



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER dicembre 2022

### NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

Riunione Novembre

Our November Membership Meeting was at our usual venue, The Buona Festa Social Club. Our speaker was David Somrack, Owner of Royal Havana Cigars. David schooled us all on the finer points of cigar making.



Also, at the November Meeting, the Membership approved an amendment to our Bylaws allowing Brothers-in-Law to become Associate Members.

### ARRIVEDERCI TINA INGRAHAM

Most of you didn't know that our web site has been maintained over the last 13 years by a young lady named Tina Ingraham. Well, because of mounting family commitments, she has advised us that, effective 1 Jan 23, she can no longer service our web site.

Working with her has been a pleasure and she will be sorely missed by the club, but the Executive Committee wants to thank her for the years she helped us and wish her all the best.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

#### DECEMBER dicembre

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

#### 10 December 2022, Saturday, AIH Club Family Christmas Party

- Chair: Gus Paolucci
- Committee:
  - John Perrotti
  - Jim Federico Sr.
- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 2:00p to 4:00p
- Cost: Free for all attendees
- There will be a Balloon Artist.
- Santa will be there to pass out gifts to the children. Presents from Santa to be provided by children's parents.
- There is a limited capacity of 80, so it will be first come – first served

*Reservations required - see attached flyer.*

#### JANUARY gennaio

##### 18 January 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

##### 25 January 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

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

#### FEBRUARY febbraio

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

- Chair: Dave Vegh
- 12:00 noon kick-off at the State Farm Stadium, in Glendale, Arizona.
- Cost: \$100.00 per square.
- 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: TBD

#### 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: TBD

#### 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
- Speaker: TBD

#### 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: TBD

#### 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



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER dicembre 2022

### 29 July 2023, Saturday, AIHC Social Gathering

- Chair: Ron Wassum
- Venue: Hungarian Culture Club in Fairport Harbor
- Time: Doors open at 5:00p, dinner at 6:00p
- Cost: TBD
- Guest: 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

#### 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, Ohio
- Chair: Bill Petrello
- Committee:
  - Ron Wassum
  - Gus Paolucci

- John Perrotti
- Anita Licate
- Time TBD
- Guest: 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

### NOVEMBER novembre

#### 19 November 2023, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

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

#### 29 November 2023, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

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

## NEW MEMBER

*Nuovo Membro*

We swore in a new, returning member this month, Skip Trombetti. Welcome back Skip.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Compleanni di dicembre*

Bob Andreano .....	14
Dennis Rosa .....	24
Bill Cheraso .....	28

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 had advised us that

- Bob Studniarz's Father-in-Law passed away at the age of 98.
- In addition, one of our past members, Donnie Rapposelli, had a heart attack

while flying to Florida for vacation. He's recovering now and his family are bringing him back home.

Please keep Bob and his family as well as Donnie and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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](mailto:richardokeefe65@gmail.com) or 440-537-8505.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is still misunderstood. On Dec. 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the dogmatic bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. In it he stated, "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, savior of the human race, preserved from all stain of original sin." Since then, Catholics have celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception each year on the anniversary.

Many people still misunderstand the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In the encyclopedia *World Book Millennium 2000* we read in the entry for Immaculate Conception, "The term is often confused among non-Catholics with the Virgin birth."

One example of such confusion is the statement by Gordon Sinclair, a broadcaster for CFRB, on Dec. 8, 1939. He said, "Today, the Catholics are trotting off to church to celebrate the Virgin birth." He was clearly wrong.

Sixty-one years later, in an article in *The Globe and Mail* entitled "A masterful performance" (about the visit of Pope John Paul II to Israel), Michael Valpy wrote, "...at Nazareth, where Jesus' immaculate conception was announced." He confused the conception of Mary with her conception of Jesus. He implied that immaculate conception means conception without a human father.

About one year later in a lengthy article in *The Globe and Mail*, entitled "There's something about Mary," Valpy wrote, "She herself was proclaimed by the Catholic Church in 1854 to have been immaculately conceived, meaning

without sex." Despite reading 75 books about Mary, he did not understand the Immaculate Conception. In fact, Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother Anne, following intercourse with her husband Joachim. This likely happened about 15 years before Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the plays, *Sister Act I and II*, which toured Ontario a few years ago, one of the jokes told was about the Immaculate Conception. But it was based on the misunderstanding cited above. When I pointed this out to the elderly Catholic woman who related the joke to me, she replied, "But we say in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 'Queen conceived without original sin, pray for us.'" In the hundreds of times that she had prayed that litany, she always thought that the word "conceived" referred to Mary's conception of Jesus, rather than Mary's conception in the womb of her mother Anne. This shows that even some Catholics misunderstand the Immaculate Conception. Such Catholics should reflect on Mary's words spoken to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes in 1858, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

In English, we have a saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words." With a picture, perhaps people who do not understand the concept would grasp the reality of Mary's sinlessness. Such a picture was painted by the Flemish painter Jean Bellegambe (1470-1535). It is titled *St. Anne conceiving the Virgin Mary*. It shows St. Anne at prayer and Mary as a fetus, glowing like a neon light in her womb, because she is sinless and does not suffer from the darkening effects of original sin.

Mary's sinlessness from the moment of her conception was to prepare her for her vocation to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah. It should have been unthinkable for Jesus to spend nine months in a womb that was ever under the influence of the devil.

As Catholics celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, they should make sure that they understand the true meaning of the honor given to Mary. They owe this to God, who brought about the Immaculate Conception. They owe it to Mary who is the Immaculate Conception. And they owe it to themselves and to those to whom they will explain it.

*By Fr. Francis X. Johnson, S.J., Catholic Register Special, 30 November 2006*

### BOXING DAY

We've all seen "Boxing Day" on our calendars and perhaps wondered what it was. Boxing Day occurs annually on December 26, the day after Christmas. It is a public holiday celebrated in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other Commonwealth Countries. Most offices are closed on this day if it is a weekday.

Boxing Day is a centuries-old, gift-giving day that originated in Britain. It was a custom on that day for tradesmen to collect their "Christmas Boxes," gifts of money or goods in return for reliable service all year.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the custom arose because servants, who would have to wait on their masters on Christmas Day, were allowed to visit their families the next day and employers would give them boxes to take home containing gifts, bonuses and, sometimes, leftover food.

One of the earliest records of these box gifts dates from 1663. In an entry in his diary, English Parliamentarian Samuel Pepys writes that he sent a coach and messenger to his shoemaker to deliver "something to the boys' box against Christmas" in addition to funds to cover his bill.

Later, during the Victorian era (1837-1901), Boxing Day evolved. It became an occasion for church parishioners to deposit donations into a box that was put out for the purpose by the clergyman. The money in the boxes was given to the poor.



Boxing Day in Ireland is also known as St. Stephen's Day. He's also named in the

Christmas song *Good King Wenceslas*. Its first line describes the king's activities on St. Stephen's Day: "Good King Wenceslas looked out/on the feast of Stephen." Written by John Mason Neale and first published in 1853, the lyrics celebrate the spirit of Boxing Day—generosity—as it describes King Wenceslas watching a poor man "gath'ring winter fuel." The king then brings the peasant food and logs for his fire.

Boxing Day is spent with family and friends with lots of food and fun. Because it is the cook's day off (traditionally speaking), mostly leftovers are on the menu. Food on Boxing Day usually includes leftover turkey or ham from the day before. This was eaten in sandwiches or as a meal with vegetables, roast potatoes and all the trimmings.

Sporting events have taken place on Boxing Day for centuries. However, pugilism—fighting with gloved fists (boxing)—is not normally one of them. Foxhunting was once a tradition among wealthy British on Boxing Day. In 2004, however, laws prohibited hunting with foxes and allowed hunts only in modified form.

Today's more popular Boxing Day sporting activities include watching horse races and football matches against local rivals.

*The above information was taken from [almanac.com/boxing-day](http://almanac.com/boxing-day)*

### FUN HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER

Here are just a few of the Fun Holidays in December for your observance.

- 01 Dec: Eat a Red Apple Day
- 09 Dec: Christmas Card Day
- 12 Dec: Gingerbread House Day
- 16 Dec: Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- 16 Dec: Ugly Sweater Day
- 23 Dec: Festivus Day
- 24 Dec: Eggnog Day
- 26 Dec: Thank You Note Day

*The above information was obtained from [timeanddate.com/holidays/fun](http://timeanddate.com/holidays/fun)*

### DECEMBER IN ITALY

December is a popular month to travel in Italy for both Italians and foreign tourists, thanks to Christmas festivities and markets. Rome is especially busy at this time, as pilgrims flock to

# Americans of Italian Heritage

**NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER dicembre 2022**

the city to attend special masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve.

## Weather in Italy in December

December is decidedly cold throughout Italy, with days getting even colder as January approaches. The month also sees a high chance of precipitation—mostly rain, but snow in the north around the foothills and peaks of the Alps, Dolomites, and the Apennines.

Despite the chill, December can be very nice and cozy, thanks to the (psychologically) warming glow of Christmas lights. Italians typically start decorating for the Christmas season around December 8, the holiday known as the Immaculate Conception.

Average high temperatures in northern Italy in December are in the low 40s °F, with lows around freezing. Venice often sees high tides (*acqua alta*) in early December. Low, dense fog is also common in the Po Delta area in December.

Central Italy is likewise cold in December, with highs in the upper 40s to low 50s °F and lows in the upper 30s to low 40s °F. The risk of rainfall in Florence and Rome during December is slightly lower than it is in November (one of the wettest months). But sunny days are usually crisp and blue.

Southern Italy, including Naples, Cagliari, and Palermo, is also cold and wet in December, with highs in the upper 50s °F and lows in the low 40s °F, though on good days, the temperatures can reach the low 60s. The region averages about 7-10 days of rain during December.

## December in Italy: Holidays, Festivals, and Other Events

### December 7 – Festa di Sant'Ambrogio and Oh Bej! Oh Bej! Christmas Market, Milan

Milan's patron saint is celebrated on December 7 with a mass at the basilica of Sant'Ambrogio. It is also a local holiday in Milan, so all businesses and schools are closed.

Milan's annual contribution to the Christmas landscape, the "Oh Bej! Oh Bej" Festival, coincides with Saint Ambrose Day and lasts several days. Essentially, Oh Bej!, which means "Oh nice!" in Milanese, is a traditional Christmas market selling artisanal crafts and local fare that the whole city comes out for. It is held annually at the Castello Sforzesco.

### December 7 – Lighting of the World's Biggest Christmas Tree in Gubbio, Umbria

The Umbrian city of Gubbio takes the spotlight each year on December 7 as it lights the World's Biggest Christmas Tree. The tree, an arrangement of lights on Mount Ingino, is viewable for miles around from December 7 until approximately January 10.

### December 8 – Day of the Immaculate Conception

This holiday kicks off the Christmas season in Italy. Traditionally, this is the day when many families and businesses put up their Christmas trees and/or decorations. It is also when most churches put their *presepi*, or nativity scenes, on display.

The day is an important day on the Catholic calendar, especially in Rome. Immaculate Conception marks the day when the Virgin Mary was born and it is celebrated in Rome with a visit by the Pope to the church of Trinità dei Monti, aka the church at the top of the Spanish Steps.

### December 24 – Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is the most important day of the Christmas season in Italy. Most neighborhood churches will have Midnight Mass services on Christmas Eve, with the largest mass taking place at, of course, St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The evening, also known as La Vigilia (the vigil), is celebrated in homes with the Feast of the Seven Fishes.

Note that while many stores and restaurants will be open during the day on Christmas Eve, most businesses will shutter by afternoon.

### December 25 – Christmas Day

Christmas Day sees another large mass at St. Peter's Basilica as well as at other churches throughout the country. Morning mass is typically followed by a big meal, the *cenone*.



Christmas Day is a public holiday in Italy, and

you can expect everything to be closed, even museums.

### December 26 – Santo Stefano (Saint Stephen's Day)

St. Stephen's Day, aka Boxing Day, is also a day off for most Italians, but stores, restaurants, and museums will be open. It is a good day for visiting friends and extended family, taking a stroll in the piazza, and resting after the big meals of the previous two days.

### December 31 – New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve is known by two names in Italy. Most commonly is Capodanno, "the end of the year." It is also known as San Silvestro after the saint that is venerated on this day.

Most cities—Rome, Florence, Milan, Naples, Turin, and Venice—have fireworks celebrations accompanied by live music and other entertainment on Capodanno. The fireworks display over the Castello Estense in Ferrara is particularly lovely on New Year's Eve.

### Throughout December – Christmas Markets

The largest and best Christmas markets tend to appear in northern Italy, in cities like Trento and Bolzano. Florence and Milan also hold lovely Christmas markets, where you can purchase artisan crafts, including ornaments, gourmet foodstuffs, and vin brulé.

*The above information was taken from [italofile.com/December-Italy](http://italofile.com/December-Italy)*

## DINNER IDEAS FOR THE FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES

If you're planning your own Feast of the Seven Fishes this year, here are some of the best-loved traditional dishes that you might want to try.

### Baked clams



Begin your feast with some bite-sized appetizers - you've got seven courses to get through after all.

# Americans of Italian Heritage

**NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER dicembre 2022**

Your first course should be small, but full of flavor, to whet the appetite without being too filling. Baked to perfection and topped with crispy breadcrumbs, bacon and thyme, these tender, briny morsels will have everyone diving in for more, but no-one will ruin their appetite.

**Fried smelts**

Fried smelts are a real Feast of the Seven Fishes favorite, and many Italian Americans have fond memories of devouring these deep-fried beauties on Christmas Eves past. Smelts are small whitebait-type fish with a delicate flesh and a mild, slightly salty flavor. They are usually coated in a light batter and fried until crispy.

Smelts are so tiny that they can usually be eaten whole, bones and all. If you have any over 6 inches long, you should probably remove the heads and guts, but this can easily be achieved using kitchen shears and an old toothbrush. Fried smelts are the perfect size for your second course, and they taste great served with aioli or tartar sauce.

**Grilled shrimp scampi**

Shrimp scampi is a uniquely Italian-American dish, thought to be an adaptation of an old Italian dish using ingredients that were more readily available in the USA. When Italian settlers found that scampi were scarcer in America, they made their favorite scampi dishes using shrimp instead, hence the dish was referred to as 'shrimp scampi', meaning shrimp prepared in the style of scampi. The result is plump, tender shrimp, cooked in garlic and butter or olive oil, often with a squeeze of lemon and some herbs.

**Spaghetti with clams**

Traditional Italian meals serve pasta before the main event, and it doesn't get much more traditionally Italian than spaghetti with clams. This dish calls for the freshest of clams, cooked with white wine, a little chili and plenty of garlic and makes the perfect fourth course for your Feast of the Seven Fishes.

**Baccalá**



Baccalá is perhaps the dish that is most strongly associated with the Feast of the Seven Fishes. It is a dried, salted fish, usually cod, and is traditionally left to soak in the sink in the nights leading up to Christmas Eve to rehydrate and draw out the excess salt. Once prepared, it can be cooked in various ways, which, again, tend to depend on family traditions. It can be cooked in a tomato sauce with capers and black olives, or simply fried in a little oil with some parsley and a squeeze of lemon

**Calamari**



Calamari, or 'galamad' as it's known in some families, is another Italian seafood favorite, made from deep-fried rings of squid meat. If you've never tried the real deal, don't be put off by the slightly rubbery versions you get in some restaurants. Cooked properly, calamari are crispy, tender and light.

**Lobster**

No seafood feast would be complete without a luxurious lobster dish, and this baked stuffed lobster makes the perfect centerpiece for your Feast of the Seven Fishes table.



**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 .....	William Petrello
Trustee (e) .....	Rio DeGennaro Jr.
Trustee (e) .....	James Federico Sr.
Trustee (e) .....	John Perrotti
Trustee (e) .....	Anthony 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](mailto:GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com)

All of us in the Executive Committee wish all our members and their families a:

**Buon Natale  
e  
Felice Anno  
Nuovo**

**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year**