

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our speaker at our January Membership was to be Ms. Karlie Marich, the Manager of Guest Services for the Cleveland Browns. She could not make it so her Coordinator, Hanna Ponti, came in her place. She provided us with some insights as to services provided to the general guests as well as the VIP guests at FirstEnergy Stadium.



Hanna Ponti

AIH CHARITIES SCHOLARSHIPS AND MEMBER EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

The 2023 – 2024 AIHC Scholarships and Member Educational Grant Applications and Instructions are now posted on the AIH website (aihclub.com). The deadline for submitting your application is 15 May 23.

NEW MEMBERS

Nuovi Membri



We swore in four new members at our January Meeting. That's President Paolucci on the far left, then from left to right its Vincent Nasca, Anthony Curtis, Don Ticel, and Shane Nardiello. Welcome aboard gentlemen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

FEBRUARY febbraio

12 February 2023, Sunday, Super Bowl LVII, AIHC 50/50 Board

- Chair: Dave Vegh
- 6:30 pm ET kick-off at the State Farm Stadium, in Glendale, Arizona.
- Cost: \$100.00 per square. SOLD OUT!!
- Payout: \$300.00 for every score change and the balance of the pot goes to the person who wins the final score.
- The completed 50/50 Board will be posted on the website prior to kick-off.

15 February 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

22 February 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: Brian Fife, Wine Manage, Sommelier, Certified Specialist in Spirits from World Wines, and Liquors, in Mentor.

MARCH marzo

22 March 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
 - Time 5:30p

29 March 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: Tim Ausperk, Golf Pro from Black Brook Golf Club in Mentor.

APRIL aprile

19 April 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p 26 April 2023, Wednesday, Membership

Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p

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 Speaker: Bob DiBiasio, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs for the Cleveland Indians Guardians.

MAY maggio

24 May 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

31 May 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: Matt Gambatese speaking about the Rocky Colavito statue in Little Italy.

JUNE giugno

21 June 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

28 June 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

JULY luglio

19 July 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

26 July 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

29 July 2023, Saturday, AIH Summer Social

- Chair: Ron Wassum
- Venue: Hungarian Culture Club in Fairport Harbor
- Time: Doors open at 5:00p, dinner at 6:00p
- Cost: TBD
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome.
- Dinner: Prepared by Regovich Catering
- Capacity: 100 125 people
- Bocce Courts will be available for club use.
- There will be sideboards and a 50/50 raffle.
 - Reservations required.

AUGUST agosto

5 August 2023, Saturday, AIH Golf Outing

- Chair: TBD
- Committee: TBD
- Venue: Black Brook Golf Club
- Time 9:00a shotgun start
- Cost: TBD
- Capacity: 100 120 golfers Reservations required.

23 August 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

30 August 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

SEPTEMBER settembre 20 September 2023, Wednesday, Executive

Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

27 September 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting and Club Bocce' Tournament

- Chair: Ron Wassum
- Venue: Hungarian Culture Club in Fairport Harbor
- Time: 6:00p
- Attendees: Members and spouses are welcome.
 Reservations required.

OCTOBER ottobre

7 October 2023, Saturday, AIHC Italian Night

- Venue: Patrician Party Center in Eastlake,
- Chair: Bill Petrello
- Committee:
 - o Ron Wassum
 - o Gus Paolucci
 - John Perrotti
 - o Anita Licate
- Time TBD
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome.
- Dinner: Prepared by Regovich Catering
- Capacity: 400 attendees Reservations required.

18 October 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

25 October 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting, Clam Bake

- Chairs: Ron Wassum and Bill Petrello
- Venue: TBD
- Time: TBD
- Cost: TBD

Reservations required.

NOVEMBER novembre

19 November 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Time 5:30p

25 November 2023, Saturday, OSU v Univ of Mich. Football Game, AIHC 50/50 Board

• As they usually do, AIH Charities has a 50/50 board for the OSU v Univ of Mich. Football Game.

29 November 2023, Wednesday,

Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: TBD

?? December 2023, AIH Club Christmas Party

- Chair: TBD
- Committee: TBD
- Venue: Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: TBD
 - Cost: Free Reservations required

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di febbraio

Carmen Frederico	1
Louis Aliberti	4
Skip Trombetti	5
John Perrotti	15
Jim Federico Jr	16
Carmen Cesa	

When you see these members this month, be sure to wish them a Buon compleanno.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

Committee Chair Richard O'Keefe has advised us that he is not aware of any issues during the last month.

If you know of or hear of any Health or Welfare issues involving a member, please pass that information on to Richard O'Keefe at richardokeefe65@gmail.com or 440-537-8505.

SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

Here are just a few of the not so well known special days in February for your observance. 02 Feb: Play your Ukulele Day 03 Feb: Carrot Cake Day 04 Feb: Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day 09 Feb: Bagel and Lox Day 14 Feb: Ferris Wheel Day 26 Feb: Pistachio Day 27 Feb: No Brainer Day The above information was obtained from timeanddate.com/holidays/fun

FEBRUARY IN ITALY

February is frigid in most parts of Italy but is not without its festivities. There's Valentine's Day and Carnevale, and many Italian schools observe a winter break called "Settimana Bianca" — White Week — a time for skiing and sledding.

Weather in Italy in February

February in Italy is just as cold as it is in January, but the temperatures start to climb at the end of the month. February is the preferred month for Italian ski and snowboard enthusiasts, who usually take time off in midmonth to hit the slopes.

February is one of the most popular months to visit Venice because of its Carnival. While the famous festival sometimes takes place in March, it often falls during February when the temperatures are still quite cold. Venice and other northern Italian cities average high temperatures in the high 40s °F and lows around or just above freezing in February. Luckily, the risk of rain and other precipitation is lower in February, averaging just 4-5 days.

Central Italy is still cold in February. But the first signs of spring can start to appear near the end of the month, especially in Rome. Average temperatures for Florence in February range from a low of 37°F to a high of 55°F.

February days in southern Italy are even milder, especially as the calendar nears March. Naples and Palermo get on average 7-9 days of rain during February, with temperatures ranging from the low to upper 40s °F for lows and the mid- to upper-50s °F for highs.

February in Italy: Holidays, Festivals, and other Events

Carnevale / Carnival

Depending on the calendar, Carnevale season begins as early as February 3. Carnival celebrations run for approximately two weeks, with big events, parades, balls, performances, and food fairs. The best known Carnival celebrations in Italy take place in Venice and Viareggio, a seaside town in Tuscany.

Near Rome, the town of Ronciglione is known for its carnival and riderless horse race, which have origins that date back to the 16th century.



Costumes in Venice during Carnevale

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February 5 – Feast Day of Saint Agatha, Catania (Sicily)

Saint Agatha (Sant'Agata) is the patron saint of Molise, Gallipoli (Puglia), the Republic of San Marino, and in Catania (Sicily) where she was born. Her feast day is celebrated on 5 February, the day when the young saint is believed to have been martyred in 251.

Catania commemorates Sant'Agata — the Santuzza — every year from 3-5 February with candelora processions, fireworks, and desserts in the shape of breasts called Minne di Sant'Agata. It is the largest religious festival devoted to Saint Agatha in Italy and the most important festival of the year in the Sicilian city.

Saint Agatha, whose breasts were cut off as part of her torture, is also the patron saint of rape victims, breast cancer patients, bell founders, and volcanic eruptions.

February 14 – Valentine's Day

If you want to spend lovers' day in the home of St. Valentine, head to the town of Terni in Umbria.

Another ideal spot for you and your valentine on the 14th is in Verona, which holds the Verona in Love festival each year in honor of young lovers Romeo and Juliet. Stagings of Shakespeare's play, as well as art exhibitions and sweet markets, complete the week-long love fest.

Saldi – Winter Sales

Winter Sales (saldi) continue throughout February. See January for info. *Taken from italofile.com/February-Italy*

ITALIAN BREAKFASTS

The widely held belief that breakfast is the most important meal of the day may not be so widely held in Italy. According to a YouGov survey, Italians prefer a light, sweet breakfast. *Biscotti*, muffins, and *fette biscottate* (crisp toast) take the top three slots of preferred foods, while only 5 to 6 percent report eating eggs, cold cuts, and cheese.



A strong majority can't imagine the day without morning coffee, while one in four people drink juice with their breakfast. Most Italians have breakfast at home, but some prefer the local café, where they will typically have their coffee – a quick shot of espresso – standing at the bar. Coffee with milk is reserved for breakfast, and you will seldom see an Italian order a cappuccino or caffellatte after lunch.

Taken from the "living Language Italian" 2023 Calendar.

BARTOLOMEO CRISTOFORI

Bartolomeo Cristofori di Francesco, May 4, 1655 – January 27, 1731, was an Italian maker of musical instruments famous for inventing the piano. Cristofori was born in Padua in the Republic of Venice. Nothing is known of his early life.

Probably the most important event in Cristofori's life is the first one of which we have any record. In 1688, at age 33, he was recruited to work for Prince Ferdinando de Medici. Ferdinando, a lover and patron of music, was the son and heir of Cosimo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany. Tuscany was at the time still a small independent state.

It is not known what led Ferdinando to recruit Cristofori. The Prince traveled to Venice in 1688 to attend the Carnival, so he may have met Cristofori passing through Padua on his way home. Ferdinando was looking for a new technician to take care of his many musical instruments, the previous incumbent having just died. However, it seems possible that the Prince wanted to hire Cristofori not just as his technician, but specifically as an innovator in musical instruments. It would be surprising if Cristofori at age 33 had not already shown the inventiveness for which he later became famous.

Cristofori agreed to the appointment, for a salary of 12 scudi per month. He moved rather quickly to Florence (May 1688; his job interview having taken place in March or April), was issued a house, complete with utensils and equipment, by the Grand Duke's administration, and set to work. For the Prince, he tuned, maintained, and transported instruments; worked on his various inventions, and also did restoration work on valuable older harpsichords.

At this time, the Grand Dukes of Tuscany employed a large staff of about 100 artisans, who worked in the Galleria dei Lavori of the Uffizi. Cristofori's initial workspace was probably in this area, which did not please him. Cristofori did eventually obtain his own workshop, usually keeping one or two assistants working for him.

During the remaining years of the 17th century, Cristofori invented two keyboard instruments before he began his work on the piano. These instruments are documented in an inventory, of the many instruments kept by Prince Ferdinando, dated 1700.

The spinettone, Italian for "big spinet", was a large, multi-choired spinet (a harpsichord in which the strings are slanted to save space), with disposition $1 \times 8'$, $1 \times 4'$. Most spinets have the simple disposition $1 \times 8'$. This invention may have been meant to fit into a crowded orchestra pit for theatrical performances, while having the louder sound of a multi-choired instrument.

The other invention (1690) was the highly original oval spinet, a kind of virginal with the longest strings in the middle of the case.

Cristofori also built instruments of existing types, documented in the same 1700 inventory: a clavicytherium (upright harpsichord), and two harpsichords of the standard Italian $2 \times 8'$ disposition; one of them has an unusual case made of ebony.

It was thought for some time that the earliest mention of the piano is from a diary of Francesco Mannucci, a Medici court musician, indicating that Cristofori was already working on the piano by 1698. However, the authenticity of this document is now doubted. The first unambiguous evidence for the piano comes from the 1700 inventory of the Medici mentioned in the preceding section. The entry in this inventory for Cristofori's piano begins as follows:

"An Arpicembalo by Bartolomeo Cristofori, of new invention that produces soft and loud, with two sets of strings at unison pitch, with soundboard of cypress without rose..."

The term "Arpicembalo", literally "harpharpsichord", was not generally familiar in Cristofori's day. Edward Good infers that this is what Cristofori himself wanted his instrument to be called. Our own word for the piano, however, is the result of a gradual truncation over time of the words shown in boldface above.

The Medici inventory goes on to describe the instrument in considerable detail. The range of this (now lost) instrument was four octaves, C to c^w, a standard (if slightly small) compass for harpsichords.

Cristofori's patron, Prince Ferdinando, died at the age of 50 in 1713. There is evidence that Cristofori continued to work for the Medici court, still headed by the prince's father Cosimo III. Specifically, a 1716 inventory of the musical

instrument collection is signed "Bartolommeo Cristofori Custode", indicating that Cristofori had been given the title of custodian of the collection.

During the early 18th century, the prosperity of the Medici princes declined, and like many of the other Medici-employed craftsmen, Cristofori took to selling his work to others. The king of Portugal bought at least one of his instruments.

Cristofori continued to make pianos until near the end of his life, continually making improvements in his invention. In his senior years, he was assisted by Giovanni Ferrini, who went on to have his own distinguished career, continuing his master's tradition. There is tentative evidence that there was another assistant, P. Domenico Dal Mela, who went on in 1739 to build the first upright piano.



The 1720 Cristofori piano in the <u>Metropolitan</u> Museum in New York



The 1722 Cristofori piano in the Museo Nazionale degli Strumenti Musicali in Rome.



The 1726 Cristofori piano in the <u>Musikinstrumenten-</u> <u>Museum</u> in Leipzig

The total number of pianos built by Cristofori is unknown. Only three survive today, all dating from the 1720s. *Taken from 2023 Wikipedia.*

GROUNDHOG DAY 2 February

Groundhog Day on February 2 is when we ask, are we in for six more weeks of Winter? Only a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil knows for sure. Each year on Groundhog Day, people flock to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to await the forecast of the local rodent celebrity. Originating with German settlers, who came to Pennsylvania in the 1700s and brought their seasonal superstitions with them, legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow on February 2, the winter chill will continue. Oddly, if the weather is cloudy and he doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and early spring.

The Pennsylvania Dutch were Germanspeaking immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania. They developed their own take on the legend of Candlemas in the 18th and 19th centuries bringing with them the custom of the native Groundhog as their annual weather announcer. Candlemas involved the clergy blessing and distributing candles needed for winter. The Pennsylvania Dutch transformed the idea by selecting an animal to predict their needs for winter.

The first-ever Groundhog Day was created by a local newspaper editor, Clymer Freas, around 1886, who convinced Groundhog hunter and local businessman, and all members of his Punxsutawney Groundhog club on the idea of Groundhog Day. Together, they all made their way to Gobbler's Knob where the Groundhog would make the final decision on the weather. Today, a group called the inner circle who wear top hats, conduct the official proceedings on February 2 in a Pennsylvania Dutch dialect, where tens of thousands of people attend the day's events every year.

Studies have proven no strong correlation between a Groundhog spotting its own shadow and the arrival of spring subsequently. According to German lore, the badger known as Dachs, is their forecasting animal. A separate version of traditions states that clear weather on the holy Christian day of Candlemas would often prohibit winter being prolonged.

Groundhog lore suggests much about Punxsutawney Phil. It is said that he drinks a magic "elixir of life" every summer, giving him seven more years to live. He has been predicting since around 1886, and a badger's life span is around six years roughly, so go figure. There is also supposedly only one Phil and any other groundhogs who attempt to do

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what he does, are imposters. He is said to speak to the club president on the day, in front of the crowds in Groundhogese which is understood and then translated. *Taken from nationaltoday.com/groundhog-day*

THE SUPER BOWL 12 February

The Super Bowl is the annual championship game of the National Football League (NFL). The game is the culmination of a regular season that begins in the late summer of the previous year.

The game was created as a part of the merger agreement between the NFL and its then-rival, the American Football League (AFL). It was agreed that the two champion teams would play in the AFL–NFL World Championship Game until the merger was to officially begin in 1970. After the merger, each league was redesignated as a "conference", and the game has since been played between the conference champions to determine the NFL's league champion.

The Super Bowl is the second-largest day for U.S. food consumption, after Thanksgiving Day. In addition, the Super Bowl has frequently been the most-watched American television broadcast of the year. The seven most-watched broadcasts in U.S. television history are Super Bowls.

Lamar Hunt, then-owner of the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs, first used the term "Super Bowl" to refer to the AFL–NFL championship game in the merger meetings. Hunt later said the name was likely in his head because his children had been playing with a Super Ball toy; a vintage example of the ball is on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. In a July 25, 1966, letter to NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle, Hunt wrote, "I have kiddingly called it the 'Super Bowl,' which obviously can be improved upon."

The leagues' owners chose the name "AFL-NFL Championship Game", but in July 1966 the Kansas City Star quoted Hunt in discussing "the Super Bowl - that's my term for the championship game between the two leagues", and the media immediately began using the term. Although the league stated in 1967 that "not many people like it", asking for suggestions and considering alternatives such as "Merger Bowl" and "The Game", the Associated Press reported that "Super Bowl" "grew and grew and grew-until it reached the point that there was Super Week, Super Sunday, Super Teams, Super Players, ad "Super Bowl" became official infinitum". beginning with the third annual game.

Roman numerals have been used to identify each Super Bowl, rather than the year in which

it is held, since the fifth edition, in January 1971. The sole exception to this naming convention tradition occurred with Super Bowl 50, which was played on February 7, 2016, following the 2015 regular season, and the following year, the nomenclature returned to Roman numerals for Super Bowl LI.

The winning team receives the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named after the coach of the Green Bay Packers, who won the first two Super Bowl games and three of the five preceding NFL championships in 1961, 1962, and 1965. Following Lombardi's death in September 1970, the trophy was officially named the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The first trophy awarded under the new name was presented to the Baltimore Colts following their win in Super Bowl V in Miami.

Above information taken from the 2023 Wikipedia

PRESIDENTS' DAY 20 February

Presidents' Day, officially Washington's Birthday, in the United States, holiday (third Monday in February) popularly recognized as honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The day is sometimes understood as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents.



The origin of Presidents' Day lies in the 1880s, when the birthday of Washington-commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and the first president of the United States—was first celebrated as a federal holiday. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, which moved a number of federal holidays to Mondays. The change was designed to schedule certain holidays so that workers had a number of long weekends throughout the year, but it has been opposed by those who believe that those holidays should be celebrated on the dates they actually commemorate. During debate on the bill, it was proposed that Washington's Birthday be renamed Presidents' Day to honor the birthdays of both Washington (February 22) and Lincoln (February 12); although Lincoln's birthday was celebrated in many states, it was never an official federal holiday. Following much discussion. Congress rejected the name change. After the bill went into effect in 1971, however, Presidents' Day became the commonly accepted name, due in part to retailers' use of that name to promote sales and

the holiday's proximity to Lincoln's birthday. Presidents' Day is usually marked by public ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and throughout the country.

Taken from Britannica.com/topic/Presidents-Day

PHRASE OF THE MONTH

Come stai?

How are you? Taken from "Living Language 2023 Calendar"

A LITTLE TRIVIA

Why are men's buttons on the right and women's buttons on the left?

Decorative buttons first appeared around 2000 B.C., but they weren't commonly used as fasteners until the sixteenth century. Because most men are right-handed and typically dress themselves, they found it easier to fasten their buttons from right to left. However, wealthy women were dressed by servants, who found it easier to fasten their mistresses' clothes it the buttons were on the left. It became convention and has never changed.

Why do baby boys wear blue and baby girls wear pink?

The custom of dressing baby boys in blue clothes began around 1400. Blue was the color of the sky and therefore heaven, so it was believed that the color blue warded off evil spirits. Male children were considered a greater blessing than females, so it was assumed that demons had no interest in girls. It was another hundred years before girls were given red as a color, which was later softened to pink.

Why is a handshake considered to be a gesture of friendship?

The Egyptian hieroglyph for "to give" is an extended hand. That symbol was the inspiration for Michelangelo's famous fresco *The Creation of Adam*, which is found on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Babylonian kings confirmed their authority by annually grasping the hand of a statue of their chief god, Marduk. The handshake as we know it today evolved from a custom of Roman soldiers, who carried daggers in their right wrist bands. They would extend and then grasp each other's weapon hand as a nonthreatening sign of goodwill.

Where did the two-fingered peace sign come from?

The gesture of two fingers spread and raised in peace, popularized in the 1960s, is a physical interpretation of the peace symbol, an inverted or upside-down Y within a circle, which was designed in 1958 by members of the antinuclear Direct Action Committee. The inverted Y is a combination of the maritime

semaphore signals for N^{\checkmark} i \rightarrow and

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D , which stood for "nuclear disarmament."

Where did the rude Anglo-Saxon onefingered salute come from?

When the outnumbered English faced the French at the Battle of Agincourt, they were armed with a relatively new weapon, the longbow. The French were so amused that they vowed to cut off the middle finger of each British archer. When the longbows won the day, the English jeered the retreating French by raising that middle finger in a gesture that still means, among other things, "in your face."

The above information was obtained from The Little Book of Answers by Doug Lennox.

MISSION STATEMENT

dichiarazione di missione The purpose of this Association is to promote the moral, social, and civic advancement of its membership, and to perpetuate the customs and cultural aspects of Italian Heritage. *Article II, Section 1 of the AIH Bylaws*

AMERICANS OF ITALIAN HERITAGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2024	
President	Gus Paolucci
Vice President	Ronald Wassum
Secretary	Glenn Pizzuti
Treasurer	
Trustee (e)	Rio DeGennaro Jr.
Trustee (e)	Jim Federico Sr.
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Trustee (e)	
Trustee (e)	Ken Mancuso
Trustee (a)	Carmen Frederico
Trustee (a)	Mario Bertone
Trustee (a)	Richard O'Keefe

ATTACHMENTS

1. None



COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR

If you have any questions or comments about, or suggestions for this newsletter, please put your thoughts in an email and send them to me at <u>GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com</u>