

Siamo Qui

"We are Here!"

December 2013/January 2014

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Issue 482



From Starry Skies Descending Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle

You Come Down
From the Stars

From Starry Skies
Thou Comest

You Came a Star
From Heaven

This best known Christmas carol, originating in Italy, is found in numerous arrangements and commonly sung. It is traditionally associated with the *zampogna*.

The melody and original lyrics for the hymn were written by Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, a prominent Neapolitan priest (later canonized) who founded the Redemptorist Missionary Order. In 1732, while staying at Convent of the Consolation in the small city of Deliceto, in the province of Foggia in Southeastern Italy, he put together the Christmas song that begins "You come down

from the stars" entitled *Little Song to Child Jesus*. The version with Italian lyrics actually came after the original song written in Neapolitan entitled *For Jesus' Birth* that begins "Quanno nascette Ninno" (When the child was born). Since that time, the *Little Song to Child Jesus* became a widely popular Christmas carol in Italy.

There are several translations of the lyrics into English styled after that of the King James Bible. Italio-American tenor, Sergio Franchi, recorded the song on his 1965 RCA Victor Billboard Top 40 album, *Cuor' Di Natale (The Heart of Christmas)*.

Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle
Tu scendi dalle stelle,
O Re del Cielo,
e vieni in una grotta,
al freddo al gelo.
O Bambino mio Divino
Io ti vedo qui a tremar,
O Dio Beato
Ahi, quanto ti costò
l'avermi amato!
A te, che sei del mondo
il Creatore,
mancano panni e fuoco;
O mio Signore!
Caro eletto Pargoletto,
Quanto questa povertà
più mi innamora!
Giacché ti fece amor
povero ancora!



From starry skies descending,
Thou comest, glorious King,
A manger low Thy bed,
In winter's icy sting;
O my dearest Child most holy,
Shudd'ring, trembling in the cold!
Great God, Thou lovest me!
What suffer'ing Thou didst bear,
That I near Thee might be!
Thou art the world's Creator,
God's own and true Word,
Yet here no robe, no fire
For Thee, Divine Lord.
Dearest, fairest, sweetest Infant,
Dire this state of poverty.
The more I care for Thee,
Since Thou, o Love Divine,
Will'st now so poor to be.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Iwould like to take this opportunity to thank the nominating committee members for due diligence in identifying and recruiting qualified and dedicated individuals to run for the Board of Directors. Each individual brings a level of knowledge, skill, and experience that will compliment the current board members in reaching the Board's objectives. Congratulations to all of the new members. To the Board members who have completed their terms, I want to thank you for your dedication and hard work over the past year. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

Throughout this past year, I have tried to promote more membership involvement in activities and events at the club. I have encouraged our current members to reach out to new members to make them feel welcome within our IACC family. For the upcoming year, my goals will be the same.

I am looking forward to working with each of you. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am always open to new ideas.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Angelo Tarantino, President

December/January Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday

December 5, Thursday
December 11, Wednesday
December 15, Sunday
December 17, Tuesday
January 9, Thursday
January 21, Tuesday

Italian Grand Buffet
Open Bowling
Foundation Board Meeting
Women's League Meeting
Family Christmas Party
Board Meeting
Foundation Board Meeting
Board Meeting

Save the Date

February 2, Sunday	Super Bowl Party
February 6, Thursday	Foundation Board Meeting
February 18, Tuesday	Board Meeting
March 1, Saturday	Carnevale Dinner Dance
March 16, Sunday	St. Patrick/St. Joseph Mass and Brunch
March 19, Wednesday	Book Club

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IACC Office

Linda Sciocchetti IACC Office Manager

Monday–Friday 9:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.

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Please submit articles, suggestions, or comments to:
Rachel Cameron, Editor, rcamero@nycap.rr.com





IACC Family Christmas Party!

Hosted by the Women's League

Sunday, December 15 Noon — 4:30 P.M.

\$23 Adults (13 or older) | Free for Children (12 and younger)

Adult choice of: Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Includes: Mixed Green Salad, Family-Style Pasta and Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Cassata Cake, Coffee and Tea

Children: Chicken Fingers and Fries
Ice Cream with Chocolate Syrup,
Juice and Soda

Enjoy music with our DJ, Crafts, Games, Prizes, Raffles, a visit from Santa Claus, a performance from our Italian Dancers, and more!

Parents: Help fill **Santa's sleigh!**

Please bring a wrapped Santa Claus gift (valued at no more than \$15) for each child in your party labeled with child's first and last name.

Thank you.

Each family is encouraged to bring one new, un-wrapped toy to donate to the Marines' Toys for Tots Foundation on behalf of the IACC.



Please make reservations by **December 9th**. Any cancellations must be received by December 11th.

RSVP Number Attending (# children,# adults), children's ages, dinner selections and contact phone number to the office at 456-4222 or iaccoffice@italianamerican.com, or MaryLou Marando at 482-8276.

If you wish to pay with a credit card, please call the IACC office 456-4222. Write checks payable to IACC Women's League and mail to:
IACC Family Christmas Party
257 Washington Ave Extension
Albany, NY 12205



Foundation News

The Foundation has officially created a DBA (doing business as) name of The Italian American Community Center Foundation or more simply IACC Foundation.

The Italian American Community Center Foundation has been continuing with its charitable contributions to the community. Recently, I had the pleasure of working with Virginia Rest, delivering meals to two very deserving organizations in Albany: The Ronald McDonald House and the Community Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital. In fact, we have gone to each place twice. They simply loved the Mallozzi's Thursday night special "Dinner To Go". These deliveries were made possible from the proceeds of the Italian tenor concert we hosted in 2012. The Foundation will be continuing its commitment to the community.

Donna Zumbo, Secretary IACCF

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Be sure to look in the February *Siamo Qui* for details on elementary and intermediate Italian Language Classes on Thursday evenings beginning in March

IACC Election Results By Anna Acconi

At the November general membership meeting, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve a three-year term beginning in January:

Jim Sano
Cain Marion Scalzo
Pina Tirino
Jeanne Wilson

Peter Scavullo was elected to serve a one-year term and Kathie Ryan was elected to serve a two-year term.

The board members elected the following officers to serve for the coming year:

President - Angelo Tarantino
Vice-President - Frank Zeoli
Treasurer - Christine DiIonna
Recording Secretary - Jim Sano

We all wish board members and officers a productive year.

Italian American Community Center Foundation *update*

We are writing to inform you how the Foundation has used the proceeds from our fundraising events over the past twelve months. These events have benefited the community and the Foundation.

- Puppet Shows and Workshops to entertain patients at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center
- Meals to families at the Community Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House
- Grant to Children's Italian Language Summer Camp
- Grant for a student to study abroad in Sicily
- Grant to Capital District Council for Young Musicians
- Grant to PBD Associates for *Fabrizio the Musical*
- Grant to Saratoga Youth Orchestra
- Funding for Phase One renovation of the Foundation's Pavilion in early summer 2013. This completed the kitchen upgrades needed to serve the needs of the Children's Summer Camp and other events.
- Funding for Phase Two renovation of the Pavilion in fall 2013, including replacement of the window screens with double-pane combination windows and screens enabling us to extend usage of the building to three seasons.

Your generosity has helped us to accomplish so much in 2013. In 2014, we will continue our mission to provide puppet shows at the Children's Hospital and meals for families at the Community Hospice Inn and Ronald McDonald House. Thank you for your support and may God bless you and your families during this holiday season.

George Urciuoli
President - IACCF



From the pool side



From inside



From the thruway side

Member Profile: Jack and Anna Zumbo *by Anna Acconi*

A Family Affair

Joachim (Jack) and Anna Zumbo are charter members who have always believed in the importance of the IACC. Both Jack and Anna grew up in Albany, attended local schools, and came from families that were involved in the hospitality business. As a young man out of the Marines, Jack worked as a bartender in his uncle's establishment, Tony's Tavern in Menands while Anna worked as a bookkeeper in her family's restaurant, Panetta's.

The couple met at Anna's sister's wedding where Jack served as a groomsman and were married in 1950. During the ensuing years, Jack and Anna welcomed five children



into their family; Joseph, Donna, Stephen, Regina and Christopher. In 1956, the family moved to a small community in Latham where they still reside. Several years later, in an attempt to "be his own boss", Jack opened Jack's Liquors in an out of the way location in Clifton

Park where there existed at the time only one small housing development.

To this day, Jack, who will soon turn 90, reports to work daily, opening the store before his son, Chris, reports for duty. His son, Stephen, owns the vegetarian restaurant, Antipasto's, next door and Jack looks over both businesses, serving as the "mayor of the strip mall" and responding to the title of "chief".

While totally supportive of the IACC, Jack and Anna were too busy running a business and raising a family to become as active as they would have liked to be.

It was their daughter, Donna, who was influential in establishing stronger ties. Since Donna became a member in her own right, she has been extremely active, serving on the boards of the IACC and IAIFI, serving as president of the Women's League, participating in the bocce league and volunteering in almost every social and fundraising IACC activity. The sense of family that was instilled in the Zumbo household continues in the broader sense of belonging that is the strength of the IACC.



Italian Dancers

Italian Dancers are a wonderful part of our heritage! The Italian American Community Center Foundation sponsors an energetic group of young boys and girls that performs throughout the year at various events in our community. Our next performance will be Sunday, December 15 at the IACC Family Christmas Party. There will be a few practices in the weeks preceding the performance. Anyone interested in joining the troop may contact Christine Marando at 438-9186 or cmarando@nycap.rr.com. New members are always welcome!



The Italian American Community Center
Foundation Fundraising Program

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Finding Our Immigrant Ancestry by Angelo F. Coniglio

Basic Research

I'm often asked questions related to genealogical searches for immigrant ancestors. Usually what these have in common is a lack of specifics. I present such a question, along with my response, as a way to introduce the basic processes needed to shed light on our immigrant ancestry.

Question: "Could you help me locate information on my grandmother? Her name was Margaret Polito, and she came to America with her husband James Polito and daughter Mary, from Italy, in about 1911." Now, there is little that anyone can help with in this case, based on the small amount of information provided.

Before we can find original birth, marriage, or death records (that is, from their native land), we need the following key pieces of information about your ancestor:

- 1) *Name* (in its original language)
- 2) the *Date* of immigration to America
- 3) *Birth date*
- 4) *Place* (town and nation) of birth

Answer: "So far you have only parts of the required information about your grandmother: her married surname and an Americanized given name; the year of her immigration; no birth date; and her birth country, but not the town; and neither do you give her surname at birth (what we would call her 'maiden name')."

Starting with the Name: If your grandmother was born in "Italy", it's unlikely that her given name was 'Margaret' in that form. Possibilities are *Margarita* or *Margherita*. Check family records (or memories), to see if she was referred to as *Margherita* or another Italian variation. Believe it or not, her name may have been *Domenica* (*doh-MAIN-ih-kuh*), shortened to Mamie, then switched to Maggie, then 'upgraded' to Margaret! Further, her husband's and daughter's names, in Italy, would not have been James and Mary. Any searches you do of Italian records or immigration records should use the Italian variations of the given names. Early census records may also give the 'Italian' names, before they were *Americanized*.

Knowing your relative's name in its original language is important. Before you start searching old records, try to determine the right name and spelling. Below is a short list of

given names in English, with Italian names from which they may have been derived, and a pronunciation guide, in which the emphasized syllable is shown in CAPITALS. Note that vowels in Italian have the following sounds: A is "ah"; E is "eh"; I is "ih" or "ee"; O is "oh", and U is "oo". "A, E, I, O, U" in Italian is "ah, eh, ee, oh, oo"!! The English sound of I "long i" as in "eye" is given by the combination "ai" in Italian.

Some names were translated literally. *Filippo* (*fih-LEE-poh*) became Philip and *Michele* (*mee-KAY-lay*) is Michael. But many names were not. *Felice* (*fay-LEE-chay*) means Happy (Felix), but often in America it was translated as Phil or Philip. Sometimes the name was difficult to pronounce, or one prominent syllable of the name became the basis for the Americanized name. For example, *Vincenzo* (*veen-CHAINZ-oh*) became James! Sometimes the person was given a nickname that was later transmuted into a completely different name. *Barbaro* (*BAR-buh-roh*) became Bob, which then became Robert, and *Alfonso* became Al, then Albert. *Diego* (*dee-AY-goh*) became Dick, then Richard, etc.

In Italian, male and female names have different endings, signifying gender. This USUALLY means a man's name ended in "o" and a woman's in "a", e.g. *Angelo* and *Angela*, *Vincenzo* and *Vincenza*; *Pietro* and *Pietra*, etc.

Exceptions to this rule include: *Gianni* and *Gianna*; *Michele* and *Michela*; and *Felice* and

Felicia. Other exceptions include *Andrea* (Andrew), which is from the Greek root 'andros', meaning 'man'. *Andrea* means 'manly', and in Italy and Sicily it was originally exclusively a man's name, with no feminine form. Another exception is *Nicolá* (Nicholas), a variant of which is *Nicoló*. The feminine form of *Nicolá* or *Nicoló* is *Nicolina*.

See my page at www.bit.ly/ItalianNames for a more complete list of given names in English and Italian. There will be more on Sicilian/Italian given names in the next issue.

Visit Angelo's website, www.bit.ly/AFCGen, and write to him at genealogytips@aol.com. He is the author of the historical novella *The Lady of the Wheel* (*La Ruotaia*), based on his genealogical research of Sicilian foundlings. For more information or to order the book see www.bit.ly/racalmuto.



CARNEVALE DINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 1, 2014

6:30 P.M.—11:00 P.M.

See the February *Siamo Qui*
for additional details

Reservations Required

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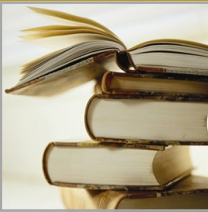
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Foundation Book Club

by Richard Ognibene

Announces Its Spring 2014 Selections

On Wednesday, March 19th, the Book Club will discuss Tim Parks' *Italian Ways: On and Off the Rails from Milan to Palermo*. Parks pokes affectionate fun at his fellow train travelers and surveys a rapidly changing Italian landscape. The author has lived in Italy since 1981 and has written a series of charming memoirs about his experiences there. In his new book, Parks chronicles his adventures on the nation's rails while commuting from his home in Verona to his teaching job at the university in Milan. Train travel in Italy provides a way to observe what is happening in Italian society as a whole. Spanning the years from 2005 to the present, his observations mingle travelogue, history, and memoir. Parks tells amusing stories about the crazy bureaucracy that runs the railroads. He also includes funny anecdotes about the variety of passengers. He describes the chatty, objectionable, resigned, long suffering sticklers who obey all the rules and the sly ones who break them. Parks' journeys inevitably strengthen his affection for his adopted country, while increasing our understanding of it.

Chris Bohjalian's *The Light of the Ruins* is an exploration of Post-WWII Italy that doubles as a murder mystery. It is a mesmerizing novel filled with scenes of love, despair, and revenge. In 1955, Francesca Rosati, a dress-shop worker, is brutally murdered in Florence. Detective Serafina Bettini is assigned to solve the homicide. She discovers that Francesca had married into the once wealthy and powerful Rosati family who owned

a large estate in the hills near Florence. The Rosatis, headed by matriarch Beatrice, had hosted Nazi officers on their property during the war, breeding deep animosity among the local populace. Serafina's belief that Francesca's murder is linked to this lingering resentment of the family is strengthened after another member of the Rosati family is found dead. The investigation leads Serafina back to the former Rosati estate, and she learns that the family's wartime record was more complicated than it appears. The discussion of Bohjalian's latest novel will take place on Wednesday, April 16th.

The final book to be discussed this spring is Michael Parenti's *Waiting for Yesterday: Pages from a Street Kid's Life*. This discussion will occur on Tuesday, May 13th. In this engaging memoir of growing up in New York's East Harlem, Parenti revisits his early childhood in the Italian neighborhood around 116th Street east of Fifth Avenue. He describes how his experiences there shaped the life he chose to live as a political analyst, social activist, and cultural critic. Interspersed throughout are entertaining memories and vignettes, often humorous, all resonating with life in his Italian immigrant neighborhood. Parenti also includes some political observations, rounding out a literary memoir that's insightful, witty, and a joy to read.

The Book Club meets on the second floor. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Dick Ognibene at 372-4919 or at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com.

- Mon., December 23 – Grand Italian Buffet
- Tue., December 24 – Christmas Eve Take Outs and Gift Card Sales Only, Treviso Dining Room Closed
- Wed., December 25 – Closed, Christmas Day
- Mon., December 30 – Treviso Dining Room Closed
- Tues., December 31 – New Year's Eve Buffet 5–9 P.M. at Treviso and Mallozzi's Rotterdam *see website for details*
- Wed., January 1 – Closed, New Year's Day



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Sunday, February 2, 2014

\$25 Members | \$30 Non-members

Doors open at 3 P.M.

Pre-Game Buffet (5:30 P.M.)

Sausage and Peppers

Panini Rolls

Italian Roasted Potatoes

Penne Pasta Marinara

Chicken Parmesan

Tossed Salad with House Dressing

Eggplant Rollatini

Halftime Station

Vegetable Platter with Dip

Boneless Chicken Wings

Cheese, Crackers and Pepperoni

Italian Nachos

Mozzarella Stix

Popcorn

Soda

Peroni Beer on tap

Coffee and Tea

Villa Italia Dessert Pastries and Cookies

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Christmas Italian Market



Community News *By Santa Pasquini*

The American Italian Heritage Association and Museum will be having an *Italian Christmas Market* at 1227 Central Avenue, Albany on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and Sunday, December 8 from Noon to 4 P.M. A wide variety of Italian items for all ages will be on sale including Ceppos, Befana items, Murano art glass, ornaments, framed Italian sayings, books, and CDs. Free ornament personalization will be available upon request. There will also be a bake sale and sit-down café.

For more information call 435-1979 or visit www.americanitalianmuseum.org.

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1482 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Women's League

Hello Ladies!

Our November meeting was an intimate affair....only 15 of us enjoyed dinner that began with yummy Butternut Squash Bisque and ended with a fabulous Pumpkin Cheese Cake!! Since there were so few of us, many were able to make more than one Christmas ornament in our craft activity. The glitter and rhinestones were skillfully placed and I think we enjoyed it quite well.



On December 11, we will celebrate Christmas in many ways. If you have a really tacky, old holiday sweater, bring it with you to compete in an "Ugliest Sweater Contest". Bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 for our traditional "gift exchange". We will enjoy some Italian Christmas carols and re-live the emotional mother's story of the childless Befana.

For dinner, we will first enjoy a special Christmas Antipasto Buffet. Our entrée choices will be Beef Roulade, Chicken Marsala, or Mixed Vegetable Risotto. Our dessert will be Italian Rum Cake. The cost will be \$20 as usual. Lynn Indelicato will take reservations at domlynn@yahoo.com or 469-1284. Please try to join us, so we can wish each other a *Buon Natale e Buon Anno*. Please reserve by December 6 and remember to cancel in time if necessary.

We will not have meetings in January or February. In the February *Siamo Qui*, look for details of our March meeting, when we will resume our programs.

During the upcoming holidays, give thanks for all your blessings, including your sisters in the Women's League!!

Buone Feste, amiche mie,

Maria La Morte

Women's League, President



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CARING & SHARING

December Birthdays

By Anna Acconi



Evelyn Annello
Dina Ariemma
Lucy Bremm
Jeanne Ciampino
Virginia Ciancio
Michael Delbrocco
Laurie Elmendorf
Marie Faccioli-Erkes
Christina Golash Lins
Diane L Hasenbein
Kathleen Jennings
Richard Kaplan
Ann Keneston
Josephine Knack
Mary Louise Mancini
MaryEllen Manzella
Gloria Miller

Doris Oliver
John Paolucci,
Sharon Patrei
Maran Person
Fred Peters II
Michael Rest
Ambrose Rinaldi
Gloria Rossi
Robert Sano
Peter Scavullo
Connie Seeley
Michael Thomson
Hannah Venduro
Joseph Venduro
Mary Weinman
Herman Wyld



January Birthdays

Anna Acconi
Eugene Aiuppa
Carol Allocco
Helen Articolo
John Bremm
Jeanne Bucci
Alison Burnside
Nadine Cunningham
Francine D'Amato-Neff
Susan Daniels
Irene Del Torto
Evelyn Delbrocco
Maria DeNitto
Vincent DiBiase
Richard Folmsbee
Stephen Franke

Loretta Gadani
Bryan Goldberger
Edward Haddad
Vera Hall
Mary Ann Macri
Lauren Mancuso
Christine Marando
Marcella Michel
Barbara Palumbo
John Riley
Dina Rotundo
Lynda Scalzo
Michael Squillace
Michael Swanson
Josephine Tirino
Louis Tulio
Debra Wilbur
Anne Zanotta
Joachim Zumbo

Bragging Rights

Congratulations are sent to Anne Keneston on the birth of her fourteenth grandchild. A baby girl, Juliana, was born to Millard and Angeline Keneston on November 14.

Thank you

A warm club thank you to Nick Mancini and Al Sacca for all the work they do maintaining the equipment in the Pavilion. These two gentlemen have the luxury of time and we are thankful that they spend some of that time helping us here at the IACC.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966-8664 or aaconni111@aol.com

Italian Bird's Nest Cookies

By Rachel Cameron

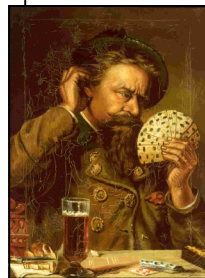


Ingredients:

- 1 12 oz. package chocolate chips
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 7 large shredded wheat cereal biscuits
- small red, white, & green jelly beans

Directions:

1. Melt chocolate chips & peanut butter in large pan.
2. Break up shredded wheat biscuits and mix together.
3. With tablespoon, drop onto greased cookie sheet (or cookie sheet covered with Release non-stick foil).
4. Form into shape of a nest.
5. Press 3 small jelly beans (red, white, & green) into center of nest.
6. Refrigerate or freeze.



Poker Players Needed

Wanted: Male card player for Tuesday night games. This small group of men meet in the Card Room most Tuesdays from 6 – 10 P.M. Call Nick Mancini 286-3009 with any questions. IACC membership is required.

IACC Bowling

Open bowling is on Monday night. Please call Maria Marchio at 438-9067 if you are interested in joining in the fun.





**Italian American
Community Center**

*a place where family and friends can
meet, eat, play and
celebrate Italian heritage*

518-456-IACC
IACCOffice@italianamerican.com
italianamerican.com
257 Washington Ave. Extension
Albany, NY 12205-5577

FORWARDING
SERVICE REQUESTED

Address Label



Join the IACC

The **I**talian **A**merican **C**ommunity **C**enter
FREE dinners... every week

Two-for-One Dinners on Member's Monday!

Free Cocktail Party for up to 10 guests!

STARTING AT

Free Dessert!

15% Dinner discount
at Treviso Restaurant

10% Discounts

at Hoosick Wine and Liquor and Fiorello Imports—Luigi's Deli

10% Discount off Parties and Banquets

FACILITIES

Area's Best Italian Restaurant and Banquet Facilities • Card / Billiard / TV Room
Heated In-ground 60 x 30 Pool • Children's Playground • Meeting Rooms
Four Covered Bocce Courts • Outdoor Pavilion for Gatherings

\$22.95
Per Month

Call 456-IACC (4222) for details