**Membership** 

Currently, the membership of the Italian Center is between 650 and 700 male members. This includes approximately 250 Senior members who have achieved this special status by maintaining 20 years of consecutive Membership and reaching age 65.

Presently there are two classes of Italian Center membership. A Regular Member and a Non-Italian Member. A Regular Member is a male of Italian birth or descent who is a citizen of the U.S. or who aspires to become a citizen of the U.S. A Non-Italian Member is the spouse of a woman of Italian birth or descent and who is a U.S. citizen.

## **Volunteer Program**

As in any organization, volunteering provides the member the opportunity to work with other members in the organization to reach common goals. It builds a spirit of camaraderie and It is wonderful to see members working together at various functions and events. Volunteers are needed to staff Provincial Nights, Golf Tournaments, and various club functions such as the annual 5-day Festa Italiana. There are also more labor driven activities that depend on volunteers such as outside landscaping, working in the kitchen, as well as electrical, plumbing, tiling, masonry and carpentry projects. Volunteers provide these and other skills that are needed to keep our facility and grounds in "tip-top" shape. It is most important, but not mandatory that all members be involved in our Volunteer Program. This is a great way for members to gain insight into the workings of the Italian Center and at the same time develop lasting relationships with brother members.

## Dr. Victor A. Bacile Scholarship Program

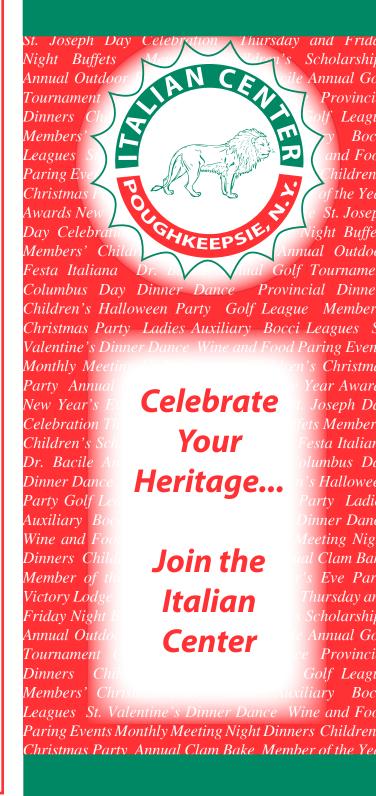
This Scholarship Program is available to children and dependents of members of the Italian Center. Each year 4 academic scholarships totaling \$8,000 are awarded to college students who are pursuing their studies at a college or university.

## Italian Center History Casa Italiana

To understand the history of the Italian Center one must be aware of the Italian people and their immigration to America. Between 1880 and 1920, approximately four million Italian immigrants traversed the Atlantic to the United States. These Italians came in search of the "American Dream". They were seeking a life that they could never have within the borders of poverty stricken Italy.

Originally, almost all of the Italian emigrants were men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. These Birds of Passage planned to remain in the U.S. for a year or two, and then return to Italy with money. By 1900, more and more of the immigrants were women and children. Families came with the hope of settling down in the United States and creating a new life that would be continued for generations to come. The new immigrants usually settled into cities such as New York City. Italians developed completely Italian neighborhoods, which slowly grew as more Italian immigrants arrived. These "little Italy's" blossomed in most of America's cities and Poughkeepsie was no exception.

For the most part, these immigrants were poor and semi-literate. Because of their traditions of hard work and frugality, pride forbade them from accepting public assistance. These Italians quickly formed into clubs and fraternal organizations that provided financial and job assistance to their members. These organizations also provided a social gathering place in which the culture, language and food of the mother country could be shared. Our Italian Center was such an organization and it continues to serve as one to this day.



## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

The Italian Center | 227 Mill Street | Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 | (845) 454-1492 | www.theitaliancenter.com

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Interests and Trades:</b>	Personal Information:
Name:	(please list your trades, interests and skills)	Have you ever been a member of the
Address:	Occupation/Profession:	Italian Center? Yes No When: Did you serve in the military? (US or another
	<u> </u>	country) Yes No Dates Served:
Town/City:	Applicant's Trades:	Type of Discharge:
State: Zip:		Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No If not, do you intend to pursue citizenship?
Home Phone:	Skills:	□Yes □No
Cell Phone:		Italian Heritage: Father's Full Name:
E-Mail:	Interests:	Mother's Maiden Name:
Date of Birth:		Wife's Maiden Name:
Spouse's Name:		Signatures:
Employer:	Are you willing to periodically volunteer your	Sponsor:
	services at the Center?	Print Name:
Employer's Address:	Yes □No	Applicant:
		Print Name:
	If yes, in what area/capacity?	For use by the review committee:
Employer's Phone:		Date Received Date Interviewed
	<del></del>	Date Read Date Balloted  Date Initiated Date Rejected
		Date Initiatea Date Rejectea Comments