

Fall 2005

OSIA NATION

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Founder of FBI Honored. June marked the 46th annual ceremony in memory of Charles Bonaparte, founder of the F.B.I., held at the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, DC.

The event was organized by **Francesco Isgro** an immigration lawyer at the Justice Department and member of International Lodge #2522 in Washington, DC.

FLORIDA

Prime Donne Florida's newest lodge is made up exclusively of women. **The Daughters of Italy Lodge #2825** in Clearwater held its initiation and charter ceremony June 26 followed by a luncheon.

"It was an emotional ceremony with over 90 people," says lodge president **Vincenza DiLiberti**. Officiating was new state president **Dan Cositore**; the state deputy **Antoinette Caporice** and representatives from other lodges.

Florida is one of OSIA's fastest growing states with 4,000 members and 46 lodges, half of them formed in the last four years under past president Dennis Piasio.

INDIANA

Marathon Man Wearing his lucky cap, **Thomas Nedza** crosses the finish line in the Rome marathon last March. A member of the Dante Alighieri Lodge #1220 in Merrillville, Thomas regularly runs in marathons that raise funds for the disabled.

MARYLAND

Undercover Agent The National Geographic Channels International featured **Frank Panessa** in its four-hour series *Inside the Mafia*, which premiered nationally last June. Panessa, now retired, is a 30-year veteran of the Drug Enforcement Administration, who went undercover to expose international drug traffickers. He also featured in the new CSJ report *Italian American Crime Fighters*. [See p. 17.] Frank is the first vice president of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

NEW YORK

Exhibiting Art The Italian Cultural Institute on New York's Park Avenue held an exhibit of the works of at-large member and talented artist **Sandro Diani** for two weeks in September. Diani, who was born in Venice, held his first show at age 15 after winning

numerous awards. Best known for his social paintings of the 1960s and 1970s, his works are in private collections and museums in 27 countries. See www.SandroDiani.info

WISCONSIN

Heroes Honored Crowds attending Milwaukee's famous *Festa Italiana* last July learned about the 23 Italian Americans uncovered to date who have earned the Medal of Honor. The traveling exhibit, created by the national CSJ, was brought to the festival by the Filippo Mazzei Lodge #2763 and its president **Frank Schiro, Esq.** To rent the exhibit, contact Dona De Sanctis at ddesanctis@osia.org