



ISSUE 618

SEPTEMBER 2025

# BACK TO SCHOOL!







Our members turned out in record numbers for a spectacular day at the historic Saratoga Race Course, making this year's gathering truly one for the books! Under sunny August skies, laughter and camaraderie filled the air as families and friends came together to celebrate horse racing and the joy of community. Grazie to everyone who joined us, and a heartfelt thank you to Maria Marchio for organizing such a wonderful event!

# NEWS & EVENTS

- 1 BACK TO SCHOOL
- 2 PROPOSED BY-LAWS
- 4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
A special message from Jim Sano  
President of the Italian American Community Center
- 5 WOMEN'S LEAGUE
- 5 AN EVENING WITH JOE AVATI
- 6 ANNUAL FERRAGOSTO CELEBRATION
- 7 FRIDAY NIGHTS MENU: SEPTEMBER
- 7 POOL SCHEDULE: AUGUST / SEPTEMBER
- 7 BOCCE CHAMPIONS
- 8 UNESCO SITES: HISTORIC CENTRE OF THE CITY OF PIENZA
- 12 PER TUA INFORMAZIONE: WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE
- 14 ELEMENTARY ITALIAN CLASSES
- 15 HOMEMADE PASTA PERFECTION: A HANDS-ON CULINARY EXPERIENCE
- 16 CARING & SHARING
- 17 MANGIA BENE E VIVI BENE!:



## PROPOSED BY-LAWS

### BY-LAW CHANGES

Please be advised that the following By-Law change was approved by the Board of Directors at the August 20, 2025, meeting

#### B. Qualifications for Director

1. Each director of the corporation and each candidate for director shall satisfy the following requisites:

- a. Be at least 21 years of age.
- b. Be a United States Citizen.
- c. Be a voting member of the corporation in good standing.
- d. Have at least one year as a member immediately preceding the election.
- e. Never have been convicted of a felony.
- f. Not be a full-time employee on the payroll of the IACC

- Contributing Time: Dedicate no less than 30 hours annually in a personally meaningful way, offering one's time and talents to advance our mission.
- Community Engagement: Actively reach out into the community to identify and cultivate relationships that strengthen our network of donors, volunteers, and advocates.
- Fundraising Participation: Take an active role in fundraising efforts, helping to secure the resources necessary to sustain and expand our impact.

# back to school!

## SOCIAL CALENDAR September



9/01/25 ~ Office Closed - Labor Day	9/15/25 ~ Elementary Italian Language Class Begins - 7:00 - 9:00 pm
9/01/25 ~ Labor Day BBQ - Pool Party - 2:00 - 4:00 pm	9/16/25 ~ Mixed Bocce - 6:30 pm
9/02/25 ~ Mixed Bocce Starts - 6:00 pm	9/18/25 ~ Chair Yoga Starts - 6:00 pm
9/05/25 ~ Friday Nights At The Pavilion   Final night of the season (Cheese Ravioli with Meatballs \$13) - 5:00 - 8:00 pm	9/22/25 ~ Elementary Italian Class - 7:00 - 9:00 pm
9/08/25 ~ Monday Grand Italian Buffet - 5:00 - 7:00 pm	9/23/25 ~ Mixed Bocce - 6:30 pm
9/09/25 ~ Mixed Bocce - 6:30 pm	9/25/25 ~ Chair Yoga - 6:00 pm
9/10/25 ~ I.A.C.C. Women's League Meeting - 6:00 pm	9/26/25 ~ Joe Avati. Internationally renowned comedian, Dinner and Show - 6:00 pm
9/14/25 ~ Pool Closes For The Season and BBQ - 12:00 - 5:00 pm	9/29/25 ~ Elementary Italian Class - 7:00 - 9:00 pm
9/15/25 ~ Monday Grand Italian Buffet - 5:00 - 7:00 pm	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

10/18/25 ~ Columbus Day Grand Gala - 5:30 - 11:30 pm



## CHAIR YOGA IS BEGINNING A NEW 8 WEEK SESSION

This class is enjoyed by so many and it's returning for an 8-week fall session. Classes will be on Thursdays at 6:00 pm.

They begin on September 18th and run through November 6th. The class is held upstairs in the Carusso Room. Classes are open to men and women.

Please call the membership office at 456-IACC (4222) to sign up.

The price for 8 weeks is \$60 or \$10 per class to walk in.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer may be slipping away, but the Italian American Community Center is still brimming with sunshine and celebration! Believe it or not, Home Depot's already rolling out Christmas décor, but I am not quite ready for the Feast of the Seven Fishes unless it's grilled poolside with a cold drink in hand. There's still time to savor the season with a few more **Friday Nights at the Pavilion**, an ideal way to relax, reconnect, and enjoy great food, live music, and warm company under the stars. Let's make the most of these final summer moments together!

The pool is still open for one last splash before the season wraps up! Join us for our **Labor Day BBQ**, then mark your calendars for the **End-of-Summer Bash on September 14**, where we'll come together to celebrate a season full of connection, laughter, and unforgettable memories. **Mixed Bocce** is kicking off on September 2nd, inviting players of all levels to enjoy friendly competition and community spirit on the courts.

Mark your calendars for **September 26th**, as we welcome internationally renowned comedian **Joe Avati** for a night of laughter and unforgettable entertainment! Dubbed "*the Italian Seinfeld*," Avati's clean, family-centered humor, rooted in his Italian-Calabrian upbringing, has captivated audiences across Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US. With viral hits like "*Italian Mums*" and "*Ethnic Bedtime Stories*" and a record-breaking comedy album to his name, Avati is one of the most beloved voices in ethnic comedy. Join us for dinner and a show that promises to leave you smiling!

A big thank you to Frank Zeoli for leading a sold-out pasta-making class at the Pavilion! The night was a flavorful blend of fun, learning, and tradition, thanks to Frank's culinary talent and passion. Missed it? Don't worry, more classes are on the way! Whether you're a kitchen pro or just starting out, Frank's hands-on sessions offer a delicious way to explore Italian heritage and connect with fellow food lovers. Stay tuned for upcoming dates.

In closing, a heartfelt thank you to **Frank Zeoli, Maria Denitto, and Tony Fazio** for their incredible leadership and passion in making this year's **Ferragosto celebration** truly unforgettable. Your dedication brought our traditions to life and filled the day with joy for all. To the many volunteers who gave their time and heart—whether setting up, serving, or welcoming guests—your efforts made this the best Ferragosto yet. Together, we showed the power of community, culture, and celebration at its finest.

Grazie mille to everyone! Let's carry this momentum forward into the seasons ahead.

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





## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

*Hello Ladies,*

**W**e welcome September as the summer winds down and we start seeing cooler days and crisp evenings! This year's weather has certainly proven to be a challenge with non-stop rain in the spring and extremely hot and humid summer days. Our Ferragosto celebration will be over when you read this, but we would like to mention that the Women's League happily contributed to the cost of this year's event, as we have traditionally done in the past.

Although we had planned to meet in the pavilion for August, we opted to move the meeting indoors to the Caruso room due to the ongoing heat wave. Following our light, small plates dinner we had a productive evening reviewing and accepting the Women's League bi-laws changes and discussing and planning upcoming fall/winter events including, but not limited to, the Children's Halloween party, support for the Caring Closet as well as our charitable support for the Catholic Charities Christmas Store. Additional details will be provided at the September Women's League meeting.

Our September meeting date is Wednesday, the 10th at 6:00 PM in the pavilion and we will be enjoying subs (turkey, Italian, roast beef and veggie) and ask that each person bring something to share. Cost will be \$10 per person. Jim Sano, IACC President, will be our guest. 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 and let her know what you will be bringing no later than Sunday, September 7th.

We look forward to enjoying a ladies' night out and hope to see more of you now that vacation time is over.



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**

**O**n August 16th, our members came together to celebrate Ferragosto, one of Italy's most beloved summer holidays—and what a celebration it was!

Ferragosto is traditionally a time for rest, festivity, and food shared with friends and family. Our event beautifully captured the spirit, with laughter, music, and plenty of delicious Italian fare.

From the moment guests arrived, the atmosphere was warm and lively. Lunch was served with grilled sausage and peppers, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken kabobs, and a traditional antipasto.

Entertainment included Italian music and a spirited game of bocce. The pool was open, and the sun shone, keeping everyone cool and smiling.

At dinner, a feast was served with traditional Ferragosto fare. Roasted (pig) pork dinner, chicken, eggplant, potatoes, vegetables, salad, and dessert were served. There was even a s'mores bar for the kids.

We cannot forget the glorious bonfire at dusk. More than 225 members and guests celebrated this free member benefit. It was a fun-filled day!

We want to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped plan, cook, and clean up. Your efforts brought this celebration to life and reminded us why our Italian community matters.

Ferragosto may mark the peak of summer, but it also reminds us to slow down, savor the moment, and spend time with those who make life meaningful. Grazie to everyone who joined us—we're already looking forward to next year!

**Buon Ferragosto!**

## Our Annual Ferragosto Celebration Brings Summer Joy to Our Club Members

BY FRANK ZEOLI



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**OCTOBER 18, 2025**  
**5:00pm to 11:00pm**



# Friday Nights AT THE PAVILION



## WEEKLY SPECIALS

### 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**

## 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
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				

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**

# BOCCE CHAMPIONS

## 2025 Woman's Bocce Champions

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

Congratulations to the 1st place team: L'ESPRESSO, with Sharon Patrei as the Captain and her teammates Joyce Vine, Barbara Palumbo, Sue Ferrara and Linda Hoffman.

Congratulations to the 2nd place team: PRIMADONNE, with Maria Marchio as the Captain and her teammates Anna Maria LoGrippo, Sally Simeone, Gracie Simeone and Linda Schrom.

Congratulations to the 3rd place teams with a tie between: PRICIPESSE, with Gail Tarantino as the Captain and her teammates Donna Zumbo, Rachel Cameron, Georgeann Greene and Diane Riley; and AMICHE, with Terry Fazio as the Captain and her teammates Gerri Kraushaar, Josephine Coppola, Jeanette Anziano and Nadine Gorman.



**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 (518-456-4800)**

**Women's Bocce Co-chairs**

## Congratulations to Team SPARTANS — 2025 Super Bowl of Men's Bocce Champions!

Led by the ever-strategic Captain Bill Fluty and powered by the precision of Alex Nichols, **Jim Hoffman**, and **Lenny Gaspary**, this formidable foursome delivered a masterclass in teamwork, focus, and finesse.



# Historic Centre of the City of Pienza

BY JIM SANO



Enea Silvio Piccolomini was born in Pienza in 1405; he became a distinguished humanist scholar before ascending to the papacy as Pope Pius II in 1458. In 1459, upon becoming the pope, he transformed his small hometown village of Corsignano into an “Ideal City” from the Renaissance period. He rechristened the town as Pienza, derived from his papal name, signifying “City of Pius.” Pius II’s ambitious plan to develop the town as his summer court involved building or renovating about 40 public and private structures. These projects included new homes for the cardinals in his papal group and the construction of 12 houses for the local people near the walls and Porta al Giglio. Pienza holds historical significance as the first place to implement Renaissance town-planning concepts. It was essential in developing the planned “ideal city” concept and was fundamental to advancing urban design. It was the first place Renaissance Humanist principles were applied to urban development in Italy and beyond. These influences are evident in the design of the Pienza Cathedral, which showcases a fusion of late Gothic and pure Renaissance styles in its interior and exterior, along with a bell tower that amalgamates Gothic and Renaissance forms. Under his guidance, the town underwent a significant transformation.

## PIAZZA PIO II AND CATHEDRAL

Pius II’s new vision of urban space was realized in the superb trapezoidal square known as Piazza Pio II. The construction of new significant buildings around the square began in 1459. These included the Cathedral, Piccolomini Palace, the Borgia Palace, the Town Hall, and the Ammannati Palace. While the medieval urban plan was largely respected, a new central axis road, Corso Rossellino, was built to connect the two main gates in the medieval wall, which was also reconstructed during this period.

Piazza Pio II is located along the main thoroughfare of Corso Il Rossellino, which runs through the heart of Pienza from east to west. The distance from the town gate of Porta al Murello (also known as Porta al Prato) at the western end of Pienza to the Porta al Ciglio at the eastern end is just 300 meters. Pienza, previously Corsignano, underwent significant changes, with Piazza Pio II at the core of this transformation. This iconic square hosts notable landmarks such as the Cathedral of Pienza, the elegant Palazzo Piccolomini, the Palazzo Communale, and other impressive monuments from the city’s reformation period. A 15th-century well sits at the heart of the square, symbolizing the area’s rich historical past. As the city expanded over the years, developing new neighborhoods and districts, Piazza Pio II has consistently served as Pienza’s lively hub.

**P**ienza is famous for its remarkable historic center, designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. It is also renowned as an outstanding example of Renaissance architecture. Situated on a hill overlooking the Val D’Orica, approximately 53 kilometers southeast of Siena, Pienza was established by the prominent humanist Enea Silvio Piccolomini, who later became Pope Pius II. With his wealth and influence, Piccolomini initially transformed his birthplace village, Corsignano, into the Renaissance masterpiece we see today. Pope Pius II enlisted the expertise of Bernardo Rossellino, one of the finest Renaissance architects, to oversee the transformation of his hometown, aiming to bring his vision of an ideal Renaissance city to life. Rossellino integrated the principles of his mentor, humanist thinker and architect Leon Battista Alberti, as well as influences from German philosopher Cardinal Nicolò Cusano and the German Gothic tradition. Rossellino harmoniously integrated his beautifully balanced architecture with the surrounding countryside, which has remained virtually unchanged over the centuries. Pienza is the first and most significant example of an “Ideal City” realized in the Renaissance.





The Pienza Cathedral, also known as the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, is a Roman Catholic cathedral which is considered the ideal city's Renaissance jewel. It was designed by Bernardo Rossellino and consecrated in 1462. It is the square's focal point. Its large windows are strategically designed to flood the interior with light, imbuing the cathedral with an aura of ethereal beauty and tranquility. The architecture represents the early Renaissance style, featuring graceful columns, pilasters, and arches that decorate its façade. The bell tower enhances the cathedral's architectural appeal with its unique Germanic-inspired design. The cathedral's interior serves as a sanctuary showcasing remarkable artworks, including five masterpieces from the esteemed Sienese School. These artworks are prominently displayed near the altar, evoking a sense of awe and reverence. The cathedral's three naves and numerous aisles also exude a serene atmosphere, contributing to its overall ambiance.

**THE PALAZZO PICCOLOMINI**, situated on the western side of Piazza Pio II, was the former summer residence of the pope. It is located opposite the Palazzo Borgia/Palazzo Vescovile. The building was named after the pope's original surname, Piccolomini. It is considered the most beautiful and important of the three main buildings in the center of Pienza. The majestic three-story palace features papal apartments, a captivating internal courtyard providing a peaceful respite from the outside world, an elegant triple-tiered loggia, graceful arches, detailed stonework, and a Renaissance Garden with views of the Val d'Orcia. Built-in 1459, the renowned Alberti Palace inspired its design in Florence and features a facade decorated with pilasters and windows neatly arranged in each bay. This architectural harmony reflects the balance and proportion typical of the Renaissance aesthetic.



Palazzo Piccolomini



**THE PALAZZO VESCOVILE**, also known as Palazzo Borgia, was built at the pope's insistence as a residence for the bishops who would travel to Pienza to meet with him. The Palazzo Borgia now houses the Museo Della Cattedrale and the Diocesan Museum, which has a collection of textile works and religious art. The museum features a beautiful painting of Christ in the Church, created in the 7th century, and other impressive paintings and art from various churches in the area from the 14th and 15th centuries. The Bishop's Palace of Pienza is located on the left side of



the Piazza Pio II in front of Palazzo Piccolomini. Pope Pius II donated the ancient Gothic palace to Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia on the condition that he renovate it to fit in with a bold new architectural vision. The cardinal hired Bernardo Rossellino to design and renovate the palace during the fifteenth century to make it his residence. Later, he became one of the most infamous popes of all time: Pope Alexander VI. The Palazzo Vescovile features a sober Renaissance facade, a slender portal, and two orders of "Guelph cross" windows. On the corner overlooking Corso del Rossellino, you can see the coat of arms of the Borgia family. Inspired by Germanic influences, the late Gothic interior contributes to the architectural splendor of Piazza Pio II, further enhancing the historic charm of the town's center.

**THE PALAZZO COMUNALE** is the town hall located in the main piazza opposite the Church. Designed by Bernardo Rossellino, the palace features a portico with three arches and a façade crafted entirely in travertine. The palace has a loggia on the lower floor; in 1599 the third floor was constructed. The palace has a brick bell tower shorter than the Church. The interior portico is adorned with graffiti and stone coats of arms representing the various Podestas (Mayors) and Pope Pius II Piccolomini. The Council Room houses a 15th-century fresco from the Sienese school depicting the Madonna and Child with the Patron Saints of Pienza.



Palazzo Comunale

**THE CHURCH OF SAN FRANCESCO** is just a few minutes from the central Piazza. It features a beautiful gothic portal and a gabled façade. The Church is built on the site of an 8th-century church and belongs to Pienza's earlier incarnation as Corsignano. Inside are various beautiful frescoes depicting scenes from the life of Saint Francis and beautifully painted walls by artists of the Sienese School. San Francesco is known to be one of the most important religious places in Pienza. The Church was rebuilt in the 14th century in a Romanesque style with an oculus above the single entrance door and frescoes with scenes from the life of Saint Francis on the internal walls, especially in the apse.



Church of San Francesco



A short walk to the north of the Piazza Pio II is the charming **PIAZZA DI SPAGNA**, which features outdoor restaurants that perfectly capture the essence of Tuscany. This area is home to much of Pienza's beauty, featuring numerous excellent bars and restaurants and several shops selling locally produced Pecorino cheese, which is naturally packaged in hay.



Pope Pius II was baptized in the 11th-century Romanesque parish **CHURCH PIEVE DI CORSIGNANO** on the outskirts of Pienza. It has an unusual round tower and a doorway decorated with flower mythological motifs. A crib is sculptured on the architrave of the side doorway.



South of Piazza Pio II, behind the Cathedral, is a narrow lane called the Belvedere (Panoramic Viewpoint), offering breathtaking views of the classic Tuscan landscapes characterized by rolling hills and majestic cypress trees.



West of the historic center is Piazza Dante. At this point, Pienza becomes more residential and somewhat less Renaissance. A ten-minute walk (600 meters) from the park on Piazza Dante, continuing west, away from the historic center, will eventually bring you to the Pieve di Corsignano. This 12th-century Church predates Pope Pius II and offers further vistas of the Val d'Orcia.

## **OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN PIENZA**

When visiting Pienza, indulge in the renowned Chianina steaks and the traditional Tuscan pici. This simple yet delicious dish comprises handmade pasta topped with Chianina meat sauce, garlic sauce, and toasted breadcrumbs. Pienza is most renowned for its Pecorino cheese. It is often called the Pecorino capital due to the exceptionally flavorful and aromatic milk produced by a Sardinian sheep breed that grazes in the Val d'Orcia pastures. The key to their milk, and subsequently the cheese from Pienza, lies in the unique combination of herbs that grow in the Valley meadows, particularly in the famous 'crete' clay area known as the Crete Senese. Be sure to try the Pienza pecorino, a delightful hard cheese crafted from sheep's milk and aged in small wine barrels. Pienza's historic center is captivating, boasting a rich history and meticulous attention to detail. The surrounding Val d'Orcia only adds to the magic with its breathtaking scenic beauty that will surely capture your heart. ☐



Old walls in Pienza



Sunny and colorful Pienza



BY JOE SANO

# WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE

**Italy will finally build a bridge connecting Sicily to  
the country's mainland first envisioned by the  
Romans thousands of years ago**



**D**on't get your toll money out quite yet. The long-promised proposal to build a bridge linking the Italian mainland to Sicily has been approved. It would be the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, handling both road vehicles and trains, and would link the towns of Messina in Sicily and Villa San Giovanni in Calabria through the straits of Messina.

The 3.7-kilometer (2.3-mile) structure has long been proposed as a tool to develop the impoverished south of Italy. The proposed \$15.6 B (13.5B euros) price tag structure is slated to begin with preliminary work and some land acquisition in September/October 2025. The bridge completion is scheduled for 2032-33.

The Italian transport and infrastructure minister, Matteo Salvini, announced, "I am absolutely proud of the work we've done so far...This will be a public work that has no precedent in the world."



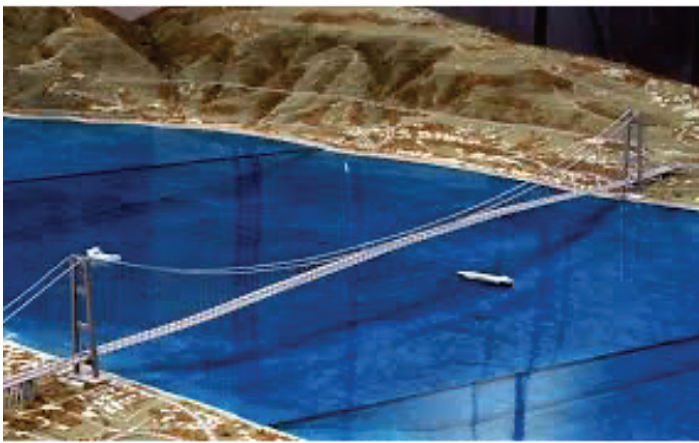


The Strait of Messina Bridge Project was awarded to the Eurolink consortium following an international tender. Italy's largest construction company, Webuild, leads the consortium, which also includes Spanish group Sacyr and Japanese group IHI.

This however is Italy and very few public works projects ever go as planned. The environmental and economic impact, coupled with project funding and societal concerns are yet to be fully realized.

The government of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni made funding this project a priority and has set aside 13.5 billion euros over the next 10 years to build it and surrounding facilities. The critics question what is "not getting done" to move the money over to this project and to date those concerns have gained no response.

In March 2023, the Italian government decreed that the bridge should be considered a "fundamental infrastructure" that could be used to move military equipment and troops, given the "important NATO bases in southern Italy," including in Sicily. The government also declared that the planned bridge was of "significant national interest."



Webuild, the Italian company heading the consortium chosen to construct the bridge, said in a statement that it would be a "catalyst for investment in Southern Italy," generating jobs in an area where unemployment is double the national average — 13 percent compared with 6.5 percent unemployment throughout the rest of Italy. This company estimates over 100,000 jobs will be created during the construction phase with an economic boom to follow which will absorb those jobs and create even more.

Not everyone is jumping with joy. Several organizations, lawmakers and activists have filed lawsuits with regional and national courts and have called on oversight institutions to closely examine the project and ensure it is legally, financially and constitutionally sound.

Residents on both sides of the strait of Messina have voiced concern about changes the bridge will bring to their neighborhoods, and environmental groups say

they fear its effect on the area's flora, fauna and overall ecosystem, including bird migration routes.

Environmental critics have pointed out that the bridge would be built in an area prone to earthquakes. In 1908, a devastating quake struck Messina, killing about half of the population when 90 percent of the city's buildings collapsed.

Additionally, fears have also been expressed about organized crime groups becoming involved in the project through dummy companies. The two regions involved, Sicily and Calabria, have deeply rooted local mafia cultures and their involvement in past public works projects is well known.

This year, the Italian General Confederation of Labor, the country's largest union, wrote to the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, with concerns about the project, citing "serious technical, environmental, regulatory and social-critical issues." The union demanded that the commission review the project; the commission has not yet responded. It is highly probable that before one spade of dirt is dug there will be numerous legal challenges to the financial, environmental, technical and regulatory rules authorizing the project.

Rome wasn't built in a day and it's probably a safe bet that this bridge will not be ready for 2032. □

**The Boston Daily Globe.**  
BOSTON, TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 29, 1908. FOURTEEN PAGES. PRICE TWO CENTS.  
GLOBE LATEST—7:30 P M

# ITALY'S DEAD 65,000

## Tidal Wave 30 Feet High Swept Messina and Reggio —Trinacria Hotel, With 100 Foreigners Gone.

**Every New Report Adds to Staggering Estimate**  
**GOV GUILD APPEALS FOR RELIEF FUNDS**  
**Fires Completed Work of Destruction Begun by Earthquake.**  
**Pope and King Head Subscription Lists With \$600,000.**  
**Gov Guild Appeals to Massachusetts**

**ROME, Dec. 28.**—The Trinacria today publishes an issue that they call "perished." The issue was completely obliterated by the tidal wave that in Calabria and Sicily, indeed, it was one of the last to be left, and was particularly across the strait between Messina and Reggio.

**Casino Suffered 1000 Dead.**  
**Casino Has Unearthed 500**  
**Dead at Palm Number 1000.**  
**One Hundred Foreigners Died in Hotel Trinacria, Messina.**  
**Bagnara Also Destroyed**





# **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!**





# HOMEMADE PASTA PERFECTION: A HANDS-ON CULINARY EXPERIENCE

BY FRANK ZEOLI

**O**n August 27th, members gathered for a delicious, fun, and interactive evening at our Homemade Pasta Cooking Class, led by the talented Chef Frank Zeoli. Held in the Foundation Pavilion, the class brought together pasta enthusiasts of all skill levels for a hands-on journey through the art of fresh pasta making.

From mixing and kneading dough to mastering the roll and cut of fettuccine, attendees got a complete introduction to traditional Italian pasta techniques. Frank shared expert tips, personal stories, and a few family secrets that made the experience both educational and entertaining.

The highlight of the evening was enjoying the fruits of our labor! Members sat down to savor their handmade pasta, paired with three homemade sauces and a glass of wine.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the evening memorable. We look forward to more culinary adventures together. Stay tuned for upcoming classes and events!





# CARING & SHARING

## SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Rosanna Aiuppa  
John Articulo  
Monica Buckley  
Morgan Buckley  
Andrew Chouffi  
Andrew D'Auge  
David DeMarco

Lauren DeMarco  
JoAnne Dolan  
Louis Donadio  
William Fluty  
Vincent Forte  
Michael Franchini  
Rose Marie Guastamacchia  
Sue Herlands  
Margaret Kirwin

Nick Mancini  
Maria Marchio  
Kristen Padilla  
Mary Patelos  
Diane Riley  
John Rowen  
Hiedi Ruth  
Jeanne Sacca  
Jim Sano  
Joanne Stinzianni  
Jayne Tinker  
Josephine Tirino  
Thomas Tommell  
Cara Walker

WELCOME

*new members*

Christina Primero  
Stephanie Primero  
Marc & Courtney Antonucci



### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Michele** and **Jared Paul** on the birth of their daughter, **Layla James**, on August 3rd. Special congratulations to **Nancy and Jim Sano** on becoming first time grandparents and to **Kate Sano** on becoming an aunt. Everyone is doing well.

*Thank You,*  
**Caroline Saccone!**

Your beautiful flower planting and care turned the pool area into a vibrant, welcoming space we all enjoyed this season. Every bloom reflected your dedication and eye for detail, lifting spirits and making our summer at the pool even more special. We're so grateful for your time, talent, and green thumb.



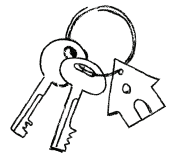
## BUY OR SELL YOUR HOUSE WITHOUT AGITA




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





# Mangia Bene E Vivi Bene!

By FRANK ZEOLI



## CLASSIC ALFREDO SAUCE

**C**lassic Alfredo sauce is one of my favorite things to have with a big bowl of pasta! It's a vibrant and elegant dish to make for dinner. The great thing about Alfredo sauce is that it pairs well with chicken and vegetables, so the variations of things you can add to the pasta are endless. Traditional Alfredo is a simple white/cream sauce made from butter, heavy cream, fresh garlic, and Parmesan cheese. It's the perfect sauce to put on fresh homemade pasta, too!



PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES  
COOKING TIME: 30 MINUTES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of butter
- 1/2 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups of heavy whipping cream
- 2 teaspoons fresh garlic (minced)
- 1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon of dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon of dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups of freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 lb. of cooked broccoli (frozen or fresh)
- 1 lb. of fettuccine or penne pasta

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Melt the butter on medium heat in a sauce pot and add the fresh minced garlic. Once the garlic is slightly brown, add the flour and stir to create a roux (be careful not to burn it).
2. Add the heavy cream and whisk until the roux is incorporated into the cream.
3. Add the granulated garlic, dried oregano, parsley, salt, and pepper. Stir and let it simmer for about 10 minutes.
4. Add the grated Parmesan cheese and stir. Continue simmering the sauce (continuously stirring so it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan) for another 20 minutes.
5. Boil your pasta in salted water in a separate pot.
6. You can cook your broccoli any way you like. You can steam it or fry it in a pan. It's your preference.
7. Drain your pasta, add the cooked broccoli, and generously add your alfredo sauce to a serving bowl. You can also add some additional Parmesan cheese to the top.



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



# The Heritage Group

The Right Insurance... A Better Experience

1184 Troy Schenectady Road Latham, NY 12110 (518) 782-0001 [www.heritagegrp.com](http://www.heritagegrp.com)

## ALL SAFE SELF STORAGE

1627 Route 9W, Selkirk, NY 12158

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2005

BEST RATES - ALL SIZE UNITS

CALL NOW

518-265-4248 or 518-767-0400

24 HOUR SECURITY

24 HOUR ACCESS

Unit Size/Cost

5x5 \$40

5x10 \$50

10x10 \$100

10x15 \$120

10x20 \$140

10x30 \$225



### Morgan Linen Service

Providing for the textile needs of your business.

Serving the Capital and Lower Hudson Valley Regions since 1887  
(518) 465-3337

Visit us on the web at [www.morganlinenservice.com](http://www.morganlinenservice.com)!

### DeMarco-Stone Funeral Home, Inc.



Since 1921

Independent and Family Owned

[www.demarcostonefuneralhome.com](http://www.demarcostonefuneralhome.com)

[demarcostone@nycap.rr.com](mailto:demarcostone@nycap.rr.com)

5216 Western Turnpike  
Guilderland, NY 12084  
356-5925

1605 Helderberg Avenue  
Rotterdam, NY 12306  
355-5770



## ARKET ELECTRIC & GENERATOR

Arket Electric, Inc. proudly offers a full line of Guardian®, GE®, and Briggs & Stratton® home Standby generators.

Our staff is dedicated to finding the right solution for your needs.

Call us at: 518-381-8818





# Roman Jewels



Offering the area's **most honest** prices on gold, silver, coins and jewelry

**RomanJewels.com**

1717 Western Ave ♦ 518.459.6331

FAMILY OWNED



SHOP ONLINE!

*Celebrating*  
  
*Years in Business*

WE BUY AND SELL: GOLD · SILVER · COINS  
 DIAMONDS · ESTATE JEWELRY · AND MORE!

*Visit Our New Location!*

1717 WESTERN AVENUE  
 ALBANY, NY 12203 · 518-459-6331

CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
 FOR STORE HOURS





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

---

### CONTACT US

PHONE: (518) 456-4222

WEBSITE: [WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM](http://WWW.ITALIANAMERICAN.COM)

EMAIL: [MEMBERSHIP@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@ITALIANAMERICAN.COM)

ADDRESS: 257 WASHINGTON AVENUE EXT, ALBANY NY 12205

### CONNECT WITH US

FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/THEIACC](https://FACEBOOK.COM/THEIACC)

TWITTER: [TWITTER.COM/IACC\\_ALBANY\\_NY](https://TWITTER.COM/IACC_ALBANY_NY)

PINTEREST: [PINTEREST.COM/IACC\\_ALBANY\\_NY](https://PINTEREST.COM/IACC_ALBANY_NY)

EVENTBRITE: [IACCALBANYNY.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://IACCALBANYNY.EVENTBRITE.COM)

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

**JOIN THE ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER**



The Italian-American Community Center, founded in 1971, is an organization dedicated to serving everyone who loves Italian culture and heritage.

As a member of the IACC, you'll enjoy exclusive access to diverse events and activities, special discounts, promotional opportunities, and the latest news about the Italian-American culture and community.

**(Call (518) 456-42222 To Join Today!**