

**Flyers: Movie & Pizza - Nov. 5**  
**Tombola Board Game - Nov. 26**

**LICS Bollettino Periodico**

# L'Osservatore Lancastriano

*The Digital Periodical of the  
 Lancaster Italian Cultural Society  
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LANCASTER  
 ITALIAN  
 CULTURAL  
 SOCIETY



October, 2023

At the *L'Italia* Lititz Fest!

On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> it all began like a God given, perfect, Italian, sunny day to enhance the Lititz Spring Park environment and ignite the enthusiasm of all the visitors who came to enjoy one day "in Italia".



People flocked into the park, too many to count, surely thousands. They participated and enjoyed all that was offered. The lines were very long by any food vendors, but everyone was eager to eat Italian food while they enjoyed each other, practicing the Italian language, taking part in all the activities and entertainment.

The LICS stand was very busy, as many took the long walk to the back of the park to meet us, to socialize, to become new members, and to refresh themselves while sipping the home-made Iced Cappuccino. To us, the highlight of the afternoon's events, gratefully sponsored by Lombardo's Restaurant, was the music and the singing of Andrea Amoroso who delighted us for two and a half hours with wonderful new and old classic Italian songs. Some of us could not resist getting up and dancing. What fun, magnifico!

We were also grateful for the Encore Dance group who perfectly danced our very popular "Tarantella". They were just fantastic! Grazie mille!

On the Gazebo stage, our Board members Helen Ebersole and Fiorella Spidalieri gave a yummy cooking demonstration, preparing peperoni rossi in front of hundreds of people. Brave Helen and Fiorella.

For me, I was so busy at the LICS stand that I was not able to get some lunch, but I rewarded myself by quickly stopping at Massimo Italian Bakery stand where I got the biggest Cannolo I ever ate and that satisfied me for the whole day. Che buono!

Well, the event was a success and we will meet in October to plan "L'Italia 2024".

(Continued above...)

I want to extend my personal gratitude to the following people who so generously helped at the LICS station: David Ferruzza, Peter and Anne Byrne, Peter Mastropietro, Tony and Kathy Fisichella, Angelo Iafrate, Kathy Spencer, Dee Viscardi, Rosemary LaFata, Helen Ebersole, Fiorella Spidalieri, Samanta Cassinera, Steve Iovino, John Day and all those other LICS members who stopped by to greet and give us a helping hand where needed. Grazie, you were all great!

Arrivederci al prossimo anno, *Nella*



L'Italia festival in Lititz, this past Saturday, was much fun! So many people having a good time on a perfect weather day. So many activities including an en plein air art contest and an original play by the Shakespeare Actors. The award winning paintings are below. And where else would you find wood-fired pizza in a park? Grazie mille a chef Nino e Tim Austin for creating such a wonderful idea for an Italian Festival. Bravi!



Halloween Celebrations in Italy - by Mary Cae Williams

October is here bringing the cooler weather and beautiful fall colors that we welcome. October also brings what some say is children's second favorite holiday here in the U.S. – October 31, Halloween. Someone wanted to know what Italians, in Italy, do to celebrate Halloween. And, so the search began.

Traditionally, the celebrations at this time of year were religious observations. November 1 became the official date to celebrate Ognissanti (All Saints Day) in the Ninth Century by decree of Pope Gregory IV. Also celebrated as a religious observance is November 2, il Giorno dei Morti (All Soul's Day.) Ognissanti honors all the saints and martyrs who gave their lives in defense of the Church. Il Giorno dei Morti is a day for families and friends to honor their beloved departed ones.

But what about October 31, Halloween or All Hallows Eve? This is the night BEFORE the holy day of November 1. In the ancient traditions of the Celts, that preceded the coming of Christianity, this was Samhain, the day on which the veil between this world and the next was at its thinnest. This was the day, and night, on which the spirits of the departed might walk the earth: a time that people needed to protect themselves from the mischief of the evil spirits among them. Officially, then, we think about Halloween as being born out of these Celtic beliefs and practices.

In searching for information about the celebration of Halloween, a wealth of traditions, ancient practices, and local customs appeared. For anyone interested in learning more about this topic, just Google Halloween in Italy. Not all of the articles agree with one another, but the many ways that ancient customs resemble one another is fascinating. As is so often the case in the Italian Paese, different regions and even individual towns have their own unique ways of honoring the idea of the passing of summer into winter and the fact that we all must pass from this life to the next.

(continued of the following page)

To find the LICS Group page on Facebook:

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



Get well wishes and prayers to:  
Kathy Valeri and John Luppino

Italians love their food idioms, so much so that even the humble broth (brodo) has made its way into an everyday expression!

**Tutto fa brodo** literally translates to “everything makes broth“. Just as any kind of vegetable or meat can become broth when boiled, any contribution to a goal or cause, no matter how small, can hold value and be helpful. The closest English expression is “every little bit helps”.

(Continued from page 2.)

All of these customs, as interesting as they may be, do not exactly address the question of celebrating Halloween in Italy. One writer seems to think that the American, Halloween-themed movies of the 1980s had a big influence in building Italian awareness of customs practiced here in the U.S. As late as the 1990s, that author said there were few signs in center city Rome of the holiday, as we know it here. As the decade wore on, though, more and more costumes, make-up, and decorations that we associate with Halloween started to show up in the shops.

(<https://lifeinitaly.com/halloween-in-italy/>)

Allora, no matter where you go or what customs you find being observed, the lure of dressing in costumes and going out to collect sweets will always attract children. Their excited voices as they run about shouting, "Dolcetto o scherzetto," remind us all of the joy to be found. Is it a modern American transplant or the latest flowering of ancient traditions that are lost in the mists of time? Chi sa? -MCW



#### More on Halloween - Rudy DeLaurentis

I was the "someone" who inquired about Halloween in Italy, and Mary Cae kindly volunteered to write the previous article. After reading it, I was moved to find some Halloween celebrations in Italy. Here is what I learned:

Italy's macabre medieval times at the walled town of Corinaldo, in Italy's northern Le Marche region refers to itself as the Capital of Halloween. Throughout the last week of October, the town hosts a deliciously ghostly festival named festa delle Streghe, which translates "the festival of the witches". Embracing all things spooky, this festival features chilling entertainment, spooky amusements, and taverns serving ghoulish food and drink. The highlight of the week is Halloween night, when town locals celebrate with a show of music and fireworks.

Among the most famous Halloween celebrations held in Italy is the one that happens in Triora (Imperia), one of Italy's most beautiful medieval villages in Liguria known as "the town of witches". It is no coincidence that the big Halloween celebration takes place here, as Triora was the site of a series of witch trials held from 1587 to 1589, when 200 local women were accused of being responsible for the continuous plagues, acid rain, livestock killings and even cannibalism of newborns. (Shades of the Salem Witch Trials here in the States.) At the festa, women dress as witches, Halloween decorations abound, pumpkins are carved, townsfolk wear costumes, and haunted tours are organized on the night of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Triora will be completely lit by candles in 200 pumpkins, and the most beautiful costume will be voted. Thanks for reading.



**A few years ago, LICS had an active folk dance troupe called Sollevare that performed at many of the LICS events. Unfortunately, the group no longer exists. So, now LICS is looking for volunteers to form a new folk dance group, and a folk music choir. We need both a dance director and choir director, as well as members to join the groups to sing and dance. Forming these groups would enhance the cultural mission of LICS, and it would be great fun. If you are interested in learning more or help in any way, please call Nella (717) 725-6500. Grazie mille.**



We just enjoyed our annual Spaghetti Dinner at Saint Anthony's Church. More pictures to come...but enjoy these for starters. It was a wonderful, delicious, and highly social occasion. Lots of hard work made it possible for the rest of us to enjoy. Complimenti a tutti!



**Some of the hard workers from The Lancaster Italian Cultural Society preparing for the "Spaghetti Dinner" at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Lancaster. Many thanks to Pattie Meyer, chairperson, and helpers on left with Patsy Belforti and Kathy Fischella unloading supplies.**



Pattie extends her heartfelt thanks to all of the many volunteers who helped with the Spaghetti Dinner on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. The funds raised go toward the LICS Education Initiative, which supports arts and STEM programs in our local schools. Grazie mille a tutti!



Please join us for a fun afternoon movie on **Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 1:30 PM** at the Oaks Clubhouse. The \$10 charge includes Pizza, Dessert, Beverage & Movie.

**LICS Afternoon Movie Event**

**Film: Return to Me**  
**Nov. 5, 2023 at 1:30 PM**

Movie, Pizza, Dessert and Beverage  
 \$10 per person, pay at door  
 To register call:  
 Dee Viscardi 717-951-7112

**The Oaks Clubhouse**  
 291 Black oak Drive  
 Lancaster, Pa 17602

**Return to Me** is a 2000 American romantic comedy-drama film directed by Bonnie Hunt and starring David Duchovny and Minnie Driver. It was filmed in Chicago and was released on April 7, 2000 by MGM.

**Cast:**

David Duchovny as Bob Rueland  
 Minnie Driver as Grace Briggs  
 Carroll O'Connor as Marty O'Reilly  
 Robert Loggia as Angelo Pardiipillo  
 Bonnie Hunt as Megan Dayton  
 David Alan Grier as Charlie Johnson  
 Joely Richardson as Elizabeth Rueland  
 Eddie Jones as Emmett McFadden  
 James Belushi as Joe Dayton



Italian Connection: Dean Martin song Return to Me, Irish-Italian Restaurant, lovers reunite in Italy!

3 Events to enjoy together and celebrate our Italian heritage! Please call Dee Viscardi 717-951-7112 for reservations today.

Thanks and we hope to see you in November and December for some shared fun and social camaraderie.

Wishing all of the LICS Family -  
 Happy Halloween (Buon Halloween),  
 Happy Thanksgiving (Buon Ringraziamento)  
 and Merry Christmas (Buon Natale)!



Please join us for a fun afternoon game on **Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 1:30 PM** at the Oaks Clubhouse. The \$6 charge includes Dessert and Beverage  
 Please bring coin change, but no pennies to play the game.  
**Limited to 28 players for game.**

In Italy tombola is a very common family game played at Christmas, similar to bingo. In Italy at Christmas Eve playing tombola is a must, with all the relatives united around grandparents and small children shouting when they win a prize!

**How to Play**

When the number is called, they are closed by beans ("fagioli") or by pieces of orange peel, that you to eat while playing. Fix a price for each card (ex. 1 dollar). The players buy the cards, and one of the players buys the "cartellone".

The money from the sale of the cards is divided into five prizes, from lowest to highest, with tombola being the jackpot:

- the "ambo", two numbers on the same row
- the "terno", three numbers on the same row
- the "quaterna", four numbers on the same row
- the "cinquina", five numbers on the same row
- the "tombola", all numbers on the card

Then the one who has the cartellone takes the numbers out of the sack, one at a time, calling them loudly, and placing them on their box in the cartellone, and leaving time to the players to mark the number on their card.

**LICS Afternoon Game Event**

**Tombola Board Game**

**Nov. 26, 2023 at 1:30 PM**  
 Dessert and Beverage

\$6 per person, pay at door  
 For questions or to register call:  
 Dee Viscardi 717-951-7112

**The Oaks Clubhouse**  
 291 Black oak Drive  
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For more color in the game, each number has also a nickname, either local or from the "Smorfia"; some common expressions are shown below:

- 1 Il maschio
- 2 L'amore
- 3 Il malamo
- 4 Il piacere
- 5 La mano
- 6 Lo specchio
- 7 Le corna
- 8 Il petto delle donne
- 9 La rabbia
- 10 Il cannone

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 6486 LINCOLN COURT, EAST PETERSBURG, PA 17520, 717-951-7112  
 \*CHECKS PAYABLE TO LICS

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Salmon Rockefeller** over wilted spinach with Pernod cream sauce

\_\_\_\_\_ **Roasted Beef Tenderloin** with Cabernet mushroom sauce

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian**

*Entrees served with roasted red potatoes & green beans with almonds followed by raspberry cheesecake for dessert*

Do you have any holiday traditions or family stories to share with the membership? It doesn't have to be a long story, and we can help with the writing. We love to hear about and keep alive these special memories and family traditions.

Grazie per tutto ciò che desideri condividere. Please email me at:

[Licsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Licsnewsletter@gmail.com) with your stories and/or any questions you may have. Grazie.

*Rudy DeLaurentis, editor*



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We warmly welcome all of our new members that joined LICS in 2023, so far. We hope to see you at the upcoming events.

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L'OSSERVATORE LANCASTRIANO Oct.-Nov. 2023

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**Happy Halloween (Buon Halloween),  
Happy Thanksgiving (Buon Ringraziamento)!**

**In this issue:**

**L'Italia at Lititz Park Recap & Photos**

**Halloween in Italy by *Mary Cae Williams***

**Upcoming Events:**

**Movie Matinee & Pizza at the Oaks - Nov. 5 at 1:30 PM**

**Tombola Board Game at the Oaks - Nov. 26 at 1:30 PM**

**Christmas Dinner/Dance w/Live Music - Conestoga Country Club - Dec. 2.**