AUGUST 2021

The CCI Corriere

CENTRO CULTURALE ITALIANO DI BUFFALO NEWSLETTER

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 @ 11:00AM

Since the founding of the Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo in 2010, the organization has never had a space to call its own. Finally, after 11 years, Dr. Francesco Giacobbe and his late wife Renata's dream has come to fruition. The CCI Buffalo will be celebrating with a ribbon cutting ceremony on **October 9 at 2351 Delaware Avenue**, welcoming its members and the community to join in on the excitement of our long-awaited achievement.

The ceremony will begin at **11:00am** with a kick-off to Italian Heritage Month, featuring student performances from the Buffalo Public Schools and The Federation of Italian-American Heritage Societies. Immediately following, the CCI will begin its ribbon cutting ceremony with proclamations from elected officials, and special words from CCI President and Founder Dr. Francesco Giacobbe, Hon. Tony Masiello, Exec. Director John Vecchio and others.

The ceremony will be followed by music from The Formula Band, tours of the center, food, raffles and a parade. We look forward to spending this monumental day with all of CCI's biggest supporters!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The operations team is seeking volunteers for our ribbon cutting event on October 9. We're also looking for volunteers to assist with day-to-day tasks at the center during regular operation hours.

Please contact:
Deputy Director, Lindsey Lauren Visser, **lindsey.visser@ccibuffalo.org,** if interested.

ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

In honor of Italian Heritage Month, October will be the filled with programs and events held at the center and around the community, such as movie nights, lecture series, children story hours, art exhibits and much more.
Stay tuned for a special October calendar including all scheduled programs, or visit **https://ccibuffalo.org/cci-events/** to view online.

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More Exciting Announcements!

From the Desk of Toni Marie Di Leo, Director of Education and Membership

Congratulations to

DR. FRANCESCO GIACOBBE!

The Federation of Italian-American Societies'

2021 Honoree

Congratulations to our Founder and President, Dr. Francesco Giacobbe, on being named the 2021 Honoree of The Federation of Italian-American Societies of WNY!

The 113th Annual Italian Heritage Dinner will take place on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

The dinner hosted by The Federation of Italian-American Societies of Western New York will be held at Salvatore's Italian Gardens at 6:00pm.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact **Teresa Marcello at 716-491-5178**.

CELEBRATING 500 MEMBERS!

"I am so excited to report that we have reached 500 members as of last week!"

-Toni Marie Di Leo, Education and Membership Director

To become a member, please visit **https://ccibuffalo.org/membership/**

Fall / Winter Language Lessons

CCI Italian language classes are filling up for September. There are still a few spots available.

Classes will begin the week of September 20th and continue until December 15th.

The CCI will be offering two beginner Italian courses, one advanced beginner Italian course, one intermediate Italian course, one Italian conversational course and one Sicilian course.

For more information on lessons visit **http://ccibuffalo.org/learn-italian/**

Italian-American Film Festival

The Italian-American Film Festival will be held at the North Park Theatre on Tuesday & Wednesday, October 12-13. Ticket purchases will benefit our friends at the Per Niente Club, The Federation of Italian-American Socities of WNY, and CCI.

Tuesday October 12th
@7:00pm
"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

Wednesday, October 13th
@7:00pm
"La Terra Promessa"

To purchase tickets, please visit **https://www.northparktheatre.org/ or call 716-836-7411**

Paver Project Update!

OVER 100 PAVERS SOLD!!!

OVER $35,000 RAISED!!!

We extend our appreciation to all of those who have purchased a paver to be placed in the CCI Community Courtyard. All paver orders which were placed before August 31st will be installed by the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 9th. We look forward to seeing the names of so many of our members and community supporters. There are still over 2,000 pavers available for purchase. Please see below for more information.

The CCI Paver Project is an opportunity to honor and remember community members, supporters, friends, and family with permanently engraved pavers. CCI is selling 8 x 8-inch and 8 x 4-inch pavers to be featured within the center's upcoming Courtyard and Community Walkway at various locations.

The CCI Courtyard and Community Walkway will provide a welcoming space for social gatherings, and will feature a handcrafted Italian fountain, sculptures, benches, herb garden and full-size bocce court!

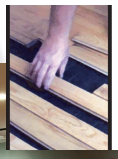
Purchase online at **https://ccipaver.givesmart.com**

Introducing CCI's First Corporate Level Sponsor

We are happy to announce that Michael Caroll, Owner of MP Caroll Hardwoods has generously agreed to become CCI's first corporate level sponsor. His sponsorship will support programming efforts in addition to special events held at the center. In addition to his sponsorship, Michael donated the beautiful CCI medallion placed in our Donna Fiorella Fireplace Room, and his team at MP Caroll Hardwood installed the floors on the first floor of the center.

Stay tuned for weekly "Italian Words of the Week" and monthly "Small Business Saturdays" presented by MP Caroll Hardwood. Thank you, Michael for your continued support of the CCI!

To learn more about MP Caroll Hardwood, visit **https://www.mpcaroll.com/**



M P CAROLL
HARDWOOD

2351 Delaware Avenue Renovations

From the Desk of Dan Vecchio, Facility and Grounds Manager

Inside the Site

Recently Completed:

- The Curcio Cafe has come to life! Backsplash, countertops, espresso machine, sinks, dishwater and display cases have been installed.
- Markarian Rugs installed carpet tile in the Renata Giacobbe Auditorium on August 25th.
- The walls of the center are undergoing fresh coats of paint, and the hardwood floors have been uncovered and cleaned in preparation for our opening.
- AAA Furniture delivered desks, filing cabinets and other furniture to outfit the CCI operation team office space.
- All three bathrooms now have proper hardware.

On the Horizon:

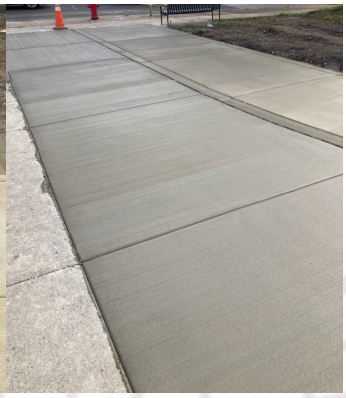
- Colvin Draperies will soon be installing curtains and retractable shades in the auditorium and first floor windows.
- Restoration of the terrazzo floor in our main entrance stairwell is set to begin the week of Sep. 13th.
- Our Spectrum WiFi, cable and phone project is currently in the works.
- Audio/Video components for our auditorium are set for installation the week of Sep. 13th.

2351 Delaware Avenue Renovations

From the Desk of Dan Vecchio, Facility and Grounds Manager

Building & Grounds

- GCC services finished the outdoor concrete work (driveway additions, courtyard walkway, fountain and flagpole bases) at the end of August.
- The fence installation began on September 7th and will be completed in the upcoming week. A 6-foot vinyl privacy fence is going up near the bocce court, and a 4-foot black aluminum fence will border the rest of our center's property.
- The Italian fountains and sculptures from Ravanusa, Sicily are in transit and will soon be arriving.
- Our Bocce court is in place and is undergoing additional beautification.
- Wagner Monuments' 1st batch of pavers will soon be ready for installation.
- Landscaper Jeff Rickan and crew recently touched up our existing beds and added new plantings and mulch.
- The Burger King located across the street is designating 30 parking spaces for CCI staff and visitors, in exchange for sponsorship opportunities through programming and events. Special thank you to the District Manager, Erin Capparossa Hass and Manager, Karen Macy for making the CCI more accessible to the community.



From the Desk of John A. Vecchio, Executive Director

My Dear Friends and Supporters of CCI,

I write you with uplifting news….in this week's mail, an envelope addressed to Dr. Giacobbe made his day and ours a reason to celebrate!

The Congratulatory letter was from Mr. Robert D. Gioia, President of the John R. Oishei Foundation. Accompanying the letter was an answer to our prayers…. a check for $125,000!

By way of background, a grant request to the JR Oishei Foundation was authored by a dear friend, Janice Barrett, who is the Founder and CEO of Grant Builders Inc. As a pro-bono gift to us, Janice beautifully summarized our re-adaptive project, and the Foundation found our mission worthy of their investment.

Our campaign Chair, Hon. Anthony Masiello, captured the essence of the moment when he said *"The John R. Oishei Foundation understands the value in investing in community and remembering those who laid the foundation for a prosperous Buffalo. Their founder, John Oishei, was an Italian inventor-capitalist whose invention, the Windshield Wiper, transformed the auto industry here in Buffalo. That story, along with so many others who paved the way for a greater Buffalo is what our Italian Cultural Center is all about!"*

On behalf of our Board, Donors, dedicated Staff and Volunteers, I wish to express our profound gratitude to Mr. Robert D. Gioia, Program Officer Esther Annan and the Board members of the John R. Oishei Foundation for their generous support to rejuvenate this historic neighborhood anchor. This significant grant award will go a long way in furthering the programmatic offerings and community engagement activities of CCI. Success Stories abound and new ones are just waiting to be written!

So, as we countdown the days to our **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Saturday, October 9th**, we are anxious and excited as we look forward to the prospect of our dream to transform the landmark North Park Library into the new robust Italian Cultural Center. We wouldn't even be taking about this project if it wasn't for the vision, courage and persistence of our Founder, Dr. Francesco Giacobbe.

To honor his extraordinary lifetime and leadership, the Federation of Italian American Societies has selected our Dr. Francesco as their 2021 Italian Heritage Month Honoree! We are so proud that our amiable pediatrician has brought his dream of Italian Language and Culture to life!

Please join us as we celebrate our Ribbon Cutting on October 9th @11:00, and honoring Dr. Giacobbe on Sunday, October 10th @ 6:00 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

John A. Vecchio

Visitor Spotlight

Erie County Legislator Lisa Chimera visited the site on August 27

Newell Nussbaumer, journalist at Buffalo Rising, visited the site on July 23 to check out the center.
Click here to read the article

Judge Salvatore R. Martoche and Deputy Director Lindsey Lauren Visser

Paul Pellicano and Friends visited the site on September 1st

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