

# VERDI VOICE

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315

## Buon Compleanno

Jo Ann Caito Miles 5/2  
Angie Wilderman 5/4  
Antonella Johnson 5/12  
Stephen Crescioli 5/15  
Bill Sykes 5/20  
Charlotte Oliver 5/30

## Happy Anniversary

Angelo & Carol Cisternino 5/11  
Tony & Gordon Grappone 5/13  
Tony & Cecelia Peay 5/15  
Mary Kathryn & Phil Duffer 5/18  
Nancy & Bill Sykes 5/23  
Mary Louise & Arthur Smith 5/23  
Cathy & Jimmy Sinclair 5/25  
Ted & Mary Anne Fighera 5/30  
John & Cynthia Howarth 5/30

## In Our Prayers

♦ Jeannie Whiteside  
♦ Nick Valdrighi



## President's Message

GOOD NEWS! Warm weather is around the corner. That means lots of time for outdoor activities. Along with meetings, maintenance and fundraisers for charities, etc., many of us like to have "good times" too!

The thing is folks other than sitting on the beach reading a book, most of us need someone else to have fun with as most of us do not have fun ALONE! Bocce is a little hard to play ALONE! Corn Holes not much fun playing ALONE! Nor playing Horseshoes ALONE is fun. These are all available to do at the lodge. I like to think of our members as friends, not just an acquaintance I see once a month and may or may not get a chance to speak with them. So doing things together for me is fun!!

So, I am challenging each of you to take some TIME and make an effort to get a group(s) together, or even one other person, to hang out at the lodge a few times this season and have fun. You do not have to tie up our weekends, plan a week night evening to play bocce, etc. and for those who do not work a daytime may be good to get together. And bring the young ones out for the evening for family together time and away from those electronic devices that have consumed their young lives. Let's utilize our facility and let the "Good Times ROLL"

Ideas are extremely welcomed!!!

God Bless you all,  
Mary Louise  
President



*April Meeting*

## Past Events

### April Meeting

Thank you to the Howarth family for a delicious meal!

## Upcoming Meetings

May 5th

June 2nd

July 7th

August 4th

September 8th

October 6th

November 3rd

December 8th

## 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.

# Upcoming Events

### Interested in Bowling?

Our membership is not only about "just belonging" to a heritage organization, sharing meetings and meals; but also enjoying "good times" together.

Dan Martucci will be sharing with the membership at the June meeting a date, place, time and cost for whoever may be interested in joining in a



### Cooking Teams

Please review the list below as we have several months with openings for family and friends to join together and prepare your favorite dish.

May - Arthur Smith

June - OPEN

July - Cook-out

August - OPEN

September - OPEN

October - OPEN

November - OPEN

December - GVL Officer's





## April Answers

- ◆ About how many chocolate bunnies are sold each year? **91 million**
- ◆ In the 13th century, the church prohibited eating what during Holy Week? **Eggs**
- ◆ The world record largest chocolate Easter egg was made in what city? **Cortenuova, Italy**
- ◆ How many jellybeans do Americans consume each Easter? **16 billion**

## Baked Goods Auction

Our annual Baked Goods Auction for our local and national charities will be held at our monthly meeting on May 5th. Please bring your **checkbook or cash** (no credit cards accepted).

Having these fundraisers helps us to keep our annual dues at a minimum but we need the support from all the members. Please make plans to join us this month and bid on a yummy treat made by one of your fellow members.

*\* If you are donating a baked good for there auction, please enter through there back door and plan to be at GVL by 10:30am (bidding will be from 10:45am - 1:00pm).*

### As a Mom or Daughter -

#### How would you most enjoy spending Mother's Day?

- A. Church with family or friends
- B. Relaxing time alone (or with family)
- C. Home cooked meal prepared by family
- D. Dining Out with family or friends
- E. Other

#### Which of the following gifts would you enjoy most?

- A. Flowers
- B. Jewelry
- C. Chocolate
- D. Phone Call/Text
- E. Other

#### What is one memory you have from Mother's Day that holds a special place in your heart?

Please email your responses to Lisa Hall:  
Hall547201@gmail.com



**Leadership**

**Officers 2024 - 2025**

- President: Mary Louise Smith
- Vice President: Jerry Scaglione
- Recording Secretary: Norma Marrin
- Financial Secretary: Arthur Smith
- Treasurer: Jean Whiteside
- Orator: Linwood (Junny) Sykes, Jr.
- Mistress of Ceremony: 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
- Joe McGowan
- JoAnn Miles
- Pete Poli
- Arthur Smith
- Linwood (Junny) Sykes

# Board of Directors Update

by David Whiteside, Chair

Thank you to all those who came out for our annual ‘clean up’ workdays. It was a busy couple of days but GVL is looking beautiful!

The inside was scrubbed from floor ceiling, a wonderful looking flowerbed was installed/upgraded out front, the bocce court got a massive makeover, sheds were painted, and an apron, of sorts, was installed around the back of the building to the side. Also, the lawnmowers were given a good once over maintenance check.

In the near future, the tables around back of the big shed will be hauled to the dump. Any extra items, like the cones and old lawnmower, can then be stored under that cover. The tree behind the lawnmower shed will also get a haircut similar to the other trees on that side. I’ll send out a note when I get to these to see if any extra hands would be available to chip it.

There is also talk of removing the closest tree to the other side of the shed to expand potential grass parking in the back. We are also exploring graveling that whole area similar to the front to accommodate our ‘back door’ guests. These will require conversation once we get a handle on potential cost for each.

The handrail project for the front door is inching along. We got a quote, but it seemed a bit excessive considering there’s only one step we’re trying to navigate. So, we’re still working here.

Little by little, we continue to improve the grounds/building. It’s not something to take for granted so please thank all who helped when you see them. A ‘thank you’ goes a long way!!!

**Thursday, 4/25** - JoAnn Miles, Virginia Lee Bowe, Mike Bonelli, President Mary Louise

**Saturday, 4/27** - Arthur Smith, Jimmy Mason, Angelo Chinni, Joe McGowan, Aldo Funai, Jack Boles, Andrew Biondi, Daniel Martucci, Freddy C and Boxing Club Young Men (Omar, Prez, Justin and Adam), Anne Marie Vaughan, JoAnn Miles, Betty McGowan, Carolyn Funai, Lisa Hall, Wick Hall, Sophia Covington (St. Gertrude's student doing Community Work), President Mary Louise.



# Our Italian-American Musical Heritage



by Freddy C.



"Poor Side of Town" became the 11th U.S. hit single by Johnny Rivers, one of America's most consistent hitmaker of the mid 60's. The following November it became his only U.S. #1.

Rivers was born John Ramestella in NYC in 1941, grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he was exposed to the area's early rock and roll stars like Fats Domino. He started writing songs as a teenager, and a trip back to NYC he waited outside WINS, radio station, that employed DJ Alan Freed and played some of his original music for Freed, who arranged a recording deal and also renamed him Rivers instead of Ramestella. In the late 50's he moved to Los Angeles and began playing as a singer/guitarist.

In Hollywood clubs, building up a strong following that convinced local businessman Elmer Valentine to open a new club, The Whiskey-A-Go-Go, where Rivers was the main attraction. In 1964, Rivers scored his first U.S. top ten hit with a cover version of Chuck Berry's song "Memphis".

Johnny was crowned the "King of the Strip" and continued his musical journey for six decades with his last performance in California at the Commerce Casino in July 2023.

Johnny Rivers is one of our unsung Italian-American musical greats!