



March 2025

il Giornale di Gabriele

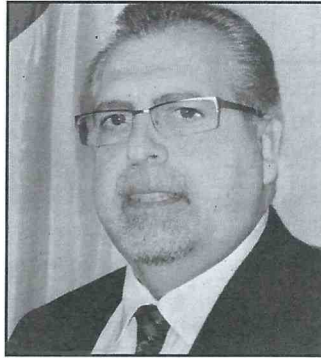
In Schenectady Since 1915



Lodge 321

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

March is here; I hope the weather will improve. It has been a long winter. More snow and cold temperatures than we have had in a long time. I can't wait till Spring. I am done with winter.



We had our Valentine's Dinner on February 15th; it was well attended we had over 100 people enjoy a Prime Rib Dinner & Music. The food was delicious as always. I would like to thank all the volunteers for making it a great success. It is a lot of hard work to do these dinners. The members that volunteer to help, please say Thank You to them when you see them.

Our next dinner will be on March 15th. St Joseph's Dinner it will consist of Salad, Pasta w/ Ceci Beans, Spaghetti with Garlic & Oil, Greens & Beans, Braided Bread & St Joseph Zeppole's. Please get your tickets early. This Dinner always sells out fast. The sign-up sheet is at the bar or please call the Lodge at 518-355-7500 to book your reservations. NO tickets will be sold at the door.

March 19th is St Joseph's Day. St Joseph played an important role in Jesus' life as his Foster Father. St Joseph is the patron of the universal church. Traditional foods served on St Joseph Day are fava beans, chickpeas, pasta dishes, different breads, and of course Zeppole di San Giuseppe. In Italy St Joseph's Day is Father's Day. We will be doing a alter for St Joseph so we would like members attending the dinner if they could bring flowers or a baked good.

On Sunday March 23rd at 2pm we will have our Installation of Officers. I would like to personally thank our outgoing Officers for their hard work for the last two years, it was a pleasure working with them. I hope they will stay active in the Lodge. I would like to thank the New Officers who will be Installed, I look forward to working with them for the next two years.

I encourage all our members to stay active in the Lodge, either attending events or volunteering or just stopping by to have a coffee or a drink. Every contribution is appreciated.

As always, PLEASE support the Lodges Fundraising efforts, they help to keep the Lodge going strong.

Joseph A. Battaglia
President



Established March 28th, 1915



OSDIA Officer 2024-2025

- President** Joe Battaglia
- Immediate Past President** Louis Fazzone
- 1st Vice President** Dom Cafarelli
- 2nd Vice President** Anthony Cervera
- Orator** Joseph Restifo
- Recording Secretary** Francis Pugliese
- Corresponding Secretary** Janice Libertucci
- Financial Secretary** Fred Mastroianni
- Treasurer** Carmen Libertucci
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- Sentinel** Candida Suraci
- NYS Trustee** Lisa Serafini
- Dist. 6 Deputy** Anthony Geddes
- Lodge Chaplain** Rev. Dominic Isopo
- Membership Chairperson** Dom Cafarelli
- Public & Community Relations** Dolores Scalise, Cesare Maniccia
- Fund-Raising** Anthony Cervera
- Kitchen Chairpersons** Amerigo Reali
- House Chairpersons** John DeGeorgio
- Hall Rentals** Richard Pidgeon
- Bar Chairperson** Joseph Restifo
- Cultural Affairs Chairperson** Cesare Maniccia
- Photographers & Newsletter** Gene & Linda Loparco,
- Groundskeeper** Giuseppe Riccio
- Veterans Affairs Chair** Eugene Loparco

Upcoming Meetings

- Officers' Meeting** MARCH 3 7:00PM
- General Meeting** MARCH 17 7:00PM

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Installation of Officers elected to lead the Lodge for the next two years will take place on Sunday, March 23rd, at 2 PM. The elected officers will be installed by a representative from the New York State Grand Lodge. It is an impressive ceremony and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

IT'S SUNDAY BREAKFAST TIME AGAIN – MARCH 30TH

The Lodge will be holding another Sunday Breakfast from 9 to 11:30 on Sunday, March 30th. The fixings are delicious and it is a great way to start your Sunday. Enjoy pleasant conversation with your neighbor and a friendly member while also enjoying a hearty breakfast. Donation is \$10 per person. No reservations needed, just stop in!

SAN GIUSEPPE DINNER – MARCH 15TH

The annual St. Joseph Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 15th, 6:30 PM. It is a simple dinner traditionally for the poor. The buffet menu will consist of tossed salad, braided bread, pasta with ceci beans, spaghetti w/aglio e olio, greens and beans followed by zeppole and coffee. The requested donation is \$20 per person. Please make reservations by March 12 by calling 518 355-7500.

Also needed are flowers for the altar. If you would like to donate flowers please call Carolann Renna at 518 225-8917. The dinner honors St. Joseph, the patron saint of the universal church, and dates back to medieval Sicily when St' Joseph was asked to pray for rain to end one of Sicily's legendary droughts. A large Lenten feast is held each year in thanksgiving.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ITALIANS GONE?

The answer- all over the world! Information in the American Italian Heritage Museum in Albany shows the following spread of Italians throughout the world and the percentage of the Italian population in each country. As one would expect Italy leads the way with 60 million followed by Brazil with 32 million (15%), Argentina 25 million (62.5%), United States 17 million (6%), Venezuela (1.7 million (6%), Canada 1.5 million (4.5%), Uruguay 1 million (40%) and Australia 1 million (4.4%). It is interesting to note that over half of the population in Argentina is of Italian extraction and close to half of Uruguay's is also of Italian extraction. Thanks to the American Italian Heritage Museum for the above information.

IT'S \$100 RAFFLE TIME !

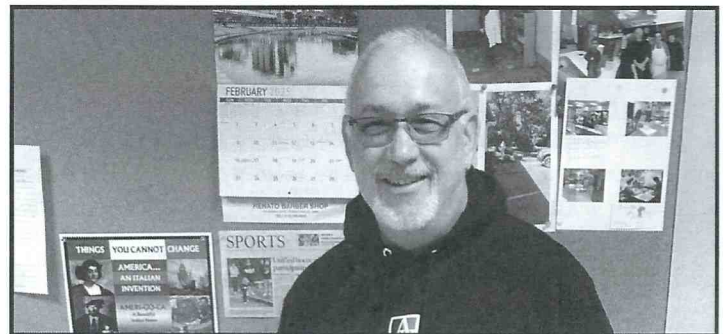
Want to win some money? The New York State Grand Lodge is conducting a \$100 per ticket raffle. The money raised goes to support many of the charities that the Sons of Italy supports along with several other worthy causes. The Lodge has been given 35 tickets to sell. The Lodge always has been able to sell the tickets allotted to it and can do it again (WITH YOUR SUPPORT!). Buy a ticket or get a group together and everyone chip in to buy a ticket and split the winnings. The grand prize is \$20,000 with 11 other prizes ranging from \$500 to \$20,000. For tickets contact the Lodge's Recording Secretary Fran Pugliese by email at puganthony@aol.com or by phone or text at 518 372-8798 or 518 605-1426. Checks should be made out to NYSGL. YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU ARE NOT IN!

VALENTINE DINNER A SUCCESS

The annual Valentine's Day dinner proved to be a big success. Tickets sold out early and over 100 members and friends enjoyed a delicious Prime Rib dinner with all the fixings. Great food, great conversation and great dancing were enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Trustee Jim Battaglia who chaired the event and all those who volunteered to make the evening a great success.

WOMEN'S BOCCIE MEETING – APRIL 10TH

The Women's Bocce League will be holding an informational meeting on Thursday, April 10th at 6:30 PM in preparation for the upcoming season. All interested players are urged to attend. Substitutes are welcome! Any questions, please call Gina Piccirillo at 518 469-2963 or Anna Califano at 518 522-3393.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month for March is Tom Tegiacchi. Tom is a relative newcomer and much like some of the other newcomers he has jumped in offering to help wherever needed. An accountant by training and by trade Tom has been available to offer advice when asked. When necessary Tom can be found in the kitchen helping with the preparations for one of the Lodge's dinners. Tom also gives generously of his time helping a fellow member in need of assistance. Nice work, Tom!

New York State Assemblyman
Angelo Santabarbara
 Proud Member of Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge 321,
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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submissions may be made by bringing the article to the Lodge Office to the attention of President Joe Battaglia; email the article to Porthuron59@msn.com

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

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.

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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. 1. Paul Mastroianni
5. Antonio DiCarlo, Vince Romano, Jack Falvo
7. Sandra Mandel
8. Antonio Campagnano
9. Flora Popolizio Marotta
10. Mario DeMarco
14. Francis Loparco
15. Giovanni D'Ambrosio. Peter Farina
16. Domenico DiStefano, Joseph Perretta
17. Peter Sparano, Ann Sweeney
20. Vito Caruso
23. Frank Ottomanelli, Vince Riggi, Nadine Vasko
24. Antonio Civitello, Ray Haines
25. Ray DeMatteo, Jr., Barry Van Steele
28. Helen Pugliese, Peter Rufer,
29. Nick Falvo
31. Albert Mastroianni, Antonio Riccio

CONTACT & HOURS

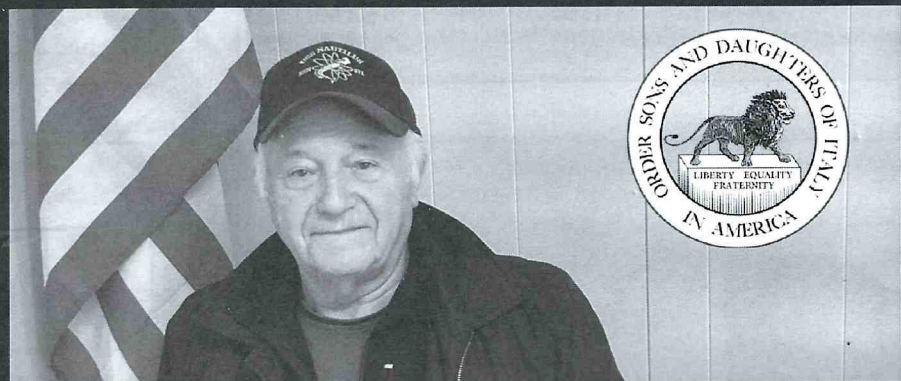
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Gabriele d'Annunzio Lodge 321
Hours: Open 8:30am - 10:30am Daily
6:30pm - 10:00pm Mon - Fri

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

Please welcome the following newcomers who have chosen to join the Lodge: Christine Smith, Judy Johnson, Angela Fabiani, Frank Marino. Anna Maria Perez, Melanie DeCesare, Bruce DeCesare, Wayne Slingerland, Jessie Cameron, Ray Slingerland and Giulio Facci. Welcome one and all we are glad you are with us!



COMING TO AMERICA



Meet Alessandro "Alex" Stramenga. Alex was born in Valle Castellana, Provincia Teramo Abruzzo on October 4, 1945. In his early days he attended a one room school house in his hometown from grades 1 to 5. He then continued his education in a seminary school from grades 5 to 9 studying French in addition to the basic Italian courses. His brother also studied at the same school studying to become a priest before switching to medicine. He became a doctor practicing in sports medicine in Rome.

Two years after leaving school Alex became a tool maker for 6 months before switching to an apprenticeship in electrical work and working throughout the area. He continued his work for two years before joining the Italian navy. He attended boot camp in Taranto and received further electrical training learning the intricacies of the electrical systems of various ships. While in the navy he spent long hours working on ships with little time off because of his training and background.

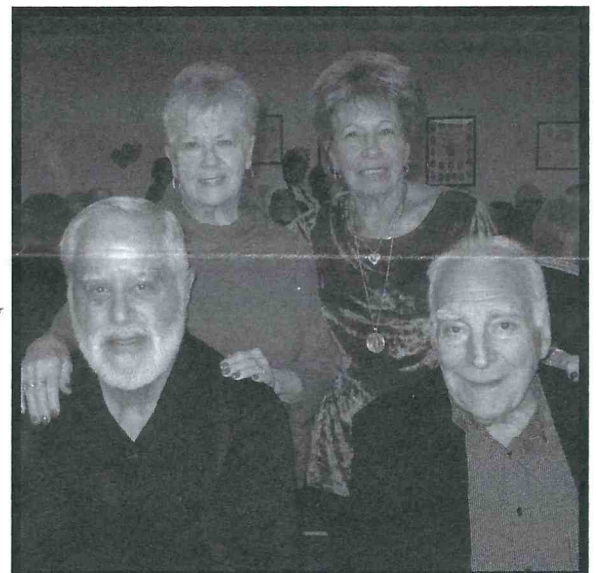
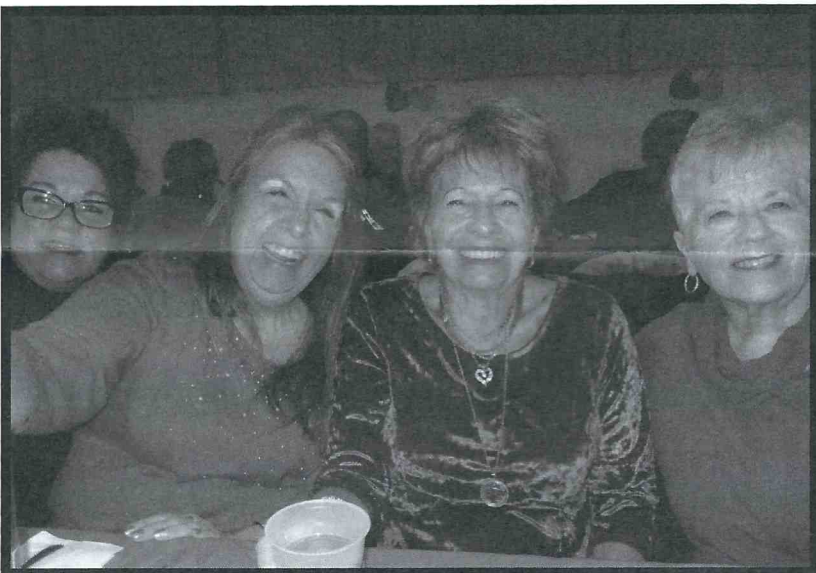
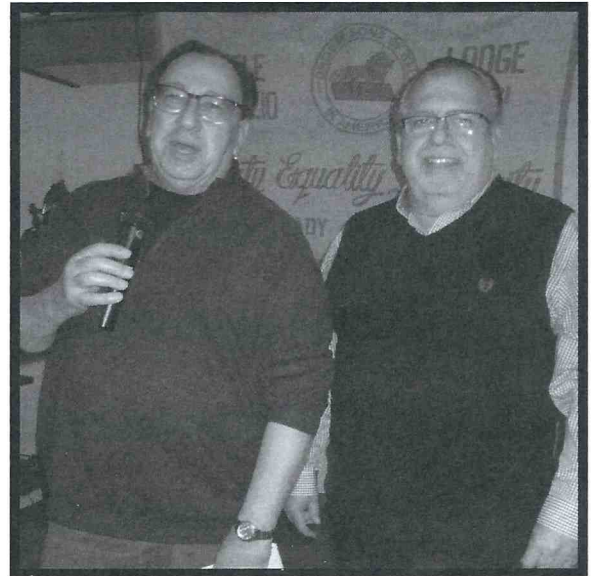
Alex left the navy in 1967 to return to normal life. In January 1968 Alex left Italy for Canada where he remained for a short time. Canada was a shortcut to Schenectady where he was to meet and marry Agatha, a girl he knew who had come to Schenectady from their hometown Villa Castellana.

Alex and Agatha were married in Schenectady on December 28, 1968. After using the money from their wedding gifts to pay expenses, they were left with \$5! Undaunted they got a loan from a bank and working with a contractor built a home in 1969. Alex worked overtime and sometimes 2 jobs and paid off the loan in 8 years. The home was theirs, debt free, in only eight years. Alex and Agatha raised 2 children, a son and a daughter. Unfortunately they lost their son to an auto accident in 1992. Their daughter continued her education to earn a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts and resides and works in Boston.

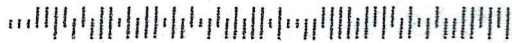
Alex's first job in America was as a construction laborer. He soon took the exam to get into the Electricians Union where he served his apprenticeship studying once a month for 4 years. Alex remained in the Electricians Union until he retired in 2007. He also continued his education and received his high school diploma in 1980. His busy life also included his serving as President of the Abruzzo Society from 2001 to 2017 when the Society disbanded and sold their building.

Alex now uses his electrical skill to help others, playing bocce at the Sons and Daughters of Italy and farming a couple of acres raising his favorite vegetables.

Calendario Di Gabriele



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Calendario Di Gabriele

Officers' Meeting

March 3 at 7 PM

General Membership

March 17 at 7 PM

Riunione Degli Ufficiali

3 Marzo 7 PM

Assemblea Generale

17 Marzo 7 PM

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS

St Joseph Dinner	March 15	6:30 PM
Installation of Officers	March 23	2:00 PM
Sunday Breakfast	March 30	9-11:30 AM

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