



Christmas season in Italy is traditionally celebrated December 24-January 6, or Christmas Eve through Epiphany. This follows the pagan season of celebrations that started with *Saturnalia*, a winter solstice festival, and ended with the Roman New Year, the *Calends*. However there are lots of Christmas things to see during December prior to Christmas, many starting on December 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.

Although *Babbo Natale* (Father Christmas) and giving presents on Christmas are becoming more common, the main day for gift giving is Epiphany, the 12th day of Christmas when the three Wise Men gave Baby Jesus their gifts. In Italy, presents are brought by *La Befana*, who arrives in the night to fill children's stockings.

Christmas decorations and trees are becoming more popular in Italy. Lights and decorations are often seen starting around December 8 or even the end of November. The main focus of decorations continues to be the *presepe*, Nativity scene or creche. Almost every church has a *presepe*. They are often found outdoors in a piazza or public area, too.



Traditionally, a meatless dinner is eaten on Christmas Eve with the family, followed by a living nativity scene and midnight mass. In parts of southern Italy a seven fishes dinner is traditionally served on Christmas Eve. Traditional bonfires are often held on Christmas Eve in the main square of town, especially in mountain areas. Dinner on Christmas Day is usually meat based.

IACC Election Results By Anna Acconi

At the November general membership meeting, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve a three-year term beginning in January:

Joseph DeFronzo
Maria DeNitto
Mary Jean (MJ) Knowles
Sharon Patrei

At the meeting following the general election, board officers were chosen for the coming year:

President - Angelo Tarantino
Vice-President - Frank Zeoli
Treasurer - David Cesari
Recording Secretary - Sharon Patrei

We all wish board members and officers a productive year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,
I hope this letter finds you all in good health and ready for this holiday season. Since my tenure as President of the IACC ends this month, this is my last Presidents Message. It has truly been my privilege and honor to serve as your president. I appreciate your understanding and patience as together we navigated through a number

of changes.

There are so many people to thank and so little space: IACC Officers and Board of Directors, our Committee Chairs, and all of the volunteers who work tirelessly and selflessly. You have all been so supportive. We could not have accomplished as many goals as we did without your assistance. A special thanks to my wonderful wife, Regina, who has always been my greatest supporter.

As Past President, I will remain on the Board of Directors for another year. I would like to congratulate our new board members Joseph DeFronzo, Maria DeNitto, Mary Jean (MJ) Knowles, Sharon Patrei, and our new officers for 2013: President - Angelo Tarantino, Vice-President - Frank Zeoli, Treasurer - David Cesari, & Recording Secretary - Sharon Patrei. In 2013 we will celebrate our 40th year as an Italian American club. We must continue to promote our history, our love of family, our appreciation for friendship, and our grand heritage. I continue to believe that we can respect the past, embrace the present, and plan for the future together.

Buon Natale e felice anno nuovo

George Urciuoli, President

Angelo Tarantino, *President-Elect*

I am looking forward to working with the board, officers, and club members over the next calendar year. Thank you to the board members for their confidence in my ability to stand as President. I hope to continue with the positive momentum of George's initiatives. My primary goal is to encourage an increase of membership participation in all club activities. I have enjoyed spending the last year recruiting new members and will continue with this endeavor.

December/January Calendar

View our complete online Calendar at italianamerican.com

Every Monday	Italian Grand Buffet
Every Wednesday	IACC Bowling
December 12, Wednesday	Women's League
December 16, Sunday	Family Christmas Party
December 17, Monday	Meet & Greet Member Social
December 18, Tuesday	Board Meeting
December 24-31	Office Closed
January 15, Tuesday	Board Meeting
January 21, Monday	Meet & Greet Member Social
Save the Date	
February 3, Sunday	Super Bowl Party
February 23, Saturday	Dinner Dance-Carnivale
March 17, Sunday	St. Joseph's - St. Patrick's Mass & Brunch

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

257 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205

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meet, eat, play and
celebrate Italian heritage***

IACC Office

Linda Sciocchetti IACC Office Manager

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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membership@italianamerican.com

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TREASURER DAVID CESARI 365.5830

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TREVISIO MANAGER MIKE BLASL

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

Layout Editor Needed

Please contact the IACC Office if you are
interested: 456.4222

Our ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION Hits A High Note!

By Rosanna Aiuppa

Anyone who was not able to attend the October 21st concert at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall missed a very special musical and cultural event! The audience was thrilled to hear the melodious and gifted voices of Italian Tenor David Righeschi and American Soprano April-Joy Gutierrez as they interpreted some of the most beautiful arias from the repertoire of lyric music, a patrimony left by Italy's most renowned maestros for the world to enjoy. The Saratoga Springs Youth Orchestra's performance also wowed the audience. The talent, poise, and professionalism the children displayed went well beyond their years. Artists were accompanied and directed by Maestro Gioacchino Longobardi, who brought out the best in all of the performances. His fantastic artistry as a classic concert pianist was greatly appreciated by all. With charm and wit, Franco Spoto acted as stage director and master of ceremonies. Through the generosity of First Niagara Bank, we were allowed to use their space in the building for a very successful after-performance reception. Guests felt the warmth, charm, and graciousness of our performers. Our tenor and soprano



signed autographs and interacted with guests. At the reception several guests sampled the delicious wines donated by member Joseph De Fronzo. All basked in the satisfaction of having taken part in a truly wonderful, one-of-a-kind musical event.

As part of our weekend Columbus activities, we took the opportunity of our special guest's visit to plan a fun bus trip to New York City. We sang all the way to NYC, led by our visiting guest tenor. Everyone appreciated visiting a few of the most popular tourist spots of the Big Apple and symbols of our freedom. This was an extra special experience, seeing these sites through the eyes of our guest from Italy, who saw them for the first time.

We are so pleased to report that through the tireless efforts of our small committee composed of co-chairs Virginia Rest and Mary Jean Knowles, Maria Marchio, Rachel Cameron, and Joseph De Fronzo, we were able to raise over \$32,600 net for our organization! There was additional special input from Roy Cameron and Jim Sano, who supplied great audio-visual technical assistance with photographs, CDs, and DVDs, Sally Veillette, who helped to secure the magnificent soprano, and non-member Fortunato Carraro, who twice drove our visiting tenor to New York City. This money will be used for the continuation and expansion of our Foundation's

programs, including improvements to the Pavilion, the structure that houses most of our events.

Encouraged by the results and cooperation we received and never lacking for ideas to accomplish our worthwhile mission, we hope to establish programs that promote, showcase, and give back to our community the very best of our wonderful Italian heritage and culture.



Comedy Night at the IACC

Returns with a Heavy Dose of Audience Participation! *By Dom Indelicato*

Another *Comedy Night at the IACC*, was brought to us again by Tommy Nicci's "The Comedy Works" on Friday,



November 2nd. While those in attendance enjoyed an evening of the proverbial laughter that is "the best medicine for what ails you", there was also an unexpected heavy dose of audience participation. The audience interaction seemed an unplanned twist that surprised but pleased the comedians

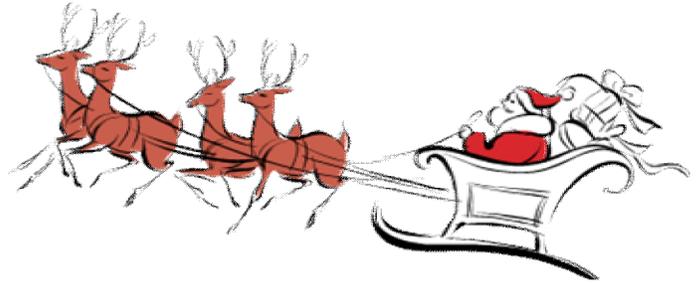
themselves, as well as the audience. It was an innocent comment by the opening act Green Island comedian that began a hilarious string of audience interactions with the comedians that were intertwined with the more conventional stand-up comedy routines.

The comedian gave our "normally shy" Maria DeNitto an opening to ad lib her way into the show by sarcastically responding to her when she interjected to ask that he repeat a word in his joke that she didn't hear. Maria's quick and witty retort to him began what evolved into a brief but hilarious side bar of dueling barbs and comments that spiced up his routine. He prefaced his eventual return to the finishing of his joke, by making the comment to himself, "Way to lose control of your stage..."



Other audience members picked out of the audience for roasting by the zany, nationally-known headliner comedian Johnny Rizzo, included Club President George Urciuoli, who Johnny dubbed "George Lucas" and President-Elect Angelo Tarantino who was complimented on his choice of an argyle sweater for the evening, by being renamed as "Mr. Rogers". Johnny's next targets were member Mike Swanson, whose attire for the evening earned him the nickname "The Undertaker" and both Robert LaMorte and Dom Indelicato, who were heckled as being "Hair Club" graduates.

Some of the funniest moments of the evening were Johnny Rizzo's apparently uncontrollable bursts of self-laughter when, as he said, he "cracked himself up" with his own jokes. Several times he feigned (I think?) collapsing to the stage floor in hysterical laughter or turned his back to the audience in an attempt to recompose himself, only to completely lose it all over again in laughter, when he stood up or turned back to face the audience. Lastly, a special thanks goes out to all our members and guests who attended the event and to Maria Marchio and Angelo Tarantino who helped check in our guests.



IACC Committees

The officers of the Board of Directors for 2013 are currently reviewing the list of IACC committees and identifying individuals who would be interested in participating on one or more of those committees. The officers will be making their recommendation to the Board of Directors at their first meeting in January. If you are interested in being a member of one of the following committees, please contact Linda in the Office at 456-4222. We realize that there are many members who have work, life experiences, or hobbies or interests that could benefit the club. Since we would like to involve more members in club activities, we are very interested in hearing from you. One of our objectives for 2013 is to involve as many members as we can in as many membership activities as possible.

Committees:

- 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Building and Grounds
- By-Laws/Policies & Procedures
- C.I.A.O. – Columbus Day Festival
- Cultural Activities
- External Contracts
- Finance
- Grant Writing
- Grievance
- House
- IACC Festa
- Marketing & Communications
- Membership
- Over 50 Senior
- Pool
- Siamo Qui
- Social Activities



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Christmas Chronology

By Sharon Patrei

What new can be said about the Christmas holiday? Please read my time line. I am sure you will find a personal connection somewhere among these events.



First year...I eat, sleep, and crawl around this shiny red paper. I try to eat a ribbon. Mom snatches it away.

Age 2-3...I pull off a sparkling gold ball. The tree is leaning toward me. Mom rescues me and puts up the gate.

Age 4...Santa came. So many presents. Everyone is taking my picture.

Age 5...Hope I get everything in the Penny's catalog. My sister says there is no Santa. Why would she say that?

Age 10...Found presents under Mom's bed. I pretended to be surprised. I will never do that again.

Age 16...I hope Mom changes her mind and buys me makeup

First year of marriage...We over-buy Christmas decorations for our tiny apartment. We have a romantic dinner. Pasta and meatballs are all I know how to make.

Children are born...I put cookies and milk on the hearth, taking a bite out of one for authenticity. Too many toys to fit under the tree. Family coming. I am tired.

Kids go off to college...I make their favorite dishes when they come home for Christmas. I give them gift cards. They go shopping before going back to school. Several years of this routine follow. I am more tired.

More years have gone by...I promise myself that next year I will purchase a tabletop tree and maybe skip the outdoor Christmas lights. I decide to leave the tree up all year, as Christmas will roll around again. I make cut-out cookies and wait with my cookie tray for my grandson to pick me up for Christmas dinner. A new Christmas for an old life.



IACC Family Christmas Party

Hosted by the Women's League

Sunday, December 16, 2012

12:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Cost \$24 (12 & under Free)

Lunch Buffet or Pizza (12 & under), DJ, Crafts, Games & Prizes, Raffles and **Santa Claus**

Please bring a wrapped Santa Claus gift valued at no more than \$15 for each child

labeled with child's first and last name



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

Please make reservations by **December 10th**

Any cancellations must be received by **December 12th**

RSVP to IACC Office specifying: number attending (children &/or adults), children's age, & contact phone number

Credit Cards payments are accepted.

Mail Checks to: IACC Family Christmas Party
257 Washington Avenue Ext
Albany, NY 12205

YOGA IS COMING TO THE IACC

This class will be the perfect opportunity to relax after a long, hectic, stressful holiday season. Yoga instructor, Tracy Swanson will teach a yoga class called "Chair Yoga". Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support. Everyone can do this. The class will be an 8-week program on Monday evenings beginning on January 7th through February 25th. The class will be held upstairs in the IACC Boardroom and begin at 6:30 PM for 1 hour. Classes are open to men and women. Please call the Office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

Prices: Members: \$48 for 8 weeks
Non-Members: \$56 for 8 weeks
\$10 per class to drop in

Remember to wear loose, comfortable clothing!

Super Bowl Party



Sunday February 3rd

Pre-Game Buffet

Half-Time Munchies

12' TV Screen

Raffles & Prizes

Reservations Required

Open to the Public

Additional details will be available from
the office or our website in January.

ITALIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Come and check it out! Many nice items, bake sale, plus view the special large nativity on display in the exhibit room.

Many traditional Christmas items, Italian related items and gifts are available at the American Italian Heritage Association & Museum

1227 Central Avenue, Albany, NY

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Open to the Public - Free Admission



Join us this year at Treviso for Two
Great Holiday Buffets!

December 24th Christmas Eve
The Night of the Seven Fishes

A full holiday buffet with abundant seafood, entrees, sides, antipasto station, pasta station, carving station and a bountiful Villa Italia Dessert Display.

December 31st New Year's Eve
Abundant Holiday Buffet

A full holiday buffet with a specialty Antipasto Station, Carved Chateaubriand, Paella Presentation and a Spectacular Entrée Station. Dessert station complete with a Chocolate Fountain. Champagne Specials.

Reservations Recommended for both nights. Full Menu available on the website at www.trevisoalbany.com, 518.456.0292

\$26.95 per person*

*Holiday Buffets do not qualify for Members Monday buffet special. 15% Member discount applies.

Stewart's Holiday Match Program

Stewart's Shops has begun its annual Customers' Holiday Match Program, which matches donations from customers for local children's organizations. From Thanksgiving Day through Christmas Day, Stewart's matches individual tax-deductible donations made in all 324 Stewart's Shops convenience stores in New York and Vermont.

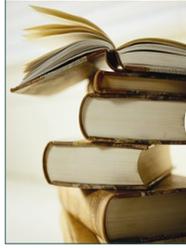
Last year Stewart's matched the customer's record donation of \$700,000 for a total of \$1.4 million that went to more than 1,400 organizations, according to Stewart's Foundation President Susan Dake. Since 1986, when the Holiday Match Program began, more than \$16 million has been donated.

For the last two years, Stewart's has donated a portion of their Holiday Match funds to our Children's Summer Camp. We are grateful for their support and ask our membership to support Stewart's efforts by contributing at their local Stewart's Shop.

IAHFi Book Club

Announces Its Initial 2013 Selections

By Dick Ognibene



As in the past, the Book Club will resume meeting as winter comes to an end. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5th. We will discuss Adriana Trigiani's latest novel, *The Shoemaker's Wife*. Trigiani is a best-selling author whose large Italian family lived in a coal mining town in southern Virginia. This is a setting she often uses in her novels. This novel is set in Italy and America at the turn of the 20th century. It is a story of star-crossed lovers who are separated in Italy, reconnect, and separate again in America. The young man goes off to fight in World War I as his beloved is drawn into the glamour of international opera during the exciting era of Enrico Caruso.

Our next book, John Hersey's award winning *A Bell for Adano*, will be discussed on Tuesday, April 9th. The story is set in a Sicilian town in World War II that has been occupied by Allied forces and placed under the direction of an Italian American army officer. Distrust is the mutual feeling expressed at the story's beginning. However, the officer's determination to treat townspeople with respect and honor their desire to replace an important element of their community life, brings out the humor and the humanity of all those involved.

On Tuesday, May 14th, we will discuss Mark Rotella's non-fiction book entitled *Amore: The Story of Italian American Song*. The period from the end of World War II up to the arrival of The Beatles was "the Italian decade" in American popular music. Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Dean Martin, and Tony Bennett, among others, created a smooth, stylish, and classy brand of popular music. Rotella shows how these hard-working musicians overcame anti-Italian stereotypes and prejudices and established an American musical tradition that still endures.

These Book Club meetings are held in the Boardroom and are free and open to the public. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. For further information contact Dick Ognibene at 372-4919 or at rtognibene@nycap.rr.com.

40th Anniversary

In 2013 the Italian American Community Center will celebrate our 40th anniversary.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, we are planning a year-long celebration of events honoring the great Italian Americans who have made this club what it is.

We are calling for volunteers to serve on a 40th Anniversary Committee to help plan the celebrations. Anyone interested in serving on this committee please contact Frank Zeoli, Social Chairman, at fzeoli@nycap.rr.com or 935.5174.

Membership Meet and Greet Social

The first *Membership Meet and Greet Social*, in conjunction with the Monday Night Grand Buffet, was held on November 19th and was enjoyed by all. The social provided an opportunity for members to meet other members (new & old), enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members, and be updated on planned activities at the club. We hope more members will attend these get-togethers in the months to come.

If you would like to attend, you will need to register with Linda in the Office, by the Wednesday before each social. This is necessary, because we need to make reservations with the restaurant. The only cost to you will be the cost of the buffet, but your membership benefit applies, so you buy one dinner and receive the second one free. (Drinks, tax, and gratuity are extra.)

The *Membership Meet and Greet Socials* are for ALL MEMBERS and are scheduled at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of every month for the next five months: 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15. We encourage you to attend. Please mark your calendar and contact the Office to make your reservations.



Carnivale is coming to town! **Saturday, February 23**. Join the fun at our annual Dinner Dance. Details for the event will be available in January. If you would like to help plan the Dinner Dance, contact Frank Zeoli at 463-2106 or fzeoli@nycap.rr.com.



At the New Member Social on October 25th we had the pleasure of meeting one of our newest members, John Armao, who is 101 years young. John lives in Albany and travels to Florida for the winter. John said he has been coming to our facility for many years and has always wanted to join. His children presented him with a membership to the IACC for his birthday. Also attending and in the photo is Paul Veillette and Agatina Simeone.

Women's League

Hello Ladies & Happy Holidays!

I just want let you all know that we received a very heart-felt "thank-you" card from Dawn Martin of "Uncle Shawn's Hugs." I had mentioned that so many of us love doing the blankets and would love to have a second "Blanket Cutting Party" in the spring. Dawn and her daughter were so happy to hear this, since they make the blankets year round. I will get in touch with her for next spring.

This month we will continue to collect toiletries and personal hygiene products for area shelters. I also found out that they will take donations of baby articles and clothing, but they must be NEW items. They could use diapers, wipes, bottles, blankets, clothing, etc. Please bring any donations to the Office and I'll bring them to the shelter in January.

We also decided to do "Adopt-A-Family" with Albany County. After checking with Albany County, I found out that we could make a monetary contribution. We have already collected \$100 at our last meeting. If you would like to make a monetary donation of any amount, please send it to the Office by December 20th. We will then send a check to Albany County Adopt-A-Family.

This month we will have our Annual Women's League Christmas Party! We will begin earlier at 6:00 PM with an array of appetizers and then have our dinner. I am still hoping to have a guest singer for some Christmas caroling too. Our dinner selections this month are Veal Parmigiana, Grilled Salmon, or Eggplant Rollatini, with Mocha Cake for dessert. The price remains at \$20.

Our meeting is on Wednesday, December 12th at 6:00 PM. Email your reservation to Lynn Indelicato at domlynn@yahoo.com or call 469-1284 by Sunday, December 9th. Cancellations will need to be in by then also. Remember the cancellation policy remains in effect.

BRING A GRAB BAG GIFT VALUED AT \$10

Remember - Women's League will *not* meet in January and February

Donna Zumbo - Women's League President

Single-Use Day Passes are available to members for use at the Guilderland YMCA.

Stop in at the IACC office to pick one up.



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Our 23rd Annual Mother ~ Daughter Luncheon

Sunday, April 21, 2013 12:30-4pm

\$27* for Ladies, Little Ladies Under 12 Free, *\$2 Discount for Members

Sponsored by The Women's League of The Italian American Community Center
Please visit us on line at www.italianamerican.com for more information & Sponsorship Opportunities.
Event is at The I.A.C.C. 257 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany Call 518.456.4222 for tickets.



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CARING & SHARING By Anna Acconi



December Birthdays:

Evelyn Annello
Dina Ariemma
Gregory Bearup
Lucy Bremm
Katherine Cardona
Jeanne Ciampino
Michael Delbrocco
Laurie Elmendorf
Marie Faccioli-Erkes
Christina Golash Lins
Richard Kaplan
Ann Keneston
Mark Kos
Donald Lawrence
John Mallozzi
Mary Louise Mancini
Mary Ellen Manzella
Gloria Miller
Joe Mirabile

Doris Oliver
Raymond Oliver
Paolucci, John
Sharon Patrei
Eloise Peduto
Maran Person
Fred Peters II
Michael Rest
Ambrose Rinaldi
Gloria Rossi
Robert Sano
Peter Scavullo
Nancy Scott-Horan
Connie Seeley
Deborah Seyboth
Hannah Venduro
Joseph Venduro
Mary Weinman
Herman Wyld



January Birthdays:

Anna Acconi
Eugene Aiuppa
Helen Articolo
John Bremm
Jeanne Bucci
Alison Burnside
Nicholas Camelo
Victor Cardona
Frank Cesare
Nadine Cunningham
Irene Del Torto
Evelyn Delbrocco
Maria DeNitto
Stephen Franke
Loretta Gadani
Bryan Goldberger
Edward Haddad

Vera Hall
Mary Ann Macri
Lauren Mancuso
Christine Marando
Marcella Michel
Barbara Palumbo
Diane Riggi
Dina Rotundo
Lynda Scalzo
Anthony Serafini
Antoinette Serafini
Michael Squillace
Michael Swanson
John Thornton
Josephine Tirino
Anne Zanotta
Joachim Zumbo

Condolences:

Gene Aiuppa, together with his wife, Rosanna, and his family, mourns the death of his beloved brother, Benedetto Aiuppa, who passed away in Chicago, Illinois, on November 4th.

Please contact Anna Acconi at 966.8664 or aacconi111@aol.com

New Members

Richard & Madlynn Sedotto
Clifton Park
Sponsor: Angelo Tarantino



pasta and bean soup with sausage

pasta e fagioli

4 to 6 servings

Courtesy of La Cucina Italian Magazine

The perfect soup for a cold night, the beans get cooked with whole head of garlic; the addition of both pancetta and sausage make this version extra hearty.

Ingredients

6 ounces dried cannellini beans (1 cup)
1 whole head garlic plus 1 garlic clove
2 sprigs fresh thyme, rosemary or sage
7 ounces thick-cut pancetta, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
5 1/2 ounces sweet Italian sausage, removed from casing
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil plus more for drizzling
4 cups vegetable broth
8 ounces ditaloni rigati
Fine sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons finely chopped flat-leaf parsley

Instructions

Rinse beans, then place with head of garlic and herb sprigs in a large saucepan and cover with water by 3 inches. Soak for 8 hours, or overnight.

Place saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to a low boil; reduce to a gentle simmer and cook, adding water as necessary to keep level 2 to 3 inches above beans, until beans are tender, about 45 minutes or more (cooking time varies depending on age of beans).

Reserving cooking liquid, drain beans through a fine-mesh sieve into a bowl; discard garlic and herb sprigs. Separately, set aside beans and their liquid.

Finely chop remaining garlic clove. In a large heavy pot with lid or Dutch oven, combine pancetta and sausage; heat over medium-high heat, stirring frequently and breaking up sausage into bits with a wooden spoon, until fat is rendered and sausage is cooked through, about 7 minutes. Add onion and oil, reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring frequently, until onion is softened, about 5 minutes. Add chopped garlic and cook 2 minutes more. Add reserved beans, 2 cups bean cooking liquid, broth and 2 1/4 cups water; bring to a gentle simmer and cook for 25 minutes.

Increase heat to bring soup to a low boil; add pasta and cook until pasta is just al dente (pasta will continue to cook in soup; do not overcook). Season with salt and pepper to taste (soup can be thinned, if desired, using remaining bean cooking liquid). Ladle soup into serving bowls; sprinkle with parsley and drizzle with oil.



**Italian American
Community Center**

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

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10% Discounts

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