



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY gennaio 2024

2024

duemilaventiquattro

Congratulations, we made it through another year and we're into a brand new one. 2024 is a little bit special though.

First, it's a leap year, with an extra day in February, bringing the total number of days to 366.

Secondly, it's a presidential election year.

Finally, our club will be 45 years old on 29 March this year. We're closing in on the big 50.

So...to everyone, **Felice anno nuova! – Happy New Year!**

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In accordance with our Bylaws, we had no Executive Committee Meeting or Membership Meeting in the month of December.

THE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

9 December 2023



The Club's Christmas Party was another success this year. Although the turnout was less than expected, everyone there had a terrific time. There was a young lady making balloon accessories for the kids, and of course Santa stopped by and talked to each and every child and passed out gifts.

Thanks goes out to Chair Gus Paolucci and his committee of John Perrotti, Jim Federico, and Mario Bertone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

prossimi eventi

24 January 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

31 January 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD¹⁰**

11 February 2024, Sunday, AIHC SUPER BOWL LVIII POOL

- Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: John Perrotti
- Committee: **TBD** Volunteers needed.
- Kick Off Time: **TBD**
- Venue: Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- The completed 50/50 Board will be posted on the club website prior to kick-off.
- Cost per Square: \$100.00

21 February 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

28 February 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD⁹**

20 March 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

27 March 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD⁸**

17 April 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Mama Roberto's Front Dining Room
- Establish the Nominating Committee for Election of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.
 - Note: In accordance with the Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3, "The

Vice President shall be the Chair of this Committee."

• Time 5:30p 24 April 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD⁷**

22 May 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

29 May 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Presentation of Nominees for Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26
- Speaker: **TBD⁶**

19 June 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

26 June 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Election of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26
- Speaker: **TBD⁵**

24 July 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

31 July 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD⁴**

3 August 2024, Saturday, AIH GOLF OUTING

- Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: **TBD**
- Committee: **TBD**
- Venue: **Black Brook Golf Club**
- Time:
 - Registration at 8:00a
 - Shotgun start at 9:00a
- Cost: **TBD**

- Capacity: **TBD**
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome
- Caterers: La Vera
- Reservations are required.

21 August 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

28 August 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD³**

18 September 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

25 September 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD²**

23 October 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

30 October 2024, Wednesday, AIH CLAM BAKE

- Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: **TBD**
- Committee: **TBD**
- Venue: Regovich's Party Center
- Time: **TBD**
- Cost: **TBD**
- Capacity: **TBD**
- Guests: Spouses and Guests are welcome
- Reservations are required.

13 November 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

20 November 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: **TBD¹**

December 2024

- In accordance with our Bylaws, there is no scheduled Executive Committee Meeting or Membership Meeting in December.

14 December 2024, Saturday, AIH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

- Committee Chair and primary Point of Contact: Gus Paolucci
- Committee
 - John Perrotti
 - Jim Federico Sr.
 - Mario Bertone
- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Cost for attendees: **Free**
- Hours: 2:00p to 4:00p, set up from 12:00p to 1:30p.
- Balloon Artist will be there.
- Santa and Presents: Santa will pass out presents to children. All presents are to be purchased, wrapped, and delivered to the venue no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the event.
- Registration is required. There is a limited capacity of 80, so it will be first come, first served.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di gennaio

Paul Fortunato.....	06
Gabe Cicconetti.....	15
Anthony Curtis.....	17
Sal Carriere.....	29

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

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

The committee reported the following:

- Member Skip Trombetti's mother-in-law (Donna's mother), Mary Baressi, passed away on November 30, 2023, at the age of 99. Please keep Skip and the Trombetti family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Member Judge Gene Lucci's father, Cecil Lucci, passed away on December 1, 2023, at the age of 94. Please keep Gene and the Lucci family in your thoughts and prayers.

Let's take a moment to remember our health and welfare issues from 2023.

- Committee Chair Richard O'Keefe had hip replacement surgery from which he has recovered well.
- Treasurer Bill Petrello was hospitalized for pneumonia. He recovered well and was released.
- Secretary Glenn Pizzuti was in the hospital for a few days for some surgery and has recovered well.
- One of our former, but long-standing members, Angelo LaSpina, passed away on 15 May 2023, at the age of 84.
- Trustee Carmen Frederico had a tree fall on his vehicle, while he was driving. The

accident put him in the hospital for several days. He has recovered well.

- Loretta LaMalfa, wife of former member Mike LaMalfa, passed away on 11 July 2023, at the age of 89.
- Angelina Farinacci, the wife of former member Domenic Farinacci, passed away on 26 August 2023, at the age of 83.
- Vice President Ron Wassum's son (and member) Brett was in the hospital for some surgery and has recovered well.
- Secretary Glenn Pizzuti's son Eric was in the hospital for several weeks for burns over 15% of his body but has recovered very well.

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 JANUARY

Here are just a few of the not so well-known special days in January for your observance.

- 01 Jan: Polar Bear Plunge Day
- 03 Jan: Fruitcake Toss Day
- 04 Jan: Trivia Day
- 06 Jan: The Epiphany
- 09 Jan: Clean Off Your Desk Day
- 15 Jan: Bagel and Lox Day
- 17 Jan: Ditch the New Year's Resolutions Day
- 19 Jan: Popcorn Day
- 21 Jan: Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 23 Jan: Festivus Day
- 25 Jan: Opposite Day
- 30 Jan: Croissant Day

The above information was taken from timeanddate.com/holidays/fun.

EPIPHANY

6 January

Epiphany, also known as "Theophany" in Eastern Christian tradition, is a Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana.

In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas. Moreover, the feast of the Epiphany, in some denominations, also initiates the liturgical season of Epiphanytide.



Eastern Christians, on the other hand, commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. The spot marked by Al-Maghtas in Jordan, adjacent to Qasr al-Yahud in the West Bank, is considered to be the original site of the baptism of Jesus and the ministry of John the Baptist.

The traditional date for the feast is January 6. However, since 1970, the celebration has been held in some countries on the Sunday after January 1. Those Eastern Churches which are still following the Julian calendar observe the feast on what, according to the internationally used Gregorian calendar, is January 19, because of the current 13-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

In Italy, the Epiphany is a national holiday and is associated with the figure of the Befana (the name being a corruption of the word *Epifania*), a broomstick-riding old woman who, on the night between January 5 and 6, brings gifts to children or a lump of "coal" (really black candy) for the times they have not been good during the year. The legend told of her is that, having missed her opportunity to bring a gift to the child Jesus together with the Biblical Magi, she now brings gifts to other children on that night.

However, in some parts of today's Italian state, different traditions exist, and instead of the Befana it is the three Magi who bring gifts. In Sardinia, for example, where local traditions and customs of the Hispanic period coexist, the tradition of the Biblical Magi bringing gifts to children is very present.

In the United States, King cakes of the type locally called "French style" on display at the chain bakery/restaurant "La Madeline" branch in Carrollton, New Orleans. They come with cardboard "crowns" to be worn by whoever gets the slice with the token and becomes monarch of the event.

In Louisiana, Epiphany is the beginning of the Carnival season, during which it is customary to bake King Cakes. They are round in shape, filled with cinnamon, glazed white, and coated

in traditional carnival color sanding sugar. The person who finds the doll (or bean) must provide the next king cake. The interval between Epiphany and Mardi Gras is sometimes known as "king cake season", and many may be consumed during this period. The Carnival season begins on King's Day (Epiphany), and there are many traditions associated with that day in Louisiana and along the Catholic coasts of Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. King cakes are first sold then, Carnival krewes begin having their balls on that date, and the first New Orleans krewe parades in street cars that night.



In Colonial Virginia, Epiphany, or 12th Night, was an occasion of great merriment, and was considered especially appropriate as a date for balls and dancing, as well as for weddings. On 12th Night, a Great Cake was prepared, consisting in two giant layers of fruitcake, coated and filled with royal icing. Custom dictated that the youngest child present cut and serve the cake and whoever found the bean or prize in the Twelfth Night cake was crowned "King of the Bean" similar to the European king cake custom.

In Erie, Pennsylvania, as part of an Epiphany party a king is hidden in a cake, and whichever child finds the king in the cake is crowned king for the day.

Tarpon Springs, Florida, is known for elaborate religious ceremonies related to the Greek Orthodox Church, the most notable being the Epiphany celebration. The Metropolitan of Atlanta usually presides over the blessings, sometimes joined by the Archbishop of America. The blessings conclude with the ceremonial throwing of a wooden cross into the city's Spring Bayou, and boys ages 16 to 18 diving in to retrieve it. Whoever recovers the cross is said to be blessed for a full year. Following the blessings, the celebration moves to the Sponge Docks where food and music are made part of the festivities. Tarpon Springs has given itself the nickname Epiphany City. The celebration attracts Greek Americans from across the country, and the city's population is known to triple in size for that day.

In Manitou Springs, Colorado, Epiphany is marked by the Great Fruitcake Toss. Fruitcakes are thrown, participants dress as

kings, fools, etc., and competitions are held for the farthest throw, the most creative projectile device, etc. As with customs in other countries, the fruitcake toss is a sort of festive symbolic leave-taking of the Christmas holidays until next year, but with humorous twist, since fruitcake is considered with a certain degree of derision in most of the United States and is the source of many jokes.



**FIRST LIVE
PRESIDENTIAL NEWS
CONFERENCE
25 January 1961**

On January 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy becomes the first U.S. president to hold a live televised news conference.

From a podium in the State Department auditorium, Kennedy read a prepared statement regarding the famine in the Congo, the release of two American aviators from Russian custody and impending negotiations for an atomic test ban treaty. He then opened the floor for questions from reporters, answering queries on a variety of topics including relations with Cuba, voting rights and food aid to impoverished Americans.

Ever since his televised presidential debate with Richard Nixon in 1960, Kennedy had been aware of the media's enormous power to sway public opinion. On that day, Kennedy had appeared rested, well-groomed and in control. Nixon, on the other hand, was not as telegenic as Kennedy and appeared sweaty and flustered. His five o'clock shadow created more of a stir than his responses to the moderator's questions.



Kennedy knew that, in a televised news conference, his appearance would count almost as much as what he said. On this day in 1961, the president exhibited a calm demeanor and responded to reporters' questions with intelligence and decorum. Kennedy's ability to project charm, intelligence, strength, and openness defined the presidential image in the age of mass media.
www.history.com/this-day-in-history/kennedy-holds-first-live-television-news-conference

**ITALY IN JANUARY
WHAT TO EXPECT**

January is the first full winter month and temperatures are starting to bite. With the colder temperatures and the Christmas festivities just over, Italy in January is less crowded and quieter.

After all the December frenzy, the tourists will be mainly concentrated in the ski resorts and winter holiday regions such as Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, and Valle d'Aosta.

Don't dismiss, however, the art hubs like Rome and Florence. Even though you might find some cloudy and rainy days, the most popular Italian cities are always a good trip idea.

Festivals and holidays in January in Italy

January 1st. New Year's Day sees all schools and offices closed. Shops might run slightly different hours and restaurants will likely offer a fixed menu for a fixed price. Many landmarks are also closed.

January 6th. Traditionally, this day is celebrated with the event of the Three Kings or Three Magi visiting the newborn baby Jesus. In Italy, this is celebrated for children with the Befana, an old woman who delivers candies to

good children and charcoal to bad kids traveling on her brush.

January 17th. This is the day of Saint Anthony Abate and is celebrated in many towns in Sardinia with bonfires and a shared night dinner in the streets with all the townspeople.

Weather in Italy in January

There is no way around it, in Italy in January, the cold starts to bite. In most regions, January is the coldest month of the year.

Just like for all seasons, there's a sharp difference between the temperatures of northern and southern Italy. In the northern regions, the climate will be much colder than in Sicily, for example, but it's safe to say that there is nowhere in Italy in January that you will be wearing a t-shirt.

Below is a quick overview of Italy's weather in January divided into macro-areas.

- Northern Italy gets very cold. Mountain peaks are covered with snow and at high altitudes, temperatures often get below zero.
- Central Italy is less cold than in the northern cities and warmer than in the Dolomites, still, in central Italy, the weather is cold and shouts for heavy clothes.
- Southern Italy rarely has snow, but in southern Italy in January you might find quite a few rainy days. The city and province of Avellino in the Campania region sees particularly cold weather, rain is quite common, and snowy days don't really come as a surprise.
- The Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia are typically mild, and it would be pleasant if it weren't for more than occasional rainfalls. Days in January can also get sunny and freezing.

Is January a good time to visit Italy?

If freezing temperatures, humid days, rainfall, and some snow doesn't scare you, there are many good reasons to visit Italy in January. The cities are quiet, locals have retrieved their normal routine after the Christmas holidays, and you can really visit your destination at your own pace.

Is it worth visiting Italy in January?

Pros

- Lower prices in hotels and flights.
- Wider availability in hotel rooms.
- Smaller lines at the landmarks' entrances.
- Convenient shopping sales.

Cons

- Lousy and cold weather with possible rainfalls and cloudy days.
- Some places and activities are not recommended (Cinque Terre, boat rides, Amalfi Coast)

- Some hotels, restaurants, and attractions might be closed, especially in little touristy areas.

Is everything open in Italy in January?

In January, some places are closed because of a lack of tourism while others are because of the holiday. January 1st, in fact, is New Years Day, and many landmarks such as the Colosseum and the Vatican Museums in Rome, the Uffizi Gallery, Galleria dell 'Accademia, and the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral in Florence may be closed.

The above information was taken from fearlesslyitaly.com/italy-in-january

PHRASE OF THE MONTH

Al lavoro! – Let's get to work!
Information taken from the Living Language Italian 2023 Calendar

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	Vince Pona
Trustee (e).....	Rio DeGennaro Jr.
Trustee (e).....	Jim Federico Sr.
Trustee (e).....	John Perrotti
Trustee (e).....	Tony Illano Sr.
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 GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com