



# A Super, Super Bowl! *By Jim Sano*



**O**n February 1<sup>st</sup> the New England Patriots battled the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl 49. As exciting as this nail-biter of a game was, we have even more exciting news:

Super Bowl 49 Party at the IACC set a record for attendance! We had over 110 people who joined us on Super Bowl Sunday and enjoyed the game on our 12 foot screen, the great food, and many contests. Next year the crowd could double!

I want to thank all the following in planning this event and for their help that day. Frank



Zeoli-menu and event planning, dealer, Maria Marchio-front door, dealer, Joe Mirabile-a/v specialist, set

up, Pete Scavullo-games of chance, set up, and breakdown, Dan Wall-dealer, set



up, and breakdown, Angelo Tarantino-promoter, set up, and breakdown, Nick Mancini-set up, breakdown and dealer, Nancy Sano-all of the above and for reminding me of everything else I forget from year to year.

Last but not least, thanks to The Mallozzi Group for being such great partners in this event. Every year they provide us with favorable pricing (John Mallozzi), great food (Chef Ryan Huneau and Frank Cavaleri), outstanding service (Pam Pouchak, Donna Dolan, Stacy Robinson and Joe Drescher), and Jeanette Bowers for being so thoughtful and cooperative.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I cannot guarantee that the weather will warm up anytime soon, but I can guarantee things are certainly red hot with activity at the IACC. Please refer to the ads in this issue for full descriptions of all of these events:

**March 13** Covered dish movie night showing *Che Bella Giomata (A Beautiful Day)*, a comedy by Checco Zalone

**March 15** St. Patrick and St. Joseph mass and brunch with our celebrant, Bishop Scharfenberger

**March 22** We are proud to be a sponsor of a special afternoon performance of the one man

autobiographical play, *A Bronx Tale*, at 3 P.M. at Proctor's in Schenectady

**March 28** We will once again have our annual shopping trip to Arthur Avenue (a.k.a. Little Italy in the Bronx) to stock up on Italian specialties in preparation for Easter. My special thanks to Frank Zeoli for planning this fun day. This is one of our most anticipated events of the year.

**March 29** We will host a screening of the movie *The Neighborhood that Disappeared* at 2 P.M., followed by a panel discussion with author and producer, Mary Paley and director, Don Rittner. My heartfelt gratitude to Professor Dick Ognibene for developing and organizing this wonderful cultural event, in addition to the wonderful ongoing job he does with the book club.

In closing, I would again ask for your attendance for any and all of these events. Your fellow members invest a great deal of time and talent to properly plan for these activities. Spring begins on March 20<sup>th</sup> and that means the pool will be open in two months. The snow might even be gone!

*Jim Sano, President*

## March Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at [italianamerican.com](http://italianamerican.com)

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet
Every Thursday	Open Bowling
March 4, Wednesday	Chair Yoga
March 15, Sunday	Foundation Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
March 16, Monday	St. Patrick/St. Joseph Mass, Brunch
March 18, Wednesday	Intermediate Language begins
March 22, Sunday	Book Club
March 28, Saturday	Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
March 29, Sunday	<i>A Bronx Tale</i> at Proctor's
	Arthur Avenue, Bronx Bus Trip
	Film Screening and Q&A

### Save the Date

May 3, Sunday	Mother/Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show
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Linda Sciocchetti, Office Manager  
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Please submit articles, suggestions, or comments to:  
Rachel Cameron, Editor, [rcamero@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rcamero@nycap.rr.com)

**ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER** Invites **ALL** for a Bus Trip to



# Arthur Ave. in the Bronx

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

**BRING A FRIEND!**



**\$40 Member • \$45 Non-Member**

The bus will depart at:

8:30 A.M. from the IACC parking lot  
The bus will return to IACC around 9:00 P.M.

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.

Call today for reservations **IACC OFFICE 456-4222**

## CHAIR YOGA at the IACC!

This class is the perfect opportunity to relax after a long, hectic, stressful holiday season. Yoga instructor, Tracy Swanson is currently teaching 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 will continue on Thursday evenings through April 30<sup>th</sup>. The class is held upstairs in the IACC Boardroom and begins at 6:30 P.M. for one hour. Classes are open to men and women. Please call the membership office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

Remember to wear loose, comfortable clothing!

Prices: \$60 for 10 week session  
\$8 per class to Drop-In.

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## A Bronx Tale at Proctor's

In *A Bronx Tale*, actor and playwright Chazz Palminteri brings his classic coming-of-age story to vivid life, playing multiple roles as he depicts a young boy's rough childhood in 1960s-era Bronx and the unforgettable people he



encountered. Young Calogero admires his devoted and hard-working father, Lorenzo. However when he strikes up a friendship with the dangerous but lovable local crime boss, Sonny, he's introduced to a whole new set of aspirations. Caught between the influences of two vastly different father figures, in a turbulent neighborhood on the brink of social change, "C" is forced to make difficult choices about friendship, love and family—choices that can change his life forever.

*A Bronx Tale* premiered off-Broadway in 1989. A feature film version, with a screenplay by Palminteri and directed by Robert De Niro, was released in 1993. Catch the original version, performed by the man whose life inspired the script, in this limited Proctor's engagement!

We have an extremely limited number of specially priced VIP tickets for this event. The price includes special seating, full backstage access for the after party celebration and a special meet and greet with Mr. Palminteri, following the show. Please call our office, 456-4222 for reservations.



*Che Bella Giornata* is a romantic comedy, featuring the comedic talents of Checco Zalone. Zalone plays Checco, who works as a bouncer at a nightclub in Brianzam. Checco is an exuberant and impertinent mamma's boy who dreams of becoming a Carabinieri (military police officer) like his uncles, but he keeps failing the academy exam. After strings are pulled, he lands a job guarding the Madonnina, the uppermost statue of Milan's Duomo cathedral. Of course, hijinks ensue as this wildly inept security guard drives his police chief superior crazy while courting a beautiful woman who is actually using him to pull off a dastardly crime.

*Che Bella Giornata (What a Beautiful Day)* made Italian box office history in 2011 by becoming the most successful home-grown film of all time. Please join us for this funny film that most assuredly will remind you of many of the Pink Panther films. Please join us on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. for a (bring your own) covered-dish dinner with the movie to follow at 7 P.M. The movie is in Italian with English subtitles. Please join us for what we anticipate to be a fun-filled evening.



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# IACC Foundation Book Club

By Richard Ognibene

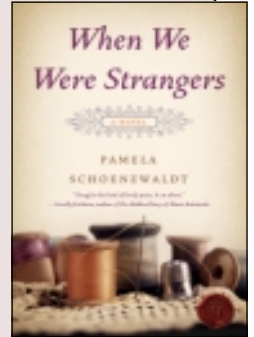
## Book Club Discussions Resume in March

The Book Club of the Foundation at the IACC has been in existence since fall 2009. Between then and November 2014, we have read and discussed twenty-seven books that 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. The book club is free and open to the public.

The first selection is Pamela Schoenewaldt's novel, *When We Were Strangers*, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century immigrant coming-of-age story. When Irma Vitale's mother dies, she warns her 16-year-old daughter that leaving their little Italian village in Abruzzo dooms her to die among strangers. A few years later, Irma, frightened of her increasingly abusive father, leaves her village and, armed only with her sewing skills and a small dowry, secures passage on a ship to America. There she meets the first

in a series of helpful strangers who will color, shape, and add increased risk to her journey. In America, her friendships with a few determined women—Lula, an African-American cook, Molly, an Irish maid, and Sofia, an Italian nurse—help keep her afloat and moving from a Cleveland sweatshop, through misery and rejuvenation in Chicago, and, finally, to the lush hills in San Francisco.

The discussion of *When We Were Strangers* will take place on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M. Pamela Schoenewaldt, the author, lived in Naples for ten years, near the commune of Opi, the Italian setting for this novel. She is a storyteller who can help you appreciate how the kindness of strangers helped a strong Italian immigrant woman overcome the serious hardships fate placed in her way.



The Book Club meets at 7:00 P.M. at the IACC and is free and open to the public. For further information contact Dick Ognibene at [rtognibene@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rtognibene@nycap.rr.com) or at 372-4919.

## We've Moved

The IACC Membership Office and Foundation Office are now located on the short hallway on the second floor near the stairs leading down to the bar. Some of you know it as the offices above the Dante Room.



## Women's Bocce League

IT'S ALMOST BOCCE TIME!

The Women's Bocce League will begin on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and play until Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. All games begin at 6:30 P.M., except the 1<sup>st</sup> week, when we begin at 6:00 P.M. Team Captains from last year should contact their teammates to make sure they are still available. Anyone with a vacancy should let me know as soon as possible so we can fill them. Ideally, each team should have 5 players, but 4 players are still acceptable.

Any and all ladies of the IACC are encouraged to join. Anyone who has played in the past can tell us how much fun we have. If you haven't played in the past, please give us a try – no experience needed!!

Please call me, 424-7463, to join our Women's Bocce League.

Donna Zumbo, President **WBL**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### The American Italian Heritage Museum

is hosting a number of March events:

- St. Joseph pasta ceci luncheon, March 11<sup>th</sup> at noon, followed by St. Joseph program. Cost \$5.
- St. Joseph Celebration, Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M., presentation with slides on the traditions of the feast and a traditional St. Joseph Table. Zeppole (with ricotta) and coffee. Cost \$5.
- Italian Easter Baking class, Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M. Dolores Scalise will show how to make Italian Easter Bread and Italian Easter Pie. Cost \$10.
- Palm weaving class, Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 A.M. Elena Mack will show how to weave palm, based on Italian tradition. Please bring your own palm. Lesson is free.
- Easter Program, Wednesday, April 1 at 11:00 A.M. Professor Philip J. DiNovo will give a talk on Italian Easter traditions. Coffee will be served. Please bring dessert to share. Free.

Reservations are required for all the events. They are open to the public. The events are held in the Italian Cultural Center on the second floor of the museum. For details call the museum at 435-1979.

**Albany Sons of Italy** is hosting a Meet & Greet on March 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at Mio Vino Wine Bar & Bistro in Altamont.

## Film Screening and Panel Discussion

By Richard Ognibene

DISRUPTING THE LIVES OF ALBANY'S ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY



On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. we will have our own screening of the documentary *The Neighborhood that Disappeared* followed by a panel discussion with author and producer, Mary Paley and Don Rittner, an eminent capital district historian who was the Albany City Archeologist (1973-1979). This fabulous documentary perfectly captured the spirit of this once vibrant neighborhood and chronicles the events that led to the subsequent destruction of Albany's Italian South End Neighborhood for the construction of the Empire State Plaza. Several IACC members were interviewed and appear in the documentary to share their reflections about a development that influenced the lives of their families.



### Italian Language Class Intermediate Level — Monday Nights, 7 P.M.

**March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4**

The Intermediate Level is 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.

\$75 Members • \$85 Non-Members

Additional fee will be collected on the first night for textbook and other necessary materials

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

The Italian American Community Center formally welcomes  
*Bishop Edward Scharfenberger* to our annual



*St. Patrick and St. Joseph  
Mass and Brunch*

**Sunday, March 15**

Doors open at 10:00 A.M.

Mass at 10:30 A.M.

**Mass Celebrant: Bishop Scharfenberger**

Brunch served after Mass

**Cost: \$25**

**Open to the Public**

**Additional details on our website and the next issue of the Siamo Qui**

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

Reservation Deadline: March 10, Cancellation Deadline: March 12

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# Finding Our Immigrant Ancestry by Angelo F. Coniglio

## I KNOW MY ANCESTRAL TOWN – NOW, WHAT?

**N**aturalization papers and passenger manifests can identify the towns where our Sicilian and Italian ancestors were born. Such information is also sometimes available in newspaper articles, family documents, passports, draft registrations, and the like. Once ancestors' names (as originally used and spelled) and their ancestral towns are known, the search can begin in earnest for the civil and church records that can shed light on details of their lives. Further, such records contain information about our ancestors' forebears, so that even earlier generations may be illuminated.

Before trying to find and understand such records, consider the origins, nature, and repositories of the records themselves. The earliest personal records in Italy and Sicily were documented by the Roman Catholic church, of which virtually every citizen was a member. For some towns, church records are still extant from the late 1500s and early 1600s. At that time, and through 1860, with brief interludes of subservience to Savoy and to Germany, Sicily was ruled by Spain, and the Apennine peninsula consisted not of "Italy", but a variety of city-states and Duchies: Genoa, Venice, etc. Before 1800, generally, 'civil authority' as we know it did not exist with regard to record keeping for common citizens. Nobility and the wealthy kept private records of their families, but ordinary folk were generally not a concern to them. The church, in its desire to cultivate and save souls, became responsible for recording baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths, not only of the high and mighty, but of the families of the peasants, laborers and miners who formed the core of the populace.

In the early 1800s, a new force burst upon the European scene: Napoleone Buonaparte, known to history as *Napoleon I*. He was born in 1769, to Genoese nobility in Corsica, and by 1804, he was the Emperor of France. He reigned until 1815, and during that time, he ruled, or had his relatives or minions rule Spain and parts of Prussia, Germany and Poland. In addition to being Emperor of France, he took the title King of "Italy". However, that nation was comprised only of the former states of Milan, Mantua, Modena, Novara and Venice, and part of Romagna. Napoleon's "Italy" comprised only about one quarter of the land mass of the present-day Republic of Italy. It did not include

Florence or Rome, nor any part of the southern Italian peninsula. The territory known as the "*Mezzogiorno*", to the south of Naples plus the island of Sicily, formed *The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies*, which was subject to Spain. But although Napoleon controlled Spain, British influence and military power kept him out of the island of Sicily. Sicily and the southern peninsula did, however, adopt the Napoleonic format, and have some of the best civil records to be found, generally in the same format across the Mezzogiorno. Records for northern Italy are less uniform and often less complete.

In his subject territories, to keep track of the populace for tax and military draft purposes, Napoleon instituted rules for civil authorities to record the births, marriages and deaths of all his subjects. These are called *Napoleonic civil records*, and except for the language, they had the same format throughout his domain. The uniform format of the records was so widespread and popular that even after Napoleon's abdication the system was retained by the civil governments of the evolving European nations.

The original records for Italian and Sicilian towns (*comuni*) can be found in various locales. Catholic church records (*Registri Ecclesiastici*) may exist at the parish church where they were recorded, or in the main church (*Chiesa Matrice*) of the town, or at diocesan offices. Civil records are kept in the *Anagrafe* (Registry Office) of each *comune*. On my visits to Sicily, it's a thrill to have a clerk produce the original thick, dusty civil registers containing the records of my ancestors from the 1800s. The civil records are referred to as the *Registri Stato Civile* (Registers of the Civil Record). At the time the civil records were made, a clerk wrote out two virtually identical copies. One was kept at the *comune*, and one was sent to the *Tribunale* (District Court). After 75 years, the *Tribunale* sends the records to the *Archivio di Stato*, the "State Archives" at the *comune's* provincial capital city.

*Coniglio is the author of the book The Lady of the Wheel, inspired by his Sicilian research. You may order the paperback or the Kindle version at <http://amzn.to/racalmuto>. Coniglio's web page at [bit.ly/AFCCgen](http://bit.ly/AFCCgen) 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](mailto:genealogytips@aol.com).*



## General Membership Meeting

The By-Law change was published in last month's Siamo Qui and presented at the General Membership Meeting held on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Since a quorum of membership was not in attendance, we were unable to vote on the change. The By-Laws change will be presented at a future General Membership Meeting.



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with any questions.

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On April 23<sup>rd</sup> talented tenor, David Righeschi will accompany us as we spend 3 exciting days in our nation's capital during this beautiful time of year. These fun-packed 3 days will culminate at a musical reception at the ITALIAN EMBASSY! A trip to remember!

### \* TREASURES OF THE VENETO AND EMILIA-ROMAGNA: ART CITIES, MUSIC, WINE, CARS, AND FOOD \* ITALY August 30 through September 15, 2015

Join us for a stellar tour of this spectacular and gastronomically celebrated area of Bella Italia! We will ride a gondola, visit vineyards, marvel at the beauty of Palladian's architectural masterpieces, and attend a live lyric performance in the ancient Arena di Verona. In Bologna and Parma we will have our fill of history and stuffed pasta. There will be a visit to the Ferrari museum. We will attend demonstrations of how Parmigiano cheese, balsamic vinegars, and violins are made. In Verdi country, around Busseto, we will visit with Massimo Spigaroli, acknowledged master in the production of the king of Italian salumi, *Culatello di Zibello*. Many more unique, memorable experiences are being planned. Very few openings are left for this one-of-a-kind very special, small group tour! All details will be available soon.

# Women's League

Ciao Ladies,

Well, winter has not been gentle or pleasant at all. I have not been to the club in some time and find that I miss my friends. I really look forward to our return to normal. I hope all of you have been keeping warm and praying for an early spring.

Our March meeting on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> has been a challenge to schedule. I have reached out to a couple of people to offer interesting presentations, but have failed. On the plus side, future meetings will be enjoyable, because most of these people are interested in presenting at a later date! We will fall back to our default activity of Bingo. So join us... It should be a fun evening.



Dinner will be a choice of Corned Beef and Cabbage, Tagliatelle with White Clam Sauce, or Vegetable Risotto with salad and Tiramisu' for dessert. The price is still \$20. Please make your reservations with Donna Zumbo at 424-7463 or dzumbo13@hotmail.com by Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve and cancel considerately.

Ci vediamo... see you soon,

Maria La Morte, Women's League President

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

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Barbara Carroll  
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Peter Farina  
Richard Frank  
Andrea Goldberger  
Joseph Guastamacchia  
James Hasenbein  
Jeff Hunt  
Neil Jennings  
Daniel Lawlor  
Andrea Lizzi  
Marlene Macri

Kathleen Mailloux  
Frank Mariani  
Mary Armao McCarthy  
Michael McClure  
George McHugh  
Janet Nardolillo  
Megan Padelford  
Joseph Padula  
Karen Park  
Joan Pierce  
Arnie Prindle  
Bettyann Prindle  
Roger Putnam  
Anna Ruggeri  
Jamie Sbardella  
Charlie Schmoegner  
Marianne Simon  
Carl Trichilo  
Daniel Wall  
Frank Zeoli  
Margaret Zeoli

### Condolences:

Our sympathy goes out to Linda Papa and her husband David for the recent passing of David's mother, Elaine Papa.

Our condolences to Margaret and the Sano family for the recent passing of Gloria Lambert, Ben Sano's sister.

### Prayers:

All are asked to pray for a speedy recovery for both Lou Acconi and Mikey Zeoli.

Please contact Christine DiIonna at [cdiionna@gmail.com](mailto:cdiionna@gmail.com) or 357-8711.

Save The Date  
for a fantastic afternoon!

Mother/Daughter Luncheon  
and Fashion Show

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

## 2014 Festa Italiana Award Winning "Best Biscotti"

*Submitted by Santa Pasquini*

### Ingredients:

2/3 cup almond paste  
3/4 cup anise sugar  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 cup eggs  
2 - 2 1/2 cups flour  
1 tsp baking power  
1 tsp vanilla (Italian powdered)



### Directions:

1. Blend the almond paste with the anise sugar (will be crumbly).
2. Add the vegetable oil and eggs. Blend all together.
3. In a separate bowl mix together the flour, baking powder, and powdered vanilla (if using liquid vanilla, mix it in with the egg and oil ingredients).
4. In the blended ingredients mix in the flour mixture.
5. Blend all together to form the cookie dough.
6. Divide cookie mixture into 3 logs. Bake for approx.. 30-35 minutes at 350°
7. Remove from oven. Let sit for a few minutes then slice (slanted). Place sliced cookies on a cookie sheet and put back in oven for 5 minutes to lightly toast. Remove from oven, turn over cookie and repeat toasting for 5 minutes.
8. Remove from oven and let cool. Enjoy

## New Members

John and Linda Metallo  
Slingerlands  
Sponsor: Jim Sano



## IACC Bowling

*By Maria Marchio*

Please come and join us for a night of bowling fun at Westlawn Lanes on Monday nights at 6:30 P.M. We bowl two games. The cost is \$3.50 and shoe rental is \$2.00. If you have any questions please call Maria Marchio at 438-9067. Open to members and non-members.



**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

*Address Label*

FORWARDING  
SERVICE REQUESTED



/TheIACC

# Join the Italian American Community Center

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

## ORGANIZATIONS

55+ Club • Book Club • IACC Foundation  
Men's and Women's Bocce Leagues  
Women's League

## FACILITIES

Area's Best Italian Restaurant and Banquet Facilities  
In-ground 60 x 30 Heated Pool  
Children's Playground • Meeting Rooms  
Entertainment Room for Cards / Billiards / TV  
Four Covered Bocce Courts • Basketball Court  
Outdoor Pavilion for Gatherings • Horseshoe Pits

**Call 456-IACC (4222) for details**

