SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

Facebook | www.theitaliancenter.com | Membership

Newsletter Committee Report

Members and Friends of the Italian Center... Join us in celebrating our Italian heritage, culture and traditions and continue "*Making the Italian Center Great*" in the upcoming months.

Attend monthly meetings, recruit new members and get involved with your club! Come enjoy the many great events at the Italian Center. Thank you for the continued support! ***Dylan Harris, Secretary***

September/October - Events

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

September 6 - Jungle Love	**October 4 - Jungle Love**
September 13 - Chain Gang	**October 11 - Cruise Control**
September 20 - Jukebox Junkies	**October 18 - Midnight Image**
September 27 - Midnight Image	**October 25 - Chain Gang**

For Reservations: 845-454-1492 Ext. 3 or www.theitaliancenter.com

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September 3 - Members Meeting Night (6:00PM) - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965
September 7 - Comedy Show w/3 Comics (6:00PM - Dinner | 8:00PM - Show)
September 9 - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (5:30PM -Pizza & Salad | 7:00PM - Meeting)
September 14 - Italian Center BBQ - Members Only - Pig Roast (12:00PM to 5:00PM)
September 16, 23, 30 - Monday Happy Hour w/Riverbank Banjo Band (7:00PM - 9:00PM)
September 17 - Italian Movie Night (6:00PM - Doors Open | 7:00PM - Movie)
September 18 - Pirandello Institute Dinner Night (6:00PM)
September 19 - Lobster Bake (5:30PM - 8:30PM)
September 22 - Ladies Auxiliary Card Party (2:00PM - 5:00PM)
September 24 - Provincial Night: Genovese - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965

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 Show (6:00PM - Doors Open | 8:00PM - Show)
October 6 - Gregg's Classic & Custom Car - Alzheimer's Benefit (12:00PM to 5:00PM)
October 7 - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (5:30PM - Pizza & Salad | 7:00PM - Meeting)
October 15 - Italian Movie Night (6:00PM - Doors Open | 7:00PM - Movie)
October 16 - Pirandello Institute Dinner Night (6:00PM)
October 17 - Lobster Bake (5:30PM - 8:30PM)
October 26 - 85th Annual Progressive Ball (6-7 PM - Cocktails | 7-11 PM - Dinner/Music)
October 29 - Provincial Night: Lazio/Roma - Joe Fiacco at 845-471-3965

President's Letter

On August 4th The Italian Center hosted its 4th Annual Italian Fine Car & Bike show. We owe a round of applause for Dr. Vincent Beltrani, Mark Searle and all the volunteers for all the work they did to make this such a successful and enjoyable day. Hundreds of people, members and non-members, enjoyed a terrific display of the "passion and soul" of Italian auto designers. Is it any wonder that automakers from the United States, England, Germany, and Japan go to Italy for the finest auto design. We are eagerly looking forward to next year's 5th Annual display of world class design of motorcycles and automobiles like Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lancia, Alpha Romeo, Maserati and Fiat.

On Sunday, October 6th, our fellow member Greg Francese will host the second **Annual Classic and Custom Car Show** at the Italian Center. Last month's theme was "Making the Italian Center Great Again", and Greg is living up to the challenge. Gregg's show will benefit the Alzheimer's Association, a charity which we all agree is worth supporting. So, make a commitment to attend **Gregg's Classic and Custom Car Show on Sunday, October 6th**.

We recently held a Dinner/Show, "The Golden Girls Gone Wild" and it was a blast! Keith Dougherty's Manhattan Murder Mystery Group performed and interacted with the audience. In addition to a wonderful dinner and show, DJ Eric Santana had the audience dancing and enjoying a great evening.

On September 7th (Saturday), we are hosting a dinner/comedy show **"The 3 Comics"** featuring Rob Falcone, Uncle Floyd, and Patty Rosborough. On Saturday October 5th we will host a Dinner/Concert with **"Chicago 9"** a fantastic music ensemble that we are very happy to have back to the Italian Center. Please make your reservations well in advance since we expect an enthusiastic response for this event. On Saturday, November 2nd, we will bring back the Manhattan Murder Mystery Group for a wild "**Bachelorette Party**" with dinner/show and dancing.

We will resume Friday night dinner and dancing in September and also introduce to our Happy Hour on Monday nights the **"Riverbank Banjo Band" from 7 – 9 pm**. We are offering music only at $10 per person and music and dinner at $20 per person. Dinner will include a main entrée and 2 pastas. We will host the **Riverbank Banjo Band on Monday's 9/16, 9/23 and 9/30.**

Also coming up in September is our **First Annual Pig Roast/BBQ, and Clam Bake** on **Saturday, September 14th from 12 – 5 pm**. A lot of planning and work has been involved in this family event, and we hope you all plan to attend with family and friends.

And remember October is Italian Heritage month. Currently, we plan to celebrate Columbus in the beginning of October, and our 85th Annual Progressive Ball the last weekend in October. We are also asking members to share their ideas and things that they would like to see us do, not only to celebrate our heritage but in general what membership expects and wants from the Club.

When you look back on what made the Italian Center Great you realize the answer to that question is: **Our Membership**. We are offering new and exciting events for our members and their friends and family. We hope you join us in ***Making the Italian Center Great Again… Franco Giangrasso, President***

1st Vice President's Letter

Throughout the months of September and October, we have resumed our Friday night dinner and dancing with several of Dutchess County's best bands. Also, **October is Italian Heritage Month** and we will recognize our heritage with a special ceremony/luncheon on Saturday, October 5th from 11 AM to 2 PM.

We will host our **85th Progressive Ball on Saturday October 26th**. At this time, 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" many businesses and social organizations plan their annual Christmas or holiday parties. The Italian Center is ideally located in downtown Poughkeepsie, and offers a convenient and attractive venue for holiday events at competitive prices. Please encourage your friends and associates at work to think of the Italian Center for their holiday parties. If you have any questions regarding dates, menus and/or would like to discuss your upcoming party, please contact Nick at **845-454-1492 ext. 3**… ***Nick Conte, 1st Vice President***

Secretary's Letter

The theme "Making the Italian Center Great Again" remains. I attest that the Board has worked and is working hard and diligently to not only bring changes that help the Italian Center financially but also to bring Italian culture and traditions back to the forefront of the Italian Center.

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 would appreciate your input/feedback… ***Dylan Harris, Secretary***

Ladies Auxiliary - President's Letter

Ciao miei amici del Ladies Auxiliary!

In this time of immediate information and many ways in which to get it, I feel we are falling short on getting information to our membership. At this point in time the only way in which our membership can get any information on the Ladies Auxiliary and the Italian Center is by email. Of the approximately 200 members in the LA, I have 138 email addresses; leaving many of our members without information. Just about all the members who have not given email addresses to us are the most vulnerable and the most in need of getting the information; they are our older members. These members cannot get to meetings; the ones who are honorary members and have given much to the organization in the past.

I am going to do what I can to get the information to the members who still want to be a part of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Italian Center. Many at our last meeting expressed that they would like to get the newsletter via postal service. **I will be putting the newsletter in the mail to members [who cannot use email]. If you know of anyone who would like to hear from us, please let me know and I will add them to our mailing list. [Again as this involves a cost to us] I would like to reserve this for people who do not have email.** If you have email but would like a printed newsletter, we can provide some at the meeting. Just let me know.

On Monday, August 5th, the annual Dr. Bacile Golf Tournament was held with many of our members playing and many volunteering. This tournament helps fund the Dr. Bacile Scholarship that is given to 3 full-time students who have completed their freshman year of college. There have been many members of the Ladies Auxiliary whose children have received this wonderful scholarship. Some of the members were so happy to be able to tell the players that their son/daughter was a recipient and thanked them for playing in the event.

On Tuesday, August 20, we showed "Il Mio Giorno" at our Italian Film Night. I have to say this event has taken on a life of its own. The members and non-members who come to see the film have enjoyed the company of others who they would not have normally mingled with. They get snacks that have been graciously brought by others attending, purchase a glass of wine or other refreshment from the bar and then enjoy the film. Thank you all who have taken the time to come out and have helped make this monthly get-together a success. The films are shown on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and the film for **September 17th will be "Benvenuto Presidente!" (Welcome Mr. President.)**

We are bringing back our annual **Card Party and it will be held on Sunday the 22nd of September**, from 2:00 to 5:00. The theme this year: Cards, Cappuccino and Cannoli. Tickets for this event are $10 and, in the past, has been one of our most successful fund-raisers. There will be a generous door prize given away for those who purchase a ticket and you do not have to be present to win. However, we would love to fill the house that day. Reserve a table for a few or many and enjoy an afternoon of games, conversation, laughs and of course, cappuccino and cannoli. Tickets will be available at our September meeting. You can also email me or call Anita Cillo at 471-6886 for more information.

In October we will hold the annual **Italian American Heritage luncheon and Wreath-laying** at the Christopher Columbus Statue. 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 '<u>Christopher Columbus: Misconceptions Debunked.</u>' 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 5th at 11:00am**.

Directly after a shortened October meeting, we will be holding our now-famous Ladies Auxiliary Pink Auction to benefit Miles of Hope. Start thinking about what "Pink" item (new) you would like to bring to auction off.

At our November meeting we will hold our Provincial Dinner with the province of Sicily being highlighted and also in November is our Vendor Fair.

At our August meeting, Stephanie Shaw asked to pass a basket around for "Team Scappy" for Premier Prostrate Cancer Foundation to collect money for the annual walk for prostate cancer. This walk is done in honor her dad "Scappy" Scivolette. As usual, the members came through and donated $100 to which the Ladies Auxiliary matched, giving a total of $200 to help Stephanie and her sisters, Mary Coyle and Patti Feaster in raising money for their walk. We certainly do have a great group!

A reminder: our September meeting will be held on Monday, September 9th due to Labor Day falling on the 2nd. We will be having pizza and salad before the meeting. Please let me know if you will be coming so we can order accordingly.

Thank you, in advance to Gloria Fiore, Marie Netti, Jo Andrews and Anita Cillo for volunteering to bring desserts to our September meeting. We always welcome any other treats from members who would like to share. 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.

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 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 the new members for becoming the best part of our club, the membership!

DEIRDRE CHIARAMONTE - Deirdre was sponsored by her father Dr. Gregory Chiaramonte. She was born in Brooklyn, NY and moved to Dutchess County in 1973. She attended St. Georges and Our Lady of Lourdes but graduated from Emma Willard. Deirdre attended the University of Vermont and Graduated as a Veterinary Doctor from Tufts Veterinary School. Dr. Deirdre lives in Hyde Park with her two children, Connor and Teagan. She enjoys horseback riding, wine tasting and boating. Welcome Deirdre to the Italian Center and we hope to see you here soon.

MARCUS MOLINARO - Marc was sponsored by Tony Comunale and Ernie Bruno. Marc was born in Yonkers, New York. His family then moved to Beacon and he eventually moved to Tivoli. Marc is a graduated from Dutchess Community College. Marc is the County Executive of Dutchess County. He began his political career by becoming the mayor of Tivoli at the age of 19 and was the youngest mayor in the US. Marc served in the Dutchess County Legislature and then the New York State Assembly. In 2018, Marc was the Republican candidate for Governor of New York. Marc continues to be County Executive since 2012. He now resides with his family in Red Hook, NY. Welcome to the Italian Center Marc and we hope to see you here soon.

Wellness Committee Report

Convalescing at Home

Anthony Comunale | Carmine Iadarola, Jr. | Giulio DiGiacomo | Sheldon 'Jiggs' Vetter

Residing at Assisted Living Facilities

Vincent Gabriele | Joe Dolce | Joseph Petito

Scholarship Committee Report

BACILE SCHOLARSHIP – APPLICATIONS

Did you know, since inception through 2018, the Dr. Victor A. Bacile Scholarship Program has awarded 108 scholarships valued at more than $207,000?

A great reason for being a member of the Italian Center/Ladies Auxiliary… Members, spouses and children are all eligible for the scholarship!

The Scholarship Fund Board of Directors will be awarding up to **three (3) $3,000 Scholarships in 2019**, here is a link to the Dr. Bacile Scholarship Application.

For further information concerning eligibility and the application process, please access the Italian Center website and click on Scholarship. **Applications must be submitted no later than September 30, 2019.**

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.

FRIENDLY AUTO GROUP | MICHAEL TORSONE MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME, INC.

WILLIAM G. MILLER & SON FUNDERAL 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 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.

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)	Vincent and Barbara Corona ($100)
Tony and Elizabeth Daniele ($100)	Nick Liguori and Family ($100)
Umberto and Lisa Vecchiarelli ($100)	John Bordi and Family ($100)
Harry J. Stellar ($100)	Anonymous ($100)
Anonymous ($250)	

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!

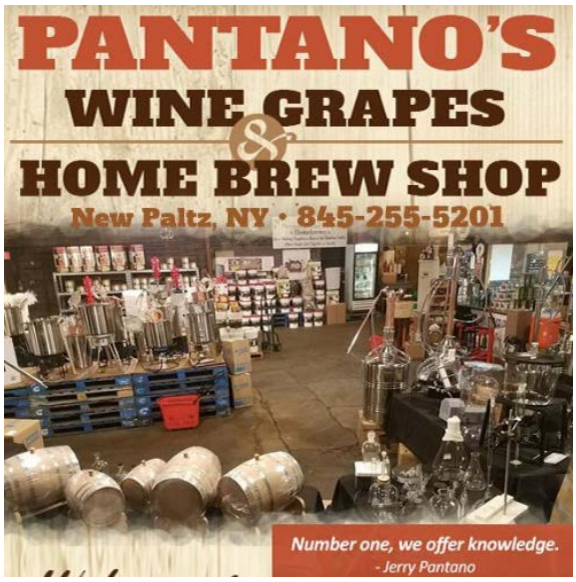
Region	**Province**	**Date**	**Chairman**
Calabria	Catanzaro		Pat Fasolino
Abbruzzo	Pescara		Franco Giangrasso
Campania	Napoli		Franco Giangrasso
Puglia	Bari		Franco Giangrasso
Sicily	Tutte		Franco Giangrasso
Toscany	Firenze		Franco Giangrasso
Lombardy	Milano		Franco Giangrasso
Veneto	Venizia		Franco Giangrasso
Liguria	Genovese	09/24/2019	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/

Wine Making Class for Beginners

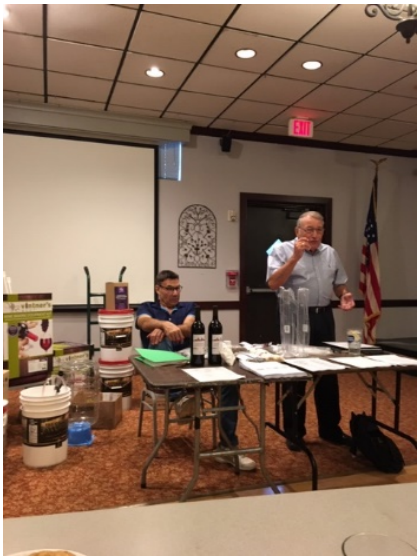


Wine Making Class for Beginners on Wednesday, August 21st

Twenty people attended and were treated to a most interesting and informative discussion and demonstration on one of Italy's oldest traditions, homemade wine making. Many thanks to John Mazzetti for hosting our class. John shared his lifetime wine making experience with the class. John introduced Jerry Pantano to the class. Jerry is owner of Pantano's Wine Grapes & Home Brew in New Paltz. Jerry in the go-to-guy for all wine making supplies in the Hudson Valley.

Jerry brought all the equipment and wine making supplies to the class. Many wine makers buy grapes from Jerry and press them to extract the juice. That process requires a good amount of work and experience. Fortunately, pre-pressed grape juice is available in 5- gallon containers and is available all year round from countries around the world.

Jerry demonstrated the process of making a great wine from juice sharing many expert tips to assure a great batch of wine. We were fortunate to have a group of experience wine makers in class who shared their knowledge and they learned a few tips from Jerry as well.



Jerry, John and other wine makers brought some of their homemade wine so our class got to taste some homemade wines and they were very good. Many in our class are eager to start making wine and will be heading to Jerry's store soon to get our supplies.

I am pleased to announce that we will be having future classes on making sausage, salamis, sopressata, pepperoni and other dried and cured Italian meats, pastas and other homemade treats. We are trying to preserve Italian customs and traditions and would appreciate your suggestions for future classes.

For more additional information, please call, text or email:

Nick Liguori at nfliguori@yahoo.com, 845-309-2054
John Mazzetti at john.mazzetti@yahoo.com, 845-797-550

4th Annual Festival of Fine Cars, Bikes and Food

Empire State Region HV Chapter 4th Annual Festival of Fine Cars, Bikes, Food on Sunday, August 4th

A wonderfully warm and sunny summer day greeted the hundreds of participants in the Fourth Annual Festival of Fine Cars, Bikes and Food held on August 4, 2019, at the Italian Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. The event began with an hour-long drive through southern Dutchess County to the Center and the many drivers were afforded an opportunity to use their cars in the manner for which they were built – spirited driving on some quiet back roads. The cars, that included Ferrari, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Maserati and Lamborghini met with a collection of Italian motorcycles from BMG Powersports who

had brought some Moto Guzzi, Aprilla and Vespa machines. This all-Italian festival gathered cars and bikes from a 1958 Lancia Aurelia to a new Ferrari Portofino courtesy of Wide World Ferrari/Maserati. The Lancia would ultimately take first place in the People's Choice Awards.

Each year the Festival features some aspect of Italy and this year was no different. Ms. Simona Gazzania of All About Italy addressed the gathered group during the buffet offered by the Italian Center and spoke about AAT as a platform in both hardcopy and social media formats where people can learn about Italy – its food, history, culture, architecture, arts, travel, fashion, life style, and not least of all, its glorious machines. Also, on hand were representatives of Loacker wafers and Filicori Zechhini coffee offering samples of their products to the hundreds of spectators who's come to see the collected cars and bikes.

This event has grown into a happening that is eagerly anticipated by the region. It is a family event, and many get to see, up close and personal, for the first time, a Ferrari. The many volunteers from the Italian Center ensured the success of the Festival by assisting with parking, registration, facility support, catering and the like. Thank you to all. In addition to the sponsors noted above, there were several others who contributed greatly to the festival – De's Jewelers, Mothers car care products, Meguiar's car care products, Hudson Valley Motorcycles, Staccato Cycle, Advance Auto Parts, and the Pirandello Institute – their contributions were greatly valued.

We are all looking forward to the Fifth Annual Festival in 2020… ***Mark Searle***

Click for some great photos from the festival provided by John Eastman

85th 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 25th 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 5th 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 5th 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 Adriance 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); or Lynn Phillips at (845) 224-6418 (email lynn.phillips@inxpress.com).

Newsletter Submissions

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

Music Is Our Heritage So Are the Fabulous Artists We've Issued *(Submitted by Tony Daniele)*

Ettore Bastianini is one of our treasures. He died way too young. Read this link about him. But if you understand Italian (I had to slow it down to understand Del Monaco a fast talker!) you get a great picture of Ettore from a person that was an egotist and not prone to flattery – here's the Del Monaco interview.

Ettore Bastianini - Visione Veneziana (R.Brogi) - Studio Recording RARE

The link to the left is a very poignant Visione Veneziana. If one takes the time to soak it in Italian music will tug at you like no other; Italian songs sung by the likes of Bastianini even more so.

Here is my take on what that haunting song means.

Grandi cumuli di rose, Di giun chiglie, di verbene, Di gerani e tuberose, La mia gondola contiene, Essa fifa nell'aurora Che sorride sul canale, Che i palazzi grigi sfiora Col suo bacio d'immortale. Presso ad una testa bionda Che frale verbene affonda E di rosa s'in corona Il mio capo s'abbandona. E la gondola ci culla Tutti e due soave mente; Ma la pallida fanciulla nulla Vede e nulla sente. Chiuse son al lunghe ciglia Sovra il mattutino; Ella sembra una giunchiglia Sotto il cielo cilestrino. Nel l'aurora fra gli odori Dei bei cumuli di fiori Questa gondola mi porta, Con la mia diletta, morte.	Picture a gondola filled with colorful and fragrant flowers A girl nestled angelically in them Making its way through the canals to the sea the gondola sways like a cradle. The walls and views of the city both comforting and ominous The girl, blond, beautiful in her youth, majestic in her crown of flowers Yet pallidly oblivious to the beauty and the restful rocking The gondolier is losing his mind (from sadness at the process unfolding?) She experiences nothing now nor will ever again Her beautiful eyes closed forever This gondola brings this girl and the gondolier (perhaps father, lover, brother,?) to the end of their lives' voyage. An end the gondolier welcomes for himself – to die his delight **That's the way I feel and hear it … but putting aside my imperfect Italian that might be in error it's poetry and poetry makes you think – to imagine – there may not really be an absolute right and wrong – it's what your heart tells you.** **Enjoy the poignancy – it is formed well - it is part of our heritage – something our artists have done well through the ages.**

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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!

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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★

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