

Buone Feste!

I hope everyone enjoyed a joyful Thanksgiving with your loved ones — I know I certainly did! It's hard to believe how quickly 2025 has passed. Here we are already well into the holiday season, snow shovels in hand.

Things at Casa Italia are moving along beautifully. Our new Community Center has already hosted Holy Masses, celebrations, and community gatherings. I've included photos so you can see just how wonderful everything looks. We are currently awaiting our elevator installation and finishing touches throughout the property to ensure it's a space all can enjoy. Our Christmas Village is coming up this Sunday, December 7th, and thanks to the hard work of our staff and dedicated volunteers, it promises to be a fantastic event. I hope you can join us.

This year brought many exciting developments. The office and restaurant buildings have been removed, giving the grounds a clean, refreshed look. The Village of Stone Park has been an exceptional partner and has been hard at work renovating the Pavilion. Once completed, it will be better than new, with upgraded restrooms and numerous improvements. Casa Italia will continue to host many events there, and it will also be available for rental directly through the Village.

Over the summer, we enjoyed a full calendar of festivals and activities. Our children's camp was a tremendous success, with Professor Lyn Sclaro teaching our youth about the meaning and beauty of being Italian. We also hosted an unforgettable evening of music and dancing with the Italian Bee Gees — nearly 1,000 guests joined us, and together we raised important funds to support our ongoing renovations. Our Library continues to provide programming almost daily, I am truly thankful to our Curator, Dominic Candeloro and his many volunteers for all they do with the Italian Cultural Center. We also cannot forget the great success of Dancing Under the Stars, the Vocal Scholarship and our Adult and Children Italian Language classes!

Speaking of fundraising, our Annual Gala was truly extraordinary. We were honored to recognize our person of the year, Mr. Frank Conforti and his family, with more than 400 guests in attendance. The food was plentiful and delicious, and the presentations were inspiring. Mr. Conforti, thank you for all you do to support Casa Italia.

As the year concludes, I wanted to reach out and wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray for your health and happiness in 2026 and hope to see you in the coming year. Casa Italia is being reborn — stronger and more vibrant than ever. Thank you for your continued support, and please keep watching our progress. We have a lot more to go, but with your help we will get there.

Con Molto Apprezzamento,

Peter Volpe

Chairman – Casa Italia