



Casa Italiana of Dutchess County dba “The Italian Center”

A Cultural Organization Organized in 1928 to Promote, Preserve, and Celebrate Our Italian, and Italian American, History, Heritage, Culture, and Traditions

1195 Route 376, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 USA Phone (845) 454-1492 (Leave Message)

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APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Bar Opens for Members and their Guests on Bocce and Card Nights (Mondays 6:30-8PM) Bocce - Starts 27 April 2026). Come! Enjoy Your Club! Watch the Matches, a Game On TV, and/or Otherwise Socialize!

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Contact Ernie Bruno 845-594-5700 (hpsinger@optonline.net) by the Sunday before the dinners.

➡ FOR FULL EVENT CALENDAR GO HERE [HTTPS://THEITALIANCENTER.COM/EVENTS/](https://theitaliancenter.com/events/)

➡ If others tell you that they are **not getting email from IC** please tell them to try the below:

Check your JUNK/SPAM email folder! If you find IC stuff from support-theitaliancenter.com@shared1.ccsend.com in JUNK/SPAM, **reinststate** those to your INBOX.

Put support-theitaliancenter.com@shared1.ccsend.com and wordpress@theitaliancenter.com in your email's CONTACT LIST!

Editor Note: I cannot give a how-to-do for every email system nor ensure this is the problem/fix BUT it may be!

➡ Meeting night April 7th has been rescheduled to April 14th @ 5:00 PM, so we may attend [Paul Mancarella's Wake](#).

➡ **Members' Meeting – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 (rescheduled for Paul Mancarella's wake)** ⬅

Cocktail hour (Cash Bar) starts 5:00PM - Dinner begins 6:00PM - Business 7:00PM - Dinner cost is \$30.

ATTENDEES ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING - Paid Dues/Not in Suspension – Reservation Necessary!

Member Quorum necessary to conduct business. Please attend at 7:00PM even if you cannot participate in the dinner.

Menu - Meal Prepared by Chef Sandro Milanese

Antipasto:	
Primo:	
Secondo:	
Dolce:	Chef's Choice

➡ **APRIL 21st, 2026, PROVINCIAL NIGHT HONORS LIGURIA/GENOVA!** ⬅

Cash Bar starts 6:00PM - Dinner begins 7:00PM

Hosted by John Chiavelli who always makes this PN well worth the ticket!

Don't miss it! It will be una serata unica! SIGN-UP SOON! – Reservation Necessary!

Menu - Meal Prepared by TBD!

Antipasto:	
Primo:	
Secondo:	
Dolce:	



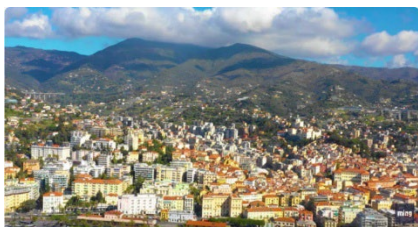
In April We Celebrate the Regione di Liguria/Genova

This narrow strip of land is bordered by the sea, the Alps and the Apennine Mountains. Some mountains rise above 2,000 m (6,600 ft); the watershed line runs at an average altitude of about 1,000 m (3,300 ft). The highest point of the region is the summit of Monte Saccarello (2,201 m; 7,221 ft). Liguria is the third

smallest Italian region after Aosta Valley and Molise, but is also one of the most densely populated, with a population density of 287 inhabitants/km², much higher than the national average, and is fourth place after Campania, Lombardy and Lazio. However, most of its population is in its coastal areas. Its inland mountain areas remain mostly “wilderness”.

East to West are high mountain chains (Ligurian Alps and the Ligurian Apennines) that are somewhat connected. In the middle of this “chain” is Savona and Genoa, two provinces that are not very high. These “counties” are deeply crossed by short valleys and passes that do not reach 500 m above sea level, thus are more inhabitable. Twelve percent (12%) of Liguria is “national reserve”; Liguria has six large parks, two smaller parks and three nature reserves. However, Liguria is Northern Italy and Northern Italy is an economic dynamo, Liguria no exception. Land consumption and use are always controversial/contentious. To its credit or to its discredit, depending on your take of it, Liguria has one of Italy’s highest rates of coastal overbuilding. In my mind, it is not a good thing as its coastline is unique and ecologically important. But I must admit, Liguria’s developed coastline certainly makes for a fun and popular “French Riviera” type experience.

The Italian Riviera (also called the Ligurian Riviera) crosses all four Ligurian provinces and their capitals Genoa, Savona, Imperia and La Spezia, with a total length of about 350 km (218 miles). This narrow coastal strip in Italy lies between the Ligurian Sea and the mountain chain formed by the Maritime Alps and the Apennines. Longitudinally it extends from the border with France and the French Riviera (or Côte d’Azur) near Ventimiglia (a former customs post) eastwards to Capo Corvo (also known as Punta Bianca) which marks the eastern end of the Gulf of La Spezia and is close to the regional border between Liguria and Tuscany. Historically the “Riviera” extended further to the west, through what is now French territory as far as Marseille. Thus, this Italian Riviera includes nearly all the coastline of Liguria. It is customarily divided into a western section, the Ponente Riviera, and an eastern section, the Levante Riviera, the point of division being the apex of the Ligurian arc at Voltri. It has about 1.6 million inhabitants, and most of the population is concentrated within the coastal area. It is also known for its historical association with international celebrity and artistic visitors; writers and poets like Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, Ezra Pound, and Ernest Hemingway were inspired by the beauty and spirit of Liguria. Its mild climate draws many tourists and Ligurian coastal resorts abound. Famous ones include Alassio, Bonassola, Bordighera, Camogli, Cinque Terre, Lerici, Levanto, Noli, Portofino, Porto Venere, Santa Margherita Ligure, San Fruttuoso, Sestri Levante and **Sanremo (perhaps the most internationally known)**. Sanremo has been a favored tourist destination since the mid-1700s, attracting visitors from all over Europe, including Russian and British aristocracy. Its long stretch of beach and its hillside medieval section of town called La Pigna are perhaps the main family attractions, while its impressive casino attracts jetsetters. Every year since 1951, the city has hosted Italy’s internationally popular Sanremo Music Festival. [Take a beautiful flight over Sanremo.](#)



The Mancarella’s 17 March 2026 Campania “Provincial Night” Was, As Always, a Special Good Time! The Pastas Out of Sight, The Entree 5 Star, The Desert (Sfogliatella) Fresh and Delightfully Neapolitano

<p>La cena squisita!</p>	<p>The Kitchen and Security Staff Super Attentive</p>	<p>The Entertainment Staff Ready and Eager to Perform</p>	<p>The IC Always Grateful for Staff and Attendees</p>
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PROVINCIAL NIGHTS ARE SPECIAL – INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY – FUN & FINE FOOD

Next Provincial Night April 21st, 2026. Honoring Liguria/Genova (Hosted by John Chiavelli)

Region	Date	Province	Sponsor(s)	Region	Date	Province	Sponsor(s)
Calabria	20-Jan-26	Catanzaro	Pat Fasolino	Lombardia	21-Jul-26	Milano	TBD
Toscana	17-Feb-26	Firenze	Tom Viani	Sardegna	18-Aug-26	Cagliari	TBD
Campania	17-Mar-26	Napoli	Mancarella Bros.	Puglia	15-Sep-26	Bari	Frank LaManna
Liguria	21-Apr-26	Genova	John Chiavelli	Lazio	20-Oct-26	Latina	Tony Daniele
Sicilia	19-May-26	Tutte (all)	Giagrasso Family	Basilicata	17-Nov-26	Matera	Frank Marinaro
Abruzzo	16-Jun-26	L'Aquila	Alberto Tripoli	No Provincial Night in December 2026 – Next 19 January 2027			



MUST WE REITERATE? PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO BE A PN SPONSOR!

Sponsor any TBD (No Sponsor Yet) date! Honor its designated, **or any open**, regione!

It's Fun, It's an Honor, It's Appreciated, It's Necessary for the Club's Viability!

Note: Regions Not Normally Duplicated in Same Year

<u>Region On Schedule</u>	<u>Logical Replacements Open</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Date</u>
Lombardia	Friuli-Venezia Giulia Piemonte Trentino-Alto Adige Valle d'Aosta Veneto	TBD	21-Jul-26
Sardegna	Emilia-Romagna Marche Molise Umbria	TBD	18-Aug-26

Italian roots? Use www.ancestry.com or www.italymondo.com to help you connect! Honor your antenati italiani via Provincial Night support!

Also, [here is a link that shows how Italy's Regions \(States\) evolved!](#)



We need volunteers to help to assist with setup, serving and cleanup! We also need sponsors to fill in the TBDs!

Please contact Lou Piro at (845) 629-8905 or lgpiro@hotmail.com



Captain a Table, Fill It With Friends and Family, Volunteer to Entertain, Have Great Food and Good Cheer!



2026 WILL BE OUR 5TH YEAR OF THE ITALIAN CENTER'S NEW ACTIVE LIFE IN ITS NEW DIGS.

LET'S MAKE IT A GRAND 5TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

The 5th anniversary's more ancient theme is represented in wood, exemplifying strength and durability, much like a tree. Today, silver is more commonly used as its theme, as it also represents those things, and being precious and pure. The Italian Center is and should be strong, durable, and precious to us. Also, it is and should be pure, i.e., true to its charter, unselfish, and dedicated to its mission. La Casa Italiana's mission is this in a nutshell:



To foster a cultural connection among members, to preserve Italian traditions, to educate others in such, and to enhance the image of Italian Americans in the community we serve. It brings together people of similar heritage and encourages them to help one another, and it provides resources, activities and events that foster camaraderie, understanding, and that bring some joy into our lives, and the lives of others.



The Italian Center has long stood as a symbol of Italian pride and an integral part of the Hudson River Valley landscape. When you join the Italian Center (La Casa Italiana), you take on its mission. Only we members can make our "Casa" great and true to its mission. In this 5th Anniversary of our NEW chapter of life, let us reflect on that 100+-year-old mission and rededicate ourselves to it.

IN 2026 WE REVIVE A MEMBER MEETING CUSTOM THAT WE ABANDONED 6 YEARS AGO; ONE THAT ADDED TO THE MEETING'S SOCIABILITY!



The After-Meeting Snack Buffet Is Back!

After A Sumptuous Members Meeting Night Dinner And
Being Fed a Bunch of Good Info by The Board in the Meeting,
You Can Break More Bread with Your Brothers and Sisters Before You Leave the Building!
Stay Awhile; Socialize; Share Your Ideas with Board Members!

WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026, WILL BE APRIL FOOL'S DAY – LET ME REPEAT SOME HISTORY ABOUT THAT DAY

“Siamo forse nel giorno degli Innocenti?” or “Mi pigli per un innocente?” (Submitted by Tony Daniele 2021)

Note: the entry was not rigorous history; just intended to introduce some Italian phrases/words in interesting way. See this entry for a more rigorous take on April Fool's Day: <https://www.nido-us.org/Documents/p103000673.pdf#page=5>



L'Episcopus stultorum

“Innocent” in these **passé** expressions of irritation means “prone to be fooled”. If one was spouting falsehoods or trying to “prenderti in giro” (play you like a fool) you’d use them to say, “I’m on to you!”. Normally being made “fesso” or “vittima di un inganno” (being duped) is not acceptable but sometimes such is allowed, like during “April Fool’s Day” (“pesce d’aprile” est. 1600s). Also, earlier antiquity had days that allowed “le burlle degli innocenti” (jokes/pranks intended for the gullible). The pagan Roman Saturnalia and later Medieval Christmas did. For example, on 6 December a boy would feign being a Bishop (“vescovello” pic on left) and roam about “fooling” people; in Sicily on 27 December a “russuliddu”/“chierico rosso” (minor cleric) would feign being the Pope, pontificating foolishly to a crowd and sacrilegiously giving “l’apostolica benedizione”. Normally such behavior would be severely punished but, on such days, “ogni cosa vale” (all acceptable). Credetemi, non sto prendendovene in giro! (Believe me I kid you not about this!).

President's Letter

Fellow Brothers and Sisters,

We got teased a bit with a couple of days in the high 70's and low 80's but we went right back to normal the following week. A couple of the golf courses are opening but I can't imagine playing yet. First, it's cart path only and second, with all the snow and the amount of rain we had in March, I can't believe that the fairways will be suitable to play. I'm sure there will be diehard hackers out there the first day they open.

March Meeting Night dinner was moved out a day because of the weather, so we didn't have the number of members we usually have. Chef Sandro Milanese couldn't be with us that evening, but he prepped the food and sauces and Sous Chef Tom Viani finished it up. He was assisted by the kitchen volunteer team of Sal Polizzotto, Jeff Williams, Sam Letteri, and John Casuli. **March Provincial Night** was hosted by The Mancarella Brothers. We were competing with St Patrices Day festivities, but we still had 96 diners. Chef Billy Schiffer with the assistance of Sous Chef Tom Viani prepared a very memorable meal! Caesar salad, followed by Rigatoni with a ragu, Linguini with mussels in a pecorino white sauce. The entrée was braised short ribs over mashed potatoes and green bean with Sfogliatella for dessert. Assisting Billy and Tom in the kitchen and with serving and cleanup were Jeff Williams, Tony Mancarella, Jack Mancarella, Mark Palazzolo and Paul Caccia. Jack Castelli, Lois Gaglione, Chris Sena, Paul Fortunato, and Irene Petro set up the dining room, Ernie Bruno handled reservations, Jeff Waldbillig and Ron Knapp collected money for both events. Ray Pantaleo sold cards on Meeting Night and Provincial Night! Paul Waldbillig sold 50/50 tickets. **I say this every month, but I'll say it again, if you missed this meal, you missed a great one!!** Thank you everyone for all for your hard work!

The next time you are at the club take a stroll around to the front of the building and see the **Italian Center sign**, positioned by the Columbus statue, that was rescued from our former location by Vince Murray and Franco Giangrasso! Once it was retrieved, Vince sand blasted the granite sign and had the metal frame powder coated! Vince then installed it next to the statue. It looks great! Thanks guys!

The Bocce League will be starting soon. If you are interested in playing you need to attend the organizing meeting that will be held on April 6th [see below](#).

Moe Ricci and his team have organized a **Spring Dinner Dance**, scheduled for Friday May 1! These dinner dances are very popular so if you are interested in attending them make a reservation early! See [Entertainment Below for Details](#).

Please keep our sick and ailing members in your prayers.

Call or email me with any comments, questions or concerns at (845) 629-8905 or president@theitaliancenter.com.

I hope to see you around the club!

Fraternally yours,

Lou Piro, President

- [Please See Our Events below](#), visit [our Website](#) and [our Facebook](#), **LIKE** us, join our activities, and have some fun.
- *We once were a Lodge of the Sons of Italy: here is a little [ITALIAN CENTER HISTORY](#).*
- *The [NIDO site](#) that has Italian references and IC cultural stuff categorized for us ([Links to PDFs and Indexes Here](#)).*

Carpe Diem – “Seize the Day” – OK – But More Correctly If I May Spin It – “Enjoy Every Moment You Can”

We usually translate this famous Latin phrase to "seize the day," which encourages to make the most of the present time. That translation implies some heroic effort to grab hold of a situation and make it work for you. Not bad inspiration, but it also implies struggle, conflict, and perhaps some amorality/immorality – as “take advantage of the situation” might also.

Originating from the Roman poet Horace's Odes (23 BC), its literal meaning is more accurately "pluck the day" or "harvest the day," implying enjoyment of the moment like a ripe fruit. That original (probably more correct) meaning does not suggest “struggle” but rather “go with the flow and appreciate what you have before you”!

We have an “**Italian Center**”; it offers us opportunities to enjoy each other and our shared culture (“ripe fruit”?).

Carpe Diem

Special Business - Meeting Minutes Report (March 2026)



President (Lou Piro): Jimmy DiMetro is moving to Virginia and will no longer be an Italian Center member. He said that he will miss the Italian Center. Bob Spinnillo emailed “My very best to all members and tell my table that I am still alive and kicking.” Bob is 101 years old. Membership Portal has been restored and is available to login (theitaliancenter.com) Login information will be emailed to the members. Possible increase in Meeting dinner of \$5 as costs have increased. Some members are making reservations and are not showing up. Price per person has increased to \$33 per person and the last couple months has even been higher. Franco said that the best way to avoid this increase is to have more members come to Meeting Night.

Chairperson of the Board (Ray Pantaleo): None

1st Vice President’s Report (Franco Giangrasso): Provincial Night: Franco acknowledged Carlo Citera. Carlo said he wants to be a member again. Carlo did not charge us for labor. Tom Viani said that there are some open Provincial Nights are still open. **Tonight’s Meeting Night** Sandro couldn’t make it and Tom Viani stepped up. Franco thanked him. **Valentine’s Day Dinner Dance** Franco said it was a good time. Disappointed that some members didn’t show up. Franco said that the event lost \$271. Eric Violante voiced his opinion about the fact that there wasn’t enough membership. Ernie Bruno said that he will donate the money that the event lost so that it breaks even. Tom Viani stated that Carlo Citera is already signed up to cook for the event next year. Carlo said that he put the meal as a special in his restaurant and it sold out.

2nd Vice President’s Report: [Volunteers Needed [Please See List Below.](#)] (Vince Murray) There were a couple of ice damns which caused a few leaks. There was an electrical problem that Moe Ricci worked on. The quarterly water inspection will be next week. We have acquired the Italian Center sign from the old building, and we are trying to find a place to put it. [Editor’s Note: Found it! See Below.]

Treasurer’s Report (Tom DiGiovanni) and Financial Secretary (Ron Knapp): We are in the black still! Lou Piro (President) said that the raffles proceeds goes to a “rainy day” fund and we don’t like to touch it unless we absolutely have to. That fund is for repairs that are needed in the club.

Membership (Ron Knapp/Paul Waldbillig) Initiated: Joseph D. Cavaccini (*Sara Dobbins*) Balloted **and Approved:** None **Read:** Christina Ruggiero (*Tina Ruggiero*), David Tecchio (*Tom Martinelli*), Krystina Cooke (*Andrea McKeVitt*), John Leinung (*Christine Sena*), Elaine Zicchinolfi Leinung (*Christine Sena*), Cesar Rivera (*Eric Violante*).

Dues Invoices have been sent out. If dues aren’t paid by 4/1 you cannot attend club functions including meeting nights. Credit cards are accepted at the bar.

Marketing/Advertising (Tom Martinelli): [Editor: also see [Marketing Committee Report](#)]: None

Wellness (Sal Polizzotto): Gino Gemmatti is back!

Victor Bacile Scholarship (Paul Waldbillig):

Planning Board (Tony Mancarella): The planning for the Progressive Ball will start and see Tony if you would like to help.

Entertainment Committee (Ray Pantaleo): Moe Ricci is kicking off the Spring Dinner Dance. If you would like to captain a table, please see Moe. Midnight Image is the band. Moe talked for Joe Pedota (who was absent) about the Bocce league. Any new members are welcome.

Teams will be picked on Monday, April 6th at 6:30pm. The entry fee is \$45 per member for the season. Sponsor fees are \$150. They are usually the captains of their team. The season starts on Monday, April 27th.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Protocol is for postponing a Meeting Night or Provincial Night. Email will go out; The board has been exploring a project that may bring extra money into the Club. Please see your confidential meeting minutes for details.



Editor’s Note: March, this year, is a five Tuesday month so we are planning to do a deep clean of the kitchen most likely at the end of March. We will need volunteers to get it done. **Thanks to volunteers and leaders like Vince Murray and Franco Giangrasso we get the otherwise impossible done.** Example: Vince and Franco retrieved the sign to the left from our former casa on Mill St. Vince then had the metal frame powder coated and the sign sand blasted. Vince installed it on 3/17/2026 in front of our new casa. Thanks Brothers! And thanks to past and future volunteers whoever they may be!

You Asked for Activities – We Got Them - Now Please Support Them – Have Tons of Fun

2025

August 4th Anthony Comunale Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Dr. Bacile Scholarship Fund

AN ABSOLUTELY ROUSING SUCCESS – SEE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

August 17th Saratoga Bus Trip

AN ABSOLUTELY ROUSING SUCCESS THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF RAY PANTALEO AND HIS TEAM

September 12th Italian Center Dinner Dance

ANOTHER ROUSING SUCCESS THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF MO RICCI, RAY PANTALEO AND HIS TEAM

September 21st Bocce Tournament/Summer

ANOTHER SUCCESS THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE LIKE RAY PANTALEO AND TOM VIANI

BOCCE TOURNAMENT PRIZES AWARDED TO ANTHONY FEO & ANDY KUTCHMA

Italian Center Progressive Ball October 25, 2025

SUPER SENIOR CELEBRATION, ANOTHER SUCCESS

14 Dec 2025 Members Only Christmas Luncheon

GOOD TIME/FOOD WHEN OLD/NEW MEMBERS MINGLE – TOYS FOR TOTS AND “100 CLUB” DRAWING

ANOTHER SUCCESS THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE LIKE TOM VIANI, JACK CASTELLI, AND OTHERS

2026

14 FEB 2026 VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

ANOTHER SUCCESS THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF FRANCO GIANGRASSO AND HIS TEAM!

PLANNED 2026 SPRING DINNER DANCE FRIDAY, MAY 1st See [Entertainment Below for Details](#)

PLANNED 2026 TRIP TO SARATOGA SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th ALWAYS A GREAT EVENT!

WORKING ON A COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND EVENT IN OCTOBER

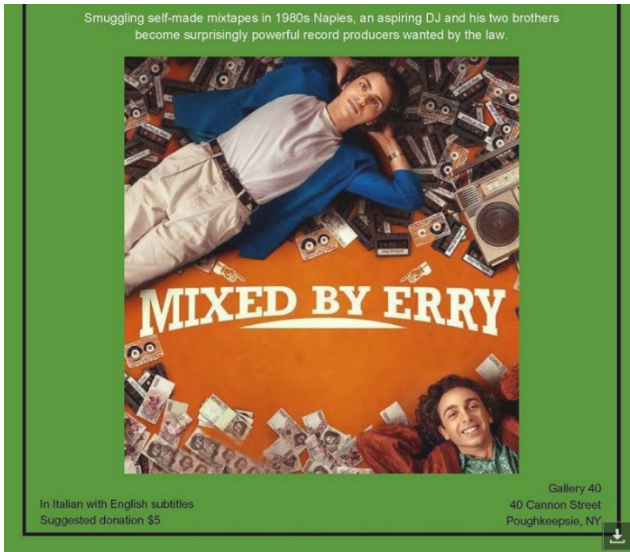
OUT AND ABOUT TOWN WITH AN ITALIAN CULTURE FLAVOR – THINGS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU



La Passione per La Macchina Monday, March 30 at 7:00PM at [Gallery40](#): Dr. Vincent Beltrani (recent former IC member and a big promoter of language and culture locally) and Michael Boice took us into the magical world of Italian cars. They explored the history of Italy's most renowned manufacturers and gave insights into the visionary men who helped launch the nation's automotive industry. Vincenzo and Michael,



two fine Italian Americans, captivated an audience of about 35 people, talking through these slides ([see this link for the slides](#)) – Sorry I did not capture for you their elegant presentation and the comments and enthusiasm of the interested and knowledgeable audience. **PS:** If you want a driving experience but do not want neither to drive nor own a “race car” then take a trip or two on YouTube with Davide Cironi, <https://www.youtube.com/@davidecironi>. In Italian but English sub-titles available. Fun stuff.



Italian Movie Night at Gallery 40! will be held on **Monday, April 20 @7:00PM**, "Mixed by Erry" (2023). All are welcome to attend but please register (free) so Paola can set up Galleria40 appropriately. To register use this link <https://www.pirandelloinstitute.org/events>. “Mixed by Erry” is a true story of Enrico Frattasio, a Neapolitan man from the Forcella neighborhood who, in the 1980s, built a massive music piracy empire in Italy. Alongside his brothers, Peppe and Angelo, Enrico created a legalized counterfeit business, selling millions of mixtapes under the handle "Mixed by Erry". The operation grew into a massive business, expanding beyond Naples to all of Italy and even abroad, utilizing high-quality counterfeit technology. The young Frattasio brothers were bucking big corporations, and they suffered a dramatic downfall, but it was fun while it lasted, and the movie reflects this. This 2023 movie, “Mixed by Erry”, is widely praised as a vibrant, nostalgic comedy-drama that captures the high-energy spirit of 1980s, Naples. Critics and audiences alike appreciate its lighthearted approach to a "Robin Hood-esque" crime story and praise its excellent soundtrack and authentic period atmosphere.

REMEMBER WHEN THE ITALIAN CENTER HELD CAR SHOWS FEATURING ITALIAN CARS? HERE IS ONE FROM 2017. MAYBE WE CAN DO SUCH ONCE AGAIN SOME SUMMER???



The sun shone brightly on the Hudson Valley on August 6, 2017, as the 2nd Annual Italian Center Festival of Fine Cars. The day started off with a drive, led by Italian Center member Mark Searle, from Fishkill winding through southern Dutchess County to the Italian Center. The event featured over two dozen Italian cars of various makes ranging from a 1959 Fiat Bianchina owned by Italian Center member Angelo Belmonte, to the 2012 Ferrari F-12 N-Largo, one of 11 in existence, owned by Kris Roglieri of Lake George. Joining these beautiful vehicles were several other noteworthy Ferrari, Alfa, and Fiat models. Once everyone had an opportunity to view and enjoy the many cars, **the guests, who numbered more than 120**, wandered into the Italian Center where a fine buffet await. As everyone was enjoying the meal, Dr. Vincent Beltrani began his video presentation on the Italian automobile industry focusing on the passion and spirit that is evident in, not only Italian cars, but also the whole of Italian culture. Vinnie took us through the history of the Italian automobile up to the modern supercars of Ferrari and others while showing us how truly unique Italian cars are...

New, [that year], was the People's Choice Awards based on the popular votes of participants and spectators at the Festival. The distinguished trophies were **donated by De's Jewelers (Paul Mancarella)** of Poughkeepsie to whom the Center is most grateful....
...the 3rd Annual Italian Center Festival of Fine Cars and Food already scheduled for Sunday, August 5, 2018. It's not too early to start getting ready for the big show!

Secretary's Report

Members and Friends of the Italian Center... If you need any information and/or have questions about the content of the newsletter or communications, please contact our Secretary:

Paul Waldbillig at (845) 242-0004 or secretary@theitaliancenter.com.

Also, if you have interesting entries for the Newsletter, please send them to newsletter@theitaliancenter.com. (Note the dates for submission below and submit them earlier than later).

Any questions and/or issues regarding the technical aspects of newsletter, website, social media or if you need your credentials for the private [Membership](#) section, please send an email to support@theitaliancenter.com.

Also, new [Membership Application](#) is currently available, so please pass it on to anyone whom you think might want to join and enjoy our club and make it even grander.

Would you like to share comments and/or suggestions directly with the Board of Trustees? If so, please send an email to the Chairman of the Board at: board@theitaliancenter.com.

Updated Newsletter Schedule		
<u>Submit Content Before</u>	<u>Publish By</u>	<u>Meeting Night</u>
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	Tuesday, April 28, 2026	Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	Tuesday, May 26, 2026	Tuesday, June 2, 2026
Tuesday, June 23, 2026	Tuesday, June 30, 2026	Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Tuesday, July 21, 2026	Tuesday, July 28, 2026	Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	Tuesday, August 25, 2026	Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Tuesday, September 22, 2026	Tuesday, September 29, 2026	Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Tuesday, October 27, 2026	Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	Tuesday, November 24, 2026	Tuesday, December 1, 2026

PLEASE HELP/ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO RECEIVE/READ NEWSLETTERS

([HTTP://WWW.THEITALIANCENTER.COM/MEMBERSHIP](http://www.theitaliancenter.com/membership))

PLEASE HELP US MAKE THE NEWSLETTER EVEN BETTER

They are in a permanent “corporate” data store open to us and the public because:

- They have publicity utility and help us fulfill our Corporate Charter to Promote our Culture/Heritage.
- They provide a historical record of our activity (a Monthly “Intentions/Commitments/Progress Report”).
- They provide space to honor Members, Our families, Italians/Things Italian, and our Achievements as a Club.

IT IS A TEAM EFFORT! MAKE OUR NEWSLETTERS EVEN BETTER! CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL, SUGGESTIONS, CRITIQUE, ETC. READ IT! ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO READ IT!

Please ask your fellow members if they “get/read the Newsletter?” If they lack it, help them get it online/hard copy! If they do get it but do not read it, please tell them about the value of reading it, if you are so inclined.

If you are not so inclined, or have comments, complaints, suggestions, contributions, please let us know: secretary@theitaliancenter.com or president@theitaliancenter.com

DITTO FOR OUR CLUB! IT IS A TEAM EFFORT! HELP MAKE OUR CLUB EVEN BETTER!

If every member made some effort that uniquely enhanced the club even by 1%, it'd be 3 times as good as it is now! Too busy? We get it! We live in the fast lane. But think about it, something might fit into your lifestyle:

- Attend meeting(s) and contribute to discussions e.g., project(s) ideas and/or efforts
- Attend open function(s), bring guests >> 1%
- Help with function(s); Help with “maintenance” >> 1%
- Support Raffles and Fund Raisers >> 1%
- Bring in new active Members >> 1%
- Ogni cosa fa brodo! Everything, big or little, helps! Collectively >> 200% Improvement

Entertainment Committee Report

Chair: Ray Pantaleo, rayp520@aol.com, 914-456-4761

Attendees at our events, including Provincial Nights, are **mostly nonmembers**.

We emphasize that we, with earnest effort, are trying to provide events that **benefit and please the Membership**.

More Member participation and support welcomed! Your ideas, your wants, and needs, welcomed!



**EVEN THE MIGHTY LION NEEDS A PRIDE/UN BRANCO TO SURVIVE!
RAY CANNOT DO IT ALONE, NOR CAN LOU, NOR CAN ANYBODY!
THIS IS YOUR CLUB – MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN!**

JOIN THE PRIDE!

WANTED: IDEAS AND IMPLEMENTORS!

HAVE AN IDEA – SHARE IT.

HAVE PRIDE – MAKE IT HAPPEN!



We Want Your Input for 2026 Events! Help with Ideas and Support!

Serious Ideas Will Be Explored - Commit Your Support and We Will Make Things Happen

Contact Ray Pantaleo 914-456-4761 RAYP520@AOL.COM

**2026 SPRING DINNER DANCE - SAY GOOD-BYE TO WINTER AND HELLO TO SPRING
FRIDAY, MAY 1ST, AT THE ITALIAN CENTER - 1195 RTE 376, WAPPINGERS FALLS**

Members and their Guests Tickets \$55 (including tax & tips) Paid in Advance

Info & Tickets: Mo Ricci (914) 804-9153 Sara Dobbins (845) 242-3911

Doors open at 6:00pm with Cash Bar, Dinner served at 6:30

Band and Dancing begin at 7:00 - Classic 60's, 70's, and 80's Rock Performed by the Midnite Image Band



Wow What a Band and Wow What a Dinner!

Italian Antipasto Salad with Select Meats and Cheeses

Fettuccini with Traditional Bolognese Sauce

Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms and Gravy, Served with Green Beans Sauteed in Garlic

Bavarian Chocolate Cake Coffee, Tea, Espresso

All for Only \$55pp including Tax & Tip – Amazing!!

Marketing/Advertising Committee Report

Tom Martinelli, Chair, Marketing Committee, advertising@theitaliancenter.com

Objectives of the Committee

*Increase Club Membership, General Member Participation and the Club's Presence in our community!
Increase Attendance and Support for Our Activities, Events, Fundraising*

Possible Strategies for Achieving these Objectives

*Increase Club Presence on Social Media and in Local "News" Media
Update the Website and Newsletter, and Increase Their Penetration into the Community
Interested in bringing the Club back into the light? Contact Tom! Join the Committee!*

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

PUBLICITY PROJECT – ONLINE PRESENCE – TOM MARTINELLI



Our Club once was well known in the Mid-Hudson Valley, but since our move from Poughkeepsie many do not know that we still exist! Seeking to rectify this the Marketing Committee presented a plan to the BoD.

A plan to put new vigor into marketing the Club that will pay dividends!

At the June 2025 BoD Meeting, the Board approved a project to put the Club back on the social media map! The project has developed a new website, upgraded our presence on Facebook, and created an IC Instagram account.

Sent Fri, Sep 26 at 1:40 PM to all IC Members

Dear Italian Center Members, we are happy to announce that **our new and improved website** is now live!

Visit www.theitaliancenter.com to check out our new look along with a new online calendar of events!

For all the latest Italian Center news, be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram @TheItalianCenterNY.

Sincerely, Lou Piro

*The Marketing Committee must, in perpetuity, ensure the website and social media remains "living and breathing"
It takes interest and effort to maintain such media (its content and its technology)*

Again, interested in bringing the Club back into the light?

Get material to put on our social media!

Contact Tom! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

A SPECIAL REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERS

Every month we publish our Club Newsletter. It intends to convey timely Club business and information, but also to broaden members' knowledge of our culture, Club history, its members, and its grand times. It gives Officers/Committees a space to convey general plans, aspirations, and needs.

Its “Member Newsletter Submissions Section” allows Members to share reminiscences about the Club, relevant people, and to share knowledge of relevant language and culture.

Its “Wellness Section” allows Members to share fond memories of deceased members.


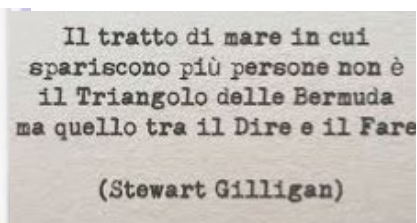
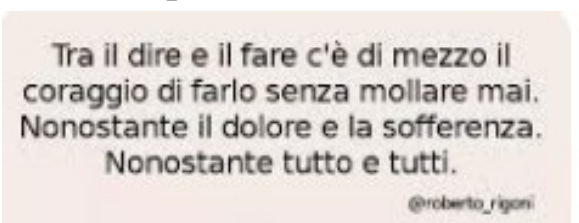
We encourage Members to submit such for publication!
Some words, perhaps, with photos, would be grand!

It does not have to be “pretty”; you can leave the formatting and wordsmithing to us!
All your entries for the newsletter can be sent to: newsletter@theitaliancenter.com.

The Italian Center has a heart and soul! It is its members!

It exists because of them! Nothing gets done without them! If it is good, it is because of them!
It is not easy! Manna does not fall from the skies. Luckily, we have had, and have, a good “heart and soul”!

Remember this Italian Lesson nestled in a Pep Talk

		
Between saying and doing is an ocean! The voyage often arduous. It ain't easy doing good things!	Many well-intentioned people get lost in that Ocean. They never make it to the shore they seek.	Those that do make it do because they had the courage and fortitude to work at it despite the rough waters!

Do your part! It takes a village!

Dr. Victor A. Bacile Scholarship Award Program

Including 2025 winners, 131 scholarships valued at more than \$279K have been awarded. Board voted in Dec 2025 to increase the scholarship amount from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for 2026. This program is **only open to Italian Center members in good standing, their spouses, and their children. (All Applications must be submitted by End of September)**

Not all applicants receive a scholarship, but the odds are good, and it is a significant IC Membership perk. For general information, access this link: <http://www.theitaliancenter.com/scholarship>.

If you would like to volunteer or have specific questions, please email scholarship@theitaliancenter.com or call **Joe Pantaleo**, (845) 462-4080. Officers: Paul Waldbillig - President, Bob DiLullo - Treasurer, Joe Pantaleo - Secretary.

Representing the Italian Center on the Board are: Bob Civitano, George Harnen, Jeff Waldbillig, Al Cappelli, Bob DiLullo, Joe Pantaleo, Lou Piro, Mo Ricci, Paul Waldbillig, and Dr. Larry Zolnik

2025 Bacile Scholarships Awards Presentation - January 3rd, 2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

EMILY CIVITANO (ROBERT CIVITANO)

GABRIELLA ROSE RADO (JEANINE AGNOLET-RADO)

BRIANNA GIANGRASSO (PIERO GIANGRASSO)

Representing IC
Vincent Corona

Representing IC
Paul Waldbillig



THOSE VERY TALENTED STUDENTS MAKE US PROUD.

Other Scholarship and Educational Opportunities

Our Dr. Bacile Scholarship Program is a perk for Italian Center members' children and spouses.

Here are few scholarship opportunities available to those of Italian descent:

Columbus Citizens Foundation: <https://columbuscitizens.org/scholarships/scholarship-applications/> (and others)

National Italian American Foundation: <https://www.niaf.org/programs/scholarships/>

National Organization of Italian American Women: <https://www.noiaaw.org/scholarships/>

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America: <https://www.osdia.org/initiatives/scholarships/>

UNICO Foundation: <https://www.unico.org/scholarships>

STUDY ABROAD U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>

Thanks for Winter “Briscola Nights” 2025/26 Mondays - Bocce Starts 27 April 2026!

BOCCE LEAGUE START APRIL 27, 2026

The Bocce League will be **meeting Monday April 6, 6:30pm**, at the Italian Center. 2025 Bocce League members and others that want to join the league are welcome. At that meeting, we will pick teams, register & pay entry fee, and vote on a couple of possible changes to the league’s protocols. My email contact list is from the 2025 Bocce League and it will need to be reviewed and updated as necessary. Naturally I will need to add phones and emails of new members.

This list is used to send the league real-time information.
Bocce League Chair - Joe Pedota at sarge1912@aol.com

Games Every Monday Evenings at 6:30 in the Spring-Summer-Fall
Unless Cancelled/Rescheduled for Weather, Etc.

Even if you do not play, the bar is open,
join your brothers and sisters, watch them play or watch a game at the bar!

Bocce League Chair - Joe Pedota at sarge1912@aol.com

Carry on the spirit – Have fun – Carpe Diem!

The entry fee is \$45 per member for the season. Sponsor fees are \$150



Milanese Italian Restaurant
2025 Italian Center Bocce Champions

THE FOUR SPONSORS (TEAMS) FOR BOCCE NIGHT ARE:

GINO'S PIZZA & RESTAURANT (GREEN)

M. RICCI ELECTRIC (RED)

MILANESE ITALIAN RESTAURANT (BLACK)

JD'S PUB & BREW (BLUE)

GINO GEMMATI

MAURIZIO RICCI

SANTINO MILANESE

GINO GEMMATI

[HTTPS://WWW.GINOSPIZZERIAS.COM/](https://www.ginospizzerias.com/)

[HTTPS://WWW.MRICCELECTRIC.COM/](https://www.mricclectric.com/)

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MILANESERESTAURANT/](https://www.facebook.com/milaneserestaurant/)

[HTTPS://WWW.JDPUBNBREW.COM/](https://www.jdpubnbrew.com/)

Volunteer Opportunities for Members

Renovation Committee Needs Your Physical/Logistical Help, Expertise, Equipment

If you can help, let Vincent Murray know at (845) 724-3154 | (914) 456-7448, vicepresident2@theitaliancenter.com.

Servers, Kitchen Help, Set Up/Tear Down for Club Events

Volunteers needed especially for our Regular Meeting Nights and Provincial Nights

PLEASE If you can help, let Lou Piro know (845) 629-8905, president@theitaliancenter.com.

WE RELY ON YOURSELVES TO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

This Is Our Club, Make Your Mark, Have Some Fun, And Honor Your Heritage!

We are truly blessed to have members with skills, resources, and devotion that generously help us do things we could not do without their support. Whether it is rebuilding our staircase, fixing the plumbing, serving a great meal on Provincial Night, running a committee, being a Board Member, or whatever, we'd be lost without our Members' Support!

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER! IT IS FUN. IT HAS REWARDS, IT IS NECESSARY!

If you would like to help with our facilities, please contact our 2nd Vice President, Vincent Murray at (845) 724-3154 | (914) 456-7448, vicepresident2@theitaliancenter.com.



Here Is the Current List of Things We Need Help to Do!

Note: Not A Complete List – **We Can Always Find Ways to Use Your Talents!**

Finished Club Tasks

- Assist hanging privacy panels in men's room
- Bollards to prevent people from parking on grass
- Clean out rear gutter and other gutters
- Electrical work for fire alarm inspection
- Fill in depression over septic tank
- Finish painting the building
- Hang TV in Bar and connect to cable
- Mount AED box in the lobby
- Power wash kitchen carts
- Repair Gutter
- Repair pipe for septic
- Replace sink washers in multiple sinks
- Clean out rear gutter
- Fill ditch by mailbox
- Prune trees around the property
- Put up PVC strip in bathroom
- Replace batteries for emergency exits
- Replace sink washers in multiple sinks

Indoor Club Tasks

- Clean & Paint Kitchen floor and walls
- Clean and repair some of the dining room chairs
- Fill in gaps around the front door
- Floor mats in dish room
- Grab bars in bathroom stalls
- Organize and possibly improve attic flooring
- Paint Bar door and molding
- Paint molding around front door
- Repair bathroom sheet rock
- Repair chairs
- Replace outlet by men room door in foyer
- Help re-assemble the bocce/utility shed

Outdoor Club Tasks

- Clean out the storage unit to eliminate monthly cost
- Clean up and out the trailer we have at Bottini's
- Fill in channels around stairs and seed
- Hide heat tape wires in soffit
- Mount No Parking signs in front of the building
- Mount One way traffic signs in front of building
- Paint Handicap ramp
- Repair sidewalk



Membership Committee Report

Dues must be paid by 4/1/2026; lapsed members cannot attend members only club functions, nor vote, nor get member pricing, nor apply for Bacile Scholarship, nor attend meeting nights!

The IC wants and needs active members - Please pay your dues and celebrate our heritage together

Credit cards or cash are accepted at the bar, or send your check to:

The Italian Center, Attn: Ron Knapp FS, 1195 Route 376, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Please take a moment to update your member information... If you have had some changes or simply would like to update your information with us, please send us an email at membership@theitaliancenter.com. If you are interested in helping the Membership Committee or have ideas on how to attract and sustain good members, please contact **Al Tripoli** (application management) at membership@theitaliancenter.com or Tom Martinelli, (845) 453-0345 or advertising@theitaliancenter.com.

Our Club is special and unique in the area. It has been and should continue to be something special in the lives of its members and the community – get involved – help it grow and thus improve.

ASK SOMEONE TO JOIN OUR CLUB - BECOME INVOLVED IN COMMITTEES - SHARE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - VOLUNTEER WHEN YOU SEE MEMBERS NEED HELP.

March 2026's Meeting New Members Initiated:

**Joseph D.
Cavaccini
New
Member**



**Lou Piro
Old
Member**

**Ernie Bruno
Ancient
Member**

Joseph D. Cavaccini (*Sara Dobbins*)

**HELP GROW PRODUCTIVE MEMBERSHIP - SPONSOR GOOD APPLICANTS MALE AND FEMALE
HELP MAKE THIS CLUB EVEN MORE VIBRANT!**

Do you know someone who would like to become a member of our club?

Check out the updated [MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION](#) and pass onto friends and family that might join and enjoy our Club!

Wellness Committee Report

Sal Polizzotto is the Wellness Chairperson! Members must be his eyes, ears, and representatives. **Report member wellness information to Sal Polizzotto** at (845) 590-7319 or wellness@theitaliancenter.com.

Please volunteer to serve on the Wellness Committee. It serves and honors our members by helping them and their families in times of need. When members are in the hospital, ill, convalescing, or have passed, please let Sal or the president know of such instances and/or of the status. The Committee and the Board will take it from there and decide/take appropriate action.

General Convalescing at Home or in Rehab

Gino Giammati is doing better and is back in action.

Johnny Walker and Walter Corrado were sick, but he couldn't get a hold of them for an update.

George Harnen had a minor stroke, but he is home and recovering.

John Testa had appendicitis and had his appendix taken out.

Residing at Assisted Living Facilities

Bob Spinello (100 years old; oldest member) is in Lutheran care

Deceased Members (Within Recent Membership Cycle)



3/27/2026

1/13/2026

1/9/2026

Paul Sebastian Mancarella - 71

Giulio Di Giacomo - 92

Marquis G. "Marc" VanDeWater - 83

11/29/2025

11/5/2025

11/4/2025

9/26/2025

8/10/2025

Mario Bertolozzi - 95

John M. Angiulli - 80

John Bordi Jr. - 91

Leonard Spinelli - 88

Carlo Marinaro - 66



Brother Paul Sebastian Mancarella, 71, born on April 21, 1954, passed away at Hudson Valley Hospice House on March 27, 2026. He leaves behind a legacy of leadership, friendship, and deep community impact. He was an active, respected IC Member. **Pual's wake will be held at the Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home on Hooker Avenue in Poughkeepsie, Tuesday, April 7th. Relatives and friends may call from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Meeting night has been rescheduled to April 14th @ 5:00 PM, so Italian Center Members can honor Paul. If you want to attend Paul's wake as part of an IC Honor Guard, please contact: Sal Polizzotto, 845-590-7319. The IC Honor Guard will meet at Doyle's at 5:30 PM.** A Mass will celebrate Paul @ 10:00 AM, Wednesday, April 8th, at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel in Poughkeepsie, with interment at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Paul attended Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Lourdes High School before continuing his education at Marist College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Teaching certification in 1976. He remained proud of his connection to his alma mater throughout his life. In September 1970, Joseph W. Doyle and Louis E. "Toots" Santopadre hired Paul as a stock boy at De'S Jewelers. Through years of dedication, passion, and hard work, he helped grow the business into a respected and successful establishment, ultimately serving as its President. His leadership, integrity, and personal touch left a lasting imprint not only on the business, but also on the many customers, families and colleagues he served over the years. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Paul lived a life defined by service, generosity, and connection. He was actively involved in numerous organizations, including the Poughkeepsie Downtown Council, the Poughkeepsie Partnership, the City Police Community Relations Board, the Empire State Games Committee, the Elks Club, the Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, where he served as Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee. He was especially proud of his involvement in the 40 Under 40 events, leaving an enduring mark on the community. Most recently, he served on the Executive Committee of the Workforce Investment Board, where his honesty, strength, and straightforward leadership were deeply valued. Paul carried a deep love for his community, which is undoubtedly stronger, because of his contributions. **A longtime an active member of the Italian Center, he built lasting friendships and created many cherished memories through participation, gatherings and community events.**

Paul cherished time with family and friends. He and his beloved wife, Diane Trapani, met and fell in love while in Madrid, Spain, in 1974, and were married in April 1979. Together, they shared a remarkable love story—one filled with travel, tradition, and a deep bond that inspired all who knew them. They graciously hosted many cherished gatherings. Paul had a deep passion for music, spending many years as a member of the Mt. Carmel Folk Group. He often shared his gift by playing guitar at special moments, bringing joy, laughter, and warmth wherever he went. Whether at community events, family celebrations, or simply among friends, his presence was truly unforgettable. He was also a devoted member of St. Peter's Church, where his faith continued to guide him. Paul is survived by his loving wife, Diane; his mother, Josephine; his siblings, Josie Palen and her husband, Paul; Dr. Antonio Mancarella and his wife, Lisa (Scardaci); Jack Mancarella; Victor Diaz; Ron Diaz (whose wife, Carolyn, predeceased Paul in February 2026); and Elsie Diaz Louth and her husband, Michael. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Michele DeFelice and her partner, Greg Wyckoff; his nieces, Kimberly Leo and her husband, Angelo, and Kelly Edmunds and her husband, Ryan; along with many other beloved nieces and nephews.

Member Newsletter Submissions



Use this section to share fond memories of the Club/its members, or knowledge/experiences regarding Italian or Italian American history, culture, and/or language.

CONTRIBUTE! You can leave formatting/wordsmithing to us!

Send your entries to secretary@theitaliancenter.com or president@theitaliancenter.com!

As we honored Campania in March (recently) I'll explore four wonderful Neapolitan late-1800s/early-1900s songs that reflect Naples' rich musical heritage and emotional depth.



Pecché? (Perché?) Musica: Gaetano Enrico Pennino, Versi: Carlo De Flaviis.

Anno: 1913

Click to Play



<p>Canta ll'auciello dint' â casa antica Addò primma cantave pure tu. E sento pur' 'a voce 'e n'ata amica Ca me cunziglia 'e nun te penzà cchiù!</p>	<p>Canta l'uccello nella casa antica Dove prima cantavi anche tu. E sento anche la voce di un'altra amica Che mi consiglia di non pensarti più!</p>	<p>Bird Sings in Old House Where before you sang too. And I also hear the voice of another friend Who advises me not to think about you anymore!</p>
<p>Carmè, Si aggio lassato 'a mamma mia pe' tte, Si t'hê pigliato 'a primma giuventù, Pecché Nun tuorne a mme?</p>	<p>Carmela, Se ho lasciato mamma mia per te, Se ti sei presa la prima giovinezza, Perché Non torni da me?</p>	<p>Carmela, If I left my mother for you, if you have taken your early youth, Why Won't you come back to me?</p>
<p>Me pare ca è cagnata 'sta fenesta 'A dò vuttaste 'o primmo sciore a mme. E 'n'ata rosa, a dint'a 'n'ata testa Mò me cunziglia 'e nun penzà cchiù a tte!</p>	<p>Mi sembra che sia cambiata questa finestra Da dove buttasti il primo fiore a me. Ed un'altra rosa, in un altro vaso Adesso mi consiglia di non pensare più a te!</p>	<p>It seems to me that this window has changed Where did you throw the first flower to me. And another rose, in another vase Now he advises me not to think about you anymore!</p>
<p>Carmè, Si aggio lassato 'a mamma mia pe' tte, Si t'hê pigliato 'a primma giuventù, Pecché Nun tuorne a mme?</p>	<p>Carmela, Se ho lasciato mamma mia per te, Se ti sei presa la prima giovinezza, Perché Non torni da me?</p>	<p>Carmela, If I left my mother for you, If you have taken your early youth, Why Won't you come back to me?</p>
<p>E passa 'a notte, passa 'o juorno e 'a sera, Ma 'stu turmiento mio nun vò passà. Passa pure 'sta luna ca è sincera Si me cunziglia sempe 'e te scurdà!</p>	<p>E passa la notte, passa il giorno e la sera, Ma questo tormento mio non vuole passare. Passa anche questa luna che è sincera Se mi consiglia sempre di dimenticarti!</p>	<p>And the night passes, the day and the evening passes, But this torment of mine does not want to pass. This moon that is sincere also passes If he always advises me to forget you!</p>
<p>Carmè, Si aggio lassato 'a mamma mia pe' tte, Si t'hê pigliato 'a primma giuventù, Pecché Nun tuorne a mme?</p>	<p>Carmela, Se ho lasciato mamma mia per te, Se ti sei presa la prima giovinezza, Perché Non torni da me?</p>	<p>Carmela, If I left my mother for you, If you have taken your early youth, Why Won't you come back to me?</p>

One can translate literally but miss the meaning! Context counts! Take these examples:

Si t'hê pigliato 'a primma giuventù → Se ti sei presa la prima giovinezza → If you have taken (seized) your early youth

In context one could take it as: “[I gave up my youth for you.] You’ve had your fun! [So why don’t you come back to me?]”

OK, I cannot resist giving a Sicilian ambiguous saying! “Occa pi occa, mi vivu l’acitu ca sacciu ch’e’ vinu guastatu!” that in English could translate: “Water is taken for water, but when I drink vinegar, I know that it is bad wine”. More deeply it could mean:

“It is easy to mistake some bland thing/one as being innocuous. Be careful, blandness can mask the contrary!”

'O paese d' 'o sole (Il paese del sole) Musica: Vincenzo d'Annibale, versi: Libero Bovio. Anno: 1925



In late spring 1925, composer Vincenzo d'Annibale went to Coroglio in Naples to look for a holiday bungalow. A landlady showed him one, To him it seemed too dark, and he said: "No, thank you, ma'am, too dark!". Hearing that she opened all the windows and the light flooded in. The musician looked out and found himself in front of the sun and the sea of Naples. Captivated, he paid the advance for the rent. Later he remembered a sheet with verses that his comrade Bovio gave him twenty days ago, verses to which he was going to put music. The verses were of **'O paese d' 'o sole**. In the afternoon of that same day, he took the elevator that leads from the Sanità to Capodimonte thinking of the house invaded by sun; Suddenly, in the elevator, a cluster of music notes formed in his head; he wrote them down on the package of his cigarettes. Thus, was born **'O paese d' 'o sole**, from the lyrics if Bovio and the notes of d'Anniniale!

Napoletano	Italiano	Inglese
<p>Ogge sto tanto allero Ca quase quase mme mettesse a chiagnere Pe' 'sta felicità! Ma è overo o nun è overo Ca sò turnato a Napule? Ma è overo ca sto ccà? 'O treno steva ancora 'int' â stazione Quanno aggio 'ntiso 'e primme manduline.</p>	<p>Oggi sono tanto allegro Che quasi quasi mi metterei a piangere Per questa felicità! Ma è vero o non è vero Che sono tornato a Napoli? Ma è vero che sono qua? Il treno stava ancora nella stazione Quando ho sentito i primi mandolini.</p>	<p>Today I'm so cheerful That I would almost start crying For this happiness! But is it true or not true That I returned to Naples? But is it true that I am here? The train was still in the station When I heard the first mandolins.</p>
<p>Chist'è 'o paese d' 'o sole! Chist'è 'o paese d' 'o mare! Chist'è 'o paese addò tutt' 'e pparole Sò doce o sò amare, Sò sempe pparole d'ammore!</p>	<p>Questo è il paese del sole! Questo è il paese del mare! Questo è il paese dove tutte le parole Sono dolci o sono amare, Sono sempre parole d'amore!</p>	<p>This is the land of the sun! This is the land of the sea! This is the country where all the words Are they sweet or are they bitter, They are always words of love!</p>
<p>'Sta casa piccerella, 'Sta casarella mia 'ncoppo Pusilleco, Luntano, chi t' 'a dà? 'Sta casa poverella, Tutt'addurosa 'anepeta, Se putarria pittà. 'A ccà 'nu ciardeniello sempe 'nfiore E de rimpetto 'o mare, sulo 'o mare.</p>	<p>Questa casa piccola, Questa casetta mia sopra Posillipo*, Lontano, chi te la dà? Questa casa poveretta, Tutta odorosa di nepitella**, Si potrebbe dipingere. Da qua un giardinetto sempre in fiore E di fronte il mare, solo il mare.</p>	<p>This small house, This little house of mine above Posillipo*, Far away, who gives it to you? This poor house, All smelling of catmint**, You could paint. From here a small garden always in bloom And in front of the sea, only the sea.</p>
<p>Chist'è 'o paese d' 'o sole! Chist'è 'o paese d' 'o mare! Chist'è 'o paese addò tutt' 'e pparole Sò doce o sò amare, Sò sempe pparole d'ammore!</p>	<p>Questo è il paese del sole! Questo è il paese del mare! Questo è il paese dove tutte le parole Sono dolci o sono amare, Sono sempre parole d'amore!</p>	<p>This is the land of the sun! This is the land of the sea! This is the country where all the words Are they sweet or are they bitter, They are always words of love!</p>
<p>Tutto, tutto è destino! Comme putevo fà fortuna a ll'estero S'io voglio campà ccà? Mettite 'nfrisco 'o vino, Tanto ne voglio vevere, Ca mm'aggi' 'a 'mbriacà! Dint'a 'sti quatto mure io sto cuntento: Mamma me sta vicino e nenna canta.</p>	<p>Tutto, tutto è destino! Come potevo far fortuna all'estero Se io voglio vivere qua? Mettete in fresco il vino, Tanto ne voglio bere Che mi devo ubriacare! Tra queste quattro mura io sono contento: Mamma mi è vicino e la mia amata canta.</p>	<p>Everything, everything is destiny! How I could make my fortune abroad If I want to live here? Chill the wine, I want to drink so much That I have to get drunk! Within these four walls I am happy: Mom is close to me and my beloved sings.</p>
<p>Chist'è 'o paese d' 'o sole! Chist'è 'o paese d' 'o mare! Chist'è 'o paese addò tutt' 'e pparole Sò doce o sò amare, Sò sempe pparole d'ammore!</p>	<p>Questo è il paese del sole! Questo è il paese del mare! Questo è il paese dove tutte le parole Sono dolci o sono amare, Sono sempre parole d'amore!</p>	<p>This is the land of the sun! This is the land of the sea! This is the country where all the words Are they sweet or are they bitter, They are always words of love!</p>



Mandulinata a Napule (Mandolinata a Napoli)
Plays the 2nd Half of This Clip After Era de maggio

Era de maggio e te cadeano 'nzino,
A schiocche a schiocche, li ccerase rosse.
Fresca era ll'aria e tutto lu ciardino
Addurava de rose a ciento passe.

Era de maggio; io, no, nun mme ne scordo,
'Na canzona cantavamo a ddoje vvoce!
Cchiù tiempo passa e cchiù mme n'allicordo
Fresca era ll'aria e la canzona doce.

E diceva: "Core, core!
Core mio, luntano vaje!
Tu me lasse, io conto ll'ore.
Chi sà quanno turnarraje!"

Rispunnev'io: "Turnarraggio
Quanno tornano li rose.
Si 'stu sciore torna a maggio,
Pur' a maggio io stongo ccà!"

Si 'stu sciore torna a maggio,
Pur' a maggio io stongo ccà!"

E sò turnato e mò, comm'a 'na vota,
Cantammo 'nzieme la canzona antica.
Passa lu tiempo e lu munno s'avota,
Ma 'ammore vero, no, nun vota viche!

De te, bellezza mia, mm'annammuraje,
Si t'allicuorde, 'nnanz'a la funtana.
Ll'acqua, llà dintu, nun se secca maje
E ferita d'ammore nun se sana!

Nun se sana, ca sanata
Si se fosse, gioja mia,
'Mmiez'a 'st'aria 'mbarzamata,
A guardarte io nun starria!

E te dico: "Core, core!
Core mio, turnato io sò!
Torna maggio e torna 'ammore.
Fa' de me chello che vuò!

Torna maggio e torna a me.
Fa' de me chello che vuò!"

Era di maggio e ti cadevano in seno,
A ciocche, a ciocche, le ciliegie rosse.
Fresca era l'aria e tutto il giardino
Odorava di rose da cento passi.

Era di maggio; io, no, non me dimentico,
Una canzone che cantavamo a due voci!
Più tempo passa e più me ne ricordo,
Fresca era l'aria e la canzone dolce.

E diceva: "Cuore, cuore!
Cuore mio, lontano vai!
Tu mi lasci, io conto le ore.
Chissà quando tornerai!"

Rispondevo io: "Tornerò
Quando tornano le rose.
Se questo fiore torna a maggio,
Anche a maggio io sarò qua!"

Se questo fiore torna a maggio,
Anche a maggio io sarò qua!"

E sono tornato ed ora, come una volta,
Cantiamo insieme la canzone antica.
Passa il tempo ed il mondo cambia,
Ma l'amore vero, no, non cambia vicoli!

Di te, bellezza mia, mi innamorerai,
Se ti ricordi, davanti alla fontana.
L'acqua, là dentro, non si secca mai,
E ferita d'amore non si guarisce!

Non si guarisce, perché se guarita
Si fosse, gioia mia,
Tra quest'aria imbalsamata,
A guardarti io non starei!

E ti dico: "Cuore, cuore!
Cuore mio, io sono tornato!
Torna maggio e torna l'amore.
Fa' di me quello che vuoi!"

Torna maggio e torna a me.
Fa' di me quello che vuoi!"

It was May and they fell into your bosom,
In locks, in locks, red cherries.
The air was fresh and the whole garden
was fresh
It smelled of roses from a hundred paces.

It was in May; I, no, I don't forget,
A song that we sang in two voices!
The more time passes, the more I
remember,
The air was fresh and the song sweet.

And he said: "Heart, heart!
My heart, go far!
You leave me, I count the hours.
Who knows when you'll be back!"

I replied: "I'll be back
When the roses return.
If this flower returns in May,
I will be here again in May!"

If this flower returns in May,
I'll be here in May too!"

And I'm back and now, like I used to,
Let's sing the ancient song together.
Time passes and the world changes,
But true love, no, does not change alleys!

Of you, my beauty, I fell in love,
If you remember, in front of the fountain.
The water, in there, never dries up,
And the wound of love cannot be healed!

You don't heal, because if healed
Were it my joy,
Among this embalmed air,
I wouldn't be looking at you!

And I say to you: "Heart, heart!
My heart, I am back!
May is back and love is back.
Do with me what you will!"

May comes back and it comes back to me.
Do with me what you will!"

“Mandulinata a Napule” (Mandolinata a Napoli)



Plays Halfway into the Clip... After Era de maggio (Era di maggio)

Sera d'està. Pusilleco lucente
Canta ccanzone e addora d'erba 'e mare.
Voglio 'e pparole cchiù d'ammore ardente,
Voglio 'e pparole cchiù gentile e care
Pe' ddi: "Te voglio bbene" a chi mme sente.

Ma d' 'e pparole cchiù carnale e ddoce,
Ne scoglio sulo tre: "Te voglio bbene".
Bella, 'int'ò core tujo sacc'io chi tiene,
Chi sta 'int'ò core mio saje pure tu.

P' 'o mare 'e Napule
Quant'armunia!
Saglie 'ncielo e 'ncielo sentono
Tutt' 'e stelle 'a voce mia.
Voce, ca tenera,
'St'ammore fa.

Notte d'està. Se sò addurmute 'e ccase
E 'o cielo, a mmare, 'nu scenario ha stiso.
Staje 'mbracci'a mme, 'nnucente sò 'sti vase.
Bella, stanotte, te sò frato e sposo.
Stanotte ammure e Ddio songh'una cosa.

Canta e da 'o suonno Napule se sceta,
Ridono 'e vvocche ca se sò vasate.
Tutt' 'e suspire 'e tutt' 'e 'nnammurate,
Suspiranno stanotte attornu a te.

P' 'o mare 'e Napule
Quant'armunia!
Saglie 'ncielo e 'ncielo sentono
Tutt' 'e stelle 'a voce mia.
Voce, ca tenera,
'St'ammore fa.

Sera d'estate. Posillipo* lucente
Canta canzoni e profuma di erba di mare.
Voglio le parole d'amore più appassionate,
Voglio le parole più gentili e care
Per dire: "Ti voglio bene" a chi mi sente.

Ma delle parole più amorevoli e dolci
Ne scelgo solo tre: "Ti voglio bene".
Bella, nel tuo cuore io so chi hai,
Chi è nel mio cuore lo sai anche tu.

Per il mare di Napoli
Quanta armonia!
Sale in cielo e in cielo sentono
Tutte le stelle la voce mia.
Voce, che tenera,
Fa nascere quest'amore.

Notte d'estate. Si sono addormentate le case
E il cielo, sul mare, uno scenario ha steso.
Stai tra le mie braccia, sono innocenti questi baci.
Bella, stanotte ti sono fratello e sposo.
Stanotte amore e Dio sono una cosa.

Canta e dal sonno Napoli si sveglia,
Ridono le bocche che si sono bacciate.
Tutti i sospiri di tutti innamorati
Suspiranno stanotte intorno a te.

Per il mare di Napoli
Quanta armonia!
Sale in cielo e in cielo sentono
Tutte le stelle la voce mia.
Voce, che tenera,
Fa nascere quest'amore.

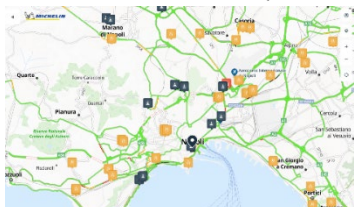
Summer evening. Shiny Posillipo*
He sings songs and smells of sea grass.
I want the most passionate words of love,
I want the kindest and dearest words
To say: "I love you" to those who hear me.

But more loving and sweet words
I choose only three: "I love you".
Beautiful, in your heart I know who you have,
Who is in my heart you know too.

By the sea of Naples
How much harmony!
Rise to heaven and to heaven feel
All the stars my voice.
Voice, that tender,
It gives birth to this love.

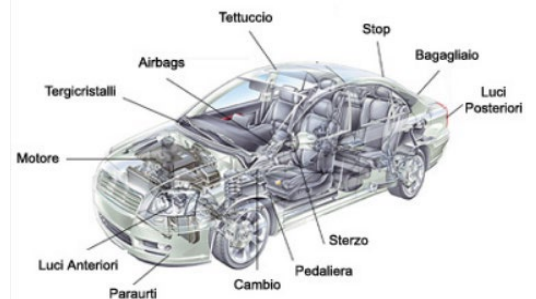
Summer night. The houses have fallen asleep
And the sky, over the sea, has laid out a scenario.
Stay in my arms, these kisses are innocent. Bella, tonight I am your brother and husband. Tonight love and God are one thing. He sings and Naples wakes up from sleep, The mouths that have kissed laugh. All the sighs of all lovers They sigh around you tonight. By the sea of Naples How much harmony! Rise to heaven and to heaven feel All the stars my voice. Voice, that tender, It gives birth to this love.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO NAPOLI VIA CAR EXPECT TRAFFIC JAMS (RESTRINGIMENTI OR INGORGHI)



Here is a link to something that may help you navigate Italy

Lots of Neapolitan Songs muse about returning to Napoli – its alluring beauty and its “aria fresca” touted. It is “billed” in the songs as an enchanting lovers’ paradise or a jilled lover’s sole goal in life. OK, these are old songs and to my old ears and knowledge they ring true! BUT if you are taking a car and going to the Napoli area today watch out! Traffic jams abound. To the left is a typical midday map of traffic flow in that area. An orange dot represents significant traffic restriction, and there are many! Being a foreigner and driving around that area is a white-knuckle experience; one should have a little knowledge of cars if your car breaks down. Knowing some Italian terminology to better communicate with and understand your mechanic is advisable. To learn a bit of the lingo of cars click on pic →.



BEFORE WE CLOSE THIS NEWSLETTER - LET'S VISIT AND REFLECT ON OUR HISTORY



There is a book about the history of Italian Center, it is a good book, written by two prominent members of the Club at the time, John Rinaldi and Lawrence Perretta. It spans time from the IC's inception to late 20th Century, chronicling our history. This includes detailing what La Casa Italiana and its members were doing during the Great Depression through the early post-World War II period. The American adult generation that lived through that period in our history is collectively called America's Greatest Generation. Rightly so many honest knowledgeable people say.



This generation was united by a common purpose, and common values: duty, honor, courage, service, love of family and what America stood for. It had a strong sense of responsibility for self and for others. Italian Center members were part of that generation. They were proud to be Italian AMERICANS, and they well represented this generation's "greatness". Let's recognize several Club members (not all inclusive) of this American generation that helped save and shape modern America.

During WWII, many Club members enlisted or were drafted and served in all branches of the armed services. By the end of 1942, over 1000 Italian Americans were in the service from this area and over half of that number came from Poughkeepsie and its surroundings. Many of these men were members of the Italian Center.

The following members of the Italian Center were killed in action during WWII. They died defending democracy, liberty, freedom, the rule of law, and justice for all. They died to defend our basic principles, and to keep us and others (including their beloved Italia) free from the clutches of fascism: Joseph Del Torto, died on a bombing mission on 2/16/45 over Dwolle, Holland; Nick Evangelista, died during combat on 5/5/44 in Okinawa; John Leone, died on 3/25/44 during a battle on Corsica, Italy; Tony Ligammari, died in combat on 11/13/42 during the Battle of Java; Anthony Rinaldi, died in combat on 8/1/44 in Nadzab, New Guinea; Louis Rinaldi, died on 8/8/44 during the Battle of Silo, France; and three members who were killed in combat during the Battle of the Bulge: Walter Mansolillo on 12/23/44, Andrew Popavero on 11/8/44, and Elie Vecchio on 12/24/44.

By the conclusion of the war, 14 Club members were awarded the Purple Heart. During that horrendously difficult slice of our history, the Italian Center, through its members and its support of its members, brought honor and recognition to the Italian American community. Our club was part and parcel to what made America great. Let that spirit live on!

OUR MEMBERS CONTINUE OUR LEGACY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

The **Symbol of Freedom Award** is an honor presented to recognize individuals for their community service, civic contributions, and commitment to local values. Past recipients include local leaders like (Sheriff) Kirk Imperati, a valued active Club member.

On April 23rd of This Year, Another Valued IC Brother, **Joe Luna, Will Receive That Award for His Community Service.**

Joe, for instance, used his influence as a local councilman to encourage and help students to excel in math. He was instrumental in obtaining grants so that students and teachers have the resources and can take the paths to success in math. It is in this spirit that IC members contribute to the community. Thank you Joe for representing us well and for helping your community.

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