



ISSUE 590

APRIL 2023

HAPPY EASTER



HE IS
Risen



HAPPY EASTER



NEWS & EVENTS

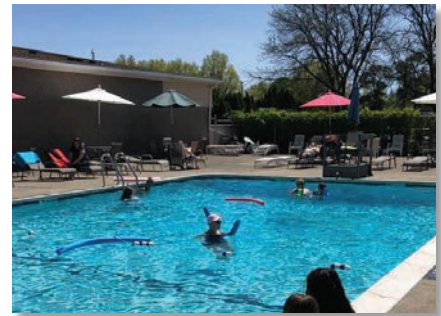
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SOCIAL CALENDAR

April

- 04/01~ Experience Little Italy: Arthur Ave Bus Trip - 8:45 am**
- 04/03~ Monday Grand Italian Buffet - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
- 04/03~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm**
- 04/06~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm**
- 04/09~ Easter Sunday Special Buffet 11:00 am-2:00 pm**
- 04/10~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm**
- 04/12~ Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm**
- 04/13~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm**
- 04/16~ Sunday Brunch 10:00 am - Noon**
- 04/17~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm**
- 04/20~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm**



Upcoming Events:

- 05/10~ Best of The Bronx: Yankees Game
& Arthur Ave Bus Trip**
- 05/15~ Member Exclusive: Weekly Men's Bocce**
- 05/16~ Member Exclusive:
Weekly Women's Bocce**
- 05/20~ Member Exclusive:
Pool Pre-Opening Party & BBQ**
- 05/26~ Pool Season Opening - Noon**
- 05/26~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion
(Opening Night): Special- Chicken Parmesean**
- 06/11~ St. Anthony's Mass & Luncheon - Noon**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Finally, spring is here and the IACC is looking better than ever. ZShea Catering will be renovating the ballroom, front hall, and bathrooms this summer and the IACC will be doing some renovations to the pool. Stay tuned for more information on both of these projects as they will be highlighted in future issues of the Siamo Qui.

We also have a lot of events coming up at the club. First on April 1st, we will make our annual pilgrimage to Arthur Avenue to purchase Italian delicacies and have a great meal. The trip is sold out but don't worry, we will go again in December for Christmas.

Our next Monday Night Grand Italian Buffet will be held on April 3rd and Sunday Brunch will be on April 16th. As a member, you receive 50% off so call (518) 456-4222 to make your reservation today.

On May 26th our Friday Nights at the Pavilion will begin and our swimming pool will open for the season. Summer at the IACC is always a special time and you don't want to miss any bit of it. We are looking for volunteers for Friday Nights at the Pavilion. If anyone is interested, please send me an email at festa@italianamerican.com and we can see how you can best lend your talents to the club.

Finally let me wish you "Buona Pasqua". I hope everyone has a blessed Easter filled with love, family, and lots of great food.

Ciao,



FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



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THERESA LAJOY- OFFICE MANAGER
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EASTER BRUNCH

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH

RESERVATION TIMES: 10:00AM TO 2:00PM

BEVERAGES

Assorted Juices
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf, & Tea

STARTERS

Fresh Fruit Selection
International Cheeses
Smoked Salmon Display
Amish Broccoli Salad, Smoked Pork
Belly
Spring Peas & Arugula Pasta

STATIONS

Create Your Own Salad
Carved Ham & Turkey
Pasta

SWEETS

Fresh Baked Cookies
Brownies
Cakes & Pies

BUFFET

Coffee Cakes, Danishes, & Blueberry Muffins
Assorted Bagels With Spreads
Mediterranean Vegetable Egg Bake
Garden Vegetable Quiche
Brie & Broccoli Quiche
Scrambled Eggs
Apple Smoked Bacon
Breakfast Sausage
Hash Brown Potatoes
French Toast, Caramelized Bananas, Nutella
Herb Grilled Chicken, Marinated Tomatoes,
Fresh Mozzarella, Balsamic Glaze
Roasted Salmon, Fresh Dill, Dijon Mustard,
Mayo Glaze
Saffron Vegetable Pilaf
Garlic Fingerlings, Asparagus, & Brussel
Sprouts

RESERVATIONS

Required by Wednesday, April 5th

Call: (518) 456-4222 Ex. 1

Pricing

Adults \$43.95 ++ per Person

Children 11 to 3: \$21.50 ++ per Person

Children Under 3 Are Free



18th Century Palace of Caserta, The Park, The Vanvitelli Aqueduct, and The San Leucio Complex



In 1997, the Royal Palace at Caserta, the Park, the Aqueduct of Vanvitelli, and the San Leucio Complex, were recognized as UNESCO World Heritage sites. The palace is a stunning example of Baroque art and architecture, with features that create the illusion of a multidirectional space. These magnificent treasures show how skilled the Bourbon family was at designing and building impressive structures.

The Caserta monumental complex, built in the mid-18th century by architect Luigi Vanvitelli, was commissioned by Bourbon King Charles III to rival the grandeur of Versailles and the Royal Palace in Madrid. Although Charles had conquered Naples and Sicily, he established his court and administrative center in Caserta for strategic reasons rather than making Naples his capital.

The King and his court chose Caserta as a secure location, distant from Naples' turmoil and political intrigues. Additionally, the palace's location far from the coast and Mount Vesuvius ensured protection from both potential volcanic activity and seaborne invasions. Furthermore, the castle had troop barracks, which provided the King with adequate protection. Finally, Caserta was chosen to protect the hinterlands, where powerful and wealthy noblemen, known as barons, had homes.

The site includes a magnificent palace, parks, gardens, natural woodland, hunting lodges, the Carolino Aqueduct, and the San Leucio industrial complex which was

built for silk production. The palace is the complex's centerpiece, surrounded by formal gardens and one of Europe's oldest landscaped gardens. The San Leucio estate includes a hunting lodge converted into a silk mill by King Ferdinando IV of Bourbon to create a community of workers with guaranteed homes, schools, and medical care. The Aqueduct Carolino, a stunning work of engineering, provided water for the palace, gardens, mills, ironworks, and manufacturing industries along its path and Naples.

THE ROYAL PALACE AT CASERTA

The Royal Palace at Caserta, built in the 18th century, is one of Europe's most significant buildings. It is the largest royal residence globally, with over 40 million cubic feet, and its hallmark Italian Baroque architecture was ahead of its time. Caserta's distinctiveness stems from its ability to seamlessly integrate a majestic palace with a vast park, gardens, natural forests, hunting lodges, and even a silk factory, rendering it an unparalleled destination. In addition, the palace combines design influences from Versailles, Spain, and Rome, making it a remarkable example of a monumental structure intended as a magnificent palace for the royal family, court, and administrative center.



The Royal Palace at Caserta, the Aqueduct of Carolino/Vanvitelli, and the San Leucio Complex collectively represent the masterwork of Luigi Vanvitelli, a brilliant architect born in Naples in 1700. He was the eldest son of Gaspar Van Wittel, the greatest landscape painter of that time. After studying at the Accademia San Luca in Rome and working with Nicola Salvi, the architect of the Trevi Fountain, Vanvitelli was commissioned in 1750 by King Charles of Bourbon to build the Caserta Royal Palace, which is a testament to his artistic excellence. Vanvitelli's design for the palace placed equal importance on the interior, gardens, and landscape, and he is credited with being the father of interior design. Unfortunately, he died in Caserta in 1773 before he could see his plan to completion. However, his son Carlo and other architects helped continue the project, which was not completed until 1845.

Although there were plans to build a 20-kilometer avenue between the palace and Naples, it was never actually built. However, the architecture of the Royal Palace includes a silk factory and homes for the workers, blending in nicely with the nearby forests. This design shows how the relationship between the monarchy and the community changed. It is an elegant example of the Enlightenment era, where buildings were integrated into nature instead of imposed upon it.

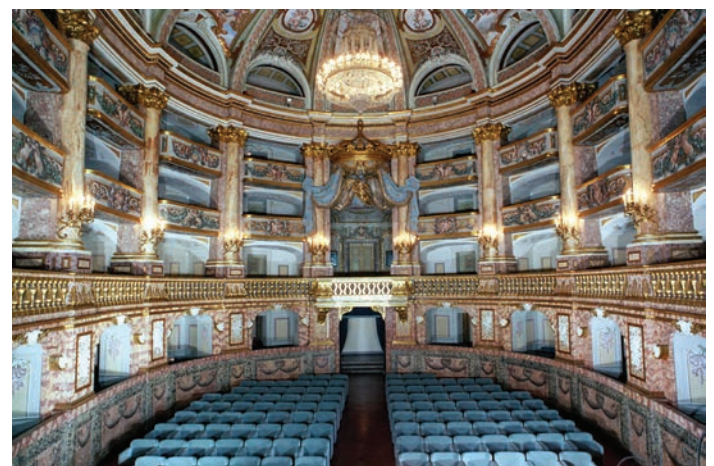
The Royal Palace, which occupies almost 11 acres, is the centerpiece that connects and unifies the entire complex. It stands 118 feet tall, has five floors, 1,742 windows, 34 stairways, and 1,200 rooms. These include two dozen state apartments, the Court Chapel, the Palatine Library, and a theatre modeled after the Teatro San Carlo of Naples. The palace is primarily constructed of brick, with the first two floors laid with travertine. A vast central dome crowns the entire structure.

Additionally, the palace has 40 Royal rooms completely decorated with frescoes, while Versailles has only 22 Royal rooms. The palace has a rectangular plan, measuring 247 × 184 m, and the four sides are connected by two perpendicular arms, forming four inner courts. Inside, the vaulted arcade connects three octagonal vestibules that lead to the four courtyards.

The meeting point of the atrium, the grand Royal Staircase, and the chapel is arguably the most breathtaking location in the Royal Palace at Caserta. The Royal Staircase, a feat of 18th-century scenographic architecture, connects the lower and upper hallways, granting access to the royal apartments. The Court Theatre is also accessible via the staircase, leading to a tremendous horseshoe-shaped hall with its unique disposition of two-story columns.

The Pinacoteca, or Painting Gallery, is a series of interconnected rooms that display numerous works, including still life, war scenes, and portraits of members of the Bourbon Dynasty. The Bourbon Nativity is a permanent fixture in the "old apartment" and reflects the family's passion for the Nativity Scene. Thanks to the Bourbons, the Nativity tradition spread from Naples throughout the world. Visitors to the Palatine Library are left in awe by the continuous succession of stuccoes, sculptures, inlays, and frescoes, including depictions of the zodiac signs and constellations. These are just a few examples of the exceptional environments found within this vast palace.

King Charles laid the cornerstone for the Royal Palace at Caserta on January 20, 1752, as part of his 36th birthday celebration. However, he never spent a night at the palace because he abdicated in 1759 to become King of Spain. As a result, his third son and successor, Ferdinand IV of Naples, completed the project.



SAN LEUCIO

The central part of the San Leucio estate, Palazzo del Belvedere, was originally a royal hunting lodge. However, after the death of his first and only son, Belvedere, King Ferdinand converted the complex into a silk factory. Industrial buildings were constructed, and citizens were trained to become excellent silk artisans.

The San Leucio complex was transformed into an idealistic community of workers guaranteed housing, education, medical care, and all necessary services. Colony members enjoyed a privileged status with a modern social security system. This unique social and technological experiment aimed to create a model society based on the values of work and equality. San Leucio also had a specific statute that established no distinction among individuals, regardless of occupation. Men and women had equal rights in a merit-based system.

The silk factories of San Leucio utilized the most advanced technologies in Europe to produce finished products of the highest quality. Originally a community of silk weavers, the village grew into an industrial town. In the late 18th century, King Ferdinand IV of Naples established The Royal Colony of Silk Weavers, known as the "Real Colonia dei Setaioli," in San Leucio. The King intended to transform San Leucio into a new city called Ferdinandopoli, but the French invasion interrupted the project in 1806.

The fabric produced in San Leucio was mainly used for decoration, such as bedcovers, curtains, and wall hangings. However, the most prized item was the silk blanket, made of 28,000 threads, which every soon-to-be bride coveted before her marriage.

The San Leucio complex features a Silk Museum and royal apartments adorned with beautiful frescoes. Additionally, the San Leucio resort houses a Living Silk Museum within the Belvedere courtyard today. Visitors can see original looms and machinery restored and displayed, showcasing the various phases of silk production.

King Ferdinand's legacy lives on in the local silk and textile firms that operate internationally and cater to elite foreign clients. San Leucio's products can be found in many prominent museums worldwide. Even flags, including those at Buckingham Palace, the Oval Office in the White House, and the Quirinale and Palazzo Chigi government buildings in Italy, were made in San Leucio.

THE PARK

The Royal Park is a vast estate that covers nearly 300 acres and stretches for two miles. It is an essential property component and boasts an impressive array of pools, fountains, and cascades that are perfectly aligned to create an incredible horizon-expanding effect.

The Royal Park is home to numerous fountains and waterfalls, and a magnificent waterway that runs through the entire garden, linking the palace to the city. The park is the last of the great European formal gardens inspired



San Leucio



by Versailles and 16th-century Roman and Tuscan villa models. However, this Italian masterpiece stands out from its peers by combining expertly manicured gardens with natural woodland to create a world of its own.

At the rear facade of the palace, the park begins with a long alley that stretches over 3 kilometers (2 miles). This axis is the park's primary focus and features a succession of pools, fountains, and cascades adorned with large sculptural groupings that create a breathtaking visual impact. The Grand Cascade marks the culmination of this impressive display. The park's key highlights include two main gardens. The first is an Italian-style baroque garden spanning 120 hectares and featuring an artificial lake, caverns, and a small fortress. The second is the English Garden, which boasts rare botanical species, ponds, creeks, and an array of Romantic ruins.

THE ROYAL GARDENS

In 1753, the same year that the Carolino Aqueduct was constructed, work began on the gardens surrounding the Caserta Royal Palace. Unfortunately, the formal gardens we see today only partially realize Luigi Vanvitelli's original vision. Although the Aqueduct was completed by his death in 1773, no fountains had yet been built, so his son, Carlo Vanvitelli, took up the mantle and completed the project, simplifying his father's designs but retaining



The Park

their fundamental compositional rhythm of fountains, water bodies, meadows, and waterfalls.

The Italian Garden, a prime example of the baroque style of extending formal vistas, is an expansive and beautiful landscape featuring vast fields, flower beds, and numerous dancing fountains. The Italian Garden is truly a sight to behold, spanning 120 hectares (1/2 square mile) and partly situated on hilly terrain. Although not fully realized according to Luigi Vanvitelli's original plan, the Caserta Royal Palace and Park remain a magnificent testament to the enduring beauty of Italian garden design.

The English Garden, located at the top of the park, is a stunning and historic space spanning an area of 24 hectares. It was commissioned by Queen Maria Carolina of Austria, wife of King Ferdinand IV, and was constructed in 1785. Carlo Vanvitelli and the German botanist, nurseryman, and designer John Andrew Graefer designed it. The queen aimed to outdo the Petit Trianon Garden of Versailles, commissioned by her sister, Marie Antoinette, Queen of France. As a result, the English Garden is less symmetrical than the Italian Garden. Its features, such as hills, meadows, ponds, and canals, are man-made.

The English Garden is one of the first Italian landscape gardens, reflecting the trends spreading across Europe. It provided leisure to the royals and space for botanical research. This botanical garden boasts an extensive collection of indigenous, rare, and exotic plants imported from all over the world.



Bath of Venus

Some of the notable features of the English Garden are The Lakes and The Temples, which include a lily pond that expands to contain two islands. The largest island has a small temple with columns taken from the ruins of Pompeii. The smaller island has a pavilion that serves as a shelter for ducks, swans, and other water birds. The Cryptoporticus is a false Roman ruin built shortly after the discovery of Pompeii.

The Bath of Venus is undoubtedly one of the most captivating corners of the English Garden, named after a statue of Venus in Carrara marble. The figure depicts the goddess leaving the water of a small pond. The English Mansion, built between 1790 and 1794, was the home of the gardener John Andrew Graefer. It has two floors, each with twelve rooms, and its outside façade is decorated with arches and Doric pillars. The structure also provided a place for the storage of seeds and tools.

The final notable structure in the English Garden is The Aperia, a spectacular building born from the adaptation of a cistern. Originally built as an emergency backup in case the Carolino Aqueduct broke down, it was never used for that purpose. Instead, it became a breeding place for bees to produce honey (hence the name "Aperia") and a greenhouse for cultivating arboreal plants.

Overall, the English Garden at Caserta Palace and Park is a historically significant and visually stunning area that embodies the queen's aspirations and the era's prevailing styles. In addition, the garden boasts a diverse collection of botanical species and numerous noteworthy characteristics.

THE MAIN FOUNTAINS

The park's central avenue spans two miles and is home to five main mythological fountains, each telling a different story from mythology. One is the **Dolphins Fountain**, a striking 470 x 27-meter piece featuring a sea monster flanked by a dolphin with two smaller heads. Small waterfalls cascade into a 3-meter-deep pool from the mouth of each sea monster.

The Fountain of Aeolus depicts the god of winds being urged by Juno to unleash fury upon Aeneas and the Trojans. Adorned with 28 statues, it is one of the park's unfinished works but remains an impressive sight.

The Cerere's Fountain is another impressive fountain. It's dedicated to the goddess of agriculture, fertility, and motherly relationships, and its name is the root of the word "cereal." The fountain is a tribute to Sicily's admission to the Kingdom. It features a statue of Cerere holding a medallion of the Triskelion, which symbolizes Sicily's three promontories: Cape Peloro, Cape Pachino, and Cape Lilibeo. Two figures representing Sicily's rivers are also present on either side of the fountain.

The Fountain of Venus and Adonis depicts the tragic love story of the two. Venus holds Adonis' hand, urging him to be careful while hunting. Unaware of the danger, Adonis reassures Venus of his safety. Joyful dogs prepare for the hunt around him while the boars await his end. Nymphs lie around them, and Mars is disguised as a wild boar, ready to attack. Unfortunately, a wild boar kills Adonis, who dies in Venus' arms. She comes to his aid when she hears his groans.

The Fountain of Diana and Actaeon is the final fountain at the top of the gardens and is also the most spectacular. The Grand Cascade, located amid these twin masterpieces, is fed by a grotto 80 meters above. The fountain depicts the unfortunate fate of a young hunter named Actaeon and his encounter with chaste Diana, the goddess of the hunt. Diana is depicted naked and enjoying a bath in a spring with the help of her escort of nymphs when the mortal man unwittingly stumbles upon the scene. The nymphs scream in surprise and attempt to cover Diana, who splashes water upon Actaeon in a fit of embarrassed fury. As a result, he is transformed into a deer, robbed of his ability to speak, and flees in fear. However, it's not long before his hounds track him down and kill him, failing to recognize their master.



The Fountain of Diana and Actaeon



Dolphins Fountain



The Fountain of Aeolus

AQUEDUCT CAROLINO/VANVITELLI

The Aqueduct Carolino/Vanvitelli is a marvel of hydraulic engineering created by Luigi Vanvitelli. It took over 16 years to build and spans 38 kilometers, providing water to Caserta's palace, waterfalls, fountains, mills, and farms, including the birthplace of pizza and spaghetti, the Farm of Carditello. It also helps to improve the water supply of Naples, demonstrating the Bourbon family's dedication to the people's well-being. In addition, entrepreneurs saw the Aqueduct's construction as an opportunity to establish businesses that utilized the abundant water supply, making it one of the Bourbons' most significant public works.

The streams were traced to their sources in the mountains nine miles away from Caserta. A broad canal was dug to confine many streams into one channel, which easily flowed through several valleys until the height of the opposite ridge of hills made it necessary to build an aqueduct. Although a less expensive mode of transport could have been sufficient, the sovereign, Charles of Bourbon, and his architect wanted to raise a monument that would honor their names for posterity. The total expenditure on the Aqueduct Carolino/Vanvitelli was 622,424 ducats, which is equivalent to about 100 million dollars today.

The construction process divided the work into three parts: from Fizzo to the mountain of Ciesco, from Ciesco to Mt. Garzano, and from Mt. Garzano to the Royal Palace. First, deep wells, reaching 200 feet underground, were excavated to provide the viaduct with the necessary water. The underground conduit measures 1.2 meters in width by 1.3 meters in height, extending a remarkable 38 kilometers.



The Aqueduct



Fountain of Venus and Adonis

The Aqueduct's most prominent feature is the well-preserved, three-tier bridge known as the Valley Bridges. Based on ancient Roman water transfer systems, the bridge spans 529 meters, has 67 turrets and numerous arches, and is 55 meters high. It's one of the longest bridges in Europe. The Valley Bridges have been improved for stability and maintenance, making them incredibly durable. In addition, the quality craftsmanship and materials allowed the bridge to survive three earthquakes without significantly impacting its structure, demonstrating its resilience.



MODERN USES FOR THE PALACE

From 1923 to 1943, the Royal Palace hosted the Accademia Aeronautica, the Italian Air Force Academy. However, during the 1943 Allied invasion, the palace was repurposed as the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean's headquarters, with Sir Maitland Wilson and Sir Harold Alexander leading the Allied Forces. In April 1945, the palace was where the German forces in Italy signed the terms of their unconditional surrender,

which applied to between 600,000 and 900,000 soldiers along the Italian Front, including troops in Austria. The palace was also where the first Allied war crimes trial was held in 1945, resulting in the execution of German general Anton Dostler nearby. Additionally, it served as a rest center for the US Fifth Army soldiers during World War II.

The palace and its grounds, renowned for their impressive beauty, have been used as filming locations for several popular films, including Star Wars and Mission Impossible. The palace's interior was used in Star Wars: Episode One - The Phantom Menace for four days in 1998, with explosive scenes filmed on replica sets in Leavesden Studios to prevent damage. □

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support. Remember to wear loose comfortable clothing!



CHAIR YOGA IS BEGINNING A NEW 8 WEEK SESSION

This class is enjoyed by so many and is returning for an 8-week spring session. Classes will be on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

It begins on March 2nd through April 20th. The class is held upstairs in the Caruso Room. Classes are open to men and women.

Please call the membership office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

The price is for 8 weeks is \$60.00 or \$10.00 per class to walk in.



Mangia Bene E Vivi Bene!

By FRANK ZEOLI



Baked Rice

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour



Ingredients

- 4 cups of white rice (cooled)
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups of pecorino romano grated cheese
- One tablespoon of granulated garlic
- One tablespoon of dried parsley
- Salt & pepper (to taste)

My grandmother never wasted anything. She would keep leftovers and repurpose them into another meal. White rice was one she repurposed on a regular basis. Whether making rice cakes, rice and peas, stir fry with rice or baked rice she would use leftover rice and make something amazing. Her baked rice was a dish I would consider a comfort food. It was simple and could be served as a side dish or as a Lenten main course. It has become my favorite “go to” for using all of my leftover white rice.



Instructions

1. In a bowl beat the eggs, granulated garlic, salt, and pepper together.
2. In a large mixing bowl add the rice, egg mixture, grated cheese, and parsley; mix together thoroughly.
3. Place the rice mixture into a large baking dish, covering the entire dish.
4. Bake in the oven at 375 for about an hour. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Look for more recipes in the next edition of the **SIAMO QUI**

WELCOME BACK, BOCCIE!

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, we invite you to join one of our leagues. They're free, enjoyable, and great for meeting fellow members. Walk-ins are always welcome if you can't commit to playing every week. The men's bocce league meets every **Monday at 6:30 pm, starting May 15th**. Contact Jim Sano, the Men's Bocce League President, at 518-438-4631 if you're interested in playing.

The 2023 season for women's bocce begins on **Tuesday, May 16th, at 6:00 pm**. Women's bocce is held every Tuesday for 14 weeks, concluding on August 15th. Team captains have been asked to contact their team members to ensure they're ready to play. We'll distribute schedules and handouts on the first night. All female club members are welcome to participate in bocce. If you'd like to try it, please get in touch with one of our Women's Bocce Co-Chairs, either Donna Zumbo at 518-424-7463 or Maria LaMorte at 518-378-1687. We always need substitutes. Remember, no special talent is required, and we always have a great time.



TELEGRAMMI ...

GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA'S AMBITION WAS HER STRENGTH AND HER WEAKNESS

Once dubbed the most beautiful woman in the world, the Italian film star died on January 16th at the age of 95. In 1958 Orson Welles made a short black-and-white documentary about Gina Lollobrigida, who had just turned 30. The cigar-chomping American director, whose wife was Italian, confessed that he had long been fascinated with how, in the torn-blonde iconography of post-war cinema, Italian women surpassed all others at raising, as he put it, the standard of glorious improbability in silhouettes. In a nation of fabulous females, he reckoned Gina was the most fabulous of all. But (there had to be a but), she also had a mind of her own. It wasn't so much that she had dreams and wanted to express herself, she was ambitious. A loner as a child despite having three sisters, she focused on her plans rather than her playmates. RIP.

L'AMBIZIONE DI GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA ERA LA SUA FORZA E LA SUA DEBOLEZZA

Una volta soprannominata la donna più bella del mondo, la star del cinema italiano è morta il 16 Gennaio, all'età di 95 anni. Nel 1958 Orson Welles realizzò un breve documentario in bianco e nero su Gina Lollobrigida, che aveva appena compiuto 30 anni. Il regista, la cui moglie era italiana, ha confessato di essere stato a lungo affascinato dal modo in cui nell'iconografia delle camicette strappate del cinema del dopoguerra le donne italiane superavano tutte le altre nell'innalzare, come diceva lui, lo standard di gloriosa improbabilità nelle sagome. In una nazione di donne favolose, riteneva che Gina fosse la più favolosa di tutte. Ma (doveva esserci un ma), aveva anche una mente tutta sua. Non era tanto che aveva dei sogni e voleva esprimersi, era ambiziosa. Da bambina solitaria nonostante avesse tre sorelle, si è concentrata sui suoi piani piuttosto che sui suoi compagni di gioco. Riposa in Pace.

SANREMO 2023.

Italy's biggest and most popular music event, The Sanremo Music Festival, kicked off on Tuesday, February 7th. This annual festival is held at the Ariston Theater in Sanremo, Italy (located in Italy's northern region of Liguria). The five-night event showcased new, unreleased songs from the best of Italy's artists. The Sanremo Music Festival dates back to 1951, making this year it's 73rd anniversary. The winner of the Sanremo Music Festival gets the chance to represent Italy at Eurovision 2023. Italy has won Eurovision (Europe's biggest music competition) three times. The most recent winner was Maneskin in 2021.

SANREMO 2023

L'evento musicale più grande e popolare d'Italia, il Festival di Sanremo, è iniziato Martedì 7 febbraio. Questo festival annuale si tiene al Teatro Ariston di Sanremo, in Italia (situato nella regione settentrionale della Liguria). L'evento di cinque notti presenterà nuove canzoni inedite dei migliori artisti italiani. Il Festival di Sanremo risale al 1951, compiendo quest'anno il 73esimo anniversario. Il vincitore del Festival di Sanremo ha la possibilità di rappresentare l'Italia all'Eurovision 2023. L'Italia ha vinto un'Eurovision (la più grande competizione musicale europea) tre volte: il vincitore più recente è stato Maneskin nel 2021.

LITTLE ITALY SAYS "ADDIO" TO HISTORIC CHEESE SHOP

"After a remarkable 130 years, my beloved Alleva Dairy will no longer be on the corner of Mulberry and Grand Street in Little Italy, New York," said owner Karen King to The New York Post. "I was really hoping that this day would never come and it's a sad one."

LITTLE ITALY DICE "ADDIO" ALLA STORICA CASEIFICIO

"Dopo 130 anni straordinari, la mia amata Alleva Dairy non sarà più all'angolo tra Mulberry e Grand Street a Little Italy, New York", ha dichiarato la proprietaria Karen King al New York Post. "Speravo davvero che questo giorno non sarebbe mai arrivato ed è triste."

BLACK ITALY FESTIVAL: SAN FRANCISCO WELCOMES THE FIRST CELEBRATION OF AFRO-ITALIAN TALENTS IN MOVIES

On January 31st, the Black Italy Festival kicked off in the Bay Area, offering a range of movies and shorts that highlight and celebrate Italian diversity and Italians of African descent. The festival was organized by the Italian Cultural Institute, in collaboration with other local organizations. The festival opened in San Francisco with a documentary by Fred Kudjo Kuwornu, *The Blaxploitalian: 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema*. Director Kuwornu traveled from the Big Apple to present the sixty-minute documentary uncovering the careers of several entertainers. He discloses all the struggles and triumphs that Afro-Italian, African-American, and Afro-descendant actors have faced in the Italian film industry while mirroring their labors with those of contemporary actors who are working to find respectable and non-stereotypical roles.

A SAN FRANCISCO SI ACCOGLIE LA PRIMA CELEBRAZIONE DEI TALENTI AFRO-ITALIANI NEL CINEMA

Il 31 gennaio, il Black Italy Festival ha preso il via nella Bay Area, offrendo una serie di film e cortometraggi che mettono in risalto e celebrano la diversità italiana e gli italiani di origine africana. Il Festival è organizzato dall'Istituto Italiano di Cultura, in collaborazione con altri enti locali. Il festival si è aperto a San Francisco con un documentario di Fred Kudjo Kuwornu, The Blaxploitalian: 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema. Il regista Kuwornu ha viaggiato dalla Grande Mela per presentare il documentario di sessanta minuti che svela le carriere di diversi intrattenitori. Rivela tutte le lotte e i trionfi che gli attori afro-italiani, afro-americani e afro-discendenti hanno affrontato nell'industria cinematografica italiana, rispecchiando le loro fatiche con quelle di attori contemporanei che stanno lavorando per trovare ruoli rispettabili e non stereotipati.

MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE FEARED DEAD IN ITALY SHIPWRECK

At least 62 migrants, including 12 children, have died after their boat sank in rough seas off southern Italy. The vessel, which is thought to have been carrying some 200 people, broke apart while trying to land near Crotona on Sunday.

PIÙ DI 100 PERSONE TEMUTE MORTE IN ITALIA NAUFRAGIO

Almeno 62 migranti, tra cui 12 bambini, sono morti dopo che la loro barca è affondata in mare agitato al largo del sud Italia. La nave, che avrebbe trasportato circa 200 persone, si è rotta domenica mentre cercava di atterrare nei pressi di Crotona.

FAREWELL TO MAURIZIO COSTANZO, CROWD AT THE FUNERAL IN THE CHURCH OF THE ARTISTS

The solemn funeral of Maurizio Costanzo – who died on Friday at the age of 84 – was celebrated in the Church of the Artists, in Piazza del Popolo in Rome. The widow, Maria De Filippi, entered the church holding the hand of her adopted son Gabriele and, at the end of the ceremony, greeted the coffin in tears, her face hidden by a pair of large sunglasses. Also among the VIPs present were Valerio Scanu, Paolo Sorrentino, Gerry Scotti, Giancarlo Giannini, Emanuele Filiberto di Savoia, Fiorella Mannoia, Massimo Lopez, Tullio Solenghi, Pio and Amedeo. Thousands of people followed the funeral on a giant screen.

ADDIO A MAURIZIO COSTANZO, FOLLA AI FUNERALI NELLA CHIESA DEGLI ARTISTI

Folla ai funerali solenni di Maurizio Costanzo – morto all'età di 84 anni – celebrati nella Chiesa degli Artisti, in piazza del Popolo a Roma. La vedova Maria De Filippi è entrata in chiesa tenendo per mano il figlio adottivo Gabriele e, al termine della cerimonia, ha salutato in lacrime il feretro, il volto nascosto da un paio di grandi occhiali da sole. Tra i vip presenti anche Valerio Scanu, Paolo Sorrentino, Gerry Scotti, Giancarlo Giannini, Emanuele Filiberto di Savoia, Fiorella Mannoia, Massimo Lopez, Tullio Solenghi, Pio e Amedeo. Ma migliaia di persone hanno seguito il funerale su uno schermo gigante.

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Buona Pasqua! A Happy Easter in Italy

By JOE SANO



Buona Pasqua, Happy Easter in Italy, is a celebration second only to Buona Natale (Merry Christmas). From Holy Thursday to Easter Monday, Italians move from solemn remembrance to a joy-filled celebration of the Resurrection, the coming Spring, and warmer days. The Italian people celebrate this season of renewal and rebirth through colorful processions, traditional church services and, of course, fantastic seasonal foods. While traditionally a religious holiday, Easter has also more recently transitioned to an opportunity to spend time with those you love. As a popular Italian proverb dictates, "Natale con i tuoi, e Pasqua con chi vuoi," or "Spend Christmas with your family and Easter with whomever you like." While Easter as a family gathering remains constant, we see a growing trend to expand the gathering to include one's friends. Beginning with Giovedì Santo (Holy Thursday), to Venerdì Santo (Good Friday, when meat is withheld in place of a seafood meal), and continuing to Sabato Santo (Holy Saturday), the Easter holiday is much more than a single day. Each holy holiday offers a special message and observance to the people. Vatican City is one place where many Italians and visitors merge to contemplate the crucified Christ

and his glorious Resurrection. Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, ushers in the Holy Week observances and processions throughout Italy. Holy Week continues until Holy Thursday, the night Jesus was arrested and Judas betrayed him. On this day, Jesus also broke bread at the Last Supper. Traditionally, meat should not be eaten during this time, but fish, pasta, and vegetables are served. Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper, was painted in Milan between 1494 and 1498 under the rule of Ludovico il Moro and is housed inside the Santa Maria Della Grazia church. Visits are limited, and tickets for The Last Supper must be booked up to 3 weeks in advance.

On Good Friday, the Pope celebrates the Via Crucis, or Stations of the Cross, in Rome near the Colosseum. A giant cross with burning torches lights the sky as the stations of the Cross are described in several languages, and the Pope gives a blessing at the end. Easter mass is held in every church in Italy, with the most prominent and most popular celebrated by the Pope at Saint Peter's Square in the morning (rain or shine!), followed by the Pope's annual "Urbi et Orbi" speech at noon. Tickets are needed for the Mass and are usually ordered 6 months in advance.



Via Crucis



Easter at the Vatican

Florence hosts one of the most unusual Holy Week events, the *Scoppio del Carro* (Explosion of the Cart). Since the 18th century, a grand wagon adorned with elaborate decorations has been pulled by white oxen through the streets of Florence until it arrives at the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore in the city's historic center. After mass, the archbishop lights a dove-shaped rocket and sends it into the fireworks-filled cart, creating a spectacular display. A parade of performers in medieval costumes follows. While Easter is often a somber yet joyous holiday in Italy, in Florence, it's a time for explosions, apparently.



Scoppio del Carro

There are many well-known Good Friday processions throughout Italy. While we mentioned the "Stations of the Cross" in Rome, another famous procession is the one in the Sicilian town of Enna, with thousands of white-hooded friars carrying statues of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. What's believed to be the oldest Italian Good Friday procession is in Chieti in the Abruzzo region; it's very moving with Secchi's "Miserere" played by 100 violins. Participants are often dressed in traditional ancient costumes, and olive branches are frequently used along with palm fronds in the processions and to decorate churches.

Trapani is another exciting place to see processions, held for several days during Holy Week. For example, the Good Friday procession, *Misteri di Trapani*, lasts 24 hours. While other towns, such as Montefalco and Gualdo Tadino in Umbria, hold live passion plays during the night of Good Friday. Others put on plays acting out the stations of the Cross. Beautiful torchlight processions are held in Umbria in hill towns such as Orvieto and Assisi. It is quite common to visit any Italian town during Holy Week and witness a procession.



**(Left) Procession in Enna.
(Right) Misteri di Trapani**





Easter brings the Lenten season to a close. Easter is the feast of Spring and the awakening of nature, and the egg is a symbol of renewed life. Pastry shops and confectioners will have beautifully decorated chocolate eggs and cakes at Easter. The prayer and sacrifices of the season are now joyously replaced with celebrations and food. While an Easter Sunday menu varies depending on each region's unique traditions, most Pasqua feasts in Italy include a few nationwide classics. Traditionally the main dish of the Italian Easter meal is lamb or goat. In many regions, the main meal is *cosciotto al forno con le patate*, roast leg of lamb with potatoes. In Lazio, crispy lamb ribs, known as *abbacchio a scottadito*, are served, and in Trentino, *polpettine pasquali*.

Special Easter breads that vary from region to region also mark the holiday. Pannetone sweet bread and Colomba (dove-shaped) bread are often given as gifts, as are hollow chocolate eggs that usually come with a surprise inside. There is, I'm afraid, no Easter Bunny in Italy – but there is chocolate in abundance, particularly in the form of large extravagantly-designed chocolate eggs. During the weeks preceding Easter, one can marvel at the intricately designed store windows and indulge in the traditional treats typically enjoyed after the Easter feast. Here in America, the preparation and consumption of lamb or goat dishes, Easter breads, ricotta, and rice pies, plus many regional variations on Pizza Rustica (Pizza Chiena or Pizza Ripiena), have become a transplanted tradition. I'm sure the IACC members and friends that recently visited Little Italy in the Bronx found all the ingredients or prepared products they needed to make this Easter special.

In America, Easter Monday means back to work. The day after Easter Sunday in Italy is called "Pasquetta" (Little Easter) and is a day to relax. The tradition of Pasquetta is maintained with an almost religious fervor though it is a civil holiday. Its roots lie in the post-war period when it was created as a long weekend, which allowed folks to have a getaway, or at least a "scampagnata" (trip to the countryside). Many believe that's the

only way to celebrate Pasquetta -pack a picnic and head for the country! People flee to the mountains, the hills, the beach, or their family's country property to enjoy a picnic or a barbecue outdoors. It is the holiday that heralds Spring and is a festive, enjoyable day. Food often includes something with eggs, in keeping with the Easter theme, like a cold frittata, or a "pizza rustica" filled with cheese, cured meats, and hard-boiled eggs. Sometimes things get more elaborate, but it is often just a simple lunch of salami, cheese, hard-boiled eggs, fruit, good bread, and some wine spent with friends or family.

In Trezzano, a small town of just 1100 inhabitants in the Province of Forlì-Cesena, there is the Palio dell'uovo on Easter Monday with games, battles, and parades with floats. The main events are the battle of the raw eggs, the traditional egg-beating contest, finding the egg in the haystack, and the national hard-boiled egg-eating championship.



As you mark the end of Lent, the welcomed joy of Easter, and the seasonal foods, please reflect on this article, how Italians celebrate, and how we have kept some of those traditions alive. **Buona Pasqua a tutti!** ☐

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Hello ladies,

Spring forward with the IACC Women!! April is finally here!! Easter is coming and Daylight Savings Time (DST) is behind us (maybe). DSL is when the clocks move ahead one hour every spring by adding one hour of sunlight to the end of the day. The idea of aligning waking hours to daylight hours was first proposed in 1784 by Benjamin Franklin in order to conserve candles. He suggested that waking up earlier in the summer would economize on the use of candles which would be a big savings.

Around WWI, countries used the change to save power and fuel. Consumerism also played a role, as Americans were more likely to shop if it was still light out when they left work. The practice was abolished after the war, but later became standard practice in 1966 after the passage of the Uniform Time Act. Only two states do not observe DST—Arizona and Hawaii.

At this time, the future remains in limbo. Legislation passed unanimously in the Senate last year, but the bill stalled in the House. The bill was reintroduced last month, being called an “antiquated practice.” There is no certainty whether it will pass or once again be stalled by Congress. I guess change can be difficult for some.

At our last gathering, there were 17 ladies in attendance for dinner at the buffet, followed by a brief meeting and a few fun games of Bingo. Our Bingo winners were Gretchen Van Valkenburg, Michelle Mealy, Theresa Swanson, Maria DeNitto and Gail Tarantino. Joan Wallis was the 50/50 winner. Congratulations to all our winners!!



The next gathering will be April 12 at 6pm. We will be meeting upstairs for a catered buffet dinner from Fiorello Importing Luigi's Deli. The menu will include Cold Cut Platter, Baked Ziti, Meatballs, Sausage & Peppers, Eggplant Parmesan, Chicken Contadina, Garden Salad, Italian Rolls and Beverages. The cost will be \$15/ person. Please call Darlene Carino @ (315) 266-7726 or email her at darlenecarino27@gmail.com with your reservation by Friday April 7th. After dinner we will be led by Tessa Kent in making a floral arrangement. We will provide the vessel, floral foam, ribbon & some flowers. If you desire a specific type of flower or color, please feel free to bring your own.

Come join us and see what's new!!
Remember it's only 55 days till pool opening!!

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ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH'S MASS & BRUNCH

On Sunday, March 19th, a large crowd gathered in the Caruso Room to celebrate mass in honor of St. Patrick and St. Joseph with Father Yanas. Father gave a moving sermon that paid tribute to our late friend and member, Father Anthony Chiaramonte. After mass, we had a delicious brunch provided by 2Shea. The meal included great Saint Joseph zeppole from Bella Napoli, which made it a lovely day of spending time together. Please join us for our annual mass/luncheon honoring Saint Anthony on June 11 at noon.



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