



Novita' APRIL 2022

P.O. BOX 1986
VENICE, FLORIDA 34284-1986
941-486-1492

www.italianamericanclubofvenice.com



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| Sunshine | Donna Sherman | 587-1058 |
| Travel | Grace Robbio | 492-2266 |

See Pg 4 for Activity Coordinators

Novità



Volume 4

www.italianamericanclubofvenice.com

APRILE 2022

Parola del Presidente

Buon Giorno a tutti! The numbers keep piling up reinforcing what we already know. Our Feast, under the peerless leadership of Ann Brozosky, was a wonderful business success in addition to being a cultural one and a fun event for the people of our city and region. There are still smiling faces among our Members and our neighbors. Many will talk about the Feast until next year's! (Just check out Lina's piece in this month's L'Angolo Italiano and the photos!) All our volunteers should give themselves a pat on the back and a tremendous round of applause! We are definitely off to a great start for the year!

April will be a hectic time for us at the Club, too. Just check out our calendar of events on page 3 and the great posters on pages 4 & 5 and you'll see what our incredible Committee Chairs, Special Event Coordinators, volunteers and planners are rolling out for us all to enjoy. I look forward to joining you there and if I miss any of you, please have a Blessed and Happy Easter.

Ciao, Josephine



Novità

Your Cultural and Social Newsletter

Italian American Club of Venice, Inc.

1375 Ringling Dr., Venice, FL 34285

George Palmer & Lina Decrescenzo,

Editors

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email:

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Italian American Club of Venice, Inc.

Overheard around the Club

Why are we making bread for St. Joseph's day on St. Patrick's day?

Never mind that; is the coffee ready yet?



Follow us on
facebook



In Loving Memory

Our Founder

Louis Sclafani



Luce del Sole
Get well soon!

Phyllis Angelastri, Denise D'Amico, Barbara Feroni, Charles Mossorofo and Grace Robbio

Note: Please call **Donna Sherman 587-1058** if you know of someone needing the support of the members through cards, calls & prayers.

Buon Compleanno!



April Birthdays!

Al Angelastri **13th**, Bill Belleville **28th**, Nancy Blackstone **12th**, Betty Burrafato **20th**, Robert Caldararo **29th**, Nancy Canto **12th**, Kathy Carbone **4th**, Lina Decrescenzo **8th**, Susan DiGeronimo **5th**, Steve DiGeronimo **11th**, Jim Dolimpo **28th**, Barbara Ferroni **20th**, Lynn Fontana **24th**, Camille LiPuma **6th**, Sebastian Liseo **22nd**, Tom Martorana **11th**, Mary Millikin **5th**, Deb Monroe **9th**, Marcey Norman **12th**, John O'Donnell **29th**, Sandi Prunty **1st**, Grace Robbio **28th**, Anthony Rondello **19th**, Janet Rose **15th**, Carol Rossi **6th**, Donna Sherman **11th**, Jamie Sooy **28th**, Denise Sudia **23rd**, Ron Tenaglia **8th**, and Ingrid Trofi **25th**. Special Mea Culpa to Bill Charboneau **Mar 17th** who was missed last month.

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



Amphitheater at Siracusa Sicily

April Facts

April is named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Roman festivals which were planned for April included Parrilla, a day celebrating the founding of Rome. April's zodiac signs are both four-hoofed ungulates. Famous April birthdays include: Leonardo da Vinci and William Shakespeare.

Aprile 2022

| Sun | Mo | Tue | We | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Notable April Dates

- Apr 5th – Searching for Italy luncheon 12:30pm
- Apr 7th - General Meeting 7pm
- Apr 10th - Picnic in the park 4pm
- Apr 14th - BINGO 7pm
- Apr 15th - Good Friday (no Friday dinner)
- Apr 17th - Easter Sunday
- Apr 21st - PBS's The Italian Americans (part 2) 7pm
- Apr 24th - Birthday/Anniversary Dinner 4pm
- Apr 28th - Exec Board Meeting 6pm
- Apr 29th - ECCS Spirit Night

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEETING 1st Thursday 7pm

BOCCE Mondays and Tuesdays 8:30am Thursdays and Fridays 10am

MAH JONG Wednesdays 1–4pm

POKER Wednesdays 7pm–???

BINGO 2nd Thursday 7pm

CULTURAL EVENTS 3rd Thursday 7pm

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Last Thursday 6pm

May - Save the Date

- May 5th - General Meeting 7pm
- May 12th - BINGO 7pm
- May 19th - Movie night Moonstruck 7pm
- May 27th - Executive Board Meeting 6pm



Trevi Fountain

General Meeting A to M please bring a dessert to share, store bought or homemade.

Benvenuti'

Welcome New Members: Rita Aubert, Betty DeRose, Renee DeRose, Tony Leodora, William & Vivian Maltese, Cynthia & Carl Paoletta, Frank Pascarella, and Amy Rafferty.



ACTIVITY & SPECIAL EVENT COORDINATORS

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|----------|
| Appreciation | Donna Sherman | 587-1058 |
| Bocce | Marino Roncari | 735-1071 |
| | Lou Piazza | 726-3400 |
| BINGO | Linda Falco | 323-4214 |
| Mah Jong | Ralph Maccarone | 234-0300 |
| Poker | Sal Trofi | 497-7676 |



Second Thursday of the Month

April 14th

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

The Italian American Club of Venice invites you to a....

Picnic in the Park

Maxine Barritt Park, Venice
(Next to Sharky's)

Fried Chicken and
All the Fixin's

Featuring Tunes with
The Cruzer

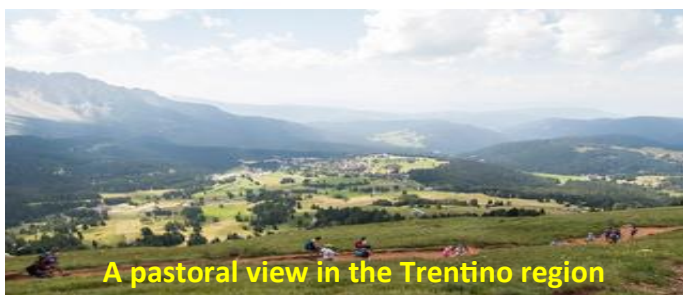
Sunday, April 10th
4 pm - 8 pm

As Per Our Permit: *Please Bring Your Own Wine,
Beer, Soft Drinks, Table Snacks*

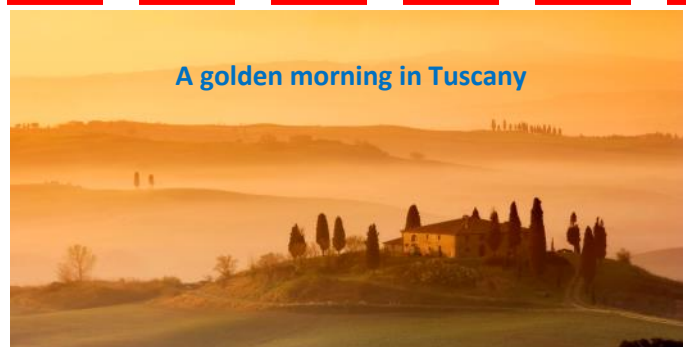
Members \$20 Guests \$30

Includes: Dinner, Entertainment & Pavilion Rental

For Tickets Call or Text **Dolores 941-468-9029**



A pastoral view in the Trentino region



A golden morning in Tuscany

A note about reservations for Friday dinners: We will not be accepting reservations for 9 or more until May 1st.

Editor's note: To request the Club Photographer's services for events contact Angelo Tulimieri at 244-0929.

Bob Errico

As a certified kitchen manager, Bob with his team, prepares the spaghetti sauce, meatballs, sausage, chicken, and eggplant parm.

For the feast, Bob was the 'behind the scenes inventory' ordering prepping and cooking coordinator, preparing spaghetti, sausage, meatballs, peppers and onions.

Bob is the oldest of six, with three brothers and two sisters, he grew up in an Italian, French Canadian, Polish household.

Bob worked for 38 years for the public works department in Greenburgh, NY. Starting as a laborer and working his way up the ladder, he retired as Highway General Foreman.

Bob was a volunteer fireman in Tarrytown, NY, for 35 years, where he also found himself in the kitchen a lot.

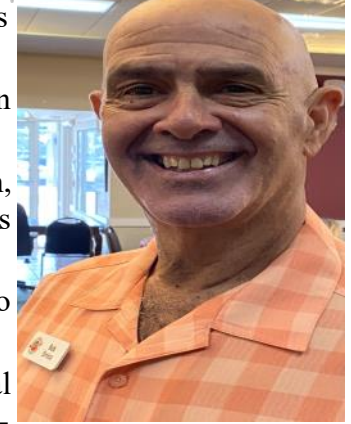
He met his wife Karen (also an IACV volunteer) in 1999 through mutual friends. They were married in 2002 and will be celebrating their 20th anniversary in September.

After retiring and moving to Venice, Bob has enjoyed his love of classic cars and volunteer work.

After attending dinner at the IACV with his wife and friends and getting a feel for the welcoming atmosphere and delicious food, Bob decided he wanted to be part of this Club. A part of this unique Family.

Thank you Bob!

Member of the Month



The Italian-American Club of Venice Invites You to...

Searching for Italy

Presented by Robert Gaglio

A Culinary & Cultural Tour of Naples & the Amalfi Coast

- Includes Three-Course Lunch Prepared by Chef Bruno
- Excerpts from the Highly Acclaimed Stanley Tucci Series
- Opera Singer Joy Lietner Performs Neapolitan Songs
- Regional Cooking Demonstration
- Discover "Off-the-Beaten-Track" Points of Interest

Tuesday, April 5
12:30pm to 2:30pm

Italian-American Club
1375 Ringling Drive, Venice



Robert Gaglio

The son of Sicilian immigrants, Robert always has had a love for his cultural upbringing, the love of family, friends and sharing that love with food.

www.italianculinarytours.com

Seating is limited
Members \$50 Guests \$60
For tickets, call or text Dee at (941) 468-9029
On sale through 3-31-2022
No refunds



Movie Night

Thursday Apr 21st at 7 pm

The second episode of the PBS documentary *The Italian Americans*. Originally broadcast 7 years ago in two parts, each two hours long. We'll see the final two hours. Even if you missed the first half it's a must see. Tony Greco hosts.

Free snacks provided BYOB

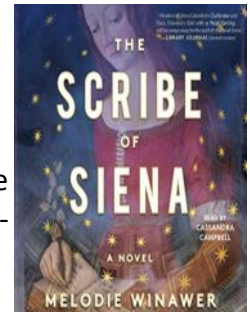


The Scribe of Siena by Melodie Winawer

I believe this book is the debut for author Melodie Winawer. Obviously, the title lets the reader know this story takes place in Siena. It was a must read for me because Siena is one of my most favorite places in Italy.

The main character is an orthopedic surgeon who travels to Siena to visit her brother. The brother is an academic who is studying why Siena had so many more deaths during the plague than Florence. The story is a little complicated, but the reader is transported back to the 1300's. Winawer goes into great detail about life in those years before the Black Death. This is historical fiction but written to educate the reader about life in that time period. I thought it was very well done. Yet again, I am sitting with my phone at my side. Not just to see pictures of all the places mentioned, but to also get the history of those same places we visit today. Siena is a truly beautiful city. The history of the Palio, the seventeen historic contrade (neighborhoods), the Duomo, the she wolf statue, the Palazzo del Campo. I could go on and on.

Sandi Chance



**... and because of that,
Sandi -**

**The Armchair Traveler
visits Siena.**

Click to view





NEW

Language ^{Ne}Classes to begin

Beginner II: (Prereq: Complete Beginner I)
Textbook: Barron's *Learn Italian the Fast & Fun Way*

Mar 21st – May 2nd

Mondays 2-3:30

Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan

239-200-3582

menaldiscscanlan@gmail.com

Intermediate: Mar 24th – May 19th

Thursdays 3-5

Vince Amato

631-224-1033

vin.p.amato1@gmail.com

Conversation: Mar 22nd – May 3rd

Tuesdays 3-5

Lina Decrescenzo

609-742-4593

carefor.you@aol.com

You must register for all courses



Dessert Time LINA'S RUM CAKE.

Ingredients

1 C chopped pecans

1 Pkg of yellow cake mix

1 Pkg of instant vanilla pudding

4 eggs

½ C cold milk

½ C vegetable oil

½ C of rum

Directions: grease and dust a Bundt pan

Combine cake mix, pudding, eggs, milk, and rum

Blend for 2 min. mix in nuts

Bake at 350 for 30 min.

remove cake from oven, after 15 min remove cake from pan and glaze.

Ingredients and directions for the glaze

¼ C. butter, ¼ C. water

1 C. sugar, ½ C. rum

Melt butter, add water and sugar, boil stirring for 5 min.

Remove from heat, add rum

Poke holes in the cake, pour glaze evenly over it and let set for a long time

(1 or 2 days) and enjoy!



Emma Tarhalla
after being crowned
undisputed

Eggplant Queen
(her subjects await in awe)



The Italians who Built America

We've all heard stories about Italians who came here with nothing but made it big in America. Many of those successful men and women landed in the New York-New England area then spread out all across the country in search of a better life for themselves and their progeny, **us** to be exact. Just think of it. What courage must it have taken for a poor family from Italy to board a crowded ship and brave: the perils of a sea voyage, the unfriendly (and often outright hostile) attitudes of authorities and citizens who feared these hard-working immigrants? They were often viewed as a threat to those who had the jobs that the new arrivals might "steal" from them because they would work for less ... harder and with better results.

Such was Joseph Spadaro. Born in Messina in 1883 he came to America in 1900 and worked for the New York City street department. Within seven years he was running a construction business! Do that math! He developed a new process for concrete construction and became wealthy. He saw the potential of Florida development as early as the 1920s and invested in many projects on the Gulf Coast. Joined in business by his brother, the Spadaros left a lasting legacy (just ask Venice Gondolier reporter Larry Humes who researched them for his 2021 article). Larry was kind enough to provide me a copy of his article along with a 1950 Gondolier front page that speaks of a Spadaro development here in town. I don't know about you, but I'm gonna check Venice records to see if I'm living in one of the homes the Spadaros left here as part of their legacy.

Mille Grazi to Al Massanti for this story tip.

Brothers left lasting legacy

Largely forgotten, siblings made large contributions to Gulf Coast

By LARRY HUMES
FOR THE GONDOLIER

Aside from a street that still bears their name, the Spadaro brothers are likely not familiar to most Suncoast residents.

And yet, these two self-made millionaires who emigrated to America from Sicily made their mark on the development of 20th century South Florida.

"These brothers made a significant contribution to life along the Gulf Coast. And I think it's more than just a few of the small homes they built that still survive," local historian Peg Kapustiak said. "They had this concept of hurricane prevention before the times really thought about those



Congratulations to Johanna Giordano for winning last month's caption contest with her: **LIKE OUR FLAGS, EAGLES FLY FOR FREEDOM FOREVER!** Her prize is coming from Aruba in my suitcase. (Sorry Tony, you missed the cut.)

Send your caption entries for this month's photo (above) to Lina at: carefor.you@AOL.com

Some lighter moments from our Feast



Editor's note:

Thank you to the many fantastic shutter-bugs who crammed my in box and phone. There wasn't a way to feature them all, so I've attempted to show some lighter moments in this edition. Be sure to visit Angelo's compendium on line at:

<https://venice.smugmug.com/IACV-Annual-Festivals-and-Carnivals/2022-Feast-and-Carnival4Days>

L'angolo Italiano

Do you have an Italian story to share? E-mail it to: carefor.you@aol.com

La Festa

Durante l'ultimo 'General meeting' del 3/3/22 un clamoroso applauso dai membri in piedi per Ann Brozosky riempì la sala del Club, seguito dai ringraziamenti di tutti i presenti per la responsabilità, pazienza, dignità, forza e coraggio nella preparazione, guida ed esecuzione della Festa. Ann a sua volta ringraziò tutti i presenti mettendo in rilievo che la festa è stata un successo grazie all'impegno, lavoro e dedizione non solo dei volontari che hanno fisicamente lavorato ma anche di tutti coloro che hanno offerto il loro supporto morale.

Da quando faccio parte del IACV non ho sentito altro che 'Feast, Feast', sembrava che tutta l'attività del club si avvolgesse attorno al 'Feast', non nascondo che ero proprio curiosa di vedere questa festa. Finalmente dopo tanto parlare, riunioni, piani e dispute il giorno tanto atteso arrivò.

Camminai tra le bancarelle, ricordando con nostalgia la festa del mio paese, ricordai il mio papà che ci portava sulle giostre e ci comprava il palloncino che in poche ore immancabilmente scoppiava lasciandoci con qualche lacrimuccia.

Osservai i volontari che occupatissimi preparavano le loro specialità, percepì sui loro visi un'espressione felice e determinata a fare della festa un grande successo.

Mi sentii colpevole di non aver contribuito di più ai preparativi 'ma avevo ospiti' mi dissi cercando di perdonarmi.

Mi recai alla tenta 'Heritage', non sapendo di preciso cosa fare, sperai di essere all'altezza del compito assegnatomi. Subito, mi fu chiaro che dovevo rispondere non solo alle domande semplici dei visitatori ma di informarli di tanti particolari delle città e dei luoghi d'interesse.

Una veterana di 96 anni vispa e graziosa, mi abbracciò con gioia "finalmente una paesana" esclamò e in pochi minuti mi raccontò la storia della sua vita. Nata in Sicilia, durante la seconda guerra mondiale servì come infermiera a Londra, dove incontrò un soldato americano, fu un amore istantaneo, dopo la guerra si sposarono, si stabilirono in USA e vissero felice e contenti.

Qualcuno mi ha chiesto: "Vorresti cambiare o aggiungere qualcosa alla festa?"

'Ma che domanda senza senso!' Pensai

"Fammici pensare!" gli risposi.

Grazie mille a tutti coloro che hanno contribuito al successo della 'Festa Perfetta'!



The Feast

During the 3/3/22 General meeting, a standing ovation for Ann Brozosky filled the Club Hall, followed by the thanks of all those present for the responsibility, patience, dignity, strength, and courage in the preparation, guidance and execution of the Feast. Ann thanked all, saying that the Feast had been a success thanks to the commitment, work, and dedication of all the volunteers, not only those who physically worked but also those who offered their moral support as well.

(Continued on the next page)

Since I've been part of the IACV, I've heard nothing but 'Feast, Feast,' it seemed that all the activity of the Club wrapped around the 'Feast,' I do not hide that I was curious to see this party. Finally, after much talk, meetings, plans, and disputes, the long-awaited day arrived.

I walked among the stalls, remembering with nostalgia the Feast of my town; I remembered my father who took us on the rides and bought us the balloon that invariably burst, leaving us with some tears in a few hours.

I watched the volunteers who were very busy preparing their specialties; I perceived on their faces a happy expression and determination to make the party a great success.

I felt guilty for not contributing more to the preparations, 'but I had guests,' I said, trying to forgive myself.

I went to the 'Heritage,' not knowing what to do; I hoped to be up to my task. As people arrived, it was clear to me that I had to answer the simple questions of visitors and inform them of many details of cities and places of interest.

A 96-year-old veteran, vibrant and pretty, embraced me with joy' "finally, a peasant," exclaimed and told me her life story in a few minutes. Born in Sicily, she served, during WWII, as a nurse in London, where she met an American soldier; it was love at first sight. After the war, they married, settled in the USA, and lived happily ever after.

Someone asked me, "Would you like to change or add something to the Feast?"

"But what a meaningless question!" I thought

"Let me think about that!" I replied.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Perfect Feast's great success!

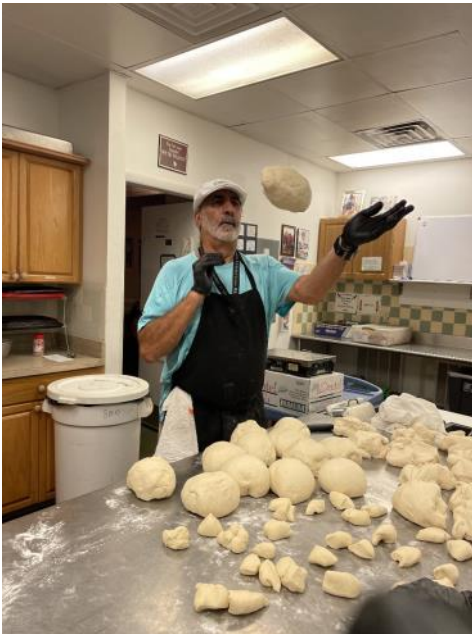
Lina Decrescenzo



Twenty four players faced off in the 2022 IACV Bocce Tournament. Randomly chosen teams battled from 9 to 12:15 in a hard-fought match. Our new Champion, **Mike Matarelli**, credited his success to a winning stance and a masterful grip (luck? Okay, some of that too). Pizza and celebratory beverages were supplied by Louie Piazza while Patsy, Gaetano and Rafael pitched in (no pun intended) to help Joe Bird put on our annual match. Mike's name will join the previous champions on the Club trophy.

Thanks Joe for the reportage.





MEMORIES OF ST. JOSEPH'S DAY 2022

Photos by Karen Errico and Angelo Tulimieri. See more at:
<https://venice.smugmug.com/St-Josephs-Day/i-J5m6SvK>

Our Italian Adventure

Episode 5: Getting to know *la Bella Napoli*.

One of the first things we did was take a “*Benvenuti a Napoli*” course given by the Human Resources people at the Naval Support Activity. The lady instructor taught us a few local customs, gave us a primer in conversational Italian (make sure you ask for *una pizza con tutto* and **not** *con tutti*), and showed us how to get around in a city noted for its frenetic traffic. We learned to navigate the many different public transportation modes (including the almost uncountable trolleys and busses, the four different *funiculari*, and the *metropolitana* that connected *Bagnoli*, where we were, with downtown *Napoli*. We also learned about the *Ferrovilla Circumvesuviana* connecting *Napoli* with *Sorrento*, and the many other *Ferrovillae* connecting *Napoli* with the rest of Italy.

The course took a week and the last day was our “graduation exercise.” Armed with *lire* (I could never figure out why the bills were of so many different sizes), we took the *Metropolitana* to the *Stazione Centrale* and walked to the *funiculare* to the *Vomero* district, halfway up the mountain that makes up the backdrop of the city. We shopped in stores and had lunch in a fun neighborhood pizzeria.

We learned to bargain with the shopkeepers (always offer *mezza* after the *negoziante* states the price. If you don’t bargain, the locals won’t think you’re a worthy customer), and it was a full, fun, and rewarding day. Later we tried our luck shopping for snacks in the *Supermercato*. Gail handed the cashier a *diecimille* note and got change in *unos* and an egg (apparently coins were in short supply).

We also learned that there are areas in *Napoli* that specialize in different trades. For instance, “Shoe Alley” was home to the most incredible *calzolaii* (during the first visit ours made a wooden last of Gail’s foot), and we would visit often. “Brass Alley” was famous for furniture (all our beds came from there), and of course Madame Vaccarella’s famous pottery factory sold a dizzying display of beautiful, fragile (and very heavy) *ceramica artistica*. We later visited a pasta factory and there were countless *salumerias* where we learned to love *mozzarella di buffala*. We weren’t ready to face everyday shopping on the economy yet, but we were on our way.

Ciao for now. Next Month: We try our luck driving downtown in Gail’s new Fiat.

George Palmer



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More coming soon!



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Fast, Friendly and Efficient Service
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A little April Fool's Day humor amongst
the Friday morning kitchen crew. Any-
one for a homemade brownie?

