



# IACA

January  
February  
2024

## Italian – American Cultural Association NEWSLETTER

### President's Message

#### **WELCOME Dr. Robert Fierro!!**

Greetings!

Happy New Year to my fellow IACA members. It is a great honor to have been elected president again.

I have memories of how difficult this job can be and many more memories of the great accomplishments and good this organization has achieved.

Looking to the past, I remember my old friends; we have had glorious and, for the most part, successful battles with the city and the state. Many of these old friends are no longer with us, and while they are missed, I know they're looking down on us from their just rewards and pulling for us. To those of you who have been with this organization as long as I have, I welcome your particular point of view. Your memories of our successes and failures will be useful as we move into the future.

Looking to the present, I think of my current friends and the magnificent job they have done, as well as the tasks that are ahead of us, so that we can continue towards our goal of making Italian culture available to all.

We have a stable, viable organization with outstanding leadership and commitment. The gala was a perfect example of the whole Board of Directors working above and beyond what would be reasonably expected—especially Ginger and John.

(continued on page 2)

We salute our outgoing president, Virginia Hudert, for her outstanding efforts in holding IACA together these past two years. She took over the role after a period of significant internal turmoil and accomplished her goals of achieving peace and civility. Virginia's patience, kindness, and caring made her presidency extremely successful. She leaves IACA in a much stronger and unified position. We all owe her a great deal of thanks.

Looking to the future, I see new friends, especially the younger generation, whose new ideas and energy are needed if IACA is to continue successfully. Virginia and I both agree it is imperative that the first priority is to increase membership, particularly those 50 and under. IACA cannot survive unless new folks join. We welcome all those who wish to join, whether it is for social events and meals or for other activities. We also welcome those existing members who may be interested in a leadership position and encourage them to come forward.

As we kick off 2024, I am certain together we can surmount any challenges. I look forward to working with you all.

Until next month, be well,

*Bob Fierro*

Below is the slate of officers with terms as indicated, Executive Board Members and Directors at Large, who were elected at the Social on December 17, 2023.

**Executive Board Members**

President, Dr. Robert Fierro, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2024

First Vice-President, Donna Dandeneau, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2025

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Elia, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2025

Treasurer, Joe Iacometta, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2025

**Directors At Large**

Winnie Scalora, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2026

Catherine Brennan, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2026

Scott Coffield, Term from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2026



## COLUMBUS STATUE UPDATE

Greeting To All,

I trust everyone had a wonderful Christmas, and best wishes for a happy, healthy 2024! After a very successful Columbus Day Fundraising Gala in October, in which over \$10,000.00 was raised, the Columbus Statue Restoration Committee will start the New Year in search of a permanent, public placement of the fully restored Columbus Statue.

The committee will review previous possible opportunities for relocation of the statue in the Richmond area, which is our first preference, while also considering out-of-town locations for the statue if need be. If you would like to join our committee, we welcome your interest and ideas. Please contact me at [johncorritone@hotmail.com](mailto:johncorritone@hotmail.com).

On a somewhat similar topic, I was asked to write an article for the National Italian American Foundation's (NIAF) Ambassador's magazine on "Finding Italy in Richmond".

The article appeared in its winter publication, which is distributed worldwide and is included in this newsletter and will be on IACA's website. I hope you enjoy it. The NIAF was one of IACA's major sponsors for the October Gala and has offered their assistance in relocation of the Columbus Statue.

I look forward to seeing you at our January Souper Bowl social.

Regards,

*John Corritone*

Committee Chairperson

Columbus Statue Restoration Fund

Italian Citizenship Assistance (ICA) assists individuals seeking Italian citizenship jure sanguinis (by descent), jure matrimonii (by marriage) and through lawsuits (1948 court cases) at an International level and is widely recognized as one of the leading firms in its field.

ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE

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Tel: +39 (0425) 093060

Email:

[gloria@italiancitizenshipassistance.com](mailto:gloria@italiancitizenshipassistance.com)

Web: [italiancitizenshipassistance.com](http://italiancitizenshipassistance.com)



January Board Meeting Thursday, January 11, 2024

**Tuckahoe Library 2:00 to 5:00 PM.**

Please note, this meeting is in the Large Meeting Room by the front entrance.

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February Board Meeting Thursday, February 8, 2024

**Gayton Library 2:00 to 5:00 PM**

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If you're a member of IACA, you are welcome to attend\* the Board Meetings scheduled on the second Thursday of each month.

**\*If you want to discuss a particular subject at the Board Meeting, please advise Dr. Robert Fierro, President, so he can add it to the agenda.**



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WEBSITE: [www.iacava.org](http://www.iacava.org)

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/IACAVA>

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Catherine (Cat) [Brennan.LittleArnoldCat@aol.com](mailto:Brennan.LittleArnoldCat@aol.com)



IACA is signed up to host the Doughnut Distribution at St Michael's Catholic Church on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 – 11:15 AM. Volunteering for this service is a great way to attract new members and provide information on IACA. Please contact Debbie Corritone at [debbiecorritone@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiecorritone@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

## IACA January “Souper” Bowl Social January 21, 2024

Please plan to attend our 1<sup>st</sup> Social of the new year, and come share joy, learn more about your organization, and get more involved in helping your board with planning for the year. We welcome your support and suggestions.

**Time:** 1 pm to 4 pm

**Place:** St. Michaels Catholic Church Lake House (at the rear of property) 4491 Springfield Rd. Glen Allen, VA 23060

**Menu:** Soups – crockpots of soup made by members + crackers/bread, salad, dessert, coffee, soft drinks, water (feel free to bring wine if you wish)

You will receive 3 tickets on arrival to use to vote for your choice of the 3 best soups with judging at the end of the Social and prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Entertainment:** Freddy C providing music; 50/50 raffle

**Cost:** \$20/person (free to the persons bringing soup)

**Please RSVP to your phone tree caller ASAP. Also be sure to tell us what soup you wish to bring. The soup should be enough for 12 servings.**



## IACA February Carnevale’ Social February 18, 2024



**Time:** 1pm to 4 pm

**Place:** St Michaels Catholic Church Lake House (at rear of property) 4491 Springfield Rd Glen Allen, VA 23060

**Menu:** Italian fare with entrée, salad, bread, dessert, soft drinks, coffee, water (feel free to bring your own wine if you wish, and please drink “responsibly”)

**Cost:** \$20/person

**Entertainment:** Freddy C providing music; 50/50 raffle

**Please respond promptly to your phone tree caller.**

**Please wear costumes/party clothing as there will be judging and prizes for the best costumes!!!**





**OUR ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSICAL HERITAGE by FREDDY C**

It is the day after Christmas, and I hope one and all had a joyous holiday. 2024 is fast approaching, and I would like to leave you with a special gift. One is a movie (29th Street), and the other is a musical Documentary (Louis Prima, The Wildest). Both can be viewed on a YouTube channel. Both are very entertaining.

Have a Happy and healthy 2024, and I hope to see all of you next year.....



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## *Wednesday Walking Club*

We're walking at Deep Run Park at 9:00 AM. We meet at the FIRST parking lot as you enter the park. Come join us! For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Eileen at: PrincessEileen@Juno.com

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### **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2024?**

**ANNUAL DUES: Single \$25.00 Family \$50.00 Senior 90+ Free**

**Please pay your dues at the upcoming January or February Social(s). If not, please mail your checks, made payable to:**

**IACA 10307 West Broad Street, #290 Glen Allen, VA 23060**

**Dues MUST be received by February 29<sup>th</sup> in order for you and/or your family to be included in the 2024 Membership Directory.**

## Belle Donne Luncheons

**All ladies of IACA are invited to the luncheons held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 12:00 noon.**

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at noon: Cheesecake Factory**

Short Pump Towne Center  
11800 W Broad St  
Richmond, VA 23233  
(804) 364-4300

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at noon: Hard Shell Bellgrade**

The Shoppes at Bellgrade  
11400 W Huguenot Rd  
Midlothian, VA 23113  
(804) 464-1476

### **IMPORTANT RSVP information:**

- For January - RSVP by **Sunday, January 7th**
- For February - RSVP no later than **Sunday, February 11th**

RSVP to Barbara Bruckart at [blbruckart@gmail.com](mailto:blbruckart@gmail.com) or call her at (804) 364-7001. Leave your name and the names of others in your party. If you have questions, leave your phone number, otherwise calls will not be returned.





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Elia	01/04
Joan Piserchio	01/08
John Corritone	01/11
Stan Balducci	01/19
Barbara Hasley	01/20
Chip Cipoletti	01/21
Randy Azzarello	01/23
Tony Pericle	01/26
Joanna Piserchio	01/30

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Nick & Ernestine Maiolo	01/13
Sue & Sergio Gigante	01/28

### Also born in January

- Jan 1, 1735- Paul Revere, Revolutionary War.
- Jan 1, 1752- Betsy Ross designed the first U.S.flag
- Jan 8, 1935- Elvis Presley, King of Rock 'n Roll
- January 14, 1741- Benedict Arnold, a traitor in the American Revolutionary War.
- January 17, 1899- Al Capone, notorious 1920s gangster
- January 24, 1917- Ernest Borgnine, Actor, most notably in TV's "McHales' Navy"
- January 30, 1922- Dick Martin, comedian



**Amici Men's Lunches** – Gentlemen, you're all invited to join us January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup> for lunch and fellowship at Angelo's Italian Restaurant at 13137 Midlothian Tpke., Midlothian, VA 23113, at 1:00 PM. If you have questions, please contact Nick Maiolo (804) 794-6164

## Lunch Anyone?

**Paesani Men's Lunches** – For their monthly Paesani's Club luncheon, IACA men meet on the first Friday of each month at Casa Italiano, 8801 Three Chopt Rd., Henrico, VA 23229 at 1:00 PM. If you have questions, please contact Freddy Corritone (917) 482-4121 (Jan 5<sup>th</sup> & February 2<sup>nd</sup>)



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Julia Kelley	02//01
Joy Nero Ferguson	02/03
Bill Feasenmyer	02/12
Toni Giovenco	02/17
Sergio Gigante	02/21
Gloria Feliciano	02/23
Christine Ferrigno	02/23
Sandra Munari	02/25

NO anniversaries in February.

## ALSO BORN IN FEBRUARY

Febr 22, 1732 - George Washington, First US President

February 25, 1966 – Tea Leoni, actress, “Jurassic Park III”, “Deep Impact”, television series “Madame Secretary

February 26, 1930 – Johnny Cash, American country western singer

February 27, 1932 – Elizabeth Taylor, actress

February 28, 1940 – Mario Andretti, race car drive

# Photos from Dolce



Pictures provided by Carol Walls. THANK YOU, Carol!

### Phone Tree

When your caller reaches out to you, please indicate the best way to reach you: phone call, email, or text. This will ensure that messages will arrive in the manner that you prefer. Volunteers are always welcome! Please call Carol Walls if you are able to help – (804) 614-7228

PLEASE RESPOND TO YOUR CALLER QUICKLY AFTER YOU'RE CONTACTED so we can "get our ducks in a row" with supplies. Help us make these socials successful and fun for all!

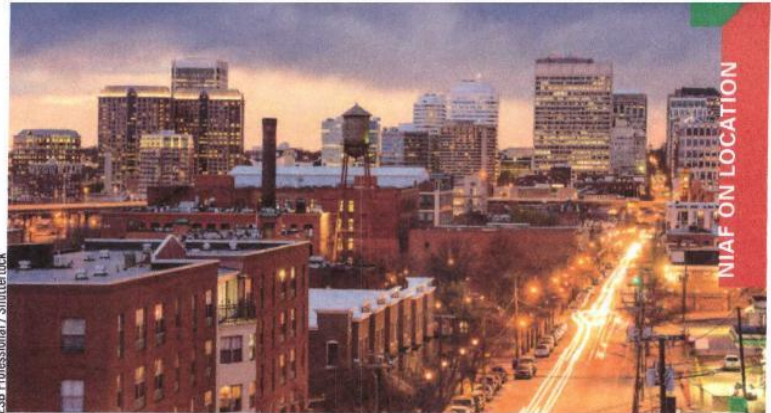
**THERE WILL BE NO "WHO IS THIS PERSON" IN THIS EDITION.**

**REMEMBER, THIS IS A LEAP YEAR – 29 DAYS IN FEBRUARY.**

**ON PAGE 10 IS AN ARTICLE BY JOHN CORRITONE – FINDING ITALY IN RICHMOND.**

# Finding Italy in Richmond

From the best Italian restaurants and most popular festivals to cultural events and authentic markets, Italy's influences are everywhere in America. In this NIAF on Location, John Corritone offers his advice for finding Italy in Richmond, Va., where he is the corresponding secretary and a past president of the Italian-American Cultural Association of Virginia (IACA).



FSB Professional / Shutterstock

In my 39 years living in Richmond, I have seen many changes. Growing up on Long Island, then living 10 years in the Detroit area, I was used to many Italian influenced towns and neighborhoods. Arriving in Richmond in 1984, I was surprised to see so few Italian Americans living here and so few Italian restaurants. But over the years, the influx Italian Americans from Northeast and Midwest brought the love of Italian culture and heritage, and authentic Italian restaurants.

## What are the most Italian parts of Richmond?

In the 1920s, Highland Park became Richmond's vibrant Italian community, populated by immigrants, many of them stonemasons and artisans from Tuscany whose decorative stonework still decorates iconic buildings in downtown Richmond today. After World War II, many resettled in the Richmond suburbs for better employment, schools and quality of life, leaving no distinct Italian neighborhood. In 2017, a state historical marker was unveiled in Highland Park recognizing their accomplishments.

## What are your favorite Italian restaurants in Richmond

To ask my favorite Italian restaurants is like asking who my favorite child is. Two sites that stand out are Chianti's and Casa Italiano, both located in Richmond's West End. Chianti's has a family feel the moment you walk in, similar to Sunday dinner at Nonna's. Casa Italiano is more contemporary, with an upscale vibe, and serves an eclectic menu. The Shrimp Francese over Pasta from Chianti's and the Pappardelle with Sausage Ragù at Casa Italiano are to die for!

## Are there any "back in time" Italian-neighborhood restaurants there?

When Richmonders want an authentic Italian neighborhood restaurant, they visit Edo's Squid in the Fan District. Edo's Squid is steps from the urban campus of Virginia Commonwealth University — an area that could pass as an Italian neighborhood from earlier times. Once inside this rowhouse restaurant, aromas of garlic, tomatoes and seafood along with the informal energy take you back in time. Owner Ed Vasairo is in and out of the small, open-air kitchen. Don't be surprised if he pulls up a chair to talk. Favorite dishes: *broccoletti di rapa*, *scungilli insalata*, shrimp *fra diavolo* and squid *napoletana*.

## How about Italian fashion?

Franco's Fine Clothier, located at the Short Pump Town Center in the West End and at its original location in Northside, is one of Virginia's finest haberdashers. Now in its second generation of ownership, the Franco family and its founder, Franco Ambrogi, who emigrated from Tuscany in 1955, have earned a 50-year reputation for exceptional craftsmanship and outstanding service.

## Where to go for Italian Culture?

The Richmond Symphony includes Italian operas throughout the year—selections from Verdi, Puccini, and Rossini, among them. The Italian Gardens at Maymont Park feature exquisite stonework, statuary and fountains that, since 1910, have displayed classical Italian style from the 15th and 16th centuries. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts offers an excellent collection of Italian art and sculpture.

## What's the most Italian Day in your community?

In past years, Columbus Day in Richmond was celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in October at the Columbus Monument (since 1927). Regrettably, the Columbus statue was illegally taken down and vandalized during the 2020 protests. The Italian American community, notably the IACA, has repaired and restored the statue with intent to re-install it in a safe, permanent location in Richmond where it can be appreciated as art and restore the legacy of Christopher Columbus.



Joe Iaconetta

John Corritone and Richmond sculptor Paul DiPasquale with restored Columbus statue

## Where's the best morning espresso?

Caffespesso, owned by Claudio Ragazzi, located in the West End of Richmond, is by far the best cafe to start your day with an espresso.

## Is there an organization there that promotes Italian-American culture?

The IACA, founded in 1984, unites Italian Americans and anyone interested in the rich Italian heritage and culture. Members connect with passion to perpetuate and promote Italian culture for current and future generations. The organization provides three yearly scholarships to deserving students and hosts a yearly fundraiser. IACA features monthly socials for members and guests, including a Carnivale social in February, St. Joseph's Day luncheon in March, and a Christmas Dolce Party in December. Visit IACA's website: [www.iacava.org](http://www.iacava.org) ▲

WWW.NIAF.ORG



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

Name(s) (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (1) (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (2) (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Italian Family Names (including mother’s maiden name and grandparents)

\_\_\_\_\_

Regions your families are from: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **IACA**

Send to: Membership Chairperson  
IACA  
10307 West Broad Street, #290  
Glen Allen VA 23060

Annual Dues: Single-\$25; Family-\$50; Full-time college student-\$15; Over 90 – free.

For further information about IACA, visit our website at **www.IACAVA.org**

**Italian American Cultural Association Established 1984**