



TANTISSIMI AUGURI!

Lodges all over the nation are celebrating important anniversaries this year. To all we wish many, many more years of fraternity and productivity.

THE CONCORDIA LODGE #20 in Torrington, CT marks its 100th year of operation this year. Formed in 1908, it is our oldest active lodge with 140 members, including **Daniel Pietrafesa**, who joined 73 years ago.

THE GRAND LODGE OF DELAWARE, one of our oldest grand lodges, celebrates its 85th anniversary this year. To mark the milestone, OSIA 1st National V.P. **Joe DiTrapani** and 4th National VP **Dan Longo** presented GL President **Sam DeMora** with a Certificate of Appreciation.

THE OSIA DENVER LODGE #2075 in Colorado is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It was founded in 1958 by **John Decicco**, **Joe Ciancio, Jr.** & **Al Decredico** and grew to more than 500 members over the years. It has its own building and actively preserves Denver's annual Columbus Day parade.

THE GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTHWEST reports three lodges in Washington State have reached historic milestones: the *Cataldo Lodge #2280* in Breerton; the *Bella Vita Lodge #2285* in Olympia both celebrated their 35th anniversaries this year while the *Sno-King Lodge #2611* in Shoreline reached its 20th year and member **Mary Scoccolo** of **Renton Lodge #1967** in Renton just celebrated her 68th year of OSIA membership!

SEMPRE AVANTI!

CALIFORNIA

Under their president **Linda Desiante**, members of the **Sons of Italy Hollywood Lodge #2809** in LA have teamed up with other local cultural organizations to convince the city to proclaim October "Italian Heritage Month. Among the planned events is a movie series, exhibits by Italian American artists and a tribute to the Italians of LA at the Italian Hall Museum. For details, see www.italianheritagela.com or email: info@italianheritagela.com.



Linda Desiante (second from left) with the team of officers from other cultural groups that are promoting Italian heritage in LA.

PENNSYLVANIA

Children learned about Italy during a multi-cultural day celebration at a local public library in Hanover, PA last March. Here **Joseph Scarselletta**, president of the **Buon'Amici Lodge #2772** helps them color the Italian flag. The lodge members also contributed Italian books, artifacts and food to the event.



LINK UP! Millions of people worldwide see OSIA National's Web site. Now you can link your site to National's. Contact **Dona De Sanctis** at dde sanctis@osia.org or call 202/547-2900



CANADA

OSIA in Canada is flourishing, reports Joe Maggiolo, president of Club Italia Lodge #5 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Membership is just under 1,000 members with 10% from upper New York State.

The club owns a building which houses a full-time banquet and conference facility, a grand ballroom (capacity: 1,000) and a member lounge. The property includes a soccer field, a bocce court and a picnic pavilion. The lodge sponsors 10 soccer teams for adults and children, along with hockey, basketball and baseball teams. "We are currently planning to build a 125-unit retirement home on our property," says Joe. Contact him at clubitalia@computan.on.ca or 905/374-7388.

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 ddesanctis@osia.org. Include daytime phone no. Entries not acknowledged and photos not returned unless requested.

Honors & Awards



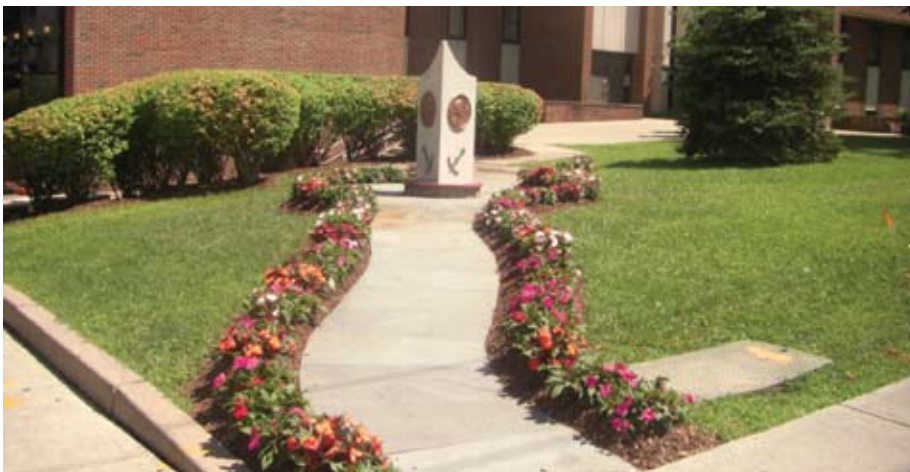
Kevin Caira of the Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli Lodge #2183 in Wilmington, MA, was honored last June by the Italian government with Legion of Merit rank of Cavaliere (Knight) for his efforts promoting Italian culture in America. Italy's Consul General Liborio Stellino presented the award. Kevin Caira is immediate past president of the Grand Lodge of MA.

Peter B. Gay, former OSIA national president (1973-75), celebrated his 93rd birthday July 13 at his summer home in Onset, CT, surrounded by a host of family and friends. During a long and productive career, Mr. Gay served as a city councilor of Taunton, a state representative and assistant district attorney.



Long-time OSIA leader Paul S. Polo, is the new president of the Council of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations. Elected last May at the Council's meeting in New York City, he will serve for two years. A member of the Hartford Lodge in Hartford, CT, Paul has held every national leadership post in OSIA, the CSJ chairman and the SIF. Today, he is the SIF's president emeritus.

CONNECTICUT



Danbury's newest monument to Vespucci and Columbus

Many school children in Danbury didn't know that America was named after Amerigo Vespucci, the 15th century Italian explorer. Now, thanks to the Amerigo Vespucci Lodge #160 the town has a new monument to Vespucci and Columbus.

Unveiled earlier this year in front of City Hall, the monument was the brainchild of former lodge president Frank Cerra. It was designed by Hugo Greco with help from lodge president Bruno Tropeano.