La settima festa annuale di San Giuseppe (7th Annual St. Joseph's Day Festival)

2017

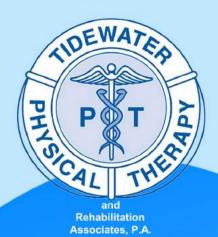


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*pictures represent our Italian students in Ocean City, MD - Summer 2015





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Dear Sisters, Brothers and Guests,

Welcome to our 7th Annual St. Joseph's Day Festival. The celebration of this feast day dates to Medieval Sicily when it is said that St. Joseph answered the people's prayers by ending one of the island's legendary droughts. Ever since, St Joseph's Day has been celebrated with special prayers of adoration to the Saint and large celebratory feasts. The custom was likely brought to the United States in the great Italian migration (1880-1923).

Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA), originally called "Figli d'Italia", was established in that same period (1905) by Vincenzo Sellaro, M.D., and five other Italian immigrants in the Little Italy neighborhood of New York City. Their aim was to create a support system for all Italian immigrants that would assist them with becoming U.S. citizens, provide health and death benefits, educational opportunities and aid with assimilation in America. The founders based "Figli d'Italia" on the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, and OSIA still adheres to these principles.

Today, OSIA is a national organization of men and women, who represent the estimated 26 million Americans of Italian heritage, dedicated to promoting our culture, our traditions, our language, the legacy of our ancestors, and our contributions to the United States of America and the world. We are sons and daughters, grandmothers and grandfathers. We are corporate executives, and we are union members...young students and retirees...teachers and attorneys...doctors and firefighters...bakers and Wall Street brokers...and everything in between. We are philanthropists, and we are model global citizens with purpose beyond ourselves. We are proud and patriotic Americans of Italian heritage.

OSIA is the largest and oldest national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States. It has hundreds of thousands of members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, making it the leading service and advocacy organization for the nation's people of Italian descent.

Its missions include encouraging the study of Italian language and culture in American schools and universities; preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history and heritage; and promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy.

A group of Italian American business people organized the Ocean City Lodge in May, 1980. It started with a Charter Membership of 247, which is one of the largest ever to be installed in the United States. By its official initiation as a lodge on November 15, 1980, it had over 300 members.

The Lodge donates to local charities, awards scholarships to high school seniors of Italian descent, promotes Italian customs and traditions and offers its members an exciting variety of social activities.

Thank you for celebrating St. Joseph's Feast Day with us and for supporting the Sons of Italy of Ocean City Lodge #2474.

Vita Patenza
President of the Sons of Italy of Ocean City Lodge #2474

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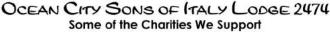
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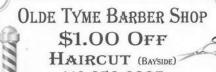
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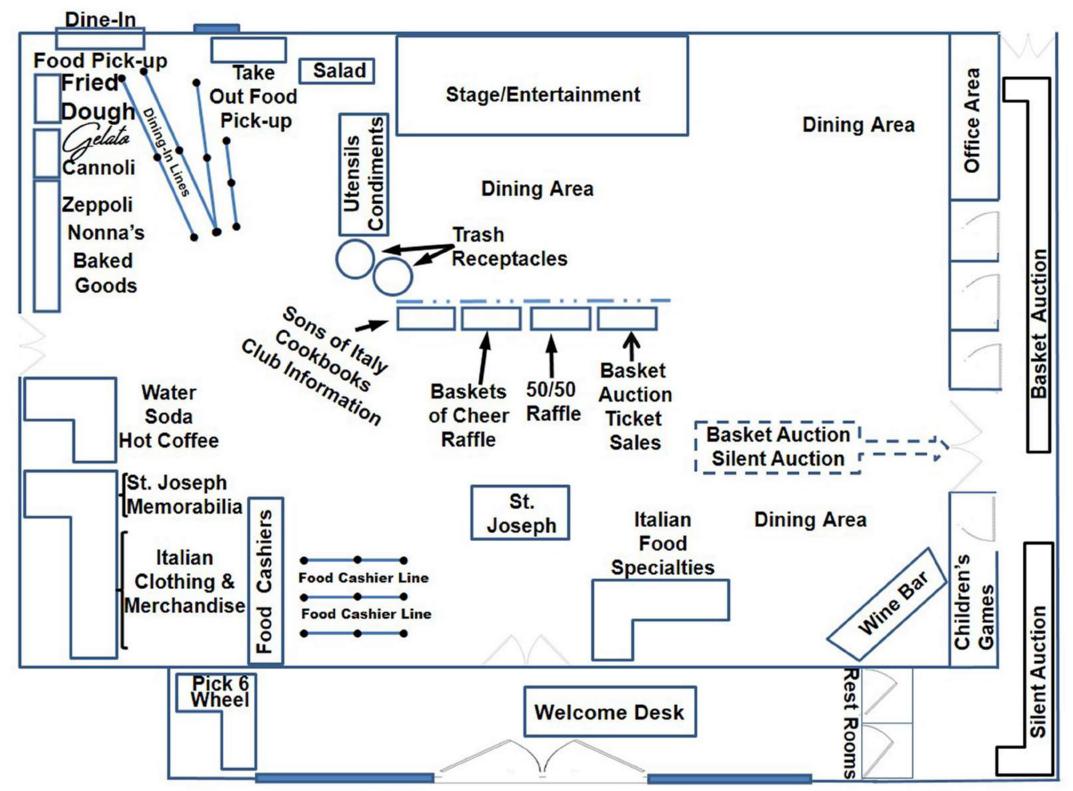




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St. Joseph's Day Festival Floor

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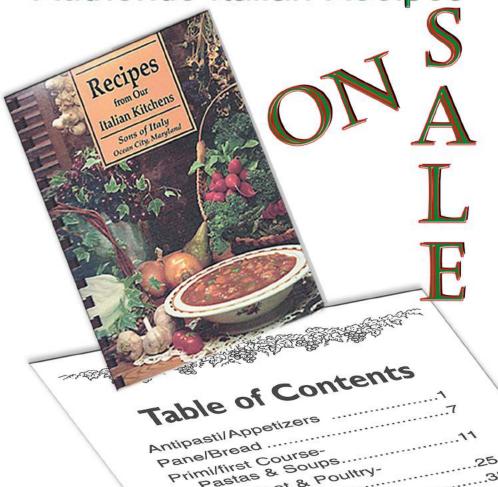
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