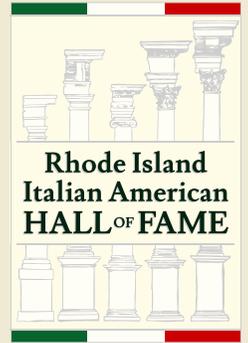


The RI Italian American Hall of Fame Honors **LIDIA BASTIANICH**

November 15th | Rhodes on the Pawtuxet

presented by Providence Auto Body



With a special tribute to Dean Martin
featuring Steve Palumbo & his Nine Piece Big Band



Scholarship Presentations to RI's Best & Brightest Students

2025 Scholarship Recipients



Seth Borges



Allison Ceglarski



Lauren Collette



Francisco Damoura



Ben Diaz



Ava Giorgi



Synthia Khoury



Zachary Leone

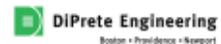


Mia Santomassimo



Hunter Schobel

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Presented by the RI Italian American Hall of Fame 501(c)(3)
All net proceeds benefit the RIIAHF Scholarship Fund



President's Message

Joe Rocco



Welcome to the *Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame Honors Lidia Bastianich & A Tribute to Dean Martin* presented by the Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame and Providence Auto Body.

On behalf of my fellow officers and our many proud members, I would like to thank you for being here tonight and supporting the *Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame (RIIAHF)* as we honor the incomparable Lidia Bastianich.

The mission of the RIIAHF, a 501©(3) founded in 1987, is to financially assist exceptional college-bound students with scholarship awards, honor accomplished Italian Americans from sports, business and the arts and promote our rich Italian heritage. 99% of the dollars we raise are used to fund scholarships!

Tonight, 10 extraordinary students from the Class of 2025, will each receive a \$4,000 scholarship award totaling a record \$40,000 sponsored by generous and proud Rhode Island families and members of the RIIAHF. This brings the total number of scholarships awarded by the RIIAHF to outstanding students from all ethnic backgrounds since 1987 to more than 150 scholarships, totaling nearly a half million dollars. Special thanks to our Secretary, Mike Capuano, Treasurer, Steve D'Antuono and all of our Directors and members for their time and support. We also want to thank scholarship committee chair, Mona Boscia and committee member Marisa Ricci Parris for their time in helping to select an impressive Class of 2025. Special thanks also go to committee members Diane Rocco and Stephanie White for their time.

We are thrilled to have Gene Valicenti from NBC 10 as our cohost. This exciting event would not be possible without the support of you and our fantastic sponsors. Their ads are in this program book and their logos are displayed on screen. Please support these generous companies and all who have placed an ad in this booklet to whom we are most grateful, and proudly give back to the community.

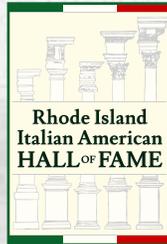
I encourage you to visit RIIAHF.org and watch our signature video, *Champions for all Seasons*. It is an inspirational and entertaining video that best represents the RIIAHF. Please consider becoming a member. A membership application form is included in this program. I am confident that you will find membership in our organization as rewarding as I have for the past 38 years.

Net proceeds from tonight's event will fund scholarships to support Rhode Island's best and brightest students from all ethnic backgrounds. With your help we will continue our mission, promote our rich Italian heritage and pay tribute to prominent Italian Americans, like Lidia Bastianich, who continue to make us proud!

Board of Directors:

Michael Capuano (Secretary) Steve D'Antuono (Treasurer)
Michael Integlia, Jr, Peter Palmisciano, Jina Petrarca, Vincent Ragosta,
Joe Rocco (President), Angelo Rotella

An Evening Honoring
LIDIA BASTIANICH
& A Salute to Dean Martin



EVENT PROGRAM

November 15, 2025

Show Open Video

Opening Comments

Joe Rocco & Gene Valicenti

RIIAHF Presentation Video

Champions for All Seasons

Scholarship Award Presentations – Group One

Concert Tribute to Dean Martin

Featuring Steve Palumbo & All Star Band

Scholarship Award Presentations – Group Two

Lidia Bastianich Video Tribute

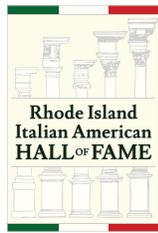
Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation

Lidia Bastianich

Conversation with Lidia

Closing Comments

Joe & Gene



Lidia Bastianich

2025 RIIAHF Lifetime Achievement Honoree

The Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame is proud to honor Lidia Matticchio Bastianich. Lidia is an Emmy award-winning public television host, best-selling cookbook author, successful restaurateur, and owner of a flourishing food and entertainment business. Most importantly, she has accomplished all of this by marrying her two passions in life—her family and food—to create multiple culinary endeavors alongside her two children, Joseph and Tanya.

Lidia's love of food, cooking, and its ability to connect family and friends was nurtured as a child in Pola, a small city on the Istrian Peninsula of what was then Yugoslavia. Lidia and her family were forced to flee the communist regime. After a dramatic escape that involved temporary separation from her father in Italy, they registered as refugees and lived in a refugee camp in Italy before they were resettled in the United States when Lidia was eleven. It was here that Lidia's culinary journey took flight, influenced by her experiences and the diverse cultures she encountered. Her cooking style is a tribute to her grandmother Rosa's farm-to-table approach, Aunt Nina's sophisticated techniques in Trieste, and the commercial cooking skills she acquired in a refugee camp kitchen.

After their immigration to the USA, Lidia's family settled in Astoria, Queens, where, as a teen, she made her foray into the food industry, taking an entry-level job at Walken's Bakery, owned by actor Christopher Walken's parents. It was also in Queens where Lidia and her husband opened their first restaurant, Buonavia, to critical acclaim in 1971.

After opening her third restaurant, Felidia – one of the first women-owned fine dining restaurants in America – legendary chefs Julia Child and James Beard came to dine one evening with Lidia. Soon after this memorable first meeting, Julia invited Lidia to appear as a guest on her famed PBS cooking show, which catapulted Lidia into the world of television. Once she stepped in, Lidia never looked back: creating Emmy Award-winning cooking programming over the last 25 years including Lidia's Kitchen, Lidia's Family Table, Lidia's Italy, and Lidia's Italy in America, as well as the three-time James Beard Award-winning series Lidia Celebrates America. Lidia's cooking shows air nationwide in the U.S. on public television and CREATE, internationally, and on various digital networks including Amazon Prime, Tubitv, and Xumo. Her cooking segments are also part of her TUTTOLIDIA YouTube channel.

Along with her television series, Lidia has published numerous cookbooks, co-authored with her daughter Tanya. Her most recent book is Lidia's From Our Family Table to Yours which was released in October 2023, a companion to her new 26-part public television series, Lidia's Kitchen. She is also the author of the English and Italian version of her memoir: My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food.

Lidia is a celebrated chef and restaurateur and a founder of Eataly. Together with Tanya and son-in-law Corrado, she also developed a line of all-natural sauces called LIDIA'S. In March 2023, she released a line of cookware with HSN.

In June 2024, Lidia was honored with the Daytime Emmy Lifetime Achievement Award. She has also earned seven James Beard Awards (Outstanding Chef, Television Food Show, Best Chefs in America, Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America, Specials 2016, Special 2017 and 2018) and two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Culinary Host (2013 and 2018).

Tonight, one more award for this extraordinary woman, the Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations Lidia!

Tonight the Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame is proud to present 10 of Rhode Island's best and brightest recent high school graduates and college freshmen with scholarship awards.

Funded in part through the generosity of the families and individuals listed below, each student will receive \$4,000 tonight to help them pursue the college education they deserve. This total of \$40,000 brings the RIIAHF's scholarship program to nearly a half million dollars awarded to exceptional students from all ethnic backgrounds since 1987.

Thank you to our scholarship sponsors and to all of you for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RIIAHF CLASS OF 2025!

Amelio & Norma Ricci Memorial Scholarship



Lauren Collette

Cumberland High School
University of Rhode Island
Sponsored by Sandy & John Petrarca
\$2,000 contribution

"My father taught us to find joy and celebrate with family, food, and wine even in the difficult times. He was an immigrant whose hard work built many buildings in this state, but I remember him in a hula skirt dancing around his pool with family and friends."

- Sandra Petrarca

Frank "Chick" Capuano Memorial Scholarship



Ben Diaz

The Wheeler School
Curry College
Sponsored by the Capuano Family
\$1,000 contribution

"Frank was an all-around good guy, proud veteran, great family man and always willing to help someone out. All he wanted in return was a cup of coffee and some conversation."

- Mike Capuano

Ann & Jim Pelleccione Memorial Scholarship



Allison Ceglarski

Middletown High School
Sacred Heart University
Sponsored by The Pelleccione Family
\$1,000 contribution

"My parents were typical of many first generation Italian Americans, hard-working, responsible and community minded who treasured family and friends. Although their formal educations were cut short by a Depression and a World War, they instilled in me and then my children, the value of studying hard and working to our potential."

- The Family of Ann and Jim Pelleccione

Captain Tom Geremia Memorial Scholarship



Seth Borges

Smithfield High School
UMass Amherst
Sponsored by the Capuano Family
\$1,000 contribution

"Tom was just an all-around great guy, great husband and father. He was well liked and a respected officer that his crew felt safe with. Even if you didn't see him for a while he would greet you with a smile as if he saw you yesterday. Both of us being Italian, we shared countless laughs in the Academy. He is sorely missed by all."

- Mike Capuano

Peter & Jina Petrarca Memorial Scholarship



Francisco Damoura

Saint Patrick Academy
UMass Boston
Sponsored by Sandy & John Petrarca
\$2,000 contribution

"My father came to this country for the American Dream which he believed was an education. He always said, "A man can take the roof over your head, the shoes off your feet, and the shirt off your back, but he can never take your mind so get an education."

- John Petrarca

Linette Tammelleo Memorial Scholarship



Synthia Khoury

Cumberland High School
Providence College
Sponsored by Sandy & John Petrarca
\$2,000 contribution

"Linette was a maverick who drove herself to Cape Cod in the 1950s to teach when there were no jobs available in Rhode Island. She was a beloved teacher at Mount Pleasant High School for decades and was always a woman who inspired me to break through barriers with hard work and dedication."

- Jina Petrarca

Judge Vincent Ragosta Memorial Scholarships



Ava Giorgi

La Salle Academy
Quinnipiac University
Sponsored by Ragosta Family
\$2,000 contribution



Mia Santomassimo

Cranston West High School
Brown University
Sponsored by Ragosta Family
\$2,000 contribution

“A member of The Greatest Generation, our father exuded humble pride in the achievements of Italian Americans in all walks of life. He prized education, exalted the work ethic of Italian Americans, and admired their diligence and persistence, especially when faced with obstacles.”

- Vincent, Paul, Dominic & Peter Ragosta

Rocca & Joseph Rotella Memorial Scholarship



Hunter Schobel

Pilgrim High School
Merrimack College
Sponsored by Angelo Rotella
\$1,000 contribution

“My dad took care of everyone, my mom took care of my dad and they both taught their children the importance of respect, loyalty and family values.”

- The Rotella Family

Michael Integlia III Memorial Scholarship



Zachary Leone

Cranston West High School
Syracuse University
Sponsored by Integlia Family
\$2,000 contribution

“Mic” was a scholar, talented athlete and charismatic leader. He passed away suddenly at 31 years old shortly after he rose to the position of Chief Operating Officer of our family real estate development and construction company. Our family honors his memory and continues his legacy by supporting young scholar athletes with scholarships through the RI Italian American Hall of Fame.”

- Beth, Michael & Brendon Integlia

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The Petrarca Family

The Integlia Family

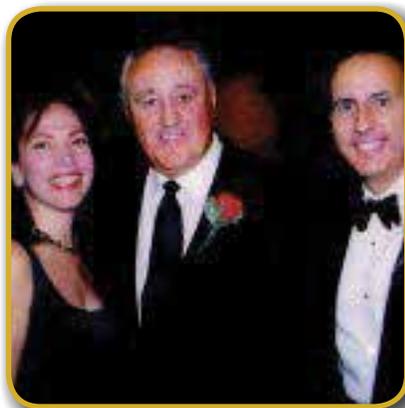
The Rotella Family

The Ragosta Family

The Capuano Family

The Pelleccione Family

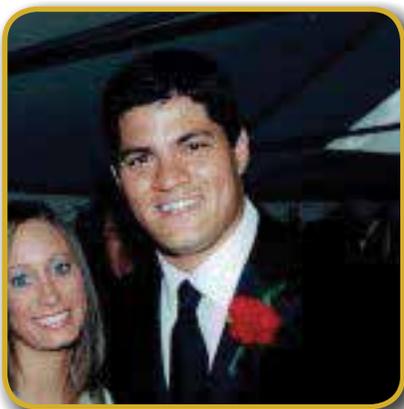
A Rich 38 Year History...



Diane Rocco, NHL Hall of Famer and former Bruins great Phil Esposito & RIIAHF officer Joe Rocco



RIIAHF honorees, the late great boxer Ralph Zannelli and former PC Friar great and NBA star, Ernie DiGregorio



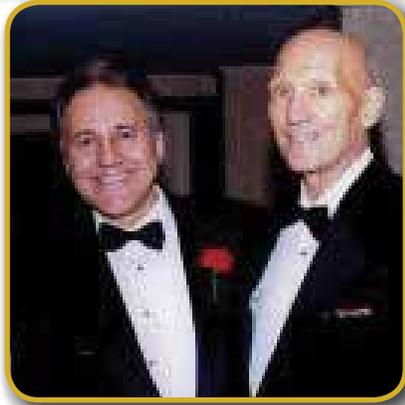
RIIAHF scholarship recipient with former Patriots great & honoree three time Super Bowl Champion Tedy Bruschi



Honorees Armand E. Sabitoni, Gen. Sec. Treasurer, LIUNA, film maker Michael Corrente & Joe Rocco



Kentucky coach, John Calipari & former Providence Mayor, the late, Vincent "Buddy" Cianci



RIIAHF honorees, former Red Sox star Rico Petrocelli & late great RI Reds star Zelio Toppazzini



RIIAHF honorees Angelo Dundee, legendary boxing trainer & Larry Gallo with RIIAHF officers Tom Tarro, Esq. (back row) & Joe Rocco (front row)



RIIAHF Director Vincent Ragosta, member Paul Ragosta, 2023 scholarship recipient Angelo Capaldi & 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Jay Leno



Director Mike Capuano, Michelle Young, representing 2023 scholarship recipient, Ava Young and 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Jay Leno



Operatic diva Maria Spacagna is inducted and also receives Mayor Cianci's famous sauce



RIIAHF honoree and former Providence Mayor Joseph R. Paolino Jr. and fellow Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Michael Corrente



Pawtucket Red Sox owner, the late Ben Mondor with former Boston Red Sox star Rico Petrocelli

“Man of the Year” Award Recipients

- Dan Marino
- Tommy Lasorda
- Gino Cappelletti
- Joe Paterno
- Dom DiMaggio
- Rick Pitino
- Angelo Dundee
- Mario Andretti
- John Calipari
- Gene Sarazen
- Geno Auriemma
- Rico Petrocelli
- Phil Esposito
- Larry Lucchino
- Tedy Bruschi
- Terry Francona

RIIAHF Inductees

- Ralph Zannelli
- John Toppa
- Lou Lamoriello
- Vinny Pazienza
- Tony Centore
- Lorenzo Gallo, Jr.
- Carl Ricci
- Ernie DiGregorio
- Al DelGreco
- Zellio Toppazzini
- Mike Tranghese
- Jay Leno
- Dr. Edward A. Iannuccilli, M.D.



Former Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tom Lasorda, a RIIAHF “Man of the Year” with distinguished guests including President Emeritus and RIIAHF founder Jimmy Burchfield & the late Chairman Ernest DiSaia



RIIAHF’s Joe Rocco with auto racing legend and “Man of the Year” recipient Mario Andretti



Inductee Ernie DiGregorio displays his award

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

- Arthur Zarrella
- Armand E. Sabitoni
- Lt. General Reginald Centracchio (ret.)
- Vincent P. Sarni
- Mike Monti
- Dr. Paul Calabresi
- Joseph R. Paolino, Jr.
- Maria Spacagna
- Joyce Acciaioli Rudge
- Michael Corrente
- Judge Vincent A. Ragosta (ret.)
- Alfred J. Verrecchia
- Leon Panetta
- Joe Andruzzi
- Admiral Lisa Franchetti
- Lidia Bastianich



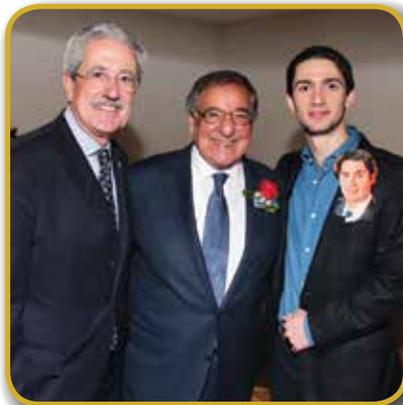
Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Armand E. Sabitoni General Secretary Treasurer, LIUNA



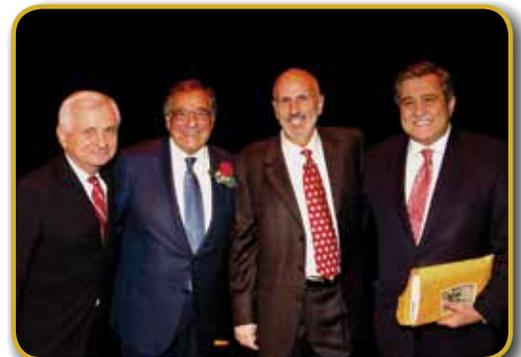
Dais honoring Larry Lucchino, Rocco Baldelli and Armand E. Sabitoni at one of many RIIAHF induction ceremonies & awards galas



RIIAHF "Man of the Year" and Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Mario Andretti, RIIAHF President Joe Rocco and NBC 10's Gene Valicenti with the Class of 2021 scholarship recipients



Former Secretary of Defense & CIA Director Leon Panetta, a RIIAHF Lifetime Achievement Award recipient with Board member Michael Integlia, Jr. & son Brendon



Senator Jack Reed, former Secretary of Defense & CIA Director Leon Panetta, RIIAHF President Joe Rocco and Gene Valicenti from NBC 10

*In memory of and in
recognition of his foresight
as one of the founders of the
Rhode Island Italian
American Hall of Fame*



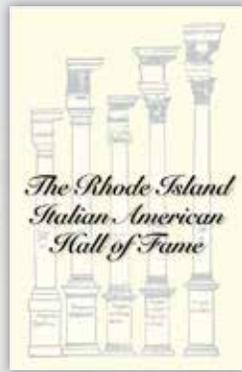
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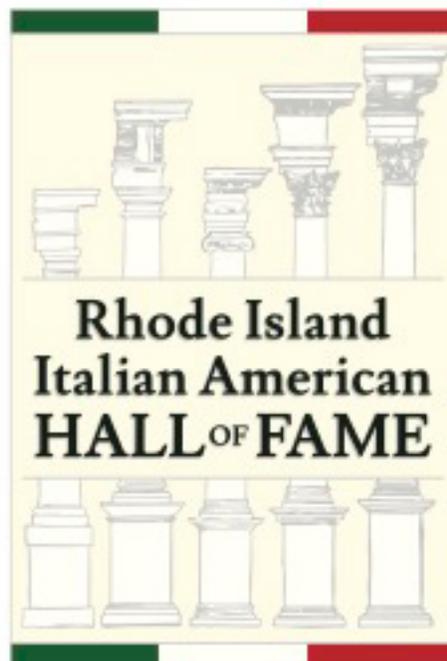
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RIIAHF President



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Congratulations to Lidia Bastianich
& best wishes to the 2025 scholarship recipients!



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JT Connell Hwy, Newport, RI



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Johnston, RI



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Joe Rocco
President

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Kudos to this year's outstanding student scholarship recipients!



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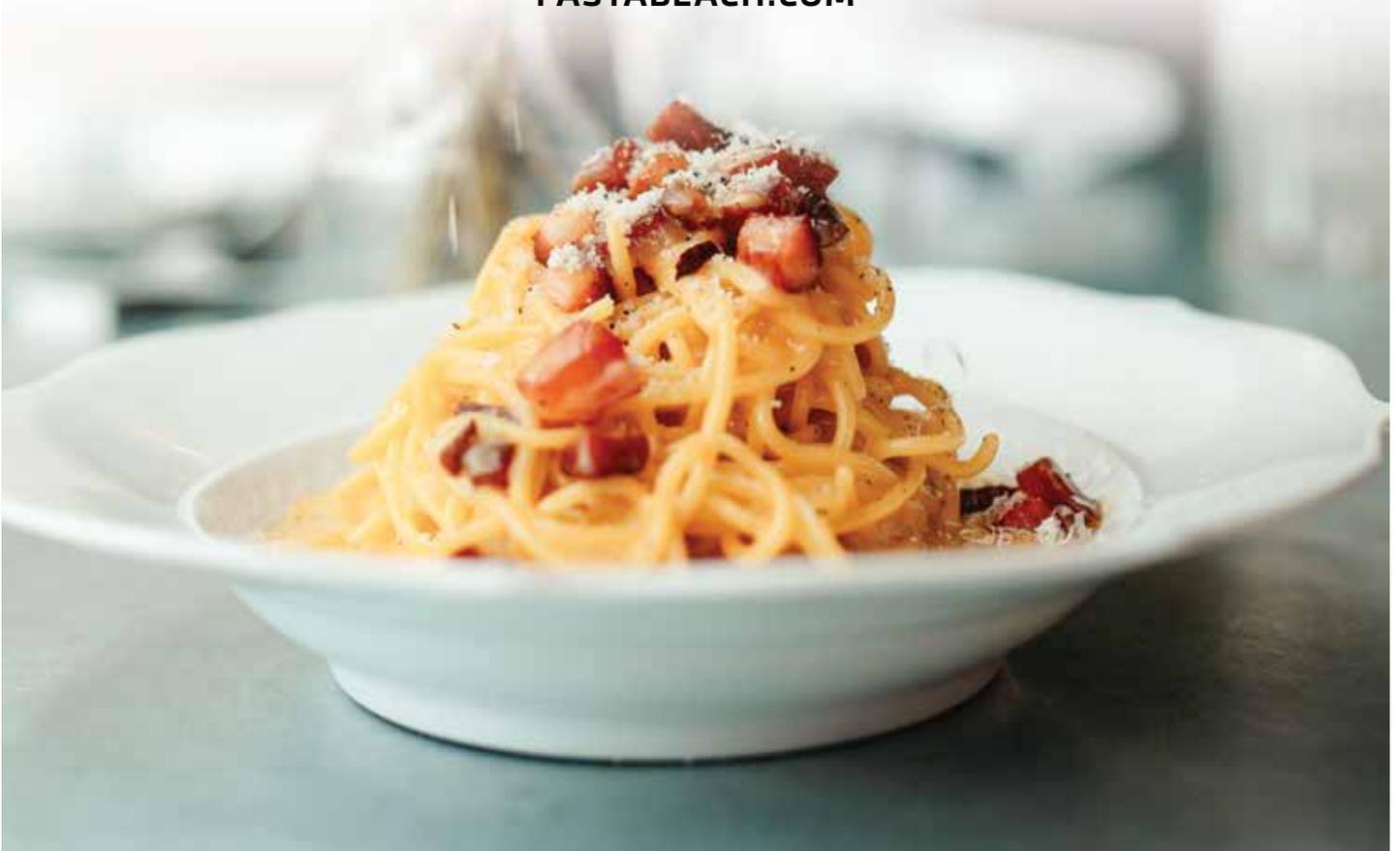
CONGRATULATIONS

Lidia
&
Class of 2025!

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Class of 2025!
&
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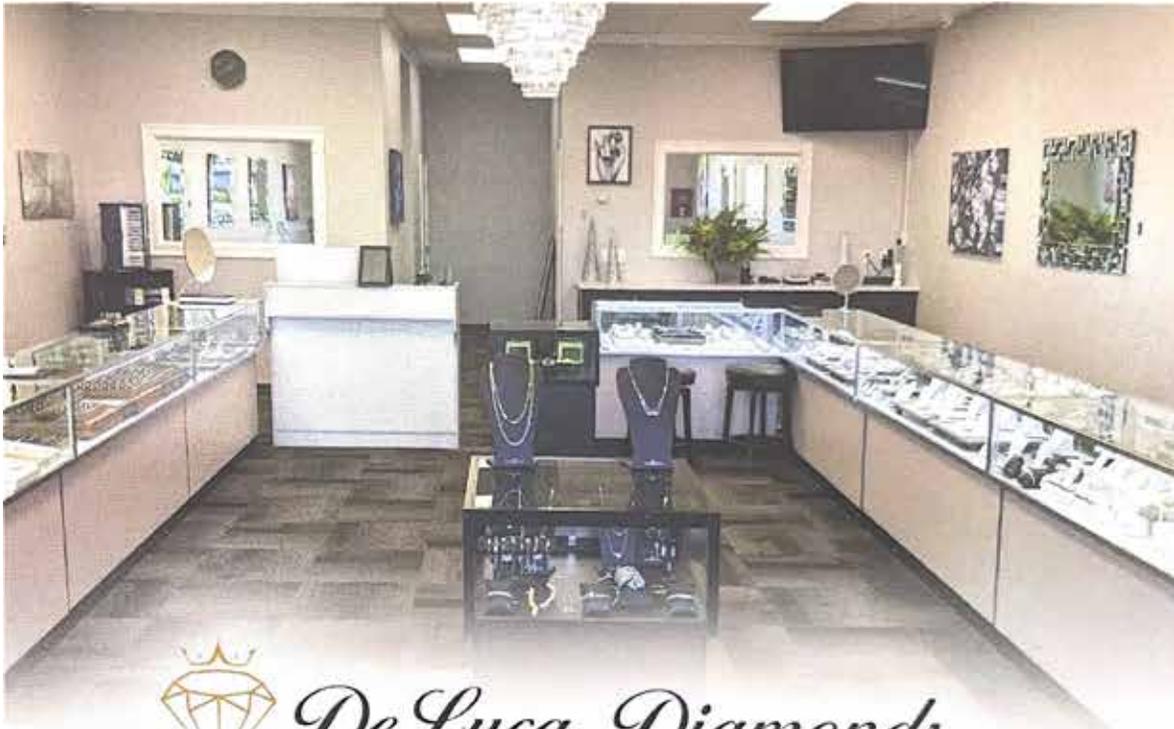
Your commitment, your heart, your willingness to lend a hand when and where it's needed. We are proud to support the **Rhode Island Italian American Hall of Fame** and all that you do in our community.

*Congratulations to this year's
Award Winner and Scholarship Recipients!*



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LIDIA BASTIANICH
AND
THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**



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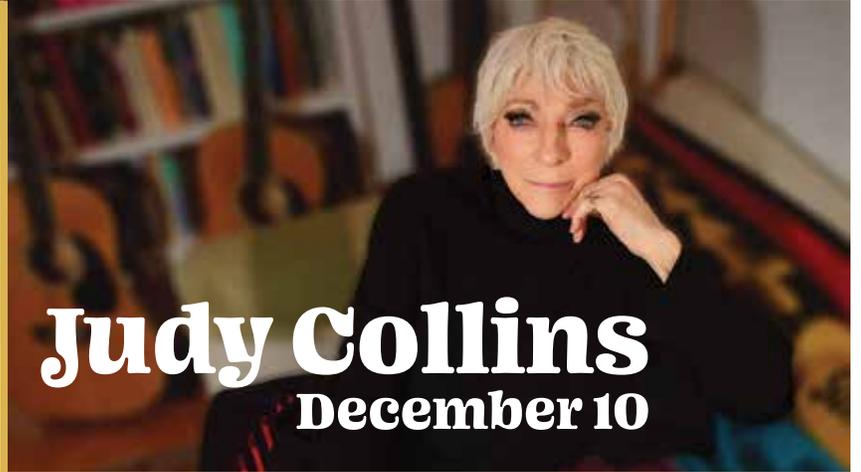
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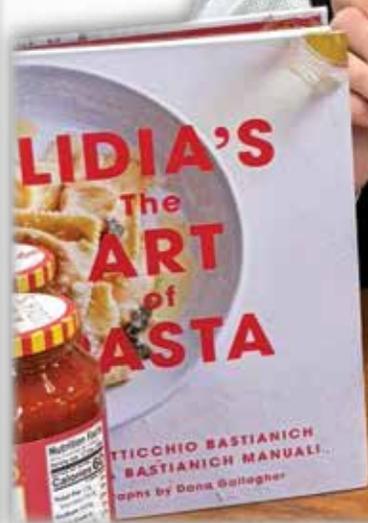
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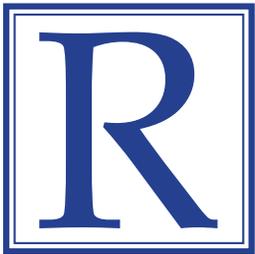
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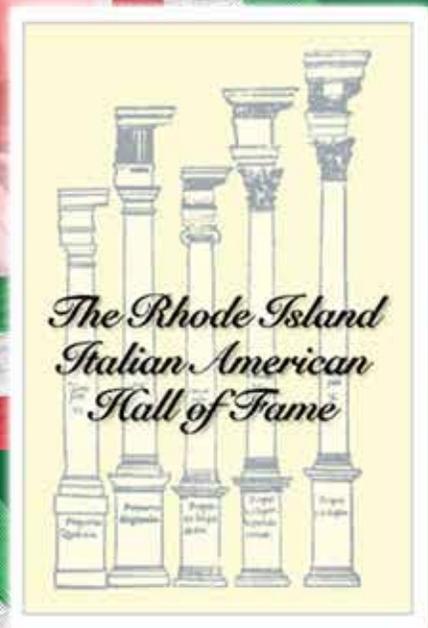
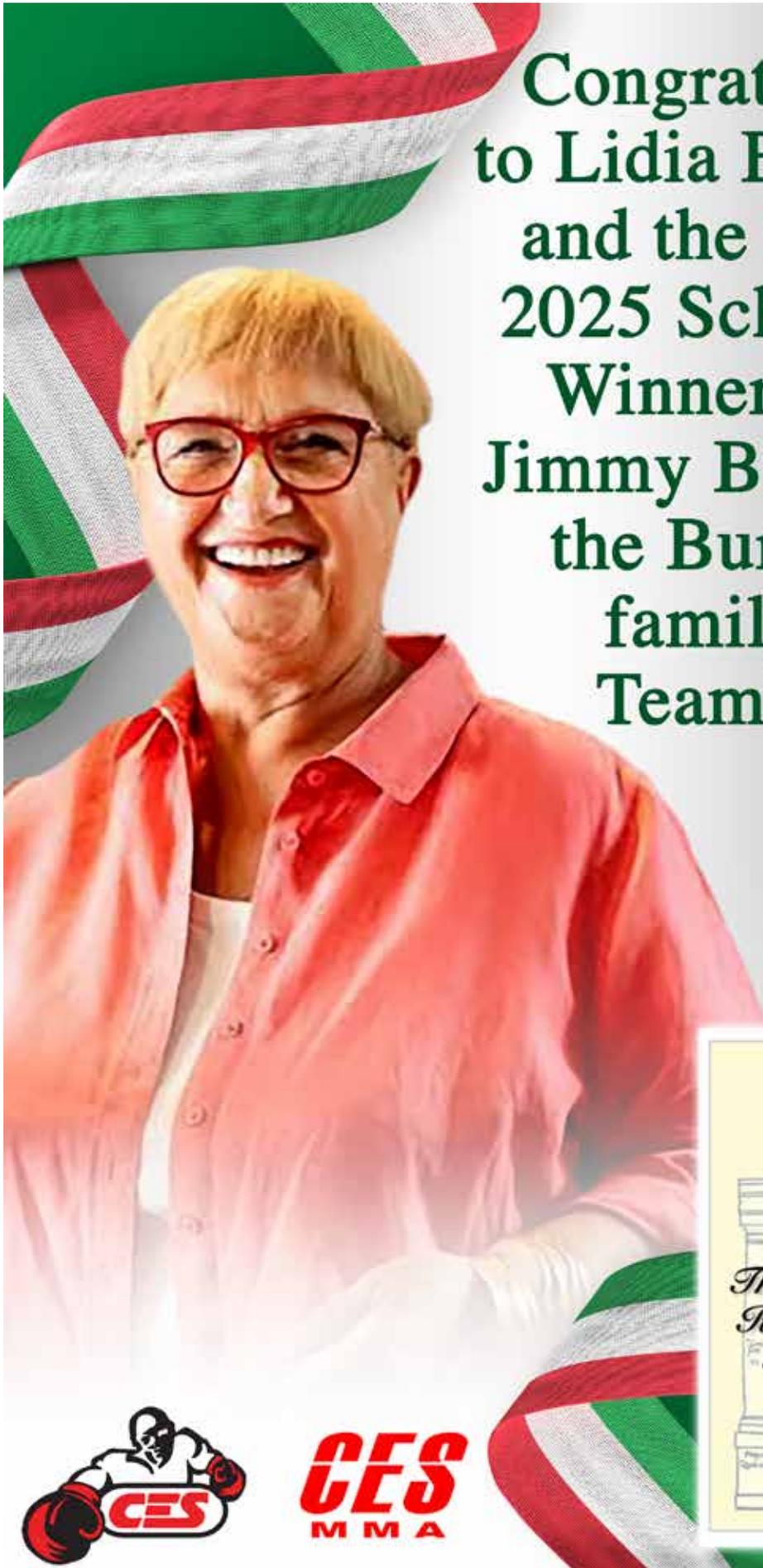


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