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IN AMERICA
Roma Lodge #1573

Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

May-2025

Roma Lodge 95th Anniversary

In May of 1930 Italian Immigrants, who settled in Tulare County, came together to form Roma Lodge. Meeting at the Tulare Women's Club House, which still sits on E. Tulare Avenue, 115 charter members were initiated into the lodge.

Now, some 95 years later we need to come together to celebrate their accomplishments as we have many members today, whose parents and grandparents were part of those charter members.

If you want to attend, here are the basics:

Sunday-May 4th
IAC Social Hall

11:30 AM-Appetizers

12:00 Noon-Lunch-Beef, pasta, salad bar.

12:45 Presentation of Milestone Memberships

1:15 PM-Bocce Tournament

3:00 PM-Cleanup

Must Do:

RSVP-April 26, 2025 to Melissa Watkins by email, mdepaoliwat@gmail.com , text or call to 1-559-361-0811

Cost-\$10 for Roma Lodge members, \$25 for Guests. Junior members under 18 years of age are Free.

Bocce Tournament-Adults & Juniors

Teams consist of 4 players

Must register with Matt Watkins by the 26th-mattwat007@gmail.com or text or call 1-559-647-7161.

\$20 entry fee per team, Winners get trophy, 70% of the pot, second place get 20% of the pot and 3rd place 10% and losers get a piece of humble pie!

Our co-chairs for the event are **Melissa Watkins, Michael DePaoli and Dominic Pitigliano**. Give them a call or text them and let them know how you can help. **Karen DeGroot and Joyce Hofstee** will be handling the desserts for the day so we are planning on having a great meal and a fun day as we celebrate our 95 years of Italian History in Tulare County.



Farmers of the Year
Vince, Pam, Vinny & Steven Sola

If you were able to attend the **Tulare Kiwanis Club** annual **Farmer of the Year** banquet, one thing was apparent. Their honoree, **Vince Sola**, spoke eloquently about the fact that "**It was not all about me**" but the **Sola Family**, their employees, friends and neighbors along with agriculture businesses who provide services to agriculture who deserved the honor of being selected as the Farmer of the Year.

The program featured a list of past recipients who read like a **Who's Who** of Roma Lodge members of have achieved such a great honor. Starting in 1960 with past Roma Lodge president **Miro Curti**, followed in 1985 with **Amelio Curti**, 1999 **Charlie Pitigliano Jr.**, 2004 **Louie Clarot** and in 2005 **Jeff Curti, Ben Curti, Ken Curti and Phillip Curti**.

This long list of past honorees is testament to the long history of Roma Lodge in the Tulare Community. Many of our charter members were farmers and dairymen in Tulare and built the foundation of the community. As Italian Immigrants to the area they were more than elated to become American Citizens, work hard and build their future as Americans. We all need to be proud of our Italian Heritage.

Let Us Not Forget

Presidents Message

As we get ready to celebrate Roma Lodge's 95th anniversary we all need to remember those who came before us to carry on the Italian Culture in Tulare County. It is often said, "**Out of sight, out of mind**" as we soon forget many of our members who because of age or health reasons can no longer participate in lodge activities.

A few months ago I received a call from **Gary Giraudi** who is a 52-year member of the lodge. He told me how he enjoyed reading the **Le-Notizie** each month. At right is a picture of Gary and his wife Karlin dancing at the ravioli dinner back in 2005. Gary lives in Porterville and always enjoyed coming to the dinner each year and dancing at the event.



Unfortunately, **Karlin Giraudi** passed away on March 16th. She was a member of the lodge for 48 years and was very active in the Porterville community. She was honored as the Volunteer of the Year in 2013. Teaching for 30 years at St. Anne's and Woodville Elementary schools she enjoyed giving back to her

community by being a member of several clubs and organizations giving of her time and resources to help others in Porterville.

For many, many years you could find **Theresa Blua** along with close friend **Angie Milanesio** on the serving line at the Roma Lodge annual ravioli dinner. Theresa passed away on



March 18th. Theresa celebrated her 50-years of membership in Roma Lodge last year and was very active in the lodge for many years until her poor health prevented her from attending lodge activities. Roma Lodge members will gather to bid our final farewell

to Theresa on Friday, April 18th at 11 a.m. at the Lindsay Cemetery.

At our April meeting we had the privilege of watching the Farmer of the Year video presentation when the **Sola Family** was honored. It was a great presentation of the success of the family in farming which started back in the late 1880's and early 1900's. More importantly it told the story of early Italian Immigrants coming to America and how they assimilated into the American Culture and way of life.

It was not an easy journey and many were subjected to very difficult economic times in which many would never recover. Those who worked hard and suffered many hardships became successful and prospered in their new country.

We all need to remember that Roma Lodge was formed to encourage the many Italian Immigrants who came to Tulare County, to become American Citizens. The Sola Family is just one example of these families who have become the leaders of the Tulare community.

As we get ready to celebrate our 95th anniversary we all need to remember those who have come before us and gather in their memory. All of us can relate to our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who worked so hard to build a life for their families and a better life for their children and grandchildren.

Many of us who are long time members had our dues paid by our parents or grand parents and most have passed that tradition along by paying our children and grandchildren's dues. I would encourage every family to make their own video of their family history before all of those that who knew those early hardships, like **Frances Sola-Della** was able to share for the Sola Family. Frances will be celebrating her 96th birthday in June and is a wealth of information about the early days of the Sola Family. If you have someone in your family asked them about their early family history in America after coming here from Italy. It will be a truly interesting and informative conversation!



Milestone Memberships

Roma Lodge will be celebrating our 95th Anniversary and meeting with a special celebration and meeting on Sunday, May 4th. Below are listed the members who will be celebrating membership milestones in membership. The lodge honors those members in 5-year increments with special recognition and picture taking.

5 Year Members

Michael Chiaramonte, Nolan Clark

10 Year Members

David Borba, Navin Curti, Domenica Curti, Amelia Dutto, Mark Gentry, Kevin Hofstee, Amy Perry, Isabelle Perry, Kage Perry, Mia Perry, Mackenzie Perry-Silva, Kaitlyn Pinkerton, Robert Pinkerton, Juliana Saltzman, Nolan Saltzman

15 Year Members

Ben Filiponi, Joyce Hofstee, Roger Maraist, Clay Moffett, Antonio Solari, John Solari, Matt Watkins

20 Year Members

Jon Bassett, Bert Berra, Camryn Berra, Drew Berra, Lora Berry, Sally Berra-Scalia, Janie Blackwell, Kevin Blackwell, Cari Clark, Ashlie Clark, Craig Clark, Cris Clark, Julie Clark, AJ Cuelho, Caysen Cuelho, Evie Cuelho, Dayton Pitigliano, Kelsie Pitigliano, Delaney Shaw, Jason Shaw

25 Year Members

Trudi Briano, Amanda Luis, Kyle Parreira

30 Year Members

Maci Daramy, Natalie Maness, Arlene Parreira, Randy Parreira, Wade Parreira, Kim Pitigliano, Steven Sola, Vincent J. Sola

35 Year Members

Angela DeRose, Anthony DeRose, Melissa Watkins

45 Year Members

Louis Benedetti, Tom Evans, Lisa Shaw, Kim Solari

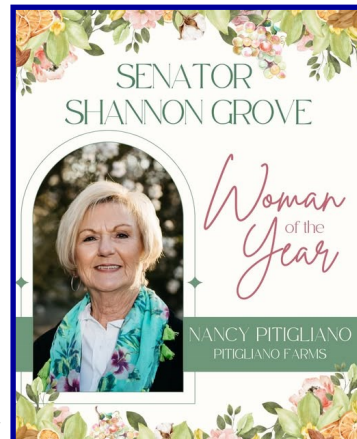
60 Year Members

Mary Jean Kronbetter, Marlene Peterson

If you think you have a milestone membership certificate due this year and do not see your name listed above let us know. Simply email larrydutto@yahoo.com or text 559-901-4683 and we will make sure we get you your certificate.



Nancy Pitigliano was honored as the Woman of the Year by **Senator Shannon Grove** of the 12th District representing Tulare, Fresno and Kern Counties. Nancy is a 46-year member of Roma Lodge and along with husband Charlie are big supporters of the lodge. Shannon Grove states, "A lifelong advocate for agriculture, Nancy and her husband Charlie have been farming in Tulare and Kings County for nearly 48 years. She has served in leadership roles with the Tulare County Farm Bureau, California Women for Agriculture, and on state water policy committees - all while raising a family and giving back to her community. Her dedication to agriculture, public service, and preserving her heritage makes her truly deserving of this honor. **Congratulations, Nancy!**"



Sunshine News!

Bad Breaks! Roma Lodge Junior Members and sisters **Isabel** and **Gianna Daramy** suffered a couple of bad breaks recently. Gianna (pictured right) suffered a broken collarbone doing some acrobatic moves at school. Isabel broke her wrist playing soccer and required surgery to fix the broken bones. Both are now on their way to a full recovery. If you know someone who is dealing with health issues contact **Joann Beecher at 559-260-4156** so she can send them a card from the lodge.



95th Anniversary
RSVP-April 26, 2025 to
Melissa Watkins by email,
mdepaoliwat@gmail.com , text
or call to 1-559-361-0811



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Vice President	Louie Benedetti (827-1492)
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)
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95th Anniversary Celebration & May Meeting

Sunday, May 4th-2025

11:30 AM-Appetizers
12:00 Noon-Lunch-Beef, pasta, salad bar.
12:45 Presentation of Milestone Memberships
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RSVP by April 26, 2025

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Members-\$10

Guests-\$25

Juniors-Free