



# *Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.*



**settembre 2020**

## *A Message from the Presidents*

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Ciao a tutti,

We hope this finds you all in good health. As you know, there have been some big changes on the Italian Cultural Center Executive Board. For various reasons, some of our previous Board members found it necessary to step away from the Board. We were lucky enough to have their skills, input and dedication during all the years that they were on the Board. We will miss them, but sometimes things just change. We would like to thank President Stephanie Spolzino for her total dedication to the ICC and for all of the work that she has put in over the years. We would like to thank Treasurer Nancy Piela for her excellent job as Treasurer and for her willingness to go out of her way to help out in many of the events. We would like to thank Secretary Jill Raschi for her superb job as Secretary and for her great sense of humor, which was greatly appreciated. And, lastly, we would like to thank Director Lucille Brindisi for all the work that she has put into creating and publishing our newsletter, *La Voce*, and for her dedication to the ICC, helping in so many ways.

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We would like to welcome our new Executive Board members: Vice President Dan Cohen, Treasurer Kathy Smith, Secretary Patty Murphy and Directors Sandra Haskin, Maria Placanica, and Maria Silvestri. We are looking forward to many years of their involvement with the ICC. We would also like to make special mention of Historian Sandra Vella. Sandi has been very instrumental in setting up the library and in organizing much of the rest of the ICC. She and other ICC members, Pauline Casey and Kathy Guttormsen, worked tirelessly to catalog the hundreds of books that have been donated. This place would not have been the same without her!

On another note, unfortunately, due to the pandemic, it has been awhile since we have been able to get together. And we are sure that you, like us, have really missed the ICC activities and seeing all of our friends. It will be great when we can all get together again at the ICC but since our concern is for the health and well-being of our membership, we are going to have to be very careful about how and when we reopen the ICC. Right now, we do not see us opening up in the near future. We are closely monitoring the CDC and Massachusetts guidelines to judge when it would be safe to resume our functions and hold gatherings again at the ICC. We will try to keep everyone apprised of the progress.

We also need to mention that, since we have not been able to hold any of our functions, we are stressed financially. Without our income from our dinners, language classes, cooking classes, movies, lectures, etc., we are going through our reserves quickly. Please consider supporting the ICC to get us through these troubled times. Any donation, large or small, would be greatly appreciated. All donations are tax deductible.

Grazie mille,

Charlie Becker and Marcia Capuano

Co-Presidents

# **WELCOME ~ BENVENUTI**

A warm welcome to our returning members and our Benefactors, Patrons, and New Members. Under ordinary circumstances, new members are encouraged to attend our quarterly membership meetings held the second Wednesday of September, December, March, and June, take classes and volunteer their many talents. We have many exciting events planned as soon as we can safely reopen, so stay tuned.

Friend: Frank Forastiere

Patrons: Felix DeCesare, Carole Raffaele

New Members: Claudia Attardi, Jacob Bartelson, Anna Bognolo and Ramesh Rajballie and Family, Carolyn Choos, Jeanne Fiore, Diane Fisher, Donna Golfieri, Thomas and Stephanie Guertin and Family, Susan Rueli Manchester, Giuseppe Mauri, Penny Peck and Alicia Scott, Maria Placanica, Carol Santilli, Katherine Smith, Rena Taddia, George Tazzini III and Megan Fettes, Larry Tiberio, and Susan Williams.

## **GRAZIE MILLE**

A special thanks to Diane Fusaro and George Tazzini, Jr. for their generous donations to the ICC. Both contributed to the ICC to help defray the loss of income from the pandemic and demonstrated their commitment to the ICC.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We can't wait to see you all back at the ICC. However, the health and safety of our members are our top priorities so we will continue to monitor and follow the guidelines issued by the CDC and the Massachusetts Health Department regarding the re-opening of the ICC.

We have a new slate of officers and directors, who are eager to present our exciting new plans, lectures, trips, dinners, language classes, movies, cooking classes, and much more. We would love our members to be more actively involved. There are so many ways to share your ideas and your talents. Please contact Patty Albano Murphy, our Director of Volunteers, for more information on how you can get involved. You can leave her a message at 413-784-1492 or at [icwm@comcast.net](mailto:icwm@comcast.net).

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Just a reminder, the 2021 membership renewals will be coming up shortly. We will be sending out a reminder in November. Please consider renewing your membership with the ICC. It is one of our greatest sources of income and it will help promote Italian culture and heritage through western Massachusetts. Your continued support of the ICC is greatly valued and appreciated.

## Scholarships Awarded



Congratulations to the High School class of 2020. The Italian Cultural Center Scholarships, sponsored by ICC members, the ICC, Springfield UNICO, and other organizations, recognize the achievements of young people of Italian heritage and support their further studies. This year our candidates were particularly accomplished and the selection process was very difficult. We are pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER	SCHOLARSHIP DONOR
Joseph W. Albano, from Minnechaug High School	Tazzini Funeral Home (sponsoring the <i>George &amp; Rose Tazzini Memorial Scholarship</i> )
Steven M. Aubin, from West Springfield High School	Italian Cultural Center (sponsoring the Dante Alighieri Scholarship)
Elizabeth D. Commisso, from Pope Francis Preparatory School	Italian Cultural Center (The Heritage Scholarship)
Caroline P. Davis, from Longmeadow High School	Marcia E. Capuano (sponsoring the <i>Salvatore and Lucia Memorial Scholarship</i> )
Allison A. Guertin, from Chicopee High School	Sandra R. Vella (sponsoring the <i>Joseph and Josephine Vella Memorial Scholarship</i> )
Gianna I. Liquori, from East Longmeadow High School	Martyn Gallagher (sponsoring the <i>Linda Rose Gallagher Memorial Scholarship</i> )
Anthony A. Meccia, from East Longmeadow High School	Lena DeCarlo (sponsoring the <i>Robert G. DeCarlo Memorial Scholarship</i> )
Hanna B. Minardi, from Longmeadow High School	Springfield Chapter of UNICO,
Julia A. Puppolo, from Wilbraham & Monson Academy	Forastiere Funeral Home (sponsoring the <i>Anthony J. Forastiere Memorial Scholarship</i> )
Antonio G. Russo, from Agawam High School	Italo Gavazzi (sponsoring the Aurelia Gavazzi Memorial Scholarship)
Anna M. Russo, from Agawam High School	Italo Gavazzi

*We are very proud of all of the accomplished scholars of Italian heritage that reflect the hard work and dreams of our ancestors. Please consider becoming a scholarship donor, and assist us in rewarding these talented high school students. A scholarship can be in your name, or as a memorial scholarship in honor of a family member or friend. If you have any questions, please contact the ICC Scholarship Committee at 413-784-1492 or at [iccwm@comcast.net](mailto:iccwm@comcast.net).*

## Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc.

### ICC Officers

Charlie Becker	Co-President
Marcia Capuano	Co-President
Dan Cohen	Vice President
Kathy Smith	Treasurer
Patty Albano Murphy	Secretary
Sandra Vella	Historian
Sandra Haskins	Director
Maria Placanica	Director
Maria Silvestri	Director



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### DONATIONS NEEDED

As you know, the ICC has been closed during the pandemic leaving us in a financially vulnerable position. It costs us approximately \$2500 a month to keep the ICC up and running. Without the income from our dinners, language classes, cooking classes, movies, lectures, etc., we are going through our reserves quickly. Please consider supporting the ICC to get us through these troubled times. All donations, large and small, would be welcomed. Donations can be made directly to: ICC, 56 Margaret St., Springfield, MA 01105. All donations are tax deductible (subject to IRS limitations), greatly appreciated, and necessary to resume our mission to promote Italian culture in the Western MA community! Thank you for your support!

***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.***