

June 2026 Newsletter
Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge #2474
P.O. Box 4596, Ocean City, Maryland 21843-4596
www.sonsofitalyoceancity.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a wonderful night celebrating our three scholarship winners, April Bondurant Sophia Ferrante Laila Pascucci. I may be a little biased, but all three recipients were young women. As President, it was my honor to celebrate this special achievement with them. Every year, I am amazed by the outstanding academic records and extracurricular accomplishments of our scholarship recipients. These young women are embarking on an exciting new chapter in their lives, and we all wish them the very best.

I am confident they will continue to excel and accomplish great things. Congratulations to each of them on this well-deserved honor!

This was our last meeting before summer break.
Two things before we adjourn:

1. If you are interested in attending Italian Heritage Night (the Baltimore Orioles vs. New York Yankees game), please contact Neysa Silvestri for details.
2. Have a wonderful, safe, and enjoyable summer!

We look forward to seeing everyone again in September.
Ciao! Sue Ann Baietti, President

VICE PRESIDENT

There are copies of our cookbooks available for \$10 each.

Ciao! Barbara Graziosi, Vice President

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

Paul Scalice
302-604-8715

Orator

Rose Madden
(703) 350-7398

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

We would appreciate it if everyone would please purchase a nametag so members can be easily identified. Lodge nametags are \$14.50. To order, please see Bob Ackerson or Joe Tamberino at our monthly meetings.

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE:

Please be sure to contact me (Jude) if you are in the hospital, home bound & need a meal at E-mail: jdelucco@gmail.com, Phone number: 443-783-3317. 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 me.

Thanks, Jude DeLucco, Chairperson

PUBLICITY & HISTORIAN

Public Relations will finish the year by getting out the news release on the scholarship winners and then, after the Italian Student Dinner on June 25, sending a news release with photos about this year's group of students who have traveled from Italy to Ocean City to work this summer. See you in September.
Ed Pinto, Chairman

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

If you wish to contact any of our officers and committee chair people, their phone numbers are always listed in the side bar of our newsletters. We do not provide member's email addresses. My notices to the members are usually sent by "BCC," so please know that your reply will only be seen by me. If the notice lists contact information for someone, please send your reply to them. Between June 18 and July 3rd, please send your prayer requests and notices to Rose Madden to send out in my absence at rmaddenoc@aol.com (sending a big Thank You to Rose!).
Grazie! Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary

TRUSTEES:

Rich Baietti. (302) 945-4237
Rich Buccheri, 410-456-0707
Al D'Annunzio, 302-841-3745
Morrell Delcher, 410-746-1611
Vito Potenza, 301-643-2106

MISTRESSES OF CEREMONY:

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

SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS:

Bob Ackerson, 302-228-2304
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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Lodge is in good financial shape. The final festival profit is \$20,102.32. There is \$24,000 in the checking account. We have 5 CD'S. Mark Silvestri, Treasurer

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our membership list in the iMember data base has been updated and we now have 218 members. Paul Scalice, Financial Secretary

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee presented two of the three awardees to our membership at the June Lodge meeting. All three awardees graduated from Stephen Decatur High School. All three were in the top 10% out of 341 graduates (see photos below):

April Bondurant will attend the University of Maryland Environmental Technology and Economics scholars program.

Laila Pascucci will attend Clemson University honors program for biological sciences to pursue a career in dentistry.

Sophia Ferrante will attend Clemson University honors program for a Business major with an interest in marketing and advertising. (She was away and unable to attend our presentation.)
Donna Potenza, Chairperson

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: Greg Amber, Nancy Borreggine, Palma Devic, Elaine Ferguson, and Carmine Picarelli. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ray D'Antuono, who passed away recently. If you know of any member who is ill, had surgery, or recently lost a loved one, please call Jane Bartolomeo at 302-436-8208 so she can send a card from our Lodge. Please send your prayer requests, with the consent of the recipient or their family, to Rose Madden at rmaddenoc@aol.com from 6/18 to 7/3 and after that to: janet.ackerson@gmail.com

Membership

Rosemarie Pomilla, Chair
302-519-3641

Public Relations

Ed Pinto
703-901-5544

Scholarship

Donna Potenza, Chair
410-641-8046

Social

Neysa Silvestri, Chair
410-913-3564

Website:

<http://sonsofitalyocancity.com>
Tom Pergola, 302-541-4737
John Rubino, 302-436-6040

Newsletter Editor:

Janet Ackerson
302-228-1423

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

NEXT MEETING:

**Knights of Columbus Hall
99th St. & Coastal Hwy**

**Thursday
September 3, 2026**

**5:30 p.m. Executive Council
7:00 p.m. General Meeting
(Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.)**

MEMBERS CELEBRATING JUNE-JULY-AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: We wish a very **Happy Birthday to:** 6/3-Stephanie Donahue; 6/6-Earlene Bradford; 6/8-Mindy Nardeone; 6/21-Tony Parisi; 6/23-Sandra McGrath; 6/25-Lillian Miller, George Ward; 6/30-Elaine Ferguson;

7/5-Francine Boccuti, Carmine Picarelli; 7/8-Dottie Pinto; 7/9-Tonya Amber, Armando Graziosi; 7/11-Lynn Callo; 7/12-Mary Loeloff, Terry Wright; 7/14-Mary DeCarlo; 7/15-Eileen Salafia; 7/18-Anthony Rinaldi, Alison Iavarone; 7/18-John Rubino; 7/19-JoAnn Topolski, Rene Grillo; 7/23-Michael Blair, Rose Leister; 7/27-Bernice Harman, Guy DiMatteo; 7/28-Marie Grimes; 7/31-Al DiOrio;

8/1-Vinnie Cappello; 8/2-Vicky a'Becket; 8/3-Denise Buccheri; 8/8-Judy Mays; 8/14-Pam Cocozello; 8/15-Joseph Schwartz; 8/16-Sandra Berry, Sharon DiMatteo, Marti Quinn, Frances Shott; 8/17-Al D'Annunzio; 8/19-Barbara Graziosi, Paul Kinster, Olga Masciarelli; 8/20-Gina Busby, Sharon Smith; 8/23-Grace Jenkins, Rose Madden; 8/25-Carol Snair; 8/29-Karolyn Pergola.

SOCIAL EVENTS

SHOREBIRDS' RESCHEDULED: Wednesday, June 17, 2026: Shore Birds Baseball Game vs Myrtle Beach Pelicans. Time: **Doors open at 6:00 Time of game: 7:05-? Buffet dinner at 6:00-8:00.** The Hard Ball Cafe. Address: 6400 Hobbs Rd. Salisbury, MD 21804. ***You can pick up your tickets and your guests' tickets at the Will Call window. The tickets will get you into the Hard Ball Cafe and then you select your seats.**

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026: Trip by ferry to Cape May, NJ: **Cost for school bus, ferry, and parking permit: \$30/pp. Agenda:** Meet at St. Matthews By the Sea United Methodist Church at 8:15 a.m. **Address:** 1000 Coastal Hwy, Fenwick, DE 19944. Park in the church's parking lot behind the church. School bus will leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. Arrival at the Lewes Ferry port for the 10:15 ferry crossing. School bus will go on the ferry. Arrival at Cape May, NJ-Congress Hall around 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be on your own – no reservations are being made. Meet the school bus at Congress Hall at 3:15 p.m. for a 3:30 departure to the Cape May ferry port. Cape May ferry departs at 4:30. Upon arriving at the Lewes ferry port, school bus will return the group to St. Matthews By the Sea United Methodist Church's parking lot.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026: Italian Students' Dinner. Thursday, at 5:30 pm on June 25, 2026, in Columbus Hall. All members welcome! No charge for the meal! Please let me know if you signed up, but are no longer will be attending so I can let the caterer know the number of attendees. Janet Ackerson wishes to thank her tote-bag filling team: Jean Delcher, Rose Madden and Donna Potenza. We put together 31 tote bags full of goodies and practical items.

JULY 2026: No activities planned.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026: ITALIAN HERITAGE NIGHT AT CAMDEN YARDS:

Baltimore Orioles vs New York Yankees game time: 6:30 pm; Tour Bus has been secured. Cost of trip is \$135/pp. (\$60 for the bus and \$75 for the tickets in Section 56 behind visitor's dugout). **This trip is now open to non-members.** Tickets are going fast. Meet at St. Andrews Catholic Church for the Jor-Lin Tour bus between 1:30-1:50 pm. Bus will depart promptly at 2:00 pm. Address: St. Andrews Catholic Church: 205 West 145th Street, Ocean City, Maryland 21842. The bus will return to St. Andrews Catholic Church between 12:30-1:30 am.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026: CRAB FEAST AT HIGGINS NORTH—Time: Doors open at 12:00. Time: 1:00-4:00. Cost of the crab feast: members-\$55 and non-members-\$60. Menu: All you can eat steamed crabs, steamed shrimp, corn on the cob, fried chicken, hush puppies, coleslaw, French fries, house wine, soda, tea, domestic draft beer, coffee, and a dessert. Address: 12801 Coastal Hwy. Ocean City, MD 21842.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026: Social Dinner sponsored by Mary Louise and Steve Embrey at The Pines Restaurant; Time: Arrive between 5:30-5:45. Address: 56 Baltimore Ave. Rehoboth Beach, DE. Details: Off-season parking is available on the street and at the Convention Center. Dining will be upstairs (no elevator) in a private room: "The Treehouse Lounge." Separate checks will be given. ***If you are interested in going, please sign up via email to Mary Louise at mary.louise.embrey@gmail.com ***

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026: Social Dinner sponsored by Donna and Vito Potenza at Touch of Italy. Time: Seatings are at 5:00, 5:30, and 6:00. Address: 6600 Coastal Hwy Ocean City, MD 21842

Please note that the monthly social dinners are held to thank those businesses that donate gift certificates or ads for our festival. If you are interested in arranging a group dinner, here are some restaurants who have supported our Lodge: **Delaware:** DiFebo's, Bethany Diner, Hooked Up Ale House/Off the Hook, Fins Ale House & Raw Bar/JR's Seafood Shack, Porto's Pizza & Grill, Dirty Harry's, Mancini's Brick Oven Pizzeria & Restaurant, Summer Salts Café/Flip Flops Bar & Grill, Yellowfins Bar & Grill, The Salted Rim, Millsboro Pizza Palace, Fenwick Pub, Good Earth Restaurant, Big Fish, Crystal Restaurant, and the Parkway Restaurant. **Maryland:** Forgotten 50 Distilling, Plaza Tapatia, Southgate Grill, Longboard Café, Hooked/Tailchasers, Seacrets, Coins, The Sterling Tavern, Bayside Skillet, Hooked, Spain Wine Bar, and Waterman's Seafood. [Other restaurants we have already gone to as a group one or more times are: Mio's Italian Steakhouse, Fager's Island, Touch of Italy, Nantucket's, Cripple Creek, Catch 54, Saltwater 75, Green Turtle West, Trattoria Lombardi's, Luna's Cactus Café, Sunset Grill, Irish Eyes, and Sophia's Italian Restaurant; also Dine & Donate events at Bethany Blues and Ropewalk.]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026: Christmas Dinner at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club with Double Agent band. Time: TBD Address: 29494 Cripple Creek Dr. Dagsboro, DE 19939.
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE! (More information to come.)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2026: Christmas Show 2026 "Winter Wonderland" at the American Music Theatre. We will make a stop at Kettle Kitchen Village (lunch and shopping on your own) before the show and have dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord after the show. Cost is \$165.00/pp. **A deposit was required of \$65.00/pp. to hold your reservation by March 31, 2026.** Balance of \$100.00/pp due at our September 3, 2026 meeting. For those of you who have signed up, you are responsible for the total amount due. If you cannot attend the Christmas Show, you will have to find someone to take your place. No refunds will be given.

***Please make sure all payments are in an envelope marked with the amount, the event name, and your name. I will no longer accept cash in my hands. There are so many events for which I am collecting, and I am still trying to put names and faces together. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

Thank you, Neysa Silvestri, Chairperson

OUR SONS & DAUGHTERS OF ITALY HISTORICAL HERITAGE:

The following is an excerpt from *The Order Sons of Italy in America 100th Anniversary Centennial Journal: The Century of Progress 1905-2005*, that states one of the many accomplishments of the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy throughout our organization's existence:

“In 1980, as we prepared to celebrate our 75th anniversary, the National President of the Order joined the State President of New York, Brother Peter Zuzolo and thousands of our brothers and sisters from the New York area in a protest march in Washington, DC on behalf of our good brother, Anthony Casamento. There we met with representatives from the Office of Assistant to the President as well as representatives of the Military to assist Tony and his beautiful wife Olivia, plead their case. Shortly thereafter, Tony won his long-fought battle for justice as was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.”

Respectfully submitted by: Janet Ackerson, Corresponding Secretary



June 4, 2026 – Our Scholarship Winners' Presentation Meeting & Dinner



Laila, April & Parents



Laila Pascucci + April Bondurant



Scholarship Winners &
the Scholarship Committee



April Bondurant
Donna Potenza. Sue Ann Baietti



Laila Pascucci
Donna Potenza, Sue Ann Baietti