UPCOMING EVENTS

April
4/8 Board Meeting
4/10 Cigar/Steak Night
4/13 Scholarship Deadline
4/24 Pocketbook Bingo
4/28 General Meeting

May
5/13 Board Meeting
5/15 Soccer Game Memorial Park - Mt. Vernon
5/26 General Meeting-Scholarships & Member Initiation
5/29 Sip & Stomp your boots - Country Line Dancing
5/30 Oldies Night-Stepinac High School

June
6/10 Board Meeting
6/12 Pasta Night
6/23 General Meeting
6/25-6/28 NYS Convention

Save the Dates

7/23 Music at Renaissance Plaza Park - Free concert featuring the Carozza Entertainment
7/26 Italian Heritage Festival - Kenisco Dam, Valhalla

Antonio Meucci Lodge 213
ORDER Sons and Daughters of Italy IN AMERICA

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

To My Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Spring and welcome to the Spring 2026 Quarterly Edition of the ***Avanti***. This past March was one year since I took office as your President. I can't believe it. Seems like it was only yesterday. I need to personally thank everyone who has helped me on this journey. I couldn't have done it without my Brothers and Sisters, and as the saying goes "*the best is yet to come".*

So far we had two successful events which was the Pasta/Tombola and San Giuseppe and St. Patricks Day's celebrations. The winter Cornhole games are still being played as well as Scopa, Poker and now Mahjong which is also being enjoyed by many of our members. We will also be planning our Spring/Summer Bocce games. All fun things to look forward to, and perhaps I will see you at some of these events. Also, in March we initiated 10 new members who joined this great Lodge of ours. I am so happy they joined and look forward to working with them on some upcoming events and activities. Congratulations and welcome.

In the months to come we will be having a Cigar, Steak and Lobster night followed by our Pocketbook Bingo. This coming May we will be enjoying a Country Western Line Dancing, as well as attending a Soccer game on May 15th at Stadium Memorial Field in Mt. Vernon where we will watch the team play against the NY Cosmos all fun events for you to enjoy. I'm happy to announce we are in the planning stages of our *Italian Heritage Festival* that will take place on *July 26th*. Not only will we have delicious food, vendors and music by Pane Chocolate and Ella Cristina we will also honor one of our own, Brother Michael Bellantoni. Brother Michael owns Bellantoni Landscaping, a 60 year business owner in the White Plains Area. We are so proud he accepted to be our honoree, a well deserved honoree.

Our Scholarship applications are now open for Undergraduate and Graduate Students for our members children or grandchildren, Please look at our website antoniomeuccilodge213@gmail.com. ***The deadline is April 13th***.
As previously mentioned the ***Avanti*** is only printed quarterly and mailed to those people who do not have an email address, however I do write a monthly Newsletter to keep you abreast on what is going on in the Lodge. If you want to receive the Newsletter please send an email to antoniomeuccilodge213@gmail.com and we will be happy to add you to the list. Another way to keep abreast with Lodge news is to listen to our monthly Podcast the Lion's Den hosted by Brothers Nando Alpuche, Adam Pacecca and Joe Griffo. It's very informative with interesting guest speakers. Thanks guys for doing this.

In closing, until our next Edition of the ***Avanti*** I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter, Buona Pasqua, Happy Mother's Day, Happy Memorial Day, and Happy Father's Day. Brothers and Sisters may you always remember our motto ***Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.***

Sempre Avanti,
President Camille

Antonio Meucci Lodge 213
ORDER Sons and Daughters of Italy IN AMERICA

Antonio Meucci Place
279 Maple Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606
(914) 761-9073
www.antoniomeuccilodge.com

OFFICERS 2026

President: Camille Tarone
Vice President: Anthony Miceli
Second Vice President: Cathy Grisanti
Immediate Past President:!Mario Cermele
Orator:! Nando Alpuche
Financial Secretary:!Joe Griffo
Treasurer:!Lina Amello
Recording Secretary:!Caroline Baviello
Corresponding Secretary:!Rosalia Miceli
Principal Trustee:!Gino DiMiceli

Trustees:
Tina !Amato, Rita Carolini, Maria DiMiceli, Christopher Famularo, Lucy Tocci, Dina Roselli, Charles Guastella, Maria Malandro, Antonella Capicotto DeLia, Nick Vaccarelli

Ceremonial Officers:!
Heidi Banzinger, Roselle Cucuzza

Sentinels:
Adam Pacecca, Lynda Innocenzi

Arbitration Committee:
Frank Autera, Sam Amellio, Richard Strobel, Anna Maria Forte, Tina Salerno (Pres)

Past Presidents:
Antonio Amato, Antonio Capicotto, Mario Cermele, Teresa Riverso, Frank Tarone, Rose Tassone, Charles Tota

Chaplain: Joe Tanzi

District Lodge Deputy:!Margaret Forte

LAMOSIA:
Pamela Danza (Treasurer)
Antonio Amato (Past President)
Rose Tassone ((Past President)
Teresa Riverso (Past President))
Charles Tota (Past President)
Mario Cermele (Past President)

Antonio Meucci Lodge#213 Inc Directors:
Umberto Amato, Michael DiSavino, Raymond Tocci

Congratulations

To **Brother Daniel Cochrane** who graduated from the Westchester Fire Academy. He will work for the Harrison Fire Department, and is the Son of Sister Dina Roselli, Grandson to Brother Vince Roselli and Great Nephew to Brother Charlie Tota.

To **Thomas Tassone** who graduated from the Westchester Fire Academy. He will work for the White Plains Fire Department, and is the Grandson to Brother Mike Clarizio.

To our Orator **Brother Nando Alpuche** on his recent engagement to Liz, on Valentine's Day.

To **Nick Capicotto** on his recent engagement to Kate. He is the Son of Brother Tony & Sister Margherita Capicotto, Grandson to Franca Capicotto and Aunt to Sister Antonella Capicotto-Delia.

To **Justin Amato** on his recent engagement to Jessie. He is the Son of Brother Joe & Sister Toni-Marie Amato, and Grandson to Brother Tony & Sister Tina Amato, and nephew to the Amato and Eglauf families.

To **Joseph Ilardi on the marriage** to Taylor. Joseph is the son to Sister Jean Borrelli-ilardi and Brother Luigi

To **Giulianna Miceli** daughter of Brother Anthony and Sister Rosalia Miceli on her new job with the NYPD Forensic Investigations Division and its Police Laboratory.

To Brother **Chris Famularo** was appointed as District IV liaison to the CSJ (Commission for Social Justice). So if you "see something, say something". You can send information to him His email is famularoc76@gmail.com

To **Sister Lina-Cannavo Carolini** who accepted a position as the Principal of the Farragut Middle School in Hastings.

To **Sister Tina Salerno**, the new President elected for Commission of Arbitration

Get Well Wishes

To All our Brothers,Sisters and extended family

Nina Maria Chillemi, Rita Cestone, Bettina DeFilippo, Anna Maria Forte, Margaret Forte, Angela Fragnito, Annette Gatti, Teresa Riverso, Vincenza Puja, Emelia Sclafani, Clara Sposato, Tony Amato, Umberto Amato, Lucio Gatti, John Pezzullo, Joseph Racioppo, Vince Roselli, Joe Tanzi, Nick Fragnito, Mike Grisanti, Tony Mule and Antionette Cinicolo

Deepest Sympathy

To **First Gent Brother Frank Autera** on the passing of his Father Vito in Italy.

To **OSDIA National President Tom Lupo** who's brother John Lupo passed away

To **NYS Past President Salvatore Lanzilotta.** Brother Sal was the **Uncle to our President Camille Tarone.** May he rest in peace

To Sister Margaret Bernebi on the passing of her Aunt Connie Perrotta.

Milestone Anniversary & Birthday Wishes

Sister Cathy Grisanti, Dora Pallagrosi, Mara Persampieri, and Brother Steve Sorano.

Brother Nick Fragnito celebrating his 85th Birthday

The Antonio Meucci Lodge who celebrated it's birthday on February 22nd. We are now 112 years old!

To **Tony & Rita Cestone** celebrating 65 years of marriage. Congratulations to this lovely couple.

If you would like to publish milestones about your family i.e. weddings, births, anniversaries etc. please contact Bro. Joe Griffo at 914-275-3273 and your information will be added to next AVANTI.

LODGE NEWS

Congratulations To our new members installed in March

Andrea Broccio, Anthony Gerasi, Nick Marziliano, Mary Jo Mastrogiacomo, Christopher Stumpo, Romeo & Michelle Spiniello, Christopher Turano, Ilana White, and Michael White.

We also had Sister Vanessa Racci who transferred from the Lt. Joseph Petrosino Lodge in Little Italy.

If you have moved, changed email or phone please notify us with your new contact information so we can keep our records up to date. Contact Camille Tarone at 914-772-1768 or" email: tarone96@aol.com

OFFICER's MEETINGS
2nd Weds of Every Month @ 7:30pm

GENERAL MEETINGS
4th Tues of Every Month @ 7:30pm

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Scholarship Opportunity

The Antonio Meucci Lodge Scholarship Award applications are now opened to receive applications. The Scholarships are available for both an Undergraduate or Graduate student to all our members Children and Grandchildren. I encourage our children to look into these opportunities and perhaps apply. The amount is $1,500 you can possibly win towards your college education. You can visit our website **antoniomeuccilodge.com** for the applications and criteria. This year the Frank Tarone Vocational Scholarship and the Vito Cirioni Memorial Scholarship will be given to a worthy student in White Plains High School at their Awards ceremony this coming May

Please note the ***deadline is April 13, 2026***.
If anyone has any questions you can reach out to Chairperson: **Sister Rita Maria Carolini** on 914 656-4095.

AML Gives Back

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a $1,000 donation to the NYS OSDIA Foundation to help the victims in Sicily due to Cyclone Harry.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a $1,500 donation to the City of White Plains Parks and Recreation to the Funny Bunny event they had on March 28th.

The Antonio Meucci Lodge made a $500 donation to The Friends of Karen Spring Time Holiday Meal Grocery Gift Card Drive to help critically ill children and their families enjoy a special Easter, Passover or other springtime holiday meal.

Thank You

To Brother **Honorable Francis Nicola**i and The **Italian American Forum** for their very generous donation of $2,000 to Antonio Meucci Lodge Inc.
The donation will be used to promote our Italian American Heritage and Culture through Scholarships and our Italian Heritage Festival

LINK UP
Check us out on our social media pages to stay up to date on current events at The Antonio Meucci Lodge#213

Facebook:
Antonio Meucci Lodge 213 White Plains
Instagram:
@Antonio.Meucci.Lodge"
Website:
www.antoniomeuccilodge .com

Grand Lodge Information

"Discovering The Truth-The Louis J. Gallo Jr. Memorial Columbus Award"

The **CSJ** is having an Essay contest called "Discovering The Truth-The Louis J. Gallo Jr. Memorial Columbus Award. The contest is for students in grades 11-12 for all children of Lodge members in good standing. The student must select one of the many Anti-Columbus myths/falsehoods being repeated today and prove it wrong using reputable sources. Cash prizes will be awarded. The information is also posted on our website antoniomeuccilodge.com. I encourage our young students to take advantage of this opportunity. You never know they just may be a winner. **The deadline is June 1, 2026.**

Celebrating 250 Years

The **Grand Lodge** is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of our great country by doing a video to celebrate the contributions and achievements of Italian-Americans. To honor our families who made that journey, or perhaps some of us who are first generation Italian-Americans they are looking for pictures that document that journey. The pictures will be documented into a video to be shown at the State Convention this year. So if you have a family photo of the family members that came here, even you, please send the photo (1 per family), along with the family name and the year, so they will combine them into a video. Photos must be **jpeg or pdf**. You then can send the photo to Joseph Ilardi at email ilardij@aol.com. In the subject field put 2026 Convention Video. Please submit the picture as soon as possible.

The Dollar Challenge

The **Garibaldi Meucci Museum** is having The Dollar Challenge. They are challenging each and every OSDIA member to contribute $1.00 through their filial/subordinate Lodge for the Museums' upkeep. The museum is OUR OSDIA Treasure and now OUR National Charity, and need the funds to help with the many repairs and maintenance needed on the building. Over the years our Lodge has always supported the museum because we felt an allegiance to it as it has our name associated to it. The challenge is where they are looking for a $1.00 from every member of the Lodge. Since we have 341 members they are looking for at lease $341 or more. The Lodge winners will be those with the largest percentage of members contributing. The winning Lodge(s) name will be published in the Italian American Magazine, and a plaque with the Lodge names placed in the entry of the Museum. A canister will be placed at our meetings where you can place your dollar. If at all possible can you assist in this contribution it will greatly be appreciated, and thank you to all that had already contributed. **The deadline is April 15th.**

New Lodges

In regards, to the **OSDIA Foundation** I'm happy to report that the Order is growing in leaps and bounds with additional Lodges across the Country. Another Lodge recently opened up in Georgia called **Buoni Amici #3021** in Newman, Georgia. That's two new Lodges that opened in Georgia in a year. The other Lodge is **Peachtree #3018** in Sandy, Georgia. So if you are visiting Georgia you should stop by. There is also a new Lodge called the **Charlotte Lodge #3016** in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the **Rainer Lodge #3019 i**n Parkland, Washington that also recently opened. So if you decide to relocate you have options to perhaps transfer to these Lodges.

$100 Raffle Tickets

Once again, the **Grand Lodge Foundation Inc. OSDIA** will be having their 2026 Charitable and State Programs Raffle. The prizes range anywhere from $20,000 to $500. Drawing will take place at the Convention in June. In the past some of our members have been lucky to win. If interested please reach out to **Brother Anthony Miceli** on 914 879-6884, we only have 25 tickets to sell. You need to be in it to win it!

ITALY's CELEBRATED HOLIDAYS, EVENTS and RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

April

Settimana Santa (Holy Week)!(Leading to April 5):!Intense processions occur nationwide, particularly in Sicily and the South.

April 3rd: Good Friday: The Pope leads a torchlit Stations of the Cross procession at the Colosseum in Rome

April 5th: Easter Sunday (Pasqua): Marked by the Scorpio del Carro (Explosion of the Cart) in Florence's Piazza del Duomo and major Papal Mass in St. Peter's Square

April 6th: Easter Monday (Pasquetta) A public holiday traditionally spent with family/ friends picnicking in the countryside

April 21st: Natale di Roma Celebrates the founding of Rome with historical parades and fireworks

April 25th: St. Mark's Day (Festa di San Marco) Celebrated in Venice with a boat race (Regata di Traghetti) and religious processions honoring the City's patron Saint. It's also Liberation Day (Festa della Liberation, a National holiday marking the end of WWII, featuring parades, concerts and ceremonies

April 28th-29th: Saint Biagio Celebration, which features religious processions, fireworks, and street fairs."

May

May 1st- 4th: Sagra di Sant'Efisio, Cagliari, Sardinia One of Italy's largest, most continuous religious processions, featuring thousands in traditional costume to honor the Saint who saved the city from plague

May 1: (Labour Day/May Day) A national public holiday, with rallies and a large concert in Rome near the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano.

Festa della Sensa!(Ascension Day, Venice):!A religious/civic festival recreating Venice's "marriage" to the sea with a massive boat procession

Calendimaggio!(Early May, Assisi):!A dramatic medieval re-enactment celebrating spring with parades, music, and competitions between the town's two, factions.

Feast of San Fortunato!(Second Sat/Sun of May, Camogli):!Honors the Patron Saint of fishermen,!featuring a large fish fry in 28-ton pans.

Infiorata di Noto!(Mid-May, Sicily):!A stunning flower petal festival where streets are covered in intricate, religiously, themed, designs.

May 15th: Festa dei Ceri An ancient, intense race, with, enormous, wooden, towers, carried, by, locals, to, honor, Saint, Ubaldo.

June

June 2nd: Festa della Repubblica A national holiday celebrating the birth of the Italian Republic with military parades, particularly in Rome.

June 13th: Feast of St Anthony of Padua The patron saint of lost items, travelers, and the poor. The day is marked by special masses, the blessing of bread and processions

June 16th: Luminara di San Ranieri!(Pisa):!Thousands of candles light up the banks of the Arno River to honor the patron Saint of Pisa.

June 24th: San Giovanni (Feast of Saint John the Baptist)!:!Celebrated nationwide, but highlights include fireworks and boat parades on Lake Como and in Florence.

June 29th: Saints Peter and Paul!(Rome):!A significant holiday in Rome, featuring special religious services and fireworks, marking the city's patron saints.!

AML Attends Giuseppe Garibaldi 40th Anniversary Gala

President Camille and members of the Lodge attend Filial Lodge Giuseppe Garibaldi 40th Anniversary Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser event

Brother Adam Pacecca and President Joe Catania from the Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge - members of FOTO (Future of The Order)

Memorial Day is a U.S. federal holiday dedicated to honoring and remembering the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

San Giuseppe & Saint Patrick

San Giuseppe and St. Patrick Celebration was a wonderful and heartfelt event that brought the community together in a spirit of tradition and friendship. Chairperson **Lina Amello** organized the evening, with **Roselle Cucuzza** managing the reservations. **Maria and Gino DiMicelli** generously contributed, with **Gino** preparing the special bread for the beautiful St. Joseph Altar. Many volunteers helped make the event a success, including **Sam Amello, Frank Autera, Pamela Danza, Antonella & Eduardo Delia, Anthony Gerasi, Lynda Innocenzi, Dina Roselli, Steve Sorano, and Richie and Joanne Strobel**. A special thank you goes to **Brother Mario Cermele** and **Cermele Catering** for the delicious food, while **DJ Nando** kept the celebration lively with great music. The evening was made even more festive thanks to the drinks generously donated by the King of Hearts, making the celebration a truly memorable occasion for everyone who attended.

THE AVANTI is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge Nº 213 and is published quarterly. Please submit all items for publication by the next day after The General Meeting preceding the month of publication. Contact us for all new submissions at antoniomeuccilodge213@gmail.com.

Pasta and Tombola

The Pasta and Tombola event was a wonderful gathering filled with great food, lively games, and strong community spirit. The evening was expertly led by Chairpersons Brothers Umberto Amato and Anthony Miceli, whose dedication helped make the event both enjoyable and memorable for all in attendance.

Supporting the success of the evening was a hardworking committee led by President Camille Tarone, along with Sisters Anna Maria Forte and Pamela Danza, and Brother Frank Autera. Their efforts ensured that every detail of the event ran smoothly.

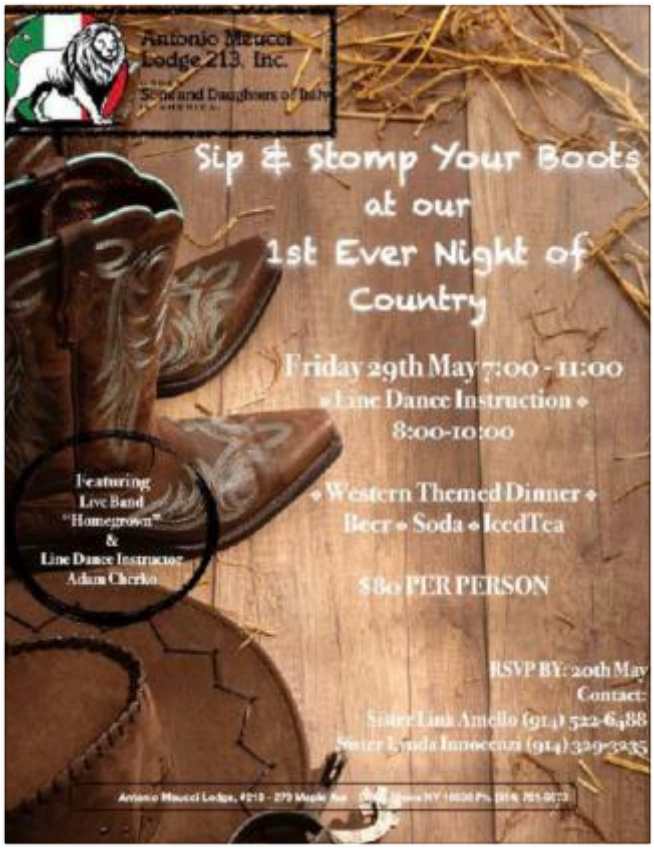
A highlight of the night was the Tombola (bingo), with Brothers Mario Cermele and Umberto Amato serving as enthusiastic callers, keeping the crowd engaged and energized throughout the games. A total of $780 in bingo prize money was awarded, adding to the excitement and friendly competition. In addition, raffles for baskets were held, giving attendees even more opportunities to participate and win.

Cathy Grisanti and Caroline Baviello did an excellent job selling raffle tickets, helping to make the raffle portion of the evening a success.

Overall, the event was a great success, bringing everyone together for an evening of fellowship, fun, and tradition.

EVENT GUIDE

Antonio Meucci Lodge 213
ORDER Sons and Daughters of Italy IN AMERICA



CULTURAL CLASSROOM

BIOGRAFIA
FILIPPIO MAZZEI
1730-1816

A Florentine physician, merchant, and intellectual whose adventurous life connected Europe and early America. After traveling widely and befriending figures like Benjamin Franklin, he moved to Virginia, bringing Tuscan farmers, agricultural ideas, and Enlightenment writings, and became close to leaders such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Mazzei supported the American Revolution, influenced ideas about equality later echoed in founding documents, and served as Virginia's ambassador in Paris while interacting with key figures of the French Revolution. A cosmopolitan thinker and cultural bridge between Europe and the United States, he spent his later years in Pisa writing memoirs, remembered as a worldly Enlightenment figure who helped spread American ideals in Europe.

TRAVELTROPEA

Tropea is a beautiful seaside town in southern Calabria, famous for its dramatic cliffs, turquoise waters, and charming historic streets. Travelers are drawn to its sandy beaches and the stunning hilltop views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. One of the town's most iconic sights is the picturesque Sanctuary of Santa Maria dell'Isola, a monastery perched on a rocky cliff overlooking the sea. With its warm climate, delicious local cuisine, and relaxed atmosphere, Tropea offers visitors a perfect mix of natural beauty and authentic Italian culture.

CUCINA CORNER

Pizza Rustica

Ingredients:
The Dough (Can use 2 Store Bought Pie Crusts)
2 ½ Cups of Flour
½ Cup Cold Butter- Cubed
2 tbsp. Olive Oil
1 Egg
1 tsp. Salt
4 tbsp. Cool Water
The Filling
7 oz. Prosciutto di Parma – Cut Into Cubes
8 oz. Hot Sopressata – Cut into Cubes
10 oz. Mild Provolone – Cut into Cubes
2 lbs. Cheese and Parsley Sausage- Out of the casing
8 oz. Fresh Mozzarella- Cut in Cubes
3 Cups Fresh Ricotta
1 ½ Tsp. Pepper
½ tsp. Salt
1 Cup Grated Pecorino Romano
1 Tbsp. Chopped Parsley
8 Eggs – beaten, plus one extra eggs for brushing on the pie
9 inch Springform Pan
NOTE
****Ask the deli person to slice prosciutto, hot sopressata and provolone thick (about ¼ inch thick). Then cut the meat into tiny cubes.
****A quality store bought pie dough is just as good as this homemade one.. Just roll it out to the same diameter as you would with the homemade dough.

The Dough
In a food processor fitted with a blade add the flour, butter, olives oil, egg and salt and pulse until the mixture resembles coarse sand. Then add in the water. And pulse until it is combined. Place the dough on a clean, floured countertop and knead slightly. You want to incorporate the ingredients but not overwork it. Form into a ball, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour. Just before using, take it out and bring to room temperature for 20 minutes.

For the Filling
Preheat the oven to 350°. In a large skillet cook the sausage until it is no longer pink and slightly browned. Let it cool.
In a bowl combine the prosciutto, hot sopressata, provolone, sausage, mozzarella, ricotta, salt, pepper, Pecorino, parsley and eggs. Mix so that all the ingredients are well incorporated. Spray your springform pan well with non-stick spray. On a flat surface put some flour. Cut ⅔ of the dough from the ball and form into another ball. Take the remaining 1/3 of the dough and make it a ball as well. Roll out the larger pie crust to about 15 inches in diameter. Transfer the dough to the springform pan. Gently push the dough so that it lines the entire bottom of the pan and up along the edges. Spoon the ricotta mixture into the dough-lined pan. Roll out the remaining piece of dough into a 10 inch round and cut into at least 15 thin strips. Then make a criss cross pattern on top of the pizza rustica. Or you can simply place the whole piece of dough right on top. Be sure to cut any excess off from around the perimeter of the pan. And crimp the edges close. In a bowl beat an egg. Use a pastry brush to coat the entire top of the pizza rustica with the egg. Put in the oven and bake for about 1 hour and 20 minutes. Allow to cool and serve.

https://miciamammas.com/pages/about-us

AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge Nº 213
279 Maple Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

The Avanti will be published 4 times a year. Please mark your calendar for the events you would like to attend so you don't miss out on our wonderful events throughout the year.

LET'S PARTY! THE LODGE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!

MEMBERS FEE FOR RENTAL $500 (PLUS INSURANCE)
PRICING EFFECTIVE 2025
CONTACT BROTHER MARIO CERMELE AT (914) 325-1239 FOR AVAILABLE DATES

Antonio Meucci
Lodge 213
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