Our Heroes

VIGIANO BROTHERS LODGE #3436 NEWSLETTER

Liberty Equality Fraternity

Volume 2 Issue 2 March/April 2026

Message from Our President Laura A. Taglienti

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hopeful warmer weather is upon us. I want to wish everyone a very Happy Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph's Day and a Blessed Happy Easter.
At our February meeting our Recording Secretary cast a vote to accept the proposed slate of Officers to 2026-2028 term. It is an honor for me to be your Elected President. I want to thank the current council and those outgoing who are not returning, for the outstanding job that they did. We accomplished many things. One initiative was the implementation of the "Fundraising Team" led by Julie DeCollibus and Geralyn Shumway. 2026 is planned with many events which will support our scholarship program.
I want to thank the members who are continuing on the council and welcome those members who have stepped up joining the council team of 2026-2028 for the first time. I am looking forward to our Officer Installation Ceremony on **Thursday, March 19, 2026**, at our General Meeting. Please mark your calendars and join us for this wonderful event.
Starting in April at our General Membership meeting we are starting something "New" for the member's birthdays. You must be present. JOIN US!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Installation Ceremony on March 19th.

Fraternally,
Laura

March 19, 2026

April 5, 2026

Next General Membership Meetings

Thursday, March 19, 2026 7p.m. Installation

Thursday, April 16, 2026 7p.m.

New Village Recreation Center
20 Wireless Road
Centereach, NY 11720

Lodge Officers

President…….…….…….....Laura A. Taglienti
Vice President…….....……Michael LaMonica
Imm. Past President……...Anthony Rotoli, Jr.
Orator…….…….....Laurette Morgan
Recording Secretary…….....Maria Vasaturo
Financial Secretary……Maryann Schick
Treasurer…….....Ralph Cerullo
Principal Trustee…….…….…….…Carol Alessi
Trustee……TBD
Trustee…….……...TBD
Trustee…..……...……Paul Montelione
Trustee……....Kathy Pugliese
Master of Ceremonies……...TBD
Mistress of Ceremonies…..Elizabeth Montana
Sentinel……..……Joseph Sescila
Chaplain……..Ralph Cerullo
District Deputy…...….Mary Ann DeCostanzo
Newsletter Editor……..…Laura A. Taglienti

Arbitration Commissioner:
Sue Ann Rotoli….Joanne Spera…Linda Gallo
Julie DeCollibus.....Geralyn Shumway
Alternate Commissioner: ...…...Diane Cerullo
Past Presidents:
Michele Sescila.....Joanne Spera
Elayne Morgan…….Roger Sirangelo
Good & Welfare:.……...…….Marie Barnouw
Fundraiser Co-Chair:
Julie DeCollibus and Geralyn Shumway

Executive Board:
Members of the Vigiano Brothers Lodge
Arthur Spera….……State President
District I State Trustee……Anthony Rotoli

IMPORTANT NOTICE

2026 Membership Dues

"Remain a member in good standing"

2026 Membership dues are being accepted. Dues are $50.00

Please mail your check in the amount of $50.00 to our ***Financial Secretary, Maryann Schick at 3 Greenway Drive, Middle Island, NY 11953***

Italian Heritage and Traditions By Annette D'Angelo

THE FIRST MARDI GRAS IN AMERICA

Long before beads flew through the air along Bourbon Street in New Orleans, before brass bands and balconies came to define the American Carnevale, Mardi Gras had already taken root on the Gulf Coast. In 1703, more than a century before New Orleans was founded; French settlers in what is now Mobile Alabama marked the days leading to Lent with a celebration drawn directly from Europe's Catholic calendar. It was the first Mardi Gras observed in what would become the United States and its origins trace a fascinating line from Italy to France to America.

Carnevale, as it was known across Italy, was never merely a festival. It was a ritual pause where indulgences were accepted before restraint returned. Masks dissolved the layers of societal hierarchy; parades blurred the lines between the sacred and secular. The tradition moved north from Italy into France, where it absorbed courtly pageantry (also adopted from Italy during the time of Queen Catherine de' Medici). Carnevale is derived from the Latin carne levare, meaning "to remove meat." It crossed the Atlantic with colonists from France who brought their customs and religious calendar with them.

The city of Mobile was founded in 1702 as the capital of French Louisiana. One year later, its residents observed Mardi Gras for the first time, aligning themselves with a rhythm already centuries old. This was not a spectacle for spectacle's sake, it was the continuation of their tradition and the festival affirmed identity in an unfamiliar land. The settlers shared a collective memory of their homeland while anchoring themselves to a new world still in formation.

When New Orleans was established in 1718, it inherited and expanded the tradition, eventually becoming its most famous Carnivale expression. But Mobile's celebration never disappeared. Instead, it evolved inwardly. In 1830, the Cowbellion de Rakin Society staged what is considered the first organized Mardi Gras parade in the United States, complete with satire, costumes and torchlight. From there grew Mobile's system of mystic societies - private, invitation-only groups that plan parades, balls and rituals largely shielded from public view.

The structure sets Mobile apart. Where New Orleans' Mardi Gras spills exuberantly into the streets, Mobile's retains a sense of ceremony and restraint. Masks still matte. Balls remain formal and are affairs rich in symbolism and tradition.

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Garibaldi Meucci Museum

The GMM is continuing with its next phase of their *Recognition Walkway* Brick Program. This is an excellent way to make a donation to the Museum and preserve your own message forever. You can purchase a 4x8 inch brick for as little as $100.
($250 and $1000 bricks available)
Donations are tax exempt under Federal Income Tax section 501(c) (3)

General Meeting Minutes

- Minutes are sent out via email every month.
- Should you not receive the meeting minutes contact Recording Secretary Maria Vasaturo
- Should you have any questions on the minutes contact **Recording Secretary Maria Vasaturo**

Recording Secretary **Maria Vasaturo** contact information is as follows: **jetcav@aol.com**

Membership Corner

Membership Chairman and Co-Chair, **Anthony Rotoli** and **Ralph Cerullo**
Let's keep up the good work of growing Vigiano Brothers Lodge! Please talk to your family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. It is not necessary that they be Italian or of Italian lineage. If they are not Italian, or of Italian lineage, but would still like to join, they can join as a Social Member.
If you have prospective new members, please reach out to **Anthony Rotoli** at **sar531@optonline.net** or **Ralph Cerullo** at **ralphcerullo2@gmail.com** for an application. New members are the only way to ensure that we continue to grow so that we can continue to be a vibrant lodge.

Welcome New Member(s): Daniel Sacco Installation at our January General Membership meeting.

Commission for Social Justice
By Maryann Schick

Discovering the Truth - The Louis J. Gallo Memorial Columbus Award...This award is open to students in grades 11 and 12 who are the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews or siblings of lodge members in good standing in NYS. The student must select one of the many anti-Columbus myths and prove it false either in an essay or a video. 1st prize - $800, 2nd prize - $500, 3rd prize - $300, 4th prize - $200. Applications and detailed instructions may be downloaded on www.csj.org on the welcome page.

Save the date... the CSJ annual luncheon will be held on June 14, 2026 at Russo's on the Bay.

Italian American Heritage Month... as a result of several libraries around New York state refusing to display educational material from OSDIA last October, CSJ Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be working on Italian Heritage displays to be distributed from lodges to their local libraries in October, 2026.

IAOVC (Italian American One Voice Coalition)... sent a letter to newly elected Virginia Governor Spanberger opposing her effort to eliminate Columbus Day. Emails and phone calls supporting IAOVC's opposition to her proposal can be sent to abigal.spanberger@governor.virginia.gov or 804.786.2441.

Book of the Month Recommendation...."The Case of Antonio Meucci and the Telephone--Just the Facts". It is a children's book but is also factual and informative for adults. The book is available on Amazon.

Italian Heritage and Traditions

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The experience feels closer in spirit to Old World Carnevale, where meaning often mattered more than display. The Italian influence is central to the carnevales in the United States. Lake Venice's masked festivals and Florence's historic processions, Mobile's Mardi Gras reflects the idea that Carnevale is not simply a party, but a cultural pressure-relief valve - a brief suspension 0f order that ultimately reinforces it. The calendar governs everything and Ash Wednesday marks the end of indulgent behaviors.

Today, Mobile celebrates its Carnevale season for weeks, culminating on Shrove Tuesday with parades that are festive but measured, playful yet anchored in history. For many Americans, the city's role in the Mardi Gras story comes as a surprise, but its claim is not intended to be competitive. If anything, it is contextual. New Orleans perfected the performance, but it is Mobile that preserved the origin. In recognizing Mobile as the birthplace of Mardi Gras in the United States, we are reminded that American culture did not emerge fully formed, nor from a single source. It arrived in layers - Italian ideas and traditions embraced in France, carried across oceans and reshaped by geography and circumstance. What began as Carnevale in Italy became Mardi Gras in France, then took root in Mobile - which, a century later, entered the United States through the Louisiana Purchase. It remains a thriving example of how traditions often endure through adaptation. The masks change, the streets change, but the meaning does not.

My family and I wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day, A Happy St. Joseph's Day to all the Josephs and be sure to have a pastry to celebrate.
Have a blessed Easter with your families with lots of good food and pastries.

Fondly Annette D from Tennessee

New Slate of Officers 2026-2028

President
Laura A. Taglienti

Vice-President
Ralph Cerullo

Immediate Past President
Anthony Rotoli, Jr.

Orator
Laurette Morgan

Recording Secretary
Maria Vasaturo

Financial Secretary
Joanne Evans

Treasurer
Diane Cerullo

Trustee
Carol Alessi
Michael LaMonica
Elizabeth Montana
Kathy Pugliese
Maryann Schick

Master/Mistress of Ceremonies
Camille Marksberry

Master/Mistress of Ceremonies
Fran Gordon

Sentinel
Marie Barnouw

Convention Delegates

Ralph Cerullo
Sue Ann Rotoli
Maryann Schick

Arbitration Commissioners

Julie DeCollibus
Geralyn Shumway
Sue Ann Rotoli
Joanne Spera
Frances Navaretta

"Members Message Board"

March!

7th – Robert Gouldsbury
7th – John Graham
9th – Vincent Veglia
17th – John Marchetti
19th – Joseph Cognitore

Happy Birthday!!

April!

1st - Michael LaMonica
7th – Arthur Spera
10th – Mary Ann Garofala
13th-Philip Buonomo

Happy Anniversary to Members who have joined in the month of March and April!
(2008 – Present)
March – Michael LaMonica

April –Frances Navaretta, Linda Richt, Lorraine & Ronald Schnepf

If your name is missing above please provide Laura Taglienti the information

March 8, 2026 La Festa della Donna

La festa della donna, which translates to 'Women's Day' in English, is the Italian name for International Women's Day. Celebrated annually on March 8, it is a day dedicated to highlighting the social, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments of women. Unlike Mother's Day, which focuses specifically on maternal figures, *la festa della donna* honors all women—mothers, daughters, sisters, colleagues, leaders, and activists—for their contributions to society.

In countries like Italy, Switzerland, and parts of Latin America, *la festa della donna* has evolved into both a symbolic and festive occasion. It combines public demonstrations and awareness campaigns with personal gestures such as giving gifts, particularly mimosa flowers, which have become emblematic of the celebration in Italy.

Good & Welfare

Please keep in your prayers all our members who are ill and in our OSDIA family.
Please keep in your prayers our troops and all who protect our country or those in harm's way.
Get well wishes go out to our members who are ill.
Sending condolences and prayers to our members who have lost their loving family members.
Rest in Peace – Marilyn Veglia and Rosa Padovan

Anyone interested in sharing information with Lodge members are welcome to contribute to this Members Message Board!
New Updates every month!!! Please submit to Laura Taglienti at lauratagliienti22@gmail.com by the 25th each month.

"President Message Board"

Congratulations to all the winners of the Vigiano Brothers Lodge - Super Bowl Fundraiser

First Quarter Winners: *Sue Ann Rotoli, Sal Bisulca, Geralyn Shumway, Tony Ferro and Vincent Marmoralli.*
Second Quarter Winners: *Robert Montelione, Ann Fugarion, Marie Barnouw, Corrine Rotoli and Sal Bisulca.*
Third Quarter Winners: *Vincent Marmoralli, Jeanne Lubrico, Sue Ann Rotoli and Sal Biscula*
Fourth Quarter Winners: *Sal Bisulca, Carol Alessi, Robert Montelione, Jim Cerullo and Vincent Montelione*

Thank You all for your Participation

SPECIAL REMINDER!
2026 Membership Dues
The following are OSDIA General Law rules: DUES are PAST DUE when

- *Members who have not paid dues by December 31, 2025 will be considered IN ARREARS.*
- ***Any member who has not paid dues by April 1st, 2026, will be IN DEFAULT.*** *This means:*
  - *Being dropped from the membership.*
  - *Re-instatement will require the OSDIA $10 initiation fee and full dues payment.*

Your continued support and commitment are important to our Lodge.

Disaster Relief Effort for Cyclone Harry!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the relief efforts for Sicily's disaster. I am reaching out to our membership to request your support for those affected by Cyclone Harry in Sicily.

Our Lodge will be submitting one collective check rather than individual donations. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to "Cash" or "Vigiano Brothers Lodge #3436" and mail it to:

Laura Taglienti
174 Village Green Drive
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

State & National Events

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 – NYOSDIA Annual Cooley's Anemia Dine Around – Verdi's of Westbury – 6:30pm -$65pp before event - $75 at the door - Contact: Anna Magliato @ 347-306-9558 or Mildred Mancuso @ 516-359-1745

Friday, April 24, 2026 – NYOSDIA Grand Lodge Foundation – Golden Lion Awards Dinner – Garden City Hotel – 7pm – Contact: Carol DiTrapani or Eileen Stavis @ 516-785-4623

Saturday, April 25, 2026 – NYOSDIA Spring Plenary Session – Hosted by Luigi Pirandello Lodge #2875 – Holy Family School Hall, 175020 74th Avenue, Fresh Meadows – Contact: Carol DiTrapani or Eileen Stavis @ 516-785-4623

Vigiano Brothers Lodge Events

Fundraiser Ideas are Welcome!! - Please email Laura Taglienti @ laurataglienti22@gmail.com with any suggestions you may have. - She would love to hear from you. - We all need to come together to help our lodge raise funds and contribute to our OSDIA charitable organizations**.** I would like all members to share your ideas with us on fundraiser functions which we could or should have. Remember no idea is a bad one.

Thursday, March 19, 2026 – Installation of Officers Ceremony – New Village Recreation Center – 7pm – Contact : Laura Taglienti @ 631-946-3959

Local Lodge Events and District I

The Golden Lion Has All the Details of the Local Lodge Events

The Month of March is full of Lodge Installation of Officers Ceremony!

Photo Gallery
January 2026

Good Time

Had By

All

Recipe of the Month

Nonna's PIZZA RUSTICA!
(Pizzagaina): Easter Recipe

INGREDIENTS

The Cheeses:

- 3 pounds ricotta
- ¼ pound provolone
- ½ large mozzarella
- 3 large eggs slightly beaten
- 3 tablespoons grated parmesan

The Meats:

- ¼ pound pepperoni
- ¼ pound prosciutto
- ½ pound genoa salami
- ½ pound sweet sausage browned and crumbled

The Dough:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ pound butter, lard or Crisco cut into cubes then put in the freezer to get ice cold
- 2 large eggs

DIRECTIONS:

1. Stir flour, salt & sugar together. Work shortening of choice into flour, mix the eggs in and add as much additional ice water as needed so that the dough comes together.
2. Divide part ¾ of the dough into a flat disc, do the same with the other ¼, wrap in saran and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
3. Use a 9 or 10 inch spring form pan, using the larger amount of dough for bottom & sides, ¼ for the top.
4. Fill with the cheese/meat mixture, but don't pack or compress it, nevertheless making sure that there are no air bubbles in the filling.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 1½ hours.

Buon Appetito e Buona Pasqua!!!

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

1/2026

7/2025

7/2024

"Anyone interested in advertising in our newsletter the cost is $35 and will continue for 1 year. Payable to Vigiano Brothers Lodge #3436"