

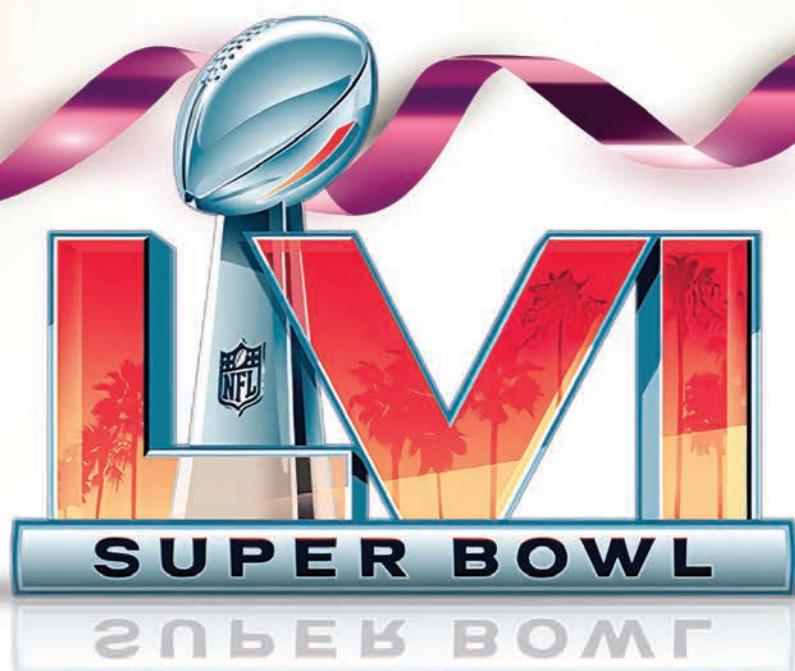
"WE ARE HERE"

Siamo Qui

ISSUE 575

JANUARY 2022

SUPER BOWL 56 PARTY



12 FOOT HD SCREEN

RAFFLES & PRIZES

Doors open: 4:00 pm
Pre-Game Buffet: 5:30 pm

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13

Pre-Game Buffet

Garden Salad
Dinner Rolls
Chicken Parmigiana
Eggplant Parmigiana
Penne Ala Vodka
Meatballs
Mixed Vegetables

Cost: \$40 per person

Reservations Required
Call 456-4222

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Halftime Buffet

Pizza
Cheeses and Crackers
Plus: Beer, Soda
Coffee and Tea
Villa Italia Dessert Pastries
and Cookies



• H A P P Y • N E W • Y E A R •

NEWS & EVENTS

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President of the Italian American Community Center

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12 CARING & SHARING



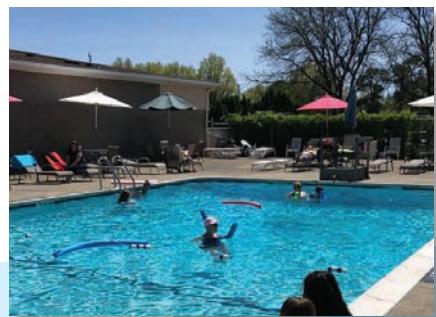
SOCIAL CALENDAR



01 ~ HAPPY NEW YEAR

12 ~ No Women's League Meeting ~ Winter Break

19 ~ No I.A.C.C. Board Meeting



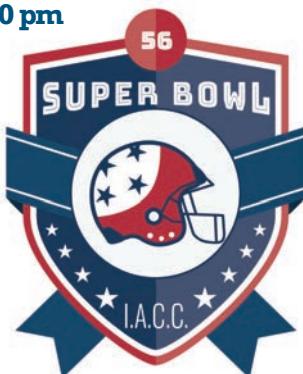
Upcoming Events:

02/13 Super Bowl 56 Party 4:00 pm-10:00 pm

02/26 Carnevale 6:30 pm - 11:30 pm

03/13 Saint Patrick - Saint Joseph
Mass and Brunch

04/09 Arthur Avenue
"Little Italy in the Bronx"
Easter Bus Trip





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Now that a new year is upon us, I am optimistic that 2022 is going to be a better year overall.

2022 is gearing up to be a year filled with events and programs that not only celebrate our Italian heritage but fill our days with lots of food, fun, and, most importantly, friends.

In February, we will hold our annual Super Bowl event on February 13th and Venetian Carnevale 2022 on February 26th. For more information on both of these great events, please visit our website.

As I reported last month, you will be receiving your annual dues bill soon and there will be no dues increase. In addition, we have redesigned the membership package that includes the Monday Buffet, a Sunday Brunch, and a cocktail party among all of the other benefits members enjoy such as discounts to events, our heated swimming pool and free use of IACC meeting rooms. A more detailed list of member benefits will accompany your dues bill. We ask that you remit your payment promptly.

As we begin planning a year's worth of events and programs, we are always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to be on one of our many steering committees, please feel free to contact me directly or through the Membership office. We would love to have you.

Ciao,

FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



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VICE PRESIDENT ~ SHARON PATREI

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TREASURER ~ PETE SCAVULLO

(518) 869-8234

SECRETARY ~ DONNA ZUMBO

(518) 452-2617

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MARIA LAMORTE ~ (518) 456-4800

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JIM SANO, IACC FOUNDATION ~ (518) 438-4631

DAVID QUADRINI- IACC FOUNDATION~ (518) 438-7602

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MEMBERSHIP~ SHARON PATREI

BY-LAWS/POLICIES & PROCEDURE ~ JIM SANO

HOUSE~ DAVID QUADRINI

GRIEVANCE ~ JEANNE SACCA

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES~ FRANK ZEOLI

WOMEN'S LEAGUE~ GEORGEANN GREENE

COLUMBUS DAY GALA~ FRANK ZEOLI,

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ADVERTISING ~ MARIA MARCHIO

IACC OFFICE

HOURS: M-F 9:30AM TO 2:30PM

THERESA LAJOY- OFFICE MANAGER

PHONE # (518) 456-4222

EMAIL: IACCOFFICE@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

I.A.C.C Foundation

1st Annual

Cash

Raffle

Proceeds to benefit I.A.C.C. Foundation!

Drawing will be held at Carnivale on February 26th, 2022

\$100 a Ticket Only 200 Sold-Grand Prize \$5,000 + 10 \$500 Prizes

We are holding a cash raffle giveaway and your odds of winning are great! We are only selling 200 tickets for \$100 each. Go in partners with friends and family or buy them for Christmas presents. The tickets will be available at the Monday Night Buffet as well as by calling the office at 518-456-4222.

The raffle is open to all not just members. The drawing will be held at our annual Carnevale celebration on February 26th, so come to Carnevale, party and go home with some cash!



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Current I.A.C.C. Memberships expire Friday, December 31st, 2021

Membership renewal starts Monday, December 27, 2021.

New enrollment begins January 3rd at the I.A.C.C. Membership office.

REMEMBER TO SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS

You may enroll by sending your invoice (with payment) in or by calling the I.A.C.C. Membership Office at (518) 456-4222.

Cash, Checks, Credit and Debit cards are accepted.

Thank You For Being A Member.

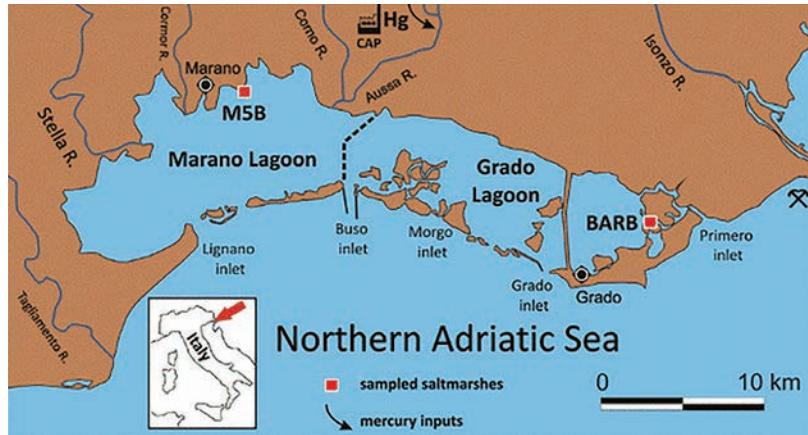
Here's To An Amazing 2022 At The Club!



Islands of Friuli-Venezia Giulia

By JIM SANO

Italy is divided into twenty regions and, in almost every part, you can find a few islands. The only regions that do not have any islands are Abruzzo, Molise, Aosta Valley, and Marche. The islands of Friuli-Venezia Giulia are in the Marano/Grado Lagoon. This massive lagoon in northeastern Italy has a surface area of around 160 square kilometers (62 sq mi). The Marano section covers an area of 70 square kilometers and has fewer islands than the Grado section. The Marano section of the lagoon starts on the southern side with Lignano Sabbiadoro, a resort city developed mainly after World War II, and goes until the "Palud de Soto" near Porto Buso on the island of Anfora which is next to the mouth of the small river, Aussa. The mooring complex (marina) of Lignano Sabbiadoro (Golden Sand) is the largest in Italy and among the largest in Europe, having more than 5,000 berths. The various structures of Aprilia Marittima, the harbor Marina Punta Faro, and the docks Porto Vecchio are strategically positioned around and near Marano Lagoon's southern areas. The Grado Lagoon is a spectacular natural setting that extends from Fossalon di Grado to the island of Anfora and to the mouths of the Aussa and Corno Rivers. Grado and Marano Lagoons form critical ecological



systems, both for numerous vegetal and animal species' habitats. At present, six sandbars separate the lagoons of Marano and Grado from the Adriatic Sea.

The Nature Reserve of the Marano Lagoon stretches over more than 1,400 hectares, and it consists of two smaller reserves, the Reserve of the Stella River Mouth ("Riserva Foci dello Stella") and the Reserve of Canal Nuovo Valley ("Riserva Valle Canal Novo"). The environment consists mainly of reed thickets, water, and sandbanks. What is specific to the Marano Lagoon is the variety of water salinity levels. This variety has enabled



Grado Lagoon



the development of impressive biodiversity, both on land and in the water. Birdlife is the most prominent in this lagoon, so birdwatchers are highly likely to get exceptional satisfaction while visiting the Lagoon. The lagoon is also scattered with casoni or temporary fishermen huts. These picturesque marsh cane 'houses' capture the lagoon's ancient culture and lifestyles, which have not been lost to history. These fishermen are specialists who, over the centuries, have honed the art of aquaculture because going out in the open sea is quite complicated here at the mouth of the Tagliamento in the Adriatic, due to the persistent bora winds. For a large part of the year, these men live in unique homes built with Robinia branches, with roofs of lagoon canes gathered in August and left out to dry for a few months. Bass, sea breams, eels, and mullets are patiently farmed by these fishing experts, who are also the inventors of a famous fish soup called boreto. The Murano Lagoon is home to owls, magpies, swans, mockingbirds, herons, terns, and harriers. Two nature preserves were created in 1979 for the impressive variety of birds' protection. The Grado Lagoon section extends from the Fossaloni island near Grado to the island of Anfora, next to the mouth of the small river, Aussa. This lagoon, which covers an area of about 90 square kilometers and has nearly 120 islands, is divided into an eastern sector (called in Italian "Palud de Sopra") and a western sector



("Palud de Soto"). The Grado Lagoon is bordered to the west by the Marano Lagoon. It is crossed longitudinally by the Venetian coast waterway, a waterway that connects Venice with the Isonzo River's mouth. The Grado Lagoon offers a landscape rich in colors with the green of the luxuriant vegetation and the Adriatic Sea's blue. The origins of this lagoon are relatively recent. Until the fifth century, the land covered all the area, as evidenced by several archaeological findings including a Roman road, now entirely underwater, which connected Aquileia to Grado. The typical boat of the lagoon's inhabitants is the batèla, which has a flat bottom and is operated by rowing. The batèla, which may be equipped with a sail, is usually 5 to 10 meters long and is guided by an oarsman standing in the stern. The lagoon is fertile in trees, particularly tamarisk, elm, poplar, junipers, and pines. Simultaneously, the fauna presents a considerable variety of birds such as gulls, grey herons, wild ducks, sea swallows.

Grado

Grado is the biggest island in the Grado Lagoon and is a town on the lagoon between Venice and Trieste located just 20 km from the Isonzo River's mouth. The island, connected to the mainland by bridges, is a great vacation destination for those visiting this exciting but less-explored part of Italy. This area was once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Many tourists are German-speaking so menus appear in German and Italian. There is a lot of English spoken as well. The town, which has a population of 9,000, is a working fishing port with a lovely historic town center frequently described as a northern relative to Venice. Like Venice, Grado became populated as the inhabitants of mainland Roman settlements fled into the lagoons to escape successive invasions. Grado is the birthplace of Biagio Marin, a poet who sang about the island in the local Venetian dialect. Grado (AKA L'Isola del Sole "The Sunny Island") attracts many tourists each year for its miles of well-equipped sandy beaches, hotels, and campgrounds. For years, this area belonged to the Austro-Hungarian empire, and during that time, Grado developed as a spa resort.



Grado Island

The town has a charming well-preserved historic pedestrian-only center, lined with picturesque medieval buildings, trees, shops, parks, and old churches. Grado's cathedral, the Duomo or Basilica di Sant'Eufemia, is the town's best tourist sight. It lies in a picturesque little square called Campo dei Patriarchi which is the historic heart of Grado. Behind the Basilica, there is a Lapidarium (stone collection) displaying fragments of ancient statues and tombs. Remains of floor mosaics from a 4th-6th century church were uncovered in Piazza Biagio Marin, a big square just outside the historic center. Across the square from the Duomo is another impressive early church, the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie. The island makes an excellent overnight stop on a tour of this part of Italy, a base for visiting the extensive ruins at Aquileia, 6 miles away, or an ideal holiday destination for a trip that combines sun, sand, sightseeing, and archaeology.

Barbana

Barbana is a small island located at the northern end of the Grado Lagoon, near Trieste. Barbana is known worldwide for its sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary. A Franciscan friars community currently inhabits the 1500-year-old Santuario di Barbana (Sanctuary of "Mary, mother of Jesus"). This ancient Marian shrine dates back to 582 when Elia, the Patriarch of Aquileia, built a church near the hut of a hermit from Treviso named Barbanus. The shrine's foundation originates from the Virgin Mary's image which was carried in by the sea and found at the foot of an elm after a fierce storm. At that time, the site was part of the mainland; the Grado Lagoon formed between the 5th and 7th centuries. This shrine is one of the most visited in Italy. Barbana is the destination of many pilgrimages, the most famous being the Perdon de Barbana, held each July to celebrate the end of a visitation of the plague in Grado in 1237 and includes a procession of boats decorated with flags in the lagoon from Grado to Barbana.

From the foundation to around 1000, Barbana became an island, and the shrine was served by a community of monks unique to the island, called the Barbitani. The original church was destroyed by floods and rebuilt. Mary's image was lost and in the 11th century and replaced by a wooden statue known as the Madonna mora. This Black Madonna resides in the Domus Mariae (House of Mary) chapel near the main church.

In the 11th century, the shrine's care was entrusted to Benedictine monks, who served there until the 15th century. A Franciscan community succeeded the Benedictine monks and built a new church in the 18th century. The modern Romanesque style church built at the beginning of the 20th century includes two Roman columns from the first church and a 10th-century relief portraying Jesus. The crowned statue of Mary dates from the 15th century, while the 17th century is represented by several altars and paintings, including one from the school of Tintoretto. In the woods near the church, a small chapel, the Cappella dell'apparizione, was built in 1854, where Mary's original image was found. The church's baptismal font is supported by a figure of the Devil, sculpted in red marble. It is the work of Claudio Granzotto, a Franciscan friar and noted religious artist of the mid-20th century.

Anfora

The westernmost island is Anfora, which acquired strategic importance in 1866 when it marked Italy's boundary with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today it houses the small island town of Porto Buso. This small island has great historical significance. On May 24, 1915, the Kingdom of Italy entered World War I on the side of the Entente. The raid on Porto Buso was an assault launched by the Italian Royal Navy on an Austro-Hungarian naval station; this incursion became the first offensive action of the Italian Navy in the conflict. The result was the destruction of the maritime outpost, the sinking of a flotilla of small vessels, and the capture of most of the Austro-Hungarian garrison. The action resulted in the withdrawal of all Austro-Hungarian forces from the nearby town of Grado and neighboring islands during the subsequent days.

Isola Ravaiarina

This private island, for sale for \$3,584,658USD, is located just a few minutes by boat from the city of Grado. It offers a lot of tourism potential, mainly due to its restaurant, which in former times thrived but is currently closed, and two apartment buildings with the possibility of further development. The buildings on the island were restored in the 1990s. Ravaiarina has a long history as a fish farm that dates back to the ancient Romans. It has a small harbor where it is easy to reach the open sea and is 54 nautical miles from Venice and 17 nautical miles from Trieste.



Barbana Island



Isola Ravaiarina



Santuario di Barbana

Schiusa Island

Schiusa Island is linked with Grado by a pedestrian bridge with a charm reminiscent of Venice's Rialto Bridge. The island did not exist before 1957, when a massive reclamation project created with fill material transformed 17 hectares of the lagoon for land development. Today Schiusa Island is entirely urbanized and consists of a sports facility, school and health building, and a large parking facility able to accommodate several hundred cars.

There are nearly 120 islands in the Marano-Grado Lagoon. Other islands worthy of mention are Monton for hay production, the island of Beli, home to the legendary witch Bela who confused sailors to crash into rocks, Volpera, a camping site, San Giuliano, home to a 9th-century Roman villa, Zemole, along with ancient findings of coins, and Villanova Island which was the site of an ancient Celtic settlement.



Anfora Island

San Piero D'Orio

The island of San Piero D'Orio was once dry land and was connected to the Isola di Grado. It has ancient origins and was settled by the Romans, who built a temple dedicated to Apollo. Later it was home to a monastery of Franciscan friars and a church which was destroyed by a storm. In 1820, a Venetian-style bell tower was rebuilt on the island, but in 1915 it was damaged with mines by the Italian army to prevent it from Austrian artillery fire.

Gorgo Island

The island of Gorgo (Santi Cosma e Damiano) is crossed by traces of the ancient Roman route joining Aquileia and Grado. Numerous human remains and ancient artifacts have been found here. Like several islands in the lagoon, it was home to a church and from 1917 until 1945, it was also home to a military base. Gabriele D'Annunzio was a frequent visitor to the island during World War I. It is a large island frequented by numerous birds including herons, egrets, and cormorants.

Martignano

Martignano, also known as Isola delle Conchiglie ("island of shells"), is located close to Lignano Sabbiadoro's peninsula and is ideal for hikers who love unspoiled nature. Besides swimming in pristine waters, sunbathing, bird watching, and shell collecting, the island is a habitual destination of "Kiters" since it has ideal breezes for these enthusiasts.

Mangia Bene, Viva Bene

Rice Cakes

By FRANK ZEOLI

The thing about most Italian grandmothers, they never wasted anything and my grandmother was no exception. This dish was inspired by that sentiment. When she would have leftover rice, whether it be white rice or arborio rice, she would throw together this delicious snack. While Sicilian grandmothers would make arancini (stuffed Sicilian rice balls), my grandmother would make a rice cakes. I would definitely classify these as comfort food.

Prep Time: 15 Minutes | Cook Time: 30 Minutes

Ingredients

- 2 cups of rice (white or arborio)
- 5 eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 teaspoon of granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon of dried parsley
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of black pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of frying oil (I use a blended oil)

Instructions

1. Cook or reheat the rice and place it in a large mixing bowl. Add 3 eggs, granulated garlic, salt, pepper, parsley, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the parmesan cheese. Mix the rice well making sure the rice is completely covered.

2. In two separate mixing bowls, add the breadcrumbs and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of parmesan cheese to one of them and mix well. In the second bowl, add 2 eggs and beat well.
3. Take some of the rice mixture and place it in the palm of your hand making a ball at first and then molding it into a cake or log shape.
4. Roll the rice cake into your egg mixture covering it thoroughly and then into your breadcrumb mixture. You want to continually keep molding it, so it stays together. Repeat this step until you have shaped all of the rice.



5. In a large frying pan on medium high, heat the oil and place the rice cakes into the frying pan. Make sure the oil is hot before you place the rice cakes in. Fry them for approximately 15 minutes until both sides are browned. Remove them from the oil and place them on a plate lined with paper towel to catch any excess oil.

Serve them hot just as is or with some homemade marinara sauce.

Look for more recipes in the next edition of the SIAMO QUI.



Christmas Tree Lighting

We could not have asked for better weather on December 5th when we held our tree lighting celebration and party. We had a record crowd of people coming and going throughout the evening. We are missing many pictures because all were having such a good time, singing carols with the Back Porch Players and visiting with friends we had not seen in a while. Many thanks to DC's Pizza for donating food and to the Back Porch Players for donating their time and musical talents to help make this a night for all to fondly remember.



WOMEN'S LEAGUE



Hello ladies,

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind us, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday with their family and friends.

For our December meeting, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner provided by 2Shea Catering and decadent pastries from Villa Italia. (Thank you, Jim Sano). We had 27 ladies in attendance and we also collected a second round of donations for the RMHC of Albany. Jackie Brilling delivered the donations from November and December to the Ronald McDonald House. I received a thank you note from the staff expressing how greatly they appreciated the generosity from the Women's League. The December meeting was our last meeting of 2021. We will resume our gatherings in March 2022.

We discussed the Mother/Daughter Fashion Show and Luncheon with tentative dates for the end of April/beginning of May. Event Chair Maria LaMorte reported on the difficulties she was having in trying to find a store(s) to provide the fashions. The ones she contacted all were reluctant to participate due to Covid. If anyone has any leads, please contact Maria.

Terry Andriano had the IACC Foundation Cash Raffle tickets for sale. The drawing will be held at Carnivale on February 26th. Tickets are \$100 each with only 200 tickets being sold. The Grand Prize is \$5,000 and there will be 10 \$500 prizes.

Maria Marchio shared the sad news of the passing of our former member Santa Pasquini. Our love and prayers go out to her family and friends.



New officers for 2022-2023. From left to right we have Terry Andriano, Treasurer, Donna Zumbo, Vice President, Jackie Brilling, Secretary and Georgeann Green, President.

In addition to our meeting, we held elections for new officers for 2022-2023. The following slate was unanimously elected:

President: **Georgeann Green**
 Vice President: **Donna Zumbo**
 Secretary: **Jackie Brilling**
 Treasurer: **Terry Andriano**

Congratulations to the officers!
 Take care and stay safe,

Georgeann Greene
PRESIDENT



CARING & SHARING

January

- Anna Acconi
- Eugene Aiuppa
- Maurice Andreozzi
- Helen Articolo
- Janice Batchelor
- Alison Burnside
- Jessica Carrow
- John Coppola
- Nadine Cunningham
- Susan Daniels
- Maria DeNitto
- Gail Dillon
- Elizabeth Fargione
- Stephen Franke
- Kimberly Fredericks

- Thomas Galvin
- Bryan Goldberger
- Gretchen Graydon
- Edward Haddad
- John Hoffman

- Cara Joyce
- Christine Marando
- Julie Massaroni
- Marcella Michel
- Edward Murray

- Kathryn Murray
- Frank Padula
- Barbara Palumbo
- Nicole Pellegrini
- Debra Placito
- John Relyea
- John Riley
- Lynda Scalzo
- Cathy Sims O'Neil
- Michael Swanson
- Christopher Thorncroft
- Julie Tsai
- Andrea VanDecar
- Kristine Zaccardo

Background: Designed by Freepik.

Birthdays



IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS WE MUST INFORM YOU OF THE PASSING OF ONE OF OUR OLDEST AND DEAREST MEMBERS, THESESA "TESS" BONANNI. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

TO THE PASQUINI FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF LONGTIME MEMBER SANTA PASQUINI. FOR MANY YEARS, SANTA WAS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PAST PRESIDENT. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.





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THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE I.A.C.C. FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

CONTACT US

PHONE: (518) 456-4222

WEBSITE: WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

EMAIL: MEMBERSHIP@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

ADDRESS: 257 WASHINGTON AVENUE EXT, ALBANY NY 12205

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The Italian American Community Center, founded in 1971, is an organization dedicated to serving anyone and everyone who love all things Italian!

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

(Call (518) 456-4222 To Join Today!)