

January 2025 Newsletter
Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge #2474
P.O. Box 4596, Ocean City, Maryland 21843-4596
www.sonsofitalyocancity.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The St. Joseph's Day Festival is right around the corner, and we need your help to make it a wonderful event for our lodge! Whether you're able to volunteer your time, donate items, or simply spread the word, every bit of support makes a difference.

We are looking for volunteers to help with all activities to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the big day. Your time and energy can make this event truly special.

We are in need of various items to make the festival a success, please look at Janet Ackerson's List. If you have something to donate, please bring it to the February meeting. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to making this year's St. Joseph's Day Festival the best one yet! Thank you!

After many years of dedicated service, our beloved Social Director, Mary Ellen Arena, has decided to retire. While we are sad to see her step down, we are excited to announce that she will be staying on for the upcoming year to help transition and mentor the new Social Director—or Directors! This is a wonderful opportunity for two friends or a couple to take on this role together. If you're interested, you can choose to establish a committee to help with events, or simply manage things as a team. The choice is entirely yours!

For our newer members, this is a fantastic way to meet people and become more involved in our Lodge. Mary Ellen has organized countless events that have brought us together, and her presence will be missed. But with your help, we can continue the tradition of fun, engaging, and memorable social gatherings.

OFFICERS:

President

Sue Ann Baietti
551-404-5592

Immediate Past President

Vincent Mollicone
443-664-5940

Vice President

Barbara Graziosi
(302) 841-9672

Recording Secretary

Donna Potenza
(301) 785-2419

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Ackerson
302-228-1423

Treasurer

Mark Silvestri
(410) 913-4093

Financial Secretary

Rosemarie Pomilla
302-519-3641

Orator

Rose Madden
(703) 350-7398

If you've enjoyed the events she's hosted, this is your chance to make your mark and keep the good times rolling! We look forward to hearing from anyone interested in stepping into this exciting role.

Thank you, Mary Ellen, for all you've done, and we look forward to welcoming the next Social Director or team!
Ciao, Sue Ann Campo-Baietti, President

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Tickets are still available for this year's Grand Lodge Super Raffle. Proceeds from this raffle benefit the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund. There will be 365 winners—one for each day of the year! Daily winners receive \$25. The best part is that winning tickets are put back in for the next drawings.

Names of winners are published quarterly in the Il Giornale and our Lodge has had many winners. Ticket price is \$25; please make checks payable to "Grand Lodge of Maryland" and bring your payment to our next meeting.

This is a reminder to everyone that if anyone would like to speak about their heritage at one of our meetings, please let Sue Ann know so she can put you on the agenda.

Barbara Graziosi, Vice-President

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: If you wish to purchase our logo shirts, hats and tote bags, please contact Vinnie Mollicone.

FINANCIAL NEWS:

At our January meeting, Mark Silvestri reported the 2023-2024 budget results: \$38,070.85 in income and \$38,260.11 in expenses.

MEMBERSHIP:

We now have a total of 202 active members. We welcomed new member John Capra at our January meeting.

TRUSTEES:

Rich Baietti, (302) 945-4237
Al D'Annunzio, 302-841-3745
Morrell Delcher, 410-746-1611
Mike Quinn, (302) 524-8415
Ed Smith, 703-946-5068

MISTRESSES OF CEREMONY:

Jane Bartolomeo,
302-436-8208
Lynne Watson, (302) 537-5272

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS:

Tom Pomilla, 410-322-4990
Joe Tamberino, (443) 641-3395

COMMITTEES:

Charity
Judy Zanetti, Chair
302-988-8012

Fundraising
Vito Potenza, 301-643-2106

Helping Hands
Jude DeLucco, Chair
443-783-3317

Historian
Ed Pinto
703-901-5544

NAMETAGS:

We would appreciate it if everyone would please purchase a nametag so members can be easily identified. Lodge nametags are \$13.00. To order, please see Tom Pomilla or Joe Tamberino at the monthly meeting.

CHARITY COMMITTEE:

Thank you to our generous members for your fantastic response to our Christmas gifts collection for our families from G.O.L.D. We delivered 5 SUV's filled with gifts and \$875 in gift cards to improve their holidays. Thank you again! You are the best!
Judy Zanetti, Chairperson



Our Team delivering gifts at the G.O.L.D. Center



Judy Zanetti delivering a stocking full of gift cards at G.O.L.D.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

We are requesting prayers for the deceased members who have gone before us and for the recovery of all those who have been ill, had surgery or were injured, including the following: Felina Breeding, Guy & Sharon DiMatteo, Norma Jean Curreri, Ray D'Antuono, Palma Devic, Lorraine Gualtieri, Paul Harman, Mike & Ethel Jacobs, Andy Maggio, Frank Orobono, John and Anna Rubino. If you know any member who is ill, had surgery, or recently lost a loved one, please call Jane Bartolomeo at 302-436-8208. Please send your prayer requests, with the consent of the recipient or their family, to Janet Ackerson.

Membership

Joan DeMarco, Chair
410-250-0963

Public Relations

Ed Pinto
703-901-5544

Scholarship

Donna Potenza, Chair
410-641-8046

Social

Mary Ellen Arena, Chair
410-250-0048

Website:

Tom Pergola, 302-541-4737
John Rubino, 302-436-6040

Newsletter Editor:

Janet Ackerson
302-228-1423

Editor's note: please send me any changes to your contact information. Thanks!

NEXT MEETING:

**Knights of Columbus Hall
99th St. & Coastal Hwy
Thursday
February 6, 2025**

**5:30 p.m. Executive Council
7:00 p.m. General Meeting**

MEMBERS CELEBRATING JANUARY/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

We wish a very Happy Birthday to – January: 1/1-Pam DiOrio; 1/3-Guy Akob; 1/4-Richard Marchesiello; 1/7-Robert Kochen; 1/8-Norma Curreri; 1/13-Janet Roca; 1/14-Donna Potenza; 1/15- Steven Masciarelli; 1/16-Margaret Giacomponello, Ron Russo; 1/19-Al Carmenini, Diane Gibson; 1/20-Joe Giacomponello, Donna Rieman, Anna Rubino; 1/21-Dorothy Tumminello; 1/23-Andy Maggio; 1/25-Bob Ackerson; 1/27-Jim Reda; 1/28-Mike Lato, Diane Turner; 1/30-Nick Bartolomeo, Bob Impallomeni; 1/31-Rosemary Gear.
February: 2/1-George Wright, Patrice Torres; 2/3-Jean Morgan; 2/4-David Quillen; 2/5-Don Rogers; 2/11-James Vigilante; 2/13-Ed Smith; 2/14-George Madden; 2/17-Brenda D’Antuono; 2/18-Jane Bartolomeo, Paul Harman, Alfred Michenzi; 2/19-Virginia Snuggs; 2/22-Sal Castorina; 2/24-Deb Reda; 2/26-Tom a’Becket, Bondanzia Summers; 2/28-Gail Laudicina.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

We now have two new persons of the year, Andy Maggio and JoAnn Ward. A News release about them has been written and sent to the local news media.



Congratulations to our
2024 Citizen of the Year Awardees
JoAnn Ward and Andy Maggio

Here's my usual reminder. It is best to keep me in the loop early about upcoming activities so I can plan photos and news releases. To do that, add me to your committee contact list. That way when your committee members receive/discuss ideas and upcoming activity, I'll also know in advance. By doing this you won't even have to think about PR for your committee because you will have already kept me aware of what is going on or what will be happening. My email is airpinto293@gmail.com, and if your committee uses texts, add me --703-901-5544. Thanks, and Happy New Year all. – Ed Pinto, Chairperson

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE:

If you need any help with picking up groceries, a ride to appointments, a meal, or, if you wish to join this committee to help others, please contact Jude DeLucco, Chairperson.

WEBSITE:

The following procedure to access our website was provided by Tom Pergola:

“To access the Public Sons and Daughters of Italy Website, one needs to use his/her browser’s search function entering Sons of Italy Ocean City Maryland and follow the link provided. To access the Members Only Pages, one needs to request a user’s name by following the directions below. Once the system validates your name and email, you will receive an email with your user name.

If you change your password, you need to follow the directions below including the new password and your name in the text area of the email.

If you forget your user name or password, you need to send an email to website@sonsofitalyocancity.com, enter Forgotten User Name or Forgotten Password in the Subject Line; enter your name in the text area of the email. The system will reply with the applicable information.

It is best that you save your user name and password for future use. Your user name is NOT your email address.” – Tom Pegola



Website

To Gain Access to the *SDOI MEMBER ONLY PAGES*, send an email to:
website@sonsofitalyocancity.com

In the Subject Line, enter **Members Only Access.**
In the Text Area, enter your **Name.**

This will initiate the system process which will send you an email with the procedure to follow to create your password and how to reply to the email.

Once the system receives your your password, it will assign you a **USER NAME** (log-in) and email it back to you. This **USER NAME** will **NOT** be your email address.

Also if you change your password, you will need to send an email with your new password to:
website@sonsofitalyocancity.com

In the Subject Line, enter **New Password.**
In the Text Area, enter your **Name.**

SOCIAL EVENTS: 2024-2025

Christmas Show Trip - Another fun day of great entertainment and meal at Miller's Restaurant, for all who joined us on the trip.

Christmas Dinner - Thanks to all who attended and enjoyed an evening of good food and entertainment, provided by DJ Cruise. [See photos at the end of the newsletter.]

Social Event - January 25, 2025 – Milton Theatre, Milton, DE. Ultimate Neil Diamond Band – 3:00 PM Show. Dinner following the show at Iron Hill Brewing Company in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Signup sheet for dinner required by January 10, 2025. One check per table will be given; suggest bringing cash, since it is not known if restaurant charges fee for credit card use; it will be easier to deal with multiple payments on a check.

Ocean Downs Casino Luncheon – Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at Ocean Downs Casino on RT. #589 in Berlin, MD. beginning at 12:30 PM in their Restaurant. Cost: \$31.00 pp. Similar luncheon menu as last year: includes Caesar Salad, Sliced Sirloin Beef, an additional entrée choice, Vegetable and Dessert Tray. The cost includes taxes and gratuity. Signup sheet for reservations with payment was due 1/2/2025. Checks are payable to: Mary Ellen Arena

February Social Event - James M. Bennett High School in Salisbury, MD, will host their Rock & Roll Revival Show. Notice of show dates has been emailed to members to purchase tickets ONLINE from their website. Thanks to Al Carmini for providing show date information. [The 2:00 pm Matinee dates are February 8, 9 and 16.]

March - Saturday, March 22, 2025 – St. Joseph's Day Festival.

April Social Dinner – Possibly at the Lighthouse Sound Restaurant – hosted by Janet Ackerson. Date to be determined.

May Event – Sons & Daughters of Italy Night at Shorebirds Game - Wednesday, May 14, 2025 – 7:05 Game with Picnic Deck Seating and AUCE Menu of: BBQ Chicken, Grilled Hot Dogs & Hamburgers w/cheese on side, Lettuce & Tomatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Potato Chips, Popcorn, Watermelon, Ice Tea & Lemonade. Cost: \$32.00 pp. includes Deck Seat, Taxes & Gratuity. Reservations are required and there is a signup sheet for reservations. Payment is due by the April 3rd meeting with checks payable to: SONS OF ITALY OCEAN CITY.

June Event – Day Bus Trip – to be determined.

Crab Feast - Saturday, September 6, 2025 – Higgins Crab House/North from 1:00-4:00 PM. AUCE Menu: Steamed Crabs, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Chicken, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Corn on the Cob, Hush Puppies, Dessert, Domestic Draft Beer, Wine, Soda/Ice Tea/Coffee. More information regarding cost to be determined. Reservations are required and there will be a signup sheet.

SAVE DATES:

Christmas Dinner - Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at Cripple Creek Country Club in Ocean View, DE. More details to follow.

Christmas Show Trip - Wednesday, December 17, 2025 to American Music Theatre in Lancaster, PA. 3:00 PM SHOW “DECK THE HALLS;” Dinner to follow – Restaurant TBD. COST: \$165.00 PP. Reservations and Deposits of \$65.00 pp. due at January and February meetings for members. After that date, the reservations will be open to guests. Checks payable to: SONS OF ITALY OCEAN CITY; if unable to attend meetings, mail check to: Mary Ellen Arena, 13508 Yellow Banks Court, Ocean City, MD., 21842.

THAT’S ALL FOLKS! – Mary Ellen Arena, Chairperson

FUNDRAISING: ST JOSEPH’S DAY FESTIVAL – March 22, 2025

- **Festival planning meeting** - January 15, @ 10:00am, St Andrew's Hall. Station Captains are urged to attend along with any other volunteers, especially anyone interested in helping to follow up with advertisers who have not yet renewed. All members are welcome to attend to share ideas.
- **Program Book** - Don't forget to place or renew your patron listing or your one-line memorial listing -\$20. Request forms are available on the website or email Vito, and he will email you one. (vpotenza@aol.com). Call if you have any questions - 301-643-2106. Leave a message if there is no answer. Those brothers and sisters who have placed ads to honor family or friends (living or deceased) are also urged to consider renewing. New ads are always welcome either personal or business.
- **Volunteers** - We need help not only at the festival but also several days before the festival, on March 22, and starting at 6:00 after the Festival to breakdown tables & chairs, clean up and return of items borrowed from the Knights of Columbus Hall; on Wednesday (March 19) & Thurs (March 20) to pick up inventory, tables and other things we borrow from the Knights. We will also need help Monday, March 24, late morning to move fryer and any leftover inventory to the storage shed at Columbus Hall. Be sure to sign up at the February meeting or call/email Vito.
- **Donations:** Wine, spirits and new "stuff"* are needed to support the various raffles. Baked goods will be solicited to support Nona's Bakery.

As always, we thank you for your support that has enabled the Lodge to expand the Mary Castorina Memorial charitable giving program and to increase the Lodge Memorial Scholarships.

Moe & Vito, St. Joseph's Day Festival Co-Chairs

***Stuff needed:** Janet, Sue Ann and Mary Ellen are asking for donations of the following items for the festival raffles and Silent Auction to be brought to our meetings in 2025 before the festival: Wines and liquors; Golf items (glove, towel, golf balls, etc.); large baskets or containers; wired ribbon (1 ½"+ wide and at least 9 feet long); colored gift tissue paper; clear cellophane basket bags (large 30" X 40" 2.3 Mil thick bags), clear cellophane rolls; sports items; new or re-gifting clean like-new items for the gift baskets: glassware (wine, whiskey, cocktail, martini); tea or coffee ceramic sets; jewelry; children's new toys-games-puzzles; Italian kitchen items and foods (expiration must be 1 year after 3/22/25); and anything you think would look nice in a gift basket. Cheer basket themes: Margarita, Fine Wines, and Martini or Bourbon.

EXCERPTS FROM OUR BY-LAWS – DUTIES OF OUR OFFICERS: Each month a description of one of our Executive Council officers will be included in the newsletter.

Immediate Past President Duties:

1. The office of the Immediate Past President shall be given to the member who has served one (1) complete term as President of the local lodge.
2. He/She assumes the office of President whenever the President and Vice-President are unable to act or are absent from the Executive Council or General Assembly meeting. He/She then performs the duties and functions of the President.

OUR SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY HISTORICAL HERITAGE:

The following is one of the many accomplishments of the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy throughout our organization's existence:

“It was the Order that organized and incorporated the “Commission for Social Justice,” which is the anti-defamation arm of the Order. In the battle of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice, ‘we have just begun to fight.’ ”

From: *The Order Sons of Italy in America 100th Anniversary Centennial Journal: The Century of Progress 1905-2005*

Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



Photos from our December 15, 2024, Christmas Dinner
(If you want a copy of a photo by email, contact Janet at janet.ackerson@gmail.com)



Joe and Judy Zanetti at G.O.L.D. on 12/16/24