



P.O. BOX 1986

VENICE, FLORIDA 34284-1986

941-486-1492

www.italianamericanclubofvenice.com



Merry Christmas



*Liberty * Equality * Fraternity*

Novita' DECEMBER 2021



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

First VP Lou Piazza 726-3400

Second VP Ted Holmes 518-852-9000

Treasurer Josephine Mihalopoulos 485-1042

Rec. Secretary Linda Falco 323-4214

Corr. Secretary Ann Brozosky 918-1805

Past President Ron DeBacco 497-4046

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bar Lou Piazza 726-3400

Bocce Marino Roncari 735-1071

Pasquale Santaguida 475-0584

Building Bill Charboneau 468-7058

Dino Tommasi 973-296-8555

Cultural Tony Greco 720-7923

Dining Room Sandi Prunty 724-584-1109

Appreciation Donna Sherman 587-1058

Grievance Joe Bird 468-7981

Donna Sherman 587-1058

Anthony Rondello 483-1050

Historian Jean Trapani 203-606-9459

Hostess Maria Tims 445-4756

Nancy Canto 497-4046

Kitchen

Membership Kathy Carbone 928-0902

Novita' Linda Falco 323-4214

Parliamentarian Lou D'Amico 208-5652

Photographer Angelo Tulimieri 244-0929

Public Rel Dennis Lombardo 310-782-4040

Rental Agent Bill Meyers 468-6288

Sgt. At Arms Joe Bird 468-7981

Mike Roselle 408-7450

Bill Meyers 468-6288

Scholarship Marion Capecci 493-5571

Social Jackie Briguglio 630-269-8692

Sunshine Donna Sherman 587-1058

Travel Grace Robbio 492-2266

Novità

Your Cultural and Social Newsletter



Volume 10

www.italianamericanclubofvenice.com

Dicembre 2021

From the Editor

My favorite time of year is here! Have you noticed that people seem to be nicer during the Christmas season? Hearts are fuller and the spirit of giving fills the air. I love the decorations, the aroma of baking cookies, and carols on the radio. Hallmark movies once again light up the TV screen. *White Christmas* even has scenes shot in Italy, and it features one of the iconic seasonal songs (but please, no snow in Florida). Eliminate the unnecessary busyness. Slow down and enjoy this precious time. It's the month for family and friends to gather and celebrate. Bring on the seven fishes and the best lasagne this side of the Atlantic!

IACV is doing some exciting things this month, too. The election of your Executive Board will occur during the General Meeting on the 2nd. You are encouraged to attend meetings and be involved in order to vote or qualify for the Board. We need your expertise and devoted efforts to the further the Club's continued success.

Don't miss the **New Year's Eve Gala** the evening of the 31st (note to self: dancing shoes to the cobbler for new heels). Let the spirit of Christmas make our hearts light and the Club's camaraderie buoy our laughter.

Two accomplished authors, George Palmer and Lina Decrescenzo, will be taking on the publication of the *Novita* starting next month. George has written 20 novels and is a technological expert. Lina is rooted in Italy and has incredible creativity. I can't wait to see what this partnership will bring. **Grazie Mille** for your support and encouragement during my short tenure as Editor. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

Linda ❤️



We are excited that the Club has obtained 20 tickets to the *Game of Romes* performance at *The Venice Symphony* on **Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 3:30 pm**. Tickets are **\$37.00 each** and will sell out FAST. Dinner to follow.

Contact Cultural Chair Tony Greco
941-7207923 teegee654@gmail.com



ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF VENICE
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 31ST
5:30 TO 10 PM

CATERED BY CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL
DANCING WITH THE CRUISER
ITALIAN TOASTS AND FUN

MEMBERS: \$45 GUESTS: \$55

TICKETS CALL OR TEXT
DEE 941.468.9029



Novità

Your Cultural and Social Newsletter

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Italian American Club of Venice, Inc.

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Benvenuti'


Welcome New Members:

Joe & Rosemarie Arangio, Karen Broughton, John Burns. Sharon Criscuolo, Corrie & Joe DiNofa, Wayne Klawier, George Maurer, Sally Sentner, Ed Trezza



Dicembre 2021

Su Mo Tue We Th Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December Notable Dates:

- Dec 2nd - General Meeting 7 pm
- Dec 9th - BINGO 7 pm
- Dec 19th - Birthday/Anniversary Celebration 4 pm
- Dec 24th - No Friday Dinner Service
- Dec 31st - New Year's Eve Gala 5:30pm
No Friday Dinner Service

Buon Compleanno!

Birthdays in the Month of DECEMBER!

Carol Alexandratos **28th**, Joe Bird **17th**, Angelina Caiati **17th**, Sarah Cesario **10th**, Anna Derrick **18th**, Corrie DiNofa **8th**, Louise DiVecchio **11th**, Mary Lou Falivena **23rd**, Dianne Greco **8th**, Diane Johnson **18th**, Joe Lombardo **17th**, Carol Maccarone **20th**, Pat Marchesano **18th**, Loretta McFarland **21st**, John Meyer **21st**, Marie Palagonia **23rd**, Doreen Palucci **16th**, Matt Palucci **2nd**, John Piccirilli **12th**, Susan Pistone **3rd**, Randy Pistone **14th**, Matthew Prisutti **7th**, Mary Ann Ramirez **2nd**, Dorothy Segowski **12th**, Carolyn Sollitto **10th**, Michael Sollitto **3rd**, Steven Sudia **10th**, Mark Talarico **22nd**, Celeste Tobey **31st**, Sal Trofi **3rd**, Angelo Tulimieri **5th**, Carl Wilson **6th**.

Contact **Membership Chair Kathy Carbone** to update your info if you were missed.

Free small carafe of wine during your birthday month



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- BOCCE** Mondays and Tuesdays **8:30 am**
- MAH JONG** Wednesdays **1-4 pm**
- POKER** Wednesdays **7 pm-???**
- BINGO** 2nd Thursday **7 pm**
- CULTURAL EVENTS** 3rd Thursday **7 pm**
- LANGUAGE CLASSES** Ongoing

January - Save the Date

- Jan 6th - General Meeting 7 pm
- Jan 12th - Jimmy Mazz **7:30 pm**
- Jan 13th - BINGO 7 pm
- Jan 16th - Birthday/Anniversary Celebration 4 pm
- Jan 27th - Executive Board Meeting 6 pm
- Jan 29th - Country Western Night 6 pm



RICHARD CATTELONA

ROBERT DOWLING

ROBERT PELLIGRINI

SAL TROFI



Years of Membership

5 Years

10 Years

Robert Avena Michael Camardo
Joann Camardo Felica Hock
John Hock Phyllis Lucca
Judy Mossorofo Charles Mossorofo
Lou Piazza

15 Years

Al Richmond

20 Years

Member of the Month



Dino Tommasi

New Member

Volunteers

Born in Sicily, **Dino Tommasi** saw his first snowfall when he came to the US in 1955. His meal upon arrival in this country was a 10 cent McDon-

ald's hamburger, making him a true Italian-American. Dino went on to build Marlo Manufacturing, a successful food service equipment company. He retired to Florida seven years ago and only joined IACV in December 2020. How is it possible that in that short year, we have come to rely on his expertise so heavily? From routine maintenance to special building projects, Dino has repaired leaks and equipment, installed LED lights (have you seen the motion detector stage right and the fandelier?) and hung art, among MANY other tasks. He is spearheading the repipe of the Clubhouse. Dino has his eye on cost savings and efficiency. He leads with good humor. He even became a Certified Kitchen Manager in 2021 to help oversee our dinner services. **Grazie, Dino!** You have quickly become part of the fabric of our Club.

This month's movie.....

Feast of the Seven Fishes

Thursday, December 16th 7 pm

BYOB

Click here for trailer



A slice of life story that follows a large Italian family on Christmas Eve as they prepare for the traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes, reminisce about the past, and seek love in the future.



Second Thursday of the Month

December 9th

Doors open at 6:45 pm

Early Bird Game at 7 pm

10 Games - 2 are Winner Takes All!

The Bar will be OPEN

Info:

Linda Falco

LGFalco1120@gmail.com

941.323.4214



Raised over \$500 for our Scholarship Fund





IACV Golf Outing

November 4, 2021



A one week rain delay did not dampen the spirits of the 59 participants in this year's Golf Outing. Led by Joe Santoro, the 18 holes were sponsored by local businesses and our loyal members which raised \$450. Free gifts were had by all courtesy of Santoro Financial Solutions. Ken D'Onofrio's team won with the best foursome score. Thank you to volunteers Steve Fornadel at the golf course, Linda Falco in the Dining Room and Bill Meyers & Joe Bird at the Bar.



Photos by Celeste Tobey

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



ON NOVEMBER 12TH, 80 VETERANS WERE SERVED A DELICIOUS FREE FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER BY OUR SMILING VOLUNTEERS TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR NATION. THE

MISSING MAN TABLE REMEMBERS THOSE STILL MIA. IT WAS COORDINATED BY DINO TOMMASI WITH DÉCOR BY SANDI PRUNTY.

PHOTOS BY ANGELO TULIMIERI



Italian American Club of Venice
Presents Fabulously Entertaining



Jimmy Mazz

Wednesday, January 19th

7:30 pm

Snacks Cash Bar
Members \$15 Guests \$20

Tickets call or text
Dee 941-468-9029

SADDLE UP

AND PUT YOUR BOOTS ON!

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF VENICE

COUNTRY WESTERN NIGHT

★
SATURDAY
JANUARY 29TH

6:00 PM

Catered by Gold Rush BBQ

Music by EC Listening

Members \$40 Guests \$50

Tickets call or text
Dee 941.468.9029



L'anglo Italiano

La storia della Befana

Il termine Befana deriva da "Epifania," una parola greca che significa "manifestazione divina."

La leggenda narra che in una freddissima notte d'inverno i tre Magi: Baldassare, Gasparre e Melchiorre, nel lungo viaggio per arrivare a Betlemme da Gesù Bambino, non riuscendo a trovare la strada, chiesero informazioni ad una vecchietta che indicò loro il cammino. I Re Magi, allora, invitarono la donna ad unirsi a loro, ma, nonostante le insistenze la vecchina rifiutò. Una volta che i Re Magi se ne furono andati, essa si pentì di non averli seguiti e allora preparò un sacco pieno di dolci e si mise a cercarli, ma senza successo. La vecchietta, nota come Befana, iniziò a bussare ad ogni porta, regalando ad ogni bambino che incontrava dei dolcetti, nella speranza che uno di loro fosse proprio Gesù Bambino.

Ancora oggi durante la notte del 6 gennaio, lei continua la sua ricerca riempiendo le calze dei bimbi appese ai camini con dolcetti e giocattoli.

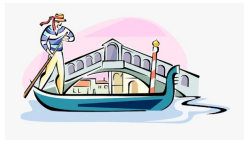
The term Befana derives from "Epiphany," a Greek word which means "divine manifestation."

Legend has it that on a very cold winter night, the three Magi: Baldassare, Gasparre and Melchiorre, on the long journey to get to Bethlehem to the Child Jesus, unable to find the way, asked an old woman for directions who showed them the way. The Magi then invited the woman to join them, but despite their insistence, the old woman refused. Once the Three Kings were gone, she regretted not following them and so she packed a sack full of sweets and started looking for them, but without success. The old woman, known as Befana, started knocking on every door, giving each child she met some sweets in the hope that one of them was Baby Jesus.

Even today, during the night of January 6, she continues her search by filling the socks of the children hanging from the fireplaces with sweets and toys.



- Lina Decrescenzo



Venice Holiday Parade

Saturday, November 27th



[Click tree for more photos](#)



Buon Natale to the City of Venice from IACV!! Thank you to Lou Piazza and Donna Sherman for organizing the 42 members who refreshed La Serenita and marched in the parade. The gondola float was skillfully towed by Mark Pfouts. This is the official kickoff of the Christmas season. Ho, ho, ho!!

Photos by Angelo Tulimieri



Birthday & Anniversary Celebration Thanksgiving Pot Luck November 21st



We love pot luck! Our accomplished home chefs outdid themselves! Thank you, Jackie Birguglio for making and serving the turkey main course along with a host of helpers. Veterans were recognized with a static military display organized by Anthony Rondello.

*December Christmas themed pot luck is hosted by Dee Meyers and Marie Kaps on December 19th.
RSVP to bospea@gmail.com*



[Click for more fun photos by Angelo Tulimieri](#)



Volunteer Appreciation

Plantation Golf & Country Club

November 28, 2022

Grazie



With heartfelt thanks, IACV celebrates our incredible volunteers, both newbies and old timers. From event organizers to table bussers to schedulers to building maintenance to cooks and every task in between, both large and small, our Club is built on you, our Member

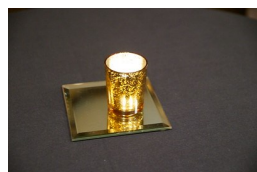
Volunteers. Special gratitude to Donna Sherman who organized the event.



Do you want to get to know more people? Show up and get involved! We build camaraderie and a sense of family working side by side.



Click the candle for more of Angelo's beautiful photos





How Fires End

By Marco Rafala'

This book is much different than the others I have read about Italy. The story begins in 1943 and the setting is Melilli, Sicily. It includes superstitions, vendettas, revenge, heartbreak, violence and finally some redemption for Salvatore Vassallo.



After the soldiers vacate, the townspeople of Melilli celebrate. It was during the celebrations that nine-year-old Salvatore watches his younger twin brothers playing with an unexploded mortar shell. He couldn't get to them quickly enough and they were killed. The parents are heart-broken, the family falls apart, and Salvatore attempts to destroy the venerated statue of St. Sebastian, because his faith is shattered. One horrible event after another befalls the Vassallo's. Both parents die, and the people of Melilli believe the Vassallo's are cursed.

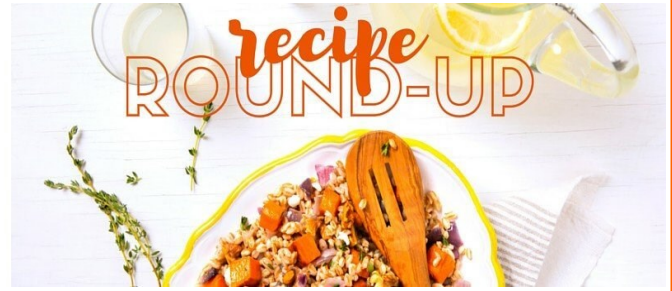
Salvatore and his sister, Nella, leave for Middletown, Connecticut with the help of a local priest and an Italian soldier, Vincenzo. They settle in an area of Middletown called "Little Melilli" and change their last name hoping to be rid of their past. In a few years Salvatore runs into Rocco Morelli in "Little Melilli." Rocco is one of many of the Melilli, Sicily townspeople who held a vendetta against Salvatore for his attempted destruction of their saint's statue. And the story of guilt, hate, vendettas and revenge begin again.

It is only after Salvatore and Rocco both have sons of their own that the story really begins. David, Salvatore's son, finds out about their real last name. Rocco's son, Tony, finds out about the damage to the statue of St. Sebastian. Sadly, decades after the fathers' violence against one another, the violence repeats itself with the sons.

Marco Rafala' is a first generation Sicilian American. This was his first novel. You can get it from the Sarasota County Library. I highly recommend the book. It is far from the light-hearted novel, but the story kept me wanting to turn the page.

-Sandi Chance

Friday Dinner Fun at JACV



Linda Falco's Crab Stuffed Mushrooms (Appetizer for Feast of Seven Fishes)

Ingredients

1 pound fresh large mushrooms
8 oz crabmeat
5 scallions, thinly sliced
1/4 tsp dried thyme
1/4 tsp dried oregano
ground black pepper to taste
1/4 cup + 3 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1/4 tsp paprika

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
Combine crabmeat, scallions, herbs and pepper. Mix in mayo and 1/4 cup Parmesan until well combined. Refrigerate filling until ready to use.
Wipe mushrooms clean with damp towel. Remove stems. Spoon out gills and base of stems, making deep cups. Fill mushroom caps with rounded teaspoons of filling and place them in an ungreased shallow baking dish. Sprinkle tops with extra Parmesan and paprika. Bake for 15 minutes. Serve immediately while piping hot.

*The Armchair Traveler
goes to:*

Pompeii

Window on the Past



[Click here](#)

Photo by Ray Sherman

Buon Natale!!



Our Italian Adventure

Buon Giorno! I'd like to tell you the story of the Palmer family's two-and-a-half-year sojourn in *la Bella Napoli*. As introduction, we are Gail, George, and Tiffany Palmer, three-year IACV members, who moved to Venice to escape the Connecticut winters. We've met many of you and enjoy the Club.

Our story began in 1978 when, as a US Navy Lieutenant, I received orders to report to Submarine Group Eight in Naples, Italy, for a tour of duty as Staff Plans Officer. My job would be to watch over the subs and their crews, and send help, when they needed it, from our headquarters in Naples, as they defended our Nation against Soviet aggression.

When I announced to Gail and our two grammar-school-aged daughters that we would be moving to Naples, Italy, for over two years, they all had lots of questions. Where will we live? Where will we buy the things we need? Where will we go to school? How will we be able to speak with our neighbors when all we know is English?

We bought an Italian-English lesson book and started to learn basic phrases together, but when we boarded the plane carrying us and other military families to Italy, we were still a long way from being able to ask for directions in Italian.

I can remember the announcement our pilot made a few minutes before we landed at *Capodichino* Airport, as it if were yesterday. "Ladies and gentlemen, we'll be on the ground in five minutes. The weather in Naples is sunny and dry with a wind from the west at ten knots. Make sure you set your watches back one hundred years."

Ciao for now. Next month: How we lived with a hundred *Carabinieri* during our first month in our *Napoli* hotel.

-George Palmer

BOARD NOTES

- ◆ REPIPE OF THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE GENERAL MEETING FOR APPROVAL. ICEMAKER WILL BE PUT ON A SEPARATE LINE.
- ◆ BYLAWS WILL BE REVIEWED IN 2022.
- ◆ OUTSIDE RENTALS ARE SUBJECT TO INSURANCE COMPLIANCE.
- ◆ SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND PARADE DETAILS WERE REVIEWED AND APPROVED.
- ◆ MEN'S ROOM ON HOLD UNTIL PLUMBING IS COMPLETE.
- ◆ CERTIFIED KITCHEN MANAGER IS REQUIRED AT ALL EVENTS.
- ◆ ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT DECEMBER GM.
- ◆ A/V EQUIPMENT TO BE UPDATED TO PROVIDE SEAMLESS USE OF TECHNOLOGY.

A high-angle, wide shot of a densely packed village. The houses are tightly clustered, featuring a variety of colorful facades in shades of yellow, orange, and white, and most notably, terracotta-tiled roofs. The village is situated at the foot of a massive, rugged mountain with a grey, rocky peak. The lower slopes of the mountain are covered in lush green vegetation. The sky above is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a small patch of blue visible on the right side. The overall scene conveys a sense of a historic, mountainous settlement.

Three thousand years of history, the center of ancient Greco-Roman culture, and the inventor of the Renaissance make Italy the best country in the world. As per statistics, Italy is home to around half the world's art treasures, and as per **UNESCO** of 2019, home to 55 World Heritage sites. With gems like the Colosseum in Rome, the city of Pompeii, and the glorious Amalfi Coast, it's no wonder the country receives millions of visitors each year.

An excellent example of a hidden city is Celano, a town in the province of L'Aquila, central Italy. Here is what Gloria Ross, who just visited it, has to say.

A large, imposing stone fortress with multiple towers and battlements, likely a historical site in Italy. The main structure is a massive square tower with a crenellated top. To its left is a smaller, similar tower. The walls are thick and made of light-colored stone. There are several arched windows and doorways. The fortress is situated on a grassy hillside under a cloudy sky.

Gloria concluded, The connection to this small hidden part of Italy became so intense that leaving Celano moved me to tears. I thought of all the people that for centuries have lived, loved, hoped in those houses, walked through the same paths I did, and I promised to myself that I would return to Italy for more powerful experiences.

At the end of WWII my Dad, Anthony J Marchesano, was stationed in Germany. This sketch was done by an Italian POW before he was discharged. He was probably 21. He sent the sketch to my Mom before he returned home as a token of his love. It's an interesting bit of my Dad's life in the service of his country as part of the Greatest Generation.

-Tony Marchesano

