



## **Woman of the Year Joëlle Carota, Ph.D.**

*Our Woman of the Year, Joelle Carota will be returning to the Frank DiMino Casa Italiana at Nazareth University after her maternity leave. You can join her at the Casa if you sign up for classes, be a part of the Oral History Project, or attend the Italian Film Series with dinner following the movie.*

Born and raised in Italy, Joëlle Carota is Director of the Frank DiMino Casa Italiana and Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian at Nazareth University. Previously, she has taught and conducted research at various universities in New York State. Her research is focused on the outcomes of language contact in multilingual contexts. She dedicates her free time to giving back to the community: she is currently the secretary of the Italian Civic League as well as the administrative assistant of the Honorary Consulate of Italy in Rochester.

Joëlle first attended Nazareth University in 2012 as an exchange student from Pescara. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara. She returned to Rochester in 2015 and Nazareth working as an event coordinator and tutor. She earned a second master's degree and her doctorate at University of Buffalo while she taught Italian and Spanish. After receiving her advanced degree, she gained extensive experience in foreign language instruction-French, Italian, and Spanish-and was the language coordinator at SUNY Binghamton.

Joëlle is carrying on the legacy of her predecessor, Stella Calabrese, at the Casa Italiana which is known for its Italian language courses for both children and adults, monthly cooking class, and Wednesday night movies. She restarted the Italian American Oral History Project that began in 2015 as a pilot project. Her goal is to help keep alive the stories, traditions, and culture that can be so easily lost, but the information garnered can also be used by historians and linguists. She would like to see the Casa become a documentation center for the Italian community in Rochester. She also has been instrumental in helping to bring back the Italian Film Series begun by Tony Mangione. The films are currently shown at the Peace Theatre across from the Casa at the Nazareth University Arts Center.