

ISSUE 583

SEPTEMBER 2022

*Cheers to a new
15 year lease*



**COMING SOON
OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS IN
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS!**

The Italian American Community Center and 2Sheas Catering have entered into a new 15 year lease and along with the IACC has pledged to invest over one million dollars in improvements to our club. We are excited about this renewed partnership



NEWS & EVENTS

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Bocce Champions

Another year of Women's Bocce has come to an end and a great time was had by all! Congratulations to all of the ladies and a big "thank you" for coming out and making this a fun evening.

Congratulations to the **1st place team, L'ESPRESSO**, with captain Sharon Patrei and her team mates, Joyce Vine, Barbara Palumbo, Sue Ferrara and Linda Hoffman.

There was a tie for **2nd place between AMICHE**, with captain Fran Franke and her team mates, Nancy Sano, Josephine Tirino, Rose Barbato and Lena Cafara. The other **2nd place team was PRICIPESSE**, with captain Gail Tarantino and her team mates Donna Zumbo, Rachel Cameron, Georgeann Green and Denise Halton.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE TEAMS AND TO EVERYONE BECAUSE WE ARE ALL WINNERS!!

Bocce will resume next May. Remember bocce is open to all ladies in the club. If you would like to give it a try, please call one of the names listed below. We always need subs. Remember no special talent is necessary and we always have a great time!

Donna Zumbo (518-424-7463)
Maria LaMorte (518-378-1687)
Women's Bocce Co-chairs



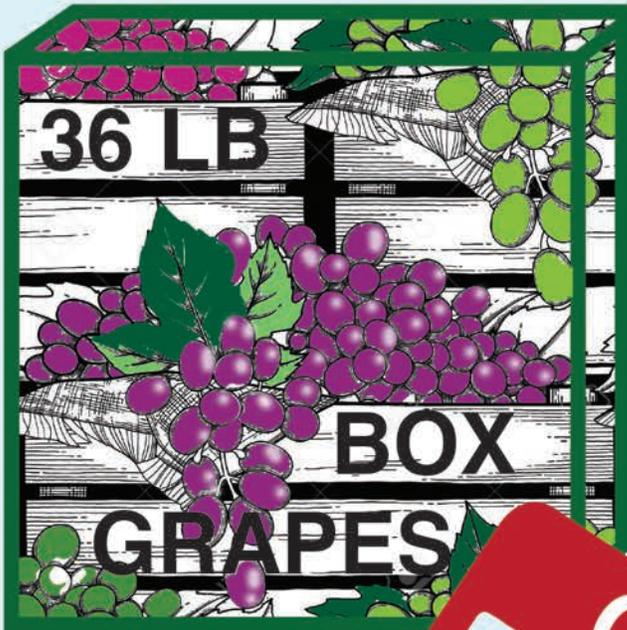
1st place team, L'ESPRESSO



2nd place AMICHE



2nd place PRICIPESSE



**California
Grapes & Juice**

**Cabernet Sauvignon
Merlot, Muscat
Reisling and More**



Italian Juice
Amerone
Barolo
Brunello
Dolcetto
Montepulciano
Muscato
Nebbiolo
Nero D'avaola
Pino Grigio
Sangiovese
Trebbiano
Valpollicella



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We had a great summer here at the IACC. On August 13th, we held our annual **Ferragosto** which celebrates one of the most important holidays in Italy. This event also serves as our member picnic. It is always a great way to meet new members, reminisce with long standing members and, most importantly, eat.

The day was filled with a barbeque lunch, dinner, and a glorious bonfire at dusk. With almost 200 in attendance, we could not have asked for a better day. If you couldn't make it this year, there's always next year. **Ferragosto 2023** is on August 12th so save the date.

Our 49th annual Columbus Gala is October 22nd, and we are proud to be honoring long time member and CEO of Morgan Linen, David Cesari, as our **Italian American of the Year** and, for the first time ever posthumously, we are giving our **Italian Spirit Award** to the Honorable Paul Collins.

We are also honoring four members for their commitment and service to our club. I am proud to award the **President's Award** to Nancy Sano, the **Pasquale Tirino Service Award** to Robert LaMorte and Steve Franke and the **Cuore d'oro Award** to Donna Zumbo. I hope everyone can make the Gala this year. It is sure not to disappoint.

Saying goodbye to summer is always hard, especially at the IACC, however it's not over yet. Pool hours have been extended to September 18th and our Friday Nights in the Pavilion are ongoing through September 2nd. I hope to see you at the pool or the pavilion.

Ciao,



FRANK ZEOLI
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER - PRESIDENT



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WOMEN'S LEAGUE~ GEORGEANN GREENE

COLUMBUS DAY GALA~ FRANK ZEOLI,

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PHONE # (518) 456-4222

EMAIL: IACCOFFICE@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

SOCIAL CALENDAR



02~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion Final Night (Chicken Puttanesca with Pasta) 5:00–8:00pm

05~ Labor Day BBQ - Pool - 2:00 pm

06~ Mixed Weekly Bocce - 6:00 pm

08~ Chair Yoga Begins - 6:00 pm

11~ Sunday Brunch - 10:00 am-12 pm

13~ Mixed Weekly Bocce - 6:30 pm

14~ I.A.C.C. Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm

15~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm

18~ Pool Closes For The Season and BBQ 12:00-5:00 pm

19~ Beginner Italian Classes Start 7:00–9:00 pm

20~ Mixed Weekly Bocce - 6:30 pm

21~ I.A.C.C. Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

22~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm

26~ Beginner Italian Classes - 7:00–9:00 pm

27~ Mixed Weekly Bocce - 6:30 pm

29~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm

Upcoming Events:

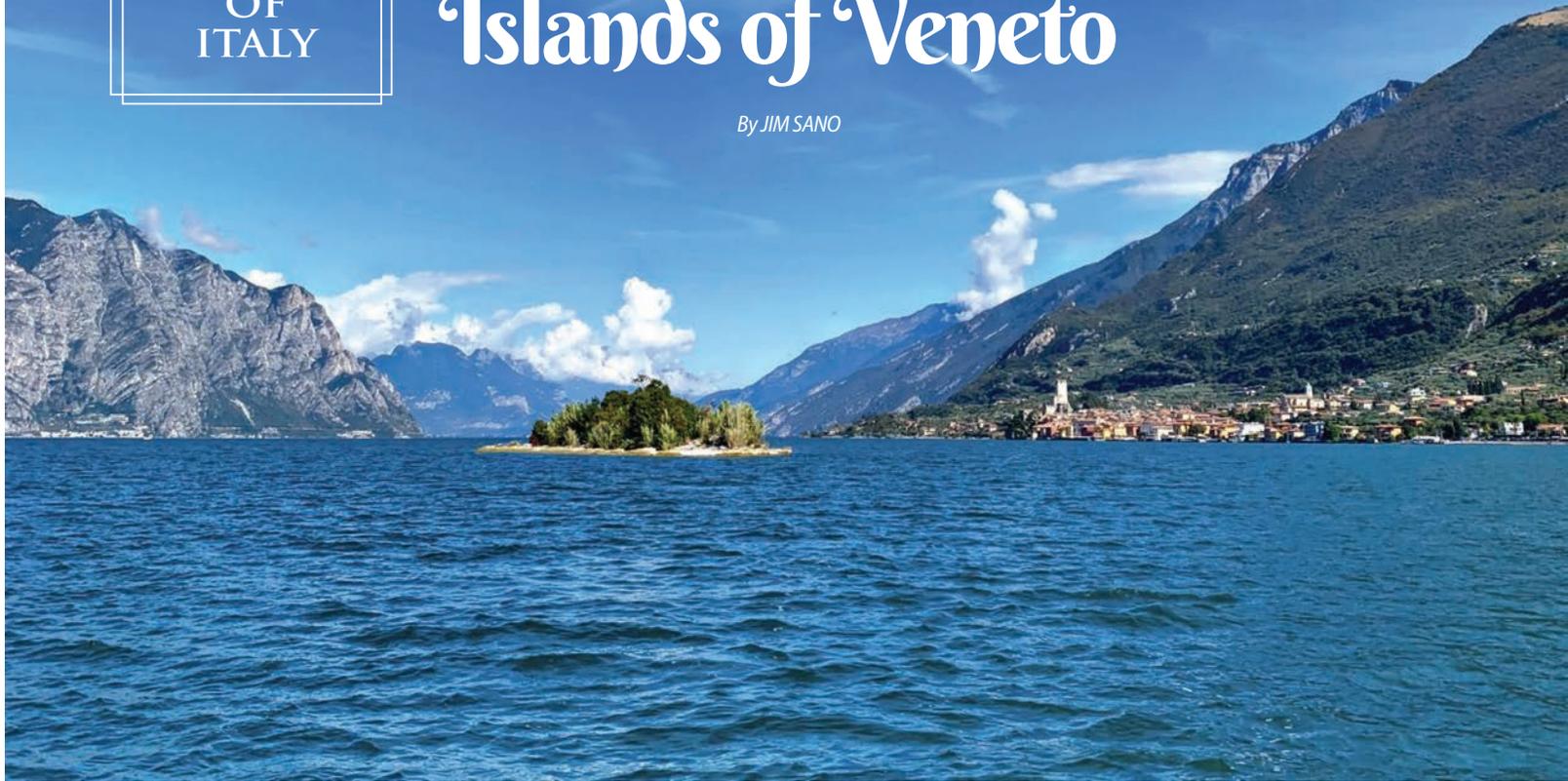
10/22 ~ Columbus Day Grand Gala 5:30–11:30 pm



REGIONS
OF
ITALY

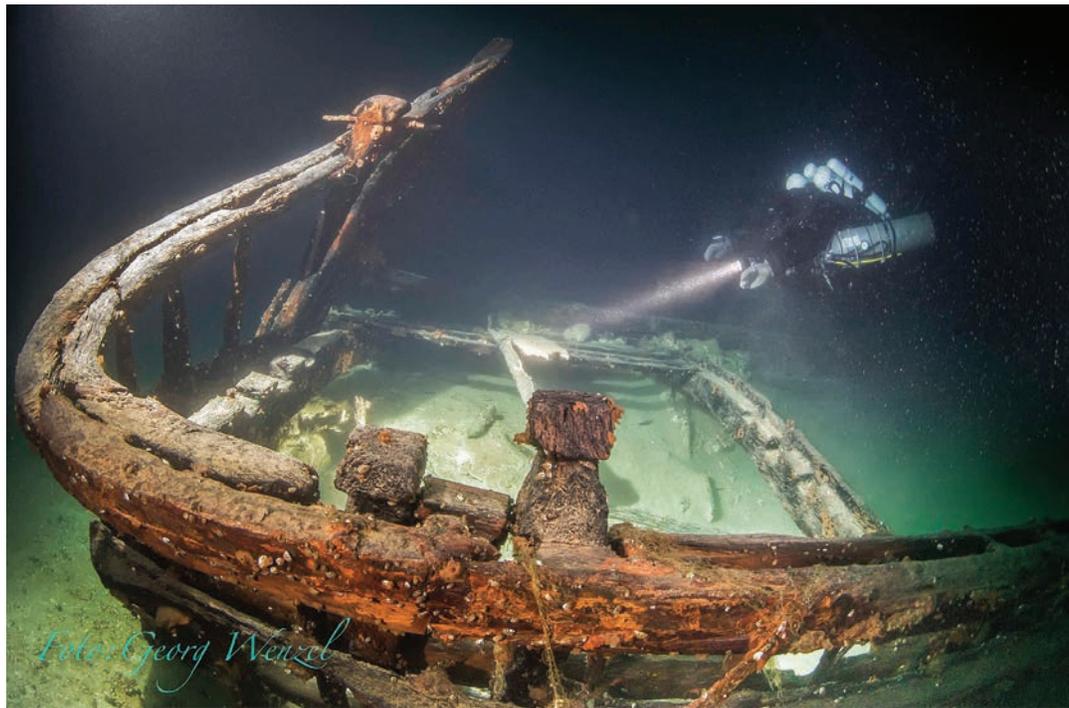
Islands of Veneto

By JIM SANO



Lake Garda is the largest lake in Italy, but not everyone knows that it features five idyllic islands, a must-see for nature lovers and people who have a passion for navigation and diving.

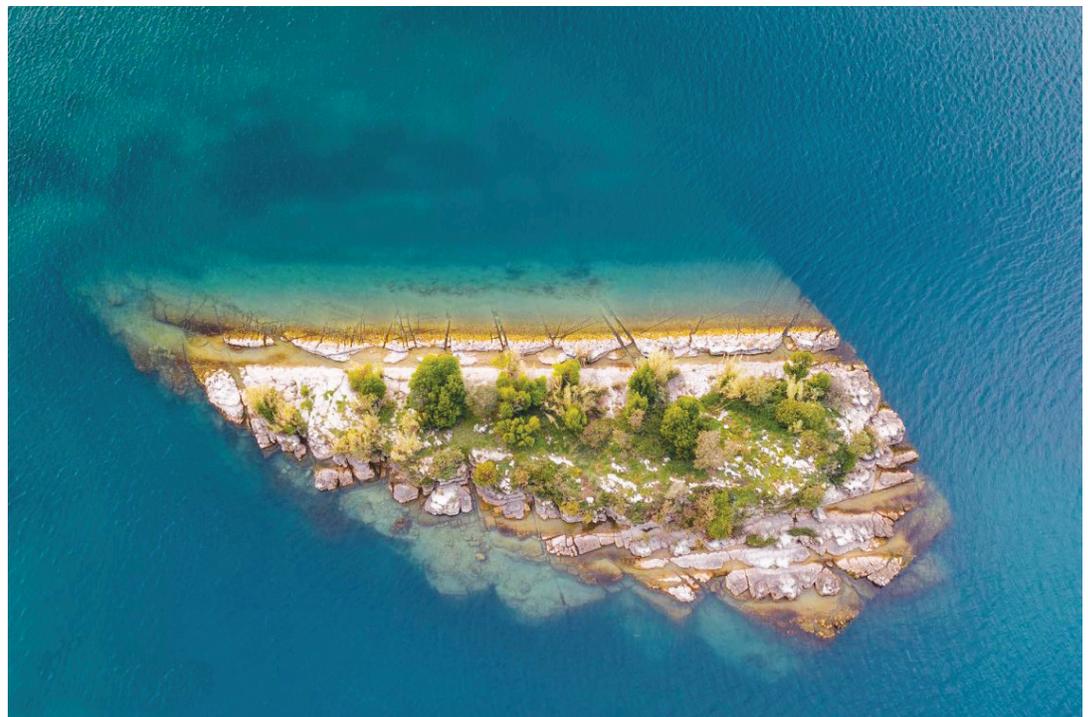
The beautiful island of **Isola del Sogno (Dream Island)** takes its name from the "Val di Sogno" (Valley of Dreams), opposite the town of Malcesine. When the water is shallow, it is possible to reach this island on foot as it is only 20 meters away from the coast. The island is well known to all scuba-diving lovers thanks to a 16-meter-long wreck that sank in 1987. The wreck can be reached directly from the shore by following the chain where it is anchored (40m depth) or diving along the fender's rope.





Isola del Sogno

On the Venetian shore of Lake Garda, located right in front of Malcesine, is a small island still considered "wild". Nature has remained uncontaminated on this small and non-habitable rocky outcrop that is 98 meters long and 40 meters wide. The island takes its name from the abundant presence of olive trees. It is located near the other small islands around Malcesine, Isola del Sogno (Dream Island), and Trimelone Island. **Isola dell'Olivo** is best known as a hub/ nautical reference for sailing races or regattas, such as the famous sailing regatta, Centomiglia. There are different places where boats can dock and plenty of smooth rocks where visitors can lay down, sunbathe, and relax. The islet is also a well-known destination for scuba-divers. At 13 meters deep, divers will find a small cave full of fish and under-lake vegetation and on the island's northern side there is a 10-meter-long wreck that can be explored.



Isola dell'Olivo



Isola dell'Olivo

The small uninhabited island of **Trimelone** is the third largest island in Lake Garda and a restricted area. Trimelone was once a munitions depot located 100 meters opposite the town of Assenza di Brenzone. Farmers and fishermen sought refuge on the island from the devastation and looting during the barbarian invasions. In the 10th century, during the Hungarian invasion, the coastal inhabitants fortified Trimelone. They built a fortress on the island that was destroyed by Frederick I (Barbarossa) in 1158 and then rebuilt by the Scaligeri lords of Verona. Today there are only a few traces left of the castles. At the end of the 19th century, Trimelone became a strategic military base.

Before World War I, Trimelone was a safe outpost because of its strategic position. It divided Italy with the Austro-Hungarian Empire's border and was fortified with a battery position and three large cannons. During the First World War, it became a military detachment used by the alpini and bersaglieri. Riva del Garda (Austria-Hungary) was bombed from here. Remnants of the battery position can still be seen today. In the 1930s, Trimelone again became a munitions factory. Over 100,000 bombs were built here. During World War II, it was home to a bunker. Supposedly, Mussolini's last interview (monologue) occurred on March 20, 1945 on Trimelone, a few weeks



Isola Trimelone

before being shot trying to flee to Switzerland. Near the end of World War II, the island became a war dump, with Italian, American, and German soldiers leaving explosives and weapons around the island.

On October 5, 1954, an accidental explosion destroyed half of the island and started a three-day fire. For three days, explosions hurled several tons of explosive devices stored on the island into the lake. For many years, the government had plans to remove all explosives but repeatedly failed due to the lack of the needed money. Even years after the incredible explosion, there were repeated detonations of mines that triggered themselves. Finally, at the beginning of 2005, the process of removing the explosives began. The removal process has been quite tricky because many of the explosives were very corroded. As of May 2019, 26,000 explosive devices such as bombs, mortar shells, plate mines, phosphorus explosive devices, grenades, fuses, and TNT explosives were removed from the waters.

Today Trimelone Island is a natural and quiet oasis inhabited by numerous seagulls and cormorants. You can still see some of the past military buildings, for instance, the barrack, the fort, and the ruins of a small harbor. It is prohibited to land, dock, fish, and even approach the island as it is still dangerous due to the remaining war material.



Scoglio della Stella (Rock of the Star) is a rock right before Punta San Vigilio, but even this little rock has a story. Its name comes from a tragic love story between the nymph Stella and the god Vigilio. Furious for having been rejected by Stella, he turned her into a rock. The same stone today stands in solitude in the middle of Lake Garda. □



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GRAND GALA

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DAVID CESARI
ITALIAN AMERICAN
OF THE YEAR



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(POSTHUMOUSLY)
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NANCY SANO
IACC PRESIDENTS
AWARD

**ROBERT LAMORTE
& STEVE FRANKE**
PASQUALE TIRINO
SERVICE AWARD

DONNA ZUMBO
CUORE D'ORO AWARD

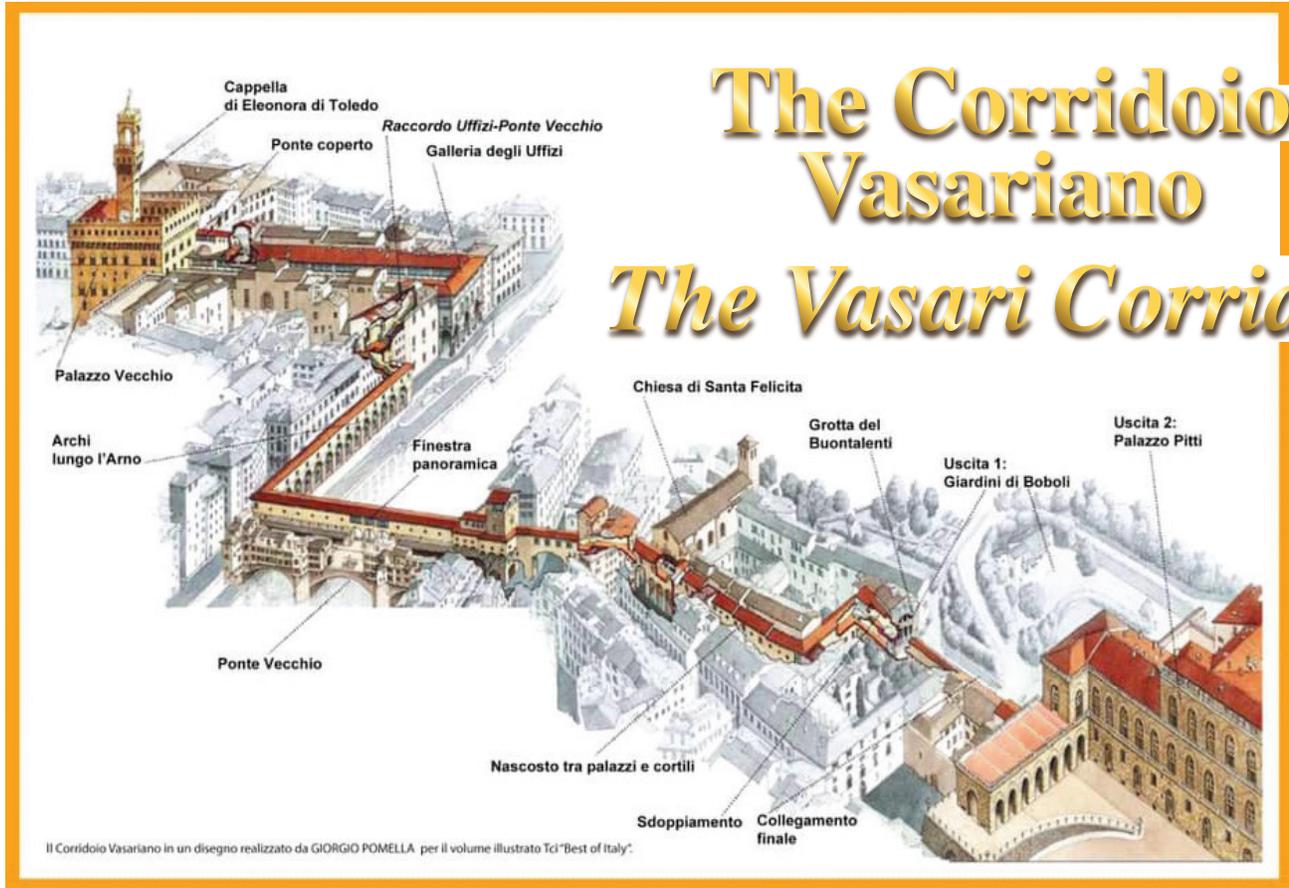
COCKTAIL HOUR: 5:30 PM
DINNER: 6:30 PM

COST:
IACC MEMBERS \$55.00
NON MEMBERS \$75.00

DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF:
GOOD TIMES

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

TO REGISTER:
WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM
OR CALL: 518-456-4222



It was March 2002 and we were in Florence visiting our daughter, a student at the de' Medici Institute. It was during our visit to the Uffizi Gallery that she told me about the special passageway used by the de' Medici clan, the Corridoio Vasariano.

Begun in 1565, it took only five months for the entire Corridor to be completed. Named after its designer, the near kilometer long Vasari Corridor was first used to allow the de' Medici family and guests safe passage during the wedding festivities of Cosimo's son, Francesco I to Joanna of Austria.

In 1593, Duke Ferdinand de' Medici decided that the stench seeping into the Corridor and the animal waste being tossed into the Arno River by the Ponte Vecchio butcher shops were too much. The duke ruled that the butcher shops would be replaced by jewelry shops which remain there to this day.

Just like Cosimo and his successors, you can walk above the people as you peer out of the windows of the elevated Corridor, witnessing some of the beautiful sights of the city's center. Past assassinations of the



rulers of Florence and numerous failed plots on himself and his family members were the main reasons for the construction of the Corridor. It allowed the de' Medici family the opportunity to remain unseen and move freely and safely from their Pitti Palace home overlooking the north shore of the Arno River to the Palazzo Vecchio, the government center.



Today this reopened, renovated passageway is established as a small museum separate from the famous Uffizi Gallery. An unmarked door located on the first floor within the **Uffizi Gallery** ushers you into the inner world of these royals. (Tours are not allowed to enter from the Palazzo Vecchio since that part of the Corridor is reserved for government use.) The noise and crowds of the Uffizi Gallery disappear, and a reverent silence greets you. **Any visit to the newly renovated Corridor is very exclusive and often unavailable. For 89 euros plus some luck, you will begin your guarded jaunt from the ground floor of the Uffizi Museum, along the Arno River, over the Ponte Vecchio, through a church to the Boboli Gardens of the de' Medici residence, Pitti Palace.** As you enter from the Uffizi entrance, the Corridor's walls are adorned with mostly 16th and 17th century works including numerous artists' self-portraits.

Once your journey begins, you are in that part of the Corridor that was heavily damaged by a terrorist attack commissioned by the Italian Mafia in 1993. Five people died, many were injured and a large section of the Uffizi building was destroyed by the car bombing planned and executed as revenge against the Italian government for a renewed anti-Mafia campaign. Next you enter the central part of the Corridor that travels along the river and then goes over Ponte Vecchio. It is said that this view was so loved that in 1939 Benito Mussolini ordered the Corridor's small windows (upper square windows on the bridge) be enlarged so that he and his guest, Adolf Hitler, could admire the magnificent view over the Arno. The legend remains that Hitler was so awestruck by the view that he ordered the Ponte Vecchio be saved while all the other bridges of Florence were destroyed during the German retreat.

**De' Medici Balcony
Church of Santa Felicita**

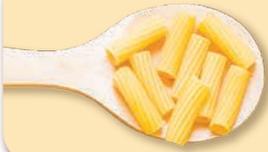
As the Corridor winds across Arno's north shore, several families were forced to cede parts of their property to the Corridor. Most complied but it was only the Mannelli family that firmly opposed having the Corridor pass through their property. The duke respected the courage of the family and if you look closely at the map you will see that the Corridor juts around the Mannelli property at the end of the Ponte Vecchio's north side.

Shortly after the Mannelli "exception", you reach a balcony overlooking the main altar of the Church of Santa Felicita. It was here that the family could attend Holy Mass protected from the common folk. From the church, you now approach the Boboli Gardens of the Palazzo Pitti and the end of your journey at the Grotto of Buontalenti.



Built from 1583 to 1593 by Bernardo Buontalenti, the Grotta del Buontalenti was commissioned by Francesco I de' Medici to finish Giorgio Vasari's Corridor and the palace gardens. This artificial cave is adorned by stalagmites, stalactites and statues galore. Its façade reveals the Medici coat of arms, a golden shield with four red dots and a crown. Truly a beautiful doorway to the Vasari Corridor which remains a secret to many. □





Mangia Bene, Viva Bene

By FRANK ZEOLI



Green Bean Salad with Red Onion

Summer isn't over until you have had a fresh green bean salad with red onions. Summer would not be summer without this great cold salad for a hot day. Green Bean Salad always made an appearance this time of year when I was growing up. I can see my grandmother sitting on the front porch snapping beans for a salad. This may be an easy one but it is a great accompaniment to any main course.



Prep Time: 2 hours

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. of homegrown whole green beans
- 1/2 of a medium size red onion
- 6-8 fresh basil leaves, torn (you can never have too many)
- 1/2 cup of red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 tablespoon of dried oregano

Instructions

1. Clean the beans by snapping off the ends. Bring a medium sized pot of salted water to a boil. Add the green beans and cook for approximately 8-10 minutes. Don't overcook them. You want a little crunch.
2. Drain the beans and let them cool by placing them in the refrigerator. A few hours are fine, however, overnight would be better if you can do it.
3. Cut the red onion into julienne strips.
4. Place the beans in a bowl. Add the julienned onion, vinegar, olive oil, salt, oregano, and fresh basil. Mix well until all the beans are completely coated.
5. Let the salad sit a few minutes and serve it with a nice piece of crusty Italian bread.

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



WOMEN'S LEAGUE



Hello ladies,
Summertime at the pool is coming close to ending. I know many of you are anxious for autumn to come, but I would be happy to reset the seasonal clock to June 1st. Special thanks to Jim Sano and his staff for another wonderful summer. His dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed. I will be in the corner crying as we stack the chairs to be put away until next May.

Our August meeting began with water aerobics at the pool led by Michele Sano before a huge pot luck dinner was held on the lawn outside the pavilion. As usual, we had a large variety of foods and so much to eat!! We discussed the Mother Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show which was scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2022. Unfortunately, due to the lack of store availability, the Mother Daughter Luncheon and Fashion show will be postponed until 2023.

We are still looking for more ladies in the club to come join us in the Women's League. We're a fun group and would love to make some new friends.

The September meeting will be September 14, 2022 at 6 pm. We will be gathering by the pool/bocce area (or the pavilion if it rains). Our food theme this month will be all things Mexican/Street Tacos. Everyone is asked to bring a dish, salad, desserts or drinks to share. Reservations can be made by contacting Terry Andriano at (518)364-4873 or tandriano@outlook.com. Please also let Terry know what you will be bringing so we won't have many duplicated dishes. The price will be \$5 if you bring something to share or \$10 if you don't. The cancellation policy remains in effect. Please remember that all reservations/cancellations need to be in no later than Monday, September 12, 2022.

Just as a reminder, we have our two charities that we will be collecting for monthly, Ronald McDonald House and St. Anne's Institute. For RMH, gift cards for Dunkin' Donuts, Panera and Subway and pre-packaged soups, crackers, fruits and snacks are appreciated. For St Anne's, personal grooming items (soap, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrushes, floss, etc.) are always needed. We will continue to collect throughout the year for both of these wonderful organizations. Thank you to everyone who has donated this far. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated by the children, families and staff.

Please enjoy the very last bit of summer that's left. Remember only 114 days until Christmas!!

Happy September!!

Georjeann Greene
PRESIDENT



DINNERS To Go

Date: Every Thursday Night In September

Time: Between 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Place: Italian American Community Center

Reservations

Are Required by Wednesday

Please Call (518) 456-4222



September 1st

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Corleone

Chicken With Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach And Roasted Garlic Sauce.
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Vegetable Lasagna

Spinach Ricotta Layered with Pasta and Grilled Vegetables
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

September 8th

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Sorrento

Chicken Breast Layered With Prosciutto, Eggplant, Marinara Sauce
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Pesto Pasta Primavera

Penne Pasta and Vegetables Tossed in Garlic, Pesto, & Oil



September 15th

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Sole Francaise

Egg Battered Sole, Sautéed in Lemon, Butter and White Wine
Sauce. Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Chicken Piccata

Pan-Seared and Finished With Lemon & Capers
Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch



September 22rd

Caesar Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Penne Ala Vodka

Penne Ala Vodka With Chicken

Baked Haddock

Lemon & Herb Spices Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch



DINNERS To Go

All Dinners Feed Up to 4
\$45 per Order + 8% Sales Tax

September 29th

House Salad & Dinner Rolls

Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan

Accompanied by Penne Pasta

Chicken Cacciatore

Accompanied by Chef's Choice of Vegetable & Starch

Spinach Gnocchi

Spinach Pesto Parmesan Sauce



Thank You for Your Continued Support!

We Look Forward to Seeing You Every Thursday!!

CARING & SHARING



- Rosanna Aiuppa
- John Articolo
- Monica Buckley
- Andrew Chouffi
- Lea Collins
- Steven Doellefeld
- JoAnne Dolan
- Louis Donadio
- Dawn Dorsey
- William Fluty
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- Ricja Rice-Ghyll
- Diane Riley
- Hiedi Ruth
- Jeanne Sacca
- Jim Sano
- Ralph Savage
- Jayne Tinker
- Josephine Tirino
- Linda Zeoli

September Birthdays



CONDOLENCES TO JOHN AND DIANE RILEY ON THE PASSING OF THEIR SON PATRICK, WHO WILL ALWAYS BE ONE OF OUR FAVORITE POOL PATRONS.



Get Well Soon
TO RALPH SIMEONE, SON OF JOHN AND SALLY SIMEONE



Welcome

new members

Susan Cunningham

Giuseppe & Sharon Ritmo

Vincent & Sharisse Milchak

Rena Liggio

Angelo & Carol Rossi

Michael & Gail Richmond

Buon Ferragosto





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EVENTBRITE: IACCALBANYNY.EVENTBRITE.COM

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Join The Italian American Community Center ** The Capital District's Premier Social Club **



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!