

# VERDI VOICE

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315

## Buon Compleanno

Mike Bonelli  
Angelo Cisternino  
Kevin Mink  
Anthony Scalora

## Happy Anniversary

Maria Donnini  
Cathy Pecci  
Julie Rojas  
David Whiteside  
Scott & Terri Wyatt

## Upcoming Meetings

April 6th  
May 4th  
June 1st  
July 13  
August 3rd  
September 7th  
October 5th  
November 2nd  
December 7th

## President's Message

With Installations complete, I want to thank Daniel Martucci and his sister Lucie Martucci, our newest officers and Diana Pecci (Sunshine Lady) for stepping up to help our organization. Of course, for those members who remained as an officer, your support is MUCH appreciated. This is not an organization which "one can do all". Many decisions need to be discussed during the year. I look forward to working with our group to continue in keeping our Italian culture alive, supporting our National charities and our local community.

LODGE INFO: Our State convention will be taking place in about 5 weeks. We still have a few delegate registrations opened. As a delegate you must attend the Friday and Saturday meetings. We also enjoy some fun time after the meetings. ***If interested I need to know by April 6.***

- ✦ On Friday, March 15 a few of the members attend Colonial Downs for an afternoon of fun enjoying the horse racing.
- ✦ On Thursday, March 20 the Rosetta's Ladies lunch group met at the Grapevine Restaurant for an afternoon of laughter.
- ✦ And on Saturday, March 22 some of the members attended the St. Joseph's celebration at Redeemer Church.

- Mary Louise



**April Luncheon:**

Jimmy Sinclair, Bea's son-in-law, will be sharing memorabilia and his Titanic exploration.

&

Rachel Lawson with the with the Alzheimer' Association will be present to accept the Charity check.

**Newsletter Submissions**

Have an article, event, pictures or other information you'd like to share with your fellow GVL members? Please email Lisa Hall (hall547201@gmail.com) **by 15th of each month** so we can ensure your article is included in the next newsletter.

**Social Gatherings**



- Colonial Downs

**The Rosetta's' - "Little Rose"- Roses, while beautiful, have thorns and are often symbols of strength in adversity”**

We met at the Grapevine Restaurant in March for a "real, fun" luncheon, chit chatting and laughter.

We welcome all the ladies of the lodge to come join us. We usually meet on the **third Thursday of the month.**

If you would like to join us and this day is not convenient, please speak up and let us hear from you. Nothing is in stone, we could all try a Saturday some time.



- Grapevine Restaurant



## Leadership

### Officers 2025 - 2026

President: Mary Louise Smith  
 Vice President: Jerry Scaglione  
 Recording Secretary: Norma Marrin  
 Financial Secretary: Arthur Smith  
 Treasurer: Jean Whiteside  
 Orator: Daniel Martucci  
 Mistresses of Ceremony: Lucie Martucci & Bea Sykes  
 Guard: Joseph Betzala

### Board of Trustees

Mike Bonelli (Chair)  
 MaryAnn DeVincentis  
 Mike Matassa  
 Dexter Oliver  
 Anne Marie Vaughan

### Board of Directors

David Whiteside (Chair)  
 Andrew Biondi (Vice-Chair)  
 Mike Bonelli  
 Freddy Corritone  
 Aldo Funai  
 Jay Gragnani  
 Tony Grappone  
 John Howarth  
 Joe McGowan  
 JoAnn Miles  
 Pete Poli  
 Arthur Smith

## Board of Directors Update

As we get into 2025, the Board of Directors have several plans of improvement for the grounds and building, some of which have already taken place. Our goal is to have a face to face meeting once a month to stay on track and keep folks engaged on our projects. Of course, we will do our best to keep everyone informed as much help has been graciously provided by the membership already; more hands equal less work!

Current to date, the tree behind the backdoor has been removed. Two handrails at the front door have been installed; one on the step, another inside the door. There have also been a few 'small' upgrades on the inside that we hope everyone notices on their next visit.

Additional improvements include installing a hood over the stove in the kitchen (a lot said about this recently, so folks are probably tired of hearing about it and want to 'see' it!!!); we still have our fingers crossed that this will be done before the 'hot' months of the summer arrive. The addition of two speakers in the dining room to help cover the rest of the room; removal of the unnecessary/unused water heater in the kitchen; along with several other smaller endeavors.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> is our annual 'clean up' day.** We hope to have most of the above addressed or completed by/on that day. Please put on your calendar. I'm sure it'll be an early start (more details later) with goals of being done by lunchtime; again, more hands equal less work. On this day, there will be plenty of grounds clean up, grass cutting, mulching beds, and tree pruning as well as inside clean up, mopping, wiping down counters, windows, etc....So, any amount of time available for any these activities will go a long way!!!

Thus far, folks have been stepping up helping in a variety of ways and it cannot be overstated how much this helps the greater cause and how much it is appreciated. Part of this has been on us in the past by not 'asking' and it has shown by simply doing such has produced significant results. It's been a great start to the year.

- David Whiteside

## The Origins of Italian Chocolate Easter Eggs



The celebration of Easter has deep roots in Italy. Traditions surrounding Easter eggs span centuries. Many cultures once believed eggs symbolized new life and rebirth. In Italy, this custom became intertwined with the Christian holiday. Eventually, these eggs were decorated and gifted, becoming a cherished part of the festivities.

The Renaissance period marked a transformative moment in confectionery. As chocolate was introduced to Europe from the Americas, it captivated many. Initially, chocolate was a beverage enjoyed by the elite, but its appeal soon spread. Craftsmen began experimenting with this new ingredient, leading to advancements in dessert making. In Italy, chocolatiers embraced chocolate, creating a variety of delightful confections, including eggs.

Regional customs greatly influenced egg production and decoration. Each area of Italy offered unique flavors and styles. For instance, in southern regions, you might find eggs filled with creamy hazelnut or pistachio pastes. Northern regions preferred richer chocolate blends, reflecting local tastes. This diversity contributed to a wide range of chocolate eggs that reflect Italy's rich cultural tapestry.

The art of making these delectable treats is often passed down through generations. Families have their own cherished recipes and traditions. Chocolatiers pride themselves on craftsmanship and creativity. The passion for chocolate and the spirit of Easter come together beautifully in every egg. Every bite tells a story of history, culture, and family.

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