THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS THE

GRAND GALA GELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF TRADITION OCTOBER 21, 2023

2023

LALC.C.



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TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6:30 P.M.

Introduction Frank Zeoli, IACC President

50TH ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATIONS

American National Anthem

ITALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Benediction Jim Sano, IACC Foundation President/Club

DINNER

7:00 P.M. AWARDS

Sharon Patrei Cuore d'oro award (Heart of Gold)

Anthony Fazio Pasquale Tirino Service Award

Angelo Tarantino President's Award

Hon. Darius Shahinfar IACC Italian Spirit Award

Hon. Thomas DiNapoli IACC Italian American of the Year

9:00 P.M. Dance: Good Times Band



2023 COLUMBUS DAY GRAND GALA COMMITTEE

Frank Zeoli Columbus Day Gala Chairman

TERRY ANDRIANO DINO BARBATO MARIA DENITTO THERESA LAJOY MARIA LAMORTE MARY LOU MARANDO SHARON PATREI JIM SANO GAIL TARANTINO GRETCHEN VAN VALKENBURG JOAN WALLIS DONNA ZUMBO

PATRONS

TERRY ANDRIANNO DINO AND ROSE BARBATO STEVE AND MARIE BUBONIA JOSEPH AND JOSEPHINE COPPOLA LUIGI AND MARIA DENITTO TONY AND TERRI FAZIO **GEORGEANN GREENE** CHRIS AND LINDA HOFFMAN DOMINIC AND LYNN INDELICATO **ROBERT AND GERRI KRAUSHAAR ROBERT AND MARIA LAMORTE** ARMAND AND MARY LOU MARANDO MARIA MARCHIO SHARON PATREI **SCOTT AND CAROLINE ROBERTS JOHN ROWEN & DOROTHYHOLT GRETCHEN VANVALKENBURG JOAN WALLIS** FRANK AND NANCY ZEOLI DONNA ZUMBO



President's Message

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we reflect on how we got here. We remember our ancestors who left their homeland searching for a brighter future in a new world. They left behind everything they knew, including their families, culture, and traditions. They endured long and arduous journeys across the Atlantic, arriving in a land that was unfamiliar in many ways. Despite the hardships they faced, they demonstrated resilience, resourcefulness, and a strong work ethic that contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of the United States.

The story of our Italian American immigrant ancestors is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the importance of diversity in shaping our nation. Their experiences remind us of the values of hard work, family, and the pursuit of opportunity that continue to define the American dream.

Today, as we celebrate our Italian American heritage, let us remember and honor the sacrifices and contributions of our immigrant ancestors and let their legacy inspire us to continue building a more diverse and vibrant nation.

On behalf of the Italian American Community Center, I wish to welcome you to our 2023 Columbus Day Grand Gala.

Enjoy the evening!

Ciao,

SILENT AUCTION

Starting Bid \$200.00

ITALIAN FOOD BASKET Donated by: Fiorello Imports	_\$100.00 Value Starting Bid \$25.00
ITALIAN WINE & SPIRITS BASKET Donated by: A Friend	_\$300.00 Value Starting Bid \$75.00
Donated by: A mend	Starting Bid \$15.00
WINE & CHEESE BASKET	_\$350.00 Value
Donated by: Gretchen VanValkenburg	Starting Bid \$75.00
24x36 Framed Italy Print	\$100.00 Value
Donated by: Frank Zeoli	Starting Bid \$25.00
Handmade Framed Stained Glass	\$100.00 Value
Donated by: Chuck Jordon	Stot.00 value Starting Bid \$25.00
	-
MARY KAY BEAUTY BASKET	_\$350.00 Value
Donated by: Christine Fox	Starting Bid \$25.00
Christmas Basket	_\$125.00 Value
Donated by: Sharon Patrei	Starting Bid \$20.00
ONE WEEK ENROLLMENT FOR JMU KIDS CAMP_	\$180.00 Value
Donated by: Joe Urschel	Starting Bid \$40.00
Sports Basket	¢105.00 Volue
Donated by: Donna Zumbo, Jack's Liquor	_\$125.00 Value Starting Bid \$25.00
	<u> </u>
2 NIGHT STAY IN COZY LOG CABIN	A 400 0017 1
IN LAKE GEORGE	_\$400.00Value
Donated by: Heather Ciccone	Starting Bid \$100.00
CAPITAL HILLS GOLF BASKET	_\$450.00 Value
Donated by: Mayor Kathy Sheehan, SAV Golf &	Starting Bid \$100.00
Martel's Restaurant	
Garden Basket	_\$80.00 Value
Donated by: Gretchen VanValkenburg	Starting Bid \$20.00
Health & Wellness Basket	\$250.00 Value
Donated by: Reiki Rocks Store, Center for	Starting Bid \$50.00
Natural Wellness & Terry Andriano	
Men's Basket	\$200.00 Value
Donated by: Dino Barbato	Starting Bid \$45.00
BEST OF THE I.A.C.C One-year full membership to the IACC &	_\$850.00 Value Starting Bid \$175.00
tickets to several events at the IACC in 2024	Starting Dia \$110.00
MYSTERY BOX (FOR: MEN & WOMEN) Donated by: Marie & Steve Bubonia	_\$800.00 Value Starting Bid \$175.00
bonated by, mane & Steve Bubonia	Starting Dia \$110.00
NORITAKE CHINA (SERVICE OF 8 - 40 PIECES)	
Donated by: Tony & Terri Fazio	Starting Bid \$225.00
Imported Indian	
CASHMERE THROW BLANKETS (3)	
Demote d have line 9. New av Come	Chartin a Did 0000 00

Donated by: Jim & Nancy Sano



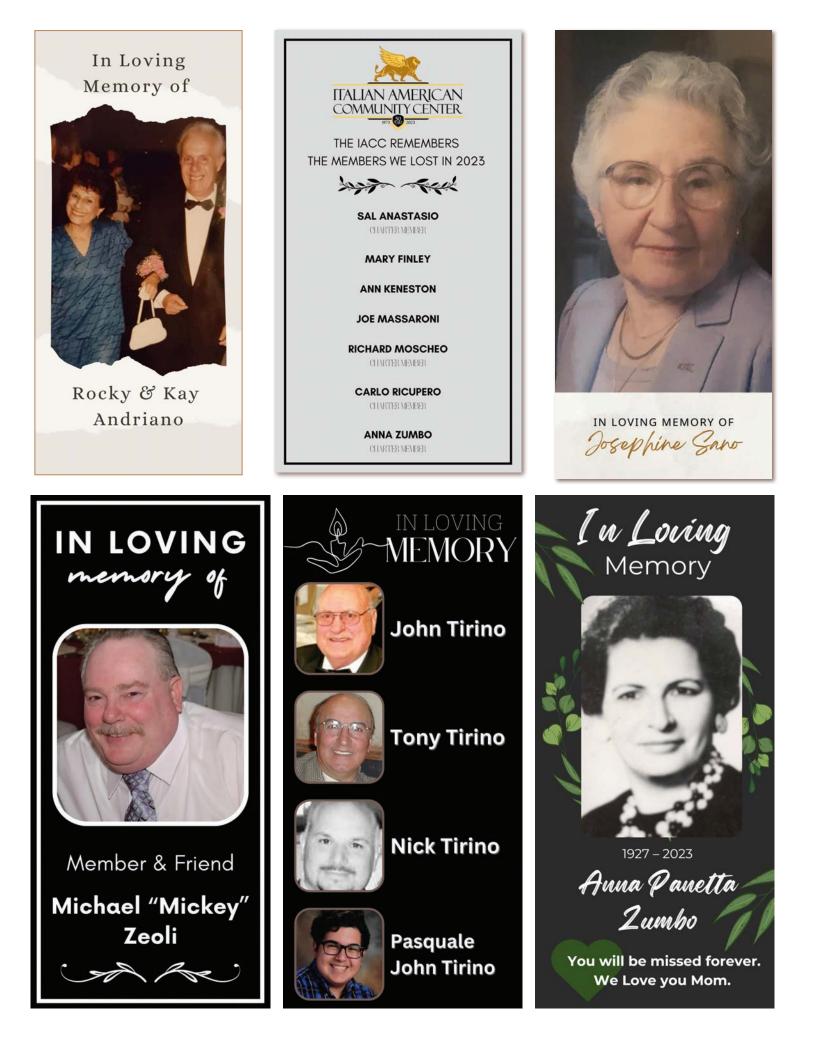
The Italian American Community Center established a non-profit 501c3 foundation with a mission to advance, celebrate and preserve the Italian culture and heritage while helping families rediscover the great strength to be found in these traditions.

The Foundation holds many annual cultural programs and events. Our goal is to connect a new generation of Italian Americans with traditions and an ethnicity which has been all but lost in today's world. With your ongoing support we hope to continue this good work for generations to come.

ALL PROCEEDS OF THE SILENT AUCTION GO TO BENEFIT THE CULTURAL & CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOUNDATION

Cash, Check & Credit Cards Accepted





Congratulations! Hon. Thomas DiNapoli, Hon. Darius Shahinfar & all of tonightis honorees.

Sergio Panunzio

Joe Giebelhaus & Frank Zeoli

Commissioner

Ermass Deputy Commissioner

<image>

DEPT OF

ENERAL

Congratulations Tom DiNapoli on being named the Italian American of the Year!



Anniversary

Happy



Public funds were no used to pay for the

advertisement

From the Mayor CITY OF ALBANY

Congratulations on the 50th Annual Columbus Day Gala!

This year's honorees, NYS Comptroller, *Honorable Thomas DiNapoli*, Italian American of the year, and Albany City Treasurer, *Honorable Darius Shahinfar*, Italian Spirit Award recipient, are well deserving of these recognitions. I wish you a successful event.



-Mayor Kathy Sheehan



ALBANY NEW YORK [EST. 1666 **** Congratulations to the IACC on its 50th anniversary and to its Columbus Day Grand Gala Honorees!

> Hon. Thomas DiNapoli Italian American of the Year

> > Hon. Darius Shahinfar Italian Spirit Award

And Angelo Tarantino, Anthony Fazio and Sharon Patrei



Daniel P. McCoy Albany County Executive

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

Albany County Democrats wish the Italian American Community Center Congratulations on 50 Years of Service and Success

Congratulations to the 2023 Italian American of the Year NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli &

2023 Italian Spirit Honoree Treasurer Darius shahinfar

Chairman Crawford Congratulates all 2023 awardees at this years IACC Columbus Day Grand Gala

Congratulations to New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli on your Well-deserved recognition as IACC Italian American of the Year



From Your Friends of the **Rensselaer County Democratic Committee Michael J. Monescalchi, Chair**



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Happy 50th Anniversary to the IACC & Congratulations to all of tonight's Honorees



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Congratulations &

Best Wishes

To the IACC on their 50th Anniversary and to our honorees tonight Hon. Thomas DiNapoli & Hon. Darius Shahinfar



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Congratulations!

Tom DiNapoli and Darius Shahinfar and Thank You to the Italian American Community Center

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Congratulations to this year's Columbus Day Grand Gala honorees, The Honorable Thomas DiNapoli and the Honorable Darius Shahinfar!

> Katrina M. Consiglio, CRPC^(B) Managing Director – Investments PIM Portfolio Manager 4 Tower Place, 9th Floor Albany, NY 12203 (518) 464-2742 katrina.consiglio@wellsfargoadvisors.com https://fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/consiglio-wealth-management-group

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 HONOREES AT THE I.A.C.C.'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY COLUMBUS DAY GRAND GALA



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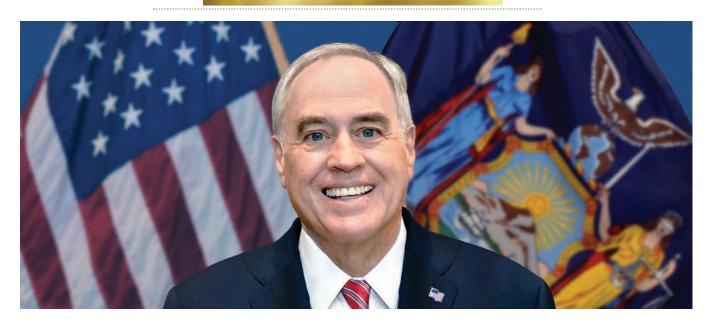
CONGRATULATIONS

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE IACC AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THOMAS DINAPOLI, DARIUS SHAHINFAR, AND ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES.





THOMAS DINAPOLI Italian American of the Year



Tom DiNapoli is the 54th Comptroller of the State of New York. He is the first Italian American to serve as State Comptroller.

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His mother's family is from Sturno in the Avellino province of Italy. His father's family came from Paduli in the Benevento province. Tom was made an honorary citizen of Paduli in 2013. A life-long Long Islander, Tom was raised in a middle-class, union household and saw the value of hard work and stretching every dollar in the example set by his parents.

In 1972, Tom won his first election and served as a trustee on the Mineola Board of Education, becoming the first 18-year-old in New York State to hold public office. He attended Hofstra University, earning a bachelor's degree in history, and graduated magna cum laude in 1976. He worked in telecommunications for ten years and attended night classes to earn his master's degree from The New School University's Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions.

In 1986, he ran for the New York State Assembly and was elected to represent the 16th District in northwestern Nassau County for the next 20 years. Tom was elected State Comptroller on February 7, 2007, by a bipartisan majority of the State Legislature. He was elected Comptroller by New York's voters in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022.

He is a member of the Cellini Lodge, Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America in New Hyde Park, N.Y. In 2011, Tom DiNapoli was honored by the Republic of Italy with the title of Cavaliere.

Tom DiNapoli edited the book The Italian Jewish Experience, which examined the history of the Jewish community on the Italian Peninsula and the role of Italians who rescued Jews during World War II.

He attended Hofstra University, earning a bachelor's degree in history, and graduated magna cum laude. He also earned a master's degree from The New School University's Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions.

His record as State Comptroller reflects an unwavering commitment to protecting the people's money, hold government accountable, and build a better future for New Yorkers. For these reasons, the Italian American Community Center proudly names Thomas DiNapoli the Italian American of the Year.



HON. DARIUS SHAHINFAR Italian Spirit Award

Darius Shahinfar grew up outside of Utica, NY, with no shortage of Italian neighbors and lifelong friends. After attending Bates College in Maine, he moved to Albany nearly 30 years ago to attend Albany Law School, where he met his future wife.

After graduation, he worked in several positions, mainly in the public sector, most notably in the NYS Senate and the Appellate Court, as well as for County Executive Mike Breslin and US Representative Kirsten Gillibrand.

He is in his third term, proudly serving our neighbors as the City Treasurer and Chief Fiscal Officer in Albany, where he has saved taxpayer dollars on debt refinancing, increased collections of revenue owed to the taxpayers, modernized legacy computer and outreach systems to create efficiencies, and found untapped revenue streams to supplement city budgets.

In between, he has served or continues to serve on the Boards of Trustees of Albany Law School, Albany Law School Alumni, St. Anne Institute, Families Together in NYS, the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, National Little League, as well as organizing the delivery of 9,000 Thanksgiving Day meals through Equinox.

He is married to his law school sweetheart, Noelle, and they have two children, Ava and Jackson, in the magnificent Albany School District.

His commitment to public service and compassion for the people of his community, especially those of Italian descent, is why the IACC has chosen to present the Italian Spirit Award to him.

ANGELO TAR ANTINO President's Award

Angelo Tarantino's grandparents immigrated from Bitonto and Giovinazzo, located in the Puglia region of Italy, in the early 1900s. Angelo grew up in Salem, NY, where he worked in the family grocery store each day after school. He graduated from Salem Washington Academy in 1965, SUNY Cobleskill (AAS in Accounting), and SUNY Albany (BS and MS in Education) with a Teacher Certification in N thru 6th, Special and Business Education. Angelo worked for 31 years for the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, retiring as Director of Training for the agency. Angelo has been married to his wife, Gail, for 54 years. They live in Guilderland, where they raised their three girls, Anjanette, Amanda, and Alicia. Angelo is a devoted "Papa" to his granddaughter, Jordan Rose.

The Tarantino family became members of the Italian American Community Center in 1980 and have been active members ever since. Angelo will tell you he felt welcomed to the IACC and its various events in large part due to the extended hands of Carlo Ricupero and Anna Keneston.

As a board member for many years, holding the positions of vice president and treasurer, and during his two terms as President, Angelo worked very closely with every board member and had the support of many members to address issues to improve the operation of the IACC. Credit also has to be given to many members who participated in making group decisions for many of the actions taken. Angelo is always available to share his knowledge and experience when asked.

Today, you can find Angelo spending his retirement years on the basketball court playing in the Colonie Senior Basketball League, which is a continuation of a love of basketball he had in school and college and playing bocce with friends and his IACC family in the Men's Bocce League and Mixed League.

Angelo's dedication and commitment to the continued success of the IACC is why the IACC is proud to present Angelo with the 2023 President's Award.

HONOREES' BIOS

ANTHONY "TONY" FAZIO Pasquale Tirino Award

Tony Fazio was born and raised in the Gun Hill Road area of the Bronx. He was the youngest of three children born to Biagio and Josephine Fazio. He attended a trade High School (Food and Maritime Trades). When he was 16 years old, he and his friends crashed a 16th birthday party of one of his friend's sisters, and at that party, he met a girl. When he met her, he knew he would marry her, his wife of 56 years, Terri.

He and Terri have three children: Robert, Cristina, and Marc. 1972 Tony and his family moved to Peekskill, NY, in Westchester County. The move made commuting to his job in Newburgh, NY, easier. After owning a couple of businesses and moving to Marlboro/Milton, NY, he decided to take a position in sales. He was transferred to Syracuse, NY, where his family only lived for nine months because he couldn't take the constant snowing, so when an opportunity was presented to move to the Albany area, he took it. It not only got him away from the snow, but it would bring him geographically closer to family.

Tony has lived in the Capital Region for over 30 years. He always says moving to the Albany area was his best move ever. When they decided to join the IACC, they immediately felt the members' warmth. They made so many new friends, and the feeling of inclusion was precisely what the "newcomers" to the area needed. Since then, Tony has volunteered to do whatever he was asked, from landscaping, cooking burgers at the pool, or selling pull tabs on Friday night in the pavilion. Tony is always there with a big smile and a sense of "we are in this together." Friday Nights in our pavilion would not be the same without hearing Tony yell "We Got A Winner" in his famous NYC accent. Tony has left a mark on our club simply because he cares and wants to be of service in any way he can. For this reason and many others, the IACC presents Tony with the Pasquale Tirino Service Award.

SHARON PATREI Cuore d'oro Award (Heart of Gold)

Sharon's mother was born in St. Andrea, Reggio, Calabria. Her father was born in Catanzaro. They came to this country in 1933, and Sharon and her sister were born here in America.

She grew up in Albany, starting her career with the State of New York in 1965, and was employed in the Office of the President of State University at Albany. In 1971, she married her husband, a medical student at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

After medical school and residency, they set up an ENT surgery and allergy practice, where Sharon managed the office for 25 years while raising two sons. She was also involved in the medical community wives organizations and taught English as a Second Language.

She moved back to Albany in 2003 when her husband passed away and has been involved with the Italian American Community Center ever since. She is proud to be the current Vice President of the IACC & serve on the IACC Foundation Board of Directors. Sharon can be seen weekly during the summer selling her freshly baked desserts on Friday nights in the pavilion and serving on many committees for events and activities held at the IACC. Her passion and commitment is why she has been chosen to receive the 2023 Cuore d'oro Award.

SAVE THE DATE



Join us in celebrating our 51st Annual Columbus Day Grand Gala

October 19, 2024 5:30pm to 11:00 pm

For more information visit our website at www.italianamerican.com

Mille Grazie to the **Shea Family**

for a great Columbus Day Grand Gala

25444 (CATERING }



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

Cost: \$40 Members I.A.C.C, \$45 Non-members. | Location: The Italian American Community Center - Parking Lot 257 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, NY 12205 | Time: 8:45 am Depart from Albany. 4:00 pm Depart from NYC.

RSVP: Call the Membership Office at 518-456-4222 or visit www.italianamerican.com

CONGRATULATIONS THOMAS DINAPOL

ON BEING NAMED THE ITALIAN AMERICAN MAN OF THE YEAR! & HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE IACC.





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Congratulations to this years



2023 Honorees Hon. Thomas DiNapoli Italian American of the Year

Hon. Darius Shahinfar

Italian Spirit Award



To the best Dad & Husband thanks for all you do!

Love, Neelle, Jackson & Ava

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Happy 50th Anniversary to the IACC! Congratulations to tonight's honorees.

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Congratulations to the honorees at this year's

Italian Community Center Columbus Day Grand Gala



Member of Assembly John T. McDonald III



Member of Assembly Patricia A. Fahy

Congratulations

to the Italian American Community Center for 50 years of honoring and preserving our Italian heritage and culture.



COLUMBUS DAY

GRAND GALA

Continued Best Wishes,

Peter Crummey Colonie Town Supervisor

eter

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT PETER CRUMMEY FOR COLONIE SUPERVISOR

CENTERPIECES SPONSORED BY

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> ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER



CONGRATULATIONS!



As a husband, father, and Papa (including all of your four-legged granddogs), you are the most amazing man that we will ever have in our lives.

No matter what, you have been there for us to lend a helping hand, give advice, and show your support in every way possible.

The role you have played in our lives, and the examples you have set for us have shown us how to be compassionate people.

We are so proud to be here with you and to see you receive this well-deserved honor.

> Thank you for being you. We love you!

Gail, Anjanette and David, Amanda, Alicia, & Fordan







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REMEMBERING SAL TARZIA

TAUA

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY LOST A GIANT. SAL TARZIA, THE OWNER OF AMO LA BELLA NEW YORK, FOR 40 YEARS, PASSED AWAY.

HIS SUPPORT OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY WAS UNWAVERING. HE WILL BE MISSED!



In 1969, a group of hardworking, dedicated Italian Americans got together and created a plan to build and establish an **Italian-American Community Center**. This center, or as its members have affectionately called it, **"the Club,"** would replace the old center on lower Madison Avenue in Albany.

Due to the construction of the South Mall and the closing of St. Anthony's Church, many Italians were scattered all over the Capital District, relocating to areas like Delaware Ave & Russell Road in the city of Albany. A site was chosen on the outskirts of the city, although still within the City Limits. The purpose of the club was to pull together the scattered Capital District Italian Americans.

To accomplish this, the center sought three hundred members whose initiation fee would be recognized by the issuance of a "Capital Certificate." These members would become the official charter members of the Italian American Community Center of the Capital District. It was the financing provided by these charter members that made the building of this facility possible. The center would include a recreation field, swimming pool, bocce court, and health club, but most importantly, it would provide our members with a place to gather, sing, dance, eat well, and imbibe in the fertile juice of the grape.

After four years of planning and construction, on October 12, 1973, at 2 p.m., the building was officially dedicated by Mayor Erastus Corning, Chairman Colonna, numerous county and city officials, and most importantly, our charter members and their families. Father Joseph Romano gave the invocation and blessed the cornerstone. Mayor Corning delivered a most sincere and eloquent address expressing his pleasure that the Italian Community was quickly approaching its goal of a new home.

Tonight, as we gather here to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, it is only right we honor the following charter members and thank them for their vision, commitment, and contribution to creating a place where generations of Italian Americans can gather to celebrate our heritage, enjoy one another's company, and pass on our traditions to our children and grandchildren.



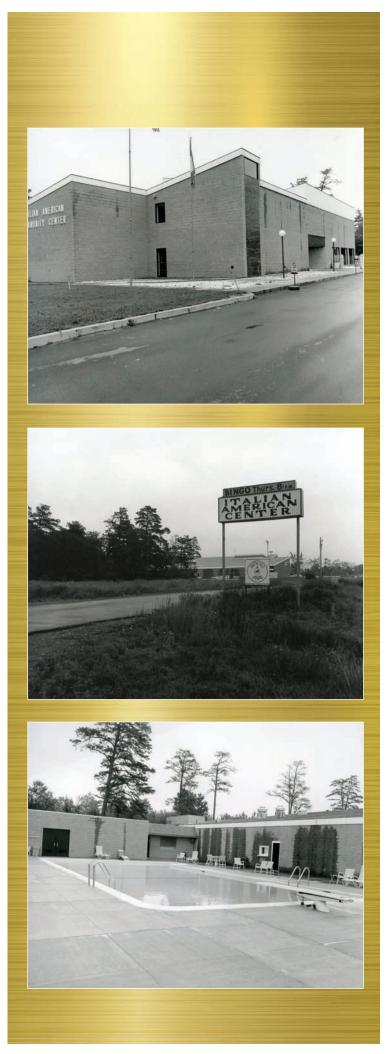
Angelo Joe Amore Primo A Amore Salvatore Anastasio Adriano Arceci Cosimo Audino Phillip S. Battaqlia Sylvester Battaglia Salvatore R. Beltrone **Carmine Berghela** Lionel A. Biagiotti John T. Biscone, J.D. Michael A. Blase, MD Frank J. Bolognino Patrick J. Bruno **Charles Buongiorno** Vincent B. Burometto Anthony Caccamo Frank Campione, DDS D. Frank Campito **Richard Caputo** Rosario Cardamone Anthony Carioto John Garnevale William J. Carretta, Jr. Alfredo F. Cavalieri Michael Celello John Cerasoli Anthony Cerone John Cerone Alfonse Cervera Frank Cesare John A. Chiaramonte Nicholas Chicorelli Frank T. Cicero, MD Eugene Cioffi Anthony Clemente John Colonna Victor Colonna Paul Coluccio Frank Commisso Vincenzo Commisso Paul Condos Frank Corenti Burt Cozzolino Salvatore Cozzolino Anthony E. Crisafulli Anthony S. Crisafulli Carmelo Crisafulli **Charles Crisafulli** Salvatore Crisafulli Vincent Crisafulli

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