

AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213, OSIA • White Plains, NY



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Christmas Party Returns Home to Lodge



The Antonio Meucci Men's Choir's rendition of "O Christmas Tree" complete with a "live" tree (played by Bro. Frank Tarone) that came with working lights and presents was the highlight of the evening's entertainment. Choir members are (from left to right) **Bros. Umberto Amato, Charlie Tota, Luigi DiNota, Lenny Mignini, Frank Tarone** (a.k.a. Mr. Christmas Tree), **Mario Cermele, John Rubillo, Vito Cirioni and Domenico Rivero**, with Choir Director **Pres. Teresa Rivero**.

After several years of celebrating the Annual Lodge Christmas Party at various Westchester catering halls, Members helped return the much-anticipated event to 279 Maple Avenue where in the minds of many, "it belongs." Pres. Teresa Rivero was especially delighted to see the event take place in the cozy and familiar surroundings of the lodge. "Christmas should be spent with your family at home, and our Lodge is our family and this is our home," she said. The saying goes, "*Natale con i tuoi e capodanno*

con chi vuoi" (Christmas with your own, New Year's with your friends), she reminded us.

Indeed, it wasn't hard to appreciate the comfort of the lodge on the night of the event, especially since it was beautifully replete with holiday splendor. **Sis. Pamela Danza**, who chaired the December 1 event, chose blue and white as the affair's colors and carried this wonderfully wintery combination throughout the affair. The festive tree that

(Continued on page 4)

A Gentle Reminder to All Members:

Please pay your 2013 dues!

- Individual: \$55
- Husband & Wife: \$100

Dues statements will be mailed out in January so please submit promptly. Thank you!



Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

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at Antonio Meucci Place
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Rose Tassone, 1st Vice Pres.

Flavia DiNota, 2nd Vice Pres.

Mario Cermele, Immediate Past President

Lenny Mignini, Orator

Rita Cestone, Recording Sec.

Annamaria Forte, Corresp. Sec.

Luigi DiNota, Financial Sec.

Anna Binasco, Treasurer

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The *Avanti* is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213. Published bi-monthly, the *Avanti* accepts news releases, reviews, commentaries and other information significant to the Italian-American community. Please contact Editor Maria Rivero at (914) 997-7388.



A Message From Your PRESIDENT

Teresa Rivero

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! I'd like to wish all of you a very healthy and happy 2013 from my family to yours. I hope this year brings much joy, peace and prosperity to all of us.

We had a great year-end with all of our pre-holiday and holiday festivities.

Members really worked hard these past two months to close the year with a bang.

While November was fairly quiet, **Sis. Paula Pesaturo** stepped up to the plate to take on our **Holiday Tag Sale** over the weekend of November 24-25. Although we didn't get as much traffic as we would have liked, it was a successful fundraising event. Thank you **Sis. Paula**, for all the time and effort you put into making this work for us.

In December, we really kicked it up with all our Holiday Events. Starting on the 1st, we had our Adult Christmas Party, and for the first time in several years we had it at our lodge! I think you all know that I am a big proponent of having this celebration "at home." It allows us to keep the costs down, have more fun with our Choir performances and bring more personal touches to our décor and ambiance.

I have to thank **Chairperson Pamela Danza** for doing such a wonderful job with this event. Everything was beautiful, the food was delicious and the music by Don Felice was terrific. Our men's choir performed so well and it was such fun to see our live Christmas tree, played by **Bro. Frank Tarone**. Thank you to all the choir members for singing for us and a special thanks to **Bro. Frank** for being a great sport. I also have to thank **Sis. Camille Tarone** for helping **Bro. Frank** with his costume and helping him to get dressed up! Thanks also to **Camille** for wrapping our raffle gifts so beautifully as she always does and for heading up our raffle. We really appreciate all the donations of raffle gifts. I know everyone had a great time at this event.

Both the adults and the children had a wonderful time at the **Children's Christmas Party** on December 16. I had the pleasure of accompanying my two granddaughters, **Avva** and **Marisa**, both 5,

and my grandson, **Joseph**, 3, and can tell you that they did not sit still for one moment. There was so much to do and see with all the fun activities. Thank you so much, **Sis. Patty Moore** and **Bro. Charles Guastella**, for organizing the event and thinking up all the terrific things for the kids to do, not to mention shopping for all the presents for the children. I'd also like to thank **Bro. Pat Carolini** for playing Santa, **Bro. Frank Tarone** for making an appearance as Mr. Christmas Tree and all the Members who baked for the event. It's really a nice thing when our children get to see what a great place the Lodge is for them and how we can all come together and have a great time.

Our last event of the year was the **New Year's Eve Party**, chaired by **Sis. Flavia** and **Bro. Luigi Dinota**. Everyone had a fantastic evening with wonderful food, music, dancing and bubbly. Thanks to **Bro. Frank Tarone** and his committee for their donation and thank you so much to our Chairs for helping us ring in the new year on such a high note.

Before we leave 2012 for good, I just want to thank all of you who contributed to our Holiday Drives and **Sis. Patty Moore** for coordinating them. We were able to donate \$500 to the Salvation Army and quite a few children's toys to the Toys for Tots group. Also, I want to thank **Sis. Catherine Mignini** for the beautiful and elegant Officers' Christmas Party. All the officers had a very nice time thanks to her delicious cooking and attention to detail.

As we move forward into 2013, I want to remind everyone that this is *your* Lodge and I am committed to working hard in making this an organization we can all be proud of and a place we look to for social networking and support. So please do what you can to get involved. Beside, why miss out on all the fun? See you soon!

Fraternally yours and Sempre
Avanti,


Teresa Rivero

EVENTS CALENDAR

ON, ABOUT AND AROUND THE LODGE

OFFICERS' MEETINGS are on
WEDNESDAYS at 8:00 pm sharp.
(The 2nd Wednesday of every month.)

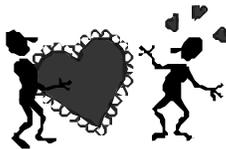
January 9 ▪ February 13 ▪ March 13

GENERAL MEETINGS are on
TUESDAYS at 8:00 pm sharp.
(The 4th Tuesday of every month.)

January 22 ▪ February 26 ▪ March 26

Contact: Sis. Rita Cestone, (914) 948-3608

Tuesday, February 9 **7:00 pm**
Sweethearts Dance



Co-Chairs Flavia and Luigi DiNota and Catherine and Lenny Mignini invite you to grab your sweetie and your dancing shoes and head over

to the lodge for a night of fun and romance in celebration of St. Valentine's Day. Dinner is included and music will be provided by Teo and Le Grande Entertainment. \$50 pp. RSVP please.

Contact: Sis. Flavia DiNota, Co-Chairperson, (914) 769-8987.

Saturday, February 23 **3:00 pm**
Children's Carnevale



Open to pre-schoolers and up, this fun and enlightening event will feature an introduction and welcoming by Re' Carnevale, videos of Carnevale celebrations in Venice, a display of photos, artwork, Carnevale masks and

figurines, the kickoff flyover by La Colomba (the dove), music and dancing, a mask making workshop, a masquerade procession, pizza, refreshments and more.

\$5 pp; ages 4 and under FREE. RSVP please.

Contact: Co-Chairpersons Sis. Santina or Vito Tassone, (914) 424-8374.

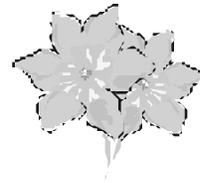
March 16 **TBD**
St. Joseph's Dinner



Chairpersons Umberto Amato and Annamaria Forte invite you to forego the wearing of the green and celebrate Italy's patron saint. \$TBD pp. RSVP will be required.

Contact: Bro. Umberto Amato, Co-Chairperson, (914) 907-8755.

Sunday, April 14 **TBD**
Hall of Fame Spring Dinner Dance



Please join us at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle to help us induct our TBD honoree into our Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 Hall of Fame. Cocktails followed by dinner and dancing. \$TBD pp. RSVP will be required.

Contact: Sis. Rita Cestone, (914) 948-3608.

SAVE THE DATES!

March 23 —Entertainment Night

Dinner, music, dancing and a special performer.

Contact: Sis. Flavia DiNota, Co-Chairperson, (914) 769-8987.

April 20-21 —Lodge Tag Sale

Donations of New Items Needed. Vendor Space Available.

Contact: Sis. Paula Pesaturo, Chairperson, (914) 358-5663.

Have an idea for an event or want to chair an event? Let Pres. Teresa know! Call her at (914) 997-7388 or email her at triverso@yahoo.com. All ideas are welcome!

PLEASE NOTE

- All events are held at the Lodge unless otherwise indicated.
- Members are NOT required to RSVP for general meetings. A contact number is provided in case you have questions about the meeting itself.

SNAPSHOTS

A LOOK AT LODGE LIFE AND EVENTS IN PHOTOS

CHRISTMAS PARTY RETURNS HOME TO LODGE



Above from the left -**Event Chair Pamela Danza** and Pres. Teresa Rivero display the delightfully decorated cake that was served as one of several desserts that evening with Don Felice and his band members in the background; the Christmas tree at the lodge stands over the beautifully wrapped raffle baskets done by **Raffle Chairperson Camille Tarone** (inset).

(Continued from page 1)

adorned the left side of the stage sparkled with blue and white ornaments, giving off an enchanting winter wonderland effect. Striking blue-clothed tables featured the renowned blue and white (and delicious!) Perugia Baci chocolates for each guest, and the cake was a gorgeous, snow-inspired white-frosted and metallic-accented confectionary delight.

Having the party at the lodge brought out the creativity and showcased the talents of other members as well. The men's choir's annual performance was strong and entertaining, and **Bro. Frank Tarone's** impersonation of a Christmas Tree, complete with lights and presents, certainly delighted the crowd and brought the choir's rendition of "O Christmas Tree" to life. In what has



become customary, the choir sang "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle," Italy's most popular Christmas Carol (written by St. Alphonsus Maria De Liguori) and now a standard Lodge favorite too.

The Lodge's *Presepio* (nativity scene) took its traditional place on the right end of

the stage. Members may recall that the cave and surrounding landscape was crafted by **Bro. Domenico Rivero** and the night sky background was painted by **Bro. Rich Hoffmann**. Putting our Presepio on display and adopting this wonderful custom that is so prevalent in many churches and homes in Italy certainly honors our heritage and gave extra meaning to our celebration.

It was nice to receive presents early, and the winners of the raffles did just that. There were many donations of beautiful prizes, expertly put together in baskets and wrapped by **Sis. Camille Tarone** with the grand prize being a snow blower donated by **Bro. Frank Tarone**.

What a wonderful evening it was! Thanks to everyone involved and also to those who supported and attended.

For the latest calendar information and photos of events, check out the calendar section of our website at www.antonio-meuccilodge.com/calendar.htm.



New Year's Eve Party at the Lodge!



Party-goers of all ages rang in the New Year and danced the night away at the Lodge's Dec. 31st event after enjoying a delicious buffet meal and desserts baked by the Membership. Above, event chairs **Bro. Luigi and Sis. Flavia DiNota** take a break from all their hard work to smile for the camera with Pres. Riverso.

Photo Credits: New Year's Eve Party, Bro. Al Merenstein; Christmas Party, Sis. Mary Morra.

REMINDER—ELECTION NOTICE

Pres. Teresa Riverso has chosen **Antonio Capicotto**, 948-6741, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Other members are as follows: **Antonio Amato**, 328-1533; **Luigi DiNota**, 769-8987; **Frank Tarone**, 761-3350; **Rose Tassone**, 949-9472 and **Charles Tota**, 949-7551. All board members must call any nominating committee member and notify them if you plan on serving on the board for another two year term. Any member with 6 months membership in good standing who would like to serve on the board is asked to call any nominating committee member and give your name in order to be considered to be on the board. Thank you for your cooperation.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



Clockwise from above left: Marisa Hoffmann sits on Santa's (**Bro. Pat Carolini**) lap and receives her present from **Co-Chair Patty Moore** while Mr. Christmas Tree (**Bro. Frank Tarone**) and **Co-Chair Charlie Guastella** watch on; the featured clowns entertain the audience of all ages; Santa puts his hands to his ears exclaiming "I can't hear you!" after asking the little attendees if they'd all been good during the year (they claimed they had); three-year old Joseph Riverso is so excited to be sitting on Santa's lap and getting an early present, as did all the children who attended. (Photos by **Bro. Rich Hoffmann**)

The Children's Christmas Party chaired by **Sis. Patricia Moore** and **Bro. Charles Guastella** never fails to delight and this year's celebration was no exception. With appearances by Santa (**Bro. Pat Carolini**), Mr. Christmas Tree (**Bro. Frank Tarone**), Frosty the Snowman, his equally snow-covered friend and performing clowns, children and adults of all ages had no shortage of holiday entertainment and gaiety at the lodge the afternoon of December 16.

The room was packed full of excited youngsters who played, sang and danced while taking in all the wonders the Chairs had in store for them. Naturally, they eagerly awaited Santa's arrival with his toy for each of them. As always, the special surprise by the Co-Chairs was a whimsical pleasure to behold—an entire family of snow people magically appeared to wow the crowd. They also handed out little bags of "snow" (i.e., mini marshmallows), which was a big hit with the

kids. Just when you think Sis. Patty has exhausted all possibilities of winter/holiday characters, she dazzles us once again and for this we are sincerely grateful.

Both children and adults savored the delectable desserts baked and donated by the Members, and many even got to take some of the goodies home. To be sure, it was an enjoyable time for everyone; many thanks to the Chairs and all members who helped bring this wonderful event about.

IN THE NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR MEMBERS

CONDOLENCES to **Sis. Michelle Stangarone** on the passing of her mother, Vita. Also, our sympathies to **Bro. Domenico Rivero** on the passing of his sister-in-law, Maria Rivero.
CONGRATUATIONS to **Bro. Frank Tarone** on the birth of his granddaughter, Elena

Nicole. Proud parents are Michael and Maria Elena Tarone.
GET WELL WISHES to **Sis. Mary Morra**, who broke her shoulder and can't take any Lodge photos for a while. (Thanks to **Bro. Al Merenstein** for filling in as our temporary shutterbug on New Year's Eve.)

A MOST SPEEDY RECOVERY to **Bro. Joe Amato** on his recent surgery. Joe, we miss you so much! It's not the same without you. We pray that you are feeling better and that we'll see you back with us very soon.

Have any news to share?
Call Teresa Rivero at (914) 997-7388.

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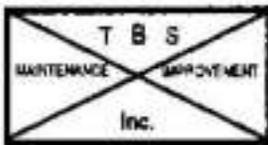
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