

First Book Club

Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Moderator: Carmella Walsh, PhD

THE BORROWED LIFE of FREDERICK FIFE
A HEARTWARMING STORY of REDEMPTION and FORGIVENESS
by ANNA JOHNSTON

Discover the Power of Second Chances and Found Family. Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he'd return it with a full tank of gas. The problem is, at age eighty-two, there's nobody left in Fred's life to borrow from, and he's broke and on the brink of eviction. But Fred's luck changes when he's mistaken for Bernard Greer, a missing resident at the local nursing home, and takes his place. Now Fred has warm meals in his belly and a roof over his head—as long as his look-alike Bernard never turns up. Denise Simms is stuck breathing the same disappointing air again and again. A middle-aged mom and caregiver at Bernard's facility, her crumbling marriage and daughter's health concerns are suffocating her joy for life. Wounded by her two-faced husband, she vows never to let a man deceive her again. As Fred walks in Bernard's shoes, he leaves a trail of kindness behind him, fueling Denise's suspicions about his identity. When unexpected truths are revealed, Fred and Denise rediscover their sense of purpose and learn how to return a broken life to mint condition. Bittersweet and remarkably perceptive, *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* is a hilarious, feel-good, clever novel about grief, forgiveness, redemption, and finding family.

Second Book Club

Saturday, November 7, 2026 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Moderator: Carmella Walsh, PhD

THE SICILIAN HERITAGE by JOE PIAZZA

Sara Marsala barely knows who she is anymore after the failure of her business and marriage. On top of that, her beloved great-aunt Rosie passes away, leaving Sara bereft with grief. But Aunt Rosie's death also opens an escape from her life and a window into the past by way of a plane ticket to Sicily, a deed to a possibly valuable plot of land, and a bombshell family secret. Rosie believes Sara's great-grandmother Serafina, the family matriarch who was left behind while her husband worked in America, didn't die of illness as family lore has it . . . she was murdered. Thus begins a twist-filled adventure that takes Sara all over the picturesque Italian countryside as she races to solve a mystery and learn the story of Serafina—a feisty and headstrong young woman in the early 1900s thrust into motherhood in her teens, who fought for a better life not just for herself but for all the women of her small village. Unsurprisingly, the more she challenges the status quo, the more she finds herself in danger. As Sara discovers more about Serafina, she also realizes she is coming head-to-head with the same menacing forces that took down her great-grandmother. At once an immersive multigenerational mystery and an ode to the undaunted heroism of everyday women, *The Sicilian Inheritance* is an atmospheric, page-turning delight.

Reverend Oreste Pandola Adult Learning Center

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FALL 2026 Registration form on website:
littleitalyfoundation.org/wp-content-upload-2026-01-Pandola-Learning-Center-registration-form-2026-1-1.jpg

Call for information: 410-866-8494

Please like us on Facebook: Pandola Learning Center

The cost is still only \$80 for 7 classes unless otherwise stated.
Students must register for online classes to receive an invitation with instructions on how to join our secure educational platform.

SATURDAY CLASSES:
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
November 7, 14, 21
Bocce October 3
Italian Cookies December 5

ONLINE Classes:
Please view dates and times
in the course description.

Rosalie Ranieri
Principal

Reverend Oreste Pandola Adult Learning Center Staff
Domenic DiCocco
Vice Principal

Pat Greco
Facebook

Lauren DeFeo
Brochure

Celebrating our 31st year!

DELICIOUS HONEY - A NATURAL STAPLE OF LIFE SEMINAR

Backyard Beekeeping: A deep look at the importance of helping our pollinators. Explore the fascinating world of beekeeping, a healthy honeybee colony and how to extract honey from a hive. In Center: TBA (11-12:30) Fee \$15
Instructor: Tim Elliott.

DISCOVER THE ART OF HANDMADE TORRONE FROM CALABRIA!

Join us for a Nostalgic Christmas Candy Class. Torrone is a sweet confection usually made from combining beaten eggs whites, honey, nuts and vanilla and then enclosing in a wafer paper on the top and bottom. Saturday, November 14, 2026 (11-12) Fee \$25
Instructor: Mrs. Erminia Rettura & Nicola Colloca

HOME MADE RAVIOLI

As promised, Chef Mark Orendorff will teach the art of making scrumptious ravioli. Learn how to create pasta so often made by beloved ancestors. Make the dough, roll it out, and fill it professionally. Saturday, November 21, 2026 (11-12:30) Fee \$25
Instructor: Mark Orendorff.

HEALTH & WELLNESS SESSIONS

A group health care educational program about mental wellness and how to cope with the feeling of loneliness in today's world. Loneliness, causes, treatments and prevention will be discussed. All ages welcome. Saturday, November 14 and 21, 2026 (12-1) No fee
Moderator: Carmella Walsh, PhD.

Why the Italian American Community honors Christopher Columbus

One-Hour Zoom presentation by Dr. DeSimone, Ph.D. The defining moment in the Dawn of the Modern Era was the result of the efforts of one Italian man who changed the history of the world forever! Class is offered free as part of service to our community, BUT you must register so we can invite you to join our private platform. Session will also be held in person during a symposium held at the Italian American Civic Club of Baltimore on October 12, 2026 (8:00 pm)

LUSCIOUS LIMONCELLO!

Learn how to make Limoncello! Searching for ingredients and supplies can be a challenge, thus we present a novel approach with this class. Materials will be provided along with great instructions to create a bottle of homemade Italian liquor for the holidays!
In Center: Saturday, October 10, 2026. (10:30-12:30) Fee \$25
Instructor: Arthur Gentile

ASSISTANCE for our ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY:

Mrs. Pina Culotta will share her expertise regarding pensions from Italy and other countries.
Call 410- 868-7296 for an appointment.



EXPLORATORY ITALIAN

Basic introduction to the Italian language. Learn words, phrases, and basic conversation. Discover the language of your beloved ancestors. Required text "Italian is Fun."
Online: Tuesdays, starting October 6, 2026 (7-8) Fee \$80
Instructor Luanna Colloca, Ph. D
In Center: Saturdays, starting October 3, 2026 (10-11) Fee \$80
Instructor: Giustina Martire, PhD

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED ITALIAN

This class is designed for students who have knowledge of written and spoken Italian.
Online: Tuesdays, starting October 6, 2026 (8-9) Fee \$80
Instructor: Luana Colloca, MD, PhD

CONTINUING ITALIAN

Discover information and hints to make your journey to Italy fantastic using the Italian language. Continue to refresh your skills with grammar, phrases, and conversation.
In Center: Saturdays, starting October 3, 2026 (11-12:15) Fee \$80
Instructor: Giustina Martire, PhD.

ONLINE ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASS

Discover the Sicilian Dialect!

This course will explore the Sicilian Dialect and the many nuances of the language spoken on this ancient island. Words, phrases, and comparisons with Italian will be presented. Required text "Beginner's Sicilian" by Joseph Privitera (*available on Amazon*)
Saturdays, starting October 3, 2026 (12:30 -1:30) Fee \$80
Instructor: Fabiana Alajmo

LEARN HOW TO PLAY BOCCE

Learn how to play Bocce, a traditional Italian game, from our talented staff on our newly renovated courts outside the Sons of Italy Lodge in Baltimore's Little Italy. Saturday, October 3, 2026. (11-1) A minimum of four students required.
Additional classes may be added. Fee \$20
Instructors: Frank Corazza and Francis Battermann

SWEET ITALIAN TREATS

Remember the delicious delights created by beloved family members? Learn to make those fabulous Italian Christmas treats! Begin a new family tradition, bake scrumptious cookies for your friends and loved ones.
In Center: Saturday, December 5, 2026 (10-12) Fee: \$25
Instructors: Nancy Barbieri Wolfe, Mary Ann Barbieri, Owen and Celeste DiFerdinando Hughes

SIGN LANGUAGE:

Adults and children will learn the Basic American Manual Alphabet, prayers, numbers, and simple conversation. In Center: Saturday, November 7, 2026 (12-1) Fee \$15.
Instructor: Sadie Zaccari-Witz

