



# Le Notizie

A Publication of Roma Lodge #1573

November-2024

## Building a new tradition!

For over many years Roma Lodge held its annual ravioli dinner the day before Mother's Day. During that time the venue, menu, format and other subtle changes have occurred. The dinner was always referred to as the May dinner. Then the lodge decided to hold its anniversary in April, when in fact, the lodge was founded in May of 1930.

Long held traditions are difficult to change. However, when you have a global disaster like COVID, changes have to be made. In 2020 the dinner was cancelled, then the following year we did a "Dinner for Two" which was held after our Christmas party. Last year we went back to our ravioli dinner drive thru in October and this year held the dinner on **Columbus Day** weekend. We had a very successful event selling over 525 tickets and serving nearly 600 meals.



What hasn't changed is the delicious sauce made by **Dominic and Josh Pitigliano**, under the supervision of **Sauce Boss, Charlie Pitigliano**.

What didn't change was the marination and barbecuing

of the chicken by **Michael and David DePaoli**.

What didn't change was all of the members who showed up early in the morning to help cook and prepare a great meal for our customers.



What didn't change was long past-time chair of the dinner **Ken Curti** who supports the dinner by personally selling 173 tickets by himself. Last year Kenny sold over 140 meals for the drive thru ravioli dinner.



Kenny chaired the dinner for nearly 15 years and has always assisted in some capacity during his 55 years of membership in Roma Lodge. He is also a past president of the lodge serving 3 terms as president. Kenny sold **Stuart Canby** 40 tickets.

The **Canby's** decided to pickup their dinners and invited family and friends over for dinner in their backyard. It prompted him to post on **Facebook** the article on the right. What a great idea as we might want to consider providing bulk meals to those who purchase 10 or more tickets. What a great way to illustrate our **Italian Heritage** to the Tulare community.

At our November meeting we will discuss the dinner as we look to the future of building new traditions.



**November Meeting  
Polenta and Stew Dinner  
Monday, November 4th  
IAC Social Hall-Dinner @ 6  
DePaoli Family Dinner Hosts**

# Evolution-Reversed

Presidents Message

**E**volution is defined as *“the gradual development of something, especially from a simple to a more complex form.”* Therefore, I guess the opposite would be when you go from a complex form to a simple form, as in **Evolution-Reversed!**

As many of us old-timers remember the days when the dinner was at the Tulare Fair Grounds or the Memorial Hall. After working all day, we had to wait until guests finished dancing before we could cleanup and go home near midnight!



**Nick Milanesio Making Sauce!**

As lodge members, where we have nearly 50 members over 50 years of membership, our memories take us back to the day of a sit down dinner with everyone wearing starched coats to serve our guests, home-made ravioli and dancing to a live band. Those days are gone.

Over the years Roma Lodge as evolved from a sit down dinner, to a combination sit down and drive thru to strictly a drive thru. We decided this year, since October is Italian Heritage month and Columbus Day we would showcase our organization by having the dinner on Columbus Day weekend. We provided each guest with a little



**Kelsi Pitigliano & Ben Curti**

history of our organization and everything went really well.

Covid forced a lot of organizations to reconsider their approach to many events. Roma Lodge is no different. We had to cancel our dinner in 2020, change to a “Dinner for Two” in December after our Christmas Party in 2022 and moved to October in 2023 and 2024. Every event needs to be evaluated to build on past successes and make improvements were needed.

After 86 years of dinners we have evolved from a complex format to a more simple format with strictly a drive thru dinner. At our November meeting we will discuss the following:

1. Do we want to continue our Columbus Day weekend for our dinner?
2. Do we want to replace our Columbus Day picnic with another event at a different time?
3. Do we want to continue with our same menu or vary it?
4. Do we want to continue with our drive thru only format?
5. Do we want to continue with a Saturday event or move it to a weekday evening or Sunday event?

We also decided to partner with **Salt & Light** and donate all of our leftover food items to their



facility located in Visalia. They were very appreciative of our donations and would like to partner with us in the future to take additional items after our farm show event or other activities we have.

We had a very successful event serving almost 600 meals with nearly 60 members, young and old, who assisted with providing a great meal to our community. We had members who have worked the dinner for 50 plus years and those who were working their first dinner. We want to thank everyone who helped by selling tickets, cooking, serving or conducting the drive thru. Everyone is very busy this time of year and we appreciate your help.

## *Italian Heritage*

Heritage is referred to as “*practices or characteristics that are passed down through the years, from one generation to the next.*” October is **Italian Heritage** month. Roma Lodge has been instrumental in the Tulare Community for preserving our Italian Culture by holding two community events through our ravioli dinner and World Ag Expo food booth.

If these traditions are going to continue we will need to continue to cultivate the involvement in our junior members. We had numerous junior members helping with our dinner.



*Camilla Pitigliano, Harlow and Haydyn DePaoli help with the dinner.*



*Reid, Ivy, Vin, Eloise, Pam, Kurt and Vince Sola helping with the dinner!*



*Trevor Filiponi Cooks Chicken*



*Isaac Pitigliano delivers dinners along with Mark Gentry*

Nick Dutto's grandfather was the brother of Roma Lodge Past President **John Dutto Sr., (1943-44)**. Back in 2009 Nick was honored with the **Italian Heritage Award** at the Grand Ball of the nations oldest **Columbus**



**Day Celebration in San Francisco** by president Marilyn Bermanni Baum. The SF Columbus Day Celebration started in 1869 and includes the Grand Ball, High Mass at St. Peter and Paul Church and parade through the streets of San Francisco's North Beach Italian Community. Nick owns **Metropolitan Electric Company** in San Francisco with over 500 employees and was honored for his charitable contributions to the community and his **Italian Heritage**.

Sadly, Nick passed away on October 19th after a lengthy illness. His grandfather, Louis Dutto came to America at the turn of the last century and settled in the Buena Park area of California while his brother John Dutto Sr. owned a dairy farm in Tulare. Nick's dad Joe and his brother John relocated to the San Francisco Bay area where they became electricians.

As a kid, Nick would travel to Tulare on a Greyhound bus during the summer to help on the family dairy. He never forgot those stays in Tulare and often would return for family reunions at Mooney's Grove Park.








During Italian Heritage month we all need to remember our ancestors who came to this country over a 100 years ago and what their contributions made to America. As time goes on, and our families have spread across the globe it is our job to carry on our Italian Culture and instill in our children and grandchildren the importance of their heritage.

***Farewell Brother Nick Dutto, may you rest in peace.***



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[www.romalodge1573.org](http://www.romalodge1573.org)

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**November birthdays are reminded to bring your raffle prizes to the meeting!**

### 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)

### November Meeting

## November 4, 2024

6:00 PM-Dinner

### Dinner Hosts-DePaoli Family

### Polenta & Stew

