



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER dicembre 2023

### OSU v MICHIGAN FOOTBALL GAME POOL

The kick-off was at noon in Ann Arbor. Unfortunately, Michigan made it three wins in a row beating OSU 30 to 24.

Our pool had twenty individual winners and paid out all \$4,000.00.

A special thanks goes out to the Chair and primary Point of Contact for this event, John Perrotti. We figured it would be good training for the Super Bowl Pool in February.

### NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our speaker was Mike Fratello. Mike is currently an analyst for Fox Sports Ohio for the Cavaliers and a part-time color commentator for Fox Sports West for the Clippers when they play on the road. He previously coached the Atlanta Hawks, Cleveland Cavaliers, and Memphis Grizzlies of the National Basketball Association (NBA), served as NBC's lead analyst, served as YES Network's color commentator/studio analyst for the Brooklyn Nets, a commentator/studio analyst for NBA TV and for nationally televised games on TNT and was also the head coach of the Ukraine national basketball team.



Mike thoroughly entertained us with stories of him growing up in Hackensack, New Jersey through his current work as a TV Sports Analyst.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

prossimi eventi

#### DECEMBER dicembre

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

#### 9 December 2023, Saturday, AIH Club Christmas Party

- Chair and primary Point of Contact:
  - Gus Paolucci
- Committee
  - John Perrotti
  - Jim Federico Sr.
  - Mario Bertone
- Venue: Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 2:00p – 4:00p
- Volunteers arrive at 12:00p for set up.
- Cost: Free
- There will be a Balloon Artist for the children.
- Santa and Presents: Santa will pass out presents to children. All presents are to be purchased, wrapped, identified, and delivered to the venue no later than 12:00 noon, the day of the event.
- Registration is required. There is a limited capacity of 80, so it will be first come, first served.

*Attendance is free, but the deadline for reservations was yesterday, so the flyer is no longer attached.*

#### JANUARY gennaio

##### 24 January 2024, Wednesday, Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 5:30p

##### 31 January 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: [TBD](#)

#### FEBRUARY febbraio

##### 11 February 2024, Sunday, Super Bowl LVIII, 100 Square Board

- 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: [TBD](#)

##### 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: [TBD](#)

#### MARCH marzo

##### 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: [TBD](#)

#### APRIL aprile

##### 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.
- Time 5:30p

##### 24 April 2024, Wednesday, Membership Meeting

- Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club
- Time: 6:00p
- Speaker: [TBD](#)

#### MAY maggio

##### 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
- Nomination of Officers and Trustees for FY25 and FY26.
- Speaker: [TBD](#)

#### JUNE giugno

##### 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: **TBD**

**AUGUST agosto**

**3 August 2024, Saturday, AIH GOLF OUTING**

- Chair and primary Point of Contact:
  - **TBD**
- Committee:
  - **TBD – Volunteers needed.**
- Venue: Black Brook Golf Club, Mentor, Ohio
- 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.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

*Compleanni di Dicembre*

Bob Andreano .....	14
Dennis Rosa .....	24
Bill Cheraso .....	28
Greg Canteri .....	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 that they had not heard of any issues.

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.

**SPECIAL DAYS IN DECEMBER**

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

- 01 Dec: Eat a Red Apple Day
- 07 Dec: Pearl Harbor Day
- 09 Dec: Christmas Card Day
- 12 Dec: Gingerbread House Day
- 15 Dec: Ugly Sweater Day
- 23 Dec: Festivus Day
- 24 Dec: Eggnog Day
- 25 Dec: Christmas Day
- 26 Dec: Thank You Note Day

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

**PEARL HARBOR**

**7 December 1941**

I know it's the holiday season, but we should never forget what happened to this country in 1941.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service upon the United States (a neutral country at the time) against the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, just before 8:00 a.m., on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941. The attack led to the United States' formal entry into World War II the next day. The Japanese military leadership referred to the attack as the Hawaii Operation and Operation AI, and as Operation Z during its planning. Japan intended the attack as a preventive action to keep the United States Pacific Fleet from interfering with its planned military actions in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the United States. Over the course of seven hours there were coordinated Japanese attacks on the U.S.-held Philippines, Guam, and Wake Island and on the British Empire in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

The attack commenced at 7:48 a.m. Hawaiian Time. The base was attacked by Imperial Japanese aircraft (including fighters, level and dive bombers, and torpedo bombers) in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers. Of the eight U.S. Navy battleships present, all were damaged, with four sunk. All but USS Arizona were later raised, and six were returned to service and went on to fight in the war. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, and one minelayer. A total of 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed; 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded. Important base installations such as the power station, dry dock, shipyard, maintenance, and fuel and torpedo storage facilities, as well as the submarine piers and headquarters building (also home of the intelligence section) were not attacked. Japanese losses were light: 29 aircraft and five midget submarines lost, and 64 servicemen killed. Kazuo Sakamaki, the commanding officer of one of the submarines, was captured.



Japan announced a declaration of war on the United States later that day (December 8 in Tokyo), but the declaration was not delivered until the following day. The following day, December 8, Congress declared war on Japan. On December 11, Germany and Italy each declared war on the U.S., which responded with a declaration of war against Germany and Italy. There were numerous historical precedents for the unannounced military action by Japan, but the lack of any formal warning, particularly while peace negotiations were still apparently ongoing, led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to proclaim December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy". Because the attack happened without a declaration of war and without explicit warning, the attack on Pearl Harbor was later judged in the Tokyo Trials to be a war crime.

*The above information was taken from the 2023 Wikipedia.*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**8 December**

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.

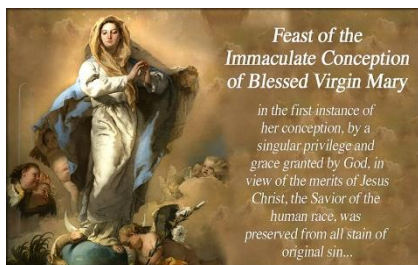
Sixty-one years later, in an article in *The Globe and Mail* entitled "A masterful performance" (about the visit of Pope John Paul II to Israel), Michael Valpy wrote, "...at Nazareth, where Jesus' immaculate conception was announced." He confused the conception of Mary with her conception of Jesus. He 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*

## RATIFICATION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

15 December 1791

Our U.S. Constitution was written in 1787, ratified in 1788. The Twelve articles of amendment were approved by Congress and officially submitted to state legislatures for consideration on September 28th, 1789, but only 10 made it into the Bill of Rights. In accordance with the Constitution, a 2/3 majority (9 of the 13 states) had to approve the ten Amendments. That 2/3 majority was met when 9 states approved the document on 15 December 1791, and the Bill of Rights was officially ratified. Although they were bound by the Amendment, Massachusetts, Georgia, and Connecticut did not actually approve it until 1939.

*The above information was taken from 2023 Wikipedia.*

## DECEMBER FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN ITALY

December celebrations and events in Italy naturally revolve around the Christmas season. The winter Italian holidays include the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, Christmas Eve on December 24, Christmas Day on December 25, and Saint Stephen's Day on December 26.

Although Christmas is a major cause of celebration across the country in December, Italians also have several festivals honoring saints and olive oil (which is traditionally pressed in December) during the month, meaning there's no shortage of events and activities to discover.

Here are some Italian holidays and celebrations that fall at the end of the year.

### Florence Noel

Montecatini Terme, located just northeast of Florence in the Tuscany region of Italy, now plays host to the annual Florentine tradition of Florence Noel, a family event with lots of children's activities including the house of *Babbo Natale*, Father Christmas. Festivities start at the end of November, run through early January, and include a nativity village, food and chocolate sampling, and a variety of live and recorded music.

### Wild Boar Festival

The wild boar festival (Suvereto Sagra del Cinghiale) in the medieval Tuscan town of Suvereto, in the Livorno province, is a two-week festival starting at the end of November

and lasting through December 8, when there's a big feast. Besides wild boar, you'll find other products from the area, including wine, olive oil, and honey, and the festival includes people in medieval costume and medieval competitions, so it's still a great event even if you don't care for boar.

### Perugia Christmas Festival

Located in *La Rocca Paolina*, the city's historic 16th-century fortress, this huge market features a wide variety of food and crafts, as well as workshops for adults and children. It runs from early December through early January in Perugia, the capital of Umbria.

### Saint Barbara Day

The highlight of the week-long celebration in honor of Saint Barbara is December 4 in the Sicilian town of Paterno on the slopes of Mount Etna volcano, and afterward, there is a parade where the nativity scene is erected.

Saint Barbara is the town's patron saint and the protectress of firefighters and firework maker; she has been called upon many times as a protection against Mount Etna's eruptions.

### Saint Nicolas Feast Day

This Christian festival is celebrated December 6 in many places in the Abruzzo region with traditional loaves of bread and *taralli* (hard, round biscuits) often enjoyed with wine. Saint Nicholas is known as the bringer of gifts, and grandfathers dress up as the Saint to give gifts (or "coal") to children.

There are special events all around Italy to commemorate the Saint Nicolas Feast Day, but girls from around the country come to the Basilica di San Nicola in Bari to pay respect to the patron saint of young women wanting to get married.

### Festa di San Nicolò

Located on Murano Island in Venice is a week-long celebration for San Nicolò, the patron saint of glass blowers, complete with a procession on the water December 6.

Elsewhere, in the village of Val di Fassa on December 5 and 6, San Nicolò, the protector of children, along with two angels and Krampus, will hand out gifts after making sure each child has been nice the previous year.

### Saint Ambrogio Day

Celebrated December 7 in the *Sant'Ambrogio* area of Milan, Saint Ambrogio Day honors the patron saint of Milan. The day begins with a special church service at one of the city's oldest churches, Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio. Then, stalls are set up in the neighborhood—called the *Oh Bej! Oh Bej!* street market—selling a variety of local food and drinks as well as art and crafts.

### Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception

Falling on December 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception is a national holiday in Italy and is celebrated throughout the country, especially in churches, which hold special masses. Although government offices and banks are closed, many stores stay open for holiday shopping.

In any case, you'll find parades, feasts, and music in many places, and in the Abruzzo region, it's often celebrated with bonfires and traditional singing while Rome celebrates with floral wreaths and a ceremony at the Spanish Steps presided over by the Pope.

**Saint Lucia Day**

December 13 is celebrated in many Italian towns with Saint Lucia Day, a full-on celebration honoring the patron saint of blindness. One of the biggest celebrations takes place in Sicily where the city of Siracusa holds a huge parade carrying the saint on a golden coffin to the Church of Saint Lucia, and on December 20 there is another parade to return her to the crypt. There are celebrations all week. Thousands of pilgrims come to Siracusa, and the festivities end with a big fireworks display over the harbor.

**Saint Stephen's Day**

The day after Christmas is a national holiday in Italy called Saint Stephen's Day. Whereas Christmas Day is time spent at home with family, Saint Stephen's Day is a time to walk the streets and visit nativity scenes, offering donations to the local churches. Some locals visit hospitals while others hold processions dedicated to Saint Stephen.

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

**CAESAR SALAD**

A Caesar salad is a green salad of romaine lettuce and croutons, dressed with lemon juice (or lime juice), olive oil, egg, Worcestershire sauce, anchovies, garlic, Dijon mustard, Parmesan cheese, and black pepper. In its original form, this salad was prepared and served tableside.



The salad's creation is generally attributed to the restaurateur Caesar Cardini, an Italian immigrant who operated restaurants in Mexico and the United States. Cardini lived in San Diego but ran one of his restaurants in Tijuana

to attract American customers seeking to circumvent the restrictions of Prohibition. His daughter, Rosa, recounted that her father invented the salad at the Tijuana restaurant when a Fourth of July rush in 1924 depleted the kitchen's supplies. Cardini made do with what he had, adding the dramatic flair of table-side tossing by the chef. Some recounting of the history state that Alex Cardini, Caesar Cardini's brother, made the salad, and that the salad was previously named the "Aviator Salad" because it was made for aviators who traveled over during Prohibition. A number of Cardini's staff have also said that they invented the dish.

Julia Child said that she had eaten a Caesar salad at Cardini's restaurant in her youth during the 1920s. In 1946, the newspaper columnist Dorothy Kilgallen wrote of a Caesar containing anchovies, differing from Cardini's version.

The big food rage in Hollywood—the Caesar salad—will be introduced to New Yorkers by Gilmore's Steak House. It's an intricate concoction that takes ages to prepare and contains lots of garlic, raw or slightly coddled eggs, croutons, romaine, anchovies, Parmesan cheese, olive oil, vinegar, and plenty of black pepper.

In a 1952 interview, Cardini said the salad became well known in 1937, when Manny Wolf, story editor and Paramount Pictures writer's department head, provided the recipe to Hollywood restaurants.

In the 1970s, Cardini's daughter said that the original recipe included whole lettuce leaves, which were meant to be lifted by the stem and eaten with the fingers; coddled eggs; and garlic infused olive oil. The dressing is rarely uniformly made, and anchovy paste is sometimes added with Worcestershire sauce, dry mustard, and garlic to enhance the flavor of the olive oil. Several sources have testified that the original recipe used only Worcestershire sauce without any anchovies, which Cardini considered too bold in flavor.

Although the original recipe does not contain anchovies, modern recipes typically include anchovies as a key ingredient, which frequently is emulsified in bottled versions. Bottled Caesar dressings are now produced and marketed by many companies.

*The above information was taken from the 2023 Wikipedia.*

**MEALTIME SUPERSTITIONS**

It's no wonder that numerous Italian superstitions revolve around food and dining. Spilling salt and olive oil is considered very bad luck (perhaps because salt and olive oil were so expensive). You can pinch some spilled salt

and toss it over your left shoulder to counter the effect, but, sadly, there is no counter for spilled olive oil.

Should you spill some wine during your meal, just dab a little bit of the spilled wine behind everyone's ear.

Toasting is another potential minefield. Be careful not to cross arms, be sure to look the other person in the eye, and never put your glass down before actually taking a sip.

To bring good luck and prosperity, eat three white grapes before the clock rings midnight on New Year's Eve, and enjoy a hearty plate of lentils just after. Some say that the more lentils you eat, the wealthier you will be.

*The above information was taken from the Living Language Italian 2023 Calendar.*

**PHRASE OF THE MONTH**  
**Felice anno nuova! – Happy New Year!**

*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](mailto:GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com)