



ISSUE 616

JULY 2025



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

FROM THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER



NEWS & EVENTS

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

POOL PARTY & BBQ

JULY 4TH | 12:00 NOON



**MEMBER
EXCLUSIVE**

SOCIAL CALENDAR

July



7/01 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	7/14 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm
7/04 ~ Independence Day / 4th of July BBQ at the Pool - 12:00 pm	7/14 ~ Grand Italian Buffet - 5 pm - 7 pm
7/04 ~ No Friday Nights at the Pavilion This Week	7/15 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm
7/07 ~ I.A.C.C. Pool: Early Morning Lap Swimming - M - F 7:30 am - 9:30 am	7/18 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Special: Chicken Parm with Pasta \$16) 5pm - 8pm
7/07 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	7/21 ~ Grand Italian Buffet - 5 pm - 7 pm
7/08 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	7/21 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm
7/09 ~ Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm	7/22 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm
7/11 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Special: Cavatelli with Broccoli \$14) 5pm - 8pm	7/25 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Special: Lasagna with Meat / Meatless \$14) 5pm - 8pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/16 ~ Ferragosto - 2:00 pm with bonfire @ 8:00 pm



2025 IACC SWIMMING POOL SCHEDULE POOL PHONE 518-250-4511 (TO CHECK CONDITIONS) MEMBERS MUST HAVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARD AVAILABLE WHILE AT THE POOL

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
May					23-Noon	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
July		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
August					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
September						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14-5PM	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Noon – 8:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Noon – 8:00 p.m. Lap
Swimming 7:30-9:30 AM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has officially arrived, and our Italian American Community Center is buzzing with tradition, laughter, and fresh energy. Our bocce leagues light up Monday and Tuesday evenings, bringing spirited competition and camaraderie. Poolside days are perfect for soaking up the sun with friends and family, especially during our festive Fourth of July BBQ. Friday nights at the pavilion are in full swing and always a treat for the senses, filled with the mouthwatering aromas of homemade Italian fare that bring the community together. Please note that there will be no Friday Nights at the Pavilion on July 4th.

We're also rolling out exciting updates. The front entrance is undergoing a makeover, featuring vibrant landscaping and enhanced stonework that will create a warmer and more welcoming impression. On the tech front, we're proud to announce the fastest internet in town, thanks to Spectrum Enterprise.

Please mark your calendars for Ferragosto, our beloved celebration of heritage and joy, featuring live music, dancing, incredible food, and our signature bonfire under the stars, on August 16th.

Happy Birthday, America! Enjoy a safe and joyful holiday!

Jim Sano

JIM SANO
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESIDENT



I.A.C.C. OFFICERS

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COLUMBUS DAY GALA- FRANK ZEOLI

SIAMO QUI

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CREATIVE DIRECTOR - CATALINA ARANGO

ADVERTISING - JIM SANO

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

HOMEMADE PASTA COOKING CLASS

FOR BEGINNERS**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 27, 2025****6:00PM TO 8:00PM***Italian American Community Center Pavilion
257 Washington Avenue Ext. | Albany, 12205*

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to make fresh pasta dough from scratch.
- Rolling and shaping techniques.
- Tips for perfect texture & flavor
- How to pair pasta with delicious sauces.

PRICE ONLY

\$45.00

PER PERSON



CLASS PROCEEDS
TO BENEFIT THE
IACC
PLAYGROUND
FUND

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.****CALL: 518-456-IACC (4222)
WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM**

The Italian American Community Center Foundation

presents

Friday Nights

AT THE

PAVILION

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM
May 23rd - September 5th

5:00PM - 8:00PM

Eat, drink, listen to music, play bocce
or just hang-out at this family event!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

257 WASHINGTON AVE. EXT.
THE I.A.C.C. PAVILION

**DON'T
MISS IT!**



**CLOSED
ON**

4th of July

To learn more about the Italian American
Community Center Foundation, please visit:

www.iaccfoundationalbany.org

518.456.IACC (4222)

257 Washington Avenue Ext. Albany, NY 12205

WEEKLY SPECIALS

May

MAY 23, 2025

Chicken Parmesan
with Pasta \$16

MAY 30, 2025

Cheese Ravioli
with Meatballs \$14

June

JUNE 6, 2025

Veal & Peppers
with Pasta \$20

JUNE 13, 2025

Linguine with
White Clam Sauce \$17

JUNE 20, 2025

Stuffed Peppers
with Meat or Meatless \$14

JUNE 27, 2025

Greens & Beans \$14

July

CLOSED ON JULY 4TH - HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 11, 2025

Cavatelli Pasta
with Broccoli \$14

JULY 18, 2025

Chicken Parmesan
with Pasta \$16

JULY 25, 2025

Lasagna
with Meat or Meatless \$14

August

AUGUST 1, 2025

Chicken Cacciatore
with Pasta \$17

AUGUST 8, 2025

Greens & Beans \$14

AUGUST 15, 2025

Stuffed Peppers
with Meat or Meatless \$14

AUGUST 22, 2025

Lasagna
with Meat or Meatless \$14

AUGUST 29, 2025

Chicken Parmesan
with Pasta \$16

September

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Cheese Ravioli
with Meatballs \$14

ALL SPECIALS ARE SERVED WITH
GARLIC BREAD

FRIDAY NIGHTS CONTINUE
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5TH

CLOSED ON JULY 4TH

❖ PAVILION RENTAL ❖



I.A.C.C. FOUNDATION

Book The Pavilion For Birthdays, Family reunions, Corporate events!

\$250 - MEMBERS

\$400 - NON- MEMBERS

CALL THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE AT 518-456-4222



PLENTY OF WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS
STILL AVAILABLE
RENTING THROUGH OCTOBER



WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Welcome to July and the 249th year of our Independence! We hope all of you enjoy your 4th of July celebrations and look forward to your joining us on Wednesday, July 9th for our Women's League meeting! If you haven't attended one of our meetings, we hope you give us a try. We always begin with a short business meeting, but mostly it's a great time to socialize and have dinner together, as well as make new friendships and rekindle old ones.

At our June meeting, we all shared in a fantastic potluck dinner with more delicious food and desserts provided by our members than you could possibly eat at one sitting! Delizioso! Thank you to everyone for bringing a dish or dessert to share. Following dinner, we enjoyed several games of Bingo and a rousing Left Center Right dice game. Congratulations to Jeanette Anziano on winning the pot!

As noted, our July meeting is Wednesday, July 9th at 6:00 pm in the pavilion and we will enjoy hot dogs/hamburgers, and a few side dishes. Make sure to save room for dessert as we will enjoy an ice cream social with all the trimmings! Please contact Terri Fazio at 518 452-9265 or via email at Theodora.fazio1130@gmail.com to make a reservation with the group no later than Sunday, July 6th. Cost will be \$20 per person or \$10 per person if bringing a side dish to share.



PRESENTS



AN EVENING WITH JOE AVATI

USA TOUR 2025



**ALBANY
NEW YORK**

FRI SEP 26, 6.30PM

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CENTER

TICKETS: [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)

[JOEAVATI.COM/#GIGS](https://joeavati.com/#gigs)

THIS SHOW IS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN 12 YEARS+

THE SHOW INCLUDES
DINNER & DESSERT

SOFT DRINKS INCLUDED
CASH BAR AVAILABLE

\$85.00
IACC Members
\$95.00
Non Members



Palazzo Sansedoni

Fontebranda, Siena's oldest fountain, is the city's most renowned medieval water feature and its largest and most ancient spring. Constructed in the 13th century, Fontebranda showcases three striking Gothic arches and accommodates three reservoirs with distinct purposes: one for drinking water, another for livestock watering, and the third for clothes washing. This versatile structure served as a public laundry site and a crucial water source for the nearby artisans and tanners, who utilized its waters for their water-powered mills and slaughterhouses. Originating from the Bottini, an ancient aqueduct 25 kilometers underground, Fontebranda's water supply is a testament to Siena's historical ingenuity. Saint Catherine of Siena, recognized as the patron saint of Fontebranda, resided near its source. Nearby stands the Sanctuary of Santa Caterina da Siena.



The Basilica of San Domenico is significant partly because of its association with Santa Caterina da Siena. Built between 1226 and 1265, the Basilica has undergone numerous expansions and faced various challenges, including fires, military occupations, earthquakes, and alterations. Despite this, its Gothic style remains evident, with hints of Cistercian influence. The left side of the Basilica overlooks the square, contrasting with the convent rooms on the right. Its facade, adorned only by a rose window, is partially obscured by the Chapel of the Vaults, creating an unusual entrance on the left.



Externally, the bell tower, built in 1340, was lowered after the earthquake of 1798, and a crenelated crown was added during restoration. The complex also includes a fourteenth-century crypt that contains the relic of Saint Catherine's mummified head. Catherine of Siena died in 1380 at 33, weakened by her long fasts and the penances she inflicted on herself aimed at deepening her spiritual connection with Jesus Christ. She is buried in Rome at the Maria Sopra Minerva cemetery. In 1381, Pope Urban VI ordered the detachment of her head from her body, which was transferred to Siena. Initially stored in the sacristy of San Domenico, it was later placed in a chapel behind a grate, surrounded by frescoes depicting scenes from her life. Other relics include her finger, preserved in a shrine accessed from the facade's right side.

Entering the Basilica of San Domenico is a profoundly spiritual experience due to treasures such as Andrea Vanni's fresco of Santa Caterina, the only portrait of the Sienese Saint in the Basilica. Other notable works include Francesco di Giorgio's Adoration of the Child and Sodoma's The Ecstasy and The Fainting of St. Catherine. The left transept houses the Chapel with La Maestà by Guido da Siena, the master of Duccio di Boninsegni.





The Fonte Gaia, located in the upper part of Piazza del Campo, is the city's most crucial fountain. Initially built by Jacopo della Quercia in 1419, it replaced an earlier source dating back to 1346. The name "Fonte Gaia" commemorates the joyous celebration of the arrival of water to Piazza del Campo. The fountain features bas-reliefs depicting biblical scenes and Roman allegories, reflecting Siena's heritage. In the mid-19th century, a copy in Carrara marble was made by Tito Sarrocchi to replace the deteriorating original. After restoration, the original fountain is now housed in the Santa Maria della Scala Museum Complex.



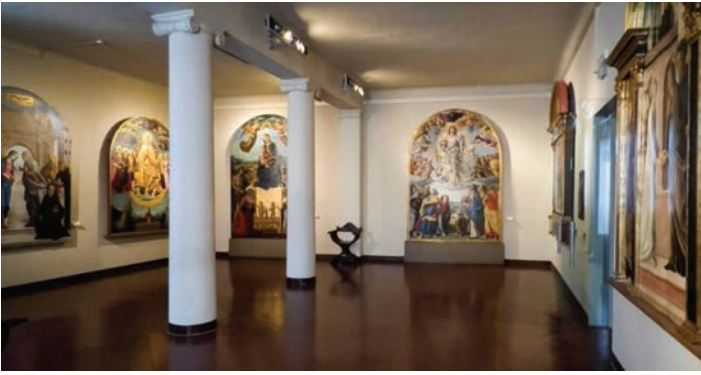
Santuario di Santa Caterina was Saint Catherine's house and is seen as more representative of her life than a convent because she was part of the Third Order of Saint Dominic. Catherine lived at home but devoted herself to serving God. This way of life, known as "lay holiness," showed that anyone could live a holy life, no matter their daily life. This idea has attracted many followers since the 1200s. The shrine complex includes various sections: the Portico dei Comuni, two atriums, the Church of the Crucifix, the Confessional Chapel, and the Kitchen Oratory. A staircase also leads to the Oratory of the Bedroom on the floor below. Located in the Fontebranda district and once belonging to the wool workers' guild, this house was divided into three levels. In the early 14th century, it served as a warehouse for dyeing cloth and a home for Jacopo Benincasa, Catherine's father. After the Benincasa family's decline, the property changed hands

until 1466, when the commune of Siena purchased it to honor Catherine after her canonization. A lay confraternity dedicated to Catherine had already been established, fostering charity, penance, and worship. Through the efforts of these brothers and donations from devotees, the house evolved into a shrine adorned with artworks celebrating the Saint's life.



The Teatro dei Rozzi, a hidden gem in the heart of Siena, is just a few steps from Piazza del Campo. Founded by a group of artisans in 1531 as the Congrega dei Rozzi, it was established to honor popular art forms. By 1690, it had evolved into an academy and became one of Siena's leading cultural institutions. The congregation initially operated in the Saloncino within the Opera Metropolitana. However, after a ban by Francesco de' Medici, they commissioned architect Alessandro Doveri to build their own theater in 1807. Dissatisfied with the initial proposal, they purchased adjacent premises to the Accademia to create the new theater, which officially opened in the spring of 1815. The Teatro dei Rozzi has been a hub for Italian prose, hosting well-known national tour companies. Despite several renovations and a closure period due to World War II damage, the theater reopened in 1998. Today, the theater, with 499 seats spread across stalls, three tiers of boxes, and an open balcony, continues offering various theatrical, musical, and conference events.

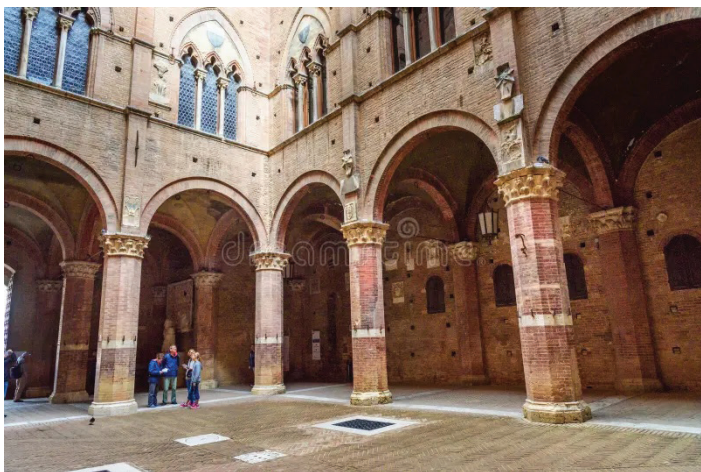
The Pinacoteca Nazionale is the primary state art museum in Siena, renowned for its extensive collection of masterpieces from the illustrious Sienese school of artists. Housed within the historic Palazzo Brigidi and Buonsignori, the museum offers visitors a comprehensive journey through the artistic heritage of Siena and its prominent role in Italian art history. The second floor highlights the Golden Age of Sienese Art, displaying works by Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini, and the Lorenzetti brothers, renowned for their elegant Madonnas. It progresses through Duccio's "Madonna dei Francescani," Martini's depictions of



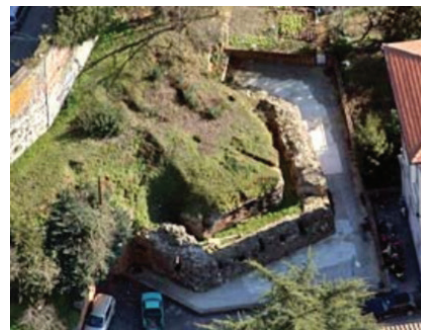
The Pinacoteca Nazionale

14th-century life, and the Lorenzetti's frescoes. The floor also features 15th-century pieces transitioning into the Renaissance, including works by Francesco di Giorgio Martini. On the first floor, 16th to 17th-century paintings by Domenico Beccafumi and Giovanni Antonio Bazzi, known as Sodoma, are showcased. Lastly, the top floor holds a small collection from the Spannocchi-Piccolomini families, featuring Albrecht Dürer's "San Girolamo."

The Courtyard of the Podestà, dating back to 1325, boasts an elegant brick colonnade supporting a floor adorned with large trifora windows. Also known as the 'Entrone,' it showcases ancient coats of arms belonging to past governors and remnants of stone statues by Giovanni Turino, representing the 'Mangia' and 'Wolf Feeding Twins,' symbols of Siena. Providing access to the Torre del Mangia tower and the Civic Museum, this courtyard is a central hub of activity, particularly during the Palio, when it is a resting place for horses before the race. Steeped in atmosphere, it holds the mystery of the 'Mangia,' named after Giovanni di Balduccio, the first bell-ringer, whose squandering of earnings led to his nickname. Eventually replaced by a mechanical clock and automaton, remnants preserved in the corner of the Entrone represent early workplace innovation.



Porta Camollia stands as one of Siena's oldest gates, its name intertwined with the legend of the city's foundation. Legend has it that in the 7th century BC, Romulus, the legendary founder of Rome, sent the leader Camullius to capture his nephews Senius and Ascanius. Camullius established his encampment where the present-day gate now stands, as evidenced by a document from 1082 referring to the "Porta di Camullia." At the apex of the gate, an inscription reads "Cor magis tibi Sena pandit," meaning "Siena opens your heart more than its door," paying homage to those who pass through it. This inscription was crafted to commemorate Ferdinando I dei Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, entering the city. It was engraved in 1604, following the gate's reconstruction after its destruction in 1555 by the Medici army.



A short distance below, to the left of the gate, lie the remnants of the **Fortino delle Donne (Women's Fort)**, erected in 1526 after the Battle of Camollia between the Republic of

Siena and the Republic of Florence. This fortress was constructed by the women of Siena themselves. In a display of remarkable courage, three thousand Siennese women, led by noblewomen Livia Fausti, Fausta Piccolomini, and Laudomia Fonteguerri, organized into three groups comprising nobles and commoners. Armed with pickaxes, shovels, and bundles of wood sticks, they physically erected the fortification. The structure was designed to house both cannons and long guns, with a firing range spanning approximately 180 degrees, thus serving as a formidable artillery ready to defend the city's vulnerable northern flank. Despite the valiant resistance, Siena eventually succumbed; in 1555, the Florentines, in alliance with the imperial army, emerged victorious.



**ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESENTS**

ferragosto

**Saturday, August 16, 2025
2PM | Bonfire at Dusk**

**Lunch, Dinner, Dessert
Coffee & Tea are Included.
*Other beverages are available
for purchase.***

**This is a free member event.
*Guests of members & pool
members are welcome for
\$20.00.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM

PER TUA
INFORMAZIONE
(FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

BY JOE SANO



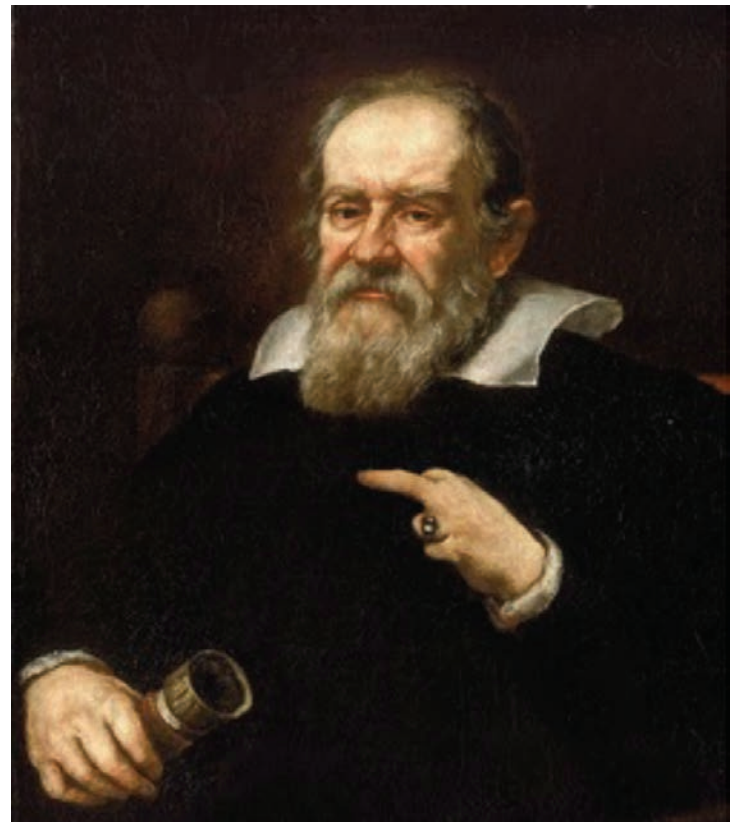
A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

What? Is that a statute of someone “Flippin the bird”?

This towering middle finger—a universally recognized symbol of defiance and disrespect—is made of fine white Carrara marble, the same material used in Michelangelo’s *David*. Forged in a classical style, the statue could easily blend in with the surrounding architecture, if not for the fact that it is, in fact, a giant middle finger.

In Italy, the middle finger gesture (extending the middle finger) is a rude and offensive gesture, similar to the “middle finger” in other Western cultures. It is often referred to as “gesto dell’ombrello” or “the umbrella gesture”. The middle finger gesture has often found its way into Italian tradition.

One such legend is that the Father of Science, Galileo Galilei’s theory of heliocentrism (earth and planets revolving around the sun) got him accused of heresy, found guilty, and under house arrest until he died. He, however, like our Milan artist, chose a visual response to those who condemned him. He commissioned a painting showing his one fingered salute to all those who condemned his teachings (see painting and display).





The “finger” painting may have led to his corpse being desecrated and his middle finger severed and put on display. It is said that his verified, mummified “finger” is still on display at the Museo Galileo (formerly the Florence History of Science Museum). So, the point here

is that the “middle finger salute” has some interesting historical as well as artistic context.

It is quite possible that the tale of Galileo’s “finger” influenced the artist in Milan.



“Il dito,” Italian for “the finger,” is a nickname for the sculpture L.O.V.E. (Libertà, Odio, Vendetta, Eternità) by Maurizio Cattelan. It is a marble hand with all fingers severed except the middle finger. The sculpture is located in Piazza degli Affari in Milan. INDEED! ...right in front of the Italian stock exchange. Originally placed as part of the artist’s 2010 exhibition, it was soon proposed to keep the piece permanently displayed.

Of course, there were months of argument and deliberation but finally the city government deflected the objections of the business community, and the stature would stay. The fact that the artist freely donated the sculpture helped seal that deal.

Il Dito has become as much of a fixture in Piazza Affari as the architecture surrounding it and remains a conversation piece for visitors and locals alike. It has often been used as the backdrop for protests, strikes, and demonstrations. One such event saw a local graffiti artist painting Il Dito’s nail pink, without permission, as a sign of protest linked to International Women’s Day. Obviously, this new artistic gesture falls

in line with the original artist’s intent to make you notice and think.

The sculpture is known for its provocative nature and has sparked debate about its meaning. It is often interpreted as a commentary on the economic crisis and the protests against high finance. It is not by accident, many say, that after the worldwide financial crisis of 2008 the artist felt that the statue succinctly summarized the feelings of Italian citizenry towards the financial markets and the excessive risks taken at that time.

However, on closer examination you will realize that the rest of the fingers on the hand are not flexed as if to flip the bird, but rather, severed. One of the most accepted interpretations of “L.O.V.E.” is that it represents a critique of the Fascist (Mussolini) salute. By depicting a hand with all but the middle finger severed, Cattelan is seen as transforming and mutilating the Fascist salute from the 1930s.

This theory makes more sense when your research uncovers that the building sits in front of the Palazzo Mezzanotte which was a 1932 architectural symbol of the Fascist era, embodying a peculiar mix of neo-classical and 20th-century rationalist styles that were popular at the time. Was it an accident or was the placement done as a thought-provoking provocation using art to ridicule Italy’s Fascist past? The artist felt it expresses disapproval of that historical period and the ideologies it represents, and its placement shines a light on the collusion between the financial industry leaders and the fascism of that era.

Others believe jokingly that it is a living tribute to all those who use hand gestures to communicate with others sharing the Italian roadways.

The one finger salute is at home in Milan as well as all of Italy, Europe and probably the world. Yet Milan is a special mix of old and new. To many it is that unique blend of the ancient with the new that makes it special. So to all those who visit Milan and do not love it, there’s a statue just for you in the Piazza degli Affari. □



CARING & SHARING

JULY *Birthdays*

Sherri Bellucci
Michael Buckley
Benedetto Cafaro
Luigi DeNitto
Linda DiBernardo
Dylan Ehrbar
Michael Fairchild
Denise Halton

Dominic Indelicato
Joseph Ingemie
Maegan Knauf
Chris Larrabee
Ann Marie Lizzi
Pasquale Manzella
William McGill
Janet Miller

Fortunata Paglialonga
Maria Patelos
Marina Patelos
Carmine Pezzula
Rachel Powell
Denise Severino
Grazia Simeone
Debbie Strawbridge

Paul Tearnio
Angela Trombley
Joan Wallis
Nancy Wideman
Monica Wilkes

WELCOME

new members

Peter & Roxanne Lomanto
Steven & Meghan Meleco
Julia Battista & Jason DiNovi
Melissa & Mark Cahill
Nancy Klepsch
Lauren Pinsley
Laura Peters
Leonora Haefeli
Burak & Emine Emil
Lori Zimmermann

BUY OR SELL

YOUR HOUSE

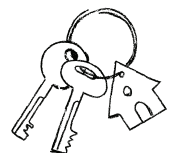
WITHOUT AGITA




IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT
MAKING A MOVE,
I'D BE HONORED TO HELP!

MICHELE SANO PAUL

LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON



 (518) 466-9988

 MSANO-PAUL@JPAULREALTYGROUP.COM



TUSCAN Tomato Salad

This is a great salad to make in the summer when the tomatoes are homegrown and ripe. **Tuscan Tomato Salad**, or Panzanella, is a salad made with fresh tomatoes, basil, onions, and homemade croutons using stale bread. The key is to soak up the tomato vinaigrette in every bite of the croutons. This dish can be made as a side dish or the main course; it highlights all the fresh flavors.



PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES
RESTING TIME: 30 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS

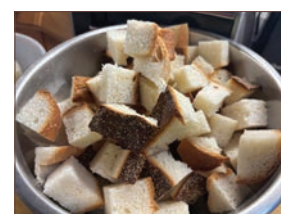
- 1/2 a loaf or 12 oz of stale Italian or sour-dough bread (cubed)
- 1 1/2 lbs. of cherry tomatoes (colored tomatoes are good to use as well)
- 3 oz of red onion (large dice)
- 6-8 fresh basil leaves (chopped)
- 1T of kosher salt
- 1T of paprika
- 1T of granulated garlic
- 1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil

FOR THE VINAIGRETTE

- 1/4 cup of red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 2T of Dijon mustard
- Two cloves of garlic (finely minced)
- Salt & Pepper (to taste)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Clean and cut the cherry tomatoes in half and place them in a bowl. Dice the onion and set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and adjust the rack to the center position. Toss the bread cubes in 1/4 cup of olive oil, granulated garlic, kosher salt, and paprika in a large mixing bowl. Mix thoroughly until all the cubes are covered. Transfer them to a baking sheet and bake in the oven for about 20 minutes until crisp and light brown. Keep an eye on them; they will burn easily.
3. Add the minced garlic, red wine vinegar, mustard, oil, salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl and whisk together.
4. Combine the cherry tomatoes, red onion, chopped basil, croutons, and vinaigrette. Mixed thoroughly.
5. Once combined, let everything sit for about 30 minutes, mixing it occasionally so the vinaigrette absorbs into the croutons.



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