



## Verdi Voice June 2026 edition

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome into our Italian Heritage family; Sandra Collins, John Fonte, Rick Tambellini and Terry Yanette. Please be sure to take a few minutes to chat with them before or after our meetings. The way we get to know each other is to take a few minutes to share time with each other.



Susan

Terry

John

Rick

### TRIVIA:

What day in June is Flag Day found on the calendar?

- a. 7   b.14   c.21

Who first began promoting the idea of setting aside a day to honor the United States national flag?

- a.The governor, b. a teacher, c. a WWII veteran

What year did the United States flag add its fiftieth star?

- a.1957, b.1959, c.1960

## Italian Family Culture:

Collin, Amanda, & Waylin Sykes

Amanda and I joined the Guiseppe Verdi Lodge in April of 2026. We are the proud parents of Waylin, who just recently celebrated his first birthday. My parents, Linwood III & Anita are members. My grandparents, Linwood Jr (Junny) and Bea were members as well. I joined the lodge to continue to learn more about my Italian heritage and how it has influenced my life.

My Italian roots can be traced back on both sides of my grandparent's families. My Nonna, Bea Sykes, has Italian roots from the Spinella/Rovigo family and my Nonno, Linwood Sykes Jr, has Italian roots from the Balducci family. Growing up in an Italian family gave me many memories related to my family's Italian heritage. One of the best experiences I had was being lucky enough to travel to Italy, not once but twice, with my sister, parents, Nonna and Nonno when I was 10 and 11 years old. We travelled to the town where my bis-nonna Balducci was born (Vicopisano) as well as to Sicily to the town where my bis-nonna and bis-nonno Rovigo/Spinella were born (Roccalumer). Most of my memories from those trips include eating ravioli or spaghetti for most meals and ending the day with gelato. And of course, falling asleep in the van after a busy day of touring all the towns and historical sights.

The holidays were always a reminder of our family's roots. As a part of our 5-course meals on Christmas, we would eat prosciutto, cheese, bruschetta, and stuffed shells followed by Italian cookies, panettone and more gelato! It was also a tradition for Nonna and Nonno to make Easter bread, put one raisin inside, and whoever got the piece with the raisin had good luck for the year! When taking pictures, we didn't say "cheese" at Nonna and Nonno's house, we said "formaggio!". Nonna and Nonno spoke Italian around us but usually it was when they didn't want us to know what they were talking about. I am so lucky to have been able to spend all the time I did with my Nonna and Nonno and have all the wonderful memories with them. When I think of Italian heritage, I think of them, the value they placed on family and the incredible impact they had on me. They are the perfect example of what it means to be Italian.



# ***CONGRATULATIONS!!***

**We are thrilled to announce the 2026 graduation of our youngest lodge member, Amber Ward!**

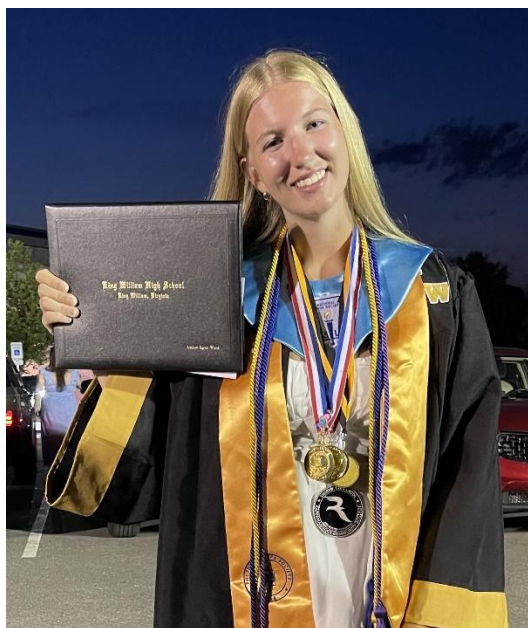
From a young age, Amber has demonstrated remarkable dedication to her education. Since starting public school, she has consistently earned straight A report cards, proudly bringing them home with a beaming smile each year. Through years of hard work and summer school, she has achieved an outstanding milestone this spring: graduating from both high school and community college.

Amber earned her Advanced Diploma from King William High School with a perfect 4.0 GPA and highest honors in the 100th graduating class from the school. She also completed her Associate's Degree in Arts and Sciences from Rappahannock Community College, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

This fall, she will continue her education at Virginia Peninsula Community College, where she plans to pursue a second Associate's Degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Design.

Amber's family is incredibly proud of her accomplishments and is delighted to share this wonderful news with her extended family at Giuseppe Verde Lodge.

Julie Ward



# CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Kim Wright and Warren on their marriage April 12, 2026! Wishing you both many years of happiness!



Congratulations to Cindy Alpaugh who became Cindy Fairchild (aka Mrs. Chris Fairchild) on May 23, 2026! We wish you many years of happiness Cindy and Chris!

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

*Joe & Mary Betzala-27<sup>th</sup>  
Aldo & Carolyn Funai-6<sup>th</sup>  
Rich Tambellini-21<sup>st</sup>*

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jack Boles-22 <sup>nd</sup>       | Chris Legnaioli-8 <sup>th</sup> |
| Alison Marchetti-21 <sup>st</sup> | Lucie Martucci-21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Jimmy Mason-12 <sup>th</sup>      | Joe Massino-2 <sup>nd</sup>     |
| Dexter Oliver-15 <sup>th</sup>    | Cecelia Peay-16 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Cathy Pecci-1 <sup>st</sup>       | Diana Pecci-4 <sup>th</sup>     |
| Scott Wyatt-15 <sup>th</sup>      |                                 |



## **LODGE EVENTS:**

**JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> -250<sup>th</sup> USA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION PICNIC** (This will take the place of our July picnic) NO JULY Meeting/Meal!! **RSVP by JUNE 15th**

**AUGUST 7-** Tangier Island- If interested please let Mary Louise know. Van (\$20 pp) has to be rented and Tickets have to be purchased (\$42.80 pp). Limited to 13 people. First come!! Total cost est.\$63 pp. Leave Verdi Lodge between 7:45/8:00 a.m.

## **LODGE INFORMATION:**

Tia Kirschner will be working on name badges for any member who does not have one. IF you do not have one, please reach out to Tia ([godobe\\_37@yahoo.com](mailto:godobe_37@yahoo.com)), give her your Heritage name and Region in Italy family originated. She will do her best in trying to get in all on the badge.

## **Board of Directors Committee:**

### **Grass Cutting/Trimming/ etc.**

**APRIL** - Mike Bonelli

**MAY** - Arthur & ML Smith and Dan Martucci

**JUNE** - David Whiteside and Andrew Biondi

**JULY** - Tony & Gordon Grappone

**AUG.** - John Howarth., Lin Sykes

## **CHEFS FOR 2026**

June- Angelo & Daji Chinni

July- Picnic to be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> w/Grand Lodge

**August- OPENED-**

September- Cuoghi's & Hudert

October-Aaron Smith, Family & Friends

November-Grappone's & Friends

December- TBD (To Be Determined)

## GROUP OUTING-

### Verdi Yorktown Event- May 15,2025.

A great time to be visiting History Sites in Virginia. If you have not had an opportunity to visit this museum don't let it pass you by, we almost did! We could have spent more time in the museum.. but the trolley was calling for us to hop aboard!

Good times were had at the museum and then the trolley ride down to Water Street where we enjoyed lunch and beverages at the Yorktown Pub. Still more to see that may justify a return trip either together or on your own. Forgot to take a group picture buy many thanks to all who attended! David Gragnani, Mike Matassa, Anne Marie Vaughan, Norma & Bernie Marrin, Carolyn & Aldo Funai, Arthur and Mary Louise Smith.

