

March/April 2015

# AVANTI

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



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## Upcoming Meetings

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

- March 11**
- April 8**
- May 13**

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

- March 24\***
- April 28**
- May 26**

**\*Installation of  
NEW OFFICERS**

## Upcoming Events

- March 14**  
St. Joseph's Dinner Dance
- April 24**  
An Evening of Elegance

## PROJECT 2020 NEW MEMBER DRIVE TO KICK-OFF WITH "AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE"

The Lodge's five-year initiative to encourage young Italian Americans to explore their culture will officially kick-off on Friday, April 24 at the lodge. That's when "An Evening of Elegance" will beckon Members and their guests—hopefully new Members-to-be—to enjoy a trio of "creative and contemporary" activities purposely handpicked to attract the next decade of Meuccians, according to event co-chair **Nick Cafagno**.

This affair is the first under "Project 2020," the Lodge's new member drive also headed up by the newly-elected financial secretary. Featuring a fine cigar seminar, a wine-tasting session and a ballroom dancing lesson, the evening promises to be one of refined culture in a relaxed, friendly and welcoming setting.

"We believe this will generate interest among younger individuals," Bro. Nick said. "It will be an excellent opportunity to showcase our Lodge."

Discouraged at the lack of Lodge participation by many Members' children and grandchildren, Bro. Nick presented the Board last June with some ideas to garner attention among them and their contemporaries. He, along with his sister and Member **Cathy Monahan, Bro. Joe Amato and Sis. Santina Tassone**, formed the Project 2020 Committee to address how this age group viewed the Lodge and what adjustments could be made to gain a more positive stance. With the Board's permission, the foursome began conducting informal surveys and interviewing individuals in the target group. What they found was not surprising.

"We must be considerate of the fact that this generation is extremely busy and preoccupied with other facets of life like children's sports or other activities, long commutes to work—even things like marriages to non-Italian spouses lead to a gradual

*(Continued on page 3)*

Join the Project 2020 Committee at the Lodge  
and bring a Non-Member for



An Evening  
of  
Elegance

Friday, April 24, 2015  
8:00-11:00 pm ■ 21 & Over Only

CIGAR SEMINAR ♦ WINE TASTING ♦ BALLROOM DANCING LESSON

Light Fare & Refreshments     \$30 pp.     RSVP Nick Cafagno, (914) 837-1027

Members are being asked to support our new "Project 2020" membership drive and its first event, *An Evening of Elegance*. Persons submitting membership applications there will receive a special memento of the evening.

**2015 SPRING SCHOLARSHIP  
COMPETITION OPEN UNTIL MAY 1**  
Please contact Scholarship  
Committee Chair Sandy Farduchi  
for forms, requirements and other  
questions at (914) 441-6917.



### Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

279 Maple Avenue  
at Antonio Meucci Place  
White Plains, New York 10606  
(914) 761-9073  
www.antonioeuccilodge.com

### OFFICERS 2013-2015

**Teresa Rivero, President**

(914) 997-7388 • trivero@yahoo.com

Rose Tassone, 1st Vice Pres.

Flavia DiNota, 2nd Vice Pres.

Mario Cermele, Immediate Past President

Catherine Mignini, Orator

Rita Cestone, Recording Sec.

Annamaria Forte, Corresp. Sec.

Luigi DiNota, Financial Sec.

Anna Binasco, Treasurer

Vito Cirioni, Principal Trustee

### Trustees

Tina Amato • Concetta Bevilacqua

Mary Borrelli • Rita Carolini

Sandy Farduchi • Lenny Mignini

Mary Morra • Paola Pesaturo

Maria Pippo • Domenico Rivero

Camille Tarone • Lucy Tocci

Nick Vaccarelli

### Ceremonial Officers

Jean Borrelli-Illardi • Cathy Grisanti

### Sentinels

Tony Cestone • Tony DiMaria

### Arbitration Committee

Joe Amato • Angela D'Ambrosio

Domenico D'Ambrosio • Michael DiSavino

Charles Guastella • Patricia Moore

Joseph Tassone • Santina Tassone

Benedetta Vaccarelli

### Chaplain

Joe Tanzi

### Lodge Deputy

Joe Zingone

The *Avanti* is the official newsletter of the Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 and is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. Please submit all items for publication by the next day after the General Meeting preceding the month of publication. Contact Editor Maria Rivero at (914) 997-7388.



## A Message From Your PRESIDENT

**Teresa Rivero**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I knew the time would eventually come that I would be writing my last president's letter to you and sure enough, this is it. Of course, it is hard to say goodbye but it is a very fond farewell, and that is all because of all the love and support you have given me throughout my four years here. I know I've said it before but I can't say it enough—*thank you all so much for having the confidence in me to lead our Lodge*, especially during our milestone Centennial year. These four years have been so rewarding and memorable, and I will always cherish this experience and take great pride in all I believe we have accomplished.

That being said, it is almost time to officially pass the reigns to a most capable and dedicated new president, my great friend and a longtime established Antonio Meucci Member, **Mario Cermele**. Bro. Mario has always worked very hard for the benefit of the Lodge and has held this position before so I know he will do great things for us. Congratulations and Godspeed to you, Bro. Mario, and to all the new officers! I look forward to working with you as your immediate past president and giving you my total support and respect. Our new slate will be installed at our General Meeting on March 24. Although I won't be able to attend, I urge all Members to come to the meeting and celebrate with the new team that will carry us forward for the next two years.

Speaking of carrying the Lodge forward, I am very excited about "Project2020," our new membership drive that is being introduced to you in this issue. It's an initiative that you will be definitely be hearing much more about in the

months to come. Our focus is on attracting the younger, professional demographic and it's being spearheaded by **Bro. Nick Cafagno**, our newly-elected Financial Secretary. Bro. Nick and his team have been working very closely with the Board on coming up with ideas to bring in more Members from this particular segment of the population. As you can imagine, this will involve the new technologies and social practices that are such a part of this group's lives—things that I won't pretend to know. But I understand this is what is necessary to grow as a Lodge in today's world. *Project 2020 is not so much about change as it is about adding more options to our Lodge's repertoire*. I am excited to think that we will soon evolve into an organization that will truly have something for everyone—a wonderful place where we can look forward to the traditional activities that have kept us alive for over 100 years and those with a more contemporary feel as well.

It's been a quiet—and cold!—two months but it is sure to warm up with the **St. Joseph's Dinner Dance** hosted by **Bro. Umberto Amato and Sis. Annamaria Forte** on March 14. Attending this event is a great way to re-connect with your fellow Members so please try to do so!

Again, it has been an honor and a privilege to be your president, and I humbly remain your Sister and friend.

Fraternally yours and Sempre Avanti,

Teresa Rivero

## UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS

### ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER DANCE

**Saturday, March 14 - 7:00 pm.**



Co-Chairs Annamaria Forte and Umberto Amato invite you to join them to honor St. Joseph, the patron saint of Italy. Full dinner is included and music will be provided by our DJ, Luigi Illardi. \$30 pp; \$15 for children 11-15; Free for children 10 and under. RSVP please.

**Contact: Sis. Annamaria Forte, Co-Chair, (914) 769-9122.**

### "AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE"

**Friday, April 24 - 8:00 pm.**

Special Project2020 Event—See Lead Article and Page 1 Ad for Details. Persons submitting a membership application will receive a special memento of the evening. \$30 pp. 21 and over only. **Contacts: Bro. Nick Cafagno, Co-Chair, (914) 837-1027/nynick100@optonline.net or Sis. Santina Tassone, Co-Chair, (914) 424-8659/stassone@gmail.com or Bro. Joe Amato, Co-Chair, (917) 589-7443/jamato@KohlerRonan.com.**

## MEMBER NEWS AND NOTICES

**CONDOLENCES TO Bro. Tony DiMaria** and family on the passing of his sister, Teresa Rubino. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

**GET WELL WISHES TO Sis. Lina Carolini, Bro. Frank Tarone and Bro. Ray Tocci;** we hope you are all feeling better very soon.

# ANTONIO MEUCCI LODGE 2015-2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following officers will be installed at our March 24 General Meeting:

## Mario Cermele, President

Vito Cirioni, 1st Vice President  
 Rose Tassone, 2nd Vice President  
 Teresa Riverso, Past President  
 Catherine Mignini, Orator  
 Nick Cafagno, Financial Secretary  
 Rita Cestone, Treasurer  
 Cathy Monahan, Recording Secretary  
 Annamaria Forte, Corresponding Secretary

## Trustees

Tina Amato • Anna Binasco  
 Rita Carolini • Domenico D'Ambrosio  
 Flavia DiNota • Luigi DiNota  
 Michael DiSavino • Cathy Grisanti  
 Lenny Mignini • Paola Pesaturo • Maria Pippo  
 Camille Tarone • Vito Tassone • Lucy Tocci  
 Nick Vaccarelli

## Sentinels

Umberto Amato • Tony DeMaria

## Arbitration Committee

Concetta Bevilacqua • Mary Borrelli  
 Tony Cestone • Sandy Farduchi  
 Charles Guastella • Domenico Riverso  
 Joseph Tassone • Benedetta Vaccarelli

## Ceremonial Officers

Mary Morra • Jean Borrelli-Iardi

**Congratulations to all of you and thank you for stepping up to support our Lodge!**

### EVENING OF ELEGANCE (Continued from page 1)

detachment from our culture," Bro Nick recounted. "Our sensitivity to these factors is vital to our success. So our challenge will be to prove to the next decade of Members that the Lodge offers value for them in particular," he added.

First and foremost in being an organization of value is to offer more attractive event options, the Project 2020 committee found. Two words that kept coming up in their conversations with potential recruits in this regard were "contemporary" and "elegant." Hence, the choice for the Project 2020 event debut. That Bro. Nick's son Michael is the owner of The Tobbaconist in Greenwich, CT and an award-winning distributor of premium products made a fine cigar seminar an easy entertainment option for the premier event. Wine tasting followed as a natural complement, and ballroom dancing, with the help of former Arthur Murray dance instructor Paul Scicchitano of Stamford, rounds out the elegant theme.

Along with innovative events, the Project 2020 committee wants to enact other measures they feel will create more Member value, such as using email newsletters and web-based meetings. Many of these measures are heavily oriented towards technology, so they will require much additional thought and planning. But the committee will take a step in their intended direction by gathering emails at the April 24 event to create the Lodge's first marketing list. They'll also demonstrate continuity to the membership drive plan by announcing the next Project 2020 event there, a parent-child interactive experience.

"I'm overwhelmed with the support and encouragement our group has received from the existing Membership and the officers in particular," Bro. Nick said. It is going to be difficult but extremely rewarding. We look forward to the challenge, and we're already excited about the new faces we will be seeing at the Antonio Meucci Lodge, who will usher in the next century of pride and passion in the Italian culture."



**COLLABORATIVE EVENTS:** Sis. Maria Pippo will be hosting two trips that will also benefit the Lodge: a visit to the **Cathedral of San Francesco di Padua** in Pennsylvania on Sunday, April 12 and a trip to see the **Albino and Romina Power** concert at the Tropicana Resort in Atlantic City on Saturday, April 25. Please call Sis. Maria for more information at (914) 536-7870.

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