



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

August-2020

## Did you miss us?

It is often said, **“Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder.”** Roma Lodge has not met in 2020 since our February meeting. **Did you miss us?**

In March we would have had our annual potluck meeting. **Joann Beecher** would have graciously hosted the meeting and everyone would have enjoyed some great food prepared by members.



This year in celebration of our lodge’s 90th Anniversary we would

have had a great celebration commemorating the establishment of the lodge on May 25, 1930. Invitations had been mailed, **Cathy Mederos** had reserved the TDES Hall and the caterer was all set to provide a great meal. We were going to



honor 78 members who were celebrating milestone memberships this year in addition to the lodge having prospered for the last 90 years.

June would have seen the recognition of our lodge scholarship recipients for 2020. They would have been invited with their parents to attend our meeting, be recognized by our new scholarship chair **Melissa Watkins** and enjoyed a great meal with our members as we honored them for their high school accomplishments. Our hearts went out to them as they had been deprived of their traditional graduation ceremonies by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Grand Lodge convention would have also been held in June and it was canceled as well. It

would have marked the final convention for our Queen **Gianna Benedetti** who will be heading off to Cal Poly in the fall to major in Architectural Engineering. She would have been honored as the recipient of the **\$5,000 Trinchero Perpetual Scholarship**, the highest scholastic award given by the Grand Lodge. As the Valedictorian of her graduating class it is so sad that she could not have been recognized for her outstanding academic achievements.



We are now canceling our August meeting which has been traditionally set aside for our junior members. It is unfortunate that they could not finish their school year and have all the uncertainty of what is going to happen in the fall.



Roma Lodge is a fraternal organization. Without the opportunity to be **“fraternal”** there is little to have a lodge for. ***I don’t know about you, but I missed the opportunity to meet as lodge members!***

**Roma Lodge Monthly Meetings  
Are  
Canceled  
Until Further Notice**

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has turned the



world's populations into a situation where everyone is confronted with taking risks. Decisions need to be made on a daily basis. Do I wear a mask or not? Should I stay home and quarantine myself from the outside world? Is it too dangerous for me to go out in public and be mindful of social distancing? The list goes on and on and we are all faced with making choices for our own personal safety and for those around us.

Like other local lodges we have had to weigh the risk of holding meetings and risking the chance we could subject our members to spreading the virus. Looking at the three tenets of our Order, **Liberty-Equality-Fraternity** we place a lot of value on the importance of fraternity and getting our members together at monthly meetings in support of the Italian Culture.

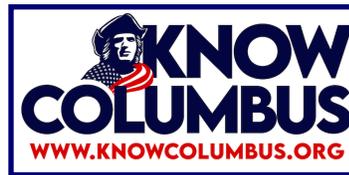
Roma Lodge leadership has decided we would not have meetings until further notice and the state guidelines are such that socializing and meetings are no longer held with the threat of spreading the virus.

However, canceling meetings, anniversary events, fundraisers and other social activities also come with a risk. On a good night we may have 60 plus members at a meeting. That means we have about 240 members who do not attend on a monthly basis. We will not get into why they do not attend. It may be because of health, they live out of state or over an hours drive from the Agri-Center, etc., etc.

To attend each meeting brings about another choice regarding risk taking. If we attend the meeting do we run the risk of not giving our children enough time to do their homework? Will I get home late and not get enough sleep and not be ready for work the next day? The list goes on and on and we all have to make our choices on an individual basis.

We often document the best way to get your annual dues investment back and a return on your investment is to attend lodge activities. If we do not meet again until 2021 and a decision has to be made about paying 2021 dues will those 240 members decide not to continue their membership in the lodge. **Another risk we may have, as a lodge, is that of dropping membership.**

Our Columbus Day celebration is scheduled for October 11, 2020. Regardless of whether the pandemic is still going, having a public celebration of **Christopher Columbus** may pose a risk in these tumultuous times. With the “cancel culture” in full swing you probably have seen where the statue of Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella was removed from State Capitol Rotunda. A statue which has resided in the capitol since 1883.



I try to stay away from anything political in the **LeNotizie**, however, this is a subject that directly affects the Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy. The attack on Columbus has prompted the OSDIA to join with other Italian American organizations to provide educational information about Columbus. You can go to their website if you would like to learn more.

<http://www.columbuscitizensfd.org/knowcolumbus>

Political affiliation has nothing to do with the destruction of our American history. We are all Americans and we should honor those who built this country and respect their memory. We should understand the mistakes from those who have gone before us and learn from those to build a better America regardless of someone's personal heritage.

Should we all try to erase memories of our own family because of something they may have done which was unacceptable? Are you going to go to the cemetery and knock over the headstone of your great, great grandfather because he drank too much? Will you paint graffiti of your great aunts picture because she didn't know how to make a good spaghetti sauce?

**Christopher Columbus** was an Italian explorer who accomplished many things in his life. Was he perfect? NO. Like everyone else we need to recognize his accomplishments and learn from his mistakes. Canceling our culture is the wrong thing to do. As Italian Americans or American Italians we need not apologize for our ancestors and who we are! **A risk we should be willing to take!**

## Celebrating #98

**Agnes Pelous** celebrates her 98th birthday on July 17th. Agnes is now our most senior member of Roma Lodge and is a 56 year member. Agnes, along with husband Alex, who passed away in 2007, were long time members who did a great deal for the lodge. They are proud of their Italian heritage and always contributed to helping out at lodge activities. If you get a chance give Agnes a call and wish her a Happy Birthday. **Congratulations to Agnes and the entire Pelous Family!**



## Just Gone-Without Closure

The COVID-19 pandemic has everyone longing for things to return to normal. For the last 5 months children have been deprived of attending school and forced to do distance learning. Families have had to cancel vacations and travel plans. Wearing masks, social distancing and plexiglass partitions are everywhere.

There is a lot of confusion regarding the transmitting of the virus, whether restaurants and bars should open or starting of school in the fall. The list goes on and on. Is the sky rocketing of new cases because of increased testing or because many states have opened without quarantine restrictions. It is anyone's guess.

One of the saddest things about the virus is we have lost over 137,000 people who have died from the virus in America. Many died alone, without family being able to be with them and have proper funeral services. Many, many Celebrations of Life have been postponed to some point in the future and it may be months and months for these services to be conducted.

I had a friend **Jim Maza** who passed away on Memorial Day. Jim was a retired Los Angeles City Fire Captain. He was 86 and did not die from the virus but services could not be held.

**Ben Curti** and I played a lot of golf with Jim at



the Valley Oaks Golf Course. Even at 86 he was a better golfer than the both of us and served as a marshal for the course, practiced constantly and had his way of getting under your skin to make a bad shot when the bet was for a buck or two.



James was an outdoorsman and sportsman. In his childhood, James dreamed of being a baseball player. James enjoyed fishing, boating, baseball, and football - of course supporting many of the Major League teams based in Southern California throughout his life, he found his greatest favor with the Los Angeles Rams.

James was very interested in and possessed a strong knowledge of general world history. His most favored being the Classical Antiquity, Late Modern, and Contemporary periods.

James played acoustic guitar and though he had a fairly broad liking and appreciation for music, he had a great affinity for the Symphonic Classical and early era of Rock and Roll.

Those of us who played golf with Jim had no idea of these things and often thought he was just a grumpy old man who played golf and more often than not took our money, drank our beer and helped himself to our French fries! We both liked Norte Dame football and I bought him a ND hat and we would text back and forth during the games of how bad or good ND was doing.

The pandemic hit, the golf course closed and in two months Jim was gone. The young lady who works in the course restaurant was nice enough to put up a poster and some flags to honor Jim.

The pandemic has taken many lives and just as important it has taken the opportunity to say our final goodbyes to those who have passed away during these difficult times. Let us not forget the contributions these individuals have made to our lives and that we shall forever have them in our thoughts and prayers.





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## Your Roma Lodge Officers 2019-2020

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Treasurer	Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591)
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Frances Della	(784-7653)
Toni Pinkerton	(331-3183)

## September Issue

Since we have not been meeting send me your family pictures and captions for inclusion in the next issue of the **LeNotizie**. Even with the pandemic I know families have had vacations, communions, birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, etc., etc. Send them to [larrydutto@yahoo.com](mailto:larrydutto@yahoo.com) or by mail to Larry Dutto, 1804 South Tamarack, Visalia, CA 93277 by August 15th.



Members Jordyn Dutto, Austin Gentry, Taylor Dutto and Aiden Gentry at Pismo Beach!