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For Immediate Release:



GCHS Seniors Attend Sons of Italy Student Summit in Albany

By Joanna Humbert and Gabrielle Frandina, students

The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA), Grand Lodge of New York, hosted a Student Summit in Albany for students of Italian descent back at the start of the school year, September 23-25, 2016. Among these were two seniors from Garden City High School, Joanna Humbert and Gabrielle Frandina (kneeling, center). Through educational and cultural experiences, this trip proved to be a truly memorable one. Carolyn Reres, NY Grand Lodge Foundation President, and Mary Modica, State Student Summit Chair, organized a jam-packed agenda for the students. The program included museum visits, cooking demonstrations, a visit to the state capital, and a variety of speakers. The students also had the opportunity to meet and speak with New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Through the various activities and speeches, the fifteen students reviewed their heritage and culture, observing the contributions made by Italians to today's society and learning about future programs that could expand their knowledge base. On the last night, the group visited Schenectady Lodge number 321. Here, the students enjoyed an Italian dinner and were taught the tarantella, a famous Italian folk dance. Today, the students still keep in touch and even attended a reunion to re-engage in their Italian learning experiences. Our teacher, Mrs. Brunetti, attended the reunion and

made a presentation on the language and culture of Italy. Overall, the OSIA student summit empowered the attendees to become leaders in their schools and communities.