



ORDER OF THE SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

West Shore Lodge #2651

December 2009

From the President

This is my report on the state of the lodge during the year 2009.

We started the year out with another great turnout for our Lodge La Befana party. It is delightful to see the children's eyes light up when La Befana appears. Special thanks to Dottie Sica our beloved Befana.

Thanks to Harvey Bilger for doing a great job as chairman of the Bocce League. We started the season out a little shaky because of lack of a court but Harvey was able to get the Mechanicsburg Borough to build two bocce courts in Memorial Park. Great job Harvey!

We held three cookie sale fund raising events this year. They have proved to be very successful. Thanks to all the cookie makers and people who gave up part of their weekend working the booth.

We continue to hold our formal and informal Italian Classes. Thanks to Joan Rottmann who coordinates these classes. Also thanks to Beth Underwood our instructor for her dedication and patience. Beth, thank you and lots of luck to you on your new job.

We initiated the purchase of Giant Gift Cards. This has really helped our treasury. Thanks to Debbie Edmonson for her initiative on pulling this together and for taking care of this activity on a monthly basis.

This is the first year we had an Italian Heritage display at the Mechanicsburg Library. It went very well and I hope we can continue this activity. Several staff people at the library thanked us for doing this and said that many people stopped by to look at it. Thanks to Dottie and Sam Sica for coordinating this activity.

Thanks our capable editor Cristina Greco who makes this newsletter possible. This is a difficult job but Cristina tells me she enjoys doing it.

I cannot let a newsletter go without mentioning membership. We continue to grow but not as fast as I would like.

(Continued in next column)

President's message continued...

We have a great heritage and it's up to ALL Italian Americans to keep our traditions and culture alive and vibrant. The Sons of Italy is the place to make that happen.

Finally I want to thank all the officers who have agreed to serve during this period.

Betty and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charlie Pisano

From the Mechanicsburg Library.....

"Thank you so much for your display to commemorate Italian contributions to our culture. It was nicely done and we had many good comments. We appreciate your sharing your heritage with the community. Mille Grazie.

The Mechanicsburg Library.

Sons of Italy Meetings
4th Wednesday of each month
VFW Hall
4907 Carlisle Pike; Mechanicsburg

Visit the West Shore Lodge Website

WWW.WESTSHOREOSIA.COM

Made available through the generosity of
Malpezzi Funeral Home-Mechanicsburg

President – Charles Pisano
Vice President- Sam Sica
Immediate Past President - Bob Graci
Recording Secretary - Lucia Gleichman
Orator – Marc Scaringi
Financial Secretary - Anthony Bianchi
Treasurer – Mary McFiren
Historian - Patricia Leone
Trustees- , Lillian Branca, Chris Rottmann,
Teresa Bilger, and John Kendrick
Master of Ceremonies- Joan Rottmann
Guard – Eileen DiFonzo



All lodge members who grocery shops at Giant Food Stores or purchase gas from the Giant Fuel Centers are encouraged to purchase their gift cards from the lodge. Simply contact Debbie Edmondson with the gift card denominations and you will be given the cards. Email to jdlake@pa.net or call 717-249-2094.

Cards will be available at the monthly club meetings, too. Checks are to be made out to the West Shore Sons of Italy Lodge. Thank you all who choose to support this easy fundraiser.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

It is time to renew our memberships for the 2010 year. Please note the following rates for your individual dues.

If you joined before age 54; dues are \$ \$50.00 (enrolled in insurance program)

If you joined at age 55 years or older, dues are \$40.00 (not enrolled in insurance program)

Please make checks payable to West Shore Lodge #2651

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please complete the form and mail to:

Tony Bianchi
404 Sharon Avenue
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

From our October 28th meeting

Professor Sylvie Davidson from Dickinson College gave an excellent slide presentation explaining the history of Italian cuisine at our last meeting. We learned is there is no cuisine that truly defines Italian cooking. It is rather defined more by each region depending on the type of animals and grains that are found there. For example, cheese made from buffalo milk is found in the area around Rome where cattle graze on flatter terrain while cheeses made from goat and sheep milk are more prevalent in mountainous regions. Another interesting point that she made is that in ancient Rome, a vegetarian diet of beans and grains was typical because there were basically few animals in the area. Germans from the north introduced meat after they invaded Italy.

Tomatoes were not a part of the Italian cuisine until the 19th century. Columbus introduced corn, tomatoes, peppers and potatoes in the 15th century when he returned from the Americas. Corn became a staple in the north in polenta dishes, while tomatoes were viewed as fit only for feeding the pigs until much later.

The spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna, and pizza that typify Italian-American foods grew from the migration of mostly Italians from the poor, southern regions. In fact, when GIs from WWII returned to their native land with their cans of Chef Boyardee Italians were stupefied to learn that this is what Americans thought Italian food was.

In closing Sylvie emphasized that there are only three things common to Italian cooking in all regions: the food is fresh, the ingredients comes from the region, and the cooking is simple using sauces and spices to enhance rather than mask the taste of the main ingredients.

PARLA ITALIANO????

Italian Classes every Monday at the Giant Community Room in Camp Hill. Contact Joan Rottmann, 737-6565 or email her at rottmanj@verizon.net.

Ci sono certi vantaggi nell'essere eletto Presidente. Il giorno dopo che fui eletto, ordinai che i voti che ricevetti a scuola fossero classificati un segreto di stato.

See page 3 for translation

Translation from page 2

There are advantages to being elected President. The day after I was elected, I had my school grades classified Top Secret.

-- Ronald Reagan

Welcome New Members

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SI PARLA ITALIANO

SONS OF ITALY HONORS MEMORY OF FALLEN MAFIA FOE GIOVANNI FALCONE AT U.S. SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, DC, November 3, 2009 - A delegation of national leaders from the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) joined Chief Justice John G. Roberts and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel A. Alito at a tribute to the Italian prosecutor, Giovanni Falcone, who was murdered by a Sicilian crime syndicate in 1992.

The seminar, entitled The Impact of Italian Judge Giovanni Falcone on American Society, was held at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., October 29. It was organized and coordinated under the auspices of the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and its Attaché for Justice Affairs Judge Giannicola Sinisi, in collaboration with U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Federal Circuit Arthur J. Gajarsa.

"This collaborative program is intended to launch a new and broader collaboration between the federal judiciaries of Italy and the U.S.," says Judge Gajarsa.

Representing OSIA, the oldest and largest national organization in the U.S. for people of Italian heritage, were National President Joseph Di Trapani, National Financial Secretary and former DEA/Attaché to the U.S. Embassy in Rome Frank J. Panessa, and National Executive Director Philip R. Piccigallo.

Participants in the seminar included Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano; former FBI Director Judge William Sessions; Italy's Ambassador to the U.S. Giulio Terzi; and numerous high ranking dignitaries from the Italian and U.S. governments and the FBI. Other speakers included Deputy Attorney General David Ogden, FBI Deputy Director John S. Pistole, and Italy's Undersecretary of the State Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vincenzo Scotti and former Minister of Justice Claudio Martelli.

Falcone, a long-time foe of international criminal organizations who often collaborated with the FBI, died near Palermo May 23, 1992, with his wife in a car bombing perpetrated by La Cosa Nostra, a local crime syndicate.

His investigations and the reaction to his death by law enforcement agencies as well as by the general public profoundly weakened Sicily's criminal organizations. The FBI assisted in investigating and prosecuting Falcone's assassins.

"Judge Falcone's investigative techniques set an example for a generation of prosecutors and judges," says OSIA's Di Trapani. "His life and legacy generated universal veneration, enhanced international cooperation and major advancements along the road to defeating organized crime."

La Befana Italy's "Good Witch"

To visit the

West Shore Lodge Christmas Party

Buffet Dinner with cash bar

SUNDAY, January 3, - 1:00 until 4:00

VFW Hall-4907 Carlisle Pike

Fun for the **ENTIRE** family

Cost \$20.00 for adults (17 and older)

\$10.00 children 12 through 16

Children 11 and under are free.

PLEASE RSVP BEFORE DECEMBER 19

Please indicate the name, age and gender of children attending

Name _____

Number of Adults (17 and older) _____

Number of Children ages 12 - 16 _____

Number of Children (Ages 11 and under) _____

Name, Age and Gender of each child **IMPORTANT!**

Checks payable to: West Shore Lodge 2651

Send to: **West Shore Lodge # 2651**
Sons of Italy in America
P.O. Box 1293
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

West Shore Lodge Sons of Italy
NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2010

VFW

4907 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg

Social hour begins at 6 pm

Meeting begins at 7pm

West Shore Lodge # 2651
Sons of Italy in America
P.O. Box 1293
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

