

Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge #2319

Il Fondatore

September 2011 Order Sons of Italy in America www.sellarolodge.org

President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Unfortunately, I had to cancel our picnic due to poor attendance. It seems that it is too hot for some people to be out all day, and some of our brothers and sisters are asking me if we can do something different next year. So I will be planning something else, which will also be enjoyable for next year.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Lodge Queen, Samantha Thomas, daughter of Brother Walter Thomas, Jr. and Pat Thomas and granddaughter of Brother Walter Thomas and Sister Kay Thomas. I extend our thanks to the Sellaro Lodge Queen's Pageant Committee, Sisters Toni Baldi, Dolores Loccisano and Dorothy Levin, for evaluating and interviewing the candidates.

Samantha also won the District One Queen's Pageant. She will now be representing our lodge as well as all of Suffolk County! Samantha will be riding in the Columbus Day Parade in Huntington on October 2nd, and will also ride in the parade in Manhattan. Congratulations and thanks. Please come out and march with us in Huntington. There will be a collation for all the marchers at 4:30 p.m. at the lodge. Please call me and let me know if you are marching. There will also be a sign up sheet at the September meeting.

I also wish to congratulate Brother Nicholas Mauro on being elected National Commissioner of Arbitration at the National Convention.

I was pleased to present a \$500.00 check from the lodge to Tina Atherall, executive vice president of the Hope for the Warriors Foundation. We also presented Angelo Moronese and his wife, Ann, from Modern Bakery with a plaque, thanking him and his staff for their generosity through the years. We get our bread for St. Joseph's Day from them, and they always donate extra to us, as well as having donated the bread for our Football Wedding last year.

Please remember to send in your reply for the Lodge Dinner/Dance. This is our way of honoring our Immediate Past President Rocco Loccisano, and it is also a fundraiser for our lodge. Let's come out and show support.

Please always read your newsletter, as everything is listed that you need to know. Please mark down the dates of our functions so you can attend. God bless you all.

Fraternally,
Sister Toni



General Meeting, Thursday, Sept 1, 2011

The Church of the Resurrection, 38 Mayflower Avenue, at the junction of Edgewater Avenue and Mayflower Avenue in Smithtown.

Schedule:

General meeting at 7:30 p.m. Collation after the meeting.

Lodge Past Presidents

Rocco Loccisano	2009-2010
Angelo Crimi	2007-2008
Stephen Loccisano	2005-2006
Janice Sibia	2003-2004
Antoinette Baldi	2001-2002
Arthur Semente	1999-2000
Eugene T. Sampieri	1997-1998
Nicholas Mauro	1995-1996
Nardina Trotta*	1993-1994
Dominick M. Salerno	1991-1992
Joseph Palazzolo*	1989-1990
Lawrence Trotta	1987-1988
Anthony Scioli*	1985-1986
John Carricato	1983-1984
Rose C. Marino*	1981-1982
Casper Capone*	1979-1980
Anthony Sardone*	1976-1978
Vincent Cassara	1974-1975
Deceased	

Membership

Our members bring in most of our new members.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our lodge, call our Membership Chairperson, Sister Toni Brenneis at (631) 265-1278.

WANTED — Newsletter Articles

If you have a family tradition that you would like to write about, or you want to submit an article or information for our newsletter, please email us at geraldine@sellarolodge.org or call (631) 265-0205.



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Lodge Council & State Officers

President	Toni Brenneis 631-265-1278
1st Vice President	Geraldine Iannello Graham
2nd Vice President	Antoinette Baldi
Immed. Past President	Rocco Loccisano
Orator	Thomas Bandise
Recording Secretary	Rose Izzo
Corresponding Secretary	Ben Brenneis
Financial Secretary	Antoinette Marzigliano
Treasurer	Sal Morturano
Principal Trustee	Cissy Morturano
Trustees	Ralph Pace Marian Palazzolo James Marzigliano Dolores Loccisano Anthony Izzo
Mistress of Ceremonies	Rafaella Flaherty
Master of Ceremonies	Cataldo Baldi
Sentinel	Joseph Sibia
Lodge Queen	Samantha Thomas
Grand Deputy	Salvatore LaLima
Grand Deputies	Stephen Loccisano, Fr. John Papallo Lodge Jan Sibia, Perry Como Lodge
New York State Deputy	Nicholas Mauro

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Standing Committees

Blood Drive	Toni & Caddie Baldi
Chaplain	Geraldine Iannello Graham
Cooley's Anemia	Toni Baldi
CSJ	Geraldine Iannello Graham
Dinner Dance 2011	Stephen Loccisano
Dinner Dance Journal	Robert Graham
Dues	Geraldine Iannello Graham
Italian Culture	Evelyn Castiglione
Membership	Toni Brenneis
Newsletter	Robert & Geraldine Graham
Scholarships	Tony Laurino
St. Joseph's Day	John LaRocca
Sunshine	Jan Sibilia
Web Site	Robert Graham




Sunshine




 **September Birthdays:** Ben Brenneis, Pat Burdi, Gilda Caputo, Johanna Cervellino, Geraldine Covino, Angie DiGregorio, Fred Gardaphe, David Garrett, Tony Laurino, Scott Martella, Barbara Mauro, Sal Morturano, Gloria Mulieri, Jean Noschese, and belated birthday wishes to Kevin Carricato. I missed your birthday last month.

(If your name is not listed, I do not have your birthday. Send me the month & day only.)

 **Happy anniversary to** John & Prudy Carricato, and Bernard & Colomba Duignan. Many more years of happiness!!!

 **Get well wishes to** Marian Palazzolo. Please keep the following people in your prayers; they are very ill, Carol Sampieri, (Carol is at home now if anyone would like to call her) and Ida Minerva.

 **Condolences to** Past President Angelo Crimi, Janet Crimi and family on the recent passing of Sal Crimi, Sr. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

If you have anything that you would like to put in the sunshine column please send it to

Janice Sibilia my e-mail is jsibilia@verizon.net or call me at 361-9157

I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Rosh Hashanah to our brothers and sisters of the Jewish faith.

May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Calendar of Events— Save The Dates

September 11 - Ten-Year Anniversary Memorial Mass and Luncheon. Mass at 12:30 p.m. at Sts. Cyril and Methodius R.C. Church in Deer Park. Luncheon will follow at the Constantino Brumedi Lodge #2211 on Deer Park Avenue. President Toni Brenneis has information regarding the luncheon. She can be reached at 265-1278.

October 2nd - Columbus Day Parade in Huntington

October 8th - Mass at 5 p.m. for deceased members of our lodge. St. Patrick R.C. Church, Smithtown.

October 22nd - Halloween Party (Lodge)

November 5th - Motivational speaker: Ron Villano (Lodge)

December 4th - Adult Christmas Party at Constantino Brumedi Lodge Catering Hall, Deer Park

December 10th - Children's Christmas Party

Except for the Children's Christmas Party and Council meeting, all of these events are open to non-members. Please feel free to bring your family and friends.

Save those aluminum can tabs!!

Submitted by Toni Baldi



One of our lodge's endeavors is to help children with cancer by working with other organizations to provide them with vacation time. We do this by collecting aluminum can tabs. This is very easy to do at home and a great project for children. They can learn about philanthropy while recycling. Place a container in your kitchen, and as you remove the aluminum can tabs, put them in the container. In no time, they will increase to a much larger amount! Bring them to a meeting and give them to our chairperson, Sister Toni Baldi. Thank you.



In Italia

Submitted by Geraldine Iannello Graham

Italian communities across the United States celebrate the Feast of San Gennaro. One of the largest is in Little Italy in New York City. This notable, historic area of Manhattan dresses in green, white and red from September 15th to September 25th, celebrating with a street fair overflowing with food and music. Many people do not know that San Gennaro was an actual person who was born in Naples, Italy.

Ianuario Gennaro was the bishop of Benevento during the persecution of Christians spearheaded by the Emperor Diocletian around 300 A.D. Hearing that two laymen and two deacons were imprisoned for their Christian beliefs, Gennaro embarked on a dangerous journey and visited them in prison to provide spiritual support and comfort. Hearing about this, Timoteo, prelate of the region, ordered the arrest of Gennaro. Timoteo commenced a regimen of torture. He threw Gennaro in a blazing furnace, but Gennaro came out unhurt. Infuriated, Timoteo ordered Gennaro to be placed on a torture rack. This form of torture did not have any effect on Gennaro. Then, Timoteo tied Gennaro to his chariot and dragged him to the city of Pozzuoli. He placed Gennaro in the same prison as the two deacons and the two laymen, and condemned them all to be fed to wild beasts. The next day, they were all thrown into an amphitheater to be preyed upon by the wild beasts, most likely lions and tigers. However, instead of ripping Gennaro to shreds, the beasts crouched in submission at his feet. Timoteo, attributing Gennaro's miraculous survival to some type of black magical spell, condemned all of the survivors to capital punishment. But as soon as Timoteo made this declaration, he was struck blind, hardening even more his desperation toward the Christians. Seeing this, Gennaro turned to God and called upon Him to restore Timoteo's vision, and immediately, his sight was restored. Even after having experienced the grace of God firsthand, Timoteo's cruelty was still intact. In his final act of injustice toward Gennaro and his Christian associates, Timoteo ordered that they all be decapitated. Their martyrdom came in 305 A.D., on the 19th day of September in Pozzuoli, near Naples.

It is said that Christians collected Gennaro's blood in glass vials and that an old man gathered up Gennaro's body and severed head and placed them in a special cloth. The body of Gennaro was buried in a secret location and moved often, so that the pagans could not find it. Under the rule of the Emperor Constantine, in 313 A.D., the persecution of Christians came to an end. At this time the Neapolitans exhumed the glorious remains of their martyred Saint, and they were transferred to the catacombs of Naples. On this occasion, the glass vials of San Gennaro's blood were displayed, and it is believed that this day was the first time his dried blood became liquid.

In 1497, Cardinal Alessandro Carafa had San Gennaro's remains moved to Naples. San Gennaro's skull and vials of blood were placed in the Royal Treasure Chapel of San Gennaro, located near Pozzuoli, where he was beheaded. The skeletal remains of his body, without the skull, were placed in the main altar of the Cathedral of Naples. The very first official written testimony of the liquefaction of San Gennaro's blood was recorded on August 17, 1389. The text can be found in a book called the "Chronicon Siculum." Originally written in Latin, the passage is accompanied by an Italian translation. On September 19th, the feast day of San Gennaro in Naples, Italy, there is a novena of nine consecutive prayers, during which the shrine to San Gennaro, in the form of a gold ring with a cross on top, containing the martyred Saint's vials of blood, is brought out of its vault and placed on the altar for people to see during the day. At this time everybody prays for the prodigious miracle of the liquefaction of San Gennaro's blood. When the blood liquefies, the miracle is announced with the firing of a 21-cannon salute, and the people of Naples cheer and cry as if they had just scored the World Cup goal. After the first hour, as is customary, the Sacred Relic is transported by a procession, to the main altar of the Cathedral of Naples, where it remains until it is returned to the Treasure Chapel of San Gennaro that evening. It is tradition to kiss the bottles for good luck. For the next 8 days the people of Naples celebrate the Feast of San Gennaro. On the eighth day they close the ceremony with the song "Te Deum" and with the blessing of the sacred relic of the blood of San Gennaro. When the vials are returned to their safe, it is said that once it is reopened you will find San Gennaro's blood in the same solid physical state in which it is normally found. (Source: feastofla.org/history)

Grand Lodge Raffle Tickets

Our lodge has been provided with NYS Grand Lodge Raffle tickets. Brother Larry Trotta is the Chairperson, and tickets are available from him. The prizes are as follows: 1st prize, \$20,000; 2nd prize, \$5,000; two 3rd prizes of \$2,000 each; three 4th prizes of \$1,000 each and five 5th prizes of \$500 each.

The cost of a ticket is \$100, and the ticket may be purchased by one individual or several individuals who will share the prize money.

The drawing will take place at Verdi's of Westbury on Saturday, October 1, 2011. The winner need not be present.

Motivational Speaker, Ron Villano, Presentation at Sellaro Lodge

Saturday, November 5, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

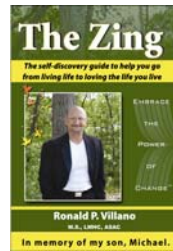
Byzantine Church of the Resurrection, 38 Mayflower Avenue, Smithtown

\$15 for Sellaro Lodge members \$20.00 for guests

Coffee, tea and dessert. R.S.V.P. to Toni Brenneis (631) 265-1278. Make check payable to Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge and mail to Toni Brenneis, 15 Washington Blvd., Smithtown, NY 11787. Ron Villano is a member of the Thomas Aquinas Lodge.

Ron Villano, M.S., LMHC, ASAC

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Ron Villano, M.S., LMHC, ASAC is the leading expert in working through change. As a father who lost his 17-year old son in an auto accident, he always speaks from the heart. As a licensed psychotherapist and life coach, he counsels others on how to work through difficult times. As a national speaker and author of The Zing, Ron has appeared before sold-out audiences across the country and is currently featured on the new Verizon FiOS1 network. His funny, captivating and approachable style creates the powerful, life-changing moments you have been looking for.

Sellaro Lodge Presentations



Our Lodge acknowledged the generosity of Angelo and Ann Moronese, owners of Modern Bakery, by presenting them with a plaque. Pictured are Angelo Moronese, President Toni Brenneis, Ann Moronese, and Brother John LaRocca, Chairperson of the St. Joseph's Day celebration.

(Pictured on the right) On behalf of the Lodge, President Toni Brenneis presented a \$500 donation to Tina Atherall, executive vice president of Hope For The Warriors. The donation represents partial proceeds from the dinner show featuring The Top Singers. Hope For The Warriors is a national, non profit organization that supports wounded U.S. service members, their families and families of the fallen. It was founded in 2006 by military wives in North Carolina. The mission of the organization is to ensure that "no sacrifice forgotten, nor need unmet." Ms. Atherall extended the gratitude of the organization by presenting the Lodge with a Certificate of Appreciation.



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Samantha Thomas Receives Double Honors



Samantha Thomas
Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge Queen,
2011-2012.



Samantha Thomas
and former Lodge Queen
Jacquelyn Stio.



After being crowned
District One Lodge
Queen, Samantha posed
with New York State
OSIA President, Thom
Lupo.



La Famiglia Thomas and friends at the
Queen's Pageant.

“Ciao! Mi chiamo Samantha. Io vorrei essere la regina dei figli di Italia. Ho sedici anni. Mi piacciono stare con la mia famiglia per grande cene sul domenica sera e studiare la cultura Italiana. Io ho studiato Italiano per cinque anni. La cultura Italiana e molto importante per me.” *(Samantha Thomas' letter to the Lodge Queen's Pageant Committee, Sister Toni Baldi, Sister Dolores Loccisano and Sister Dorothy Levin.)*

Samantha Thomas was crowned Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge Queen at our August General Meeting. She then represented our Lodge at the Queen's Pageant on August 21st where several lodge queens vied for the title of District One Queen. Samantha won the title! Her glowing resume and interview carried her to this second honor. Samantha will ride in the Columbus Day Parade in Huntington, and will represent District One in the NYC Columbus Day Parade. Samantha is the daughter of Brother Walter Thomas, Jr. and Pat Thomas, the granddaughter of Brother Walter and Sister Kay Thomas, niece of Sister Joann Grove Thomas, and the sister of Sister Jaclyn and Sister Kathleen Thomas, two of our former Lodge Queens. Congratulations, Samantha.

Samantha is 16 years old and attends Smithtown High School West. Her academic accomplishments include induction into the Italian Honor Society, the National Honor Society, English Honor Society and German Honor Society. She received the New York State Comptroller Award and placed 4th in a Science Olympiads' competition. She has a 4.2 GPA! One would think that Samantha devotes her timely solely to studying. However, her extra-curricula achievements extend to community service for which she received recognition on Global Youth Services Day. She also received the Presidential Volunteer Services Award, the Leadership Award for sending musical recorders to India and the Philippines; Bronze and Silver Awards in Girl Scouts (she is going for the Gold); the Marian Award and Spirit Alive Award, both of which are religious Girl Scout awards. Samantha is the captain of altar servers at St. Patrick R.C. Church in Smithtown and also sings in the choir. Samantha's spectrum of hobbies and interests extends to helping to fundraise for and build with Habitat for Humanity; participating in the Science Olympiads; studying Italian through Stony Brook University; volunteering at the Stony Brook Veterans Home and as an Explorer in the Smithtown Fire Department, and helping disabled children from Carmen Road School at Special Olympics. Samantha was very visible at the Memorial Day Parade in Smithtown, helping to run the parade. As for the future, Samantha plans to attend college in order to "...teach young children the Italian language and the amazing Italian culture...." She says that she "...was partly inspired by her experience of teaching Italian to children in elementary school through the Italian Honor Society." The Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge is proud to have you as our Lodge Queen, and we wish you success in your tenure as Lodge Queen and in the future.

Announcing the Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge 37th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner/Dance Honoring Immediate Past President Rocco Loccisano

The dinner/dance will be held at Villa Lombardi in Holbrook on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The cocktail hour will begin at 12 noon, followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets for this event are \$75.00 per person for members and \$80.00 for non members. The deadline for reservations is September 15, 2011.

We hope that you will join us in honoring our Immediate Past President Rocco Loccisano.

If you have not received an invitation, or for information call Stephen Loccisano, Dinner/Dance Chairperson. (631) 366-2711.

Tanti Auguri Scholarship Recipients



Benjamin Cotten is the recipient of the **Sellaro Lodge Nardina Trotta Scholarship**. Pictured are Karen Cotten, Benjamin, President Toni Brenneis; Bob Cotten; grandfather Brother Pat Delia; Past President, Brother Larry Trotta. Benjamin will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he will be majoring in civil engineering. He will also undergo naval officer training.



Noelle Menchini

New York State Grand Lodge Nardina Trotta Scholarship Recipient

Noelle will be attending the University of Delaware and aspires to be a physical therapist.

Italian Heritage Month—October Newsletter

Last October we dedicated our October Newsletter to our members who were married for 50 or more years. In October 2011, we want to dedicate the newsletter to memories and Italian traditions. Recall something, someone or an event that has special significance to you. Perhaps you have an old family photo or a recipe that you would like to share. Text may be emailed to me at geraldine@sellarolodge.org, handed to me at a meeting or mailed to my home address: 53 Brookside Drive, Smithtown, NY 11787. I know that there are many stories to tell, so share your memories! *Geraldine Graham*

Italian Festivals and Feasts

Mother Cabrini Italian Feast: - Thu. 9/1 6-11 p.m.; Fri. 9/2 6-11 p.m.; Sat. 9/3 3-11 p.m.; Sun. 9/4 3-11 p.m.; Mon. 9/5 3-11 p.m.. **Where:** Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood-Grant Campus 1001 Crooked Hill Road, Brentwood, NY 11717 **Price:** free admission, fee for rides (call for information) **Description:** Rides, food, entertainment; sponsored by the Giuseppe A. Nigro Lodge, Order of the Sons of Italy in America, fireworks, Magic Show on Sept. 3 and Sept. 4.

85th Annual Feast of San Gennaro to be celebrated September 15-25, 2011.

Ferragosto Festival on Arthur Avenue, Sunday, September 11, 2011.

19th Annual Italian Experience Festival Hofstra University South Campus, Sunday, September 19, 2011, 11 a.m - 5 p.m

Columbus Day Parade

The Columbus Day Parade will be held on October 2nd in Huntington. The theme of this year's parade is "Honor the Fallen" in memory of 9/11. **The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m.** A continental breakfast will be provided for all lodge presidents and parade participants. The breakfast will be served at the John Flanagan Senior Center from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The center is located on Park Ave (one block south of 25A Main St). The entrance is indicated by a sign to the Cinema Arts Center. Cars will be allowed in this parking area to drop off parade participants until 10:30 a.m. Marchers will have the option of parking at the Huntington Railroad Station on New York Ave. Hart buses will take the marchers to the Flanagan Senior Center. Buses will run until 10:30 a.m. The return trip will leave from Spring Road and Main Street. Buses and cars may park in the town parking lots opposite the Huntington Post Office on the south side of Gerard Street. Dresswear is white shirt and black pants and lodge jacket, if you have one. We need two marshalls from our lodge. Marshalls direct the people.

Please contact Sister Toni Brenneis (631) 265-1278 if you are going to march or if you would like to be a Marshall. Please come out, and let's show our Italian pride. A collation for marchers will take place at the lodge at 4:30 p.m.

STOP! DON'T THROW THEM AWAY.



Your old cell phones and eyeglasses may be junk to you, but to someone else they are treasure. Donate them to be recycled.

The Gift of Sight Foundation is in need of old cell phones. If you have one to donate, please bring it to the September General Meeting. Sister Janice Sibia is collecting them. Only the phone is needed, not the accessories.



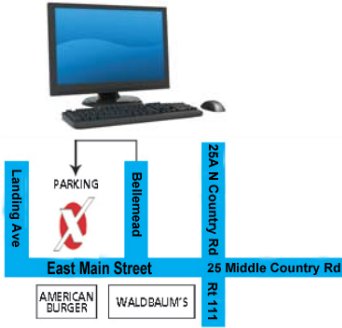
Prescription and non-prescription eyeglasses can be recycled. Bring them to the next meeting and place them in the shopping bag, labeled "Eyeglasses." Sister Geraldine Graham is collecting them and will bring them to a local store that is a drop-off center for OneSight.org. If you will not be attending the September General Meeting, eyeglasses may be dropped off at a store that is participating in this program: Sears Optical, Lenscrafters, Pearl Vision and Target.



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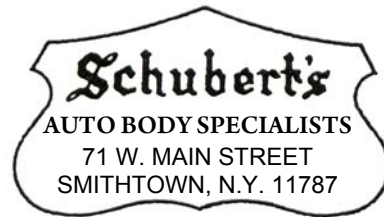
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