



PENNSYLVANIA

Among its 200-plus members, the Benvenuto Lodge #2572 in Havertown, PA counts an unusually high number of published authors, including LISA SCOTTOLINE, the noted mystery writer; ROBERT MELZI, author of the world-famous New College Italian/English Dictionary; FRED PETRONE, [The Developmental Kindergarten]; NICHOLAS PATRUNO, [Understanding Primo Levi]; ERMINIO BRAIDOTTI [An Introduction to Latin America]; FRANK SALVATORE [Janus: Two Countries, Two Love Stories] and DAN De SIMONE [Suffer the Children: Growing Up in Italy During WW II].

Other member/authors in PA include:

- EVAN NARDONE, of the Francesco F. Concordia Lodge #454 I Connellsville, PA, has translated Italian folktales and legends in an illus-

trated booklet, Tell a Tale Kids Collectibles, for children age 9 through 12 and reads them to schools in his area. Call him at 724/628-6909.

- JACK A. PANELLA, a judge in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and president of the Judge Richard Grifo Lodge #30 in Easton, PA, authored The Sexual Violence Benchbook, a landmark reference guide for judges and lawyers in rape trials. All judges, and college and law libraries in PA have received copies.



Judge Jack Panella (L) offers a copy of his book to a librarian in the PA law library.

NEW YORK

“With a little luck, OSIA may have as a member the next mayor of New York City,” says Tony Avella. A member of the Marcus Aurelius Italian Tradition Lodge #2321 in Flushing, Avella announced his bid for mayor in June. Currently he serves on the City Council and chairs the council’s Italian American Caucus, which he helped found. See www.tonyavellaformayor.com for details.



OSIA member Tony Avella, campaigning for NYC mayor.

FLORIDA

Soon the state’s Board of Education will require teachers of Italian to pass oral and written certification exams in order to teach the language, thanks to the successful lobbying of the Grand Lodge of Florida, reports Edward Mottola, Jr., the grand lodge 2nd V.P. largely responsible for the victory.

The long battle began in 2007 when the grand lodge learned that

teachers in Florida must pass the state certification exam in their subject, but because there was none in Italian, there was a shortage of Italian teachers.

Ed led the grand lodge efforts to lobby State Representative Maria Lorts Sachs of Delray Beach and state senator Paula Dockery, who each introduced legislation for the Italian

certification exam.

Then he garnered support from other elected state officials, educators, teachers’ unions, other Italian American organizations and executives in the business world. Gov. Charlie Crist signed the bill into law on June 30th and now Florida’s students will have competent teachers helping them learn la nostra lingua!

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



MASSACHUSETTS

MARY FASANO, Harvard University's oldest graduate, passed away on October 12, 2007 at age 99. In 1998, when she was 89, Mary graduated from Harvard's Division of Continuing Education after 18 years of classes. Taken out of school when she was 12 to work in a factory, she later married, raised five children and held three jobs to send them all to college before returning to school for her high school diploma at age 71. She leaves 20 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren. Mary belonged to the Braintree Ladies Lodge #1422 "and never missed a meeting," says daughter Marta Fasano Googins. Harvard honored her memory at its graduation exercises in June.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Goose Creek has a new lodge, the Salvatore Muscarella Lodge #2842 which was launched in April by OSIA 1ST VP Joe DiTrapani. In a suburb of Charleston, the lodge has about 40 members and brings to five the number of lodges in the state. Benvenuti!



(L. to R.) Lodge president Gene Aulura with Salvatore Muscarella, (age 90); DiTrapani and Tom DeRussa.

Honors & Awards

- CHARLES BERNARDINI, ESQ, an OSIA National At-Large Member in Chicago, was named one of Illinois' "Super Lawyers" for 2008. It's the 4th consecutive year he has received this recognition, given to only 5% of Illinois's lawyers. He is with the firm Ungaretti & Harris.
- JOE COLANTUONI, a trustee in the Sons of Italy Lodge #2474 in Ocean City, MD, has written *The Surfmaster* and *The Melody of the Soul*, novels that explore the universal issues of life, death and the nature of the soul. Available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.
- JOE FIORENTINO, a deputy sheriff in Cook County, IL and an OSIA National At-Large Member, won first place in recent martial arts contests for grappling and jiu-jitsu so far this year. In the grappling contest, he beat a 308-pound opponent who outweighed him by 90 pounds. Grappling is similar to

- Judo and wrestling. In his spare time, Joe trains local Boy Scout troops in self-defense.
- CHRISTINA LUNA, of the Shoreline Sons and Daughter of Italy Lodge #2792 in Westbrook, CT, was chosen by singer Michael Bolton to join his chorus last December for *Clash of the Choirs*, a reality talent contest miniseries on NBC. Bolton and four other celebrity singers held open auditions in their hometowns and picked the top 20 singers for each choir. Luna's team came in fourth, winning \$50,000 for its charity, the Domestic Violence Services of New Haven.
- ORLANDO MAIONE, an OSIA National At-Large member, has been elected the 2008 president of the American Institute of Architects New York State. A Notre Dame graduate, he is one of the nation's first board-certified healthcare architects.

OREGON

The state may have only about 112,000 Italian Americans, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, but OSIA has a lodge there that is making sure its community knows about us. After reading about Peter Miller's award-winning documentary on Sacco and Vanzetti in *Italian America Magazine*, Richard Rosco, Richard Pastega and the 80 members of the Camelia-Colombo Lodge #1294 in Klamath Falls, bought the DVD and arranged for a free showing (with popcorn) at the local public library. The library's Christy Davis designed a poster announcing the event and the

lodge also donated material on Italian culture to the library. The lodge, formed in 1924, is one of the oldest on the West coast. *Bravissimi!*



(L. to R.) Richard Pastega and Christy Davis with Richard and Anna Rosco. (Photo: David White)