



## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY febbraio 2021

### MY APOLOGIES

Since I took on the responsibility of AIH Newsletter Editor I have managed to get the Newsletter out to the membership on the first of each month without fail. So perhaps you noticed that you didn't receive a January 2021 Newsletter at all last month.

I had it all prepared and ready to email when, only days before my target date of 1 January, my hard drive crashed, and I had failed to back anything up. Well that was sure a teachable moment. I did however find a place in Mayfield Village that, at great personal expense, was able to take the hard drive apart, in a sterile lab environment, and retrieve all my files. Their efforts took just over three weeks, but it worked. I'm back in business.

I apologize for the inconvenience.

### JANUARY MEETING

riunione gennaio

Once again, we canceled our January Membership meeting due to coronavirus issues. We do, however, intend to conduct our February Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club. If you intend to join us, please let Secretary Glenn Pizzuti know at [GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com](mailto:GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com) so we can get an accurate head count for the caterers.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

#### FEBRUARY febbraio

##### 7 February, Sunday

AIHC Fund Raiser, 100 Square Board on the NFL Championship Game. Squares are \$100.00 each.

See Attachment 1 for more information including the rules and Attachment 2 for the scorecard.

##### 17 February, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting, to be conducted via Zoom video conferencing @ 7:00p.

##### 24 February, Wednesday

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p.

### AIHC SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Just a reminder, the applications for the AIHC Student Scholarships have been given to the

schools throughout Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula and Cuyahoga Counties. If you have a child or grandchild in any of those schools, have them fill out an application.

Also, applications for the Membership Student Grants are available online or at one of our meetings. Remember the Membership Student Grants are awarded via a simple drawing for the number of Grants we have available. So, if you have a child or grandchild looking to start college or some post high school training, get your name in the drawing.

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di febbraio

Carmen Frederico .....	1
Lou Aliberti .....	4
John Perrotti.....	15
Jim Federico Jr.....	16
Carmen Cesa.....	24

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

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

This would have been posted in the January Newsletter, had I been able to get on out, so I will post it again.

Long standing and eldest member of AIH, Carmen Rozzo, passed away on 24 December 2020.

Please keep them in your prayers.

### GROUNDHOG DAY 2 FEBRUARY

Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks; but if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early.

While the tradition remains popular in modern times, studies have found no consistent correlation between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather.

The weather lore was brought from German-speaking areas where the badger is the

forecasting animal. This appears to be an enhanced version of the lore that clear weather on the Christian festival of Candlemas forebodes a prolonged winter.

Candlemas is a primarily Catholic festival but also known in the German Protestant (Lutheran) churches. In folk religion, various traditions and superstitions continue to be linked with the holiday, although this was discouraged by the Protestant Reformers in the 16th century.

The Groundhog Day ceremony held at Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania, centering around a semi-mythical groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil, has become the most attended ceremony. Other cities in the United States and Canada have also adopted the event.

#### Punxsutawney beginnings

The first reported news of a Groundhog Day observance was arguably made by the *Punxsutawney Spirit* newspaper of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, in 1886: "up to the time of going to press, the beast has not seen its shadow". However, it was not until the following year in 1887 that the first Groundhog Day considered "official" was commemorated there, with a group making a trip to the Gobbler's Knob part of town to consult the groundhog. People have gathered annually at the spot for the event ever since.

Clymer Freas (1867–1942) who was city editor at the *Punxsutawney Spirit* is credited as the "father" who conceived the idea of "Groundhog Day". It has also been suggested that Punxsutawney was where all the Groundhog Day events originated, from where it spread to other parts of the United States and Canada.

The Groundhog Day celebrations of the 1880s were carried out by the Punxsutawney Elks Lodge. The lodge members were the "genesis" of the Groundhog Club formed later, which continued the Groundhog Day tradition. But the lodge started out being interested in the groundhog as a game animal for food. It had started to serve groundhog at the lodge and had been organizing a hunting party on a day each year in late summer.

The chronologies given are somewhat inconsistent in the literature. The first "Groundhog Picnic" was held in 1887 according to a book for popular reading by an academic



but given as post-circa-1889 by a local historian in a journal. The historian states that around 1889 the meat was served in the lodge's banquet, and the organized hunt started after that.

Either way, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club was formed in 1899, and continued the hunt and "Groundhog Feast", which took place annually in September. The "hunt" portion of it became increasingly a ritualized formality, because the practical procurement of meat had to occur well ahead of time for marinating. A drink called the "groundhog punch" was also served. The flavor has been described as a "cross between pork and chicken". The hunt and feast did not attract enough outside interest, and the practice discontinued.

The groundhog was not named Phil until 1961, possibly as an indirect reference to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

#### **Punxsutawney today**

The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where crowds as large as 40,000 gather each year (nearly eight times the year-round population of the town). The average draw had been about 2,000 until the 1993 movie *Groundhog Day*, which is set at the festivities in Punxsutawney, after which attendance rose to about 10,000. The official Phil is pretended to be a supercentenarian, having been the same forecasting beast since 1887.

In 2019, the 133rd year of the tradition, the groundhog was summoned to come out at 7:25 am on February 2 but did not see its shadow. Fans of Punxsutawney Phil awaited his arrival starting at 6:00 am, thanks to a live stream provided by Visit Pennsylvania. The live stream has been a tradition for the past several years, allowing more people than ever to watch the animal meteorologist.

2021 will be the 135th, and for the first time, Phil will be wearing a mask, like all Inner Circle members. The ceremony will be held behind closed doors, as no fans are allowed to attend. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all members will be socially distanced.

Buckeye Chuck, Ohio's official State Groundhog, resides in Marion, Ohio.

*The above information was obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

## **VALENTINE'S DAY 14 FEBRUARY**

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

There are a number of martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14, including an account of the imprisonment of Saint Valentine of Rome for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. Numerous later additions to the legend have better related it to the theme of love. An 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution; another addition posits that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry.

The Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 496 to be celebrated on February 14 in honor of Saint Valentine of Rome, who died on that date in AD 269. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In Italy, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children to ward off epilepsy (called the Saint Valentine's Malady).

Saint Valentine's Day is not a public holiday in any country, although it is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox

Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day on July 6 in honor of Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and on July 30 in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

In the United States, the first mass-produced Valentines of embossed paper lace were produced and sold shortly after 1847 by Esther Howland (1828–1904) of Worcester, Massachusetts. Her father operated a large book and stationery store, but Howland took her inspiration from an English Valentine she had received from a business associate of her father. Intrigued with the idea of making similar Valentines, Howland began her business by importing paper lace and floral decorations from England.

Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In the UK, just under half of the population spend money on their Valentines, and around £1.9 billion was spent in 2015 on cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts. The mid-19th century Valentine's Day trade was a harbinger of further commercialized holidays in the U.S. to follow.

In 1868, the British chocolate company Cadbury created Fancy Boxes – a decorated box of chocolates – in the shape of a heart for Valentine's Day. Boxes of filled chocolates quickly became associated with the holiday. In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts, such as giving jewelry.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. Half of those valentines are given to family members other than husband or wife, usually to children. When the valentine-exchange cards made in school activities are included the figure goes up to 1 billion, and teachers become the people receiving the most valentines. The average valentine's spending has increased every year in the U.S, from \$108 a person in 2010 to \$131 in 2013.

The rise of Internet popularity at the turn of the millennium is creating new traditions. Millions of people use, every year, digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages such as e-cards, love coupons or printable greeting cards. An estimated 15



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million e-valentines were sent in 2010. Valentine's Day is considered by some to be a Hallmark holiday due to its commercialization.

*The above information was obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

### ASH WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is observed by Catholics in the Roman Rite, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Moravians, and Independent Catholics, as well as by many from the Reformed faith (including the Congregationalist, Continental Reformed, and Presbyterian traditions).

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants to either the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

Ashes were used in ancient times to express grief. The gesture was also used to express sorrow for sins and faults. Christians continued the practice of using ashes as an external sign of repentance. Tertullian (c. 160 – c. 225) said that confession of sin should be accompanied by lying in sackcloth and ashes.

Many Christian denominations emphasize fasting as well as abstinence during the season of Lent and in particular, on its first day, Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Roman Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (whose health enables them to do so) must fast, and are permitted to consume only one full meal, along with two smaller meals, which together should not equal the full meal. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also days of abstinence from meat (mammals and fowl), as are all Fridays during Lent, regardless of age.

Ash Wednesday is exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday, which is a moveable feast based on the cycles of the moon. The earliest date Ash Wednesday can occur is 4 February (which is only possible during a common year with Easter on 22 March), which happened in

1598, 1693, 1761 and 1818 and will next occur in 2285. The latest date Ash Wednesday can occur is 10 March (when Easter Day falls on 25 April) which occurred in 1666, 1734, 1886 and 1943 and will next occur in 2038.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of a 40-day period (Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday) which is an allusion to the separation of Jesus in the desert to fast and pray. While not specifically instituted in the Bible text, the 40-day period of fast and pray is also analogous to the 40 days during which Moses repented and fasted in response to the making of the Golden calf.

*The above information was obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

### SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2: Play your ukulele Day
- Feb. 3: Carrot Cake Day
- Feb. 5: National Weatherperson's Day
- Feb. 6: Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- Feb. 8: Clean out your Computer Day
- Feb. 9: Bagel and Lox Day
- Feb. 10: Umbrella Day
- Feb. 14: Ferris Wheel Day
- Feb. 15: Gumdrop Day
- Feb. 17: Random Act of Kindness Day
- Feb. 27: No Brainer Day

*The above information was obtained from timeanddate.com/holidays/fun*

### SPECIAL EVENTS THAT OCCURED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**1 February 2003** – Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members. This was the second space shuttle lost in flight. In January 1986, *Challenger* exploded during liftoff.

**9 February 1943** – During WWI in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of fighting, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 American killed.

**11 February 1929** – Italian dictator Benito Mussolini granted political independence to the Vatican City and recognized the sovereignty of the Pope over the area, measuring about 110 acres.

**20 February 1962** – Astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth (three times) aboard the "Friendship 7."

**27 February 2003** – The 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms of office or a maximum of ten years.

*The above information was obtained from historyplace.com/specials/calendar/February*

### 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 2020 – 30 June 2022*

President.....	Gus Paolucci
Vice President .....	Ronald Wassum
Secretary .....	Glenn Pizzuti
Treasurer .....	William Petrello

Trustee (e).....	Robert Andreanno
Trustee (e).....	Rio DeGennaro Jr.
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Trustee (e).....	John Perrotti
Trustee (e).....	Anthony Illano Sr.
Trustee (e).....	Ken Mancuso
Trustee (Immediate Past Pres.) .....	David Vegh

### ATTACHMENTS

1. NFL Championship Football Game Pool, Rules
2. NFL Championship Football Game Pool, Scorecard