



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

August-2014

## Grand Lodge Convention

Roma Lodge was well represented at the Grand Lodge Convention in June in Millbrae, California. President Nick Canata could not attend because of a recent illness and was replaced by Vice President **David DePaoli** and lodge **Chaplain Giovanna DePaoli**. Others attending included our lodge queen **Isabella Benedetti**, who was crowned "Miss California" as part of the queens pageant. Others attending were **Tina Sparlin, Karen Pedroncelli, Morgan Sparlin, Gianna Benedetti, Louis and Tiffany Benedetti**.



*Roma Lodge Delegation at the Grand Lodge Convention!*

## Roma Lodge Scholarship Winners!

The August meeting will be devoted to honoring the Roma Lodge Scholarship winners. Join us in honoring them for their efforts on Monday, August 4th. **Here are the winners and their stories in their own words:**

### **Isabella Benedetti-\$1,000-Tulare Western**

My paternal great grandparents were born in Tuscany, Italy and with hard work and sacrifice were able to immigrate to the town of San Francisco and make a life for themselves here in America. Their determination inspires me to continue my education this fall at California Polytechnic State University, where I will major in Nutrition. Upon graduation, I plan on interning and completing additional course in order to receive my Registered Dietician License. With my degree in hand, I hope to return to improve the health and fitness of my community by education others of the benefits and methods of living a healthy lifestyle.



I plan to be an active member of the Italian-American community throughout college, by volunteering and participating in my school's cultural clubs. My Italian heritage has given me a sense of community, something many people struggle to find in today's society. More specifically my time as the Roma Lodge's queen representative, which has given me the confidence to make a difference in the world. As I go on to college, my family's past

will always remind me to use the opportunities I have, to give back to others, and to be a leader in my community. **Drew Berra-\$1,000-Porterville High School**

The histories of my family and that of Sons of Italy are quite intertwined, with our roots in the club starting with the induction of my great-grandparents, Bert and Mary Berra. Thusly most of the stories I would hear about the two of them often involved having the support of the Italian community at their back. They showed that through this support, they were able to harden their already solid resolve and persevere to make a life for themselves, and consequently my entire family. Growing up hearing stories like these, it was pretty hard not to feel the drive to live up to their reputation.



I was always an avid attendee to the sons of Italy meetings and events all throughout my years before high school, which was when academics had to become my life. It was a sacrifice that had to be made to give my dreams the possibility of becoming a reality, and if I was ever going to be able to give back in the ways that I want to dedicate my life to doing.

Through a series of my own trials and tribulations during the time of my short life I've discovered a great many things. The most namely of these discoveries being

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the realization that I wanted to dedicate myself to becoming a doctor specializing in some facet of pediatrics. Basing my work ethic off the example that has been left for me through the generations of my family, and pulling in my own intrinsic motivation, I've been able to climb my way towards this goal. I currently have a GPA above 4.0, dedicated to months to my standardized testing preparation, and have gotten into UC Davis under a pre-med major of biochemistry and molecular biology.

### **Kylee Cleek-\$1,000-Jasper High School-Indiana**

A journey usually has a destination.  
A beginning always has an end.

One's life is often, a combination of many journeys, with many beginnings, and all of which include success, failures, hopes, dreams, and often disappointments. My journey began in Tulare, California, as a small child who had two very supportive parents and grandparents. I was loved, cared for, and always encouraged to follow my dreams and achieve as much as I could. Schooling was a priority, and even though I sometimes was challenged I always had my parents to help me through it. I did attend two elementary schools due to my parents separating, and over the years I have learned to adjust, and continue forward. After I graduated from Elementary School, I moved to live with my mother in Indiana. I began, a whole new life, starting a new high school, with a completely different environment. One thing remained the same for me, whether I am in California or Indiana both of my parents continues to enforce the importance of school and a College Education.

My childhood has consisted of many activities from church, family, various organizations, and endless hours of studying, sports, and 4-H. Roma Lodge was one of the first organizations; I was very involved in, because of my grandparents and family. I always looked forward to Christmas time, to participate with my three cousins in the program, my family loved to watch us perform. I always enjoyed working with my great-grandmother at the May Dinner helping her with the salads, and eventually moving to the main dish. Shortly after entering high school, I needed to get a job which forced to give up one of my true loves of life, play soccer. This was a disappointment for me, because I have played soccer for many years, and not only was an All Star, and traveled with several teams, but the friendships that I had developed and the many games we won, along with the medals and trophies, are all memories that I hold dear to my heart. Work was not nearly as fun as sports, and it consisted of waiting on tables and eventually being the hostess and maneuvering the cash registers. I generally work weekends and sometimes during the week.

I have always enjoyed working with computers, math, and love the business end of things. I have numer-



ous teachers in my family who I admired for what they are doing for students, and have also been blessed with many dedicated teachers over the years, who have inspired me, helped me, and pushed me, to learn. They have made school a good place to be and made me want to continue to learn and be a good student. I have also been able to tutor students which I always enjoyed. All of this has made me want to pursue a career in teaching, a profession I would be proud to be in.

At this time in my life, my high school years are ending, graduation is near, and I will again, being a new journey, where the destination is clear. I plan to attend college at Indiana State University, pursuing in business education and this is where my dream as an educator will begin.

### **Garrett Costa-\$1,000-Reedley High School**

I was born and raised in Squaw Valley to my parents Edward and Kristina Costa. We live on our cattle ranch that has been in our family since 1958. The brand we use on our cattle today is five generations old. My family works together every day and because of this I have strong family values, These values come from my Great Grandpa John Dutto and Great Grandma Annie Dutto. Great Grandpa was a charter member of the Roma Lodge and Grandma is a 70 year member! As a member myself, I have attended and participated in the Christmas Dinner Talent Show playing piano and guitar. Traditionally, my favorite food is Great Grandma's raviolis.

I am continuing my education at Modesto Junior College majoring in Physical Education. After that I will attend Fresno State University. I am planning on teaching P.E. at the high school level and coach baseball, my favorite sport. I plan to continue working on our cattle ranch.

I hope what I have learned by playing baseball will help me with my future goals of becoming a teacher and coach. I want to play at the college level and continue learning the game of baseball to pass down this knowledge to future ball players.

This scholarship would definitely help me with the financial burden of college costs. I hope you will consider me as the recipient of the Sons of Italy, Roma Lodge scholarship.

### **Anthony Moore-\$500-Monache High School**

My Great Grandfather, John Berriola, migrated from Italy to the United States when he was a young boy. After arriving at Ellis Island, he and his family moved to Arkansas. When he was an adult, he became a farmer, particularly farming olives. He later moved to the central valley of Califor-



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nia where he continued to farm olives.

My educational goals are to attend Stanford University, graduate with both my bachelors and masters degrees, and then attend Stanford Medical School. My major of choice is Biochemistry. In medical school, I hope to pursue my career goal of becoming a neurosurgeon. After graduating from medical school with a medical degree, I hope to open a private practice where I could develop my career. My father is an alcoholic and a drug addict who has never been involved in my life. My mother has raised me by herself. It will be difficult to afford college, as I only have the financial support of one parent, who has 3 other children. This scholarship would contribute to my college finances which will make it possible for me to attend college. I have worked very hard for my education, and it has not been unrewarded. I am ranked as the top student among my graduating class, and I have maintained over a 4.0 GPA since my freshman year. I am a valedictorian and a scholar athlete. I am also team captain of both the water polo and swim team at my school. I believe that I am a worthy recipient for this scholarship because I have achieved high academics while being an active leader at my school and in my community.

#### **Ashley King-\$500-Tulare Western High School**

For years I have been dreaming about college and how I can't wait to be successful. This upcoming year I have been given the opportunity to finally start to make my dreams a reality. I have a strong desire to be the first person in my immediate family to attend, and graduate from a four year university. In the fall I plan on attending Cal-State Los Angeles and majoring in psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy. I believe my passion for marriage and family therapy spurred from my desire to help people, and through my history of coming from a family with parents who were separated.



On a personal level, some of my goals include owning my own office in a large city and being involved in my community. I have been raised in a family who is very involved, and I plan to follow in my mother and grand mother's footsteps in the leadership of whatever city I end up in.

Even though my mother and step father have good jobs, with four children money is still very tight. My biggest struggle for college will just be affording to attend. My other brothers and sisters also have big dreams of college so not only will my mom have to put me through school, she will also have to invest in them. I will be taking out loans and hopefully be granted scholarship money to help pay my way through college.

I believe that I deserve the Sons of Italy-Roma Lodge Scholarship because I am a very determined and hard working student. I have plans to become great things, and college is the first step in achieving all of my goals. Receiving this scholarship would help to financially secure me to attend college, and become successful.

#### **Sebastian James Pedroncelli**

Sebastian was born on July 9, 2014 at 10:10 PM and weighed in at 5 lbs 8oz and was 19 inches long.

His parents are lodge members **Shaun** and **Sylvia Pedroncelli** His grandparents are lodge members **Ron and Karen Pedroncelli** his Great grandparents are lodge members **Mabel Curti, Lillian Cotta, and Lawrence Cotta.**



#### **Sunshine News!**

Get well wishes goes to **Faye Taylor** who underwent recent surgery. We understand that **Gary Giraudi** has also had recent surgery.

#### **Where's my Calendar?**

At the June meeting a lot of discussion was held about the cost of the **LeNotizie**. Since the meeting we have developed a new website for the lodge. The site contains a Google Calendar application that lists all the lodge members birthdays. All you need to do is look at the website to see whose birthdays fall on which day each month. We have also included on the website the sponsors who contribute to support the publication. It costs 45 cents to print the calendar and sponsor page which would run about \$65 per month or \$715 per year in savings. We will decide at the August meeting if we want to continue printing the extra page.

#### **Junior Member and Scholarship Night**

Our August meeting is scheduled for August 4th and it will be our Junior Member and Scholarship Night honoring our junior members and our scholarship winners. Frances Della will be on hand to introduce our scholarship recipients and we will have the junior members conduct the meeting. Plan to attend a great evening of good food and fellowship.



Roma Lodge  
PO Box 1337  
Tulare, California 93275  
[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

### Dinner Menus

**January-Potluck**  
**February-Stew & Polenta**  
**March-Rigatoni**  
**April-Italian Sausage and Risotto**  
**May-Pizza**  
**June-Chairman's Choice**  
**July-No Meeting**  
**August-Hotdogs/Hamburgers**  
**September-Potluck**  
**October-Chairman's Choice**  
**November-Polenta and Stew**  
**December-Ham & Yams-XMAS Party**

### *Your Roma Lodge Officers*

President	Nick Canata (661-978-9331)
Vice President	David DePaoli (804-5443)
Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
Recording Sec.	Tina Sparlin (685-8857)
Financial Sec.	Cathy Mederos (687-1112)
Orator	Gary Dutto (686-6201)
Historian	Carole Burner (686-8419)
Guard	Ken Bertorelli (788-8496)
Past President	Ken Curti (288-2144)

### *Trustees*

Danny Dutto	(686-1348)
Mike Saltzman	(686-4340)
Matt Watkins	(647-7161)
Dominic Pitigliano	(359-1907)
Michael DePaoli	(730-1168)

### *Mistress of Ceremony*

Frances Della	(784-7653)
Shurene Curti	(740-0184)

### *Meeting*

**August 4, 2014**  
**6:30 PM-Dinner**

**Junior Member and  
Scholarship Night**

**Summer BBQ**  
**August**  
**Birthdays**  
**Bring Your Raffle**  
**Prizes and Cookies!**