

November/December 2012

# AVANTI

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



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### Upcoming Events:

- November 14**  
Officers' Meeting
- November 24-25**  
Holiday Boutique
- November 27**  
General Meeting
- December 1**  
Adult's Christmas Party
- December 16**  
Children's Christmas Party
- December**  
NO General Meeting
- December 31**  
New Year's Eve Party

### ELECTION NOTICE

Pres. Teresa Rivero 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.

## EVENTS, CEREMONIES MARK ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH



October was whirlwind of activity as Members celebrated **2012 Italian Heritage and Culture Month** with various events highlighting the rich history and contributions of Italians and Italian Americans. In the top photo, Members **Tony Amato, Tony Capicotto, Frank Tarone, Pres. Teresa Rivero, Mary Riguzzi, Charlie Tota and Janet DiFiore** are shown taking part in the annual

wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Cristoforo Colombo on North Broadway in White Plains. Also present were the two Columbus Day Festival scholarship recipients, Brigida Capicotto and Christine Mathesen. At right, **Woman of the Year Mary Riguzzi** accepts her award from **Co-Chair of the Columbus Day Dinner Dance Flavia Dinota** at that event held on Oct. 28.



## Antonio Meucci Lodge #213

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Luigi DiNota, Financial Sec.

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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,

As expected, October was an incredibly busy and productive month for the Lodge as we celebrated **Italian Heritage and Culture Month** and took pride in our ethnic origin, its rich history and the accomplishments of those who share our ancestry. We started a little early, on the last week of September, with the **White Plains Columbus Day Festival**.

Thanks to **White Plains Columbus Day Parade Committee President Frank Tarone and Vice President Paula Pesaturo**, everyone enjoyed the two-day affair at White Plains High School with its many rides, vendors and great food. The latter included our Lodge's baked goods booth, chaired by **Sis. Rose Tassone**, which kept the crowd coming back for the delicious cookies and dessert goods that Members graciously baked. Thanks to all who contributed to making this a successful event.

One of the highlights of the Columbus Day Festival were the scholarships that were awarded to our Members' grandchildren. Congratulations to **Bro. Antonio and Sis. Franca Capicotto**, whose granddaughter Brigida received the 2012 Miss Columbus Scholarship of \$5,000. This was generously funded by the **Generoso Pope Foundation** in Tuckahoe. Receiving the Parade Committee's scholarship of \$3,000 was Christine Mathesen, granddaughter of **Bro. Alvino and Sis. Maria Forcone**. We're fortunate to have such wonderful young ladies representing us; their parents and grandparents have every reason to be proud.

The Festival was quickly followed on October 2 by the **County Executive's Proclamation Ceremony** at the Lodge organized by Member **Prof. Carlo Sclafani**. It was wonderful to hear Hon. Rob Astorino officially proclaim October as our month and see all the outstanding students of the Italian language from all over Westchester be recognized for their efforts. Credit also goes to the teachers for their patience and guidance in passing on our language to future generations. Thanks to all involved in this important event.

We had our annual **Columbus Wreath-Laying Ceremony and Breakfast** on October 7, and that day couldn't have been finer. We heard a wonderfully inspiring address by **Hon. Janet DiFiore**, our guest speaker. Our Columbus Day Festival scholarship recipients

attended as did many dignitaries. After the ceremony, Members enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the Lodge prepared by **Sis. Pamela Danza**. Sincere appreciation to Sis. Pamela for a great job and also to **Sis. Rose Tassone** and **Sis. Cathy Mignini** for organizing and producing the ceremony.

In keeping with the month's theme, I invited **Prof. Sclafani** to come and speak at our general meeting. As usual, he presented us with an informative and entertaining account of an important part of our history—how America came to be named after the Italian navigator and cartographer Amerigo Vespucci. This year marks the 500th anniversary of Vespucci's death and was the 2012 theme for Italian Heritage and Culture Month. Thank you, Prof., for enlightening us as you always do. I hope to have more cultural speakers at future general meetings as I know how much we all enjoy them.

Our last big event of the month was our annual **Columbus Day Dinner Dance on October 28** at the Villa Barone Manor in Mahopac. We lucked out as Hurricane Sandy hadn't quite reached us yet, and we were able to have a great time right before the storm. Our **Woman of the Year, Sis. Mary Riguzzi**, looked wonderful and we all enjoyed honoring her for her dedication and service to our Lodge. My gratitude goes to our event chairs, **Sis. Flavia DiNota and Sis. Rose Tassone**, for making this a stellar event, and also to **Bro. Tony Amato**, for his hard work on the Dinner Journal. Our terrific chairs put so much into this event to make it memorable not only for the guest of honor but all attendees. The results are always fantastic!

So yes, it was a really busy month and our Lodge came through it all with flying colors. Now, we have the holidays to look forward to—so you want to make note of all the festive events to come. Also, please don't forget about those who are less fortunate; our annual charity drives under **Sis. Patty Moore** will be starting now so give what you can. Let's see to it that as many as possible enjoy the upcoming season. I want to wish you and your families the best for the holidays and new year. Hope to see you all soon!

Fraternally yours and Sempre Avanti,

# EVENTS CALENDAR

ON, ABOUT AND AROUND THE LODGE

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

**December 12 • January 9 • February 13**

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

**January 22 • February 26**

*No General Meeting in December*

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

**Sat/Sun, November 24/25** **10am-5pm**  
**Holiday Tag Sale & Fair**

Indoors at the Lodge. New and gently used items including jewelry, handbags, scarves, clothing, household items and toys. Come do your Christmas shopping early! Hot dogs, coffee and water too. Vendors welcome; limited rental space is still available. Free entry and parking.

**Contact:** Chair Paula Pesaturo, (914) 358-5663

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**Saturday, December 1** **6:30 pm**  
**Adult Lodge Christmas Party**

Eat, drink and be very merry with your fellow Brothers and Sisters at the Lodge. Don your finest holiday apparel and enjoy a buffet dinner, beverages and dessert with music provided by Don Felice. Dinner begins promptly at 7:00 pm to allow for the evenings' festivities, including an appearance by our own Antonio Meucci Men's Choir. \$50 pp. Please RSVP ASAP.

**Contact:** Chair Pamela Danza, (914) 589-7443

**Sunday, December 16** **1:00 pm**  
**Children's Christmas Party**

Calling all good little children or grandchildren of Lodge members between the ages of infancy-9 years old! Santa, a present, entertainment, desserts and the chairperson's special surprise await you at our annual holiday children's party at the Lodge. Please contact the chair with the child's name, age and gender so that Santa knows what to bring each child in attendance. Members are asked to donate baked goods for our dessert table.

**Contact:** Chair Patty Moore, (914) 682-8549 (home) or (212) 499-099 (office).

**Monday, December 31** **8:00 pm**  
**New Year's Eve Party**

Let's all ring in the new year at the Lodge! Enjoy a buffet dinner and please bring your favorite dessert to cover one table. Music will be provided by our DJ. \$35 pp. for adults; children ages 10-15 pay \$15; children under 10 are free. Please reserve as soon as possible.

**Contact:** Chairs Flavia and Luigi Dinota, (914) 769-8987.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**February 23** **Children's Carnevale Party**

## 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



**WHITE PLAINS COLUMBUS DAY FESTIVAL—**  
**September 29-30 at White Plains High School**  
 Everyone enjoyed the great rides, vendors, entertainment and food at the weekend event. *Clockwise from the top left:* **Festival Organizer and Vice President of the Parade Committee Paula Pesaturo** and **Committee President Frank Tarone** are seen with County Executive Rob Astorino, who came by to extend his well wishes; posing with the Festival's scholarship winners Brigida Capicotto and Christine Mathesen (center) are *(from the left)* **Paula Pesaturo**, NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, **Frank Tarone**, **Lodge President Teresa Rivero** and **Festival Scholarship Committee Chairperson Rose Tassone**; helping out at our baked goods booth are Members **Santina Tassone**, **Pres. Rivero**, **Camille Tarone**, **Chair Rose Tassone**, **Jean Ilardi** and **Tina Amato**. Thanks to all Members who helped out at the Festival and to all those who attended in support.



**HALLOWEEN PARTY, October 20—Event Organizers and Chairs Joe and Toni Marie Amato and Santina and Vito Tassone** treated Members and their guests to a frightfully good time at the Lodge's annual boo-fest. **Members Carmello and Joyce Ciccone, Sandy Farduchi, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Depalo and Mary Borrelli**, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday, enjoy the spooky festivities.

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

## COLUMBUS DAY DINNER DANCE HONORING MARY RIGUZZI —OCTOBER 28



The beautiful Villa Barone Manor in Mahopac was the perfect venue for our Columbus Day Dinner Dance where we honored **Sis. Mary Riguzzi** as our **2012 Woman of the Year**. Clockwise from the top left: Sis. Mary and her husband Richard walk to the podium; Sis. Mary and her husband Richard are flanked by her daughters Laura and Lisa and other family members as they celebrate the evening; **Pres. Teresa Riverso** congratulates Sis. Mary, as does **Hon. Dan Angiolillo**; **Bro. Tony Amato**, who chaired the Dinner Journal, thanks members who supported this successful effort; OSIA state officers **Biagio Isgro** (State Financial Secretary), **Robert Ferrito** (State Orator), **Michelle Ment** (State Corresponding Secretary) and **Mario Cermele** (Arbitration Commissioner) congratulate our Woman of the Year. Overall, it was a very festive and enjoyable affair for everyone with great food, fun dancing, wonderful guests and many memories were made.

**MEMORIAL MASS, November 4**—**Bro. Toni and Sis. Rita Cestone** and **Sis. Cathy and Bro. Lenny Mignini** did a great job putting together the Mass for our Deceased Members and the subsequent breakfast at the Lodge. Thanks also to **Bro. Vito and Sis. Santina Tassone** for helping with the actual Mass at our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains.

Photo Credits: Columbus Day Festival, **Bro. Lenny Mignini**. Halloween Party, Columbus Dinner Dance and Mass, **Sis. Mary Morra**.

# Sincere Thanks to our Columbus Day Festival Sponsor

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**PLEASE SUPPORT THE LODGE HOLIDAY DRIVES FOR THE NEEDY**

Sis. Patricia Moore will once again be leading the Lodge's two annual drives for the needy, the **Toys for Tots Campaign** and the **Gift Card Drive**. At all the meetings leading up to Christmas, Sis. Patricia will be taking donations to purchase gift cards at local supermarkets. These will be donated to the Salvation Army to feed local needy families.

She will also be placing collection boxes for **new unwrapped toys only please** at the Lodge, **Bro. Frank Tarone's Central**

**Mowers** on Central Avenue in White Plains and **Bros. Charlie Tota's Gas Station** on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. Monetary donations are also being accepted and Sis. Patty will purchase the toys on the donor's behalf. The deadline for contributing toys is Friday, December 14.

In the true spirit of Christmas, please remember that it is better to give than receive. Sis. Patty can be reached at (914) 682-8549 (H) or (212) 499-0599 (W).

**WANTED:  
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Photos, Souvenirs, Documents, Records, Etc. to help us celebrate our Centennial. Call Pres. Teresa Rivero at (914) 997-7388.

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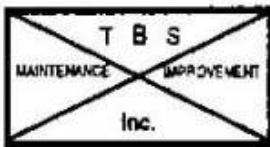
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