

St. VALENTINE'S DAY IN ITALY

Romantic Festival of Valentine's Day is celebrated with enthusiasm in the beautiful country of Italy. Lovers take opportunity of the day to express love and affection for their beloved. Loads of Valentine's gifts are exchanged and everyone enjoys the day to the hilt.

Valentine's Day was initially celebrated as a Spring Festival in Italy. Celebration for the day was held in the open air. Young people would gather in tree arbors or ornamental gardens and enjoy listening to music and reading poetry. Later they would stroll off with their Valentine into the gardens. The custom steadily ceased over the course of years and has not been celebrated for centuries.

In the Italian city of Turin, betrothed couples used to announce their engagement on Valentine's Day. Several days ahead of February 14th, stores were decorated and loaded with a huge variety of bon-bons. Some even sold china baskets and cups filled with delectable Valentine's Day candies and tied with a ribbon. These were to be presented as gifts to their Valentine.

Another interesting Valentine's Day tradition followed in Italy and Britain that made unmarried girls wake up before sunrise. People strongly believed that the first man an unmarried girl sees on Valentine's Day, or someone who looks like him,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

I am hoping you are all doing well and recovering from the wild week of weather we all had. I had my challenges with falling tree branches hanging over power lines and slippery conditions that made me realize that even I was in the danger zone. The bears hibernate in the winter and maybe sometimes it is best to model wildlife and adapt accordingly. I stayed in touch with several friends and was happy to have power and heat (while many did not). I guess we can say we will have four seasons in 2012 and spring will have a special welcome this year.

I am getting geared up for the Crab Feed and I expect it to be the best ever. The kitchen crew is committed to bringing

everyone an excellent feast with crab fit for a queen!

Speaking of Queens, Anna Popovich has mastered this event right down to the smallest detail and continues to refine the venue so everyone keeps coming back and demanding more tickets. I always look forward to this event and seeing everyone dining with great food, attacking the crab and enjoying each others company. Be prepared for a big raffle full of great prizes including a "Big Screen TV". A big thank you to everyone for helping put this together.

The Italian Club of Seattle is off to a

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MONTE MARCHETTI

GENERAL MEETING & DINNER

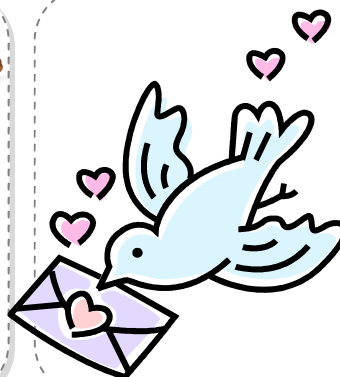


Thursday,
February 9th

Mount Virgin Church Hall

Dinner (\$10) @ 6:30PM

Progressive prize \$100



ALL YOU CAN EAT CRAB FEED

Saturday, February 18th
6:30pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

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il Ficcanaso

Official Bulletin of the Italian Club of Seattle
Established April 26, 1920
www.italianclubofseattle.org

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Ron Alia (206) 679-0791

Diana Lafornera (425) 827-4728

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Sergeant at Arms:

Ron Roletto

Committee Chairs

Membership **Martin Nigrelle**

Day at the Races **Joe Galluccio**

Mariner Baseball Night **Martin Nigrelle**

Picnic **Ron Roletto**

Halloween Party **Andrea Petrone**

Adult Christmas Party **Joanne Marchese**

Children's Christmas Party **Tom & Nancy**
Grossi

Bylaws **Barbara Peretti**

Luncheons **Carolyn Jackson**

Scholarship **Martin Nigrelle**

Miss Italian Club **Barri Grossi**

Health **Carolyn Jackson**

Parliamentarian **Lou Cella**

Golf Tournament **Brian DiJulio**

Crab Dinner **Anna Popovich**

Day at the Casino **Michael Lazzaretti**

great start for 2012 and with the officers sworn in and the budget set for publication we are on solid ground to have another fun filled year with a sustainable operational plan that will deliver quality events and the promise of fun for everyone.

We are working on a comprehensive email list so we can deliver the IL Ficcanaso in living color to every member with an email address. I would like to ask our members to forward this on to their address books and open the Italian Club of Seattle newsletter activities and articles to friends.

Speaking of friends (or former), I was recently reading an article in the Seattle Business Journal about an update on the Mike Mastro drama. You may recognize the 86 year olds name from the news as a longtime Seattle developer and lender who was pushed into one of Washington State's largest bankruptcies back in July 2009 after the collapsing economy undercut his highly leveraged real estate empire. He has since gone into hiding traveling the world using unknown funds.

The article I read however, detailed how they were now utilizing psychics to locate Mike and his wife. On a recent local radio station KKNW, talk show host and psychic investigator, Shellee Hale and a colleague speculated on the whereabouts of the fleeing couple. The Mastros have managed to elude U.S. marshals and the FBI for nearly eight months, narrowly avoiding capture last summer when federal agents tracked them to an apartment in Toronto. Now Hale and some of her colleagues believe the missing couple is wintering someplace warm, concluding that Mike and his wife would eventually be found by authorities but only after news of their demise.

I have been contacted by the Wall Street Journal about Mike and asked to speculate about how the Italian Community feels and thinks about the situation. I have never met the man or wish to pass judgment on him. I find it sad that at his tender age he is on the run and not enjoying the company of his friends and family. It carries a certain amount of punishment with it and I hope all that have had negative experiences can find a way to forgive.

And on that note, I am running out of room and must conclude this edition. I am no psychic but I foresee a fun meeting with great food and company. I hope nothing but the best for you and yours this Valentine's Day! Come spread the love this February at our monthly meeting on Thursday, February 9th.

Monte Marchetti

montemarchetti@gmail.com



2012-13 ITALIAN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

MARTY NIGRELLE (ITALIAN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP)

The Italian Club of Seattle will once again be awarding up to three \$500.00 scholarships. The scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year will be awarded to students who are selected based on meeting or exceeding the scholarship criteria (noted below).

Next steps in the scholarship process:

- April 2012 – Applications submitted
- May 2012 – Applications reviewed & verified
- June 2012 – Award Recipients announced in il Ficcanaso
- September 2012 – Award Recipients presented @ General Meeting
- October 2012 – Scholarship payments made to the schools on behalf of the recipients

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

BY MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN MARTY NIGRELLE



At this time, there are no new membership applications to be reviewed or voted on this month.

At the January general meeting the club unanimously voted in four new members:

- Matthew Dahlgren
- Angelina Dahlgren
- Robert Houk
- Mary Kaye LaRussa

Please join me in welcoming our four newest members. Angelina, Mary, Matthew, & Robert, welcome to the club, we look forward to seeing you at the club's meetings & events.

If you have friends or family interested in joining our club, please have them use the Application button found on the club web site:

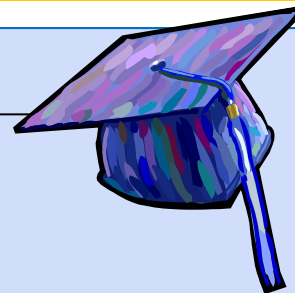
<http://www.italianclubofseattle.org>

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

1. A parent of the applicant (student) must be in good standing in the Italian Club for at least three years. (Grandparents are not included).
2. The parent(s) of the applicant must attend at least three club meetings during the year.
3. The applicant (student) is enrolled in high school (grades 9 through 12) for the 2012-2013 school year, in the greater Seattle area.
4. The applicant (student) must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher (with official transcript) and take part in extra-curricular activities, community service, etc.
5. Each applicant must write a letter telling about him/herself and activities in which he/she is participating.
6. **The application and transcript must be post marked no earlier than April 1st 2012 and no later than May 1st 2012.**
7. Applications that are incomplete or missing a transcript will not be considered.

Application forms will be published in the March & April editions of **il Ficcanaso**

As in years' past; The better the grades, the better chance of scholarship award.





HEALTH AND WELFARE - FEBRUARY

HAPPY VALENTINE MONTH: May we all be filled with love and happiness.

Just like the bears, I think we all have been hibernating

during this cold, snowy, icy, windy, rainy winter. We listen to the news and the rest of the major problems happening and we think, maybe what we're going thru isn't so bad'. Spring where are you???

News is pretty scarce, with the weather, many of the activities have had to be cancelled or postponed. The telephones and e-mail have been busy. Thank God for modern technology and being able to keep in touch.

We hope that all our members, families and friends have not had a difficult time with lights, driving or other problems due to the SNOW and it's after math. I was house bound for a week and I know now what they mean by 'CABIN FEVER.' Mine must have been up to 105.

I'll be taking a little R & R, going to San Francisco for a meeting and fun with friends. Just what the doctor ordered.

The Ruppins know when to get out of town. Bob and Antonette headed for their place in Palm Desert on the 20th of December returning in May. We'll miss you Bob and Antonette, enjoy yourselves and stay healthy and safe.

I wonder if **Bill Picchena** and family ever stay home???. God Bless them. They were off again, this time enjoying their Christmas and New Year Holiday in Australia. They visited the Grand Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock and Sydney. He then Then rubbed it in that, "it was summer there and plenty of sunshine."

Bill will be happy to share some of his adventures with you. Thanks Bill for keeping us posted on your coming and goings. It's just like a travelogue.

Barbara Peretti has been having a time with her back and legs. She has had many tests and procedures. Keep that smile on your face. You are in our prayers Barbara.

Heard **Michael Lazzaretti** was enjoying a little R & R. Was it Vegas, Michael? Good for you.

Some good news, **Art Oberito** is getting out and about, still under the watchful eyes of his sweetie, Dorothy.

Was happy to see **Joe and Deborah Sargent** at our January meeting, learned they have moved to "Ocean Shores" (is that right Joe & Deborah?) And God bless them they drove up and back home that night for the meeting. Love and happiness in your new home!

To our February Birthday celebrants, a loving HAPPY BIRTHDAY! May this year be filled with love, peace and good health. Your flower is the Violet and your birthstone the Amethyst. (My favorite color)

I don't know who this Anonymous is, but he sure comes up with some good ones, so sharing this one: "The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue"

Please remember our home-bound and shut-ins. A call, a card, a prayer or a visit can do wonders to brighten these dreary days for all of us.

We had a few add-ons to our Health & Welfare report at our January meeting. First I apologized to Doug's co-chef, **Don Spino**, for calling him Ron (that's his brother) for

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PROPOSED BUDGET 2012 ITALIAN CLUB OF SEATTLE

INCOME 2012

Advertising/newsletter	\$200
Advertising/roster	\$1,000
Casa Subsidy	\$900
Crab Feed	\$2,500
Festa Italiana	\$2,400
Interest	\$50
Vanguard Mutual Funds	\$16,000
Member Dues	\$10,500
New Members	\$1,000
Total	\$34,550

EXPENSES 2012

Accountant	\$500
Administration	\$7,200
Board Meetings	\$900
Dinner Meetings	\$2,500
Donations	\$200
Festa Italiana	\$3,000
Halloween Party	\$450
Insurance	\$800
Kidney Fund	\$250
Legal Fees	\$10
Luncheons	\$100
Membership development	\$500
Newsletters	\$4,500
Office	\$200
Past Pres. Brunch	\$600
Picnic	\$500
Postage	\$400
Pres. Discretionary Fund	\$300
Progressive Draw	\$250
Rent - Meetings	\$2,750
Rent - Dexter Office	\$880
Rent - Storage	\$480
Roster	\$1,500
Scholarship	\$1,500
Seafair Miss Italy	\$250
Xmas Party - Adult	\$500
Xmas Party - Children	\$1,300
Total	\$32,320
Cash Reserve	\$2,230

St. VALENTINE'S DAY IN ITALY (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

would marry her within a year. Girls therefore used to wake up early on Valentine's Day and stand by their window to watch a man pass.

People of Italy see Valentine's Day as a holiday imported from the United States, just like Halloween and Mother's Day. For the love and lovers, the major day for celebration of love is il giorno della festa degli innamorati. As lovers exclusively celebrate this day family

members and friends do not exchange gifts.

In recent times however, lovers in Italy celebrate Valentine's Day by expressing their love to sweethearts.

Couples usually go out for dinner at a pizzeria or ristorante. Just as in several other countries, the festival has been commercialized to a great extent. There is a strong tradition to exchange gifts like rose, perfume, chocolates and diamonds depending on the age and taste of the person.



Verona, Italy on St. Valentine's Day

Another popular Valentine's Day gift in Italy is Baci Perugina, small chocolate covered hazelnuts containing a small slip of paper with a romantic poetic quote in four languages.

Buon San Valentino!

HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honor Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was

having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome.

The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the



Feast of Lupercalia

Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a

very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honor of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavored to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens.

And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year arose in this way.

HEALTH AND WELFARE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 4)

the great dinner they prepared at our December meeting.

Announced was the passing of Life time member, **Russell Folino**. Russ joined the Italian Club in 1972. He was 95 years old. Sympathy was also extended to the **Lanza** family on the passing of their Mother, **Gloria**. Gloria was the wife of Past President **Joseph Lanza**. Joseph served in 1955. May they rest in peace.

Well dear Members, I think that's it for now. "Just don't have any more printable news."

In closing, "Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once" AMEN

Until next time, stay SAFE, HAPPY AND HEALTHY

Remember Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 22, 2012.

The Sweet little old holy informer
(that needs your news)

Carolyn - Aka - Srmaryhollywater

The Italian Club of Seattle, Inc.
P.O. Box 9549
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 282.0627
www.ItalianClubofSeattle.org

il Ficcanaso

CRAB FEED

\$35.00
PER PERSON

Saturday, February 18 - 6:30 pm

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Delicious Dungeness Crab!

Spaghetti Aglio, Olio e Pepperoncino

Rolls, Beer, Wine, Pop,

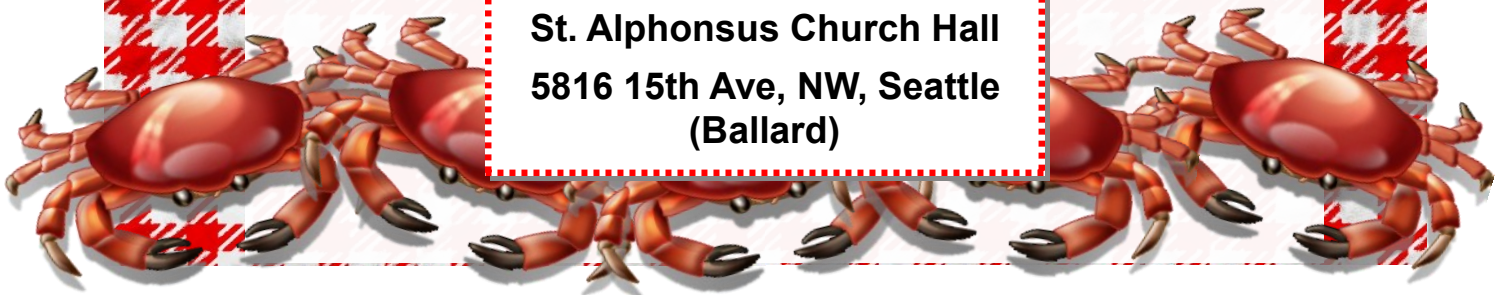
Ice Cream, Drawn Butter

Huge Raffle!

Buy your Tickets Today!

Anna Popovich - 206-453-4002

St. Alphonsus Church Hall
5816 15th Ave, NW, Seattle
(Ballard)



CRAB FEED - REGISTRATION



Name _____


Address _____

Send Me _____ Tickets or Reserve _____ Tables of Ten for My Family

Here's my check for my Ticket(s), Reservation(s).



Mail to: Anna Popovich 2901 NE Blakley Street, #505, Seattle, WA 98105

FEBRUARY 2012 


9th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner, 6:30PM
18th	CRAB FEED!

MARCH 2012 

1st	IC Board Meeting
8th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner, 6:30PM

APRIL 2012 

12th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner, 6:30PM
18th	IC Luncheon Court- yard at Marriott

MAY 2012 

10th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner, 6:30PM
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JUNE 2012 

7th	Trustees Meeting
14th	IC General Meeting/ Dinner 6:30PM
TBD	Seattle Mariners Baseball, Italian Heritage Night
20th	IC Luncheon at Courtyard Marriott

ITALIAN CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Meetings:

- Dinner (\$10.00 charge) followed by meeting at 6:30PM
- Meeting on SECOND Thursday of the month, Mount Virgin Church Hall

Luncheons:

- 11:30PM at Marriott Courtyard (925 Westlake Avenue North) are held quarterly
- Social Hour 11:30AM, Luncheon 12 Noon

Trustee Meetings:

- First Thursday of every other month, unless otherwise noted

NOTICE: BY LAWS CHANGE

The method of voting shall be left to the discretion of the president.

A majority affirmative vote is required to approve the candidate for membership. Sect.2 Para B

CORRECTION:

The application for membership for Angelina Dahlgren, should read Angelina Coveia Dahlgren and the ages of their children are Matt 18, Mackenzie 16, Anastasia 12 and Hannah 15.



il Ficcanaso
 The Italian Club, Inc.
 P.O. Box 9549
 Seattle, WA 98109-0549

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

General Meeting,
Dinner Thursday
February 9th, 2012
 6:30pm

Mount Virgin
 Church Hall

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

\$50 Special

\$50 Dollar Special
Bring a friend for
a free meal
at our dinner meeting

DAVIS GRIMM PAYNE and MARRA

JOSEPH G. MARRA
 ATTORNEY

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 Areas of Labor and Employment Law*

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 Clark East**

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roa@drizzle.com
Cell: 206.679.0791
Fax: 206.232.5269

**BIRTHDAY WINNER
 FOR FEBRUARY:** 

Quinto and Doloris DeVitis

**Spirits and coffee cards were won
 by:**
 Mike Kaczor, Anthony Lalli, Nick
 Grossi, Tony LaStella, Mike Troiani,
 Monte Marchetti, Ron Roletto, Leon-
 ard Smith, Paul Pioli, Angelina
 Dahlgren, Remo Borracchini, Matt
 Dahlgren, Diana Kaczor, Roy Skibo,
 Dot Whitney and Anna Popovich.

The Progressive Prize of
 \$75.00 would have been won by
 Dick Bianchi
 had he been present. The jackpot
 goes to \$100.00 at the February
 meeting.