



**WEST VIRGINIA**

The state’s first Italian American governor, **Joe Manchin**, was the keynote speaker at a dinner celebrating family and scholarship held last May by the **Fratelli Tricolore Lodge #2631** in Bluefield-Princeton. The governor, 63, spoke movingly and at length about the values he learned as a boy growing up in an Italian American family in Farmington, a mining community. That evening, the lodge awarded six \$1,000 scholarships, bringing to \$140,000 in grants the lodge has given to worthy students over the past 14 years, according to lodge president **Nick Ameli**.



**Lodge President Nick Ameli (R) helps Gov. Manchin find his Italian roots.**

**RHODE ISLAND**

The **Salvatore Mancini Lodge #2440** in North Providence has hit on two fund-raising projects that have raised considerable amounts of money for the lodge’s charities. In 2006, 12 members donated their recipes and agreed to pose for a calendar that raised more more than \$4,000 for the Alzheimer’s Association and Cooley’s Anemia Foundation, according to lodge first VP, **Jean Restivo**. An earlier project had even greater success when lodge members created and sold three cookbooks. After Restivo got the first cookbook reviewed in *The Providence Journal*, a local Borders bookstore agreed to hold a book-signing. “We hoped to sell 200 copies,” Restivo recalls. “When we got to the store, we found a line of people waiting outside to buy the book.” They sold all 200 copies and got orders for many more, she says. To date, the lodge has raised over \$60,000 for children with special needs. “We also help needy families at Christmas time,” Restivo says.



**Rhode Island’s Calendar Girls**



### ALABAMA

It's only six months old, but the **Montgomery Italian Americans Lodge # 2860** is amazing. It was written up in the local newspaper back in January when it was founded and now has more than 40 members of all ages and occupations. It has a cutting edge website that boasts a photo gallery of recent lodge events along with videos, an e-newsletter, and an impressive calendar of upcoming social events. The lodge recently convinced the city to proclaim June 19 as Sons of Italy Day. It was founded by **Dennis Eddy**, the current president; **Don Barranco**, vice president and **Sam Bonfe**. See <http://miasonsofitaly.webs.com>



**MIA lodge's Dennis Eddy & John Barranco**

### 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](mailto:ddeanctis@osia.org). Include daytime phone no.

Entries not acknowledged and photos not returned unless requested.

### HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **JOHNNY ANELLA** of the *Renaissance Lodge #2259* in Orange, CA, is a lawyer by day and a mandolin musician by night. He has just released his newest CD, *La Voce Mia*, a collection of popular classics including "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Arrivederci, Roma" and "Non Dimenticare." All are instrumentals. [See **Cexton Records** at [www.cexton.com](http://www.cexton.com).]
- **JOE CAPOGRECO** of the *Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270* in Rochester, NY, keeps the tradition of Italian music alive on his weekly radio show, "Italian Carousel" The melodies span the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries – from Caruso and Carlo Buti to Laura Pausini and Gigi D'Alessio. He also plays the music of Sicily, Naples and other areas. The program is on Sundays from 8 to 10 AM on **WROC 950 AM** and 24/7 on [italiancarousel.net](http://italiancarousel.net) and podcasts available on iTunes.
- **SAM DeLEO** of the *Cristoforo Colombo Lodge #1309* in Salida, CO, was the first recipient of the local AARP's Honoring the Elders Award. A WW II Navy veteran, he worked for the railroads and then became a successful tailor. His life "models the skills, integrity and determination that inspire young people," said local AARP President .J. Sherry at the award luncheon last November.
- **DOMENICK SCARLATO** of the *Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge #2319* in Smithtown, NY, has had several careers. In WW II, he was a Navy "Frogman" (now the SEALs). After the war, he was a welder, but attended New York University at night for many years to earn a B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. Then he taught high school and college while raising five daughters. Now at 80, he is a popular Karaoke performer with a repertoire of 150 songs and five CD recordings. He has also penned an autobiography, "The Kid from Brooklyn."
- **JOSEPH SCIAME** of the *Cellini Lodge #2206* in New Hyde Park, NY, has been appointed chair of the Board of the Italian Cultural Center at St. John's University in Queens, NY where he is vice president for community relations. Mr. Sciame was OSIA national president from 2003 to 2005

### NEW JERSEY

Italian at Dumont High School is spared, thanks to a coalition of the **Grand Lodge of New Jersey, UNICO, Manny Alfano** and the **Sons of Italy CSJ**. Working in the coalition, GL of NJ President **Tom Bergbauer** and CSJ National Vice President/NJ CSJ Chair **Grace Olivo** encouraged parents and students to bombard the school board with emails, letters and phone calls. In April, it voted to continue offering Italian. "We thank State Superintendent of Schools, **Emanuele Triggiano**, and the school board," says Bergbauer.