
MEMBER NEWSLETTER



MISSION STATEMENT

The Italian Heritage Center is committed and dedicated to:

- The 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 & handing down of customs, traditions & cuisine from generation to generation.



INTERIM PRESIDENT

Bill Lucatuorto 303-887-9164

If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring?– Pilgrims!! Old bad joke. Enough of that. Time sure flies. It's April already. Victoria, Krista and Melissa attended an all-weekend wedding vendors show in March and got 92 names and emails. The big hope is we'll get some business from these folks. It was SO nice to see so many members at the March General Meeting! It would be great if the attendance continued that way.

"The Nomination Committee will submit a slate of Primary Officers and Elected Directors at the April General Meeting. This slate can be added to that night by a nomination from the floor. All candidates nominated from the floor must have been a member in good standing for the last immediate year and be qualified to hold the position for which they have been nominated and present to accept the nomination. Members making the nomination shall be subject to the same standard imposed upon the Nominating Committee for selection of nominees." Descriptions of the different positions are in the By-Laws book. If you have questions, please contact Bill Lucatuorto at 303-887-9164 to discuss it. "The election shall take place from 2:30 - 6:30 pm immediately prior to the first regular meeting in May with the balloting to cease when the meeting starts and the counting of ballots to take place during the meeting."

The Board has approved a trial period for having the Cantina open from 5 to 7 pm on Fridays during the months of April and May. This is to be a simple happy hour time. The TV's will be on and music playing from a playlist. Going to dinner? Stop on the way. On the way home from work? Stop by. Play a game of Cribbage or whatever. Just sit, relax and visit. It would be nice to continue this happy hour past May 31 if attendance supports it.

Moving forward, please attend some events we offer and enjoy YOUR Center. We offer a variety of things to participate in so come and participate, see friends, laugh, and have a great time. As always, I enjoy all of you and all that you do for the organization. You can always reach out to me if you feel the need.

Bill Lucatuorto, Interim President

You must have your **MEMBERSHIP CARD** to attend the general meeting.



DATE: Thursday, April 16
TIME: 5:30 dinner/6:30 mtg
PLACE: Columbus Rm
COST: \$15 dinner

If you are coming for dinner at 5:30 pm, you must **RSVP by MONDAY, APRIL 13** . Please call Bill at **303-887-9164**

IHC POSITIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Directors - 11)				COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
PRIMARY OFFICERS		ELECTED DIRECTORS			
Interim President	Bill Lucatuorto	Activities Director	Tracy Rinaldi	By-Laws	Sam Rinaldi
Interim Vice President	Ed Angelo	Director/Associate	Katie Guzman	Charity	Katie Guzman
Treasurer	Martin Joyce	Director	Joseph Cupo	Cultural	VACANT
Recording Secretary	Cathy Giuffre-Renaud	Director	Annette Hoglund	Facilities	Ed Angelo
Membership Secretary	Robert Lax	Director	Jay Scala	Health & Welfare	Carlene Aceto
		PAST PRESIDENT	Vincenza Dunn	Marketing	Melissa Martin
				Scholarship	Judy Ann Ferrante
APPOINTED POSITIONS				OTHER/TECH	
Sergeant at Arms	Bruce Koharian			Business & Events Manager	Victoria Bailey
Parliamentarian	Martin Joyce			Webmaster (events)	Victoria Bailey
				Webmaster (members)	Connie DiBiase

updated 3/23/2026

A Note from the Manager, Victoria Bailey



Hello Members!

We're thrilled to share that our team had an incredibly successful experience at the Bliss Bridal Show this past month! It was such a pleasure connecting with so many wonderful couples as they begin planning their upcoming nuptials. We loved learning about their visions and sharing how we can help bring their dream celebrations to life.

In addition to meeting engaged couples, the show provided a fantastic opportunity to build relationships with talented local vendors and continue spreading awareness of all that we offer. We're feeling energized and inspired as we head into a busy spring season filled with beautiful events.

To all of you that volunteered to help bake, setup, breakdown, do the heavy lifting and offer support, Thank you so much, I appreciate you!



ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Tracy Rinaldi 207-671-1238

Ciao Amici,

Can you believe it is Spring already? Thank you to all who participated in our St. Patrick's Day celebration. Such a fun evening with a great sing-along. The talent at IHC never ceases to amaze me. Bitter Brew delivered another outstanding performance. Mama Beth and Cyndi transformed the Cantina into a vibrant Irish pub. They're eager to return, expressing that they always enjoy their visits to the Italian Heritage Center and truly appreciate our members' wonderful voices. Interestingly, Cyndi shares both Irish and Italian heritage, just like many of our members. Making the evening even better was the presence of our new members. Rounding out the evening was our Leprechaun challenge and what a competition it was! Concetta Dalfonso and John Descanio tied bringing the competition into round two with Concetta narrowing edging out John to take home the prize. Sammy Rinaldi took home the raffle basket after hedging on whether he would purchase a ticket. He is happily enjoying his spoils.

Completing March was our Member Birthday celebration with the talented DJ Adam Gary Normand. I look forward to sharing more with you regarding this event in the next newsletter. Let's talk April. April Showers may bring May Flowers but at the IHC, April brings much more -fun times with family and friends and creating memories! In that spirit, the Cantina will be closed on Saturday April 4, so you can all share and make Easter memories with your family and friends.

On April 11, we cordially invite you to join us in the Cantina for our inaugural Member Appreciation Dinner of the year, which will also feature a Birthday Celebration and a Grease sing-along. April 25 is The Battle of the Bands - a special evening in support of the Candace Cares Foundation. The Cantina will be closed to allow our members to attend and support this initiative. Mark your calendar for May 2 when the Kentucky Derby returns to IHC!

Tracy Rinaldi

RECURRING EVENTS



DATE: Tuesday & Thursday
TIME: 9 - 11 am
LOCATION: La Cantina



DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 9:30 am
LOCATION: La Cantina



DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 5 pm bar opens / 6 pm game
PLACE: La Cantina

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: First MONDAY of month
TIME: 5:30 pm
LOCATION: La Cantina

*Got an idea?
Contact Tracy Rinaldi
207-671-1238*

• Sit
• Relax
• Visit

Friday
APRIL & MAY (Trial Period)

5-7 pm

HAPPY HOUR

*Going to dinner? Stop on the way.
On the way home from work? Stop by.*

Want to watch the **APRIL 2026 SLIDESHOW OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES?**

The slides replay when finished or you can close it



1. Open the camera app on your phone (or other device)
2. Point it at the QR code (as if you're taking its picture)
3. When some words appear on your screen, tap on that
4. The first slide will appear (like the one pictured here)
5. Slideshow **starts automatically** & slides **auto change every 10 seconds**



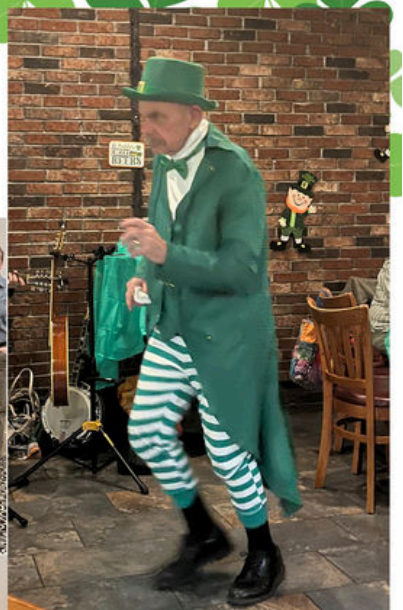
SCAN & wait 10 seconds for each slide to change!
[Or click this link to watch](#)





St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 14, 2026






DATE	SATURDAY, APRIL 11
TIME	5:00 pm Bar Opens
	5:30 Dinner
COST	Members FREE , Guests \$15
LOCATION	Cantina


&

MEMBER

BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION



Dinner details to follow!



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bob Lax 207-671-8470 robertlax@aol.com

Effective April 1, 2026, any member requesting a new card lost or missed placed will be charged \$10.00 processing fee. If your card does not work, please drop it off at the Center, and we will replace at no charge.



New REGULAR Member APPLICATIONS (to be voted in)		
Name	Italian Name	Sponsor
Joanne Majka	Bennett	Joan Bennett
Sarah Rinaldi	Rinaldi	Sam Rinaldi
Christoper Kennedy	Rinaldi	Sam Rinaldi
Reta Nappi	Nappi	Betsy Nilsen
Debra Jarell	Santosuosso	Bob Lax
Ann Pepper	Ventura	Annette Hoglund

Do you know someone who might want to become a **REGULAR** member • **ASSOCIATE** member • **REACTIVATED** member?

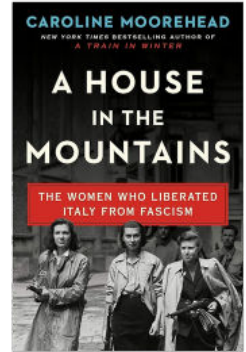
[download a MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION here](#) OR grab a **copy in the Lobby** at the IHC

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

DATE	Wednesday, April 1
TIME	6:30 pm



BOOK CLUB
Online



Contact **Jim DiBiase** for the link!
767-2292 or 831-4191

A HOUSE IN THE MOUNTAINS
by Caroline Moorehead
(Book 4 of the Resistance Quartet)

Tells the true, often overlooked story of four young Italian women—Ada, Frida, Silvia, and Bianca—who fought as partisans in the mountains near Turin against Fascist and German forces between 1943 and 1945.

You're welcome to join in whether you've read the current book or not.



Thank you Emily Loder!

for another successful year as our Bocce Commissioner!

Here are the final season standings. Awards were presented at the recent Bocce Banquet on March 17, 2026

	1 st		2 nd		3 rd		4 th	
WOMEN	WINS	◆	LOSSES	♣	LOSSES	♥	LOSSES	♠
	33	15	22	25	21	26	19	29

	1 st		2 nd		3 rd		4 th	
MEN	WINS	◆	LOSSES	♥	LOSSES	♣	LOSSES	♠
	36	10	33	14	16	31	9	39

NOTE: *Connie DiBiase will be taking over next season as the Bocce Commissioner while Emily takes a “maternity” leave. You can reach Connie at cdibiaseihc@gmail.com. She will be contacting everyone in late August regarding the new season.*

LAST GAME OF THE SEASON!

Bring a friend.

COST: \$2/card



DATE	SATURDAY, APRIL 18
TIME	6:00 pm
LOCATION	La Cantina



Bring your snacks and some friends and settle in for the traditional holiday family game of Tombola! We hope to see you there.

ITALIAN Idiom

(nonna said it best)

"Non è tutto oro quello che luccica."

(All that glitters is not gold.)

TRIVIA

Classified as one of the ten most powerful in the world, a supercomputer in Bologna, Italy shares what name with a Ninja Turtle?

- a. Raphael
- b. Leonardo
- c. Donatello
- d. Michelangelo

ANSWER: see page 13



St. Joseph's Altar



March 18-19, 2026



Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success, either through hours of preparation, or your generous support!



Embrace new cultures and create unforgettable memories!

Want to bring a unique cultural experience to your home? Hosting a high school student from **Italy** through AFS-USA offers the chance to build a meaningful connection with a young person eager to explore American life and share their own experiences. Our **Italian exchange students** are enthusiastic about discovering U.S. culture, improving their English, and embracing new traditions.

By welcoming a student into your family, you'll foster global connections, create lasting memories, and broaden your family's perspective. It's an experience that both your family and the student will cherish for years to come!



Italy
Jacopo
Boy - Age 16

Available to Host!

Determined and outgoing Jacopo from Italy is a competitive soccer player and avid sports fan. He also loves to ski with his family, as they live in the mountains. Jacopo appreciates close relationships with friends and family. He enjoys math and science and hopes to find a career in those fields where he can also travel the world.



1-800-AFS-INFO
afsusa.org/host
















Italy
Azzurra
Girl- 16

Available to Host!

Azzurra loves fashion and makeup, and she's passionate about languages, cultures, and history! She enjoys traveling, history, and her animals. Known as cooperative, flexible, and creative, she is well prepared for an immersive exchange experience. Azzurra is respectful and responsible. She follows the rules at school and at home, while her sense of humor keeps her friends and family laughing.



1-800-AFS-INFO
afsusa.org/host














For more information visit afsusa.org/host or e-mail hosting@afsusa.org



What a Great Night!

- Engaged Crowd
- Great Food
- Wonderful Theater

There were Nonna's & Nonno's in the kitchen!



Basket Winner: Annette Hoglund





Want to help out or lend your expertise?

- The Center needs volunteers for various tasks or events.
- Please fill out a form so we can contact you!



1. **SCAN THIS CODE** to access the form
OR
2. **GRAB A PRINTED FORM** at the IHC

OR
[CLICK THIS LINK](#)



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Judy Ann Ferrante, Chair 207-671-9412

This New England premier show band will be here at the IHC. We're proud and excited to host them!! We're looking forward to a memorable experience that will support education for our members' families; as it is stated in our Mission.



DONORS: In addition to the IHC Scholarship, we have individuals and families who honor a family member and choose to help a student with his/her education. Currently, the **Germani Family** is a Scholarship Donor. Please contact Judy Ann Ferrante if you're planning to be a Donor this year.

ITALIAN HERITAGE CENTER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE.

You can access the IHC Application by going to the Italian Heritage Center Website on your browser. Click the Membership tab, a drop down menu will appear, then click Scholarship. Make copies of the application. Complete all required documentation. An Employee Application is included on this page. There has not been an employee applicant since 2018. It's likely we will have an employee(s) apply this year.

- Review your packet for inclusion and completion of all required components.
- Give special attention to your essay.
- Students entering colleges, universities and accredited Trade Schools can apply.
- Mail or deliver your application by **Monday, June 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm.**



CHARITY COMMITTEE

Katie Guzman, Chair 207-400-4794

We are working on fun activities for the spring. We are trying to pull off a "make your own succulent garden". More details will follow when a date has been set.

We will be collecting bottles in the parking lot **on Sunday mornings, from 9-11 am, during April and May.** This fundraiser will benefit Portland Little League T-ball.

Thank you
Katie



REMEMBER: Snacks are for sale in the Cantina!

FUNDRAISING



SUNDAYS • 9 to 11 am	
April 5, EASTER - NO COLLECTION	
April 12	May 3
April 19	May 17
April 26	May 24
	May 31



HEALTH & WELFARE

Carlene Aceto, 207-405-7156 otecac@gmail.com

Please be in touch if you know of anyone I should send a card to. Those cards might be Get Well • Thinking of You • Sympathy • Mass cards, etc.
Thank you - Carlene



NEW MEMBERS

Pam Cole, Randy & LeRay Poore, Dianne Jones, Bill Lucatuorto (Interim President), Lynne Coluccio & Raymond Wormwood

VOLUNTEER BASKET

Bob Lax



QUORUM WINNER*

Vicki Spaltro

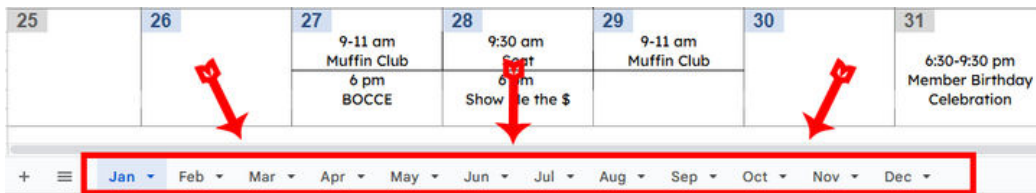
*donated to Charity



50/50 WINNER

Debbie Mazjanis

IHC MONTHLY MEMBER CALENDAR can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#). You may then view separate months by clicking on the tab for a specific month.



April 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am - Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$ 6:30 Book Club ONLINE	2 9-11 am Muffin Club	3 5-7 pm Cantina Open	4 CLOSED
5 CLOSED Easter	6 5:30 pm Activities Comm MONTHLY mtg	7 9-11 am Muffin Club	8 9:30 am - Scat 5:30 pm Cultural Mtg 6 pm Show Me the \$	9 9-11 am Muffin Club	10 5-7 pm Cantina Open	11 5pm Bar Opens Member Appreciation Grease Sing-a-Long & Birthday Celebration
12 2 pm Lyric Theater Play Anastasia Charity Bottle Collection Portland T-Ball 9-11 am	13 Monthly Mtg DINNER	14 9-11 am Muffin Club	15 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	16 9-11 am Muffin Club 4 pm Board Mtg 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Member Mtg Nominations Slate Presented	17 5-7 pm Cantina Open	18 6 pm Tombola FINAL GAME OF THE SEASON
19 Charity Committee 9-11 am Bottle Collection Portland T-Ball	20	21 9-11 am Muffin Club	22 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	23 9-11 am Muffin Club	24 5-7 pm Cantina Open	25 Cantina Closed Enjoy Battle of the Bands Fundraiser
26 Charity Committee 9-11 am Bottle Collection Portland T-Ball	27	28 9-11 am Muffin Club	29 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	30 9-11 am Muffin Club		



UPCOMING ELECTION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPENINGS 2026

MAY 21 - ELECTION Board positions · **2:30-6:30 pm** (before monthly meeting)

Monthly Meeting: APRIL 16 - Slate of NOMINEES presented. Nominations will be taken from the floor. There are **5 open seats**.

1. Martin Joyce, Treasurer
2. Robert Lax, Membership Secretary
3. Cathy Giuffre-Renaud, Recording Secretary
4. Bill Lucatuorto, Interim President
5. Ed Angelo, Interim Vice President

|T|R|I|V|I|A| ANSWER to Trivia Question on page 8 = b. Leonardo



ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

MEMBER PAGE - IHC WEBSITE

SEND YOUR PHOTOS



SHARE those great photos you took at a recent event. Email high quality images to **Connie DiBiase** at **cdibiaseihc@gmail.com**

- If you are **not getting your emails** from us, check your junk/spam folder.
- Please remember to put your **membership number on all your correspondence.**
- Due to the State of Maine Rule & Regulations for private clubs, the **Cantina Door MUST always be locked.**
- All **guests** MUST be signed in by a member and leave when the member leaves.

SPONSORS

*Want **your business** listed in the newsletter & on the IHC website as a **sponsor of the Italian Heritage Center?***



HARBORCITY REALTY
HarborCity Realty
 207-775-1991 (office)
www.harborcityrealty.com
 Jean Russo 207-776-1816 (cell)
 jeanrussomaine@gmail.com

Do you have friends, relatives, colleagues who may know of a company that would like to support the IHC? Just send in payment (\$100/yr) along with the name, tel#, website, and contact person to Betsy Nilsen, Italian Heritage Center, 40 Westland Ave, Portland, ME 04102.



PLEASE NOTE: If you want your name (or a family member's name) to appear here, please send in **\$10 per name**. You can contact Bob Lax, robertlax@aol.com. Please make the check out to Italian Heritage Center and clearly print the name of the person in the "For/Memo" section



Paul J. Connolly	Marianna Grimaldi Oleson	Albert Stivaletti
Mario Grimaldi	Michael Pizzo	Filomena Lapomarda Tripaldi
Gloria Giordano Lax	Philip G. Rotolo	Maria Trivellin
Robert Lax	Jean Russo	

In Memoriam

Joseph Aliberti, Sr.	Dominic Distasio	Fannie Grimaldi	
Stephen W. Amero	Lucy Ferrante	Joseph Grimaldi	Emily Pirone
Joseph A. Capelluti	Sammy Ferrante	Frank Lorello	Alphonse Pizzo, Jr.
Josephine N. Capelluti	Lou Germani	Richard Lorello	Martin R. Pizzo
Orlando J. Capelluti	Rose Germani	Emilio (Leo) Micucci	John E. Pizzo
Andrew Carlista Sr.	Connie Giordano	Philomena Nicholas	Settimo Trivellin
Mary C. Connolly	Nino Giordano	Carmine Pirone	