



Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.



marzo 2014

2014 Membership Reminder

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By now you should have received your 2014 Membership Renewal Form for the Italian Cultural Center. If you have not done so, please complete and submit your membership renewal today. Please invite your friends and family to join also and, as always, children are very welcome. We have a lot of new programs and events planned. There's something for everyone. Membership forms are available on our website at www.iccw.org or by calling the cultural center at 413-784-1492 or email us at ICCW@comcast.net.

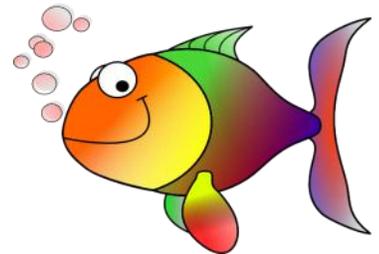


The success of the ICC and its programs depend on your support.

Fish Dinner - March 28

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The ICC is planning a Lenten fish dinner to be held on Friday, March 28, at 6:00 pm. Only 100 tickets will be sold, so get them early. Tickets are available now and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$15 for ICC members, \$18 for non-members and are available by calling Nancy at 413-827-9350. Remember to get your tickets early! Deadline for purchasing tickets is March 21, 2014. Come join us!



Italian Cultural Center Annual Scholarship Banquet

The ICC will be hosting its Annual Scholarship Banquet on May 13, 2014, at 6:00pm at St. Anne Country Club, 781 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills, MA. This event is open to members and non-members. Reservations are required. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Call Sandi Vella at 413-736-8502 to make your reservation. Deadline for reservations is May 5, 2014. Come join us to celebrate the accomplishments of these exceptional Western Massachusetts High School Seniors!

The ICC is a Tax-Exempt 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions to the ICC are tax deductible.

Notizie ed Avvenimenti

Cooking with the Frigo Family



Come join us for this special event to benefit the ICC. This event is always so popular, we decided to do it again. Joe Frigo of Frigo's Specialty Food Shop and his staff will prepare a delectable dinner right in front of you. It's like watching the Food Network on TV, only better and more fun. You will see how each course is prepared and be served what is prepared that evening. You will also receive copies of recipes used for the evening's fare so you can recreate this magnificent meal at home. The event will take place on Friday, April 25, 2014, at 6:00pm at the Italian Cultural Center. Tickets are \$50. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available by calling Nancy at 413-827-9350. Seating is limited for this event, so get your tickets early! Deadline for purchasing tickets is April 18, 2014. Come join us!

Planning for 2014 Italian Heritage Month Serviam and Amici Award Nominations

We have already started planning our 2014 Italian Heritage Month activities and we are now accepting nominations for Serviam and Amici award recipients. The Serviam Award recognizes individuals of Italian ancestry who have significantly contributed to the Italian-American community of Western Massachusetts. The recipient, who must be of Italian ethnic heritage, is someone who has devoted his or her life to the betterment of society through community service, and by exemplary works has enhanced the Italian-American communities throughout Western Massachusetts. The Amici Award recognizes individuals who are of non-Italian heritage, but have demonstrated exceptional contributions to the Italian-American community.

Nomination forms to be used to submit the name of an individual you feel is worthy of this prestigious award are available at the ICC or on our website at www.iccwm.org. Please submit nominations with documenting materials by May 1, 2014, to the Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc., c/o Serviam Committee, 56 Margaret St, Springfield, MA 01105.

Dreams can come true

Since the founding of the ICC with a basement lease in a building on Acushnet Ave. , the dream has always been to have our own building, a home to call our own that we could shape to suit our needs, enjoy and spread Italian culture and be financially stable. In 2005 we were dealt a heavy blow when we lost the lease, and were reduced to renting a tiny office on Maple St. with limited storage and no room to hold any meetings. Membership declined. Some thought our days were numbered. We searched for a suitable building to purchase as our own, but also wondered how we would finance it.

In 2008 we were able to purchase the former primary school at 56 Margaret St., with two loans: a large personal loan (interest free) given to us by an angel who wishes to remain anonymous, and the remaining balance financed by a mortgage loan, plus interest, to Mt. Carmel Church. This “patchwork” financing was certainly awkward and not the most desirable way to go, but was the only avenue we had, given our financial weakness. The logical goal was to repay both loans by wrapping them into one “normal” refinanced loan with a bank, at a favorable interest rate. However, before any bank would give us such a loan we had to demonstrate that we were a stable, growing and financially solvent organization.

That would not be easy. There were months when we had to wait until the end of the grace period before we had the money to pay the mortgage and utility bills. It took years of hard work, dedication and inspiration, but with our foundation now firmly beneath us, we created many new successful events, heightened the Italian presence in western Mass., and grew our membership substantially!

Finally we are financially solvent, and stable enough that a bank has agreed to give us a mortgage loan that consolidates both of the “old” loans into one loan, with a substantially lower interest rate than we were paying before. So, yes folks, dreams can come true if you believe they will, work hard and never give up. We have done what other ethnic cultural organizations have not been able to do – grow the membership and expand. We are now receiving calls from other organizations asking us how we did it, and how we created some of the benefits that we offer!

With your support and assistance the sky’s the limit, but we need your help to continue the success. Please volunteer, and DREAM BIG!

Volunteers Needed

To continue our success and achieve more of our dreams, we need volunteers!

Please consider supporting your Italian Cultural Center with any of the following needs.

Even if your time is limited and you can only help on an occasional basis, we can use your help! Please call us at **413-784-1492** or email to iccw@comcast.net and let us know how you would like to assist. You’ll make a lot of new friends too! Grazie!

Painting	Electrical repairs	Event table set-up and breakdown
Minor building repairs	Sheet rock & taping	Retail store sales people & manager
Carpentry	Tile work	Bartending at events
Grounds maintenance	Masonry work	Event coordinators
Cleaning/Housekeeping	Cooking	Public Relations
Washing windows	Kitchen help	La Voce

The Italian Cultural Center Offers College Scholarships

The Italian Cultural Center of Western Mass., Inc. is offering scholarships to High School Seniors that are pursuing higher education. Italian Cultural Center Scholarship applications are available on our website at www.iccwm.org, along with additional information on our scholarship program. The application deadline is April 1, 2014. If you are unable to acquire an application, please contact the scholarship committee at iccscholarship@comcast.net or 413-784-1492 with your name, address, and phone number. One scholarship, the Dante Alighieri Scholarship, will be awarded to a student studying the Italian language.

The ICC is also looking for additional scholarship donors so that more students could benefit from this program. If you would like to be a scholarship donor please contact us at iccscholarship@comcast.net.



If you would like additional information about being a scholarship donor please send us an email at iccscholarship@comcast.net.

June Elections



It's Nomination Time!

ICC Officer Elections will be held at the June member meeting. If any members are interested in playing a more active role in the ICC by becoming an officer, they should phone us at (413) 784-1492 or email at iccwm@comcast.net and submit their name and the office that they wish to run for, by April 1.

The Nominating Committee will meet in April to collect the names submitted, verify that they are members in good standing and determine the slate of candidates for office. The Committee will present the slate of candidates at the June meeting, and voting will take place at the June meeting.



Gnocchi Make and Take Coming April 12, 2014

A gnocchi-making class will be held on Saturday, April 12, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at the ICC. What could be better than sharing in this Italian tradition together? An instructor, supplies and space will be provided for adults and children. Just bring an apron and take home what you make. Space is limited.

Seats will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Call Stephanie at 860-305-1175 or email to CookingwICC@comcast.net to request a registration form and to check seating availability. Payment must be received by April 4, 2014, to guarantee a seat. Mail your name, address and phone number along with the registration fee of \$20 for ICC members, \$15 for children of members 12 years and younger, \$25 per adult non-member, and \$20 for children of non-members 12 years and younger to: Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc., Attn: Gnocchi-Making, 56 Margaret St, Springfield, MA 01105.



Third Annual Golf Tournament

Save the Date:

July 12, 2014

The Italian Cultural Center of Western Mass, Inc. is sponsoring its Third Annual Golf Tournament on July 12, 2014. The tournament will take place at St. Anne Country Club, 781 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills, MA. If you are a golfer, mark this date on your calendar and spread the word. We are also looking for volunteers to help out in all phases of the event. Golf tournament co-chairs Andy Calvanese and Christine Tazzini have started the planning process. If you would like to volunteer to work on one of the golf committees or help out the day of the tournament, please call Andy or Dianna Calvanese at 413-592-2933 and leave a message and someone will return your call, or email Christine Tazzini at CTazzini@aol.com.

Adult Italian Language Classes

Information regarding the Fall 2014 session for Adult Italian Language Classes will be coming soon.

We will again offer Beginner I, Beginner II and Intermediate level classes over a 10 week period beginning in September 2014. All classes will run from 6-8pm. Tuition cost is \$120.00 for ICC members and \$130.00 for non-members. Please call or email any questions to our Registrar at italianaticc@comcast.net or call 860-305-1175.

Weather Alerts



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

Joe Pasternak and Lou "Luigi" Planzo
Gary Felitto MacQueston
Andy Calvanese
Rosanne Mastrangelo
Nancy Piela
Sandi Vella
Julie Dialessi-Lafley

Co-Presidents
Vice President
2nd Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Historian
Executive Director & Clerk



Italian Cultural Center of
Western Massachusetts, Inc.
56 Margaret St
Springfield MA 01105

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Western Massachusetts, Inc.**
56 Margaret St
Springfield MA 01105
413-784-1492
iccwm@comcast.net

www.iccwm.org

Calendar of Events

No membership meeting in March

Italian Language Classes for Adults Begin March 10

Fish Dinner, Friday, March 28, 6:00pm

Membership Meeting, Wednesday, April 9, 6:00pm

Gnocchi-making, Saturday, April 12, 1:00pm

Cooking with the Frigo Family, Friday, April 25, 6:00pm

Scholarship Banquet, Tuesday, May 13, 6:00pm

Membership Meeting, Wednesday, May 14, 6:00pm