



February 2013

italianamerican.com | iahfi.org

Issue 473

Carnevale in Italy

By Sharon Patrei

In English, the term *Mardi Gras* refers to events of the Carnevale celebrations beginning on or just after the Feast of the Epiphany and culminating the day before Ash Wednesday. *Mardi Gras* is French for Fat Tuesday, referring to the practice of eating richer, fatty foods the last night before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

In Italian, *Mardi Gras* is called *Martedì Grasso* (Fat Tuesday). It is the main day of Carnevale along with the Thursday before, called *Giovedì Grasso* (Fat Thursday), which ratifies the start of the celebrations. The most famous Carnevals in Italy are those held in Venice, Viareggio, Ivrea, and Acieriale.

The Carnevale in Venice was first recorded in the year 1268. The Venetian celebrations were halted for many years after the city fell under Austrian control in the year 1798. In the late 20th Century they were revived. The Carnevale di Viareggio is one of the most renowned in Europe, boasting a parade, masks, and costumes from the finest Italian designers. The Carnevale di Ivrea is a reminder of the Battle of Oranges fought on foot by the poor who threw oranges at the troops of the enemy while they were riding in horse-drawn carts. The special Carnevale events of Ivrea are meant to remind people of the wars of the Middle Ages.

In the Archdiocese of Milan, Carnevale lasts four extra days, because of the Ambrosian Rite, and ends on Ash Wednesday. The Ambrosian Rite, also called the Milanese Rite, is a Catholic liturgical western rite, named after Saint Ambrose, a Bishop of Milan in the fourth century.

This brief history lesson hopefully helps you to better understand the origins of Carnevale. Salute Italia for this wonderful historical holiday! Enjoy our Carnivale Dinner Dance on February 23rd!

CARNEVALE DINNER DANCE

Saturday, February 23

6:30 PM - 11 PM

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members
Dinner & Dessert Stations

MUSIC BY
GOOD TIMES BAND

Reservations Required Open to the Public

Call 456-IACC (4222) no later than February 18, 2013

Credit Card payments accepted. Call for details.

Mail Payment to: Italian American Community Center (IACC)
257 Washington Ave Extension | Albany, NY 12205



Costumes Welcome!

Go to
ItalianAmerican.com
for inexpensive costume ideas.

Prizes for best
costumed Man and Woman!

Masks available for attendees
who need one.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As everyone knows, 2013 will be our 40th anniversary year. I encourage every member to participate in the festivities planned for the year. You may start celebrating with everyone by attending the February Carnevale Dinner Dance on February 23rd.

The strength of the IACC comes from within, by members participating on various committees, attending events, and promoting the IACC in the community. We have established a marketing, communication, and public relation committee to help accomplish this goal.

During 2013, I will be working diligently to involve as many members as I can in as many committees and activities as possible. I want to thank the members who completed the recent survey, expressing their interest in serving on various committees. If you have not already been contacted, you will be contacted in the next few weeks.

I plan to be spending time each week in the Membership Office. I will be available to meet with members as needed. I am open to new ideas, so please feel free to contact me.

Angelo Tarantino

February Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet Chair Yoga (ends 2/25)
Every Wednesday	IACC Bowling
February 3, Sunday	Super Bowl Party
February 19, Tuesday	Board Meeting, 6 PM
February 23, Saturday	General Membership Meeting, 7 PM Carnevale Dinner Dance

Save the Date

March 5, Tuesday	Book Club
March 13, Wednesday	Women's League Meeting
March 17, Sunday	St. Joseph's - St. Patrick's Mass & Brunch
April 21, Sunday	Mother/Daughter Luncheon

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

257 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205

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

I A C C Office

Linda Sciocchetti IACC Office Manager

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

518.456.IACC | FAX: 518.456.0338

membership@italianamerican.com

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ANGELO TARANTINO 355.1316

VICE PRESIDENT FRANK ZEOLI 463.2106

TREASURER DAVID CESARI 365.5830

SECRETARY/CHAPLAIN SHARON PATREI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROSANNA AIUPPA 458.2697

JOSEPH DE FRONZO

MARIA DENITTO 456.2216

CHRISTINE DI IONNA 357.8711

DOMINIC INDELICATO 479.3714

MARY JEAN (MJ) KNOWLES 437.9158

MARIA LA MORTE 456.4800

MARY LOU MARANDO 482.8276

ROBERT PENNA 458.2428

RON RICHARDS 456.8011

JOHN RITZ 477.7477

GEORGE URCIUOLI

DONNA ZUMBO 452.2617

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BY-LAWS ROBERT PENNA

COLUMBUS DINNER DANCE MARIE LAMORTE

FINANCE ANGELO TARANTINO

GRIEVANCE JEANNE SACCA

HOUSE JOE DI IONNA

MARKETING/PR MJ KNOWLES

MEMBERSHIP FRANK ZEOLI

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FRANK ZEOLI

WOMEN'S LEAGUE PRESIDENT DONNA ZUMBO

POOL JIM SANO

SIAMO QUI RACHEL CAMERON | EDITOR

DOMINIC INDELICATO | ADVERTISING

TREVISIO

TREVISIO MANAGER MIKE BLASL

MALLOZZI SALES KEITH MAHLER

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

Layout Editor Needed

Please contact the IACC Office if you are
interested: 456.4222

Member Profile Al & Jeanne Sacca by Anna Acconi

Our Hearts Are There

One cannot compile a list of activities and events at the IACC without including Al and Jeanne Sacca. Members for more than 26 years, Al and Jeanne have been active in so many aspects of the club. Both have been board members and Al served as president from 2004 to 2006. Al and Jeanne have both volunteered as workers for Bingo, Italian Festa, Columbus Day festivities, and the Columbus Dinner Dance. Jeanne has been very active in Women's League, serving as treasurer for 4 terms. Al has been influential in the development of the pavilion. For so many years, Al, working with a core group of members, oversaw the growth of the pavilion, helping to raise over \$11,000 for the benefit of the IACC.

Al and Jeanne are both natives of Albany, meeting at a dance when Jeanne was attending Albany High School and Al was a student at Cathedral High School. They married in 1955 at a young age and quickly grew a family of three children, Frank, Donna, and Regina. Early in their marriage, Al continued to work at his family's business, Al's Italian Restaurant, on Madison Avenue behind St. Anthony's Church. Later, he left to work at Tobin's Packing Company until they closed in 1981. Al secured a position as senior clerk at the Department of Higher Education where he remained until his retirement in 1997. After staying home to raise her three children, Jeanne worked as a health program aide at the New York State Department of Health for 22 years, retiring in 1995.



Their children have also been active in the IACC. Frank Sacca, so well-liked, served as treasurer for many years until his untimely death. The shrine to St. Anthony is dedicated in memory of Frank. Their daughter, Regina, a retired member of the Air Force, is currently a member and active in the Women's League.

Retirement for Al and Jeanne has been one filled with dedication to family, friends and the IACC. Over the years, Al and Jeanne have enjoyed traveling to Europe, cruising, visiting casinos, babysitting for their great granddaughter and enjoying the companionship of friends. Much time and love is also spent with their five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

As long term IACC members, Al and Jeanne have seen many changes, some of which have been discomfoting, since few of us welcome change readily. However, they see that good things have been happening at the IACC and they are confident that growth and prosperity will continue in the organization that they both love. When asked about feelings concerning the IACC, Jeanne responded, "Our hearts are there". Surely, we all profit from their love and dedication.

40th Anniversary

In 2013 the Italian American Community Center will celebrate our 40th anniversary.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, we are planning a year-long celebration of events honoring the great Italian Americans who have made this club what it is.

We are calling for volunteers to serve on a 40th Anniversary Committee to help plan the celebrations. Anyone interested in serving on this committee please contact Frank Zeoli, Social Chairman, at fzeoli@nycap.rr.com or 935.5174.

Membership Benefit: Free Cocktail Party

By Angelo Tarantino

The membership benefit of a *Free Cocktail Party* is for up to 10 guests at the bar only once each year with draft beer, house wine, soft drinks, and Chef's choice of hors d'oeuvres. This free cocktail party is only available Tuesday thru Sunday. Please call Treviso Restaurant to reserve your date. According to the Mallozzi Group, space is based on availability of the restaurant.

St. Patrick & St. Joseph's Mass and Brunch

March 17

Doors open at 10:00 AM

Mass at 10:30 AM

Brunch served after Mass



Adults: \$22

Children (5-12 years): \$11

Children (under 5): Free

Reservations: Santa Pasquini at 489-3949 or
IACC Office at 456-IACC (4222)

RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 12

CANCELLATION DEADLINE: March 15

Please write checks payable to: IACC Women's League
Credit Card payments accepted. Call the office for details.

Mail to: IACC Membership Office

257 Washington Ave. Ext. | Albany, NY 12205

Sponsored by IACC Women's League

YOGA AT THE IACC

Even though this class started in January, it is still the perfect opportunity to relax after a long, hectic, stressful holiday season. Yoga instructor, Tracy Swanson teaches a yoga class called "Chair Yoga". Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support. Everyone can do this. The class has 4 weeks left and is held on Monday evenings February 4th through February 25th. The class is held upstairs in the IACC Boardroom and begins at 6:30 PM for 1 hour. Classes are open to men and women. Please call the Office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

Prices: \$10 per class to drop in

Remember to wear loose, comfortable clothing!

House Committee

If any members have any concerns or praise for the restaurant or building issues, please email the house committee at iacchouse@gmail.com.

Family Christmas Party

By Lynn Indelicato

Although the weather outside was threatening to be frightful, the predicted bad weather held off. IACC members, along with their family and friends, enjoyed an afternoon of good food, company, music, caroling and camaraderie, and most important of all, a visit from Santa! Everyone enjoyed the lunch buffet



One of Santa's many happy 'customers'

and pizza party. Thanks to the Mallozzi's, we were treated to decorate-your-own gingerbread cookies from Villa Italia and a most welcoming hot chocolate station. There was certainly something for everyone! The afternoon was filled with activity including the kid crafts, the non-stop entertainment by Ernie the DJ, and this year's caroling



Santa poses for a group photo before heading to the North Pole

round of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* that got everyone singing! The Toys for Tots collection area was overflowing from the generosity of all those attending. The retired members of the Marines were most appreciative when they

came by to pick up the donated toys.

Many thanks to all those who helped in making this year's Family Christmas Party the success it was! This year, more than any other, the Family Christmas Party reinforced the importance of taking time out from our hectic pre-Christmas schedules and reminded everyone what is most important in our lives: our children, family, faith, and all



Craft making was enjoyed by the children all afternoon

those we hold near and dear.



Our donated Toys For Tots are picked up by Marines



NEED CASH?
We also BUY & SELL Gold,
Silver, Jewelry & Coins.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS:

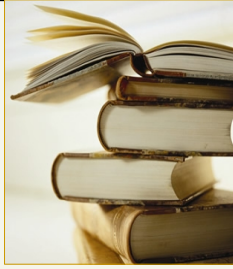
If you show your IACC Membership card to Roman Jewels when selling your Gold, Silver, Jewelry or Coins Roman Jewels will give you a 5% Bonus!

Roman Jewels has been a full service jeweler for over 19 years in the city of Albany.

Monday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**1190 Western Ave across from The University at Albany
518.459.6331
www.romanjewels.com**





IAHFi Book Club Looking Back and Ahead

By Dick Ognibene

The Book Club at the IACC has been in existence for three years. Over that period, we have read and discussed the fifteen books listed below. The books represent a variety of genres: nonfiction, memoirs, novels, and mysteries. Through these books, we learn more about Italians and specific places in Italy and about the experiences of Italians in America. In general, the books are not overly complex, are often humorous, and always provoke memories that generate lively discussions.

Nonfiction: *Where You Always an Italian?* Maria Laurino, October, '09.

Memoir: *Behind the Store*: Vincent Romero, October, '11.

Memoir: *Italian Neighbors*. Tim Parks, November, '09.

Novel: *Home to Italy*. Peter Pezzelli, October, '11.

Novel: *Sicilian Tragedee*. Octavio Cappellani, February, '10.

Novel: *The Spaghetti Set*: Rose Marie Boyd, March, '12.

Memoir: *The Reluctant Tuscan*. Phil Doran, September, '10.

Mystery: *Drawing Conclusions*. Donna Leon, April, '12.

Nonfiction: *La Bella Figura*: Beppe Severgnini, November, '10.

Mystery: *The Shape of Water*. Andrea Camilleri, September, '12.

Mystery: *Friends in High Places*. Donna Leon, March, '11.

Novel: *The Courtyard of Dreams*. Anna Minardo. October, '12.

Mystery: *Killer Smile*. Lisa Scottoline, April, '11.

Mystery: *Beastly Things*. Donna Leon. November, '12.

Memoir: *Life Al Dente*: Gina Cascone, September, '11

In the coming months, we will continue the practice of reading various types of books. On April 9th, we will follow the exploits of an Italian American officer in charge of an occupied town in Sicily during World War II. This book is John Hersey's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *A Bell for Adano*. On May 14th, we will read *Amore: The Story of Italian American Song*, Mark Rotella's nonfiction account of the popularity of Italian American singers in the decade following WW II.

The first book we will discuss in 2013 is *The Shoemaker's Wife*, Adriana Trigiani's most recent novel. The date for this book club meeting is Tuesday, March 5th, at 7:00 PM in the Boardroom on the second floor of the IACC.

Unlike anything we have read so far, the setting of *The Shoemaker's Wife* begins in the Italian Alps, which, though ruggedly beautiful, created hardships for people seeking to make a living there in the early 20th century. The book is a romantic novel inspired by the true story of the author's grandparents who came from the Bergamo area, but met in America. The main characters in this romance, Ciro Lazzari and Enza Ravanelli, lived in mountain towns in the Alps, met briefly, but were separated when Ciro was sent to New York City. When economic hardships forced Enza's family to migrate to America, they meet again but were separated once more.

The Shoemaker's Wife is rich with portraits of family life, the struggles of young love, the hardships of migration and the immigrant experience, and a glimpse of the American fascination with the life and extraordinary talent of Enrico Caruso. The novel is a riveting historical epic with characters that engage us, details that inform us, and a story that is compelling and a pleasure to read.

If you have not been to a book club meeting, please join us on March 5th and see what you have been missing. Even if you have not read the book, the conversations begun by others will draw you in. For further information, contact Dick Ognibene at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com or at 372-4919.

NEW MEMBERS

John & Deborah Bennett, Loudonville
Sponsor: Joseph DeFronzo

Keith & Judy Edwards, Williamstown
Sponsor: Joseph DeFronzo

Kathleen & Neil Jennings, Saratoga Springs
Sponsor: Angelo Tarantino

Maria Lull, Valatie
Sponsor: Joseph DeFronzo

Jeanette Anziano Macri, Albany
Sponsor: Carlo Ricupero

Michael & Sandra Thomson, Rensselaer
Sponsor: Joseph DeFronzo

— AT YOUR SERVICE —

Professional Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning Installations, Service & Repairs

* Free Estimates * 24 Hour Service

Crisafulli Bros.
Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Inc.

520 Livingston Ave.
Albany, NY 12206

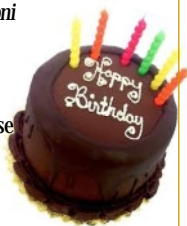
449-1782

CARING & SHARING By Anna Acconi

February Birthdays:

Deborah Bennett
Frances Blendell
Tommasino Conte
Anna Dagostino
Phyllis D'Antonio
Kathleen DeFruscio
Adam Del Torto
William Dillon
Michele Doodian
Joseph Ferracane
Paul Giuliano
Lisa Hrimatopoulos
Judith Ingemie
Susan Isbell
Earl Knowles
Chris Kollias
Diana Kretschmer
Mark Lindemann
Deborah Macaione
Christine Mallozzi
Bettina Mamone
Armand Marando

Salvatore Marchese
Lisa Mirabile
Mary Nardiello
Ann Nunziato
Richard Ognibene
Thomas Papa
Joan Rosetti
Patricia Rumore
Albert Sacca
Ernest Sacco Jr.
Catherine Saglimbeni
Victoria Sano
Dorothy Schafer
Linda Sciocchetti
Dominic Scovello
Mary Scuderi
Madlynn Sedotto
Richard Sedotto
Gail Tarantino
Marie Vitillo
Jeanne Wilson



Women's League

Hi Ladies,

I hope everyone had a terrific holiday. We even had some snow! I just wanted to keep you up to date with Women's League activities. We have a number of events coming up this spring, so mark your calendars and make plans to attend as many as you can. Sunday, March 17th will be the annual *St Patrick / St Joseph's Mass and Brunch*. Look for the details on page 4. On Sunday, April 21st the annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held. This cherished tradition is always a wonderful event. Details concerning reservations will be in next month's *Siamo Qui*.

As you may recall, at our November and December meetings, we collected toiletries and baby items for a local women's shelter. We also collected \$120 for the Albany County Adopt-A-Family organization. I'm sure you will agree with me, it's great to help those in our community who are less fortunate.

See you all at our next meeting on March 13th. Keep warm till then.

Donna Zumbo - Women's League President



Intermediate Level Language Class

Thursday Nights 7 PM
March 14, 21, 28 - April 4, 11, 18, 25
May 2



Morgan Linen Service

Providing for the textile needs of your business.

Serving the Capital and Lower Hudson Valley Regions since 1887
(518) 465-3337

Visit us on the web at www.morganlinenservice.com!

Condolences

Leone Riccio, father of Maria LaMorte, passed away on January 1 in Florida in his 96th year. Our deepest sympathy is sent to Maria, her mother, and to her entire family.

Virginia "Dolly" Barnes, long time member, passed away on January 1. Condolences to her family.

Bragging Rights

Brendan Blendell, grandson of Robert and Fran Blendell, was awarded the Caroline Guarini Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the National Italian American Foundation. Brendan is studying music at Vassar College.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966.8664 or aacconi111@aol.com

DeMarco-Stone

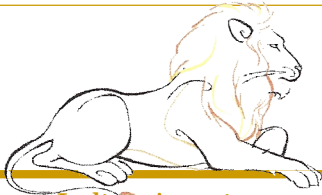
Funeral Home, Inc.



Since 1921
Independent & Proud

5216 Western Turnpike
Guilderland, NY 12084
356-5925

1605 Helderberg Avenue
Rotterdam, NY 12306
355-5770



**Italian American
Community Center**

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

518.456.IACC
membership@italianamerican.com
italianamerican.com
257 Washington Ave. Extension
Albany, NY 12205-5577

Address Label

FORWARDING
SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership Meet and Greet Social

The next *Membership Meet and Greet Social*, in conjunction with the Monday Night Grand Buffet, will be held on February 18th. The socials provide an opportunity for members to meet other members (new & old), enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members, and be updated on planned activities at the club. We hope to see you there!

If you would like to attend, you will need to register with Linda in the Office, by the Wednesday before each social. This is necessary, because we need to make reservations with the restaurant. The only cost to you will be the cost of the buffet, but your membership benefit applies, so you buy one dinner and receive the second one free. (Drinks, tax, and gratuity are extra.)

The *Membership Meet and Greet Socials* are for ALL MEMBERS and are scheduled at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of every month (2/18, 3/18, 4/15). We encourage you to attend. Please mark your calendar and contact the Office to make your reservations.

Super Bowl Party



Sunday February 3rd

Pre-Game Hot 'n Cold Buffet

Half-Time Light Fare

\$25 Members | \$30 Non-Members

12' HD Screen

Raffles & Prizes

Reservations Required

Open to the Public

Additional details are available on our website