

NEW JERSEY

For more than 30 years, the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden has served over 7,000 free hot meals monthly to the city’s disabled, jobless and working poor. Now, thanks to a massive building fundraising campaign, led by its board, the kitchen will have a new \$3.3 million facility next spring with a bigger kitchen and dining hall, showers, medical/dental services

and even a culinary arts training program.

The board president is **NJ Grand Lodge President Tom Bergbauer, Jr.**, who has volunteered there for more than 10 years, bringing his children along “to teach them the value of charity and volunteering,” he says. Tom belongs to the **Mt. Ephraim Lodge #2362** in Mt. Ephraim. (And so do his kids!)



Tom Bergbauer (second on Right) breaks ground for new soup kitchen.

WYOMING

Bocce is coming to Wyoming, thanks to the **Mia Maria Lodge #2813** in Cheyenne. It held its second annual Bocce Tournament recently with a special guest, Wyoming’s U.S. Senator **John Barrasso**, a physician, whose four grandparents were Italian. Founded 2 years ago, the lodge has 30 members and a website. See www.miamaria.org



Sen. John Barrasso learning to play bocce. [Photo: Sue Castaneda]

OREGON

Sister Margaret Graziano in the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus recently celebrated 70 years of service to the Church during which she taught underprivileged children, “at-risk” boys and adults, using music and art as therapy.

After retiring from teaching, she volunteered for 30 years at a local jail where she created a library and taught the inmates art. They make greeting cards and calendars which she sells for them. Now age 90 and still active, she is a member of the **Alta Monte Lodge #2513** in Eugene, where she is Chaplain, a trustee and “one of our most esteemed members,” says fellow lodge member Bud (Pecoraro) Lang.



Sr. Graziano with two inmates in “her” library.

CALIFORNIA

Marines who served in Iraq were treated by the **Saddleback Valley Lodge #2566** in Mission Viejo last spring at the Wounded Warriors Center at Camp Pendleton. The lodge organized a barbecue for the veterans and their families.



Marines who served in Iraq enjoy an American treat.

Now in its sixth year, the September San Gennaro Festival in Los Angeles is still heavily supported by the **Hollywood Lodge #2809**, which also has a booth. This year's theme was celebrating Italian immigration. Festival proceeds are donated to charity.



OSIA member Frankie Marmone at his firm's booth in the LA festival.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- National Past President **Philip Boncore, Esq.** is the new president of the National Italian American Bar Association (NIA-BA). He was elected last May for a two-year term. He belongs to the **Winthrop Mixed Lodge #2057** in Winthrop, MA.
- National Past President **Joseph Sciame** is the new president and chair of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York,

which for the past 31 years has organized the city's special events in October to celebrate Italian achievements. He is in the **Cellini Lodge #2206** in New Hyde Park, NY.

- **Eric Ventura**, a veteran soccer player, coach and referee, has received the Life Member Award from the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association. He has been in upstate NY's **Utica Lodge #2054** for 25 years.

FLORIDA

The Florida State Senate has officially recognized the contributions of the all-women **Daughters of Italy Lodge #2825** in Clearwater, reports lodge president **Vincenza DiLiberti**.

A Senate resolution passed last spring praised its promotion of Italian language and culture, scholarships and fund-raising. Contact Vincenza at 727/ 447-68980 or vincenzad@verizon.net. Also see: www.daughtersofitaly.com.

GOT A GOOD STORY?

Has your lodge or member done something remarkable that makes a difference? 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 ddesanctis@osia.org. **Include a daytime telephone no.** Entries not acknowledged and photos not returned unless requested.

BENVENUTI!

The following lodges were formed over the past year.

- Santa Famiglia Lodge #2834Lynn, MA
- Buona Fortuna Lodge #2835.....Pensacola, FL
- Polk County Sons & Daughters of Italy Lodge #2836.....Winter Haven, FL
- San Giovanni Lodge #2837.....Charlotte, NC
- Purple Aster Lodge #2838.....Galloway Township, NJ
- Fort Myers Sons of Italy Lodge #2839Fort Myers, FL
- Giovanni Da Verrazzano Lodge #2840Winston-Salem, NC