



# Le Notizie

Volume 17 Issue 153 May-June 2011  
News & Events of the John Michael Marino Lodge #1389



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the John Michael Marino Lodge held its second annual Afternoon at the Opera Luncheon at the Port Washington Yacht Club to benefit Cooley's Anemia. And what an afternoon it was. We opened the program with Francesca Ciotoli singing the National Anthem and later in the program heard Francesca's acapella rendition of Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro." Thank you Francesca; you have a beautiful voice.

Maestro Vincent La Selva and the singers from The New York Grand Opera Company did not disappoint us. Their melodic voices filled the room with beautiful music and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their performances. I would like to thank co-chairs Josephine Palawsky, Josephine Pappalardi, and their committee for all their hard work in making this event a success. The raffle prizes were donated by the committee, lodge members, and R & Company Salon Day Spa in Manhasset. A special thank you goes to Josephine Gnecco, who again came through with a super duper prize of \$200.00.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, after our general meeting, singer-tenor Giuseppe Taormina will perform. Born in Palermo, Sicily, Mr. Taormina has received the very prestigious honor of Necklace Knight, "Cavaliered di Colona." He has performed at the Resorts Hotel in Atlantic City, Citi Field (formerly Shea Stadium), The Italian Heritage and Culture Council Chamber at City Hall, and many other events. For more information about Mr. Taormina, go to his web site at [www.giuseppetaormina.com](http://www.giuseppetaormina.com).

Please don't forget the May 30<sup>th</sup> Port Washington Memorial Day Parade. Our meeting place is the Schreiber High School parking field at 9:30AM. We will have a marching Italian Band, our lodge float, and our Lodge Queen Sara Toninelli from Brescia, Italy. This will be Sara's last parade with our lodge because she has finished her studies and will be returning to Italy. We extend our thanks to Sara for proudly representing our lodge. Monday is more than a three-day weekend; it is a time for us to honor the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Join us at the parade and march in respect of their memory.

First Vice-president Anthony Conetta will serve as our new Grande Festa Italiana Chairperson for 2011-2012. Good luck to you Anthony; our lodge officers and members will support you in every way possible.

Please visit our web site at [www.marino.org](http://www.marino.org). Lodge Trustee Anthony Cavallaro is maintaining the site; keeping all our events and pictures up to date. Thank you Anthony, for a job well done.

To our members who have not attended our meetings in a while, we miss you and hope to see you back. A reminder that June 15<sup>th</sup> is Scholarship & Charity Night at the John Michael Marino Lodge.

God bless us and God bless our Troops

Fraternally

Eric Pappalardi

President

Committees

Le Notizie Editor

Marianne Bortone Prince  
718-631-7917

Le Notizie Layout

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516-423-9113

Christmas Party

Anthony & Nancy Conetta  
516-671-4877

Commission for Social Justice

Ben Lonetto  
718-631-5200

Fund Raising

Marianne Principe O'Neil  
516-883-5762

Gift of Sight

Marianne Principe O'Neil  
516-883-5762

Good & Welfare

Barbara Faticone  
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Grande Festa Italiana

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516-674-2433

Membership

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718-631-7917  
Louis Biundo  
516-671-4877

Memorial Mass

John Maura, Jr.  
516-767-8671

October Cultural Events

Tom Amato  
516-423-9113

Pat Lombardo  
516-944-0303

Parade Chairman

Eric Pappalardi  
718-746-5640

Queens Pageant

Josephine Palawsky  
516-883-6602

Scholarship & Charity

Nettie Innella  
516-883-2209

Nancy Conetta  
516-671-4877

Joanne Pascucci  
516-624-8853

John Michael Marino

Lodge #1389

Officers

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Eric Pappalardi

Immediate Past President

John O'Neil

1st. Vice President

Anthony Conetta

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Cookie Biundo

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&

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Award Recipient

Edward Innella

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State Officers

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Lee Cerullo

NYS CSJ Executive

Committee Member

Leo Cimini

NYS Gift of Sight

Chairperson

Marianne Principe O'Neil

NYS Heritage & Culture

Chairperson

Leo Cimini

NYS Vincenzo Sellaro

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NYS Bene Emeritus

Edward Innella

JMML Cooley's Anemia Representative

Josephine Palawsky

516-883-6602

JMML Alzheimer Representative

Barbara Faticone

516-883-6693

In Memoriam

Bro. Philip J. Matinale

March 16, 1923 – April 15, 2011

May His Soul and All the Souls of the Faithful Departed, Through the  
Mercy of God, Rest in Peace Amen

## **What's Going On.....**

May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM - John Michael Marino Lodge General Meeting. Tenor Giuseppe Taormina will be performing at this meeting.

May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM - Port Washington Memorial Day Parade. Participants meet at the Schreiber High School parking lot. Contact Eric Pappalardi at 718 746-5640.

June 2nd thru June 5th – NYOSIA 105th Annual Convention at Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon, N.Y.

June 5th - Harbor Fest at the Port Washington Town Dock. Contact Leo Cimini at 516 883-3826.

June 15th at 7:00PM - John Michael Marino Lodge Scholarships and Awards Night.

June 18th - OSIA 106th Anniversary Event to be held at Il Cortile Restaurant, 125 Mulberry Street, NYC. Contact Sylvia Summa at 718 384-7915 or John Fratta at 212 619-0602.

June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM – Italian Night at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. Contact Carolyn Reres at 516 358-5010.

July 17th - John Michael Marino Annual Picnic at Manorhaven Park. Contact John Dettori at 718 478-5756 or Chris Avasis at 516-883-0346.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> NYOSIA Summer Plenary Session hosted by Andrea Doria Lodge #2201 (time and location to follow). Contact Eileen Stavis at 516 785-4633.

July 31st – Annual Casino Bus Trip to Foxwoods Casino. Bus departs the Port Washington Branch of the LIRR at 9:00AM. Contact John Maura at 516 767-3606, Sandi Nunziata at 516 295-3837, or Mary and Joe Zaccheo at 516 944-0784.

August 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:45AM – Loggia Glen Cove Golf Outing at the Glen Cove Municipal Golf Course on Lattingtown Rd., Glen Cove. Contact Tony Ceriello at 516 671-2388.

September 7th thru September 11th - John Michael Marino Annual Grande Festa Italiana to be held at Hempstead Harbor. Feast Chairperson Anthony Conetta 516 883-4266.

October Italian Culture and Heritage Month Events

October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00AM – Long Island Columbus Day Parade in Huntington. Bus will pick up marchers at the Port Washington Branch of the Long Island Railroad Station. Contact Eric Pappalardi at 718 746-5640.

October 8th at 12:00PM – Christopher Columbus Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Mineola Court House.

October 10th at 9:00AM – Manhattan Columbus Day Parade (meeting place to follow). Contact Eric Pappalardi at 718 746-5640.

October 29th at 7:00PM – John Michael Marino Pasta Night at the Senior Center. Contact Antonietta Ardovini at 516 627-1886 or Domenica Strangolagalli at 516 767-2771.

November 12th at 1:00PM – NYOSIA Gift of Sight Annual Luncheon to be held at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston. Contact Marianne Principe O'Neil at 516 883-5762.

December 4th at 12:00PM – John Michael Marino Annual Christmas Party at the Swan Club. Contact Anthony Conetta at 516 883-4266.

## Afternoon at the Opera Fund Raiser to Benefit Cooley's Anemia

By Marianne Bortone Prince



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the John Michael Marino Lodge held its second annual Afternoon at the Opera program at the Port Washington Yacht Club. One hundred OSIA members, including friends and family, participated in this very successful Cooley's Anemia fund raising event, set in an atmosphere that can only be described as spectacular.

The onset of the event included the breathtaking rendition of the National Anthem by Francesca Ciotoli (daughter-in-law of lodge member Joe Ciotoli). Francesca was gracious enough to return to the floor later in the afternoon and mesmerize us

with the aria "O mio babbino caro" from Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*.

After a sumptuous lunch, we enjoyed an opera program arranged by the brilliant Maestro Vincent La Selva, Founder, Conductor, and Artistic Director of The New York Grand Opera. Maestro La Selva has been awarded the Handel Medallion, New York City's highest honor for cultural achievement. An internationally renowned Verdi specialist, La Selva has also been knighted as a "Cavaliere" in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. His productions of grand opera have been attended by more than three million people.

Our afternoon opera program featured live performances from outstanding singers of The New York Grand Opera, accompanied by pianist Michael Pelafian. Puccini aficionados were in seventh heaven since seven of the selected pieces were from Puccini's most celebrated operas. Maestro La Selva introduced each of the singers in rotation and provided a brief synopsis and setting of each of the selections. Soprano Victoria Miningham sang "Quando m'en vo" from Act 2 of *La Boheme*, "Signore, ascolta!" from Act I of *Turandot*, and "Summertime" from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Soprano Lioria Michelle delivered "Mi chiamano Mimi" from Act 1 of *La Boheme*, and "Vissi d'arte" from Act 2 of *Tosca*.

Tenor Tomer Greenberg performed "Addio, fiorito asil" from Act 3 of *Madame Butterfly*, and "E lucevan le stelle" from Act 3 of *Tosca*. Baritone Kevin Grace sang two selections from Rodgers' and Hammerstein's immortal *South Pacific* – "Some Enchanted Evening" and "This Nearly Was Mine." The program finale featured "Brindisi" from Act 1 of *La Traviata* and was performed by Victoria, Tomer, and Lioria.

Each and every performance was stellar and golden. Quite frankly, I do not believe there are enough adjectives to describe the incredible level of quality in the performances of each and every one of the singers that afternoon. It is little wonder that The New York Grand Opera has appeared at Carnegie Hall and other venues throughout the city to great critical and public acclaim.

Thanks to First Lady Josephine Pappalardi, Past President and Cooley's Anemia Representative Josephine Palawsky, and their committee for organizing this wonderful event. We also wish to thank our lodge members for their generous donation of 30 raffle prizes, especially the cash wreath donated by Josephine Gnecco, and the beautiful table centerpieces donated by Gilda and Tony Di Stefano. Their consistent support and generosity speaks volumes. A heartfelt thanks to Francesca Ciotoli for her attendance and unexpected performance. Come siamo stati benedetti per ascoltare la tua voce bellissima, Francesca!

Special thanks to OSIA lodge members, family, and friends who attended this Cooley Anemia's fund raising event. We could not have realized its success without your interest, participation, and, generosity.

## Commission for Social Justice Afternoon at New York City Opera

by Marianne Bortone Prince

On Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, ten members of the John Michael Marino Lodge and members of other New York OSIA lodges attended the New York City Opera matinee performance of Gaetano Donizetti's two-act comic opera, *L'Elisir d'Amore*. This annual event was sponsored by OSIA District II Commis-



sion for Social Justice (CSJ). Our lodge's Orator and District II CSJ Representative, Lee Cerullo, served as host for this wonderful event which included transportation and an early dinner at S.P.Q.R Restaurant in Little Italy.

Making his New York stage debut, tenor David Lomeli sang with sincerity and performed the role of the mournful and pining poor farmer Nemorino with wit and energy. He received a warm and extended ovation following his outstanding and pure golden rendition of the beautiful second act aria, *Una furtiva lagrima*. Mr. Lomeli easily captured the opera's strong combination of joviality and misery.

Also making an impressive New York debut as Belcore, the arrogant army sergeant who competes with Nemorino for the love of the beautiful Adina, the baritone Jose Adan Perez's voice was clear and rich. His second-act duet with Mr. Lomeli was a high spot of the afternoon and demonstrates City Opera's penchant for introducing talented and promising new singers.

The part of Adina was sung by the seasoned dramatic soprano Stefania Dovhan. Miss Dovhan gave a credible performance, as did baritone Marco Nisticò as Dulcamara, the quack doctor who sells the town the elixir (which turns out to be a cheap wine).

I am not an enthusiast of the Metropolitan and New York City Opera's experiments with contemporary set designs and costuming. Jonathan Miller's production sets the opera in a Southwest roadside diner in the 1950s. I managed to put my strong traditional opera feelings aside, sat back, relaxed, and enjoyed this appealing and winning performance.

All and all it was a wonderful day and a great time was had by our OSIA brothers and sisters.

## **The History of the Commission for Social Justice**

The New York State Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) is the anti-defamation branch of the New York Grand Lodge, Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA). The Commission is an Italian American group designed specifically to undertake the work of combating defamation against Italian Americans and other ethnic groups. The two primary goals of the CSJ are to promote a positive image of Americans of Italian descent and to fight bias, bigotry, and defamation aimed at Italian Americans, as well as other groups.

In the early 1960's the "Committee Against Bias, Bigotry, and Prejudice" was initiated by the National OSIA. It was chaired by the then Grand Venerable of New York, P. Vincent Landi. He introduced the committee into the New York Grand Lodge and served as its president. He was succeeded by Judge Angelo Roncallo and later by Joseph Giordano.

In 1977, at a Grand Council Meeting, Grand Venerable Peter R. Zuzolo initiated a move to make the committee a permanent one and proposed it be changed to a "Commission." He also recommended that the rather long and negative name be replaced with a positive and memorable one. The proposals were approved.

On a national level, the "Committee Against Bias, Bigotry, and Prejudice" was renamed "The Institute for Liberty and Justice." At the state level, the "Commission for Social Justice" was named by Joseph Sciamè, who was then Grand Recording Secretary of New York. It was adopted at a New York Executive Session in 1980. An official announcement of the new name was made on October 12, 1980. At a National CSJ Meeting, New York convinced the National OSIA to also adopt the name "Commission for Social Justice."

Mathew G. Nizza was the first chairman (president) of the state's newly formed CSJ in 1980. He was succeeded as follows: Joseph Parillo (1985), Vincent Romano (1989), John Dabbene (1993), Sylvia Summa (1999), Santina Haemmerle (2001), and Stella Grillo (2005).

Through the efforts of the CSJ and upstate New York Sons of Italy Lodges, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles changed an application form that negatively depicted Italian Americans. In addition to extending an apology, they also agreed to void and eliminate certain license plates. Through the efforts of the New York State CSJ, the New York State Lottery Commission removed an offensive television advertisement that depicted Italian Americans with a mobster persona touting the sale of the "Bada Bing" lottery tickets. The New York State Lottery Commission sent a letter of apology and the game is no longer advertised. The CSJ has had many successes with school groups, private organizations, New York City and State agencies, as well as the media.

The positive image programs developed by the CSJ continue to be its hallmark. Some of the positive images produced by the CSJ include bookmarks, book covers, posters, and booklets depicting pictures and biographies of prominent Italians and Italian Americans and their contributions to society. Recently developed posters are of Italian American crime fighters, women, baseball players, 9/11 Heroes, writers, entertainers, and sports figures. CSJ is presently developing bookmarks and posters suitable for elementary school students. A video tape library and the Holocaust Memorial Program were also developed.

The CSJ has produced special programs such as *Una Storia Segreta*, the Mario Lanza Program, the Joe DiMaggio Show, the Rocky Marciano Show, and Columbus Day Programs. A very successful documentary about Italian American Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor has been widely distributed throughout the United States. In May 2004, this video won the prestigious Telly Award. The CSJ, together with the NYSGLF, is presently supporting the production of a documentary film entitled "Men of Vision," the story of Giuseppe Garibaldi and Antonio Meucci.

## Membership Corner

by Marianne Bortone Prince

The John Michael Marino lodge is delighted to welcome and initiate new member Marc Biundo. Marc is a Glen Head resident and the son of Cookie and Lou Biundo. Cookie currently serves as our lodge's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president and Lou is a Past President and current OSIA New York State Principal Trustee.

President Eric Pappalardi and all the brothers and sisters of the John Michael Marino Lodge are thrilled that Marc has joined the Order. We know that we can count on Marc's support and involvement in the numerous undertakings of our active lodge.



## Are You Changing Your Address?

Please notify us so that we can assure your timely delivery of *Le Notizie*, *The Golden Lion*, and other lodge related communiqué. This will also help reduce the cost of postage due to returned mail.

**Print** all requested information and mail this coupon to the following address:

OSIA John Michael Marino Lodge #1389  
PO Box 403  
Port Washington, NY 11050-0104

Effective date of change: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 Membership Dues Reminder

It is membership dues time and we very much appreciate your prompt response. Payment of the dues should be sent to the following address:

Sandi Nunziata, Financial Secretary, OSIA John Michael Marino Lodge #1389  
PO Box 118  
Glenwood Landing, New York 11547

### Dues

Regular Membership - \$60.00

Per Capita - \$34.00\*

\*Those members having **completed** ten years of OSIA membership as of **12/31/10**, in addition to having **passed** their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday as of **12/31/10**, pay a *per capita rate* of \$34.00 in place of the \$60.00 Regular Membership Dues.

## Member Spotlight

### Michael Francis Ragusa



Mike Ragusa was born in the East Harlem section of Manhattan during the Great Depression. He was the only child of Luigi and Maria Lipani. Maria was three years old and Luigi seventeen when they and their families immigrated to America from the central Sicily province and commune of Caltanissetta.

Upon graduation from Benjamin Franklin High School in Manhattan, Mike enrolled at City College of New York in pursuit of a career in law. While attending college, Mike joined the New York National Guard 165th Infantry Division, better known as the “Fighting 69th”. He served in the Guard for three years.

Mike’s participation and love of sports led to his first position as Recreation Director for the New York City Parks Department. He was later employed by the Metropolitan

Life Insurance Company’s Parkchester Housing Development in the Bronx.

Mike enlisted in the United States Navy during the Korean War, serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS Macon. The cruiser was assigned to the 6th Fleet with duty in the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic.

After his tour in the Navy, Mike married his childhood sweetheart Santa Volonnino. The two grew up in the “old neighborhood” of East Harlem. Mike recalls his first sight of Santa, when at age eleven she roller-skated past him on a street in East Harlem.

In the mid 1950’s, Mike began a federal law enforcement career with the United States Customs Service, Office of Investigations. This career spanned thirty years and saw Mike rise from plainclothes Criminal Investigator to Special Agent. At one time, Mike was the Special Agent in Charge at JFK Airport, which covered Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

Mike had many exciting assignments during his long career, such as guarding US presidents and US presidential candidates as they traveled throughout the United States. His most rewarding experience was working undercover in the Narcotics and Contraband Unit of the US Customs Service. Mike also takes pride in having been assigned to then Special Attorney in Charge, Dennis Dillon, of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Unit of the US Customs Service.

Mike is a member of the Port Washington Knights of Columbus, American Legion Port Washington Post 509, North Shore Elks, President Emeritus and Founder of the Concerned Citizens of Manorhaven Civic Association, and a long-time parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima.

Mike and Santa derive great personal satisfaction from their many years of membership in the Order Sons of Italy in America John Michael Marino Lodge #1389. Both have served as lodge Trustee and shared positions of Master and Mistress of Ceremony. Mike and Santa are actively engaged in the lodge’s annual *Grande Festa Italiana* and currently serve on the Italian Culture and Heritage Committee and annual Christmas Dinner/Dance Committee.

Married for over 56 years, Mike and Santa are the proud parents of Linda (DeMeo), Michael Jr., and Louis. They are also the jubilant grandparents of six grandsons and two granddaughters. Mike and Santa feel extremely fortunate that their beloved family live in or in close proximity to Port Washington.



## John Maura Jr., Honored by Chabad of Port Washington

by Marianne Bortone Prince

John Maura Jr., Past President and current Chaplain of OSIA John Michael Marino Lodge #1389 was honored with the Community Service Award at Chabad Port Washington's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner held on April 7<sup>th</sup> in the Chabad's new Adam Katz Athletic Center. Chabad is a large missionary Hasidic movement known for their hospitality, technological expertise, optimism, and emphasis on religious study. In addition to the Guest of Honor,



Adam Katz, John was honored along with local residents Bryan and Orly Sherman.

In 2006, Chabad purchased a 12' steel Chanukah Menorah for Main Street in Port Washington. Rabbi Paltiel began his quest to find someone that could erect the Menorah. John and brother Ron came through for the Chabad and each year Maura Bros., now affectionately referred to in Chabad circles as Menaura Bros., erect and later remove Port Washington's giant Menorah. Rabbi Paltiel stated that "when it comes to helping the community, especially children, John is always there. He is truly a man of kindness and community."

These words from Rabbi Paltiel about John are certainly not foreign to the members of the John Michael Marino Lodge. Both John and Ron Maura are known for their generosity, compassion, commitment, and strong sense of community. We are extremely fortunate to call them "brothers" of our lodge and extend our warmest congratulations to John for the recognition bestowed upon him by the Chabad's Community Service Award.

I was able to obtain a copy of John's acceptance speech and decided to share it with our members. I am sure you will be just as moved as I by John's genuine and heartfelt remarks.

*Good evening Rabbi Paltiel, District Attorney Rice, fellow honorees and guests. I am honored to be here tonight to accept the Community Service Award. Four years ago I received a phone call from a gentleman who identified himself as Rabbi Paltiel. He explained that a mutual friend, Peter Dejana, had referred him to me for a very special task, to erect the Menorah which would stand at the Port Washington Train Station. Peter had assured the Rabbi that we were the right people for the job and of course, I accepted immediately.*

*The Rabbi further explained that the menorah had not yet arrived and that there were only a few days left before it had to be placed.....we all anxiously awaited its arrival.*

*Finally the call came, the Menorah was here. My brother, myself, my two sons, and our team undertook the job of erecting this large steel structure, a far different job from our yearly holiday tradition of assisting in placing Christmas trees and mangers throughout Port Washington.*

*After the Menorah was together, standing majestically in front of us, we felt a sense of awe at what we had accomplished. We also had a deeper sense of holiday tradition and along with that, the gift of community spirit that comes from helping our neighbors.*

*We have become known, since that night, as the Menorah Brothers, a name we hold dear. I truly enjoy my relationship with Rabbi Paltiel and would like to thank him for the opportunity to be of assistance to his congregation. I have also been given the opportunity to reflect on the life lesson my parents taught both my brother and myself and which we have passed on to our children as well.*

*The lesson is that by giving of one's self, from the heart, and answering the call of our friends and neighbors when they are in need, one earns the gift of true friendship, one of life's greatest riches. So, from my heart, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your celebrations and traditions. From my family to yours, we are paesans forever. Thank you.*

### Support the Fight Against Alzheimer's Disease

The month of May has been designated as Alzheimer's month and the New York State Grand Lodge Foundation is seeking our support in its fundraising efforts to help find a cure for this disease.

An estimated 5.4 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease. This figure includes 5.2 million people aged 65 and older and 200,000 individuals under age 65 who have Younger-Onset Alzheimer's. This translates to one in eight people aged 65 and older and nearly half of people aged 85 and older.

Of those with Alzheimer's disease, an estimated 4 percent are under age 65; 6 percent are 65-74 years of age, 45 percent are 75-84 years of age, and 45% are 85 or older.

All donations, whether large or small, would be greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to The New York State Grand Lodge Foundation (note Alzheimer's Fundraiser in the memo section) and mail it to our lodge's Alzheimer's chairperson: Barbara Faticone, 2 Nesaquake Avenue Port Washington, New York 11050.

### Garibaldi - Meucci Museum "Recognition Walkway"

You can leave a lasting impression and purchase a brick in the Garibaldi- Meucci Museum Recognition Walkway, an inspiring sidewalk on the beautifully landscaped lawn in front of the historic Garibaldi-Meucci Museum located in Staten Island.

The walkway will be paved with the commemorative bricks that you donate. You can personalize your brick to contain your name, special dates, or a brief message. Your brick can honor a family member, a friend, or yourself. It will serve as a permanent memory of someone, or something, special to you.

Please sponsor a piece of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Recognition Walkway and leave a legacy that future visitors will come to see, while at the same time showing your support of Italian-American culture. It's a gift and a memorial that will last many lifetimes.

Visit the museum's website at [www.garibaldimuseum.org](http://www.garibaldimuseum.org) for a walkway brochure and order form (click menu item Recognition Walkway) or call 718 442-1608.

### Gift of Sight Cell Phone Drive

The Gift of Sight has joined with the PaceButler Corporation for a fund raising opportunity. The corporation has been in business since 1987 and currently partners with over 3,000 organizations, including schools, churches, women's shelters, Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs, with effective cell phone drives that support charitable giving for these organizations.

Members of our lodge can bring unwanted cell phones to our meetings and the phones will be brought to the District President's meetings for shipment to PaceButler. Once received, PaceButler will sort, audit, and test every cell phone. For those deemed of value, PaceButler will mail a check to our organization OSIA Gift of Sight within four business days. The amount of the check will be based on current cell phone prices posted on Pace Butler's website. They are currently paying up to \$100.00 for each cell phone that is considered of value.

### Healthful Hints

You have heard it many times but it is so true and you really should make an effort to make **breakfast** the most important meal of the day. Try these tips to get a quick but **healthy breakfast** each morning:

Fill your pantry with lots of healthy choices for **breakfast**. The night before, try to get as much ready as possible for **breakfast**. Have dishes and flatware out, get fruit cut up, and prepare as much as possible in advance. Wake everyone at least 10 minutes earlier than usual to make sure there's plenty of time to eat. If you set a bed time that is reasonable, you can easily get up those extra minutes earlier to make the most important meal of the day. Encourage the kids to participate in planning and making **breakfast**. Write it on the calendar what they decide and plan it a week in advance.

## History of The National Anthem of the United States

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

(Editor's note: Two years ago, we published an article researched and written by Brother Mike Ragusa entitled *The Origin of the Italian National Anthem*, "Fratelli d'Italia." Since we are approaching Memorial Day, the Editors felt it fitting to publish the origin and history of "The National Anthem of the United States," also known as "The Star Spangled Banner." The following was found in Wikipedia and provides a robust historical account of that dramatic episode in our nation's history).

On September 3, 1814, Francis Scott Key and John Stuart Skinner set sail from Baltimore aboard the ship HMS *Minden*, flying a flag of truce on a mission approved by President James Madison. Their objective was to secure the exchange of prisoners, one of whom was Dr. William Beanes, the elderly and popular town physician of Upper Marlboro and a friend of Key's who had been captured in his home. Beanes was accused of aiding the arrest of British soldiers. Key and Skinner boarded the British flagship HMS *Tonnant* on September 7<sup>th</sup> and spoke with Major General Robert Ross and Vice Admiral Alexander Cochrane over dinner, while the two officers discussed war plans. At first, Ross and Cochrane refused to release Beanes, but relented after Key and Skinner showed them letters written by wounded British prisoners praising Beanes and other Americans for their kind treatment.

Because Key and Skinner had heard details of the plans for the attack on Baltimore, they were held captive until after the battle, first aboard HMS *Surprise* and later back on *HMS Minden*. After the bombardment, certain British gunboats attempted to slip past the fort and effect a landing in a cove to the west of it, but they were turned away by fire from nearby Fort Covington, the city's last line of defense. During the rainy night, Key had witnessed the bombardment and observed that the fort's smaller "storm flag" continued to fly, but once the shell and Congreve rocket barrage had stopped, he would not know how the battle had turned out until dawn. By then, the storm flag had been lowered and the larger flag had been raised.

Key was inspired by the American victory and the sight of the large American flag flying triumphantly above the fort. This flag, with fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, came to be known as the Star Spangled Banner Flag and is today on display in the National Museum of American History, a treasure of the Smithsonian Institution. It was restored in 1914 by Amelia Fowler and again in 1998 as part of an ongoing conservation program.

Aboard the ship the next day, Key wrote a poem on the back of a letter he had kept in his pocket. At twilight on September 16th, he and Skinner were released in Baltimore. He completed the poem at the Indian Queen Hotel, where he was staying, and entitled it "Defense of Fort McHenry."

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Much of the idea of the poem and even some of the wording is arguably derived from an earlier song by Key, also set to the tune of The Anacreontic Song. The song, known as "12," is said to have been written in honor of *does not exist*)" Stephen Decatur and Charles Stewart on their return from the First Barbary War.

According to the historian Robin Blackburn, the words "the hireling and slave" allude to the fact that the British attackers had many ex-slaves in their ranks, who had been promised liberty and demanded to be placed in the battle line "where they might expect to meet their former masters."

Key gave the poem to his brother-in-law, Judge Joseph H. Nicholson. Nicholson saw that the words fit the popular melody "The Anacreontic Song", of English composer John Stafford Smith, which was the official song of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th-century gentlemen's club of amateur musicians in London. Nicholson took the poem to a printer in Baltimore, who anonymously printed broadside copies of it—the song's first known printing—on September 17; of these, two known copies survive.

Francis Scott Key's original manuscript copy of his "Star-Spangled Banner" poem is now on display at the Maryland Historical Society.

On September 20, both the *Baltimore Patriot* and *The American* printed the song, with the note "Tune: Anacreon in Heaven." The song quickly became popular, with seventeen newspapers from Georgia to New Hampshire printing it. Soon after, Thomas Carr of the Carr Music Store in Baltimore published the words and music together under the title "The Star-Spangled Banner," although it was originally called "Defence of Fort McHenry." The song's popularity increased, and its first public performance took place in October, when Baltimore actor Ferdinand Durang sang it at Captain McCauley's tavern. Washington Irving, then editor of *The Analectic Magazine* in Philadelphia, reprinted the song in November 1814.

The song gained popularity throughout the nineteenth century and bands played it during public events, such as July 4 celebrations. On July 27, 1889, Secretary of the Navy Benjamin F. Tracy signed General Order #374, making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official tune to be played at the raising of the flag. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that "The Star-Spangled Banner" be played at military and other appropriate occasions. Although the playing of the song two years later during the seventh-inning stretch of the 1918 World Series is often noted as the first instance that the anthem was played at a baseball game, evidence shows that the "Star-Spangled Banner" was performed as early as 1897 at opening day ceremonies in Philadelphia and then more regularly at the Polo Grounds in New York City beginning in 1898. However, the tradition of performing the national anthem before every baseball game began in World War II. Today, the anthem is performed before the beginning of all MLS, NBA, NFL, MLB and NHL games (with at least one American team playing), as well as in a pre-race ceremony portion of every NASCAR race. In Baltimore, where the anthem was written, fans at the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens, and Maryland Terrapins game often yell "O!" when the anthem reaches the line, "Oh, say does that Star Spangled...". This began because one of the common nicknames for the Orioles is the "O's".

On November 3, 1929, Robert Ripley drew a panel in his syndicated cartoon, *Ripley's Believe it or Not!*, saying "Believe It or Not, America has no national anthem." In 1931, John Philip Sousa published his opinion in favor, stating that "it is the spirit of the music that inspires" as much as it is Key's "soul-stirring" words. By a law signed on March 3, 1931 by President Herbert Hoover, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted as the official national anthem of the United States.

flyer

## Featured Recipe

### Roasted Spare Ribs (serves 4)

#### Ingredients:

1 rack (approximately 3 and ½ lbs.) pork spare ribs	4 fresh or dried bay leaves
Sea or Kosher salt	1 cup dry white wine
Freshly ground pepper	½ cup red wine vinegar
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil	2 tablespoons honey
12 whole garlic cloves, peeled	1-2 teaspoons crushed red pepper
1 cup chicken stock or canned reduced-sodium chicken broth	

#### Cooking directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees

Cut the rack of spare ribs between the bones into single ribs. Pat them dry and season with salt and pepper. Toss them in a roasting pan into which they comfortably fit and cover with the oil, garlic, and bay leaves.

Pour in the chicken stock (or broth) and roast 45-60 minutes, turning occasionally, until the stock is almost evaporated and the spare ribs are golden brown. You may need to add additional broth before the spare ribs are golden brown.

Stir the wine, vinegar, honey, and crushed red pepper in a small bowl until the honey is dissolved. Brush all sides of the spare ribs with this mixture and pour the remainder into the roasting pan. Continue baking the spare ribs for another 20 minutes, turning them every few minutes, until they are mahogany brown.

## Contest

### *Who Is This Famous Italian-American?*

Correctly identify this famous Italian American. Bring your contest entry to the June 15th John Michael Marino General Meeting and present it to either Tom Amato or Marianne Prince. A prize will be awarded to the member who correctly identifies this famous Italian-American. A raffle will be held in the event of a tie.

The following clues will help you:

- 1.I was born in Greenwich Village
- 2.My middle name was Enrico
- 3.I spent my early childhood in Trieste (my mother's hometown)
- 4.I was educated at New York University
- 5.I rose to the rank of Major in the United States Army Service during the War to End All Wars
- 6.I rallied against immigration quotas
- 7.I was the first Italian-American to hold this position
- 8.It was the 99<sup>th</sup>
- 9.I was the subject of a Pulitzer Prize winning musical
- 10.The United States Post Office honored me with a 14 cent postage stamp

(The answer to our last contest was William Paca, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and former Governor of Maryland)

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