
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

As most of you already know, the Nominating Committee presented its slate of people running for five open positions on the Board. Since none of the positions were challenged by other candidates, the Recording Secretary will cast one vote at the May meeting and it's all done. Candidates will be sworn in at the June meeting.

Please welcome Cindy Dalfonso as our new Business Manager beginning May 5. We wish Victoria the best of luck in her new adventures. Cindy is a former manager at the Center and will fit right into place. Please remember that she is focused on outside business not on member events. Any questions about member events such as time, whether there's food, cost, etc., should go to Tracy not Cindy. Cindy will be very busy booking weddings, celebrations of life, reunions, and other events. Interruptions can slow her down.

Speaking of outside events, Nancy Polito is working on plans for a possible dinner mystery, comedy hour, etc. These will be open to the public, so they are not a Cantina members event. They will be open to all members and the public for a price. Stay tuned for these announcements moving forward. On another note, watch for what Tracy is doing. It's our 250 year anniversary as the United States, and she has other celebrations and entertainment planned.

We are getting the flower boxes out front repaired. If you're interested in helping Melissa Martin and Connie DiBiase plant flowers, please contact Melissa. The outside tent usually goes up the first week of June-weather permitting. This is usually a four-hour ordeal so all help is welcomed. Contact me if you can lend a hand.

As always, be respectful of others opinions, be kind, be happy, and most of all please remember that ultimately we are all trying to pull the rope in one direction. This Center is YOURS and the Board is here to just lead it. It takes a village and let's not lose sight of that. Thanks to all for allowing me to play a role in the Center moving forward. Any questions? Always feel free to reach out to me at wild.billlucy@gmail.com or 303-887-9164.

Bill Lucatuorto, Interim President

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



DATE: Thursday, May 21
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, MAY 18** . Please call Bill at **303-887-9164**

IHC POSITIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Directors - 11)				COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
PRIMARY OFFICERS		ELECTED DIRECTORS			
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
		PAST PRESIDENT	Vincenza Dunn	Marketing	Melissa Martin
APPOINTED POSITIONS				Scholarship	Judy Ann Ferrante
Sergeant at Arms	Bruce Koharian			OTHER/TECH	
Parliamentarian	Martin Joyce			Business & Events Manager	Cynthia Dalfonso
				Webmaster (events)	Cynthia Dalfonso
				Webmaster (members)	Connie DiBiase

updated 4/16/2026



Welcome to our new Manager, Cindy Dalfonso

Cindy will be starting May 5, 2026 - stop by and say hello.



ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Tracy Rinaldi 207-671-1238

Buon mese di maggio!

We wrapped up March in the most joyful way imaginable—with an Easter Egg Hunt at the Intercultural Community Center! It was a fantastic day filled with laughter, learning, and community as we shared a glimpse into the early Italian experience in Maine, got to know the incredible students, and learned more about the school's inspiring mission. The highlight? Seeing an amazing group of kids paired with an equally amazing team of adults—it truly couldn't have been a better match! A huge, heartfelt thank-you to John P. Smith, Barbara Joyce, Randy & LeRay Poore, new member Ann Pepper, Ruth Ann DiPhillipo, Rich Murray, Sammy Rinaldi, and James Williams for bringing so much enthusiasm, generosity, and fun to the day. What a celebration!

April's Member Appreciation Dinner was absolutely unforgettable! The evening sparkled with camaraderie and fun—if only we'd had even more room to spread out and celebrate together. We enjoyed a delicious meal in the DaVinci room, then moved on to the Cantina for a lively and spirited Grease Sing-along that had everyone singing and smiling!

Due to the rise in membership and growing external business activity, coordinating reservations for the Columbus room has become more complex. Nevertheless, it is evident that future Member Appreciation events should and will be planned to take place in the Columbus room going forward. For this reason, we will need to be flexible when scheduling future Member Appreciation events. Closing out April was a fantastic trip to the Lyric Theater for "Anastasia". There's nothing like spending an afternoon with a great group of friends!

I'm looking forward to creating new memories with you in May! Special highlights:

- May 2nd we are bringing back the Kentucky Derby complete with dinner, Kentucky Derby tickets, hat contest, and of course, the race!
- Annelyse and Michael are back on May 23rd! This is sure to be a night not to be missed.

Until next time,
Tracy

Easter Egg Hunt Intercultural Community Center



Anastasia, The Musical • Sunday, April 12, 2026



Want to watch the **MAY 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



DATE	SATURDAY, MAY 2
TIME	3:30 pm cocktail hour 4:30 pm luncheon 6:57 pm race begins!
COST	\$25 per person*
LOCATION	Da Vinci Room
*price includes the meal and one free Kentucky Derby ticket	

Flat Contest
 Dig out your Derby duds

Come join the fun!

RSVP by Tuesday, April 28

Tracy Rinaldi 207-671-1238



BONUS

DATE	SATURDAY, May 9
TIME	5 pm dinner/6 pm game
LOCATION	La Cantina

Show Me The MONEY



DATE	SATURDAY, MAY 23
TIME	6:30 - 9:30 pm
LOCATION	La Cantina

Come on out and dance the night away!

A musical duo performing songs from the 30's to current pop hits. Great dance band!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Come & celebrate your fellow members!



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

DATE	SATURDAY, MAY 30
TIME	5 pm Bar Opens
	6 pm (bring your own)
LOCATION	Cantina

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*

MEMBER APPRECIATION & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

with a Grease Sing-A-Long Saturday, April 11, 2026





MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

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

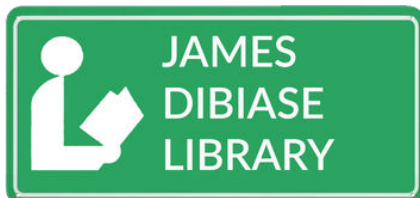


New REGULAR Member APPLICATIONS (to be voted in)		
Name	Italian Name	Sponsor
Joan Brady	DeSalle	Jean Germani Russo
Elizabeth Griffin	DeSalle	Jean Germani Russo

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

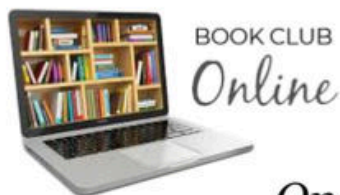
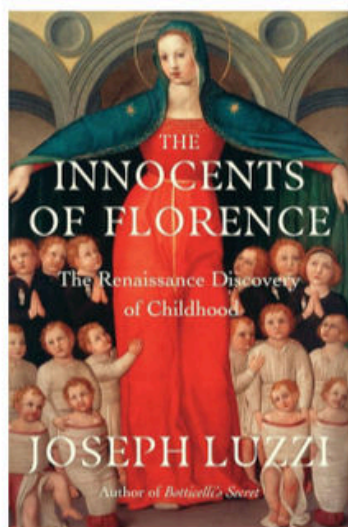


Have you checked out the James DiBiase Library?

Stop by and ask the Manager to let you in. Tuesday-Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

[Click Here to Access the Catalog](#)

Contact **Jim DiBiase** for the link!
207-767-2292 or 207-831-4191



DATE	WEDNESDAY, MAY 6
TIME	6:30 pm
LOCATION	ONLINE: ZOOM

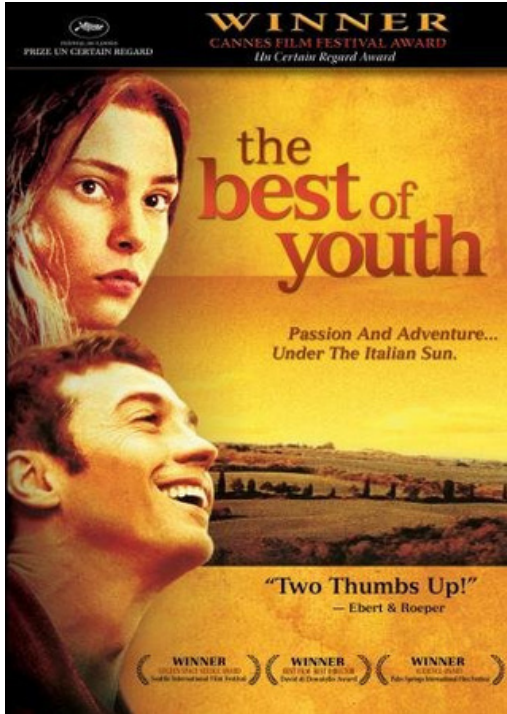
*One of The New Yorker's
Best Books of 2025*

How a Florentine orphanage rescued thousands of children and revolutionized childhood education amid the splendor of Renaissance art.

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

MOVIE NIGHT PART 1

DATE	SATURDAY, May 16
TIME	5:00 pm bar opens 5:30 pm snacks provided 6:00 pm movie starts
LOCATION	La Cantina



La Meglio Gioventu

Winner of the Cannes Film Festival's top prize

La Meglio Gioventu chronicles the life of the middle-class Carati family, focusing primarily on brothers Matteo ([Alessio Boni](#)) and Nicola ([Luigi Lo Cascio](#)) as their life paths separate during youth, encompassing major political and social events in [post-World War II Italian history](#).

These close-knit brothers are buffeted by the social and political upheavals that rock their native Italy during the 1960s and '70s as they navigate their way into adulthood, marriage and middle age. Along the way, Nicola meets Giulia (Sonia Bergamasco), the love of his life, whose political beliefs take precedence over her personal happiness, while Matteo falls for the lovely photographer-turned-librarian Mirella (Maya Sansa).

NOTE: We are screening the movie in two parts:

Part 1 Saturday, May 16

Part 2 Saturday, June 20

TIMELINE CORRECTION: This story follows the brothers' lives post World War II.

Contact **Judy Kenrick** if you have any questions: jagwindham@aol.com

ITALIAN Idiom

(nonna said it best)

"Hai voluto la bicicletta? Ora pedali."

(You wanted the bicycle? Now you pedal.)

Meaning: You made your choice, now accept the consequences and do the work.

TRIVIA

Which of the following stories was first published in an Italian newspaper (early 1800's)?

- Little Nell
- Sherlock Holmes
- Ichabod Crane
- Pinocchio

ANSWER: see page 13



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 as well as the **Diane DiPaolo Morency** family. 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

Well spring is just around the corner. NEW snacks in the Cantina. Make sure you get yours on Wednesday and Saturday nights. If you would like something special, please let us know.



Thank you to all who dropped bottles off bottles for the T-ball team. They will be very happy with our donation of \$100.00.

Charity will be **looking for volunteers to help clean out the Flagpole area**, and plant new flowers. We will be working on **Sunday May 17 at 9 am.**

We are always looking for new members and new ideas.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Katie



Bottle Drop Off: May 3 · 17 · 24 · 31
9-10:30 am



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



NEW MEMBERS

L to R: Reta Nappi, Debra Jarrell, Lu Lu St. Hilaire, Beth Reed, Ann Pepper, Bill Lucatuorto (Interim President)



QUORUM WINNER
Gladys Yankowsky

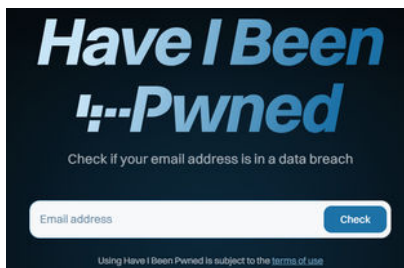


50/50 WINNER
Ruth Ann Murray



VOLUNTEER BASKET
Maria Griffin

Tech Tip



Have I Been Pwned is a legitimate, widely trusted, and FREE cybersecurity service. Founded in 2013 by security expert Troy Hunt, it safely allows users to check if their personal data has been exposed in online data breaches.

WHAT DO I DO?

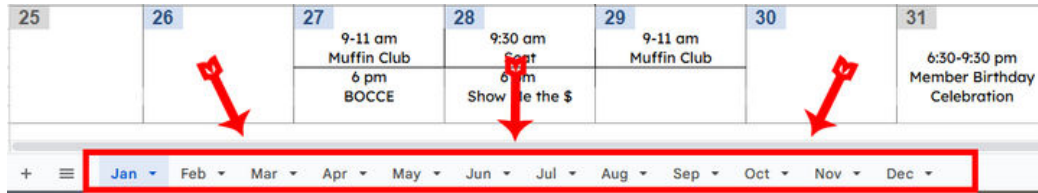
[Click on this link](https://haveibeenpwned.com/) and enter your email address. You will see if your email address has been hacked and how many times.

(<https://haveibeenpwned.com/> = this is the legit web address)

NOW WHAT?

Change your password and/or create a new email address

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.



May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5-7 pm Cantina Open	2 3:30 pm Bar Opens 4:30 pm Luncheon Kentucky Derby 7pm Race Begins!
3 Charity Committee 9-10:30 am Bottle Collection Portland T-Ball 	4 5:30 pm Activities Comm MONTHLY mtg	5 9-11 am Muffin Club	6 9:30 am - Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$ 6:30 Book Club ONLINE	7 9-11 am Muffin Club	8 5-7 pm Cantina Open	9 6 pm Bonus Show Me The Money
10 Mother's Day	11	12 9-11 am Muffin Club	13 9:30 am - Scat 5:30 pm Cultural Mtg 6 pm Show Me the \$	14 9-11 am Muffin Club	15 5-7 pm Cantina Open	16 Cultural 6 pm "Best of Youth" Movie PART 1
17 Charity Committee 9-10:30 am Bottles FLAG POLE CLEANUP 9 am	18 Reminder to RSVP for Monthly Mtg DINNER	19 9-11 am Muffin Club	20 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	21 9-11 am Muffin Club 4 pm Board Mtg 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Member Mtg	22 5-7 pm Cantina Open	23 6-9:30 pm Annelyse & Michael
24 Charity Committee 9-10:30 am Bottle Collection Portland T-Ball 	25 Memorial Day	26 9-11 am Muffin Club	27 9:30 am Scat 6 pm Show Me the \$	28 9-11 am Muffin Club	29 5-7 pm Cantina Open	30 6:30-9:30 pm Member Birthday Celebration
31 Charity Committee 9-10:30 am Bottle Collection Portland T-Ball 						

TRIVIA ANSWER to Trivia Question on page 10 = d. Pinocchio



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	