



## DOROTHEA'S HOUSE

Casa Di Cultura Italiana  
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### **Dorothea's House: 10 Fast Facts**

1. Dorothea's House opened its doors on Oct. 7, 1914, as a living memorial to Dorothea van Dyke McLane, a volunteer social worker.
2. Dorothea's father, Henry van Dyke, a Princeton University professor, poet, and diplomat, and her husband, Guy Richards McLane, a New York City stockbroker, established and endowed the nonprofit Dorothea van Dyke McLane Association, and provided for building the house to continue the charitable work Dorothea had started for Italian immigrants in Princeton.
3. During its first decades, Dorothea's House was used daily for activities including membership in girls and boys clubs; fraternal organizations; English, citizenship, and sewing classes; team sports; and summer camps. More than 500 Italian children, young adults, and their parents attended these activities monthly.
4. A World War II Honor Roll of 192 Princeton Italian-Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Services is displayed in Dorothea's House.
5. A scholarship program established in 1963 for Princeton High School seniors has assisted more than 650 students with their four years of college study. In addition, two \$500 awards are given to PHS seniors: the Frank Clark Award, to a student committed to community service, and the Robert Immordino Award, to a student with a deep interest in history.
6. In 1998, the board established an endowment for an annual award of \$1,000 to be given to the highest achieving freshman student studying Italian at Princeton University.
7. Princeton's Historic District, which includes Dorothea's House, was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.
8. In 1986, a committee headed by Alessandra Mazzucato created a monthly Italian cultural program series open to all offered during the academic year. Among the most popular events is an annual Polenta Festa. Famous visitors presenting programs have included Italian journalist Beppe Severgnini, celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich, and Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli, daughter of radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi.
9. Weekly Italian language classes began for elementary and middle school children at Dorothea's house in 1991; adult classes, held informally in the early 1990s, resumed in 1995. In January 2014, Dorothea's House offered 22 classes for 149 students (141 adults and eight children).
10. The Italian American National Hall of Fame awarded the Dorothea van Dyke McLane Association and Dorothea's house its Humanitarian Award in 2004.