



## OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

The Italian Center | 227 Mill Street Poughkeepsie NY 12603 USA | (845) 454-1492

[Facebook](#) | [www.theitaliancenter.com](http://www.theitaliancenter.com) | [Membership](#)

### Newsletter Committee Report

Members and Friends of the Italian Center... Let us celebrate our heritage, culture and traditions! Share with each other the many stories of our families, acknowledge the great contributions made by our ancestors throughout history and think of the many reasons why it is great to be an Italian American.

Come join us and celebrate being Italian... there are so many great events at the Italian Center. Thank you for the continued support! *Dylan Harris, Secretary*

### October/November - Events

**Friday Night Dinner 5:00 – 9:00 pm / Dancing 8:00 – 11:00 pm**

**October 4 - Jungle Love**

**October 11 - Cruise Control**

**October 18 - Midnight Image**

**October 25 - Chain Gang**

**DINE, DRINK & DANCE**

**November 15 - Jungle Love**

**November 22 - Midnight Image**

**For Reservations: 845-454-1492 Ext. 3 or [www.theitaliancenter.com](http://www.theitaliancenter.com)**

---

**September 30 - The Riverbank Banjo Band (6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Dinner/Music)**

**October 1 - Members Meeting Night (6:00PM) - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965**

**October 5 - Italian Heritage Celebration (11:00AM -2:00PM)**

**October 5 - Concert and Dinner: Chicago 9 Tribute Band (6:30PM - Dinner | 8:00PM - Show)**

**October 6 - Gregg's Classic & Custom Car - Alzheimer's Benefit (12:00PM to 5:00PM)**

**October 7 - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (6:30PM - Meeting) followed by PINK AUCTION**

**October 15 - Italian Movie Night (6:00PM - Doors Open | 7:00PM - Movie)**

**October 26 - 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Ball (6-7 PM - Cocktails | 7-11 PM - Dinner/Music)**

**October 27 - Pirandello Institute Dinner Night (6:00PM)**

**October 29 - Provincial Night: Lazio/Roma - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965**

**November 2 - Dinner and Show: Keith Dougherty "Bachelorette Party" (6:00PM)**

**November 4 - Members Meeting Night (6:00PM) - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965**

**November 5 - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (6:00PM) - Provincial Dinner (Sicily) - \$25.00**

**November 18 - Ladies Auxiliary Vendor's Fair (6:00PM)**

**November 20 - Pirandello Institute Dinner Night (6:00PM)**

**November 26 - Provincial Night: Bologna - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965**

Join us for **The Italian Center "Happy Hours"... Monday through Thursday 4:30PM to 8:00PM.** Special member pricing and a limited bar menu available!

## President's Letter

**Benvenuti!** On Sunday, October 6th, our fellow member Greg Francese will host the Second Annual Classic and Custom Car Show at the Italian Center. Once again a member of the Italian Center is hosting an event that will benefit the community, specifically the Alzheimer's Association, so come on down to the Center on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> and enjoy a great car show.

Another way the Italian Center has helped the community has been the Center hosting the Riverbank Banjo Band, a nonprofit organization that plays old-time classics, jazz, pop, blues and all-American favorites. The Band played at Umberto's Mamma Marissa for years and is looking for a new home. We must thank Ernie Bruno, who was very instrumental in making this happen. Without Ernie's help we would not have this opportunity to offer our facility in downtown Poughkeepsie. The Italian Center has always helped charitable organizations in our community, especially when it involves mutual benefit. (see below).

On Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> we will host a Dinner/Concert featuring the Chicago 9 Tribute Band. This fantastic music ensemble has played the Center before and we are very happy to have them back. Please make your reservations well in advance since we expect an enthusiastic response.



On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Keith Dougherty Manhattan Murder Mystery Group will put on "The Bachelorette Party" with dinner/show and dancing. Doors will open 6:00 PM. Since October is Italian Heritage month, we will

begin the month celebrating Columbus and our heritage with a presentation and lunch at the Center on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. Several years ago, we combined our annual Columbus Day dinner dance with the annual Progressive Ball. This year our 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Ball will honor two members for their outstanding contributions to our Club (see more herein).



Italian-American Heritage Month is an annual designation observed in October. During this time, we celebrate the Italian-American culture, and spread the word about the traditions that come with it (see more herein).

Italian-Americans have made many contributions to the United States, especially in art, humanities, and sciences. In 1880, Italians began migrating to the U.S. to flee rural poverty in southern Italy and Sicily, and today, Americans of Italian descent are the nation's fifth largest ethnic group. If you have Italian in you, make sure your family history, traditions, and values stay alive.

One way to do this is to continue your membership in the Italian Center and encourage others such as members of your family and friends to join the Italian Center. This is the time to celebrate your heritage, so come on down to your Club, the Italian Center, for dinner and a glass of wine. While you're there, remember to take a few pictures of how you choose to celebrate Italian Heritage month, and post on social media. We're anxious to see how you bring forth a slice of Italy. **Franco Giangrasso, President**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Letter

With summer vacation behind us, we are beginning to see an increase in Club activity. In addition to our Friday night dinner and dancing, we continue to have Happy Hour for Members from 4:30PM to 8:00PM Monday through Thursday with member pricing in effect. We are also offering a limited bar menu on these evenings.

On Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, we will host one more dinner and show with the Riverbank Banjo Band from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Buffet Dinner and Music is \$20 and for only the Music, there is a \$10 Cover Charge.

For the month of October, we will cater the following organizations: PHS Class of 1959 Reunion, FDR 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Pulaski Day, Children's Medical Association, Arlington Teacher's Lunch, Kelly Cromwell Wedding, Sports Museum Dinner, The Coterie Lunch and Fashion Show and the Pirandello Institute.

**October is Italian Heritage Month** and we will recognize our heritage with a special ceremony/luncheon on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 2PM.

Our **85<sup>th</sup> Progressive Ball** will be held on **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**. We will honor two members of our Club for their outstanding contributions to the Italian Center over the years. These two gentlemen, Joe Giangrasso and Vincent Corona are well known to many of our members, and we owe them our thanks and appreciation for all that they do to help make our Club successful.

***Tis the Season...*** well not quite, but it is the season to plan your business or organization Christmas or Holiday Party, and what better place than the Italian Center, ***The Gem of Downtown Poughkeepsie***.

Please call and let us help you plan your memorable holiday events... ***Nick Conte, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

## Secretary's Letter

As always, we hope our newsletters provide not only information on upcoming events but also deeper insights into the heart of the Club – its Membership and its Spirit.

We appreciate your continued support and value your input/feedback... ***Dylan Harris, Secretary***

## Ladies Auxiliary - President's Letter

Ciao miei amici del Ladies Auxiliary!

Our next meeting will be held at 6:30 on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be a shortened meeting to allow us to hold our annual Pink Auction which Marie Netti has done a terrific job in organizing. Our Pink Auction is close to many of our members as it helps support Miles of Hope which is dedicated to fund support services and outreach for people affected by breast cancer. Many of our members are breast cancer survivors and know all too well the reality of what breast cancer can do physically, emotionally and financially.

Pari Forood, the Executive Director of Miles of Hope, will be at this meeting to say a few words and kick off the auction. Please make an effort to attend the meeting, come early and bring a "Pink" themed gift to auction off. In the past, members have contributed items such as jewelry, kitchen supplies, children's toys, desk-top items and everything in between. Let's make this year better than the last.

On Tuesday, September 16, we showed "Benvenuto Presidente" at our Italian Film Night. Those who came were laughing out loud at this wonderful comedy which ended up being a romance. Think about coming to one of these films. Although they are subtitled, they are not hard to follow and you don't even realize you are drawn in and it's in Italian. The next film to be held on October 15 is "Lazzaro Felice" ("Happy as Lazzaro").

**Italian Center Ladies Auxiliary  
proudly presents**

**Annual Pink Auction**

**to benefit**



**Open to the public**

**Date: Monday 10/7/19**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Italian Center, 127 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie**

**Cash bar**

**Auction purchases must be paid  
that evening.**

**All auction purchases paid by  
check (made out to Miles of  
Hope) will be mailed a  
tax receipt from Miles of Hope.**



On Sunday, September 22, we brought back our annual Card Party and it was a success. There was a terrific door prize included in the \$10 cost along with snacks, pizza and Cannoli and Cappuccino. Anita Cillo and Lucy Belmonte brought in some of their famous baked goods as well. The prize table was filled with wonderful donations and all who attended were able to participate in a Chinese Auction. I wish more members would have attended this great Sunday afternoon get-together. Thank you, Anita for your hard work in putting this Card Party together. We are looking forward to the next one.

Please remember to join us on Saturday, October 5 as we celebrate Columbus Day with a wreath-laying at the Christopher Columbus Statue in front of the Italian Center and enjoy our Italian-American Heritage Luncheon after. This year we have the pleasure of Christopher Columbus (Lou Gallo) speaking to us. This is a note from Lou:

“The title of my performance is “Christopher Columbus: Misconceptions Debunked.” I dress as Columbus and act in the first person as if I am really him. I take every single misperception, misconception, and distortion about Columbus and his legacy and debunk them with historical facts from authors who have written positive works about Columbus, his records, other historians, and witnesses on the voyages. I get really passionate about all of this, and you’ll witness that.”

Lou is a retired history teacher and this will be a very interesting and enjoyable experience with luncheon to follow. This could also be a great learning experience for children, young and old alike. Please consider joining us for this special event on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.

Our November meeting will start at 6:00 and we will be holding our Provincial Dinner after. The province of Sicily will be highlighted and dinner will cost \$25.00.

Our annual Vendor Fair, organized and hosted by Gloria Fiore will be held on Monday, November 18. This will run from 6:00 to 9:00 and is open to the public. Please come by and start your Christmas shopping early.

A Presto... *Toni Ann Perry, President, Ladies Auxiliary*

## 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](mailto:membership@theitaliancenter.com).

If you or someone you know would like to join, click the following to access the [Membership Application](#).

Please contact Nick Liguori at [nfliguori@yahoo.com](mailto:nfliguori@yahoo.com) or call 845-309-2054 to help with the Membership Committee and/or provide ideas on how to attract and sustain good Members.

Along these lines I offered these ideas last month and again I'll highlight:

**ASK SOMEONE TO JOIN OUR CLUB**

**ASK SOMEONE TO ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTER**

**BECOME AN ITALIAN CENTER BOOSTER**

**GET SOMEONE TO READ OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

The Club wants to be something special in the lives of its members and the community – get involved – make it happen – **it can and should be Great!**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



The membership of the Italian Center would like to welcome our newest members! We are all very pleased that you joined our club and hope you participate and volunteer in the many activities and events. We also hope you bring your family and friends to your club and sponsor some new members. A special thanks to our current members who told you about our club and sponsored your membership.

**Congratulations to all our new members for becoming the best part of our club, the membership!**

## Wellness Committee Report

### Convalescing at Home

Jospeh Giangrasso | Carmine Iadarola, Jr. | Giulio DiGiacomo | Sheldon 'Jiggs' Vetter

### Residing at Assisted Living Facilities

Vincent Gabriele | Joe Dolce | Joseph Petito

### Deceased

Anthony F. "Tony" Comunale



### Deceased Members October 2018 – September 2019

Anthony Comunale | Edward Kirby | Forrest Cousins | Lawrence Natoli  
John Fiore, Sr. | Louis Nazzaro | Salvatore Gallo | Anthony Stortini | Americo Imperatore



**Anthony F. Comunale** passed away Monday, September 16, 2019 at home surrounded by family. Tony was born in Bangor, PA, the son of the late Frank and the late Mary Patti Comunale. **We honor our deceased member who was always willing to serve with a smile, enthusiasm, energy and intelligence.**

It is with great sadness, sincere respect and a tear in our eye that we must report the death of Tony Comunale. Although Tony was 90, his passing was mostly unexpected. Indeed, he just celebrated at his beloved Italian Center his 90<sup>th</sup>. Active, helpful, chipper - we thought he'd live forever. Hoped he would.

Tony received his Masters of Education Degree from Columbia University. He also attended SUNY New Paltz taking classes for his PHD. After attending school, Anthony went into the United States Army serving in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armor Division.

In 1953, Tony married Catherine Comunale in Pocono Summit, PA., who predeceased him December 15, 2004.

Tony was a local resident since 1960 where he was the Director of Guidance at Poughkeepsie High School from which he retired June 30, 1987. After retirement, Tony worked as an Education Consultant for Dutchess County BOCES.

Tony was very involved in the Italian Center where he served in many committee positions and leadership positions such as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Tony was also the past President of the NYS Vocational Guidance Association, NYS Professional and Guidance Association and Executive Council. Tony was also a member of St. Martin de Porres Church and served as a Lector at Sunday Mass.

Tony loved to golf, loved to dance every Friday night at the Italian Center and enjoyed building furniture as a hobby.

Tony is survived by his daughters Dawn Cox and her husband Nicholas of Poughkeepsie, NY. Deborah J. Comunale and her wife Bonnie of Heartland, Texas, grandchildren Brian P. Middleton Cox and his husband John Middleton Cox, and Daryl J. Cox and his wife Angela, six great grandchildren and a brother Carmen Comunale of Easton, PA.

As a member of Poughkeepsie's Italian Center, Tony Comunale exemplified outstanding character; his participation represents all the Italian Center stands for: our Italian heritage, our involvement in the community, and friendship. No task was too small or too great for Tony. When it came to raising money for the Italian Center, Tony's enthusiasm encouraged others to share his love for our organization.

He coined the term "*The Italian Center, the Gem of Downtown Poughkeepsie*", in truth **he was the Gem**. Tony was a dear friend to us and the Club and he will be dearly missed.



*RIP Tony,  
sempre ti penseremo  
affettuosamente*

## Advertising Committee Report

Thank you to the below advertisers for their generous support which helps the club provide our members and community with many Italian events and activities. We encourage our membership and all readers of our newsletter to support these great businesses. Full advertisements can be viewed in the Patrons and Supporters section of this newsletter and also viewed on [www.theitaliancenter.com](http://www.theitaliancenter.com).

[FRIENDLY AUTO GROUP](#) | [MICHAEL TORSONE MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME, INC.](#)

[WILLIAM G. MILLER & SON FUNERAL HOME, INC.](#) | [SEVEN BRIDGES WEALTH ADVISORS](#)

[PRIME WEALTH MANAGEMENT](#) | [ARTHUR DEDOMINICIS, CPA](#) | [CR PROPERTIES GROUP](#)

[ADRIANA GALLO - INSURANCE AGENT](#) | [LOUISE MARCIGLIANO, LCSW](#)

[MILTON HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLY](#) | [SABIA AUTO EXCHANGE](#)

[HYDE PARK BREWING COMPANY](#) | [LEWIS & GREER, PC](#)

For advertising information, please contact Nick Liguori at [nfliguori@yahoo.com](mailto:nfliguori@yahoo.com) or call 845-309-2054.

## ITALIAN CENTER ADVERTISING FORM

For over a century, the Italian Center has served many members and the local community. It's a well-known Club that celebrates Italian customs, traditions and cultural heritage. Beyond that, it hosts events and provides activities that serve the public at large. Many directly and through our public newsletter and websites have contact with the Club.

Your advertisement will be seen by our members and the public on "www.theitaliancenter.com" and in our monthly newsletter. These things are "online" and a link to your website will be provided. We strongly encourage our members, families, friends and the public to consider our advertisers. Please consider an ad in our publications/website. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Liguori, 845-309-2054 or [nfliguori@yahoo.com](mailto:nfliguori@yahoo.com).

Advertisements are priced accordingly based on a ¼ print page being about 14 sq. inches in the Newsletter:

For 12 months: Quarter (¼) Page is \$100, Half (½) Page is \$200, Full Page is \$400

(Actual sizing may vary on the website with user settings, etc.)

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your ad copy including graphics and this information and your payment to:

The Italian Center (Attn: Advertising Chairman), 227 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

### Booster Committee Report

The membership of the Italian Center would like to thank the following Boosters who have contributed to our club so we can continue to provide many activities and events to our members and community.

**Thank you to all who have joined our Boosters, we recognize your generous contributions!**

David and Anita Freer (\$100)

Tony and Elizabeth Daniele (\$100)

Umberto and Lisa Vecchiarelli (\$100)

Harry J. Stellar (\$100)

Anonymous (\$250)

Vincent and Barbara Corona (\$100)

Nick Liguori and Family (\$100)

John Bordi and Family (\$100)

Anonymous (\$100)

**If you would like to join our Boosters, please send a check for \$100, along with your name, phone, email and the name you would like listed to the Italian Center.**

All boosters and contributions will be listed for one year in our monthly newsletters.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name to Appear of Booster List: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: The Italian Center (Attn: Booster Chairman), 227 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

## Provincial Night Committee Report

Our Provincial Nights are a great experience and have become a tradition here at our club, it's one of the many ways we come together and celebrate our culture... Join us at the next one, you won't be disappointed!

Region	Province	Date	Chairman
Calabria	Catanzaro		Pat Fasolino
Abruzzo	Pescara		Franco Giangrasso
Campania	Napoli		Franco Giangrasso
Puglia	Bari		Franco Giangrasso
Sicily	Tutte		Franco Giangrasso
Toscany	Firenze		Franco Giangrasso
Lombardy	Milano		Franco Giangrasso
Veneto	Venezia		Franco Giangrasso
Liguria	Genovese		Franco Giangrasso
Lazio	Roma	10/29/2019	Franco Giangrasso
Emilia-Romagna	Bologna	11/26/2019	Franco Giangrasso

Provincial Nights (Le serate provinciali) are amazing! Your place at the Table Awaits!

For reservations, please call **Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965**

<http://www.comuni-italiani.it/index.html>

<https://www.tuttocitta.it/>

## Super 150 Club Fundraiser

Italian Center Members, Ladies Auxiliary Members and Friends of the Italian Center...

### ***THE SUPER 150 CLUB IS BACK!***

I am pleased to announce the 22nd Annual Club drawing for this year. Just like last year, the "Super 150 Club" will offer only 150 tickets at \$150 per ticket.

We will be offering **12 cash prizes totaling \$11,250: 1st Place Prize \$5,000, 2nd Place Prize \$2,000, 3rd Place Prize \$1,000, Four (4) 4th Place Prizes of \$500 each, Five (5) 5th Place Prizes of \$250.** All the net proceeds go to the Club's Building Fund.



Each year through the efforts of the committee members this event has been a “sell out” so get your tickets early. **All drawings will take place at the Italian Center on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 8:00pm.** You do not need to be present to win.

As always, we would like to thank you and our Italian Center Friends for your continued support and wish you the very best of luck in this year’s “Super 150 Club” drawing.

**If you would like a ticket, all you need to do is contact me at 845-379-0220 or at [ray@raichelawfirm.com](mailto:ray@raichelawfirm.com) or Mark Webber at 845-235-2116 or [golfpres1959@aol.com](mailto:golfpres1959@aol.com).** You can also speak with any “Super 150 Club” committee member to purchase a ticket or you can get one at the bar, or on Provincial or Meeting night.

GET YOUR  
TICKETS NOW

Remember, twelve tickets are going to win. Why not yours?! As the old saying goes: **You’ve Got To Be In It To Win It...** *Ray Raiche - Chairman, Super 150 Club*

## The Riverbank Banjo Band

For 15 years, the Riverbank Banjo Band was a Monday Night staple at Umberto’s Mamma Marissa in Poughkeepsie. That ended in late June, when Umberto’s became a catering only business, closing down its restaurant on Route 9.

As the Band explores options for its new “residency”, it has performed at the Italian Center on Monday nights from 7 – 9 PM with its last performance on Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6:00 pm with cover of \$10 for music only or \$20 for buffet dinner and music (plus tax and gratuity). Doors open at 6:00 pm. Of course, “Happy Hour” for members will already be in process.

Not familiar with the Riverbank Banjo Band? They play “mostly old-time favorites from the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, and mix in polka, jazz standards, sing-a-longs and a little bit of country and blues on occasion. The Band is truly like a family with teen age children playing along with their parents who have been members for years. Riverbank Banjo Band is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year of music-making with members ranging in age from 10 – 85.

Established as a nonprofit organization, Riverbank Banjo Band has donated more than \$260,000 to local charities over the course of four decades. Nobody in the band is paid; all proceeds are returned to the community. As Standfordville resident Danielle Sundburg said, “Band members research charities in their local communities and they make donations to as many charities as they are able each November. “It’s a real joy to be able to share our music with audiences, which is a thrill on its own, and then to be able to spread more joy donating to organizations in need. We couldn’t do it without audience support and we are thrilled about appearing at the Italian Center in Poughkeepsie on Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>.”



## 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Ball – Saturday, October 26th

The late 1800's and early 1900's saw the growth of the Italian population in the Poughkeepsie/Dutchess County area. People left the confines of New York City for the openness of the country, where work was plentiful in the construction trades, railroads and bridge building. Seeking a means of association with their fellow countrymen, and preservation of their culture, two organizations were formed in 1889, The "Star of Italy", and the "Prince of Piedmont" societies.



Through the years several of these Italian social organizations coexisted in the Poughkeepsie area, each with its own agenda. Under the leadership of Vincent DiGennaro, the two organizations were combined into one group with the all-inclusive name "La Casa Italiana", ie. The Italian Center. They incorporated in 1934 with the aim of promoting fraternity, equality, justice and to improve the moral, physical, and cultural well-being of its members. The former home of the Progressive Society Lodge #1130, located at 227 Mill Street, a property purchased from Anna Valentine in 1928, became the "Italian Center". Hence, our recognition of the founders' Progressive Society Lodge has endured as the Annual Progressive Ball.

Consistent with the purpose of our organization, a scholarship fund was started in 1960 by member Dr. Vincent A. Bacile. Each year, members and their children can qualify for a financial award. A committee reviews the academic and service qualifications of candidates and selects the individuals to whom scholarships are awarded. Awards have been made annually since 1971 and this year we are offering three scholarships of \$3,000 to qualified individuals. The continued support of the Bacile Scholarship fund is a testament to the value placed on education by the Italian Center.

Over the years we have expanded our community involvement, sponsoring Little League and Senior League teams, golf tournaments, and community events. Some of our members are or have been involved in local government. We are proud to have Marc Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive, as a current member of our organization; as we have constantly sought to be an important asset to our community and country.

This year **we honor two of our outstanding members: Vincent Corona and Giuseppe Giangrasso** – both of which are well known and appreciated members of the Club and the community. We are honored to have them as longtime members and humbly give them honor they richly deserve.

### VINCENT CORONA

Vincent was born in Wappingers Falls to John and Emma Renzi Corona, who immigrated from a small city, Cave, in the province of Rome, Lazio. Vin visited Italy when he was sixteen and met for the first time his grandparents, many aunts, uncles and cousins. Through the years he has developed a great love for Italy, the language and things Italian.

Vin grew up in Wappingers Falls. His father died when he was three, leaving his mother with five children. From the age of twelve, Vin and his siblings helped their mother run a grocery store and bakery that was started by his father. The store was located on Fulton Street in Wappingers Falls.

After finishing high school, Vin was employed by IBM and attended Dutchess Community College at night. He worked for IBM for over 38 years and became a senior manager in accounting and finance.

He has been married to his wife, Barbara, for over 53 years. They have three children and three grandchildren and have been delighted in participating and watching the grandchildren grow up.

Since retirement, he and Barbara have taken many trips. Some of their favorite adventures have been rafting through the Grand Canyon, sailing around the Galapagos Islands and touring Machu Pichu in Peru. Vin has also taken each of his grandchildren on separate trips to Italy to tour the country and visit their ancestral hometown. Vin is an enthusiastic senior member of the Italian Center and has been a member for over 35 years. He has been very active with the Dr. Bacile Scholarship Fund, where he has served as the Scholarship Fund's president for multiple terms and the Fund's secretary for several years, a position he currently holds. For many years he has volunteered for the Center's annual Festa Italiana, a member of the Bacile Golf Tournament committee and has worked as a host at the Center's catered parties. He has also helped with writing and drafting articles for the Center's newsletter and is always ready to respond when asked to help his brothers at the Center.

Vin and Barbara continue to live in Wappingers Falls and are enjoying their senior years. They look forward to an annual winter sojourn in Florida, trips to Cooperstown for concerts, and to visits with their children and other family members whenever possible.

Vin always has a smile on his face and is anxious to please his Italian Center brothers. He truly is made up of the "glue" that holds the Italian Center together. He is a good friend to all who know him; he always stands ready to help and has always been an asset to our club.

### **GIUSEPPE GIANGRASSO**

Joe was born in Calatafimi, Sicily, Italy in 1939 and came to America with his father Diego and his brother Peter in 1955. Upon arriving in America, they temporarily resided with their Aunt and Uncle Prospero and Lena Giangrasso on the Old New Paltz Road in Highland. Within a few years they were joined by their mother Francesca and his three sisters Crocetta Mucci, Josephine Barone, and Vita Mesnick.

The first job he held was at Max's Drug Store located on Main Street in the City of Poughkeepsie where he worked as a counter clerk. In 1963 he was drafted into the US Army and served with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hawaii. While serving our country he worked hard receiving his high school diploma and becoming a US citizen. Joe advanced to the rank of Sergeant (E5) prior to receiving an Honorable Discharge.

When he returned to Poughkeepsie after serving in the US Army, he was employed by Western Printing and there he met his wife Joyce Wager of Clintondale. They were married in July 1966 in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Poughkeepsie. Joe and Joyce have two children Joseph, Jr and Diana. His son Giuseppe, Jr. is married to Dina Sapienza and they have 3 children Julianna 15, Vincent 13 and Jenna 11. They live in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Their daughter Dian is married to Frank Zanca and they have one daughter, Vivian, age 9, and reside in Milton.

Joe owned and operated a gas station and auto repair shop on the corner of Route 9 and Washington Avenue. Joe retained the business until the property was sold to NYS Department of Transportation to make improvements to Route 9 in the area of Marist College in 1973. Upon selling the property to the State he joined his brother Peter at county Carburetor and worked there for the next 15 years before being hired by Schatz Federal Bearing Company where he retired in 2009.

Joe an avid soccer player first joined the Center in 1955 to play on the Center's Soccer team. Throughout the years Joe had virtually worked tirelessly volunteering work at the Club. This was from volunteering in the kitchen, bussing tables at Provincial Night Dinners, setting up, taking down and working at the Annual Festa, working at Friday night dinners and dances. He has performed just about anything that he could do to help out at the Center.

Now that he is a little older and can't play soccer as he once did, he's found another favorite pastime at the Center and that's playing bocce. Throughout the years Joe has been both a member and captain of many of the Italian Center's championship Bocce teams.

Joe enjoys spending time with his grandkids and going on vacation in the summer to the shore where he totally enjoys fishing and crabbing. One of his favorite activities is to go crabbing with his family members (especially with his son-in-law Frank) return home, clean the crabs, make a great big pot of red sauce and enjoy the crabs with his family along with a nice dish of pasta.

## Italian Heritage - October 2019

On **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM**, we will hold the **Annual Italian American Heritage Luncheon and Wreath Laying** at the Christopher Columbus Statue **at the Italian Center**.

This year, we have the pleasure of Christopher Columbus (Lou Gallo) speaking to us. Lou is a retired history teacher, and this will be a very interesting and enjoyable experience with luncheon to follow after the presentation. This could also be a great learning experience for children, young and old alike.

Please consider joining us for this special event on **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM**.

[The Joe Di Maggio Lodge](#) of the Sons and Daughters of Italy invite the Italian Center membership and Ladies Auxiliary to participate in a project they are sponsoring for Italian Heritage month in October. In addition to their Pasta Night on 10/5 featuring their special guest, Cristoforo Colombo, **they will be collecting material relating to Italian culture and heritage for public display at the lodge** that evening. Donated material will also be displayed at 3 area libraries for the entire month, including the Adirondack in Poughkeepsie.



Material can be flat or 3-dimensional and may include statues, newspaper articles, photos, and travel brochures of local or national interest. Items for display must be submitted by August or early September to be considered and will be returned by November.

For more information, including requirements and dimensions of donated articles, please contact Gwen Tibbals at (845) 309-4358, (email [gwen.j.tibbals@gmail.com](mailto:gwen.j.tibbals@gmail.com)); or Lynn Phillips at (845) 224-6418 (email [lynn.phillips@inxpress.com](mailto:lynn.phillips@inxpress.com)).

## Newsletter Submissions

The information and links are provided by Editors, Members and Associates of the Italian Center:

**In Keeping with the Theme of October... Our Quest to Make it in America** (*Submitted by Tony Daniele*)

Years ago – before the internet – when you had to actually go to a store – perhaps a specialty store - to get literature that would inform/delight you, I would take the train to NYC to shop at S. F. Vanni, a bookstore in Manhattan's "Little Italy". There you could buy real Italian books (about 16,000 old to new titles were available) with advice from a real expert on the subject!

Sure, the local Marlboro Library had many books in Italian and even later VHS films, but if you wanted to own something special/newer in Italian with advice Vanni's was the place to get it.

Today the internet makes it easy to get whatever and Vanni's per se closed in 2004. In 2015 it was reincarnated within the modern umbrella of Centro Primo Levi in NYC (<http://primolevicenter.org/>).



But I bring up Vanni's not to discuss Italian literature sources or wax nostalgic about past shopping trips. Rather because the Vanni story is a story about how our immigrant families helped each other to become great



in a strange and sometimes bigoted Country. This October perhaps we should reflect on our past hope, dreams, and struggles so we can appreciate the similar ones of others today.

Mr. Vanni was from a small town in Sicily. He had the ambition to sell Italian books in America, and in 1884 he opened S.F. Vanni on West Broadway. About two hundred thousand peasants were arriving from southern Italy, by and large illiterate, and having to convert from agricultural workers to factory and construction workers.

They were not the sort of people who wanted to buy books being mostly illiterate. But Vanni recognized a need – “his paesani” needed his help. Vanni created a book – a sort of Sicilian-Italian-English dictionary – a masterpiece! Not as a work of literature but rather a construction manual for mostly illiterate Southern Italian peasants!

It taught them to recognize/understand key words etc. while illustrating how to build a straight wall, lay a roof, or hang a gutter. This printed work helped these immigrants to gain employment, assimilate, and grow. He also sold postcards, calendars, almanacs they could understand. He became their scrivener, writing/reading their letters, insurance claims, legal agreements. People trusted him – he was understanding, fair and honest; he was a godsent.

Our paesani needed help from more fortunate people; they in turned helped others. This motivated the founding of The Italian Center! Something to reflect on; something to continue in our lives.

**I am an Italian American** (*Submitted by Tony Daniele*)

The following is a poem by Angelo Biachi Esq. 1982...

I am an Italian-American. My roots are deep in an ancient soil, drenched by the Mediterranean sun, and watered by the pure streams from snow covered mountains.

My thoughts have been recounted in the annals of Rome, the poetry of Virgil, the creations of Dante, and the Philosophy of Benedetto Croce.

I am enriched by thousands of years of culture. My hands are those of the mason, the artist, the man of the soil.

I am an Italian-American, and from my ancient world, I first spanned the seas to the new world. I am Cristoforo Colombo.

I am Giovanni Caboto known in American history as John Cabot, the discoverer of the mainland of North America.

I am Amerigo Vespucci, who gave my name to the new world...America.

First to sail on the Great Lakes in 1679, founder of the territory that became the state of Illinois, colonizer of Louisiana and Arkansas. I am Enrico Tonti.

I am Filippo Mazzei, friend of Thomas Jefferson, and my thesis on The Equality of Man was written into the Bill of Rights.

I am William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

I am an Italian-American. I financed the Northwest Expedition of George Rogers Clark and accompanied him through the lands that would become Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. I am Colonel Francesco Vigo.

I mapped the Pacific from Mexico to Alaska and to the Phillipines. I am Alessandro Malespina.

I created the Dome of the United States Capital. They call me the Michelangelo of America. I am Constantino Brumidi.

In 1904 I founded in San Francisco, the Bank of Italy, now known as the Bank of America, the largest financial institution in the world. I am A. P. Gianinni.

I am Enrico Fermi, father of nuclear science in America.

I am the first enlisted man to earn the Medal of Honor in WWII. I am John Basilone of New Jersey. I am an Italian American.

I am the steelmaker in Pittsburgh, the grower in the Imperial Valley of California, the textile designer in Manhattan, the movie maker in Hollywood, the homemaker and the breadwinner in over 10,000 communities.

I am an American without stint or reservation, loving this land as only one who understands history, its agonies and its triumphs, can love and serve it. I will not be told that my contribution is any less nor my role as worthy as that of any other American.

I will stand in support of this Nation's freedom and protect it against its foes.

My heritage has dedicated me to this nation. I am proud of my heritage, and I shall remain worthy of it. I am an Italian American.

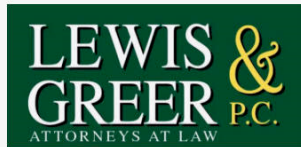


## Patrons and Supporters

Members and Friends of the Italian Center... The following patrons of our newsletter and website merit your consideration if you are looking for providers of goods and services. These patrons have established businesses and speak for themselves, but we do sincerely say their generosity and community spirit is reflected well in their support of our club. Again, please consider them when appropriate.

Thank you to the below patrons and supporters and much appreciation to our members and friends for considering these fine businesses and professionals.

Advertisements are linked to the patron's website, so please check them out and thank you for the support!



*Attorneys at Law*

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL REAL  
ESTATE;  
REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW;  
CORPORATE, COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS LAW;  
CONSTRUCTION LAW; MUNICIPAL LAW;

510 Haight Avenue, Suite 202  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603  
Phone: (845) 454-1200  
Fax: (845) 454-3315

LOU LEWIS  
J. SCOTT GREER

~

DYLAN C. HARRIS  
PHIL GIAMPORTONE

See our website at [www.lewisgreer.com](http://www.lewisgreer.com)



# Michael **TORSONE**

**Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.**



**Family Owned & Operated**

**Est. 1928**

**218 Mill Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
845-452-7700**

**38 Main Street  
Highland, NY  
845-691-2281**

**Anita Torsone Freer**  
*President*  
*Licensed Funeral Director*

**John M. Beck**  
*Vice President*  
*Licensed Funeral Director*

**James Childs, Jr.**  
*Licensed Funeral Director*



**Michael Torsone**  
*1890-1939*  
*Founder*



**PREARRANGEMENT  
COUNSELING  
AVAILABLE**

**[www.TorsoneMemorial.com](http://www.TorsoneMemorial.com)**



**HYDE PARK**  
BREWING COMPANY

**RESTAURANT AND BREWERY**

FINE FOOD • GREAT BEER • GOOD FRIENDS

**ANGELA LOBIANCO-BARONE • OWNER**  
4076 ALBANY POST ROAD • HYDE PARK, NY 12538  
845-229-8277 • WWW.HYDEPARKBREWING.COM


 **MILTON** EST. 1985  
**Hardware**  
& BUILDING SUPPLY

**DRIVE-THRU LUMBER YARD**  
**1837 RT 9W MILTON, NY 12547**  
**WWW.MILTON-HARDWARE.COM**

**JEFF PALADINO**  
jpaladino@milton-hardware.com

**845-795-5467**  
**CELL: 914-204-2282**  
**FAX: 845-795-2630**

DAVID W. FREDERICK, CLU, ChFC, CFP®  
President

**PRIME**   
RETIREMENT ASSET MANAGEMENT  
"WEALTH MANAGEMENT"

3344 Route 9 North  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
prime@yourretirement.com

845-454-9000 / 800-679-9009  
845-454-8609 fax  
www.yourretirement.com

Securities offered through National Securities Corporation (NSC) – Member FINRA/SIPC • Insurance services offered through National Insurance Corporation (NIC) • Investment Advisory Services offered through National Asset Management, Inc. (NAM) a Registered Investment Advisor – NIC, NSC & NAM are affiliated • Prime Wealth Management (PWM) and Prime Tax Planning Division (PTPD) are affiliated • PWM & PTPD are not affiliated with NIC, NSC or NAM

**ARTCPA**  
**Arthur DeDominicis**  
ACCOUNTANT & CONSULTANTS

- ACCOUNTING SERVICES -  
- INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE TAXATION -  
- FINANCIAL STATEMENT PREPARATION -  
- ESTATE & FINANCIAL PLANNING -

1100 ROUTE 9 FISHKILL, NEW YORK 12524  
(845) 298 1040 (845) 298 1120 ARTCPA.COM

# Why preplan with us?

If you appreciate peace of mind, you'll understand why it makes sense to preplan with us. We know of no other policies that work as this:

- Spares your family from making detailed decisions at an emotional time
- Ensures that wishes are expressed
- Prevents overspending and can lock in costs

We're experts at preplanning, and know all of the issues that may arise. Call us, you'll be glad you did.

**Wm. G. Miller and Son**

*Vincent J. Miller*

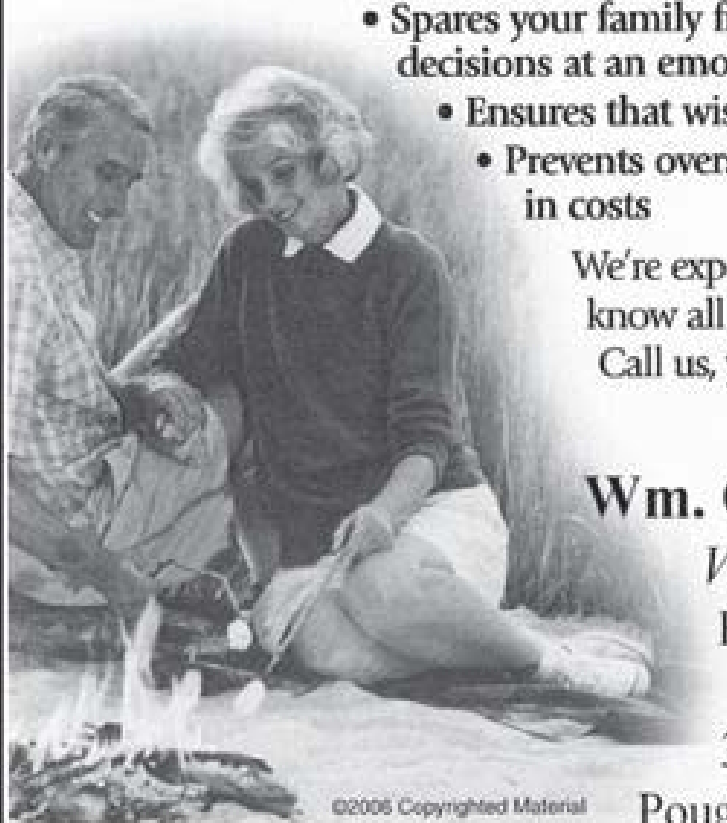
Funeral Director

371 Hooker Ave

Poughkeepsie NY 12603

©2006 Copyrighted Material

**845.485.0241**



**Friendly Auto Group**

 <p><b>Friendly Honda</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.friendlyhonda.net">www.friendlyhonda.net</a> 845-454-2400</p>	 <p><b>Friendly Ford</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.friendlyfordny.com">www.friendlyfordny.com</a> 845-462-1900</p>
---	---

***Friendly Prices, Friendly Service, Friendly Auto Group!***

**[www.friendlyautogroupny.com](http://www.friendlyautogroupny.com)**

	<p><b>Thomas M. Cervone</b>  <b>Properties Group, LLC</b>  <i>Licensed in NY &amp; CT</i>          295 Main Street          The Cast Iron Building          Poughkeepsie, NY 12601          (845)485-3100 Fax (845)485-4787  <i>email:</i> tom@crproperties.com  <i>web:</i> www.crproperties.com</p>
--	---

**LOUISE MARCIGLIANO, LCSW**

*Psychotherapist*  
 Life Coaching & Bereavement

ldmarcig@gmail.com | 347-556-5555



**David J Mazzetti, CFP®, CRPC®**  
*Private Wealth Advisor*

**Seven Bridges Wealth Advisors**

A financial advisory practice of  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

**845.454.3021**

176 Church Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
david.j.mazzetti@ampf.com  
davidmazzetti.com  
CA Insurance #OE55405



Be Brilliant®

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC.

© 2019 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. (06/19)



**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.

Personalized Service.  
Trusted Advice.

**Adriana Gallo**

Licensed Sales Producer  
Zimmerman Agency

**Allstate Insurance Company**

957 Route 6  
Mahopac, NY 10541

Office 845-621-2557

Cell 845-243-8344

Fax 845-621-1936

agallol@allstate.com

Auto, Home, Business, Life

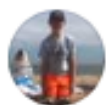


**Adriana Gallo-Licciardone**

Licensed Sales Professional

With over 35 years of experience in the financial industry, Adriana joined our agency in 2016. She resides in the Hudson Valley area with her three children and is involved in the community by volunteering her time at the Putnam County Veteran Services. Adrianna is fluent in Italian and loves helping customers feel welcome at the agency. [read less...](#)





**Jennifer Marlow Hentel** reviewed Sabia Auto Exchange - Since 1948



— 5★

June 14, 2018 · 🌐

Been servicing my family for over 40 years. Honest, reliable and fair priced. My family bought several cars from him over the years and we have always been happy with the purchases! He knows his cars and he is a great guy and great mechanic!