

CONNECTICUT

Paul Polo, immediate past president of the Sons of Italy Foundation (SIF) and current vice chair of the OSIA/SIF, helped raise more than \$20,000 for the Katrina Fund at a fundraiser for Bob Landino, who was running for Connecticut's Secretary of State. The event started out as a political event hosted by Paul Polo and Tony Colavolpe and turned into a fundraiser for the Sons of Italy Foundation's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Mr. Landino generously donated all the proceeds from the event last October.

FLORIDA

Working together, the **Grand Lodge of Florida Foundation** and filial lodge, **Societa` d'Italia #2698** launched a new Italian program in the lodge's local Sarasota high school. First the lodge used OSIA National's how-to kit, *Start Italian In Your School* to get the school to approve the new Italian program.

Then the Grand Lodge's foundation approved a \$1,600 grant to send the new Italian teacher, Bridget Coughlin to study in Italy for the summer, allowing her to get certified to teach Italian. "We thank OSIA National...your Adopt-A-School Program really works!," says GL **President Dan Cositore**.

IDAHO

Everybody knows how useful to crime fighters the polygraph is, but few realize that the discovery of lie detection procedures dates back to the late 1800s and the work of two Italian doctors, Cesare Lombroso and Vittorio Benessi. Their contributions are found in *Detecting Deception*, a new text book by polygraph expert **Theodore Ponticelli** a charter member of the **Bonaventure Lodge #2814**.

MASSACHUSETTS

The memory of **Peter A. Gay** and other Massachusetts victims of 9/11 was honored at a ceremony last September 12 in Boston on the fourth anniversary of the tragedy. Present were members of his family, including his 90-year old father and former OSIA National President **Peter B. Gay**. Peter, 54, was aboard Flight 11 which was flown into the World Trade Center. He had delayed his flight one day to spend more time with his family.

MICHIGAN

For more than 22 years, the **Sons of Italy Lodge #2456 Choir** in Saginaw has been performing Italian songs for special occasions and to entertain people in nursing homes. The group has just put together a CD of their favorite songs. Contact Bob Paetz at repaetz@diamondscs.net

PENNSYLVANIA

“Have books, will travel” could be the motto of **Vincent Iezzi**, author of the popular novels, *Coffee with Nonna* and *More Coffee with Nonna*. A member of the **John B. Acchione Lodge #311** in Philadelphia, Vincent is a frequent speaker at lodge meetings in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Contact him at 215/755-0196 or email: dismasdamiano@aol.com.

Also in Pennsylvania, the **Il Nostro Retaggio Lodge #27866** held a fund-raiser on Columbus Day that raised \$1,200 for scholarships to local Catholic schools. About 120 people came to two showings of the prize-winning documentary on Italian American history *Prisoners Among Us*, followed by a reception, reports the event’s chairman **Vito Sylvester**. *To order the film, call 866 217 2372.*

WASHINGTON, DC

National At-Large member **Neil Proto** has written up the David and Goliath case of five law students in 1971 who took on the railroad industry and the Interstate Commerce Commission to protect natural resources and promote recycling. The book is entitled *To A High Court*, published by Hamilton Books.

Proto is a partner in the DC law firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis and teaches at Georgetown University. An expert on Sacco and Vanzetti, his articles on this case have been published in this magazine.

WISCONSIN

The new president of the popular Italian Community Center of Milwaukee (ICC) is OSIA member **Michael Palmisano** of the **Filippo Mazzei Greater Milwaukee Lodge #2763**. An investment advisor, he will lead the ICC’s signature event, *Festa Italiana*, now in its 29th year, which draws an estimated 250,000 people to the popular Italian American festival every July.

Compiled by Dona De Sanctis