



WASHINGTON STATE

During World War II, **Guglielmo Olivotto** was one of 200 Italian prisoners of war at Fort Lawton in Seattle where they performed clerical and other non-combative duties. In August, 1944, they were attacked in their barracks by U.S. troops, jealous of the preferential treatment these POWs were given. Many were injured and Olivotto was lynched. The ensuing court martial of 43 U.S. soldiers was the biggest and longest in WW II history.

Olivotto was the subject of “On American Soil, How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II”, by Jack Hamann. Olivotto’s grave is in Fort Lawton’s military cemetery. It is maintained by the U.S. Army, but every year, the **Sno-King Lodge #2611** cleans and puts flowers on it prior to Memorial Day.



Guglielmo Olivotto's grave

CALIFORNIA

Maria Fassio Pignati, president of the Grand Lodge of California, was a guest at a private luncheon last July, hosted by Italian Consul General **Fabrizio Marcelli** in honor of Italy’s ambassador to the U.S., **Giulio Terzi di Sant’Agata**, who was visiting San Francisco to speak at the annual College Board’s AP Conference and meet with Silicon Valley leaders.

Ms. Pignati was one of only 22 guests and the only one representing a fraternal Italian American organization. Other guests included **Federico Faggin**, who helped design and develop the world’s first micro-processor; **Dr. Roberto Crea**, who helped develop human insulin, as well as prominent Italian journalists, educators, bioscientists, lawyers and business people.



Lunch with the Ambassador

NEW YORK

The three men have belonged to the **Rockland Lodge #2176** in Blauvelt for more than 30 years, but only recently learned of a bizarre coincidence when they served in WW II. Seems 65 years had to pass before **Joe Colello** learned that he and his close friend, **Joe Di Domenico** were on two of only four ships that captured an island critical to the invasion of Okinawa in 1945. Then Joe learned that another lodge member, **Mario Zupi**, had been on the third ship. “The odds are a zillion to one that three guys in the same town, belonging to the same lodge, should have been on three of the four ships that helped with the invasion of Okinawa,” Joe

says. Another example of the Sons of Italy’s amazing network that connects us all!



Joe Colella in 1945 and today

GOT A GOOD STORY?

Have you or your lodge done something remarkable that makes a difference to your community or promotes our heritage? Send details with your lodge’s name and number (photo optional) to: ITALIAN AMERICA Magazine, 219 E Street NE, Washington, DC 20002 or E-mail ddeanctis@osia.org. Include daytime phone no. Entries not acknowledged and photos not returned unless requested.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

EVA DITOSTO, a member of the *Christopher Columbus Lodge #1199* in Charleston, WV for 66 years, and lodge treasurer for 40 years, died at age 84 May 17, only days after the lodge honored her for her years of service.

JOSEPH DiTRAPANI, OSIA national president, was made a *Commendatore della Repubblica Italiana* (Knight Commander of the Italian Republic) in July for his efforts to re-instate the Italian Advanced Placement Program.

ANTHONY MAGNO, of the *Ella T. Grasso Lodge #2538* in Wethersfield, CT, celebrated his 40th year on the air in February. His *Carosello Musicale Italiano* was the first non-commercial Italian language program in the U.S. It airs on WWUH-91.3 FM Saturdays from 5 to 7 PM. *Auguroni, Tony!*

VINCENT MARINO, of the *Port St. Lucie Lodge #2594* in Florida was elected to the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in September. A former NYC police officer, he played semi-pro baseball as well as softball.

DOMINIC R. MASSARO, of the *Loggia Uguagliana #83* in the Bronx, was given the lodge's 100th anniversary "Equality Award" in September during the lodge's centenary celebration dinner. His is New York's oldest continuing lodge. A NY Supreme Court Justice, Judge Massaro has held numerous national posts in the 53 years he has belonged to the Order.

THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO honored three members of the *Cincinnati Lodge #1191* for their outstanding service to the Order during its 50th biannual convention in Columbus last June. They are: **Judge Ronald Panioto**, **Lt. Col. Vincent Demasi**, Asst. Police Chief in Cincinnati; and **Joe Pitocco**, a local attorney.

WYOMING

The **Mia Maria Lodge #2813** in Cheyenne is only seven years old, but its 42 members have been "incredibly active," says recording sec'y **Bruce Twine**. Since 2006, the lodge has held an annual bocce tournament and donated the funds raised to various charitable organizations, including a \$25,000 endowed scholarship at a local community college, the Military Family Assistance Fund, and the local Boys and Girls Club. This year's event raised \$2,000.00, according to Twine.



Play Bocce!

PENNSYLVANIA

Since their lodge's founding in 1992, the 119 members of the **Piazza Nuova Lodge #2665** in Newtown have been tirelessly raising money to promote things Italian in their community. In April, the lodge raised and gave \$13,500 to a local community college for two new endowments for scholarships to students studying Italian or the culinary arts. The lodge has already given the college \$10,000 to fund "the Italian Collection" of more than 150 books, videos and CDs. A May Pasta Dinner raised \$1,000 that the lodge donated to the Senior Service Center of Morrisville.

Most of the endowment money was raised through concerts and sales from a popular Italian cook book authored by the lodge president, **John Oliano**.



The Piazza Nuova Lodge takes a break from fundraising