

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

**Feb. 16, 2025
2:00 PM**

**CASA Italiana
Burien, WA**



il Ficcanaso

February 2025



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ITALIAN CLUB
ESTABLISHED APRIL 26TH 1920

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*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

Message from the President

Ciao Tutti!

Buona Festa di San Valentino!! I think we've known each other long enough that you know that Valentine's Day is my favorite day of the year. This year it falls on a Friday and two days later, we get to spend the day together at our Monthly meeting on Sunday, February 16th. This will be our last Sunday meeting until November, so I hope if you can't normally make it on the regular Thursday night, you will try to make it on the 16th!

As I type this, I am looking out my new home office window waiting to watch snowflakes fall some more. It was so pretty watching it this morning I can't wait to see the city blanketed in a winter wonderland. Speaking of my new home office... I am NEVER MOVING AGAIN. For an overly organized person, having boxes consume my life has just been too much. Thankfully, I have a posse of loved ones to help with my transitions (packing/moving/unpacking). I love my new neighborhood with a built-in community of friends in the building, and other special friends that live just blocks away.

This month we also have the Annual Crab Dinner to look forward to. The date is Saturday February 22 at 6 PM. It will be held as usual at St. Alphonse in Ballard. The cost is \$60/pp for all you can eat pasta, crab, salad, rolls and wine.

(continues next page)

Secretary's Report

We currently have 127 members in good standing of which 68 have already paid their dues for 2025! If you plan to attend the February meeting in person, please note that it will be at 2 PM SUNDAY, February 16th (one week AFTER the Super Bowl) and that you can save yourself and the Club 73¢ each by paying your dues in person and receiving your membership card on the spot.

This count is again down by one from last month because of the loss of very longtime member Mimi Burwell Beltrano who passed away on Christmas Eve at the age of 90. Born on September 19, 1934, to Giuseppe and Frances Beltrano, she spent her life in Seattle where she graduated from Cleveland High School and Seattle University. Mimi worked as a medical technician until she met her husband, William Burwell, at a ballroom dance class where he was her instructor. Married August 9th, 1958, their shared passion for dance and life blossomed into a beautiful partnership that lasted 55 years until William's passing in 2013. Mimi is survived by her children: William Jr., Victoria and Joseph, and four grandchildren. She and her husband joined the Italian Club of Seattle in October of 1990 and attended many of our Dinner-Dances back in the day. Mimi was still a member of the Club when she passed.

(continues next page)

il Ficcanso

Official Bulletin of the Italian Club of
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Publisher: Carolyn Strong
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& Martin Nigrelle

Italian Club Officers for 2024

President: Audrey Manzanares
(206) 779-7325
Vice President: Martin Nigrelle
(206) 310-7689
Secretary: Dennis Caldirola (206) 282-0627
Treasurer: Joe Picciano (206) 713-9346
Ex Officio: Anna Popovich (206) 453-4002

Trustees:

Tom Grossi (425) 557-0071
Diana Kaczor (206) 232-7880
Jason Kaczor (206) 353-4703
Raymond Niolu (206) 930-3720

Sergeant at Arms: TBD

Committee Chairs:

Bylaws..... TBD
Crab Dinner.....Audrey Manzanares
Day at the RacesJoe Galluccio
Health & Welfare.....Audrey Manzanares
Festa Italiana Luncheon
.....Audrey Manzanares
Mariner Baseball Night....Martin Nigrelle
New Membership Dennis Caldirola
Parliamentarian.....TBD
ScholarshipDiana Kaczor/
Martin Nigrelle/Audrey Manzanares

(President's Message continued)

Please contact me (206) 779-7325 if you are interested in attending. Invite your friends and family. It's a really fun night and in addition to the fabulous food we have a big raffle with a giant TV as the grand prize!!

Happy Valentine's Day! I look forward to seeing you soon.

Con Amore ed Affetto,

Audrey

(Secretary's Report continued)

And while not a member of the Italian Club but certainly a proponent of the local Italian community, Eric Scigliano, the Seattle journalist known for award-winning articles and books that dug deep into topics ranging from marine science to local politics, died last week in a diving accident in the Galápagos Islands. He was 71. We first took notice of Eric when he was a columnist for the Seattle Weekly and wrote an enormous article entitled Italian Seattle / Goodbye Garlic Gulch in the April 29 edition of 1987. It ran about ten pages and featured photos of everyone from Joe Desimone and Ed De Rocco to Johnny and Cathy Croce. You can read it today at www.festaseattle.com/about/local-history. Eric went on to write many books after that but the biggest of his bestsellers was penned after living for a year in his grandparents' hometown of Carrara (famous for its marble) entitled Michelangelo's Mountain. Attendees of the 2019 Festa Luncheon will remember Eric being our Keynote Speaker.



Auguri di una felice Festa di San Valentino,

Dennis Caldirola

The Italian Club of Seattle, Inc.
P.O. Box 9549
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 282-0627
www.ItalianClubofSeattle.org

il Ficcanso

\$60
PER PERSON

CRAB FEED

Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 6:00PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Ocean Fresh Dungeness Crab!

Spaghetti Aglio, Olio e Pepperoncino Drawn

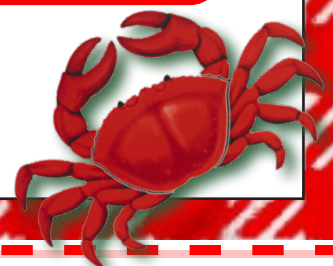
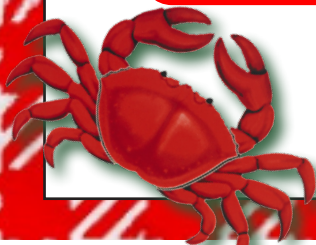
Butter, Rolls and Ice Cream

Beer, Wine, Soda

Buy Your Tickets Today!

RSVP: Audrey Manzanares - amanzanares@live.com

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



CRAB FEED REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Send me _____ tickets or reserve _____ tables for my family

Tickets: \$60 per person or \$600 per table of 10

Mail to: Audrey Manzanares 1301 Spring St. APT. 8D, Seattle WA 98104

| Budget for the Italian Club of Seattle 2025 | 2024 Budgeted | Actual | 2025 Budgeted |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Dinner Meetings (includes Raffle Proceeds) | \$2,500.00 | \$2,675.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Member Dues | \$5,800.00 | \$5,475.00 | \$4,800.00 |
| New Members | \$200.00 | \$150.00 | \$200.00 |
| Crab Feed | \$2,500.00 | \$4,223.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Festa Italiana Sausage Booth | \$3,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Donations ** | \$0.00 | \$4.00 | \$100.00 |
| Interest | \$5,000.00 | \$4,428.48 | \$4,000.00 |
| Mutual Funds | \$0.00 | \$16,021.71 | \$8,000.00 |
| Advertising / Newsletter+Roster | \$1,500.00 | \$900.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Prepaid Rent (from CASA Fund) | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Prepaid rent - remaining credit | (\$23,800) | | (\$22,800) |
| | \$21,500.00 | \$34,877.19 | \$24,100.00 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Board Meetings | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Dinner Meetings (includes Raffle Expenses) | \$5,000.00 | \$3,883.96 | \$4,000.00 |
| Rent - Meetings | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Prepaid Rent for Meetings | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Progressive Draw | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 |
| Past President's Gift | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Raffle holidays (turkey \$) | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Christmas Party - Adult | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Christmas Party - Family | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Charitable Donations TBA @ president's discretion | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Donations ** | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Festa Italiana - Donation | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Festa Italiana Luncheon | \$0.00 | \$578.77 | \$300.00 |
| Past Presidents & Dec board meeting dinner | \$1,200.00 | \$959.38 | \$1,200.00 |
| Italian Community Picnic | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$150.00 |
| Pres. Discretionary Fund | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| San Gennaro | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Scholarship | \$1,000.00 | \$650.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Club Marketing | \$250.00 | \$0.00 | \$250.00 |
| Newsletters | \$5,250.00 | \$6,088.83 | \$8,000.00 |
| Office, Postage, Printing (incl PO Box + Membership Mailing) | \$900.00 | \$323.50 | \$600.00 |
| Roster | \$1,500.00 | \$1,195.79 | \$0.00 |
| Accounting | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Administration | \$4,800.00 | \$4,800.00 | \$4,800.00 |
| Insurance | \$396.00 | \$396.00 | \$396.00 |
| Legal Fees | \$20.00 | \$0.00 | \$20.00 |
| Rent - Ballard Office/Dexter Office | \$1,080.00 | \$1,080.00 | \$1,080.00 |
| Rent - Storage | \$600.00 | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Website Development | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$300.00 |
| | \$20,996.00 | \$19,172.27 | \$21,896.00 |

** We actually received several donations that are NOT reflected in the line item above, including \$350 earmarked for our scholarship fund, and many items donated as raffle prizes for our Crab Feed and other events, including a TV generously offered as the Grand Prize at last year's Crab Feed event!

Casa Update: February 2025

By Martin Nigrelle

AV Matching Funds Challenge Update

The matching funds challenge for December 2024 was not met, the donor who proposed the challenge extended the challenge to the end of January 2025. The goal of \$8,000.00 was not met at the end of January. The challenge raised about \$3,000.00 The donor (who has chosen to remain anonymous) took the recent fund drive challenge into account along with the season & chose to donate the \$8,000.00. Casa is very grateful for the generous donations from the anonymous donor and those who saw fit to donate to the matching challenge. AS we did not raise the full \$16,000.00 anticipated cost of the A/V system, we will be prioritizing the audio system to ensure events upstairs are well heard by all attendees.

With the audio system installed we will hold a dedication ceremony & ribbon cutting of the hall. The event will be open to all, more details to come.

Casa Event Coordinator, Rocco DeSimone is on board to address all booking questions. To book events at Casa please contact: Events@casaitaliancc.org. Rocco will get back to you ASAP. Rates for the rooms have been established. Rocco will be happy to give you the rates & dates.

We are pleased to announce forward motion on the Chairlift! It has been frustrating this last several weeks as we have been waiting on a safety part to be shipped in from out of country & then from Boston to Seattle. The parts are now all here, the required electrical work has been completed & the related inspection scheduled. We expect the chairlift to be installed this week, next week at the latest. That said, given the weather, and previous delays, we have our fingers crossed.

We now have an upright piano in the upstairs hall! The Centioli family have donated the DeCaro piano to Casa. The piano is named after an initial owner, the Seattle opera singer Michael DeCaro who owned the piano when he resided in Seattle.

Casa's event team apologizes for the conflicting date of the Valentines Carnevale Dinner Dance event with the Italian Club's Crab Feed on February 22nd. This year there are conflicting events every weekend in February & the first weekend of March. For those that choose not to go to the Crab Feed, they are of course more than welcome at the Casa event. Event details are on the Casa Web site & facebook page.

I'm sure it comes as no surprise, Casa needs financial support. Turning a beauty salon into a Cultural Center is not without considerable cost. Your continued support is truly appreciated!

Italians get Royal in 2025!

By Martin Nigrelle

The annual Mariners Italian Heritage Night will feature the Mariners hosting the Kansas City Royals.

The Give-Away item will be a Jersey (see preview) the final design is TBD.

6:40pm, Monday June 30th, 2025. A great way to start the holiday week.

Tickets at 100 level: \$47 Ticket at the 300 level: \$34

If we sell enough tickets, we get to have a member of the community throw out the Group First Pitch. Updated details & final image of the jersey are forthcoming.



A Message from Jerry Mascio:

In 2019, Joe Megale brought to my attention a property in Burien that he thought would make a great Cultural Center for the Italian Community. I was in no way interested in a new project, but when I went to look at it, I immediately agreed that this was a perfect location for the new Casa. The building had great potential and the price was right. We contacted the Casa Board and proposed the purchase of the property. They also agreed it was perfect and the process of purchasing the property began. Between the funds available from the old Casa, and donations from Il Punto, The Italian Club of Seattle, and a few individuals, we managed to come up with the down payment. The seller agreed to carry the balance, and the deal was done.

We have since improved the property with; an office for the Honorary Consul of Italy, a beautiful Caffé, a library (operated by Il Punto), and two halls, the larger of which was just completed in November of 2024. This took a lot of work from our volunteers (mainly Joe Megale) and a fair amount of borrowed money. We have seen many people enjoy the facility; the Caffé has become a great place to gather, we have produced several amazing classes, & events. We are well on our way to establishing a thriving Italian Cultural Center for us all to enjoy.

The foundation has been laid, but there is still much to do to complete our vision. We will soon be applying for grants that should help cover the costs of continued improvements (elevator, commercial kitchen, bocce court, piazza, etc.) as well as operational expenses. However, this will take time.

The fact is that we need financial help now. Casa is struggling to pay the bills and without more financial support from all of us, may not survive. I have personally donated money to fund the purchase and continue to donate \$500 every month to help with recurring expenses. I challenge all of you to help with a monthly donation of whatever you can afford. We need to rely on at least \$20,000 per month to keep Casa going.

We have been called dreamers by some, & foolish by others for having done this, but the fact is that we now have a beautiful place for the Italian Community. A place to gather & celebrate the Italian Culture we all cherish. The decision we must now make is, do we want to keep it? If so, we all must step up and help.

Thank You for your consideration - Jerry Mascio, Founding Board Member Casa Italiana – Italian Cultural Center. *Donate online at:* www.casaitalianacc.org/donate

ICoS Calendar

February 2025

9th Superbowl
14th Valentine's Day
16th ICoS General Meeting
22nd Crab Feed
29th Input Deadline for March *il Ficcanso*
for *il Ficcanso*

March 2025

6th Trustee's Meeting
13th ICoS General Meeting
23rd Seattle Fedele Lodge John Croce
Homemade Wine Festival.
25th Input Deadline for April *il Ficcanso*

April 2025

10th ICoS General Meeting
25th Input Deadline for May *il Ficcanso*

May 2025

1st Trustee's Meeting
8th ICoS General Meeting
11th Mother's Day
26th Input Deadline for June *il Ficcanso*

June 2025

TBD Italian Heritage Night at the Mariners
12th ICoS General Meeting
15th Father's Day

July 2025

4th Independence Day
No *il Ficcanso* this month

August 2025

14th ICoS General Meeting
30th Italian Day at the Races Emerald
Downs- First Race 2 PM
17th Italian Community Picnic
Royal Arch Park, Maple Valley

September 2025

1st Labor Day
4th Trustee's Meeting
11th ICoS General Meeting

TBA Festa Mass in Italian
TBA Festa Luncheon
27th & 28th Festa Italiana Italian

October 2025

9th ICoS General Meeting
13th Columbus Day National Hoiliday
TBD Casa Italian Heritage Dinner
29th Input Deadline for Nov. *il Ficcanso*

November 2025

6th 6:00 Trustee's Meeting Zoom
9th 2:00 ICoS General Meeting
11th Auburn Annual Veterans Day Parade
27th Thanksgiving

December 2025

No ICoS General Meeting
TBD Past Presidents Dinner
TBD Special Mass at Our lady of Mt. Virgin
25th Christmas Day

January 2026

8th Board Meeting
11th 2:00 ICoS General Meeting
TBA Fundraiser hosted by Seattle Fedele Lodge
28th Input Deadline for February *il Ficcanso*

ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS

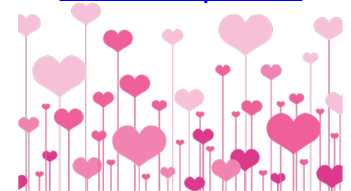
**February General Meeting
will be held at 2pm,
Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025**

Dinner starts on the hour,
with the meeting to start
30-45 minutes after, along
with prize drawings at
**Casa Italiana, 13028 1st
Ave S, Burien, WA 98168**

Trustee Meetings:
Next Trustee Meeting,
Thursday, March 6 at 6 PM

**View the
All-Community
Calendar at:**

[www.casaitalianacc.org/
calendar/public/](http://www.casaitalianacc.org/calendar/public/)



DOMINICK V. DRIANO & VINCENT M. DRIANO

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Areas of Practice

- Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Law
- Elder Law
- Business, Corporations, LLCs

☎ (206) 935 5805
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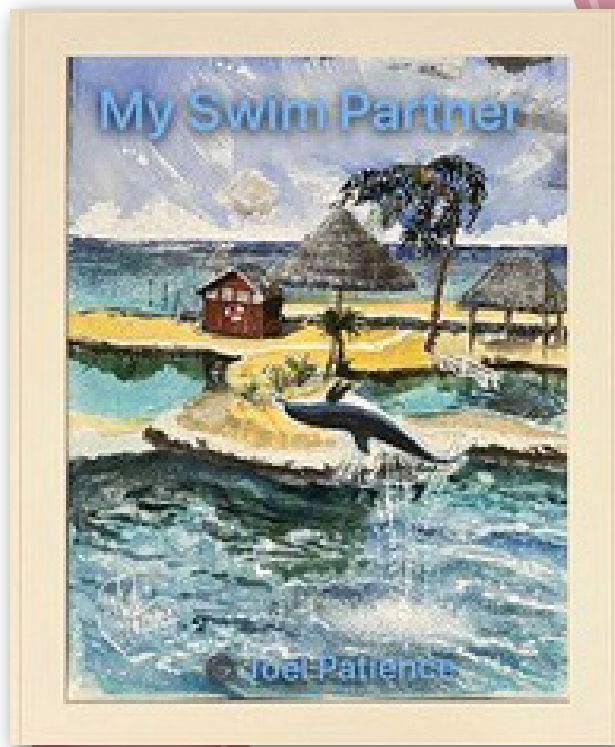
The Italian Radio Show
 Italian News, Food, Music & Events

Weekly on KMET 1490 ~ ABC News Radio Palm Springs
 Tony La Stella & Marzia Caputo, Hosts

On Affiliate Stations across the USA or
 Stream Online anytime at WCIR.biz

Created by David Madrid





Audrey Manzanares
 Master Certified Negotiation Expert,
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FIVE STAR
 REAL ESTATE AGENT



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