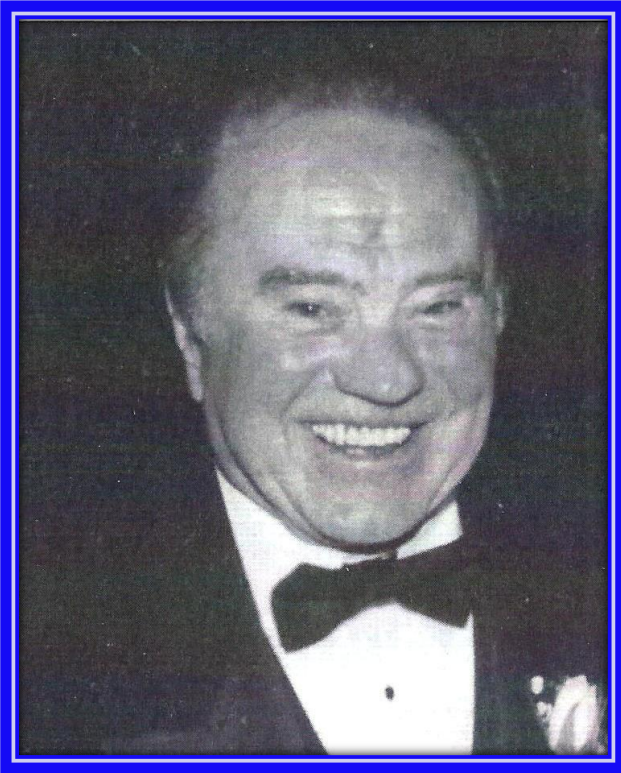


Columbus Lodge #2143
ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL
1964-2024



HAPPY
60th
ANNIVERSARY

In Honor and Loving Memory of . . .



GIOVANNI CAPOGNA



MICHAEL A. CAPOGNA

**You will forever be in our hearts and will continue
to be in our source of strength and inspiration.**

All our love forever,

***Loreto, John, Anthony
And
Your loving family***



President's Message

February 16, 2024

Hello Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

On February 16th the Columbus Lodge reaches a 60th anniversary milestone. Over 4,400 member have passed through our doors. Some have stayed for a cup of coffee while others have left a lasting legacy. As we enter this year, our membership is at an eight year high and we have new and expanding programs for our members. Last summer we held our 45th year annual scholarship awards luncheon for local students and awarded 14 scholarships. I've been told that since this program began we have awarded 665 scholarships. This is an amazing accomplishment!



In this journal we pay tribute to the presidency of Gary Caparco. We celebrate our lodge's 60-years history, and we will remember those who left us last year including Presidents Jimmy Raffa & Joe Carbone, State President Michele Ment, and National President Peter Zuzolo.

Finally, I would like to thank all our sponsors, our scholarship committee and all my members who support the continued success of our lodge.

Fraternally,
Frank Franchi
President



Message From the Journal Editor

February 16, 2024

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

First, my congratulations to Frank Franchi on formally being elected our 39th President of Columbus Lodge #2143.

Last summer, we held our 45th Annual Scholarship Luncheon. I want to acknowledge all the dignitaries who joined us: Town Supervisor Joe Saladino, Receiver of Taxes Jeff Pravato, Councilman Steve Labriola, and State Assemblyman John Mikulin and our featured speaker, local businessman Ken Chapey. Many thanks to all of you for sharing your life experience with these high-achieving students.



I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of all those members who came to lend a hand including my “generals” Pete Raffeale and Chris Zammit and our support team: Gary Caparco, Eddie Esposito, Matto Ferro, Vincent Franchi, Phil Gerace, Murray Kaplan, Chris Molina, Sal Polito, Sal Valente, Rosemary Raffaele, my photographer Maria Caparco, and my wife Margie. This team came through with creative ways to increase the program’s funding for the future and made last summer’s students feel special.

And finally, I wish to thank all the support of our local merchants who have been the backbone of support for this program.

Fraternally,
Edward P. Bochynski
Past President &
Commemorative Journal Chairman/Editor

JOSEPH SALADINO
SUPERVISOR



OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR
54 AUDREY AVENUE
OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771
516-624-6350



February 16, 2024

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I join with the members of Columbus Lodge #2143 Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of this great organization, which, over the last six decades, has greatly advanced the general welfare and truly made a positive difference in our community.

Over the years, the members of Columbus Lodge #2143 have ably carried out OSIA's mission to preserve and disseminate the rich, cultural heritage and language of Italy, and to promote and advance a positive image through their involvement in cultural, philanthropic, educational, civic and community activities. The 60th Anniversary of an organization like yours is cause for celebration, especially in light of all of the great work you have undertaken and all that has been accomplished.

The impact of this work cannot be overstated. Quite simply, our community is a better place because of Columbus Lodge #2143 Order Sons of Italy in America and I look forward to the continued positive impact you have in the Town of Oyster Bay and beyond. Enjoy the evening knowing that you are all part of an amazing 60-year legacy of community service that has enriched the lives of others and made our world a better place to live.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph J. Saladino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Saladino
Town Supervisor

CONGRATULATIONS
TO MY HUSBAND

GARY CAPARCO



Thank you for your dedicated service, passion,
and the positive changes you brought to the lodge.
Your leadership has left an enduring impact.
I am truly proud of all your ongoing efforts.

With all my love,
Maria



About Our 36th President

GARY CAPARCO



Gary Caparco achieved a 13-year dream when he was installed as the 37th President of the lodge on March 1, 2020 and reelected the following year. Less than two weeks after he took office, the Corona virus plagued the Metropolitan area, the Country, and the World. Everything stopped but Gary found a way to move the lodge forward.

Gary was sponsored by the legendary Pete Gisonda, was initiated into the lodge in Nov. 2004, and given membership #3939. He has been chairman of several notable committees including the annual Christmas Dance on three occasions, St. Joseph Dance twice, picnic twice, House Rules Committee, and Membership committee. During his 5-year tenor as Membership Chairman, the NYS Grand Lodge recognized the Columbus Lodge with a plaque for installing 50 new members during a one year cycle.

Gary joined the Council in 2007 and served four years as Trustee, was appointed Principle Trustee, and elected Recording Secretary. He had two failed attempts at ascending to a Chair-Officer position but his resilience paid off in 2014 when he emerged victorious in a five man "royal rumble" followed by a run-off against the incumbent Orator.

In 2020, Gary ran unopposed for both V.P. positions and, at age 63, Gary Caparco was unchallenged and installed as the 37th president of the lodge. President Caparco just finished his acceptance speech expressing his goals for the upcoming year when a National directive canceled all Sons of Italy events, meeting, and fund-raising events; the Country was in lock-down. The corona virus pandemic arrived and would change the way we lived. It shut down the world and tested President Caparco's leadership throughout his presidency.



Above, Gary in a March, 2000 installation photo

President Caparco and his Chair officers adjusted quickly by instituting internet-based "ZOOM" meetings and a "drive by" Children's Christmas Party. He upgraded the lodge's webpage and expanded use of the *Calling Post* for membership communication. Social distancing, taking temperatures, and wearing masks became routine. Not cutting a break, Gary's second term began with a zoom meeting installation. Transition back was slow but included a picnic, a limited scholarship program, a LI Ducks game, a children's Christmas party, and *25th Anniversary of the Italian Feast & Festival*. His welcome back dinner/dance was a bonus.

When one enters the office of Presidency, there are thoughts of new programs and growth for the lodge but as each president discovers they must adapt to their circumstances. At a time when many lodges folded or merged, President Caparco kept the lodge enrollment steady, the membership engaged, and kept the lodge solvent during two years of pandemic disruption. When his term ended, Gary took a much needed pause.

Gary grew up in Queens and spent some time on Wall Street. After pursuing a broad range of career paths, Gary settled in as a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service before retiring in 2019. Gary and wife Maria live in their N. Massapequa home and are known as shutter bugs, capturing a broad range of lodge moments.

CONGRATULATIONS
GARY CAPARCO

Your family congratulates you on your successful term as President.
We are very proud of your hard work and dedication.

With love,
The Caparco & Bouchelle Families



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
**CARMELA
MONTEMARANO**

Forever in our hearts.

Scholarship Award winners

2023-2024



HIGH SCHOLASTIC AWARD

Angelina Barba

Plainedge High School

Lycuming College

ZABBIA AWARD FOR HEALTH CARE

Evelyn McCabe

Plainedge High School

University of Chicago

EXCELLANCE IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Joseph D'Arrigo

Bethpage High School

SUNY Binghamton

Alexa Napoli

Farmingdale High School

Molloy University

Julianna Corzza

Massapequa High School

Binghamton University

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jenna Guerrieri

Farmingdale High School

Quinnipac University

Alvina Ameer

Plainedge High School

Binghamton University

Aleeza Mughal

Plainedge High School

NY Institute of Technology

P. VINCENT LANDI AWARD

Brian Koppleman

St. Dominick High School

SUNY Oswego

Jovianna Bennett

Levittown High School

John J College

Miranda Garvey

Plainedge High School

Rodchester Inst. Of Tech.

Salvina Neerudu

Plainedge High School

SUNY Polytechnic

Anjheli Delgado

Plainedge High School

Adelphi University

SCOTTO AWARD (Graduate)

Ryan Gulko

SUNY Plattsburgh

Marist College



Daler's Best: Jenna & Alexa



Columbus Lodge 2023 Scholarship Award Winners

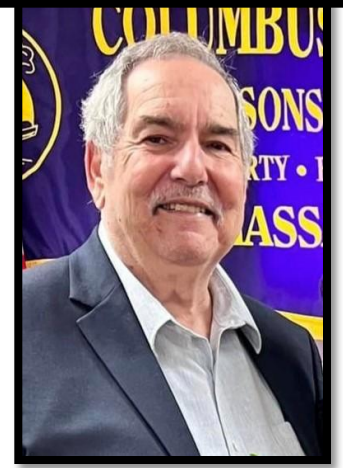


Top Scholastic: Angelina Macchi-Barba



Guest Speaker Ken Chapey





ZABBIA Award: Evelyn McCabe



Amanda Garvey, Landi Award



Brian Koppleman, Landi Award



Ryan Gulko, Scotto Award



Landi Award Jovianna Bennett



The Men of Columbus Lodge (Sons of Italy)



AROUND OSDIA: 2023-24, A YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW LODGE & MEMBERSHIP STABILITY

On January 7, 2023 NYS Grand Lodge instituted a new lodge, new members, and installed the first officers of the "Dr. Calabro Lodge #3011" located in the Mastic Beach. President Richard Abbenante was installed as its inaugural President. The new lodge is the first since the pandemic and was a perfect start for a new era of expansion in NYS.

Also, the first lodge located in Italy, the Sellaro Lodge #3009, received its Charter in a ceremony held in Rome, Italy. The Charter was accepted by lodge President Tiberio, on behalf of his new lodge, which is located in Palermo, Sicily, Italia - Come Visit!

In April, the Supreme (or National) Lodge President Robert "Bob" Bianelli announced OSDIA has "flattened the curve" and noted increased membership throughout the country. The primary directive from the Supreme Lodge is growth.

A NEW NYS GRAND LODGE PRESIDENT



In an October 2020 photo: Newly installed NYS Grand Lodge President Biagio Isgro was installed in June 2023.

Biagio Isgro Jr. was installed as the 35th NYS Grand Lodge President on June 9, 2023. Arthur Spera was elected 1ST VP, Luigi Squillante is 2nd VP and, our own, and Keith Wilson was elected Orator. Keith becomes the first Columbus Lodge member to become a NYS Chair officer since Joe Cangemi in the 1990s. And Columbus Lodge's First Lady Gina Franchi was elected NYS Financial Secretary.

Keith Wilson was elected National Delegate and witness the installation of the new National President Michael G. Polo in Tampa, FL. Polo hales from Connecticut and is a second generation National

President whose father Paul was installed in 1989. Also installed at the National Convention was NYS's Thom Lupo as First VP.

FRANCHI FAMILY NAMED THE 2023 FAMILY OF THE YEAR GOES TO COLUMBUS LODGE

At the Grand Lodge convention in June 2023, Frank, Gina, and Vincent Franchi took home Family of the Year Honors. Frank served as Columbus Lodge's Interim President and State Raffle & Membership Chairman, his wife Gina, a Past president of Cellini Lodge served as a State officer, and Vincent Franchi, was the current Principle Trustee. They were recognized for their dedication and achievements to the Order.

COLUMBUS LODGE IN REVIEW

January 2023, Columbus Lodge began with the reelection and unfortunate passing of Jimmy Raffa. Jimmy's declining health began before his installation until his passing on May 19th. First Vice President Frank Franchi took the reins as interim president to finish Raffa's term. Many officers and members stepped up to keep the lodge moving forward.

Since coming out of the pandemic the amazing outcome was Columbus Lodge's membership growth. During 2023 the membership rose to 280 despite the passing of many senior members. This was the best outcome in a decade and can be attributed to the ability to stay connected, new activities, and a changing of the guard with new ideas and "fresh young blood" entering the Council.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Despite skeptics, much of the Cares Act planning and business decisions made during the pandemic came through during the year. Thanks to Nassau County Exec. Bruce Blakeman, we also go back our long waited property tax refunds. Nick Bonsignor ensured collections until unexpected circumstances abruptly led to his resignation. Second year member Anthony Napolitano took the financial reins, joining veteran Frank Tiscione, and stabilize the finances.

Concerns over the depleting scholarship funds already discussed in the prior year led to an upsurge

60th Anniversary

in fundraising support. Matteo Ferro held a 50:50 Super Bowl pool, Sal Villanti held a Texas Hold'em, Gina Franchi held a 50:50 raffle, and the lodge's first BINGO night in 24 years were all highly successful. In addition, Ed Bochynski, Gary Caparco, and Pete Raffaele led the charge in obtaining community sponsorships.

LODGE EVENTS

A St. Joseph Dance, a traditional and popular event, kicked off March along with the return of Christian Mystic Paul Miller. The San Filippo's chaired another magnificent Palm Sunday breakfast in April, which followed a special Our Lady of Lourdes mass held in remembrance of our departed brothers.

The 45th Annual Scholarship ceremony featured guest speaker Ken Chapey, owner of Chapey & Sons Funeral Home. Ed Bochynski, Pete Raffaele and Chris Zammit chaired the event. TOB Supervisor Joe Saladino was on hand to honor the fourteen graduating students that received education grants by Columbus Lodge. The lodge's tradition of giving back to the community through education grants for our future leaders was established 45 years ago.

Summer events also included a family evening under the stars a Ducks Baseball game, and our traditional family picnic but the summer activity that became the rage was BOCCI at Allen Park every Thursday night through October. The event was originally supposed to end at Labor Day but its popularity among members continued throughout the month of September.

At the Annual Italian Feast & Festival on Oct. 1st, Brother Joe Saladino was Honorary Festival Grand Marshal for his community service. Joe's father, Joe Saladino Sr., was a founding member of this lodge and our fourth President.

Past President Gary Caparco was honored in November with a testimonial Dinner. December brought two lodge traditions: (1) the Children's Christmas Party and (2) the Adult Dinner/Dance.

The Molina's once again chaired the Children's Christmas Party. Santa appeared and all children were grateful with the gift Old Saint Nick provided.

Phil Gerace chaired a wonderful Christmas Dinner/Dance with the help of prior year chairman Murray Kaplan. The event drew over 109 people and

all were treated wonderful music, great food, and the Gelada King.



L to R: Christmas Raffle winner Kelly Pickard, President Frank Franchi, and Joe Pickard.

Without question the end-of-year remembrance was the winners of the lodge's 50:50 Christmas Dance raffle. Kelly and Joe Pickard won the Christmas raffle for the third straight year. And for the third straight year, covering three different presidents, (Caparco, Raffa, and Franchi), the Pickard's donated the money back to the lodge, this year to our scholarship fund.

Feb. 16, 2024 marks the Columbus Lodge's 60th anniversary. As we look toward the future, the Officers of Columbus Lodge focus on growing the lodge with liberty, fraternity, and equality.

MILESTONES

◆ March 24, 2023: The Cellini Lodge of New Hyde Park celebrated its 55th Anniversary as part of their annual installation of officers. Nearly 220 gathered for the event held at the Westbury Manor in Westbury, NY.

◆ June 20, 2023: The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy celebrated its 115th birthday on at Mulberry Street in the Little Italy section in Manhattan.

◆ Sept. 5, 2023: Columbus Lodge's Joe Carbone celebrated his 90th birthday becoming the lodge's fifth lodge president to reach this milestone. Carbone would pass on September 12th.

◆ Nov. 6th: CL member Charlie Volpe's nephew, Anthony Volpe, won a Golden Glove Award at shortstop for the NY Yankees.

◆ Dec 22nd: Past President Tony Ventiera is 80!

◆ Feb. 16, 2024: Columbus Lodge turns 60 years old with an event planned for the fall.



The Men Who Stood the Test of Time

Sixty Year Members (1964 – 2024)

NICHOLAS "NICK" VIGLIETTA

(Installed Feb. 1964)

Nicholas "Nick" Viglietta was the seventh Venerable of Columbus Lodge just one month before his 40th birthday and is recognized as one of the most articulate and charismatic Venerable in lodge history.

Nick's relationship with Columbus Lodge #2143 goes back to the very beginning. A charter member of Columbus Lodge on the day the lodge was constituted, February 16, 1964, Nick was given membership number #286. From his first day as a member, Nick participate in just about everything associated with the lodge from sweeping the parking lot and scrubbing the bathroom floors, to running the catering hall, to making and executing policy decisions on the local lodge and Grand lodge level.

One of Nick's greatest assets was his problem solving abilities. In 1965, when the lodge needed a banner with which to march in its first parade, Nick had two days to design and get an embroidered banner made, mission accomplished.

Nick joined the council as Master of Ceremony in the second year of the lodge's existence. In the 1970s, he ran dances that are still talked about in some circles. His dances became so popular that the revenue sustained the building's financial costs.

Nick worked his way up through the ranks and was the popular choice to follow John Dorsi as venerable. As Venerable, Nick ensured the lodge had a strong financial foundation. When he ran for a second term, he became only the third venerable to serve consecutive terms; the others being Landi and Dorsi. "Brother Nick has set an example we should all follow," said then-President Sam Novarro at a testimonial held in Nick's honor in 1990.

After his term in office Nick became involved at the Grand Lodge and in 1985 was unopposed in his election to the position of State President and then reelected 1987. He was instrumental in the purchase of a Grand Lodge building in Bellmore, NY.

Recognized for his contributions to the Grand Lodge, Brother Nick received the *Bene Emeritus Award* in 1999 and was selected as a Lifetime member of Columbus Lodge in 2004.



2023 Photo: Past NYS Grand Lodge President and Columbus Lodge President #7 Nick Viglietta and wife Maureen.

Nick was born in Corona, NY and raised in Massapequa where he achieved awards in both scholastics and athletics. He is a graduate of Hofstra College in 1956, majoring in Economics and served in the U.S. Army. He started a Formal Wear Rental business which led to the tradition of tuxedos being worn when officers are installed.

A life-long bachelor, Nick found love, married Maureen in 2000, and retired to New Jersey. Despite moving out-of-state, Nick has never forgotten his Columbus Lodge roots and continues to financially support the scholarship program today.

PETER GISONDA

(Installed June 1964)

Peter Gisonda was installed in the second wave of initiations on June 1, 1964 and given #397. Pete was selected as lifetime member of the lodge in 2006 by the membership. And he is the only member to participate on the Counsel in parts of all six decades, (his final installation occurred March 2023).

Pete comes from Italian immigrants who raised him in Brooklyn, NY. He served in the army then moved to Long Island in the 1950s. Upon completion of his career as a Postal Supervisor, Pete expanded his devotion to the lodge and wrote a book "For Pete Sake, A Collection of Shore Stores" that chronicled life on Long Island during the 1950s.

Pete has participated in all Feast & Festivals since inception. Pete's entire contributions to the lodge are enumerated in the 2014-15 Scholarship Journal.



COLUMBUS LODGE #2143
Active Membership Longevity List
25 Consecutive Years or More



1964-2024

(MEMBER 60 YEARS)

Nick Viglietta, #286 Pete Gisonda, #396

1965-1974

(MEMBER 50-59 YEARS)

Frank Antetomaso #1602
 Carl Cardasia, #1611

Michael Iannone, #1730
 Guy Memoli #1740
 Fred Marfoglio, #1758

Joseph Riccardo, #2322
 Greg Giammalvo, #2418

1975-1984

(MEMBER 40-49 YEARS)

Paul Riccobono, #2803
 Francesco Lombardi, #2824
 Eddie Esposito, #2862
 Sal Moschella, #2917

Anthony Montano, #2924
 Carmile Gargiullo, 2940
 Ray Colucci, #2979
 Tony Novarro, #2987

Robert Rottkamp, #3006
 Fred Penna Jr., #3039
 Louis Miritello, #3057
 Loreto Capogna, #3170

1985-1994

(MEMBER 30-39 YEARS)

Richard Ravalico, #3178
 Peter De Liso, #3198
 Anthony Mignone, #3224
 Frank Janoscak, #3227
 Steve Labriola, #3286
 Sam Cardillo, #3308

Joseph Pasale, #3327
 Frank Tiscione, #3330
 Perry Coletti, #3342
 Edward P. Bochynski, #3343
 Tony Ragno, #3361
 Joseph T. Cangemi, #3363

Joseph Contorno, #3366
 Patrick Eanniello, #3405
 John DeGregorio, #3406
 Louis Tannazzo #3445
 Anthony Ventiera #3440
 Arthur Venesia, #3449
 Edward Di Cicco, #3463

1995-1999

(MEMBER 25-29 YEARS)

Frank Nocerino, #3477
 Paul Calissi, #3484
 Leonard Scudera, #3489
 Mike Bonania, #3502
 Frank Gatto, #3507
 Michael Mastellone, #3527
 Lenny Mele, #3547
 Vincent Castrataro, #3549
 Charles DiPrima, #3557

Pasquale Palumbo, #3566
 Anthony Carbone, #3567
 Frank Beltrani, #3568
 Michael Viscuse, #3580
 Ed Bader Jr., #3593
 Rocco Napoli, #3600
 Mauro Gasparini, #3618
 Louis DeRosa, #3647
 John Sficos, #3673
 Robert Yopp, #3674

Thomas Coll, #3675
 Vincent Mirabile, #3693
 Sal Polito #3698
 Richard Gisonda, #3705
 Robert Zabbia, #3708
 Anthony Capogna, #3727
 Dominick Giglio 3738
 Donald Visconti 3761
 Glenn Fasullo 3738



SPOTLIGHT: TLC's GREG MASSIMI

Greg Massimi is a lifelong entrepreneur and has been involved in several highly successful businesses. When Columbus Lodge President Fred Bellise swore Greg Massimi into the Order as member #4286 on April 25, 2018, no one could predict the impact Greg would have on the lodge despite never ever running for a position on the Council. His support and his humble persona has been a welcome contribution to a lodge that had a history of giving back to its community.

TLC Companions Home Healthcare Agency (TLC) was conceived and launched nearly fourteen years ago when Greg and his wife Robin shared a vision to create a Home Health Care Agency that would go the extra mile by only hiring the finest aides and nurses available.

Headquartered in Bethpage, NY, Greg and Robin ensure all caregivers are thoroughly screened, background checked, bonded, and frequently assessed during their employment to ensure that they are meeting TLC standards. TLC has an A+ rating by the BBB since 2016. Most important to Greg Massimi, "above all else is putting the interest of the clients first." TLC has expanded to Queens, Suffolk, Hudson Valley, and Ridgewood, New Jersey and has employed hundreds of people in our community.

Since becoming a member, Greg Massimi has observed the hard work his Columbus Lodge members put into their lodge at their annual *Italian Feast & Festival*. This dedication to the community inspired Greg to become an event sponsor each of the past five years.

Through the years, Greg's community minded generosity has expanded to other charitable organizations. Greg's many years of generosity has resulted in the culmination of extra ordinary recognitions during 2023 – all of which seemed unnecessary when discussing it with this humble man.

Last August, the Sons of Italy Grand Lodge Foundation recognized and honored Greg for the impact he has made to the community and the Order through his benevolent contributors. Greg supports many local charities including Columbus Lodge's Scholarship as well as OSIDA Foundation. Among

other community organizations Greg has invested in include Kiwanis, and Massapequa Philharmonic Orchestra.



In an August 28, 2023 (above): Lodge member and owner of TLC Companions Gregg Massimi (center) receives' recognition for his community support and support to the Order.



Above, 1 to r, Joe Saladino, Greg, Robin, Sieerina Massimi, and Robert Zabbia at a Chamber of Commerce recognition breakfast on October 2, 2023.

Last October 27th the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce honored Brother Greg and his wife Robin of TLC Companions Home Care as the Massapequa "Businessperson of the Year" at this Year's Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce Businessperson of the Year and Legislative Breakfast. Also on hand was TOB Supervisor and fellow Columbus Lodge members TOB Supervisor Joe Saladino (above presenting Citation and Brother Robert Zabbia, who is currently the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce President.



COLUMBUS LODGE #2143 1964 - 2024



THE MEN WHO PASSED THE GAUNTLET OF
LEADERSHIP TO THEIR SUCCESSOR.



BELLESE



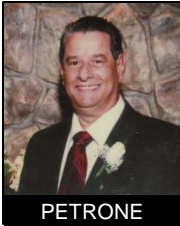
CAPARCO



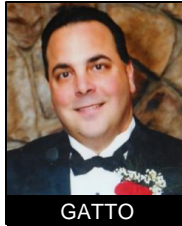
RAFFA



FRANCHI



PETRONE



GATTO



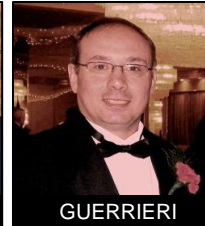
VENTIERA



WILSON



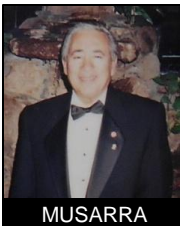
BOCHYNSKI



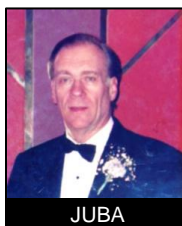
GUERRIERI



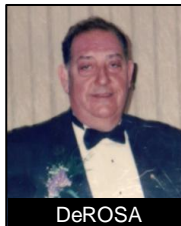
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MUSARRA



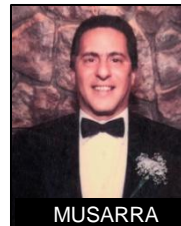
JUBA



DeROSA



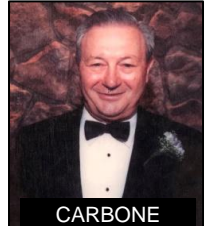
BOCHYNSKI



MUSARRA



RAGNO



CARBONE



TRINCA



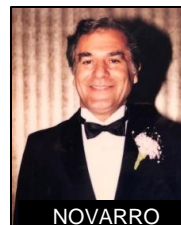
IANNONE



VELLA



GIORDANO



NOVARRO



COLANTONE



SCOTTO



Di DOMENICO



CARDASCIA



FRLORIANI



CANGEMI



FASULLO



MAGLIATO



GIAMMALVO



LANDI



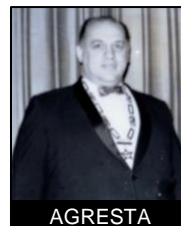
BARNELLO



RONCALLO



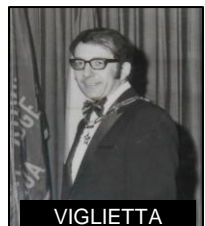
SALADINO



AGRESTA



DORSI



VIGLIETTA

THOSE WHO LEFT US, WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

PETER R. ZUZOLO

"An Extraordinary Journey"

On January 20, 2023 the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy lost a true legend when **Peter R. Zuzolo** left this world peacefully on early Friday morning, he was 94. Peter will forever be remembered for his kind and giving nature. "A great man who was an inspiration to many and a mentor to most," said Grand Lodge 1st VP Arthur Spera. "His wisdom is invaluable to us all."



Photo (left to right): National OSIA President Pete Zuzolo greeting First Lady Barbara Bush in a 1991 photo.

Peter Zuzolo was in the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America for over 62 years. During his lifetime, Peter was a Charter member and President of the Arturo Toscanini Lodge #2107, the 20th NYS OSIA President (1977-81) and 23rd National OSIA President (1989-1993). He served on the NYS executive level for over 45 years, the national executive level for 39 years, and is a Bene Emeritus Award recipient.

Peter was also an activist and philanthropist, participating on the Board of many civic and community based organizations and governmental agencies. He was a man who would meet Pope John VI, Presidents Ronald Reagan & George W.H. Bush, and break bread with our Columbus Lodge founder P. Vincent Landi.

Before he became a member of the Order, Peter and Columbus Lodge's Ed Bochynski Sr. began a lifelong friendship in the 1950s when he and Ed worked together at Sperry and then at Fairchild-Republic Aviation for nearly 35 years. Their friendship would endure a lifetime.

Peter Zuzolo attended our lodge's 25th and 50th Anniversary Galas. At the 50th gala, four National Presidents and nine State Presidents handed Pete the microphone to speak on behalf of all of them.

"These past and present leaders don't usually give up the spot light easily, especially with 300 people in the room, but because of the love, respect, and admiration they had for Pete, they gladly did," said President Edward P. Bochynski.

Soon after Zuzolo's friend Ed Sr. lost his wife (2012), Zuzolo invited his friend to participate in the Republic Airport Historic Society. The two men served as eye witnesses to history.

Peter Zuzolo also attended Ed Sr.'s son's installation and testimonial. The testimonial would be the last time Pete and Ed Sr. would be together. Ed Sr. passed away months later, (Feb 2015). That July, Pete Zuzolo ensured his friend was enshrined into the Republic Airport's Memorial Garden.



In a November 2, 2014 photo (left to right): Edward P. Bochynski, Ed Bochynski Sr., and Pete Zuzolo.

Born on June 22, 1928 in White Plains, NY, Pete Zuzolo's family was from the region of Benevento, Italy. He was a Sergeant in the Army Air Force and USAF serving in Japan, South Korea, and in Germany with the Regionally Aligned Forces in Berlin. He was a Life Member of the AMVETS, the Italian American War Veterans, and the Disabled American Veterans.

On June 9, 1957, Peter married Edith Mafnotta at a Catholic ceremony in White Plains, NY. Peter and Edith lived in Massapequa Park for over 57 years before moving to West Islip. They have three daughters, a son (who died at age two) and three grandchildren.

Peter received a Bachelor in Engineering Physics from NYU and Masters in Applied Physics from Adelphi University. He would teach physics at Adelphi then worked with graduate students at Harvard University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and University of Tennessee.

Peter was employed at Western Electric and Sperry Gyroscope before settling in at Republic Aviation, (later known as Fairchild Republic), as an Aerospace Tech Manager for 32 years. He retired while employed at Northrop Grumman in Sept. 1994. Also of note, Peter held top-secret clearances with the Navy, Air Force, and NATO, and had three classified patents.

Over the year Pete Zuzolo touched many by his involvement which included:

- o Met with CA Governor Ronald Reagan in 1972;
- o Meeting Pope Paul VI in 1977;
- o Presenting Frank Sinatra with the Dante Medal at the Columbus Day Parade in NYC in October 1979;
- o Met President Ronald Reagan at Inaugural Ball, 1981.
- o Grand Lodge Family of the year in June 1986.
- o Met Pres George H.W. Bush in 1990, '91, and '92.
- o Installed in the NYS Grand Lodge HOF in June 1995.
- o Received the Bene Emeritus Award in 1996.
- o WWII Memorial in Washington DC. – Vice Chairman.
- o Nat'l 9/11 Disaster Relief Fund–Vice Chair.
- o Cooley's Anemia Advisory Committee–Chair.
- o NYS Commission for Human Rights.
- o LI Republic Airport Historical Society.
- o Nassau Community College – Trustee.
- o Nassau County's Dante Foundation Distinguished Citizenship Award.
- o Received CSJ's Lehman-LaGuardia Award.
- o St. Francis Hospital of Assisi Award
- o Verrazano Institute Award.
- o Stony Brook Center for Italian Studies – Treasurer.

Peter R. Zuzolo was proud of his heritage, a dedicated community leader, counselor, and most of all a mentor to many who was humble in his approach. He leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Edith, their three daughters, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren and the many, many people he touched.

Father Anthony Heinlein

“A Man of Faith & Lodge Chaplin”

Father Anthony Gregory Heinlein, (a/k/a Fr. Tony), a Catholic Priest and member of the Columbus Lodge #2143, who served as lodge Chaplain from 2010-2020, passed away after a long illness on February 21, 2023, he was 84 years old.



In a Nov. 2019 Photo: Fr. Tony Heinlein is honored at the Columbus Lodge Annual Testimonial Dinner.

Fr. Tony presided over many Columbus Lodge functions and installations. He provided Ashes and reconciliation at the lodge during lent. In addition, he presided as Chaplain at lodge meetings and the lodge's 50th installation of officers. He also attended many of the lodge sponsored *Italian Feasts and Festivals* and was well-known for his walks up and down N. Broadway a long side the statue of the Madonna to collect money for Catholic Charities.

Born on April 24, 1938 in New York City, Father Tony's Mom went home to God when he was only 12-years old. As Msgr. Jim Laisante explained, it was Fr. Tony's sisters who filled a great void in his life and that Fr. Tony also had *Our Lady Mary* whom he was devoted and sought help, comfort, & understanding.

Fr. Tony was ordained a priest on May 29, 1965. He served as Associate Pastor at both Christ the King Church in Commack, NY and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Massapequa Park, NY. While at Our Lady of Lourdes for nearly three decades, he served as acting moderator of their CYO, religious education, and Pre-cana programs. Fr. Tony continued to serve these assignments once he was “in-residence.”

Every day of his life Fr. Tony was there for everyone to lend compassion and empathy. “People that were lost souls, whom the world gave up on, seemed to gravitate toward him for counseling, love, and support” said Mrgr. Laisante.

Fr. Tony's life of service did not go unrecognized by others. Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce named Fr. Tony an honorary member (2007). Our Lady of Lourdes CYO honored Fr. Tony in a black-tie affair at the Royal Palm in S. Farmingdale (2021) and at a celebration of his 80th

birthday (2019) Irish Tenor Andy Cooney paid tribute to "a dear friend and awesome priest."

On May 19, 2019 it was announced that Fr. Tony moved to the St. Pius X Residence for Senior Priests in Amityville to focus on his long-term health. Six-months later, Columbus Lodge honored Fr. Tony for his accomplishments with a formal dinner at the North Ritz Club in Syosset, NY.

In his final years, Fr. Tony received continued admiration, first from the TOB Supervisor Joe Saladino for his contributions to the community (2020) and then by Massapequa Chamber President Keith Wilson, as Honorary Member (2021).

As Father Tony Heinlein leaves us for the open arms of God, we will remember him as a Catholic Priest, a Columbus Lodge Brother, an advisor, and a server to the lost. His generosity, faith, big heart and compassion to others were limitless.

Felix "Phil" Sciannamea

"A Man of Blue"

On March 20, 2023, Felix "Phil" Sciannamea died peacefully, he was 88. Felix was born on Halloween, October 31, 1934. He served in the arm forces and left with an honorable discharge.

Having completed his career with the NYPD, Felix was retired when friend and colleague Vincent DeRosa, who was about begin his second term as Columbus Lodge President, initiated Felix into the lodge on January 26, 1998. The North Massapequa resident was given membership #3688.

Known as "Phil" to friends, he maintained his membership for 25-years. He was preceded by his wife Edna and will be best known for being genuine and always funny.

Vincent J. Grande III

"Lived Life on His Own Terms"

After an apparent heart attack led to an Ischemic stroke, and with no hope of recovery, Vincent Grande III died on June 29, 2023.

Born June 15, 1961 and raised in Farmingdale, NY. Vincent Grande III received a lodge scholarship then graduated Farmingdale H.S. in June, 1979. A couple of months later he was installed as member #2968 on October 10, 1979.

During the 1980s, Grande received a BA in 1983 and an MBA in 1987, both from Hofstra University. Vincent was elected Recording Secretary then Treasurer while only in his early twenties. "He served as my Financial Secretary," recalled Pres. Mike Iannone (1984-85).

During the 1990s Grande's activity in the lodge dropped significantly as he pursued and obtained a law degree from St. John's University (class of '98). He went into private practice, opening a law firm in Lindenhurst. He practiced Marital and Family Law for nearly 25-year until his passing.

Although not an active member, Vincent Grande continued to sponsor a gold page ad in the lodge scholarship journal and appreciated the memberships respect when his father passed in 2010. He proudly watched his daughter Danielle accept a lodge scholarship in 2014. Vincent was a member of the lodge for nearly 35 years before recently letting his membership lapse.

The Massapequa resident always took responsibility of his actions and accepted a six month suspension from practicing law when conduct charges were imposed in 2011. Vincent Grande III lived by his own moral ideology without compromise until his passing, he was 62 years old.

Louis J. Caponi

"A Man of Integrity and Honor"



In a 1999 photo, Lou Caponi (center) with wife Madeline (right).

Long time Plainview resident, Louis J. Caponi died on November 3, 2023, he was 89. Known as Lou to friends, he was a thirty year member of the lodge and a twenty year financial supporter of the lodge's scholarship program. His strong commitment to education can be echoed in his own

words, "In supporting the young men and women in their quest for higher education, we give rise to us all."

Born on April 16, 1934, Lou's formative years took place during the Great Depression and World War II. In 1952, Lou graduated from high school then served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Upon an honorable discharge, Lou married Madeline and joined the Police Department in New York where he rose to the level of Captain. After a distinguished career, Lou was installed as a member of Columbus Lodge on June 23, 1993 and given membership #3447. He joined several committees of that era including the popular Vegas committee.

Lou joined the lodge's counsel and served many years including as a financial officer and Principal Trustee. After a failed attempt to run for Orator in 2003, Lou shied away from the Counsel but provide common sense ideas at fraternal meetings. Lou's last appearance was in Nov. 2022 at the testimonial for Past President Fred Bellise.

Salvatore J. LaGumina

"A Charter Member since 1964"

Salvatore "Sal" LaGumina is a professor, a writer, and a charter member of the Columbus Lodge. He was initiated in the first wave of the new lodge on February 16, 1964 and given membership #48. Sal was voted Lifetime membership because of his contribution to our Italian-American heritage. Sal passed away peacefully on December 31, 2023, he was 95.

Because of his commitment to be proactive on behalf of the Italian-American Community, he served on the NYS Grand Lodge Executive Board of Commission for Social Justice (CSJ). In 2012, the NYS Grand Lodge presented Sal with their literary achievement award in recognition of his book "Hollywood Italians: From Periphery to Prominent."

Salvatore LaGumina was born in Brooklyn, NY on Nov. 28, 1928 of immigrant Sicilian parents who came from Pioppo near Palermo. The family lived in Ridgewood, Brooklyn during the Great Depression. Sal received a Bachelor degree from Duquesne University and M.A. and PhD at St. John's University.



Above: Sal LaGumina at the 2012 Grand Lodge Convention.

Sal joined the teaching faculty at Nassau Community College in 1960. In 1986 He was selected as Director of the Center for Italian Studies in which he ran conferences on positive aspects of the Italian American story until his retirement in 1994. He also taught graduate courses On the Italian American Experience at Wesleyan University.

His book, "Long Island Italian Americans: History, Heritage and Traditions," described families leaving urban life and moving to Long Island the second half of the 20th Century and how that signaled a family had achieved the American Dream and extended Italian culture and traditions of family owned restaurants, including New Hyde Park's Uberto's. LaGumina also mentions the successful Italian integration with other cultures citing Columbus Lodge Presidents Ed Bochynski and Keith Wilson.

Among his major historical writings is "The Humble and Heroic, Wartime Italian Americans, and The Great Depression." LaGumina has authored or co-edited eighteen books associated with the Italian-American experience and became a leading historian. The Massapequa Park resident was survived by his wife of 67 years, Juliana, three children and fourteen grandchildren.





Remembering Grand Lodge President **MICHELE MENT** “Leadership with Quiet Dignity”

NYS Grand Lodge President Michele Cangiano Ment, 78, of Holmes, NY, passed away peacefully on May 28, 2023, surrounded by family.

Born on November 30, 1944 in Brooklyn, NY Michele was a graduate SUNY New Paltz where she obtained a degree in teaching. Upon graduation she taught mathematics in Brooklyn while earning her Master's in Education from Brooklyn College and a Professional Certificate in Administration and Supervision from Richmond College.



NYS Grand Lodge President Michele Ment.

In 1977, she married Eric Ment and moved “upstate” with “the farmer” to Kent, New York, where she and Eric lived for over 40 years and raised two children, Rebecca and Jason. She commuted to the Bronx for over 20 years where she became a Supervisor of Special Education and eventually an Assistant Principal. She retired in 1999 but returned to teaching as an Adjunct Professor at Marymount Manhattan College for a number of years.

She was installed as President of the Father Licata Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) and became active in the Grand Lodge.

Appointed Grand Lodge Education Chairperson, she served fifteen years as a champion of education and scholarships for young adults. On

many occasions Michele was a sponsor of many local lodge's educational programs including the Columbus Lodge #2143.

“Michele was a humble person who quietly contributed to our scholarship program without fanfare,” recalls Scholarship Chairman Ed Bochynski. “One year Michele sent us two checks for her journal sponsorship. When I alerted her of the error, she insisted I keep the money for scholarships to deserving students.”

Her involvement in the Grand Lodge soon led to high positions. Becoming President of the Grand lodge was on her “bucket list” and after a six year run up the Chairs (2016-2021); Michele Ment became President of the Grand Lodge in 2021 with education as her top priority and Covid restrictions a close second.

During her two years as president she followed CDC Covid protocol and as soon as restrictions were lifted, she began visiting local lodges. In November 2022, Michele visited Columbus Lodge to celebrate the testimonial of Fred Bellise. Soon after that event, cancer struck her quickly and decisively. A week before the end of her second her term as State President, Michele would leave us.

Michele was not only a joiner, but also a leader. She believed in showing up for the causes and people she cared about, and expected the same from everyone else. Michele set a high bar for what it meant to show up.

Over the years Michele Ment was President of the Lake Carmel Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, President of the Lake Carmel-Kent Soccer Club, and a trustee of her community library and the Mid-Hudson Library System.

Michele Ment is survived by her husband Eric, children Rebecca and Jason, daughter-in-law Wendy, grandchildren Owen, Oliver, Grace and Rory, and her sister Norma Cangiano. She was loved and will be missed by many more.



Remembering JAMES “JIMMY” A. RAFFA

Born on Oct 27, 1946, Jimmy is a graduate of William Cullen Bryant High School (class of 1964) in Long Island City, Queens. *He* joined the lodge on Sept 9, 2009 becoming member #4105. Inspired to join the Council during a *Fraternal Night*, Jimmy was elected Master of Ceremony (2012) and Trustee (2014), appointed principle trustee (2015). Once elected Orator (2016-17), he served as chairman of the House Rules Committee.



2023 Photo, l to r: President Jimmy Raffa and Ann Pardi at the 45th Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony.

Jimmy enjoyed and Chaired the *Sands* casino trips (2014-22) and was appointed Facilities Manager of the building (2016-2018). He volunteered at 13 Italian Feasts and was elected delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention on ten occasions. After 4-years as V.P., Jimmy became the third oldest president to be elected President at 75 on March 6, 2022. “May liberty, equality and fraternity be in our hearts and in our vision” stated Raff at his installation.

With the uncertainty of the pandemic lingering and despite mixed expectations in some circles, President Raffa squelched all detractors when we set into motion plans to bring back traditional lodge events: for instance Ducks family baseball game and Mystic Paul Miller. He took a hard line stance on collecting “pandemic deferred rent” and received a sizable property tax refund.

He relied on his high energy First VP and appointed Murray Kaplan as entertainment and membership chairman (36 new members his first

year). Finally, he utilizing past presidents in key chairmanship roles. They (Past Presidents) have been there and done that before,” said Raffa

Beginning with Palm Sunday Breakfast, followed by the Scholarship Awards Luncheon, the Summer Picnic, Feast & Festival, Children’s Christmas Party and ending with a magnificent Christmas/New Year’s Eve Dance things seemed to just fall in place throughout the year.

President Raffa was also able to collect all the “pandemic deferred rent” owed be the tenant and received a sizable property tax refund. Heading into 2023, President Raffa’s popularity was so strong many overlooked obvious health concerns and he ran for a second term unopposed.

During February, President Raffa’s health began declining rapidly. He missed the formal Installation of Officers ceremony in March and presided over only one meeting – the meeting he was installed for a second term. The series of acute medical conditions was consuming the man whose motivation was to do a “good job.” A man who listened to new ideas, filtered the good from the bad, and led the membership.



In a 2013 Photo (L to R): Fred Bellise, Gary Caparco, Jimmy Raffa, and Phil Guerrieri.

During the start of his second term, James A. Raffa died of cancer on May 19, 2023, he was 76. As the lodge’s 38th President, he will be remembered as the man that led Columbus Lodge successfully out of the pandemic, and, tragically, as the second sitting president to die while in office; Anthony Scotto died in 1992. He leaves behind Ann Pardi, his life companion.



Remembering JOSEPH "JOE" CARBONE

Born on September 5, 1933 and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Joe Carbone was the oldest of five brothers. As kids, the Carbone boys played stickball in the same neighborhood with the Pepitone family. Joe would often tease a young Joe Pepitone that his older brother Vinnie was the better ballplayer. In 1958, when the NY Yankees signed Pepitone, Carbone teased him about blowing the signing bonus on a pink Cadillac. In 2013, Joe Pepitone fondly remembered being teased by Carbone. "Tell him I said hello and he should give me a call and we should get together at his lodge," said Pepitone.

Joe Carbone served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War period and upon receiving his honorable discharge enjoyed a successful career, first, with the teamsters and then with the Department of Sanitation Special Police. He married Carmela and moved to Syosset, L.I. to raise their family. He joined the Columbus Lodge in 1994 and got involved. After stints as Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Joe took a two-year sabbatical from the Council. Disturbed by the leadership direction, Joe made a bold decision to run off the floor for First VP in 2002 reasoning, "Since I'm retired I'm able to be present at the lodge five days a week. A one day a week officer will not be able to handle the functions and responsibilities."

Joe's campaign message resonated with the membership and was overwhelmingly elected. During this period, Joe had fun participating in the lifting of the Giglio at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast. As an American Legion, he kept members informed on Veterans Administration updates, and was appointed the task of overseeing a major restoration of the building's façade. Under his supervision the building was restored professionally and within budget. After receiving much praise for his handling of the building, 70-year old Joe Carbone was elected and installed as president on March 7, 2004 and served two terms. President Carbone had a clear vision of principles he believed, including that Officers should look and act like Officers. He instituted a hard line stance on dress attire (jacket and tie). He had an American flag and pole installed at the base of the lodge entrance.

Joe initiated a fraternal trip to Niagara Falls, and began a "Transportation Outreach Committee" to provide members with transportation for medical appointments. He ensured the lodge's finances were

strengthened. And relied on men he sponsored into the lodge, (Al D'Ulisse and Jimmy D'Accorda), to ensure the Feast & Festival was successful and the building ran smooth. In his final president's message Joe thanked his officers, committee chairmen, and Ladies Auxiliary for their support then jokingly thanked "all the members who put up with my picture in this newsletter (the Navigator)."

An active post-president, Joe became a lifetime member (2004) and was appointed Building & Facilities manager, a position he held for eight years and five presidential administrations, (2007-2016). He supervised the refurbishing of the lodge lobby (2008), roof repairs, and installation of an epoxy floor (2010). After years serving as a Delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention, he became a committeeman for State Dine-A-Round benefiting Cooley Anemia Foundation (2009-2016).



Joe Carbone and Joan Rondinelli at the Coolies Anemia Dine-a-Round in a 2015 photo

Filled with the joys of life and giving back to others, Joe Carbone focused his energies on helping the Life Center of L.I. and the Seeing Eye Dog Foundation. As a proud member of the American Legion, he continued to keep members informed on Veterans Administration updates. Joseph Carbone remained a Syosset resident until complications from brain tumors took his life quickly on Sept. 12, 2023, one week after he celebrated his 90th birthday.

In Memory of our Deceased Members

† May They Rest In Peace †

Salvatore Mazza
Edgar Foran
Ferdinando DeVivo
Joseph Continelli
John De Rosa
Antonio Sisia
Alfred Graziano
James Kumas
Orlando Iaboni
Salvatore j. Russo
Alfonso Avallone
Peter La Macchia
Joseph Heimbauer
Joseph Marrasso
Anthony DiPrima
Michael N. Petito
Frank Tursi
John Manfredo
Anthony Corrozzo
Dominic Bonanno
Sam Catanzante
Anthony Rocco
Leonard Varvaro
Vito Bambino
Vincent J. Scognamillo
Albert Girimonte
Joseph Ruggeri
Nicholas Petruzzi
Charles P. Cotugno
John Bretagna
Vincent Sorrentino
Peter D. Diperi
Vincent Magnemi
Joseph De Vito Jr.
V. Ranieri
Sam S. Marsicano
Frank Di Domenica

Rocco DeSantis
Anthony Fucci
Joseph DeVito Sr.
Andrew Cuomo
Frank Sasso
Ralph Rabasca
Frank Esposito
John Garone
Greg Cuercio
Rosario Colore
Joseph DeSantis
John Carmine
Louis Ciulla
Mario Testa
Philip Salvaggio
Charles Cosma
Pasquale Papa
James Pacilio
Anthony Marriello
Victor Morrone
Dominic Proscia
Jack Tedesco
Anthony Bernardo
Casimiro Virgadamo
Dominick Blumi
Peter Tiscione
Joseph Baffino
Santo Puma
Anthony DiMaggio
Lorenzo Gisonda
Frank V. Ligouri
Cosimo M. Ciranni
Anthony Spadolini, Sr.
Anthony Donato
Daniel Traietta
Felix Malinowski
Salvatore Grizzalli

Michael Mancini
Victor DeVivo
Stephen Farina
Joseph Toscanini
Joseph Scotto
Albert Cappellino
Carmine T. Franco
Anthony Ambrosio
Michael Cestaro
John Cordray
Julius DeVivo
Thomas Burriciello
Jack Ferrante
Michael Santoriello
Albert Sabatano
Pasquale Alberino
Gus Isoldi
Louis Massaro
Louis Yanelli
George Mannino
Salvatore Cascone
Edward Pearson
Saverino Martino
Frank DiDemenics, Sr.
Frank DeRosa
Joseph Marfoglio
Vincent Madaio
Mateo Capuano
Charles LoGiudici
Michael Maiorano
Ruggero Tozullo
Anthony Langongus
Richard Bruno
Robert Bolton
Gondolfo D'Amico
Fred DeFelice
Anthony "Tony" Salvato

Fred DeFelice
James Monti
Joseph Zaccaria
Robald Martorelli
John Barbarisi
Robert Grillo
Paul George
Nord Marro
Vincent Prezzano
Frank Lazio
Alfred Capato
Joseph Brognano
Victor Genovese
Frank Valenti
Paul DiGiovanna
Charles Raymond
Armando Testa
August Mazzocchi
Emil Lavorini
Louis Ricci
Edward Zerbo
Carmine Cirolia
Pat Agresia
Michael V. Pesale
Nino Memoli
Sorgi Liotti
Anthony Scotto
P. Vincent Landi
Frank Cataldo
Sam DeAngelis
Nicolas Rizzo
Dominick Ravalico
Anthony Flora
Joseph Cognitore
Louis DeLuca
Louis Neil Agresta
Anthony Mirabella

In Memory of our Deceased Members

† May They Rest In Peace †

Charles Smatt
Joseph Umile
Casper Buttafuoco
John Musicaro
Thomas Pavone
Dr. Joseph Ciminna
Anthony Infranca
Thomas Manno
Gennano Sorrentino
Angelo "Al" Lima
Anthony Amorosa
James Mitchell
Dominick Baranello
Philip Healey
Felix Ott
Vincent Rives
Ralph Ruzzo
Ralph Malerba
Joseph Floriani
George Beato
Vincent Moschella
Peter Careccia
Ignazio E. Simonetti
Harry Caraturo
Edward Carney
John McLaughlin
Joseph Delligatti
Louis Accurso
Anthony Cavaliere
Michael Galli
Rocco Conzo
Peter Vallone
John Scotti
Carmine Persichetti
Nicholas Lentini
Charles Falabella
Salvatore Muscchio

Richard Manzella
Michael J. LoRusso
Ralph Pantony
Michael Adessio
Anthony Malanga
Frank N. Ericksen
Humbert Cotone
Henry Pesce
Arthur G. Milano
Alexander C. Ragone
Phillip Ansaldi
Vido DiDonna
Salvatore Camarda
Carmine Masi
John A. Lally
Anthony Roncallo
Nick Manente
John Ninivaggi
Angelo Ceo
Paul Bellavia
Michael DiTrani
John Grillo
Peter Salerno 1999
Gerald Trovato
James Pomavelli 00
Tom Palazzotto
Tom Rosati
Gerald Truvato, Sr.
Anthony Contorno

Joseph Saladino, Sr.
Tom Rosati
John D. Dorsi
Michael Costavella
Gerard Fiorenza
Frank Piccione
Salvatore Rubino
Leonard Monteforte
James Ploimos
Louis Frandy
Benedetto Gilberti
Domenic Abruzzo
Kenneth Kruse
John Sisino
Mario Colletti
Anthony Senia
Lenny Flore
Anthony Senia
Anthony Caracci
Frank Salamone
Joe Bua
Frank McGrade
Nelson Giordano
Jerry Fiore
Louis Masiello
Leo Messina
Sam Caracci
Kenny Parker
Louis Auletti

William Marsella
Ralph Ledome
Gennaro Fiore
Dominick Serra
Clement DeTillio
Daniel Morro
Anthony DeRosa
Joseph Riccobono
Joseph Lobato
Sebastian Giacobbe
Albert Devivo
Angelo Lagano
Vincent Floriani
John J. Guarino
Michael Annes
Carl Ruvolo
Michael Giannelli
Liuca Beato
Joseph Magliato
Murray Cohen
Louis Carruso
Spiro Georgiades
Geppy Bono
Al Castrogiovanni
Joseph Bonafede
Anthony Casella
Willie Bruno
Joseph Margiotta
Michael DiMeglio
Angelo Ferrente
Frank Giacomo
Vincent Grande II
Stephen La Scala
Michael Radulichb
Joseph Slattery
Louis Cacioppo
Pat Pitrocia
Carmine A. Ventiera
Edward J. Bader, Sr.
Louis Carbone
Michael DiMiglito



In Memory of our Deceased Members

† May They Rest In Peace †

Aniello Capuano
Angelo D. Roncallo
Joseph Prezbytowski
Joseph Napoli
Lawrence Caparco
Frank Trimigliozi
Phil Alfino
Dominick Martini
Sal DiFalco
Andrew Tardalo
Phil Gullo
John Juba
Benny Panzarella
Leonard Novarro
James Salvato
Steve Pearl
Joseph Pomponio
Larry Schappert
Peter J. Schmitt
Sam Revollo
Reato Saviano
Anthony Sicalari
Armand Vella
Nick Rungo
Lou Garafola
Anthony L. Caiola
Joseph Basile
Joseph Cangemi
Alfonse "Al" Parise
Edward Bochynski Sr.
Dan Colantone
Vincent DeSario
Dennis Ravalico
Ralph Wilson
Benedetto Cusumano
Richard Gambino

Joesph Carbone
Vincent Beltrani
Paul Destefano
Frank A. DiFazio
Phil Fasullo
Amando Rizzi
Vincent Rupolo
Vincent P. DeRosa
Anthony J. Musarra
Fred Penna
Jack Trinca
Frank Barca
Stephen Giorgio III
Geraldo Paci
Salvatore "Sonny" Bove
Joseph Manfre
Louis V. Barrella
Neil Mancuso
Michael Caraturo
Lawrence "Yogi" Berra
Edwin Buhler
Al Celeste
Tony Spadolini
Vincent Valinoti
Anthony Ammirati
Joseph V. Belesi
Michael Capogna
Joseph Casalino

Louis Garcia
George Lauro
Frank Musarra
Anthony Romeo
John Venditto
Vincent Ventiera
Louis Carbone
Joseph Bermudez
Santo "Sam" Novarro
Jack Bove
Salvatore "Sal" Petrone
Michael Parisi
Neil Ferrara
Vincent "Jimmy" D'Accordo
Arthur Del Re
Father Anthony Heinlein
Felix "Phil" Sciannamea
Vincent Grande III
James "Jimmy" A. Raffa
Joseph "Joe" Carbone
Louis Caponi
Salvatore J. LaGumina

NOTE: **BOLD type** denotes Past President of Columbus Lodge.





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East Islip, NY 11730
(631) 581-5600

West Islip

1225 Montauk Hwy
West Islip, NY
11795
(631) 661-5644

Thank You

to the members of
Columbus Lodge 2143

for an incredible 60 year legacy
of making a positive difference
in our community.

Joseph S. Saladino

Joseph S. Saladino

Town Supervisor

In Memory of My Father



Joseph J. Saladino

NYS Supreme Court Justice
Forth Venerable OSIA Columbus Lodge

60 YEARS

Keep up the Good Work
Columbus Lodge #2143



*Nicholas & Maureen
Viglietta*

CHARTER MEMBER
VENERABLE COLUMBUS LODGE 1972-74
NEW YORK STATE PRESIDENT 1985-1989
MEMBER BENE EMERITUS

In Loving Memory of . . .
Louise Bochynski
&
Past President Ed Bochynski



Lovingly,
Margie & Edward P. Bochynski
PAST PRESIDENT (2013-14)

In Loving Memory of . . .

John Michael Bove

1950 – 1972

and

Salvatore J. Bove
“Sonny”

1923-2018

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS



BEST WISHES . . .

COLUMBUS LODGE #2143

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE

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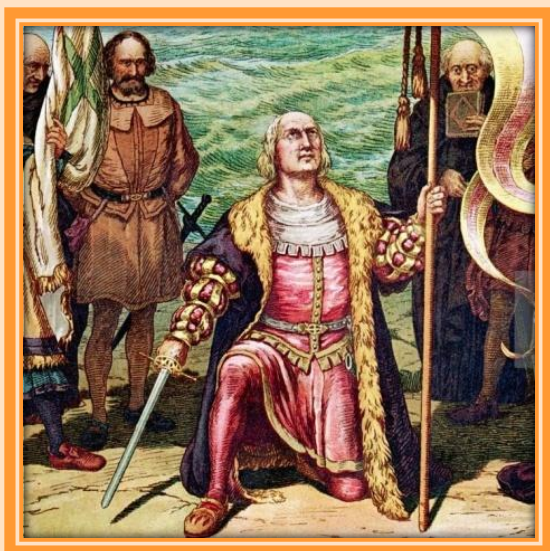
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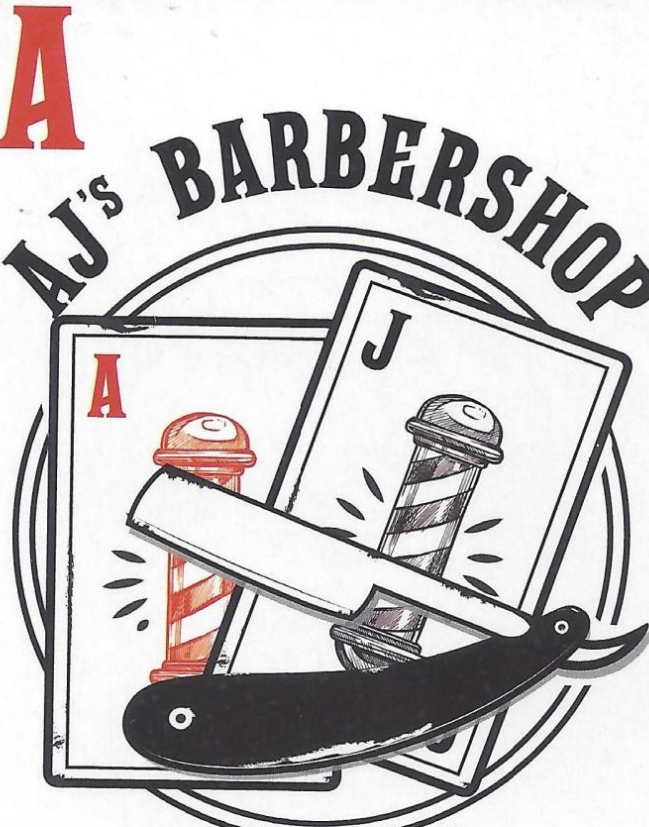
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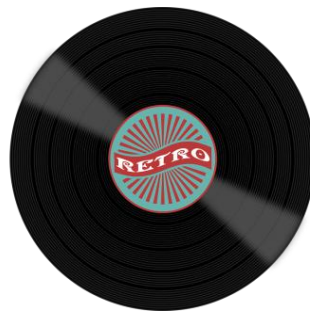


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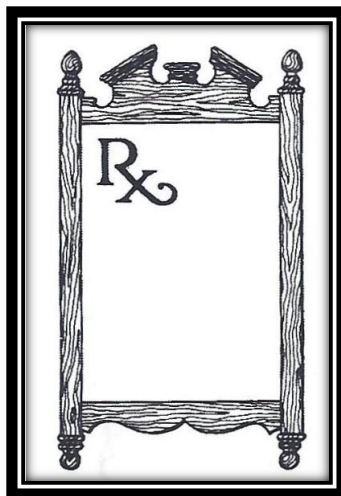
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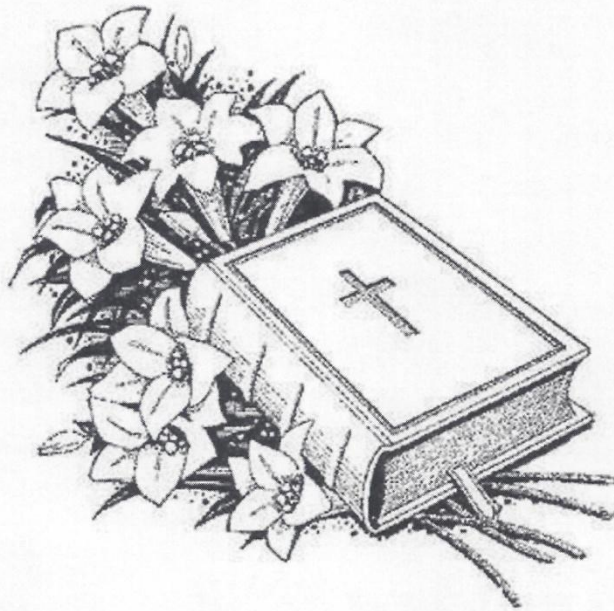
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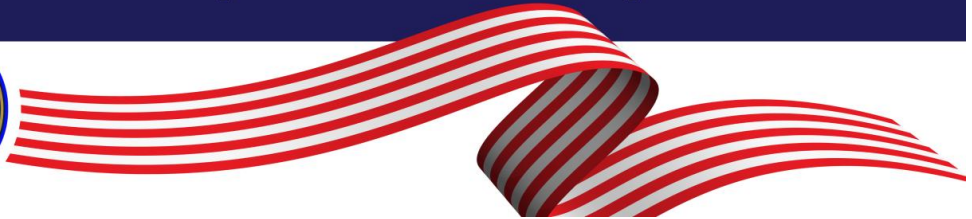
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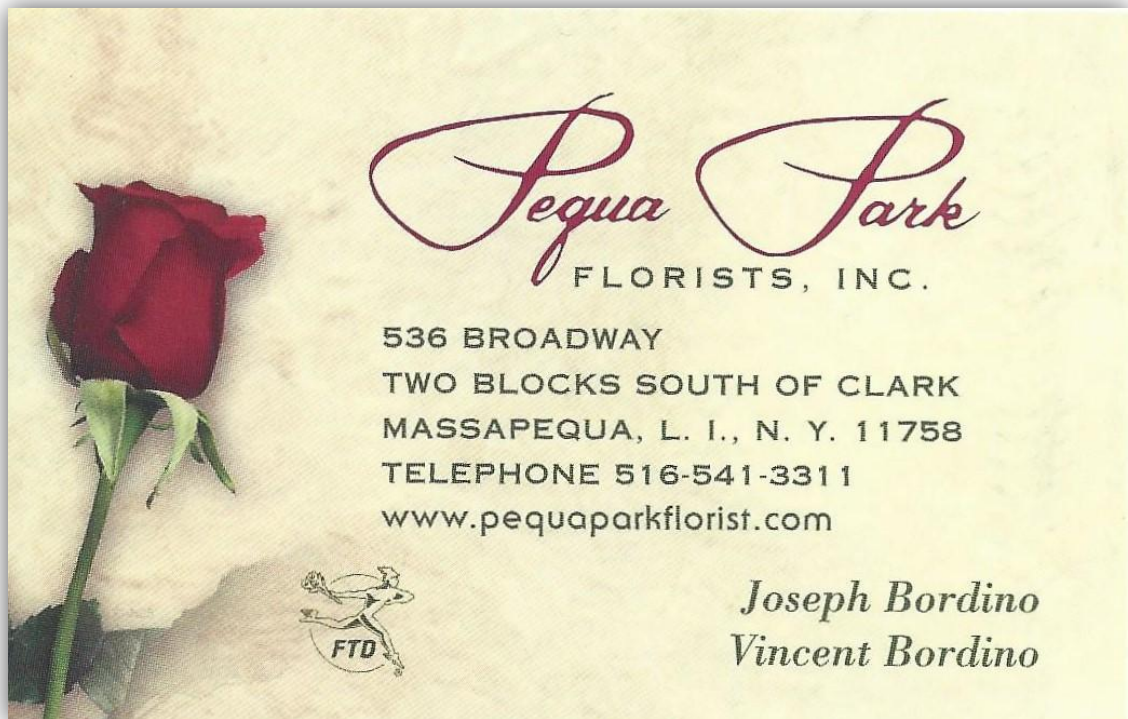
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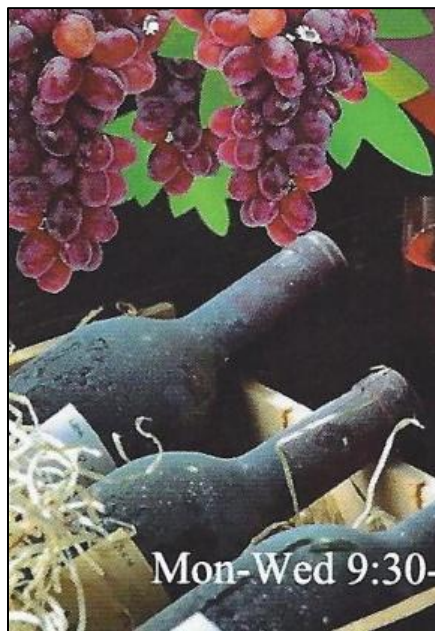
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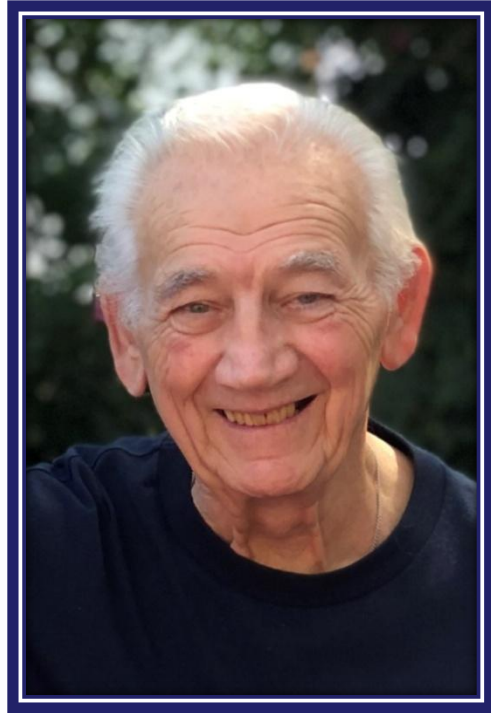
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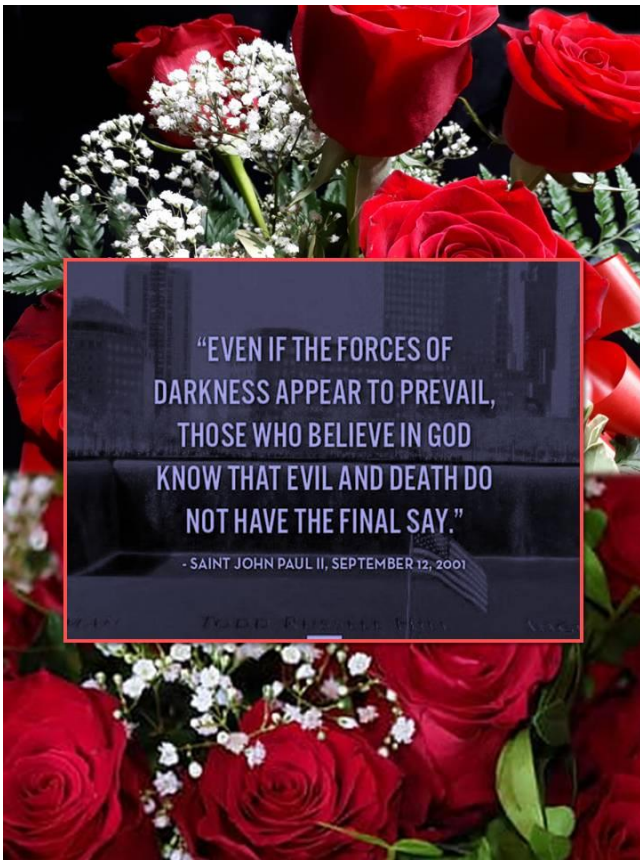
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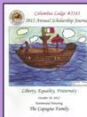









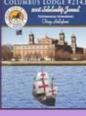


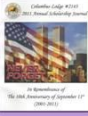
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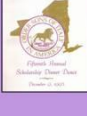

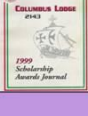


COMING THIS FALL . . .



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The History of the Columbus Lodge of Massapequa #2143

In 1963 a group of men, all of whom were members of the Massapequa Elks and Americans of Italian Ancestry, discussed the formation of an organization of Italian Americans in the Massapequa area. They decided they should also be part of a national organization. The group of men met with Giuseppe A. Nigro, founder of the loggia Glen Cove #1016 in 1920 (Long Island's first OSIA lodge). Nigro agreed to have loggia Glen Cove serve as sponsor and submit an application for a charter. A charter was granted in December 1963.



Above: In a 1964 photo, first installed president, P. Vincent Landi (fourth from right.)

The Columbus Lodge of Massapequa #2143 ("CL") was duly constituted into the Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) on **February 16, 1964** at the Massapequa Elks Club; 328 men were sworn in as members of the newly formed lodge. During Columbus Lodge's first year it became the largest local lodge in NYS, a lodge newspaper "the Navigator" was born, a building was bought at their current home on Boundary Avenue in South Farmingdale, and a ladies auxiliary was established for the wives and daughters of the members. Before CL's second year was completed, the membership swelled to over 1,200 making it the largest in the Nation.

The idea of forming a lodge in the Farmingdale/Massapequa area and following through with that idea is credited to three men: P. Vincent Landi, Angelo Roncallo, and Dominick Baranello. Pat Landi became the first elected lodge Venerable

and served two terms. All three men would hold that position over the first 4-years. P. Vincent Landi quickly elevated through the OSIA State ranks and became Venerable of the NYS Grand Lodge, serving from 1967 to 1970.

On February 3, 1965, the lodge held its 1st Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Huntington Townhouse, Massapequa School Superintendant Dr. Raymond J. Lockhart was the honoree; over 1,000 persons attended the affair. On May 21st, the lodge sent 30 delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention at the Sagamore Hotel, Lake George. The fee for 3-days was \$45 pp, meals included. On the morning of June 2nd, the lodge took title of the building at 2143 Boundary Avenue.

On Friday, August 20TH the lodge presented Yogi Berra with an honorary membership at home plate before the start of a baseball game between the Mets and St. Louis (Yogi's hometown) at Shea Stadium; Brother John Musicaro coordinated the event. Also occurring in 1965 Anthony Marino presented the lodge's first scholarship and Guido Massimeri Chaired the first Blood drive. A fruit cup, steak, and soup were served to all donors. About this time, the lodge began holding an annual Children's Christmas Party. Members would drive to a local orphanage pick up the children and bring them back to the lodge for a special meeting with Santa.



August 1965: P. Vincent Landi shakes hands with new honorary Columbus Lodge member Yogi Berra.

In 1971 P. Vincent Landi was among those invited to the White House to witness U.S. President Richard

60th Anniversary

M Nixon receiving the OSIA Marconi Award. The Marconi Award, the Order Sons of Italy in America's (OSIA) highest honor, is named for the Nobel prize-winning Italian physicist who invented wireless telegraphy. It is presented biennially to an Italian American who has made significant contributions to the United States.

To date, there have been seven CL members who have received the prestigious Bene Emeritus Award, NYS Grand Lodge's top honor. Fraternal brother Phil Iannuccilli became the first member to receive this award in June 1972. In October, Angelo Roncallo was elected to the U.S. Congress from the Third Congressional District of New York.



Celebrating the first decade (1964-74) are the presidents from the Columbus Lodge decade receiving Nassau County citations.

In 1974 the lodge celebrated its tenth anniversary. Despite financial concerns throughout its first ten years, the membership pulled together, and the lodge endured. The celebration took place at Columbus Lodge's the 2143 Boundary Avenue home. The past presidents from the first decade were honored and received citations from the Nassau County Exec Ralph Caso.

In 1977 Angelo Roncallo was elected to the NYS Supreme Court in 1977. A year later, the lodge launched its "modern scholarship program" that includes awards for member's children and grandchildren plus outreach awards to local high schools. Monsignor Thomas Hartman, of Telecare's God Squad fame, served on the initial selection committee; four grants were awarded.

During the early 1980s, the Venerable title was changed to President. In 1983, after a three-year encounter with NYS officials, Albany finally granted

the lodge its Las Vegas license. The Vegas committee would emerge as the lodge's most successful fundraiser of this period. By the end of the decade the success of Vegas allowed for the lodge to meet its expenses. In addition, the scholarship program expanded to 16 annual awards for students from local area schools.



L to R: In a 1985 photo of National OSIA President Nick Viglietta and US Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

In 1985 Pat Landi became the second CL member to receive the Bene Emeritus Award and was named the lodge's first lifetime member. In addition, Joe Saladino Sr., (who served as the lodge's 4th Venerable from 1968-69), was appointed as a judge to the NYS Supreme Court, and Past Venerable Nicholas Viglietta was elected President of the NYS Grand Lodge and Joe Cangemi as State Orator.



Above: 1987 Columbus Day Parade Queen Denise and Grand Lodge President Nick Viglietta, both from CL.

June 1987: Nick Viglietta would be re-elected Grand Lodge President. Also in 1987, Columbus Lodge's Denise Deperino Kick won the Grand Lodge Parade Queen Pageant and appeared on 5th Avenue in the NYC Columbus Day Parade.

March 1989: Sam Novarro received the gavel marking a quarter of a century. In June, Angelo

Roncallo became the third CL member to receive the Bene Emeritus Award. The lodge held a 25th Silver Anniversary Gala on October 13, 1989, at 2143 Boundary Avenue at the then-Crystal Palace East. IPP Nellie Giordano was honored. Past Venerable and Navigator Editor Joe Magliato wrote: "Today we pay tribute to all the Past Venerables, more recently Past Presidents. It was these men, who from the day of inception passed the gauntlet of leadership into the hands of his successor; each man making his contribution to the molding of a great lodge."

To celebrate and honored Nick Viglietta, upon completion of his four years as Grand Lodge President, by Columbus Lodge honored him with a special night which included the first lodge scholarship journal. John Juba was the first Chairman of the journal.

June 1992: John Mascara became the fourth CL member to receive the Bene Emeritus Award.

March 1993: Anthony Scotto was installed as the 21st lodge president and Dominick Baranello was voted as the second Lifetime member in lodge history.

In September President Scotto suffered a fatal heart attack. First VP Tony Musarra took over as interim president. A Scholarship Award was named in Scotto's honor.



In preparation for the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Columbus Lodge #2143, a replica of Christopher Columbus' Santa Maria was built by lodge members (1993-94). Brother Paul Calissi allowed for the use of his auto service garage to provide a workspace and storage in order to build the float. The float was displayed at the Columbus Day parade held in Farmingdale in October 1994.



Above, as it appeared in Newsday on Sept. 15, 1996, the original planning committee that launched the first annual *Italian Feast & Festival* featuring members from Town of Oyster Bay, Columbus Lodge and Massapequa Chamber. Ironically many were chamber and lodge members including John Venditto, Steve Labriola, Frank Gatto, Joe Pasale, Al D'Ulissi, and Pete Gisonda. The concept was to stimulate local businesses in the community. Over a quarter of a century later the feast has surpassed all expectations attracting thousands of visitors each year and provides live music, food, and vendors all with an Italian atmosphere. It has become the lodge's number one fraternal fundraiser.

June 1997: Joseph Cangemi became the third Columbus Lodge Past Venerable to be elected State President of the NYS Grand Lodge. That same year the lodge launched a softball team dedicated toward raising money for local charities through softball fundraising events. The *Golden Lions* played for 13 seasons from 1997-2009, won 19-tournaments, and received national acclaim appearing twice in *Italian American* magazine.

60th Anniversary



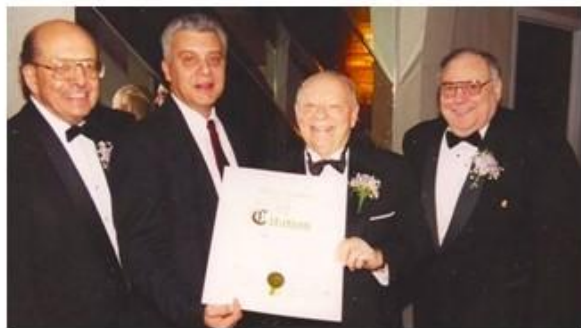
The Italian Feast & Festival featured singer Johnny Maestro & the Brooklyn Bridge in 1997.

January 1998: John Venditto, who had held the position of Columbus Lodge Orator (1981-82), was sworn in as the Supervisor of the Township of Oyster Bay. John would be reelected to that position until he stepped down in January 2017.

Jan. 2, 1999: The year began with troubles when it was discovered that the catering hall was vandalized. It was alleged the outgoing tenant left a parting remembrance. President Vincent DeRosa turned to his First VP Ed Bochynski Sr. to take control, handle police reports, the insurance company, building codes, and to find a new tenant.

On Feb. 16th, the lodge reached the 35-year milestone but there was no time for celebration.

On March 7, 1999, Ed Bochynski Sr. became the first non-Italian President (Polish-American by birth) fortifying the lodge's principle of equality.



Above, (L to R), Past National President Nick Viglietta, TOB Supervisor John Venditto, Pres. Ed Bochynski Sr., and State President Joseph Cangemi, (all members of Columbus Lodge), at the lodge's 35th Anniversary Dinner.

June 1999: NYS Convention, Joseph Cangemi was re-election as State President and Nick Viglietta was

acknowledged for his contributions to the Order by receiving the Bene Emeritus Award.

In the fall, with the success of the *Italian Feast & Festival* drawing over 28,000 people and with the membership spending the summer repairing the building, a decision was made to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the lodge on December 11th. IPP Vincent DeRosa was honored.

Feb. 2000: President Bochynski announced that Sam Novarro, *Tenant Search Committee Chair*, was finalizing a proposed 10-year lease with Stewart Thomas Manor pending membership approval.

March 5, 2000: Frank Musarra became the lodge's first "second generation president"; his father Tony Musarra served from 1993-96.

April 2020: Joe Cangemi became the first lodge member to receive the Golden Lion Award.



Pete Gisonda, Ed Bochynski, Tony Ragno and Frank Musarra greet the National Easter Seals Poster Child at the lodge meeting hall.

July 2020: The National Easter Seals Poster Child came for a visit to meet our membership in the meeting hall. Later that month, the Columbus Lodge softball team participated in the Annual Easter Seals Softball Classic and took home the first-place trophy.

March 7, 2001: Frank Musarra was reelected for a second term as president however, unexpected on the job training occurred for First Vice President Tony Ragno. Musarra's sister came down with terminal cancer and subsequently passed during the year. Ragno assumed all duties in the President's absent as President Musarra dealt with family matters.

September 11, 2001: Two hijacked commercial jet airliners intentionally crashed into each of the two Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in NYC killing thousands. The membership opened their

hearts and doors to the local children who had lost a loved one and invited them to attend the annual Children's Christmas party. Every child was cared for during this difficult time.



At the 2002 Italian Feast & Festival, Chairman Tony Ventiera watches President Tony Ragno address the crowd.

March 3, 2002: Anthony "Tony" Ragno was installed as the 27th President of Columbus Lodge. In a bold move, President Ragno replaced the prior year Italian Feast & Festival Chairs with Al D'Ulisse and Tony Ventiera. The move proved beneficial as the festival showed a 50% increase in profits.

June 2003: At the NYS Convention, Dan Calantone received the Salerno Award for his dedication in the true spirit of the OSIA founders.

Feb. 2004: The lodge membership adopted a House Rule which recognized all past and future presidents as lifetime members upon completion of one full term. The vote was retroactive to all presidents who served the lodge.



Fr. Tom Hartman received help manning the telephones at the 2002 Telecare Telethon (now known as the Catholic Faith Network).

The Columbus Lodge has always been a community leader and participated in many local fund-raising events that included providing food baskets to the needy, toys for children in local hospitals, participating in bowl-a-thons & telethons,

and lending a hand at the Special Olympics. In addition, CL holds golf outings and dinner dances to benefit local charities. CL extended its community presence when it sponsored from 1997 to 2010 a series of *Music Under the Stars* concerts for the benefit of the local community. The DuPrees performed at the inaugural concert. Other notable performers were Michael Amante, Julius LaRosa (in one of his final performances) & Uncle Floyd Vivino.

In 2018: The Town of Oyster Bay, in recognized of Columbus Lodge as a community leader, renamed the street adjacent to the lodge's building to *Columbus Lodge Way*.

There have been many local communities that have benefited from the Columbus Lodge's philanthropic nature. Among the beneficiaries are the American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Farmingdale Baseball, Gift of Sight, Easter Seals Society, Massapequa Mustangs, the Ronald McDonald House, St. Francis Hospital, Schneider Children's Hospital, World War II Memorial Project, the United Way, and the Wounded Warriors. The lodge has also participated in National and State OSIA fund-raising endeavors most recently the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, Sons of Italy Foundation, and the L'Aquila Earthquake Relief Fund.



January 2009: President Frank Gatto presented the traditional robe and gavel to the lodge's third member to be elected Judge, Angelo Delegatti.

March 2009: Tony Ventiera's father, Past State President Carmine A. Ventiera, was posthumously voted an Honorary Member and Brother Tony was installed as the 31st President.

June 2010: At the NYS convention Dan Colantone received the Bene Emeritus Award and Sal

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Moschella received the Sellaro Award. It is believed this was the first time two members from the same lodge simultaneously received these awards.



In June 2010 Dan Colantone receives the Ben Emeritus Award at Sal MOSCHELLA the Seller Award.



In a 2010 Photo (L to R): TOB Supervisor John Venditto and Columbus Lodge Golf Chairman Tony Ragno.

July 2010: Golf Chairman Tony Ragno had a simple plan, "Run a first-rate golf event." To run a first-class event, Ragno charged a little more than other OSIA events however he gave back to the participants a top shelf event. The result was the Columbus Lodge's most successful golf outing of all-time and it even surpassed the participation and profits of the NYS Grand Lodge's golf event. TOB Supervisor and Columbus Lodge Brother John Venditto was the honoree.

The membership used some of the proceeds from the golf event to give back to a number of disabled soldiers thru the Wounded Warrior Project, a none profit organization that provides services and events for wounded veterans who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses, or co-incident to their military service. Ragno and selected brothers took wounded warriors out for a night of dinner and a show at the Jones Beach Theater.

June 2011: At the NYS Grand Lodge Convention, Brother Joe Cangemi became the seventh member of the lodge to receive the Bene Emeritus Award, the most awarded to members from the same lodge.

October 2011: During Italian Heritage month, the lodge launched the *Columbus Day Art Contest* as a fun way for elementary school students to learn about Christopher Columbus. The students and artwork appeared in lodge's annual journal.



March 3, 2013: The 50th installation of officer's ceremony took place (above). Edward P. Bochynski was installed as the 33rd President and the lodge's second "second generation president." The event included international Italian singer Giada Valenti. Ms. Valenti sang both the American and Italian National Anthems.



June 2013 (L to R): Phil Guerrieri, Ed Bochynski, Tony Ventiera, and Donald Visconti at the new Yankee Stadium.

June 2013: Summer events included a trip to the new Yankee Stadium. Over forty-four members and their families attended. In the 4th inning the Yankees acknowledged the lodge with a "Welcome Columbus Lodge" on the Yankee Stadium message board.

Other summer events included the annual picnic, Coney Island Dance, Day at the Races (Belmont Park), a blood drive, and a *Music Under the Stars* concert featuring the Bronx Wonderers at Marjorie Post Park; lawn chairs were in abundance.

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Sept. 22, 2013: President Ed Bochynski presented humanitarian awards to Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto for their dedication and actions during *Superstorm Sandy* (in 2012). The presentation took place at the Annual Feast & Festival where Mangano served as Grand Marshall.



Above: At the 50th Anniversary Gala held in 2014, seventeen past presidents, spanning five decades, gathered at the lodge's home on Boundary Avenue to celebrate this milestone.

January 18, 2014: Nearly 300 people attended the Columbus Lodge #2143's Golden Anniversary Gala at 2143 Boundary Avenue at the then-Stuart Thomas Manor. The newly remodeled catering hall provided a dazzling backdrop for an event that paid tribute to OSIA National Immediate Past President Joseph DiTrapani, Columbus Lodge IPP Keith Wilson and all the Presidents who led the lodge during its first half a century. National and NYS Presidents, past and current, were among the guests.

March 2, 2014: Phil Guerrieri was installed as the 34th President of the lodge. And in April, Brother Ed Mangano received the Grand Lodge Foundation's prestigious Golden Lion Award.



Nov. 2014 (l to r): IPP Ed Bochynski and NYS Pres. Joseph Rondinelli present NY Yankee Legend Roy White with a recognition award for Roy's work in advancing education.

November 2014, lodge IPP Edward P. Bochynski shared the spotlight at his testimonial with NY Yankee legend Roy White, who received a Special Recognition Award for his decade of support to the lodge's scholarship program. Mr. White traveled from Edison, NJ to be at the Farmingdale event.



Above: Three Generations of Columbus Lodge Presidents (l to r) Anthony Musarra, Tony Musarra, and Frank Musarra.

March 6, 2016: Anthony Musarra (28 y/o) became the youngest member to be installed as president of the lodge. He also became the first third-generation president. His grandfather Tony served in the 1990s and his father Frank served in the 2000s.

January 31, 2017: Brother Joseph S. Saladino, son of lodge founding member Judge Joseph Saladino, was appointed and sworn in as the Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor. Joe followed in the footsteps of Brother John Venditto, who served for 18-years.

Brother Joe Saladino has been a long-time supporter of the lodge's scholarship program and has always looked forward to meeting with the graduating high school seniors and their families. Saladino schools the students on the "truth" about Christopher Columbus.

Nov. 4, 2017: Edward P. Mangano became the first lodge member to be re-elected as Nassau County Executive.

March 4, 2018: Fred Bellise was installed as thirty-sixth president of the lodge and its most seasoned president. Nearly half a century separated the outgoing president from the incoming president.

June 8th: The 600th education grant was awarded on the 40th anniversary of the lodge's scholarship program. Among the dignitaries were Judge Rhonda Frischer and NYS Grand Lodge President Anthony Naccarato. Bill Murphy chaired the event.

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June 2018: The Columbus Lodge hosted the Grand Lodge Spring Plenary Session. Columbus Lodge also launched its inaugural Scholarship Casino Night to great success. Brother Bill Murphy chaired the event.

July 2018: It was announced the Ladies Auxiliary was being "disbanded" until further notice. The Lodge's Founder P. Vincent Landi set up an auxiliary to engage the wives of the membership. Over the years the Auxiliary ran fund raising events, donated money to local charities, Marched in Parades, and honored our departed.



Sept 2018: The *Italian Feast & Festival* Grand Marshal NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo took the opportunity to announce the State was giving the Town of Oyster Bay \$10M grant for park restoration and revitalization.



Above, Pauline Bove (center) flanked by Nassau County Legislator Rose Marie Walker and Columbus Lodge President Fred Bellise.

The "IT" event of the year was not the Governor's visit to our Massapequa Festival, it was when five-time Ladies Auxiliary President Pauline Bove, (also known as "Mrs. Columbus Lodge"), was the honored for 50 years of service to the lodge through the

Ladies Auxiliary and for her 40-year commitment to the lodge's education program. Pauline received citations from both New York State and Nassau County.

Retired High School Principal Pauline originally joined the lodge's Ladies Auxiliary in the mid-1960s and was first elected to serve as Auxiliary President in 1978. All totaled, she would serve five terms with her final term during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Only a couple of months after this event, Pauline moved to the Villages in Florida. Now in her 90's, her annual financial support of the scholarship program continues today.

March 1, 2020: Gary Caparco was installed as the thirty-seventh president of Columbus Lodge #2143. Less than two weeks after the *Installation of Officers* a national emergency was declared on March 13th as the Corona Virus brought the Nation and the World to a halt. Mask covering nose and mouth and six feet distancing became the new normal. Internet meetings, an upgrade of the lodge's website, and extended use of the "*Calling Post*" were the means to keep the membership engaged.

Because the St. Joseph Dance was canceled President Caparco had a snatch and drive pastry sales as a fund-raiser. The snatch and drive served two purposes: (1) it was a means to getting rid of the 150 pastries purchased for the pandemic canceled dance, and (2) it gave folks a reason for member interaction.

In June, Past President Keith Wilson was elected president to lead the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce through the pandemic.



December 2020: An outdoor *Drive Bye Children's Christmas Party* insured the children and grandchildren of our membership received a gift from Santa. Arguably, this may have been the most

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creative way of dealing with the pandemic while bringing some normalcy to the children.



Above, the 2021 Installation of officer via ZOOM.

By the end of December 2021, the first vaccine was administered. Following CDC guidelines, Gary Caparco was installed by “ZOOM” – a relatively unknown and underused device that soon became a popular permanent means to hold business and social meetings. During the summer as President Caparco took down temperatures of anyone entering the building, socially distanced the seating, and had limited in-person meetings. As the threat of the pandemic dropped the focus moved toward the 25th Feast in September.



Above, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran joins Columbus Lodge members during the 25th Anniversary Italian Feast & Festival.



Sept. 2021: Columbus Lodge crew at the 25th Feast & Festival.

On September 26th, after taking a pandemic pause the prior year, the lodge held its 25th Italian Feast & Festival under perfect weather conditions. Nassau

County Executive Laura Curran joined TOB Supervisor Joe Saladino for the festivities.

On Feb. 19, 2022, Trustee Mike Parisi, a ten-year Trustee, became the fourth officer to die while in office and the first since the passing of Trustee Joe Basile passed in 2014. Both men died of cancer.

On March 6, 2022, Jimmy Raffa was installed as he 38th President and with the scare of the Covid-19 pandemic apparently under control, Raffia successfully focused on restoring traditional events and building membership.



2022 Scholarship Award Ceremony (L to R): President Jimmy Raffa, Olivia Vivolo, Ann Pardo, and Robert Zabbia.

In June, at the annual scholarship presentation, the 650th scholarship award to a Georgia Sideridis from Plainedge High School and the Zabbia Award for Health Care was awarded to Olivia Vivolo. Brother and local businessman Robert Zabbia has sponsored the grant since 1999. And in September, President Raffa selected Frank Gatto to serve as Honorary Grand Marshal for the 26th annual Italian Feast.



Dec. 2022: Janet & Christ Molina have chaired the Children's Christmas Party, a lodge tradition for the past six years.

In December, the tradition continued with the Children's Christmas Party. Santa Clause stole the show to the delight of the committee Chairpersons Janet and Chris Molina at the 58th annual event.

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In January 2023, the membership chose Jimmy Raffa to return as president despite numerous medical setbacks. Although officers were installed in March, Jimmy was too weak to attend and was installed to his second term a month later. First Vice President Frank Franchi would preside over all but one meeting as interim president.



March 2023 Frank Franchi being sworn as First VP at the lodge's 60th Installation of Officers. To Frank's right is his wife, Gina Franchi.

On May 19th Jimmy Raffa died and First VP Frank Franchi was named interim president for the remaining term. Known as an active and engaged member, Frank had just turned fifty years old and represented a more progressive approach at the helm.

The month of June began with 45th Annual scholarship awards luncheon ceremony. The ceremony received such high praise and recognition that three of the parents joined the lodge. Andrea Barba, the High Scholastic Award recipient, was accompanied with her grandmother, a survivor of the SS Andrea Dora, an Italian passenger ship that sank in 1956 off the coast of Nantucket in the Atlantic Ocean.

In June 2023, at the Grand Lodge convention, Keith Wilson was elected State Orator and the Franchi Family was awarded *Family of the Year* by the Grand Lodge. For Keith, it was the first time a Columbus Lodge member was a state Orator in nearly forty years when Joe Cangemi rose to the position and would eventually become the president of the Grand Lodge.

On August 22, Trustee Mateo Ferro took over as Chairman of the Long Island Ducks Family Baseball Night. A favorite event of President Jimmy Raffa, the event has been renamed the Jimmy A. Raffa Memorial Family Baseball Night.

On Aug. 28th, OSIA Foundation recognized the contributions of CL member Greg Massimi at the Annual Golf Outing. Two tables of Columbus Lodge members showed up for the event to pay tribute to a loyal fraternal lodge member.



Oct 2023: Grand Marshal Joe Saladino accepts a gift from President Frank Franchi.

On October 1st, CL member Joe Saladino Jr. was honored as Grand Marshal for the 27th annual Italian Feast & Festival. The event drew over 25,000 and was a financial success. Festival Chairman Tony Ventiera steered the ship and TLC Companions was the Feast's Main Sponsor. A month later Saladino was reelected Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor.



Nov 2023 (l to R): Phil Guerrieri, Honoree Gary Caparco, and President Frank Franchi at the testimonial honoring Caparco.

In November, Verdi's of Westbury served as the backdrop for the testimonial honoring Gary Caparco for his service as president. The event was one of the most well attended affairs by our membership in recent years. Chairman Phil Guerrieri ensured a wonderful event.

On January 24, 2024, the nominating committee announced Frank Franchi was selected as the 39th President of CL by affirmation. Franchi will lead the next generation into Columbus Lodge's new decade. The installation was set for March 3rd.



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