



The Cultural Corner: *Fathers*

By Rosanna Aiuppa

In June, as FATHERS DAY approaches our thoughts focus on our father's or POP, DAD, DADDY, PAPPA or whatever we very early felt comfortable calling the man who would play such a major role in shaping us into who we are today. Mom was always Mom, no matter how much she chased you with the famous, multipurpose *Paletta* (wooden spoon), she only got your complete attention when she uttered "wait till your father gets, home" and then, if your transgression was severe enough, saw that threat through. In the balancing act of good guy – bad guy, this casting as the heavy, was not very fair to most of my generation's fathers. As we were growing up, before the gender revolution and economic necessity practically did away with stay-at-home moms, no matter what social background she came from, it was a common notion for the wife to feel that it was her duty to have an orderly and tranquil home front for the hard-working major breadwinner. Generally speaking, these more rigid roles, tended to have even loving fathers, seem less approachable. At least this was the impression I gained from what little I saw of the home life of my few American friends.

This will be the 1st year I will celebrate Father's Day without the man who played a major role in my life, especially during those early formative years. I would like to honor his memory, and in doing so, honor all fathers past and present. We are a part of a wonderful, rich, Italian culture. Family always came first. Fathers and mothers were at the apex of all that revolved around it. We immigrated here after the WWII, when I was 7, so my insights of this particular immigrant dad might strike a chord of familiarity even to the 2nd and 3rd generation sons and daughters. To say that fathers and mothers of the immigrant families worked hard is an understatement. The way they went about their daily lives though, is what I want to celebrate. My dad, Francesco, better known as Ciccú was a happy, outgoing

man. What he lacked in formal education was compensated with extraordinary instinctive, business acumen and a capacity to set goals and see them through. He never feared calculated risk-taking that would help his family. At a time when the government provided no translators or subsidies, hard-working heads of families used all these same natural abilities, starting businesses with the help of wife and children, or worked with their construction, food, or service trade skills to give us all a better future.

Recent studies have shown that fathers who actively interact with their children through the early shaping years, have special long-term positive effects, on sons and especially on daughters. Without realizing it, because of necessity, struggling families that arrived, without even a working knowledge of the language, had to involve the whole family in the joint effort to reach their goal and make the American dream happen. Among other things, watching their parents struggle, taught sons what it meant to be a breadwinner. They learned by watching and helping their fathers who, after a hard day's work, tackled all kind of maintenance work around the house because of the lack of money to hire out for these tasks. In helping to paint, change car oil, work in the yard, deliver papers, boys learned to be responsible and acquired confidence and skills that would be useful throughout their life. Though it was hard to pry a compliment out of Pop, you knew he would tell his *Cumpare* that his son had changed the sparkplugs by himself. Sons were recruited to help with the "heavy" stuff. He might have hated dealing with the mess and work at wine making or the sausage curing time or doing the yard work, but "No" was not an option. Sons also needed to help with their Pop's basement cold room too, so that it would be well stocked and ready to share with family and friends. The bonus for all this joint effort was satisfaction that the family had made the best homemade wine and salami.

Continued on page 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The month of June brings us the beginning of summer and many great outdoor activities. Our annual FESTA has returned to our grounds and we are looking forward to great food and fun, music, a game of chance in the pavilion, plus rides for the kids and contests for the adults. Bocce for both men and women is already in full swing. Come and enjoy a little outdoor socializing with your

friends around our heated pool. Have a picnic in our pavilion. You will notice how the new pavilion windows create a quieter atmosphere for your parties.

Your Board of Directors has been working hard to move our club forward in 2014 and beyond. Come to one of our regularly scheduled board meetings to find out what has been transpiring within your club. Our meetings are usually scheduled every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Check the calendar of events in this issue of the *Siamo Qui* for the exact date. If you have any questions, please contact me and I will be glad to talk with you about your concerns.

Contact Linda in the Membership Office, if you have questions about any of the activities scheduled at the club, if you would like to volunteer to help, or to offer your expertise in any way.

Happy Father's Day to all fathers.
Enjoy your special day!

Angelo Tarantino, President

June Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet Men's Bocce
Every Tuesday	Treviso closed for lunch & dinner Women's Bocce
June 5, Thursday	Foundation Board Meeting
June 10, Wednesday	Women's League Meeting
June 13, Friday	Festa Italiana, Pool Closed
June 14, Saturday	Festa Italiana, Pool Closed
June 15, Sunday	Festa Italiana, Pool Closed
June 17, Tuesday	Mass for St. Anthony Board Meeting

Save the Date

July 2, Wednesday	Bus Trip to Yankees Game
August 4, Monday	Fun Time Camp, week 1
August 11, Monday	Fun Time Camp, week 2
September 8, Monday	Foundation Cigar Night

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Yankee Baseball Game

Coordinated by Jim Sano

Wednesday, July 2



8:15 A.M. Meet in parking lot

8:30 A.M. Bus will leave IACC

Parking Lot

1:05 P.M. Yankees vs. Tampa Rays

Seating: Section 434A

Dinner stop on Arthur Avenue, Bronx

9:00 P.M. Estimated time bus will

return to IACC

Transportation: Yankee Trails Video Coach

\$45 — Members • \$55 — Non-Members

Reservations: IACC Office 456-4222

First Come First Served

Questions: Jim Sano 438-4631

Special thank you to Pete Henry owner of Jefferson Motors for painting our patio tables.

Pete applied four coats of automotive grade white paint to make these 40 year old tables look like new! Please support the good people who support our club.



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August 11 – 15**

9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

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257 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany

\$3.00 Admission (IACC Members and children under 12 are free)

June 13th, 14th, and 15th

For Information About US or a Detailed Schedule of Events visit www.italianamerican.com

Fri. 5 P.M. – 10 P.M.

Music • DJ
 Dancing
 Children's Rides
 Games of Chance
Including Blackjack
 ...And Of Course,
 Lots of
 Delicious Italian
 Food,
 Food,
 Food!



Sat. Noon – 10 P.M.

Live Entertainment
 Music • DJ • Dancing
 Children's Rides
 Craft and Farm Vendors
 Games of Chance
Including Blackjack
 Best Biscotti, Meatball
 and Wine Contests
 ...And Of Course, Lots of
 Delicious Italian
 Food, Food, Food!

Sun. Noon – 6 P.M.

Live Entertainment
 Music • DJ • Dancing
 Children's Rides
 Craft and Farm Vendors
 Games of Chance
Including Blackjack
 ...And Of Course, Lots of
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Sunday, 10:30 A.M. St. Anthony's Catholic Mass on the lawn

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News



Contests: On Saturday, June 14th the Festa will host three 'Best of' contests for Biscotti, Meatball, and Wine. Each one has a \$5 entry fee and entry forms can be found on our website, italianamerican.com, or at the Italian American Community Center office. The Meatball Contest will begin at 1:00 P.M., followed by the Biscotti Contest at 2:30 P.M., and ending with the Wine Contest at 4:00 P.M. Entries should be dropped off at the Festa at least one half hour in advance. These contests are all open to the public.

Music and Entertainment: On Friday, June 13th Raphael will be our DJ for the evening. Playing Italian and contemporary music from 5 to 10 P.M.

Saturday, June 14th we will be entertained by two bands. From 3 to 5 P.M., Time Machine will treat us to rock music. From 6 to 10 P.M., The Good Times Band will provide us with dance music. Join us on the dance floor after sampling our Italian food delights.

Sunday, June 15th the entertainment continues with Cassi and Emma playing from Noon to 2 p.m. Our own Italian Dancers, led by Christine Marando, will perform at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Our Festa will conclude with Nick Coluccio, our singing DJ.

Besides this line-up of music and dancing, there will be rides available for the younger members of the crowd, open bocce for everyone, and games of chance for those who dare.



St. Anthony Mass: On Sunday June 15th we will celebrate a Mass for St. Anthony in the Garden. Following the Mass there will be a procession of our St. Anthony statue around the grounds. The collection taken during the Mass will be donated to Institute San Vincenzo an orphanage in Palermo, Italy.

Sponsorships Available: If you would like to help sponsor the Festa for yourself or in memory of someone special, the Festa Committee is offering three levels. The Pinta Sponsorship for \$500 will give you 15 admission tickets along with three meal tickets. The Nina Sponsorship for \$250 will give you 10 admission tickets and two meal tickets. While the Festa Friend Sponsorship for \$100 will give you four admission tickets. All of these sponsorships will post recognition of your donation at the Festa, on our website and in the program. All contributions (less the value of any tickets and coupons received) are Tax-Deductible since the IACC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Sponsorship Applications can be found on our website or by calling the office at 456-4222.

Continued from cover

Today, if a son still continues these traditions, he does so with great pride. If he doesn't, then in later life he will often try to remember how it was done, so that perhaps he can pass on the knowledge to that member of the next generation who may show an interest in continuing what had been learned from Pop. Sadly, somehow we have allowed this chain to be broken and get away from us a little. However, even if it was somewhat a reluctant participation, studies now show that through interaction you bonded and you had a role model. Fathers might have made you "toe the line", but, along with the mothers, they were your "rock".

I was blessed with an easy, nurturing relationship with my dad throughout my life. At an early age I had to act as translator and work in the store, that they opened almost immediately. I can verify what another case study shows about the positive effects a loving father's influence has on a daughter. As a father's presence has a positive role to play on molding a son into becoming a man, the father's influence on daughters during their formative years is of even greater emotional developmental importance for girls. Her sense of inner security will color future, more complex relationships with the opposite sex. Studies show that when fathers give their daughters their attention, stay involved, and do not just view their little girls as just someone to spoil, leaving the rest to the mother, it does make a difference. If he does not limit her sites, giving her his admiration, encouragement, and praise, these factors at this crucial time, play a huge part in building confidence, self-esteem that will be part of that girl throughout her life. My father showed me that my feelings and ideas counted from a male perspective (and from a Sicilian one at that). I had better have my facts straight (no girly exceptions allowed) in order to win the point and his admiration. Without realizing it, my dad gave me, as a woman, the confidence that helped me succeed in my business ventures and goals that I set for myself. However, being that true Sicilian father, I sensed that in order to have that complete validation, I had to find that balance that is so important for all women sooner or later to learn: I had to learn from my mom all her skills as an Italian housewife, so he could also tell his friends that, among other skills, I could cook as well as my mother.

Dad died at nearly 98 last June. The flashbacks I have of him as Father's Day approaches can be shared by many of you of your own fathers. Not all, but many as these were not unique to my family. They are wonderful memories of simpler times, "Happy Days". What Italian doesn't remember "The Races": Who would get the first ripe tomato Zio John, Zio Frank or Dad? Whose picture would get in the *Knickerbocker News* for the longest *cucizza* in the city, Zio Frank Cirincione (deceased member) won that with one over 6 ft. long that hung from the special arbor built each year in the yard for this old world

specialty. Who got the most figs that year, from the fig tree on wheels? Who got most lemons from the plant in the greenhouse or the enclosed porches? Who would be bringing back the most wild mushrooms? (Location of find never to be divulged!)

Later, when the postage-size back yard garden that produced enough veggies, tomatoes, and beans and peaches to keep mom way, way too busy was not enough, Dad and Mr. Giuffre actually rented a plot of land and played farmer. They also volunteered as bingo workers and full-time IACC helpers for whatever was needed. Bocce became their next competition, along with the spirited summer card games at the Pavilion. Song and dance were major components throughout all my memories. Dad never could pass up an opportunity to sing and be around people. Once they retired and wintered in Florida, he was "the Italian Tenor in a Tux", at all the talent and musical shows in Fort Myers Beach Italian Community Center, never missing his high C's. (He attributed this to that small glass of red wine before going on "to warm the throat".)

Even during their early struggle days of intense hard work, our Fathers always seemed to find time for the garden, the winemaking, card playing, visiting back and forth with family and neighbors, and holding reign over Sunday dinners. The drop-by usually spontaneous visits were centered around lively conversation. In our case, if one of the uncles with the mandolin or guitar was present, it would mean pulling back chairs and dancing and singing and feasting. I remember that even though Dad had to start at 5 A.M. at the Menands market, it did not keep him from wanting to be in the company of friends until late the night before. On hot nights, pre-air conditioning days, when sleep was impossible anyway, after the store closed, they would sit in front on Madison Avenue. Someone with a guitar or mandolin would play and Dad would serenade the neighbors. In the winter, they moved inside and would pass these same hours in camaraderie and very loud smack down of cards for the "gotcha" moment in the lively game of *Briscola*. As we sat around the table at Sunday dinners and gatherings with family and friends, we heard the stories, learned about our families in the old world, the characters, stories of their past and the dreams for the future that they shared with each other. We were absorbing a living part of our culture that now seems so precious.

My dad's lasting gift to me was the consistent role he played in my life as my greatest supporter and my greatest task master, the values of fairness, hard work, and honesty he instilled in me, and the security of expressed love he was able to transmit to his entire family. Right up to his dying hours he left me the gift of his voice in song. Now, when I hear one of his favorites, I hear *his* voice. He will be ever with me.

To my Dad, to ALL Dads, past and present....

HAPPY FATHERS DAY !!

Mother Daughter Luncheon

The Mother-Daughter luncheon took place on May 18. The fashion show on behalf of Macy's and by Ferri's Formals was great fun and we saw lovely outfits worn by many age groups. Photo magnets, created by Joe Rossi, were gifted to all the 'ladies' as well as a rose, a lovely tribute to the roses of spring (donated by Carolina). This special 'ladies' event is always a beautiful tribute to the loving bonds that mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins and friends share in the sisterhood.

Thank you to the committee: Carolina Mancino, Maria LaMorte, Teresa Swanson, Pina Tirino, Maria Marchio and Santa Pasquini, for helping to create such a wonderful afternoon. Thank you to our lovely models: Teresa Swanson, Gretchen VanValkenburg, Cathy Stigi, Tina Corniello, Gabriella Puerto, Alicia Mallette, Maria Ragonese, Brianna Edwards, Nicole Barbato, Micaela Robinson, Claudia Consiglio, Mia Stigi, Jordan Mallette, and Lucy LaMorte. Their grace and beauty allowed the fashions to shine on the runway. A final thank you to Pam and her staff for serving a delicious luncheon.



WANTED

We will again be offering a summer camp for children which will be held on Monday through Friday from August 4 through August 15. We are in need of donations of the following items, new or lightly used that would be appropriate for children from the ages of 6 through 10. It would be wonderful if these items can be Italian themed: Books, Games, Videos, Puzzles.

Please bring any items to the office at the IACC whenever it is convenient for you. Thank you for any help you can provide.

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Finding Our Immigrant Ancestry *by Angelo F. Coniglio*

BEGINNING THE SEARCH – CENSUS INFORMATION

Having identified the name of an immigrant ancestor, you're prepared to search for records that may give his date of immigration and/or his date and place of birth. These may be contained in family records such as passports, marriage records, naturalization papers or membership documents of the mutual aid societies, or *Società di Mutuo Soccorso* that were so common in America for Italian and Sicilian immigrants.

If these records aren't available in your family, and if you know the approximate date of the ancestor's death, check a library in a county library for archives of local newspapers to be searched for obituaries, death notices, or articles of the period which may give information about your ancestor.

For example, if you know that the family first settled in Rochester, visit the Monroe County Clerk's office and see if naturalization records exist there for your family member. If not, the clerk may direct you to a Federal District Court where such records may be available. Naturalization papers, especially the *Petition for Naturalization*, can have a wealth of information, including the immigrant's name, birth date and place, date and ship of immigration, the address of the applicant, and the names and dates of birth of each member of his family.

Still no luck? Then it's time to turn to US and/or state Census records. The first US Federal Census was in 1790, under Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. There have been 22 since then, taken at ten-year intervals. The last was in 2010. Censuses from 1790 through 1940 are available in hard copy at many sources, including local libraries and genealogical societies, except for the 1890 census, most of which was destroyed by fire. For privacy reasons, federal censuses are not released to the public until 72 years after they are made, making 1940 the most recent census available. You must know the community your family lived in during a given period, then search for the census or censuses that fall into that period.

The census questions varied over the years, from simple identification and place of residence in 1790, to much more detailed information in later versions. Below is a list of

questions from a typical US Census, that of 1920, near the peak of Italian immigration to America:

Address
Name
Relationship to head of family
Sex
Race
Age at last birthday
Marital status
If foreign born, year of immigration to the US, if naturalized and year of such
School attendance
Literacy
Birthplace of person and parents [usually the country only]
If foreign-born, the native tongue
Ability to speak English
Occupation, industry, and class of worker
Was home owned or rented: if owned, was it mortgaged



If you find your ancestor listed in such a census, you'll find his immigration date and nationality and be able to estimate his birth year by subtracting his age from the year of the census. Consider all dates approximate. They were not backed by documentation, but simply by the statement of the interviewee. Most libraries with hard copies of censuses

cover only the city or county where the library is located.

If your ancestor settled elsewhere, before the advent of the Internet, you would have had to go to that place to search the census, or pay a local researcher to do it for you. Luckily, all US Federal Censuses through 1940 are now searchable and viewable on-line.

Coniglio is the author of the book The Lady of the Wheel, inspired by his Sicilian research. You may order the paperback at amzn.to/racalmuto. The e-book version is now also available at bit.ly/LadyOfTheWheelKindle. Coniglio's web page at bit.ly/AFCGen has helpful hints on genealogic research. If you have genealogy questions or would like him to lecture to your club or group, e-mail him at genealogytips@aol.com.

Giving to Italian American Community Center Foundation

Italian American Community Center Foundation (IACCF) is a 501 (c)(3) public charity that raises money for the support of all of the IACCF's efforts to advance, celebrate and preserve Italian culture and heritage and to help families rediscover strength found in Italian traditions.

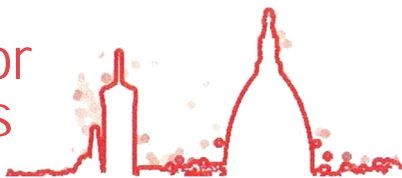
Italian American Community Center Foundation accepts gifts in memory of friends and loved ones, as well as gifts that honor living individuals. One popular form of giving, the bequest, designates a gift to the IACC Foundation in the donor's will. Gifts of real property such as real estate, art, and jewelry are also welcomed. We would be happy to talk with you about how you can help IACC Foundation with a contribution that is meaningful to you. Since the IACC Foundation is a 501 (c)(3), your contributions are tax deductible.

Charitable gifts to the IACC Foundation are designated to help provide funding to support activities and programs, building upgrades and other needs.

One of the foundation's responsibilities is the Fun Time Camp, Italian classes, musical programs, Italian Book Club, educational lectures and other presentations of interest to our community. Many of these special events are held in Pavilion or the Italian American Community Center building.

For information about The IACC Foundation, please contact our office at 518-456-4222 or foundation@italianamerican.com. Additional information can also be found on IACC Foundation website, www.iahfi.org.

Italian for Travelers



Thursday evenings for three weeks

May 29, June 5, 12

7:00 P.M. — 8:30 P.M.

2nd Floor, Italian American Community Center

Cost of session:

\$45 Members • \$55 Non-Members
credit cards accepted

Call the IACC Office 456-4222 to register

Men's Bocce League



June 2 will be the last pre-season bocce games at 6:30 P.M. Regular season starts on June 9 and ends on August 25. Call Jim Sano 577-6158 with any questions.

A second round of open bocce will begin September 3.



Members Needed

Many volunteers are needed to work numerous jobs during the Festa Weekend. We can use you for 1, 2 or 3 hour shifts-whatever you are able to do. Jobs include serving food, making subs, and working the entrance table.

Contact Mary Lou Marando at 482-8276 or amarando@nycap.rr.com or you can contact Frank Zeoli at 935-5174 or festa@italianamerican.com

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Women's League

Ciao Ladies!

As I write this, we are approaching the Mother-Daughter Luncheon. Our reservations are still coming in and we look forward to a smashing event.



Speaking of splashy events, the Women's League is planning an overnight trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. It's a Christian-based theater company known for their amazing Bible re-creations via awesome staging and repertory performance. We would be seeing their production of "Moses", then dining before a night's lodging. There will be additional stops along the way. Women's League members who have attended five meetings this year will be eligible for a discount. All details will be discussed at the June meeting so if you are interested, please attend our next meeting so you can be included.

We will be hosting our annual VA lunch on Thursday, June 19. If you are interested in helping Joe Guastamacchia with the luncheon (10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.), please call him at 966-5730.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11 at 6:00 P.M. (early so we can get lots accomplished). We will be joined by our good friend Dawn Martin and her daughter. After dinner, we will work on blankets for Uncle Shawn's Hugs to help Dawn fulfill the growing number of children who so look forward to the warmth and comfort of those blankets and the love they convey so well.

Our dinner choices are Bistro Steak, Chicken Francese, or Pasta Primavera with salad Dessert will be chocolate mousse. The cost remains \$20. Please reserve early and cancel considerately to Lynn Indelicato at 469-1284 or domlynn@yahoo.com.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Maria La Morte, Women's League, President

Treviso
456-0292

Buffet Dinner: Monday
Lunch: Wednesday – Friday
Dinner: Wednesday – Sunday

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June Birthdays

By Anna Acconi



Salvatore Aiezza
Victor Consiglio
Christina Coppola
Les Coumbes
Carol Criscione
Douglas Davis
Dominic DeFruscio
Anthony DeGennaro
Carmela DiCarlo
Mary Finley
Jacqueline Fontaine
Hiedi Gentile
Todd Hurteau
John Ingemie
William Lehman
Peter Marshall
Marian Neil

Jacob Nolfo
Eileen Papa
Nancy Peters
William Pezzula
Virginia Rest
Ronald Richards
John Ritz
Nancy Sano
Michael Sciocchetti
Raffaele Simeone
Virginia Stranahan
Angelo Tarantino
Gretchen VanValkenburg
Joann Viglucci

Recuperating:

Carmela DiCarlo recently underwent knee surgery. We wish her good health and a speedy recovery.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966-8664 or aacconi111@aol.com

55+ Luncheon

The 55+ group will be meeting for lunch at Treviso's on Thursday, June 19, at noon. All 55+ members of the club are welcomed. If you came last year and enjoyed the social time please come again and bring a friend. Please make a reservation with Sharon Patrei 765-3283 and mail your check to her at 27 Ridgefield Dr, Voorheesville NY 12186. This month the lunch options are Eggplant parmesan and Pesto turkey club. Please make your reservation no later than June 16. The cost is \$15 per person (includes coffee and dessert). Please save these dates for future gatherings: July 17, August 21 (Saratoga Track), September 18 and October 16. For additional questions please contact Carole Mann 373-0375 or Kathie Ryan 852-7892.



Women's Bocce League

Women's Bocce is played on Tuesday nights at 6:30 P.M. On nights when the IACC board meeting is in session, Bocce will be on Wednesday of that week.

Bocce is open to all female club members in the club. If you would like to give it a try, please call me at 424-7463. We are in need of players! Remember no special talent is necessary. We always have a great time!

Donna Zumbo, Women's Bocce President

Chicken Divan

Submitted by Gail Tarantino

Over 35 years ago, when friends invited us over for dinner, we were served this delicious version of chicken divan.

It is a great comfort food to serve with a green salad and a loaf of warm

crusty Italian bread. I have served it many times over the years. I hope you enjoy it as much as we do.



Ingredients:

10 oz. package frozen broccoli
2 cups cooked chicken (cut into small pieces)
2 cans cream of chicken soup
1 cup mayo
1 tsp lemon juice
½ tsp curry powder
½ cup shredded sharp cheese
½ cup fresh bread crumbs
1 Tbsp melted butter

Instructions:

Cook broccoli in boiling water until tender, drain. Arrange in buttered 9 x 13 baking dish. Place cooked chicken over broccoli.

Combine next 5 ingredients and spread over chicken. Sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs.

Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 – 30 minutes.

New Member

William & Patricia Fluty
Albany

Sponsor: Frank Zeoli

William & Ruth Lehman
Albany

Sponsor: Frank Zeoli

Michael & Lisa McClure
Albany

Sponsor: Frank Zeoli

Leonard & Diane Micelli
Glenmont

Sponsor: Steve Franke

Joseph & Jean Padula
Clifton Park

Sponsor: Frank Zeoli



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