December 2014 and January 2015

Issue 493

General Membership Meeting

n Sunday, November 16, before the General Membership meeting, attendees enjoyed a simple pasta dinner. All three Board candidates were voted in by the secretary: Victor Consiglio, Richard

Ognibene, and Joan Wallis. The By-Law changes were also approved.

Jim Sano was elected President. Cain Marion Scalzo will be our new Vice President. Joan Wallis was elected Treasurer. The new Board and officers will begin their term in January. There were no nominations for

Therefore, it was decided to postpone this vote until the January Board meeting.

There are still three openings on the Board.
The new President, Jim Sano, may begin appointing IACC members. If your

situation has recently changed and you are now available to be a member of the Board, please contact Jim Sano at your earliest convenience.









PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



y term as President of the IACC board concludes on December 31st. However, I will remain on the Board of Directors for an additional year, as Past President, in order to assist in the transition of the newly elected officers.

As President over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working with outstanding, dedicated Board members who

have devoted so much of their time and energy in supporting the mission of the IACC.

In addition to the Board members, there are so many members who make our club what it is today. Those members have contributed a great deal of time and effort in planning and participating in the many events the club has sponsored. I am honored to have served as President of such an amazing club that celebrates Italian Heritage. Many thanks to each and every one of you.

I would like to congratulate our new Board members: Victor Consiglio, Richard Ognibene, and Joan Wallis and our new officers for 2015: President — Jim Sano, Vice-President — Cain Marion Scalzo, and Treasurer — Joan Wallis.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Angelo Tarantino, President

December/January Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday

December 3, Wednesday December 10, Wednesday December 14, Sunday December 17, Wednesday January 8, Thursday January 21, Wednesday Italian Grand Buffet
Open Bowling, 6:30 P.M.
Foundation Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Women's League Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Family Christmas Party, Noon
Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Foundation Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

Save the Date

February 1, Sunday February 21, Saturday March 15, Sunday May 3, Sunday Super Bowl Game and Buffet Dinner Dance St. Patrick/St. Joseph Mass/Brunch Mother/Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show

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IACC OFFICE

Linda Sciocchetti, Office Manager Monday—Friday 9:30 A.M.—2:30 P.M. 518-456-4222 • Fax: 518-456-0338 IACCOffice@italianamerican.com

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 FRANK ZEOLI (IACC REP)
 463-2106

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

Page 2 Siamo Qui



Hosted by the Women's League







IACC Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

\$23 Adults (13 or older)
Free for Children (12 and younger)

Adults: Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Includes: Mixed Green Salad, Family-Style Pasta
and Vegetable, Rolls and Butter,
Cassata Cake, Soda, Coffee and Tea

Children: Chicken Fingers and Fries Ice Cream with Chocolate Syrup,
Juice and Soda

Enjoy music with our DJ, Crafts, Games, Prizes, Raffles, a visit from Santa Claus, a performance from our Italian Dancers, and more!



IACC Bowling

By Maria Marchio

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

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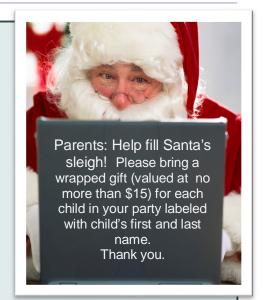
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Each family is encouraged to bring one new, un-wrapped toy to donate to the Marines' Toys for Tots Foundation on behalf of the IACC.











Please make reservations by December 9th. Any cancellations must be received by December 11th.

RSVP: number attending (# children, # adults), children's ages and gender, dinner selections and contact phone number to the office at 456-4222 or iaccoffice@italianamerican.com, or Mary Lou Marando at 482-8276.

If you wish to pay with a credit card, please call the IACC Office, 456-4222. Write checks payable to IACC Women's League and mail to:

IACC Family Christmas Party 257 Washington Ave Extension Albany, NY 12205















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your needs. Call us at 518-381-8818



HOLIDAY GIFT BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Submitted by Rachel Cameron

Strega Nona's Gift by Tomie de Paola is a beautifully illustrated children's book, that tells of food, customs, and the legend of the Christmas season in Calabria. It is available at Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

The Reluctant Tuscan: How I discovered My Inner Italian by Phil Doran is a very humorous adult-level book about a loving wife who purchases a 300 year-old fixer-upper farmhouse in Tuscany as a surprise for her husband. It is available at amazon.com.

She Speaks in Sauce by Michele Lattanzio Wilber is a a critically acclaimed cookbook collection of keepsake stories and family recipes from Abruzzo that is filled with fantastic, luminous photography. It will be available for purchase at a book signing reception at Treviso Restaurant on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 PM.



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Page 4 Siamo Qui

IACC Foundation News by George Urciuoli

t is with great pride that the Italian American Community Center Foundation, recently made a \$4,000 donation to the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical

Donated by the

Italian American

Community Center Foundation

2014

Center. The Children's Hospital has purchased a Roland digital piano for use by the children at the facility who are

being treated for a variety of physical and mental impairments. The Roland digital piano had been on their wish list for a long time. Purchase had to be delayed, due to construction of the new children's recovery room. This donation was made

possible by the 2012 David Righeschi Concert. There will be a special presentation of the gift,

shortly
after the
holidays
when we
can all
celebrate
this

extraordinary achievement.

A very special thanks for the amazing efforts and hard work of

the David Righeschi Concert Committee: Rosanna Aiuppa (past Foundation President), Rachel Cameron, Mary Jean (MJ) Knowles, Virginia Rest, and many others.

As the 2014 year comes to an end, as well as my term as president, I want to take a minute to thank the Foundation Board for their dedication and time this past year. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as your President. A special thanks to Angelo Tarantino and Frank Zeoli who have served on the Foundation Board as sitting president and vice-president of the IACC Board. Since their term on the IACC Board will be ending, they will be replaced by the new IACC President and Vice-President to serve on the Foundation Board.

I am very pleased to announce two new Foundation Board members: Ann Marie Lizzi and Jacquie Fontaine. Ann Marie Lizzi, Owner and Production Manager of Majestic Media Group LLC, is a television/film and media creative services professional. She is a New York State Emmy award-winning Producer, as well as a nationally-recognized award-winning

producer, director, copywriter, and editor. Ann Marie has been a member of the IACC for over fifteen years and has served on the IACC Board.

Jacquie Fontaine, has been in real estate for a very long

time...over 25 years. She has served as an assistant manager, manager, trainer, recruiter, and producer. She has worked for Welbourne & Purdy, Prudential Manor Homes, and currently Miranda Real Estate Group. A few years ago, Jacquie and her husband rejoined the IACC.

With Ann Marie and



Jacquie's business background and their passion for their Italian heritage, I feel that they will make excellent Board members, providing direction and vision for the growth of the Foundation.

We had a great summer in the Pavilion. A huge thank you to Maria DeNitto and her team for the wonderful job cooking, cooking, and cooking all that delicious food. Thanks also to Donna Zumbo, who was on top of her game keeping the pavilion in order for our renters and members.

Have you read a good Italian-themed book lately? Richard Ognibene continues to inspire us with his selection of books for our Book Club that enrich our heritage and culture and remind us of that wonderful homeland.

What would an Italian language class be without some fun and of course food? That is how our Maria La Morte approaches her classes. She has been our recipe for success. Her classes are sold out each session.

We are in the process of getting our pavilion kitchen up to code. By springtime we will have installed a new three-bay sink and a grease trap – the last two pieces to be in full compliance with the Health Department. This upgrade has been made possible by the IACC Women's League, who made the very generous \$1,000 donation to the Foundation. THANK YOU!!!

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

IACC Foundation
Donates \$4,000

www.italianamerican.com

IACC Foundation Presents

NATALE Christmas in Italy



Thursday, December 4
Thursday, December 11
7 – 9 P.M.

2nd Floor, IACC 257 Washington Ave Ext, Albany

December 4 We will reveal and discuss the HISTORY and ANCIENT TRADITIONS leading to present day festivities all over Italy. Italian language will be woven throughout our discoveries. From music, religion, art and perhaps a visit from "La Befana", we should have a great time.

December 11 We will explore the many traditions related to the FOODS of Christmas in Italy. We will offer a beautiful tasting buffet of some of the many famous Italian Christmas foods, both savory and sweet. We hope to rekindle lots of childhood memories, the way only special tastes can do. Although this will be a light buffet, many will appreciate the varied flavors of our most treasured season.

Come awaken the Christmas Spirit - la Gioia di Natale

Cost: \$40 for IACC Members • \$45 for Non-Members

Call the IACC office at 456-4222 for reservations
Class size will be limited • Credit Card payments are accepted

Intermediate Level — Monday Nights, 7 P.M. February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13

The Intermediate Level is for those who have completed elementary courses or who have another background in Italian.

Accompanied by the latter half of our textbook, this class will delve deeper into the grammar

and vocabulary, which can develop a more skilled speaker who is also able to understand the spoken word. As always, cultural lessons will provide a sense of life in Italy and the mind of contemporary Italians.

\$75 Members • \$85 Non-Members

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

Call the IACC Office at 456-4222 to register • Class size will be limited Write checks payable to: IACC Foundation, 257 Washington Ave Extension, Albany NY 12205



The American Italian Heritage Association and Museum

ITALIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6 10 A.M. – 6 P.M. Sunday, December 7 12 Noon – 4 P.M.

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Page 7 Siamo Qui

Finding Our Immigrant Ancestry by Angelo F. Coniglio

EXPANDING THE SEARCH FOR PASSENGER MANIFESTS

ast time, I detailed the type of information found on the ships' manifests of immigrants to Ellis Island, documents that are available on the free site www.ellisisland.org. That site, one of the first to display manifests, can be very helpful, but it has its drawbacks. Ellisisland.org sometimes maddeningly displays a manifest that clearly does not match the individual it says it is for. Also, though the site is free, printed copies of the manifests must be purchased from the Ellis Island – Statue of Liberty Foundation. As with all on-line sites, there are many errors in the spelling of names of persons and places. Another aspect of ellisisland.org that could be better is the 'general search' where you may want to get a list of all immigrants with a given surname or from a given town. Ellisisland.org does not easily allow searches by town, and its general searches provide rather unwieldy lists that take time to navigate.

There are ways to get around these glitches. One is to use the site http://stevemorse.org/ellis/boat.html (known as the Steve Morse 'white' site). If you find a person's name, date of immigration and ship of passage on ellisisland.org but it

has the wrong manifest displayed, the 'white' site allows you to locate the correct manifest for a particular voyage of a particular ship, and search through it page by page for the passenger you want. This is tedious, but it can be effective.

To obtain hard copies of manifests, the subscription site www.Ancestry.com allows not only ship manifests, but any record found there to be saved to your computer and printed out. Of course, ordinarily you must pay

for the Ancestry.com service, but that can be avoided if you use the service at a public library or a Mormon FamilySearch Center. Ancestry.com also has the advantage that ship manifests can be browsed page by page.

The persistent errors in spelling of names and places are not limited to ellisisland.org. However, what is misspelled on ellisisland.org may be spelled correctly (or at least, misspelled differently) on Ancestry.com, so a search that fails on one may be successful on the other. Before I subscribed to Ancestry.com, I had looked on ellisisland.org for weeks, without luck, for the manifest of my father-in-law Salvatore Bongiovanni. When I searched for it on Ancestry.com, I found it immediately. Then, using one of the other, simpler, names on his manifest, I searched for that name on ellisisland.org and discovered that my father-in-law's surname had been indexed as Bougiovanni. Those of Sicilian heritage would probably recognize that there is no such surname as 'Bougiovanni', but the ellisisland.org indexer evidently mistook the hand written letter 'n' for a 'u'.

An excellent site for general searches of passenger manifests is another Steven Morse site, known as his 'gold' site, at http://stevemorse.org/ellis2/ellisgold.html. This site allows you to search for Ellis Island arrivals by one or all of the following, and more: first name; last name; ship name; town (including 'sounds like' and partial spellings); year of birth; and year of immigration. Once a list is obtained, it can be sorted by surname, year of birth, year of immigration, town of origin, etc. For example, my ancestral town, Serradifalco, is variously spelled on manifests as Terradifalco, Seradifoles, and so on. But I can search the 'gold' site for immigrants with the surname starting with the letters C-o-n-i-g who were born from 1885 – 1892, immigrated from 1910 – 1915, and came from a town whose name contained the string of letters 'adif'. The

> result will be a list of anyone who fits that description. Selecting one from the list will transfer you to the ellisisland.org site.

Not every immigrant came to America through Ellis Island. Firstly, Ellis Island did not start operation until 1892. Prior to that, New York City arrivals disembarked at a site known as Castle Garden. Secondly, numerous other ports besides New York were the landing

places of Italian immigrants. The foremost of these others were Boston and New Orleans, but Italians also found their way to the U.S. through Baltimore, Galveston, Philadelphia, and even San Francisco, as well as via some ports in Canada. Similarly, passengers whose final destination was Canada may have first landed at a U. S. port. Lists of Canadian - U. S. border crossings also exist. I'll discuss these other ports and

Coniglio is the author of the book The Lady of the Wheel, inspired by his Sicilian research. You may order the paperback at amzn.to/racalmuto. The e-book version is now also available at bit.ly/LadyOfTheWheelKindle. Coniglio's web page at bit.ly/AFCGen has helpul hints on genealogic research. If you have genealogy questions or would like him to lecture to your club or group, e-mail him at genealogytips@aol.com.

possibilities in future columns.



SS Berlin, later re-christened the SS Arabic.)

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT DISAPPEARED

The Neighborhood That Disappeared is a documentary film describing the forced relocation of thousands of people (mostly of Italian decent) in Albany's South End. They were displaced by the construction of the Empire State Plaza in the early 1960s. First term Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller destroyed historic buildings, storefronts, streetscapes, and the fabric of family memories using the power of eminent domain. This film brings to life the many faces of that vibrant ethnic neighborhood. Several members of IACC were interviewed for this documentary, including Mario Ferrarese, Mike Nardolillo, and Ben Sano.

Be sure to watch the premier of this film on WMHT 17 at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, December 12.

New Members

Rosemary Eberlein Albany Sponsor: Marie Erkes



Foundation Book Club

The IACC office has a copy of most books read by the Foundation Book Club. Members are welcome to browse and borrow any book they choose. Simply fill out the 'library lending card' and enjoy! The full list of books read by the Foundation Book Club can be found on the website under Activities/Book Club.

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Travel and Tours by Rosanna

nother one-of-a-kind, personally planned itinerary for a magnificent trip to Italy is being customized for early September 2015. We will discover the cultural and gastronomical marvels of the Veneto and Emilia Romagna Regions of Italy. Among the highlights of our trip will be the once-in-a-lifetime joy of attending a live opera performance in the Arena di Verona, exploring la Serenissima, visiting Venice and its islands, along with a famous vineyard of the Veneto Region. Discovering the art and food patrimony of Bologna, Modena (Ferrari Museum), and Parma (Prosciutto & Parmesan Cheese) are only some of the attractions of this trip. Through the years, unique experiences and truly first-class luxury travel and accommodations have become the hallmark of this one-of-a-kind series, Discover Italy Tours, personally created by this knowledgeable travel consultant. Since only 24 spaces will be available for this adventure, if interested, please inquire or reserve at your earliest convenience by contacting:

Rosanna Aiuppa, Travel and Tours by Rosanna 253-4270 or raiuppa@nycap.rr.com More details will be posted in future issues of Siamo Qui.

Momen's League

Hi Ladies!!

Our meeting on October 29th produced 40 blankets for Uncle Shawn's Hugs. Dawn Martin showed a video that was produced to record the train ride that brings blankets and toys to children all over the region. The video has generated new interest in the charity. Dawn shared that she has been invited to visit a group in North Carolina and consult on beginning an effort similar to hers in other states. As always, we are grateful to be a part of this wonderful mission.

Our December meeting and Christmas party will take place on December 10th, as noted in last month's issue. To recap, our dinner choices will be a rich Zuppa di Pesce, hearty Beef Roulade or yummy Penne alla Vodka... after a special hot antipasto. Our dessert will be a Cassata alla Siciliano from Villa Italia made especially for us. Please reserve (and cancel) considerately with Donna Zumbo at dzumbo13@hotmail.com or 424-7463. Remember to bring an old photo (or photos) with your favorite Christmas memory for a nostalgic activity. We will also have our traditional gift exchange of a wrapped gift (under \$15).

We will not meet in January or February. We will resume our meetings in March, when, hopefully, winter will have worn itself out. Details will appear in February's issue.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas meeting. My best wishes and AUGURI for a joyous and peaceful Christmas season and only good things in the New Year.

Maria La Morte, Women's League, President



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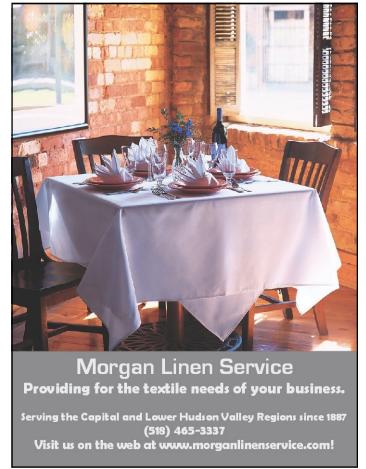




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CARING & SHARING

December Birthdays

Evelyn Annello
Dina Ariemma
Gregory Bearup
Antonio Boncordo
Lucy Bremm
Jeanne Ciampino
Virginia Ciancio
D. Ann Cuomo
Michael Delbrocco
Laurie Elmendorf
Marie Facciolli-Erkes

Merry Hutchinson Kathleen Jennings Ann Keneston Josephine Knack Anna Marie Logrippo MaryEllen Manzella

Christina Golash Lins

Diane Hasenbein

Doris Oliver John Paolucci



Sharon Patrei Janet Patrizio Maran Person Fred Peters Loren Place Michael Rest Ambrose Rinaldi Gloria Rossi Robert Sano Peter Scavullo **Connie Seeley** Kandi Terry Hannah Venduro Joseph Venduro Mary Weinman Herman Wyld Donna Zadrounski

January Birthdays

Anna Acconi Allison Hicks Eugene Aiuppa Mary Ann Macri Helen Articolo Christine Marando John Bevilacqua Lisa McClure John Bremm Marcella Michel Jeanne Bucci Frank Padula Alison Burnside Barbara Palumbo John Coppola John Reylea Nadine Cunningham John Riley Lynda Scalzo Susan Daniels Irene Del Torto Marie Smith Evelyn Delbrocco Michael Squillace Maria DeNitto Michael Swanson Stephen Franke Josephine Tirino Michael George Theodore Todaro Bryan Goldberger Erin Trask Edward Haddad Anne Zanotta Vera Hall Joachim Zumbo

Condolences:

Our sympathy goes out to Sante and Carmella DiCarlo for the recent passing of Sante's brother-in-law, Charles Calogero.

Please contact Christine Dilonna at cdiionna@gmail.com or 357-8711.

Sicilian Anelletti Pasta al Forno A Specialty of Palermo

Submitted by Rosanna Aiuppa

Ingredients:

1 3/4 to 2 lbs. of Anelletti Pasta

1 ¼ lbs. course ground or minced pork (for a traditional Sicilian ragu') or beef or loose sausage 1 onion, 4-5 cloves of garlic, 1-2 ribs of celery 1 large carrot chopped, minced parsley and basil 16-17 ounces (approx. ½ liter) of good red wine tomato paste (a little), 1 large can good, plum tomatoes

about ½ cups frozen green peas salt, pepper, grated Parmesan or Romano cheese oregano (a very small amount)

Optional: small cubes of ham or mortadella (preferred), fried chunks of eggplant, small mozzarella balls

Procedure:

Gently fry your finely chopped onion, garlic, celery, and carrot in olive oil until the onion becomes soft. Add some more olive oil. Add the tomato paste and cook for a few minutes stirring, before adding just a little hot water. Once oil has heated up enough add the meat, stirring constantly until it is all seared. Cover, turn down the flame and let it cook for a while in the meat's juices. After 10 minutes, turn up the heat and add the red wine, ensuring that all the alcohol is burned off, before turning heat down. Cover and let the sauce simmer gently for half an hour.

Add tomatoes that have been pulsed or passed through food mill, salt, pepper, oregano, basil, and parsley. Once again cover, leaving it to cook as long as possible, stirring occasionally to ensure that the sauce is smooth. (The more it cooks the better it is.) When the sauce is almost ready, add frozen peas and continue to watch and simmer as the salted water for the pasta comes to a boil. Cook pasta until al dente. Do not overcook. In a large bowl or pan add pasta to the ragu and mix well. Add optional ingredients. Place the mixed pasta into a large baking pan that has been brushed with olive oil and sprinkled very lightly with bread crumbs. For a more festive effect, arrange slices of plain fried eggplant on bottom of baking dish napped with a little sauce topped with the pasta mixture. Invert and unmold after it is cooled a bit. Otherwise simply top with thin slices of mozzarella, a drizzle of olive oil, some bread crumbs, and grated cheese. Place in a hot oven 350° for 15-20minutes. Let rest 5 - 10 minutes before serving. **Buon Appetito!**

www.italianamerican.com Page 11



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

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257 Washington Ave. Extension
Albany, NY 12205

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Two issues in one!!

December 2014 and January 2015 Expect the next issue by February 2015

Address Label

Join the Italian American Community Center





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ORGANIZATIONS

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



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