



ISSUE 602

MAY 2024



**You're Invited
Member Exclusive Pre-Opening**

P l Party & BBQ

Saturday May 18, 2024

12:00 - 5:00 PM

Free Guest Day!
Show your friends & family
the value & fun of an I.A.C.C.
membership!



Bring Your Membership Card! Note: All Guests MUST Be Accompanied By A Member

Happy Mother's Day



from the Italian American Community Center

NEWS & EVENTS

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SOCIAL CALENDAR



May

05/06 ~ Monday Grand Italian Buffet - 5:00 pm -7:00 pm

05/12 ~ Mother's Day Brunch -10:30 am

05/13 ~ Men's Bocce League Opening Night - 6:30 pm

05/14 ~ Women's Bocce League Opening Night - 6:00 pm

05/18 ~ Member Exclusive: Pool Pre-Opening Party & BBQ - 12 noon - 5:00 pm

05/19 ~ Sunday Brunch 10:00 am - Noon

05/20 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

05/21 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

**05/23 ~ Best of The Bronx: Yankees Game & Arthur Ave Bus Trip - 8:00 am
SOLD OUT**

05/24 ~ Pool Season 2024 Opening - 12 noon

**05/24 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion Opening Night (Special - Chicken Parmesan)
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

05/27 ~ Memorial Day BBQ at The Pool - 12 noon

05/28 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm

**05/31 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Special - Cheese Ravioli with Meatballs)
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/09 ~ ST. ANTHONY'S MASS & LUNCHEON - 12:00 NOON (PAVILION)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is finally here, and with it come some of the best months of the year at the IACC. This month is filled with several seasonal beginnings.

Firstly, our bocce leagues will begin on Monday, May 13th, with the men's league and the women's league on Tuesday, May 14th. Whether you have already signed up or not, there's always room for one more member.

Our Friday Nights at the Pavilion will return on May 24th, and our pool will open for the season on the same day. We cannot contain our excitement for this year's summer season. There is so much to do; you won't want to miss any of it.

On Sunday, June 9th, we will hold our annual St. Anthony's Mass and Luncheon at 12 noon at the St. Anthony Shrine. We hope you can join us in celebrating a saint who means so much to the Italian people.

Information on all these events is featured in this month's *Siamo Qui* and on our website, www.italianamerican.com. Finally, I wish all the IACC mothers a "Buona Festa della Mamma." I hope to see you soon.

Ciao,

FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESIDENT

I.A.C.C. OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT - FRANK ZEOLI
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- VICE PRESIDENT - SHARON PATREI
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- COLUMBUS DAY GALA- FRANK ZEOLI

SIAMO QUI

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IACC OFFICE

- HOURS: M-F 9:30AM TO 2:30PM
- THERESA LAJOY- OFFICE MANAGER
- PHONE # (518) 456-4222
- EMAIL: IACCOFFICE@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

The Italian American Community Center Foundation

presents

Friday Nights

AT THE

PAVILION



**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM
May 24th - September 13th
5:00PM - 8:00PM**

Eat, drink, listen to music,
play bocce or just hang-out at this
"open-to-the-public" family event!

**257 WASHINGTON AVE. EXT.
THE I.A.C.C. PAVILION**

**DON'T
MISS IT!**

To learn more about the Italian American
Community Center Foundation, please visit:

www.iaccfoundationalbany.org

518.456.IACC (4222)

257 Washington Avenue Ext. Albany, NY 12205

Follow us on



Tag us #FridayNightsAtThePavilion #TheIACC

BY SERGIO PANUNZIO

SOUND THE ALARM: ITALY'S BIRTH RATES KEEP PLUMMETING

Italy is facing a serious decline in birth rates, stoking alarm across the country. For the first time since the 19th century, the number of births in a year fell below 400,000. According to official figures for 2022, this number represents an average of 1.25 babies per Italian woman, solidifying the fact that Italy has the lowest birth rate in Europe. The number of deaths now exceeds the number of births, creating a negative replacement rate; there are 12 deaths for every seven births. Italy registered 393,000 babies in 2022, the lowest since the country began keeping records in 1861. According to Italy's national birth registrar, this official record does not include babies born in the country to unregistered migrants or to same-sex and heterosexual couples who used surrogates abroad.

LANCIATA DI ALLARME: I TASSI DI NATALITÀ IN ITALIA CONTINUANO A CROLLARE

L'Italia sta affrontando un grave calo dei tassi di natalità, alimentando l'allarme in tutto il Paese. Per la prima volta dal XIX secolo il numero delle nascite in un anno è sceso sotto le 400.000. Secondo i dati ufficiali per il 2022, questo numero rappresenta una media di 1,25 bambini per donna italiana, confermando il fatto che l'Italia ha il tasso di natalità più basso d'Europa. Il numero di decessi ora supera il numero di nascite, creando un tasso di sostituzione negativo: ci sono 12 decessi ogni sette nascite. L'Italia ha registrato 393.000 bambini nel 2022, il numero più basso da quando il paese ha iniziato



a tenere i registri nel 1861. Secondo il registro nazionale delle nascite italiano, questo record ufficiale non include i bambini nati nel paese da migranti non registrati o da coppie dello stesso sesso ed eterosessuali che hanno utilizzato surrogati. all'estero.t

"THE SALAMI KING" OF THE BRONX IMMORTALIZED IN LITTLE ITALY

Friends, families, and locals of the Bronx's Little Italy took to the streets on May 8th, 2023, to pay homage to Michele "Mike" Greco, a neighborhood institution. Greco, who owned the famous Mike's Deli since the 1950s, died in 2019 at the age of 89. His legacy lives on in his three children, Louisa, Marco, and David, and now, with a new street name called "Mike Greco Way." Greco immigrated to the Bronx from the southern Italian region of Calabria in 1947 at the age of 17 with \$50 to his name. He first began working for a Bronx butcher shop, later falling in love and marrying the boss's daughter. He opened Mike's Deli inside the Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the early 1950s. Since then, the deli, where his son David spends most of his days working, has been serving up fresh antipasti, hang-dried sausages, and scamorza. Greco's classic Italian dishes earned him the name of "The Salami King of the Bronx." A New York Times obituary on Greco said he would

often belt out a Puccini or Verdi aria when working in the deli and would always cry with happiness when he was interviewed. "My father would start the day with either one or two things," said David to the Bronx Times. "Either prosciutto and dried mozzarella or he would make a steak for breakfast and a glass of wine at eight o'clock in the morning." At the ceremony on May 8th, David had a glass of wine to honor his father. The street renaming took place on the corner of Hughes and Crescent Avenues in the Bronx's Little Italy.

"IL RE DEL SALAME" DEL BRONX IMMORTALIZZATO NELLA PICCOLA ITALIA

Amici, famiglie e gente del posto della Little Italy del Bronx sono scesi in strada l'8 maggio per rendere omaggio a Michele "Mike" Greco, un'istituzione del quartiere. Greco, proprietario del famoso Mike's Deli dagli anni '50, è morto nel 2019 all'età di 89 anni. La sua eredità sopravvive nei suoi tre figli Louisa, Marco e David, e ora, con un nuovo nome di strada chiamato "Mike Greco Way." Greco emigrò nel Bronx dalla regione meridionale italiana della Calabria nel 1947 all'età di 17 anni con 50 dollari a suo nome. Iniziò prima a lavorare per una macelleria del Bronx, per poi innamorarsi e sposare la figlia del capo. All'inizio degli anni '50 aprì Mike's Deli all'interno dell'Arthur Avenue Retail Market. Da allora, la gastronomia, dove suo figlio David trascorre gran parte del suo lavoro oscuro, serve antipasti freschi, salsicce

secche e scamorza. I classici piatti italiani di Greco gli sono valsi il soprannome di "Il re del salame del Bronx." Un necrologio del New York Times su Greco diceva che spesso cantava un'aria di Puccini o Verdi quando lavorava nella gastronomia e piangeva sempre di felicità quando veniva intervistato. "Mio padre iniziava la giornata con una o due cose", ha detto David al Bronx Times. "O prosciutto e mozzarella secca, oppure preparava una bistecca a colazione e un bicchiere di vino alle otto del mattino." Alla cerimonia dell'8 maggio, David ha bevuto un bicchiere di vino per onorare suo padre. La ride-nominazione della strada ha avuto luogo all'angolo tra Hughes e Crescent Avenue nella Little Italy del Bronx..

99-YEAR-OLD ITALIAN MAN TO DIVORCE WIFE OF 77-YEARS OVER 1940'S AFFAIR

After nearly 8 decades of marriage, it might be safe to assume that the couple is in it for the long run. Unfortunately, one Italian couple married for 77 years is dissolving their union after a 60-year-old affair was brought to light. A 99-year-old Italian man has filed for divorce after uncovering letters that reveal his wife had an affair in the 1940s. The 96-year-old woman saved notes from her clandestine lover in a chest of drawers. Poor cuckolded Antonio C. found the love letters in the days before Christmas and wants no more to do with his wife, Rosa. Perhaps believing that the 60 years that had passed would be enough to forgive her indiscretion, Rosa admitted to the affair and wanted to salvage the marriage. She no doubt reminded Antonio to think of their 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Antonio, who moved out briefly once before when the marriage hit a rough patch 10 years ago, would not be dissuaded this time. It is believed that once the divorce is finalized, Antonio and Rosa will set the record for oldest divorcees in the world. The record

is currently held by Bertie and Jessie Wood of Britain, both 98, who signed their divorce papers in 2009 but were married for a mere 36 years.

UOMO DI 99 ANNI DIVORZIA LA MOGLIE DI 77 ANNI PER UN AFFARE DEL '40

Dopo quasi 8 decenni di matrimonio, potrebbe essere lecito ritenere che la coppia sia coinvolta a lungo termine. Sfortunatamente, una coppia italiana sposata da 77 anni sta sciogliendo la loro unione dopo che una relazione vecchia di 60 anni è stata portata alla luce. Un uomo italiano di 99 anni ha chiesto il divorzio dopo aver scoperto lettere che rivelano che sua moglie aveva una relazione negli anni '40. La donna, 96 anni, conservava in una cassetiera gli appunti del suo amante clandestine. Il povero cornuto Antonio C. ha trovato le lettere d'amore nei giorni prima di Natale e non vuole più avere a che fare con la moglie Rosa. Forse credendo che i 60 anni trascorsi sarebbero bastati per perdonare la sua indiscrezione, Rosa ammise la relazione e volle salvare il matrimonio. Senza dubbio ha ricordato ad Antonio di pensare ai loro 5 figli, 12 nipoti e 1 pronipote. Antonio, che si era trasferito brevemente una volta una volta quando il matrimonio aveva attraversato un momento difficile 10 anni fa, questa volta non si è lasciato dissuadere. Si ritiene che una volta finalizzato il divorzio, Antonio e Rosa stabiliranno il record di divorziati più anziani del mondo. Il record è attualmente detenuto da Bertie e Jessie Wood della Gran Bretagna, entrambi 98 anni, che hanno firmato i documenti per il divorzio nel 2009 ma sono stati sposati per soli 36 anni.

NIECE ACCUSED OF USING SPAGHETTI TO MURDER GREAT-AUNT

Italian police are investigating a bizarre alleged murder involving spaghetti, an elderly woman, and a young niece who allegedly wanted to grab a \$775,000 inheritance. Paola Pepe, the great-niece of Maria Basso, 80, was arrested for Basso's murder after allegedly force-feeding the older

woman with spaghetti, Corriere della Sera reports. Basso was vulnerable to choking if she did not eat finely chopped or pureed food. Despite this, Pepe, 58, took her great-aunt for a meal at a Sicily restaurant in December 2022. She allegedly ordered Basso spaghetti, and in two days her great-aunt was dead. Some of the pasta allegedly got lodged in Basso's airways, causing her death. Initially Basso's death looked like an accident, but a police investigation was launched after officials found Pepe had amended her great-aunt's will days before the meal. Pepe has denied all accusations. She is out on bail and is wearing a police ankle bracelet while awaiting her trial.

NIPOTE ACCUSATA DI AVER USATO SPAGHETTI PER OMICIDIO DELLA ZIA

La polizia italiana sta indagando su un bizzarro presunto omicidio che coinvolge spaghetti, una donna anziana e una giovane nipote che presumibilmente volevano impossessarsi di un'eredità di 775.000 dollari. Paola Pepe, pronipote di Maria Basso, 80 anni, è stata arrestata per l'omicidio di Basso dopo aver presumibilmente alimentato forzatamente la donna anziana con spaghetti, riferisce il Corriere della Sera. La Basso era vulnerabile al soffocamento se non mangiava cibo tritato finemente o frullato. Nonostante ciò, Pepe, 58 anni, ha portato la sua prozia a mangiare in un ristorante siciliano nel dicembre 2022. Presumibilmente ha ordinato gli spaghetti al Basso, e due giorni dopo la sua prozia era morta. Parte della pasta sarebbe rimasta intrappolata nelle vie aeree della Basso, causandone la morte. Inizialmente la morte di Basso sembrava un incidente, ma un'indagine della polizia è stata avviata dopo che i funzionari hanno scoperto che Pepe aveva modificato il testamento della prozia giorni prima del pasto. Pepe ha negato tutte le accuse. È stata rilasciata su cauzione e indossa un braccialetto alla caviglia della polizia mentre attende il processo.

2024 IACC SWIMMING POOL SCHEDULE
POOL PHONE 518-250-4511 (TO CHECK CONDITIONS)
MEMBERS MUST HAVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARD AVAILABLE
WHILE AT THE POOL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
May					24-Noon	25		August						
26	27	28	29	30	31							1	2	3
June						1		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
23	24	25	26	27	28	29								
30								September						
July	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		15-5PM	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31					29	30					

Noon – 8:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Noon – 5:00 p.m.	Noon – 8:00 p.m. Lap Swimming 7:30-9:30 AM
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IACC POOL REGULATIONS

- **Proper bathing attire required. No cut-off jeans in the pool.**
- **Clothes and towels are not to be hung on or over the fence.**
- **IACC is not responsible for lost or stolen articles in pool area.**
- **NO running or jumping, profanity, horseplay, or pets permitted.**
- **NO glassware permitted in pool area.**
- **Children under age 12 MUST be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult at all times in pool area.**
- **NO radios, cassettes, or CD players in the pool area.**
- **ALL babies and small children not toilet trained MUST wear a swim diaper at all times.**
- **Children using flotation devices must be accompanied by an adult in the water.**
- **Children using flotation devices are allowed in the shallow end of the pool ONLY.**
- **No smoking in the Pool area.**
- **Guests must be accompanied by a member and must register with the lifeguard on duty.**

MOTHER'S DAY *Brunch*

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

BEVERAGES

Assorted Juices
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf, & Tea

STARTERS

Assorted Breakfast Pastries
Fresh Fruit Selection
Watermelon, Mint, & Feta Salad
Strawberry, Walnut, Mixed Greens,
Lemon Poppy Seed Dressing

BUFFET

Assorted Egg Bakes
Scrambled Eggs
Applewood Smoked Bacon
Breakfast Sausage
Shredded Au Gratin With Vermont Cheddar
French Toast Casserole
Traditional Yukon Mashed
Seasonal Vegetable Medley
Vegetable Lasagna
Baked Meat Cannellini Roasted Garlic Parmesan Sauce
Grilled Chicken in Mushroom Pesto Sauce
Mediterranean Baked Cod

STATIONS

Carving of Turkey Breast & NY Strip
Chef Attended Pasta Station

SWEETS

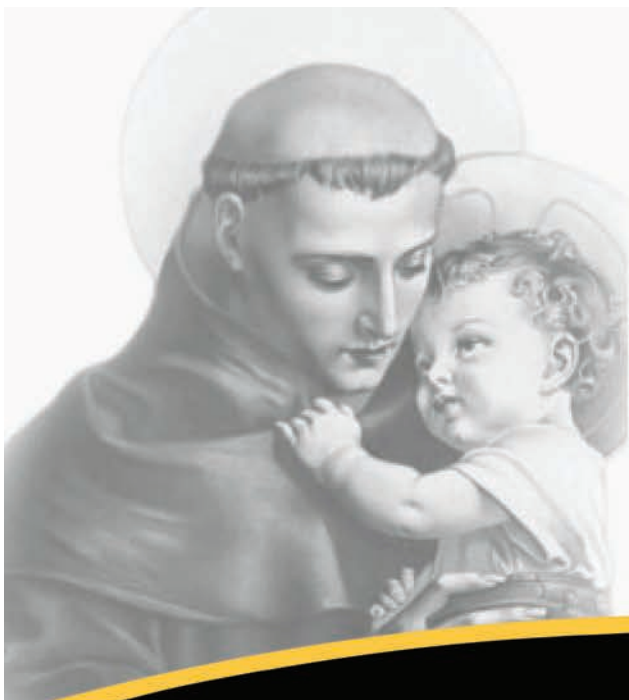
Cookies & Brownies
Dessert Pastries

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH

(518) 456-4222 EX. 3 | 2SHEACATERING.COM

PRICING: ADULTS \$52.95++ PER PERSON

CHILDREN 4 TO 11 Y/O: \$25.50++ PER PERSON | CHILDREN UNDER 3 ARE FREE



ST. ANTHONY'S MASS & *Luncheon*

**Sunday,
June 9, 2024**

12:00pm

**\$25.00 | IACC Member
\$30.00 | Non-Member**



Reservations: (518) 456-4222 or visit italianamerican.com



I.A.C.C. FOUNDATION

Italian American Community Center
St. Anthony's Shrine
257 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

We had a wonderful group of 27 ladies at our April meeting and received some great information about Adult Day Care, Caregiver Support Programs, Congregate Dining and Health and Wellness programs from our guest speakers Debbie Riitano, Commissioner of the Albany County Department for Aging and her assistant, Carol Rosbozom.

We are hoping you will join us for our May meeting when we will be playing BINGO and as always having a lot of laughs as we enjoy another great evening together with friends. We welcome all our women members of the IACC to join us for a fun evening.

Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Caruso Room on the 2nd floor. Dinner will be submarine sandwiches. Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share such as a salad or a dessert. The submarine sandwich options will be as follows: turkey, roast beef, Italian Mixed and



ham and cheese. All will come with lettuce and tomato and dressing will be on the side. Please contact Terri Fazio at 518-452-9265 or via email at Theodora.fazio1130@gmail.com to make your reservation with the group no later than Sunday, May 5, 2024. Cost will be \$10 per person.



I.A.C.C. IN THE COMMUNITY

On March 19, 2024 the Teresian House nursing home put on an event called Armchair Traveler. Maria LaMorte gave a beautiful presentation about Italy on behalf of the Italian American Heritage Foundation. We want to thank Maria for giving her time to the residents of Teresian House.





Verona was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000 due to its authenticity. The city boasts remarkably preserved architectural and urban structures spanning various historical periods, including ancient Roman monuments, medieval buildings, and Renaissance palaces. With a population of 258,031, it is a top tourist destination in northern Italy due to its artistic heritage, annual fairs and shows, and the opera season in the Arena. The city's Roman Arena, one of the best-preserved ancient amphitheaters in the world, is still used today for concerts and events.

Verona is famous for associating with Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," drawing literary and cultural enthusiasts. Verona was the backdrop for two of William Shakespeare's renowned plays, "Romeo and

Juliet" and "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." However, historical records do not confirm whether Shakespeare visited Verona or Italy. Nevertheless, his works have attracted many visitors to Verona and nearby areas.

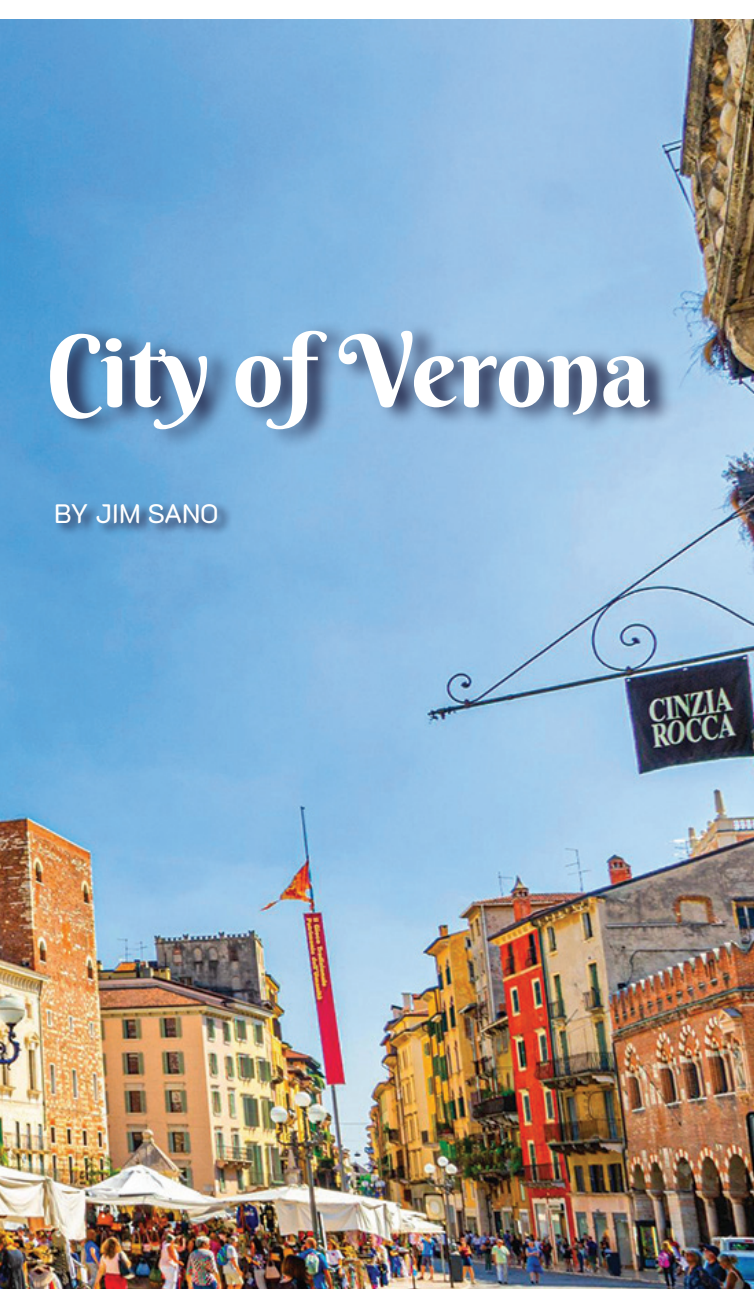
In the 13th and 14th centuries, the della Scala Family ruled Verona, with Cangrande I della Scala presiding through great prosperity, leading to the city's expansion and fortification with new walls. The city's fortifications and gates represent its strategic importance throughout history.

HISTORY

Verona has a multifaceted and fascinating history. Its roots date back to prehistoric times, and it has hosted numerous events throughout the ages. Verona's old town is a genuine treasure, where the past has been meticulously preserved and layered over time. UNESCO describes Verona as an excellent model of a "city fortified in several stages, characteristic of European history."

City of Verona

BY JIM SANO



governance in the 12th century resulted in Verona becoming an independent municipality. During the 13th and 14th centuries, the Scaligeri family built the city's urban layout, centered around Piazza delle Erbe, which served as the political hub.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, Verona played a significant role in the Italian Renaissance, hosting numerous renowned artists, architects, and intellectuals. The famed poet Dante Alighieri resided in the city for several years. The city's most famous landmark, the Arena, was also used as a venue for various cultural events during this period, including plays and operas.

The Republic of Venice controlled Verona from the 15th to 18th centuries. The city was renowned for its impressive military fortifications and as a hub of art and culture, boasting numerous monuments from ancient, medieval, and Renaissance times. During the 19th and 20th centuries, Verona became a center of Italian nationalism and played a vital role in the Risorgimento (the Italian Unification movement). Unfortunately, the city was heavily bombed during World War II, and many historic buildings were damaged or destroyed.

Verona continues to thrive as a cultural hub, drawing visitors from all over the world who are drawn to its rich history and heritage. The city boasts many museums, galleries, and iconic landmarks, such as the Arena, Juliet's House, and the Castelvecchio Museum.

THE ROMAN PONTE PIETRA



Ponte Pietra is an ancient bridge that spans the Adige River, which the Romans constructed in the 1st century B.C. After being destroyed during a city siege, the bridge underwent

reconstruction in the 14th century. Ponte Pietra, comprised of white stone, is upheld by substantial pillars on each side of the river. Additionally, one side of the bridge is equipped with a pedestrian walkway. The bridge is adorned with statues of the patron saints of Verona, St. Zeno, and St. Helena. Throughout its history, Ponte Pietra has been damaged and repaired several times, including during World War II when it was destroyed by retreating German forces. It was later rebuilt in its original style and has become an important symbol of Verona's resilience and history.

Verona's history can be traced back to the ancient tribe of the Euganei, who settled in the area around the 4th century B.C. It became a Roman colony in the 3rd century B.C. During the Roman era, Verona became an important commercial and political center, and many of the city's most famous landmarks were built. Verona still boasts significant Roman remains, including the well-preserved Porta Borsari and Porta Leoni gates, the Arco dei Gavi arch, the Ponte Pietra bridge, and the iconic Roman Arena.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Verona was ruled by various Germanic tribes, including the Ostrogoths and the Lombards. Charlemagne eventually conquered the city in the 8th century, and it became part of the Holy Roman Empire. Verona's Middle Ages history is marked by its prominence as a center of trade and culture under the rule of powerful families like the Scaligeri and the Visconti. The Scaligeri family's

PIAZZA DELLE ERBE

Piazza delle Erbe is a lively and historic square in the heart of Verona, Italy. The square has been a hub of social and commercial activity in the city for over 2,000 years, dating back to its origins as a Roman forum. Piazza delle Erbe is surrounded by beautiful buildings, including the historic Maffei Palace and the Torre dei Lamberti, a medieval tower that offers stunning city views. The square is also home to the Fontana di Madonna Verona, a beautiful fountain that dates back to the 14th century. Throughout the centuries, Piazza delle Erbe has been a food, clothing, and other goods marketplace. Today, the square is still home to a thriving market that sells fresh fruits, vegetables, and other local products. Many cafes, restaurants, and shops are also located around the square.



Piazza delle Erbe

PONTE SCALIGERO, Ponte Scaligero also known as the Scaliger Bridge, was built in the 14th century by the ruling Scaliger family, who were lords of Verona at the time. The Ponte Scaligero has three arches, with the central arch being the largest and tallest. The bridge, constructed from red bricks, is adorned with merlons and crenellations atop its parapet walls. Two prominent towers, intended initially for defense, now serve as notable landmarks and popular tourist attractions, standing at either end of the bridge. The Ponte Scaligero is an important historical and cultural landmark often featured in postcards and travel guides. The bridge has survived several floods and wars over the centuries and has been restored and renovated several times to maintain its original beauty and functionality. Today, the Ponte Scaligero is closed to vehicular traffic and is only open to pedestrians and cyclists.



the medieval period. Among the distinguished individuals interred within the tombs is Cangrande della Scala, one of Verona's most prominent rulers.

A statue and street in Verona pay tribute to **Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour**, who served as the first prime minister of Italy following the country's unification. Born in Turin on August 10, 1810, Cavour was a politician and patriot who initially pursued a military career. However, he left the army in 1831 after being reprimanded for supporting the July Revolution in France.



THE ARCHE SCALIGERE

The Arche Scaligere,, also known as the Scaliger Tombs, is a group of Gothic funerary monuments built in the 14th century by Verona's ruling Scaliger family. The Arche Scaligere consists of five tombs adorned with intricate Gothic decorations and reliefs. The Scaliger Tombs, located in a small courtyard adjacent to the church of Santa Maria Antica, are renowned as exceptional examples of Gothic artistry in Italy. These elaborate funerary monuments were constructed as a homage to the illustrious Scaliger family, who wielded significant power and influence in Verona during



The Arche Scaligere



PORTA BORSARI

Porta Borsari is an ancient Roman gate built in the 1st century A.D. and was one of the main entrances to the city during Roman times. The gate was originally part of the city's defensive walls and later incorporated into the medieval walls surrounding Verona. The facade, crafted from white limestone, features two prominent arches. Above them, the two-story wall boasts twelve arched windows, adding to its architectural elegance. Porta Borsari's name derives from the fact that people used to have to pay taxes for their goods here. Porta Borsari was used as a prison in the Middle Ages and was later restored in the 19th century.

THE ARENA

The Arena is an iconic symbol of Verona and is the third-largest Roman amphitheater in Italy. Constructed with finely cut blocks of marble, the Arena is the most magnificent monument of Roman Verona, built in the first half of the 1st century A.D. and located at the heart of Piazza Bra. The elliptical shape of the amphitheater creates perfect acoustics from any vantage point and allows it to accommodate many spectators. In the summertime, it hosts concerts of contemporary music and the famous Verona Opera Festival, adding a new layer of cultural significance to this magnificent piece of history.



PIAZZA BRÀ

Piazza Brà, Verona's renowned square, houses landmarks and attracts locals and tourists. The square's cafes, restaurants, and shops provide a bustling atmosphere for shopping, dining, and people-watching. The Arena di Verona is a standout feature of the square. In addition, Piazza Brà houses other historic buildings, such as the neoclassical Palazzo Barbieri, Verona's town hall, and the Renaissance-style Gran Guardia, formerly used as a barracks.



Porta Borsari

PALAZZO BARBIERI

Palazzo Barbieri, also known as the Town Hall of Verona, is a neoclassical palace in Piazza Bra, that houses the city council. The palace was designed by Giuseppe Barbieri and built between 1836 and 1848. It was originally called Palazzo della Gran Guardia Nuova and housed Austrian Army staff. The palace's interiors feature a 1595 canvas by Felice Brusasorzi depicting the Veronese' victory over Benacensi in 829.

GRAN GUARDIA

This large palace was designed in the early 17th century by Domenico Curtoni, but work was not completed until the mid-19th century under Giuseppe Barbieri. The facade combines elements of two different historical periods—baroque and neoclassical—with a row of arches on the ground floor that mirror those of the Roman amphitheater on the opposite side of the square. Originally intended as a covered space for soldiers to train in inclement weather, the palace also served as temporary housing for the Austrian military during Italy's first struggle for independence in 1848. Palazzo della Gran Guardia is open to the public only for exhibitions or special events.



Gran Guardia



Palazzo Barbieri



CASA DI GIULIETTA

Casa di Giulietta, or Juliet's House, is a 14th-century building in Verona believed to have belonged to the Capello family, who were said to have inspired Shakespeare's famous play, "Romeo and Juliet." Nestled in the city's heart, close to Piazza delle Erbe and Piazza Bra, the house boasts a balcony that offers views of a quaint courtyard. Legend has it that this courtyard inspired the iconic balcony scene in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." Tourists and couples flock to the balcony to take pictures and leave love notes. Casa di Giulietta's museum exhibits artifacts and costumes related to Romeo and Juliet and the Capello family's history. Additionally, the courtyard boasts a bronze statue of Juliet that is believed to bring good luck to those who touch it.

THE CASTELVECCHIO MUSEUM

The Castelvecchio Museum was a medieval fortress constructed in the 14th century, which was later

transformed into a museum in the 1920s. The museum displays an eclectic collection of art and artifacts from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Notably, it boasts a significant



collection of Roman artifacts, comprising sculptures, mosaics, and various other items. Regarded as one of Italy's most comprehensive collections, it offers valuable insights into Verona's rich history and cultural heritage. Among its prized possessions is the Crucifix by Cimabue, a large wooden crucifix crafted by the renowned Italian painter and artist in the 13th century. Additionally, the collection features notable paintings by esteemed Italian Renaissance artists like Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese, and Jacopo Bellini.

THE BASILICA OF SAN ZENO

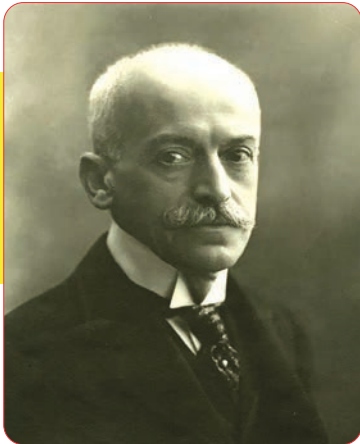
The Basilica of San Zeno is widely regarded as one of the most excellent examples of Romanesque architecture in Northern Italy. Its impressive façade, flanked by the tower of the early monastery (13th century) on the left and the slender bell tower (12th century) on the right, features a perfect architectural line and a harmonious color scheme. The decoration is both sober and graceful, showing the influence of Lombard-Emilian architecture in the Veneto region. The original core of the complex was the church and convent, which were constructed on a Roman and early Christian burial ground near the Via Gallica. The church and convent were built on the site where Saint Zeno had been buried, and over time, the complex was expanded and renovated to become the magnificent structure that stands today. The Basilica of San Zeno is celebrated for its rich collection of artistic and architectural marvels. Its treasures include

exquisite frescoes, sculptures, and a triptych altarpiece portraying the Virgin Mary and Child alongside Saint John the Baptist and Saint Peter. However, the renowned bronze doors, crafted masterfully by the esteemed Italian sculptor Maestro Nicolo, perhaps steal the spotlight. These doors depict biblical scenes such as the creation of Adam and Eve, the tale of Noah's Ark, and the Last Judgment.



PER TUA
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(FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

BY JOE SANO



THE PIRELLI STORY... MORE THAN A TIRE

Since 1872, the Pirelli corporation has had many different faces but has always based its existence on its people pushing the quality, innovation and internationalization of products. The Pirelli story is truly one of brilliant ideas transformed by designers, engineers, and tech teams into useful everyday objects.

As a 12-year-old fighting with Garibaldi's Red Shirts, the future was confusing at best. Yet Giovanni Battista Pirelli survived the revolution and took his recently earned college degree and started a limited partnership company in Milan that was focused on making elastic rubber items. One such product was rubber bands for carriage wheels and then bicycle tires. However, his early interest in rubber coatings for undersea telegraph cables gave the fledgling company government contracts which supported its survival and expansion.

From its inception with the 1901 "Ercole" tire, Pirelli diversified its product offerings over the years. It ventured into manufacturing bicycle tires and expanded further into producing waterproof garments, utilizing innovations like Lastex, a waterproof yarn. Pirelli also delved into the production of foam rubber for furniture and mattresses, as well as skin diving suits and equipment, catering to various consumer needs beyond just automotive. Additionally, Pirelli developed embossed rubber flooring used on train platforms, providing durability and safety in public spaces. One of its iconic contributions to sports was the creation of the all-weather, long-lasting rubberized "palla da calcio" (football/soccer ball), which revolutionized the sport, enhancing performance and durability in all playing conditions.

By the early 1900s, the company's production of car tires matched the growth of the auto industry. The



Pirelli Group matched that growth with expansion into Barcelona, Spain, Southampton, England, Manresa, Spain, and Burton on Trent, England. By 1907, the "Group" was committed to auto racing with a Pirelli clad car winning the inaugural Grand Prix of France.

The Superflex Stella Bianca, a reinforced tread sport tire, became one of the most honored and safest tires made.

By 1922, Societa Italiana Pirelli (Gruppo Pirelli) became the official industrial name of the first Italian Company to be traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Soon after, the Pirelli expansion into South America began with its first production facility in Brazil, followed by another plant in Santo Andre and the Merlo factory in Argentina in 1955. These new plants joined with the others to produce the Cinturato - the first steel belted radial. Again, Pirelli coupled international expansion with innovative products. Plants were opened in Greece, Turkey and the German tire maker, GummiWerke AG was

acquired. They continued to dominate the industry by the development of the “low profile” car tire - the Cinturato P6, P7 (1st high performance “green tire”)

“Adess ghe capissarem on quaicoss, andemm a guardagh denter” (Now we will figure it out and let us go to the center/inside.) was often cited as the battle cry for Pirelli engineers like Luigi Emanueli. He led the innovative team that created the Cinturato (radial-belted) tire. It was, however, Emanueli’s patent for an oil-filled cable for transmitting high voltage energy that gave him the nod as the “Father of Modern Electrical Engineering” and once again demonstrated the ingenuity of Pirelli’s brain trust and their skill at numerous technologies that were financially successful.

Throughout its history, Pirelli was known for its involvement in both state-of-the-art products, art and sport. Pirelli ads were sharp, innovative and evoked the freedom of the open road. Often utilizing art deco techniques and vibrant colors to catch the viewers’ eyes.

The 1980s ushered in their newest innovation- radial motorcycle tires again coupled with the acquisition of Kaotsuck AG in Germany and the Armstrong Tire company in the USA.

The 1990s were not financially kind. A failed attempt to acquire Continental Tires AG caused Pirelli to again reorganize structurally. By the mid-1990s, they turned to their proven formula of acquiring competitors with the purchase of the Egyptian Alexandria Tire Company SAE which grew their corporate share of the bus and truck tire market.

By 2000, Pirelli became more focused on the tire business and sold off its optical companies to Corning Glass and their computer phone switch business to Cisco. Now armed with \$5 billion in cash, the focus on **Modular Integrated Robotized System (MIRS)** technology began. This innovative system, joined with their research into new rubber compounds, pushed them into a joint venture with Continental AG to produce steel corded tires in Romania.

Soon the company sold its “Cavi e Sistemi Energia e Telecomunicazioni” business to Goldman Sachs, the American financial group. Those funds helped Pirelli to now both manufacture and sell their products in China.

The world of professional sports has always been part of the Pirelli culture. They were the long-time sponsor of the Italian football club-Inter Milan.

Pirelli Stadium, adjacent to their English factory, is home for the English Burton Albion Football Club. Of course, they are sponsors of many motor sport events throughout the world. They also sponsor the Italian and Swiss ski teams.

2010 welcomed the Pirelli Company’s further exit from telecommunications and real estate and a total focus on tires and Italian manufacturing heritage. The



Pirelli Foundation was created to “safeguard, protect and enhance” Pirelli’s historic heritage as well as promoting Italian entrepreneurial culture as part of their extensive holdings throughout the globe. That year also marked Pirelli’s return to Formula 1 racing after a 19-year absence.

By 2011, it had become the exclusive tire supplier to the Formula 1 participants as well as standard equipment on Ferrari, Lamborghini and most BMW vehicles. During this period, the company was also named the exclusive tire supplier to the Superbike World Motorcycle championship.

Internationalization of production and sales continued with plants being opened or acquired in Russia and Mexico but not the USA.

In 2015, Pirelli announced that it was accepting a \$7.8 billion purchase offer from a financial conglomerate including ChemChina (37%), CamFin (a hedge fund controlled by Pirelli’s CEO Marco Tronchetti Provera & others (14%) and other financial partners. By 2017, up to 40% of the company’s common stock was offered to the public on the Milan exchange.

In 2021, SinoChem (a Chinese state-owned company) absorbed ChemChina and all of its investments like Pirelli.

In June of 2023, the Italian government issued a ruling that only CamFin, as an Italian financial group, could nominate candidates for Pirelli CEO. The government went on record stating that they would also scrutinize any changes to the Pirelli directorships since the corporate governance and the future of Pirelli was strategically important to the Italian nation.

The Pirelli Group has survived financial distress as well as years of great growth and success, all while focusing on the auto tire as the backbone of their multi-faceted quality product line. The Italian government is closely watching its evolution to a non-Italian controlled company. The future of Pirelli will soon unfold.

CARING & SHARING

May Birthdays

Joseph Allegretti
 Theresa Andriano
 Gabrielle Calabrese
 James Cataldo
 John Chiaramonte
 Patricia Corsi
 John Derboghossian
 Mykel Dorsey
 Susan Dratler
 Charles Ferrara
 Michelina Forte
 Frances Franke
 Joseph Frasca
 Brenda Gausby

Patricia Gorman
 Nancy Grace
 Jeffrey Haines
 Robert Haskins
 Dennis Ippoliti, Jr.
 Teresa Ippoliti
 Marc Kent
 Tessa Kent
 Craig Knack
 Kim Lombardo
 Rosemary McHugh
 Joe Mirabile
 Maria Moffa
 Michael Nardolillo, III

Marilyn Quadrini
 Guido Quattrocchi
 Maria Quattrocchi
 Kimberly Rauh
 Virginia Rubey
 William Rucinski
 Nicholas Saccone
 Lynn Venditti
 Heather Virga
 Nancy Zeoli

Love is in the Air



CONDOLENCES

Paul Brawn

Condolences to Nancy and Jim Sano on the passing of their brother-in-law, Paul Brawn, and to Kathryn and Michele Sano on the loss of their uncle.



WELCOME new members



Guido & Maria Quattrocchi
 Michael & Janel Kaczor
 John & Mary Ellen Macri
 Joanne Stinzianni
 Kevin Shultes

Armando & Denise Valdes
 Keiki-Michael & Robin Cabanos
 Ann Marie Olson
 Antonio Del Pozzo
 Nicholas Saccone

Congratulations to Jordan Rose Mallette, who has been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Jordan is an eighth grader at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland. Her very proud grandparents are members, Gail and Angelo Tarantino.



Italian Style Meatloaf

This is an Italian twist on a hometown favorite. Italian Style Meatloaf is just a giant meatball packed with familiar flavors. This recipe uses ground beef and ground pork. The pork adds extra flavor and moisture to it. I have seen some people use ground sausage instead of pork, but I like the pork better.

This recipe is large enough for a Sunday dinner; however, you can cut it in half if you like. I always make the full recipe because meatloaf always makes great leftovers.



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mince the onion. Add the butter to a small sauté pan on medium heat and fry the onions until they are caramelized about 4 minutes. Set them aside.
2. In a bowl, add the eggs, granulated garlic, oregano, parsley, salt, and pepper and beat until thoroughly combined.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground beef, ground pork, parmesan cheese, breadcrumbs, caramelized onions, and egg mixture and mix until completely blended.
4. Add the meat mixture to a baking dish, shaping it into a loaf. Add the crushed tomatoes, completely covering the meatloaf. Sprinkle a generous amount of parmesan cheese on top.
5. Bake in the oven at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes to an hour.

Let it set for about 10 minutes, then cut it and serve with mashed potatoes and green peas.

Enjoy.



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

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES | COOK TIME: 1 HOUR (APPROX.)

INGREDIENTS

- ½ lbs. of ground beef (93% is best)
- 1 ½ lbs. of ground pork
- One medium-sized onion
- Three eggs
- ½ cup of breadcrumbs
- ¼ cup of grated parmesan cheese (more for sprinkling on the meatloaf)
- 12 oz of crushed tomatoes or your favorite marinara sauce.
- Two tablespoons of butter
- One teaspoon of granulated garlic
- One teaspoon of dried oregano
- One tablespoon of dried parsley
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- ¼ teaspoon of black pepper

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