



WASHINGTON STATE



Members of the **Seattle Fedele Lodge #1390** celebrate their new truck featuring spectacular graphics of Italy and American flags and the Seattle skyline. The lodge promotes charity and fund-raising work throughout the Puget Sound and Northwest by cooking meals for worthy causes.

NEW YORK

Hard to believe but true. Although Rochester has 184,000 Italian Americans the upstate NY city had never held a Columbus Day parade until last year when 20 Italian American groups, including the **Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270**, organized one Oct. 6, 2007.

The lodge floats were a pickup truck and two convertibles, decorated with Italian flags, streamers, balloons and the OSIA banner. Bands played, people cheered and even a brief shower couldn't dampen the crowd's enthusiasm. Next year's will be "bigger and better," the lodge promises.



PENNSYLVANIA

Helping the neediest is more than a mission for members of the **Piazza Nuova Lodge #2665** in Yardley.

Last year, they raised money to help war-torn Bosnians, sent items our troops in Afghanistan and donated more than 100 books, videos and CDs to their local community college.

Now the lodge is helping needy Navajo and Zuni children, reports member **Barbara Lawless** with "gently used" infant and children's clothing, shoes, blankets, school supplies and financial contributions. Other lodges can send their packages to: *Food For Kids, POB 520, Gallup, NM 87305*. "There is overwhelming poverty and many children and babies are in dire need," says Barbara.



American Indian children try on new shoes donated by Piazza Nuova Lodge and other groups.



MICHIGAN

Her last name means “armor” but **Gina Corazza** is anything but protected from the plight of children—especially those with special needs that nobody else wants.

For more than 20 years, she and her late husband were foster parents to 19 children, adopting those that they could and “loving and enjoying the others,” says Gina. Weekends she folded 600 pairs of gym socks and dinnertime was a challenge. “My husband used to call my main dishes ‘Turkish Prison Surprise,’ ” she says.

Now the children are grown, her husband is gone and Gina is reluctant to speak of what she did except to say, “It was very hard, but a wonderful trip and the best thing I ever did in my life.” Gina is a member of the **Ciullo D’Alcamo For Family Heritage Lodge # 2810** in Grand Rapids.

MASSACHUSETTS



To remind their community of Italian American contributions, the **Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli Lodge #2183** in Wilmington, mounted a library exhibit for October 2007’s Italian American Heritage Month in their local public library.

Among those who helped organize the exhibit were members **Laura Cairra**, **Kathleen Marikar** and **Michelle Nortonen** seen here admiring their handiwork.

NORTH CAROLINA

OSIA has 135 new members in two new lodges launched late last year. The first is the **Giovanni da Verrazano Lodge #2840** in Greensboro, established in October, 2007 with 60 members. Its president is **Mark Madonia**, a young attorney.

The second is the **San Giovanni #2837** in Charlotte, launched in November with 75 members. President is **Giovanni Gambino**. OSIA First VP **Joe DiTrapani** traveled to both lodges for the inauguration ceremonies. North Carolina now has four OSIA lodges. *Benvenuti*



New North Carolina Lodge presidents **Giovanni Gambino (L.)** and **Mark Madonia (R.)** with OSIA’s **Joe DiTrapani (C.)**.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Cancer survivor **Linda Biondi**, has received a regional courage award from the American Cancer Society for undergoing 33 radiation treatments. She was chosen for her positive attitude and volunteer work. Linda belongs to the **Charles Bonaparte Lodge #2504** in Cape Coral, FL.
- Talent *in abbondanza* is how her lodge describes **Anne Wilson Manzo**, opera composer/lyricist and voice teacher. A 20-year member of the **American-Italian Club Lodge #2172** in Spokane, WA, Anne is finishing a musical comedy, “Totò,” set in New York City during the San Gennaro Feast in the 1970s.
- The **Filippo Mazzei Lodge #2763** in Milwaukee, WI can

boast two published authors: **Gary D’Amato**, a sports writer for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, whose fourth and latest book, “The Proof is in the Putting,” with Jerry Korter, earned him a first place award in 2005 from the Golf Writers Association of America. And **James Quarto**, whose novel, “The Stewards of South Beach” is about a mission to prevent the end of the world. Both are available on amazon.com.

- And in Massachusetts, **Mario Pagnoni** in the **Lawrence Lodge #902** has turned his love of bocce into action. He wrote and published *The Joy of Bocce 2nd Edition* to promote the game and also runs charity bocce tournaments. A recent event raised over \$34,000 for Alzheimer’s research. -DDS