



NEWS & EVENTS

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SOCIAL CALENDAR











03/03 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm 03/06 ~ Sunday Brunch 03/09 ~ Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm 03/10 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm 03/13 ~ Saint Patrick - Saint Joseph Mass and Brunch - Noon 03/16 ~ I. A.C.C. Board Meeting - 6:30 pm 03/17 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm 03/21 ~ Intermediate Italian Language Classes - 7:00 pm

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 $03/24 \sim Chair Yoga - 6:00 \ pm$

Upcoming Events:

04/09 Experience Little Italy: Arthur Ave Bus Trip - 8:00 am 04/29 ~ Members' Cocktail Party 05/27 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion (Opening Night) Member Exclusive: Pool Pre-Opening Party & BBQ The Mother/Daughter Luncheon & Fashion Show 06/12 ~ St. Anthony's Mass & Luncheon 08/13 ~ Ferragosto (Member Picnic) Best of The Bronx: Yankees Game & Arthur Ave Bus Trip



President's Message



With February in the rearview mirror, we look back at several events including a great Super Bowl Party. This year's Super Bowl was a huge success with over 100 in attendance; it felt like old times. We also saw the return of our Sunday brunch and our member cocktail party. I must say the Sheas outdid themselves with great food and drinks that made both events truly outstanding. It was nice seeing so many members together again, in person.

Looking ahead, spring is almost here and, as is customary, we welcome it with great events and activities for all club members. On **March 13th**, the Foundation will hold its annual St. Patrick/St. Joseph Mass and Brunch with celebrant Father Anthony Chiaramonte. On **March 21st**, our 8-week Intermediate Italian Class starts. If you are interested in taking the class, contact the membership office or visit our website to reserve your spot. An elementary level knowledge of Italian is required.

On **April 9th**, we will make our annual pilgrimage to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx to shop for great Italian delicacies. There are still a few seats available, but don't wait, the bus fills up quickly. Call the membership office to reserve your seat.

Information on these events and programs are available in the newsletter and on our website. I invite you to participate in as many of these great events as possible.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, it's not too late. We are accepting payments through March 15th without a penalty. The nice weather is coming and you won't want to miss summer at the Club.

I hope to see you all soon.

Ciao,

FRANK ZEOLI ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



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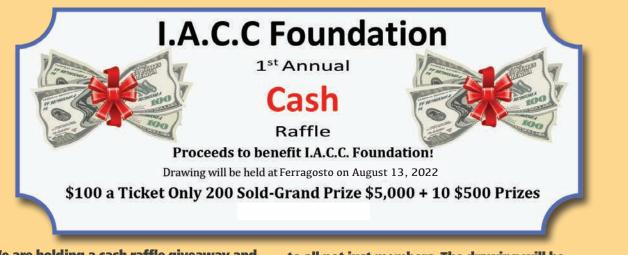
POOL~ JIM SANO FINANCE~ PETE SCAVULLO MEMBERSHIP~ SHARON PATREI BY-LAWS/POLICIES & PROCEDURE ~ JIM SANO HOUSE~ DAVID QUADRINI GRIEVANCE ~ JEANNE SACCA Social Activities~ Frank Zeoli Women's League~ Georgeann Greene Columbus Day Gala~ Frank Zeoli,

SIAMO QUI

EDITOR ~ JOAN WALLIS Creative Director ~ Catalina Arango Advertising ~ Maria Marchio

IACC OFFICE

HOURS: M-F 9:30AM TO 2:30PM **Theresa Lajoy- Office Manager** Phone # (518) 456-4222 Email: Iaccoffice@Italianamerican.com



We are holding a cash raffle giveaway and your odds of winning are great! We are only selling 200 tickets for \$100 each. Go in partners with friends and family or buy them as gifts. The tickets will be available at the Monday Night Buffet as well as by calling the office at 518-456-4222. The raffle is open to all not just members. The drawing will be held at our annual Ferragosto celebration on August 13, so come to Ferragosto, party and go home with some cash!

This course is great for people wanting to reclaim healthy movement, build strength and joint mobility, and regain your best body regardless of your age and fitness level!



This class is enjoyed by so many and is returning for an 8-week spring session on **Thursday nights at 6:00 pm beginning March 3rd**. The class will be 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.

We will maintain social distance and masks will be required.

The price for 8 weeks is \$50.00

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!





Thank you to all who came out to celebrate the Super Bowl with us. Thank you to 2 Shea for a fabulous buffet and to all the volunteers that help to make this a special event every year.

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

St. Patrick & St. Joseph's Mass & Brunch



SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

MASS AT 12:00 NOON BRUNCH SERVED AFTER MASS COST: \$35.00 (MEMBERS) \$40.00 (NON-MEMBERS)

MASS CELEBRANT: FATHER ANTHONY CHIARAMONTE

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER 257 WASHINGTON AVENUE EXT, ALBANY RESERVATIONS REQUIRED VISIT WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM OR CALL 518-456-4222

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SIAMO QUI NEWSLETTER



There are five islands in the Ligurian Sea that are either protected nature reserves or part of the Italian national parks. Three islands, Palmaria, Tino, and Tinetto, make up the Spezia archipelago (UNESCO World Heritage Sites); the other two islands are Bergeggi

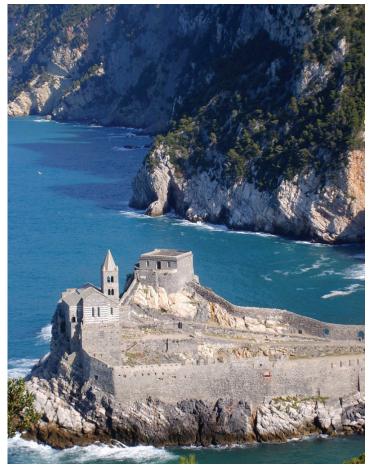


and Gallinara. The Ligurian Islands are characterized by their small size and their vicinity to the coast. These islands share two standard features, their wellpreserved Mediterranean vegetation with rare surviving species and the presence of ruined abbeys and monasteries dating back to the late Roman times.

Island of Palmaria

Palmaria Island is the largest and the most popular island in the Spezia Archipelago, and every year, thousands of tourists choose to visit its beautiful, uncontaminated beaches and crystalline waters. Palmaria is located in front of the beautiful village of Portovenere where they are separated by a narrow, shallow strait. Twice a year, this crowded channel is closed to boat traffic by the Port Authority, allowing bathers to cross the channel safely.

Palmaria Island takes its name from the term "Balma," meaning cave. The island offers many



Island of Palmaria



Blue Cave and Marble Caves

different landscapes: the eastern part is densely covered with Mediterranean scrub, and the western side is characterized by steep sea cliffs.

The island also presents many exciting and spectacular sights, such as the Grotta Azzurra (Blue Cave) on the western side, which can be reached only by boat, and the Grotta dei Colombi (Cave of Pigeons) accessible only by coming down with climbing ropes. The caves have proven to be of great historical importance after the fossilized bones of animals, including chamois, and the remains of human burials dating back to the Pleistocene period were discovered, proving the island was populated at least 5,000 years ago by humans.



Another important site is an abandoned quarry situated in the southern part of the island called Pozzale, which was used for the mining of Portoro marble, black marble with gold streaks.

The island has a handful of houses and even a restaurant, with little human habitation. At the top of the island sits a 19th-century Savoy-built military fortification, which has now been refurbished and houses a marine and environmental education center.





Tino Island

Island of Tino

Further east of Palmaria is the island of Tino, characterized by lush Mediterranean vegetation of maritime pines, oaks, myrtles, mastics, and strawberry trees. Among this fragrant blanket of green lives euleptes, Europe's smallest reptile and a monotypic genus of gecko. The island is owned by the Navy, which operates a lighthouse that guides thousands of boats, ships, and vessels. Therefore, Tino is a military area inaccessible to visitors, except for September 13th, San Venerio's Day. San Venerio is the gulf's patron saint; he was a hermit who lived on the island in the tenth century. Legend tells us that St. Venerio would light bonfires on the island's summit to warn ships of its location, and because of this, in 1961, he was also made the patron saint of Italian lighthouse keepers. On San Venerio's Day, tourists can visit the island and examine the ruins dating back to the Roman Age along with the ruins of an 11th-century monastery.

Island of Tinetto

The island of Tinetto is the smallest one in the Spezia Archipelago and is separated from Tino by just a few submerged rocks. Experts called the island of Tinetto "La Lama di La Spezia" ("The blade of La Spezia") because of its emerging Triassic carbonate rocks. The area has a circumference of only 300 meters and does not exceed 55 feet in height. Tinetto is little more than a large rock jutting out above the waves. Yet this rock has such uniqueness in natural and historical terms that it can be considered one of the most important places in the La Spezia Gulf.

Tinetto had the first monastic settlement constructed in the 6th century. After the Saracens destroyed it, the monastery moved to the island of Tino. On the southern side, a small oratory remains intact, along with a church that can still be viewed today.

One of the smallest and exclusive inhabitants of Tinetto Island is called Podarcis muralis tinettoi (common wall lizard of Tinetto), a subspecies of the most common wall lizard that diversified from the other one probably 8-9 thousand years ago. The world's



Tinetto Island



Stella Maris

population of this kind of lizard is estimated at only 200, living only on Tinetto.

The Stella Maris, located in front of Tino Island, is a Virgin Mary statue with folded hands towards the open sea. The statue's primary function is to signal mariners to avoid the dangerous Scogio do Diao (the Devil's Rock in the local language). It is on this rock that rests the base of the statue.

Island of Bergeggi

The little island of Bergeggi is a 53-meter-high cornetshaped limestone rock in the province of Savona, just 250 meters from the shore of the town that shares its name. It is part of a regional protected marine area for the important biological species in its seabeds. In all areas, it is strictly forbidden to do any activity that might disturb the animal and plant life, such as bathing, navigation, anchorage, mooring, water motors, water skiing, underwater fishing or aquaculture. The seas around Bergeggi are the perfect habitat for anyone wanting to see sea perch, lobsters, and the monstrous-looking angler fish. The pink coral-colored coralline seaweed grows in



Bergeggi Island

abundance, as does the seagrass, Posidonia Oceanica, creating great underwater meadows. The vast array of vegetation isn't confined to just the seabed as the island is prolifically covered, making it ideal for your inner botanist. Exciting plant species can be found here, like euphorbia arborea and campanula sabatia, a rare Italian bell-shaped flowering plant that has since been classified as vulnerable on the ICUN Red List of Threatened Species. Due to the diversity of flora, the island, which is part of the Regional Nature Reserve, is protected under a national preservation program.

The island has several signs which prove human settlement occurred on the island during the Roman age. One can find a very ancient circular sighting tower and the ruins of a Roman church dedicated to St. Eugenio, dating back to the fourth century. In 992, the bishop of Savona ordered the construction of a monastery on the island to pay homage to St. Eugenio. It was gifted to the Colombian monks of Lérins. Today, the ruins of the monastery remain intact. During the Middle Ages, another sighting tower was built on the ruins of the Roman one. Recently, a private villa was built on the island, but now it is empty and abandoned.

On the western part of the island, a pifferaio (Pied piper), a metal statue representing a sitting human figure playing a wind instrument, can be seen. The statue depicts a shepherd calling a little goat from the cape's gardens in Torre del mare.

Island of Gallinara

Located a kilometer from the coast of the town of Albenga is the oddly hump-shaped island of Gallinara and its nature reserve. The island of Gallinara takes its name from the wild hens (Gallina = hen in Italian) which once lived there. The island has a surface of 0.23 sq. miles. It is a small Island that sheltered St. Martin of Tours between 356 and 360, when he was escaping from Milan to avoid the Aryan persecutions. It became a monastic community where the first order of Saint



Gallinara Island

Columbanus was formed to honor the Irish missionary and, subsequently, was inhabited by the Benedictines. The monastery extended its influence into the Riviera di Ponente in the 11th century, but the abbey gradually fell into decay during the 13th and 14th centuries. Today, the island preserves the monastery ruins, the 16th-century tower, and the little neo-gothic church.

The Herring Gulls chose this wonderful place to nest without being disturbed, creating one of the largest colonies in the northern Tyrrhenian Sea. The less steep northern coast used to be a landing place for the Roman ships, whose important finds are safeguarded in the Albenga Museum. The sea environment of the island is still in great measure unspoiled. The island's southern and eastern sides consist of sheer cliffs that house various sea birds like cormorants, petrel, and the largest European population of yellow-legged gulls. The waters around the cliffs are a popular destination with divers exploring the ancient relics from the wrecked ships dating back to the 5th century. Punta Falconara is popular with divers due to the giant statue of Christ beneath the blue waters. With depths of up to 30 meters, Punta Sciusciau allows divers to get up close to octopus, scorpionfish, and if they are brave enough, moray eels. If scuba diving is not your thing, Gallinara is an ideal island for walkers, with over 10 kilometers of paths crisscrossing its terrain.

The Scoglio Ferale is a small rocky island that rises from the Ligurian Sea about 170 meters from the Riviera di Levante. At the top of this island is a large marble cross, which replaced an older cross made of iron, thus Scoglio Ferale (Iron Rock). The island is the only surviving island of a series of rocks removed by Cinque Terre to fill the Pisa-La Spezia-Genoa railway line route.



Scoglio Ferale



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE AT SEBASTIANLIVE.COM

DINNERS TO GO

Date: Every Thursday Night In March Time: Between 4:00pm to 6:00pm Place: Italian American Community Center Reservations Are Required by Wednesday Please Call (518) 456-4222 Or

Email: Julia@2Sheacatering.com

March 17th Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Corleone Sautéed Chicken With Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach and Roasted Garlic Sauce Accompanied by Vegetable & Starch

Vegetarian Stuffed Pepper Encrusted Vegetable Stuffing, Sautéed Vegetable Medley Accompanied by Brown Rice



March 31st

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Grilled Pork Tenderloin Cinnamon Apple Demi Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese



March 3rd

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Sole Française Egg Battered Sole, Sautéed in Lemon, Butter and White Wine Sauce

Orecchiette Pasta Sweet Sausage, Caramelized Onions, Roasted Chicken, & Ricotta Cream Sauce

March 10th

Tossed Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Mediterranean

Boneless Chicken Breast Smothered in Tomatoes, Black Olives, Capers, Fresh Garlic, Oregano, & Fresh Basil Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Rosemary Roasted Pork Loin Boneless Pork Loin, Oven Roasted Vintage, Port Reduction Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch





March 24th Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Piccata Pan-Seared and Finished with Lemon & Capers Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

> Mushroom Ravioli Pesto Cream Sauce



DINNERS TO GO All Dinners Feed Up to 4 \$45 per Order + 8% Sales Tax



WOMEN'S LEAGUE

H^{ello ladies,}

Wow, the weather has been very crazy this month, cold, warm and cold again!! I hope everyone had a great Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day. Soon the Ides of March will be upon us, along with St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day, which means spring is just around the corner.

There wasn't a meeting in February, however the officers did meet and planned dinner menus along with speakers/activities for the rest of the year. We will resume our monthly meetings on March 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm. In addition to our dinner, we will discuss providing support to the Ronald McDonald House in Albany, including cooking dinners and volunteering for their June 30th Gala. Dinner choices will be Corned Beef and Cabbage or Eggplant Rollatini, mixed greens salad and a brownie sundae for dessert. The cost will be \$27 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting Jackie Brilling at (518) 339-9290 or at brillingj@gmail. com. The cancellation policy remains in effect. Please remember that all reservations/cancellations need to be in no later than Monday, March 7th.



There are still IACC Foundation Cash Raffle tickets for sale. The drawing will be held at Ferragosto. Tickets are \$100 (only 200 tickets will be sold). The Grand Prize is \$5,000 and 10 people will receive \$500 each. I can't wait to see who the winners will be!! Good luck to all who purchased tickets!!

Can't wait to see you all. It's time to come out of hibernation!!

Georgeann Greene PRESIDENT





A s a kid, one of my favorite dishes was macaroni and cheese. I am not going to lie, like most kids of my generation, I enjoyed Kraft Macaroni and Cheese from a box. There was always something great about powdered cheese mixed with milk and butter. However, when my grandmother heard that I was eating macaroni and cheese from a box she was mortified and would insist on making me her macaroni and cheese "Grandma Style".

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. of elbow macaroni
- 2 cups of shredded orange cheddar cheese
- 1 to 1 ¹/₂ lbs. of Velveeta cheese
- 1-(15oz) can of tomato sauce
- 4oz (1 stick) of butter
- 1 cup of milk
- ¹/₂ teaspoons of granulated garlic
- Salt and pepper

Mangia Bene, Viva Bene

Prep Time: 20 Minutes | Cook Time: 45 Minutes Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

2. Boil water in a sauce pot, add the elbow macaroni and cook until soft. Drain the macaroni and transfer to a large mixing bowl. Do not rinse the macaroni.

3. To the elbows add the shredded cheddar, the Velveeta cheese and the butter. Mix thoroughly until all of the cheese and butter melts onto the pasta.

4. Add the tomato sauce, garlic, salt, pepper and ½ cup of milk. Mix everything together.

5. Transfer the mixture to a large baking dish. Add the remainder of the milk to the top of the mac and cheese mixture. Place in the oven.

6. Bake for 45 minutes or until the top is golden brown.

7. Serve hot.

Look for more recipes in the next edition of the ${\bf SIAMO}~{\bf QUI}$



EXPERIENCE NEW YORK CITY'S "REAL LITTLE ITALY" Join Us On Our Annual Bus Trip To Arthur Avenue!

4/9/22

<u>Cost:</u> \$40 I.A.C.C. Members / \$45 Non-Members
<u>Location:</u> The Italian American Community Center ~ Parking Lot (257 Washington Avenue Ext, Albany, NY 12205)
<u>Time:</u> 8:45 am (Depart From Albany) / 4:00pm (Depart From NYC)
<u>RSVP:</u> Call the Membership Office at (518) 456-4222



PER TUA INFORMAZIONE (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

ITALIANS IN KILTS P

ENGLAND

By JOE SANO

Part 1 of 3

You read that correctly. Is there a connection between Scotland and Italy?

It is often thought that Italian immigration to Scotland was a relatively recent phenomenon dating back to the late 19th century. However, Italians have been coming to Scotland for over two thousand years.

Seeking to expand their empire, Roman soldiers arrived in Caledonia (Scotland). From their base in Britannia, the soldiers ventured into the highlands but soon determined that a barrier between Britannia and Caledonia was a better idea than continuing raids into what we now call Scotland. By 154 AD, the Romans completed Hadrian's Wall, which historically became the Scottish border. The Roman legions attempted to push further North beyond the wall from time to time but soon abandoned their raids. As a tribute to the ferocity of the native people, the conquerors remained down south in Britannia until the complete collapse of the Romano-British society in the early years of fifth century.

While some Italian Scots are immigrants coming directly from Italy, most are of mixed Scottish-Italian heritage. Many trace their ancestry back to the 1890s when many Italians flocked to the highlands to escape the poverty afflicting their homeland as Italy slowly emerged as a unified nation.

Italy in the mid-19th century was not the ultimate holiday destination it is today and had many characteristics of a struggling developing country born out of bloodshed.

The Unification of Italy saw many substantial rebellions and insurrections, ultimately resulting in the feudal land system breakdown. This Italian unification left many poor people without any land. The incredible



poverty, violence, failures of harvests, famine, political and social upheaval forced many young, impoverished Italians to emigrate in search of work to support their families.

This period triggered an enormous wave of Italian migration to North America. Regrettably, many unscrupulous shipping agents took their Italian passengers to the Northeast of England, telling them it was New York City, and promptly departed before the migrants realized they had been conned. With no money to complete their passage to the United States and the wariness of being duped again, they had no choice but to stay and try and make a better life in Britain and Scotland.

Notably, the small Tuscan Alps village of Barga yielded nearly 500 migrants to Paisley, Scotland. Working as laborers to expand British rail service into Scotland, the long hours and little pay were still better than their conditions in Italy.



UNITED KINGDOM MAP





The Royal Scots Borderers in Barga





Scotland had a rather large Roman Catholic practicing population which appealed to the many Italian Catholics. The Italo-Scots did not suffer the level of discrimination and outright bigotry expressed against Irish Catholics. The Italians could not be accused of taking Scottish jobs because they took jobs no one else wanted, or they developed and worked in family businesses. This wave of Italian immigration to Scotland was also bolstered by Catholic emancipation in the 19th century. The strict Anglican Church rules were relaxed, and Catholics were again allowed to build churches in the UK. As a result, a renaissance of Italian artisans arrived to practice the specialist trades needed. Many of these craftspeople stayed and beckoned their families to join them.

The 1881 census recorded only 328 people in Scotland who had been born in Italy. At the start of the First World War, Italians in Scotland numbered around 5500. So skilled tradesmen, manual laborers, and many working in family businesses such as ice cream parlors/ food carts, barbershops, and fish 'n' chip cafes were beginning to make their mark on Scottish culture.

It often seemed that entire villages from Italy moved to Scotland with one of the most famous being the previously mentioned Barga in the province of Lucca in Tuscany. It is known as the "most Scottish town in Italy." It is estimated that 50% of its inhabitants have Scottish relatives.

The migration model often led people going to Scotland to join a network of friends and family. It was CHE CROUCHTON CONFER ONERY OUT REPRESEMENT SALADO

perhaps the best example of the phenomenon where Italians came in groups from particular towns and villages rather than mass emigration. However, they remained in a close-knit, almost cloistered existence when they arrived. Family groups ate together, and Italians had a reputation for keeping it to themselves. Intermarriages with other religions and nationalities rarely took place.

The Italo-Scots began to flourish, and they soon introduced two foods (of course) that were familiar to them but were looked upon as luxuries by the Scots. The rest is history and the subject of our next installment- **Italians In Kilts? -Gelato and Pesce e Patate.**

* PAVILION RENTAL *



Book The Pavilion For Birthdays, Family reunions, Corporate events!

\$250 - MEMBERS \$400 - NON- MEMBERS CALL THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE AT 518-456-4222







Intermediate Italian Spring 2022

Learn the world's most beautiful, romantic, and musical language this spring!

This 8 week class focuses on improving your conversational skills by utilizing both familiar and new phrases and vocabulary. An elementary level knowledge of Italian is required.

Classes Start: March 21, 2022

Class Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$75 I.A.C.C Members / \$85 Non-Members (Plus \$10 for Materials)

Location: The Italian American Community Center ~ 2nd Floor 257 Washington Avenue Ext, Albany, NY 12205

Register: Call (518) 456-4222 - OR -Visit: www.IACCFoundationAlbany.org

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED REGISTER TODAY!

CARING & SHARING

March Birthdays

- Joanne Altieri-Marchese
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- Michael Bucci
- Thomas Burns
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- Lisbeth Calandrino
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- Doreen Grosso
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The Italian American Community Center, founded in 1971, is an organization dedicated to serving anyone and everyone who love all things Italian!

As a member of The I.A.C.C., you receive exclusive access to a wide variety of events and activities, special discounts and promotional opportunities, along with the most up to date news about the Italian American culture and community.

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