



Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.



dicembre 2018

- Raffle Tickets -



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Don't forget to send in your money and raffle ticket stubs for the Benefit Raffle. The drawing will be held at our Christmas Party on December 8 at the Italian Cultural Center. If you want more tickets to buy or sell, please call Marcia at 413-786-5506. Winners do not need to be present.

TOMBOLA (ITALIAN BINGO) AND POTLUCK DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

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We are excited to have our second Tombola Game Event at the ICC on Sunday, December 16th at 12:00 Noon. We have purchased a Tombola game directly from Italy and would like everyone to come and learn how to play. It is really fun and simple and very much like Bingo. Last year's Tombola event was a huge success and everyone had a fun time.

We would like to repeat what we did last year, so we are asking everyone to bring a dish to share for a Potluck lunch before the games begin. The ICC will provide the entrée of Egg-plant Parmigiana.

If your last name begins with A—M, please bring a side dish.
If your last name begins with N—Z, please bring a dessert.

If you choose not to bring a food dish, we ask for a \$10 donation at the door.

We will eat at 12 noon and then let the Tombola fun begin at 1:00 pm.

Tombola cards will be sold for \$10 each. You can play the same card all day and we will play several rounds of the game throughout the event for fun prizes.





Membership Meeting Reminder



The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at 6:00 pm in our building at 56 Margaret Street.

It's important for you to come to the meetings to learn about what is going on at the ICC and to help plan for the future. Please attend meetings so you can share your ideas with the Executive Board and other members. It is only by working together that we can continue to promote and enjoy our Italian heritage.



Adult Italian Language Classes

Stay tuned for specific information about the Spring session in a future issue of *La Voce*.

All classes are from 6pm -8pm for 10 weeks and held at the Italian Cultural Center of Western Mass., Inc., 56 Margaret St, Springfield, MA. Tuition cost is \$140.00 for ICC members and \$160.00 for non-members. The course book is available for \$20.00.

Registration forms will be available on our web site at www.iccwm.org. Please call or email any questions to our Registrar at (413) 244-0526 or italianaticc@comcast.net. Once payment is received, you will receive confirmation from our Registrar.



STATE OF OUR BUILDING AND FINANCES

While the Italian Cultural Center of Western Mass., Inc., looks forward to reopening its doors on December 8th for our Annual Christmas Party, our building's renovations will not be totally finished by then. There is still more construction and painting to be done. However, we are in dire need to start generating income, so we must start to have functions again. It is important for our members and friends to support and attend these functions so we can continue to provide Italian cultural events to our members and community.

We are still very short of our Rebuilding Fund goal of \$100,000. So far, we have raised \$22,094. We still need so much more to recover from the damage and losses we have suffered. Please get the word out to your family and friends.

Donations can be made directly to the ICC at 56 Margaret Street, Springfield, MA 01105 or through our GoFundMe Page at <https://www.gofundme.com/s6hd-disaster-at-italian-cultural-center>.

All donations are tax deductible, greatly appreciated, and necessary to resume our mission to promote Italian culture in the Western MA community!





Cookbooks make great gifts!



The Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc. is proud of its very own "homemade" cookbook, *Mangia! Ci fa bene!* It is a delightful cookbook with over 160 tried and tested family recipes contributed by our members and friends, many of which have been prepared for generations. You will find many of your favorite Italian dishes, as well as other recipes that are not so well known, but delicious! The recipes are divided into categories to help you find a great dish that will suit a special occasion, or delectable entrees, side dishes and desserts for your family dinners.

The price of *Mangia! Ci fa bene!* is just \$15.00. These cookbooks make great Christmas gifts, hostess gifts, and gifts for teachers. Your purchase will promote traditional Italian cooking, as well as support the Italian Cultural Center. Supplies are limited, so get your copies soon! The cookbooks can be purchased at any of our events or member meetings.

They can also be ordered for home delivery (shipping charges will apply) by calling 413-784-1492, emailing us at iccwm@comcast.net, or writing us at 56 Margaret St., Springfield, MA 01105.

Please be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and the number of cookbooks you are purchasing. Please make checks or money orders out to "ICC".

If writing to us, you may complete the form below, and cut it out to include in your letter:

MANGIA! CI FA BENE! ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Check one below:

_____ Number of Cookbooks* 1 X \$15.00 (+ \$6.00 shipping & handling) = \$ 21.00 Total

_____ Number of Cookbooks* 2 X \$15.00 (+ \$6.00 shipping & handling) = \$ 36.00 Total

*Shipping for up to 2 Cookbooks is \$6.00. Shipping and handling is based on the number of books ordered. Call for shipping and handling cost if ordering more than 2 books.

How to celebrate Christmas like the Italians

1. Get the dates right

The Italian festive season starts on December 8th with the celebration of the Immaculate Conception, and continues until the Epiphany on January 6th, when the Three Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem. The most important date of the celebrations is Christmas Eve.

2. Know your Novena

The nine-day period before Christmas, known as the Novena, is when we remember the journey of the shepherds to the baby Jesus' manger. In rural areas in particular, children go from house to house dressed as shepherds, performing Christmas songs or poems, often in exchange for money or sweets.

3. Keep an eye out for bagpipers

In southern Italy and Rome, bagpipe-playing shepherds, or *zampognari* as they are known, perform tunes in piazzas, normally dressed in traditional sheepskin and wool cloaks. The pipers usually travel in pairs down from their mountain homes - it's quite a spectacle.

4. Prepare the presepe

The tradition of *presepi*, or Christmas cribs, is widespread in Italy. Most churches, as well as other public areas and many Italian homes, will have at least one nativity scene on display. Styles vary and may depict just the holy family or a whole village, but the baby Jesus is usually added only on Christmas Eve. Sometimes, contemporary characters (such as ex-PM Renzi or Italian footballers) are included too.

In Rome, an annual exhibition displays 100 different cribs from all over the world, including miniscule versions carved into nuts, and all kinds of materials - even pasta.

5. Festive Francis

Christmas Eve was traditionally a day of fasting before Christmas for Catholics, with festivities starting only after the evening mass. This is still observed in some families, and the evening meal, known as the 'Feast of Seven Fishes', is usually based on seafood rather than meat. Clams and oysters are often used as they are seen as luxurious.

7. Religious roots

Italian Christmas celebrations are still very much based on their religious roots. At midnight on Christmas Eve, churches ring their bells and cannons are fired from Rome's Castel Sant'Angelo to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. If you're interested, there will be plenty of Christmas services and carol concerts at your local church, and they are beautiful to watch.

8. The big dinner

On Christmas Day, the food that makes up the *Cenone* (literally meaning "big dinner") varies from region to region, but meat is normally back on the menu, often accompanied by pasta. The meal is followed by panettone, a sweet bread loaf originating from Milan, and other desserts filled with nuts, which were historically a symbol of fertility for the coming year.

9. Letters to loved ones

Christmas in Italy is a family affair, and as well as writing to Father Christmas requesting the latest must-haves, it is traditional for children to write letters to their parents, telling them how much they love them. The letters are usually decorated and tied up beautifully, and are read out after Christmas lunch.

10. Wait for the witch

Although nowadays many children receive presents from Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, a uniquely Italian tradition is that of 'La Befana', the old woman who brings gifts on Epiphany Eve. Legend has it the Three Wise Men came to her house and invited her to join their search for Christ. She was too busy with housework so declined, but later changed her mind, and to this day is still searching for the child, leaving presents for any good children she comes across.

Grazie!

A special note of thanks from our President, Stephanie Spolzino to the following people for spending hours on November 17 to clean the pantry and kitchen: Pauline Casey, BJ and Carrie Calvi, Carrie's sister, Missy, Jill Raschi, Nancy Piela, and Gary MacQuestion.

MORE WORK PARTIES



We will be having additional work parties throughout the winter to build bookcases, set up the library and store, and other small maintenance projects. We will be reaching out to our members for help. Please consider giving some of your time to help. Any amount of time you can give will be greatly appreciated!



STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GRAND REOPENING GALA IN EARLY 2019!



Cancellation Information

When Springfield public schools are closed due to bad weather, ICC meetings or dinners scheduled for that night will also be cancelled, and rescheduled for the same time on the following night. Students participating in ICC language classes will be notified by email. Also, be sure to watch WWLP, Channel 22, for weather cancellations.

Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.

ICC Officers

Stephanie Spolzino
Marcia Capuano
Jill Raschi
Nancy Piela
Sandi Vella
Lou "Luigi" Planzo
Gary Felitto MacQuestion
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56 Margaret St
Springfield MA 01105

413-784-1492

Calendar of Events

Christmas Dinner, Saturday, December 8, 6:00 pm

Membership Meeting, Wednesday, December 12, 6:00 pm

Tombola and Potluck, Sunday, December 16, 12:00 noon

We are planning a number of events for 2019 and look forward to unveiling our beautifully renovated ICC!

The Mission of the Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc. is to promote Italian culture, traditions, heritage and the Italian language, through the sponsoring of social, culinary and educational events, and to foster appreciation and respect in the community for the rich contributions that Italians have made locally and throughout the world.