



DECEMBER AIH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Per our Bylaws, there was no Executive Committee or Membership Meeting in December. We did, however, have our AIH Family Christmas Party. The room was full of families, kids, and pizza, then later Santa arrived and passed our presents to the kids. All in all, it was a very pleasant event for the holiday season.



Grazie mille to Gus Paolucci, John Perrotti, Jim Federico Sr., Mario Bertone, and anyone else who contributed to this fun event.

NEW WEB MASTER

If you recall, last month we mentioned that our Web Master was stepping down and that we needed a volunteer to step forward to fill that billet. One of our newest members, Vincent Nasca, answered the call and said he would be happy to get involved. On Tuesday, 27 December, President Paolucci and Secretary Pizzuti met with our new Web Master, Vincent Nasca and our retiring Web Master, Tina Ingraham (shown below) to affect the transfer our Web Site.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

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.
- 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: 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

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



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- 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**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di gennaio

Paul Fortunato.....	6
Gabe Cicconetti.....	15
Sal Carriere.....	29

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.

Let's take a moment to remember our health and welfare issues from 2022.

- Vice President Wassum was in the hospital for surgery, from which he is recovering well.
- Secretary Pizzuti was in the hospital for surgery, from which he is recovering well.
- Judge Cicconetti was in the hospital for surgery, from which he is recovering well.
- Marty Norsic had a stroke, from which he is recovering well.
- Bob Studniarz's Father-in-Law passed away at the age of 98.
- Donnie Rapposelli had a heart attack, from which he is recovering 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.

FUN HOLIDAYS IN JANUARY

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

01 Jan: Polar Bear Plunge Day

02 Jan: Run it up the Flagpole and See If Anyone Salutes Day

03 Jan: Fruitcake Toss Day

04 Jan: Trivia Day

06 Jan: The Epiphany

09 Jan: Static Electricity Day

15 Jan: Bagel and Lox Day

17 Jan: Ditch Your New Year's Resolution Day

19 Jan: Popcorn Day

21 Jan: Squirrel Appreciation Day

27 Jan: Chocolate Cake Day

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

JANUARY IN ITALY

Italians celebrate the Christmas season through January 6, the Epiphany. So, January begins with much fanfare, including New Year's Day and Epiphany events as well as the start of the winter sales season.

Weather in Italy in January

On average, January is the coldest month in Italy. It's also the snowiest month in the mountains, with an average of 11 inches of snowfall in cities and villages in the Dolomites to the Alps to the Apennines.

Northern Italy is frigid in January. While cities like Milan, Turin, Venice, and Bologna enjoy highs in the low 40s °F and lows around freezing, upper elevations in the mountains can see average highs and lows well below freezing.

January in Central Italy is also very cold. While it can be mild in the region during January, with highs averaging in the low 50s °F, it can also be bone-chilling. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Tuscany was in Firenze (near Florence) in January 1985, when temperatures plunged to -15°F. Florence and Rome average 8-10 days of precipitation during January, but it is usually rain or freezing rain rather than snow.

Southern Italy is cold but relatively mild compared to the rest of the peninsula during January. Highs in Naples, Palermo, and Cagliari average in the mid- to upper-50s °F, with lows in the high 30s to upper 40s °F. The

region averages 8-9 days of rain in January and rarely sees snow.

January in Italy: Holidays, Festivals, and Other Events

January 1 – New Year's Day

New Year's Day is a national holiday in Italy. Most shops, museums, restaurants, and other services will be closed so that everyone can recover from New Year's Eve Festivities. In Rome, for example, it's typical to spend New Year's Day taking a relaxing stroll with the family in the Villa Borghese.

While most take the cue to relax on January 1, there are exceptions. In Venice, some bathers take a morning dip in the chilly waters of the Lido. Meanwhile, a few daredevil Romans take a New Year's Day dive off the Ponte Cavour into the frigid and murky water of the Tiber River.

January 6 – Epiphany and Befana

A national holiday, Epiphany is officially the 12th day of Christmas and one on which Italian children celebrate the arrival of La Befana, a good witch. Venetians celebrate the day with a costumed regatta of Befana on the lagoon.

While secular activities abound on this day, including the beginning of the winter sales, there are indeed religious events to mark the arrival of the Three Kings. Many churches and communities throughout Italy perform living nativities for Epiphany, and *presepi*, those diorama-style nativity scenes common in every church, are still on display on January 6.

In Vatican City, prior to a special Epiphany mass by the Pope in Saint Peter's, a procession of hundreds of people dressed in medieval costumes walk along the Via delle Consolazioni, the wide avenue leading up to the Vatican, carrying symbolic gifts for the pontiff.

Florence also holds a costumed parade, which goes from Palazzo Pitti to Piazza della Signoria and then finishes at the Duomo.

January 17 – Saint Anthony's Day (Festa di San Antonio Abate)

The Feast Day of Saint Anthony Abbott celebrates the patron saint of butchers, domestic animals, basket makers, and gravediggers. In Rome, for example, this feast day is celebrated at the church of Sant'Antonio

Abate on the Esquiline Hill and the traditional "Blessing of the Beasts" that accompanies this day takes place in the nearby Piazza Sant'Eusebio.

In the Assisi hamlet of Santa Maria degli Angeli, the Feast Day of Sant'Antonio Abate is known as the Piatto di Sant'Antonio and includes a large procession of locals in 19th century period costumes and a parade of horses and other domesticated animals.

Elsewhere in Italy, particularly in the south, Sant'Antonio Abate is celebrated with bonfires, owing to the saint's association with the *Fuoco di Sant'Antonio*, Saint Anthony's fire, another name for the disease of Shingles.

Saldi – Winter Sales

If you love to shop, January is a great time to be in Italy. The much-anticipated winter sales (*saldi*) usually begin around the time of the Epiphany/Befana and last until the end of February, or until shoppers and shop owners have cleared out last season's goods.

During the first week of sales, items will be immediately discounted from between 30 to 50 percent off the original price, with discounts getting deeper with each passing week so as to move the old merchandise and get ready for the new. Just about every place with something to sell, from small boutiques to designer outlets, gets in on the *saldi* bandwagon in order to capture shoppers' attention.

The above information was taken from [italofile/January-Italy](#)

THE EPIPHANY

6 January 2023

Epiphany, also known as Theophany in Eastern Christian traditions, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.

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 is 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 many Western Churches, the eve of the feast is celebrated as Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve). The Monday after Epiphany is known as Plough Monday.

Popular Epiphany customs include Epiphany singing, chalking the door, having one's house blessed, consuming Three Kings Cake, winter swimming, as well as attending church services. It is customary for Christians in many localities to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve (Twelfth Night), although those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas, the conclusion of Epiphanytide. According to the first tradition, those who fail to remember to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve must leave them untouched until Candlemas, the

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second opportunity to remove them; failure to observe this custom is considered inauspicious. *The above information was taken from Wikipedia.org/wiki/Epiphany*

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY DONKEY

15 January 1870

On January 15, 1870, the first recorded use of a donkey to represent the Democratic Party appears in *Harper's Weekly*. Drawn by political illustrator Thomas Nast, the cartoon is entitled "A Live Jackass Kicking a Dead Lion." The jackass (donkey) is tagged "Copperhead Papers," referring to the Democrat-dominated newspapers of the South, and the dead lion represents the late Edwin McMasters Stanton, President Abraham Lincoln's secretary of war during the final three years of the Civil War. In the background is an eagle perched on a rock, representing the postwar federal domination in the South, and in the far background is the U.S. Capitol.



Four years later, Nast originated the use of an elephant to symbolize the Republican Party in a *Harper's Weekly* cartoon entitled "The Third-Term Panic." The cartoon referred to the disparaging response by *The New York Herald* to the possibility that Republican President Ulysses S. Grant might seek a third term. *The New York Herald* is depicted as a donkey wearing lion's skin labeled "Caesarism." This bogus lion is frightening several timid animals identified with the names of opposing newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The New York Tribune*, while a berserk elephant, labeled "Republican vote," is tottering above a chasm labeled "Chaos" as it tosses to the right and the left the few remaining platform

planks holding its weight. The caption of the cartoon reads: "An Ass having put on the Lion's skin, roamed about the Forest, and amused himself by frightening all the foolish Animals he met with in his wanderings."

The above information was taken from history.com/this-day-in-history/first-appearance-of-the-democratic-donkey

FIRST AIRPLANE TO LAND ON A SHIP

18 January 1911

On January 18, 1911, Eugene Ely, a pilot who worked for Glenn Curtiss, a pioneer in the U.S. aviation industry, became the first person to successfully land an airplane on the deck of a ship. He did so when he landed a Curtiss "pusher," a biplane with a rear-facing engine and propeller, on a specially constructed platform over the deck of the armored cruiser USS *Pennsylvania*.

Eugene Ely trained himself to fly airplanes with no instruction after he had crashed a plane on his first attempt at flight. He bought the plane, repaired it, and taught himself to fly before going to work for Glenn Curtiss.

On November 14, 1910, two months before he had successfully landed on the USS *Pennsylvania*, he had successfully taken off from the USS *Birmingham*. However, shortly after these two firsts, on October 19, 1911, while flying at an exhibition, his plane crashed. Ely got himself out of the wreck but died of a broken neck a few minutes later.

The above information was taken from historyandheadlines.com/first-airplane-landing-on-a-ship

A LITTLE TRIVIA

When did men start shaving every morning?

In many cultures shaving is forbidden. The reason we in the West lather up every morning can be traced directly back to Alexander the Great. Before he seized power, all European men grew beards. But because young Alexander wasn't able to muster much facial hair, he scraped off his peach fuzz every day with a dagger. Not wanting to offend the great warrior, those close to him did likewise, and soon, shaving became the custom.

Why do men wear neckties?

Roman soldiers wore a strip of cloth around their necks to keep them warm in the winter and to absorb sweat in the summer. Other armies followed suit. During the French Revolution, the Royalists and the Rebels used ties to display the colors of their allegiance. They borrowed the design, and the name *cravat*, from the Croatian Army. Later, ties became a French fashion statement, offering a splash of color to an otherwise drab wardrobe.

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

PHRASE OF THE MONTH

Andiamo!

Let's go!

Taken from "Living Language 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 Bill Petrello
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 Federico
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