

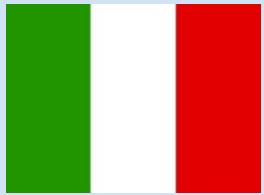


*Ciao Tutti and Felice Capo D'Anno*  
Welcome to the January 2024 meeting



**President – Mike Palmieri**  
**Vice President – Sal Saladini**  
**Treasurer – Steve Selvaggio**  
**Recording Secretary – Ann Allevi**  
**Membership Chair – Debbie Stone**  
**Scholarship Chair – Ann Allevi**  
**Trips Coordinator – Colleen Kolibas**  
**Ballroom Hospitality Coordinator – Debbie Stone**  
**Sergeant at Arms – Cataldo (Charlie) Minutillo**





# AGENDA

- Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance - Mike/Cataldo
- God Bless America - All
- Opening Remarks - Mike
- Invocation - Monsignor Saladini
- December Minutes - Ann
- Treasurers Report - Rich for Steve
- Membership Update - Ann for Debbie
- Upcoming Jitney Trips - Mike/Colleen
- Upcoming Clubhouse Events - Mike
- A Peek into Italy - Sal
- Recent Trips/Events Video - Steve
- Dessert & Coffee



**"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**





## God Bless America

God bless America  
Land that I love  
Stand beside her  
And guide her  
Through the night  
with a light from above



From the mountains  
To the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America  
My home sweet home

From the mountains  
To the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
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My home sweet home  
God Bless America  
My Home Sweet Home





# Monsignor Saladini



Invocation



Mike Palmieri called the meeting to order at 7 pm. He opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then everyone sang God Bless America.

Mike thanked everyone for all their support and thanked his staff for their work and support all year. We were then entertained by a few of Mike's Christmas jokes. He then thanked everyone who supported the holiday food drive for Manville, saying we collected over \$2,000 in checks and 3 carloads of food.

Sal Saladini did an invocation and read a thank you from Caritas Food Pantry for our generous donations.

Ann Allevi read the minutes of the November meeting.

Ann Allevi gave a scholarship update and thanked 3 retiring members (Bob Martin, Jerry Pemoulie, and MaryAnn Renzulli) and welcomed Marie Lyttle to the committee.

Steve Selvaggio announced the balance in our treasury in November was \$22,985 and December's balance is \$29,799.

Debbie Stone gave the membership update. We currently have 492 paid members and 49 honorary members for a total of 541 members. She announced 3 new members. Club dues for 2024 are \$25 for new members and \$20 for renewals and are due now.

Frank Marchese taught us how to say Jingle Bells in Italian.

Colleen Kolibas reminded everyone about the trip to Doolan's on December 6<sup>th</sup> and Peddler's Village on December 13<sup>th</sup> with the new departure time of 3:30 pm.

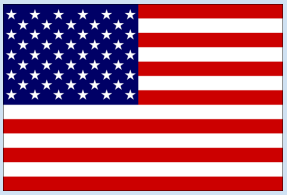
Mike announced that the Christmas Party on December 16<sup>th</sup> with music by Gary Morton is sold and there is a waitlist. He has also scheduled a dance with the Jersey Surecats on February 16<sup>th</sup> and the flyer will be coming out later.

Sal gave a presentation on the town of Cassamassina, Italy.

We saw a special video created by Steve Selvaggio of all of our recent events/trips with comedic interludes.

Mike asked for people to sign up to bring desserts to the next meeting. Sal Saladini updated us on the Columbus Day situation.

We then sang That's Amore and Mike adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm. Next meeting will be on January 5<sup>th</sup>.



# IACC 2024 Scholarship Update

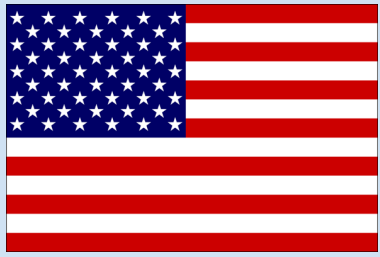


- **There are 8 IACC Committee members:**

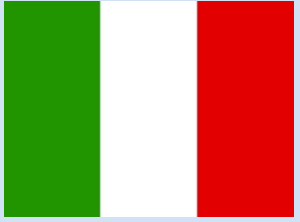
**Mike Palmieri, Sal Saladini, Ann Allevi, Maryann Brewer, Jean Ciampa, Barbara Kane, Marie Lyttle and Elizabeth Victor**

- **We sponsor 5 area high schools (Franklin, Hillsborough, Immacolata, Manville & Somerville) and a merit based scholarship is awarded to a senior at each school.**
- **This year's application was submitted to each of the schools in December. The Committee will be meeting again on January 9<sup>th</sup>.**
- **The Scholarship Committee thanks you for your continued support of our scholarship fundraising efforts, especially for your help in paying dues as this is a critical component of funding our scholarships.**





# IACC Treasurers Report December 2023



December Balance was \$ 29,799

January Balance is \$ 32,299



# IACC Treasurers Report



## Expenditures

- 1) Doolans Party -\$3,350
- 2) Christmas Party Expenses \$5,100
- 3) Money held in escrow for bail when Mike gets arrested for Super Bowl Pool \$ 5,000





# IACC Treasurers Report



## Large Deposits In

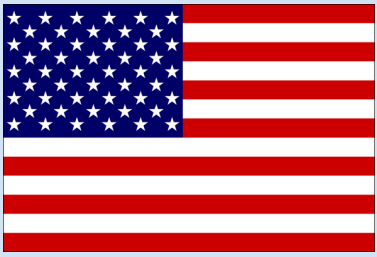
1) Christmas Party - \$8,100

2) Doolans - \$4,102

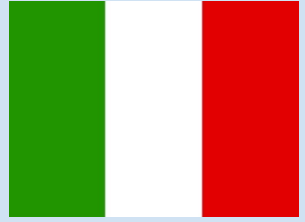
3) Dues - \$2,650 so far







# IACC Treasurers Report



## Dues

1) Please send in your dues as soon as you can.

### 2) Gratuity

- 15%    \$ 3.00
- 18%    \$ 3.60
- 20%    \$ 4.00



# IACC Membership Update

## Membership To Date

MEMBERS	497
HONORARY MEMBERS*	<u>49</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS	546
*85 yrs+	

## New Members                      5

PURNIMA DESAI  
YVONNE RUTTY  
TONY GIORDANO  
DONNA PROSKE  
SUE BARNETT

## 2024 Dues (Jan-Dec)

New members    \$25/PP  
Renewals            \$20/PP

**Dues for 2024 now are due**

**Only paid members can  
attend trips and events**



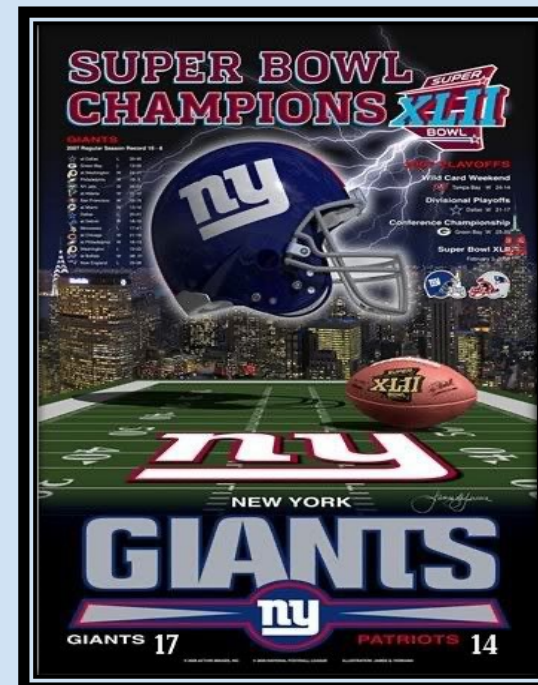
**Benvenuto..!!**



## "Mike's" Superbowl Pool

Not affiliated with the IACC

\$20/Box



**SOME BOXES ARE STILL AVAILABLE**





AFC

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	<div>PAYOUTS</div> <div>1Q \$200 / Rev \$ 50</div> <div>H \$350 / Rev \$ 100</div> <div>3Q \$200 / Rev \$ 50</div> <div>F \$600 / Rev \$ 150</div> <div>Scholarship Donation \$300</div>							26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33								36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43								46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53								56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63								66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80					
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90					
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100					

## UPCOMING TRIPS, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES





**ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB**  
**DESTINATION DOGS JITNEY TRIP**



**MEMBERS ONLY \$7 - LIMITED TO 24 MEMBERS**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 18TH**

**JITNEY LEAVES CLUBHOUSE @ 1:10 PM**

**QUESTIONS: CONTACT COLLEEN KOLIBAS 732-259-8042**





**MEMBERS ONLY**

**ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB *Presents***

**DANCE TO THE  
JERSEY SURECATS BAND**

**FRIDAY, FEB 16th at 7pm - Admission \$25**

**BYOB & Snacks**

**COFFEE AND DESSERT will be served**

**Questions: CONTACT DEBBIE STONE (908) 380-0884**



A peek into  
Castellana Grotte  
Italy

Brought to you  
by Sal



# Castellana Grotte



**Castellana Grotte** is a town and [comune](#) in the [Metropolitan City of Bari](#), [Apulia](#), southern [Italy](#). *Grotte* means "caves" in Italian.

Located in the agricultural center of the lower [Murgia](#), it is 25 mi south of [Bari](#).

One of the most important attractions in Apulia are the limestone caves of Castellana Grotte.

Stalactites, canyons and caves characterize this pathway 2 miles long to more than 400 feet deep. The Grotte of Castellana was discovered January 23, 1938, by cavers Franco Anelli and Vito Matarrese with the help of a little boy named Giovanni Mansueto who they sent down in search of the caves.

On the 23 January 1938, Anelli descended to the floor, and ventured out to a corridor that disappeared into the darkness and found himself in a passage half hidden by stalactites and stalagmites and finally in a huge cave, later called "Cave of the Monuments". This cavern was so huge that his acetylene lamp could not light the vault and the walls and so he decided to come back two days later to continue his exploration.

This time Anelli was helped by a bold worker from Castellana, Vito Matarrese. Together they descended into the cave and continued the exploration for more than 600 yards. But they had to stop at the end of a short descending gallery in front of a deep abyss, today known as the Snake Corridor.

He discovered the last cave, the White Cave, in 1940.



**Castellana Grotte (Town)**







**The town of Castellana Grotte is not to be confused with the "grotte di Castellana" which is the main attraction here (The Caverns). The town itself has medieval roots; the caverns were discovered later!**



## Market Day – Castellano grotte



The caves, are situated about a half mile south of the town. The entrance is an enormous [vertical tunnel](#) 200 ft long. The main cave is named "*La Grave*" (as abyss), and others are named Black Cavern (*Caverna Nera*), White Cave (*Grotta Bianca*) and Precipice Cavern (*Caverna del Precipizio*).

The temperature within the caves is about 65 degrees.

**THE GRAVE** - The Grave of Castellana is a huge natural pantheon thanks to its natural skylight surrounded by a circle of holm-oaks through which a ribbon of clear sky is visible. From the ceiling a big sunbeam filters down into the darkness and it moves differently according to the time of the day and the season.

**The White Cave** - At the end of the underground itinerary and about 4500 feet from the Grave there is a small portal dig in an imposing alabaster wall. This is the entrance of the last and the most beautiful caves of Castellana, the White Cave. The visitor is surrounded by the whiteness of alabaster, this is because the cave has been indicated as the shiniest cave in the world.

**Concretions and eccentric stalactites** - The most fascinating feature of the Caves of Castellana are the concretions. This term is used to indicate the mineral deposits that covered the naked walls of a cave by crystallization of the calcite. When the water drips through the roof of an empty cavern, the calcite dissolved in it deposits on the roof and going downwards takes the shape of a stalactite. When the drop of water falls on the floor, the calcite takes the shape of a stalagmite. As time went by, the downwards extension of a stalactite and the progressive growth of the below stalagmite led to the formation of a column.





**grotte di Castellana  
(The Caverns)**





**grotte di  
Castellana**







**grotte di  
Castellana**



Many animals live in the caves of Castellana and some of them are new endemic species. They are:

Isopods

Pseudoscorpion

Beetles

Cave crickets

Bats

The most typical animal of the cave is the bat.



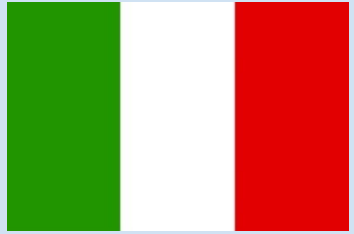
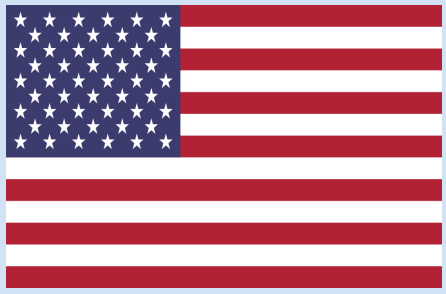
The End



***We are looking for suggestions  
for upcoming trips, events and  
activities***

If you have any ideas, please contact Mike





*And now, a video presentation of past trips and events  
since our December mtg brought to you by Steve...*



# That's Amore

*In Napoli where love is king, when boy meets girl here's what they say...*

When the moon hits your eye  
like a big pizza pie,  
that's amore

When the world seems to shine  
like you've had too much wine  
That's amore

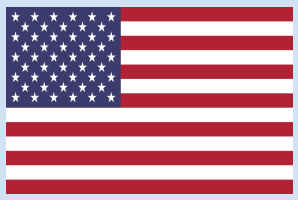
Bells will ring  
ting-a-ling-a-ling, ting-a-ling-a-ling  
And you'll sing "Vita Bella"  
Hearts will play  
tippy-tippy-tay, tippy-tippy-tay  
Like a gay tarantella

When the stars make you drool  
just like a pasta fazool

That's amore

When you dance down the street  
with a cloud at your feet  
You're in love

When you walk in a dream  
but you know you're not dreaming signore  
Scuzza me, but you see  
back in old Napoli  
That's amore



***Felice Capo D'Anno***



***Happy  
New Year***

***See you at the next meeting on Monday, Feb 5th***