

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)

Facebook | Website | Membership | Member Portal | Contact

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Bar Opens for Members and their Guests on Card Nights (Mondays 6:00PM to 8:00PM)
Come! Enjoy Your Club! Play Cards or Just Watch the Matches, a Game On TV, and/or Otherwise Socialize!
Monday Card Games start on Monday 2 November. Msg Jack Castelli jjcastelli@aol.com 845-473-2917 for information

Website, Facebook, and Instagram input! Send to president@theitaliancenter.com and/or secretary@theitaliancenter.com!

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

Members' Meeting – Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026

MEMBERS ONLY - Cash Bar 5:00PM – Dinner 6:00PM Cost $30 Reservations Necessary - Business 7:00PM

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

Menu - Meal Prepared by Chef Billy Schiffer and Tom Viani

Antipasto:	Pomodori, Carote Tagliuzzate, Cetriolo e Olive - Salad with Tomatoes, Shredded Carrots, Cucumber, Olives
Primo:	Linguini con olio e aglio - Spaghetti with oil and garlic - Penne con un ragu – Penne with a ragu red sauce
Secondo:	Scallopini di Pollo con Salsa di Crema di Funghi con Pure di Patate e Spinaci Saltati Chicken Scallopini with Mushroom Cream Sauce with a side of Mashed Potatoes and Sautéed Spinach
Dolce:	Scelta dello chef - Chef's Choice

Provincial Night – Tuesday, November 17th, 2026

Honoring Regione di Basilicata and Provincia di Matera

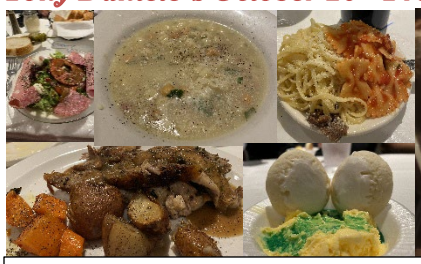
Cash Bar 6:00PM - Dinner 7:00PM Generously Hosted by Lou Piro Who Does So Much Already

Don't miss the fun and the delicious meal! SIGN-UP SOON! – $40 Member/$45 Guest - Reservations Necessary!

Menu

Antipasto:	Insalata (Italian Antipasto Salad) and Pasta Fagioli (Soup)
Primo:	Penne Marinara (Red) and White Linguine with Clams, Mussels and Shrimp
Secondo:	Pollo Toscano - Chicken with Ham, deep-fried provolone over spinach in savory white wine sauce) w/garlic mashed potatoes
Dolce:	Chef's Choice

Tony Daniele's October 20th Provincial Night Honoring Regione di Lazio/Rieti – A success and a hoot!



From the salad & soup to the pasta to the main course to the dessert, it was happy-happy!





Then Ernie did his shtick announcing winners and making jokes as Vinny looked away! And it ended very happy-happy!

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ITALIAN CENTER PROGRESSIVE BALL 14 NOVEMBER 2026
AT THE ITALIAN CENTER

Honorees:

Matt Aiello	**Anthony Daniele**
Kirk Imperati	**Vince Murray**

1-hour Cash Bar
Hors d'oeuvres

Menu

Salad, Pasta, Main Dish Choice of Braised Short Rib, Chicken Marsala, or Salmon
Dessert and Coffee/Tea

Music and Dancing

$75 Per Person Tips and Tax Included (Paid in Advance)
For Reservations Text Tony Mancarella 845-797-4773 Include Name and Phone Number
All Reservations Must Be Paid in Full By 11/3/2026

If You Want to Reserve a Table for a Group of People,
Please Put One Person in Charge to Collect Money and Food Choices.

Please Be a Sponsor

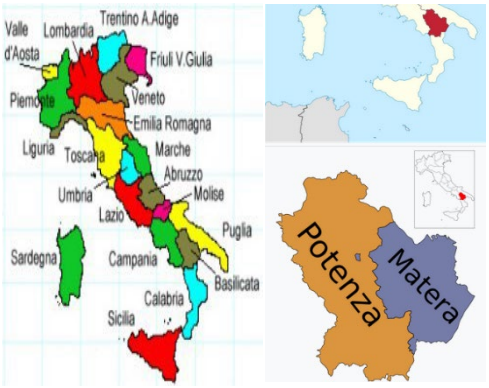
Please Provide Completed Ad/Sponsor Statement (May Need to Be Reformatted)
and Contact Info with Payment

Full Page $150.00 Half Page $75 Quarter Page $50	Contact: Name, Address, Phone, Email (Ex: XXX, Secretary…) Responsible Entity: Business Name or Sponsor Name Formatted Ad or Sponsor Statement

To Place Ads or for Any Questions Contact:
Chris Sena Cell 516-776-3312 Email betteangelo1@verizon.net
Lois Gaglione Cell 845-242-8321 Email lgaglione22@gmail.com

PAYMENTS FOR SEATS AND/OR SPONSORSHIPS DUE BY NOVEMBER 3RD MEETING

THIS NOVEMBER WE'LL CELEBRATE LA REGIONE DI BASILICATA E LA PROVINCIA DI MATERA IN THE ARCH (LA PIANTA) OF "THE BOOT/IL STIVALE" – ITALY/ITALIA)



Basilicata is South Italy's Vermont; small, unassuming, but it has its beauty, interesting history, and relaxed vibe to enjoy. Its interesting environmental and climatic diversity is divided into six sub-zones: Vulture-Melfese north-east plateau with wheat fields and natural woods/vines; Potentino/Lucanian Dolomites north-west mountains (average 1,200-1,500 meters); Pollino/Monte Sirino south-west true Lucanian high mountains (average above 2,000 meters); Val d'Agri center-west high plateau that starts 600 m above sea level and follows the course of the Agri river until it converges in the Metaponto plain; Metapontino south-south-east vast alluvial plain where industrial agriculture meets a sandy touristy coast; Matera center-east hilly barren clay, BUT that is not the whole of the province of Matera. Matera has a rich history, and it is the paternal home of the Marinaro family. Let's explore what is happening in Matera this Fall (Autunno).

The Provincia Matera is geographically & meteorologically well suited for outdoor Fall fun. It has many unique natural wonders and history to explore, and its usual mild weather makes it **ideal for walking, hiking, or exploring. Here are some examples**:

Autumn Sassi & Canyon Hikes through the stone cave districts of Sasso Caveoso and Rione Casalnuovo, crossing the Tibetan suspension bridge (Ponte Tibetano della Gravina), or hiking through Murgia National Park (Parco Regionale della Murgia Materana).

It also has interesting cultural and entertainment venues. Here are some examples:

Immersive Theatrical Experiences: Teatro dei Sassi is running interactive and sensory theatrical journeys at Palazzo Acito, featuring "Il Giuoco dei Sassi" and local storytelling.

And finally, **it has unique culinary venues to explore. Here are some examples**:

Culinary & Wine Tastings: Local cave restaurants and stone enotecas across the Sassi are hosting traditional workshops, including hands-on mozzarella and burrata making with master cheesemakers, cave cooking classes, and regional wine and cured-meat tastings.

Note: this year Southern Italy has been struck by horrific rain and windstorms. Is not turning out to be a good year for some areas.

THE 3RD OLDEST EXISTING CITY IN THE WORLD, MATERA IN LA PROVINCIA DI MATERA IN LA REGIONE DI BASILICATA





ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN THE WORLD, NATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE COME TOGETHER IN MATERA

https://www.italia.it/en/basilicata/matera

A place rich in scenery, unique architectural works, views of incomparable charm, Matera has captivated many artists, including Carlo Levi and Giovanni Pascoli, and continues to enchant with its Sassi, a World Heritage Site. Worthy of a long visit, it enraptures the heart. For example: The Piazza Vittorio Veneto is the fulcrum of Matera. Two important buildings, the Prefecture and the Annunziata complex, overlook a picturesque circular fountain.

Dove	
Regione	Basilicata
Provincia	Matera (MT)
Zona	Italia Meridionale
Popolazione Residente	
60.351 (M 29.424, F 30.927) Densità per Kmq: 155,5 Superficie: 388,14 Kmq	
Codici	
CAP	75100
Telefonico	Prefisso 0835
Codice Istat	077014
Codice Catastale	F052

PROVINCIAL NIGHTS ARE SPECIAL – INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY –FUN & FINE FOOD

Provincial Night November 17th, 2026. Honoring Basilicata/Matera - Hosted by BoD

Region	Date	Province	Sponsor(s)
Calabria	20-Jan-26	Catanzaro	Pat Fasolino
Toscana	17-Feb-26	Firenze	Tom Viani
Campania	17-Mar-26	Napoli	Mancarella Bros.
Liguria	21-Apr-26	Genova	Paul Waldbillig
Sicilia	19-May-26	Tutte (all)	Giangrasso Family
Emilia-Romagna	16-Jun-26	Reggio Emilia	Alberto Tripoli

Region	Date	Province	Sponsor(s)
Lombardia	21-Jul-26	Bergamo	TBD
Marche	18-Aug-26	P e U	TBD
Puglia	15-Sep-26	Bari	Frank LaManna
Lazio	20-Oct-26	Rieti	Tony Daniele
Basilicata	**17-Nov-26**	**Matera**	**Lou Piro *this year**
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

Region On Schedule	*Logical Replacements Open*	*Sponsor*	*Date*
Lombardia	Friuli-Venezia Giulia Piemonte Trentino-Alto Adige Valle d'Aosta Veneto	TBD	July
Marche	Puglia Molise Sardegna Umbria	TBD	August
Basilicata		TBD	November

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!



President's Letter

Fellow Brothers and Sisters,

Did you remember to set your clocks back? I've never been a morning person, so the extra hour of sleep is very welcome. Halloween was on Saturday and the weather was nice, so we had an abondance of kids. Angela loves to see all of the costumes, especially the homemade ones.

October Meeting Night dinner was terrific! Chef Billy made a classic, old fashioned Chicken Parmesan! What a treat! We started with a toss salad, followed by Rigatoni with a meat ragu and Linguini with garlic and oil and we ended with a delicious Apple pie ala mode! Assisting Billy in the kitchen were Souci Chef Tom Viani, Jeff Williams and Sal Polizzotto.

Tony Daniele hosted the October Provincial Night. Tony always goes to great lengths to make sure the meal is as authentic Lazio/Roman as possible. He always has plates of anchovies on every table to accompany a Traditional Italian antipasto. Tony also added a delicious warming bowl of pasta with chickpea soup served with the antipasto. I haven't had that soup in many years, and it was just as good as what my mother used to make! Next came the pasta which was Bowties with an Amatriciana sauce and traditional Linguini with garlic and oil. The entrée was a Porchetta, that melted in your mouth delicious, and a side of roasted potatoes and carrots. If you still had room desert was French Vanila Ice cream with an Anisette cookie. Tony also walked around the dining room and offered Crème de menthe to anyone that wanted it. You literally couldn't have eaten another bite! Assisting Chef Billy was Souci Chef Tom Viani and Jeff Willians. Jack Castelli and his setup team, Lois Gaglione, Chris Sena, Paul Fortunato, Jeff Williams and Irene Petro set up dining room. Ernie Bruno took reservations, Ray Pantaleo sold cards for both events. Gerri Brucali sold 50/50 tickets on Meeting Night. Many Thanks to all the volunteers for all your help! The Comedy show on October 10th hosted by Ray Pantaleo was a great success! Chef Billy and the Souci Chef Tom Viani cooked up a delicious meal that was enjoyed by everyone! After dinner the fun really started with 3 comedians kept the room in stiches!

Ray was assisted by Chris Sena, Lois Gaglione, Jeff Williams and Vince Murray in setting up the dining room on Friday. Thanks everyone for making it a success! Angela Bumstead has created a new fall flower arrangement for the lobby that looks terrific! Check it out on Meeting Night! Thank you, Angela!!

We are always in need of volunteers to help set up the dining room and assist in the kitchen for all events. Volunteers are essential to the success of this organization. I encourage everyone to sign up to help in some fashion.

The Bocce League closed out the season on October 5th with a close finish with M. Ricci Electric taking the honors. Mo's team Joe Giangrasso, Vince Murray, Chris Mark, Jeff Waldbillig, Joe Pedota, Andy Ensley and Paul Waldbillig edging out Santino Milanese's team by just ONE game to take the title! The league held a recognition dinner at the club catered by Gino's Restaurant of Poughkeepsie.

The Progressive Ball is coming up on Saturday November 14th hosted by Tony Mancarella. I'm sure it will be a sellout so make your reservation early! See the flyer later in the newsletter for details.

Briscola Card night resumed on Monday November 2nd. The bar is open on Monday's from 6:00PM to 8:30PM. Come on out and join the fun. If you don't know how to play, an experienced members will teach you! If you're not a card player, come out, have a drink and watch sports on TV. 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.
The NIDO site** (check it out) **has Italian references and IC cultural stuff categorized for us.

2026 PROGRESSIVE BALL NOVEMBER 14TH - PAYMENTS FOR SEATS/SPONSORSHIPS DUE BY NOV 3RD

MEETING NIGHT HELPERS NEEDED - PLEASE VOLUNTEER
If you can assist with **tickets sales and setup** text or call: Lou Piro at 845-629-8905 or email at: **lgpiro@hotmail.com**
If you can assist with **kitchen and cleanup** text or call: Tom Viani at 914-475-6374 or email at: **tlviani@aol.com**

If you want nice **Italian Center shirts**, Heroes T-Shirt will make them for you! The store in Hopewell is closed but the company still exists! Contact John at (845) 625-8149; he will make embroidered shirts as you like with the IC logos!

In October we traditionally gather around our statue of Columbus to **honor all deceased members**. Names of **some** deceased are already engraved on its pedestal; THERE IS ROOM TO ADD MORE! The more names in a batch, the less each costs! Let's **form a new batch - sponsor deceased members/your family ASAP - submit names to Lou Piro, president@theitaliancenter.com**!

AT NOVEMBER 3 MEETING NIGHT CANDIDATES FOR BOARD POSITIONS ANNOUNCED/SOLICITED
Elections for 3 board seats in December. Nominations will be presented and solicited at Nov 3rd Meeting.
Interested in being on Board? Contact George Harnen, Nomination Chair, poppygeo39@optonline.net, before meeting night.

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Special Business - Meeting Minutes Report (October 2026)

President (Lou Piro): Lou offered a moment of silence for Walter Corrado. He also said that after the meeting we will convene outside in front of the statue for our annual ceremony to pay respects to our members that passed in the last year.

Chairperson of the Board (Ray Pantaleo): None

1st Vice President's Report (Franco Giangrasso): Clean out storage unit / Trailer – Franco, Vince – This is done. Items were thrown out or put in Bottini storage.

2nd Vice President's Report (Vince Murray): [**Volunteers Needed Please See List Below**.] There were multiple fixes that needed to be done last month [Editor: thank goodness we have devoted members like Vince to her them done].

Treasurer's Report (Tom DiGovanni) and Financial Secretary (Ron Knapp): In the black.

Membership (Ron Knapp/Paul Waldbillig) Initiated: Domenick Bizzaro (*Tony Daniele)* **Balloted and Approved:** Don Vizioli (*Geraldine Brucale*) **Read**: Joseph A. Franco (*Carmine Melilli and Ed Cefarelli),* Anthony Nacerino *(Bobby Villone*)

Marketing/Advertising (TBD**)**: [Editor: also see Marketing Committee Report]: Position Vacant Please Volunteer.

Wellness (Sal Polizzotto): None.

Victor Bacile Scholarship (Paul Waldbillig): Paul stated that the final numbers for the golf tournament are in. We raised even more than last year's substantial number. Paul thanked the whole committee again. Paul stated that seven students applied and the applications are with the independent committee being evaluated.

Planning Board (Tony Mancarella): The Progressive Ball is November 14th. There are already people who signed up for tables and donors. The honorees are Matt Aiello, Tony Daniele, Kirk Imperati, and Vince Murray. The dinner is $75 per person with cash bar. The dinner will be short ribs, chicken marsala, or salmon. There will be entertainment. Tony asked to have one captain per table as the contact.

Entertainment Committee (**Ray Pantaleo**): We gave a $100 donation for a Wappingers San Genaro festival that Al Cappelli investigated. Dinner Dance – Moe said that there was a lot of positive feedback. He thanked Lois and Christine for helping. Angela made all the flower arrangements and he thanked them. Moe also thanked Lou for allowing it to happen. He also thanked Ray for taking pictures and Tony Daniele for posting them to the newsletter. Lastly, Moe thanked Ernie for signing. These are some events: Bocce Tournament – Joe said the postponement for the weather decreased the numbers, but the event was a success. He thanked Lou, Moe, Anthony, and Paul. Bocce end of year party – October 13th. Joe stated that Moe Ricci's team won the season. Comedy Night – This will be on October 10th. Ray said people can still sign up. Progressive Ball. See above. Member's Christmas Part. Football Pool – Franco/Ray – There are still open slots.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Columbus Statue – Lou – Several members have asked about adding names to the statue. There are 16-20 open slots to put your name on the statue. If there are 5 or more, then the fee is $300 or $400. Lou will confirm the price. Moe took down the Elks Club star in the dining room ceiling to be donated to the Poughkeepsie Elks Club.

2026 THE ITALIAN CENTER'S 5TH YEAR OF LIFE IN ITS NEW DIGS! LET'S MAKE IT A GRAND 5TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

The 5th anniversary's ancient theme was 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 mission, briefly**:

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.

You Asked for Activities – We Got Them – Status to Date 2026

FEB 14TH, 2026, VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

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

MAY 1ST, 2026, SPRING DINNER DANCE

ANOTHER SUCCESS THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF MO RICCI AND HIS TEAM!

JULY 15TH, 2026, IWAGY PRESENTED WINES OF SICILY AND CAMPANIA

SUCCESSFUL FOR IWAGY HOWEVER NO CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDED

2026 TRIP TO SARATOGA SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH ALWAYS A MAGNIFICENT EVENT!

SUCCESSFUL GREAT FUN AND GREAT BARGAIN HOWEVER WISH MORE MEMBERS PARTICIPATED

SEPTEMBER 12TH FALL DINNER DANCE – MO RICCI

A ROUSING SUCCESS

OCT 3RD SAT. 2ND ANNUAL BOCCE TOURNAMENT & BARBEQUE - JOE PEDOTA

A FINE SUCCESS DESPITE ALL THE POSTPONEMENTS BECAUSE OF WEATHER – THANKS JOE

OCTOBER 6 MEETING NIGHT – ERNIE BRUNO'S SUMMER 100 CLUB RAFFLE DRAWING

YES! THERE WERE 4 WINNERS – 3 PEOPLE AND THE CLUB – THANKS ERNIE FOR ALL YOU DO!

OCTOBER 10 COMEDY SHOW/DINNER

A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS – THESE PICTURES SAY IT ALL



Let the "shoe" begin!

The food and the unpaid warm-up act were terrific! But the paid performers were out of sight!! If you missed it, you missed a good one! Thanks Ray, for all you do!

OCTOBER 13 BOCCE TEAMS' DINNER 6PM @ IC (BOCCE TEAM MEMBERS ONLY)

A NICE WRAP UP TO THE BOCCE SEASON! THANKS, JOE, FOR ALL YOU DO!

FOR EVENTS TO COME ***See*** *Entertainment Below for Details*

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

Submit Content Before	Publish By	Meeting Night
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	Tuesday, November 24, 2026	Tuesday, December 1, 2026
Tuesday, December 22, 2026	Tuesday, December 29, 2026	Tuesday, January 5, 2027
Tuesday, January 19, 2027	Tuesday, January 26, 2027	Tuesday, February 2, 2027
Tuesday, February 16, 2027	Tuesday, February 23, 2027	Tuesday, March 2, 2027
Tuesday, March 23, 2027	Tuesday, March 30, 2027	Tuesday, April 6, 2027

PLEASE HELP/ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO RECEIVE/READ NEWSLETTERS
(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!

Its **"Member Newsletter Submissions Section"** allows Members to share reminisces about the Club, relevant people, and to share knowledge of language and culture. Its **"Wellness Section"** allows Members to share fond memories of deceased members.

Remember this Pep Talk nestled in an Italian Lesson

Siciliano: "La manu curri spuntania a lu cori!"
Italiano: "La mano corre spontanea al cuore!"
Inglese/English (simply put): "Your hand runs according to your heart!"
Hidden Meaning: "Your work/actions reflect what is in your 'heart' (feelings/emotions)!"
In Context: "If we have a 'love' for our Casa Italiana we'll gladly volunteer to help-out if we can!"

Do your part! It takes a village! A house is a house – a HOME (casa) is what you make it!
Remember: L'unione fa la forza! – There is strength in numbers and unity!
and
Ogni cosa fa brodo – About anything can make broth – Every little bit helps – Do what you can!
IT IS A TEAM EFFORT! HELP MAKE OUR CLUB EVEN BETTER!

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!

ALSO SEE HTTPS://THEITALIANCENTER.COM/EVENTS/

>> NOV 14TH PROGRESSIVE BALL TONY MANCARELLA AMCHIRO1987@HOTMAIL.COM DETAILS/VOLUNTEER
PAYMENTS FOR SEATS AND/OR SPONSORSHIPS DUE BY NOVEMBER 3RD, 2026, MEMBER MEETING

Progressive Ball Flyer



>> DECEMBER ANNUAL MEMBER'S CHRISTMAS BUFFET

2027

>> JANUARY AT THE CLUB "THE RETURN OF JETS-GIANTS FOOTBALL PARTY" WITH PRIZES, A FUN EVENT HOSTED BY FRANCO GIANGRASSO & RAY PANTALEO

Marketing/Advertising Committee Report

We need a chairperson – This committee could be pivotable!

On Friday, September 26th, **our new and improved website** went live! Have you visited **www.theitaliancenter.com** to check out our fresh look along with a new online calendar of events? Have you visited the updated Member Only Portal!

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

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. Local "News" Media, & the Website and Newsletter Increase Their Penetration into the Community

Interested in bringing the Club into the light?
Join the Committee and/or share your ideas! Contact secretary@theitaliancenter.com!

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Do Your Part to Keep Our Social Media Living and Breathing!
Website | Facebook | Instagram
Have something to put in those or feel something is missing?
Send material or thoughts to the President or Secretary
president@theitaliancenter.com | secretary@theitaliancenter.com
And Don't Forget to Like Us on Facebook!

Dr. Victor A. Bacile Scholarship Award Program

The Program has awarded 131 scholarships valued at more than $279K to date 2025. Each 2026 Scholarship will be $4,000!
This program is only open to Italian Center members in good standing, their spouses, and their children.
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 Amy Bombardieri, Bob Civitano, Vinny Corona, George Harnen, Jeff Waldbillig, Al Cappelli, Bob DiLullo, Joe Pantaleo, Ray Pantaleo, Lou Piro, Mo Ricci, Paul Waldbillig, and Dr. Larry Zolnik

The 8/17/26 Bacile Golf Tournament Was a Rousing Success!

THE ITALIAN CENTER, THE PLAYERS, AND DONORS'/ BUSINESS SPONSORS HELP MAKE THE BACILE SCHOLARSHIPS POSSIBLE!
GRAZIE MILLE (MANY THANKS) TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND BUSINESS SPONSORS!

PERSONAL SPONSORS	BUSINESS SPONSORS - PLEASE THINK ABOUT USING THEM! The links provided are presumed safe and accurate, however, always use normal technical safeguards and due diligence when accessing links/conducting business.	
Ernie Bruno Al Cappelli Joseph Cavaccini, Wapp. Town Supervisor Vin & Barbara Corona Nick D'Assessandro, EF Supervisor Anthony DiLullo In Memory of Joe Fiacco The Foscaldi Family Sheriff Kirk Imperati Lou & Angela Piro Richard (Dick) Piro Jim and Ray Sabia Dr. John Sabia Silvestri Family In Memory of Berto Vecchiarelli Jeff & Stephanie Waldbillig Paul and Brenda Waldbillig	A&R Security Systems Arbor Capital Wealth Advisors ARTCPA Accounting Bottini Fuel BTA Builders CR Properties Dalleo Insurance Dunkin - Chen Management Group, Inc. Dutchess Diner DVM Industries Gold's Gym Hopewell Hot Bagels Firehouse Bottling - Hot Drama Hudson Rive Truck and Trailer IWAGY (Wine Connoisseurs) Joseph Small NW Mutal Ins. Justin LaFalce Real Estate	La Deliziosa Italian Pastries M&O Septic Services Mid-Hudson Limousine MMG Fire Equipment Mora Chiropractic Moe Ricci Electric Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery Prager Métis Advisors/Accounting Premier Medical Group Scott Marxer Insurance Siegrist Construction Small World Wealth Mgmt. Stenger, Glass, Etc, LLP (Family Law) Sweets Funeral Home Torsone Funeral Homes Van DeWater Attorneys Viscount Wines and Liquors Williams Lumber Wireless Edge Towers

Other Scholarship and Educational Opportunities

Our Dr. Bacile Scholarship is a perk for IC members' children and spouses. Here are few other scholarship opportunities:
Columbus Citizens Foundation * **National Italian American Foundation** * **UNICO Foundation**
National Organization of Italian American Women * **Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**
STUDY ABROAD U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

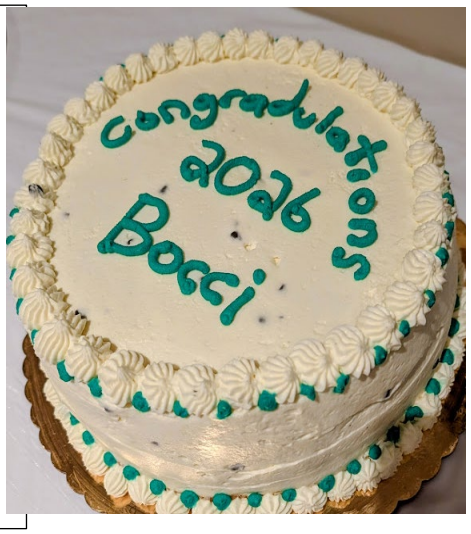
Every Monday Italian Card Nights Will Start On 2 November 2026
Will Replace Bocce Games (Ended 5 Oct 2026)
Cash Bar Will Be Open for Business Mondays When Games Occur
Chair: Card Night – Jack Castelli jjcastelli@aol.com 845-473-2917
But First Let's Close Out Bocce 2026

FIRST PLACE FOR THE 2026 BOCCE SEASON

An exciting final championship game, fought tooth and nail to the finish!
The electricity in the air was palpable, sparks flew, ground rumbled, lights flickered!
AND WHEN ALL WAS GROUNDED
THE 2026 BOCCE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING TEAM WAS THE ONE, THE ONLY….



M. Ricci Electric
1F Giuseppi Giangrasso
2F Captain Maurizio Ricci
3F Jeff Waldbillig
1R Joe Pedota
2R Vincent Murray
3R Chris Mark
4R Paul Waldbillig
Andy Endsley (not in pic)



OCT 3RD 2ND ANNUAL OPEN BOCCE TOURNAMENT & BARBEQUE - JOE PEDOTA

Was Fun and a Social Success Despite Weather Driven Rescheduling

OCTOBER 13 BOCCE TEAMS' DINNER 6PM @ IC (BOCCE TEAM MEMBERS ONLY)

A nice wrap up to the bocce season! Thanks, Joe, for all you do!

	Standings Through 10/05/2026				
	Italian Center Bocce League				
	Team	**W**	**L**	**GB**	**GP**
1	Moe	49	23	0	72
2	Santino	48	24	1	72
3	Gino	29	43	20	72
4	Jack	18	54	31	72
	Totals	144	144		288

M. RICCI ELECTRIC
MILANESE ITALIAN RESTAURANT
GINO'S PIZZA & RESTAURANT
JD'S PUB & BREW





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BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 2ND, MONDAY
BRISCOLA NIGHTS AT 6:00PM EACH MONDAY UNTIL SPRING



It's OK if you don't know how to play. More experienced players will be happy to teach you! All members are welcome to come regardless of whether they are playing! The bar will be open! Need more info? Well Smiling **Jack Castelli jjcastelli@aol.com** is your man!

NO gambling as it's a violation of our liquor license.

"GIOCANDO A CARTE" (PLAYING CARDS) IS A POPULAR ITALIAN SOCIAL PASTIME!
CARD GAMES LIKE BRISCOLA, SCOPA, AND SCALA 40 ARE PLAYED WITH REGIONAL CARDS.
AS A PRIMER, I OFFER SOME INSIGHT INTO THE SICILIAN VERSION OF THE CARDS AND BRISCOLA

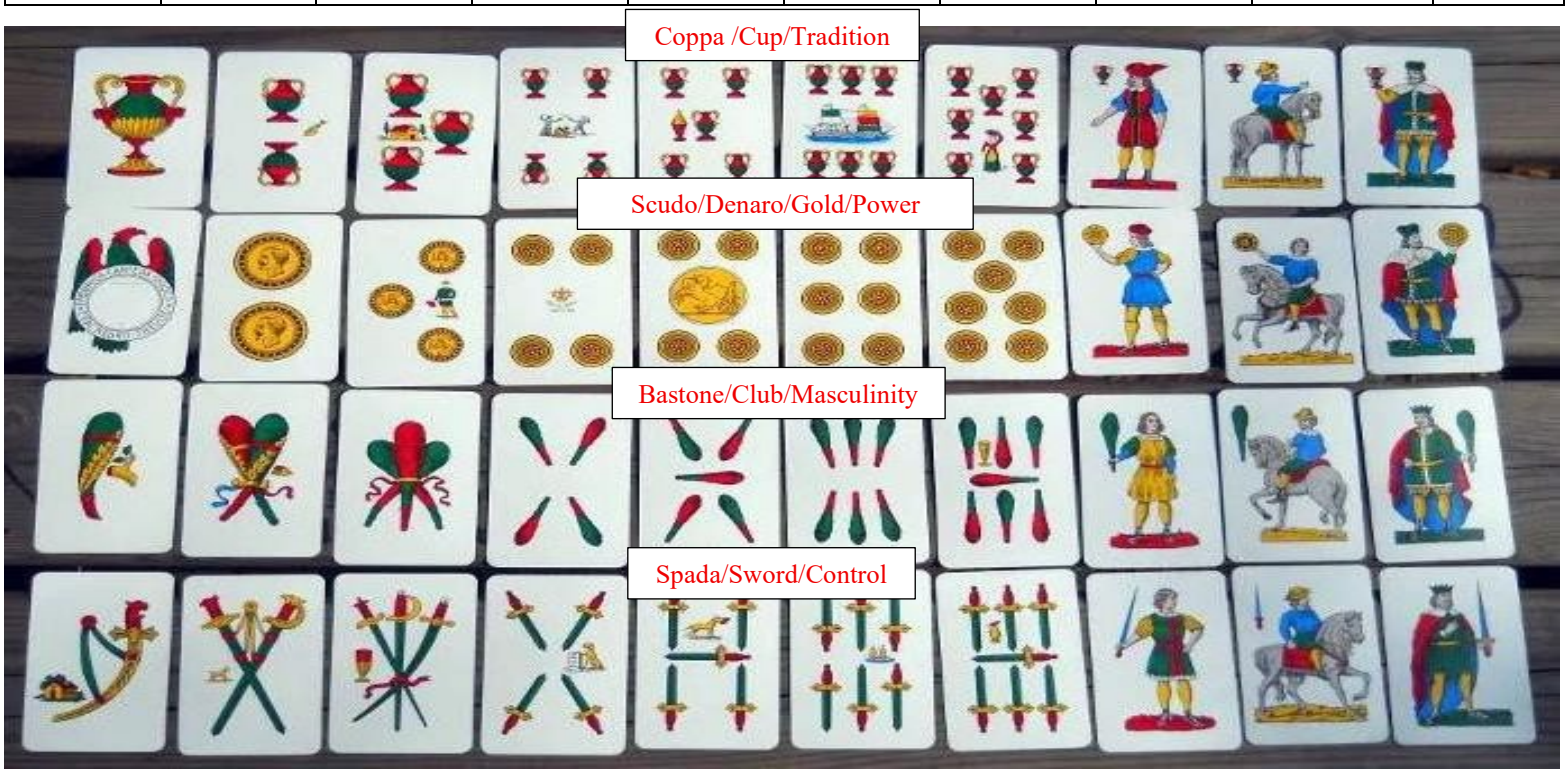
CLICK HERE FOR SECRETS OF THE SICILIAN CARD DECK

USAGE IN BRISCOLA

(NAME – POINT VALUE – SEME/SUIT: COPPA /CUP, SCUDO/DENARO/GOLD, BASTONE/CLUB, SPADA/SWORD)

SEMI (SEEDS in English) REFERS TO ITALIAN CARD DECK "SUITS" – DECK IS 40 CARDS - NO 8,9,10 – PTS 120

ASSO ACE	DUE TWO	TRE THREE	QUATRO FOUR	CINQUE FIVE	SEI SIX	SETTE SEVEN	FANTE REGINA BOY GIRL QUEEN	CAVALIERE HORSEMAN KNIGHT	RE KING
11/44	0	10/40	0	0	0	0	2/8	3/12	4/16



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 sofit
Mount No Parking signs in front of the building
Mount One way traffic signs in front of building
Paint Handicap ramp
Repair sidewalk





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Membership Committee Report

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 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

October 2026's New Members Initiated:



Domenick Bizzaro (*Tony Daniele)*

MAKE THE ITALIAN CENTER A FAMILY AFFAIR!

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!

Membership Dues Can Be Paid by Credit Cards or Cash at the Bar, Or Send Your Check To:
The Italian Center, Attn: Ron Knapp FS, 1195 Route 376, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

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 - Sick at Home or Hospitalized, Convalescing at Home or in Rehab

Residing at Assisted Living Facilities

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

Deceased Members (Within Recent Membership Cycle)



9/7/2026	Walter R. Corrado - 88	11/29/2025	Mario Bertolozzi - 95
3/27/2026	Paul Sebastian Mancarella - 71	11/5/2025	John M. Angiulli - 80
1/13/2026	Giulio Di Giacomo - 92	11/4/2025	John Bordi Jr. - 91
1/9/2026	Marquis G. "Marc" VanDeWater - 83	9/26/2025	Leonard Spinelli - 88
		8/10/2025	Carlo Marinaro - 66

Member Newsletter Submissions



Use this section to share fond memories of the Club, its members, or knowledge/experiences regarding our Italian/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!
This month let's explore something that Italian Americans and those of Italian descent might want to consider: our "kind", however well accepted today in USA, were once on the Ku Klux Klan's Most Wanted List!

PREFACE (I will make this a tad personal NOT to tell my family's story but to make my point real)

Between 1880 and mid-1920s, about four million Italian immigrants, mostly from southern Italy, came to the USA. Around then, about 1 in 15 people in the USA were Italian immigrants. Many of them (their families) had suffered the distain and prejudices of their northern Italian or foreign aristocrat "rulers" pre-Unification; then post-Unification from northern Italian aristocrats! For example, my maternal grandfather, though Casertano (Caserta close to central Italy), identified as, and spoke like, a Napoletano. He was conscripted into the Italian army and sent up North to be given hard cold jobs while northern Italian soldiers warmed themselves. As a young soldier, he experienced a profound lack of appreciation and a lot of degradation, simply because he was assumed from Italy's south. When they tried to conscribe him for a second time, being older and with children, he took his family and escaped to Poughkeepsie, New York. I use his story to make this point: many of us have "recent" roots to ancestors that came to "America" to escape prejudice and abuse. They came looking for a safer and more level playing field than their native Italy provided on which to build a better life for themselves and their families. Mostly the USA was better for them, but it was no Utopia! Italian immigrants frequently faced deep-seated prejudice, discrimination, nativism, and xenophobia from native-born Americans. Beginning in the late 1880s, anti-immigrant organizations emerged, and violence against immigrants, including lynchings of Italians, became more common. Notably, the Ku Klux Klan added Italian immigrants as a group to the list of groups that it persecuted. Additionally, many newspapers propagandized fear of and prejudice against Italian immigrants, insisting that Sicilians and other southern Italians were inferior to northern Europeans and people of northern European heritage. Prejudice against Italians, was becoming institutionalized. For example, in 1920/30s, my maternal uncle became a NYS Trooper "only" because Elenor Roosevelt (yes, the wife of FDR) went to bat for him (he was the nice Italian boy that delivered fresh meat to her Hyde Park household). Otherwise, an Italian American boy faced many "extra exclusionary" obstacles to joining the Troopers back then. And my father and his cousins had their vivid boyhood stories of Hudson Valley police picking on and abusing them simply for being "dagoes" (a derogatory term, along with "greaseball", that signified Italian/Latino and thus undesirable). America was not an instant Utopia nor always friendly to "our kind". By the turn of the 19th Century, the USA's mostly open immigration policy became exclusionary. The government's citizen criteria were almost solely based on ethnicity, gender, and class. By 1910 the culture of prejudice against Italians became codified, centralized, systematic, and bureaucratic. A large part of the reason associations like The Sons of Italy and The Italian Center were formed was to combat prejudice and give support to Italians in the face of discrimination. But NYC and surrounding areas including the "cold" Hudson Valley, with all its flaws, was a good for our Italian immigrant ancestors compared to other parts of the USA.

THE NEW ORLEANS LYNCHING OF 1891, THE HORRIFIC UNFATHOMABLE MASS LYNCHING OF ITALIAN AMERICANS

On October 15, 1890, New Orleans Police Chief Hennessy was walking home late at night when he was ambushed and shot by several assailants. At the scene, **he reportedly** used a derogatory slur against Italians and said that Italians had shot him. The rumor that Italians had shot Hennessy spread quickly, and the mayor ordered the police to immediately **arrest any Italians found out on the street**. **Hennessy could and did communicate in hospital**, **BUT he did NOT offer any information relative to his assassins**. **Hennessy died without confirming or denying rumors; no one asked him!** But the rumors intensified by inflammatory media coverage were all the community needed to condemn Italians. Police officers arrested hundreds of men of Italian heritage, some recent immigrants and others of Italian descent who were native-born Americans. Many were arrested simply because they were in the neighborhood where the crime occurred or because officers thought they looked suspicious. The mayor, known for his hostility toward Italian immigrants, appointed a "committee of 50," including many of the city's most prominent residents, to investigate Hennessy's murder. The committee ultimately failed to uncover any conclusive evidence linking the accused men to the crime. Despite the lack of evidence, 19 "Italian" men were indicted for the murder of Hennessy, and nine of the accused went to trail. The jury acquitted six of the defendants because of insufficient evidence and were unable to come to a decision on three others, and 3 mistrials were declared. **Regardless of the verdicts, the judge sent all the men back to the prison** because there was still under indictment (without unquestionable evidence) of "lying in wait with intent to commit murder" pending against them. The next day, local newspapers published notices calling for "good citizens" to assemble at the Henry Clay Monument "to remedy the failure of justice in the Hennessy case". Hundreds of New Orleans residents, including attorneys, government officials, and other prominent citizens pursued the 19 "presumed innocent" prisoners in the prison where 11 met a horrific death in the hands of "1000 Good Upstanding True American Citizens and Christians" /s! **In 2019- 129 years later - LaToya Cantrell, mayor of New Orleans, officially apologized to the Italian American community in New Orleans for the lynching!**

BEFORE WE CLOSE THIS NEWSLETTER - LET'S VISIT AND REFLECT ON OUR ANCESTRY (HOW TO RESEARCH)

This article was submitted by Rosemary Sepe Neilson (non-member) a retired schoolteacher, entertainer, and brilliant person. She is the daughter of the late Vincent Sepe Sr. Vincent was born around 1893 in Fondi (Lazio) Italy, about 1 hour North of my Alife in Caserta (Campania). Emigrating to Millbrook, NY he and his children became prominent local figures in Millbrook and beyond. Rosemary submitted this article because she and her brother were into researching their ancestry; being a teacher, she wanted to share some of the **how to research your ancestry locally and economically** that she learned. **Grazie Rosemary**!

Interest in genealogy in America began sporadically in the mid 70's following the release of Roots, Alex Haley's book, and subsequent video series. However, it was in the 90's that a tsunami of passion to know their families' origins drove many people to research such. That need-to-know fervor, in combination with the rapidly advancing technology of the period, resulted in an astronomical number of websites, books, how to manuals, blogs and other genealogy-oriented vehicles dedicated to assisting all searchers. The profit-making potential was not lost on producers of research aids. Two aids seem to be the most patronized: ANCESTRY.COM and FAMILYSEARCH.ORG. **To help you to save $$ using these resources, I offer you this article!**

Eventually, everyone will likely use, in whole or in part, ANCESTRY.COM. It began as a genealogy publishing company of magazines and books in 1983, launching its official website in 1996. Over time, it expanded its services to include tracking family DNA, and it keeps up with technology. Its membership fees generally correspond to usage, but **Poughkeepsie area residents may access ANCESTRY.COM free of charge through local Dutchess County Library's computer services** Just call the Adult Reference & Information Desk, Adriance Memorial Library (845) 485-3445, extension 3702, to determine eligibility and the protocol.

A second much-frequented genealogy source is FAMILYSEARCH.ORG. This is the genealogy website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Often called the Mormon Church, its main location is in Salt Lake City, Utah where it houses the largest repository of genealogical and family history records in the world. In Poughkeepsie, its member church is located at 204 Spackenkill Road 12603 where the **Dutchess County Genealogical Society** also maintains an office in the church's Family History Center. Contact information for the church is listed as 845-462-2470. The DCGS phone number is listed as 845-462-6909, with hours on Tuesdays from 9 AM to 1 PM. While FAMILYSEARCH.ORG is a very well organized and well-maintained website, you can obtain personal, firsthand assistance by making an appointment with a DCGS or Family History Center member. The DCGS 845-462-6909 is only answered when the library is open. Otherwise, for appointments, call, or text Karina Hoff at 480-229-2191, or Karin at 845-337-6305 (similar names but two different people). **NOTE**: a representative of the LDS Church stated that substantial additions have been made recently to the Italian collection.

Aside: One researching Italian family history should know this: prior to 1809 the Roman Catholic Church was the initiator and keeper of vital records. If a church burned to the ground (an all-too-common occurrence) significant community history would be lost forever! After 1809, most of what we now call Italy became the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy. The hegemony of the Napoleonic government made the keeping of vital records a mandatory civil function! Thus, records of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, etc., though probably initiated by the Church, were officially kept and controlled in civil facilities after 1809. Point being, accurate family history prior to 1809 is OFTEN lacking; thereafter, not so bad. [**Editor**: A link www.italymondo.com to help you get to Italy and research]



SOMETHING INTERESTING IN ROME – A MUST SEE IF YOU ARE THERE FOR RESEARCH OR PLEASURE

THE BASILICA OF SANTA MARIA AD MARTYRES PANTHEON IN ROME

HTTPS://WWW.PANTHEONROMA.COM/EN/HOME-ENG/

This amazing ancient structure, commissioned by Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa, during the reign of Cesare Augustus, was built on the site of an earlier temple. The present building was completed by the emperor Hadrian and was probably finished circa 126 AD. It is amazing for many reasons: historical. architectural, artistic, philosophical, etc. The link above can take you on a tour, but herein I share an aspect that a friend in Rome shared graphically with me. The building itself is a "meridiana" (a sundial) while not looking like one! My friend makes as a hobby lawn sundials, with accuracy and precision. He lives in Rome and he sent me these pictures that he took at the Pantheon recently. **I bet you can guess what time it was! Yup! Era l'ora di pranzo/mezzogiorno (12:00PM)!**



Contact List

(Return Top)





Casa Italiana of Dutchess County dba "The Italian Center"
1195 Route 376, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 USA
Phone (845) 454-1492 (Leave Message)

Facebook | Website | Membership

For General Concerns and Comments: president@theitaliancenter.com
For Membership Questions and Concerns: membership@theitaliancenter.com
For Technical and/or Web Support: support@theitaliancenter.com

Board of Directors	**Email**
Chairman - Ray Pantaleo (Elected 2025)	board@theitaliancenter.com
President - Lou Piro	president@theitaliancenter.com
1st Vice President - Franco Giangrasso	vicepresident1@theitaliancenter.com
2nd Vice President - Vincent Murray	vicepresident2@theitaliancenter.com
Treasurer - Tom DiGovanni	
Secretary - Paul Waldbillig	secretary@theitaliancenter.com
Director - Jack Castelli	jjcastelli@aol.com
Director - Mark Palazzolo	map5662@yahoo.com
Director - Tom Viani	tlviani@aol.com
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Membership - Al Tripoli	membership@theitaliancenter.com
Marketing/Advertising - TBD	advertising@theitaliancenter.com
Newsletter/Website - Tony Daniele	newsletter@theitaliancenter.com
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Bocce League - Joe Pedota	bocce@theitaliancenter.com
Card Night - Jack Castelli	jjcastelli@aol.com
Scholarship Golf Tournament - Paul Waldbillig	scholarshipgolf@theitaliancenter.com