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

ITALIANS IN AMERICA: THE Civil War Years

By Robert Penna

On April 12, 1861, South Carolina forces fired the opening shots of the American Civil War, a bloody conflict that was to drag on for four years and cost more American lives than any other conflict in American history. During that epic struggle, the country’s growing Italian-American community was well-represented on both sides of the North-South divide. Since the majority of the immigrant population was in the North, most served on the side of the Union. However, there were Italians who fought for the Confederacy as well, although they tend to be less well-known. Either way, Italian participation on both sides of the War was passionate: Those in the North found echoes of Garibaldi’s Republicanism in the Union cause (October Siamo Qui). Those in the South saw in the cause of the Confederacy parallels with the struggles taking place in Italy (November Siamo Qui).

The North

Most of the Italians in the Union army were recruited from New York. However, Boston and Philadelphia, both of which had sizable Italian populations, also saw Italians volunteering to defend for the Union. Among those leading these intrepid volunteers were prominent Italians of the day such as Francesco Secchi de Casale, also known simply as Francesco Casale, a political activist who escaped from Italian authorities just before he was to be arrested. Casale found refuge in New York and funded the publication of L’Europeo-American, the first periodical to be printed both in English and Italian. He led the formation of the “Italian Legion,” to fight with federal forces and later spearheaded the founding of the 39th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, better known as the famous Garibaldi Guard. Although named for the renowned Italian militarist and manned largely by Italians, this unit also included three companies of Germans, three of Hungarians, one each of Swiss, Frenchmen, Spaniards, and Portuguese.

In spite of this international presence within its ranks, however, the “Italian flavor” of the unit, was unmistakable, from the Italian tricolor the soldiers carried into battle, to the flamboyant uniforms they adopted, patterned somewhat after the famous Bersaglieri. The Garibaldi Guard fought in almost every major action of the eastern theatre of war including such famous battles as Harper’s Ferry in 1862, Gettysburg

Continued on page 4
Let me take this opportunity to introduce you to two recent appointees to the Board of Directors, Kathie Ryan and Peter Scavullo. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both Kathie and Peter for their willingness and commitment to serve as members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will definitely benefit from their education, knowledge and experience. We are still looking for people who are interested in being on the Board. See page 3 for details.

In order to maintain current members we need to make every club member feel welcome at all of our events and activities. So, I am challenging every member to become an ambassador, reach out to fellow members by introducing yourself and introduce them to other members. It would even be nice to ask them to sit with you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Columbus Day Gala.

Angelo Tarantino, President

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**October Calendar**

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

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**Save the Date**

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**Committee Chairpersons**

- **By-Laws**: Robert Penna
- **Columbus Dinner Dance**: Maria LaMorte
- **Finance**: Christine Di Ionna
- **Grievance**: Jeanne Sacca
- **House**: Joe Di Ionna
- **Marketing/PR**: MJ Knowles
- **Membership**: Frank Zeoli
- **Social Activities**: Frank Zeoli
- **Women's League President**: Maria LaMorte
- **Pool**: Jim Sang

**General Membership Meeting**

**November 13, Wednesday**

**November 19, Tuesday**

**November 20, Wednesday**

**T R E V I S O**

518-456-0292

**Save the Date**

**November 13, Wednesday**

**November 19, Tuesday**

**November 20, Wednesday**
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 résumé 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 reelection 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.

Current Nominees for Board of Directors

Robert Penna

Robert and his wife have been members since 2001. Bob worked in the New York State Senate for 13 years as staff member or chief of staff for 3 senators and published a book, "Nonprofit Outcomes Toolbox". He currently serves on the boards of IACC and IAHFI and is running for a full position on IACC. Bob has updated the by-laws of the IACC and has worked tirelessly to upgrade the pavilion kitchen and renovate pavilion facilities.

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.

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.

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.
in 1863, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, and the siege of Petersburg in 1864. They were also present at the final Appomattox campaign in 1865.

The fact of the unit’s being named for Garibaldi was no surprise to people of the time, for Giuseppe Garibaldi was perhaps one of the most famous military leaders of his day due to his struggle to free Italy of foreign domination and to unify it into one republic. At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Garibaldi, already renowned for his leadership in the freedom struggles in South America, volunteered his services to President Abraham Lincoln. He was offered a Major General’s commission in the U.S. Army. Garibaldi, however, replied that the only way in which he could render service—which, he stressed, he ardently desired to do—would be as Commander-in-Chief of Union forces, and upon the condition that the War be publicly declared to be for the purpose of abolishing slavery. These were conditions President Lincoln did not feel he could meet. Thus, Garibaldi declined the commission.

As the War’s fortunes turned repeatedly against the North in the early years of the struggle, however, Lincoln reconsidered, and did offer Garibaldi command of Union forces. By that time, the Italian was deeply engaged in the expedition against Rome and had to decline for a second time.

Other Italians of note fighting for the Union included Luigi Tinelli, an industrialist and former consul to Portugal and Francesco Spinola, who recruited four regiments in New York and was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to be their general. Count Luigi Palma di Cesnola, a veteran of the Crimean War, who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in the War, established a military academy in New York City, where many young Italians learned the art of war before serving in the Union army.

The stories of these individuals are both fascinating and colorful. Cesnola, for instance, was left wounded and pinned under his horse after fighting Jeb Stuart’s cavalry at Aldie, Virginia, in June 1863. He was taken prisoner and, while in captivity, agitated for better treatment for prisoners, to the point that his captors put him in charge of the prison commissary at Belle Isle. He later became the first director of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. For his part, Spinola, finding his men outnumbered six to one in a battle, ordered them to fix bayonets… and charge. They did so, to the utter amazement of the Confederate soldiers who quickly scattered in disorder. Enrico Fardella and Eduardo Ferrero of the 51st New York Regiment were also generals in the Civil War. Ferrero was among the first Union officers to command black troops.

The reasons Italian-Americans of the time had for joining the Union cause were many, varied, and, no doubt, often personal. One reason may have been simply allegiance to their new home. For some, the similarities between Garibaldi’s cause in Italy and those for which the Union was fighting may have been the major operative factor. For some, seeing the U.S. torn in two just as Italy was struggling to unify, may have been too great an irony for them to remain on the sidelines. Whatever the reasons, two things were abundantly clear and beyond question: Italians fought well and bravely for the Union. Also true, however, is the fact that thousands also fought on the other side of the Civil War, for the Confederacy. The story of those soldiers, one of the many unheralded facts in the larger story of the Italians in America, will be included in the next issue of Siamo Qui.
40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  By Maria La Morte

A weekend to remember… A very special celebration of the history, the lifetime, and the future of the IACC… A variety of events to delight and surprise one and all

Friday, October 18
Cocktail Party 6-8 P.M. • $25 pp to all
A sumptuous array of appetizers with a continental bar including wine and beer (cash bar for liquor) and desserts will celebrate the inception and construction of our facility.

Saturday, October 19
Dinner Dance 6-11 P.M.
$55 pp members | $65 pp non-members
Our Gala event honoring the original charter members whose dream became our club, our pool, our pavilion, our parties, and our triumphs over adversity. Dinner including wine and beer (cash bar for liquor) and dancing to the music of the Good Times Band.

Sunday, October 20
Mass and Brunch 10:30 A.M. • Cost of Brunch $25 pp for all
A Mass presided over by our beloved Father Chiaramonte will give thanks for all the blessings we have received and bless the club and its members for the years to come. Mass will be followed by a hearty brunch.

Members should have received their invitations in the mail.
Non-Members are welcome to attend. Please contact the office for details
456-4222 between 9:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.
or iaccoffice@italianamerican.com

WANTED
Looking for 2 altar servers for the Special 40th Anniversary Mass to be held on Sunday, October 20th at 10:30 A.M. We would love to have children or grandchildren of members. If interested, please contact Santa Pasquini at 489-3949 or nonnasp10@gmail.com by October 15th.

www.italianamerican.com
As the day approached for the fall festival that was held on September 22, weather reports predicted possibly rainy weather. At 8 A.M. on the morning of the event, the field and pavilion were empty and the sun struggled to break through the clouds. By 10 A.M., a bustling tent city had appeared and the sun signaled the start of a promising day. Forty eight vendors set up their tables, set out their wares and prepared for the shoppers who would soon be coming. And come they did.

Shoppers were able to make selections about food, drink and merchandise from the many vendors' offerings. While our members in the pavilion were busy preparing fried dough, food truck vendors were selling avocado fries, gourmet sliders, wood fired pizza, fresh filled cannolis and shaved ice. Market vendors were offering fresh vegetables, cheeses, infused olive oils, honey, maple products, baked goods and freshly baked bread. Crafters, both outside and in the pavilion, were selling home decor products, jewelry, floral and other interesting items.

Five food demonstrations were well attended and included the preparation of frittata, pasta e fagioli, pizza and chicken cacciatore. Children played on the playground, jumped in the bouncy house and painted pumpkins.

By the end if the day, tired, but satisfied, vendors packed up their tents and their wares and promised to return another year. Volunteer members took down the settings and met in the pavilion for a communal dinner along with some faithful market vendors. All eventually went home, tired, but pleased that the festival, because of the efforts of so many and the cooperation of the weather, was a success.

The success of the Fall Festival - Italian Style was the result of so many giving their time and efforts. I would like to thank especially the following volunteers who helped to make the day a great event: Lou Acconi, John and Angela Acconi, Rachel Cameron, Maria DeNitto, Chris & Joe DiIonna, Joe Guastamacchia, Dom Indelicato, Maria LaMorte, Nick Mancini, Mary Lou Marando, Santa Pasquini, Ron Richards, Carlo Ricupero, Jim Sano, Theresa & Mike Swanson, Gail & Angelo Tarantino, Gretchen VanValkenburg, Joan Wallis, and Donna Zumbo.

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The country of Italy came from an early tribe called Itali that lived in the “toe area” of Calabria. This name came from Vitulus, meaning calf, veal or bovine. Since it identified them with their land and the bovine livestock that flourished in their territory, the Itali took this symbolic name for themselves. Later, during the time of the expansion of Magna Graecia, when this southern area was colonized, they called it Itoloi. This name was inherited by the rising power of the conquering Romans. They used the Greek word Itoloi, to identify their newly-conquered southern territory. Soon they started referring to the whole of the peninsula with the Latin version, Italia. This name was never to be changed again.

Here are some fascinating facts about Italia:

Rome is further north than New York City and is at about the same latitude as Naples, Italy. In Rome and Naples, it only briefly snows once every several years, while in NYC snow is frequent and heavy in winter.

Italy is only slightly larger than Arizona, yet has over 3,000 museums and the largest cultural sites recognized by UNESCO World Heritage. With over 40 million tourists each year, Italy is the 4th most visited country in the world and has more hotel rooms than any other European nation.

Italy imports about 75% of all its energy needs. Even though it lacks most natural resources, Italy is the 7th most industrialized nation in the world. About 40% of Italy’s labor force is unionized.

The average age of Italians is presently 41 years and life expectancy of Italians is longer than most nationalities around the world, over 79.5 years on average. Italy has the lowest expectancy of Italians is longer than most nationalities around the world. About 40% of Italy’s labor force is unionized.

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Some popular sayings:

“Prendere due piggione con una fava” means kill two birds with one stone.

“Tral di dere e fare c’è di mezzo mare” states that there is a world of difference between saying and doing something.

“Se non è zuppa e pan bagnato” means six of one and half a dozen of another.

“Un nemico è troppo e cento amici non basta” tells us that one enemy is too much and a hundred friends are not enough.

“N’è ammazza piú la gola che la spade” means gluttony kills more than the sword.

“Ars longa, vita brevis” is a common Italian saying meaning that art is long, life is brief. This reflects the Italians’ love of leisure.
Book Club Talks About Love

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, October 16** at 7 P.M. to discuss Christopher Castellani’s *All This Talk of Love*. As the novel opens, we meet Frankie Grasso, a graduate student in Boston, and his mother, Maddalena, an Italian immigrant living in Delaware. The two talk every night on the phone. They review the day’s progress in their favorite soap operas and then each says, “I love you,” over and over, neither wanting to be the first to hang up. This strange ritual at the beginning of *All This Talk of Love*, captures the essence of this rich and entertaining new novel of life’s twists and turns, coincidences and misunderstandings, reunions and partings that are often the stuff of soap opera.

*All This Talk of Love* is the third in Castellani’s series of novels about the Grasso family. The first, *A Kiss From Maddalena*, recounts the ill-fated romance between Maddalena Piccinelli and Vito Leone in wartime Italy. The second, *The Saint of Lost Things* follows Maddalena and her husband, Antonio, as they settle in America in the 1950s. *All This Talk of Love* finds Maddalena and Antonio in their 70s, with grown children and grandchildren, haunted by the specter of people and places they have lost. The Grasso’s daughter, Prima, has a plan to make everyone, especially Maddalena, happy — the whole family will visit the family’s native village, Santa Cecilia together. Maddalena and Antonio resist, and then relent, and the trip to the old country produces many intriguing and unintended consequences.

For further information, contact Dick Ognibene at 372-4919 or at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com.

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**In 1492 Poet Unknown**

In fourteen hundred ninety-two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
He had three ships and left from Spain;
He sailed through sunshine, wind and rain.

He sailed by night; he sailed by day;
He used the stars to find his way.
A compass also helped him know
How to find the way to go...

**55+ Club** By Sharon Patrei

October 23rd at noon will be our next and final luncheon for the year. We will be entertained by Adam York, who plays a remarkable saxophone. We will order off the menu. We may hold our luncheon in the dining room, so that Adam can play for the benefit of all diners. Do join us for a couple of hours of laughter, conversation, and entertainment. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Patrei at 765-3283.

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**CHAIR YOGA**

Yoga instructor, Tracy Swanson, teaches this yoga class called *Chair Yoga*. *Chair Yoga* is a gentle form of yoga, practiced sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support. The class is an eight-week program on Monday evenings ending on **October 28th**. The one-hour class will be held upstairs in the IACC Boardroom and begins at **6:30 P.M.**. Classes are open to men and women.

**Prices:**
- Members: $48 for 8 weeks
- Non-Members: $56 for 8 weeks
- Drop-in: $10 per class

Remember to wear loose comfortable clothing!
Remember When?
Excerpt from Siamo Qui November 1, 1973

Cornerstone Dedication Held
October 12, 1973

The beautiful new home of the Italian community was symbolically dedicated on Friday, October 12, 1973 at 2:00 P.M. Speakers were Chairman Colonna and Mayor Corning. Other City and County representatives in attendance were District Attorney Arnold Proskin, City Court Judge Morton M.Z. Lynn, Surrogate Judge John McCall, Judge Joseph Yavonditte, Assemblyman Fred Field, Corporation Counsel John W. Hacker, Sup’t of Parks Sal Garufi, Architect Harris Sanders and Banker Spence Peckham.

Father Joseph Romano gave the Invocation and blessed the cornerstone. Mayor Corning delivered a most sincere and eloquent address expressing his great pleasure that the Italian community was so quickly approaching its goal of a new home.

Chairman Colonna said in part:
“...the new center should be a repository for books and information pertaining to Italian culture and such information should be disseminated throughout the area to foster a better understanding between people of different ethnic backgrounds.”

“A recreation field, swimming pool, bocce court, and health club are included in the plans to attract the young and athletically inclined to our membership. And finally, this place will be used as a place to gather to sing, dance, eat well, and imbibe in the fertile juice of the grape.”

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Jacqueline C. Fontaine
Associate Broker, GRI
Relocation Specialist & Residential Marketing Expert

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Two Locations To Serve You:
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1482 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065

IACC Bowling
Bowling nights are Friday, at 6:30 P.M. at Westlawn Lanes on Western Avenue. Please call Maria Marchio at 438-9067 if you are interested in joining us for some fun.

ITALIAN LESSONS
Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7 and 14

Elementary Italian Lessons are Thursday nights at 7 P.M. Classes are one and a half hours long for eight weeks. Cost is $75 Members, $85 Non-Members. A book fee may be collected at the first class.

Learn the basics, from numbers and time-telling to simple greeting and conversation. Study of Italian culture and the language of food will also be included.

The instructor is longtime member and native Italian speaker, Carolina Mancino.

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Hello Ladies!

October has arrived, the month of our Columbus Gala. This year, on October 18, 19, and 20, we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the IACC and honor the Original Founding Members. The committees organizing the three-day festivities are hard at work preparing and planning many wonderful events. We hope you will all be able to join together with fellow members to enjoy all three days: Friday night’s cocktail party will include delicious appetizers and drinks followed by dessert and coffee. Saturday’s traditional honoring of a local Italian-American will be replaced by a commemoration of all the Charter Members who began our club with dinner and dancing as festive and elegant as ever. Sunday’s event will begin with Mass celebrated by Father Chiaramonte and culminate with a hearty fall Brunch. It promises to be a fabulous weekend!!

Women’s League was proud to sponsor the Fall Festival Italian Style on September 22, bringing many new faces to our lawn and pavilion. So many wonderful, dedicated members give of themselves to make our club a lively place to enjoy life. Grazie a tutti! (Thank you all!)

Our October meeting will be Wednesday, October 9 at 6 P.M. We will begin our meeting a little earlier this month in order to devote more time to one of our favorite activities: Dawn Martin and her daughter will be here with fleece panels ready to turn into the blankets that become “Uncle Shawn’s Hugs”. Bring your scissors and sit with a pal to cut and simply tie square knots and help make an underprivileged child feel the embrace of love in a blanket.

Our dinner choices are Vegetable Wellington, Sliced Bistro Steak or Grilled Salmon with a French Cream Horn for dessert. As always, the cost is $20, but I must restate the importance of reserving by October 4 and understanding that Women’s League must pay for your dinner when you reserve and don’t show up. We will be obliged to ask for your payment when you don’t call to cancel. Other than that, everything is peachy keen!!

Hope to see you on October 9.

Ciao! Maria La Morte
Women’s League President
CARING & SHARING
By Anna Acconi

October Birthdays:
Angelina Anastasio
Salvatore Anastasio
Marilyn Aragosa
Matthew Badalucco
Rosetta Barbato
Michael Basile
Dianne Beer
Duane Beer
Paul Bonacquisti
Robert Casillo
David Cesari
Helen Cristafulli
Andrea Cristafulli
Joseph Di Ionna
Linda Dillon
Richard Frank
Joanne Gray
Maurilio Gregori
Robert LaMorte
Jane Lee
Theresa Lomonoco
Carolina Mancino
Paul Mancuso
Fulvia Pizzitola
John Rizzo
Philip Sabatino
Gail Sharpe
Catherine Stigi
Wayne Tearno
Paul Veillette
Bridge Walsh
Anna Zumbo

Condolences
Maria Ricupero, mother of Carlo Ricupero and Carmela DiCarlo and mother-in-law of Sante DiCarlo, recently passed away. Our condolences are sent to the entire Ricupero family.

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

Community News
Mark your calendar for An Afternoon with David Righeschi and Friends on Sunday, November 17th at 3 p.m. at the Palace Theatre. The concert will be sponsored by Italia-America Cultural Foundation of NY. David Righeschi will be joined by Italian singer Carlo Beni, the Capital Region’s very own rising tenor star, Angelo Mazzone, the Saratoga Youth Orchestra conducted by Maestro Gioacchino Longobardi, and the Capital District Youth Chorale under the direction of Diane Warner. Tickets are $50 and $35. Wine and food reception after the concert is $25. To order tickets contact the Palace Theatre Box Office at 888-583-6045 or www.albanyboxoffice.com.

ITALIAN CREAM CAKE
By Mary Finley
Ingredients:
2 sticks softened butter
2 cups sugar
5 eggs
2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup chopped pecans
1 tsp. vanilla

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour 9 X 13 pan or three 9 inch cake pans. Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Sift dry ingredients and blend into butter mixture. Mix in buttermilk and coconut, pecans and vanilla. Bake for 30 minutes. Test cake with tester.

CREAM FROSTING
Ingredients:
1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese (softened)
½ stick butter (softened)
2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

Directions:
Beat cream cheese and butter until well blended. Mix in powdered sugar. Spread over cake. Sprinkle with pecans.

Card 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 Members
Richard & Charyl Folmsbee
East Greenbush
Sponsor: David Lee
Join the IACC

The Italian American Community Center

FREE dinners... every week

Two-for-One Dinners on Member’s Monday!
Free Cocktail Party for up to 10 guests!
Free Dessert!

15% Dinner discount
at Treviso Restaurant

10% Discounts
at Hoosick Wine and Liquor and Fiorello Imports—Luigi’s Deli

10% Discount off Parties and Banquets

FACILITIES
Area’s Best Italian Restaurant and Banquet Facilities • Card / Billiard / TV Room
Heated In-ground 60 x 30 Pool • Children’s Playground • Meeting Rooms
Four Covered Bocce Courts • Outdoor Pavilion for Gatherings

Call 456-IACC (4222) for details

STARTING AT

$22.95 Per Month