



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

April-2024

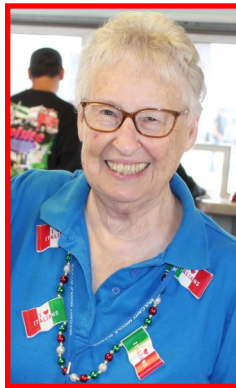
## Culinary Cuisine!

The first thing most people think of, besides the beautiful country of Italy, is the food. Those of Italian descent have a special gift of being great cooks who show others their love by making great meals for everyone to enjoy.

Roma Lodge for many years have reserved the March meeting as potluck night where members bring a wide variety of great dishes for everyone in the lodge to enjoy.

There are few members who can organize the event. The lodge has depended on Joann Beecher for the past 5-years to serve as the chair for the event and she does a great job.

We had about 70 members who attended the event and we want to thank all the wonderful cooks who prepared a variety of great food for everyone to enjoy. We understand for all you working parents,



those with kids in school, sports activities, school plays or other things it is difficult to attend a meeting, bring a dish or two on a school night. All the Roma Lodge members appreciate your effort and we want everyone to know the best thing we do is share a great meal!



## Our Future!

Special thanks to our Junior Member Chair, **Pam Sola**, who creates an activity for our junior members each month while our meeting is going on. (l-r) **Dominic and Michael Chiaramonte, Haydyn DePaoli, Kate Watkins, Harper DePaoli, Amelia, Domenica and Enzo Curti.**



Special thanks to **Joyce Hofstee** who once again out-done herself by making Roma Lodge cookies for the potluck. Joyce has continued to amaze by making all



the desserts for the Christmas Party in 2022, special cookies for the farm show and now for the potluck! **She is certainly a great cook!**

**April Meeting-Monday-April 1st-6:00 PM**  
**Agri-Center Social Hall**  
**Melissa Watkins & Nicole Taylor**  
**Refreshment Chairs**  
**Text or call them and see if you can help!**

# Eternal Peace, Eternal Rest

President's Message

With each passing of Roma Lodge members, we gather at their gravesite to bid our final farewell to those who have provided their service in carrying on our Italian Culture. Part of our ritual describes the struggles of life on this earth as we wish them eternal peace and rest as we place the acacia leaf on their casket. With the recent passing of **Gary Dutto** and **Janis Curti** we have lost 117 years of lodge service.

Since my father passed away in 1992 I have assumed the honor and privilege of serving as the lodge Herald. In my role as Herald it is important that we as lodge members give our final tribute to our departed members.

Gary and I have a long history in Roma Lodge. Our grandfather John Dutto Sr. was president in the



lodge in 1943-44. His dad, John was treasurer for many years and Gary served as the Orator for the lodge for 15 years.

Gary joined the lodge in 1954 and was an accomplished accordion player performing at 4-H, lodge and other activities. Over the years he helped with the annual ravioli dinner, farm show booth and was always more than willing to help in whatever the capacity the lodge needed.



In 2019 Gary and wife Dawn moved to Idaho to be closer to their children and grandchildren. He gave up his role as Orator and continued his membership in the lodge which spanned nearly 70 years. **Rest in peace and farewell Brother Gary Dutto.**



**Janis Curti** passed away on March 10th. Janis was a 47-year member of the lodge and until her recent illness attended lodge meetings and activities on a regular basis. Even though she was in an assisted living facility she attend the

farm show meeting this year on February 12th along with her husband Phillip and enjoyed lunch with other lodge members getting ready for the show.

Janis looked forward to attending lodge events and always had a smile on her face, enjoyed visiting with other lodge members and



especially delighted in watching her grandchildren participate in junior member activities of the lodge. She always practiced the most important tenet of the lodge, that of fraternity, while helping others in the lodge with lodge activities. **Rest in peace, Sister Janis!**

## New Babies!

Roma Lodge members were saddened by the passing of long time members Gary Dutto and Janis Curti. However, we are delighted with the birth of new babies welcomed into this world by a couple of our members.



to this world by a couple of our members. Lodge member **Kathryn Cleek-Geha** gave birth to twin girls on February 9th. **Gianna Noelle-Lorraine** arrived at 4:18 am weighing

4lbs 9oz and measuring 17 1/2 inches long. **Olivia Grace-Mariam** arrived at 4:20 am weighing 4lbs 13 oz and measuring 16 inches long. Kathryn and husband **Jacob** live in Aliso Viejo, California. She is the daughter of lodge member **Donald Cleek** and granddaughter of **Lorraine Dutto-Cleek**. **Arlet and John Jackle and Eli and Yolanda Geha** are also grandparents.

**Aubrey Noel Brown** was born on March 4th. Grandpa **Louis Benedetti** received a text during our Roma Lodge meeting. Aubrey weighed in at 9lbs 20z measuring 21.2" in length.

Aubrey is shown with her older sister Paige. She is the second daughter of proud parents **Dan & Isabella Brown**.



Dan is in the army and they are now stationed in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Isabella was our Roma Lodge Queen in 2014-15. Alaska is a long way from the Tulare Women's Clubhouse where the first Roma Lodge meeting was held in 1930. We have many families of Roma Lodge members who now reside all over the globe. We wish them all well and invite them back to our lodge activities when they are back in Tulare.

## Dance Fever

Lodge junior members **Savina Pedroncelli and Kate Watkins** competed in their first dance competition in Upland, California on March 16th. I'm sure some of



our more mature members wish they had their flexibility. These young members are our future and we need to keep them engaged in lodge activities.



At the March meeting we will be discussing our participation in an OSDIA and Grand Lodge of California project to become part of the **iMembersdb** database to track membership in Roma Lodge. Our Grand Council representative Tina Sparlin will have more information about our participation to present at the meeting.

**iMembersdb** is used by a number of organizations to track membership. The customized site can manage events such as meetings and fundraisers, create newsletters, provide membership reports for officers, email members, create websites and forms along with much more.

The Supreme Lodge is providing the financial support for the Grand and local lodges participation. OSDIA and the Grand Lodge will be providing online training on how to use the program for local lodge Financial Secretaries. We will have more information to share at the April meeting. **Stay tuned!**

## Grand Lodge Convention

The Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Concord, California, June 27-29th. Roma Lodge can have up to 5 delegates who can attend. Our Grand Council representative **Tina Sparlin** cannot be a delegate from Roma Lodge therefore, as of now we only have two delegates. If you would like to attend let me know at the April meeting.



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

**LeNotizie Sponsors**

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*April birthdays don't forget to bring your raffle items for the April meeting!*  
 All members are reminded to update your beneficiaries if you have the death benefit plan for any changes you may have.

**Your Roma Lodge Officers 2023-2024**

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| President      | Larry Dutto (901-4683)       |
| Vice President | Justin Curti (906-9109)      |
| Treasurer      | Karen Pedroncelli (732-1591) |
| Recording Sec. | Renee Marinelli (732-8258)   |
| Financial Sec. | Tina Sparlin (741-3642)      |
| Orator         | Anthony Chiamonte (217-4055) |
| Historian      | Melissa Watkins (361-0811)   |
| Guard          | Frank Marinelli (802-0611)   |
| Past President | David DePaoli (804-5443)     |
| Chaplain       | Nicole Taylor (804-7056)     |
| Junior Members | Pam Sola (901-1781)          |

**Trustees**

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

**Mistress of Ceremony**

Joann Beecher (260-4156)

**Next Meeting**  
**April 1, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**  
**WAE-Social Hall**



**Thanks Girls!**

(l-r) Kelly Lindholm, Sabrina Westra, Katie Vasquez, Kenna Thompson and Sara Vasquez were on hand at the Roma Lodge booth to help out during the farm show. We appreciated their help.