



## Verdi Voice August 2026 edition

### LODGE EVENTS:

**PEANUT FUNDRAISER- August 2- October 4-** It has been asked by some of our members to continue this fundraiser. We have had great success with it in the past and it was possible because of all our members. Prices are the same as last year. They are as low as \$13 per can, but who can buy just one can of PEANUTS!! We have 113 members. If each buys at least one can, our lodge can profit \$700+. Get out your pen and paper, make your list today and don't forget to ask your neighbors and family members, or buy a can for them.

Also, if you purchase 3+ cans your name will go in a drawing for a gift card.

Brochures will be given out at the August meeting, Payment must be submitted with order, details will be attached to the brochures. If you will not be at the August meeting, you can pick up a brochure at September's meeting or it can be emailed to you.



### Volunteering:

Kudos to a handful of Verdi Lodge members who helped on a Tuesday, at the Foodbank at Hanover Friends Church in Mechanicsville. Anyone interested in participating, please seek out Mike Bonelli for directions and info.

Pictured: Standing back row, L-R Jim McGowan, Mike Bonelli, Rick Tamberlini, Joe Massino.

Center- Linda Gay and seated Betty McGowan



# Happy birthday/anniversary to Giuseppe Verdi members

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Andrew Biondi -9<sup>th</sup>  
Sandra Collins-7<sup>th</sup>  
Bernie & Norma Marrin-21<sup>st</sup>  
Dexter & Charlotte Oliver-2<sup>nd</sup>  
John Puccinelli-1<sup>st</sup>

## AUGUST BIRTHDAY

|                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Andrew Biondi-19 <sup>th</sup>    | Anne MarMassie-16 <sup>th</sup>  |
| John Cuoghi-22 <sup>nd</sup>      | Betty McGowan-1 <sup>st</sup>    |
| Daji Dualishuili-7 <sup>th</sup>  | Lenora Orlandi-25 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Jean Marie Donati-4 <sup>th</sup> | Tony Peay-28 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Paul Etgens-10 <sup>th</sup>      | Lin Sykes ,III -21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Carolyn Funai-11 <sup>th</sup>    |                                  |

## Board of Directors Committee:

Remaining Grass/Trimming teams  
August- John Howarth/Lin Sykes  
Sept/Oct- The whole committee

## Chefs for remainder of year

Sept- Cuoghi's & Hudert  
Oct- Aaron Smith/Family/Friends  
Nov. Grappone's & Friends  
Dec. TBD

## FOR ANYONE INTERESTED:

William and Mary is hosting an exhibit titled "**America's Tapestry: 13 Colonies. 13 Stories. 1 Nation.**" From June 19, 2026 thru September 6, 2026. This exhibit will be traveling across the country to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. A write up from the exhibit flyer is provided below:

Featuring 13 hand-embroidered panels, one for each of the original colonies, America's Tapestry illustrates the diverse stories of individual contributions – many overlooked – that reveal each colony's struggle for independence. Collaboratively stitched by artisans from New Hampshire to Georgia, the panels weave together stories from our nation's founding through the medium of embroidery to commemorate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The project was curated by Stefan Romero. The Virginia panel was stitched by members of the Williamsburg Rose and Thistle Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America.



## **HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTRY?**

### **1. What does the judicial branch do?**

- a. Reviews and explains laws
- b. Resolves disputes and vetoes laws
- c. Decides if a law is against the constitution and signs laws
- d. Removes and proposes laws

### **2. What are some of the powers that belong to the federal government?**

- a. Create an army and provide schooling
- b. Make treaties and give driver's licenses
- c. Provide safety and transportation
- d. Print money and declare war

### **3. Which of these are included in the four amendments that say who can vote?**

- a. Undocumented citizens can vote
- b. Property owners can vote
- c. Any workers over 16 can vote
- d. Citizens 18 and older can vote

### **4. What responsibility is only for U.S. citizens?**

- a. Veto laws
- b. Serve on a jury
- c. Sign laws
- d. Appointing cabinet members

### **5. Which of these are rights of law abiding U.S. citizens?**

- a. Freedom to petition the government and the right to work
- b. Freedom of expression and the right to refuse taxes
- c. Freedom of speech and the right to bear arms
- d. Freedom of assembly and the right to property.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HERITAGE



### Italian Customs and Traditions Explained

Italy's customs vary from formal etiquette rules to everyday habits most Italians barely think about. Here a few worth knowing, whether preparing to visit or simply learning about a country studied as part of a school topic.

#### Greeting With a Kiss on Each Cheek

Italians commonly greet family and close friends with two light kisses, one on each cheek, starting on the left. It is less a kiss and more a brush of the cheeks, sometimes with a small kissing sound made in the air. Strangers and new acquaintances still get a handshake; the cheek kiss is reserved for people already known to each other. France, Spain and parts of the Arab world share similar greeting customs, which makes for a useful comparison point when discussing European traditions more broadly.

#### Standing to Greet an Elder

Respect for older relatives runs through Italian family life, and one clear example is standing up when an older person enters the room. Greeting an elder while seated, or shaking hands without standing, is seen as a lapse in manners. If a group enters a room together, it is also common to let the eldest person go first.

#### Mopping Up Sauce With Bread: La Scarpetta

*La scarpetta*, meaning “the little shoe,” describes the practice of using a small piece of bread to soak up leftover sauce at the end of a meal. Rather than seeming impolite, an empty, wiped-clean plate is a compliment to the cook. The bread is broken into pieces and used with a fork rather than eaten directly from the hand.

#### Wine With Meals, Little Else

Wine is the traditional accompaniment to an Italian meal, with soft drinks, beer and juice far less common at the table, though pizza is a notable exception where a soft drink is perfectly acceptable. There is also a superstition around pouring wine underhand, with the back of the hand facing the table, which some Italians associate with wishing bad luck on the person being served.

**Answers to USA Trivia: 1-a, 2-d, 3-d, 4-b, 5-c**