



NEW YORK

“Here in Endicott, they call us ‘The Dukes’,” says Mike Maione, president of the **Duca Degli Abruzzi Lodge #443**, whose 650 members make it the biggest lodge in New York State.

It is also one of the oldest in the nation, having been established in 1915, only 10 years after OSIA was founded in New York City’s Little Italy.

The lodge uses its hall for meetings but also for fund-raising. Here they hold dinner dances, clam bakes, luncheons and parties, using the proceeds for scholarships, donations to Cooley’s Anemia and even the sponsorship of a local little league baseball team. “We never turn away anyone in need,” Maione says. Currently, the lodge also is active in a project to restore the town’s Little Italy.



The Duca Degli Abruzzi Lodge #443 in Endicott, NY

FLORIDA

Students at a high school in Palm Beach Gardens will be the first in the state to study Italian with a certified teacher, thanks in part to the **Cuore d’Italia Lodge #2703** in Jupiter and the **Grand Lodge of Florida**. Together they rallied support for a law requiring proficiency tests for teachers of Italian to insure that students have qualified teachers.

The first to be certified was Myria Rylee, who teaches at William T. Dwyer High School. She was honored at a recent Cuore d’Italia lodge meeting by lodge president **Michael Licata**. So far, 66 students have enrolled in the first Italian class to begin this fall, according to the school principal, Dr. Joseph Lee.



Teacher Myria Rylee and Principal Joseph Lee

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.

VIRGINIA

The **Grand Lodge of Virginia** has lost its president **Josephine Nunnenkamp**, who died suddenly on April 18, 2009. “For many years, Josephine and her husband, Herb worked tirelessly to promote the ideals of OSIA in both the Grand Lodges of New York and Virginia,” says OSIA President Alfred Affinito. “Their devotion and positive spirit always got the job done. What a wonderful team! We will miss her.” Messages of condolence may be sent to her son, Paul Nunnenkamp at 1808 Pimmit Drive, Falls Church, VA 20143.

CORRECTION In the spring issue, we mistakenly reported that New York State Supreme Court Justice Dominic R. Massaro had retired from the bench. We should have said that he retired from the Supreme Council of the Sons of Italy. The editor apologizes for the error.



NEWSWORTHY

- NJ Gov. Jon S. Corzine came to the annual convention of the Sons of Italy's **Grand Lodge of New Jersey** June 22 and gave a speech in which he praised the contributions of Italian Americans, 20% of the state's population. The GL of NJ lobbied heavily for a bill designating October as Italian American Heritage Month says GL of NJ President **Tom Bergbauer**. It was approved in June by the state legislature and now awaits Corzine's signature.
- **James F. Alioto**, of the **Filippo Mazzei Greater Milwaukee Lodge #2763**, has been named one of Milwaukee's 2009 Five Star Wealth Managers by *Milwaukee*

Magazine. It surveyed nearly 40,000 wealthy residents and financial services professionals who evaluated only wealth managers they knew from personal experience. Alioto is a Sr. VP for investments at Alioto Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors in Mequon, WI.

- National At-Large member **Frank Spezzano** of Toronto, Canada, has received a 2009 Spirit of Ontario award from the National Congress of Italian Canadians for his contributions to the arts. A teacher, actor, director and playwright, he has taught drama and English in schools across Ontario for 29 years.

NEW JERSEY

Although he was always proud of his Italian heritage, it was only after joining the **Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge #1658** in his hometown of Hammonton that Jason Massara became curious about how Italy's long struggle for reunification affected average people like his ancestors, who came from Abruzzo, Calabria, Molise and Sicily.

A popular teacher of history and civics at the Hammonton Middle School, Massara used his free time to "pour over texts, maps and other sources of information," he says to produce the essay, *Garibaldi, Mazzini, and Cavour: Modern Nationalism and the Fight to Unite Italy, 1805-1871*. The essay will be placed on the newly renovated OSIA website this fall.

SOUTH CAROLINA

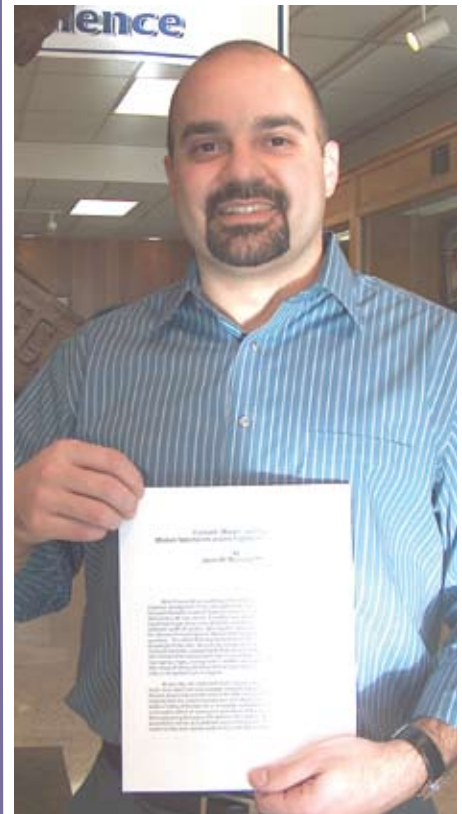
It was only founded three years ago, but already the **Sons of Italy Lodge #2808** in Columbia boasts nearly 200 members. Word about the lodge spread when it held the city's first-ever Italian Festival last year. It drew about 3,500 people and enormous media attention and was part of a public awareness campaign led by then-president Nick Pizutti and a committee of officers.



The lodge also has established a college scholarship for a local student of Italian heritage and hopes to erect its own building and hire a small staff.

The Building Fund will get a boost from this year's festival, scheduled for November 7. It will

feature booths on Italian culture, cuisine, games and other entertainment and is expected to draw about 6,500 adults and children. "We will plan to donate the proceeds to new charities each year," says lodge president Vic Sakellarios, "so that we help many groups and worthy initiatives." See www.osiacolumbiasc.org or call 803/772-0164.



Jason Massara