



ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

West Shore Lodge #2651

February 2013

President – Sam Sica

Winter Gala

On January 13 we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Rillos with our lodge members. We were honored to have Colonel Stefano Scano and his wife, Tatiana, join us for the celebration.

Sam Sica recognized Harvey Bilger as the 2012 Man of the Year for all the work he does for our lodge. Congratulations, Harvey! Thank you, Dottie and Teresa, for planning this event for us!

January Meeting Highlights

Renee Harlowe, fitness director at Country Meadows, was our speaker this month. She shared her top 12 “Revolutionary Ways to be Healthy”. We are grateful for the generous time and knowledge she shared.

This month’s drawing for a Giant Bonus card was Don Gleichman. Unfortunately he was not present to accept his prize.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on February 27, 2013 at the VFW, 4907 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg. Pizza and beer 6:00; meeting 7:00.

We need to nominate new officers at our February meeting. If you would like to serve or have any suggestions for nominees please contact Santo Paese 730-4535 or Bob Graci 763-1083.

Upcoming Events:

February 9, 2013 - Carnevale

Reservations need to be made by February 1. The \$40 cost includes a delicious dinner, DJ, door prizes and a guarantee for a good time with our brothers and sisters from Capital City Lodge and J. Galati Lodge.

March 15, 2013 - Night at the Races

Plan to join us for another evening at Penn National Race Course. We will meet around 4:30 near the Sports Bar as we did before, enjoy dinner together, then off to enjoy the races, tables or slots as you wish.

Fall 2013

Mary Urich is planning a bus trip to Wine Country in the Finger Lakes this fall. More information will be coming soon.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome to our new lodge member, Darlene Palanti from Enola!

If you haven’t renewed your membership to date, please send your application to Tony.

Scholarships

Applications for scholarships are due February 23. If you have any children or grandchildren that may qualify contact the following:

On the national level

The Sons of Italy Foundation
219 E Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone: (202) 547-2900
Visit: www.osia.org

On the state level

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
The Curtis Center, Suite 718
601 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Visit: www.sonsofitalypa.com
Phone: (215) 592-1713

On the local level

Mr. Anthony Bianchi (717) 766-7390.

Member Update:

Please keep Bill Montone and Ralph Fulginiti in your thoughts and prayers. Bill is expected to undergo heart valve replacement in February 5. Ralph is continuing chemotherapy treatments. We wish our brothers all the best.

This year we hope our members will share stories about their family history of coming to America. This month we are pleased to present our first contributor, Tammie Ebersole!

The Giazzon Family comes to America . . .

My Great-great grandfather, Luigi Giazzon, came to America in the early 1900's. He worked in the coal mines in western Pennsylvania. Other Italian families came over and they settled in several small western Pennsylvania towns. Luigi sent for his son, Guiseppe (Joseph). Joseph's passage was arranged by his step mother. She sold a cow for his boat passage and he crossed the ocean and came through Ellis Island in March 1914. He was 17 years old. After arriving in America, he found out that his father was killed in a mining accident during his passage to America. Joseph stayed and we think he got a job in the same coal mine that his father worked and died in. There were many mines operating at that time.

Luigi died January 5, 1912 and was buried in a Catholic cemetery the next day. Notification was sent to Santa Guistina and it took five years for that letter to be received. In the meantime, Joseph had come to America and he found out when he got here.

After seven years, he sent for Maria Curtoli. She was eleven years old and the girl next door when Joseph left for America in 1914. Her passage was arranged and Joseph met her in New York at Ellis Island. They were immediately married in New York City on September 25, 1922 and headed to Vintondale, Pennsylvania to begin their new life together.

Joseph continued to work in the coal mines to support his now growing family. Maria and Joseph welcomed their first son, Eugene, in July 1923. They went on to have 12 children. The last one, also a son, Paul, was born in 1948. There was one set of twins, one of which died of pneumonia, at six months of age. After her first child, Maria was advised not to have more children because her kidneys were weak.

My grandmother, Maria, made one return trip to Italy with her oldest son in 1949. She was able to stay for a month and visit her home and family. This made her very happy to see everyone again. Maria Curtoli Giazzon passed away in July 1952 of kidney failure. Her youngest son was 3 years old. My mother, Patricia, was the next youngest at 5 years old.

This left Joseph mourning the passing of his wife, still working in the coal mines, as well as having two smaller children to raise and a few older ones. I can't imagine how difficult this time was for him. The older children were having families of their own and many moved away from this small western coal town. Those that stayed pulled together to raise the younger children and keep things going.

I am happy to say that I knew my grandfather, Pup, for four years before he passed away in 1970. They tell me I was the apple of his eye. We lived in the same house and my family tells me that wherever he was, I was!! I am sure many of my memories are from everyone telling me stories of him. How much can a four year old remember! I will tell you that my heart remembers him and he will be the one who meets me in Heaven.

This is my tribute to my Italian immigrant grandparents.

Thank you for your sacrifices and your love. You have lived on in all of us.

Tammie Ebersole

Please consider contributing your family story. You can bring it to the next meeting or send it to rothmannj@verizon.net.

Thank you!

“Working together to preserve our culture, our heritage and our traditions”