



ISSUE 572

OCTOBER 2021

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS

THE 48TH ANNUAL



Richard Rosetti
ITALIAN AMERICAN
OF THE YEAR



2021
HONOREES



Hon. Daniel P. McCoy
ITALIAN SPIRIT
AWARD

Carlo Ricupero
IACC PRESIDENT'S
AWARD

Joe Guastamacchia
PASQUALE TIRINO
SERVICE AWARD

Joan Wallis
CUORE D'ORO
AWARD

5:30 Cocktails | 6:30 Dinner
Dance to the music of Good Times
Black Tie Optional

Price
\$55.00 IACC Members
\$75.00 Non-Members

Italian American Community Center
257 Washington Avenue Ext.
Albany, New York 12205

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE



NEWS & EVENTS

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A special message from Frank Zeoli
President of the Italian American Community Center
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SOCIAL CALENDAR

October

- 10/4/21 ~ Elementary Italian Language Class - 7:00pm-9:00pm
- 10/5/21 ~ Co-Ed Bocce - 6:30pm
- 10/7/21 ~ Fall Chair Yoga - 6:30pm
- 10/11/21 ~ Elementary Italian Language Class - 7:00pm-9:00pm
- 10/12/21 ~ Co-Ed Bocce - 6:30pm
- 10/13/21 ~ Women's League Meeting - 6:00pm
- 10/14/21 ~ Fall Chair Yoga - 6:30pm
- 10/16/21 ~ **COLUMBUS DAY GRAND GALA** - 5:30pm-11:00pm
- 10/18/21 ~ Elementary Italian Language Class - 7:00pm-9:00pm
- 10/19/21 ~ Co-Ed Bocce - 6:30pm
- 10/21/21 ~ Fall Chair Yoga - 6:30pm
- 10/25/21 ~ Elementary Italian Language Class - 7:00pm-9:00pm
- 10/28/21 ~ Fall Chair Yoga - 6:30pm
- 10/30/21 ~ Pavilion Clean Up Day - 10:00 am

Upcoming Events:

- 11/21/21 General Membership/Elections Meeting
Year In Review - 12:00pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This month we celebrate Italian American Heritage Month. Every October we honor and recognize the contributions and achievements made by Italian Americans in our community and around the country. Over 26 million Americans are of Italian descent. That's 6% of the US population and it makes us America's seventh largest ethnic group.

To celebrate this year, as in years past, we will hold our 48th annual Columbus Grand Gala on October 16th. This year's honorees will be Richard Rosetti as our **Italian American of the Year** and County Executive Daniel McCoy who will receive our **Italian Spirit Award**.



We are also honoring three club members with our annual member awards. I am proud to award the **President's Award** to Carlo Ricupero, the **Pasquale Tirino Service Award** to Joe Guastamacia and the **Cuore d'oro Award** to Joan Wallis.

If you haven't made your reservation, you can register online at www.italianamerican.com or by calling the membership office. It's going to be an exciting evening you don't want to miss.

Since the last few years have not cooperated, this year we will be holding a special tree lighting event in December. More information to come in the November issue of the Siamo Qui.

Finally now that summer is officially over, I would like to thank the many committees and volunteers that made all of our summer events possible. I would especially like to thank Jim Sano for his tireless efforts to make our pool the best place to be in the summer heat and Maria DeNitto and her pavilion committee who made our Friday nights so memorable.

Ciao,

FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



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SECRETARY ~ DONNA ZUMBO

(518) 452-2617

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GRIEVANCE ~ JEANNE SACCA

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES~ FRANK ZEOLI

WOMEN'S LEAGUE~ GEORGEANN GREENE

COLUMBUS DAY GALA~ FRANK ZEOLI,

SIAMO QUI

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IACC OFFICE

HOURS: M-F 9:30AM TO 2:30PM

THERESA LAJOY- OFFICE MANAGER

PHONE # (518) 456-4222

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ANNUAL YEAR-END GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our annual year-in-review General Membership meeting will be on November 21st at 12:00 P.M. in the Caruso Room on the second floor. This meeting is open to all members.



ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

According to our By-Laws, an election for the Board of Directors will be held in November. One seat will be available for a 4-year term.

If you are interested in applying to this vacancy and can satisfy all of the following requisites, please submit your brief resume to the IACC office.

IACC By-Laws state that each candidate for director shall satisfy the following requisites:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Be a United States Citizen
- Be a voting member of the corporation in good standing.
- Have at least one year as a member immediately preceding the election
- Never have been convicted of a felony
- Not be a full-time employee of the IACC

No director, including the past president, may be elected to serve two consecutive terms.

Directors shall not be eligible for re-election or appointment to the board for one year after they complete their term on the board. Husbands and wives may not serve on the Board of Directors simultaneously.

If you have any questions about the duties of being a Board member, feel free to contact Donna Zumbo at 452-2617 or dzumbo13@hotmail.com

THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 2:00 PM.

NO TREAT, ITALY'S CURSED



Isola della Gaiola is actually two small islets joined by a very narrow, natural arched stone bridge. Gaiola Island is located offshore in the Gulf of Naples, part of the volcanic Campanian Archipelago 30 meters from the city's Posillipo area. The island is close to the coast and can be easily reached by swimming or by boat. The island gets its name from the numerous small caves and cavities that dot the coastline here. The word *caviola* is the local dialect for the Latin *cavae* meaning "little cave." Gaiola Island is located within the "Parco sommerso di Gaiola," a 42-hectare preserve created to protect the diverse marine ecosystem and many ancient submerged Roman ruins scattered around the island's crystal clear waters.

Gaiola Island has a long history beginning with the Roman era when aristocrats constructed villas along the coast. The island, originally known to the Romans as *Euplea*, was considered to be the protector of safe navigation and was home to a temple erected in honor of the goddess *Venus*. The remains of an Imperial Age villa can be seen today in the clear waters surrounding the island. According to legend, the Roman poet and, some say, magician *Virgil* once taught his students here on the island among the area's majestic scenery. In the 17th century, the island was virtually littered with Roman factories while two centuries later, the island served as a battery in defense of the Gulf of Naples.

The glory days for the island were limited to ancient times. Since the beginning of the 19th century,

Naples's legend has considered Gaiola a "cursed island." Italians are a superstitious bunch and believe that under this island's beauty hides some sinister power, a "restless fate," the "Gaiola Malediction." Today, the island is abandoned, and many locals refuse to be near it in fear of challenging the "Gaiola Malediction." Its reputation developed not from local superstition or some marketing trick but substantiated from its history of frequent strange events involving murder, ruin, misfortune, misery, and premature deaths in the families of its 20th-century owners.

So, where did it all go wrong for Isola della Gaiola? The run of bad luck might have started in the 1800's when a hermit known as *Il Mago* or "The Wizard," lived on the island. He was isolated from the community, wandering about and surviving on a meager diet of fish given to him by generous local fishermen. *Il Mago* lived a solitary existence so there was no one to explain why he suddenly and mysteriously disappeared.

In 1911, Captain *Gaspare Albenga* was interested in buying the island. While navigating his ship around the island, he crashed his boat into rocks and drowned. Some sources say the story was even more dramatic and that his boat did not sink but it disappeared along with the captain himself.

After that, *Luigi de Negri*, the owner of a very lucrative fishing company, became the next inhabitant. He built a majestic residential villa on one of the islets, which still stands almost intact. Soon after purchasing

GAIOLA ISLAND

By JIM SANO

REGIONS
OF
ITALY



the island, Negri's fish packing business had huge financial problems which drove him into bankruptcy and his business empire collapsed.

In the 1920's, it came into the ownership of Hans Braun, a Swiss businessman. Soon after moving into the villa, Braun was found mysteriously murdered at the mansion with his body rolled up and hidden within a carpet. Shortly after this gruesome discovery, Braun's wife would tragically drown in the calm, clear waters of the gulf, even though she was a strong swimmer and conditions had been placid.

Pharmaceutical industrialist Maurice-Yves Sandoz was the next to purchase the island and its villa. Soon after his purchase, he was declared insane and later committed suicide at a mental hospital in Switzerland in 1958. The island's ownership passed on to the wealthy German Otto Grunback, who promptly suffered a fatal heart attack while staying in the island's villa.

Four mysterious deaths later did not deter other wealthy Europeans from vying for ownership of Gaiola Island. Baron Karl Paul Langheim bought the island next. The German steel industrialist did not die a gruesome death, but his life was left in catastrophic economic ruin not long after this purchase, losing his entire vast fortune from his "wild lifestyle." He sold the island to Gianni Agnelli, owner of Fiat (the most important automobile manufacturer in Italy), who had substantial personal sufferings during his life; his only son committed suicide. After his son's untimely death,

Gianni had started grooming his nephew Umberto Agnelli to run Fiat, but Umberto died of a rare cancer at the young age of 33.

The billionaire American industrialist John Paul Getty had his fair share of misfortunes after buying the island, with the suicide of his oldest son and the death of his youngest son. In 1973, the Calabrian Mafia ('Ndrangheta) kidnapped his grandson. They forced him to pay the ransom of 3 million dollars by cutting off the boy's ear and sending it to him in the mail. The island's last owner Gianpasquale Grappone was jailed for fraud and embezzlement when his insurance company failed. While in prison, his wife died in a car accident in 1978.

The island is currently owned by the region of Campania and positioned in the middle of the Gaiola Underwater Park, which manages and preserves the ancient Roman ruins and the rare flora and fauna found in the area. Gaiola island has been uninhabited for 40 years. The curse has not stopped; in 2009, Franco Ambrosio and his wife Giovanna Sacco were murdered in a villa they owned opposite the island. The killers were never caught. Once again, the press and locals attributed it to the "Gaiola Malediction." Many locals still refuse to go near it for fear of becoming the next victim of the island's curse.

Is this seemingly peaceful, postcard-perfect island of Gaiola cursed? Is its magnificence a veneer behind which some ancient evil lurks? Can the string of misfortunes attributed to the island be blamed on dark forces that somehow twist and warp the fates of those who come here, or is this simply a series of unfortunate coincidences?



WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The cooler weather and changing of the autumn leaves is finally upon us. The closure of the pool and the end of Friday Nights in the Pavilion always brings me a little sadness. Of course, we have so much to look forward to like the Columbus Day Gala, holidays and the reopening of the pool in May.

In September, we finally moved our meeting indoors. We had a lovely dinner provided by 2 Shea Catering. Our guest speaker was Karla Giramonti, MSN, FNP and she spoke on the topic of women's urologic health. She was well received and many enjoyed the Q & A session at the end.

Our next meeting will be on October 13th at 6:00 pm. We will be having a guest speaker, David E. Jacobsen, Psy. D., the CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Albany. Dinner Choices will be Braised Short Ribs or Mushroom Ravioli and will include salad and dessert.

The cost will be \$27/pp. Reservations can be made by contacting Lynn Indelicato at (518) 469-1284 or lynn.indelicato@yahoo.com. The cancellation policy remains in effect. Please remember that all reservations/cancellations need to be in no later than Monday, October 11th. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!!

Take care and stay safe,

Georgeann Greene
PRESIDENT



Leaves: Designed by ranyajal.com / Freepik

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 BEGINNING A NEW 8 WEEK SESSION



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!

This class is enjoyed by so many and is returning for an 8-week spring session on **Thursday nights at 6:30 pm beginning September 16th through November 4th, 2021**. 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 \$60.00 or \$10 per class walk-in.

DINNERS To Go

Date: Every Thursday Night In October

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



October 7th

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Braised Short Ribs

Red Wine, Beef Reduction. Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Chicken Francaise

Chicken Sautéed in Lemon Butter With Mushrooms in a White Wine Sauce. Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

October 14th

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Baked Salmon

Citrus & Fresh Chive Baked Salmon
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Lemon Thyme Rubbed Chicken

Cast Iron Roasted, Spicy Monk Mustard Sauce
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch



October 21st

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Parmesan Encrusted Chicken

Encrusted Chicken Breast with Artichokes, Mushrooms,
& Roasted Red Peppers in a Rich Demi Glaze.
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Mushroom Ravioli

Pesto Cream Sauce



DINNERS To Go

All Dinners Feed Up to 4

\$45 per Order + 8% Sales Tax

October 28th

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Corleone

Sautéed Chicken With Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach, &
Roasted Garlic Sauce. Accompanied by Chef's Choice of
Vegetable & Starch

Baked Haddock

Lemon & Herb Spices. Accompanied by Chef's Choice of
Vegetable & Starch



Thank You for Your Continued Support!



Sausage, Peppers & Potatoes

Almost everyone has had sausage and peppers, but have they had them with potatoes? Sausage, Peppers, & Potatoes was a dish my grandmother made a lot. The whole family loved it and it would magically appear on her stove when you least expected it. I asked my grandmother once why would you take a classic like sausage and peppers and add potatoes? She replied, “it makes the meal stretch.” That made sense coming from a woman who lived through the depression. This is simply another example of a comfort peasant dish that my grandmother would serve us, with love, at any time of the year.

Prep Time: 20 Minutes

Cook Time: 65-70 Minutes

Ingredients

- 3 green peppers (cleaned and cut into strips)
- 4 potatoes (washed, peeled, and cut into strips (1/2 inch in size))
- 1 large onion (cut in strips)
- 4 Italian sausage links
- 2T of fresh garlic (minced)
- 3oz of extra virgin olive oil
- 1T of dried oregano
- 1T of dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1/2 teaspoon of black pepper

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Cut the peppers, onions, potatoes, and garlic and place them in a large mixing bowl. Add the oregano, parsley, salt, black pepper, and olive oil to the bowl and mix all items together. Make sure everything is evenly coated.
3. Cut the sausage into 3-inch pieces, about 15 pieces.
4. Coat a large baking dish with olive oil or a cooking spray to avoid sticking. Add the vegetable mixture and sausage to the pan evenly.
5. Place in the oven and bake for about 65-70 minutes or until all the vegetables and the sausage is fully cooked. Turn the mixture a few times to ensure everything cooks evenly.

Serve hot with a nice piece of Italian bread.

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





Beginner Italian

Fall 2021

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

You are invited to join us for a completely different language class in Italian. This class intends to reveal and highlight the NAMES of things...that is to say VOCABULARY.

Class Dates: From September 20 to November 22, 2021.

Class Time: Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Cost: \$75 I.A.C.C. Members / \$85 Non-Members (Plus \$15 For Materials)
A textbook will be available to anyone who desires at a cost of \$20 although not required.

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!

CARING & SHARING

October Birthdays



- Salvatore Anastasio
- James Anziano
- Catalina Arango
- Rose Barbato
- Mark Berghela
- Nicole Califano
- Paul Caputo
- Valerie Caputo
- David Cesari
- Cassandra Curry
- Daniel DiBlasi
- John Dilanni
- Joseph Dilonna
- Nelson Drimalas

- Anthony Fazio
- Roger Fucilli
- Georgeann Greene
- Sylvia Giuffre
- Susan Hazelton
- Marshall Knauf
- Rick LaJoy
- Theresa LaJoy
- Robert LaMorte
- Carolina Mancino
- Joseph Massaroni
- Elizabeth Nowicki
- Valerie Polak
- John Rizzo
- Anna Robilotto

- Frank Russo
- Susan Russo
- Philip Sabatino
- Gianfranco Santaniello
- Jamie Santaniello
- John Schumacher
- John Simeone
- Marilyn Soto DeQuarto
- Wayne Tearno
- Robert Vine
- Tony Zaccardo
- Anna Zumbo



Welcome

new members

Edward Hyde Clarke
&
Kathryn Aviza



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AND THE I.A.C.C. FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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The Italian American Community Center, founded in 1971, is an organization dedicated to serving anyone and everyone who love all things Italian!

As a member of The I.A.C.C., you receive exclusive access to a wide variety of events and activities, special discounts and promotional opportunities, along with the most up to date news about the Italian American culture and community.

(Call (518) 456-4222 To Join Today!