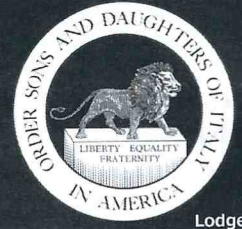




February 2025

# il Giornale di Gabriele

*In Schenectady Since 1915*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

February is here; it's a short month. But it is always a busy month at the Lodge. Our first fundraising event of the New Year at the Lodge was a Comedy night on January 4th. We had 82 people attend. The comedians were good, and the food was great as always. We also had 3 people sign up to become new members. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make it a great first event of the year. With many more events to follow through the year.



Our first Sunday morning breakfast began again on January 19th. We only served about 50 people. We will try to have them once a month till the summer. The cost will be \$10.00. Breakfast will be French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Eggs, Home fries, Coffee & Juice. Please check the newsletter for dates and times. I hope to see a lot more members attend. Our next breakfast will be Sunday February 23rd.

We will be having a Valentine Dinner Dance on February 15th at 6:30pm. The dinner will be Antipasto, Cavatelli, Prime Rib, Potato & Vegetable, Coffee and Dessert. The cost will be \$35.00. We will also have music from John DeFilippo. Please get your tickets early.

One of the legends of St. Valentine was 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 performed marriages in secret. When Claudius found out he put Valentine to death. Our membership went relatively smoothly this year and as I am writing this letter, we have 382 members renewed. We still have a few people that have not responded, we have sent them letters to see if they would like to continue their membership.

I would like to thank the Barry Family for their \$500.00 donation to the Lodge in memory of Gerald Barry who passed away in November. Jerry was at the Lodge almost every morning. We will put the donation into our scholarship fund. The Nominating Committee has come up with a slate of Officers for the next two-year term. The slate will be posted. If you have any questions, please contact the Lodge.

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 Fazzino
- 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
- Principal Trustee** Ray Haines
- Trustees** James Battaglia, Anna Califano, Angelina Fondano Haines, Brian Vattimo, Michael Masucci and John DeGeorgio
- Mistresses of Ceremony** Carolann Renna, Flora Popolizio Marotta
- 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** FEB 3 7:00PM
- General Meeting** FEB 17 7:00PM

**ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

The following individuals were elected at the January 20 General Meeting to serve as officers for 2025-2026:

- President:** Joe Battaglia
- 1st VP:** Dom Cafarelli
- 2nd VP:** Anthony Cervera
- Orator:** David Denofio
- Recording Secretary:** Fran Pugliese
- Corresponding Secretary:** Jan Libertucci
- Financial Secretary:** Carm Libertucci
- Treasurer:** Fred Mastroianni
- Trustees:** Jim Battaglia, Dave Bonitatibus, Anna Califano, John DeGeorgio, John Della Porto, Ray Haines, Michael Masucci, Carolann Renna, Joe Restifo, Brian Vattimo
- Mistress of Ceremony:** Franca Della Porta, Lena Pasquariello
- Sentinel:** Barry Van Steele

The induction ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 23rd at 2 PM. All are welcome to attend.

**VALENTINES DINNER DANCE-FEB 15TH**

The Lodge again will be hosting a Valentines Dinner Dance this year on Saturday, February 15th at 6:30 PM. The dinner menu includes Prime Rib, antipasto salad, pasta, potato, vegetable, coffee and dessert with music for dancing to follow. The cost is \$35 per person. It will be a great way to spend a special evening with that special person in your life. Tickets are on sale at the Lodge and going quickly. Please call 518 355-7500 for reservations.

**A LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2025**

Included in this newsletter is a list of major events that have been scheduled for 2025. During the year additional events will be planned and scheduled. As those events are scheduled, the Lodge will announce the details related to the various events. If anyone has suggestions regarding events they would like to see, please call the Lodge and let us know. Ideas are always welcome!

**HELP WANTED**

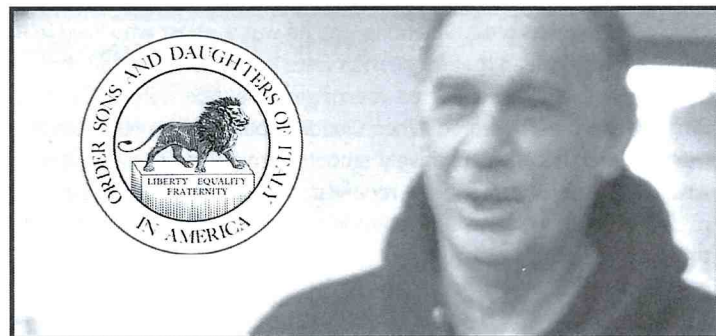
Volunteer male or female driver for a few hours on 1 day per week to transport Veterans to the Albany VA hospital for appointments. Transportation vehicle provided from the Rotterdam police station. All you need is a clean driver's license. Excellent opportunity to give back just a little bit of your time for what these veterans sacrificed to protect our American way of life. Please call Richard Pidgeon at (518)356-0288 for more information.

**THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM**

The American Italian Heritage Museum in Albany is the largest museum of its kind east of the Mississippi and perhaps in the entire United States. Its mission is to preserve our Italian heritage for present and future generations. The museum contains 10 exhibit rooms, a library with approximately 2000 books on Italian American and Italian topics and conducts a variety of events, classes and programs keeping alive our rich Italian culture. In addition to the variety of exhibits the walls are filled with information regarding the immigration of Italians and the hardships endured by them. The museum is well worth a visit; it is the center of Italian information in the Capital District and a number of college students have used the museum for research purposes. The museum also offers a number of opportunities for those interested in volunteering and learning more. The Special Exhibit Room is presenting in February and March REFLECTIONS, a mixed media exhibit by 92 year old artist John T. LaForest who shares his experiences and memories in his paintings. Please call 518 435-1979 for more information about the exhibit and/or the museum.

**DUES ARE OVERDUE**

Dues for 2025 were due no later than December 31st. However, in response to a number of requests, the Grand Lodge has extended the deadline to January 15th. The Lodge, as a gentle reminder, will be contacting those members who have not responded. Those who have not responded are asked to do so ASAP thereby cutting down on the number of calls to be made. Thank you for your attention to this matter.




**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

The Volunteer of the Month for February is Dave Denofio. Dave is the Lodge Wizard! Dave maintains the Lodge email list of almost 200 members and is continually sending out messages regarding activity taking place at the Lodge, he manages the Lodge website continually updating it so that it is current, he is responsible for all the updates on the Lodge's new electronic sign and he helps out in the kitchen when called upon. Dave and Joe Chrys also installed the software necessary to get the electronic sign up and running. Incidentally Dave is the newly elected Lodge Orator! Thanks Dave for all you do.

New York State Assemblyman  
**Angelo Santabarbara**  
 Proud Member of Gabriele D'Annunzio Lodge 321,  
 Order Sons of Italy in America

George **Amedore**  
 Proud Member



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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. Ronsld Cirincione
2. Sharyn Sabatini
4. Paul Cieszynski, Doreen Ditorro
5. Vincent Aceto
6. Patty DeLorenzo
7. Dolores Scalise
9. Mario Mastroianni
11. Joseph Marcello, Candida Suraci
13. Joseph Chrys
14. Domenico DiMatteo
15. Antonietta Fazzone, Gino Mascitelli, Victor Mazzotti, Mickey Valletta, Thomas Servidone
18. Anthony Cervera, Thomas Tegiacchi
20. Carmella Cervera
22. Leonard Angers, John DeMarco, John Izzo, Ann Whelan
23. John Della Porta
24. Michael Dagostino
25. Robert Godlewski
26. James Dominelli, Terry Durant
27. Randi Carney

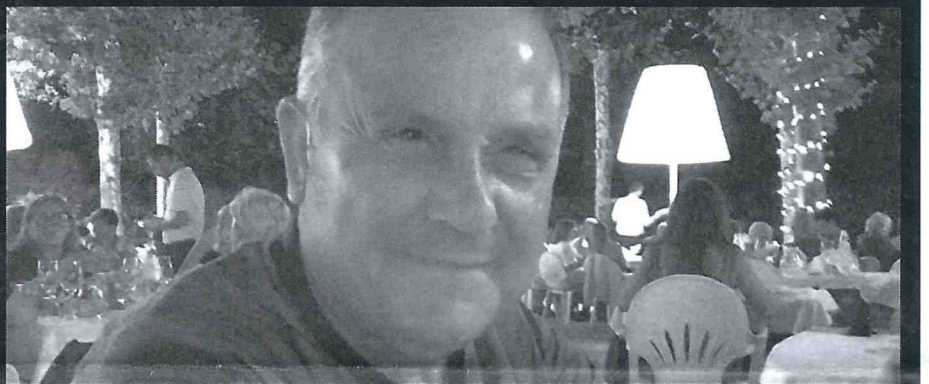
#### CONTACT & HOURS

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

#### WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

The Lodge had a good year in 2024, welcoming in the following 32 new members: Don Tessitore, Paul Matarazzo, Joe Parretta, Francis LoParco, Margaret Diodati, Larry Dicocco, Alissa Diamond, Tim Diamond, Lucia Cafarelli, Lou Bonitatibus, Dave Bonitatibus, Casandra Bubb, Antonio Dente, Patrick Hickey, Maria Delmonico, Joe Vivian Diane Vivian, David Battaglia, Mark Ciafardo, Patrick Rufer, James Dominelli, Anna Marie Tubelli, Nancy Durford, Karen Bonitatibus, Lynn Rivers, James Vitalo, Luigi Dicocco, Joe Schmidt, James Butler, Linda Tegiacchi, Tom Tegiacchi. The Lodge also welcomed the following members who rejoined after being away for a brief period: Kevin Mercoglan, Gabriella Palleschi, Irving Greenwood, Michael Della villa, Antonino Scarcella. WELCOME EVERYONE, GLAD YOU'RE WITH US!

#### COMING TO AMERICA



Meet Sal Cannistraci. Salvatore Cannistraci was born September 26, 1947 in Torre Forte, Furnari, Messina, Sicily. He is one of six children of Carmela Isgro and Santo Cannistraci. When he was 11, he went to Vigliatore - 15 minutes from home - to learn auto mechanics. The following year, he went to Barcelona to continue his auto mechanic apprenticeship. Soon after, his family moved to Switzerland where he continued his apprenticeship. And ins May 1966, his family moved to America by ship, the Christopher Columbus.

His uncle, John Elacqua, brought him to Albany on Thursday and he began working as an auto mechanic the following Monday at Kays Auto Exchange on Central Ave. in Albany. The following year, Sal began working at Bill Kane's Import Cars in Schenectady. During his time there, he spent his weekends as a race car mechanic for the Stangolini Fiat Formula Jr. The team raced in Lime Rock, CT, Watkins Glen and Briar, NH.

In 1973, he joined his brothers in opening Village Autobody and Mechanical Repair on Central Ave. in Colonie. In1978, he began working for the Freihofer Baking Company, where he retired in 2004. Sal met his wife, Marcelene Uliva, at a dinner/dance at the LeMarche Club in Albany. They were married in 1968. They have two children and three grandchildren. Sal loved foreign cars. He rebuilt a 1966 MGB convertible and a 1972 MBG GT coupe.

An avid soccer player, he started playing immediately upon arriving in USA with the Sons of Italy in Albany and then the Columbo Soccer Club in Schenectady. The five brothers eventually formed their own team, the Village Soccer Club of Colonie. He was also an avid bowler and now plays bocce in our lodge's league.

Sal has always enjoyed growing vegetables and maintaining a beautiful green lawn. In fact, for the last 16 years he has supplied veggies to Mezzanotte Ristorante. Upon his retirement, Sal decided to build a house. He drew the plans manually, bought the land and essentially built the house. He did all the plumbing himself.

He also enjoys attending musical events featuring his son and grandchildren, making wine and doing 1,000 piece puzzles.

## Calendario Di Gabriele

Below is a list of major events planned for 2025.  
Additional events will be planned and announced when scheduled.

<b>Comedy Show</b>	<b>1/4/25 Sat</b>
<b>Italian Sunday</b>	<b>2/2/25 Sun</b>
<b>Super Bowl Party</b>	<b>2/9/25 Sun</b>
<b>Valentine Day Dinner</b>	<b>2/15/25 Sat</b>
<b>Volunteer Dinner</b>	<b>3/7/25 Fri</b>
<b>St. Joseph Dinner</b>	<b>3/15/25 Sat</b>
<b>Installation fo Officers</b>	<b>3/23/25 Sun</b>
<b>Good Friday Fish Dinner</b>	<b>4/18/25 Fri</b>
<b>Wine Tasting</b>	<b>5/17/25 Sat</b>
<b>Chicken BBQ</b>	<b>6/21/25 Sat</b>
<b>Lodge Festa</b>	<b>7/18/25 Fri</b>
<b>Eggplant Parm Dinner</b>	<b>9/19/25 Fri</b>
<b>Columbus Dinner</b>	<b>10/10/25 Fri</b>
<b>Veterans Breakfast</b>	<b>11/9/25 Sun</b>
<b>Chicken Parm Dinner</b>	<b>11/15/25 Sat</b>
<b>Prep for Seven Fishes Dinner</b>	<b>12/11/25 Thur</b>
<b>Unavailable Due to 7 Fish Prep</b>	<b>12/12/25 Fri</b>
<b>Seven Fishes Dinner</b>	<b>12/13/25 Sat</b>

**Sons of Italy in America Lodge 321**

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### Calendario Di Gabriele

**Officers' Meeting**  
February 3 at 7 PM  
**General Membership**  
February 17 at 7 PM

**Riunione Degli Ufficiali**  
3 Febbraio 7 PM  
**Assemblea Generale**  
17 Febbraio 7 PM

#### UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS

Valentine Dinner & Dance	Feb 15	6:30 PM
Sunday Breakfast	Feb 23	9-11:30 AM
St Joseph Dinner	March 15	6:30 PM

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