



ISSUE 578

APRIL 2022



EXPERIENCE NEW YORK CITY'S "REAL LITTLE ITALY" Join Us On Our Annual Bus Trip To Arthur Avenue!

Cost: \$40 Members I.A.C.C, \$45 Non-members. | **Location:** The Italian American Community Center - Parking Lot 257 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, NY 12205 | **Time:** 8:45 am Depart from Albany. 4:00 pm Depart from NYC.

RSVP: Call the Membership Office at 518-456-4222

HAPPY EASTER





NEWS & EVENTS

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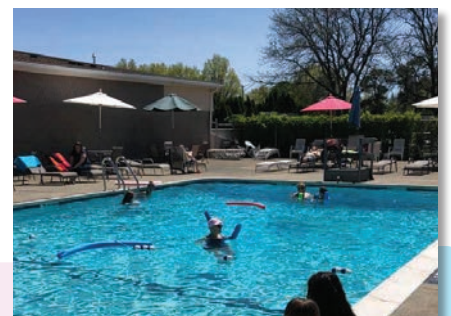
SOCIAL CALENDAR



- 4/04 ~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm
- 4/07 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:30 pm
- 4/09 ~ Experience Little Italy: Arthur Ave Bus Trip - 8:00 am
- 4/11 ~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm
- 4/13 ~ Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm
- 4/14 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:30 pm
- 4/17 ~ Easter Sunday Special Buffet - 11 am-2pm
- 4/18 ~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm
- 4/21 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:30 pm
- 4/25 ~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm
- 4/28 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:30 pm
- 4/29 ~ Member Cocktail Party - 5:00 pm

Upcoming Events

- 5/15 ~ The Mother/Daughter Luncheon - 12:00 pm
- 5/27 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Opening Night)
- 5/21 ~ Member Exclusive: Pool Pre-Opening Party
& BBQ - Noon - 3:00 pm
- 5/28 ~ Pool Opening
- 5/30 ~ Memorial Day Pool BBQ
- 6/12 ~ St. Anthony's Mass/Lunch
- TBD ~ Best of The Bronx: Yankees Game & Arthur Ave Bus Trip



Opposite page image created by denamorado - www.freepik.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Finally, Spring is here and the Lord above is shining his magnificent light on the IACC. We have a lot of exciting things coming up at the club to look forward to. First, on April 9th we will make our annual pilgrimage to Arthur Avenue to purchase Italian delicacies and have a great meal. There are still a few seats left so if you haven't made your reservation, you may do so by visiting our website or by calling the membership office.

The next Sunday Brunch will be held on April 3rd and our next free Member Cocktail Party is on April 29th. Please call (518) 456-4222 to make your reservation for both of these great member events.

On May 27th, Friday Nights at the Pavilion and the swimming pool will open for the season. The summer at the IACC is always a special time and you don't want to miss any bit of it. We are looking for volunteers for Friday Nights at the Pavilion. If anyone is interested, please send me an email at festa@italianamerican.com and we can see how you can best lend your talents to the club.

Finally let me wish you "Buona Pasqua". I hope everyone has a blessed Easter filled with love, family, and lots of great food.

Ciao,

FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



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The Italian American Community Center Foundation

presents

Friday Nights

AT THE

PAVILION



**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM
May 27 - September 2, 2022**

5:00PM - 8:00PM

**Eat, drink, listen to music,
play bocce or just hang-out at this
"open-to-the-public" family event!**

**257 WASHINGTON AVE. EXT.
THE I.A.C.C. PAVILION**

**DON'T
MISS IT!**

To learn more about the Italian American
Community Center Foundation, please visit:

www.iaccfoundationalbany.org

518.456.IACC (4222)

257 Washington Avenue Ext. Albany, NY 12205

Follow us on



Tag us #FridayNightsAtThePavilion #TheIACC

Free member Cocktail Party

FREE FOOD, DRINKS and MUSIC!
Friday April 29th from 5 PM to 7 PM.
Guests are welcome for \$25.00.

CLUB

NEWS &
EVENTS



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 BEGINNING A NEW 8 WEEK SESSION

This class is enjoyed by so many and is returning for an 8-week spring session on **Thursday nights at 6:00 pm beginning March 3rd**. The class will be held upstairs in the Caruso Room. Classes are open to men and women. Please call the membership office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

We will maintain social distance and masks will be required.

The price for 8 weeks is \$50.00

MOTHER & DAUGHTER LUNCH

*Fashion Show &
silent auction*

**PRIMAVERA
A NAPOLI**

May 15 at Noon

**We need volunteers to model.
Adults and girls!**

SAVE THE DATE

I.A.C.C Foundation

1st Annual

Cash

Raffle

Proceeds to benefit I.A.C.C. Foundation!

Drawing will be held at Carnivale on February 26th, 2022

\$100 a Ticket Only 200 Sold - (Ferragosto on August 13, 2022) \$500 Prizes

We are holding a cash raffle giveaway and your odds of winning are great! We are only selling 200 tickets for \$100 each. Go in partners with friends and family or buy them as gifts. The tickets will be available at the Monday Night Buffet as well as by calling the office at 518-456-4222. The raffle is open

to all not just members. The drawing will be held at our annual Ferragosto celebration on August 13, so come to Ferragosto, party and go home with some cash!



The Islands Of Lombardy

By JIM SANO

Monte Isola

REGIONS
OF
ITALY

There are eleven islands and islets in the Lombardy province; they all are in lakes with no coastal or sea islands. In essence, these islands are open-air museums, caught in time, offering visitors a great way to discover the old flavors and traditions of the area. Each island is a world unto itself, with plenty of beautiful villas and lush gardens underpinned by a unique, enchanting atmosphere. The lake islands of Lombardy are unspoiled natural landscapes and offer enormous historical and cultural importance. Lombardy lakes are famous for their beautiful alpine views and the characteristic villages they overlook. There are six lakes in the Lombardy region with islands, each with its own authentic charm and features. They are Lake Pusiano, Lake Iseo, Lake Varese, Lake Garda, Lake Como, and Lake Maggiore.

Islands of Lake Pusiano

Isola dei Cipressi (Cypress Island) is located in Lake Pusiano between Como and Lecco; its name is due to the presence of over 130 cypresses, most of them centuries old. The island boasts an ancient history, dating back to the Neolithic period, approximately 10,000 years B.C. On the easternmost point, stood a small village built on stilts. This island's history is excellent, and great were the names that inhabited it in the past. In 1300, Milan's Archbishop owned the isle together with San Giovanni Battista's collegiate church from Monza. Then for three centuries, till the end of 1700, the period of the three Marquises started:

Francesco Carpani, followed by Giuseppe Antonio Molo and Gerolamo d'Adda. The Archduke Ferdinand Karl of Austria then acquired the lake, Pusiano's Palace, and the Island. It was then conquered by Eugenio of Beauharnais, Viceroy of Italy and Napoleon's stepson, and in turn it was taken back by Archduke Ranieri of Austria. The Imperial House of Austria kept the property until 1831. In 1874, the island was given to the brothers Antonio and Egidio Gavazzi, silk industrialists of Valmadrera.

The island is still owned by the Gavazzi family, who still live there and provide for its maintenance. Visitors can go on guided tours of the villa and botanical garden, one of the best in Italy, complete with squirrels, turtles, kangaroos (wallabies), storks, crowned cranes, crane maid, peacocks, etc. and more than 100 varieties of plants.

Islands of Lake Iseo

Monte Isola (Mountain Island) is the largest lake island in Italy with a total area of 4.9 sq miles and is known for being closed to motorized vehicles. There are no cars and little pollution; people get around on foot or by bike. Its population is 1,770, spread over twelve picturesque villages and hamlets. There are several churches, buildings, and towers, some dating back to the 11th century with marvelous frescoes, statues, and altars of vernacular art. Visitors can witness the inhabitants, who are skilled fishermen, practicing ancient crafts, such as the construction of nets and boats (naèt). In 2019, it was selected as the third best European tourist location, behind only Budapest and Braga.



Floating Piers

Indications of a Roman settlement date from 905 A.D., when the island was listed among the monastery properties of Saint Salvatore of Brescia. The Oldofredi family, rulers of Iseo, built two strongholds on the island in the 11th-12th centuries. Members of the powerful Visconti family came here to hunt in 1400. Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan, took control in 1497; he gave the islanders some fishing rights and reduced taxes. In the same year, Caterina Cornaro, queen of Cyprus, resided for a while on the island. During the 19th century, the island's leading industry was the construction of boats and the manufacturing of fishing nets.

Every five years since 1630 beginning on September 14th and lasting for four days, the festival of the glorification of the Holy Cross (Festa de Santa Croce), also known as The Flower Festival, has been held. This feast commemorates the end of cholera. According to the tradition, when the plague hit the island in 800, the two villages' inhabitants asked for the Holy Cross's grace and pledged to honor it with a majestic five-year Festival. A procession follows a Liturgy with the Relic of the Cross of Christ. Two interesting facts are the townspeople pay a special tax to underwrite this event, and the flowers are all made by hand from traditional methods handed down from generations. Prizes are awarded and are highly coveted.

Monte Isola gained international recognition in 2016 when the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude chose this location for their visionary Floating Piers art installation. Floating Piers was a floating walkway linking Monte Isola, Sulzano, and the private Isola di San Paolo.

Isola di Loreto (Loreto Island) is a fairy tale oasis set in Italy's Lake Iseo's sparkling blue waters, north of Monte Isola. Loreto Island, for years, was a mysterious meeting place for fishermen, merchants, and pilgrims. This beautifully unique private island is one of the most magical and mysterious places in the world. At the end of the 5th century, a small monastery was built on the island. It was abandoned in the 15th century, and

was subsequently purchased by the nuns of Santa Chiara di Brescia, who built a convent there. The ruins of walls and two square towers are all that remains of these ancient structures. The Island of Loreto, after many owners, was abandoned and gradually fell into disrepair. In 1910, Royal Navy Captain Vincenzo Richieri constructed an enchanted neo-gothic castle on the ancient monastery remains, which is an example of extreme decadence. He built a small piece of paradise with a magnificent marina and a wonderfully well-tended garden. Loreto Island was recently up for sale in July 2014 and was listed as one of the world's seven most beautiful private island castles. Many VIPs and tycoons coveted and bid on this island, including movie star George Clooney.

The Island of San Paolo (Lombard: Isola de San Pàol) is a small privately-owned island in Lake Iseo. It is located close to the Island of Loreto and is south of the much larger Monte Isola. In 1091, the islet, under the control of the noble Mozzi family, was donated to the Cluniac Monastery of San Paolo d'Argon, which established a convent. The abbey passed to the noble Fenaroli family of Pilzone, who gave it to the Friars Minor of the Observance. Alessandro Fenaroli, the Monastery of the Observants' founder, died on August 15, 1525, is buried in San Paolo's church on the island. The Fenaroli family continued to financially support their monastery's until its closure in 1783, and the island was sold to private individuals. It is now a holiday home and nothing remains of the church or the ancient abbey.

Islands of Lake Varese

Isolino Virginia (Islet of Virginia) is a rather charming triangle of land just a few yards off the west bank of Lake Varese's western shore; only a narrow channel separates it from dry land. The island is covered by luxuriant vegetation, including willows, oak trees, common alders, water lilies, butcher's broom, and some rare varieties, such as the bald cypress. Isolino Virginia is one of the oldest pile dwelling settlements in the alps and was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2011 as part of a series of properties known as prehistoric pile dwellings (stilt houses) around the alps. These include 111 villages, dating from 5000 to 500 B.C., which are located on lakes and rivers shores in Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia. The tiny islet is home to a Lipu (the Italian society for protecting birds) sanctuary that acts as a stopover for many migrating birds. Isolino Virginia was initially called the Island of St. Blaise. It was renamed at the end of the nineteenth century at the behest of its last owner, the industrialist Andrea Ponti, who named the island in honor of his wife, Virginia. They owned the island for fifty years and donated it to the municipality of Varese in 1962.



San Biagio

Islands of Lake Garda

Lake Garda is the largest lake in Italy and part of three Italian provinces: Lombardy, Trentino-Alto Adige, and Veneto. The northern part of the lake belonged to Austria until the end of World War I in 1918. Glaciers formed it at the end of the last ice age. There are five islands in the lake. Those names are Isola del Garda, Isola San Biagio (Lombardy), Isola dell' Olivo, Isola di Sogno, and Isola di Trimelone (Veneto).

Isola del Garda is the biggest of the five islands of Lake Garda. Over the centuries, the Island of Garda, currently owned by the Cavazza family, had various names almost always linked to the different owners: insula Cranie, Island of the Friars, Island Lechi, Scotti Island, Isola de Ferrari, and later Borghese Island. It has been inhabited since ancient times, as demonstrated by the 130 Gallic and Roman headstones found on the island and now held in the Roman Museum in Brescia. The island was abandoned after the Roman Empire collapsed and used as a game reserve until 879. The island became a pirates' cave for a long time before becoming a religious center. St. Francis of Assisi visited many places in northern Italy, including Lake Garda, formerly called Benaco. The island seemed an ideal place to St. Francis, far removed from the rest of the world's routine for his friars. Francis of Assisi acquired part of the island and founded a hermitage in 1221. The island became known as the "Island of the Monks". These monks brought some plant cultures to the lake, including the lemons. In 1442, St. Bernard of Siena stayed here, converting the hermitage into a monastery. The monastery became known in the 16th century as a study center for theological studies. The friars never abandoned this lonely place despite the continuous incursions of invading soldiers, until 1798 when Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion destroyed the monastery building. In 1860, the island passed to the Italian government, which sold it to Baron Scotti. After various

ownership changes, the island finally came to the house of Borghese, who built the Venetian-style palace which can still be seen today.

The island is now private property, inhabited by the noble family of Conti Cavazza from Bologna. The magnificent villa in the heart of the island was built in Venetian Gothic style at the end of the nineteenth century. The island has stayed in the family's ownership and has been their home for almost 200 years. Today they continue to care passionately about the park and the villa they inhabit. The extremely complex building has its own stylistic unity and a rare grandeur. The facades are decorated with sharp arched windows, and in the southwest corner stands a tower crowned with stone embroidered apple trees with neo-Gothic floral decorations. The villa is surrounded by a luxuriant garden rich in local and exotic plants, unique flowers, and many pines, cypresses, lemon trees, agaves, and magnolias. A visit to Garda Island means enchanting views and culture: some of the villa's rooms contain watercolor works of Pierangelo Capretti, and from April to October, many musical events are held in the island's garden. The only way to visit the island is by tour, which lasts a few hours.

San Biagio Island, or Isola dei Conigli (Island of Rabbits), is the second-largest of the five islands located on Lake Garda's west coast. It is a small Eden dotted with green fields, cypresses, and blooming bushes. As the name suggests, the island's main unique characteristic is the presence of many wild rabbits that roam free on the island. These rabbits are used to being visited by the tourists who crowd the island during the summer. Tourists are also the leading food and cuddle source for these friendly bunnies. The island is only 200 meters from the coast and is the property of Camping San Biagio. In summer, it usually is possible to reach the island on foot by crossing the isthmus that links it to the mainland. It is the natural extension of the Belvedere peninsula. A 1600's villa sits in the middle of the camping ground and functioned as a hunting ground for the local nobility. Before becoming a recreational place, the island was used as a testing ground for high-caliber fire weapons during the two world wars.

Scoglio dell'Altare is a rocky outcrop located a few hundred meters from the Island of Garda. Scoglio



dell'Altare (Altar Cliffs) is part of a single rocky platform that starts from the Island of San Biagio and juts out towards the Island of Garda. The island got its name from the annual feast of St. Peter mass which was celebrated for local fishermen and included the blessing of their boats. Today it is famous for the panoramic view it gives to those who reach it. From this rock, you can see all the coasts of the lake, from a 360-degree perspective. The site is also known as one of the best diving spots on Lake Garda. Below the rock, a wall, a popular destination for divers from all over Italy, reaches a depth of 150 meters, where there are two balconies of yellow sponges and caves inhabited by fish, in particular eels, alborelle, pike, tinctures, and royal perch.

Islands of Lake Como

Isola Comacina, the only Island on Lake Como, is nearly deserted today but it once was the last Roman stronghold in Lombardy. Comacina Island is home to important finds from the Roman era, making it one of the most famous archaeological sites in northern Italy. Upon first glance, a visitor may think this wooded island is too small to be of significance, but it was one of Lombardy's most powerful areas from the early Christian age (5th century) through the 12th century. Initially ruled by the Byzantines, it was later conquered by The Lombards who found the island to contain many riches deposited for safekeeping by Roman loyalists. In 1118, the Isola Comacina took Milan's side during a ten-year war against Como, which eventually led to Milan's victory. In 1169, the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa's arrival presented an opportunity

for Como's revenge, which would punish the surrounding rebel lands. Isola Comacina was invaded and raised to the ground by Frederick Barbarossa and soldiers from Como (Comaschi). In 1919, the island was given to Belgium in homage to King Albert I. The island was returned the following year. Pietro Lingeri built three houses on the island in 1939. His idea was to turn the island into a colony for artists. The island now consists of a restaurant, cafe, a collection of archaeological sites, and three artist houses. San Giovanni Battista's church containing stunning 19th-century frescoes and the Romanesque Basilica di Sant'Eufemia should be visited. The Festa di San Giovanni takes place every June 24 in memory of the destruction of the island in 1169 at the hands of the Comaschi. The feast is renowned for its stunning fireworks display, while the lake itself comes alive with the magical spectacle of thousands of floating candles or lumaghatt.

Islands of Lake Maggiore

Isolino Partegora (known locally as Isulin) is the only Island on Lake Maggiore to fall within the Italian region of Lombardy. Partegora, previously known as Isolino Crivelli after its owner, passed into the hands of the Brovelli family. In 1945, the Brovelli's decided to give the island to the municipality of Angera in memory of their sons who died in World War II. Most of the shoreline consists of marshy cane thickets. There is a sandy beach at the southern edge of the island and there is a submerged boulder called "sass margunin" to the west or "margunée". The name Partegora derives from the fact that it is located within a small marshy gulf called gora, "lake gorge". Many consider it little more than a rock, but this tiny

outpost boasts a unique history and legends. According to legend, on June 28, 1066, the deacon Arialdo was martyred here. He was one of the founders of the Pataria religious movement, which based its preaching on the need for a moralizing thrust of the clergy of the time. These teachings led Arialdo into open confrontation with the Archbishop of Milan, Guido da Velate. Soldiers of the Archbishop's niece, Oliva de Vavassori captured Arialdo, tortured him, and threw his lifeless body into Lake Maggiore. The Pope excommunicated Archbishop Guido da Velate for the violent murder of Arialdo. The Milanese people pledged their support to the Archbishop, refusing to believe the Pope. The following year, however, the people changed their minds when Arialdo's corpse resurfaced from the waters, and Archbishop Guido da Velate resigned. Arialdo's remains are now preserved inside the Milan Cathedral. The saint's martyrdom is still celebrated during the last Sunday of June, with a procession of illuminated boats between Our Lady of the Shore and the Isoline.

Alessandro Volta was a guest of the Castiglioni family in November 1776. One evening while walking, he saw gas bubbles coming out of the muddy ground. Volta decided to collect some of them in test tubes and used the captured gas in experiments. He called this important scientific discovery flammable air, which was later classified as methane.

Sasso Galletto is an islet located between Laveno Mombello and the Castelvecchiana villages in the province of Varese. This rock spike rises about 15 meters high above the rocky shore. It owes its name to a metal object depicting a cockerel placed on its top. It is one of the most beautiful deep water solo-diving spots globally, characterized by crystal clear and immediately deep water. □



Mangia Bene, Viva Bene

By FRANK ZEOLI

Prep Time: 20 Minutes | Cook Time: 90 Minutes

Chicken Cacciatore over Rice



Chicken Cacciatore is a staple in most Italian American homes and has been for generations. Made many different ways, my grandmother originally made it one way and then recreated how she made it many years later. When I was a kid, she would make Cacciatore with chicken legs and thighs in the oven. In later years, she would change it up and use boneless breasts of chicken on the stove instead of chicken on the bone. Either way she made it, it was always delicious and made with lots of love..

Ingredients

- 4 boneless breasts of chicken (approx. 3lbs)
- 4 peppers (cut in strips)
- 1 large onion (cut in strips)
- 10 oz mushrooms (sliced)
- 1-28 oz can of crush tomatoes
- 1-28 oz can of whole peeled tomatoes
- 3 cups of white rice (cooked)
- 1 oz of olive oil
- 1 tablespoon of chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon of granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon of oregano
- 1 tablespoon of parsley
- 6 fresh basil leaves (torn)
- Salt and pepper

Instructions

1. Cut the chicken into cubes and cut the peppers, onion and mushrooms.
2. In a Dutch oven, add the olive oil and let the oil heat. Add the cubed chicken, granulated garlic, salt and pepper. Cook the chicken until no longer pink, about 5 to 7 minutes. Remove the chicken from the pan and place on a plate. Keep all of the drippings in the pan.
3. Add the onions, peppers and mushrooms to the pan and sauté for about 5 minutes. Add the fresh garlic and cook for another 2 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.
4. Add the crushed tomatoes and squeeze the whole tomatoes into the pan so there are some tomato chunks. Add the oregano, parsley, basil and some salt and pepper. Let the sauce cook for about 15 minutes.
5. Add the chicken to the pan and cover. Simmer for an hour stirring occasionally.

Look for more recipes in the next edition of the **SIAMO QUI**

DINNERS To Go

Date: Every Thursday April

Time: Between 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Place: Italian American Community Center

Reservations

Are Required by Wednesday

Please Call (518) 456-4222

Or

Email: julia@2sheacatering.com



April 7th

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Marsala
Smothered With Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Portobello
Mushrooms, Marsala Wine Sauce
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Stuffed Pork Loin
Roast Loin Of Pork Stuffed With a Walnut & Cranberry
Stuffing With A Sage Sauce
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

April 14th

Tossed Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Mediterranean
Boneless Chicken Breast Smothered in Tomatoes, Black
Olives, Capers, Fresh Garlic, Oregano, & Fresh Basil
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Herb Encrusted Salmon
Baked Salmon Encrusted in Fine Herbs in Lemon Butter
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch



April 21st

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Spinach & Artichoke Chicken
Sautéed Chicken Topped With a Cream Spinach &
Artichoke Sauce
Accompanied by Vegetable & Starch

Stuffed Portobello Mushroom
Fresh Mozzarella, Spinach, Simple Tomato Balsamic
Accompanied by Brown Rice



DINNERS To Go

All Dinners Feed Up to 4
\$45 per Order + 8% Sales Tax



April 28th

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Piccata
Pan-Seared and Finished with Lemon & Capers
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Mushroom Ravioli
Pesto Cream Sauce



WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Hello ladies,

It's finally here, Spring has sprung!! Soon the Easter Bunny will be making the rounds and, hopefully, we won't be seeing anymore snow!! As they say, March winds bring April showers.

Despite the crazy snow storm last month trying to thwart our gathering, we were still able to have our first meeting of 2022. We celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day dinner with 21 ladies in attendance.

Unfortunately, our meeting opened with sad news of the recent passing of Pauline Kuzmak and Tess Bonnanni. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.

Maria LaMorte presented information regarding the Mother Daughter Fashion Show. She is continuing to explore stores that would like to participate. The planned date is Sunday, May 15, 2022. She is also seeking volunteers for multiple committees including silent auction, seating plan, table decorations and flowers, programs and, of course, models.

Women's League Vice President, Donna Zumbo, asked bocce team captains to please contact their team members to see if they are going to play this season. There are more ladies who want to participate than there are spots available.

Our next meeting will be on April 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Dinner choices will be Rosemary Roasted Pork Loin or Seared Salmon with Pineapple Mango Salsa, Caesar salad and Italian rainbow cake. The cost will be \$27 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting Jackie Brilling at (518) 339-9290 or brillingj@gmail.com. The cancellation policy remains in effect. Please remember that all reservations/cancellations need to be in no later than Monday, April 11th. In addition to the dinner, there will be a chair yoga demonstration.

There are still IACC Foundation Cash Raffle tickets for sale. The drawing will be held at Ferragosto on August 13th. Tickets are \$100 (only 200 tickets are being sold). The Grand Prize is \$5,000 with 10 \$500 winners. I can't wait to see who the winners will be!! Good luck to all who purchased tickets!

Buona Primavera e Buona Pasqua

Georgeann Greene
PRESIDENT



BOCCE LEAGUES ARE BACK!

If you are a novice or experienced player, please consider joining one of our leagues. They are free, fun, and will allow you to meet many of your fellow members. If you cannot commit to playing every week, walk-ins are welcomed. The men's bocce league plays Monday nights at 6:30, starting May 16th, (if interested contact the **Men's Bocce League President Jim Sano at 438-4631**).

The 2022 season will begin on Tuesday, May 17th, at 6:00 pm. Women's Bocce is every Tuesday for 14 weeks, ending on August 16th. Team Captains have been asked to call their team members to be ready for play. Schedules and handouts will be given out on our first night.

Bocce is open to all ladies who are members of the club. If you would like to give it a try, please call one of the names listed below. We always need subs. Remember no special talent is necessary and we always have a great time!

Donna Zumbo (518-424-7463)

Maria LaMorte (518-378-1687)

Women's Bocce Co-chairs



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ITALIANS IN KILTS ?

By JOE SANO

Gelato and Pesce e Patate

Part 2 of 3



Previously, the Italian immigration to Scotland in the late 19th century was outlined. Doing manual labor, plying skilled trades and establishing specialty shops in their communities became the pillars of their success. Yet two food items provided a fantastic opportunity for creating specialty shops as a family business. They were Gelato and Pesce e Patate!

Gelato, yes, ice cream! The Italians soon discovered that the Scots' sweet tooth was seldom satisfied. In the United Kingdom, ice cream was seen as a luxury only available to royalty and the incredibly wealthy. The idea that ice cream was a luxury item changed with the influx of Italian immigrants. Homemade ice cream was more common in Italy, with many Italians becoming expert ice cream makers. The men would churn the ice cream in the morning and take a cart filled with bins of gelato out on the streets. All-day-long, ice cream was now available. It could be eaten on the streets and was affordable. Customers felt they were offered an exotic taste of luxury at a reasonable price.

Ice cream became a very profitable trade with men pushing wheelbarrow carts for twelve hours a day and shouting in Italian 'Gelati, Ecco un Poco!' (Ice cream, have a small piece). For this reason, the gelato vendors earned the nickname, hokey pokey men. People did not know what they were shouting, and to them, the Italian sounded like "hokey-pokey"! Ice cream came to be known as hokey pokey in many areas of Scotland and into England.

Ice cream was served in a lick cup, also known as a penny lick. It was a small glass bowl that was returned to the seller when you finished; these cups were rinsed and reused. As you can imagine, this was not very sanitary, and quickly penny licks were being seen as a means for spreading typhoid and cholera. As a result, health authorities threatened to ban the sale of ice cream.

This would have been a fatal blow to the Italian families whose livelihood relied solely on their delicious creations. Fortunately, Antonio Valvona, an Italian from Manchester who was a biscuit and ice cream maker, in 1901, invented the Ice Cream Cone! He patented his invention as an 'Apparatus for Baking Biscuit Cups for Ice Cream,' and that was it. Nothing could stop ice cream now!

The tradition of ice-cream sellers on the streets of Scotland and throughout the UK is still with us. The popularity of ice cream in a country with a moderate climate is the result of it still being considered a special treat. Unfortunately, ice cream does not sell well in winter.

The Italians did not want to take the mundane jobs offered in local communities. They needed something to sell that was familiar to them but still new and original to others to sustain their family income. They used their knowledge of simply cooking readily available ingredients, and the result was fish and chips. A meal made with two ingredients most abundant in Scotland. The

Italians helped spread the popularity of the fish supper throughout Scotland. Debate continues in the UK over who first had the idea to combine fish and chips. It can reasonably be argued that the Italian community popularized the 'fish dinner' in Scotland. However, no one who noticed them opening numerous cafes and restaurants could dispute the Italian influence. Italian immigrants, mostly from northern Italy, entered the Scottish fish and chip trade during the 1890s. By 1914, the Italians had mastered the business and opened shops all over Scotland. As a result, the number of ice cream and fish and chip shops had increased tenfold. It is almost an understatement to say that a wave of immigration was founded on the Scottish sweet tooth and love of fast food fried in olive oil.

Often these "take-away" or sit and chew establishments were family-run employing relatives. The English and Scottish people were delighted to see an Italian fish and chips shop or gelato cafe in their midst. Soon, good news traveled to Italy that relatives and friends could find work in Scotland while Italy was economically stagnant. The growth and advancement of the catering/ cafe industry was supported by the "chain migration" of relatives and friends from Italy. Links arose between small towns and villages in Italy and towns and cities throughout the UK. Italian shop owners trained and assisted other Italians in starting businesses independently. One example of such a successful entrepreneur or "padrone" was Leopoldo Giuliani. He owned twenty shops and had shares in at least sixty others. He brought many young Italians over to run and eventually own their own shops.

Since very few Italian cafes could sell alcohol, the strong Scottish Temperance Movement in the first third of the 20th century was very supportive of the Italians. Italian shops and cafes were new and exotic for Scottish cities but retained a simple décor and appearance, which avoided conflict with conservative Scottish values. Slowly but surely, Italian culture was introduced and embraced by the people of Scotland.

However, the Italian cafe's reputation for late operating hours and Sunday opening became problematic. Religious groups and other city businesses protested.

The young, banned from pubs, welcomed the excitement and personality in these Italian shops and cafés as somewhere to hang out. Some objected to these practices and frowned upon youths smoking cigarettes and dancing at these establishments. Prostitution, gambling and teenage pregnancies were often erroneously linked by these objectors to these establishments. But the cafés and shops somehow managed to persevere and survive these prejudices. The ice cream shops eventually became a convenient place to meet friends for supper or to have a refreshment late at night when you have been to the theatre or music hall.



In our last installment, the contribution of Italo-Scots as part of the "Greatest Generation" will be told.



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