ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

SOCIETÀ UNIONE E FRATELLANZA ITALIANA

FRATELLANZA SOCIETY

HISTORICAL REVIEW



BANQUET AT ORLANDO'S EVENT CENTER
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2016
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Published in St. Louis, Missouri by

The Fratellanza Society

On the occasion of the

Anniversary of

The Soceita' Unione e Fratellanza Italiana

150th Anniversary

November 2016

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Book Complied by

Angelo Sita

Historical text by

Robert Hawkins

Photographs provided by

John DeBellis



The Fratellanza Society is the oldest Italian American organization in the United States. The Fratellanza Society was organized on November 12, 1866 and was incorporated on December 6, 1866 as a fraternal and benevolent society under the name Società Unione e Fratellanza Italiana (Italian Fraternal Union).

The primary objective was and continues to be, to create an organization that will promote unity between Italians and their adopted country. We are grateful and devoted to the United States which welcomed us and enabled us to prosper, but remain mindful of the Italian customs and traditions which we inherited from our immigrant ancestors.

A business meeting is conducted on the first Wednesday of each month. We conduct annual events such as the annual banquet, memorial mass, and the member picnic. We also have many other special events chaired by members including baseball outings, night at the races, trivia nights, and many more. The group also participates in Italian community events ranging from local festivals to the Columbus Day parade.

The initial and current purpose of the Fratellanza is the promotion of the general welfare of all members in the tradition of the Italian American community. Any male, eighteen years or older, may apply for membership. The Fratellanza strives to keep alive the Italian roots and heritage of the founders, however membership is open to all, regardless of ethnic background.

Regular meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month at Guido's on "The Hill" at 7:00pm.



Presidents of the Fratellanza from 1866 to 2016

Antonio Curotto - 1866 - 1868 Raffaele R. Ginocchio - 1869

Christopher A. Ghio - 1870 - 1871

Christopher A. Ghio – 1872

Louis D. Cassinelli – 1872

Antonio J. Ghio 1873 – 1874

Bartolomeo Larcari – 1875 – 1876

Giovanni Devoto - 1877

Bartolomeo Larcari – 1878 – 1979

Angelo F. Cafferata – 1880

Emilio Rossi - 1881

Enrico Capelli - 1882

Giovanni Sabini - 1882

Bartolomeo Larcari - 1882

Agostino J. Longinotto - 1883

Luigi D. Cassinelli - 1884 - 1885

Bartolomeo Larcari - 1886

Luigi D. Cassinelli - 1887

John Priario - 1888 - 1889

Angelo F. Cafferata – 1890

Enrico Capelli - 1891 - 1892

John Priario – 1893

Floriano DeDonato - 1893

Floriano DeDonato - 1894

Joseph Solari - 1894

Joseph Solari - 1895 - 1896

Angelo F. Cafferata - 1897

Julius Bernacchi - 1898 - 1899

Joseph Solari - 1900

Angelo F. Cafferata - 1901 - 1902

Domenico Repetto - 1903

Angelo F. Cafferata - 1904

Bartolomeo Valla - 1905

Angelo F. Cafferata - 1906

Aligelo F. Callelata – 1900

Domenico Repetto – 1907 A. Joseph Freschi – 1908

A. Joseph Freschi – 1909

Angelo F. Cafferata – 1909

Louis Bellagamba – 1910

Herman J. Pieri - 1911

A. Joseph Freschi – 1912

Enrico Zerbarini - 1913

Herman J. Pieri – 1914

Dino Elia Contarini - 1915

Enrico Zerbarini - 1916 - 1921

Pellegrino Guaspari - 1922 - 1925

Charles A. Boggiano - 1926 - 1927

Henry Giovannini 1928 – 1930

Gino Mariani – 1931 – 1932

Joseph B. Catanzaro - 1933 - 1934

Pellegrino Guaspari - 1935 - 1941

Silvio Pucci, Sr. - 1941

Alfonso Verzino - 1943 - 1944

Eugene J. Repetto - 1945

Mario A. Pertici - 1946 - 1948

Louis F. Zerega - 1949

John Reineri - 1950

Frank P. DeBellis - 1951

Vincent D. Zerega - 1952 - 1953

Louis A. Zesso - 1954 - 1955

Alfonso Verzino - 1956

Frank P. DeBellis - 1957

Joseph Cantoni - 1958 - 1959

Philip Cortopassi – 1960 – 1964

Eugene J. Repetto – 1965 – 1967

Polo T. Prosperi – 1968 – 1969

Aldo Della Croce – 1970 – 1975

Joseph Zucchero – 1976

Larry Biondo - 1977 - 1979

Joseph V. LaGreek, Sr. - 1980 - 1981

Fred L. Bittick - 1982 - 1987

Leo Bertocchini - 1988 - 1989

Bruce R. Gardiner – 1990 – 1991

Angelo Sita - 1992 - 1994

Frank V. Biondo - 1995 - 1997

Robert M. Hawkins - 1998 - 2000

John J. DeBellis - 2001 - 2002

John L. Vincenzo – 2003 – 2004

Nicholas A. Damico - 2005 - 2006

John J. DeBellis – 2007 – 2008

Daniel J. Biondo - 2009 - 2010

Jeffery W. Saunchegraw - 2011

Robert M. Hawkins - 2012 - 2014

Anthony W. Zeigler - 2015 - 2016



Fratellanza Society Membership List

Joseph Angeli Don Manarang
Lino Angeli Robert Marco
Silvio Angeli Carl Marsala
Frank Bacolla John C. Marsala

John Ballard III Joseph Marsala
Fred Benassi Mark Marsala
Joseph Benning Joseph Miano

Daniel Biondo Vincenzo Monteleone

Joseph BilenchiJoseph MooreJustin BransonPhilip PaceJohn CavalliniPatrick Parisi

John DeBellis Armando Pasetti Dennis Deering Sanford Rabushka

Giampero della Croce Sol Rabushka

Carmelo Desemone Jeffrey Sauchengraw Nickolas DiMartino Larry R. Schroeder Jr.

Vincenzo DiPiazza Angelo Sita

James Foster Rev. Leo J. Spezia
Robert Foushee Scott Sundhausen
William Franko Richard Temmen

John Garvels

Raymond Garvels

Bernard Garvels Jr.

Sam Greco

Jack Tocco

Dino Tucci

J. Kim Tucci

Joseph Tucci

Kelly HawkinsWilliam VaccaroRobert HawkinsNicholas VerzinoRichard HeneferEmanuel Vitale

Dennis Knapik Rio Vitale

Antonino Lombardo Anthony Zeigler



President, Anthony W. Zeigler



2nd Vice President, John C. Marsala



Asst. Corr. Secretary, Sanford A. Rabushka



1st Vice President, Vincenzo DiPiazza



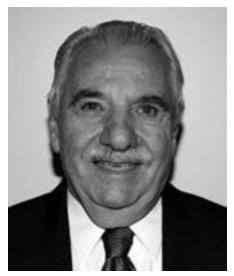
Corresponding Secretary, John J. DeBellis



Treasurer, Scott T. Sundhausen



Asst. Treasurer, Raymond B. Garvels



Asst. Financial Secretary, Joseph Miano



Marshal, Joseph Marsala



Financial Secretary, Dennis C. Deering



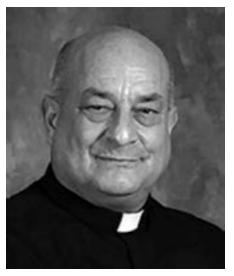
Warden, Nickolas DiMartino



Trustee 1, Daniel J. Biondo



Trustee 2, William W. Franko



Chaplain, Rev. Leo J. Spezia





Trustee 3, Sol Rabushka







GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEREMIAH W. CJAY) NIXON GOVERNOR JEFFERSON CITY 65102

P.O.Box 720 (573) 751-0222

August 11, 2016

Greetings.

It is my honor to welcome you to the 150th anniversary banquet of the Fratellanza Society. I extend my sincere congratulations on another successful year and I appreciate your dedicated efforts to promote Italian heritage and build fraternal bonds among all members.

Again, congratulations on your 150th anniversary and best wishes for an enjoyable gathering.

Sincerely,

eremiah W (Yay) Nixon

Governor

www.governor.mo.gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 12, 2016

Fratellanza Society 6439 Villa Ave. St. Louis, MO 63139

Dear Fratellanza Society Members:

Greetings! I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to you on the 150th anniversary of the Fratellanza Society! This is a tremendous milestone and a testament to your hard work and dedication. am proud that Fratellanza Society was founded in the great state of Missouri, and I join you in celebrating all you have accomplished in the past 150 years.

As you know, the Fratellanza Society was founded in 1866 to promote the well-being of Italian-American communities with efforts to integrate Italians with their new country while also preserving Italian culture and traditions. A century and a half later, the Fratellanza Society's vision has endured and the organization continues to flourish. Your focus on community stewardship and civic engagement is commendable; and as you look toward the future, I have no doubt that the Fratellanza Society will continue to be a force for positive impact.

Again, please accept my sincere gratitude and congratulations for your dedicated work. I trust the years ahead will continue the legacy and contribution that have marked the past 50 years.

Sincerely,

Claire McCaskill United States Senator

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September 1, 2016

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on the 150th Anniversary of the Fratellanza Society.

Italian heritage is woven into the fabric of St. Louis, and you help keep that unique bond between Italy and the United States alive.

Your commitment to heritage, family, and history make St. Louis a stronger community. It's an honor to join with you in celebrating this major milestone, and I send my best wishes for 150 more.

Sincere regards,

United States Senator

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of Show-Me State cultural institutions that admirably help broaden and deepen the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the Fratellanza Society in St. Louis, Missouri, will commemorate its One Hundredfiftieth Anniversary with a special celebration which will include the new Italian Consul, Giuseppe Finocchiaro of Chicago, Illinois, and the Illiana and Enzo Band from Los Angeles, California, on November 12, 2016, at the Orlando's Event Center in Maryland Heights; and

Whereas, founded on November 12, 1866, and incorporated twenty-four days later, the Fratellanza Society is the oldest Itallian American organization in the United States; and

Whereas, originally named the Societá Unione e Fratellanza Italiana (Italian Fraternal Union), the Fratellanza Society is a fraternal and benevolent society that was created to help Italian immigrants acclimate into American society, since which time the purpose has changed to focus more on promoting Italian heritage, building fraternal bonds among its members, and devoting time to the interest of patriotism, charity, and brotherly love; and

Whereas, the Fratellanza Society strives to keep alive the Italian roots and heritage of its founders, however, membership in open to all males eighteen years or older, regardless of ethnic background:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, join to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with the Fratellanza Society in Saint Louis and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes for many more years to come; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Fratellanza Society in St. Louis, Missouri.

Offered by

Representative Michele Kratky

District No. 82

I, Todd Richardson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4181, adopted August 4, 2016.



Whereas, the members of the Missouri Senate hold in high esteem those Show-Me State fraternal organizations that have been involved in the improvement of society through a wide variety of endeavors; and

Whereas, the Fratellanza Society of Saint Louis, Missouri, was founded on November 12, 1866, as the Società Unione e Fratellanza Italiana in order to "bring about a closer alliance between all the Italians, as if they were only of one family"; and

Whereas, more focused now on Italian heritage, American patriotism, and philanthropy, the Fratellanza Society is celebrating the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of its establishment as the oldest Italian American organization in the United States; and

Whereas, members of the Fratellanza Society participated in the unveiling of the Christopher Columbus statue in Tower Grove Park on October 12, 1886; founded a Columbus Day parade in 1867, which is the oldest continuing parade in the state of Missouri; staged a public demonstration in 1927 to protest the Boston executions of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti after a possibly flawed trial; proved instrumental in the renaming of Cooper Street to Marconi Avenue in the Hill neighborhood in 1937; and began holding a memorial mass in 2001 at Calvary Cemetery where more than four hundred members and their families are buried; and

Whereas, Fratellanza Society members have proudly served in America's wars, including World War I and World War II; and

Whereas, the Fratellanza Society presented the Guy Galiardi Lifetime Achievement Award to its namesake, Guy Gagliardi, on November 9, 1991, and the first Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award in 1996 to honor the inaugural president of the Fratellanza Society, Antonio Curotto; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that the Missouri Senate should pause in its diverse daily activities in order to recognize such outstanding Missouri organizations as the Fratellanza Society at momentous times in their histories:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that we, the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, join to commend the civic-minded activities of the Fratellanza Society and to convey this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes for a highly successful One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary celebration; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Fratellanza Society of Saint Louis, Missouri.

Offered by Senator Sifton

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STATE OF MISSOURI: CITY OF JEFFERSON: SENATE CHAMBER:

I, RONALD F. RICHARD, President Pro Tem of the Senate, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and completed copy of the Senate Resolution offered by Senator Sifton and adopted on August 31, 2016, as fully as the same appears of record.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Senate of the State of Missouri this 31st day of August, A.D. 2016.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

City of Saint Louis



Attest

WHEREAS, the Fratelance has served the Italian American community of Saet Louis fo

WHEREAS, the Fratelance will be celebrating their 150° Anniversary with a Gala Basquet held at Orlando's Banquet Center on November 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, at this banquet the Engo incandels band will be provide the music for the featured single liters; and

WHEREAS, the Italian Consul General, Giuseppe Finocchiano, will be the attending and delivering an address.

Now, therefore, I, Francis G. Slay, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, do hereby proclaim November 12, 2016 at:

"THE FRATELLANZA SOCIETY DAY" IN THE CITY OF ST. LOWS

to uthress whereof, I have hereurito set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of St.

Linux, this 12th day of hoverther, A.D. 2016.

Fromuly & May

Mayor of the City of Guint Cours

Kenister



FRANCIS G. SLAY MAYOR CITY HALL ROOM 2 1200 MARKET STREE SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 6: (314) 622-3201 FAX: (314) 622-4061

November 12, 2016

Fratellanza Society 150th Anniversary Banquet St. Louis, Missouri

Greetings:

Congratulations to the Fratellanza Society for their 150 years of service to the St. Louis community!

Founded under the name Societa' e Unione Fratellanza Italiana, your organization helped countless Italian immigrants acclimate into American society. The City of St. Louis is proud to recognize your efforts, as you now focus on promoting Italian heritage and building fraternal bonds among your members.

I wish you a most joyous celebration for your 150th anniversary and continued success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Francis G. Slay

Mayor City of St. Louis

Hroclamation St. Louis County, Missouri

WHEREAS, the Fratellanza Society is the oldest Italian-American organization in the United States having been founded in St. Louis on November 12, 1866, as a fraternal and benevolent society under the name Societa' e unione Fratellanza Italiana (Italian Fraternal Union); and

WHEREAS, the Fratellanza Society was established to help Italian immigrants acclimate into American society and over time its purpose has evolved into a focus on promoting Italian heritage and building fraternal bonds among the members; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its 150th Anniversary, the Fratellanza Society will be hosting a banquet on November 12, 2016, which will be attended by Italian Consul General, Giuseppe Finocchiaro;

NOW, therefore I, Steven V. Stenger, St. Louis County Executive, on behalf of the people of St. Louis County, Missouri, congratulate the Fratellanza Society on its 150th Anniversary and hereby proclaim November 12, 2016, as

Fratellanza Society Day

in St. Louis County.



In Witness Whereof, I have bereunto set my hand and caused the seal of St. Louis County to be affixed.

County Executive St. Louis County



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY 41 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63105

STEVEN V. STENGER COUNTY EXECUTIVE (314) 615-7016

November 12, 2016

GREETINGS FROM THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Welcome Members and Friends of the Fratellanza Society!

It is my distinct honor to recognize the members of the Societa' e unione Fratellanza Italiana and your dedication to promoting Italian heritage. Congratulations on your 150th anniversary.

As County Executive, I am pleased to welcome you all to the St. Louis region. I'm confident that your banquet will be a huge success and a great opportunity for camaraderie. Please enjoy your stay, take time to explore St. Louis County, and be sure to sample some of the wonderful dining, shopping, and entertainment venues that St. Louis County has to offer.

Once again, on behalf of St. Louis region, congratulations on the 150th anniversary of the Fratellanza Society.

Sincerely,

Steven V. Stenger St. Louis County Executive

RESOLUTION NO. 109 Fratellanza Society 150th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Fratellanza Society will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary on November 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Fratellanza Society is the oldest Italian American organization in the United States; the Fratellanza Society was founded in St. Louis on November 12, 1866, as a fraternal and benevolent society under the name Società Unione e Fratellanza Italiana (Italian Fraternal Union); and

WHEREAS, the Fratellanza Society was started to help Italian immigrants acclimate into American society; over time the purpose has changed, and now the focus is promoting Italian heritage and building fraternal bonds among their members; and

WHEREAS, the Fratellanza Society will be hosting an anniversary banquet on November 12, 2016, and Giuseppe Finocchiaro, the Italian Consul General, will be attending the banquet.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the milestone of the 150th anniversary of the Fratellanza Society, thank the organization for its many contributions to the City of St. Louis and to the world. We further direct the Clerk of the Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of September, 2016, by:

The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward

Adopted the 9th day of September, 2016, as attested by:



CARDINAL RIG 20 ARCHBISHOP St. Louis, Miss r) 3

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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE AR

November 12, 2016

Fratellanza Society P.O. Box 39397 St. Louis, MO 63139-8397

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your 150th Anniversary celebration for the Fratellanza Society I note that this is the oldest Italian American organization in the United States and was founded in 1866 as a fraternal and benevolent society to assist Italian immigrants.

I regret that I cannot be with you, but I share with you my prayerful good wishes for a fun and successful event. I pray that your gathering is a very powerful blessing and a time for everyone to embrace their Italian heritage.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J Carlson

Archbishop of St. Louis



Guy A. Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award

The Guy A. Gagliardi Lifetime achievement Award was first presented at the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Banquet of the Fratellanza Society in 1991, as a tribute to Guy A. Gagliardi. Guy was a member of the Fratellanza for over fifty years and a member of the Circolo Society. In that time, Guy was one of the most vocal advocates for the Fratellanza Society. He consistently was responsible for encouraging men to become active with the Fratellanza. His devotion and dedication to this society should serve as an inspiration to us all. Guy's service to the Italian American community did not stop with the Fratellanza. He was active in many other organizations.

The Guy A. Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award is presented each year to a member who has been active in the Fratellanza for at least ten years and has provided consistent service to the society through many years of dedicated service. It may only be presented to a member once, for his lifetime service to the Fratellanza.

Guy A. Gagliardi Award Winners

1991 – Guy A. Gagliardi	2005 – J. Kim Tucci
1992 – Gino Mariani	2006 – Joe Tucci
1993 – Joseph Zucchero	2007 – Paul J. Grundhauser
1994 – Joseph C. Martorana	2008 – Robert M. Hawkins
1995 – Joseph A. Bagatti	2009 – Richard Henefer
1996 – Joseph V. LaGreek, Sr.	2010 – Nicholas A. Damico
1997 – Cav. Antonino Lombardo	2011 – John J. DeBellis
1998 – Angelo Sita	2012 – Bernard H. Garvels, Jr.
1999 – Rev. Leo J. Spezia	2013 – Dennis C. Deering
2000 – William A. Vaccaro	2014 – Jack L. Tocco
2001 – John L. Vincenzo	2015 – John C. Marsala
2002 – Frank V. Biondo	2016 – Daniel J. Biondo

2003 - Aldo della Croce



Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award

The Antonio Curotto Award was first presented at the Annual Banquet of the Fratellanza Society in November, 1996. It was named in honor of Antonio Curotto, the first president of the Fratellenza Society. He was born in Genoa, Italy in 1840. In his early 20's he immigrated to the United States and settled in St. Louis. He convinced several of his fellow Italian merchants to establish an Italian benevolent society. On November 12th, 1866 the Fratellanza Society was established.

Antonio Curotto was elected the first president of the Fratellanza Society and he served three terms. He was instrumental in organizing the first Columbus Parade for St. Louis in 1867. The Antonio Curotta Award is presented each year to a member who has provided exceptional service to the Fratellanza during the fraternal year.

Antonio Curotto Winners

1996 – Robert H. Hawkins

1997 - Dennis C. Deering

1998 - Dominic R. Vitale

1999 - Bernard H. Garvels, Jr.

2000 - John R. Guth

2001 - Paul J. Grundhauser

2002 - Angelo Sita

2003 - Joseph E. Moore

2004 - Paul J. Grundhauser

2005 - Cav. Antonino Lombardo

2006 - Raymond B. Garvels

2007 - Rev. Leo J. Spezia

2008 – Angelo Sita

2009 - Jeffrey W. Saunchegraw

2010 - Robert M. Hawkins

2011 - Robert M. Hawkins

2012 - Jack L. Tocco

2013 – Cav. Antonino Lombardo

2014 - Vincenzo DiPiazza

2015 - Nicholas DiMartino

2016 - Angelo Sita





The Fratellanza Society Welcomes The Iliana Band and Enzo Incandla As the Musicians for our 150th Anniversary

Banquet





150th Anniversary Committee



Anthony W. Zeigler



Angelo Sita



John J. DeBellis



Robert M. Hawkins



Vincenzo DiPiazza



Joseph E. Bilenchi



Cav. Antonino Lombardo



Daniel J. Biondo



John Curtis Marsala



Miss Italian St. Louis 2016 - 2017 Victoria Grassi

Victoria Grassi is a 20 year old student at Webster University majoring in Advertising and Marketing, as well as minoring in Italian. Victoria is also a Presidential Scholar, a Student Ambassador, and a member of the women's volleyball team at Webster University. Her parents are David and Julie Grassi, and her grandparents were Lawrence "Red" and JoAnn Grassi. Victoria's ancestors came primarily from Cuggiono, Italy, but some also came from Genoa and Naples as well. She has lived her entire life on The Hill, and loves her family's weekly tradition of getting fresh bread and salami to eat for lunch every Saturday. Victoria wanted to become Miss Italian because of the pride she feels for her culture and to honor her ancestors that gave up so much to make a better life for her family in moving to America. She plans to study abroad in Florence, Italy next year and would love to someday work for an Italian company. Victoria is honored to represent the Italian American culture that she loves so much as Miss Italian St. Louis 2016 -17.

1866 - Cento Cinquanta Anni - 2016

A HISTORY OF THE SOCIETA' UNIONE E FRATELLANZA ITALIANA (ITALIAN UNION AND FRATERNAL SOCIETY)

1866-1933 Edited by Robert M. Hawkins

The City of St. Louis was founded by Auguste Chouteau and thirty French Pioneers in 1764 starting out as a fur trading post on the banks of the Mississippi River. St. Louis once known as Mound City is now known as the Gateway to the West.

In 1780 very few Italians had ventured as far west as St. Louis, but one name immediately comes to mind. That is Francis Vigo who was born on December 3, 1747 in Mondavi. He played a significant role in ensuring that the Northwest Territory, as Illinois, Indiana and Ohio were then called, remained under the control of the Americans during the Revolutionary War. As a soldier for Spain he arrived in the New World and settled in St. Louis in 1772. In St. Louis he became a successful fur trader and merchant. Vigo lent his personal funds to Colonel George Rogers Clark to supply his men with weapons, clothing and other supplies that would be needed for an expedition to Vincennes, Indiana to take back Fort Sackville from the British. Francis Vigo is buried in Vincennes where he settled after the Revolutionary War. There is a county in Indiana named for him.

Around the mid 1840's Italian immigrants started arriving in St. Louis in small numbers and the 1850 United States Census shows that there were 110 Italian immigrant families residing in St. Louis. By

the year 1860 that number had grown to 879. In the year 1866 we find that St. Louis has a total population of 275,464 and is ranked as the fourteenth largest city in the United States.

The early Italian immigrants in St. Louis came northern from Italy, the mountainous districts in and around Genoa. Seventy five percent of these men were from such places as Chiavari. Mussoti, Borgonuova, **Prianera** and Borgonasca. After arriving in St. Louis they settled in the area from the levee to Twelfth Street and from Franklin to Spruce Streets. The city limits at that time barely extended beyond Jefferson Avenue. The majority lived within a stone's throw of each other and their homes were multifamily dwellings of two or three stories. There were several families that lived on each floor. Most of the early immigrants owned small businesses and were fruit merchants, grocers, restaurant owners, saloon owners, barbers and confectioners. The city directory of that time also shows two Italian doctors, a lawyer and a teacher.

At that time there was no electricity nor were there automobiles. The men played bocce as an outdoor diversion on hot summer days and there were dances, picnics, parties and the theatres that kept them busy. Among this group of Italians

was a group of young men that had an idea of banding together to assist each other by forming an Italian organization. This new organization would assist the Italian immigrants by helping them assimilate into their new surroundings. At the time waves of new immigrants were arriving in the United States and each one of them had a dream of finding a better life in their new country. Many of them found St. Louis to be an ideal fit.

In the year 1866 Andrew Johnson was the President of the United States having succeeded Abraham Lincoln who was assassinated in 1865. The world of 1866 was a difficult time for everyone. The Civil War had just ended and the country was in a rebuilding mode. It was a perfect time for the early Italians in St. Louis to band together for a common cause and to establish the new organization that they had dreamed of forming.

THE FOUNDING OF THE FRATELLANZA

On the west side of Third Street between Walnut and Elm there stood a small two story brick building with the number "113" painted on the door. This building is now gone and sat roughly where the north leg of the Gateway Arch is located. This building is where the Fratellanza was born. It was the home of Giovanni Frey & Co. Liquor and Cigar Merchants. One man in particular had a vision and foresaw the necessity of organizing an association that might aid in the betterment of Italian immigrants. His name was Antonio Curotto.

Antonio convinced fourteen of his companions of the need for an Italian Society in St. Louis and on the evening of Tuesday, October 23, 1866 they met at the Frey building to discuss the possibility of organizing this new Italian Society. Their purpose and motive was more than just forming a fraternal organization. Their aim was Italian-American Unity. A unity that meant the fusing of all Italian-Americans into one compact body devoted to patriotism, charity and brotherly love. The very name they gave the society "Italian Fraternal Union" bespeaks the principles upon which it was founded. The Fratellanza of today stands strong in principle, strong in its financial structure and is one of the oldest Italian Societies in the United States of America.

This ad appeared in the 1865 St. Louis Directory.



Il Pensiero

Cav. A. Lombardo Publisher

Only Italian Newspaper in the State of Missouri and Southern Illinois

Congratulates
Fratellanza Society Italiana
Of St. Louis on their
150th Anniversary

10001 Stonell Dr. St.Louis, MO 63123 The original fifteen members are remembered for their vision and we include a short biography on each of them.

Antonio Curotto – President Born 1830 in Chiavari in the Province of Genoa and died May 4, 1871. He owned a

restaurant & saloon at 4th & Myrtle St.

Giovanni M. Frey – Vice President Born March 22, 1824 in Switzerland and died April 18, 1912. He owned a Cigar & Liquor Co. at 110-112 S. 3rd St.

Luigi M. Arnoldi – Secretary Born 1841 in Cuneo in the Province of Torino and he was a Professor of Language at Beethoven Music Conservatory.

Luigi Podesta – Member Born 1831 in Sardinia and died January 28, 1871. He was a confectioner at 27 S. 4th St.

Giovanni DeVoto – Member Born October 10, 1828 in Chiavari in the Province of Genoa and died January 28, 1914. He owned a saloon at 307 S. 4th St.

Giacommo Sbarbaro – Member Born in Sardinia in 1824 and died October 13, 1869. He owned a saloon at 29 Chestnut St.

Giuseppe Badaracco – Member Born in 1831 and died January 4, 1868. He owned a saloon at 135 Morgan St.

Luigi Sanguinetti – Member Born in 1827 in Sardinia and he was a fruit dealer at 66 Walnut St.

Giovanni Battista Massa – Member Born in Borzonasca, Chiavari in the Province of Genoa in 1820 and died July 1, 1872. He owned a saloon at 12 N. Levee.

Antonio Paggi – Member Born in 1826 and he was a confectioner at 706 S. Main St.

Agostino Bernero – Member Born in Chiavari in the Province of Genoa in 1837 and died September, 1912. He was a confectioner at 164 Morgan St.

Davide Sabini – Member Born in 1845 and died October 01, 1893. He owned a saloon & restaurant at 7th & Green. He was also a President of the Italian American Cavalry.

Giovanni Cella – Member Born in Borzonasca, Chiavari in the Province of Genoa in 1835 and died on August 10, 1905. He owned a saloon at

134 N. 6th St.

Antonio Cella – Member Born in Borzonasca, Chiavari in the Province of Genoa in 1833 and died February 2, 1914. He owned a saloon at 90 N. 7th St.

Luigi Germani – Member Born in Sardinia in 1824 and he was a horse trainer.



This was the original meeting location of the Fratellanza Society and it was located at 113 Third Street. The building housed Giovanni M. Frey Liquor & Cigar Merchants.

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Eighty-Four Charter Members

The second meeting was called on Tuesday, October 30th. At this meeting a temporary group of rules were discussed and adopted. They were presented later when the Society was organized. The third meeting was held on Monday, November 5th. At this meeting there were eighty-four men in attendance. They were placed on the membership roles as Charter Members. The Charter Members were:

Antonio Curotto, Luigi Podesta, Giovanni DeVoto, Giacomo Sbarbaro, Giuseppe Badaracco, Luigi Sanguinetti, Giovanni Battista Massa, Antonio Paggi, Luigi Arnoldi, Agostino Bernero, Davide Sabini, Giovanni M. Frey, Giovanni Cella, Agostino Cella, Luigi Germani, Vincenzo Bernero, Lazzaro, Torre, Pietro Gazzolo, Martino Giavanoni, Gaetano Foppiano, Giuseppe Raggio, Giovanni Lavezza, Luigi Botto, Antonio Casaleggio, Bartolomeo Cassanelli, Luigi Cicardi, Giovanni Battista Adreveno, Giovanni Arata, Giuseppe Antonio Massa, Giuseppe Dallavalle, Giovanni Bacigalupi, Giovanni Massa, Paolo Capelli, Agostino Signaigo, Giuseppe Cella, Vittorio Rigozzi, Agostino Quiroli, Francesco Gardella, Giovanni Rose, Giorgio Repetto, Gaetano Pessagno, Angelo Capelli, Sbarbaro, Luigi Cordani, Francesco Sallia, Luigi Boggiano, Cesare Marigliono, Giuseppe DeMartini, Gio **Battista** Lagomarsino, Luigi Cafferata, Cristoforo A. Ghio, Antonio G. Ghio, Francesco Della Stella, Giuseppe Locatelli, Giuseppe Ghio, S.M. Nardizzo, Giacomo Brescia, Giovanni Rettagliata, Michelangelo Chiarella, Gio Battista Arata, Bartolomeo Dani, Lorenzo Saveggi, Giuseppe Repetto, Domenico Signaigo, Antonio Blancini, Giacomo Daneri, Carlo Foppiano, Giovanni Sbarbaro, Agostino Badaracco, Giorgio Cordano, Antonio DeGaetano, Angelo Cella, Lorenzo Bianchetti, Angelo Garre, Gio Battista Pietro Garbarino, Gambaro. Andrea Merello, Agostino Cella, Pietro Raga, Giovanni Carrara, Luigi Bonicelli, Giacomo Zeraga, Amelio Bonicelli, **Domenico** Gregory

The fourth meeting was held on Monday, November 12, 1866. This is the officially recognized date of organization. At this meeting the following officers were elected to serve for the year 1866-1867:

President – Antonio Curotto Vice President – Luigi Sanguinetti Vice President - Luigi Cafferata Treasurer - Cristoforo A. Ghio Secretary - Giovanni Rettagliata Trustee - Giovanni M. Frey Trustee – Giovanni Battista Massa Trustee - Giovanni Cella Sick Committee President - Giovanni **DeVoto** Sick Committee – Luigi Podesto Sick Committee - Agostino Cella Sick Committee - Giuseppe Badaracco Sick Committee - Giovanni Sbarbaro Sick Committee - Agostino Bernero Sick Committee - Antonio Paggi

By-laws were adopted at this meeting and the total membership grew to 101. The Fratellanza outgrew the cigar store and leased a hall on Chestnut St. between Second & Third Streets above the police station. The L'otella was located across the street and was a three story structure that was built on the spot where August Chouteau was born. More than ten Italian families lived there. The second floor had a large hall where many festivities were held. The first years rent was paid for by the founders since it was a tradition of the Genovese to pay the rent before any other bills.

Incorporation of the Society

Immediately following the election of officers and led by the leadership of Antonio Curotto, by-laws were drawn up, incorporation proceedings were set in motion and rules for new members were established. The first charter of incorporation was received on Thursday, December 6, 1866 from the State Capitol at Jefferson City.

"All For One and One For All" was the motto in the early days and it helped forge a bond between the early members. Article 2 of the Constitution is the basic principle for which the Fratellanza was instituted. "The scope of this Society is not only for the purpose of aiding its members in case of sickness or accident, but also to bring about a closer alliance between all Italians, as if they were only of one family and promoting the general welfare of the many as well as of the individual."

Privileges and Benefits

The founders established benefits that held the organization together. They consisted of sick benefits, doctor care, provisions for medical and burial services and proper accompaniment to the final resting place. The sick benefits were \$4.00 per week for six consecutive months,

medical attention was by a paid physician, and medicine was from a pharmacist. Also included was burial in the Society lot. The lot was a 1,000 square foot plot in Calvary Cemetery. Wives and children were also allowed to be buried in the lot with a payment of \$1.50 for the permit. The Society dues were .50 per month and meetings were held twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays. Meetings were mandatory and unless a member had a valid excuse would be fined .50 for missing a meeting. The usual attendance at a meeting was between 85 and 90. The total membership was 120 members.

At the funeral of a member it was necessary that all members meet at the Fratellanza meeting hall. Members headed by draped flags and a brass band would march to where the deceased lay in state and then accompany the cortege to the church and finally to the cemetery where appropriate remarks would be made by the Secretary. Any member missing the ceremony would be fined \$5.00.

On Monday, July 1st a special committee took a large cross and placed it at the entrance of the Fratellanza lot. Domenico Caproni donated two marble angels of his own design and workmanship which were placed on each side of the cross.

1st Columbus Day Celebration

One of the reasons for the founding of the Fratellanza was to honor Christopher Columbus. The first Columbus Day celebration was scheduled on Thursday, October 12, 1867. The Fratellanza ordered a replica of the "Nave Santa Maria" which

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Joseph DeBellis



Frank DeBellis
Past President



John DeBellis Past President

Steven DeBellis

was in the form of a huge float that cost \$230.00. Soldiers, who were stationed on the outskirts of the city, led the parade that formed outside of the Society hall. Another feature was the military band, as well as a hundred piece brass band. Next came the float with members representing Christopher Columbus and his sailors in costume. Four small cannons were placed on the float and were fired from time to time to the awe of the large crowd that had gathered along the route which terminated at Jefferson and Washington Avenues. A concert was held in the afternoon with speeches and a ball in the evening. Tickets which included dinner were \$3.00.

Two huge flags, an American and an Italian flag, headed the delegation of members and their friends together with the Society banner and two smaller flags; each flag was carried by a special committee of three. One person carried the flag while the other two carried the long tassels. They were followed by the members in uniform.

The uniform was not a uniform in the sense of the word. It consisted of a three pointed black hat with light colored plume, a bandolier, "sciarpa" or sash, which was gold braided on one side and could be reversed, being black on the other side to be used at funerals. A foot long gold badge made up the balance of the "Uniformo". This had to be worn at every outdoor event.

1867 – The First Year

The first order of business at the meeting held on Wednesday, January 2, 1867 was the election of a Society

Physician. The acting Vice-Consul in St. Louis was Dr. David Tandy and he was elected as the first Society Physician with a salary of \$75.00 per year. Will & Company Pharmacy was hired to furnish medicine to the members for \$40.00 per year.

The first ball and dinner was held on Wednesday, January 9, 1867. It was held at the Concert Hall on Market Street between Second and Third Streets. Tickets were \$3.00 each and included dinner. The image of Columbus and his fleet landing at San Salvador was printed on the back of the tickets. It was a grand affair and lasted until early in the morning. On Tuesday, March 5th a Mardi Gras Ball was held and it might be added that the calendar for the year consisted of a mid-summer picnic which was held on Monday, June 24th, a Columbus Day celebration and the Annual Ball.

One of the most solemn events in the first year of the Fratellanza was the presentation of two large and beautiful flags. The event took place at the meeting hall on Sunday, October 18, 1867. The flags were a gift from the wives and daughters of the members. They were presented by a committee consisting of Mrs. Angelina Maria DeVoto, Cassanelli, Christina Curotto, Rosa Massa, Teresa Bernero and Rose Ginocchio. In mid-December the flags were carried in a solemn procession to St. Mary of Victories at Third and Gratiot Streets where they were blessed.

The fiscal year of the Fratellanza begins in November and this is when elections are held. Election is by ballot and according to the by-laws, a committee of five members was appointed by the President. The President selected two men for each office. Ballots were printed and mailed to each member who in turn would vote for their choice and return the ballot in a self-addressed envelope to the chairman of the "scheda" or election committee.

The Second Annual Banquet of the Fratellanza was held on Thursday, December 5th at the Masonic Hall. It was another grand event lasting into the early morning hours.

1868 – The Second Year

One of the ideas of the first President Antonio Curotto was his belief that the Fratellanza needed to formulate a plan for the teaching of the Italian language. This would be taught to the children of members and anyone else who was interested in learning. The Fratellanza purchased three hundred and twenty-five books and hired Luigi Peretti to teach three nights a week. A room was given to the school in the same place where the regular meetings were held. Twenty-four young men and women enrolled at a cost of \$1.25 which covered the cost of the book. The school continued to operate for two years until Mr. Peretti returned to Italy.

Another early venture of the Fratellanza was joining the Grand National Union. Antonio Curotto travelled to Philadelphia on July 18th & 19th for the convention. Fifteen organizations with the name Fratellanza were represented by seventy-five delegates. In 1869 the Union adopted a new constitution which was contrary to the by-laws of the Fratellanza. The Fratellanza refused to adopt this new

constitution and were dropped from the Union. A few years later the Grand National Union disbanded.

1869 – The Third Year

Under the leadership of President Raffaele R. Ginocchio the Fratellanza was able to purchase an oil painting of Christopher Columbus landing at San Salvador.

The Fratellanza sponsored a picnic on Sunday, June 8, 1869 at Uhrig's Cave on Italian Constitution Day.

The Seventies

1870

In 1870, Christopher Ghio was elected President.

Meetings were moved to 4th Street and Franklin Avenue.

An invitation was extended to the Italian Swiss Cabinet of Literature Society to join the Fratellanza in celebrating Columbus Day.

1871

In 1871, Christopher Ghio was reelected President.

Antonio Curotto died suddenly on Friday, May 5, 1871. He was buried with the highest honors that could possibly be accorded a member who had done so much for the early success of the Fratellanza.

The Columbus Day celebration was held on Thursday, October 12th and was led by Capt. Simpson and his soldiers from the Battery along with military equipment and a military band of 100 pieces. A division of Alpine Hunters was lined up behind the Santa Maria "Nave" and led by Capt. Davide Sabini.

1872

In 1872, Christopher Ghio was reelected President.

The Fratellanza was invited by the Italian Swiss Society to join in on the "Birth of Rome" celebration that they were hosting.

L.D. Cassinelli became President when Christopher Ghio took a leave of absence.

In September the Societa Mutuo Soccorso (Italian Mutual Aid Society) made an overture to merge with the Fratellanza. The plan never gained traction and was dropped.

1873

In 1873, Antonio J. Ghio was elected

The meeting location was changed to 408 Washington Avenue.

On April 15th, \$2000.00 was re-invested on a piece of property in Peoria, Illinois which had a return of 10% interest per year.

A donation of \$100.00 was made to Malaria victims in Memphis, Tennessee on October 20th.

The Columbus Day celebration was held on Sunday, October 12th at Lindell Park.

1874

In 1874, Antonio J. Ghio was elected President.

John and Louis Gazzolo donated a fine oil painting and frame to the Fratellanza. It depicted the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

1875

In 1875, Bartolomeo Larcari was elected President.

The meeting location was changed to 4th and Olive Streets.

The annual dinner and dance for Columbus Day was held on Thursday, October 14th at the Athletic Club at 4th Street and Washington Avenue. The cost for dinner and dancing was \$3.00.

Dominick Bacigalupo donated an ebony colored mallet to the President of the Fratellanza.

1876

In 1876, Bartolomeo Larcari was reelected President.

The Constitution was unanimously amended so that at the death of a member an assessment of \$1.00 per member would be paid to the family of the deceased member. This was the first mortuary benefit established by the Fratellanza.

The meetings were moved back to the former location at 4th Street and Franklin Avenue.

1877

In 1877, Giovanni DeVoto was elected President.

A committee was formed to meet with the Italian Swiss Cabinet Literature Society for the purpose of uniting the two groups. After several meetings the plan was defeated by a unanimous vote of the membership because Fratellanza would have been dropped from the name.

1878

In 1878, Bartolomeo Larcari was elected President.

On Wednesday, February 13th it was decided to include medical aid and was extended to include medicine to a member's family at a nominal sum.



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7700 Clayton Road Suite 306A St. Louis, MO 63117 (618) 615-1014 www.tonyzeigler.com This was the first time that aid was extended to families of members.

On Wednesday, July 10th, an amendment was unanimously adopted that all members must purchase at least one ticket for every social event promoted by the Society.

The Fratellanza donated \$100.00 to Malaria sufferers in St. Louis.

1879

In 1879, Bartolomeo Larcari was reelected President.

The Fratellanza held a picnic and steamboat ride to Monsanto Springs, Illinois in June.

The Eighties

In 1880, Angelo F. Cafferata was elected President.

On Sunday, January 11th, medals were given to Mrs. G. Larcari and Mrs. Angelina Cassinelli for their efforts in assisting the Society with their socials over the years.

On Friday, May 14th, military honors were added to those of the Fratellanza when Giovanni Fenaji an ex-soldier of the Civil War died.

The Columbus Day celebration was moved to Sunday, Oct. 17th.

1881

In 1881, Emilio Rossi was elected President.

The first Italian Church founded in 1880 at Sixth and Spruce Streets was abandoned when the pastor Father Salvatelli returned to Italy.

1882

In 1882, Enrico Capelli was elected President. He resigned in March and was replaced by Giovanni R. Sabini who resigned in July. Bartolomeo Larcari an expresident was then selected by the Trustees to serve out the remainder of the term.

A "pichiniccho" was given for the benefit of the Cemetery lot.

The Fratellanza donated \$150.00 to victims of the flood.

The fine for non-attendance at meetings was eliminated. Membership and attendance were slumping and this was determined to be the main cause.

1883

In 1883, Agostino Longinotti was elected President.

On April 16th, Mr. Antonio Cella kindly took the Santa Maria to his home and placed it in his back yard for storage. It had been stored at Uhrig's Cave since it was purchased.

On Wednesday, August 22nd, the first two American born Italians became members. They were Giovanni Missi and Giovanni Bacigalupo.

Early in the year Domenico Ginocchio was appointed as the Royal Italian Vice Consul. He was made an honorary member of the Fratellanza and requested that a committee be appointed to collect funds for the Messina earthquake victims.

There was no Columbus Day celebration from 1881 to 1883 because of low attendance and the inability to make a good showing.

1884

In 1884, Luigi D. Cassinelli was elected President. He was a Charter member and had been very active in the Society for many years prior.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, August 6th, the Santa Maria was ordered to be sold.

On Thursday, September 4th, the Fratellanza accepted the invitation of the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Exposition to assist in the grand opening of the first fall demonstration by merchants of the city. This continued annually for a few years thereafter. The entire membership turned out with flags, uniforms and 25 horse drawn carriages.

Also on September 4th, the Fratellanza was notified that Henry Shaw had donated a statue of Christopher Columbus to the city. It was to be done in bronze and the Italian sculpture promised completion by the fall of 1886.

Once again the wives and daughters raised funds for new flags for the Society. The new American and Italian flags were presented at a ceremony on Friday, October 17th.

1885

In 1885, Luigi D. Cassinelli was reelected President.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, October 7th, it was decided to reduce initiation fees due to low membership numbers.

1886

In 1886, Bartolomeo Larcari was elected President.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, January 6th, nineteen new members were sworn in. The Fratellanza had decided to reduce the initiation fee the previous October and this helped with recruiting.

One of the outstanding events of the year 1886 occurred on Tuesday, October

12th, when the statue of Christopher Columbus was unveiled. The statue still stands at the entrance to Tower Grove Park. Every civic and fraternal organization turned out to witness the ceremonies. The Fratellanza was given a place of honor in the parade and it was led by soldiers stationed at Jefferson Barracks. The Fratellanza turned out with 25 horse drawn carriages, a brass band, a float filled with girls in white dresses, flags and standards. The parade started at 1:00 and the ceremonies began amid the rumblings of cannons rented by the Fratellanza at 3:00. Ceremonies concluded at 5:30. A dinner and dance was held that night at the Masonic Hall. Music was provided by the Bafunno Brothers Orchestra.

1887

In 1887, Luigi D. Cassinelli was reelected President.

The need for a new Cemetery lot was discussed during the year. The original lot was almost filled to capacity.

1888

In 1888, John Priaro was elected President.

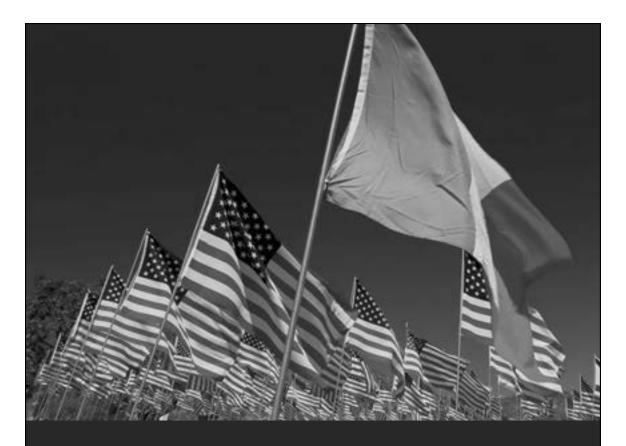
Besides the \$1.00 per member assessment for mortuary benefits, an additional benefit of \$25.00 from the funds of the Society was voted to the beneficiary of a deceased member.

For the first time Druid's Hall at 9th and Market Streets was rented for the Mardi Gras Ball.

1889

In 1889, John Priaro was re-elected President.

On Wednesday April 3rd, a special diploma or certificate was given to all new



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members. The certificate was imprinted with an eagle and the Cross of Savoy.

On Wednesday, September 4th, it was decided to give \$100.00 from profits made at the Columbus Day Dinner and Dance to help pay for a statue of Christopher Columbus in New York City.

The Nineties

1890

In 1890, Angelo F. Cafferata was elected President.

On Thursday, January 23rd came news of the death of Mrs. Angelina Cassinelli. She was the leader of a group of ladies that had supported every function of the Fratellanza. Mrs. Cassinelli was involved in the donation of both sets of early flags. The membership turned out en-masse for her funeral and presented a wreath of flowers. It was the first time that full honors were given to a lady.

On Wednesday, February 5th, the Fratellanza donated the two original flags to the Italian American Athletic Club. The flags were originally donated by the wives of members.

On Wednesday, April 2nd, the twice a month meetings were changed to once a month. It was an economical move that lowered the rent from \$75.00 per year to \$40.00 per year.

1891

In 1891, Enrico Capelli was elected President.

The year 1891 was the Silver Jubilee of the Fratellanza.

On Wednesday, March 4th, meetings were moved to Druid's Hall at 9th and Market Streets.

On Friday, June 12th, a picnic was held at Ramona Park, which at that time was considered "away out in the country".

On Thursday, October 1st, amid appropriate ceremonies, the title of "Honorary President" was conferred upon Cavaliere Domenico Ginocchio – Italian Consular Agent for his many years of excellent work as a member and Consular Agent.

Saturday, October 17th, was the date of the Silver Jubilee Dinner and Ball. It was held at Druid's Hall and started with dinner at 6:00 P.M. It was followed by speakers and the Grand Ball. The festivities lasted until 5:00 A.M.

1892

In 1892, Enrico Capelli was re-elected President.

On Wednesday, January 6th, twentythree new members were initiated from the District of Cheltenham (now the Hill). It was the first group of Italians from this area to join the Fratellanza.

Fifty-Nine new members were initiated in 1892. This was the most new members since the initiation of Charter members in 1866.

On Wednesday, July 13th, the Italian American Cavalry was formed. This organization was modeled after the "Quarto Regimento di Cavallaria di Genoa" or 4th Cavalry Regiment of Genoa. Members were subjected to intensive drilling on horseback as well as on foot. The uniform consisted of a blue coat, cream pants with blue stripes, golden shoulder scallion, golden baldric, sword

and a helmet with a flowing purple plume. The Italian Cavalry was a sister organization to the Fratellanza. Years later the two organizations would merge.

On Thursday, August 4th, the wooden cross that stood at the head of the cemetery lot was replaced with a new stone monument.

On Wednesday, October 12th, the 400th celebrated Fratellanza the Anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America. It was a city-wide affair with a military unit from Jefferson Barracks along with their 100 piece band. The Fratellanza members supplied 40 carriages with American and Italian flags each carrying 4 members. The Grand Marshall was Antonio Cavagnaro astride a white horse. There were 2 floats with ladies dressed in white and a float of Christopher Columbus. The procession arrived at the statue of Christopher Columbus at the entrance of Tower Grove Park to the sound of cannons firing and the bands playing on. A wreath was laid at the foot of the statue of Columbus. In the evening a Grand Ball was held at Druid's Hall and as usual went on into the early morning hours of the next day.

1893

In 1893, Giovanni Priario was elected President. He resigned in April and Florian DeDonato was elected President at the July meeting.

The picnic was held on Sunday, August 13th at Offenstein's Grove on Easton Avenue. Picnic Chairman C. Enrico Capelli called for donations to the picnic and the following items were donated by members:

Giacomo Boro - 1 Barrel of Beer

James Cafferata – 2 Gallons of Whiskey C.E. Capelli – 500 Cigars

A. Balducci - 10 Cases of Soda

F. DeDonato – 10 Cases of Soda

Joseph Solari – 25 Bottles of Wine

Giovanni Mosconi – Ice and other items

E. Rossi - \$5.00

G. Baricelli – other necessary items
On August 17th, sixteen members were voted to serve as Honorary Pallbearers and would attend every funeral in four carriages.

The Columbus Day Parade, which had endured months of debate about the parade route, was rained out. The Ball went on that night at the Fratellanza Hall.

1894

In 1894, Florian DeDonato was reelected President. He resigned in July and Joseph Solari was elected to fill out his term.

On Sunday, June 24th, the Fratellanza and Italian American Cavalry sponsored a joint picnic. It was held at Monsanto Springs in Illinois. The springs are 20 miles south of the city. A large parade marched to the dock at 9:00 A.M. and the boat arrived at Monsanto Springs at 2:00. It returned back to the city at Midnight.

1895

In 1895, Joseph Solari was re-elected President.

The picnic was held on Sunday, June 30th at Offenstein's Grove. The Italian Social Club, Christopher Columbus Club and Italian American Cavalry were invited to participate.

1896

In 1896, Joseph Solari was re-elected President.

On Wednesday, March 4th, a special meeting was called to discuss purchasing a new lot at Calvary Cemetery. The lot consisted of 6000 square feet at .40 per foot. The Society decided to purchase 3000 square feet and the Italian American Cavalry purchased the other 3000 square feet

On Tuesday, May 26th, the devastating tornado of 1896 tore through the city. No members were killed, but some lost family members and others were left destitute. The Fratellanza donated \$100.00 to the Red Cross.

On Wednesday, September 9th, the membership decided that four members would attend the wake of a member. They had to stay up all night because in those days a wake was held in the home of the deceased.

1897

In 1897, Angelo F. Cafferata was elected President.

It was decided at the meeting held on Wednesday, January 6th, that each member would be assessed \$1.00 per year to be used to keep the two cemetery lots clean

The picnic was held on Sunday, July 18th at Offenstein's Grove.

No Columbus Day Parade was held this year due to low enrollment.

1898

In 1898, Julius Bernacchi was elected President.

The picnic location was changed to Berthold's Grove on the outskirts of the southern part of the city.

On Sunday, July 8th, an amendment was put into effect that raised the cemetery

assessment to \$2.00 per year and the money would be invested and the interest would be used to clean the cemetery lots which were becoming dilapidated.

On Wednesday, August 3rd, a new resolution was passed that would pay a 200.00 death benefit to a members family. This policy was purchased from a commercial carrier by the Fratellanza and had a cut-off age of 50. It was dropped a few years later because of the cost involved.

1899

In 1899, Julius Bernacchi was re-elected President.

On Sunday, February 5th, the constitution committee that was appointed the month before resigned. They were asked to draw up several new amendments because members were leaving due to the number of assessments being levied.

Two vice-presidents were elected for the first time. A $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ and $\mathbf{2}^{\text{nd}}$ vice-president were now the norm.

The Columbus Day Ball was cancelled for various reasons this year.

Monsignor Cesare Spigardi

We pause here to talk about one of the most important members of the St. Louis Italian American community.

In the fall of 1899 Monsignor Cesare Spigardi came to St. Louis. He was born on August 31, 1859 in Pompesco, Montava, Italy and ordained a priest on June 7, 1884. He was elevated to a Monsignor and Domestic Prelate under Pope Leo XIII. He died on Friday, May 8, 1931 and is buried in the Priests lot at Calvary Cemetery.

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Upon his arrival in St. Louis Monsignor Spigardi conducted 3 weeks of missions in Italian at St. Patrick's Church. He decided to try and start an Italian Church in St. Louis and after meeting with Archbishop Glennon set out to raise funds to start an Italian Church. On Sunday, February 11, 1900, he opened the first Italian Church, St. Charles Borromeo Italian Church at Nineteenth and Morgan Streets and the crowds were so large that not everyone could get in the door and many spilled out onto the street.

From then on, his life was a continuous round of doing good things for the Italian people of St. Louis. It could be either spiritual in nature or material. He was beloved by all in St. Louis and became one of the "Big Three" clergymen of the day. Father Dempsey, Father Dunne and Father Spigardi were the great apostles of the poor in St. Louis from the late 1890's to the 1920's.

The second Italian Church that Monsignor Spigardi opened was Our Lady Help of Christians at Tenth and Wash Streets in the heart of "Little Italy". The first Italian school was opened across the street and was staffed by the order of Italian Sisters of Zelatrix.

The vast and growing area known as Cheltenham/Fairmount Heights (now known as the Hill) is where Monsignor Spigardi opened the third church. It was opened in 1903 and named Saint Ambrose. The original church was destroyed by a fire in 1923 and was replaced with the current building that was completed in 1926. One of the last things accomplished by Monsignor Spigardi before his death was

the opening of Saint Domenico Italian Orphan Home in 1930.

The Fratellanza continues to honor his memory every year at the Annual Memorial Mass with a prayer service at his grave and the placing of a wreath of flowers.



Monsignor Cesare Spigardi

A New Century 1900

In 1900, Joseph Solari was elected President.

St. Louis was ranked as the sixth largest city in the United States and Italian immigrants were starting to arrive in larger numbers. The early Italians of St. Louis were now into their second generation.

On Wednesday, June 6th, the Anita Garibaldi Society, the second Italian Mutual Aid Society to be organized on the Hill, presented the Fratellanza with an engraved Diploma of Honor.

On Friday, August 17th, the Fratellanza attended a mass in memory of the late King Humbert of Italy who had recently been assassinated.

1901

In 1901, Angelo F. Cafferata was elected President. In his inaugural address Cafferata asked for an increase in membership. The Fratellanza was invited to participate in the grand opening of the World's Fair and it was important that we have a proper representation of members.

On Wednesday, July 3rd, the Fratellanza turned out for the inauguration ceremonies and the blessing of the flags of the Anita Garibaldi Society.

1902

In 1902, Angelo F. Cafferata was reelected President.

Although the Fratellanza had a very elaborate badge, it never had a Society emblem or button. At the meeting in January a committee that had been appointed a few months' earlier submitted two samples. The first one had three stars. The other one, which was the one selected, had three embossed clover leaves enameled and gold plated. The first leaf was red, the second was white and the third was green, the initials S.U.F.I. were in white and in the center was the clasp of hands, denoting fraternity, interwoven with the American colors. They were sold at 50 cents each.

The Fratellanza looking for youth in its membership approached the St. Louis Italian American Athletic Club and made an overture for members. On Wednesday, January 8th, thirteen young men agreed to join for a reduced rate of \$1.00 each. At

the meeting held on Sunday, March 2nd, thirty-one young men joined and at the meeting held on Wednesday, April 2nd, ten more joined.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, July 2nd, an appeal was made to start a Ladies Auxiliary. Nothing came of it at that time.

1903

In 1903, Domenico Repetto was elected President.

The meetings at one time all in Italian were starting to integrate English into the mix. This was due to the influx of the young Athletic Club members.

At the picnic, "Toscani" a game of "Rolling the Cheese" was introduced. The game involved wrapping the cheese in a large strap and rolling it. The one who rolled the cheese the farthest was the winner. Each contestant got three turns.

In September the Fratellanza accepted an invitation from the Meridionale Society for the inauguration of their flags and banners.

On Sunday, September 20th, the Fratellanza accepted the invitation of the Anita Garibaldi Society to celebrate "Garibaldi Day".

1904

In 1904, Angelo F. Cafferata was elected President.

At a special meeting that was held on Wednesday, January 13th, it was unanimously decided to print the by-laws and constitution in both Italian and English. The new translated copies were distributed to all members on Wednesday, March 2nd.

The World's Fair of 1904

The World's Fair of 1904 was like no other time in St. Louis history. Every day was unique and many different celebrations took place. There was an "Italian Day" or a "Christopher Columbus Anniversary Day". On these occasions' members under the banner of the Fratellanza processed with bands, flags, banners, and carriages in the parade down the Pike.

A committee was appointed to purchase new badges, a new standard and society buttons in anticipation of the coming fair.

On Tuesday, May 10th, Giuseppe Donati, an Italian sailor, died suddenly while visiting the fair. He had no relatives in the United States and steps were taken to give him a proper burial. The Fratellanza buried him in their lot with the same honors given to a member. A letter of thanks was later received from Generale G. Branchi of Italy.

The Columbus Day celebration at the fair was a magnificent affair. It was attended by members of the Fratellanza along with the Anita Garibaldi Society, Italian-American Cavalry and Nord Italy. The ball that evening was held at the Liederkranza Hall and started with dinner at 6:00 P.M. The dancing lasted until 5:00 the next morning.

Also in 1904, came the founding of "Il Pensiero by Luigi Carnavale. The paper is still printed today under the direction of our member, Cavaliere Antonino Lombardo.

1905

In 1905, Bartolomeo Valla was elected President.

The Fratellanza accepted an invitation to attend the inaugural of a new club called the Vittorio Emanuelle III Italian Club.

The picnic was held at Normandy Grove for the first time. It had a large covered dance hall, refreshment stand, tables and large grounds. It was later purchased by several members of the Fratellanza.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Columbus Day instead of the usual ball. Lunch with refreshments, music and dancing were included at no cost.

1906

In 1906, Angelo F. Cafferata was elected President.

There was talk during the year to purchase another cemetery lot, but no action was taken.

The hall booked for the Columbus Day Ball was found to be inadequate for use and the Ball was cancelled because a new location could not be found in the short amount of time necessary.

1907

In 1907, Domenico Repetto was elected President.

The Honorable Joseph Falk, Governor of Missouri, enforced the Sunday closing of all saloons at midnight on Saturday until midnight on Sunday. The annual Mardi Gras Ball was cancelled because the dances of the Fratellanza lasted until 5:00 A.M.



The Fratellanza Society is the oldest Italian American organization in the United States. The Fratellanza Society was organized on November 12, 1866 and was incorporated on December 6, 1866 as a fraternal and benevolent society under the name Società Unione e Fratellanza Italiana (Italian Fraternal Union).

The primary objective was and continues to be, to create an organization that will promote unity between Italians and their adopted country. We are grateful and devoted to the United States which welcomed us and enabled us to prosper, but remain mindful of the Italian customs and traditions which we inherited from our immigrant ancestors.

A business meeting is conducted on the first Wednesday of each month. We conduct annual events such as the annual banquet, memorial mass, and the member picnic. We also have many other special events chaired by members including baseball outings, night at the races, trivia nights, and many more. The group also participates in Italian community events ranging from local festivals to the Columbus Day parade.

The initial and current purpose of the Fratellanza is the promotion of the general welfare of all members in the tradition of the Italian American community. Any male, eighteen years or older, may apply for membership. The Fratellanza strives to keep alive the Italian roots and heritage of the founders, however membership is open to all, regardless of ethnic background.

Regular meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month at Guido's on "The Hill" at 7:00pm.

Meetings were changed to Sunday afternoons and the first meeting was the December meeting and election of officers.

1908

In 1908, Joseph Freschi was elected President.

On Sunday, January 5th, it was decided that meetings from October to April would be held on the first Sunday of the month. Meetings were held on the first Wednesday of the month during the rest of the year.

After one of the dances it was discovered that one of the American flags was missing. It was later found in a pawn shop and cost \$6.00 to recover.

The new Cave Hall was selected for the Columbus Day Dance on Monday, October 12th.

On Sunday, October 18th, the Fratellanza at the invitation of Monsignor Cesare Spigardi was invited to participate in the laying of the cornerstone of the New Cathedral. The entire membership of 208 turned out with flags, bands and carriages.

1909

In 1909, Joseph Freschi was re-elected President.

At every meeting it had been customary that immediately following the roll call of officers; the Secretary would call the roll of each member present. At the call of his name the member would proceed to the table of the Vice-Secretary and pay his dues. This would generally take at least an hour. A change in the by-laws created the position of a Financial Secretary who

would collect dues. This would happen either at the meeting or during the month.

The Annual Picnic was held at Offenstein's Grove.

The Fratellanza donated \$200.00 to the Red Cross for the victims of the severe earthquakes in Calabria and Sicily.

The Columbus Day celebration on Tuesday, October 12th was a joint celebration of all of the Italian Societies. The Ball was held at Trimp's Hall.

The Teens

1910

In 1910, Louis Bellagamba was elected President.

At the meeting held on Sunday, January 2nd, new offices were filled for the first time. One was a Vice-Financial Secretary and the others were four flag and standard bearers.

On Saturday, January 15th, Cavaliere Alessandro Brolettti was appointed as the Italian Consular Agent. Because of the size of the Italian community of St. Louis the position was raised to Vice Consulate.

Another change was the election of officers at the meeting that was held on Sunday, November 6th. Officers were nominated at an open meeting instead of by a committee of five for the first time. Two members were placed on the ballot for each office.

1911

In 1911, Herman Pieri was elected President. At this time he was the youngest President at 28 years of age. His election was not without problems. There was some prejudice from the older members. He quickly showed that he



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11pm Monday thru Thursday & Sunday 12am Friday & Saturday meant business and asked for cooperation of all members and in the first few months fifty-six new members were initiated.

It was noted that only 25 graves remained available in the cemetery lot and a committee was appointed to investigate. A lot of 6,000 feet at .50 per foot was available, but again nothing came of it.

The annual "20th of September" anniversary was celebrated by all of the Italian Societies. It was an important date in that the doors to Rome were opened to the new Italy. The celebration that occurred on Sunday, September 17th was also the 50th anniversary of United Italy.

1912

In 1912, Joseph Freschi was elected President.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, April 3rd, it was decided that the Treasurer make payments by check instead of cash. At the same meeting it was decided that each grave in our lot have a uniform headstone.

1913

In 1913, Enrico Zerbarini was elected President. There was a tie in balloting between Zerbarini and Joseph Freschi and it was decided that the chairman of the ballot committee would decide the outcome by the flip of a silver dollar. Freschi chose heads and Zerbarini tails. After the coin stopped rolling it was tails for Zerbarini.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, April 2nd, it was decided that officers be nominated from the floor instead of names being printed on a ballot.

During the year the Fratellanza purchased a building at 3119 Pine St. It

took several years to get a clear title. The previous owner had IRS liens on the property for manufacturing oleo margarine which was illegal at the time.

A committee was appointed for the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis in 1914.

1914

In 1914, Herman Pieri was elected President.

Discussions on the cemetery lot took place. The discussion centered on all graves being dug up and interred in one tomb with a large monument. The old lot could then be used for reburials. This idea was abandoned when it was determined that it would be impossible to get consent from all of the families involved.

At the meeting held on Sunday, February 1st, it was decided that at funerals the carriages would meet at the meeting hall and proceed to where the member lay in state. It was also decided that an oration be made at the grave. Achille Zani presented a standard oration that would be read at all funerals.

The Fratellanza attended a picnic of the Pro Lega Italiana celebrating Italian Constitution Day.

The Columbus Day Dance was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Sunday, October 11th. The cost was \$2.00 per person.

The Fratellanza attended a Memorial Mass for Pope Pius X who recently died.

1915

In 1915, Elia Contarini was elected President.

On Monday, February 16th, the president appointed a 50th Anniversary

Committee for the 1916 Golden Jubilee banquet.

At this time membership suffered due to World War 1.



Circolo Societa'

On Sunday, July 15, 1915 the Circolo Societa' Fratellanza was founded. Several young men devised a plan to start a group consisting of members between the ages of 18 and 30 years. Twenty-four joined after consent was given by the Fratellanza. The group of young men put on dances and picnics that were attended by large crowds and they become known as the "Crazy Bunch". The Circolo featured monthly meals that were prepared by members demonstrating different dishes from various parts of Italy. Membership was capped at 25 and there was a waiting list to join. The meetings were brief and consisted of the meal and camaraderie among the members.

1916-The Golden Jubilee

In 1916, Enrico Zerbarini was elected President.

The Circolo Sociale held their first dance on Saturday, February 20, 1916. It was held at the Knights of Columbus Building and was a Masquerade Ball.

The Fratellanza took in sixty-five new members in anticipation of the Golden Jubilee.

The Golden Jubilee celebration started on Sunday, October 14th following the general meeting. The 200 members in attendance stood and saluted as the flag bearers entered the room. The Star Spangled Banner and the Royal Italian March were played on the piano. Remarks by President Enrico Zerbarini were met with loud applause. A souvenir medal made especially for the event was given to each member.

On Sunday, October 29th, the first requiem high mass for deceased members was held at St. Charles Borromeo. Members then processed to Calvary Cemetery where flowers were laid at the graves of the deceased and the lots were then blessed by Monsignor Cesare Spigardi.

On Sunday, November 12th, the Golden Jubilee Banquet and Dance at the Moolah Temple on Lindell Blvd was celebrated. The room was filled to capacity with 500 guests and the meal was strictly Italian with ravioli and all of the trimmings along with Chianti wine. The Program and Dance followed dinner with an additional 1000 in attendance. Several dignitaries spoke and a performance was given by the San Carlo Opera Company, who just happened to be in town performing at the Odeon Theatre. The banquet was a huge success and netted the Fratellanza a nice profit.

1917

In 1917, Enrico Zerbarini was re-elected President.

Shortly after the election the United States declared war on Germany and its allies.

At the meeting held on Sunday, March 4th, it was decided that a letter be sent to

President Woodrow Wilson pledging support for him in the current crisis. Within a week a telegram was received by the Fratellanza from President Wilson expressing his thanks for the patriotic ideals and support for him and our country in this grave time of war.

A letter was also sent to Mayor Henry Kiel assuring him of the cooperation of the Fratellanza in the patriotic activities that were to be held the following week.

A committee was formed to aid members who were or would be drafted into the war. The Fratellanza purchased \$1000.00 in Liberty Bonds and the Society Physician Dr. E.E. Holt enlisted.

On Sunday, September 2nd, a special meeting was called and for the first time ever it was decided to suspend new membership because of the war.

On Sunday, November 18th, a joint ball was given by the Fratellanza, Circolo Sociale and the Italian-American Cavalry for the benefit of the Red Cross.

A Requiem High Mass was celebrated at Our Lady Help of Christians by Father Giulio Giovannini for the repose of souls of Italian soldiers killed in the war.

1918

In 1918, Enrico Zerbarini was re-elected President.

The war was in full swing and the great Spanish flu epidemic was decimating the population of the world.

On Sunday, April 7th, a joint meeting of Italian Societies was held for the purpose of purchasing Liberty Bonds. The Fratellanza purchased \$4,500.00 in Liberty Bonds at the meeting.

On Sunday, May 29th, all members of the Italian Societies in St. Louis participated in a parade celebrating Italy's third anniversary in the World War.

On Monday, May 30th, General Giugliemotti arrived from Italy. He was met at Union Station by a large delegation that then marched to the Armory. His expenses were paid by the Chamber of Commerce and his visit here was to drum up interest in Liberty Bonds.

The Fratellanza participated in a new Federation of Italian Societies, but it disbanded at the conclusion of the war.

In October a company of Alpini soldiers led by Captain Arrigo Gasparini, came to St. Louis to do their part in raising funds for Liberty Bonds. Large gatherings were prohibited at this time because of the Spanish flu outbreak. Not even the police could stop the large crowds from coming out to welcome the Alpinis.

The November meeting was cancelled because of the flu epidemic and a few days later came the news that the war had ended.

1919

In 1919, Enrico Zerbarini was re-elected President.

At the meeting held on Sunday, January 4th, it was decided that all soldiers be readmitted to membership without payment of initiation fees.

There were twenty-eight members of the Fratellanza that saw active military service in World War 1.

At the meeting held on Sunday, March 2nd, admission of new members resumed.

At the meeting held on Sunday, May 4th, it was reported that Louis Pacini had died in France from wounds he received in battle. A three minute moment of silence was held in his memory.

On Sunday, May 11th, Joseph Garansini a member and champion wrestler put on a wrestling exhibition at the Big Club Hall for the benefit of St. Ambrose Church.

On Sunday, November 2nd, the Fratellanza assisted with the inauguration of the Sons of Italy.

The Roaring Twenties 1920

In 1920, Enrico Zerbarini was re-elected President.

At the meeting held on Sunday, February 1st, a group of ladies requested to use the name of our Society to form a Ladies Auxiliary. The leader, Mrs. Theresa Baroni explained that inasmuch as the ladies have helped out the Fratellanza materially in all of their social events and functions, they might be better able to carry out the work if they were organized. Only ladies that had relatives as members could join. The Fratellanza decided to give them \$25.00 to help them get started.

On Sunday, February 29th, after several discussions with the Italian-American Cavalry, a special meeting was called to look into the purchase of a building. At the second meeting on Sunday, April 11th, it was decided to pledge \$2,500.00 each and the Italian Fraternal Building and Investment Company was incorporated.

In July, Prince Caitani, Italian Ambassador at Washington, visited St. Louis. He spoke on the Reconstruction of the New Italy following the war. A large crowd was present at the Odeon Theatre to hear him speak.

On Sunday, August 8th, a huge picnic was held at Normandy Grove.

The question of a new burial lot was once again on the agenda. It was voted not to purchase a new lot at this time, but to instead increase the death benefit from \$200.00 to \$300.00. This allowed the family of a deceased member to purchase a lot and stone at their own accord.

1921

In 1921, Enrico Zerbarini was re-elected President.

On Sunday, May 22nd, at Columbus Square, all of the Italian organizations attended the ceremonies of the blessing of the Flags of the Italian World War Veterans.

In August, St. Louis was visited by Pietro Badoglio a military hero from Italy. During this time several Italian War Veterans traveled to the United States to raise funds to rebuild Italy.

On Monday, December 5th, General Armando Diaz, Supreme Commander in Chief of the Italian Army arrived in St. Louis. His goal was to raise 50,000 liras or \$2,500.00 for the orphans of Italy. The Fratellanza donated \$300.00 to the cause.

The first meeting of the Italian Club was held on Tuesday, December 13th at the Elks Club. Their sole purpose would be to entertain visitors from Italy upon their arrival to St. Louis. On January 4, 1922, the club was duly organized and on January 25, 1922, the constitution and by-laws were drawn up, along with the election of officers.

1922

In 1922, Pellegrino Guaspari was elected President.

A new group was formed during the month of January and was called the

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United Italian Societies (Societa' Italiane Riunite). This was a central body for all Italian organizations. After a few years it gave way to "The Columbian Committee or Comitato Columbiano", which was started to celebrate Columbus Day, but later changed to represent all of the Italian Societies.

On Friday, April 21st, it was found out that Benito Mussolini had become the head of Italy in a bloodless revolution. He brought forth a new Italy under the regime of Fascism.

1923

In 1923, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected President.

For his work among the Italians here in St. Louis Monsignor Spigardi was elevated to Cavaliere of the Crown of Italy by the King of Italy. An elaborate banquet was held at the Statler Hotel.

The Reverend Father DeLeo of Palermo, along with Cosmo Zerilli, president of the Vittorio Emanuele Society visited St. Louis collecting money for war orphans.

1924

In 1924, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected President.

A permanent Festival Committee was elected at the meeting held on Sunday, January 6th. In the past a committee would be elected as needed.

Payment of dues was changed from monthly to quarterly and all meetings were changed back to Wednesdays.

It was decided that at the death of a member the Fratellanza would send a wreath of flowers.

The Knights of Columbus joined the Fratellanza in the Columbus Day Parade.

1925

In 1925, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected President.

A large delegation of members attended the opera Tosca at the Odeon on Saturday, May 23rd in memory of Giacomo Puccini, the composer.

On Saturday, May 30th, St. Ambrose Church was dedicated.

In October, the Italian Fraternal Building and Investment Co. announced that they had purchased the building at Vandeventer and Delmar Blvd. for \$85,000.00. The building was being renovated and would be ready for use in three months.

On Sunday, December 6th, the Italian Fraternal Building was formally opened. The inaugural ball was so large that people flowed into every room. The Fratellanza decided to hold the meeting on January 3rd at the new Italian Fraternal Building.

1926

In 1926, Charles A. Boggiano was elected President.

The meeting held on Sunday, January 3rd was the first meeting of any Italian organization at the new Italian Fraternal Building.

Arrigo Gasperini, Italian Consul, sent a letter of thanks to the Fratellanza for the Mass in memory of the late Queen Mother of Italy. It was held on Friday, March 12th, at St. Ambrose.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, celebrations for the 60th anniversary started. A certificate was given to all past presidents and all members with at least thirty years of membership.

The 60th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, November 14th at the Italian

Fraternal Building and was sold out. More than 400 people filled the Grand Hall. The meal consisted of roast young turkey with all of the trimmings, coffee and mints. Cigars were given to all of the men to enjoy after dinner. John Bernacchi and his Orchestra provided the entertainment.

A new custom was started where a past president would receive an award called the "Mystical Badge of Honor". It was a white gold chain with an engraved emblem in solid gold. It contained the three leaf clover in relief and in colors and on the back was the name, date presented and date of service as president. This would be presented at a meeting night dedicated to the person being honored.

1927

In 1927, Charles A. Boggiano was reelected President.

On Sunday April 3rd, Commander DePineolo, who was making his around the world flight, circled over St. Louis in his plane without landing.

The Fratellanza received a letter from Carlo Marselli, Commander of the Ex-Combattenti stating that he had placed a bronze wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Rome. This was done in the name of the Italians of St. Louis.

The 61st Grand Annual Ball was held on Sunday, October 16th at the Italian Fraternal Building honoring Christopher Columbus.

A banquet was held on November 6th at the Coronado Hotel celebrating the Italian World War Victory. It was sponsored by the United Italian Societies.

On Friday, November 11th, the Fratellanza participated in the Armistice Day Parade.

1928

In 1928, Henry Giovannini was elected President.

The membership committee published a six page ad in the II Pensiero entitled "Ten reasons why you should join the Fratellanza".

On Monday, April 2nd, the Fratellanza was presented with a bronze plaque and a certificate of merit at the Natale di Roma celebration.

On Wednesday, May 2nd, the Society lots in Calvary Cemetery were declared closed.

Brother S. Olivieri presented the Fratellanza with an emblem of the Society in Mosaic. It contained a light and it hung above the seat of the president at all meetings.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, June 6th, dues were increased to \$13.00 and the sick benefit was \$1.50 per day.

It was announced that Cavaliere Dr. Mario Dessalues was appointed Italian Consul of St. Louis. A position he held for two years.

1929

In 1929, Henry Giovannini was reelected President.

For the first time the annual financial statement of the Fratellanza was mailed to every member.

It was decided at the meeting held on Wednesday, January 2nd, to select a nine person committee to appoint the Society Physician for the year. It was also decided that \$1.00 per member be assessed for the year's entertainment.

On Wednesday, March 6th, Gino Mariani submitted "The Fratellanza Hymn" that he had written. It goes like this:

Quando uniti s'incamminano
I suoi membri al Mercoledi
Passa lieto nel sorridere
Il fini di questo di
E piacevole all'unisono
Questa nostra societa'
Che dal cor germoglia libera
La comun sincerita'.

Coro

La Fratellanza e una gran Societa'

Offre ai suoi membri la cordialita

Italiana uniti un di

Troversani tutt i qui

In questa madre che chiama all'amor

Che offer ai giovani tenero il cuor

Fratellanza Avanti il tuo marciar

Nel domani la Gloria ti sara!

Here is the translation that was provided by Gino:

When united, your members make their way together on Wednesdays.

Pass Joyful time smiling.

The end of this is pleasing to all in accord That from the heart spring free the common sincerity of the heart.

The Fratellanza is a great Society
It offers its members Italian cordiality
Until one day, all here, find themselves
in this mother who call to love.
Who offers to the tender heart, her heart.
Fratellanza, forward your march
Your glory will be tomorrow.

News was received that Joseph Freschi had received the Knight of the Cross of the Crown of Italy (Cavaliere). A night of honor was held for him at the meeting on Wednesday, September 4th.

On Sunday, November 10th, the Principe di Piermonte Society celebrated their 25th Anniversary. The Fratellanza sent a special delegation.

The annual salary of the doctor was raised from \$1.00 per member to \$500.00 per year.

Total membership at the end of 1929 was 383, which was a new record for the Fratellanza.

The Great Depression 1930

In 1930, Henry Giovannini was reelected President.

The Great Depression which began in the fall of 1929 carried over into 1930. The first sign of the depression was the stock market crash. The Fratellanza and its members suffered from the effects.

In February the Littorio Loan was sold for a profit. This loan would have become uncollectable if it had been held any longer.

The Campania Society held their 1st Anniversary Dance on Sunday, May 25th and welcomed the members of the Fratellanza.

In December the Fratellanza set aside \$100.00 to be loaned to members who were in arrears in payment of their dues.

1931

In 1931, Gino Mariani was elected President.

A New Year's party was held by the Fratellanza on Saturday, January 10th.

The 25th Anniversary of the St. Joseph Society was held at the Arcadia Ballroom.

On Friday, May 8th, news of the death of Monsignor Cesare Spigardi was received. After being ill for several weeks he succumbed to pneumonia at St. John's Hospital. A resolution was adopted by the Fratellanza extolling his virtues and was drafted into the minutes.

On Sunday, August 16th, an Italian Fair sponsored by the Columbian Association was held at Westlake Park. The Fratellanza was prominent in the Fair.

On Sunday, September 13th, the St. Domenico Italian Orphan Home was dedicated. The home was made possible by several large donations from members of the Fratellanza.

The Vincenzo Bellini Society celebrated their 1st Anniversary with a grand ball at the Big Club Hall. The Fratellanza helped out in the celebration.

The 65th Anniversary Banquet was held at the Italian Fraternal Building. Cavaliere Paul Valenti, Vice Consul and professor of architecture at Washington University honored the Fratellanza with an address.

1932

In 1932, Gino Mariani was re-elected President.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, July 6th sick benefits were changed to \$1.50 per day for the first month and \$1.00 per day for the next two months.

Renato Cittarelli was named the new Italian Consul of St. Louis. On his arrival he requested donations to teach the Italian language in several public schools.

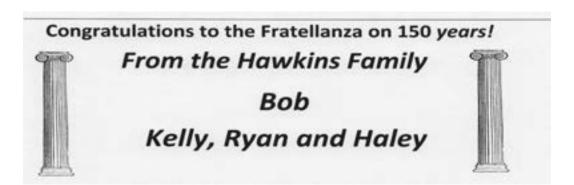
1933

In 1933, Joseph B. Catanzaro an attorney and a Judge of Police Court #1 was elected President.

Although assets of the Society were firm, ready cash was scarce. Several short term loans resulted.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, April 5th, it was decided that one limousine and six members would be sent to the funeral of a deceased member. It had been two limousines and twelve members prior to this.

The 67th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 10th at the Italian Fraternal Building on Lindell.



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1934-2016 Written by Robert M. Hawkins

1934

In 1934, Joseph B. Catanzaro was reelected President.

An advisory committee was appointed to oversee the finances of the Fratellanza. The depression had caused several losses to the Society. A budget was enacted as were several cuts in expenditures.

The Italian Consul Renato Cittarelli started a movement for an Italian Center. The "Domus Italica" was formed in a building on Lindell Blvd. and after a year they acquired the Old Century Boat Club at 3500 S. Broadway. Many conferences and meetings were held there. Within a few years the society dissolved and the building was sold.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 3rd at Gray's Grove.

The Columbus Day Ball was held on Sunday, October 7th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Friday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

Achille Zani missed his first meeting in fifteen years and was given a box of cigars from the Fratellanza. It was later learned that he had been in an automobile accident.

The 68th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 9th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

1935

In 1935, Pellegrino Guaspari was elected President.

A special membership drive was held and all former members up to the age of 49 who had been dropped between 1930 & 1934 were readmitted without paying initiation fees.

The Junior League was organized on Monday, February 11, 1935. Its membership was composed of young men between the ages of 12-18 years, and whose fathers or relatives were members of the Fratellanza. Their programs consisted of athletics, socials and the teaching of leadership skills.

In February, the Domus Italica held their Grand Ball at Gambrinus Hall. Ten members of the Fratellanza were appointed to help.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, March 2nd at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The first issue of the Fratellanza News was published on Wednesday, May 15, 1935. It was a quarterly publication that was paid for with advertisements. It was four pages in length and included news of the Fratellanza and its members.

The 100th Birthday of the great Italian writer and composer Vincenzo Bellini who was one of the most important composers of Italian Opera in the early 1800's was celebrated with a gala on the evening of Friday, July 19th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 2nd at Gray's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Saturday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

The Columbus Day Ball was held on Sunday, October 13th at Tower Grove Turner Hall.

The Children's Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 21st at the Italian Fraternal Building.

1936

In 1936, Pellegrino Guaspari was re-elected President.

His Excellency Rt. Reverend Bishop Coppo of Italy visited the Fratellanza on Wednesday, April 1st. He was brought to the meeting by Father Kane who announced that Bishop Coppo was in St. Louis for a week of missions at the Italian Church. A large group of members made it to the missions every night.

A victory celebration was held at the Italian Fraternal Building on Monday, May 11th to celebrate Italy defeating Ethiopia and establishing an empire. A congratulatory telegram was sent to Benito Mussolini and a Mass was held at St. Ambrose on Sunday, May 17th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 7th at Gray's Grove.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 10th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 70th Anniversary Dinner and Dance was held on Sunday, November 15th. The Italian Fraternal Building was filled to capacity. All of the Italian organizations in St. Louis were present and the Italian-American Cavalry presented an ebony mallet with a silver band that contained the emblem of the Fratellanza and a congratulatory message engraved on it. Thomas Langden, State Deputy of the Missouri Knights of Columbus in his message added that the Knights and Italians

share a kinship. The Italians gave to the Knights of Columbus – Christopher Columbus, their patron.

1937

In 1937, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected President.

In April the Italian Consul Renato Citarelli was called back to Italy and the office of Consul was reduced to Vice-Consulate under the direction of the Italian Consul in Chicago.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Saturday, April 3rd at the Italian Fraternal Building.

A Mass was held at St. Ambrose on Sunday, May 9th celebrating the 1st anniversary of the Italian Empire.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 13th at Gray's Grove and featured a baseball game between the Junior League and Amore e Vita Young Men. The Junior League won the game 16 - 12.

Professor Gironda was sent to St. Louis from Detroit to teach Italian language classes. He attended the meeting held on Wednesday, August 4th and asked that children of members and even adults take Italian language classes.

The Columbian Society offered a prize to the Society that sold the most tickets for the Columbus Day Dance. The Fratellanza won and was presented with a winged victory trophy that was engraved with "Onoranze Columbiane 1937, Alla Societa Unione e Fratellanza Italiana."

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 10th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 71st Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, November 14th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 18th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

1938

In 1938, Pellegrino Guaspari was re-elected President.

A Mass was held at St. Ambrose commemorating the 11th anniversary of the treaty signed between the Vatican and the Italian Government.

The Fratellanza was invited to assist in the festivities renaming Cooper Street to Marconi Avenue The parade that formed, marched to the Big Club Hall where Mayor Bernard Dickmann spoke on the outstanding community and the citizens of the Hill.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 24th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 9th at Tower Grove Park. The Columbus Day Ball was held later that evening at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 6th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service following the Mass.

The 72nd Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, November 13th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

1939

In 1939, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected President. At the meeting held on Wednesday, April 5th new constitution and by-laws were printed and distributed to all members.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 25th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 15th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 5th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 73rd Annual Banquet was held on Armistice Day, Saturday, November 11th at the Italian Fraternal Building and the holiday aided in the success of the event.

The Forties

1940

In 1940, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected President.

The 75th Anniversary committee was appointed at the meeting held on Wednesday, April 3rd.

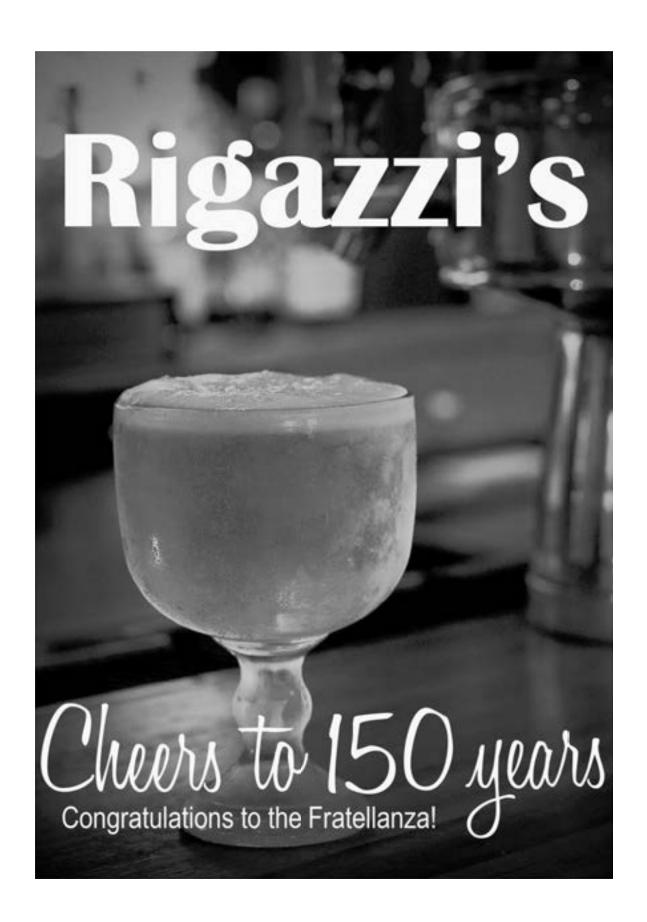
A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, April 7th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

On Sunday, May 12th, the Fratellanza joined other Italian Societies parading to the dedication of the Sacred Heart Villa at Wilson and Marconi Avenues.

The Junior League was disbanded due to lack of interest.

The Fratellanza made a donation to the "Natale di Roma" celebration to help raise funds to teach the Italian language.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 16th at Risch's Grove.



A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, October 13th to pay tribute to the Circolo Society on their Silver Jubilee. Members wore brightly colored badges with the letters C.S.F. (Circolo Society Fratellanza) and the words Silver Anniversary on them.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 74th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, November 10th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

On Sunday, December 8th, the Silver Jubilee Dinner Dance for the Circolo was held at the Italian Fraternal Building.

1941

In 1941, Pellegrino Guaspari was reelected for his 11th and final year as President. This was a record for the Society.

A movement started for the merging of the Fratellanza and the Italian-American Cavalry. Plans were not complete, but everyone felt that it would happen.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, April 27th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Fratellanza Bowling League was started by Louis Zerega and Mario Pertici.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 8th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 2nd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The Diamond Jubilee

The executive committee had met for over a year planning the festivities for the Diamond Jubilee. The opening ceremonies were held on October 5th and over 400 attended the event at the Italian Fraternal Building. On Sunday, October 19th another large crowd attended the Family Reunion at the Italian Fraternal Building. The crowd filled every room in the building. A large commemorative mosaic plaque weighing 250 pounds was donated by John Pellarin and was the highlight of the evening. On Sunday, November 2nd, the Italian-American Cavalry joined with the Fratellanza for the Annual Memorial Mass at St. Charles Borromeo with a blessing of the lots that included a special blessing at the grave of Monsignor Spigardi. The big day finally arrived on Sunday, November 9th. The Diamond Jubilee was held at the York Hotel. Mayor William Becker spoke on the role of Italians in St. Louis, Judge Joseph Catanzaro spoke on the history of the Fratellanza, Knights Columbus State Deputy Thomas Langden spoke on "America My Country" and Thomas Muldoon a St. Louis Police Commissioner and the principal speaker of the evening spoke on "The American Citizen of Italian Extraction". This was a tribute to the Italian immigrant and his part in the early building of our country. Reverend William H. Reeves who gave the invocation closed the program with benediction. Benny Rader and his

Orchestra played to a packed dance floor.

1942

In 1942, Silvio Pucci, Sr. was elected President.

Since our country was at war, changes had to be made to the bylaws regarding members who volunteered or were inducted into the service. By the end of the year 24 members were serving in the military.

The Fratellanza Bowling League now had four teams.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, April 26th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Picnic was cancelled due to the war.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The Annual Banquet was cancelled due to the war and a Family Reunion was held in its place on Sunday, November 8th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

1943

In 1943, Alfonso Verzino was elected President.

In 1943, thirty-three members had entered the military.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, May 9th at the Italian Fraternal Building to help raise funds for the Soldiers Committee.

The Annual Picnic and Banquet were cancelled due to the war.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following mass.

1944

In 1944, Alfonso Verzino was reelected President.

Mario Pertici was appointed as the Military Chairman and kept the servicemen up to date with pictures and letters. The Fratellanza received notice that Staff Sergeant Prodosimo Della Betta was missing in action in Germany and Private Charles T. Oldani was killed in action in France. The Fratellanza up to this point had purchased \$7,000.00 in War Bonds.

A Family Reunion for Fratellanza members was held on Sunday, April 16th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Picnic was cancelled due to the war.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 5th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The Annual Banquet was cancelled due to the war.

1945

In 1945, Gene Repetto was elected President.

The Fratellanza received numerous letters from servicemen thanking them for sending all of the packages of goodies and letters from the Soldiers Committee.

The Annual Picnic and Banquet were cancelled due to the war.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass. The turnout was larger than

usual, as fathers and mothers of members in the service joined in.

1946

In 1946, Mario Pertici was elected President.

The Ladies Auxiliary celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a dinner at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, May 19th at Lemay Grove. This location was chosen because of the availability of beer which was in short supply following the war.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Saturday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held On Sunday, November 3rd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 80th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, November 17th at the DeSoto Hotel. Forty-Seven Servicemen were honored with certificates and gifts. A solemn tribute to the deceased followed.

A special edition of the Fratellanza News was published in November to honor the forty-nine members that served in the war. It contained a personal account of their service records.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, December 4th each serviceman was presented with a copy of the 75th Anniversary book along with a gold collar and tie set. The initials of each person and S.U.F.I. 1946 were engraved on the reverse side.

1947

In 1947, Mario Pertici was reelected President.

Baseball Night was held at the meeting on Thursday, January 2nd. Stars such as Joe Garagiola, Yogi Berra, Dick Sisler, Red Barrett, Louis Maguolo and Ben Pucci entertained the members and the music of the Anton Sisters followed.

A Spring Dance was held on Sunday, April 13th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 22nd at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, October 1st members were treated to a boxing and wrestling show. An announcement was made at the meeting that the total membership had exceeded 400 for the first time.

The members of the Fratellanza sponsored a Bocce League at Pagella's Alleys.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 2nd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 81st Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 6th at the De Soto Hotel. The music was provided by Kenny Kimes.

1948

In 1948 Mario Pertici was re-elected President.

The Annual Picnic was held at Creve Coeur Farmers Grove on Sunday, June 20th.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 10th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 82nd Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, November 21st at the De Soto Hotel.

1949

In 1949, Louis F. Zerega was elected President.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 19th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

A Fall Dance was held on Saturday, September 17th at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 9th at Tower Grove Park.

The Prosperi family had six members in the Fratellanza, more than any other family.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 6th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 83rd Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 4th at the De Soto Hotel. Joe Garagiola and Lawrence "Yogi" Berra were the guest speakers.

The Fifties

1950

In 1950, John Reineri was elected President.

Several changes took place in the by-laws. Medical service was

discontinued and the death benefit was increased. Associate members were admitted as members; however they were not admitted as voting members as were the insured members.

A Family Reunion was held on Saturday, April 22nd at the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 25th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 15th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 2nd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 84th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 3rd at the De Soto Hotel.

1951

In 1951 Frank DeBellis was elected President. Frank became the youngest member to serve as President at 26 years of age.

The meeting held on Wednesday, April 4th featured a short film on hospitals and hospital care. Drs. A.J. Signorelli, Anthony J. Vitale, E.D. Tenaglia and A.V. Benincasa all members answered questions following the film.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 24th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 7th at Tower Grove Park and had the largest turnout in several years.



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ON ITS

150TH ANNIVERSARY



Scott Biondo Detective Agency 404 Jungermann Road Saint Peters, Missouri 63376 Lic.# 2013013162 The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 85th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 2 at the De Soto

1952

In 1952, Vincent D. Zerega was elected President.

The by-laws were re-written and issued to all members.

The Fratellanza honored all members serving at least 50 years.

In a joint meeting with the Ladies Auxiliary and the Circolo, the Fratellanza paid tribute to three distinguished guests from Italy to a crowd of 170. Reverend Antonio Rocco, Director of Mater Orphanorum of Milano, Italy, Giuseppiva Oldani, who was miraculously cured of an illness she suffered with for 37 years and her sister Adelina Oldani from Cuggiono, Italy spoke at the meeting. The latter two are sisters of member George Oldani.

Many of the meetings at that time held boxing and wrestling matches after all business has transacted.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 22nd at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Fratellanza held a Grand Ball at Norwood Hills Country Club on Saturday, October 4th. Music was provided by Charlie Novak's Orchestra.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held at St. Charles Borromeo on Sunday, November 2nd with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 86th Annual Banquet was held on Friday, November 7th at the De Soto Hotel.

1953

At the meeting held on Wednesday, March 4th members of 40 or more years were honored.

The Fratellanza held a dance at the Painter's Hall on Saturday, May 9th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 5th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 11th.

The Fratellanza held a Fall Dance at the Kolping House on Sunday, October 25th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following mass.

1954

In 1954, Louis Zesso was elected President.

A film highlighting Italy was shown after the installation of officers.

The Bowling League established an annual tournament with teams from the Memphis Italian Society. The Fratellanza played the Memphis Italian Society on January 23rd & 24th. Memphis came to St. Louis on May 29th & 30th. They bowled at Esquire Lanes.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 6th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 10th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on November 7th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 88th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 5th at the Big Club Hall.

1955

In 1955, Louis Zesso was re-elected President.

All sick benefits were eliminated and the death benefit was raised from \$300.00 to \$500.00.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on March 19th & 20th.

On Saturday, May 28th, the Italian Ambassador was honored at the Statler Hotel.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 12th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Fratellanza moved meetings to Torino's Hall starting with the meeting on Wednesday, July 6th because of the pending sale of the Italian Fraternal Building.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 9th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 6th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The Fratellanza started a building fund in hopes of one day having its own building.

1956

In 1956, Alfonso Verzino was elected President.

Plans were coming together for the 90th Anniversary Banquet to be held later that year.

The Fratellanza held a Spring Dance on Sunday, April 8th at the De Andreis Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 24th at Creve Coeur Farmer's Grove.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 14th.

On Sunday, October 28th the Carabinieri Band of Rome marched into the Arena playing the national anthems of the United States and Italy. The band consisted of 102 pieces and put on a tremendous show for the 2000 people in attendance.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 11th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 90th Anniversary Banquet was held at the Kingsway Hotel on Sunday, November 4th. The dinner was Sirloin Steak and music was provided by the Wallie Master's Orchestra.

1957

In 1957, Frank DeBellis was elected President.

The Circolo was meeting in the Blue Room of the Big Club Hall and the Ladies Auxiliary rotated restaurants every month.

The Fratellanza News changed from a quarterly publication to a monthly publication. This change will keep the members better informed. A Mardi Gras Ball was held on Saturday, February 23rd at the De Andreis Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Fratellanza Bowling League played in Memphis on April 27th & 28th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 11th & 12th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, August 25th at Tilles Park.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 13th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 91st Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 14th at the Maplewood American Legion Hall.

1958

In 1958, Joseph Cantoni was elected President.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, April 2nd meetings were moved to the Big Club Hall.

The Fratellanza hosted a Ravioli and Roast Beef dinner at the Big Club Hall on Sunday, April 27th. This was a very successful event and was followed up with a Mostaccioli and Roast Beef Dinner on Sunday, September 28th.

The Fratellanza Bowling League played in Memphis on April 19th & 20th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 17th & 18th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 15th at Tower Grove Park.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 12th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 9th at St. Ambrose with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 92nd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 6th at the Maplewood American Legion Hall. Music was provided by the Mello-Aires Orchestra and the banquet cost was \$4.00.

1959

In 1959, Joseph Cantoni was reelected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on May 11th & 12th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 23rd & 24th. They bowled at Esquire Lanes.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 28th at Tilles Park.

Fifteen members with 50 years or more of membership were honored at the meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd. A wood and gold plaque was presented to each of them.

At the meeting on Wednesday, October 7th, a discussion was held about replacing all of the small stones in the Fratellanza cemetery plot with a large Marble stone with all of the names listed. The stone would be imported from Italy.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 11th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held at St. Ambrose on Sunday, November 8th with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 93rd Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 6th at the Congress Hotel. The cost of a ticket was \$7.50 and guests were served Braised Beef. Russ David and his Orchestra played to a sold out crowd.

A Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 20th. This was the first time since the beginning of World War 2 that a Christmas Party was held.

The Sixties

1960

In 1960, Phillip Cortopassi was elected President.

The Bowling League began its 20th year and played in Memphis on March 5th & 6th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 21st & 22nd. They bowled at Embassy Lanes.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 26th at Springdale Park & Pool.

The Fratellanza held a Wiener Roast at Tilles Park on Sunday, September 18th in an effort to try something new. Hot Dogs were free; beer was .10 and soda .05.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 9th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held at St. Ambrose on November 6th with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 94th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 4th at the Maplewood American Legion Hall. The cost of a ticket was \$4.50 and guests were served Veal. The music was provided by the Rita Starlighters Orchestra.

The Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 18th at the Big Club Hall.

Several milestones took place during the year: The Circolo turned 45, the Ladies Auxiliary turned 40 and the Fratellanza News turned 25.

1961

In 1961, Phillip Cortopassi was reelected President.

The location of the meetings was changed to El-Monti Hall.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 8th & 9th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 6th & 7th. They bowled at Embassy Lanes.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 25th at Tilles Park.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 8th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held at St. Cronan's on Sunday, November 5th with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 95th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 3rd at the Maplewood American Legion Hall. The cost of a ticket was \$5.50 and guests were served chicken. Russ David and his Orchestra provided the entertainment.

1962

In 1962, Phillip Cortopassi was reelected President.

Longtime member Herman J. Pieri was elected as the "Honorary President" of the Society upon his retirement from office.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 7th & 8th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St.

Louis on May 4th & 5th. They bowled at Embassy Lanes.

The Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 24th was cancelled because of heavy rain and tornado warnings.

On Sunday, July 8th, the first "Italian Day on the Mississippi" took place. All of the Italian Societies took part in the excursion on the S.S. Admiral. Hal Havird and his Orchestra played in the ballroom.

The Circolo sponsored a Ladies Night Dinner and Dance at Thunderbird Hall.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 14th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at St. Cronan's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 96th Annual Banquet was held on Sunday, December 2nd at Alhambra Grotto Hall. The cost was \$4.50 and the guests were served chicken. Russ David and his Orchestra performed to a sold out crowd.

1963

In 1963, Phillip Cortopassi was reelected President.

A slide show of St. Louis and its Catholic Church's was presented by Gino Mariani at the meeting held on Wednesday, March 6th.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 20th & 21st. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 18th & 19th. This was the 10th year of the tournament. They bowled at Embassy Lanes.

A second "Italian Day on the Mississippi" took place on Sunday,

June 23rd after the great success of the first one.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 13th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on November 3rd at St. Cronan's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 97th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 7th at Concordia Turners Hall. The music was provided by Miller's Orchestra. The cost of a ticket was \$5.50

The effort to purchase a building for the Fratellanza is labeled "A reality or a myth" as donations slowed down.

1964

In 1964, Phillip Cortopassi was reelected President.

The 14th of February marked the official opening of the 200th birthday of St. Louis. President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed more than 2000 at the Khorassan Room at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. A motorcade processed downtown to the Gateway Arch and the Fratellanza purchased three memorial trees.

On Tuesday, March 31st members attended the "American Committee on Italian Migration" seminar at the Columbia Theater.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 25th & 26th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 16th & 17th.

For a third time "Italian Day on the Mississippi" took place on Sunday, June 21st aboard the S.S. Admiral.

The Annual Picnic was held at Tilles Park on Sunday, August 9th.



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The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 11th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Cronan's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 98th Annual Banquet was held at the United Autoworkers Hall on Saturday, December 12th.

1965

In 1965, Eugene J. Repetto was elected President.

The first meeting of the Centennial Committee took place on Wednesday, January 27th.

The Sheraton-Jefferson was chosen for the Fratellanza Society 100th Annual Banquet which would be held on November 12th. Russ David and his Orchestra were selected to play.

The Fratellanza news carried articles and pictures during the year showing many of the old landmarks of St. Louis.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 3rd & 4th.The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 14th & 15th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 10th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 14th at St. Cronan's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 99th Annual Banquet was held at the United Auto Workers Hall on Saturday, December 4th.

1966 - The 100th Anniversary

In 1966, Eugene J. Repetto was reelected President.

The Centennial Committee hosted a meeting for the Professional and Business Men's Club at Kemoll's on Thursday, March 3rd. The purpose of the meeting was to get interest from businessmen and non-members. Several of the men present became members and several others guaranteed to assist in the advertising campaign.

The Fratellanza Bowling League played in Memphis on April 16th & 17th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 14th & 15th.

More than 60 members were honored at the meeting held on Wednesday, August 3rd for 40 or more years of membership. One member had served 65 years.

The Fratellanza changed meeting locations moving to the University City Knights of Columbus Hall starting on Wednesday, September 7th.

On Saturday, September 10th the Fratellanza held a Centennial Ball at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Hall.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, October 2nd at the Old Cathedral with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The Columbus Day Parade was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, October 9th.

The big day arrived on Saturday, November 12, 1966. The Fratellanza celebrated 100 years of service. The Sheraton-Jefferson was the location with over 1000 in attendance. The event took up the Gold Room, Ivory

Room, Crystal Room and several adjacent suites. Over twenty dignitaries were in attendance. The guests were treated to Rib-Eye steaks and the music of Russ David and his Orchestra.

1967

In 1967, Eugene Repetto was reelected President.

On Sunday, July 16th, the Fratellanza sponsored the fifth "Italian Day on the River" aboard the S.S. Admiral.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 22nd & 23rd. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 20th & 21st. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

The Annual Picnic was held Sunday, August 6th at Pagedale Park.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Friday, September 22nd. The Cardinals played the Atlanta Braves and were walk off winners by the score of 5-4. The Cardinals went on and won the World Series against the Boston Red Sox.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 15th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 5th at Our Lady of Good Counsel with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 101st Annual Banquet was held at the American Czech Center on Saturday, December 9th. Music was provided by the Mello-Aires.

1968

In 1968, Polo Prosperi was elected President.

On Thursday, March 28th the Fratellanza sponsored a tour of the Gateway Arch.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 20th & 21st. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 25th & 26^{th.} They bowled at Arena Bowl.

On Tuesday, May 28th the Fratellanza held a Night at the Races at Fairmount Park.

The sixth "Italian Day on the River" aboard the S.S. Admiral was held on Sunday, June 30th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 21st at Pagedale Park.

On Wednesday, July 31 a group from the Fratellanza left St. Louis for a tour of Italy. Locations include Rome, Naples, Florence, Genoa, Pisa, Milan, Verona, Venice, Sorrento, Pompeii, Perugia and Assisi.

Tri-color stickers were made available to members for display in windows, on cars and in businesses.

The Fratellanza planned a trip to the Gateway Arch that included a trip to the top and a river cruise on the Huck Finn.

The Fratellanza hosted a Bocce Tournament on Sunday, June 2nd at Rose's on the Hill.

The Fratellanza held a Monte Carlo Night on Saturday, September 21st.

The Fratellanza held a second Night at the Races on Tuesday, October 1st at Cahokia Downs.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 13th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 10th at

Lady of Good Counsel with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 102nd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 16th at Gambrinus Hall. Music was provided by the Three Reasons Orchestra.

1969

In 1969, Polo Prosperi was reelected President.

Vice-President Aldo Della Croce was designated to design a new flag for the Society.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 26th & 27th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 24th & 25th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 20th at Pagedale Park.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Friday, July 11th as the Cardinals took on the Pittsburgh Pirates and won by the score of 6-1.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 2nd at Our Lady of Good Counsel with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

On Thursday, December 4th the Fratellanza, the Italian Cultural Society and the Italian Club co-sponsored a speech at Washington University by H.E. Egidio Ortona, the Italian Ambassador on his visit to St. Louis.

The 103rd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 6th at the Big Club Hall and was a sellout.

The per diem for Pall Bearers was raised from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

The Seventies

1970

In 1970, Aldo Della Croce was elected President.

New flags were unveiled at the meeting held on Wednesday, January 7th including the new Society flag.

The Ladies Auxiliary held their 50th
Anniversary Banquet on Saturday,
February 21st at Saro's Sunny Italy
Restaurant.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 26th & 27th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 16th & 17th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

A Fun Day was held on Sunday, June 7th at Rose's Garden.

A Night at the Races was held on Tuesday, June 30th at Fairmount Park.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Thursday, July 17th. The Cardinals played the Atlanta Braves and won by the score of 11-6.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 19th at Pagedale Park.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine in Eureka, MO was held on Sunday, August 9th.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 11th at Tower Grove Park.

A Fall Party was held on Saturday, October 17th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 104th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 5th at the Big Club Hall.

1971

In 1971, Aldo Della Croce was reelected President.

Italian Classes sponsored by Guy Gagliardi had several interested applicants.

The Ladies Auxiliary held a Valentine's Day Party at Saro's Sunny Italy.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 17th & 18th The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 15th & 16th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

Fun Days were held on Sunday, June 6th & Sunday, September 12th at Rose's Garden.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, June 23rd at Cahokia Downs.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 18th at Pagedale Park.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, August 22nd.

The Fratellanza was planning another trip to Italy to take place in September.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 10th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 105th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 27th at Three Flags Restaurant.

1972

In 1972, Aldo Della Croce was reelected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 22nd & 23rd. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 27th & 28th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 23rd at Pagedale Park.

After twenty years at St. Charles Borromeo, Fratellanza Chaplain Reverend Alvin Werth was transferred to Antonia, Kansas.

A Pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, August 27th.

A Fun Day was held on Sunday, September 10th at Rose's Garden.

An Early Fall Festival was held on Sunday, September 17th at the University City Knights of Columbus Hall.

On Sunday, October 1st, II Pensiero sponsored the first Miss Italian St. Louis contest in the Mayan Room of the Bel-Air East. The first queen was Sharon J. Talley.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 8th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday November 5th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 106th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 2nd at the Big Club Hall.

1973

In 1973, Aldo Della Croce was reelected President. Mario Pertici was honored with the "Stella della Solidarieta Italiano" award by the Republic of Italy.

The Bocce League expanded to 8 teams and played at Rose's on the Hill.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 28th & 29th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 19th & 20th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

A Fun Day was held at Rose's Garden on Sunday, June 14th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 15th at Pagedale Park.

A Pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, August 12th.

President Aldo Della Croce was honored at a banquet at the Teatro del Giglio in Lucca, Italy on Sunday, September 9th.

A Night at the Races was held on Thursday, September 27th at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day parade was held on Sunday, October 7th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 107th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 1st at the Big Club Hall.

1974

In 1974, Aldo Della Croce was reelected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on May 18th & 19th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on April 20th & 21st. They bowled at Arena Lanes.

Past Presidents of the Fratellanza were honored at the Wednesday, May 1st meeting.

The Bocce League started on Monday, June 3rd and players traveled to Chicago to play the Mazzini Club.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, June 26th at Fairmount Park and another was held on Wednesday, September 25th at Cahokia Downs.

The Fratellanza made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Snows on Sunday, July 21st and to the Black Madonna Shrine on Sunday, August 25th.

A Fun Day was held on Sunday, September 8th at Rose's Garden.

A Fall Festival was held on Sunday, October 6th.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 13th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 108th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 14th at the Big Club Hall. The highlight of the evening was when Acting Consul Ettore Di Bona presented President Aldo Della Croce with the Camera Di Commercio Industria Artigianato E. Agricoltura of Lucca gold medal and diploma.

1975

In 1975, Aldo Della Croce was reelected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 26th & 27th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 31st & June 1st. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

All Past Presidents were honored at the meeting held on Wednesday, May 7th.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, August 10th.

The Fratellanza Bowling League celebrated its 35th anniversary on Monday, September 8th and Sam Pagano was elected President of the bowling league.

A Fall Festival was held on Sunday, September 14th at the University City Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 12th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 2nd at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 109th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 13th at the Big Club Hall.

Antonino Lombardo, Anthony Gandolfo and Nino Caradonna were elevated to Cavalliere by the Italian Government.

1976

In 1976, Joseph "Sugar" Zucchero was elected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 3rd & 4th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on May 22nd & 23rd.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, August 22nd.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, September 1st it was decided to eliminate the Postal Death Notice that each member received upon the death of a member.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, September 15th at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 10th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on November 14th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 110th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 27th at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Hall.

1977

In 1977, Larry Biondo was elected President.

At the meeting held on Wednesday, April 6th the Fratellanza honored twenty-eight men that had been members at least fifty years.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 16th & 17th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on April 30th & May 1st. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

The Italian Government awarded Knighthood to twelve area residents that included several members of the Fratellanza. They were: Msgr. Adrian Dwyer, Fred Giacoma, Paul Berra, Dr. Carlo Caciolo, Barry Commoner, Dr. Charles Montani, Leopold Oldani, Guy Gagliardi, Reverend Sal Polizzi, Aldo Della Croce, Rudolph Torrini and Carlo Sonino.

The Fratellanza hosted a Fall Festival on Sunday, September 25th at the University City Knights of Columbus Hall.





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Congratulates
Fratellanza Society Italiana
Of St. Louis on their

150th Anniversary

Proud to be chosen to print and publish this Fratellanza Society publication!

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, October 2nd.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 9th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on November 6th at St. Charles Borromeo with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 111th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 26th at Immaculate Conception Hall in Maplewood and attendance was sparse due to six inches of snow.

1978

In 1978, Larry Biondo was reelected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 15th & 16th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St, Louis on April 29th & 30th. They bowled at Arena Bowl. This marked the 25th year of the tournament.

The Fratellanza held a Night at the Races on Wednesday, August 9th at Cahokia Downs Race Track.

A pilgrimage was held on Sunday, September 10th at the Black Madonna Shrine.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 8th at Tower Grove Park.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, October 29th at Holy Cross Church with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 112th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 25th at Immaculate Conception Church Hall in Maplewood. Tickets were \$12.00.

1979

In 1979, Larry Biondo was reelected as President.

It was decided that the Fratellanza News continue to be mailed to widows of deceased members.

The membership decided to have a Building fund derived from event profits.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on March 24th & 25th. The Memphis Italian Club traveled to St. Louis on May 14th & 15th. They bowled at Imperial Lanes.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, June 20th at Cahokia Downs Race Track.

A Fall Festival was held on Sunday, September 23rd at the University City Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Hill hosted the Columbus Day parade for the first time on Sunday, October 7th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 11th at Holy Cross Church with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass

The 113th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 8th at the Big Club Hall. Tickets were \$12.00 and guests were fed a family style Italian dinner.

The Eighties

1980

In 1980, Joseph V. LaGreek, Sr. was elected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on April 26th & 27th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on March 15th & 16th. They bowled at Palace Bowl.

In June the meetings were moved to the American Legion Post at 11th and Sidney St.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, June 25th at Fairmount Park.

The Fratellanza held a Fall Festival on Sunday, September 28th at the University City Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Columbus Day Parade was held on Sunday, October 12th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 22nd at St. Cronan's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 114th Annual Banquet was held at the Big Club Hall on Saturday, December 13th.

1981

In 1981, Joseph V. LaGreek, Sr. was re-elected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on May 2nd & 3rd. The Memphis Italian Club traveled to St. Louis on April 4th & 5th.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, June 24th at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 11th. Fratellanza member Richard Palazzolo, Sr. was the Grand Marshall.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Rita's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 115th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 19th at the Big Club Hall. Music was by the Scalizzi's.

1982

In 1982, Fred L. Bittick was elected President.

The Bowling League played in Memphis on March 27th & 28th. The Memphis Italian Society traveled to St. Louis on April 24th & 25th. They bowled at Arena Bowl.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, July 21st at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 10th. Ned Taddeucci a Fratellanza member and John Temporiti were Co-Grand Marshalls.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Rita's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 116th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 18th at the Big Club Hall.

1983

In 1983, Fred L. Bittick was reelected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 9th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 6th at St. Rita's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 117th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 10th at the Big Club Hall.

1984

In 1984, Fred L. Bittick was reelected President.

A Night at the Races was held on Friday, September 21st at Fairmount Park and another was held on Wednesday, October 24th.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 7th. Pasta House Founders Kim Tucci, Joe

Fresta & John Ferrara were the Grand Marshalls.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at St. Rita's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 117th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 8th at the Big Club Hall.

1985

In 1985, Fred L. Bittick was reelected President.

The Ladies Auxiliary voted to disband in January 1986.

Several by-law changes took effect this year. The Death Benefit was raised to \$800.00, Social Members were allowed to become Insured Members and the Medical Examination was no longer required. The offices of Assistant Financial Secretary and Assistant Treasurer were added.

A Night at the Races was held on Wednesday, June 19th at Fairmount Park.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, October 6th with a picnic following.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 13th. Fratellanza member Paul Berra was a Co-Grand Marshall.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 24th at St. Rita's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 119th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 7th at the Big Club Hall. An Italian Style Dinner was served and music was provided by the Nu-Notes Combo.

1986

In 1986, Fred L. Bittick was reelected President.

The Fratellanza celebrated its 120th Anniversary on Saturday, July 26th at Grant's Cabin. The Nu-Notes Combo provided the music.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, September 28th with a picnic following.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 12th. Fratellanza member Gino Mariani was the recipient of the first Spirit of Columbus Award.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, October 26th at St. Rita's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 120th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 6th at the Big Club Hall.

1987

In 1987, Fred L. Bittick was reelected President.

New copies of the by-laws were given to members. This was the first revised copy since 1958.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, September 5th with a picnic.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 10th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 121st Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 19th at the Big Club Hall.

1988

In 1988, Leo Bertocchini was elected President.

A pilgrimage to the Black Madonna Shrine was held on Sunday, October 2nd with a picnic.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 9th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 6th at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 121st Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 3rd at the Transit Workers Hall.

1989

In 1989, Leo Bertocchini was reelected President.

A Night at the Races was held on Thursday, August 24th at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 8th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 5th at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 122nd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 16th at the American Czech Center.

The Nineties

1990

In 1990, Bruce R. Gardiner was elected President.

New Fratellanza lapel pins were made available to members for \$1.50.

The Circolo Sociale celebrated their 75th anniversary on Sunday, July 15th at Rigazzi's Restaurant.

The Annual Picnic which had been dormant for many years was revived and was held at Tower Grove Park on Sunday, July 22nd.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 7th. Fratellanza member Robert Ruggeri was the Grand Marshall.

The 124th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, December 15th at the American Czech Center.

1991 – The 125th Anniversary

In 1991, Bruce R. Gardiner was reelected President.

A Mass was held for living members on Sunday, April 21st at St. Jude's.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 28th at Carondelet Park.

The Fratellanza started a monthly Charity Drawing after the Knights of Columbus discontinued their raffle.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 13th. Fratellanza member Guy Gagliardi was the recipient of the Spirit of Columbus Award.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Jude's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 125th Annual Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Viking on Saturday, November 30th. Russ David and his Orchestra performed to a sold out crowd.

A new award was created in conjunction with the 125th anniversary and is a lifetime achievement award for providing outstanding service to the Fratellanza and the Italian Community. It was named for Guy

Gagliardi, who was a tireless worker in the Italian Community and a member of the Fratellanza. Guy was the recipient of the first award.

1992

In 1992, Angelo Sita was elected President.

A Mass was held for living members on Sunday, March 29th at St. Jude's.

The Fratellanza traveled by bus to Chicago to see the Cardinals take on the Cubs on Saturday, April 11th. It was 75 degrees when the bus departed St. Louis and 42 degrees upon arrival in Chicago. The Cardinals lost the game by the score of 5-1.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 19th at Carondelet Park.

The Festa D' Italia was held on Saturday, August 23rd & Sunday, August 24th at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

The Fratellanza honored Past Presidents on Wednesday, September 2nd.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 11th. Joseph Martorana and Cav. Antonino Lombardo were recipients of the Spirit of Columbus Awards.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Jude's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 126th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 28th at Royale Orleans Banquet Center. Music was provided by Tony Viviano.

Gino Mariani was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

1993

In 1993, Angelo Sita was re-elected President.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 18th at Shaw Park.

The Italian Festival was held at Laumeier Sculpture Park on Saturday, August 28th & Sunday, August 29th.

The Fratellanza honored members of 25 years or more on Wednesday, September 1st.

The Fratellanza traveled by bus to Columbia on Saturday, October 30th to see the Missouri Tigers take on the lowa State Cyclones. It snowed most of the day. The Tigers won by the score of 37-34.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 10th. Fratellanza member Angelo Sita was the Grand Marshall.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Francis De Salles with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 127th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 27th at Royale Orleans Banquet Center. Music was provided by Tony Viviano.

Joseph Zucchero was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

1994

In 1994, Angelo Sita was re-elected President.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, August 21st at Clydesdale Park

The Fratellanza honored widows on Wednesday, September 7th.

The Italian Festival was held on Saturday, September 10th and Sunday,



September 11th at Laumeier Sculpture Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 9th.

A Memorial Service was held at Calvary Cemetery on Sunday, November 6th. There was no Mass because of scheduling conflicts.

The 128th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 12th at Creve Coeur Country Club. Music was provided by Complete Entertainment.

Joseph C. Martorana was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

1995

In 1995, Frank V. Biondo was elected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 8th. Fratellanza member Cavaliere Antonino Lombardo was the Grand Marshall.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 5th at St. Gregory's with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 129th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 18th at the Holiday Inn South County. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

Joseph A. Bagatti was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

1996

In 1996, Frank V. Biondo was reelected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 13th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 3rd at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 130th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 23rd at Lemp's Grand Hall. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

Joseph V. LaGreek, Sr. was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

A new award was created to be given to the member who has demonstrated a strong commitment over the past year and was named for founder Antonio Curotto. The first recipient of the award was Robert M. Hawkins

1997

In 1997, Frank V. Biondo was reelected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 12th.

The 131st Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 22nd at Agusti's on the Hill. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

Antonino Lombardo was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Award.

Dennis C. Deering was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

1998

In 1998, Robert M. Hawkins was elected President.

In July, Angelo Sita was elected as the National President of Unico National.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 11th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 132nd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 21st at Rose of the Hill. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

Angelo Sita was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Award.

Dominic R. Vitale was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

1999

In 1999, Robert M. Hawkins was reelected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 10th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 7th at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 133rd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 20th at Favazza's Banquet Center. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

Rev. Leo J. Spezia was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bernard H. Garvels, Jr. was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

The Third Millennium 2000

In 2000, Robert M. Hawkins was reelected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 8th. Fratellanza member Cavaliere Antonino Lombardo was the recipient of the Mother Cabrini Award.

The 134th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 18th at Orlando Gardens. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

William A. Vaccaro was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

John R. Guth was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2001

In 2001, John J. DeBellis was elected President.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, June 15th at Bee Tree Park.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Monday, June 18^{th.} The Cardinals took on the Chicago Cubs and won by the score of 6-2.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 7th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at St. Mary of Victories with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The 135th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 17th at Orlando Gardens. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

John L. Vincenzo was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Paul J. Grundhauser was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2002

In 2002, John J. DeBellis was reelected President.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, May 5th at St. Ambrose with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Monday, July 1st. The Cardinals took on the Padres and won by the score of 7-3.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 14th at Bee Tree Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 13th.

The 136th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 23rd at Yacovelli's Restaurant. Music was provided by the Freddie White Band.

Frank V. Biondo was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Angelo Sita was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2003

In 2003, John L. Vincenzo was elected President.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, October 11th at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 12th.

The 137th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 22nd at Yacovelli's Restaurant. Music was provided by the Joe Tucci Band.

Aldo Della Croce was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joseph E. Moore was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2004

In 2004, John L. Vincenzo was reelected President.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Wednesday, June 23rd. The Cardinals took on the Chicago Cubs and won by the score of 10-9. The Cardinals went on to the World Series, but lose to the Boston Red Sox in 4 games.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, May 2nd at St.

Ambrose. The Mass was a joint affair with the Misericordia Society. The members processed to Calvary Cemetery for the prayer service following the Mass.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, May 22nd at Fairmount Park.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 18th at Bee Tree Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 10th.

The 137th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 20th at Yacovelli's Restaurant.

Paul J. Grundhauser was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2005

In 2005, Nicholas A. Damico was elected President.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, May 1st at St. Ambrose Church with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 17th at Bee Tree Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 9th.

J. Kim Tucci was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Antonino Lombardo was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2006

In 2006, Nicholas Damico was reelected President.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, April 22nd and a second one was held on Saturday, May 27th.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 16th at Bee Tree Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 8th. Fratellanza member Aldo Della Croce was the recipient of the Mother Cabrini award.

The 139th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, January 21st at Glen Echo Country Club. Music was provided by Rich Lauenstein and Sound Unlimited.

Joe Tucci was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Raymond B. Garvels was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2007

In 2007, John J. DeBellis was elected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 7th.

The 140th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, January 20th at Glen Echo Country Club. The music was provided by Rich Lauenstein and Sound Unlimited.

Paul J. Grundhauser was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rev. Leo J. Spezia was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2008

In 2008, John J. DeBellis was reelected President.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 12th.

The 142nd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 15th at Glen Echo Country Club. The music was provided by the Rich Lauenstein Band.

Robert M. Hawkins was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Angelo Sita was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2009

In 2009, Daniel J. Biondo was elected President.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on Tuesday, August 11th. The Cardinals took on the Cincinnati Reds and lost by the score of 5-4.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 11th.

The 143rd Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 14th at Glen Echo Country Club. Music was provided by the Rich Lauenstein Band.

Richard Henefer was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jeffrey W. Saunchegraw was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

The Teens

2010

In 2010, Daniel J. Biondo was reelected President.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, May 2nd at St. Ambrose with a prayer service at Calvary Cemetery following the Mass.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 10th. Fratellanza member Vincent Monteleone was the recipient of the Spirit of Columbus Award.

The 144th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 20th at Glen Echo Country Club. Music was provided by the Joe Tucci Band

Nicholas A. Damico was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Robert M. Hawkins was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2011

In 2011, Jeffrey W. Saunchegraw was elected President.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, June 18th at Fairmount Park.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, August 20th at Creve Coeur

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 9th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 13th at the Calvary Cemetery Chapel with the blessing of the graves following the mass.

The 145th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 19th at Glen Echo Country Club. Music was provided by the Joe Tucci Band.

John J. DeBellis was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Robert M. Hawkins was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2012

In 2012, Robert M. Hawkins was elected President.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, June 9th at Fairmount Park.

The Fratellanza held a Trivia Night on Saturday, August 11th. Over \$2000.00 was raised.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 7th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 4th at the Calvary Cemetery Chapel with the blessing of the graves following the Mass.

The 146th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 17th at Favazza's Restaurant. Music was provided by the Joe Tucci Band.

Bernard H. Garvels, Jr. was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jack L. Tocco was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2013

In 2013, Robert M. Hawkins was reelected President.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 28th at Creve Coeur Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 6th. Fratellanza member Joe Tucci was the recipient of the Mother Cabrini Award.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 3rd at the Calvary Cemetery Chapel with the blessing of the graves following the Mass.

The 147th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 16th at Orlando Gardens. The music was provided by the Joe Tucci Band.

Dennis C. Deering was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Antonino Lombardo was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2014

In 2014, Robert M. Hawkins was reelected President.

On March 5th, Fr. Leo Spezia said Mass as part of a St. Joseph Altar with traditional Sicilian foods.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 27th at Creve Coeur Park.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, August 23rd at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 12th.

The Fratellanza held a night at the Bocce Club on Saturday, October 25th.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 2nd at the Calvary Cemetery Chapel with the blessing of the graves following the Mass.

The 148th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 15th at Orlando Gardens.

Jack L. Tocco was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Vincenzo DiPiazza was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

2015

In 2015, Anthony W. Zeigler was elected President.

A St. Joseph Altar was held on March 4th, Fr. Leo Spezia said Mass and traditional food was served.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 26th at Creve Coeur Park.

The Fratellanza held a Bocce Night on Saturday, February 28th. Six inches of snow fell during the event.

A Night at the Races was held on Saturday, June 27th at Fairmount Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 11th.

An open house was held on Wednesday, October 21st at Guido's on the Hill. Ten men filled out applications for membership and several others expressed interest.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 1st at the

Calvary Cemetery Chapel with the blessing of the graves following the Mass.

The 149th Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 7th at Orlando's Event and Conference Center. The music was provided by That's Amore.

John Curtis Marsala was the recipient of the Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nickolas D. Martino was the recipient of the Antonio Curotto Member of the Year Award.

150th Anniversary 2016

In 2016, Anthony W. Zeigler was reelected President.

On March 2nd, Angelo Sita and Vincent DiPiazza organized a St. Joseph Altar, Rev. Leo Spezia said Mass at this celebration.

A Night at the Races was held on May 21st at Fairmount Park. A second Night at the Races was held on August 20th.

A Night at the Ballpark was held on June 18th at GCS Stadium in Sauget, Illinois to see the Gateway Grizzlies. The Grizzlies lost by the score of 5-3 to the Florence Freedom.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday, July 24th at Creve Coeur Park.

The Columbus Day Parade on the Hill was held on Sunday, October 9th. Fratellanza member Rio Vitale was the Grand Marshall and Robert M. Hawkins was honored with the 1st President's Award. This award is presented to the Fratellanza Society in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the oldest Italian American organization in

the United States and Robert Hawkins for his continuing work in the Italian American community.

The Annual Memorial Mass was held on Sunday, November 6th at the Calvary Cemetery Chapel with the blessing of the graves following the Mass.

We conclude our brief history with the celebration of our 150th Anniversary Banquet at Orlando's Banquet and Event Center on Saturday, November 12, 2016.

The entertainment on this evening was Illiana and Enzo Band from Los Angeles.

A special feature of the banquet was the attendance of Giuseppe Finocchiaro the Italian Consul General who traveled here from Chicago. This was the first time that an Italian Consul had attended a Fratellanza function in over 40 years. While in St. Louis the Italian Consul met with the Mayor of St. Louis and attended a luncheon with the **business** community. He met with the academic community; attended a Wine and Cheese Reception for the Italian community, and participated in a special Italian Culinary Night.

While we have come to the end of this narrative, our story does not end. The Fratellanza Society will continue serve the Italian **American** community of St. Louis for many years to come. We are proud to be the oldest Italian American organization in the United States and hope to continue our fine tradition of "KEEPING ITALIAN CULTURE ALIVE" into the next century.

The 150th Anniversary Committee of the Fratellanza Society would like to thank the members, their families and our sponsors for their assistance in insuring that the Fratellanza has been able to flourish through three centuries.







The Fratellanza Society
Thanks

Fr. Leo J. Spezia

For his service to

St. Louis

And

The St. Louis Italian American Community

For over

40 Years





Reverend Leo J. Spezia Award

The Leo J. Spezia Award was first presented at the One Hundred and Forty-Third Anniversary Banquet of the Fratellanza Society which was held in November 2009. It was meant to be a tribute to Reverend Leo J. Spezia. Father Leo became a member of the Fratellanza shortly after he was ordained as a priest in 1976. Fr. Leo's service to the Italian American community has not been restricted to the Fratellanza. He has served as Chaplain for many other Italian American organizations.

This award is presented each year to an individual, who is not a member of the Fratellanza Society, who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Italian American community of St. Louis.

Spezia Award Winners

2009 – Monsignor Vincent 2013 – Gaspare (Jay) DiMaggio

Bommarito 2014 – Carmelo (Mel) Desemone

2010 – Chris Saracino

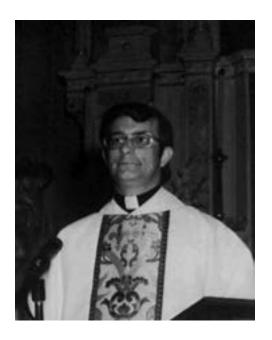
2016 – Miguel A. Carretero

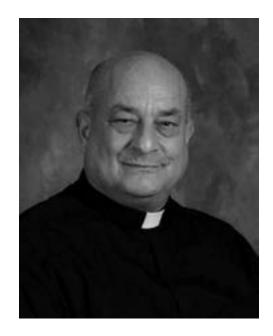
2015 – Martino (Scott) Biondo 2011 – Pete Vitale, Sr.

2012 - Gina Galati

Special Life Memberships

The Fratellanza has awarded two Special Life Memberships to:
William (Bill) Vaccaro
Reverend Leo J. Spezia





Reverend Leo J. Spezia

The Reverend Leo J. Spezia was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1950. His parents lived on "The Hill", which was and is the Italian neighborhood. From an early age he knew that he wanted to be in a position to help or serve people. This he has managed to do in several capacities and for numerous organizations. He was ordained a priest on May 22, 1976.

His service to the Italian American community began right after he was ordained a priest. In August 1976, shortly after his ordination, he joined and was made the Chaplain of the Fratellanza Society. The Fratellanza Society is the oldest Italian American organization in the United States. This year, Fr. Leo celebrates his 40th Anniversary in the Priesthood and his 40th Anniversary as the Chaplain of the Fratellanza.

He has served the Fratellanza in numerous capacities. He has served on several banquet committees. He made arrangements for our Memorial Mass to be said in the Calvary Cemetery Chapel, near the grave sites of many of our members. He also wrote the memorial prayers that are said at the gravesites. In 1999, he was presented with the Fratellanza Society's Guy Gagliardi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Father Leo has served as Chaplain of several Italian American organizations in St. Louis. In addition to the Fratellanza and Circolo Society, he has served as Chaplain of the St. Louis Metro Chapter of UNICO National, the Italian Club of St. Louis, the St. Louis Chapter of UNICO and the Sicilian Cultural Association, even though his grandparents were from Lombardy. He

also served as the National Chaplain of UNICO National.

In the early 1980's Father Leo was assigned to St. Francis DeSalles Parish in south St. Louis. The area around the parish was in transition and Father recognized that the area could be stabilized. Working with members of his parish and other community leaders, Father instrumental Leo was establishing the DeSalles Community Housing Corporation for neighborhood. This corporation would buy problem properties and rehab them and sell them to people that would help revitalize the area.

Father Leo was also assigned to St. John the Baptist and St. Mary Magdalene parishes. Ever the activist, he was a member of the Gravois **Business** Association. In this capacity he helped to invigorate the board. The board was able to pass a controversial redevelopment plan, which would stabilize the business district. When this plan was presented to the business community, Father Leo served as facilitator and was neutral while everyone discussed their concerns with the plan.

Father Leo served as President of the Gravois Business Association and the Secretary of the Southtown Business Association. He served on the Board of Directors of the Gravois Business Association for over eight years. While in this position, he was well respected and even the Bosnian community of St. Louis asked him to assist with some of their projects.

Cardinal John Joseph Carberry assigned Fr. Leo as Director of the Office of Family Ministry/Family Life Services for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He served in this capacity from 1979 to 1992. He developed programs for the numerous personal problems that confront families and organized support groups. He developed national programs and authorized manuals and managed support groups for grief ministry, counseling for youths and families, marriage preparation, divorce separated Catholic support groups, remarriage preparation, widowed persons and natural family planning.

Father Leo is always ready to step in and whenever he is needed. help September 11, 2001, when he heard about the disaster, he immediately went to the office of the FBI in St. Louis. He volunteered to operate the switchboard. so that the entire staff could attend a briefing. While he was at the switchboard, the Archbishop of St. Louis, Justin Rigali, called to ask if he could be of service. Needless to say, he was quite surprised when he discovered that one of his priests was already on the scene. He is certified as a team member for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM and CISD) to support law enforcement and fire service.

Archbishop Rigali had another surprise in 2000. In that year, Pope John Paul II made a visit to St. Louis. The Archbishop was told that every priest, including himself, who would be near the Pope, would have to undergo security clearance. The FBI further informed the Archbishop that one priest, would not have to submit credentials for the screening. Father Leo has the highest security clearance possible and did not require additional screening.

In 1991 he organized the chaplaincy department for the FBI and served as the chaplain for the St. Louis Office. His work with this office was recognized in Washington D.C. and the former FBI Director Louis Freeh, asked Fr. Leo to work with the FBI on the national level and he even provided Fr. Leo with an office in the FBI building down the hall from his own office to make it easier for Fr. Leo to help the agency. On several occasions the FBI sent Fr. Leo to the Middle East to comfort our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Father Leo began the chaplaincy department for the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1997 and has served as the main chaplain for them. He served both the State in general, out of the state capital in Jefferson City, and in St. Louis as troop chaplain for Troop C.

He organized the chaplaincy department for the St. Louis County Municipal Fire Academy in 1996, where he continues to serve as chaplain. He was the main chaplain for the St. Louis County Police Department. In addition, he has organized a chaplaincy department for the cities of Vinita Park, Missouri and Charlack, Missouri and served as the chaplain of both cities.

In total Father Leo has instructed over 100 chaplains for service with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State of Missouri.

Father Leo has been called upon to serve after several disasters. He was involved in the efforts to comfort victims as well as police and fire personnel after the Oklahoma City federal building bombing and the TWA Flight 800 crash. He has given many "debriefings" and

"diffusings" at Critical Incident scenes (e.g. Oklahoma City federal building bombing, TWA Flight 800 crash, Amtrak crash in Atlanta and the World Trade Center disaster) to name a few.

Father Leo has served his country whenever he has been called. He has made at least four trips to "Ground Zero". In addition, when he has been called to serve he was asked to not disclose the locations or type of service.

He has served as the State Chaplain for the Missouri State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

In 1991, he was presented with the Italian Club's Italian Heritage Award and in 2002, the St. Louis Chapter of UNICO National recognized him with the Man of the Year Award. He was presented with numerous certificates of service and commendations and outstanding volunteer of the year awards from the FBI, St. Louis County Police, Missouri State Peace Officers Association, Missouri State Council of the Knights of Columbus and Missouri Fire Marshall and Firefighters Union.

On the occasion of his 40th Anniversary as a Priest, he was recognized by the Missouri State Senate, the Missouri House of Representatives, the St. Louis County Executive, the Mayor of the City of St. Louis and the Board of Alderman of the City of St. Louis.

Fr. Leo is currently the Senior Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Eureka, Missouri.

As the Fratellanza can attest wherever there is someone in need, Father Leo is ready to serve.



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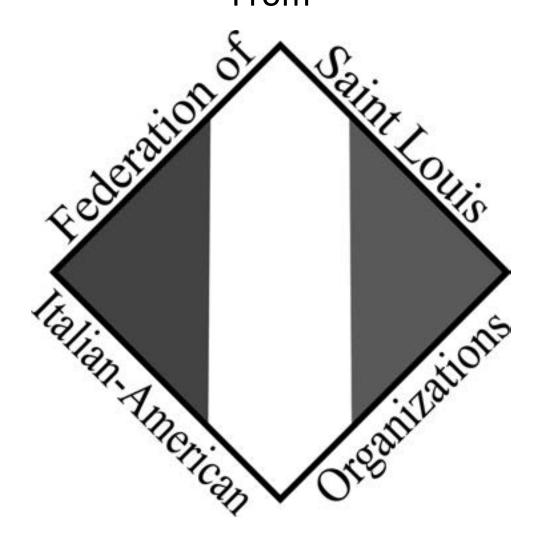
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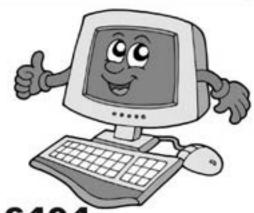
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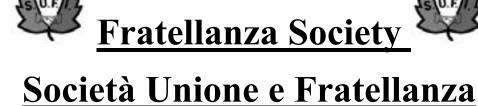
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Dedicated to Nicole Lynn Lauzon February 25, 1999- September 3, 2015

With a smile that lit up a room
With a laugh that was infectious
Big Brown eyes that glowed with happiness
Everyone loved her, they didn't stand a chance.

A halo that shines as bright as that smile

An angel's voice that brings happiness to everyone

Watchful eyes keeping all of us safe

The biggest heart makes the biggest wings

Wings tipped in Blue, her favorite hue
Wrapping around us, our favorite hug
Give us strength and guidance, her helping us on our path
Missing her every day, our least favorite thing.

~~Written By Alexis Lauzon-Branson
We miss you, Our beautiful Angel

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Lexy and Justin

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Congratulation Societá Unione e Fratellanza Italiana 150 years!



The Sicilian Cultural Association of St Louis

Preserving and Encouraging Sicilian, Italian and Italian-American Heritage





AUGURI

TO THE
FRATELLANZA SOCIETY
ON
150 YEARS
OF PROMOTING
OUR ITALIAN HERITAGE

Congratulations to The Fratellanza Society

on the

150th Anniversary
of their founding
and their ongoing service
to the

Italian American Community



Celebrating Our Italian

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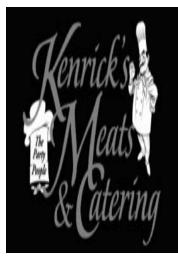
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The Orlando Family is proud to host the Fratellanza 150th
Anniversary Celebration



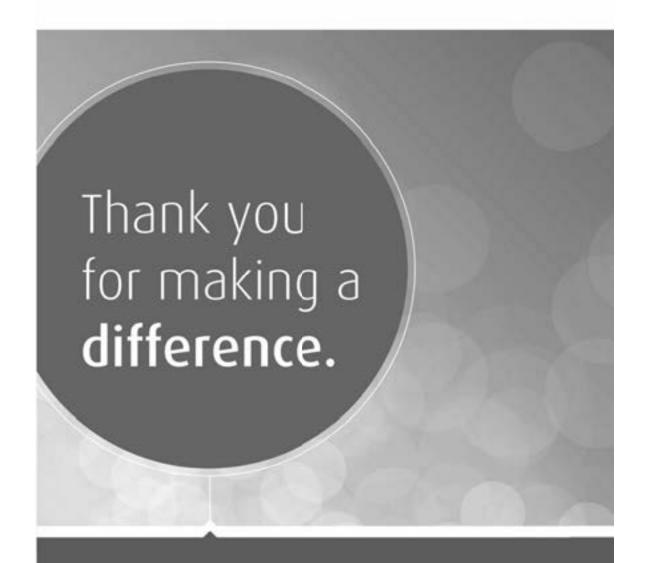
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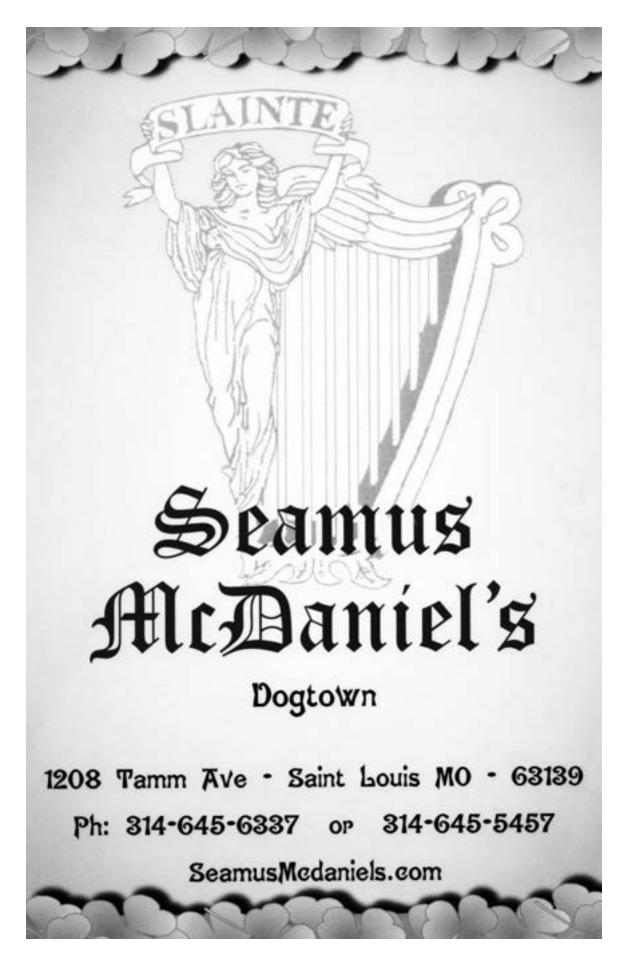
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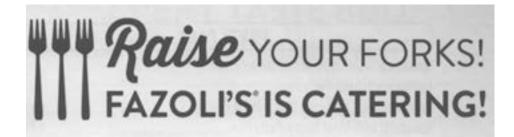


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on 150 Years





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The Team at
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The Fratellanza Society
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Congratulations

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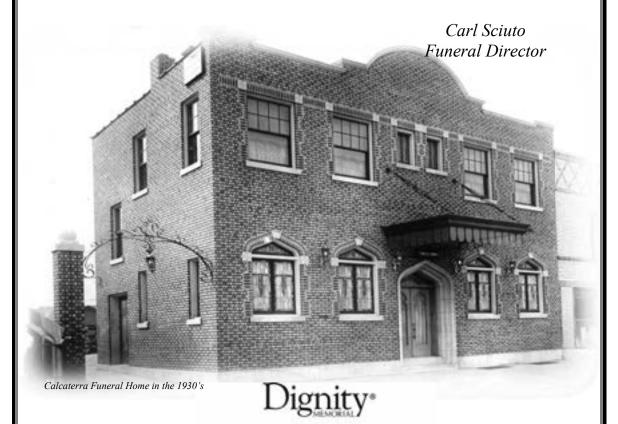
Hill 2000 Congratulates the Fratellanza Society on 150 Years



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For over
150 Years Service to
The Italian American
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The Fratellanza invites you to join us

Keeping Italian Culture Alive

For membership information

www.fratellanza.org

membership@fratellanza.org





The Circolo Society

Meets on

Third Thursday

Every Month

At

Guido's

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Tom and Gabriele Noonan Congratulate The Fratellanza Society On their 150th Anniversary

Congratulations to The Fratellanza Society on it's 150th Anniversary



St. Louis, MO 63139

314-776-3355



Fratellanza Society Fun Facts

The Fratellanza organized the first Columbus Day Parade in 1867. This is the oldest continuing parade in the State of Missouri.

The original constitution stated that the Fratellanza is "to bring about a closer alliance between all the Italians, as if they were only of one family..."

On October 12, 1892, the Fratellanza had 40 horse drawn carriages in the Columbus Day Parade.

In 1904, Giuseppe Donati, an Italian sailor died while visiting the World's Fair as part of the Italian delegation. He had no relatives, so the Fratellanza paid for his burial in Calvary Cemetery.

At the 50th Anniversary Banquet in 1916, each man was provided with a cigar after dinner.

28 members of the Fratellanza served in the American Armed Service during the First World War.

In 1927, the Fratellanza staged a public demonstration to protest the executions of Sacco and Vanzetti in Boston.

In 1937, the Fratellanza participated in the festivities for the changing the name of Cooper Street to Marconi Avenue on the Hill.

In November, 1946 each member of the Fratellanza who served in the Second World War were honored at a special banquet.

Baseball Hall of Famers Yogi Berra and Joe Garagiola sang at Fratellanza event on January 2, 1947.

On October 28, 1956 the Carabinieri Band of Rome performed for the Fratellanza. (The Carabinieri is an Italian military unit similar to the US Marines.)

In 1985, the Fratellanza removed the requirement that prospective members must have a medical exam before becoming members.



THE CIRCOLO SOCIETY IS PROUD TO BE PART OF THE FRATELLANZA SINCE 1915





The Fratellanza Society

is proud that our member

Rio Vitale

Has recently been awarded the

Knight of the Order of the Italian Star

0r

Cavaliere

By the

President of the Italian Republic



The Fratellanza Society Salutes other Italian American Organizations in St. Louis













St. Ambrose







Sicilian Cultural Association



Hill 2000



St. Louis Chapter

Columbus Day Parade 2016





Parade Grand Marshall Rio Vitale and his wife Marianne.



Presidents Award Winner Robert Hawkins And his daughter Haley.



Curt Marsala, Carl Marsala, and Joe Bilenchi in the Fratellanza game booth at the Festa.



Miss Italian St. Louis 2016 Victoria Grassi.



President Louis Zerega presents the Championship Trophy to the Fratellanza Bowling Team 1948-49 season.



Member Joe Tucci entertaining the crowd.



Gino Mariani presents a check to the Little Sisters of the Poor.





President Frank DeBellis swearing in new Fratellanza members in 1951.





Above: Joe Garagiola at a Fratellanza event.

Below: 75th Anniversary Fratellanza clock.









Columbus Parade 1970: Aldo Della Croce & Gene Repetto



Columbus Parade 1984: Ald. Red Villa & Angelo Sita



Anthony Zeigler at Columbus Day booth 2013.



Bernie Garves & Nick Damico at the Annual Picnic.



Scott Sundhausen at Picnic 2005.



Sanford Rabushka at Picnic 2011.



Tony Lombardo at Picnic 2010.



Don Manarang, William Franko, Dennis Deering and Larry (Bob) Schroeder at Fratellanza Picnic 2013. 166



Past Presidents Night 1993. Back: Polo Prosperi, Joseph LaGreek, Aldo della Croce, John Reineri, Bruce Gardiner, Angelo Sita. Front: Joseph Cantoni, Mario Pertici, Gino Mariani, Joe Zucchero, Leo Bertocchini, Guy Gagliardi.



Anthony Zeigler at Trivia Night.



Rev. Leo Spezia saying Mass at our St. Joseph Altar 2012.



Joseph Marsala, Curt Marsala, Brendon Horn, Dino Tucci, Dominic Bilenchi, Joe Bilenchi, President Anthony Zeigler, John Meyer, John DeBellis, Gregory Pantazi, Sanford Rabushka at the Fratellanza Mixer 2015.



Fratellanza Picnic at Pagedale Park 1970. Back: Steven DeBellis, Deane D'Alto, Nora Mercadante, Frances Creely and Marie DeBellis. Front: Bob D'Alto, John DeBellis, Maria DeBellis and Catherine DeBellis.



John DeBellis & Joe LaGreek at Picnic 2002.



Jeff Saunchegraw & Dan Biondo at Columbus Parade.





Officers 2001. Front: Nick Damico, John Vincenzo, President John DeBellis, Bernie Garvels, Paul Grundhauser. Back: Bill Vaccaro, Joe Bagatti, Frank Biondo, Joe Miano, John Garvels, John Guth, Bill Franko, Dave Loewe, Dennis Deering.



Bob Hawkins, Angelo Sita, John Vincenzo. 1993



Jay DiMaggio and Rio Vitale at the 2015 Banquet.



Memorial Mass 2003. Left: Don Manarang, David Loewe, Jack Tocco, Angelo Sita. Center: Rev. Leo Spezia. Right: Bill Vaccaro, Nick Damico, John Vincenzo.



Officers 2009. Jeff Saunchegraw, Frank Biondo, Antonino Lombardo, Bernie Garvels, Bill Vaccaro, Scott Sundhausen, President Dan Biondo, Joe Benning, John DeBellis, Ray Garvels, Paul Grundhauser, John Garvels, Rev. Leo Spezia, Angelo Sita.



Christmas 2015. Dennis Deering, John DeBellis, Angelo Sita, President Anthony Zeigler.



Picnic 2013. Left: Lillian DiPiazza, Vincent Monteleone, Theresa Monteleone, Sam Greco. Right: Vincenzo DiPiazza, Lena Lombardo, Antonino Lombardo, Angelo Sita. $170\,$



Don Manarang, Nicole Lauzon, and Angela Manarang. Annual Picnic 2014.



A night at the Bocce Club 2014. Silvio Angeli, John DeBellis, Mark Luther, Nick DiMartino.



Rio Vitale and Rev. Leo Spezia relaxing at the Christmas party in 2015



Joe Benning proposing a toast at the St. Joseph Altar in 2015.



Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Vitale with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hennefer at the 2011 banquet.



Rev. Leo Spezia laying a wreath at the Rev. Caesar Spigardi gravesite in Calvary Cemetery in 2008.



Father and son Lou and Lee Tessaro at the Fratellanza grave site in 1969.

Fratellanza members at a memorial at the Fratellanza grave site at Calvary Cemetery in 1972.





Joe Zucchero receives Gagliardi award from Guy in 1993.



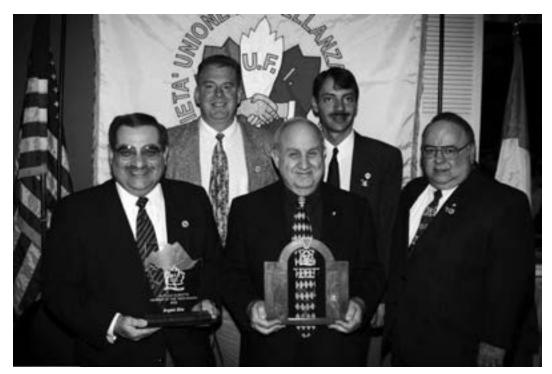
Floyd (Corky) Taddeucci at 2010 banquet.



William H. Franko and his son William W. Franko at the 2000 banquet.



Rev. Leo Spezia, Antonino Lombardo, J. Kim Tucci, Nick Damico, Joe Colagiovanni at the 2005 banquet.



2002 Award Winners-Front: Angelo Sita, Frank Biondo, Nick Damico. Rear: Robert Hawkins, President John DeBellis



Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Miano Banquet 1997



Rev. Joseph Adragna Banquet 2002



Paul Grundhauser, Joseph Bagatti, Michelle Bagatti, Marge Bagatti - Banquet 1993 174



2003 Award Presentation. Joe Colagiovanni, John DeBellis, Joseph Moore, Aldo della Croce, John Vincenzo, Rev. Joseph Adragna



Jack Tocco, Dennis Deering and Master of Ceremonies
George Noory at the 2002 banquet.

Rev. Leo Spezia and the winner of the first Spezia Award
Monsignor Vincent Bommarito in 2009.





Mary Saunchegraw, Jeff Saunchegraw, Dan Biondo and Lesley Biondo at the 2003 banquet.



John DeBellis, John Vincenzo, Paul Grundhauser and Angelo Sita at the 2004 banquet.



Larry (Bob) Schroeder, John DeBellis and Bob Hawkins. Banquet 1993.



Gino Mariani and Guy Gagliardi at the 1992 banquet.



Joe Martorana with the classic Fratellanza stained glass light 1999.



Lifetime Member Award winner William Vaccaro.



Awards presentation 2014. President Anthony Zeigler, Carmelo (Mel) Desemone, Jack Tocco, Vincenzo DiPiazza, Rev. Leo Spezia.



Allison Johnson, Dennis Deering, David Loewe, William Franko, Jo Kralemann, Beth Wagner, Joe Mincemeyer and Martin Kowalczyk toasting with their etched commemorative Fratellanza wine glasses at the 1996 banquet.



John, Ray, and Bernie Garvels with their families at the banquet in 1999.



President Anthony Zeigler, Nick DiMartino, and Joe Colagiovanni. Fratellanza Banquet 2015.



President Bob Hawkins presents the awards to Bernie Garvels and Rev. Leo Spezia in 2007.



William Franko, Marie Moore, Joseph Moore, and Sanford Rabushka at the Annual Banquet 2011.



2015 Awards Presentation. President Anthony Zeigler, Curt Marsala, Miss Italian St. Louis Stephanie Roderick, Nickolas DiMartino, Scott Biondo.



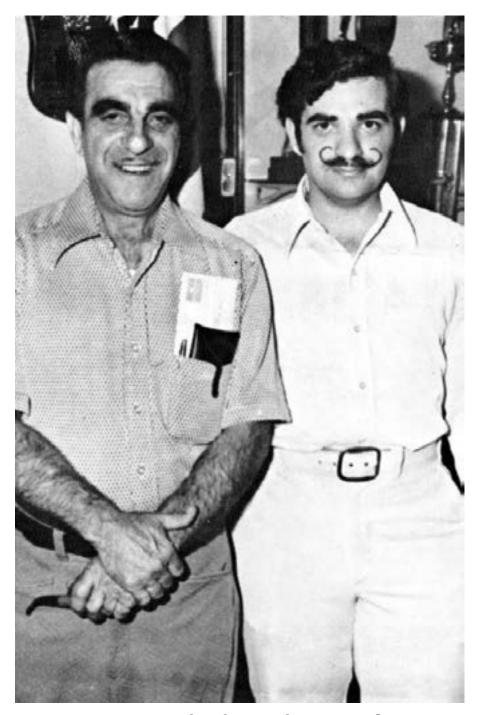
Fifty year members. Antonino Lombardo and Joe Tucci.



Scott Sundhausen, David Loewe and John DeBellis at the banquet in 2003.



Angelo Sita, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Berra, Tori Greco, Sam Greco, Paul Grundhauser and Michelle Bagatti at the banquet in 2008.



Gino Mariani took this photo of my Uncle Joe Biondo and myself when we joined the Frantellanza in August of 1974.

Angelo Sita