historical Cemeteries to retire the flags for winter and clean up the grounds around the Italian Memorial Monument. Thank you to all those involved in the effort. In Upper Kittitas County fall evolves into winter earlier than most coastal areas, thus this reporter encourages patience, tolerance, humility, and a great sense of humor during your holiday travels. Ciao! Respectfully submitted, Rich Grillo, grillogo1@msn.com



**Mille Cugini
#2659, Marysville, WA**

Our November meeting was a lively one! We raised money for our Scholarship fund by having our annual dessert auction. Thank you to EVERYONE: all the bakers and donors of money and desserts. Even some of our guests brought desserts! We had many guests

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too! Robert Jacoby brought Emily and Blanca, and Nate Pioli brought his Aunt Gina Pioli. Visitors from other lodges included Joe & Linda Jacobin, Dave Dellino, and Mark & Chris Gerling. Brittany Blake came and joined our lodge!

Giovanni Dellino and friend Wayo also attended. Patrick Jacoby brought his chafing dishes, which dressed things up a bit and kept our 2 turkeys, a delicious soup, and gravy all hot during a short meeting. He roasted 2 turkeys and there were many hot and cold side dishes as well as desserts for dinner. It was a feast for the soul!



One of our newest members, Judy Price, graced our gathering with Christmas music that she played on the piano! It was a wonderful addition to the evening. She also

generously donated an electric piano keyboard to our lodge that was taken home by a member. It can circulate to other members if they're interested. Her wish is that every lodge member that wants it, may

have music in their homes, especially during the holidays. She even offered lessons to any member wishing to learn to play. We are grateful to her for her loving generosity. Our next meeting will be a week earlier than usual, Wednesday, December 13th. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Season's Greetings to ALL from Marysville!
Mille Cugini Reporter Paula (Dellino) Jacoby



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**Seattle Fedele
#1390, Seattle, WA**


Hello All! Happy Thanksgiving to you all! Which will be over by the printing of this newsletter.

At our November meeting, we had a wonderful presentation by Pat D'Amelio, the youngest brother of Jeff D'Amelio, about how he navigated through the process of obtaining Italian citizenship. He said it was easy but time-consuming. He also learned several things about his family he never knew. He is willing to share information on how to navigate through everything with all who are interested in obtaining Italian Citizenship. Contact Laura Salle, President of our lodge for Pat's information.

What a wonderful meal our chefs put together to



celebrate Thanksgiving! Everything was spectacular! Thank you, guys, for all your time and effort to make to



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make our tummies happy. Can't wait to find out what our Christmas meeting will be?! We'll just have to show up and find out on December 21st!

Our member, Kathy Logsdon's, sister, Rosie, won a Gold Medal in bowling in the Special Olympics held in Kenmore. Go, Rosie!

Oh, by the way, all parents and grandparents let us know if any of your family members have had big accomplishments you would like to share with us and all the other members of SDOI. Hint, Hint!

At our November meeting the Raffle money and non-perishable foods that we collected were given to the local food bank. Thank you all for purchasing a large number of tickets for all the wonderful prizes members brought.

Okay, we are looking for new Board members to fill any and all of the positions. All are open, so if there is one you would like to, please let Joanne Marchese know (206-284-6938). They are two-year positions. Nominations are in January, Elections are in February, and the installation of new officers is in March. This is a good way to get any and all new ideas into the mix. It also gives you the feeling of belonging to something special.

Upcoming event in our lodge: Children's Christmas Party on December 9th at OLMV hall at 9:00 a.m. We will have more about what happened at the Children's Party next article.

See you all next month on December 21st! Buon Natale from the Crazy Sorelle!

Elaine Volpone and Christina Volpone Gerling
Chris (Christina) Volpone Gerling

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Tacoma #1175, Tacoma, WA

We were very proud of the talk by Joe Munizza for our 100-year anniversary. So no news, just Joe. But first, a big congrats to lodge member Denny Vercillo, who had a "HOLE IN ONE"

Now here's Joe: "Our Italian Neighborhood".

The neighborhood stretched from S 11th St to S 19th St and from "J" St to Grant St. Also, there were little

pockets of Italians near 23rd and Sprague St and around 56th and Washington St. The neighborhood surrounded St. Rita Di Cascia Catholic church much like you might see in many towns in Italy. This national Italian parish held 3 masses on Sundays where the announcements and weekly events of the parish were said first in English and then in Italian.

Nearby was the business district on "K" St. which had a variety of Italian-owned stores including – Frank Milano's Grocery Store; Carlo's Barbershop; Pete Verone's Meats; Tommy Vercillo's Bakery; Jasper Canele's Shoe Repair; Jim DeRosa's Gas Station; Vic Miele's Café and Liberty Tavern. Then on S. 19th and Cushman, you could find Ralph Manza's Grocery Store. The neighborhood was filled with Italian superstitions, depending on where your family came from in Italy, such as: Don't throw a hat on the bed.

Never seat 13 people at the dinner table.

Never let a black cat cross your path.

Don't go directly home after a funeral.

In our Parents' Day, most babies were born at home just like their ancestors. My mother said that in those days you only went to the hospital to visit someone really sick.

It was often difficult for many immigrants to understand each other due to the various dialects spoken in the different villages in Italy. The first Italian group to get together in Tacoma was a men's only group who called themselves the Progressive Italian Americans (P.I.A.). They had meetings but no other events. This group dissolved when a new group called the Victor Emanuele Lodge was formed. Three men in the new lodge researched a national Italian organization, founded by Vincenzo Sellaro, called the Sons of Italy. This fraternal organization offered many benefits and fun events for its members. The local lodge applied for membership to the National Sons of Italy's Supreme Lodge in 1923. The Supreme Lodge's acceptance made Tacoma the first lodge in the state of Washington. Their new title was Tacoma Lodge #1175, making them the "Mother Lodge of the Northwest." The founding fathers of our Lodge were Desiderio Laterza, Giuseppe Cozza, and Tommaso Marzano.

If you see Joe Munizza around, ask him to share some stories about the old Italian neighborhood.

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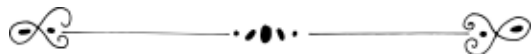
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We look forward to making many more memories in the future and closing in our tradition of facing the Italian flag and saying: "Viva L'Italia".

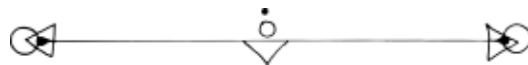


Tre Città
#2881, Tri-Cities, WA

Our Lodge held our eleventh meeting of this year on Tuesday, Nov. 7th at Bella Italia restaurant in Kennewick. We had a total of twenty-six members and visitors in attendance. Our membership so far for this year has grown to fifty-three members. We discussed the general results of our Annual Pasta Dinner and Basket Raffle at this meeting. This important fundraising event for our lodge was held at the Richland Community Center on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023. We had just over one hundred guests and it was an immense success! We had twelve beautiful baskets for the raffle and added one more raffle item donated by our Grand Lodge President, Linda Buccini Anderson. Table service was provided by students and able servers from Tri-City Prep Catholic High School, and we were entertained with live background music provided by Lori Taylor.

At the end of our meeting, we had our monthly raffle, as we usually do, for items of various kinds donated by lodge members. With the generosity of members, we were able to raise \$175 from the raffle at our October meeting. Our charity fund has continued to grow, and we agreed to donate to another worthy local cause. This time we made a \$500 donation to an organization called Modern Living Services (MLS). MLS seeks to provide independent housing options, life skills, and educational resources for developmentally disabled individuals in Benton and Franklin Counties. Through a collaborative approach, MLS helps individuals, and their families leverage existing community resources while offering additional programs to address defined service gaps in our community. MLS strives to illuminate the positive influence developmentally disabled individuals have on our world when given resources and the opportunity to develop their unique strengths and diverse capabilities. Our next social event will be our Annual Christmas

Party which will be held at Jack and Julianne Barnaby's on Sunday, Dec. 10th. Please give Jack and Julianne a call for details if you plan to attend at 509-735-2163. We continue to be delighted that our members and the public can follow us on Facebook, Many thanks go to Jackie Valentino, one of our dedicated members, for feeding wonderful content on Italian food, culture, people, travel destinations, holidays, and other topics on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OSDIAtrecitta>. We schedule our monthly meetings for the first Tuesday of each month. Our next regular monthly meeting will not be held until next year on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, 2024, at the Bella Italia restaurant located at 7000 W. Okanogan Place in Kennewick, WA. If you ever find yourselves in the Tri-Cities at that time of the month, please come and join us. We would love to have you. From our lodge to yours, Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!!! Ciao for Now...
Marcel P. Bergeron, President



Vancouver USA
#2690, Vancouver, WA

The holidays are upon us. There will be no regular meeting in December. Our Annual Christmas Party will take place on Friday, December 8th at Family of Christ Lutheran Church. We hope everyone has a great time!! WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 PM at Barbara Blair's house. You can RSVP at (360)253-7984 or blairbjb@comcast.net. Please bring a white elephant prize in a paper bag and a \$1.00 to participate. GAME NITE will be on Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 PM at Bruce and Barbara Blair's home. RSVP at (360)253-7984 if you plan to attend. No DINE OUT for December. ITALIAN BOOK CLUB will meet on Monday, January 15th at Star Bucks in Barnes & Noble, 7700 E. Fourth Plain Blvd at 2 pm to discuss our book selection, Book One of author Camilla Trinchieri's Tuscan mystery series entitled Murder in Chianti. We have selected The Lady of Lake Como by author Terrence Williamson for

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our March meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024. Both books are available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

CLUB NEWS: Buon compleanno to our December birthdays!!

THE HATS FOR HEADSTART GROUP turned in 530 hats for Columbia River Headstart this October. They continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 1 – 3:30 PM at Liz Haught's home in Kalama. For more information contact her at 360-673-1320 or haughtde@yahoo.com

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Continue to keep Judy Johnson in your prayers as she faces health challenges. Louise Rammuno-Johnson is on the road to recovering from successful knee replacement surgery. Her husband, Walter, suffered a stroke but he is home and improving. Linda Cherney is scheduled for knee replacement surgery just before Christmas. Buon Natale a tutti!!!



Yakima #2732, Yakima, WA

The Yakima Lodge met for the Thanksgiving meeting and dinner on November 16. Members brought in a perfectly delicious meal, thank you all! Those unable to attend were missed!

Those having health challenges and in need of your thoughts, prayers, and perhaps a call or card are Joe Ficele, Stephen Fancuillo, and Beverly Arralde. Don Picatti will be having back surgery soon. Our thoughts and prayers for a quick recovery Don.

Fun information: President Robin Miller's 9-year-old Grandson Berko has been taking gun safety training and practicing with his Grandpa Don Miller. It paid off in his getting his first deer and not just any deer, Robin tells us his antlers had 5 points on one side and 6 on the other! Good work Berko!

Jeanne Fasano's Grandson and Matt Fasano's son Cameren started High School at Eisenhower this year and is on their wrestling team. Cameren is a Lodge member as well and has taken on the job of making sure ice water pitchers are filled and ready to go. Thank you Cameren for stepping forward to help.

Jeanne's oldest son Mark, who was a member until

his work hours precluded membership, attended the meeting. We celebrated his November 16th birthday at the meeting. Mark remembers helping to make pasta sauce for our Pasta Dinner with Jerry Perrotti, Tony D'Tomasso, and Stephen Fancuillo when he was a teenager.

Vice President Ama Widner's Granddaughter Brynn Widner is on the YVC volleyball team. They are playing in the NWAC State volleyball championship quarter-finals. Brynn was a recipient of a Grand Lodge scholarship last year and was an outstanding basketball player on the Zillah State Championship team. President Robin asked members to write what they were grateful for on a post-it note and place it on her very artistic turkey. Overwhelming results- our families.

Jeanne Fasano explained the Ambassador program's goals and asked members to consider participating in the program. We will discuss the program further in December. The primary goal is to make visitors, new members, and all members know they are welcome, comfortable, and a part of the lodge.

A reminder that the Grand Lodge Crab Feed is coming February 10th and if you want to go now is the time to get tickets. See your NW Italian News for information. The December meeting will be on Dec 21st and will be our Christmas celebration. Looking forward to seeing everyone, Please watch your email for further information. A raffle item is always appreciated.

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