

VERDI VOICE

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315

Buon Compleanno

Vicki Aprile 10/3
David Gragnani 10/5
Pete Poli 10/9
Bernard Marrin 10/9
Ann Maria Saxby Sayles 10/10
Tricia Coursey 10/15
Betty Rowe 10/17
Josephine Drummond 10/23
Paul Donnini 10/29

Happy Anniversary

Bob and Toni Giovenco 10/16
Chris & Dena Legnaioli 10/20
Jay & Jennifer Gragnani 10/21
Betty & Joe McGowan 10/28

Upcoming Meetings

October 6th

* Cooks: Rebecca Reynolds & Kathy Pecci

November 3rd

* Cooks: The Martucci Family

December 8th

* Cooks: GVL Officers

President's Message

Let's see now!! How hectic has your September been. Yep, I bet we all have the same issues, "too much to do and not enough time"! But I believe we all do like to have something to do.

Summer is winding down, although the humidity continues to be up. Grass cutting will hopefully be ending and then for us who have yards with trees.... Well, here come the leaves. Many thanks for the Building and Grounds committee and all who gave up time to keep the Verdi grounds looking neat. Your continued support and help have not gone unnoticed and appreciated.

Those in attendance at our September meeting welcomed, Rachel Lawson with the Alzheimer's Association who did a wonderful job and sharing information with us. We still have a few brochures in the "coffee room" for those wanting to read up on this disease.

I want to thank Norma and Robin for picking up the task of decorating the lodge for the meetings and holidays. I cannot express how much this truly helps.

The Rosetta's met for their 3rd luncheon in September back at Chianti's but the consensus was that each lady would take a month and choose our next outing. We welcome all ladies to come join us for a nice luncheon and chit chat and sharing info about ourselves that others do not know.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia met in September at Verdi Lodge and then a few folks shared lunch at Anna's Restaurant.

The Peanut fundraiser will be ending at this meeting (October). After Anne Marie tallies up all the orders and submits to Va Diner, Arthur, Anne Marie and I will head to the diner to pick up the order. This will save us a couple hundred dollars and we will enjoy a delicious meal.

We will move on to our next fundraiser -Brunswick Stew. Please be sure to sign up how many quarts you would like. You can also email Stew Master-Arthur with your count. ALSmith@comcast.net !

I ask that you all take a few minutes in your day to stop and Pray for Peace and for the United States of America.

God Bless you,
Mary Louise



Leadership

Officers 2024 - 2025

President: Mary Louise Smith
Vice President: Jerry Scaglione
Recording Secretary: Norma Marrin
Financial Secretary: Arthur Smith
Treasurer: Jean Whiteside
Orator: Open
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

Update from Aldo Funai, President, Grand Lodge of Va.

Just a quick reminder that this is Italian Heritage Month. Please celebrate your heritage with pride to honor those that came before us.

Latest news out of the National office is about our new logo, which was officially adopted in August at the summer plenary in St. Louis.

It seems that there is a club in Chicago, that once was part of our Order, that uses the name Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. They brought action against us and we were issued a cease and desist order. This club had started using the name before we added Daughters to our name. Thus, the court said it was legally their name. Lawyers for OSDIA and their club have been negotiating a settlement and it appears that one has been reached. We added the word Order to our logo, it initially was not on the new logo. The word from National is that we can now use any items (stationary, banners, shirts, etc.) that have the original version of the logo, until they are depleted. Going forward the only "official" logo will be the one that has the word "Order" on it.

This is a very interesting situation seeing as they have 25 members and OSDIA has approximately 30,000. Sort of a David and Goliath story.

On the other side of this story is that now OSDIA's legal team is seeking out other organizations using our name without permission. To my knowledge several have been located in the USA.

Respectfully submitted,
Aldo Funai, President
Grand Lodge of Va.

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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.



Murder Mystery Dinner

Date: Saturday, January 25

Time: (TBD)

Place: Guiseppe Verdi Lodge

Theme: Cereal Killer

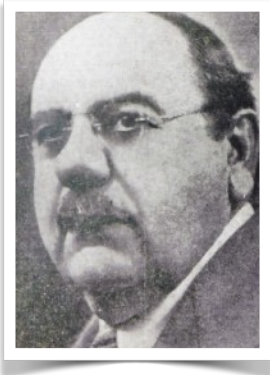
Love to see returning guests and those who missed the last Murder!!



1. Everyone has heard of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, but in which direction does it lean?
2. Most people realize that Vatican City is its own state, separate from Italy. How many residents does it have?
3. Speaking of Vatican City, in what year did it become an independent sovereignty?
4. What is the other sovereign nation that lies within the Italian peninsula?

Answers can found on the last page

Amedeo Obici”, The Italian American Peanut King



“Everyone has a nickel.”

Obici came to the United States from Oderzo, Italy, in 1889 at the age of 10. Originally planning to go to Scranton, Pennsylvania to join relatives, a mix-up en route from Brooklyn led him to Wilkes-Barre, where he was introduced to the Musantes, an Italian family who owned a fruit store. There, the young Obici worked in the store, strengthening his business acumen and his command of the English language.

As he learned the craft of selling fruit from the Musante family, Obici made a key business observation, which he is quoted as saying in an Associated Newspapers article from 1929: “I noticed that everyone in this country always has a nickel.”

This observation eventually led Obici to try his hand at selling hot roasted peanuts for five cents a bag in downtown Wilkes-Barre. By 1907, sales had been going well enough that Obici, his brother, Frank, and Mario Peruzzi, an Italian immigrant to nearby Hazelton who had developed his own method of blanching whole roasted peanuts, joined forces to file the articles of incorporation for the Planters Nut Company.

The team paid \$25 rent for two floors of a factory in downtown Wilkes-Barre, eventually taking over a four-story building the next year. Within two years, business expanded to include confectionary items and the company was renamed the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company. By 1913, Obici had moved production to Suffolk, Virginia., which was the “Peanut Capital of the World.” He retained his offices in Wilkes-Barre, and the company’s corporate headquarters were located there until 1961.

Obici and his wife, Louisa, the daughter of the Musante family who took him in upon arrival from Italy, moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia in 1924. Their legacy is still felt today, as their property, Bay Point Farm, is now owned by the City of Suffolk, and houses the Sleepy Hole Golf Course. Their home has also been restored and renovated and serves as event space. The entire Bay Point Farm complex is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Amedeo Obici, founder of the Planters Nut Company.

Looking for something to do: The 46th Annual Suffolk Peanut Fest is scheduled for October 10 -13, 2024. Admission \$10. Fri. & Sat. Time: 10-10 / Suffolkpeanutfest.com

Signa Tours out of Chesterfield, Va. is planning a day trip on Oct. 11 to the festival. The cost is \$135. Check it out on their website: Travelsignaltours.com

Trivia Answers:

1. *It leans about 13 feet off its center to the south.*
2. *About 800 people live in Vatican City, of which roughly 600 hold citizenship in the city-state.*
3. *From the 4th century to 1870, the Vatican gained control of territory around Rome and served as the capital of the Papal States. It was not until 1929 that Vatican City became an independent sovereign nation.*
4. *The Republic of San Marino, also known as the Most Serene Republic of San Marino. The microstate is surrounded by Italy and is roughly 24 square miles in size, with a population of less than 35,000.*