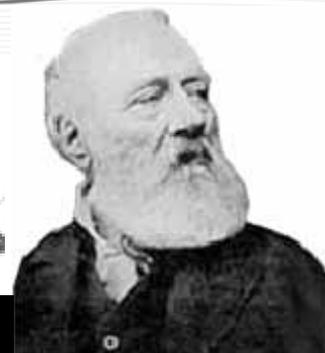


September/October 2011

AVANTI

Antonio Meucci Lodge #213 OSIA • White Plains, NY



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Adult Halloween Party

October 30

Columbus Dinner Dance

November 6

Deceased Members' Mass

Heritage Festival Draws Over 10,000 Visitors to Kensico Dam



Brothers Vito Cirioni, Peter Viviano, Robert Caso and Charlie Guastella braved the heat from the grill and the sun while manning the Lodge's sausage and peppers booth at the July 10 Festival.

The weather was perfect, the smells were seductively appetizing and the atmosphere was festively charged as the Lodge hosted its annual **Italian Heritage and Culture Festival at the Kensico Dam in Valhalla** on Sunday, July 10. Over 10,000 visitors came by to enjoy the sights and sounds of the day, which were provided by the 70 retail and 12 food vendors and by the Le Grand Entertainment performers who took center stage. The Lodge's own sausage and

peppers booth and beer, wine and peaches booth were jam-packed all day long, keeping the 30 or so Lodge member volunteers constantly on the move.

"We had a very good year," remarked **Sister Mary Riguzzi**, who with her husband Richard has chaired the event for more than ten years with **Brother Mario Cermele** chairing the Food Court. "We are very grateful to all those who volunteered their help," she

(Continued on page 6)



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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 Rita Cestone at (914) 948-3608.



A Message From Your PRESIDENT

Teresa Rivero

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a great summer we've had! We've had a number of successful events to speak of and we were able to make these happen even with many of our regular contributing members away on vacation. It just speaks to the strength of our Lodge, and as always, I'm proud to be the president of such a resourceful group. Let's reflect back on what we've done:

I don't think we could have asked for a better day for the **Italian Heritage Festival at the Kensico Dam**. I was manning the wine and peaches booth and wow, we sure were popular! I think many people were nostalgic about this forgotten summer treat. Perhaps they, like my own kids, used to help their *nonnos* peel the luscious fruit and be allowed to savor the wine-soaked slices. Whether nostalgia or just because it tasted great, the wine and peaches, like our sausage and peppers, sold REALLY well. We actually ran out of wine but **Brother Joe Amato** came to the rescue by running out and buying more (Thanks Joe!). **Sister Mary Riguzzi and Brother Mario Cermele** must be commended for doing such a fantastic job in organizing the event, and also for working so hard on that Sunday. Many Lodge members did. We had about thirty of our brothers and sisters under and around the food tents, cooking, moving equipment, collecting tickets—basically anything to help. Thanks to all who helped make this day such a success!

Our **Family Pasta Night of August 5** went well but I do wish more of our younger members with children would come. We started doing arts and crafts with the younger kids so parents could enjoy the tombola portion of the evening. We had five children who had lots of fun that night, —as did their more-relaxed parents.

Members who were feeling lucky took a chance on **Atlantic City**, journeying with us to the Showboat on Sunday, August 14. We've been fortunate to have almost full busses despite increases in our costs due to rising gas prices, so thanks, everyone, for coming.

I'm very happy to report that our ranks have grown over the summer. I had the pleasure of seeing two of my own kids and their spouses join us. We installed eight new members on Aug. 23; their names are listed in the News on page 7. Please welcome them to our family.

I also had the pleasure of meeting **Daniela Mangano, our new 2011 Miss Columbus**. What a wonderful young woman! Congratulations to her parents, **Brother Michael and Sister Ortensia Mangano**. You can read all about Daniela and her accomplishments on page 6.

So now that the summer is over, we're getting ready to go into our busiest time of the year. I think you all know that **October is Italian Heritage and Culture Month**, but do your friends, neighbors and customers? Don't be shy about letting them know and encourage them to take part in any of the IHCM activities that will take place throughout the County starting in late September.

We'll be kicking the month off with our **Columbus Day Festival at White Plains High School the weekend of September 30-October 2**. **Chairman Frank Tarone and Co-Chairs Mario Cermele and Paula Pesaturo** and the committee are working really hard to get sponsors and vendors so please help them if you can. Please do buy your raffle tickets that **Brother Charlie Tota** mailed out to you. There are a number of other great events so please check out our calendar on pages 4-5. I am especially excited about our **Columbus Day Dinner Dance on October 30**, where we'll be honoring a very special and lovely lady that I have known for some time and have come to admire for all the hard work she has done for the Lodge. **Sister Tina Amato is our 2011 Woman of the Year**, and I really hope to see all of you there that evening to congratulate her on a well-deserved award. See you soon, and Sempre Avanti!!

Fraternally yours,

Teresa Rivero

SNAPSHOTS

A LOOK AT LODGE LIFE AND EVENTS IN PHOTOS

Clockwise from the top right: **ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL** — Brothers **Domenic D'Ambrosio, Peter Viviano, Mike Gutta, Nick Vaccarelli** and **Ugo Paolucci** help make sausage and peppers for the Lodge's booth; **Sister Marry Morra** takes care of hungry customers; County Executive **Rob Astorino** congratulates **Chairwoman Mary Riguzzi** on a successful festival; **Chris Howland, Brothers Mike Gutta and Mario Cermele, Sister Rosemary Cirioni, Andrew Cirioni, Brother Ugo Paolucci** and **Sister Connie Bevilacqua** take a well-deserved break to smile for the camera: **Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Chairwoman Mary Riguzzi, Brother Tony Amato** and **NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins** share a fun moment. **PASTA NIGHT** — **Sara Amello, Marisa Hoffmann, Ryan Amato** and **Sienna Tassone** enjoy painting under the guiding eyes of **Richard Hoffmann**, an artist and sculptor.



Photo Credits: *Sister Mary Morra, Richard Riguzzi, Sister Maria Rivero*

EVENTS CALENDAR

ON, ABOUT AND AROUND THE LODGE

PLEASE NOTE

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

Sunday, Sept. 4 12:00 pm-9:00 pm **Annual Picnic**

Lots of food and fun for everyone at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale as we say goodbye to summer. Come enjoy the day at Field Two where Chairmen Charlie Tota and Mario Cermele and crew will be grilling up traditional picnic foods that will be accompanied by a nice variety of sides. We would appreciate contributions of baked goods for dessert. Organized activities and games for the kids will be available. Raffle prize donations of liquor and wine are needed. \$25 pp for adults, \$15 for children 10-17 and children under 10 eat for free. Please call Connie Bevilaqua at (914) 946-1356 to make reservations.

Contact: Charlie Tota, (914) 924-0347 or Mario Cermele at (914) 325-1239.

Wednesday, September 14 8:00 pm **Officers' Meeting**

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

Saturday, September 17 * 7:00 pm **Steak Night**

A complete dinner with sizzling steaks hot off the grill and delicious accompaniments are what's on the menu for this event. Also included is a special *Pasta a la Bolognese* prepared by your hosts, Brother Umberto Amato and Sister Annamaria Forte. \$25 pp. Please reserve!

(*Event was changed from Friday, Sept. 16.)

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

Sunday, September 18 4:00 pm **Rocky Marciano Memorial Reception**

Longtime friend of Rocky and Lodge Member Steve Acunto invites all to come pay tribute to the great heavyweight boxing champion. Former referee Frank Lombardi will be on hand to provide commentary on the documentary starring Marciano, "The Art of Boxing," which will be shown. Light refreshments will be provided. In conjunction with the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing (AAIB).

Contact: Steve Acunto, (914) 664-4501 or Rose Tassone, (914) 949-9472.

Tuesday, September 27 8:00 pm **General Meeting**

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

Friday, September 30 Various **Sat/Sun, October 1-2** **Columbus Day Festival**

See Event Spotlight on page 5.

Sunday, October 9 10:00 am **Cristoforo Columbo Wreath- Laying Ceremony and Breakfast**

Join us at our annual ceremony commemorating the feats of the celebrated explorer. Ceremony takes place at the Columbus statue on North Broadway in White Plains with breakfast immediately following at the Lodge.

Contact: Pamela Danza, (914) 980-1055.

Wednesday, October 12 8:00 pm **Officers' Meeting**

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

Saturday, October 22 7:30 pm
Adult Halloween Party

Calling all ghosts, goblins and otherworldly creatures—or anyone who wants to don a costume and have a frightfully fun time. Buffet dinner, wine, beer, soda and dessert are included with DJ Joe Jr. spinning for your dancing pleasure. Prizes for the best costumes so don't miss it or it will haunt you! \$45 pp; please RSVP by October 17.

Contact: Joe Amato, (914) 589-7443 or Vito Tassone, (914) 424-8659.

Sunday, October 30 3:00 pm
Columbus Day Dinner Dance

It's our annual dinner dance celebration honoring our "Woman of the Year," Sister Tina Amato. The event will be held at the beautiful Villa Barone Hilltop Manor in Mahopac, NY. Villa Barone's magical waterfront property and outdoor environment is enhanced with a gazebo, fountains, and a roman style landscaped garden with statues. Known for its culinary artistry and impeccable service, this venue was named as a "best of" pick by *The Knot* magazine for 2010 and 2011. The cocktail hour starts at 3:00 pm and dinner will follow. Music will be provided by the Don Felice Band. \$85 pp. Please reserve!

Contact: Flavia Dinota, (914) or Rose Tassone, (914) 948-3608.

Saturday, November 6 10:30 am
Deceased Members' Memorial Mass

Join us as we remember our dearly departed Brothers and Sisters in this special Italian Mass at Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains. Breakfast at the Lodge will follow.

Contact: Rita Cestone, (914) 948-3609.

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Chairman Frank Tarone, Co-chairs Paula Pesaturo and Mario Cermele and all of the White Plains Columbus Day Parade Committee are working really hard to make this festival a grand event for everyone. The City of White Plains is working with us too, and Mayor Thomas Roach will officiate at our opening ceremonies on Friday night.

As always, entertainment is an important part of any successful event. This year's musical performers will bring a mix of crowd-pleasing familiar faces and exciting new acts. **DJ Ken** will serve as the MC for all the live music and to date, we've booked tenors **Alfio** and **Don Felice** and his band, **Salvo Randazzo**, the band **Primavera** and organetto musician **Gianni**. **The Linc Band** with their steel drums will also appear. To make this an even stronger family affair, we've invited various local ensembles featuring our younger community members to showcase their talent, including the WPHS marching band and a dance troupe from the Flynn School of Irish Dance.

Everyone can really look forward to a memorable weekend. There will be lots of great food, exciting rides for the kids provided by Stewart Amusement, our raffle winner will be chosen, and we'll be presenting our Miss Columbus 2011. Check for updates and a complete schedule of events on our website. We could use volunteers at the festival. Please contact Brother Frank at 761-3350, Brother Mario at 325-1239 or Sister Paula at 358-5663.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brother Frank and Sister Maria Massimi, whose son Stephen M.D., is in his third year of residency

at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City. Stephen has just been appointed Chief Resident of his department, which is Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is also getting married this month to Nicole Cecchini, so best wishes to the bride and groom and their parents. We wish them well!

THANKS SO MUCH to Brother Rocco Cermele and his parents-in-law, Joe and Kathy

IN THE NEWS

What's Going On With Our Members

Figuroa, for their donation of the bar-b-que grill. Apparently our former grill had broken and it needed to be replaced, and Rocco, working with **Brother Joe Amato**, made it happen. **MANY THANKS** also to all those involved in replacing the bathroom towel dispensers. What a team effort! **Brother Joe Amato** noted that the dispensers could use replacing and began working with **Brother Mario Cermele** on finding new

ones. **Sister Pamela Danza** then donated one for each restroom and **Brothers Domenico Rivero and Lenny Mignini** replaced them. **CONGRATULATIONS TO Brother Mario Cermele**, who has been appointed as a State Deputy by the NYS Grand Lodge to the Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge in Eastchester. We know you will make a great deputy! **SINCERE CONDOLENCES** to the family of **Brother Franco**

Becattini on the passing of his brother Andrea Becattini, who resided in Italy. Our deepest sympathies on your loss. **A BIG WELCOME** to our

newest members installed on August 23: **Dennis Barlotta, Dana Gallo, John Iorio, Bernardo and Philomena Luciano, Maria Rivero and Ralph and Tara Rivero.** We're glad you've joined and it's nice to have you with us!

HAVE ANY NEWS that you'd like to share? Call Maria Rivero at (914) 287-0282 or email merivero@yahoo.com.

MANGANO NAMED 2011 MISS COLUMBUS



Honors, she speaks the language beautifully, as was evidenced in her scholarship committee interview.

With both paternal and maternal grandparents hailing from Curato, Bari, and having grown up in a traditional manner, the applicant wrote in her essay that her "family and heritage have given me a strong moral character. I have developed a sense of values revolving around the way I want to live my life."

What impressed the judges most, according to Chairperson Tassone, was her well-roundedness. While many of the other candidates were very qualified, they seemed to be especially focused on one particular area. The winning candidate, on the other hand, seemed well-versed in a variety of topics, and demonstrated several sincere interests. Said Sister Tassone, "we believe Daniela is the best candidate to represent us and we are more than happy with our decision."

We applaud Daniela on all her achievements and wish her the utmost success in her future. We look forward to her official presentation at the upcoming White Plains Columbus Day Festival.

Daniela Mangano, a White Plains high school senior who plans to pursue a career in international business and wants to "follow in the footsteps of the hardworking Italians who first came to this country and made something of themselves" has been chosen to represent the Lodge as the 2011 White Plains Miss Columbus. **Scholarship Committee Chairperson Rose Tassone** made the anticipated announcement at the August 23rd general meeting.

The daughter of **Brother Michael and Sister Ortensia Mangano**, Daniela is an honors student who also plays piano and is involved in the girls scouts, marching band, color team and math team. Having won outstanding achievement in Italian 4

FESTIVALS *(Continued from page 1)*

stated, acknowledging that "an event of this magnitude takes a lot of planning but more important, lots of volunteers to be successful."

Key to that success was the musical talent, and renowned tenors **Teo** and **Alfio** certainly delivered. Both performed many classical and crossover hits that kept the crowd on their feet. "There were numerous compliments regarding the entertainment," Riguzzi said. "The audience was dancing in the aisles—in, fact many said it was some of the best entertainment we have had."

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, whose office was a co-sponsor of the festival, came by to congratulate Sister Mary Riguzzi and the Lodge on the great turnout and execution, while Congresswoman Nita Lowey and NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins also visited with Lodge members (see photo on page 3). A later *Journal News* article featured quotes by both chairpersons and President Teresa Rivero. Photos of the event are on the Lodge's Flickr account at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/antoniomeuccilodge213/>.

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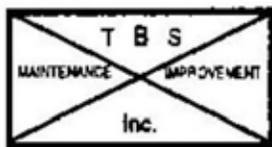
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