

"WE ARE HERE"

Siamo Qui

ISSUE 541

FEBRUARY 2019

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOUNDATION presents....



Please join us as we Celebrate
Carnevale... *Calabrese Style!*

SILENT AUCTION

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED
AWARDS FOR BEST COSTUME
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE
I.A.C.C. FOUNDATION

DANCE AND ENJOY
THE MUSIC OF

GOOD TIMES

- SHORT RIBS
- PORK MILANESE
- WHITEFISH PUTTANESCA

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE WHEN
MAKING YOUR RESERVATION

COMPLIMENTARY WINE SERVED WITH DINNER
CASH BAR AVAILABLE.

DINNER BY



\$55.00
MEMBERS

\$65.00
NON-MEMBERS

SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2019

TIME: 6:30PM TO 11:30PM



FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

518.456.4222

OR GO TO - WWW.IACCFUNDATIONALBANY.ORG



ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER: 257 WASHINGTON AVENUE EXTENSION, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205



MARCH 2, 2019
6:30 PM TO 11:30 PM

NEWS & EVENTS

- 1** CARNEVALE CALABRESE
- 4** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
A special message from Jim Sano
President of the Italian American Community Center
- 5** SUPER BOWL 53 PARTY
- 7** INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN CLASSES
- 8** FINDING OUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTRY
- 10** WOMEN'S LEAGUE
- 11** MANGIA MOM
- 12** LA BEFANA CELEBRATION
- 13** ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH, MASS & BRUNCH
- 14** CARING AND SHARING



ITALIAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CENTER



SOCIAL CALENDAR

February

♥ Happy ♥
Valentine's Day

- 03 ~ SUPER BOWL 53 PARTY 4:00 PM-10:00 PM
- 06 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Co-Ed Poker Game Noon
- 06 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Men's Poker Game 5:00 pm
- 13 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Co-Ed Poker Game Noon
- 13 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Men's Poker Game 5:00 pm
- 20 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Co-Ed Poker Game Noon
- 20 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Men's Poker Game 5:00 pm
- 20 ~ IACC Board Meeting 6:30 PM
- 20 ~ General Membership Meeting 7 PM
- 27 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Co-Ed Poker Game Noon
- 27 ~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Men's Poker Game 5:00 pm

Upcoming Events:

03/02 CARNEVALE 2019 6:30 PM-11:30 PM

03/17 SAINT PATRICK - SAINT JOSEPH
MASS AND BRUNCH





President's Message

I hope that everybody is staying warm and safe and this message finds all in good health; spring is coming. I cannot do much to change the weather and make it warmer, but things will certainly be heating up here at the club for February. Our Super Bowl party will start things off on February 3rd followed by Carnivale March 2nd and Saint Patrick/Saint Joseph Mass and Brunch on March 17th, Saint Patrick's Day! Chair Yoga and Italian Language classes will be returning soon for their spring sessions as well. All these events and activities are fun times and I encourage all to participate.

The house committee has been busy and is planning on moving forward to complete the renovation of our second floor. What remains to be done is updating our membership room and rear hallway. A special thank you to Vic Consiglio who polled the card players that use this room on a weekly basis as to what they would like to see incorporated in these renovations but would also like to hear from our other members as to what they think should be included. The renovation certainly won't be as intense as what we did on the rest of the second floor because this space is in very good shape. We are planning, at a minimum, to put new carpet in that room as well as painting the walls to freshen its currently dated appearance. Please forward any suggestions to the following emails: Dave Quadrini at david.quadrinisr@gmail.com, Frank Zeoli at frank@zeolifamily.com, or me at jsano15@aol.com. We will then gather all the suggestions and evaluate them for feasibility and cost and move forward.

I am very proud of how we have transformed the second-floor space as part of a 4-year master total renovation plan. We started by adding a handicapped bathroom and relocating our membership office back in 2015 and then added a fully functioning kitchen. In 2017, we renovated the Presidents room into a business space with printing and teleconferencing capability, wireless internet with a 60-inch interactive smart TV. This space is available free to members. Last year, we separated the hallway from the meeting room, repaired and updated the lighting and HVAC system, installed an 80-inch smart TV, DVD, computer interface to the TV and gave our piano a new home. The meeting room can be reserved by members for small functions free of charge (40 people max.).

How in the world is the Roman Garden 25 years old already? It is, and in need of repairs. This spring we will be renovating the garden walls and restoring them to the brilliance they once enjoyed. The walls will be repaired where they are cracking and spalling and then will have new stucco material and new paint applied. When all the work is completed, the entire area, including statues, will undergo pressure washing to remove 25 years of filth and grime.

We had also planned on renovating the pool bathroom area this spring but for now that is on hold until some other issues are resolved. I want to thank Dave Quadrini who spearheads all these projects and makes sure all work is done in a smart, efficient and methodical manner and that we get the most bang for our buck. We would be lost without his expertise.

In closing, Happy Saint Valentine's Day to all.

JIM SANO
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESIDENT



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SUPER BOWL 53 PARTY



GAMES OF CHANCE

RAFFLES & PRIZES

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3rd

Doors open: 4:00 pm

Pre-Game Buffet: 5:30 pm

12 FOOT HD SCREEN



Pre-Game Buffet

Sausage and Peppers
Panini Rolls
Italian Roasted Potatoes
Penne Pasta Marinara
Chicken Parmesan
Tossed Salad
Eggplant Rollatini

\$25 I.A.C.C. Members
\$30 Non-Members

Plus: Beer, Soda
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Reservations Required
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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Halftime Buffet



Vegetable Platter with Dip
Boneless Chicken Wings
Cheese, Crackers
and Pepperoni
Italian Nachos
Mozzarella Stix

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Members enjoy a
50%
Discount! *

Monday Night *Italian Grand Buffett*

* Maximum Discount up to a party of 30 people.



ONLY \$21.95 per person

Treviso
BY MALLOZZI'S

Soft Drinks Included. Reservations recommended.
Enjoy a Bottle of House Wine for ONLY \$14.00 per bottle!

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I.A.C.C.
Members enjoy a
50%
Discount! *



Executive Chef Ryan Huneau's menu features a chef's carving station, fresh Belgian Waffles, warm doughnuts, continental breakfast pastries, warm muffins, omelet station and much, much more.

Brunch runs from 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

* Maximum Discount of 12 People Per Reservation.

Sundays in Albany are a little bit more delicious!
The Italian American Community Center of Albany
and the talented chefs at Treviso offer a Sunday
brunch extravaganza.



**Treviso is located at 257 Washington Avenue Extension.
For more information please call the Treviso office at 518-456-0292**



Intermediate Italian

Spring 2019

Learn the world's most beautiful, romantic,
and musical language this spring!

This 8 week class focuses on improving your conversational skills by utilizing both familiar and new phrases and vocabulary. An elementary level knowledge of Italian is required.

Class Dates: To be announced

Class Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$75 I.A.C.C Members / \$85 Non-Members (Plus \$10 for Materials)

Location: The Italian American Community Center ~ 2nd Floor
257 Washington Avenue Ext, Albany, NY 12205

Register: Call (518) 456-4222 - OR -Visit: www.IACCFoundationAlbany.org

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED REGISTER TODAY!

Reading Between the Lines

Dear readers: I have enjoyed writing for *Siamo Qui* for the past five years, and I hope I have in some way helped you to connect with your ancestors. The time has come for me to lay aside my writing tools; this will be my last column. Many of my columns have dealt with researching original Sicilian/Italian church and civil records. For most of our ancestors, who weren't noble, rich, or famous; who were illiterate and therefore couldn't record family history, those records are the only bits and pieces of their lives that have been passed on for posterity. Here is one of those records, my father Gaetano Coniglio's record of birth. With a little imagination, we can put 'flesh' on the document's bare bones.

<p>Numero <u>198</u></p> <p><u>Coniglio Gaetano</u></p> <p>A 1^o Dicembre 1912 sposo <u>M. Rossi Rosa</u></p> <p><u>Prusme</u></p> <p><small>* S'indichi la professione o la condizione.</small></p>	<p>L'anno milleottocento <u>1912</u>, addì <u>ventisei</u> di <u>Aprile</u>, a ore <u>12</u> meridiane <u>12</u> e minuti _____, nella Casa comunale.</p> <p>Avanti di me <u>Luigi Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u></p> <p>Uffiziale dello Stato Civile del Comune di <u>Termini Imerese</u></p> <p>è comparso <u>Gaetano Coniglio</u>, di anni <u>40</u>, <u>golfajo</u> domiciliato in <u>Termini Imerese</u>, al quale mi ha dichiarato che alle ore <u>12</u> meridiane <u>12</u> e minuti _____, del dì <u>ventisei</u> del <u>ventisei</u> mese, nella casa posta in <u>via S. Agostino</u> al numero <u>12</u>, da <u>Luigi Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u></p> <p>è nato un bambino di sesso <u>maschile</u> che <u>mi</u> mi presenta, e a cui d^o il nome di <u>Gaetano</u></p> <p>A quanto sopra e a questo atto sono stati presenti quali testimoni <u>Luigi Spagnoli</u></p>
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ATTI DI NASCITA 1912 51

<p><u>12</u> di anni, <u>12</u>; <u>golfajo</u> e <u>Luigi Spagnoli</u>, di anni <u>12</u>; <u>golfajo</u>, entrambi residenti in questo Comune.</p> <p><u>Luigi Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u> <u>Spagnoli</u></p> <p><u>Prusme</u></p>	<p>_____</p>
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Picture: Conigliofamily.com

In Serradifalco, Sicily, on Friday, 26 April 1889, the sun rose at 5:04 AM and set at 6:39 PM.

But my grandfather, Gaetano Coniglio the elder, never saw it rise or set, because he was down in the bowels of Stincone, one of the local sulfur mines, working to earn a meager living for his wife Maria Carmela Calabrese and their family.

Maria Carmela had borne him eight children, but Raimondo, the eldest, had left for Argentina, and three others had died in infancy, including little Leonardo, three years earlier.

Gaetano had entered the mine long before sunrise, and as the hour approached eight in the evening, he packed his gear and made the long, slippery climb out of the mine. He trod on footholds barely carved in the rock, slippery from the sweat of the labors of the carusi, the mine-boys who toiled all day, carrying the raw sulfur to the furnace outside the mine.

The moon was new, and invisible, but even so, as he left the black mouth of the mine, the starlit sky shone like dawn by comparison. His cumpari, pick-men like himself, were the brothers Vincenzo and Salvatore Barile. They accompanied him as he walked the three miles to his humble home at Via Migliore number ten. Like them, he was virtually exhausted, but his thoughts were about Maria Carmela. She was in her final days of pregnancy, and it had not been an easy one. He knew that his only daughter, thirteen-year-old Maria, would not only be tenderly caring for her mother, but also would have a bowl of hot minestrone ready for him when he arrived, perhaps even with a shred of the lamb they had relished on Easter, the previous Sunday.

But as he approached the corner of Via Roma and Via Migliore, he saw Maria anxiously pacing there. When she spied him, she ran to him, shouting "Papà, Papà, sa veni, sa veni, lu bambinu arrivà!" (Papa, Papa, come sir, come sir, the baby boy has arrived!)

He and his friends hurried into the building, scattering the family livestock kept on the ground floor - two hens, a rooster and one remaining lamb. Gaetano rushed upstairs to the living quarters to see Maria Carmela calmly suckling a red-cheeked, black-haired cherub. A stoic who did not often show his emotions, Gaetano laid

a tender hand on his wife's cheek and muttered "Ha fattu beni, cara." (You've done well, dear.)

Carmela took the praise demurely, and jokingly responded "Unn'ha statu? Era natu a li cinqu. Iddu già sapi parlari!" (Where have you been? He was born at five o'clock. He already knows how to speak!).

The rest of the evening, into the early hours, was spent by Gaetano and his friends 'Cenzinu and Turiddu in an alcove of the living area, made somewhat festive by the decorations and baskets of palms that Gaetano had woven two weeks earlier to celebrate Easter. The cumpari nursed a small skin of wine that Turiddu had magically produced from his pack, while Gaetano sang the praises of his new son, not omitting the fact that he had fathered the child at age fifty-three! Home-made bread dipped in the wine helped to sustain their revelry, as his friends cried "Tanuzzu, tu puru ha fattu beni!" (Gaetano, you, too, have done well!)

The night deepened, and they realized they must return to the mine that morning: each found a warm spot on the floor and napped as best he could, while Maria tended to the needs of her mother and her new baby brother.

As Saturday morning approached, the men shook themselves awake, grabbed crusts of bread and their packs, and began the walk back to Stincone. Dawn was staining the sky, and they approached the mine with trepidation. The mine owner was Mastru Licasi. They called him 'Mashu Babbu,' 'Master Dummy.' He was standing arms akimbo in the mine's entranceway, and he berated them for being late, threatening that he would dock them for the lost time.

Emboldened by his new fatherhood (and perhaps by last night's wine), Gaetano retorted "Go ahead, and while you're at it, you can dock me for a half-day, because this morning, I'm taking my son to the municipiu to have his birth registered!"

Before Mashu Babbu could sputter a response, 'Cenzinu and Turiddu piped up "You can dock us, too, because we're going as his witnesses!" And they turned on their heels and trudged back into town.

So it was that at ten that morning, 27 April 1889, 'Cenzinu and Turiddu, with Gaetano gingerly cradling his baby boy, took the short walk to the town hall on Via Duca di Serradifalco.

Gaetano presented the child for Town Secretary Pasquale Vaccari to see, while a clerk recorded the details:

"Your name?" - - "Gaetano Coniglio"

"Age?" - - Gaetano, with obvious pride, replied "Fifty-three!"

"Occupation?" - - "Sulfur miner."

"Date and time of the birth?" - - "The twenty-sixth of this month, at five in the afternoon."

"Address?" - - "Via Migliore number ten."

"Mother of the child?" - - "Carmela [her common name] Calabrese, my wife."

"What do you name the child?"

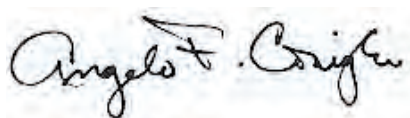
There was a rigid naming convention in Sicily, requiring the first and second child of each gender to be named after their respective grandparents. This tradition had already been met with Gaetano's earlier children, so he responded "I'm not likely to have any more sons. I'll give him my own name, and the name of my grandfather: Gaetano."

"Have you brought witnesses to this registration?" - - "Yes, my friends Vincenzo and Salvatore Barile. They're sulfur miners, too."

"Can any of you write?" - - "If we could write, would we be sulfur miners?"

~

It may not have happened in exactly that way, but who can say it didn't? The clerk wrote down only the names and dates as reported by my grandfather. The 'meat' of the story comes from my heart.



Coniglio is the author of the book *The Lady of the Wheel*, inspired by his Sicilian research. Order the paperback or the Kindle version at <http://bit.ly/SicilianStory>. Coniglio's web page at <http://bit.ly/AFCGen> has helpful hints on genealogic research. If you have genealogy questions, or would like him to lecture to your club or group, e-mail him at genealogytips@aol.com

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

*H*ello Ladies,

I am looking forward to an exciting term as President of the Women's League and I want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence as I begin this exciting new adventure. Your officers and I are putting together new and informative programs and guest speakers. Watch for these to begin in March.

My officers and I will be getting together to plan the dinners for the year and discuss topics of interest to present at our meetings and we would also welcome feedback from anyone who has ideas to share. All ideas are welcome and appreciated.

The Mother-Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held on May 19, 2019 and our Committee is already beginning to make plans for this wonderful event which provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents and children to participate in and share a delicious luncheon and afternoon together. We always have a great time and it has always been well attended. If you have not attended this event in the past, I would like to encourage you to join us and bring your friends and family members. If you are interested in being one of our models for this event, please let me know. We would normally have 8 to 10 adult models and 8 children as models.

There are many ways you can help to make this event a success including helping to collect items for the drawings, putting together and donating a basket for the drawings, making favors or other decorations as the date comes closer, or helping the models when it is time to go to the stores to pick out beautiful clothes to model. If you have an interest in serving on the Committee for the Fashion Show, please contact any of the following Co-Chairs:

Anne Marie Lizzi

Donna Zumbo

Gretchen VanValkenburg

Our first monthly Women's League meeting of the year will be held on March 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. I will talk about the dinner choices and the program in the March 2019 newsletter.

Thank you,

Gretchen VanValkenburg
President



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Current I.A.C.C. Membership expire Sunday, December 31st, 2018
Membership renewal starts December 26, 2018.
New enrollment begins January 2nd at the I.A.C.C. Membership office.

REMEMBER TO SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS

You may enroll by sending your invoice (with payment)
in or by calling the I.A.C.C. Membership Office at (518) 456-4222.
Cash, Checks, Credit and Debit cards are accepted.

Thank You For Being A Member.

Here's To An Amazing 2019 At The Club!

Hosting a Super Bowl party or going to one?
One of my favorite game day foods is taco salad.
Presenting it in a trifle will make it the centerpiece of the
table and will be sure to please the crowd!



Taco Salad Trifle

Ingredients:

- 1 head of iceberg lettuce, chopped
- 1 can of refried beans
- 2-3 large tomatoes, chopped
- 1 can of black olives, sliced
- 1 pound of ground beef (or protein of choice)
- 2 cups of sour cream
- 2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 avocado cut into small chunks
- 1 bag of tortilla strips
- 2 packets of taco seasoning

Instructions:

Brown the ground beef or meat of choice in a skillet over med-high heat. Drain the fat and return the skillet to heat. Add 1/2 cup of water and one packet of taco seasoning. Simmer on low for about a minute while stirring. Remove from heat and let it cool.

The second step requires a little bit of love (no strict measurements!).

I mix the sour cream with the other packet of taco seasoning and taste it as I go. How much of the seasoning you'll need all depends on your own taste.

In a trifle or clear deep dish, layer the following starting with the bottom layer: spread refried beans on the bottom, lettuce, tomatoes, olives, meat, sour cream, and shredded cheddar cheese. Top it off with tortilla strips and avocado.





La Befana

In Italian folklore, Befana is an old woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on Epiphany eve (the night of January 5th) in a similar way to St Nicholas or Santa Claus. The legend has it that she visits all the children of Italy on the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany to fill their socks with candy and presents, if they are good, or a lump of coal or dark candy, if they are bad.

Being a good housekeeper, many say she would sweep the floor before she left. To some, the sweeping meant the sweeping away of the problems of the year. The child's family typically left her a glass of wine and a plate of food.



On January 6th, the IACC welcomed our own Bafana, Maria DeNitto, to visit the children and bring them candy. Barbara Palumbo told the story of La Befana and many members, who were born and raised in Italy, shared stories of how La Befana effected their childhood. Attendees enjoyed lunch and dessert compliments of the IACC Foundation.

“It was a great thing to be able to bring a new Italian tradition to so many people who had never heard about it before,” said Frank Zeoli, President of the IACC Foundation. “This is an event worth continuing.”



The Italian American Community Center Foundation
invites you to our annual



*St. Patrick and
St. Joseph
Mass and Brunch*

**Sunday, March 17
Mass at 10:30 A.M.**



Brunch Served After Mass



Menu

Scrambled Eggs • Bacon and Sausage
Baked Ziti • Cauliflower and Broccoli Fritters
Corned Beef and Cabbage w/Carrots and Potatoes
Pasta Cece • Rolls and Italian Bread
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Royale • Cookies
Assorted Juices • Coffee, Tea, Milk
St. Joseph's Zeppole

Cost: \$25

Open to the Public

Italian American Community Center
257 Washington Avenue Ext. Albany

To reserve your seat call (518) 456-IACC(4222)

CARING & SHARING



February

Birthdays



- Frances Blendell
- Emily Boncordo
- Jose Casabianco
- Paul Collins
- Phyllis D'Antonio
- Michele Doodian
- Rhiannon Fitzpatrick
- William Fitzpatrick
- Paul Giuliano
- Chris Hoffman
- Dr. Michael Horgan
- Lisa Hrimatopoulos
- Amelia Iannone
- Judith Ingemie
- Carol Johnson
- Chris Kollias
- Diana Kretschmer
- Mark Lindemann
- Armand Marando
- Melissa Milos
- Mary Nardiello
- Richard Ognibene
- Thomas Papa
- Amalia Pawlak
- Joan Rosetti
- Albert Sacca
- Ernest Sacco
- Catherine Saglimbeni
- Patti Sheffer
- Tracey Smith
- Gail Tarantino
- Kerri Tily
- Demetra Vann
- James Vann
- Marie Vitillo
- Donna Whalen
- Kelli Ziobro

CONDOLENCES



Our condolences to
Phyllis (Giannini) Scafidi
on the loss of her brother,
Victor S. Giannini.

WELCOME

new members

Evan & Cara Favella



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This course is great for people wanting to reclaim healthy movement, build strength and joint mobility, and regain your best body regardless of your age and fitness level!



Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support. Remember to wear loose comfortable clothing!

CHAIR YOGA IS RETURNING TO THE IACC

This class is enjoyed by so many and is returning for an 6-week spring session on Thursday evenings, March 7, 2018 through April 11, 2019. The class will be held upstairs in the IACC Boardroom and begin at 6:30 pm for 1 hour. Classes are open to men and women. Please call the membership office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

The price will be \$50.00 for the session or \$8.00 a class to “drop-in.”

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