



Roma
Lodge 1573
ORDER
Sons and Daughters of Italy
IN AMERICA

Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

November-2025

Changing Traditions

Pictured at the right are **Charlie Pitigliano** and **Ken Curti** at the **2019** ravioli dinner at the TDES Hall in Tulare. It is hard to believe that it



has been six years since this picture was taken. Both

Charlie and Kenny are still heavily involved in the dinner either selling tickets or making sauce.

If you have your copy of the June 2019 issue of the **LeNotizie** you will



see that because of the heat in May, Mother's Day and the venue, I suggested we think about having the dinner on **Columbus Day** weekend to correspond with **Italian Heritage** month and move it to the IAC Social Hall. Little did we know that Covid would hit in 2020 and we have been having the dinner in October since 2023.

This was only the third year we have had the dinner at the farm show and it was a huge success. We had over 50 lodge members help with selling tickets, cooking food, serving or doing cleanup. We have a good list of suggestions for next year and we can start a new tradition for the next 80 plus years!



Ivy Sola puts on the sauce.

Another change that has been made is to have all of our lodge members eat their ravioli dinner after we are done with the drive through. Many of our members work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. cooking, serving our cleaning up after the dinner. However, thanks to **Joyce Hofstee** and **Karen DeGroot** they put together a great buffet of meatballs, snack, dips and desserts for our members to enjoy.



We had one of our customers who said the salad was the best part of the dinner. Special thanks to **Leslie DePaoli** who stepped in to organ-

ize putting together over 600 salads. Leslie organized the process, had the salads ready to be put into the refrigerator and ready to be placed in takeout bags ready to go out the door. Junior member **Giada Pitigliano** took care of getting the salads to and from the refrigerator. Special thanks to all the members who came down to help. **Great Job!**



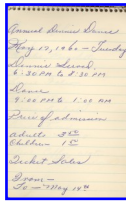
November Meeting
Monday
November 3, 2025
IAC Social Hall
6 P.M.
Polenta and Stew
DePaoli Family Dinner Hosts

"Lest we forget"

Presidents Message

"Lest we forget" is a phrase meaning "it should not be forgotten."

Pictured on the right is the notebook from ravioli dinner kept by **Lupe Briano**, in 1960. The notes outline all the planning for the dinner at a price of \$3.50 per adult.



These two guys, **Ken Curti and Charlie Pitigliano** have been past chairs of the event for many years and still are heavily involved in the dinner. Kenny sold **194** tickets himself and Charlie still oversees the making of the sauce along with his sons **Josh, Dominic and Michael**.

Roma Lodge has come a long way since we hosted 1,250 people at our 25th dinner at the Tulare Fair Grounds which featured dancing and homemade ravioli for only \$3 per person.



If we go back 25 years our dinner chairs were **Nancy and Charlie Pitigliano** along with **Mary Louise Yribarren**. Charlie and Nancy were instrumental in this years dinner

showing that many of our members have a long history of organizing our dinner. If you look at the pictures from back then you will see members like Josh Pitigliano who was just a kid helping make sauce. For over 85 years the lodge has promoted our Italian Culture to the people of Tulare County. Have times and traditions changed. YES!



Do we have members today with enough time to grow flowers to decorate tables, make homemade ravioli, have junior members dress up in heavily starched butler outfits to serve our great meal and provide dancing for our patrons? For the time being those days are gone so we need to start new traditions to keep up with lifestyle changes.

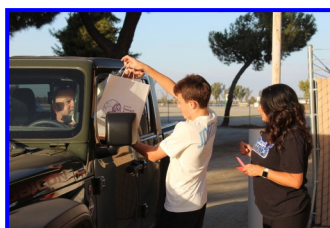
What hasn't changed is our memberships willingness to step forward and do their part to put on a successful event. We had over 50 members who helped put on a great meal for our community. Special thanks goes to **Dominic and Josh Pitigliano** and all those members who spent all day making 65 gallons of delicious sauce for our ravioli. It takes a lot of time to order supplies, set-up stoves and cleanup after the drive-thru. **And it is still harvest season!**



Michael DePaoli for getting the chicken, seasoning and barbecuing it. Also we need to thank all those who helped. **One patron indicated that it was the**

best chicken he had every had and it was cooked to perfection.

Amie Pitigliano, Leslie DePaoli and Nancy Pitigliano were instrumental in making the salads, organizing the serving lines and getting the takeout bags to our customers. We need to remember this was only our 3rd year of having our dinner at the IAC social hall and our younger members are taking charge and perfecting our takeout process.



Anica and Mark Gentry along with sons **Aiden** and **Austin** are perfecting their expertise in handling the drive-thru. We sold nearly 40 extra meals the night of the dinner even having cus-

tomers who had pull-pork tickets who decided they would rather have a ravioli dinner.

We want to thank all of our members who sold tickets, cooked, served food or helped out in anyway to make our dinner a success. As our younger members build new traditions for our dinner in the future it will be exciting!

Juniors, Add Your Name To The List!

The following junior members have contacted **Giulia Watkins** and indicated they would like to be Charter Members of the **Roma Lodge #1573 Junior Ambassadors**.

Giulia Watkins
Adelyn Watkins
Isabel Daramy
Giada Pitigliano
Wes Pitigliano
Taylor Dutto
Austin Gentry



In 1930 a group of Italian Immigrants, who lived in Tulare County, stepped forward and became Charter Members of Roma Lodge #1573. These young people can look back in another 95 years and say they were charter members of Roma Lodge Junior Ambassadors. Contact Giulia Watkins at giuliamwatkins@gmail.com or by texting her at **1-559-848-7089**. The group has decided you must be at least 10-years old to be an ambassador so get signed up ASAP. Remember we are going to let them decide what a Roma Lodge Junior Ambassador is going to do!

No Horsing Around!



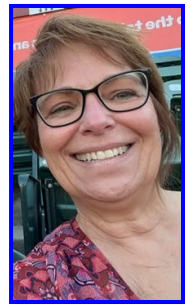
COS Women's Equine Team!

(L-R) Suhey Gonzalez, Kim Pitigliano-Professor/Coach, Payton Echevarria, Elle Dawson, Ashtyn Perry, Maddy Nevels, Laci Stone.

*There was no horsing around when it came time for the COS Equine group to work at our ravioli dinner. They took care of a complete serving line and then helped cleanup all the pots, pans and utensils after the drive through. Coach **Kim Pitigliano** is a Roma Lodge member. Talk about showcasing the Italian Culture, **Suhey Gonzalez** of the team had never eaten ravioli in her life! She loved them!*

It's Not A 1-Day Affair!

For the over 50 lodge members who help serve over 700 ravioli dinners it was a long day. However for several members it became a month long activity. **Renee Marinelli** it started with numbering tickets, distributing them to members and then trying to track what tickets were sold, paid for and returned. Not an easy task. Special thanks to Renee for taking on such a big task.



Kathy Briano starts weeks in advance gathering boxes to put the salads in, shops for good prices on butter and then helps bag the bread to put in the takeout bags. She has many, many years of helping organize the dinner.



Sunshine News!

Lorraine Cleek is still recovering from back surgery. We want to wish all Roma Lodge members who are having health issues a rapid return to full health. If you know someone who is sick, had an accident or recent surgery, contact **Joann Beecher at 559-260-4156 so she can send them a card from the lodge.**

Lodge Directory Changes

Renee Marinelli-1-559-280-1491

Ravioli for sale!

We have a few pounds of Armani-no's beef ravioli to sell. \$5 per pound and they will be available at the November meeting. First come first served!



Correction!

In last months edition of the **LeNotizie** I wrote an article about encouraging our junior members to apply for Grand Lodge Scholarships. I mentioned there was a recipient a couple of years ago from Tulare who was not a member of our lodge and I wasn't sure if she was of Italian descent. I was called by Grand Lodge President, **Mark Vaona** who indicated he looked up the application and her mother is of Italian Descent. **I stand corrected!**



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Director

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November Birthdays
Bring your raffle prizes!
We will sell raffle tickets at 3 for a \$1 and a 50/50 raffle each month.

Your Roma Lodge Officers 2025-2026

President	Larry Dutto (901-4683)
Vice President	Justin Curti-(906-9109)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Renee Marinelli (732-8258)
Financial Sec.	Giovanna DePaoli (361-0640)
Orator	Anthony Chiaramonte (217-4055)
Historian	Melissa Watkins (361-0811)
Guard	Frank Marinelli (802-0611)
Past President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Chaplain	Nicole Taylor (804-7056)

Trustees

Louie Benedetti	(827-1492)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins-Chair	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)

Mistress of Ceremony

Joann Beecher (688-8380)

November Meeting
Monday, November 3rd!
6 p.m.



Polenta & Stew
DePaoli Family
Dinner Hosts