

Election Meeting Luncheon Italian Language Lessons this Spring!

LICS Bollettino Periodico

L'Osservatore Lancastriano

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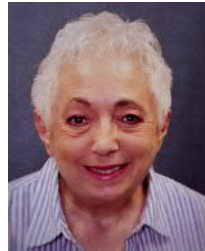
LANCASTER
ITALIAN
CULTURAL
SOCIETY

Lettera February 2023 Bollettino

Buongiorno gentili amici.

I hope we are all doing well in expectation of warmer days.

Our Board members are diligently organizing the 2023 LICS events. Here is a draft of what we have planned for this year. Please note that some activities will be confirmed when additional details are available, additional activities may be added.



Please remember that every 1st Wednesday of the month, the very popular Ladies Lunch will meet at a local restaurant for a friendly meal. What a great way to get together, what fun!

Sunday, March 19th, is the LICS new Board election meeting with lunch for all, at The Knights of Colombo, located on New Danville Pike.

Tuesday, May 16th to May 29th is the Trip to Italy. More detailed information to follow.

Sunday, June 25th - LICS Family Picnic at The Salunga Fire House.

Saturday, September 16th - Lititz Italian Fest.

October - Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner. Place and date to follow.

Sunday, November 5th - Matinee Movie & Pizza at the Oaks at 2 PM.

Saturday, November 26th - Tombola game at The Oaks at 1 PM.

Saturday, December 2nd - Christmas Party at the Conestoga Country Club. Details to follow.

Arrivederci ad ogni incontro.

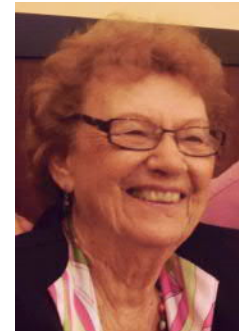
Member News

Get well wishes to Tom LaBarbera.

Happy Birthday wishes to Anna Guardino, who is Dee Viscardi's Aunt. Zia Anna's story is featured in this issue.

One Hundred Years Young

ANNA GUARDINO was born on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1923 on Willowbrook Avenue in Staten Island and Baptized in St. Rita's Church. She was to be the second of 7 children born to Giuseppe and Giovanna Guardino.



Her parents arrived on Ellis Island in Manhattan on March 24, 1920. They made the long trip from the town of Sciacca in SW, Sicily. Giovanna was pregnant on arrival with her first child, Angelina. Their first home was in Brooklyn.

The Guardinos moved to Staten Island, and had three more children, Anna, Giuseppe, Jr. and Alfonso. They moved back to Brooklyn, and had three more children: Katerina, Mary, and Lillian.

As one of seven children in a poor immigrant family, Anna relied on the charity of the family's parish, Holy Rosary Church, for their clothes. Anna was lucky to have a sponsor in the church, Mrs. Lang, who bought Anna her First Holy Communion dress. When it was time for her Confirmation, she asked Mrs. Lang, "will you be able to buy my Confirmation dress"? Mrs. Lang said, "No, you will be able to pick out and buy your own Confirmation dress. I will take you and pay for the dress". It has been 90 years since that day, and Anna remembers as if it was only yesterday.

Anna had to leave St. Barbara's High School in Brooklyn after her second year to help support the family. She became a seamstress and raised two children. She has six Grandchildren and seven Great-Grandchildren.

She often says, she and her older sister Angelina were like best friends in their teenage years. **Angelina was the mother of Dee Viscardi in East Petersburg.**

There will be a celebration for Anna Guardino Coffey Marsan's 100th birthday on February 19, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland, where she is currently living.

To find the LICS Group page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4133958646671653/>

LICS Italian Lessons This Spring!

Our Italian Language instructor, Fiorella Spidaliere first came to the United States during the Christmas season in 1999. At that time, she was visiting in Ephrata. She returned to Italy in February, and then came back to the U.S. in early May to be married to an American. Together, they set up housekeeping in Lancaster.



Fiorella was born in Termoli, Italy, which is located in Molise. Once a fishing port, it has become one of the favorite seaside resorts for vacationing Italian families.

When she first moved here, Fiorella was often sad and homesick for her birthplace. She reached out to the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society through Father Pistone, who brought her together with Nella Seward. When she attended events that LICS sponsored she felt less disconnected; it helped her to hold onto her native culture.

Fiorella declares that she is so proud to be a member of LICS and to be able to add “my little part to all the good work they do. So much work has been done by the Society to keep our Italian heritage alive for all of us.”

Fiorella’s part is not so little, in fact. She began offering Italian language classes through the sponsorship of the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society nearly ten years ago. Her admiration for adults who choose to throw themselves into the work of learning a new language comes partly from her own experience of just how difficult it is for adults. “People can go on vacations and enjoy the art, the food, the scenery with a casual attitude. I admire the mindset of people who make the choice to learn the language. When they are so attracted to the Italian culture that they want to go the extra mile, I am honored to be able to help them as much as I can.”

When asked what her favorite part of teaching the Italian language was she was silent. Then, “Oh, everything; there is so much.” One aspect of the experience came right to the top, “I am so impressed by the people I’ve met. I enjoy the challenge of presenting my own language so that people can learn it. I love to share in their excitement when they get it, when it makes sense to them, when they are excited to express themselves in Italian.”

Before we ended our chat, Fiorella shared her sincere hope that LICS can continue to thrive. As we come back from the separations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, she hopes we will find ways to grow, to bring even more life to the work of keeping and building our shared ties to the Italian culture, to preserve the old while embracing the new.

We look forward to having Fiorella back in the “classroom” this Spring. We are hoping to offer two levels of Italian language lessons from late March through to the end of April. Details will follow as soon as arrangements have been made final.

Interview by Mary Cae Williams

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Education Initiative- Steve Iovino

Membership - Nella Seward

Advertising & Public Relations - J.D. Roda

Eblast - John Vilella

LICS Board of Directors

Dolores Biedenkapp, John Day, Helen Ebersole
Tony and Kathy Fisichella, Peter Mastropietro
Pattie Meyer and Dee Viscardi

Welcome New Members

Elaine and Addy Pennella

Jill Carbonetti, Grace Luciani

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Anthony & Charlene Mastropietro

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New Member Spotlight by Mary Cae Williams



Join us in welcoming Elaine and Addy Pennella. These two sisters joined the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society in March 2022. Their friend, and long-time member of LICS, Enrica Gerhart, introduced them to our Society.

All of their grandparents were born in Italy. Elaine and Addy have been to “Bella Italia” numerous times including a pilgrimage. They do not know whether they have any relatives still living there because they have never done any research to trace those connections.

They are sad to share that they no longer have any surviving relatives in the U.S. to carry on beloved Italian traditions. In fact, that is one of the main reasons they joined LICS, to share those traditions with other Italian-Americans.

Their list of favorite Italian foods reads like a feast of dreams. It begins with Sunday gravy with meatballs, spare ribs, and pigskin braciole. There are also broccoli rabe pie with raisins, pignoli nuts, and anchovies, and stuffed artichokes. The list goes on to include stuffed breast of veal with egg, raisins, and pignoli nuts. And, then, there are Italian dandelions with cannellini beans and friselle (wheat) biscuits on top. This is only the short version of the list.

Addy is also an awesome baker of delicious treats carried on from their Grandma’s tradition such as struffoli, Italian cheesecake, tiramisu, biscotti, Sicilian orange cake and cuccidati, as well as delicious pignoli cookies. Elaine tells us that she and Addy will be joining other members at the February Ladies Luncheon. Benvenuti, gentili signore.



Donation of Folding Art Horses

The LCHS Fine & Performing Arts Department is thrilled and grateful to announce the donation of (3) Folding Art Horses to the Lancaster Catholic High School Art program by the Lancaster Italian Cultural Society. The Folding Art Horse is designed for top level art institutions, colleges and adult programs. It serves as a tool that comfortably supports both the artist and a drawing board for figure drawing.



Pictured in the photo are Mrs. Susan Ulrich, with her students Elisabeth Ganse, Julianne Leonard, Gloria Sebastian & Hadley Davies. Members of the (LICS) are Mrs. Nella Seward, LICS President - Dr. Stephen Iovino, retired Superintendent of the Warwick School District - and Mrs. Ann DeLaurentis, local artist and LCHS Class of '75.

The importance of figure drawing to foundational art instruction is monumental. Not only does drawing the figure train the eye to see proportion, dimension and weight, but it also allows you to capture a figure in motion and gesture. The immediacy of drawing the figure is like doing calisthenics to the athlete, the figure is something you can repetitively draw, yet it is different with any movement. And, an artist becomes incrementally better at it every time with practice. We are so familiar with the figure because it is us, we see it in the mirror every day, but the complex range of motion changes. Foreshortening, weight distribution and line changes with every pose. It is the same, but always new and varied. Drawing the figure teaches us

Continued on the following page.

to see ourselves, at the same time as depicting an aspect of the human experience. The drawing bench or horse supports the artist's weight, along with a drawing board. This setup allows artists to work hands free. The advantage of being at the level of the drawing horse is that the board and your paper is directly below your line of sight. You are able to look up at the model and record it directly. Without looking side to side, as you would have to look if you were using an easel. It's lightweight and simple to move around when necessary. The tremendous beauty of the folding drawing horse for an art room with a modicum of space is how it can be collapsed and stored so easily!

Mrs. Susan Ulrich (our LCHS Art Teacher) and her students were delighted to meet with some of the officers and members of the (LICS) to formally thank them for this generous donation and provide a demonstration of how the Art Horses will be used in their classes.

The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society (LICS) was founded in 1999 as an organization to embrace an appreciation of Italian history and culture. An important part of the successful integration of individuals of Italian descent was the formal education they received through their local school attendance.

With this in mind, LICS established an Education Initiatives Committee to investigate donating funds to local educational institutions to support K-12 student learning by providing funds for the purchase of educational resources that were not within the limited budgets of the organizations. Since the beginning of this program in 2017, LICS has provided, on an annual basis, about \$2500 to support educational initiatives in the performing arts, art production, STEM education, music education, and resource materials for learning support students. In addition, LICS has also awarded four art awards, every year, to Lancaster County high school and middle school students for their accepted artwork submissions to the Lancaster County Young Artists competition and exhibition.

Comments from Dr. Stephen Iovino:

“Having served as a high school principal and school superintendent, I know the value of providing the necessary resources for students in art classes. LICS’s support of the art education program at LCHS will enable students to produce artwork that will have them grow in both their appreciation and knowledge of figure drawing.”

Comments from LICS Education Initiative Committee member, Ann DeLaurentis:

“As a Lancaster artist and juror of student art work for many years, and past LCHS and Millersville University art student, I became involved in the LICS Education Initiative to help direct support to our County schools’ creative programs that are often in need of extra funding. I have long admired the artwork I have seen from students in our County schools in the Lancaster County Young Artists and Scholastic Arts competitions and exhibitions. And I have admired elementary schools that start STEM programs even when their resources are limited. The committee felt that the folding art horses would benefit students for many years to come, and support LCHS’ efforts to have students draw from life - a very important aspect of any visual art education.”

Once again, we are so appreciative to the (LICS) for their donation of \$864 to purchase these Folding Art Horses for our new Richard Ressel Art Room facilities at LCHS.

Tony Brill

*Director of Fine & Performing Arts
Lancaster Catholic High School*



Dear Mrs. DeLaurentis, Mrs. Seward and Dr. Iovino, Thank you all so much for coming to Lancaster Catholic for students to demonstrate and also thank you for the new figure drawing folding horses! It was so wonderful to have you here and we all appreciated getting to meet and talk with you.

I do hope you could see how fabulous this gift for us is, and how thrilled and blessed we feel to have them. They will make a big difference for students to practice and increase their skills. We wanted you to have a drawing from that day - Mille Grazie!

Susan Ulrich (Art Teacher)



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Lancaster Italian Cultural Society

Winter Luncheon & Election Meeting
March 19, 2023



LANCASTER ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

Time: 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Knights of Columbus
1575 New Danville Pike
Lancaster PA 17603
Cost: Free to Members
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Dear members, please join us on Sunday, March 19th for the annual Winter Luncheon and Election Meeting. Reservations required by March 10th.

The following candidates are nominated for a 2-year term for the Board of Directors:

- Dee Viscardi
- Tony Fisichella
- Kathy Fisichella
- Helen Ebersole
- Fiorella Spidaliere
- J.D. Roda, *Treasurer*

Serving their final year:

- Nella Seward, *President*
- John Day, Board Member
- Deb Saporetti, *Secretary*
- Livia Neri Riley, *Vice President*
- Peter Mastropietro, Board Member
- Pattie Meyer, Board Member

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