



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  
\$25.00.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM](http://WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM)



# SUMMER VIBES



## NEWS & EVENTS

- 1** FERRAGOSTO
- 2** POOL SCHEDULE
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A special message from Jim Sano  
President of the Italian American Community Center
- 5** HOMEMADE PASTA COOKING CLASS
- 6** FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE PAVILION
- 7** FRIDAY NIGHTS MENU
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- 8** AN EVENING WITH JOE AVATI
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- 14** ELEMENTARY ITALIAN CLASSES
- 15** PER TUA INFORMAZIONE: YOUR CELLPHONE- NOW  
THAT'S ITALIAN !
- 16** CARING & SHARING
- 17** MANGIA BENE E VIVI BENE!: ITALIAN BEAN SALAD  
WITH TOMATOES

## 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					<b>23-Noon</b>	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
<b>14-5PM</b>	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**

# SOCIAL CALENDAR

## August



8/01 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Chicken Cacciatore with Pasta: \$17.00) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	8/13 ~ Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm
8/04 ~ Italian Grand Buffet - 5:00 pm	8/15 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Stuffed Peppers Meat or Meatless: \$14.00) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
8/04 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	8/16 ~ Ferragosto 2025 - 2:00 pm
8/05 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	8/18 ~ Italian Grand Buffett - 5:00 pm
8/08 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Greens & Beans: \$14.00) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	8/22 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Lasagna Meat or Meatless: \$14.00) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
8/11 ~ Men's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	8/27 ~ HOMEMADE PASTA COOKING CLASS - 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
8/12 ~ Women's Bocce League - 6:30 pm	8/29 ~ Friday Nights at the Pavilion (Chicken Parmesan with Pasta: \$16.00) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

9/01 ~ Labor Day Pool BBQ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

9/14 ~ Final Day of the Pool Season BBQ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Mixed bocce returns to the IACC on Tuesday September 2nd through October 14th. We play for 7 weeks and start at 6:00 on the first night and 6:30 for the remaining weeks. If you are interested in playing, please call Donna Zumbo at 518-424-7463.

## MIXED BOCCE RETURNS







## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**W**e invite you to join us for our annual Ferragosto celebration of community, tradition, and fellowship on August 16th. The event will feature gourmet cuisine and musical entertainment, culminating in a traditional Italian-inspired bonfire ceremony at sunset. This gathering is presented as a complimentary benefit to our valued members. Members are welcome to extend invitations to guests and pool members who may participate for a nominal fee of \$25 per person. Our Friday Nights in the Pavilion have been fabulous, and it's all thanks to YOU! We're thrilled to see so many smiling faces and feel the tremendous energy you all bring - it truly shows what an incredible community we have. Join us for delicious dinners every Friday through September 5th!

Also, don't miss our exciting hands-on pasta-making class scheduled for August 27th at 6 PM! Learn authentic techniques from our skilled chef, Frank Zeoli, while enjoying a fun, interactive culinary experience. Spaces are limited to ensure personalized attention for each participant, so we encourage you to reserve your spot early. Registration is available through our website's events calendar or by directly contacting the membership office during regular business hours. All ingredients and equipment will be provided, and participants will take home their handcrafted pasta creations!

We look forward to sharing these memorable moments with you. Whether it's gathering under the pavilion lights on a Friday evening, learning the art of pasta-making, or coming together in celebration at the Ferragosto bonfire, these experiences reflect the heart of our community: fellowship, tradition, and joy. Thank you to all our volunteers and members for being the reason these events are so special. Let's continue making lasting memories together.

JIM SANO  
ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
PRESIDENT



### I.A.C.C. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - JIM SANO

(518) 438-4631

VICE PRESIDENT - MARIA LAMORTE

(518) 456-4800

TREASURER - PETE SCAVILLO

(518) 869-8234

SECRETARY - MAGGIE PUTNAM

(518) 767-9301

### I.A.C.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANN MARIE LIZZI - (518) 472-0224

DINO BARBATO - (518) 438-8902

TERRY ANDRIANO - (518) 364-4873

FRANK ZEOLI - IACC FOUNDATION - (518) 463-2106

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

MARIA DENITTO - (518) 456-2216

TONY FAZIO - (518) 452-9265

### I.A.C.C. COMMITTEE CHAIRS

POOL - JIM SANO

FINANCE - PETE SCAVILLO

MEMBERSHIP - SHARON PATREI

BY-LAWS/POLICIES & PROCEDURE - JIM SANO

HOUSE - DAVID QUADRINI

GRIEVANCE - JEANNE SACCA

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES - FRANK ZEOLI

COLUMBUS DAY GALA - FRANK ZEOLI

### SIAMO QUI

EDITOR - JOAN WALLIS

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](mailto: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!**

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

**[www.iaccfoundationalbany.org](http://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 4<sup>TH</sup> - 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



# WOMEN'S LEAGUE

*Buon Giorno Ladies!!*

**T**his has certainly proven to be a summer to remember as far as the weather is concerned. If you enjoy hot, humid days and languishing by the pool, it has definitely been your cup of tea! As we enter the month of August, it is a reminder that our summer days are winding down and we will be rolling into fall before you know it!

Our July meeting in the pavilion celebrated all that is summer with a cookout of hot dogs and hamburgers, many delicious side dishes provided by the Women's League members and ending with a fantastic make your own ice cream sundae social with all the toppings! Many thanks to all that contributed.

The Women's League August meeting will once again be held in the pavilion and will be a small plates dinner with food catered by Healthy Café Catering. Selections include salad, tortellini in a fontina cream sauce with roasted peppers and spinach, chicken satay, tomato bruschetta, an assorted petite sandwich platter (turkey, roast beef and portabella/roast red pepper), vegetable dumplings and more! We will review upcoming activities and holiday events, as well as our continued commitment to the Caring Closet and their donation needs.

We hope you will be able to join us for a relaxing "ladies night out." We will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, August 13th, in the pavilion. Please contact Terri Fazio at 518 452-9265 or via email at [Theodora.fazio1130@gmail.com](mailto:Theodora.fazio1130@gmail.com) to make a reservation with the group no later than Sunday, August 10th. Cost will be \$20 per person.

We look forward to seeing you!



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://www.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**



# ❖ PAVILION RENTAL ❖



*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



# Historic Centre of Siena

## PART 3

BY JIM SANO



**The Siena Cathedral** complex, a masterpiece of Gothic-Romanesque architecture, is home to some of Europe's most significant monuments, featuring works by renowned artists such as Duccio di Buoninsegna, Pinturicchio, Donatello, Michelangelo, and Gian Lorenzo Bernini, spanning five centuries of Italian art history. It is distinguished among Italy's remarkable cathedrals for its architectural grandeur and artistic richness. With over a million visitors annually, the Cathedral serves as its focal point, complemented by the Crypt, the Baptistery, and the Museo dell'Opera, all-encompassing the grandeur of the "Duomo Vecchio" (Old Cathedral) and the "Duomo Nuovo" (New Cathedral). Visitors embark on a profound journey through cultural and artistic treasures, spanning over a millennium of Western history, to discover the essence of self and the truth of faith.

Built between 1215 and 1264, the Cathedral's construction was interrupted by the Black Death in 1348, leaving behind the unfinished New Cathedral walls. Constructed with black and white marble reflecting Siena's coat of arms, the Cathedral's striped marble gives it a distinctive appearance. Contributions from Renaissance artists like Giovanni Pisano, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Donatello, and Michelangelo enhance the Cathedral's beauty. Its west façade showcases

a blend of French Gothic, Classic, and Tuscan Romanesque architecture, making it one of Italy's most stunning architectural wonders. Visitors are mesmerized by the contrast of black and white marble columns, surrounded by numerous masterpieces, including exceptional floor artwork considered one of the finest in Italian art history.

Inside the Cathedral, amidst an abundance of unparalleled masterpieces, the floor stands out as an extraordinary work of art. This unique artwork, unparalleled worldwide, conceals allegorical messages and encourages the continual pursuit of wisdom. The 56 inlays of the Siena Cathedral floor were created using the marble clerk and graffito technique, with preparatory cartoons designed by esteemed artists. Over the centuries, renowned artists from Siena and beyond contributed to its creation, such as Sassetta, Domenico Beccafumi, Matteo di Giovanni, and Pinturicchio. Notably, Pinturicchio's 1505 painting, "The Mount of Wisdom," adorns the floor, symbolically depicting the path to virtue and inviting admiration from all who behold it.

Giorgio Vasari, the celebrated art historian of the Renaissance era, hailed this marble floor as "the most beautiful, largest, and magnificent ever to exist." This floor is a remarkable masterpiece, a marble



carpet meticulously crafted by esteemed artists from Siena and beyond, spanning five hundred years of artistic expression. The floor of the Siena Cathedral symbolizes a profound journey in search of human virtues. Comprising 56 squares, known as "tarsie," its intricate designs were crafted by esteemed artists such as Sassetta, Domenico di Bartolo, Matteo di Giovanni, Domenico Beccafumi, and Pinturicchio. These designs were then meticulously translated into marble inlays by skilled marble workers, utilizing a range of exquisite local marbles, from the gray of Sienese Montagnola to the precious yellow brocatello.

In the churchyard, atop the steps before the Cathedral, the initial marble inlays depict Jews and pagans, symbolizing their exclusion from the Cathedral and the path to salvation due to their non-Christian status. Initiation ceremonies with a deacon, a priest, and a bishop precede the portals, underscoring the sacredness of the Cathedral. Inside, the three naves feature depictions of episodes and figures from Greek and Roman humanist culture who foretold the coming of the Savior, such as Hermes Trismegistus, seen as a precursor to the prophets. The Siena Cathedral's floor layout strategically places the Madonna and Christ near the altar, while under the Dome, narratives from the Old Testament unfold, including Domenico Beccafumi's innovative portrayal of the sacrifice of Isaac, characterized by a futuristic landscape teeming with contorted animals and trees. Beccafumi's adept use of the marble clerk technique achieves striking chiaroscuro effects. In the transept and choir, the history of the Jewish people intertwines with the salvational events initiated by Christ, who, although constantly evoked, is never directly depicted on the floor. Pinturicchio's renowned work, "Monte della Sapienza," symbolizes the pursuit of virtue, featuring Fortune as an angelic figure shaping humanity's destiny, reminiscent of Botticelli's *Venus*.

Visitors to the Siena Cathedral should take advantage of designated "discovery" periods to explore the extraordinary floor, typically concealed with protective coverings for two-thirds of the year. Annually, from August 18 after the Palio dell'Assunta until late October, the floor is uncovered for visitors to admire, offering a unique opportunity to experience one of Siena's most magnificent treasures during late summer and autumn.

The inlays depicting the Massacre of the Innocents, created by Matteo di Giovanni, utilize colored marble to produce a striking chiaroscuro effect. Additionally, the depiction of the Story of Judith showcases battle scenes reminiscent of Paolo Uccello's style. Notably, Beccafumi's depiction of Moses stands out, illustrating the moment when water flows from the rocks of Mount Horeb. Several famous Renaissance artists created sculptures

and paintings for the Siena Cathedral. These include:

- Sculptures of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Pius, and St. Augustine by Michelangelo
- Sculpture of St. John the Baptist by Donatello
- Sculptures of St. Mary Magdalen and St. Jerome by Gian Lorenzo Bernini
- Madonna of the Vow by Dietisalvi di Speme
- The pulpit was sculpted by Nicola Pisano and several other artists from 1265 to 1268. It is made of Carrara marble, shows scenes from the Life of Christ, and has statues of Prophets and Evangelists. It is the earliest remaining work in the Cathedral.
- The colorful stained-glass windows. The rose window is a replica. The original is located inside of the Opera del Duomo museum. However, the stained-glass window of The Last Supper dates back to 1549.



Piccolomini Library of Illuminated Manuscripts

**The Piccolomini Library** is a grand room commissioned in 1492 by Francesco Todeschini Piccolomini. It was created to honor his uncle, Pope Pius II, and to house the pontiff's extensive book collection. You can find the entrance to the library within the Siena Cathedral on the left side of the nave. The Piccolomini Library, inspired by French cathedral libraries and Sixtus IV's Vatican Library, aims to be both a hub for scholarship and a display of Renaissance art. The library walls are adorned with frescoes depicting the life of Pope Pius II. Painted by Pinturicchio and his assistants, including Raphael, between 1503 and 1508, these frescoes are inspired by Giovanni Antonio Campano's "Life of Pius II" and Pius II's "Commentarii." They depict ceremonial events and characters, richly adorned with colorful garments and jewels. Notable scenes include the meeting between Emperor Frederick III and Eleanor of Portugal near Porta Camollia and the canonization of Saint Catherine of Siena, featuring figures believed to be a young Raphael, distinguished by his red stockings and Pinturicchio himself, wearing a red cap.



**The New Cathedral**, a section of the Siena Cathedral left unfinished due to the Black Death in the 1300s, offers a unique terrace viewpoint overlooking Siena. Inside the New Cathedral's north aisle lies the Cathedral Museum, or Museo dell'Opera, showcasing original artworks created for the Cathedral, including the stained-glass Rose Window by Duccio di Buoninsegna, sculptures by Pisano and Donatello, Duccio di Buoninsegna's altarpiece, and the Treasury.

**The Cathedral Museum**, also called the Museo dell'Opera, is inside the New Cathedral's north aisle. This museum contains a lot of the original works of art that were made for the Siena Cathedral. This list includes the stained-glass Rose Window by Duccio di Buoninsegna, Pisano and Donatello sculptures, Duccio di Buoninsegna's altarpiece, and the Treasury. This museum is distinguished by its breathtaking view, which can be accessed by ascending a narrow winding staircase to reach the top of the Nuovo Duomo's façade. From here, visitors can enjoy a 360-degree panorama, including the magnificent Siena Cathedral and sweeping vistas over the city's rooftops, with the iconic Torre del Mangia standing tall over the Campo, providing a captivating sight.



**The Crypt of the Siena Cathedral** was discovered only in 1999, amidst rubble, as part of a restoration project for the Cathedral's underground areas. It is a hidden gem showcasing late 12th-century frescoes. The frescoes depict stories from the Old and New Testaments and are remarkably well-preserved due to being hidden for centuries. Their unveiling has been hailed as one of the most significant recent archaeological discoveries.

**The Baptistery of San Giovanni**, constructed between the 1310s and 1320s, is an integral part of the Siena Cathedral complex. It stands as a prime example of 15th-century Siennese artistry, boasting exquisite frescoes within its interior. Its Gothic façade, characterized by black and white marble like the Cathedral, leads into a space divided into three



aisles adorned with frescoes. Painted by Lorenzo di Pietro, known as "Vecchietta," between 1447 and 1450, these frescoes illustrate the Twelve Articles of the Christian Faith. Vecchietta also painted scenes in the apse, depicting the Assumption of the Virgin and scenes from the Passion of Christ. Other notable works include Benvenuto di Giovanni's Miracles of St. Anthony of Padua and Pietro di Francesco degli Orioli's Washing of the Feet. The highlight is the Baptismal Font, a marble, bronze, and enamel masterpiece crafted between 1417 and 1431 by renowned sculptors such as Lorenzo Ghiberti, Donatello, and Jacopo della Quercia. It features gilded bronze panels depicting scenes from the life of St. John the Baptist, including Lorenzo Ghiberti's Baptism of Christ and Donatello's Feast of Herod.

**The Gate of Heaven, or Porta del Cielo**, offers a unique guided tour of the roof and terraces of the Siena Cathedral. Visitors can explore hidden areas of the Cathedral and enjoy panoramic views of both the interior and exterior. Limited to groups of 18 people, the tour includes access to rooms rarely open to the public, providing a glimpse into centuries-old architectural history. Participants can walk along outdoor walkways for stunning views of Siena, the Cathedral, and the unfinished façade of the New Cathedral.



The Oratory of San Bernardino

**The Oratory of San Bernardino** is a museum showcasing Siennese paintings from the 13th to the 18th century. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary and Francis of Assisi, it was later rededicated to Brother Bernardino Albizzeschi in the 16th century. This historic space, renovated in the 16th century, has



housed the Diocesan Museum of Religious Art since 1999. Featuring a simple gabled brick façade adorned with a travertine portal, it offers a comprehensive overview of Sienese painting from the 13th century onwards. The highlight is the upper Chapel, decorated with frescoes by Domenico Beccafumi, Giovanni Antonio Bazzi, and Girolamo Pacchia from the early 16th century. The building stands adjacent to the Basilica di San Francesco on the opposite side of town from the Siena Cathedral.



**The Santa Maria della Scala** is a monumental complex once a civic hospital for people in need and pilgrims, but it is now a museum spanning seven levels. It houses the National Archaeological Museum, the Children's Museum, a treasury of relics, and the Briganti Library. Overlooking the Cathedral, it descends from Piazza Duomo to the valley behind. Historically, it was a medieval pilgrims' hostel and orphanage, then served as a hospital from the 10th century to the modern day. After extensive restoration, it hosts museums, exhibitions, and service facilities today. The Piazza Duomo entrance opens to monumental halls, with ancient apothecary rooms now used for educational activities. The floor plan centers on the male pilgrim frescoes from the 1440s by Lorenzo di Pietro in the Old Sacristy, alongside his depictions of the Apostolic Creed. The sacristy now holds the hospital's collection of reliquaries. The former women and children's section features the recently exhibited Piccolomini Spannocchi collection, comprised of works from the united Piccolomini and Spannocchi families. The lower level, arranged around the small corticella courtyard, displays Fonte Gaia's original marble sculptures by Jacopo della Quercia and 19th-century replicas by Tito Sarrocchi. The courtyard overlooks the Santa Caterina della Notte Brotherhood's historical premises and stairway to the Santa Maria Sotto le Volte Brotherhood.

Levels I and II feature large vaulted areas and long underground tunnels. The underground route of Siena is organized into sections that narrate and revisit the city's history from its inception to the latter half of the 14th century. Among these sections, one focuses

on the findings of excavations on the Duomo Hill by the University of Siena. These excavations shed light on pivotal stages in the city's evolution and follow a road integrated by the hospital's expansion. This road links various building levels. The renovated spaces house the National Archaeological Museum, displaying Sienese artifacts and local collections. The museum also hosts the exhibition "Siena: Story of the City from its Origins to the Middle Ages."



**The Medici Fortress of Siena**, also known as Forte di Santa Barbara, has a unique history. Unlike typical fortresses built for defense against external threats, they were constructed to suppress any attempts by the Sienese people to regain their independence. With an impressive outer perimeter of about 1,500 meters, the fortress symbolized Medici authority. Initially built by the Spanish and refurbished by Florence, the fortress symbolized oppression for the Sienese people. Constructed as the Citadel by the Spanish army under King Charles V of Habsburg in the mid-16th century, it was destroyed by the Sienese during a revolt in 1552. After surrendering to the Spanish and Florentine armies, Cosimo I de' Medici ordered its reconstruction from 1561 to 1563 to suppress future rebellions. The fortress, with its four-sided layout and pentagonal bastions named after saints, bears the coats of arms of the Medici family. The Medici Fortress is a public space for leisure and cultural activities today. Visitors can enter from the gardens in front of La Lizza, formerly featuring a drawbridge, and stroll along the walls and ramparts amid tree-lined avenues and sports facilities. Its elevated position offers sweeping views of Siena, including landmarks like the Torre del Mangia, the Duomo, and the Basilica of San Domenico. The surrounding square hosts outdoor events and gatherings. The central amphitheater within the fortress is a venue for open-air cinema screenings, live performances, and concerts. It also houses the Enoteca Italiana and the Siena Jazz Association, enhancing the area's cultural offerings. The fortress is a cherished recreational hub in Siena, with the Parco della Rimembranza and the Lizza Gardens nearby. □





# **ELEMENTARY ITALIAN**

## **FALL 2025**

**Eight weeks starting 9/15, 7 PM-9 PM.  
Call 518-456-4222 to Register  
or online at [www.italianamerican.com](http://www.italianamerican.com)**

**The dates are Sept. 15, 22, 29,  
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3.**

**The cost will be \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members  
and the registration deadline in 9/12.**

**You can buy the textbook for \$20 at the 1st class.**

**CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED REGISTER TODAY!**



BY JOE SANO

# Your CellPhone- Now That's Italian !



**T**he modern cellphone/mobile phone is Italian. You see there is an interesting history of Italian inventors having their life's work credited to others. In 1871, Antonio Meucci created the first voice-

communication device in his Staten Island lab. His error was that his patent did not state electromagnetic transmission, and the later invention of Alexander Graham Bell stated the transmission medium and after much litigation received the prized patents.

Similarly, the invention of the mobile phone has Italian roots but once again the ultimate credit going to others. The 1980s bears witness to the growing technological introduction and continuously improving mobile phones we all have in our pocket or purse. It was Domenico Mastini who in the 1930s developed what can rightly be considered the prototype of the modern mobile phone. His invention, produced by the Fimi-Phonola factory in Saronno, Italy, allowed users to place calls from a moving vehicle to any number on the urban telephone network, something truly astounding.

Mastini's system worked through a fixed radio transceiver and a vehicle-mounted phone unit. It relied on alternating frequencies

– 46 MHz for transmission and 42 MHz for reception on the base unit, with the opposite configuration on the car phone. The range extended several dozen kilometers, allowing real-time communication while on the road, a groundbreaking feat that anticipated mobile connectivity by decades.

Mastini was a visionary. While the Second World War was becoming a reality, signal repeaters were installed on high ground, to create a national network for seamless calls over long distances.

In 1942, in the middle of World War II, Mastini went even further by proposing a radio-based switching center on Mount Penice to link major cities in northern Italy via airwaves. However, only one connection – between Milan and Bergamo – was ever installed. The idea for a mobile radio phone network was born but the physical and financial toll of WW II on Italy kept

his dream from being realized. Postwar Italy saw Mastini's project shelved as Italy rebuilt its hard-wired national telephone system.

Domenico Mastini saw the future use of hand-held wireless communication devices decades before our smartphones became our daily companions. His pioneering work became the basis for electrical engineers in the USA designing wireless hand-held communication devices and networks that support these transmissions.

By the 1960s, Bell Labs engineers Richard H. Frenkiel and Joel S. Engel developed the technology based on the Mastini model for the design of a cellular network. But as AT&T sought permission from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to develop a cellular network, a competitor made a bold and cheeky move in 1973.

That competitor was Martin Cooper, who at the time was an executive with Motorola, one of AT&T's competitors. Cooper led a team that designed the first practical cell phone. It was called the Motorola DynaTAC, and it still was not a tiny device -- it was 9 inches (22.9 centimeters) long and weighed 2.5 pounds (1.1 kilograms). Cooper decided to make one of the first cellular telephone calls to professional rival Joel Engel at Bell Labs. That is right -- the first cell phone was involved in what some might refer to as a prank call!

Mastini and his industrial partners filed numerous patent infringement lawsuits against AT&T and Motorola but his pleas for justice obtained a result similar to that received by Meucci v Bell in the late 19th Century.

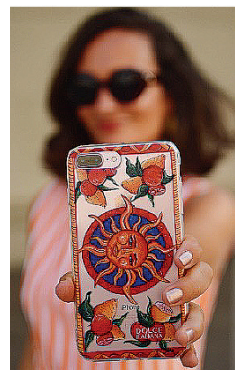
While Motorola may have been credited with making that cellphone call, it needed cell sites to repeat the signal so that there was a network and the network creation was the work of Bell Labs. There is little question that the Bell Labs model was theoretically a similar concept akin to Mastini's vision, but the continuous patent litigation eventually went to Bell Labs. Thus, mobile units by themselves do not make it a cellphone, as it is only a cellphone when there are cell sites.

While Domenico Mastini developed the first working handheld portable phone decades before the Motorola/Bell Labs versions, his invention and his unrealized vision for a cell network may be forgotten.

However next time your cell phone rings...remember him and give a small "GRAZIE" to Domenico Mastini. □



Il primo radiomobile in assoluto realizzato dalla FIMI-Phonola nel 1939 su progetto di Mastini



# CARING & SHARING

## AUGUST *Birthdays*

Dino Barbato  
Danielle Bender  
Daniel Ciampino  
Michael Connelly  
Joseph Cunningham  
Sally D'Agostino  
Rina D'Aurizio  
Betty Dodge  
Michael Elmendorf

Thomas Federici  
Susan Ferrara  
Fabio Franco  
Angela Groelz Sislowski  
Dennis Guyon  
Kristine Ingemie  
Margaret Johnson  
Michael Keegan  
Maria LaMorte

Charlotte Lombardo  
Guy Maddalone  
Richard Mazzaferro, Sr.  
Theresa Nowicki  
Maria Antonietta Paddock  
Stanley Paddock  
Sergio Panunzio  
Loretta Parsons  
Lourdes Reyes

Vincent Rossi  
Ginger Ruiz-Evans  
Cain Scalzo  
Marylou Schiro  
Diane Simeone  
Debbie Simoni  
Paul Spadafora  
George Urciuoli  
Steve Wunsch  
Donna Zumbo



### CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies to the Ritz and Lenartz families on the passing of **John Ritz**. May he rest in peace.



### WELCOME

#### *new members*

David Garrison  
Janet Almasi  
Shanna & Carlton Witherspoon  
Laurie & David Leonardo  
Margaret Johnson & Chris Hacker  
Frank & Lois Salvagio  
Joelle Monaco & Daniel Bruce  
Debra Monaco  
Wayne Wilson  
William & Judy Phillips  
Danielle & TJ Bender  
Rita Cleary  
Stamatia Apos & Michael Marando

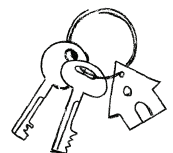
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## Italian Bean Salad with Tomatoes

**A**n Italian bean salad with tomatoes is a refreshing, vibrant dish that blends hearty beans with the sweetness of ripe tomatoes. It is brightened by the flavors of olive oil, herbs, and a splash of tangy vinegar. The result is a satisfying yet light salad bursting with deep flavors, perfect as a side dish or a stand-alone meal. It's ideal for summer picnics or light dinners.

**Optional Additions:** You might add some finely chopped red onion or bell peppers, which add a crunchy texture and slight sweetness.

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES

REFRIGERATOR REST TIME: 120 MINUTES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 15-oz can of cannellini beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 15-oz can of butter beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 15-oz can of chickpeas (drained and rinsed)
- 1 pint of cherry tomatoes (colored tomatoes are good to use as well)
- 4-6 fresh basil leaves (chopped)

### FOR THE VINAIGRETTE

- ¼ cup of red wine vinegar
- ½ cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon of Dijon mustard
- ¼ cup of lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon of fresh parsley (chopped)
- 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. Open the three cans of beans, rinse, and combine them in the same bowl. Add the chopped basil. Give everything a quick mix.
2. In a separate bowl, add minced garlic, red wine vinegar, lemon juice, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper, fresh parsley, and olive oil and whisk together. Taste the vinaigrette and adjust the spices as needed.
3. Pour the vinaigrette into the bowl with the beans and tomatoes, mixing it thoroughly.
4. Once combined, cover the bowl and let the bean salad sit in the refrigerator for 2 hours so the beans can soak in the flavor of the vinaigrette.

Serve with a piece of crusty Italian bread.



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