



NEWSLETTER SEPT./OCTOBER, 2014

"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY"



ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA WATSONVILLE LODGE #2016

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Janey Leonardich
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT: Frank Nigro III
ORATOR: Robert Moresco
REC. SECRETARY: Deborah Logan
FIN. SECRETARY: Lester Pedrazzini
TREASURER: Nancy Prevedelli
SENTINEL: Ray Pini

PLEASE NOTE:

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE THURS., SEPT.18, AT THE WATSONVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB, 12 BRENNAN STREET, WATSONVILLE. DINNER WILL BE AT 6:00 P.M., MEETING AT 7:00. WE WILL HOLD THE INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS AT THE START OF THE MEETING. OUR STATE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, JOE SIMONE, WILL OFFICIATE FOR THE INITIATION OF 16 NEW MEMBERS. DINNER FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION WILL BE PASTA FROM OUR FAVORITE, GINO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT. IF WE DON'T CATCH YOU WHEN WE MAKE OUR CALLS FOR THIS MONTH, PLEASE CALL US BACK IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, SO WE'RE SURE TO HAVE ENOUGH FOOD. PLEASE RSVP TO LOIS HAGEN, 728-3347 OR MARIE GOUKER, 724-0215. THE COST OF DINNER IS \$8 FOR MEMBERS. \$10 FOR GUESTS.

UPCOMING WATSONVILLE LODGE EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Place
Thurs., Sept. 18	6:00 pm	Dinner	Watsonville Women's Club
	7:00 pm	Initiation of New Members Meeting	12 Brennan St., Watsonville
Thurs., Oct. 16	6:00 pm	Dinner - Speaker: PV Historical Association – Gerry Martin	Watsonville Women's Club
	7:00 pm	Meeting	12 Brennan St., Watsonville
Thurs., Nov. 20	5:30 pm	Chamber of Commerce Mixer	Watsonville Women's Club
	7:30 pm	Meeting	12 Brennan St.. Watsonville



BUON COMPLEANNI! September honorees include Frank Nigro, Ginny Yappert, Mary Kashtan, Dick Cecil, Aldo Marchi, Pat Scudero, Elena Tufo, John Mancini, honorary member Jim Mussler, and our super Junior members Taylor Noonan, Ellie Loustalot, Jessica Stief & Julianna Miraglia-Castillo. October honorees are Diva Lea Belli, Marsha Marani, Steve Bennett, Paolo Zuffanelli, Kathleen Byrne, and another wonderful Junior member Ben Brenkwitz. Happy birthday, all! If I missed anyone, humble apologies.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mon., Sept. 1: Labor Day
Sun., Sept. 21: International Peace Day
Tues., Sept. 23: First Day of Autumn
Wed., Sept. 24: Rosh Hashana begins
Mon., Oct. 13: Columbus Day Observed



FILIAL LODGE MEETINGS:

LODGE	EVENT	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Salinas Lodge 2082	Meeting	2 nd Wednesday	7:00 pm	Madonna del Sasso
Monterey Lodge 2003	Business Mtg.	2 nd Tuesday	6:00 pm	Laura Davis, Atty. 200 Camino Aguajito, Mont.
Monterey Lodge 2003	Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	6:00 pm	Black Bear Diner 2450 Fremont St.. Seaside

DID YOU KNOW?

Louis Zamperini was an Italian-American hero who is finally receiving the national recognition he deserves. He was born Jan. 26, 1917, in Olean, New York (about 5 miles from where I grew up). His family moved to Torrance, California in 1919. He and his family spoke no English when they moved to California, and he was small for his age, so he was often bullied and beaten. His father taught him how to box to defend himself, and soon he was becoming aggressive toward the bullies. To counteract the trouble he was getting into, his older brother Pete got him involved in the school's track team. At the end of his Freshman year at Torrance High School, Louis finished 5th in the All City C-division (for smaller students) 660 yard run. Winning track meets brought him recognition and respect, and he became fanatic about running. He was undefeated in cross country his last three years of high school. In 1934 he set a world interscholastic record for the mile run, 4:21.2. That record helped him win a scholarship to USC. At 19 he qualified for a berth in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany. Louis finished 8th in the 5,000 meter run, but had the fastest final lap. Adolf Hitler was so impressed he insisted on a personal meeting. Two years later, Louis set a national collegiate mile record of 4:08. His record held for 15 years, and he was known as the "Torrance Tornado".

In Sept., 1941, Louis enlisted in the US Army Air Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was deployed in the Pacific as a bombardier on a B-24. While on a search for lost aircraft and crews, mechanical difficulties caused his plane to crash into the ocean, killing eight of the eleven men aboard. One of the survivors died after 33 days. Louis and the other survivor endured 47 days at sea, drifting 2,000 miles drinking rain water and eating raw fish, after which they landed in the Marshall Islands, where they were immediately captured by the Japanese Navy. They were held in a prison camp for captives who were not registered as POW's. He was listed by the Americans as missing at sea, and later as killed in action. He was starved, severely beaten, tortured and generally mistreated until the end of the war in 1945, when he was eventually released and returned home to a hero's welcome.

The rest of his life is a fascinating and inspirational story of survival, faith and triumph over great odds. If you want to learn more, watch for the release of "Unbroken," a movie of his life produced and directed by Angelina Jolie. It's based on the book of the same name written by Laura Hillenbrand in 2010. Louis passed away in Los Angeles July 3, 2014, at the age of 97.

Lois Hagen, from "Wikipedia" and "ItalianAmerican" Summer 2014 Issue.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

We are all so looking forward to initiating 16 new members at our upcoming September meeting. I wish to thank all our members for recruiting such great new members. To me that means you are satisfied with our lodge, think enough of it to talk about it with others, and want to share our good times with your friends. This is possible because we all get along so well. When rancor and dissension exist in an organization, it is going to fail. We share common goals and recognize the importance of keeping our Italian heritage alive. It's very important to us to have a group where we can mingle and share ideas with folks who understand our shared heritage and experience. We know we need to keep improving our lodge and change with the times, but I am so very proud that when our members do have disagreements we discuss them amicably, and all accept the majority decision. Thank you all! New members to be initiated are: Susan Jacobs, Ralph Jacobs, Victoria Dubinski, Dick Cecil, Maria Teresa Rodriguez, Bob DiGrazia, Lucas DiGrazia, John Mancini, Analisa Barca-Hall, Victor Marani, Marsha Marani, Cheyenne Marani, Jasmine Marani, Della Schnorf, Nita Gizdich and applicant Peter DiGregorio. Several of our current members were unable to attend their initiations, and you are welcome to join our new members in this initiation. These include Lou Testaguzza, Casey Clark, Bob Farmer, Giulianna Miraglia Castillo, Pascal Anastasi, Ron DeBenedetti, Peter Delfino, Terry Medina, and Gina and Justice Locatelli. Hope you can all make it!

We're planning our first ever Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer at our November meeting. The Olive Connection in Santa Cruz will provide a tasting and demonstration. We hope to foster more community awareness of Sons of Italy, and recruit new members. We'll be planning it over the next two meetings. See you Thursday, Sept. 18!

Ciao!
Dave Delfino
President

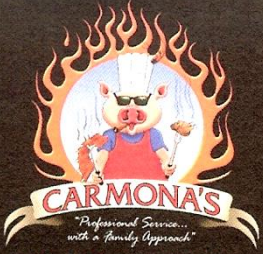


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