



Family Christmas Party by Lynn Indelicato

The magic and spirit of Christmas was certainly evident on Sunday, December 11th when IACC members and their families celebrated the Family Christmas Party in the Grand Ballroom! Taking time from the normally hectic days leading up the Christmas holiday, families took the time to share a wonderful afternoon together and to generously contribute to the Marines' Toys for Tots program. From the arts and crafts for the kids as they arrived, the wonderful dinner the Mallozzis provided, the raffle prizes for the children, and the energetic and fun-filled entertainment by Ernie from Sound Control DJs, there was an electricity and joyful anticipation that filled the room.



Enjoying a wonderful dinner by Mallozzi's



Crafts with Christine Di Ionna



Dancing to the music by Ernie of Sound Control DJs

Highlights of the day included two beautiful solos by very talented Francesca Volpe, who was accompanied by Pete Rizzo on the accordion. The children's choir then performed several Christmas carols in both Italian and English. All of their performances were spectacular! We thank Bianca Danei, choir director, Francesca, and the other choir members for their fantastic performance. Special thanks to Pete for volunteering his time and talent and to Maria Marchio and Maria DeNitto for coordinating the performances.



Angie Groelz & Family



Pete Rizzo & Francesca Volpe

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and good spirits and that you all had a magnificent Christmas.

I am happy to report that the IACC has welcomed many new members this past year. I extend a warm personal welcome to our new members and would like to encourage them to get involved with club activities and to volunteer early and often. It is through service that one can instantly connect with the club and forge new friendships. Speaking of volunteering, once again, the Family Christmas Party, sponsored by our Women's League, was bigger and better than ever...a huge success. Congratulations!

We have a number of projects on the drawing board for the coming year: We are planning to kick off the much-needed second floor renovation project in early spring. This will improve and update our membership space and allow us to increase our rental ability as well. There are a few masonry projects around the building that need some attention: the wall around the garden and the corners of the building need grouting. We have leaks coming from some of our smaller roofs that have been a persistent source of damage to the interior of the building. We would also like to turn our attention to the Pavilion. We saw the Pavilion come to life this past summer with our Friday Family Nights.. This tells us that members want some outdoor space for gatherings. If we want to bring the Pavilion back to its glory days, we need to start looking into what that may entail. There has been some discussion about starting an IACC beautification project around the property. This may be done by club organizations or families taking charge of different areas to enhance the beauty by planting flowers, shrubs, and trees.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Please don't forget about volunteering...We have a lot to do.

I wish you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

G. George Urciuoli, President



January Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at calendarwiz.com/iacc

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet
Every Wednesday	IACC Bowling 6:00 PM
Monday, January 9	Men's Club 6:30 PM
Tuesday, January 17	Board Meeting 6:00 PM
	General Membership 7:00 PM
Friday, January 6 & 27	Friday Family Fun Night 5:30 PM
Monday, January 9, 16, 23, & 30	Sweepstakes Prize Drawing
Save the Date	
Sunday, February 5	Super Bowl Party & Sweepstakes Grand Prize Drawing
Saturday, February 11	That's Amore Dinner Dance
Monday, February 13	Men's Club
Thursday, March 22	Italian Language Lessons begin
Saturday, March 31	Arthur Avenue Trip
Friday, May 4	Poker Tournament in Pavilion

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 Secretary
Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
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membership@italianamerican.com

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

Benvenuta!

We would like to welcome Lisa Criscone, new Layout Editor for *Siamo Qui*. She is the youngest daughter of long-time member **Carlo Ricupero**. Currently a stay-at-home mom of three, Lisa graduated with an Arts degree from SUNY Albany and is venturing out into Graphic Design.

Cultural Corner



OUR TRI-COLORED CROWNED ENTRY

By Rosanna Aiuppa



Thanks to member **Bob Penna's** association with The Family and Children's Service of the Capital Region, it was suggested that the IACC (through IAHFfi) promote its cultural heritage by sponsoring and decorating a tree at the annual *Capital Region Festival of Trees*. It turned out to be a very rewarding experience for all involved. We did not win the People's Choice Award. This was our very first attempt and we lost by only 2 votes! It was wonderful to hear and have reports from the staff that our tree was one of the most popular entries. I personally loved to listen to the comments of the

visitors of Italian descent as they recognized various vignettes created by the ornaments and decorations: "Look there is the Befana, the Torrone she brings, the little Panettone, and the little bottle of Amaretto. I remember all that from Nonna's." "Oh look at the Tower of Pisa, the Mona Lisa, the gondola, the beautiful Venetian masks (created by member **Christine Di Ionna**)."

"Notice the miniature accordion and other Italian musical instruments around Bocelli's Christmas CD."

In keeping with our traditions, what set our tree apart from the rest were the beautiful lit manger scene and the traditional Neapolitan village all spread out under our very Italian Christmas tree! These scenes were both created by talented IACC member **Dino Barbato**.

We had hoped to share our tree with all the members who were not able to go to the Festival. To this end, Treasurer **Dave Cesari** picked it up personally with his truck. The fully decorated tree was transported to the IACC with absolutely no damage. Alas, the plan to have our Tri-Colored Italian American Christmas tree displayed at our Family Christmas Party was short circuited by fire codes that prohibit live trees in restaurant



properties.

The concept of how to decorate the tree in a way that the people viewing it would understand the traditions and many facets of our Italian culture was very satisfying to me. As I worked on the tree, it brought back many fond memories of past Christmases I had celebrated both here and in my native Sicily.

Buon Natale e Felice Capo D'Anno!

Super Bowl \$10,000 Sweepstakes

Only 300 Tickets will be Sold
You could potentially win all five prizes



Tickets Cost - \$100

1st Prize is \$10,000



You have five chances to win

Drawings start Monday's at Treviso by Mallozzi's Grand Italian buffet

January 9th \$250

January 16th \$250

January 23rd \$250

January 30th \$250

**Grand Prize Drawing February 5th
at the Super Bowl Party**

at The Italian American Community Center

Ticket holders get 1 complimentary ticket to the Super Bowl buffet party based on availability.

Your ticket does not guarantee entrance to the party.

Ticket holders need not be present to win any of the prizes. Winners of any of the prizes will have their ticket entered into the next drawing.

Pre-Game Appetizers, Half Time Buffet,

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For Super Bowl party only the cost is \$25 IACC Members | \$30 Non-Members

Do YOU have your Ticket?

We reserve the right to hold the drawing until a minimum of 150 tickets are sold.

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The children's group then presented a Christmas pageant, complete with a little drummer boy, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. The afternoon's festivities culminated with the surprise arrival of Santa Claus, who presented personal greetings and gifts to all the children.

If you were not able to join us this year, we hope you can join us next year. Attendance was over 160 adults and children. The committee heard from several members that this event reminded them of the fun and excitement from years past.



Christmas Pageant

Many thanks to the committee members and all who helped to make this a wonderful afternoon for all including Christine and Joe DiIonna, Maria DeNitto, Maria Marchio, Santa Pasquini, Mary Lou Marando, Angie Groelz, Gail Tarantino, Donna Zumbo, and Dom Indelicato. A very special thank you to Marissa in the sales office and Pam and the staff at Mallozzi's! We hope to see you all at next year's party! From all of us to all of you, best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!



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May 3, 10

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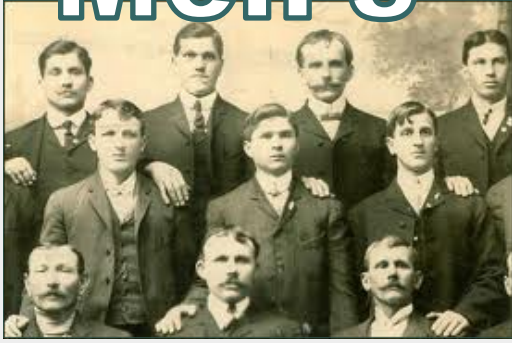
\$75 Members | \$85 Non-Members

**\$15 additional will be collected on the first night
for textbook and other necessary materials**



Call the IACC Office
at 456-4222 to register
or go to www.italianamerican.com
for more details.

IACC Men's Club



Men's Club will meet on Monday, January 9 at 5:15 PM for dinner at the Monday night buffet, followed by our business meeting at 6:30 PM in the Card Room. We will discuss the February 5 Super Bowl Party, the March 31 Arthur Avenue trip, and the May 4 Poker Tournament. After the business meeting, there will be card playing.

You may contact John at 434-0209 between 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM during the week and at 477-7477 on weekends and evenings.

John Ritz, President

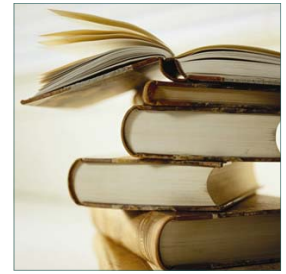
Friday fun Night

Maria Marchio

Reminder to all members that on January 6 and 27, from 5:30-8:00 PM, there will be two more Friday Fun Nights. It is a pot luck dinner. If you are planning to attend, please call either the IACC Office at 456-4222 or Maria Marchio at 438-9067 and let us know the dish you will be bringing. Hope to see you there. It is a great night for members to socialize!

Book Club Meets Again in the Spring

By Dick Ognibene



The IACC Book Club will meet twice in spring 2012. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 21st**, at 7:00 PM in the Board Room. The book we will discuss is *The Spaghetti Set: Family Served Italian Style* by Rose Marie Boyd, published in 2011. The book is set post-World War II in New Jersey and focuses on relationships within two families, and then the relationship between the families after a son from one and a daughter from the other meet and fall in love. Each family is beset with multiple issues which only get worse when multiplied by two. How the two families cope with the absurdities of love, intimacy, and life unfolds in a true comedy of errors, complete with laughter and tears.

The second meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 25th**, also at 7:00 PM in the Board Room. We will return to an author we read previously, Donna Leon, who has published the 20th book in her series featuring Commisario Brunetti, a police investigator in Venice whose moral sense amidst the corruption around him leads him to relentlessly solve crimes some think are less important. In this case, it is the murder of a woman who was quietly running a safe house for female victims of domestic abuse. The title of this most recent Leon mystery is *Drawing Conclusions*, and, as usual, the book also provides interesting descriptions of Venice and glimpses into the joyful family life of Guido and Paola Brunetti.

Although *The Spaghetti Set* and *Drawing Conclusions* are new books, both are in paperback and are available at www.amazon.com and local bookstores. For further information, contact Dick Ognibene at 372-4919 or at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com.

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Women's League

Hello Ladies and Happy 2012!

Last month our meeting was our Christmas party and we really had a fun time. I wish more of you could have come. We enjoyed a wonderful array of appetizers, as well as a great dinner and dessert. We also had some fun with our grab bags. There were plenty of delicious cookies for our cookie exchange.

As you may know, the **Women's League does not meet** for the months of **January** and **February**. However, I want to remind everyone that there are many events planned during the winter and early spring months. First, this month, we are looking forward to continuing the Friday Fun night get-togethers. The next one will be on January 6th. There will also be one on January 27th. We'll be upstairs in the Card Room and Board Room. Why not bring the family and join us for pot luck dinner and get to know your fellow members? Next will be the mid-winter dinner dance, *That's Amore* on Saturday, February 11th. It's the perfect opportunity to get out and shake off the winter doldrums! Look for the information on the flyer in *Siamo Qui*. In March, the Women's League will once again, sponsor the St Patrick's / St Joseph's Mass and Brunch and the Family Easter Party. Dates and details will be in next month's issue. In April, don't forget the annual Mother / Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show.

As you can see there is plenty for all of us to do. Even though we won't be meeting for January and February, I look forward to seeing many of you during the winter months.

Donna Zumbo, Women's League President.



PROCTORS

Tuesday, March 6th

Only 8 Tickets Left!

Cost \$72

Call 456-4222 for tickets.

Seats are Section A
Balcony Center, Rows B & C

IACC Bowling Wednesday Nights



Since last year's first annual IACC Bowling was quite successful, we have begun another season this year. We bowl on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM at Westlawn Lanes in Guilderland. We bowl two games. The cost is \$3.00 per game. Bowling shoe rental is also \$3.00. If you would like more information or wish to participate, please contact Angie Groelz 861-1015.

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CARING & SHARING By Anna Acconi

January Birthdays:

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John Bremm	Lauren Mancuso
Jeanne Bucci	Christine Marando
Alison Burnside	Marcella Michel
Victor Cardona	Barbara Palumbo
Frank Cesare	Diane Riggi
Nadine Cunningham	Linda Schmit
Susan Daniels	Anthony Serafini
Irene Del Torto	Antoinette Serafini
Maria DeNitto	John Thornton
William Fatica	Josephine Tirino
Stephen Franke	Anne Zanotta
Loretta Gadani	Joachim Zumbo

Condolences:

Our deepest sympathy is sent to Aline Cardona and her family on the December 4 passing of her husband, the Honorable Anthony Cardona, presiding justice of the Appellate Division. Judge Cardona was the 2005 recipient of the Italian American of the Year award given by the IACC.

Recuperating:

We wish **Evelyn DelBrocco** a speedy and complete recovery from her recent surgery.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966-8664 or aaconi111@aol.com

Membership News By Jim Sano

Membership Dues invoices were mailed at the beginning of December. Please contact the office if you didn't receive yours. Dues should be paid by January 1st. New membership cards will be mailed after payment is received. The office will be diligent in removing unpaid membership names from the Treviso Dinning list which includes the Monday night buffet. Therefore, if you plan to enjoy discounted dinner at Treviso in January, please pay your dues in a timely manner.

Remember that you can receive a FREE Sweepstakes Ticket if you sponsor a new member before January 17. That new member must pay their dues in full in order for your name to be eligible for the drawings beginning January 23rd.

Macaroons by Anna Acconi

Ingredients:

3 Large white eggs
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup confectioner's sugar; first sifted, then measured
1 1/2 cups sweet coconut, flaked and loosened
1/2 cup flour

Preparation:

1. Place parchment paper on 2 cookie sheets. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Beat the egg whites and vanilla until stiff, but not dry.
3. Add the confectioner's sugar a quarter of a cup at a time, until well blended.
4. Fold in the flour and the coconut flakes.
5. Place heaping teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets and bake for 12 minutes until lightly browned.
6. Let cool and then remove from parchment using metal spatula.
7. Store in airtight container.

Enjoy!



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THE Wine Cellar

By Josh Jasinski

'Tis the season for wine! (But really when is it not?) They don't call this the most wonderful time of the year for no reason. It's cold, there's the occasional blizzard, and who doesn't enjoy holiday traffic, crowded shopping centers and federal deficit sized credit card bills?

It's easy to lose track of what this season is really all about: family and friends. We endure torturous car trips and shove through the crowds to be with those whom we hold dear. Gathering around the dinner table and exchanging surprises are traditions we have been enjoying for centuries. Wine is the perfect gift. Who wouldn't like a nice bottle of Malbec to celebrate the New Year? Broquel is one such Malbec offered at the restaurant. This winery produces outstanding wines with every vintage. This is a very stout wine, with lots of deep fruit and a long finish. It pairs perfectly with fruit cake and figgy pudding. When you're at Treviso, treat your dining partner or people at the table next to you with a small New Year's gift. They'll thank you twice for it!

Happy New Year!

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Clifton Park

Sponsor: Dominic Indelicato

Matilda R. Cuomo Honored

Matilda R. Cuomo was honored by the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation at their Fall Luncheon on November 14th. Virginia Pioggia and Maria LaMorte, representing the IACC, attended the lovely event and had the chance to chat with the former First Lady of New York.



Virginia, Matilda, & Maria



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