

Activities Report – 2023 - 2024

It was a busy year with a myriad of fun and lively activities. Our year started off with a lively Inaugural in July that took us back to the 60's. There were costumes reflective of the times along with a photo booth and plenty of Sock Hop music with a DJ. It even warranted a photo on the cover of the Compass! The new Board was introduced and outgoing Board members were bid goodbye. In August, we challenged 10 members to cook up the best spaghetti sauce. With plenty of sauce to taste, when the spoons were counted, Member Mike Caporale took first place.

In September, we moved to Italy in spirit with an event titled, "Vini di Italia," Wines of Italy. Initially proposed for 50 participants, it quickly grew to 125! Guest speakers for each of the four wines were Rosanne Crocco, Kurt Norton, Russ Baldo and Lilly LaPira. No experts by any means, but they all did a great job. Once the wines were tasted, everyone enjoyed a buffet dinner with more wine!

In October we were again challenged by the Shalom Club to a Bocce Tournament. The trophy safely remains with our club for the 8th year in a row.

Turkey Bingo was again a sell out with over 260 members and guests attending. It remains one of our most popular events. Christmas was celebrated at Orchard Creek with a dinner and dance. The beautiful decorations were a glittering start to the season.

January brought the crabs out again and over 290 members gnawed at the tasty crustaceans along with the pasta and shrimp.

In February, we plied you with coffee at our "Italians Love Everything Coffee" event. Our espresso and cappuccino machines were set up for business while we explained the "rules" of coffee in Italy and tasted our way through a variety of treats all made with coffee.

We were stompin' and line dancin' at our Western Hoedown in March at the Blue Goose barn in Loomis. A buffet of BBQ food, the Crystal Image Band playing Western music throughout the night, and a variety of games to try made the night busy and fun. Boots and jeans were everywhere.

Sicilia Bedda (Beautiful Sicily) was our Regional Event—a smash hit! Food tastings included appetizer caponata followed by a sunny orange and fennel salad. Pasta followed along with a Sicilian orange cake.

In May we threw out the bocce balls at our annual BBQ & Bocce. The weather was perfect and the games lively. It is definitely an annual event everyone looks forward to.

We thanked our members for their support in June with our Annual Membership Appreciation event. This year, it was a hearty meatball sandwich with salad and flaming hot chips. But there was an It's It ice cream to eventually cool things down.

So what's coming up?

- Turkey Bingo is scheduled for November 3 at Del Webb Roseville. It's a delicious turkey buffet with games of Bingo and some great raffle prizes. It's always a popular event.
- We'll be returning to the beautifully decorated and festive Catta Verdera this year for our Christmas Dinner and Dance on December 10th. We've got a great band lined up and it's sure to be both a delightful and fun evening.
- The next Crab Feed is on the calendar for January 10 at the McBean Pavilion. It's a casual affair with the best crab in town.
- In February it's bingo time again. Only this time, it will be Italian Bingo—or Tombola. It is much different from the bingo you know and love. We'll teach you how to play and you will chuckle aloud at the pictures on the Italian Bingo board. The buttocks? Souls in Purgatory? The prostitute? Yes, these all appear on the game board.
- The Regional event for April will be in the OC Ballroom. It will be a little different this year as Rosa and Carmela Tour Italy. Learn little-known facts about Italy. No food tastings this time but we're going to try for a spaghetti and meatball dinner.
- Our Annual BBQ & Bocce will be on May 18 with our typical BBQ fare. The bocce games are always full and a lot of fun.
- And June will bring our Annual Membership Appreciation event. Hot dogs, chips, and an It's It for dessert. This is the place to join other members, enjoy a hot dog, and just hang around for a while.

In addition to our monthly events, we also do a lunch for both the Ladies and the Men. The lunches are a great way to meet new members and develop new friendships. The Ladies meet in a different restaurant each month and the new leader of the men, Bob Allert, is testing the waters by switching things up. If you can, support Bob by joining his group.

Events are always publicized so you'll always know what's going on and what's coming up. Keep your eye on the Club's website often so you can check out what's happening so you don't miss anything! www.ihitalianclub.org We'll always send you an email to announce an event.

Who does all the work to put the events together, do the setup, cleanup, etc.? The committee of seven Club members who help in the planning and subsequent follow through of the events are:

- Irene Pardini
- Lydia Griffith (though she's moving)

- Sue Manas
- Marolyn Freschi
- Lenore Parisi
- Bonnita Wirth
- And newest member, Donna Tantillo

Next year promises to be an exciting one with some of our “standard,” popular events along with those new ones thrown in.

Throughout this year, we have been especially grateful for all of you who were so kind, patient, and supportive of our Club. We love what we do, even though some events are truly tough ones. When we see our members attend and have a good time, we feel it was worth the hard work that went into them.

Lilly LaPira & Karen Zimmerman – Activities Directors