In honor of our 40th Anniversary, we are publishing a new section of Siamo Qui entitled:

ITALIANS IN AMERICA: The Civil War Years

The South

By Robert Penna

he Confederacy launched its government on March 11, 1861. Most Southerners believed they were also founding a new, separate and enduring nation on whose behalf they were willing to fight, die, and give their all. Among those fighting and dying for its cause were a surprising number of Italians, a fact which history has all but forgotten.

In spite of its popular historical image as a land primarily populated by Scots-Irish and African-American slaves, the South had an unexpected sprinkling of other ethnicities mixed among the nine million residents of the Confederacy's eleven states. In addition to numerous Native Americans, French, Spanish, and Mexican residents, for example, there were pockets of Chinese living mostly in the South's gulf port cities, and a significant Jewish population as well. In fact, Jewish financier Judah P. Benjamin, served as the Confederacy's Secretary of War and its Secretary of State. Along with these other refugees from around the world, there was also a notable Southern population of Italian descent by the outbreak of the Civil War.

Italians' presence in the South was a long established fact. Italians had settled in early Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. Italian explorers also contributed to the early development of settlements along the Mississippi. However, their greatest impact was made when Italians began coming to the United States in larger numbers in the mid-1800s, with many entering the nation through New Orleans and settling along the Mississippi in places like Natchez and Vicksburg. These river towns were more open to newcomers than more rural parts of the South, and Italians were socially accepted in these places from a very early date. While there were fewer than 200 Italians in the state





merican Co

of Mississippi when the American Civil War began in 1861, they experienced the siege of Vicksburg during the war and many served in the Confederate Army. But the largest city and biggest port in the South was, of course, New Orleans; and it had a sizable Italian population. When Louisiana left the Union, a call went out for volunteers to defend the new Confederacy; and among the most prominent recruiters in New Orleans was Captain Joseph Santini, whose efforts resulted in many Italians volunteers. They formed the Garibaldi Legion, led by Santini and other Italian-Americans officers, and showed their ethnic pride by wearing cocked hats with plumes in the Italian national colors as well as adopting the uniform red shirts of Garibaldi's famous "Thousand." They paraded in New Orleans for the first time in March of 1861, and soon were off to war. Unfortunately for the unit, there were not enough Italians in the South to maintain their numbers through-out the long Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



would like to thank everyone who participated in the three events of our 40th anniversary celebration over the October 18th weekend. The Friday night cocktail party, the Saturday night dinner dance, and the special celebration mass and brunch on Sunday were well attended.

Everyone had a wonderful time at each of these events. The successful celebration would

not have been possible without the creativity and hard work of the $40^{\rm th}$ anniversary committee. Thank you to all for your dedication. We honored our founding members without whom our club would not exist.

Please note that the first of a new series of articles concerning Italian ancestry appears on page 7. This first article by Angelo F. Coniglio gives a short history of the nation of Italy. Mr. Coniglio is the author of *The Lady of the Wheel*, a novella based on genealogical research of Sicilian foundlings.

The election of new board members will take place at the November 19th General Membership meeting. I strongly encourage all members to attend and to exercise your right to vote. It is important.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. Travel safely and enjoy gatherings with family and friends. We are truly thankful for all of our blessings.

Angelo Tarantino, President

November Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday Italian Grand Buffet Open Bowling

Every Thursday Italian Language Classes
November 7, Thursday Foundation Board Meeting
November 13, Wednesday Women's League Meeting

November19, Tuesday Board Meeting

BOARD ELECTIONS

General Membership Meeting

November 20, Wednesday Book Club

Save the Date

December 5, Thursday
December 11, Wednesday
December 15, Sunday
Foundation Board Meeting
Women's League Meeting
Family Christmas Party

December 17, Tuesday Board Meeting

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Linda Sciocchetti IACC Office Manager

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



Page 2 Siamo Qui

Election of Board Members

According to our By-Laws, election to the Board of Directors will be held in November. Four seats will be available for a 3-year term, one seat for a 2-year term and one seat for a 1-year term.

If you are interested in applying for one of these vacancies and can satisfy all of the following requisites, please submit your brief resumé to the IACC Office.

IACC By-Laws state that "Each director of the corporation and each candidate for director shall satisfy the following requisites:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Be a United States Citizen.
- Be a voting member of the corporation in good standing.
- Have at least one year as a member immediately preceding the election.
- Never have been convicted of a felony.
- Not be a full time employee on the payroll of the IACC

No director, including the past president, may be elected to serve two consecutive terms. A term is defined as any period of time for which a person has served as a director as a result of a vote of the general membership.

Directors shall not be eligible for re-election or appointment to the board for one year after they complete their term on the board.

In the event that the president is re-elected to a second term, the term of the immediate past president of the board shall terminate after the first year. The immediate past president shall not be eligible for election or appointment to the board for one year after serving as past president.

Husbands and wives may not serve on the Board of Directors simultaneously."

The election will be held at the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 19 at 7 P.M.

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Current Nominees for Board of Directors

Kathleen (Kathie) Ryan (2-year term)

Kathie Ryan is currently filling an open seat on the board. Kathie is a licensed clinical social worker who retired from Parson's Child and Family Center in 2005 and is currently self employed in her private practice. A member for 4 years, Kathie has become involved in the Women's Bocce League and is currently co-chair of the 55+ Club.

Jim Sano

Longtime active member, Jim Sano, has served in many capacities in the IACC. As several-time board member, past president of the board, and chairperson of the Festa committee, Jim has also overseen the operation of the pool. Retired physical education teacher and member of Albany's Common Council, Jim Sano would bring many talents to the board.

Cain Marion Scalzo

Cain Marion Scalzo possesses a background in finance and human resources. He is currently working as a bus driver for the Bethlehem School District while serving as a contract bookkeeper for a New York City firm and an employee of Stewart's Shops. He looks to bring a new, fresh perspective to the board.

Peter Scavullo (1-year term)

Pete Scavullo received his BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering and his MBA degree from RPI. He joined GE in 1979 on the Edison Engineering Program, moved to the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna in 1981 and has held a variety of unit manager positions since 1987. Pete and his wife, Jeannine Sano Scavullo, have been members since 1995. Pete chairs the IACC games of chance and has volunteered for other activities, including the Festa and Columbus Day Festival.

Pina Tirino

Pina has been a member of the IACC for many years and has volunteered in several areas. She has worked to make the Festa successful, has worked with the children in the summer camp program, and has volunteered her talents during the Friday Family Nights.

Jeanne Wilson

Born in Brooklyn, Jeanne received her BS in Psychology and her MS in Education. Certified in counseling, Jeanne taught reading for 16 years and served as a counselor and director of counseling in the Margaretville Central School District. This summer, Jeanne successfully coordinated the IAHFI summer camp program. She is a member of and works as a volunteer at the American Cancer Society.

Any qualified member who wishes to serve as a member of the IACC board should contact committee chair,
Anna Acconi, at 966-8664.

and bloody conflict. The Legion was ultimately joined with other ethnic units in what was eventually called the "European Brigade" of the Confederate army. They fought with great courage and tenacity up until the capture of New Orleans by Union General Benjamin Butler.

In Virginia, meanwhile, a long family history of service to the nation was about to take a new twist as the Civil War shattered old allegiances and literally pitted brother against brother.

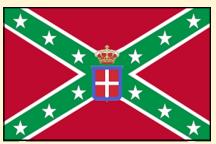
William Booth Taliaferro was born to a family of long standing service to their country. Three of his ancestors had died fighting for American independence during the Revolution. But like Robert E. Lee, a West Point graduate



who was offered command of Union forces by President Lincoln, Taliaferro could not "raise a sword against his native Virginia," and joined the Confederate Army. Taliaferro was a native of Gloucester County, Virginia, and had both English and Italian ancestors, his father's family originally having come to America from Venice in the 1600s. He was born in 1822 and was part of the southern "aristocracy". His uncle was James A. Seddon, a prominent congressman who would go on to

become Secretary of War for the Confederate States of America. William B. Taliaferro had the very best upbringing, attending Harvard University in the north and The College of William and Mary in the south, graduating in 1841. He volunteered for the U.S. Army during the war with Mexico and served in the infantry, gaining a respectable reputation as a soldier. After coming home he was elected to the Virginia legislature, and in 1856 campaigned for the presidency of James Buchanan. Still, he did not neglect his military duties and was a commander in the Virginia militia, where he joined Lee in taking command of the Harpers Ferry region after the bloody raid on the arsenal there by John Brown and his radical abolitionists.

When Virginia seceded from the Union in 1861 Taliaferro was given command of the $23^{\rm rd}$ Virginia Infantry with the rank of colonel. In the opening clashes with Union troops he earned praise and a promotion to brigadier general. He aided in the southern victory at the battle of Greenbrier River in 1861 and



by 1862 had been promoted to command a division in the army corps of the famous General "Stonewall" Jackson. In this unit he was part of a winning team and one of the most

legendary fighting forces in the Confederacy. General Taliaferro was a brave man who led from the front, a fact which almost cost him his life at the Second Battle of Manassas Junction where he was badly wounded. However, he could not be kept from the fighting for long and was back with Jackson in time for the Battle of Fredericksburg, one of the greatest Confederate victories of the war.

After the battle of Fredericksburg he was transferred to Georgia to command the District of Savannah and was highly praised for repulsing a major attack on Morris Island outside Charleston, South Carolina at Battery Wagner in 1863. Despite being outnumbered nearly 5 to 1 his men held their ground and inflicted devastating losses on the Union forces. The next year, in 1864, he was given command of the East Florida District and was just in time to face another Union invasion force. The result was the Battle of Olustee in northern Florida which was another decisive victory for Taliaferro and the Confederates.

In 1865 Taliaferro was surrendered with the army of General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina and returned to his home in Virginia. After the war he continued his distinguished career in civilian life, again being elected State Legislature. He was later elected to a judgeship and served on the board of William and Mary College and the famous Virginia Military Institute. He died at his home at the age of 75 on February 27, 1898 probably the most prominent Italian-American in the Confederate Army.

Perhaps the most poignant story involving Italians in the Civil War, however, came out of the efforts of the *Borbonici*, the "Bourbon Soldiers" from the southern Italian region of the

Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. On March 8, 1861, eight hundred and eighty-four of these soldiers, having escaped Italy on French ships after being defeated by Garibaldi's unification forces, landed at New Orleans specifically to take up the



Confederate cause. With deep affection for "the old ways," not for them was the Republicanism of either Garibaldi *or* the American Union. In the cause of the Confederacy they saw a second chance to fight for the kind of society in which they wanted to live. Eventually, the total number of Bourbon recruits rose to about 2000, and the troops were enlisted as the "Italian Guards" in the 10th Louisiana infantry regiment. Their hopes dashed in yet a second defeat when the Confederacy surrendered, many survived the war and some even returned to Italy. To this day, in the museum at "Civitella del Tronto" in Abruzzo, the last Bourbon fortress in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies to surrender to the forces of Italian unification, there is a Confederate flag commemorating the soldiers who left to fight for "another South."

It is unfortunate that the personal stories of so many of these brave Italian men who fought for both the North and the South in the American Civil War were lost to history. While Tagliaferro, Casale, and Santini did earn a measure of historical fame, far more fought and died – as did most soldiers in that war-almost anonymously. However, fight they did. Their sacrifices and their presence contributed to the character of the still developing American nation. The end of the Civil War, however, did not bring an end to Italians' part in America's military struggles. Within a decade, fate would find Italians playing a surprising role in one of the most famous battles in American history.

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MATERIA

Charter Members blowing out the candles

40th Anniversary Gala

By Maria La Morte

There is no doubt that our Gala 40th anniversary weekend was a great success. Friday night's cocktail party was a glittering gathering accented by fabulous appetizers and wine. It was the kick-off event of a very special weekend that ended with Sunday morning's mass and brunch. In between those two events, the Gala Dinner Dance went a long way to honor the efforts of our original charter members. After a fabulous cocktail hour and dinner at the Gala, the entire assembly listened raptly as each and every name of the charter members was read aloud. This was a very real tribute to all of those wonderful folks who created our club.

Three very luscious desserts accompanied the many individual tributes. Pete Rizzo entertained us during the quiet times with his haunting Italian accordion. Frank Giglio then took over with his band to lead many wonderful dances. There was great emotion, energy, and remembrance among us. We all had the chance to be grateful for our friendships and commitment to the IACC.





Luigi DeNitto, John Tirino, Carlo Ricupero, Sal Anastasio, Sante Di Carlo, Richard Moscheo, President Angelo Tarantino



The Founding Members



The Gala Committee



The Good Times Band

<u>www.italianamerican.com</u> Page 5

40th Anniversary Mass and Brunch by Santa Pasquini

On Sunday, October 20th, the final celebration of our 40th anniversary was a Christian mass and brunch. The mass

Nick Mancini, Cross Bearer

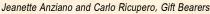
celebrant was Fr. Anthony Chiaramonte. He spoke of our 40 years as a membership club. Father called forward all charter members who were in attendance at the mass and gave them a special blessing. As usual, Fr. Chiaramonte's mass celebration and homily were enjoyed by all. The beautiful music provided by

soprano Roseanne Graziano Hargrave and classic guitarist Harry Pellegrin added an extra special touch to the wonderful event. After mass we all enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared by the Mallozzi Group. Thank you to the kitchen staff, Pam, and her wait staff for helping to make this lovely

event such a success. A very special thank you to Mary Lou Marando and Pina Tirino for their assistance and to all who participated in the mass.













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Finding Our Immigrant Ancestry by Angelo F. Coniglio

ITALIANS AND SICILIANS

any Americans of Italian descent make the same plaintive comment when asked about the origins of their immigrant ancestors: "My parents (or grandparents) never talked about it." I hope, through this column, to help you discover long-lost information about your Italian or Sicilian



roots. You may ask:
"Sicilian, Italian – aren't
they the same?" A short
history is in order.

The iconic, boot-shaped peninsula that we all recognize had been called 'Italy' for millennia. However, before the modern era, the *nation* 'Italy' had existed only briefly, in medieval times, as a small northern alpine kingdom, and later for a few years in the early 1800's under Napoleon, again

only in the north. That was well before the 1860 'Risorgimento'. Led by Garibaldi, it united northern and southern states and nations (including Sicily) into the modern Republic of Italy. The many mainland states had their own rulers, laws and customs. These states were melded into one cohesive nation. The northern peninsula, more wealthy in resources and more commercially developed, has the grandeur of Rome and its engineering marvels; Venice with its romantic canals; and Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance, nestled in the beauty and mystery of Tuscany's lush hills. Italian contributions to the visual arts, music, oratory, and to the foundations of the very laws that today define civilization, justifiably make Americans of Italian descent proud of their heritage.

Sicily, which today is part of the nation of Italy, existed as a country (under numerous crowns) long before its neighbor to the north had achieved nationhood. Sadly for its people, during much of its history it was ruled by Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Normans, Germans, French, Spaniards, and others. This milieu affected much of the southern Italian peninsula. The area from Naples to the south, including Sicily, acquired a special name, 'Mezzogiorno' (noontime), for the blazing hot sun that is its trademark. Sicily developed into a multicultural land, evolving Sicilian, the first 'Romance Language', and producing treasures like the Greek temples at Agrigento and the Norman splendor of Monreale. The first cog in Italian unification, Sicily eventually became an 'autonomous region of Italy'.

North and South together are now 'Italy', which has made such great contributions to the world, and has provided millions of immigrants to the United States, comprising the highest ethnic concentration in the Tri-State region. As with other nations, those who emigrated were generally folks who suffered economic or political hardship and were looking for a better life. Most of Italy's émigrés were from the 'Mezzogiomo', and most of those were from Sicily: often peasant farmers, day laborers, and sulfur miners, some with skills such as stonemasonry, carpentry, or shoemaking.

There were differences in culture between north and south. After millennia of subjugation, Sicilians distrusted 'outsiders'. The Sicilian language preceded the Tuscan tongue used in the north, but is not as refined. Urbane northerners often viewed Sicilian-speakers as somehow inferior. The differences led to cool relationships, even between immigrants to America. Thankfully, those feelings have been largely subsumed in our great melting-pot, and those of northern and southern heritage alike celebrate their 'Italian' ancestry.

This history is significant to genealogists, because 18th and 19th century records of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths on mainland Italy differ somewhat, in availability and type, from those of Sicily. The former are more variable from region to region because of the varied historical political systems of their locales, and have generally been more subject to loss or damage due to war or natural causes. Because Sicily is physically isolated, records across the island are found to be more uniform and available. These differences between the records of north and south can be important, depending on your ancestors' origins.

The Mormon Church has collected microfilm copies of civil birth, marriage and death records, as well as many records from churches of various denominations, from around the world including Sicily and Italy. Before we know where to look, and what to look for, some research must be done using records made in the U.S., concerning our ancestors. Even before searching American records, we need to follow some basic principles which will be addressed

next time.

Visit Angelo's website, www.bit.ly/AFCGen, and write to him at genealogytips@aol.com. He is the author of the book The Lady of the Wheel (La Ruotaia), based on his genealogical research of Sicilian foundlings. See www.bit.ly/ruotaia for more information or order the book at www.bit.ly/racalmuto.



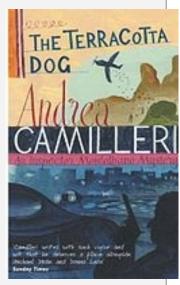


Foundation Book Club

by Richard Ognibene

The final meeting of the Book Club will take place on Wednesday, November 20th, at

7 P.M. when the book to be discussed will be The Terra Cotta Dog. the second of the twenty **Inspector Montalbano** mysteries written by Andrea Camilleri. **Inspector Montalbano** lives and works in Sicily in the imaginary town of Vigata, which is really Porto Empedocle near Aggrigento in disguise.



In The Terra Cotta Dog, Montalbano's case begins with a mysterious conversation with a Mafioso, some inexplicably abandoned loot from a supermarket heist, and dying words that lead him to an illegal arms cache in a mountain cave. There, the inspector finds two young lovers, dead for fifty years and still embracing, watched over by a life-sized terra-cotta dog. Montalbano's passion to solve this old crime takes him on a journey through Sicily's past and into one family's darkest secrets. Montalbano is an engaging and clever hero, and although humorous, his views provide a critical commentary of contemporary Sicilian life.

The Book Club meets on the second floor. All members and non-members are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Dick Ognibene at 372-4919 or at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com.



It's right around the corner...



IACC Family Christmas Party!

DATE: Sunday, December 15 TIME: Noon -4:30 P.M.

Additional details will be forthcoming

55+ Club By Sharon Patrei

At our last luncheon of the year on October 16th, we were honored with music by Adam York. He played saxophone and clarinet for us as we ate and chatted about our 55+ Club activities of 2013. He added a lovely touch to our gettogether and we look forward to asking him to repeat his performance for us next year. We will not be meeting again until May 2014, as many of our members go to Florida for the winter. We look forward to another year of social activities and meeting new people. We hope those of you who did not join us this year will come and enjoy next year's events. We hope your holidays are healthy and happy.

IACC Bowling

Bowling nights will move to Monday night. Please call Maria Marchio at 438-9067 if you are interested in joining in the fun.



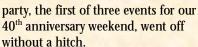


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40th Anniversary Cocktail Party by Donna Zumbo

The appetizers were out, the pasta and carving stations manned, the drinks were flowing, the jazz trio was playing, and everyone was having a wonderful time. The cocktail



Friends gathered and reminisced about activities from the early days of the club, as well as all the great classic events that are still offered each year. A slideshow also ran

throughout the event, showing how we have progressed into Albany's "premier" Italian American Community Center. Compared to many who attended this cocktail party, I feel like







a fairly new member of the club. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the stories that went along with the pictures. It really makes our club feel more like a family.

I want to thank the Mallozzi Group for the wonderful food display and their very helpful wait and kitchen staff. Many

members raved about the food. Finally, I want to thank the cocktail party committee for all their help. We made a great team! Thanks to Angie Groelz-Sislowski, Gretchen Van Valkenburg, and Joann Viglucci. Special thanks to Frank Zeoli and Maria De Nitto for sifting through and scanning so many photographs with me, in order to create the terrific slideshow.







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Women's League

Hello Ladies!

By the time you read this, Halloween will be over and our days will have gotten even shorter with the end of Daylight Saving Time. We will have changed our sandals



and capris for boots and warm fleece trousers and will be ready for another winter. We have many ways to keep warm in the cold.

At our October meeting, our hearts were certainly warmed by the nearly 50 blankets we turned out to support "Uncle Shawn's Hugs". Once again we were joined by Dawn Martin and her daughter, who continue to honor the memory of their son and brother who gave his life in Iraq nearly 10 years ago. Being the mother of a soldier myself, this woman's story and her response to an unimaginable tragedy are inspirational. She took up her son's love of children and his "big bear hugs" and found a way to warm underprivileged children's hearts and homes with cuddly blankets made by countless "moms" across the region. How lucky we are to be part of this wonderful project.

In November, we will turn our attention to the upcoming Christmas holidays. Soon we will begin to dig out the boxes of holiday décor. We thought it would be fun to participate in a (hopefully) lovely and fun craft. We will each create a new ornament for a tree or home décor, using a variety of craft media. We will have some examples of ornaments to help inspire your particular creativity. This will prepare us for the traditional Christmas party next month.

Our November meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 P.M. Our food choices will be Chicken Piccata, Shrimp Oreganato, or Manicotti Marinara, with Pumpkin Cheesecake for dessert. The cost remains \$20 and Lynn Indelicato will take reservations once again. She can be reached at domlyn@yahoo.com or 469-1284. Please remember to reserve by November 8. We look forward to seeing many of you on November 13th.

Ciao! Maria La Morte Women's League President



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CARING & SHARING

By Anna Acconi

November Birthdays:







Condolences:

Rosemary VanAlstyne, member and sister of Theresa (Tess) Bonanni, passed away in July. We send condolences to the entire VanAlstyne and Bonanni families.

It is with sadness that we report that Josephine Hennessy, longtime companion of charter member Rosario (Ray) Cardamone, recently passed away. Condolences to the Hennessy and Cardamone families.

We are sad to report the death of another member, Lawrence Scarano. Our deepest sympathy is sent to the Scarano family.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966-8664 or aacconi111@aol.com

Family Night Thank You

by Carlo Ricupero

As chairman, I would like to extend a round of applause and many thanks to all of the volunteers who donated their time to help make the Family Night at the Pavilion a great success.

Thank you to all who helped set up, cook, collect money, and clean up. We also enjoyed the Cruising Cars drive-in.

Looking forward to next summer. I hope you will consider volunteering a couple of hours on Friday nights to help support Family Night.

An Afternoon with David Righeschi and Friends will occur on Sunday, November 17th at 3 P.M. at the Palace Theatre. Tickets are still available at the Palace Box Office. Members may contact Rosanna Aiuppa at 253-4270.

Shaker Apple Brownies

Submitted by Linda Sciocchetti

Ingredients:

1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

1 cup sugar

1 egg, beaten

2 medium-sized apples, chopped

1 cup flour

½ teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon cinnamon

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F. Sift last 4 ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon) together and set aside. Cream sugar and egg. Add butter and dry ingredients to sugar mix. Add apples. Pour mixture into a non-greased small pan (8" square). Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Test for doneness. Top should form a crust and an inserted toothpick should come out clean.





Poker Players Needed

Wanted: Male card player for Tuesday night games. This small group of men meet in the Card Room most Tuesdays from 6 – 10 P.M. Call Nick Mancini 286-3009 with any questions. IACC membership is required.

New Member

Mike Petilli Latham Sponsor: Frank Zeoli

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

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