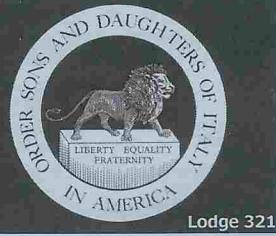




February 2026

il Giornale di Gabriele

In Schenectady Since 1915



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

February is here: It's a short month but a busy month at the Lodge. As I am writing this letter, we have 389 members renew their membership. At the end of 2025 we had 430 members, so that is a loss of 41 members. Out of the 41 members only 29 said NO the other 12 did not respond. I would like to thank Tom Tegiacchi for calling all the members who did not send in their dues.



Our dues are \$70 per year and \$45, if you are a member for 25 years and over 65 years old. Out of the money we collect we must pay \$35 per member to the Grand Lodge so that leaves us only \$35 and \$10 from long-term members, that's not a lot of money to run the lodge. We have a lot of expenses, National Grid, Cable, Insurance, Newsletter, Cleaning, Maintenance, to name only a few there are many more. So, when we lose 41 members it hurts. So, we must count more on our fundraising to offset our expenses.

Our first fundraiser of the New Year was a Chicken Parm Drive Thru we only sold 67 dinners. Not a great turnout. I would like to thank Franca Della Porta & Carolann Renna for Chairing the event and all the workers who prepared the food and helped package it.

We will be having a Valentine Dinner on February 14th at 6pm. The dinner will be Shrimp Cocktail, Salad, NY Strip Steak, Baked Potato, Vegetable & Dessert. The cost will be \$40. Please get your tickets early. Tickets need to be paid in advance. The Chair person for the dinner is Dom Cafarelli. The legend of St. Valentine he was a priest who lived in Rome. Empire Claudius decided that single men were better soldiers than those with wives and families. So, he outlawed marriage. Valentine defied Claudius and pre-formed marriages in secret. When Claudius found out he put Valentine to death.

Our next all you can eat breakfast will be on February 22nd from 9 to 11am. Please plan on attending. Coming back after many years will be our Luncheon for the ladies La Festa della donna on Sunday March 8th at 1pm. Tickets will be \$30 paid in advance. The chair ladies for the event will be Lisa Serafini, Franca DellaPorta. More info to follow.

As always, Please help support the Lodges Fundraising Events, they help to keep the Lodge going strong.

Joseph A. Battaglia
President



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Cultural Affairs Chairperson Cesare Maniccia
Photographers & Newsletter Gene Loparco,
Groundskeeper Giuseppe Riccio
Veterans Affairs Chair Eugene Loparco

Upcoming Meetings

Officers' Meeting	Feb 2	7:00PM
General Meeting	Feb 16	7:00PM

SUPER BOWL PARTY – FEBRUARY 8TH - CANCELLED

It's Super Bowl time which means it's party time! Once again the Lodge will be having its annual Super Bowl Party and, as always, there will be plenty of food and drink. Doors open at 5 PM and the evening begins with a pre-game buffet which includes penne pasta, meatballs and sausage. Halftime is pizza and wings time followed by coffee and dessert. Throughout the evening pitchers of Coors Light will be available at \$6 per pitcher. The game will be shown on the Lodge's movie screen as well as two other television sets. All for \$25 per person. Call the Lodge at 518 355-7500 ASAP to reserve a spot. It will be the best deal in town!

SUNDAY BREAKFAST – FEBRUARY 22ND MARCH 1st

The monthly Sunday Breakfast for ~~February~~ will be on ~~February~~ 22 from 9-11 AM. The monthly breakfasts are a great way to start Sunday morning and have been well attended. Those attending enjoy a nice breakfast and pleasant conversation with their neighbors and friends. There is plenty of food for \$10 per person. No reservations needed, public welcome, just walk in and enjoy!

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER – FEBRUARY 14TH

A special dinner is being prepared for this year's Valentine's Day dinner. It will be a steak dinner; the first steak dinner that the Lodge has scheduled in many, many years! The dinner will be held at 6 pm on Saturday February 14th. The menu will include New York Strip Steak, baked potato, salad, coffee and dessert for \$40 per person. Music and dancing will follow dinner. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold so it is important that reservations be made as quickly as possible. The dinner will sell out. Please call the Lodge at 518 355-7500 for reservations.

ITALY IN FEBRUARY

What is Italy like in February? February falls in Italy's winter season, so expect cold to milder temperatures. However, it is a vast country with various weather conditions depending on where you are.

Rome Weather in February: February is a lovely time to wander around Rome. Expect the daily temperatures to hover around 46.4°F (8°C), averaging between 37-57°F (3-14°C). The city is no stranger to occasional heavy downpours during this time, with an average of seven rainy days or 2.4 inches (60mm). Otherwise, the weather is mild overall and perfect for sightseeing.

With milder temperatures between 37-57°F (3-14°C), Rome is an outstanding destination in February. It's one of the warmer cities during this time, with occasional showers and sunshine. It's warm in the sun and chilly in the shade, making it the perfect weather for sightseeing.

For more info visit: <https://untolditaly.com/italy-in-february/>

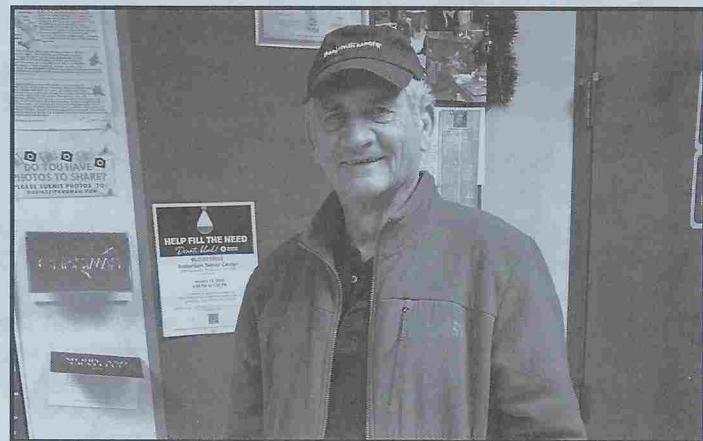
AIHA PRESENTS SPECIAL EXHIBIT

The American Italian Heritage Museum is presenting a special exhibit for the months of February and March featuring the works of James Robinson (Gucci). The exhibit is entitled "Biblical, Patriotic & Roman Art". Robinson's work is an eclectic range of graphics, drawings and paintings which include documentary/military works, local portraits, landscapes, architectural art, romantic works, biblical works and logo and book cover designs. Robinson is of Italian descent on his mother's side. There will be a reception at the museum on Saturday, February 14th from 1 to 3 pm for those wishing to meet Mr. Robinson. All are welcome. Please call the museum at 518 435-1979 for further information.

The museum also offers bi-weekly sessions in which attendees can practice their Italian. Lodge member Joe Anastasio is the leader. The sessions are informal and offer a great way for individuals to learn and improve their Italian language skills. The sessions are held on Tuesday at 1 pm on February 3rd and 17th and March 3rd and 17th. Please call Joe at 518 489-8156 for further information.

BUSINESS CARD ADS

Any member, interested in having their Business Card, in 321's Newsletter; Please, contact Fran Pugliese 518 372-8798 OR email Fran, at: puganthony@aol.com

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

The Volunteer of the Month for February is Romeo Niro. Romeo joined the Sons of Italy in 1979 and has been one of the Lodge's most active members since day one. Romeo has enjoyed a long and successful career as a painter and the Lodge has taken advantage of Romeo's skill on a number of occasions. When a room needed painting or just some touch-up, Romeo was always available and rose to the occasion. When a bartender was missing Romeo was there to fill the gap. And on many, many occasions he could be found in the kitchen helping out. Romeo, thanks for all the help!

New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara

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HALL RENTALS

The Lodge has two halls available for rent. The large hall can accommodate 125 people and the small hall is suitable for up to 25 people. In the past the halls have been used for bridal showers, graduation parties, small weddings, Sweet Sixteen parties, baptismal parties, birthday parties, meetings, funeral receptions and a variety of other functions. Please contact Richard Pidgeon at 518 356-0288 for information regarding pricing, availability and other information.



John M. Polimeni

Town Supervisor

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Email: jpolimeni@townoftrotterdam.gov 518-355-7575 ext. 393



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AUGURI A TUTTI!

The following Sons and Daughters of Lodge 321 will celebrate a birthday this month. Be sure to wish them a **Buon Compleanno** on their special day.

BIRTHDAYS

1. Ron Cirincione, Tina Coons, Kathryn Thompson
2. Sharyn Sabatini, Joe Tronco
4. Paul Cieszynski, Doreen Ditoro
5. Vincent Aceto, Paul Leclaire
6. Patty DeLorenzo, Wayne Slingerland
7. Dolores Scalise
8. Mario Mastroianni
11. Joe Marcello, Candida Suraci
13. Joe Chrys
14. Domenico Dimatteo
15. Antonietta Fazzone, Victor Mazzotti
Mickey Valletta, Thomas Servidone
17. Anthony Di Carlo
18. Anthony Cervera, Tom Tagiacchi
19. Gloria Mastroianni
20. Carmella Cervera
22. Leonard Angers, John DeMarco,
John Izzo, Ann Whelan, Patricia McGarry
23. John Della Porta
24. Michael Dagostino
25. Robert Godlewski
26. James Dominelli, Terry Durant
27. Randi Carrey

CONTACT & HOURS

Phone: 518-355-7500
Address: 2984 Hamburg Street
Schenectady, NY 12303
Email: osialodge321@gmail.com
Website: www.osialodge321.org
Facebook: Order Sons of Italy in America
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6:30pm - 10:00pm Mon - Fri

MEET CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

Constantino Brumidi, often referred to as the Michelangelo of the United States Capitol, was born in Rome in 1805. Brumidi was one of three Roman artists commissioned to restore the Raphael frescoes in the Vatican Loggia. In 1952 he was exiled to the United States because of political activities. Shortly after his arrival in New York City he filed his intent to become a citizen of the United States. He took out his final naturalization papers in Washington D.C. in 1857.

In 1855 he was hired to decorate the Agriculture Committee Room in the Capitol Building and in doing so he provided the first fresco in America. His brush was busy in succeeding years and the Capitol was his canvass. His work included the Senate reception room, the Senate Appropriations Committee room, the President's room in the Senate extension, The Senate floor corridors, the House of Representative Chamber, the House of Representatives committee room, the Capitol Rotunda which contained his magnificent frescoed frieze of 15 historical groupings capped by his huge frescoed canopy on the ceiling of the Capitol dome which measured 4,664 square feet of concave fresco. His work flourished until his tragic fall while working on the Rotunda frieze. Brumidi died in 1880 and was buried in an unmarked grave in Glenwood Cemetery. SEVENTY-TWO YEARS LATER, in 1950, Congress authorized a bronze marker for his grave.

In 1966 The Senate and House Joint Committee on the Library passed a resolution authorizing and directing the Library to procure a marble bust of Constantino Brumidi and to cause such a bust to be placed in the corridor, known as the Brumidi Corridor, on the first floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol. The Brumidi bust was sculpted of Carrara marble in Pietrasanta, Italy. In 2008 Constantino Brumidi was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

It is nice to receive recognition for a job well done and periodically the Lodge receives letters thanking it for a job well done by its members. The following letter was received recently - Mr. Joseph Battaglia, President

Dear Mr. President,

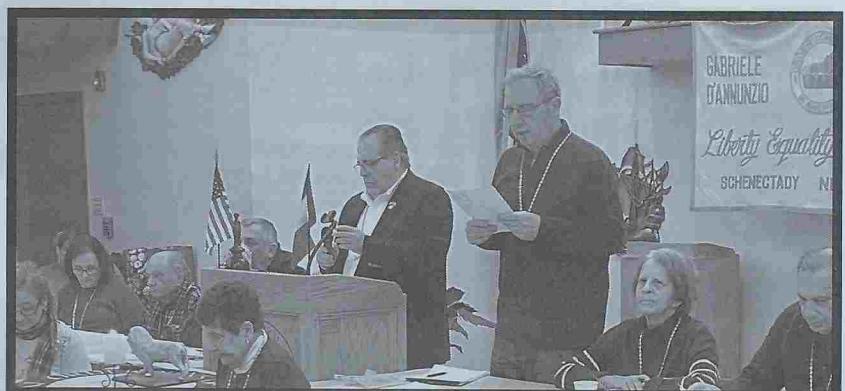
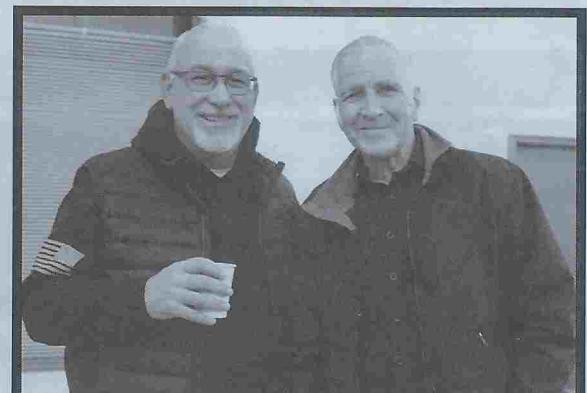
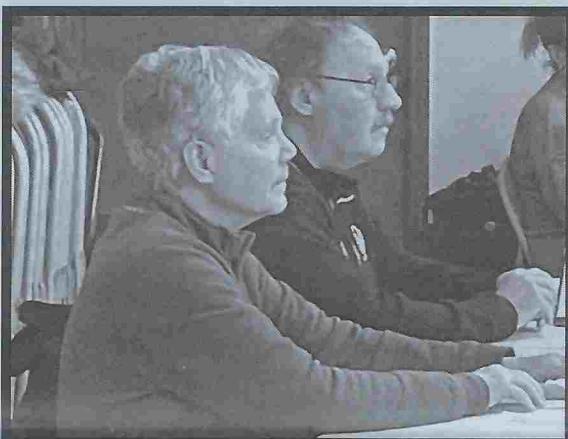
I would like to let you know that on December 19, 2025 I sponsored a Christmas party at our Lodge for the Niskayuna Transportation Dept. and what a wonderful joyous time they had. They were extremely appreciative of the facility and the hospitality they received and the socializing of some of our current members. They were so happy that they want me to secure a date for next Christmas and maybe another event which I will take care of in due time. Also, a special thanks to John DeGeorgio for his outstanding and professional courtesies behind the bar.

Again, my personal thanks, President Joe, and to all the members who make our SOI a very special entity.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joe Lazzari - Member*

Thanks to Mr Lazzari for a very nice letter, greatly appreciated.

Calendario Di Gabriele



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Sons of Italy in America Lodge 321

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Calendario Di Gabriele

Officers' Meeting

February 2 at 7 PM

General Membership

February 16 at 7 PM

Riunione Degli Ufficiali

2 Febbraio 7 PM

Assemblea Generale

16 Febbraio 7 PM

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS

Super Bowl Party

February 8

5 pm

Valentine's Day Dinner

February 14

6 PM

Sunday Breakfast

February 22

9-11 AM

Festa Della Donne

March 8

Noon

St. Joseph's Dinner

March 21

6:30 PM

Sunday Breakfast

March 22

9-11 AM

Fish Fry Take Out

April 3

4-6 PM

Wine Tasting Contest/Dinner

May 18, 16

2 PM

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