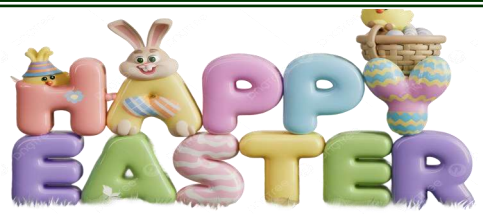
You heard it from Per Sempre Lodge...

An Award Winning Newsletter

April 2026 Official Newsletter of Per Sempre Lodge #2344, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Lynbrook, NY



Next Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 ~ 7pm
Easter Celebration
St Mary's/Maris Stella K of C #2278
78 Hempstead Ave, Lynbrook

A Message from our President Robert Baccari

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Important Meeting Date Change

The May Monthly Meeting will be on Monday May 18th at 7:00pm

Welcome to April!

As we move into Spring and Summer, I would like to congratulate our Brothers Antonio Baffo and Frank Sannuti on being installed as our newest Council members at our March meeting. Now let's talk about our March meeting as we celebrated St Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day. You never know what's going to happen at our meetings. If you missed this one, you missed a very festive meeting. Not only did we have the traditional desserts and Zeppole Di San Giuseppe to celebrate these two Saints in the month of March, but we celebrated the history of the Irish step dance with 17 dancers from Show Stompin' Irish Dance. They were phenomenal and put on an awesome show. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Gina DeSalvio for choreographing this event.

We also had some fun again with our First Vice President, Jerry, as he spoke about the new state charity, The Marty Lyons Foundation. He encouraged our members to contribute what they can to our large "Scolapasta." I would like to thank our membership for this month's generous donations, as we move closer each month to our goal. Together, we continue to make a meaningful impact at the state convention.

Now let us turn our attention to our next meeting on April 21st. We will celebrate Spring and Summer at this meeting. We will bring in the traditions of Pasqua.

On Saturday April 25th our Lodge will be hosting the NYS Plenary Session. The plenary sessions are meetings that inform the membership of the NYS Committees and their financials. **If you would like to attend the Plenary session, Please Contact Me Directly. This Is A Must.**

Our Frank Alberti Memorial Golf Outing will be held on May 19th at Holbrook Country Club. We are proud to announce that we will be honoring three distinguished individuals: NYS Grand Lodge First Lady Sister Joann Spera, our own Lodge Deputy Brother Joseph Armocida, and Jeff Behounek, Branch Manager of Hartford Funding. Please join us as we celebrate their dedication and service. It promises to be a wonderful day of fellowship and recognition. If you or someone you know enjoys golf, invite them to help our Lodge with our yearly event.

Please note that because of this event the May General Membership meeting will be the day before, on Monday, May 18th. This is our Baby Shower Meeting. Please bring donations of infant clothing, baby items, infant formula, baby food, and baby toys. Kindly ensure that all items are new.

In the month of June, we will proudly celebrate our Lodge's graduating high school seniors. We will recognize their hard work and accomplishments throughout their high school years and honor them with scholarships to support their continuing education. Join us at our June meeting as we come together to cheer on and celebrate our scholars!

Now let's talk about the future of the Lodge. We are moving the Lodge into the future a little at a time.

We have a mailing address: **Per Sempre Lodge No. 2344, P.O. Box 91, Lynbrook, New York 11563.** Please use this address for all correspondence to the lodge unless otherwise directed for various functions or events.

We have a new Checking account with a new banking establishment. Moving forward, if you write a check to the Lodge, the new payable is as follows: **Per Sempre Lodge No. 2344**
If you forget this payable it is on our banner that is displayed at every meeting. We also will be accepting **Zelle**. If you personally have online banking and use Zelle to pay or transfer money you know what I am talking about. On future flyers we will have the **Zelle Tag** and a **QR** code that can be scanned with your phone camera. Our **Zelle Tag** is as follows: **PERSEMPRELODGE-2344**
Please note that this name differs from the Lodge's official payable business name.
All **Zelle** transactions submitted to the Lodge must include a clear description of the payment's purpose in the descriptor field. This requirement is comparable to the memo section located on your personal check.

LODGE OFFICERS

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Robert Baccari
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Tony Baffo

*Deceased

As this procedure is newly implemented, we kindly request that all members adhere strictly to these guidelines to ensure transactions are processed accurately and without delay. For your convenience, a **Zelle QR** code, along with detailed instructions, is provided in the flyer enclosed with this newsletter. Members may utilize the **Quick Send** feature by scanning the **QR** code with their mobile device Banking app.

Again, Loreta and I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season of Easter and Passover. Bouna Pasqua and Happy Hanukkah **חַג אוּרִים שָׂמֵחַ.**

Upcoming Events: Please continue to refer to your newsletter for any changes.
RSVP'S ARE A MUST ON THOSE INDICATED
April 21st General membership meeting

April 25 NYS Plenary Meeting

May 18th Monday General Meeting Date Change.

May 19th Frank Alberti Memorial Golf Outing -Holbrook Country Club Tickets are now available for a golf package or dinner only.

June 16th Scholarship Night (RSVP is required)

July 21st Night at the Races (RSVP with payment is required)

August 8th Annual Family Picnic (RSVP with payment is required. Children are welcome to attend)

August 18th Our Ice Cream Social Celebration (This is a FREE event, and children are welcome to attend)

October 20th Our Italian Heritage Night with Speaker Lou Di Bianco grandson of the Chief Carver of Mount Rushmore (RSVP is required. Children are welcome to attend)

Fraternally,

Robert

SAVE THE DATE

PER SEMPRE LODGE #2344
FRANK ALBERTI MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
HOLBROOK COUNTRY CLUB, HOLBROOK. NEW YORK

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE BROCHURE ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER
OR CONTACT: BROTHER TOMMY DELUCA ~ 516-776-0989
OR SISTER ELEANOR JOBBAGY ~ 516-551-3125

Per Sempre Lodge #2344
proudly invites you to join us as we honor
the exceptional youths of our communities at our
Annual Scholarship Awards Night
Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7PM
St. Mary's/Maris Stella Knights of Columbus Hall
78 Hempstead Avenue, Lynbrook
See the flyer attached to this newsletter.

HELP SUPPORT YOUR LODGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Purchase a Monthly Point Ticket, it's only $5 a Month! Proceeds help support
PER SEMPRE LODGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Winning numbers are based on the evening draws of the Numbers Game.
Chances to win every night of every month!
Just pick a 3 digit number & see Sister Mildred Mancusi to purchase a ticket!
Email: millieotb@yahoo.com It's that easy!

At our General Membership Meeting on March 17th Per Sempre Lodge installed our newly elected Trustees Brothers Antonio Baffo and Frank Sannuti. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day! Thank you to our first Lady Loreta Baccari for the delicious homemade desserts. We also enjoyed wonderful Zeppole Di San Giuseppe! We were also thrilled by the performance of the Irish Step Dancers from Show Stompin' Irish Dance led by Meagan Gollin. Here are some highlights ...

Pictured left to right are our Orator Bruno Caracciolo, 2nd V.P. Andy Illiano, 1st V.P. Gerry Filippone, Past President Joe Rondinelli, newly installed Trustees Frank Sannuti and Tony Baffo, IPP Rosemarie Baffo Stathes, Corresponding Secretary Julianne Baffo Sirianni and President Robert Baccari.

Vesting newly installed Trustee Tony Baffo are his daughters Rosemarie and Julianne!

Vestiing newly installed Trustee Frank Sannutti is his wife Alexia!

EASTER SUNDAY

Reprinted from the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Booklet *Italian Customs and Traditions for Easter*

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy.

The Easter story is the heart of Christianity. On Good Friday, Jesus was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross and laid in a cave. The tomb was guarded and an enormous stone was put over the entrance so no one could steal the body. On the following Sunday, some women visited the grave and found that the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty.

The date of Easter changes each year, and several Christian festivals fix their dates by reference to Easter. Easter was coordinated with older pre-Christian celebrations of spring. The direct relationship to Sunday as the day sacred to the sun, the ultimate symbol of life, is obvious, yet the subtle connections to the earlier celebrations of the time of planting and the Moon are of equal importance in determining the day of the Easter celebration. Although the name "Easter" is of pagan origin, the Italian "Pasqua" is not. It refers to the Pasch or Passover Feast.

In Italy, the Easter blessing in the local churches is a tradition - people bring a basket filled with hard boiled eggs, a bottle of wine, salt, special Easter bread and various foods that are eaten on Sunday.

Traditionally, the food served on Easter is lamb, but there are many other specialties. Varying from region to region, and sometimes from family to family within the region, there are many dishes that are common throughout Italy, with only ingredients varying. The common dishes provide a sense of continuity with Italian heritage, while those dishes particular to an area highlight the uniqueness of the regions from which they hail.

The abundance of rich food confirms that all the deprivations and sacrifices of Lent are over. The limitations and penitence of the forty days that precede Easter are therefore replaced by the return to joy.

Eggs are used in Easter baking to symbolize life, fertility and birth. They may be used to decorate rustic breads and cakes or to prepare some types of pizzas.

Bread has always played an important role in festive occasions. Bread is the primary staple in the Italian diet. It is considered the staff of life. At Easter, the types range from simple to complex, from a simple pizza to a rich egg bread. The Easter dove consists of a soft, raised dough and can be filled with chocolate or candied fruit and may be shaped as a lamb (*pagnello*) or the dove (*colomba*).

Other dishes that are often prepared for Easter throughout Italy's regions are pies or *tortas* made from cheese and meats such as sausage or prosciutto. In Sicily, one *torta* is comprised of macaroni, pork, cheese and eggs. The Calabrian version is made with ham, sausage, hard boiled eggs, mozzarella and ricotta. In the north, they prefer a *torta Pasqualina* that contains spinach, ricotta, cheese and eggs.

All Italian households conclude the meal with a tray of fruit and *dolci* (sweets), served with coffee, liqueurs or wine.

The *Pasqua torta*, a delicately flavored, sweetened ricotta pie, is a favorite in most regions. Similar sweet pies or pizzas are found throughout mountainous regions of Italy where their highly prized goat's milk is used to make very flavorful and smooth ricotta. Pies may vary in ingredients to include rice or whole grains, as is the case with *Pastiero*, a pie from Naples.

On Easter Sunday morning, families celebrate by making *frittata*, which is similar to an omelet. Five different kinds of *frittata* are made - one with hot sausage, one with asparagus, one with potatoes, one with pepperoni, and one with cheese. *Frittatas* are usually served with Easter Bread.

Easter Monday, also know as *Pasquetta*, is a national holiday in Italy. It is a day of complete relaxation that may be spent on excursions, short trips, and picnics in the countryside.

Some areas are devoted to pilgrimages. Some pay visits to the sanctuary of the *Madonna dell'Arco* next to Mt. Vesuvius. There, people walk barefoot and carry flags on which they pin their offers. Once they near the entrance to the sanctuary, they cross the threshold and finally enter to deliver their devout prayers.

The last tradition: All the leftovers of the Easter Sunday meal are eaten on this day.

Buona Pasqua a Tutti!

Report by: Andy Illiano, District III CSJ Chairperson

1) As mentioned in our December newsletter, the CSJ has received push back from NYC Libraries when we asked them to place CSJ Positive Image brochures, pamphlets, and bookmarks during Italian Heritage Month. These displays during the month of October are meant to educate the public on the positive contributions Italian-Americans have made to the building of our country. After several communications between National CSJ President John Fratta and Anthony W. Marx, President and CEO of the New York Public Library, and Councilman Carr we finally received some positive feedback. Mr. Marx has agreed to allow our materials in the libraries this October. These libraries cover Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx. Marx also gave us a contact for the library system in Brooklyn and Queens and we will be communicating with them as well about this matter.

2) REMINDER: "Discovering the Truth" - The Louis J. Gallo, Jr. Memorial Columbus Award. This Award is open to students in grades 11-12 and who are children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or siblings 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. The prizes for this award are: 1st Place - $800; 2nd Place - $500; 3rd Place - $300; and 4th Place - $200. Full details can be obtained here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z-0bYujtFaE1WLQiylY_PnzjPpZB8-_vuExYaWi62vw/edit?usp=drive_link

3) UPDATE: to recognize students excelling in Italian language courses, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America/New York State Commission for Social Justice established "La Bella Lingua Awards" - one annual $500 monetary award, per OSDIA/NYS District. This award is funded by the OSDIA NYS Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. We have received the applications from high schools with an Italian language program and will be selecting our winner in April.

4) The CSJ Annual Luncheon Fundraiser will take place on June 14th at Russo's on the Bay. The cost is $125/person and the honorees will be NYS Past President Biagio Isgro, National CSJ President John Fratta and Joan Prezioso, Immediate Past Chairperson of the Italian Welfare League. Anyone wishing to attend can contact NYS CSJ Chairperson Eleanor Jobbagy at ejobbagy@optonline.net

Garibaldi-Meucci Museum - www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.com

The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum was the home of Antonio Meucci, the true inventor of the telephone, and a refuge to Giuseppe Garibaldi, the legendary hero who championed the unification of Italy. For over 50 years the museum has fulfilled its mission to preserve the legacies of these great men and to promote understanding of the Italian-American heritage through cultural, artistic, and educational programs and classes.

Saturday, April 18th - 1pm-3pm - Save the Date - Historic Street Dedication Ceremony honoring Antonio Meucci and Giuseppe Garibaldi. Join in for an inspiring afternoon as they officially dedicate the crossroads at the museum as the Giuseppe Garibaldi Way & Antonio Meucci Way street signs are unveiled.

May 2nd, 2pm-4pm at the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum - Chef Dean Kropp Book Presentation & Signing. Join us for a special literary and culinary evening featuring Pastry Chef to the stars and acclaimed author Chef Dean Kropp, as he presents his powerful and inspiring works: **Memories Nobody Wants – Pastry Chef Whipped by No-Fault** and **Cooking for Gold: The Cooking Olympics.**

Just Announced: Tuesday, May 5th 12pm - Celebrate Puglia in May! Celebrating the culture, food, music & scenic beauty of Puglia. A lecture and video presentation by Anita Sanseverino & Lou Barrella - featuring Pugliese Artist & Singer Gianvito Bottalico. Join us at Osteria Santina, 502 Jewett Ave, Staten Island. $60 per person.

For more information about these and other events in April and May, Italian language classes, or to schedule a tour contact: Carol Berardi at 917-742-9301

Support the GMM by becoming a member … $25 Individual or $75 Family Membership … Join Today!

Restoring Mobility: A Total Approach to Hip Replacement

Hip pain can gradually limit some of life's simplest pleasures - walking comfortably, climbing stairs, enjoying time with family, or participating in community events. For individuals whose arthritis or joint damage has progressed beyond conservative treatment, **hip replacement surgery** can provide a life changing opportunity to regain mobility and independence.

Through a coordinated partnership between **Total Physical Therapy** and **Total Orthopedics & Sports Medicine**, patients benefit from a comprehensive approach that supports them from the earliest preparation stages through full recovery.

A Team Approach to Recovery

Successful hip replacement outcomes begin before surgery. Patients often participate in preoperative physical therapy sessions designed to strengthen muscles around the hip, improve circulation, and prepare the body for the rehabilitation process. Understanding what to expect ahead of time can also help reduce anxiety and improve recovery outcomes.

After surgery, physical therapy becomes a critical part of the healing process. At Total Physical Therapy, rehabilitation focuses on:

- Restoring hip mobility and range of motion
- Strengthening the hips, legs, and core muscles
- Improving balance and walking mechanics
- Helping patients safely return to everyday activities

With continuity of care and one-on-one attention, patients work with the same trusted therapists throughout their recovery journey - ensuring consistent progress toward clearly defined goals.

Surgeon Spotlight

Richard McCormick, MD
Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon

Dr. McCormick is an experienced orthopedic surgeon specializing in joint replacement and orthopedic care. Known for his thoughtful, patient-centered approach, he works closely with rehabilitation specialists to ensure each patient has a clear and coordinated path from surgery through recovery. His collaboration with physical therapy teams helps patients feel supported, informed, and confident throughout the process.

"The best surgical outcomes happen when expert care and rehabilitation work hand in hand"

Back to Living Fully

With modern surgical techniques and dedicated rehabilitation, many hip replacement patients return to walking comfortably, traveling, participating in family activities, and enjoying everyday life with far less pain.

Together, **Total Orthopedics & Sports Medicine** and **Total Physical Therapy** provide the expertise, guidance, and compassionate care needed to help patients move forward with strength and confidence.

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Springtime Allergies: Don't Let Pollen Steal Your Sunshine!

Ah, Spring! The season of blooming flowers, singing birds, and … sneezing fits! For millions of people, springtime is a double-edged sword: while the world outside bursts with color, the air is filled with pollen ready to launch an attack on unsuspecting noses and eyes.

Why Spring Makes Us Sneeze …
When trees, grasses, and flowers release pollen, our immune system sometimes mistakes it for a dangerous intruder. The result? Sneezing, itchy eyes, and runny noses that can make enjoying a sunny day a little tricky. Even mold spores from damp soil and garden debris can join the party, especially after April showers.

Common Symptoms That Say "Hello, Allergy Season!"
Non-stop sneezing and congestion ... Itchy, watery eyes that make you look like a cartoon character ... Scratchy throat or post-nasal drip … Fatigue or mild headaches from sinus pressure.

While allergies are rarely dangerous, they can certainly crash your springtime party! If symptoms are severe … like trouble breathing … see a doctor for some help right away.

Tips to Outsmart Pollen …
Check the pollen forecast .. Plan outdoor activities for low-pollen days;
Clean up after outdoor adventures .. Wash your hands, face, and hair, and change clothes if needed;
Keep your indoor air fresh .. Close windows on high-pollen days and consider using an air purifier;
Medication magic .. Over-the-counter antihistamines, eye drops, or nasal sprays can keep symptoms in check;
Garden wisely .. Plant low pollen flowers and clean up mold prone debris to reduce triggers.

Surviving and thriving Through Allergy Season …
Yes, pollen may be a yearly visitor, but it doesn't have to ruin your Spring. With a few small strategies, you can breathe easier, enjoy the sunshine, and maybe even sneak in a picnic without sneezing every five minutes. And remember, Spring isn't just about flowers, it's about fresh starts. A little antihistamine and a lot of optimism can help you enjoy every blooming moment!

Recipe of the month: *Pizza Rustica Little Italy* – Garibaldi-Meucci Museum's Easter Traditions Booklet

Ingredients

3 cups all purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar
1 stick unsalted butter, cold and cut into bits
1/4 cup olive oil
9 large eggs, beaten lightly
3lbs. Ricotta
1/2lb. each: prosciutto, cooked ham, salami/soppressata, coarsely chopped
1-1/2lbs. Mozzarella cheese Cut in small pieces
6 oz. Romano cheese, grated
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/3 cup ice water

Directions

Make the dough: in a large bowl combine the flour, sugar, and a pinch of salt. Add the butter and blend the mixture until it resembles meal. Stir in oil and approx. 1/3 cup of ice water, 1 tbsp. at a time, to form a soft dough. Knead the dough lightly on a floured surface until it is smooth and chill it, wrapped in plastic wrap, for 30 minutes. Halve the dough, roll half of it into a circle 1/8-inch thick, and fit it into a buttered 12 inch round baking pan, 2 inches deep, leaving a 1-inch overhang. Chill the shell and the remaining dough.

Make the filling: In a very large bowl, beat the eggs and stir in the ricotta, a little at a time until the mixture is blended well. Stir in the prosciutto, ham, salami/soppresseta, mozzarella, Romano cheese, and the pepper. Combine the filling well.

Spoon the filling into the shell, roll the remaining dough into a circle large enough to cover the top of the pie and arrange it over the filling. Crimp the edges firmly together, brush it with egg wash, (one egg yolk with a pinch of salt and 1 tsp. of water), and cut large slits in the top for steam vents. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until top is golden brown. Let sit for 15 minutes. Serves 12.

Bon Appetit!

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

As Easter arrives and spring begins to unfold around us, we are reminded of the quiet beauty of renewal. After the freezing winter months we endured, we can all enjoy to watch the world slowly come back to life … trees budding, flowers blooming, and longer, brighter days that invite us to step outside and reconnect with one another. There is something so comforting about the warmth and beauty of Spring. It's a gentle reminder that change can bring new beginnings.

Easter, in its many meanings, carries a message of hope, reflection, and renewal. For some, it is a sacred and spiritual time; for others, it is a moment to gather with family, share traditions, and celebrate the simple joys of togetherness. However you observe it, the spirit of Easter encourages us to pause and appreciate the blessings around us … both big and small.

Springtime, too, offers its own quiet inspiration. It invites us to refresh our outlook, to let go of what no longer serves us, and to embrace the possibilities ahead. Just as nature begins again, so can we … finding new energy, new goals, and new reasons to be grateful.

As we welcome this season, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being part of our Per Sempre family. Your continued support, participation, and connection are what make this Lodge so special. It is through your shared experiences, kindness, and dedication that we continue to grow and thrive together.

May this Easter and spring season bring you peace, joy, and a renewed sense of hope. And may the days ahead be filled with warmth, light, and the promise of something wonderful just beginning.

Until next month … Ciao! *Julianne*

Today's Notes!
Per Sempre Lodge 2026 Upcoming Events

April 21	General Mtg/Spring Celebration
May 18	GENERAL Mtg/Baby Shower
May 19	Frank Alberti Memorial Golf Outing, Holbrook Country Club
June 16	General Mtg/Scholarship Night
July 21	General Mtg/Night at the Races
Aug 8	Per Sempre Family Picnic, Greis Park picnic area, Lynbrook
Aug 18	General Mtg/Ice Cream Social
Sept 15	General Mtg
Oct 20	Italian Heritage Night

Stay Active - Attend a Meeting!
For More Information
Call President Robert - 516-859-3431

Today's Notes!
NYS OSDIA 2026 Upcoming Events

Apr 7	NYOSDIA Cooley's Anemia Dine Around, Verdi's of Westbury
Apr 24	NYOSDIA Grand Lodge Fdn Annual Golden Lion Awards Dinner, Garden City Hotel, Garden City
Apr 25	NYS Grand Lodge Spring Plenary Session hosted by Dist. III Lodges. Lynbrook K of C Hall.
June 14	NYOSDIA 44th Annual CSJ Brunch at Russo's on the Bay, Howard Beach
June 25-28	NYOSDIA 118th Annual State Convention, Desmond Hotel, Albany

For More Info on NYSOSDIA Events
Call Grand Lodge Office: 516-785-4623

Become A Member

Do you know someone who'd be interested in joining our Lodge? Whether they're of Italian Heritage, the spouse, child or grandchild of someone who is, or just interested in our missions and goals, we welcome them to join the **Per Sempre Lodge #2344!** Dues are $50 per year plus a one time membership fee of $10.
For questions regarding membership, please call our lodge **Membership Chairperson Gloria Stingone at 516-887-5805.** ***We look forward to seeing you at our next monthly membership meeting!***

Good & Welfare

Sunshine Chairperson Sister Vera D'Arrigo
718-445-8134

Please call Sister Vera with any lodge related news, illness, marriage, births, etc. We can't post it if we don't know about it.

Get well prayers and good wishes to…

Sisters Nancy DiFiore Quinn, Elizabeth Mullen, and Libby Ostrander all dealing with serious health issues;

Brother Carmine Rosato recovering from cataract surgery;

Sister Vera D'Arrigo dealing with ongoing health issues.

April Birthdays

Birthstone - Diamond
Flower - Daisy & Sweet Pea
Aries - March 21 - April 19 Taurus - April - May 20

Rosaria Anninos ~ Tony Baffo ~ Diane Como
Regina Coppola ~ Christine Corsello ~ Mario Divella
Diane Dries ~ Viola Esposito ~ Suzette Filipski
Marie Granato ~ Donato Guadagnoli ~ Rosaria Iannelli
Barbara Lobachewski ~ Giuseppina Lombardo
Charles Maione ~ Maria Neuroth ~ Regina Pasqualino
Frank Sannuti ~ Felicia Sansotta ~ Joan Vaiana

Buon Compleanno e auguri a tutti!

DID YOU KNOW ... there's a bank in Italy that's been operating since the 1400s?

Founded in 1472, ***Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena*** in the beautiful city of Siena holds the title of the oldest surviving bank in the world! That means it was already doing business during the Renaissance … when figures like Leonardo da Vinci were just beginning to shape art, science, and culture as we know it!

Originally, the bank was created as a "mount of Piety," a charitable institute designed to offer low-interest loans to those in need … helping everyday people avoid the grasp of predatory lenders. In a time when financial systems were far less regulated, this was a revolutionary idea rooted in fairness and community support.

Over the centuries, the bank has witnessed, and survived, some of history's most dramatic moments, from political upheavals in Italy to global economic decline. Imagine the generations of families, merchants, and travelers who have passed through its doors, each leaving behind a small piece of history. Its longevity is a testament not only to resilience, but to the enduring importance of trust in financial institutions.

Today, while ***Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena*** operates in a modern, digital world, it still carries the weight of its remarkable past. Walking through Siena, where medieval streets wind past centuries-old buildings, it's not hard to feel as though time itself moves a little differently.

Italy is a country where history lives and breathes in everyday places … and sometimes, the most unexpected institutions hold the most extraordinary stories.

Frank Sirianni
Licensed Salesperson

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

REGISTRATION	10:00AM
BBQ LUNCH	11:00AM
SHOTGUN START	1:00PM
BUFFET DINNER	5:30PM
RAFFLE & AWARDS	6:30PM

Directions::

From Long Island Expressway (495) East of West

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 61. At first traffic signal, head south on Patchogue Holbrook Road. Country Club will be approximately 1.5 miles on your right.

From Sunrise Highway (27) East or West

Take Sunrise Highway to Exit 51N (Nichols). Travel north approximately 1 mile to Patchogue Holbrook Road exit. Bear left to traffic signal and turn onto Patchogue Holbrook Road. Country Club will be approximately 1/4 mile on your left.

LIST OF GOLFERS

(PLEASE PRINT)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

_____
NAME

_____
COMPANY/LODGE

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Per Sempre Lodge #2344
12th Annual Frank Alberti Memorial Golf Outing

honoring

Joanne Spera
NYS OSDIA 1st Lady

Joseph Armocida
President, America Lodge #2245
NYS Deputy, Per Sempre Lodge #2344

Jeff Behounek
Branch Manager
Hartford Funding

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Holbrook Country Club
700 Patchogue Holbrook Road
Holbrook, NY
631-585-4433

All proceeds to benefit
Per Sempre Lodge's charitable endeavors

Golf Package Includes:
Balls, Tees and Gift at Registration
18 Holes of Golf & Golf Cart
BBQ Lunch 11:00am
Buffet Dinner beginning at 5:30pm
Award Ceremony & Raffles
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50/50 Hole, Low Gross & Low Net

2026 Honoree Joanne Spera

Joanne DeMartino was born the oldest of 4 children in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn. Her family lived there until she was 16 years old, when they moved to Dix Hills on Long Island. Joanne graduated from Half Hollow Hills High School in 1969. She met Arthur Spera in 1975 and they were married in 1980. They have 3 children: Janeen, Paul and Joseph, married to Kathleen and have 4 grandchildren who are the loves of their lives: Theodore Joseph, Isabella Rose, Lorenzo Luca and Amelia Jade.

Joanne's OSDIA involvement began in the early 80's, but it wasn't until 1988 that she joined the Constantino Brumidi Lodge #2211 Ladies Auxiliary. She became immediately involved and soon became an officer working her way up through the ranks until she became Auxiliary President and served 2 years from 2003-2005. Joanne chaired many committees for the auxiliary, the Brumidi Lodge and her community. During her presidency the Lodge and Auxiliary conducted "Operation Shoebox" which sent over 6,000 lbs. of personal goods to U.S. Troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2009, Joanne joined the Vigiano Bros. Lodge #3436 and served in various positions including 2 years as Lodge President, from 2011-2013. Joanne has been a Grand Lodge Convention Delegate for 16 years. She has served, and is presently serving the Grand Lodge in many elected and appointed positions. She has been a State Trustee for 4 years and Garibaldi Meucci Museum Commissioner for 4 years as well. Joanne has been a Deputy to the Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge #2319 for 13 years, and in 2023 was named Deputy Emeritus to that lodge and has been Deputy to the Sgt. John Basilone Lodge #2442 for 10 years and was named Deputy Emeritus to that lodge in 2025. Joanne is presently serving as the NYS Grand Lodge First Lady and is the Coordinator of State Charities Chairlady along with her Co-Chair Carol DiTrapani. Joanne has been the NYS Scholarship Chairperson since 2023 and District 1 Scholarship Chairlady for 12 years. She has been involved in the Winter Charity Ball for 14 years and served as the Chairlady for the event for the past 5 years. In 2004 the Spera Family was chosen as the New York OSIA Family of the Year. And, at the 2024 NYS Grand Lodge Convention Joanne received the most prestigious Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Award.

In her personal life, Joanne is retired from the North Babylon School District where she was employed for 31 years, all as a Para Professional at the Marion G. Vedder Elementary School. She was elected to the M.G.V. Hall of Fame in 2008. Joanne has been a member of NYSUT since 1990 and received the Community Service Award in 2006 for service to the North Babylon Community and in recognition for "Operation Shoebox".

Joanne remains committed to her family and friends and is extremely proud of her Italian heritage. She looks forward to remaining active and involved in OSDIA for many years to come.

2026 Honoree Joseph Armocida

Joseph Armocida was born in Brooklyn, New York. He currently resides in Franklin Square with his wife Lillian of 37 years and his daughter Nicole.

Over the span of 46 years, Joseph built a successful career in the construction industry and currently works for himself as a consultant at JADAR Consulting Services Inc. since January of 2020. Prior to that he was a partner at TRM Contracting LLC. Prior to his joining TRM Contracting in October 2011, he worked for Leviathan Construction as an Executive Vice President and at HRH Construction, for 24 years as a Project Executive and Vice President.

Joseph was a member of the Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together NYC from 2003 through 2014 and a member of their Executive Committee from 2007 through 2014 where he held the roles of Secretary and then Treasurer. Prior to joining their Board, Joseph volunteered with Rebuilding Together NYC since 1999.

In addition Joseph is also active within the Franklin Square community. He was a Board member of the Franklin Square Union Free School District; the Sewanhaka Central High School District; is an active member and Trustee of the Knights of Columbus, and is a chair of his parish finance committee. In 2020 he joined America Lodge #2245, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. He has served as Financial Secretary and is currently President. Joseph is also the District Deputy to the Per Sempre Lodge.

Joseph was a Trustee of the Franklin Square Board of Education from 2001 until his retirement from Board service in 2016. He served as President of the Elementary School Board from 2006 and was Vice President for two years prior. In addition to his roles on the Board, he was one of the Franklin Square Trustees appointed to the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board of Education from 2007 until his retirement from Board service in 2016.

Supporting numerous local charitable organizations, Joseph is a patron of the St. Catherine of Sienna Church and has volunteered his services for many of their youth group activities, parish functions, as well as their annual summer festivals. He was active with the H. Frank Carey High School Dad's Club, as well as the elementary and high school PTAs. He has also served on the Budget Advisory Committee of the local BOCES.

2026 Honoree Jeff Behounek

Jeff Behounek is a Long Islander native born and raised in Bohemia New York. The Behounek name is a staple in the Bohemia community spanning over 130 years when his ancestors came to town from Czechoslovakia in the 1880's.

Over the course of that century, there have been five generations of Behounek's who served as volunteer firefighters in the Bohemia fire department. The family shared a huge milestone in 2008 with three active generations at once - his grand father as District Commissioner, his father as Chief and Jeff and his brother Dan as active Class A firefighters.

After graduating from Connetquot High School in 2008, Jeff went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Joseph's college in 2012. Shortly after graduating, his journey into the Mortgage Industry began at Meadowbrook Financial where he worked tirelessly, rising through the ranks as a loan officer for 10+ years.

In the summer of 2024, a tremendous opportunity arose to partner with his mentor and start their own sales team at Hartford Funding LTD. At Hartford, he currently has the role of Branch Manager and oversees a team of seven loan officers which is currently on track to fund over $100 million dollars in business this year.

In addition to his long history of community involvement, he now sits on the board of Mission Helping Hands Charity which has raised over $50,000 a year for the past five years for partnered charities and local families throughout Long Island.

He and his wife Aliea currently live in Bayshore, New York and are expecting their first child – a baby boy - this summer of 2026.

Diligently maintaining a "Do unto others" mentality – Jeff consistently succeeds in all of his personal and business endeavors and is excited for what the future holds!

Per Sempre Lodge Announces we are now able to accept payments for dues, Lodge functions and programs, etc., Via ZELLE!

Our Zelle Tag is: PERSEMPRELODGE-2344

We hope this will help simplify
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so we ask that you please follow these instructions.

Brothers and Sisters …

Join us as we assist local moms and children in need.

Please bring your donations to our May meeting …

See the suggested list below for ideas

Per Sempre Lodge #2344

proudly invites you to join us as we honor the exceptional youths of our communities at our

Joann Montemarano Memorial Scholarship Awards Night

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 ~ 7pm

St. Mary's/Maris Stella Knights of Columbus Hall
78 Hempstead Avenue, Lynbrook, NY

Dinner will be served, therefore your reservation is imperative to insure proper arrangements can be made.

Please RSVP by June 4th to President Robert at:

516-859-3431 ~ rbaccari@verizon.net

or return the tear off below to:
Per Sempre Lodge #2344, PO Box 91, Lynbrook, NY 11563.

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