



# Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.



ottobre 2019

## THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE SERIES

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>  
*THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE*  
BY MARY ANN MARZANO

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Did you grow up Italian or wish you were Italian? Does anyone make meatballs like your grandmother's? Would you like to go back to the good old days, the fiestas, the Sunday dinners that lasted all afternoon?

Join our speaker, Mary Ann, for an entertaining view of being a first-generation Italian, growing up in the South End of Springfield during the 60's and 70's. The talk will be followed by a discussion of what it is like being Italian in a non-Italian world and how to hold onto our traditions, food and history as the new generations become more culturally blended.

Besides being a business owner, Mary Ann has developed a speaking career, entertaining and inspiring listeners through sharing her unique insight into life and storytelling. Her audiences have ranged from business women to college students. She recently gave a TED talk, which is a worldwide, online series of lectures on a variety of subjects. Mary Ann also enjoys writing poetic essays which you can read on her website [maryanntalks.com](http://maryanntalks.com).

The presentation will begin at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 20. The doors open at 1:30. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for Members and \$7 for Non-Members. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

*Grazie  
di cuore*

A very heartfelt thanks to Victor Bruno for his generosity in providing his restaurant, Adolfo's at 254 Worthington Street, for our ICC Cigar Night. He not only provided the venue, but also wonderful food and a very attentive waitstaff.

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



## **PORCHETTA DINNER**

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

The ICC is planning a Porchetta (roast pork) dinner to be held on Saturday, October 19, at 6:00 pm, at the ICC, 56 Margaret St, Springfield MA 01105. Chef Joe Sapelli will create a delicious dinner consisting of Porchetta, pasta, vegetable, potatoes, salad, and dessert. Seating is limited, so make your reservations early. Reservations are available now, and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The dinner price is \$18.00 for ICC members, \$21.00 for non-members and must be paid for in advance. Call Nancy today at 413-827-9350 to make your reservations.

Deadline for reservations is October 15, 2019. Come join us!

# **Attenzione! Attenzione!**

**FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE ITALIAN CINEMA**  
**November 1, 2019**

***Scent of a Woman (Profumo di donna)***

By Dino Risi (1973)

Comedy/drama, 1 hour and 46 minutes

In Italian with English subtitles



**Plot:** An army cadet accompanies an irascible, blind captain on a week-long trip from Turin to Naples. The captain, Fausto, who wants no pity, brooks no disagreement, and charges into every situation, nick-names the youth Ciccio ("Babyfat"), and spends the next few days ordering him about and generally behaving badly in public. In Rome, Fausto summons a priest to ask for his blessing; in Naples, where Fausto joins a blind lieutenant for drinking and revelry, the two soldiers talk quietly and seriously about "going through with it." Also, in Naples, is Sara, in love with Fausto, but treated cruelly by him. What do the blind soldiers plan? Can Sara soften Fausto's hardened heart?

**Trama:** un cadetto dell'esercito accompagna un irascibile capitano cieco in un viaggio di una settimana da Torino a Napoli. Il capitano, Fausto, che non vuole piet , non tollera disaccordo e carica in ogni situazione, soprannomina il giovane Ciccio ("Babyfat"), e passa i giorni successivi a ordinarlo e a comportarsi male in pubblico. A Roma, Fausto convoca un sacerdote per chiedere la sua benedizione; a Napoli, dove Fausto si unisce a un tenente cieco per bere e fare baldoria, i due soldati parlano tranquillamente e seriamente di "averlo fatto". Anche a Napoli c'  Sara, innamorata di Fausto, ma trattata crudelmente da lui. Cosa pianificano i soldati ciechi? Sara pu  addolcire il cuore indurito di Fausto?

**Friday, November 1, 2019**

**Italian Cultural Center, 56 Margaret St, Springfield, MA**

**Doors Open at 6:00 pm—Film Begins at 6:30 pm**

**Suggested Donation: \$3 for Members & \$6 for Non-Members**

**Moviegoers Will Be Given a Choice of a Beverage and a Snack**

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.iccwm.org> or call at 413 784-1492



## ITALIAN SOCIAL NIGHT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**



The ICC will host its second “Italian Social Night”. We are encouraging all members, guests, and friends to come down to 56 Margaret Street to enjoy a late afternoon/evening of camaraderie, conversation, card playing, and music. We will have our Historian’s books out to view and remember all the events we have taken part of as Italians in Western Massachusetts.

Feel free to bring a game or deck of cards to play with friends, or just come and have a cup of coffee or beverage. We will be serving some pasta e fagioli and bread for a snack too. No reservations needed. We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. Doors will be open from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We will serve pasta from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please call the ICC at (413) 784-1492 with any questions.

## THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE SERIES



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

### **MAFIA, MEDIA, AND ITALIAN AMERICANS**

**By Rocco Mesiti, Ed.D**

The earliest presence of organized crime surfaces in Marion Heights, Pennsylvania in 1907, when 14 members of the Black Hand are arrested. A short time after, street gangs in major cities begin their transformation into structured crime syndicates and by the end of WWII and late 1950s Italian mafia groups dominate the underworld. By the 1960s and 1970s, Hollywood responded and contributed to this phenomenon by producing successful Italian mafia films over several decades. Italian Americans begin to romanticize and identify with “the life” of being Italian American or in some cases an Italian Gangster. These movies influenced second and third generation Italian Americans to learn, accept and reinforce the Hollywood “Italian gangster persona”. The purpose of this presentation is to analyze how mafia films influence the behavioral patterns, commodification, and institutional perceptions of Italian Americans, as they transition from urban “Little Italy” to suburbia.

Rocco Mesiti is a professor of Italian Culture in the College of Arts and Science at Western New England University and also a professor of the university’s summer program in Sorrento Italy at the Sant’Anna Institute. Dr. Mesiti is an alumnus of the University of Hartford where he earned a doctoral degree in Cultural Intelligence. Also, he is an Alumnus of the University of Massachusetts where he received a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Italian Language and Culture. Currently, Dr. Mesiti also produces an Italian radio program, Dolce Vita Radio, on WTCC 90.7 FM, now in its 27th year. Dr. Mesiti broadcasts from Springfield Technical Community College every Sunday from 11am to 1pm.

The presentation will begin at 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 20. The doors open at 1:30. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for Members and \$7 for Non-Members. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

## THE ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE SERIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

### I'VE ALWAYS FELT LUCKY BEING ITALIAN

By Barbara C. Bernard



With great pleasure, the ICC presents an afternoon with columnist Barbara Bernard.

Among her many accomplishments, Barbara has been recognized for her work on behalf of senior citizens in Holyoke where she settled 60 years ago with her late husband, George, and raised their family. She founded the nation's first independent Golden Age Club there in 1950 with \$100 in winnings from the New York City radio quiz show, 'Strike It Rich'. The club attracted 100 members the first month, and 1,000 by the end of the first year. She was also the honorary chairman of funding for the modern Holyoke Senior Center.

In 2009, the Valley Press Club had voted unanimously to present its Lifetime Achievement Award to Barbara. She was the first female to receive the award.

Her journalism career spans six decades and four media, including radio, television, the Internet and print as a columnist for *The Republican*.

Barbara is a strong supporter of the Majestic Theater and annually sponsors a show there.

Among the honors conferred upon her were: the Citizenship awards from the Holyoke St. Patrick Parade Committee, the Holyoke Rotary Club and the Holyoke Italian Progressive Society.

Barbara also received the Pynchon Award, which is presented to individuals who have shown unusual dedication to improving the quality of life in Western Massachusetts. She is first Holyoke person to be so awarded.

The presentation will begin at 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 24. The doors open at 1:30. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for Members and \$7 for Non-Members. Complimentary refreshments will be served.



## ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Over 5.5 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 2000. Today there are over 15.7 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fourth largest ethnic group. Our country was even named after an Italian, the explorer and geographer Amerigo Vespucci.

Without the Italians, America would be a very different place today. So many of her discoverers, explorers, and colonizers were of Italian descent, one might even conclude that without Italians, America might not even exist.

Italian Americans throughout the U.S. join together to celebrate their heritage during the month of October, but the name of the month is as varied as those who celebrate. Depending on the organization and region, October may be Italian American Heritage Month, Italian American History Month, Italian Heritage Month, etc. However, it is recognized as National Italian American Heritage Month in the annual proclamation signed by the President of the United States.

Although the month of festivities may be identified by many names, the purpose of celebrating is the same—to honor those of Italian heritage who have so richly contributed to America and the world.

*Italia Living, 2018*

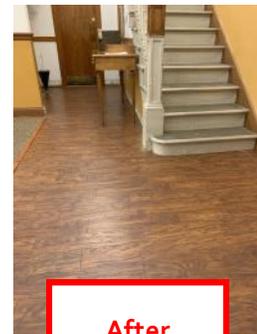
## ANOTHER FLOOD INCIDENT

Our newly renovated building suffered another flooding incident on August 8th. Very heavy rains caused the City of Springfield combined sanitary and storm sewers to back up into our bathroom and flood the front foyer area. A large portion of our new carpeting was ruined as well as a portion of the foyer floor. The carpeting could not be repaired and the insurance company would not cover the incident as they deemed it an “Act of God”.

We are fortunate and deeply grateful to have Sam DiSanti who has donated his time and skills to remove the carpeting and replace the floor. A few members have generously offered to help pay for the materials, but unfortunately it is not enough to defray the costs. If you are able to help, any donation—large or small—would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made to the ICCWM and sent to 56 Margaret Street, Springfield, MA 01105, Attn: Floor Repair.



Before



After

A special thank you to Sandi Vella, Kathy Guttormsen, Sylvia Deliso, and Joan Zecchi for their continued hard work to get the library organized again!

And sincere thanks to Pauline Casey, Toni Baldini, and Sandi Vella for decorating, preparing, and donating the sandwiches and refreshments for the flag raising ceremony and reception.

## Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.

### ICC Officers

**Stephanie Spolzino**  
**Marcia Capuano**  
**Jill Raschi**  
**Nancy Piela**  
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Italian Cultural Center of  
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www.iccwm.org

# Calendar of Events

***Arancini Making Class, Sunday, October 13, 1:00 pm***

***Porchetta Dinner, Saturday, October 19, 6:00 pm***

***Lecture Series, Sunday, October 20, 2:00 pm***

***Italian Social Night, Friday, October 25, 4:00 pm***

***Friday Night at the Movies, November 1, 6:00 pm***

***Lecture Series, Sunday, November 17, 2:00 pm***

***Lecture Series, Sunday, November 24, 2:00 pm***

*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.*