



## About The Italian Cultural Association of Greater Austin

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**Our History:** The Italian Culture Association of Greater Austin (ICA) has been quietly serving the preservation of Italian culture for almost 25 years. Ten members initially formed the ICA in 1984. Membership stayed at under 20 until 1996 when the ICA began an effort to grow its membership. We have about 80 voting members plus non-member spouses and children.

In 2003, we formally changed the structure of the organization to a nonprofit organization [tax code 501 (c) (3)]. This moved the club's focus to stress more cultural activities and opened membership to anyone interested in Italian culture. Our calendar of events is a blend of social and cultural gatherings centered on promoting Italian culture and traditions. Membership dues are tax deductible.

**Membership:** Our activities and events are driven by the efforts of the membership. We elect an Executive Board to manage the club and oversee financial adherence to the annual budget. There are quarterly general membership meetings that address the operational aspects of the ICA. Members approve the annual budget each year.

Members volunteer to participate and chair the various committees that organize and run the many events throughout the year. It is the Committee's responsibility to operate their event within the established financial guidelines of the annual budget. Committee Chair Members are encouraged to attend the monthly Executive meetings as part of the planning and budget compliance process. The committees/events are:

- Cultural / Membership
  - Monthly Activities
  - Carnevale
  - Book Club
  - Italian Movie Night, and others added during the year
  - Christmas Dinner/Dance
  - Family Festa
  - Spaghetti Night (2)
  - Sunshine
- Meetings are held quarterly at various locations in the Greater Austin area.

**Cultural:** It is estimated that there is over 5,000 people in the Austin area of Italian descent, however there is no centralized or dedicated Italian community. Our cultural activities include Italian language conversation groups, lectures on various subjects about Italy, wine and food tasting events, along with the annual Carnevale and Family Festa! events. Twice a year we do a Pasta Night—a fun family night where the ICA men cook and serve a great meal. In 2005 we began scheduling an “Italian Movie Night” showing classic and modern films at least twice a year. Expansion of cultural events to educate our members, member's families, and our community is of extreme importance to the ICA.

**Monthly Activities:** Our monthly activities are typically casual cultural/social events designed to build friendship among members, their spouses and families. Some of our ongoing and past activities include: wine tasting, dinner round-robins, cooking demonstrations, book club, attending plays or concerts featuring some of our members, and other fun things. Great friendships develop by becoming involved in the ICA.

**Charitable Efforts:** Over the years the ICA has made an annual contribution to help a student participate in the University of Texas Rome Study program. Our Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance includes member contributions to the Hill Country Ministries Food Bank and the Blue and Brown Santa Programs.

**Why join the ICA:** If you are interested in experiencing things Italian – cultural, social and charitable – and meeting new friends, the Italian Cultural Association offers this opportunity to you.

*Bob Calvsi*

Membership/Cultural  
Committee