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A Message From President Carmela Reali

I hope that you all are doing well during these trying times and although we need to be safe by keeping our distance with people, if you can get out even if it is in your yard, go out and get some sunlight.

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, January 21st and then again on Tuesday, February 2nd. Due to the Corona Virus and not being able to have a quorum at General Meetings, the Board voted unanimously extending the terms the Primary Officers and Board of Directors until June of 2022.

We will revisit the situation in January 2022. We will also revisit if we will be able to have a vote regarding the By-Law change to extend the Primary Officers to have an additional 2 year term if they so choose, the same as the Board of Directors. (total of 6 years)

The Board also voted to **not open** the Cantina for members for February and revisit this at the February meeting. This was not unanimous. Anna Stankiewicz, Bill Lucatourto and Frank Reali voted to reopen. Our meeting is set for Thursday, February 18, 2021 to vote if we will be open the Cantina in March.

The February Blood Drive was a huge success! We are having another one on Monday, March 15, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please sign up and Give the Gift of Life. www.redcrossblood.org and then entering the sponsor keyword which is "IHC"

Things are happening at the IHC even though we aren't open for the members, Facility Chair, Frank Reali is working hard to get things done down here. We are getting new flooring in the library; fresh paint in the DaVinci Room; fixing cracks in the tile; and repairing the fallen insulation throughout the front of the building (library, bookkeepers office, sales office and LaCantina. Thanks to Tom Watson for helping Frank when needed! Great job Frank.

Thanks to Al DiMillo for working on finance things to keep us moving along. Please all of you, take good care of yourselves and take care of others who may need you. Check in on people!

Thanks for your continued support.

Cammy Reali, President

www.italianheritagecenter.com

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The Center is committed and dedicated to:

- ~ Preservation and promotion of our Italian Heritage, culture and history
- ~ Maintaining a vital repository of and being an important resource for information about Italy and the Italian experience in America
- ~ Social, charitable, benevolent, and educational endeavors
- ~ Teaching the Italian language and the history of Italy and Italian Immigration to Maine and offering instruction on the significant contributions Italians have made to the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities
- ~ Fostering the sharing and handing down of customs, traditions and cuisine from generation to generation

SALES MANAGER

10am to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday
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 207-772-2500



Italian Heritage Directors

Anna Stankiewicz	207-892-9516	annaofledgewood@yahoo.com
Anthony Napolitano	207-899-5357	anthonynap1951@gmail.com
Darlene Napolitano	207-899-5356	dnap5580@gmail.com
Thomas Noonan	781-983-0328	tnoonan@maine.rr.com
Bill Lucaturorto	303-887-9164	Wild.billlucy@gmail.com

Italian Heritage Officers

President, Carmela Dalfonso Reali	207-939-8570	cammyr1@myfairpoint.net
Vice President, Vincenza Dunn	207-774-5003	vdunn@maine.rr.com
Treasurer, Albert DiMillo	207-899-0165	aadimillo@yahoo.com
Membership Secretary, Nicola Cox	207-749-5078	membershipsecretary@italianheritagecenter.com
Recording Secretary, Andrea Doria		adoria@maine.rr.com
Past President, Frank Reali	207-772-5831	francopropertiesllc@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Activities Committee	Darlene Napolitano	207-899-5356	dnap5580@gmail.com
Administrative	Lauren Pasquali-Thorne	207-899-7613	lpasquali@pierceatwood.com
By-Laws Committee	Paul Connolly	207-799-1131	
Finance Committee	Albert DiMillo	207-899-0165	aadimillo@yahoo.com
Membership Committee	Vincenza Dunn	207-774-5003	vdunn@maine.rr.com
Parliamentarian	Jim DiBiase	207-767-2292	jdibias@aol.com
Sergeant At Arms	Peter Doria		pldelectric@aol.com

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VICKI DUNN 207-774-5005 VDUNN@MAINE.RR.COM

If you are not receiving our IHC emails please send an email to Nikki at membership@italianheritagecenter.com so that you don't miss out on any important messages. We receive a lot of bounce back emails that are incorrect. We want to make sure our members are kept informed. If you have any questions or need something please don't hesitate to call or email me.

NICOLA COX MEMBERSHIP@ITALIANHERITAGECENTER.COM

Membership is an important part in the success of our organization, this is our club and hopefully we can enjoy the full activates we offer soon. If you have any changes such as your address, phone or email please let me know via email at membership@italianheritagecenter.com.

Please remember to put your membership number on all your correspondence!



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KATIE GUZMAN KGUZMAN1965@GMAIL.COM 207-400-4794

NO NEWS TO REPORT

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, your Cultural Committee hasn't scheduled any indoor events in February.

The IHC Book Club is currently reading "The Gondola Maker" by Laura Morelli". "The Gondola Maker" is a tale of artisanal tradition and family bonds set in one of the world's most magnificent settings: Renaissance Venice. When Luca Vianello, the heir to a renowned gondola-making enterprise, experiences an unexpected tragedy in the boatyard, he believes that his destiny lies elsewhere. Soon he finds himself drawn to restore an antique gondola with the dream of taking a girl for a ride. Lovers of historical fiction will appreciate the authentic details of gondola craftsmanship, along with an intimate first-person narrative set against the richly textured backdrop of 16th-century Venice.

The Book Club will virtually meet again on Wednesday, Feb 24th via Zoom. Anyone interested in joining our book club can join in. Just contact Jim Dibiase at 767-2292.



There are still a few Italian Flag Banners available. The flags are 12"x18" on a 2-foot wooden stick. Great quality polyester. Ideal for placing near the gravestone of a departed loved one or placing on your property on Columbus Day or any other time. They are \$5.00 each. Call Jim DiBiase at 767-2292 to order.



2014

"The Scat Group"

Italian Trivia

In which Italian city was the first European bank founded?

- A. Naples B. Genoa C. Palermo

If you don't know the answer to this, ask Gina DiPietrantonio Ferrante, Assunta Savage or Jim DiBiase.



Facilities is on a ROLL

Future updates at the Italian Heritage Center

- Painting and repairing the walls and the bar area in the DaVinci Room
- Installing a new Commercial Wood Luxury Vinyl Planks in the Library
- Repairing the fallen insulation in the Library, Bookkeeper's Office, Foyer, Manager's Office and LaCantina

Also repairing some of the ceramic floor tiles and grout in the kitchen along with the thresholds in the Columbus Room and baseboards in the kitchen.

The 4 big projects should be completed by the end of February.

Frank Reali, Facility Chair

JUDY FERRANTE 207-671-9412 JFERRANTE2@ME.COM



Italian Heritage Center Scholarship Applications are online as of **January 15, 2021**. Looking ahead, completed IHC Applications will be due **Monday, May 3, 2021**. The school year **2021-22 Scholarship** is \$1500. You can access the IHC Application by going to the [Italian Heritage Center Website](#).

Click the [Membership Logo](#). A drop down Menu is located on the left side. Click [Menu](#). Click [Scholarship](#), [Make copies of the application](#), [Complete all required documentation](#), [Review your packet for inclusion of all requirements](#).

FUNDRAISER UPDATE / MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

is moved out to Sunday, September 12, 2021

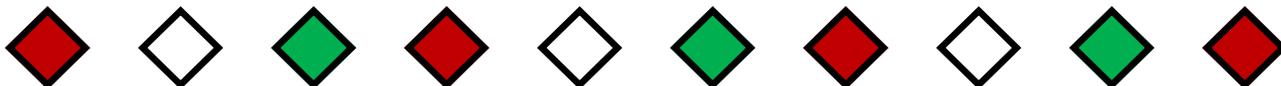
Our Barry Manilow and Rod Stewart event promises to be a memorable experience for all!! Thank You ALL in advance for your continued support of our ability to award Scholarships to our family members' graduates

Scholarships here at the IHC are supported by gracious Family Donors honoring a loved one, or Donors who simply love their Italian Heritage, and by Fundraising.

Thank You ALL in advance for your continued support of our ability to award Scholarships to our family members' graduates.

Scholarship Team
Scholarship Chair
Judy Ann Ferrante
Jferrante2@me.com

You are welcome to join our team!



DENISE DAVIS DENISEMDAVIS84@GMAIL.COM 207-468-3941

If you know of any IHC members who are ill or recently deceased (including family members), and would like the IHC to send them or their family a get well card, sympathy card, or mass card, please have them call me or email me. Please make sure that we have the correct mailing address as all cards will go directly to the recipient's home address.

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The rise of fascism in Italy under dictator Benito “Il Duce” Mussolini marks Italy’s darkest period. Why include it in a book about Italian pride? Mussolini and his Black Shirt brigade remind us that pride can also be considered one of the seven deadly sins.

It is one thing to love your heritage, yourself, and your country. But when these feelings lead to the humiliation, persecution, and death of other human beings, it is shameful and wrong. Mussolini’s regime was pride at its worst.

Taking advantage of a young, impoverished nation at the end of World War I, Mussolini deceived Italians with his charismatic speech and ways. The Fascist Party started out small, getting only 7 percent of the total vote in the 1921 elections. But it grew rapidly and zealously as Mussolini’s thirst for grandeur and power amassed tens of thousands of followers. The rapid growth of fascism led to a march on Rome in October 1922, when Mussolini was commissioned to form a government by King Vittorio Emanuele III.

Mussolini’s rule was total. He jailed, expelled, and killed those who did not believe in his way. He was particularly rigid about the participation of women in political affairs. “Women do not count,” il Duce said, and he attempted to curtail their contribution to society, except for being wives and mothers. Rapidly he transformed Italy from an independent constitutional monarchy to a totalitarian state.

But many resisted, and women particularly were horrified by the brutality of the Fascists. Many refused to submit to Mussolini’s propaganda. Instead, they enrolled in universities and took jobs despite his attempt to ostracize them. Some women writers appeared on the cultural page of major newspapers, writing personal stories that empowered females, giving them a voice in this faceless regime. Robin Pickering-Iazzi, in her book *Unspeakable Women*, translates works by authors such as Grazia Deledda (who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1926) and Ada Negri, shedding new light on the feelings of women during this period.

When Mussolini did the unthinkable and allied himself with Hitler in World War II, many Italians helped their Jewish comrades reach Switzerland, where they would be safe from the concentration camps. Because of this, only 10 percent of Italian Jews were killed, fewer than in any Nazi-occupied country. This fact doesn’t mitigate the horrors of the Holocaust, but it does underscore the courage of those who resisted the Fascist regime.

Italy’s entry into the war was a total disaster. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed, and what popularity Mussolini had up until then vanished. On July 25, 1943, Mussolini, having lost the support of the people, was arrested by the King, and Italy joined the Allies.

Il Duce managed to escape for a time to northern Italy, where he ran a puppet government for the Germans in the final years of the war. But the anti-Fascist movement grew stronger, and a group of rebels, called the partigiani (partisans), formed the Resistance, which fought against both Mussolini’s army and the Nazis. Mussolini, knowing his days were numbered, tried to escape the country disguised as a soldier. The partigiani discovered him and shot him, his mistress, and several of his cohorts. In order to show their disgust with the way he destroyed the fabric of the country, the partigiani hung Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, by their feet in a public square in Milan.

Unfortunately, the grim specter of fascism still rears its ugly head. In Bologna, right-wing terrorists planted a bomb in the train station in 1980, killing two hundred people. A monument resides there commemorating the men and women who fought and continue to fight against the worst kind of pride there is.

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LA CANTINA



If you are bringing guests to the Cantina, please make sure that you sign them in. Your guests may not arrive before you and must depart with you.
Thank-you!

NO ACTIVITIES AT THIS TIME

Just a reminder . . .

You are the only person who is authorized to sign the book for the Pot of Gold! Please do not ask anyone else to do this for you.

FEBRARIO



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 4pm Scholarship Mtg ZOOM	5	6
7	8	9 6:30p Cultural Committee Mtg via ZOOM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 5pm Board Mtg	19	20
21	22	23	24 6:30p Book club Mtg ZOOM	25	26	27
28	<p>Italian Idiom (<i>nonna said it best</i>):</p> <p>“Prendi quei che vuoi” dice Iddio, “ma pagalo!”</p> <p>“Take what you want”, says God ”but pay for it!”</p>					