

MOVERS & SHAKERS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Hayfield Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia has been adopted by the OSIA subordinate **International Lodge #2522**, reports lodge president **Nunzia "Nancy" Hurst**. The lodge will contribute books on Italy and Italian Americans to the school library and help expand the school's growing Italian language program. In October, the lodge will hold an Italian program at the local public library.

MARYLAND

For nearly 20 years, the city of Towson near Baltimore, had no Italian festival, but thanks to the 120 members of the **Towson-Dulany Lodge #2292** this tradition has been revived.

Led by lodge president **Tony Sala** and lodge member **Tony Fusco** and supported by County Executive **Jim Smith**, the lodge organized a two-day street festival Aug. 7-8 that drew an estimated 30,000 people to 84 booths of food, crafts and art; children's pony rides and college bands--all reported by the local media.

The **Grand Lodge of Maryland** booth attracted new members and the lodge raised \$22,500 for its scholarship fund. "We focused on family and heritage," says Fusco. "And all pulled together to make this a success." *Contact Tony Fusco at 1-410/296-5400 ext. 200 or tony.fusco@lpl.com.*

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi public schools K-12 may soon have an Italian language and culture program, thanks to the efforts of **David Gratta**, an OSIA at-large member, who founded the non-profit Italian Language & Culture Foundation in Hattiesburg.

Gratta arranged a high-level meeting last August with **Gianfranco Colognato**, consul general of Italy in Miami, **Gov. Haley Barbour**, **Rep. Lee Jarrell Davis** and other key legislators and members of the state's board of ed to discuss the program.

Over 3,000 students in Florida are currently enrolled in a similar program, funded in part by Italy's Ministry of Education. *Contact David Gratta at 601/268 3191 or email him at DavidMGratta@webtv.net*

NEW YORK

***BLUE HEAVEN.** A glass goblet designed by At-Large Member George Ranalli was fabricated and exhibited at the Murano Glass Museum in Venice, Italy last year. Ranalli is an award-winning architect in New York City. Contact him at 212.255.6263 or see georgeranalli.com*

RHODE ISLAND

Too young to join his father's lodge bocce team, **Anthony Gianfrancesco**, age 14, started a bocce league of his own for girls and boys ages 8 to 14, under the auspices of the **Grand Lodge of Rhode Island**.

For ten weeks this summer, nearly 50 youngsters learned to play this ancient Roman game and showed up for the weekly game. As a side benefit, three of the kids' parents joined the Sons of Italy. Plans are underway to expand the program next year, says Gianfrancesco, Sr. *Contact Anthony Gianfrancesco at 401/353 7157.*

SOUTH CAROLINA

The needy in Myrtle Beach will find more food on their plates this year, thanks to the **Leo Darrigo Lodge #2662** whose members donated \$3,500 to the Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach, reports lodge president Joseph Crisalli. The funds were raised through a golf tournament the lodge hosted for almost 100 golfers. Funds raised also will benefit the lodge's building fund.

The tournament was followed by the lodge's awards dinner/dance and raffle attended by 140 guests. Photo articles of the inaugural event were carried in two local newspapers. "Plans are already underway for the second Annual Tournament next year!," Crisalli says.

WISCONSIN

Tips on creating a family web site come from **Joseph Podlesnik** of the **Filippo Mazzei Lodge #2763** in Milwaukee. Joe suggests dividing the family into branches; organizing the family list according to birth rank, from oldest to youngest; and assigning people to collect info on births, marriages, deaths for each person in each branch. Joe got help from cousins **Joe Emanuele and Vickie Emanuele-Werner**. For ideas, visit their site www.emanuelefamily.com.