

## Membership

The Italian Center currently has few hundred members and a ladies auxiliary, which includes approximately sixty senior members who have achieved this special status by maintaining over thirty years of consecutive membership.

Presently there are two classes of Italian Center membership. A Regular Member and a Non-Italian Member. A Regular Member is a person 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 person 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 and builds a spirit of camaraderie and fellowship. Volunteers are always needed for Provincial Nights, Golf Tournaments, and Club Functions, such as the Annual 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.

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 other members.

## Scholarship Program

The Dr. Victor A. Bacile Scholarship Program is available to members of the Italian Center or the Italian Center Ladies Auxiliary, or a spouse, son or daughter of a member. Each year, three academic scholarships totaling \$9,000 are awarded to full time students that have completed their freshman year of study at an accredited college or university leading to an Associate or Baccalaureate degree.

## History of the Italian Center "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.



**Celebrate  
Your  
Heritage...**

**Join the  
Italian  
Center**

St. Joseph Day Celebration Thursday and Friday  
Night Buffets Member of the Year's Scholarship  
Annual Outdoor Clam Bake Annual Golf  
Tournament Provincial  
Dinners Children's Golf League  
Members' Christmas Party Ladies Auxiliary Bocci  
Leagues St. Valentine's Dinner Dance Wine and Food  
Paring Events Monthly Meeting Night Dinners Children  
Christmas Party Annual Clam Bake Member of the Year  
Awards New Year's Eve Celebration  
Day Celebration Members' Children's Christmas  
Festa Italiana Dr. Bacile Annual Golf Tournament  
Columbus Day Dinner Dance Provincial Dinner  
Children's Halloween Party Golf League Member  
Christmas Party Ladies Auxiliary Bocci Leagues St.  
Valentine's Dinner Dance Wine and Food Paring Events  
Monthly Meeting Night Dinners Children's Christmas  
Party Annual Clam Bake Member of the Year Awards  
New Year's Eve Celebration St. Joseph Day  
Celebration Thursday and Friday Night Buffets Member  
Children's Scholarship Festa Italiana  
Dr. Bacile Annual Dinner Dance  
Party Golf League Auxiliary Bocci  
Wine and Food Dinners Children  
Member of the Victory Lodge  
Friday Night Buffets Annual Outdoor  
Tournament Provincial Dinners  
Children's Golf League Members' Christmas Party Ladies  
Auxiliary Bocci Leagues St. Valentine's Dinner Dance Wine and Food  
Paring Events Monthly Meeting Night Dinners Children  
Christmas Party Annual Clam Bake Member of the Year

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

## Applicant:

Name:

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Address:

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Town/City:

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State:

Zip:

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Home Phone:

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Cell Phone:

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E-Mail:

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Date of Birth:

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Spouse's Name:

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Employer:

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Employer's Address:

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Employer's Phone:

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## Interests and Trades:

*(please list your trades, interests and skills)*

Occupation/Profession:

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Applicant's Trades:

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Skills:

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Interests:

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Are you willing to periodically volunteer your services at the Center?

Yes

No

If yes, in what area/capacity?

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## Personal Information:

Have you ever been a member of the Italian Center? Yes  No

When:

Did you serve in the military? (US or another country)  Yes  No

Dates Served:

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Type of Discharge:

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Are you a U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No

If not, do you intend to pursue citizenship?

Yes

No

## Italian Heritage:

Father's Full Name:

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Mother's Maiden Name:

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Spouse's Name:

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### Signatures:

Sponsor:

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*Print Name:*

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Applicant:

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*Print Name:*

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### *For use by the review committee:*

*Date Received*

*Date Interviewed*

*Date Read*

*Date Balloted*

*Date Initiated*

*Date Rejected*

*Comments*

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*Completed Application must be accompanied by Application Fee of \$250. The First Year's Dues are Waived.*