



ORDER
Sons and
Daughters
of Italy
IN AMERICA



FEBRUARY 2026

Happy Birthday

Gordon Grappone-3rd
Warren Wyatt-11th
Jerry Scaglione-12th
David Whiteside-14th
Toni Giovenco-17th
Linda Gay-18th
Julie Rojas- 18th
Jean Whiteside-18th
Maryann DeVincentis- 28th
Ed Gigante-28th

Upcoming Events:

February 8- SUPERBOWL Good Luck to all who are playing in the pool!

**February 21, 2026- (flyers emailed. Contact Lucie for questions and payment,
Lucie.C.Martucci@gmail.com . Mail check to 9052 Sutlers Lane
Mechanicsville, Va. 23116-6598 or Zelle to (804) 814-9287**

WHAT: Murder Mystery Luncheon - "Who Killed Marcello"
WHERE: Verdi Lodge, 7342 Verdi Lane, Mechanicsville, Va.
TIME: 1:00p.m.-3:30p.m
COST: \$40. Per person- Show & Luncheon

Bring your significant other, your siblings, your children/grandchildren, neighbor, etc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mary Louise Smith

Dear Amici,

We have been so spoiled in the last few years with nice weather in February, we seemed to have forgotten it is winter and years ago what we have dealt with this past week is only a tip of an iceberg!! We do have something to be thankful for in that, I believe, none of us lost power. Yet, as I am writing my last article as President, I am looking out the window at my front yard that is glistening with a sheet of ice over snow wondering when I will see grass again. We need to pray for SUMMER!!

Due to the inclement weather, we have had to readjust our Installation service for the new Council. President Elect Howarth unfortunately had a prior engagement and will not be in town in March and to keep from having to do the Installation twice, it will take place during the April meeting.

Please be sure to take a few minutes at the next meeting you attend and congratulate President John Howarth and Vice President, Andrew Biondi. I know they both will do a great job in those positions and bring some new ideas to our members and keeping our Italian Heritage alive.

I would like to thank all of you who have supported me as President, by remaining a member, to playing Chef, or helping on workdays, attending events or supporting our fundraisers. Every one of us has busy lifestyles these days and I cannot tell you all how appreciative and proud I have been to each of you.

With much gratitude and thanks God Bless and Love,
Mary Louise

VERDI LODGE (Snow Storm January 2026)



LODGE INFO: At the January meeting, along with reading the Slate of Officers the nominating chair asked for nominations from the floor, being none the nominations were closed and the Slate was voted on.

GVL's Slate of Officers for 2026-2027:

COUNCIL

President	John Howarth
Vice President	Andrew Biondi
Orator	Daniel Martucci
Recording Secretary	Norma Marrin
Financial Secretary	Arthur Smith
Treasurer	Jeannie Whiteside
Guard	Joe Betzala
Mistress of Ceremony	Lucie Martucci & Mary Louise Smith

Trustees:

Mike Bonelli	Mike Matassa
Maryann DeVincentis	Dexter Oliver
Aldo Funai	Anne Marie Vaughan

Board of Directors: -Chair will be decided by Board at their first meeting.

Andrew Biondi	Joe McGowan
Mike Bonelli	Daniel Martucci
Freddy Corritonne	Joann Miles
Aldo Funai	Arthur Smith
Tony Grappone	Mary Louise Smith
Joe McGowan	David Whiteside

Thank you Daniel Martucci and Virginia Lee Bowe for giving our your time in calling the officers and doing the nominations. It was greatly appreciated!

Verdi Lodge January Snow storm 2026

ANNUAL DUES- Arthur Smith (GVL Financial Secretary)

A reminder that 2026 dues are to be paid by January 1st each year. However, to accommodate some members I will be accepting dues at our March 1st, 2026, meeting.

Dues are \$40.00.

Dues collected at the meeting can be paid by Cash, Check or Money Order.

Dues by check or money order can be mailed to:

GVL Financial Secretary
4460 Crown Hill Road
Mechanicsville, Va. 23111-4957

2026 CHEFS & Meeting dates

March 1st- Pecci-Etgen-Gragnani

April 12th- Gay's, Massino's & Bonelli's

May 3rd- Bondi & Whiteside

June 7th- OPEN

July 12th- Picnic (Council decision)

August 2nd- OPEN

September 13th- Coughi's & Hudert

October 4th- Aaron Smith, family and friends

Nov 1st- Grappone's

Dec 6th- OPEN (Council decision)



Match the song with the singer. Answers on page

SONG

1. ALL I EVER NEED IS YOU
2. I JUST CALLED TO SAY I LOVE YOU
3. HOW SWEET IT IS TO BE LOVED BY YOU
4. LET IT BE ME
5. UNCHAINED MELODY
6. VALENTINE
7. EVERYBODY LOVES SOMEBODY SOMETIMES
8. ALWAYS REMEMBER US THIS WAY

SINGERS

- a. Dean Martin
- b. Everly Brothers
- c. James Taylor
- d. Lady Gaga
- e. Martina McBride/Jim Brickman
- f. Righteous Brothers
- g. Sonny & Cher
- h. Stevie Wonder



Origins of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14, has its roots in ancient Rome. It is linked to the festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration held in mid-February. As Christianity spread, this pagan festival was transformed into a feast day honoring Saint Valentine.

Saint Valentine

Saint Valentine is a figure shrouded in mystery, with several legends associated with him. He was a priest in Rome who was martyred around 269 AD. According to one story, he was imprisoned for ministering to Christians during a time of persecution. While in jail, he reportedly restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer, and before his execution, he sent her a note signed "From your Valentine," which is thought to have inspired the tradition of sending love notes.

americanstationery.com ^W [Wikipedia](#)

1g, 2h, 3c, 4b, 5f, 6e, 7a, 8d