



ITALIANS IN AMERICA: *CUSTER'S LAST STAND-PART 1*

By Robert Penna

It is an iconic image in American history: Custer's Last Stand. Immortalized in legend, print, and on the screen, no one knows exactly what happened on that hilly plain on June 25, 1876, for there were no survivors. It was only the next day that troops of other units came across the remains of Custer and five companies of the 7th Cavalry and discovered the scale of the disaster.

Custer had often been described as vain, arrogant, and headstrong. However, he was a West Point graduate and enough of a soldier to have been promoted to Brevet Major General during the Civil War. It is known that Custer unexpectedly found himself facing a Lakota and Northern Cheyenne force numbering in the thousands, led by Chief Sitting Bull. Hampered by poor intelligence and an unclear mission, Custer was trying to keep the Native Americans from escaping a developing encirclement, not defeat them in battle. Custer had no idea of the situation into which he was leading his men that day. All this is widely known. What is far less well known is the fact that six Italians would play various parts in that day's events.

The six Italians did not form any sort of unit, nor was it likely that they even recognized any sort of kindred spirit in one another. The 7th Cavalry of that June day was comprised of 43 officers and 793 enlisted men, of whom 40% were foreign born. Of this number 129 were Irish and 127 were Germans. The remaining 64 were a motley collection including Canadians, French, English, Scots, Welsh, Swiss, and Danes. In this mix, the six Italians hardly caused a ripple. Moreover, the six came from widely different regions and backgrounds in what today is considered Italy. The nation of Italy was a concept which itself had barely taken hold in the few years since unification.

Those six were: 1st Lt. Charles Camillus De Rudio (aka Count Carlo Camillo Di Rudio) of Company A, Private Augustus L. De Voto (aka Augusto De Voto) of Company B,

Private John James (aka Giovanni Casella) of Company E, Private Frank Lombard (aka Francesco Lombardi) of the regimental band, Private John Martin (aka Giovanni Martini), a trumpeter of Company H, and Chief Musician Felix Villiet Vinatieri (aka Felice Villiet Vinatieri) of the regimental band.

De Rudio was the only one who could not be expected to downplay his origins. He was a nobleman by birth and, as such, was *pro forma* a gentleman. His commission depended on recognition of this distinction. The most he would do was anglicize his Christian name and change the spelling of his surname to make it more phonetic for English speakers. The other Italians, however, labored under no such burden. They had no urge to maintain their cultural identity, since, as far as

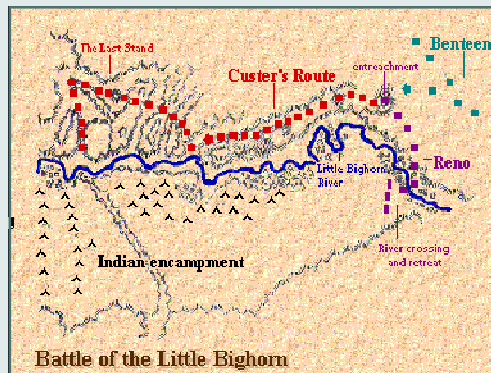
they were concerned, they belonged to no ethnic subculture. They simply desired to lose themselves in the general population and become Americans.

Three of the six Italians held music-related positions, a traditional occupation for Italians in America at the time, especially those in the Army. Italians stereotypically were thought to possess greater natural musical talent than other ethnic groups and thus

were much sought after for military bands. It is no mystery that Chief Musician Felix Vinatieri was the regimental bandmaster, Frank Lombard was a musician (instrument unknown), and John Martin, while a line private, was a trumpeter in his company. Some years before immigrating, when he was only 14, Martin also had served in the Italian army as a drummer boy.

As with John Martin, two other Italians, De Rudio and James, claimed prior military service. The former attended an Austrian cadet academy in Milan and served with the revolutionary forces of Mazzini and Garibaldi during the period of the Roman Republic in 1848. The latter simply listed his previous occupation as soldier. Vinatieri and Lombard were formerly musicians.

Continued on page 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2014!



If one of your New Year's resolutions is to become more active, then I encourage you to participate in some of the wonderful events planned at the IACC this year. As you look through the issues of *Siamo Qui*, you will see that committees have been busy planning many activities for your enjoyment. Make your reservations and enjoy as many as you can. Join your friends and have a great time!

It has been sometime since the club has developed a 5-Year Strategic Management Plan, providing objectives and direction for the IACC. We are looking for an individual with project management experience and/or good writing skills to head up this initiative. If you are interested, please contact me.

I would like to remind you again that if you have any questions or would like to participate on a particular committee, please feel free to contact me at 424-2668 (cell). I will be glad to hear from you.

Thank you to Lynn Indelicato and her committee for a wonderful Family Christmas Party. Enjoy the upcoming events: Super Bowl Sunday Party on February 2 and our Second Annual Carnevale on March 1.

Angelo Tarantino, President

February Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet
Every Tuesday	Open Bowling
February 2, Sunday	Treviso closed for lunch & dinner
February 6, Thursday	Super Bowl Party
February 14, Friday	Foundation Board Meeting
February 18, Tuesday	Dinner Specials at Treviso
	Board Meeting
	General Membership Meeting

Save the Date

March 1, Saturday	Carnevale Dinner Dance
March 7, Friday	Movie Night
March 16, Sunday	St. Patrick/St. Joseph Mass and Brunch
March 12, Wednesday	Women's League Meeting
March 13, Thursday	Italian Language Classes begin
March 19, Wednesday	Book Club
April 12, Saturday	Bus Trip to Arthur Ave.

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***

IACC Office

Linda Sciocchetti IACC Office Manager

Monday–Friday 9:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.

518-456-IACC | FAX: 518-456-0338

IACCOffice@italianamerican.com

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	ANGELO TARANTINO (2014)	355-1316
VICE PRESIDENT	FRANK ZEOLI (2014)	463-2106
TREASURER	CHRISTINE DI IONNA (2014)	357-8711
SECRETARY	JIM SANO (2016)	438-4631

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARIA DENITTO (2015)	456-2216
MARIA LA MORTE (WOMEN'S LEAGUE REP)	456-4800
MARY LOU MARANDO (2014)	482-8276
SHARON PATREI (2015)	
KATHLEEN RYAN (2015)	852-7892
CAIN MARION SCALZO (2016)	312-2784
PETER SCAVULLO (2014)	869-8234
JOSEPHINE TIRINO (2016)	466-0088
JEANNE WILSON (2016)	629-0205

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BY-LAWS	JEANNE WILSON
COLUMBUS DINNER DANCE	MARIA LAMORTE
FINANCE	CHRISTINE DI IONNA
GRIEVANCE	JEANNE SACCA
HOUSE	MIKE SQUILLACE
MARKETING/PR	
MEMBERSHIP	FRANK ZEOLI
POOL	JIM SANO
SIAMO QUI EDITOR	RACHEL CAMERON
SIAMO QUI ADVERTISING	DOMINIC INDELICATO
SIAMO QUI ART DIRECTOR	VICTOR CONSIGLIO
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	FRANK ZEOLI
WOMEN'S LEAGUE PRESIDENT	MARIA LAMORTE

TREVISO

518-456-0292

MALLOZZI SALES KEITH MAHLER

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



CARNEVALE DINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 6:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.

MUSIC BY THE GOOD TIMES BAND



\$45 Members
\$50 Non-Members

Cocktail Hour

Sit-Down Combination Plate Dinner
(Please specify dietary restrictions)

Dessert Station

Costumes welcome • Masks provided

Reservations Required Call 456-4222

Credit Card Payments Accepted

Mail Payment to: IACC • 257 Washington Ave Extension • Albany, NY 12205

Open to the Public

— AT YOUR SERVICE —

Professional Plumbing, Heating Air Conditioning Installations, Service & Repairs

* Free Estimates * 24 Hour Service

Crisafulli Bros.
Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning

520 Livingston Ave.
Albany, NY 12206

449-1782



ARKET ELECTRIC INC.
& GENERATOR

Arket Electric, Inc. proudly offers a full line of Guardian®, GE®, and Briggs & Stratton® home Standby generators.

Our staff is dedicated to finding the right solution for your needs.

Call us at
518-381-8818

Cultural Corner *Did You Know...?*

'BACCALA'... AN ITALIAN FAVORITE! *By Rosanna Aiuppa*

The most popular fish of the holiday season and the centerpiece of the traditional 7, 11 or 13 Christmas Eve fish dinners, is surely *Baccala'*. This might seem a very Italian food staple. Around 800 AD, the Vikings developed the innovative method of preserving the abundant cod caught by them in the cold waters of the North Sea. Through their sailing skills and trade routes, they brought their plentiful food product to the rest of Europe. *Baccala* was introduced to Southern Italy during the reign of the Normans who occupied Sicily and the heel provinces of the peninsulas as far north as Rome around the year 999 AD. It soon became a staple of the Italian cook and allowed even people living inland, far from the sea, to enjoy ocean fish at any time. Throughout Europe, *Baccala'* was used to supplement and help keep starvation at bay when not enough food could be grown to last during those long cold winters. This non-perishable, nutritious fish became a center of trade of Northern Europeans for centuries. Today, discerning Italians buy only the best that they can afford, from the many stalls at food markets and stores that start carrying it in early December. Recently, in Rome, the selling price of top quality Icelandic *Baccala'* was 23 Euro per kilo or \$32.50 for 2.2 pounds.

Did you know that fresh cold water cod is called *Merluzzo* in Italy? However, when split open, back bone removed and salt cured, it is called *Baccala'*. When it is gutted and air dried, it becomes *Stoccofisso*. Years of overfishing have resulted in North Atlantic cod becoming scarce and more costly. When buying top

quality *Baccala'*, look for good coloring: flesh should be white with no yellowing, with clean light-colored skin on the underside. It should have a strong fish odor that will dissipate once reconstituted. Salted *Baccala'* should never have a hint of a chemical smell. Avoid prepackaged *Baccala'*.



Preparations are as varied as the regions of Italy and the fantasy and skills of the cook. In the Veneto they prefer it cooked in milk until, when flaked, it is translucent. The Livornese like it cooked with tomatoes, garlic, and basil. The Neapolitans say they have at least 365 ways to prepare their *Baccala'*. In the area of Le Marche, they love their *Stoccofisso* in a sort of stew with tomatoes, celery, olives, white wine, potatoes, and other root vegetables. Whatever favorite recipe you use, the better the quality, the better the taste. First, rinse off all surface salt well, cut into pieces, and steep in a large pan with fresh water that **MUST BE CHANGED** every 12 hours for at least 3 days or more until de-salted to taste. Pat dry, remove all visible protruding small bones, and prepare as you prefer. Remember that, especially throughout the holiday season, *Baccala'* plays an important part of our Italian food traditions!

Continued from Cover

De Voto identified his previous occupation as that of bookbinder.

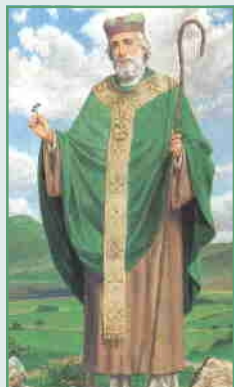
That three of the six Italians should claim prior military experience is not unexpected, although seemingly flying in the face of the musical stereotype. Italy had been a hotbed of revolutionary activity and active warfare for the past several decades. Americans typecast Italians as artistic and musical. However, given the amount of warfare that afflicted Italy during the struggle for unification in the first half of the 19th century, the reality was that Italians were much more likely to be soldiers than music makers.

The six Italians were from different parts of Italy, spoke different dialects, and probably felt very little solidarity with one another. De Rudio was from Belluno, in the Province of Venice and was born a subject of the Austrian emperor.

De Voto was from Genoa, Vinatieri was from Turin, and Martin was from Sola Conzalina. They were born subjects of the Piedmontese King of Sardinia, who would one day become King of Italy. James was born in Rome and was a subject of the Pope. Lombard was born in Naples and was thus a subject of the Bourbon King of the Two Sicilies.

Further straining any sense of camaraderie was the fact that De Rudio, as a nobleman, an aristocrat, had nothing in common with the others, and would have felt no bonds with his fellow Italians. One thing is certain: at 43 De Rudio was the oldest officer riding toward the Little Bighorn on that fateful June day in 1876. He was perhaps too old, cynical, and wily for Custer to consider him a good cavalry officer. This fact resulted in a last minute transfer that saved his life. The story will continue in the next issue of *Siamo Qui*.

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



Sunday, March 16th

Doors open at 10:00 A.M.

Mass at 10:30 A.M., Brunch served after Mass

Adults: \$24

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



Reservation Deadline: March 12 • Cancellation Deadline: March 14

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. Extension • Albany, NY 12205

Sponsored by IACC Women's League



Italian American Community Center Foundation offers 2 levels of Italian Language Classes

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1
Thursday Nights, 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. Second Floor Classrooms

Elementary (Room1): For those who have no background or experience in Italian, using the first half of the textbook, the language will be introduced. Emphasis on basic pronunciation and structure using simple phrases and dialogs, accented by Italian culture and customs.

The instructor is Carolina Mancino, a native Italian speaker.

Intermediate (Room 2): For those who have completed elementary courses or who have another background in Italian. Accompanied by the latter half of our textbook, this class will delve deeper into the grammar and vocabulary, which can develop a more skilled speaker who is also able to understand the spoken word. As always, cultural lessons will provide a sense of life in Italy and the mind of contemporary Italians.

The instructor is Maria LaMorte, a native Italian speaker and teacher.

\$75 Members • \$85 Non-Members

Additional \$15 fee will be collected on the first night for a textbook and other necessary materials

We will be using a new textbook this session.

Call the IACC Office at 456-4222 to register

Class size will be limited

Write checks payable to: IACC Foundation • 257 Washington Ave. Extension • Albany, NY 12205

Finding Our Immigrant Ancestry *by Angelo F. Coniglio*

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Genealogical research, after all, revolves about *names*. The names of ancestors and relatives are the keys that connect us to them and help to put flesh and bones on the dry statistics we may find. To identify individuals, most western cultures use at least two names, a *given*, or birth name, and a *sumame* – that is, a family name which, in English-speaking societies, is called the “last name”. Determining the correct name is of utmost importance when trying to identify an ancestor. A country’s *naming conventions*, its customs for naming children, can provide invaluable help.

Today, many children are given a name that ‘sounds nice’, or represents a favorite celebrity, sports hero, or even a color, or a food! In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there were more traditional, orderly methods of naming children. The convention used in Italy, and primarily in the ‘*Mezzogiorno*’ – Southern Italy and Sicily, can be called the ‘*Sicilian naming convention*’.

The *Sicilian naming convention* was to name a couple’s first son after the husband’s father and the second son after the wife’s father. The first daughter was named for the husband’s mother, the second daughter after the wife’s mother. Later children might be named after great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, or favorite saints. This tradition was so strong that in many cases it was thought to be required. Naming a first son after anyone but the child’s paternal grandfather could lead to family disharmony, or even shunning of the offending couple. An example follows of how seriously the custom was taken: A couple named their first son Leonardo, after the husband’s father. They had several other children, all ‘properly’ named. After the boy Leonardo reached age eleven, sadly, he died. His parents continued to have children, and the first boy born after Leonardo’s death was named... *Leonardo*.

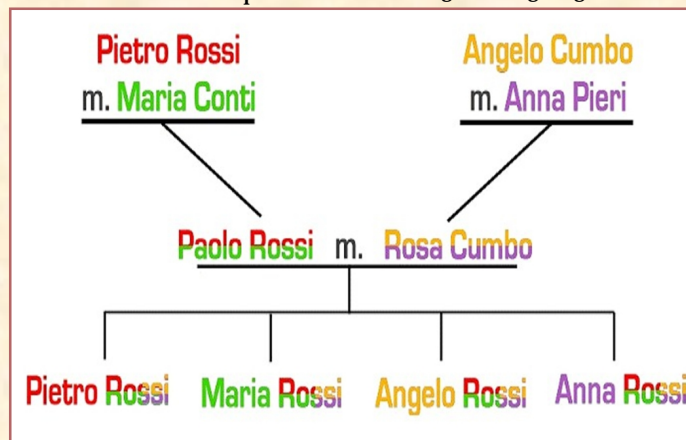
Here is another example: If the first-born Leonardo had died as an infant, the next son born would be named Leonardo – and if he died as an infant, the *next* son would be named Leonardo, and so on, until one survived! There was high infant mortality at the time. I have seen poignant evidence of this in birth records showing that a couple would lose three or four children, all named the same, while the parents continued to have children and re-use the name. Usually, a birth record would be filed for every birth, even stillbirths, giving the child’s

name. So, if your ancestor was the last of one of these ‘Leonardos’, you might find records for several, with the same given name and the same parents, and you’ll have to be sure that your research is applied to the right one.

Naming a child after its own parents was uncommon but not unheard of. It was done more with boys than with girls, usually not until all the ‘prescribed’ names had been given to the eldest children, and several other children had been born. But if the wife died in childbirth, often the baby would be named after her. If a husband died before his wife gave birth, the child would be named after him. In both cases, the child would be named for the deceased parent, regardless of the baby’s gender. For example, if a father named Angelo died before his daughter was born, she would be named *Angela*. This convention was stronger than the general custom. For example, if a man died before his first son was born, the baby would be named for him, not for the paternal grandfather. Another occurrence affecting naming might be that a mother would pray to a saint

for some favor: say, to St. Lucia, to cure an eye affliction. If the prayers were granted (or even if not), she might break with tradition and name her first girl ‘Lucia’.

An interesting twist might today be considered bizarre: if a wife died, leaving her children without a mother, most usually the father would remarry. The first child born of the second wife would be



named after... the first wife! Strange as they may seem, these traditions were a way of perpetuating the name and memory of ancestors – a custom too often cast off in the modern world.

The Sicilian naming convention often resulted in some interesting situations. For example, suppose Pietro Rossi and Maria Conti had five sons, and each of them eventually married. If each son had at least one son and one daughter, there would be five boy-cousins named Pietro Rossi, and five girl-cousins, each named Maria Rossi! While these naming conventions can be confusing in genealogical research, they can be invaluable in finding and corroborating the names not only of ancestors, but of their siblings and descendants as well.

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

Family Christmas Party

by Lynn Indelicato



“Christmas magic is silent. You don’t hear it—you feel it, you know it, you believe it.” This quote by Kevin Alan Milne embodies the spirit of the day as members of the IACC, along with their family and friends, gathered for our annual Family Christmas Party on December 15th. Even though the

snowstorm that began the night before threatened to cancel the event, the snow ended that morning, adding to the magic and beauty of the Christmas spirit.

Stepping away from all the hustle and bustle that pre-Christmas brings, everyone took the time to appreciate the spirit of the season, enjoying each other’s company on a Sunday afternoon filled with good food, entertainment, and camaraderie.

The group was treated to two very special dances performed by the IACC Foundation Children’s Dance Group—the *Tarantella* and *Mambo Italiano*! In addition, there were crafts, raffles, and musical entertainment provided by DJ Ernie from Sound Control, who kept the group hopping with special dances, prizes, and lottery tickets for the “Big Kids” in a trivia game! Santa Claus

stopped by to greet everyone and bring a special gift and goodie bag for each of the children!

Special thanks to Christine Marando and Louise Giuliano for their time and efforts organizing and instructing our wonderful dance troupe, as well as to Luigi and Maria De Nitto for donating one of the fantastic gift baskets that was raffled off. In addition, many thanks to Mary Lou Marando, Maria De Nitto, Donna Zumbo, Marissa Di Ionna and Joe Di Ionna for all their help, Jeanette Anziano, who crafted beautiful little stocking holders for the candy canes, and the Mallozzi family and staff for the wonderful food and their help in making the afternoon a huge success!



Who can you trust when selling your gold, silver, diamonds, watches and coins?

Roman Jewels



Roman Jewels Has Been a Full Service Jeweler In The City of Albany For Over 20 Years

NEED CASH?

We also BUY & SELL Gold, Silver, Jewelry & Coins.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR IACC MEMBERS:

We will give you a 5% Bonus when selling your Gold, Silver, Jewelry or Coins if you show us your IACC Membership card

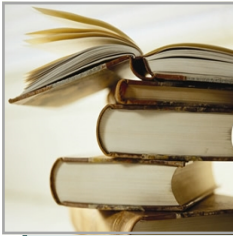
www.romanjewels.com

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

Like Us On
facebook

1190 Western Ave, Across From The University at Albany,
Ample off Street Parking **(518)459-6331**





Foundation Book Club

by Richard Ognibene

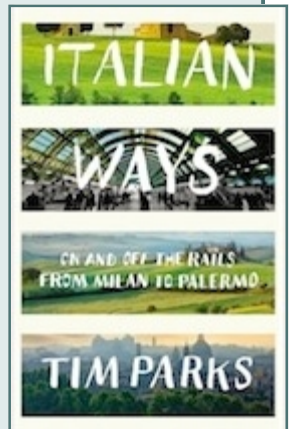
Take A Train Ride In Italy With the Book Club

On Wednesday, March 19th, at 7 P.M., 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, as well as his travel on other cross country trips.

Train travel in Italy is very popular and provides a way to observe what's happening in Italian society as a whole. His observations mingle travelogue, history and memoir, spanning the years from 2005 to the present. Parks tells amusing stories

about the crazy bureaucracy that runs the railroads, and funny anecdotes about the variety of passengers he describes as 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. Reading his book will do the same for us.

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.



ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Invites ALL for a Day Trip to

Arthur Ave in the Bronx

Saturday, April 12th

BRING A FRIEND!

\$35 Member • \$40 Non-Member



The bus will depart at:

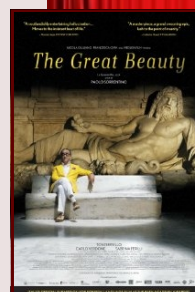
8:30 A.M. from the IACC parking lot
257 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany

The bus will return around 9:00 P.M.

**CALL TODAY FOR RESERVATIONS
IACC OFFICE 456-4222**

If you plan to bring home the tasty treats of *Italy*,
bring an ice packed cooler.
The bus has a cargo area to store your coolers.

Movie Night



Please join us on Friday, March 7th to shake off the winter blues with dinner and a show. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will begin dinner at 6 P.M. with the movie to follow at 7:30 P.M.

The Movie will be Paolo Sorrentino's *La Grande Bellezza* "The Great Beauty". This film has won best film, director, actor for Toni Servillo at the European Film Awards and best foreign film honor at the 71st Golden Globe Awards and is nominated and favored to win the OSCAR as best foreign film. The movie is in Italian with English subtitles. Please join us for what we anticipate to be a fun filled evening.

General Membership Meeting

The Membership can meet with the IACC Board on Tuesday, February 18th at 7 P.M. This is your chance to ask the board questions. Please join us.



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

Soda Cheese, Crackers and Pepperoni

Coffee and Tea Italian Nachos

Peroni Beer on tap Mozzarella Stix

Villa Italia Dessert Pastries and Cookies Popcorn

12 foot HD Screen

Indoor Bocce

Games of Chance

Raffles & Prizes

Reservations Required

Call 456-4222

Credit Card Payments Accepted

Mail Payment to: IACC

257 Washington Ave Extension

Albany, NY 12205

Open to the Public

The Italian American Community Center Foundation Fundraising Program

By selecting Viridian Energy as your electric utility supplier, you will be supporting your Foundation, **at no additional cost or obligation to you.**

Viridian donates a minimum of \$2 each month for every customer who uses Viridian Energy.



Viridian's Energy comes from Renewable Sources

Find out how you can help the Foundation

and use greener energy

at affordable prices

For information contact:

George Urciuoli, Joe Dilonna, or Dominic Indelicato

518-456-4222

Viridian.com/FOUNDATION

Why Use The Willie Miranda Team ?

...because your move matters. As Home of the Guarantee Sales Program*, Willie will guarantee the sale of your home at a Price Acceptable to you or he will buy it. We need only agree on the price*.

* Some Conditions Apply



Jacqueline C. Fontaine

Associate Broker, GRI

Relocation Specialist &
Residential Marketing Expert

Contact Jacquie at (518) 339-0163 or
by email at JacquieFontaine@yahoo.com or visit
my website at www.jacquiefontaine.com

Miranda Real Estate Group, Inc.

Office Phone: (518) 688-2832 Ext. 185

Two Locations To Serve You:

1801 Altamont Ave, Rotterdam, NY 12303

1482 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Women's League

Hello Ladies!

Happy New Year!!

Well, the holidays are over and we find ourselves in the deep, deep of winter. I wish you warmth and good health!!

Our December meeting was a very lively Christmas party. The "Ugliest Christmas Sweater Contest" was a hoot with many imaginative get ups. 5 of them won centerpieces to take home. Our traditional gift exchange and raffle was fun, reminding us of our special friendships.



Along with our delicious meal, we enjoyed beautiful bowls of traditional "Wands", so flaky and light, made fresh for us by Rosetta Barbato, Pina Tirino, Maria Ianucci, Sally Simeone, and Maria De Nitto. Grazie! Thank you so much for bringing to our party a taste of our childhood Christmas.

You will recall that there are no meetings in January or February. Our March meeting will take place on the 12th. Look for food choices, details, and contacts in next month's issue.

All the best,

Maria La Morte

Women's League, President

DeMarco-Stone

Funeral Home, Inc.



Since 1921

Independent and Family Owned

www.demarcostonefuneralhome.com

5216 Western Turnpike
Guilderland, NY 12084
356-5925

1605 Helderberg Avenue
Rotterdam, NY 12306
355-5770

Diane Biernacki, GRI, CRS

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker



Serving the Capital District for over 23 years. Whether selling your home or acquiring a new residence, I will meet all your real estate needs.

Office: 518-489-1000

Cell: 518-423-9576

Fax: 518-489-3507

Email: dianebiernacki@yahoo.com



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!

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
Christine Mallozzi
Armand Marando
Lisa Mirabile

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

Condolences

Our condolences are sent to Nancy Sano and her family on the recent passing of her beloved aunt, Angela Cardinale.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of John Armao who recently passed away. John, who was 102 years old, holds the distinction of being the oldest joining member who was enrolled by his family when he reached his 100th birthday.

We regret to announce the recent passing of long-time member, Gloria Miller. Condolences to her family.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966-8664 or aaacconi111@aol.com

Note from Treviso Automatic Gratuities

The federal government is no longer allowing "automatic gratuities" on restaurant checks. Therefore, from now on, at the Monday night Italian Grand Buffet, the buy-one-get-one free member checks will not include automatic gratuities. Treviso staff is hopeful that IACC members will appreciate the work of the servers and add an appropriate gratuity to their check.

Baccala Salad

By Mary Lou Marando



1 lb Baccala, soaked
Lemon, 1 slice
1 small Red Onion, chopped
1 clove Garlic
1 bunch Scallions
1 cup Celery, chopped
1 can Black Olives
1 jar Cherry Peppers, stems removed and quartered
(hot or sweet – your preference)
Oil
fresh Parsley
Salt and Pepper, to taste

After soaking Baccala for at least 2 days, put in a pan with boiling water and poach slowly. Place a slice of lemon in water with Baccala. After Baccala becomes tender, drain and let it cool. Mix in rest of ingredients. Best to prepare the day before serving.

IACC Bowling

Open bowling is on Monday nights at Westlawn Lanes at 6:30 P.M. We play 2 games at \$3/game (shoe rental extra). Please call Maria Marchio at 438-9067 with questions.



Beware of Telephone Scams

Several members have noticed a recent increase in telephone scams. Typically you might receive a phone call or voicemail asking you to "verify" personal information like your social security number, mailing address, or credit card number. DO NOT give out any personal information over the phone.



**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