



CALIFORNIA

She is only 15, but **Isabella Novarro** of Antioch is already a prize-winner baker. She walked off with top honors at a recent “Cucidati Contest” hosted by the **Pittsburg Lodge #1976**.

Although the youngest contestant, she mastered these labor-intensive holiday cookies of sweet dough wrapped around a dried fruit filling.



NEW JERSEY



Student Anthony Fiumidinisi, “Father Vic Lodge” sergeant-at-arms

Forty-one students, faculty and college administrators became charter members of the new **Father Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J. Lodge #2847** launched last November at St. Peter’s College in Jersey City. Named for the college’s first Italian American president, it is the only lodge in NJ based at a college, says Lodge President **Salvatore Turchio**, Dean of Students. “Our goal is to recruit college students and other young Italian Americans,” he says. Though not officially affiliated with St. Peter’s, the lodge uses its facilities, services and academic departments to sponsor speakers and other events.

WASHINGTON STATE

Tired of running home from the market to put the ice cream in the freezer, **Nancy Croppi**, president of the **Black Diamond Lodge #1809**, decided to create thermal grocery bags with the Sons of Italy logo to advertise her lodge and raise money for scholarships. Member Amy Kuipers, who owns a sign shop, worked on the project, which now includes T-shirts and environmental bags that have raised nearly \$700 so far. “Our lodge is 71 years old with 82 members,” Croppi says. “My other idea is to do a cookbook of recipes that feed 25 to 100 people for lodges and other groups that hold fund-raising dinners.” Very creative!



Lodge President Nancy Croppi (R) with Amy Kuipers and their projects

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



Foundation Focus

BY ROBERT A. MESSA, PRESIDENT
SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION

This year, our Sons of Italy Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary. The SIF was founded in 1959 as the philanthropic arm of our beloved Order and thanks to your generosity and hard work, it has a remarkable record of giving over the five decades of its existence. Over the past five decades, through the SIF, you have donated nearly \$105 million for medical research, disaster relief, cultural preservation and scholarships.

Through the SIF, you have supported research in Cooley's anemia, Alzheimer's disease, birth defects, lupus, arthritis, cancer, deafness and multiple sclerosis. You've helped victims of earthquakes, floods and other natural catastrophes here and abroad, who have received more than \$5 million.

Through the SIF, you have preserved our heritage. Together with OSIA, it owns and supports the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, the 19th century Staten Island, NY home of Antonio Meucci, who contributed to the invention of the telephone.

The SIF also has funded preserving early Italian American documents, photographs, newspapers, letters as well as OSIA archives in the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

You have enabled the SIF to contribute to the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Assisi's historic cathedral and artwork, damaged in the 1997 earthquake. Through the SIF, you helped establish the National World

War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., contributed to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and have pledged to help establish a memorial in New York City for the victims of 9/11.



You also have helped the SIF raise money for its National Education Grants that send the nation's brightest students of Italian heritage to Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and other outstanding institutions. In March, for example, the SIF donated \$5,000 to the Graziadio/OSIA scholarship to Pepperdine University's MBA program as it has every year since 2000.

The money for those scholarships is raised through the SIF's annual gala, the National Education and Leadership Awards (NELA) dinner in Washington, DC.

This year's NELA is Thursday, May 28. This year we honor chef Mary Ann Esposito; Judge Arthur J. Gajarsa and union leader Robert Scardelletti.

I hope you all will make a donation to this worthy scholarship program. The names of members, lodges and grand lodges that do, will be listed in our commemorative dinner journal. And your donation is tax-deductible. For more information, contact 202/547-2900 or nelagala@osia.org.

Thanks to you, my brothers and sisters, we have much to celebrate on this golden anniversary!

BURN THE MORTGAGE \$100.00+ DONORS

From 12-15-08 to 3-31-09

TOTAL TO DATE: \$24,640.00

GL= Grand Lodge

Name	Amount	Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Cash Donations		Pellegrini Joseph	\$100.00	Del Albano Adelmo	\$100.00
I-09 Plenary Session	\$1,140.00	Rametta Russ	\$100.00	North Haven Sons/Daughters of Italy	
GL ARIZONA		The Arciero Family Trust	\$100.00	Lodge # 2805	\$1,500.00
Albert Bilotti Lodge #2540	\$100.00	Tubiolo Peter C.	\$100.00	GL DELAWARE	
GL CALIFORNIA		GL COLORADO		Prince of Piedmont	
DeSantis Frank & Eileen	\$10,000.00	Cocharo Sam	\$100.00	Lodge # 475	\$100.00
Enrico Caruso Lodge #1463	\$100.00	GL CONNECTICUT		GL FLORIDA	
Fanucchi Edward L.	\$100.00	Angelo Tomasso, Sr.		Carotenuto Bernardo	\$100.00
Landay Peter	\$100.00	Lodge #2165	\$650.00	Simpson Therese	\$1,000.00
Napa Lodge #2043	\$100.00				

continued on page 25