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## MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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### 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

It's March! Yay! Warmer weather soon. We have some new members in February. They'll be official at the March General Meeting, so please introduce yourself to them and include them in our events. Bookings for room rentals have picked up which is also a sign of spring.

At the February General Meeting, Ed Angelo was sworn in as Interim Vice President. The **Nominating Committee** will spend this month talking to Board Members (5) whose terms are up to see if they would like to run for another term. The Committee will also be talking to perspective people who would like to run for office. **If you have an interest, please contact Bill Lucatuorto at 303-887-9164 to discuss it or submit your name.** At the April General Meeting, the Nominating Committee will present the Election Slate. Nominations will be taken from the floor for any Board vacancies. **Elections will be held in May.**

Moving forward, please attend some events we offer and enjoy YOUR Center. Bocce season is ending and St. Patty's Day is coming up. We offer a variety of things to participate in so come and enjoy, 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, March 19  
**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, MARCH 16**. 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
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
		<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Vincenza Dunn	Marketing	Melissa Martin
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 1/15/2026

## ***A Note from the Manager, Victoria Bailey***



Hello Members,

As we step into March, we're feeling the excitement of a new season around the corner. Our team is gearing up to attend a local wedding show, where we are hoping to connect with many wonderful couples and fellow industry professionals. We are feeling such enthusiasm for the upcoming wedding season.

I am happy to share that event inquiries and bookings are steadily picking up as we head into spring. From weddings to showers to celebrations of all kinds, our calendar is filling up. If you are considering hosting an event this year, we encourage you to reach out soon to secure your preferred date.

We look forward to a vibrant and busy season ahead and can't wait to welcome you and your guests to create unforgettable memories together.



### **ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**

Tracy Rinaldi 207-671-1238

Salve a tutti!

We opened February with a Pre-Super Bowl party featuring pulled pork and chili prepared by none other than the infamous Dick Vassallo! It was a fun social evening culminating with a Super Bowl Prediction game. And the winner was ... Laura Wormuth!

Following that, we held our Valentine's Day Dinner Dance—a delightful evening of dancing, superb food, lively music, and time spent with both old and new friends. Thank you to our wonderful team of cooks and everyone who helped make it such a success!

Now for March. Reminder: Saturday, March 7, is the Murder Mystery Dinner. The Cantina will be closed. March 14 we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an Irish dinner followed by the musical talents of Bitter Brew. Great news—spring begins March 20! March birthdays will be celebrated on March 28. More details to come. Please keep an eye on Constant Contact emails for further details.

On March 29, we are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for members' children and grandchildren. We will be accepting candy donations in the Cantina on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Please remember to sign up your children and grandchildren by March 15.

I'm looking forward to spending another fun-filled month with all of you!  
Tracy

## 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 for a new/interesting activity? Contact Tracy Rinaldi  
207-671-1238*

### Want to watch the MARCH 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



## PRE-SUPERBOWL PARTY



Saturday, February 7, 2026





*Happy "January" Birthday!*



**NOW, everybody sing!**



Come and join the "sing-a-long"  
with local Irish band ...



DATE	SATURDAY, MARCH 14
TIME	5:00 pm Bar Opens 6:30-9:30 pm Band
LOCATION	Cantina

More details to follow!



**MEMBER  
BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATIONS**

DATE	SATURDAY, MARCH 28
TIME	5:00 pm Bar Opens 6:00 pm (bring your own)
LOCATION	Cantina

***Come & celebrate your  
fellow members!***

- Bring your own food
- Yummy Birthday Cake will be provided

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

For various tasks and events. Please contact Nancy Polito to  
join the list. 207-807-2299, [npizzo@maine.rr.com](mailto:npizzo@maine.rr.com)



# EASTER EGG HUNT

DATE

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

*Details to follow*



## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

### New **REGULAR** Member APPLICATIONS (to be voted in)

Name	Italian Name	Sponsor
LeRay Poore	Ventura	Stella Main
Randy Poore	Ventura	Stella Main
Dianne Jones	Digati	Stella Main
Lynne Coluccio	Coluccio	Laura Robinson
Raymond Wormwood	Coluccio	Laura Robinson
Pam Cole	Cimini	Kathy Johnson

### New **ASSOCIATE** Member APPLICATIONS (to be voted in)

Name	Sponsor
Beth Reed	Joan Bartlett



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

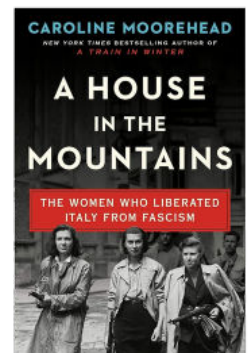
## CULTURAL COMMITTEE



<b>DATE:</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>

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.



**Emily Loder, Bocce Commissioner • 570-780-2538**  
**[emilymloder@gmail.com](mailto:emilymloder@gmail.com)**

If you have questions, contact Emily

**DATE: TUESDAYS**  
**TIME: 6 pm**  
**PLACE: Columbus Rm**

**LAST GAME DAY - March 10 • BANQUET will be held on March 17**  
**More details to follow**



*Remember ... you don't have to play! Just come and watch and cheer on your friends.  
Make a note to self: I should be doing this next year!*

**LEARN  
ITALIAN**

Write directly to Daniela at [daniela.regorda@gmail.com](mailto:daniela.regorda@gmail.com) for one-on-one symbiotic session with a native Italian to teach her some English and learn Italian from her.

**APRIL 18** - LAST Game of the Season

**COST: \$2/card**



DATE	SATURDAY, MARCH 21
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 tutte le ciambelle escono col buco.”**

Not all doughnuts come out with a hole.

*“Not everything goes as planned.”*

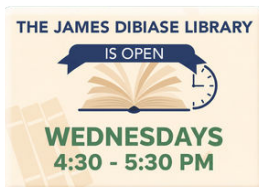
## **TRIVIA**

In Spain, he goes by the name Don Limpio. In Italy, he's Mastro Lindo. A Pensacola Navy sailor was the model for the chesty, chrome-domed mascot known by what name in the U.S.?

- A. Popeye
- B. Mr. T
- C. Burly Man
- D. Mr. Clean

**ANSWER:** see **page 13**

**Hey! What are you doing on Wednesday afternoon?**



Library committee members will be there to help you find the perfect book to curl up with in a snowstorm. Access is also available at other times by contacting the Business Manager.



# ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR/ITALIAN FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

March 18 & 19, 2026 • 4:30 pm



In southern Italy, on March 19<sup>th</sup>, St Joseph's Day, there is a tradition of "La Tavola di San Giuseppe" (St Joseph's Table.) The day is also celebrated as Father's Day throughout Italy.

The actual day celebrated in Italy is Thursday, March 19th. That is also the day of our Members' General Meeting. We are also going to have the table set with desserts and photos the night before for Show Me The Money on Wednesday, March 18th.

All proceeds from the bake sale will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Last year we raised over \$600 for the Preble Street Soup Kitchen. Thank you for your support by purchasing dessert items and for sharing photos of those you wish to honor on the St. Joseph's altar. There will be a **black tote set up in the Cantina for your photos**. Please mark your items so we can be sure you get them back after the event. If you have photo stands, please help us by providing those for easier display.



**DONATIONS WELCOME!** *You can donate money (\$) to cover supplies already purchased or you can donate any of these items.*

Contact Judy Kendrick to arrange collection.

## A fun way to spend an early March weekend!

Western Wear Welcome

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**  
Doors open at 6:30 PM, Dinner & Show start at 7:00 PM

Scan for Tickets OR visit the IHC website:  
[www.italianheritagecenter.com/event-tickets](http://www.italianheritagecenter.com/event-tickets)

Questions? Contact Nancy • 207-807-2299 (8 am - 5 pm)

**IHC**  
ITALIAN HERITAGE CENTER  
40 Westland Ave, Portland, ME 04102

Want to buy a ticket with cash or check? [Download a manual payment form here](#) or use the one on the following page.

Want to pay with **cash or check?** Use this form and drop it off.

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**  
 Doors Open 6:30 PM  
 Show Starts 7:00 PM  
 Price \$75  
 Dinner & The Show



**ITALIAN HERITAGE CENTER**  
 40 Westland Avenue, Portland, ME 04102  
<https://italianheritagecenter.com/event-tickets/>  
 QUESTIONS? Contact Nancy (8am-5pm) 207-807-2299

**WESTERN MURDER MYSTERY DINNER  
 THEATER**



# Tickets	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	\$375
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	\$450
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	\$525
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	\$600

Please check the number of tickets being purchased. Complete the form.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
 TEL # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

**CASH**  **CHECK**

Make checks payable to:  
**Italian Heritage Center**

Write "Western Murder Mystery"  
 in the memo line

**Ticket Sales END March 1, 2026**

Please mail this form and your payment to the address shown above. You may also drop it off at the Center during business hours (10 am-5pm, Tuesday-Friday)

If you purchase tickets for a group of 3 or more, please provide the names of all the people in your group and also indicate if any of them need Gluten Free options.

1	4
2	5
3	6
	7

Is anyone Gluten Free? List any who are.

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Judy Ann Ferrante, Chair 207-671-9412

**SAVE THE DATE:** The **Scholarship Fundraiser is Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 6:00 pm!!** The **Blues Brothers: Next Generation**, a New England premier show band, will be here at the IHC. We're happy to host them!

**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 by March 31 if you're planning to be a Donor this year. Please give this Donorship some consideration.

### 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 Logo, 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.

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



## 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”. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Cantina.

We will be collecting **bottles on Sunday mornings from 9-11 am** in the parking lot for Portland Little League, starting in **April and May.**



We will be **raffling off a St. Patrick’s Day basket** with special treats from Ireland, at our St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, March 14.

Thank you  
Katie

**REMEMBER:** Snacks are for sale in the Cantina!



## HEALTH & WELFARE

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

Plases 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



**ED ANGELO**  
Sworn in as  
Vice President  
by Marty Joyce



**QUORUM WINNER**  
Doe Wheelock

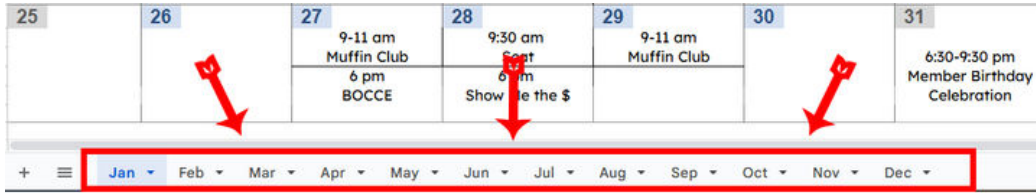


**50/50 WINNER**  
Donna Lee



**VOLUNTEER BASKET**  
Jay Scala

**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.



March 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ticket Sales END Deadwood Murder Mystery	2 5:30 pm Activities Comm MONTHLY mtg	3 9-11 am Muffin Club 6 pm BOCCE	4 9:30 am - Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$ ONLINE	5 9-11 am Muffin Club	6	7  Nonna's Murder Mystery & Dinner Trouble in Deadwood
8 set your clocks ahead 	9	10 9-11 am Muffin Club 6 pm LAST BOCCE	11 9:30 am - Scat 5:30 pm Cultural Mtg 6 pm Show Me the \$	12 9-11 am Muffin Club	13	14  St. Patricks Day Celebration Dinner BAND: Bitter Brew
15	16  Monthly Mtg DINNER	17 St. Patricks Day 9-11 am Muffin Club 6 pm BOCCE BANQUET	18 4:30 pm St Joseph's Table 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	19 4:30 pm St Joseph's Table 9-11 am Muffin Club 4 pm Board Mtg 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Member Mtg	20	21 6 pm Tombola (last game next month)
22	23	24 9-11 am Muffin Club	25 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	26 9-11 am Muffin Club	27	28  5 pm Bar Open 6pm Bring Your Dinner Member Birthday Celebration
29 Easter Egg Hunt	30	31 9-11 am Muffin Club				



**UPCOMING ELECTION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPENINGS 2026**

**Monthly Meeting:**

**APRIL 16 - Slate of NOMINEES** presented. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

**MAY 21 - ELECTION** Board positions

**|T|R|I|V|I|A| ANSWER to Trivia Question on page 9 = D. Mr. Clean**



# 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**  
207-775-1991 (office)  
[www.harborcityrealty.com](http://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	