



AIH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY febbraio 2025

JANUARY MEETING

January was our first meeting back at our old meeting site, Pine Ridge Country Club. The membership seemed to enjoy the change of venue.

Our speaker was Detective Steven Ross, a nine-year veteran of the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

During those nine years Detective Ross spent one year with Court Services, five years with the Road Patrol Division, and three years with the Detective Bureau. He has served as

Detective Ross talked to the memberships about the many types of scams that the Sheriff's Office must deal with daily.

DO WE PASS TO THE LEFT OR RIGHT

It has been over 40 months since we had a sit-down family style meal at our Membership Meeting, and at our January meeting I overheard a lot of tables asking, "which way do we pass the food?" Not because I know anything about etiquette, but just as a public service, I went online and checked various table etiquette sites including, *Style for Success*, *Tasting Table*, *The Oklahoman*, *Polished Manners*, and *The Emily Post Institute*. They all concluded that, when dining family style, food should always be passed to the right, i.e. counterclockwise. Now we know.

FOOTBALL GAME POOL

A final reminder, the NFL Championship Football Game is on Sunday, 9 February. Check our web site for the complete list of squares so you can follow along and see when you win. Good luck.



UPCOMING EVENTS

prossimi eventi

9 February 2025, Sunday, AIH Charities NFL Championship Football Game LIX Pool

- Committee Chair: John Perrotti (Perrotti1946@gmail.com or 440-478-9913)
- Kick Off Time: 6:30p ET.
- Venue: Caesar's Superdome in New Orleans, LA
- Tickets cost \$100 per Square and are available from John Perrotti.
- The completed Pool Board will be posted on the club website prior to kick-off.
- The split will be 60% (\$6,000) paid out to winners and 40% (\$4,000 minus expense) retained by AIH.

19 February 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

26 February 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: Judge Gene Lucci of the 11th District Court of Appeals.

19 March 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

26 March 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: Becke Bradbury-Creed, President and Publisher of Gazette Newspapers Inc.

April 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room

- Times: 5:30p

23 April 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

26 April 2025, Saturday, AIH Italian Night

- The name has been changed from "Italian Night" to "Reverse Raffle" and now back to "Italian Night."
- Committee Chair: Bob Andreano
- Committee: John Perrotti. Jim Federico Sr., Gus Paolucci
- Venue: La Vera Party Center
- Time: 6:00p to 11:00p
- Cost: \$65.00 per person
- Dinner:
 - An Italian themed antipasto table.
 - Sit-down, family-style, Italian-themed dinner.
 - A full bar with bar tender.
 - An Italian themed dessert table.
- Capacity: 200
- Guests: Members, Spouses, and guests are encouraged but reservations are required.
- See Attachment No. 1 for more details.

30 April 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: TBD-8

21 May 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

28 May 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p

- Speaker: Following Dinner
- Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-7**

18 June 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

25 June 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-6**

TBD July 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

23 July 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

30 July 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-5**

20 August 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

27 August 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-4**

17 September 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room

- Times: 5:30p

24 September 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-3**

TBD October 2025, Wednesday, AIH Charities Board Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

22 October 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

29 October 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-2**

12 November 2025, Wednesday, AIH Executive Committee Meeting

- Venue: Federico's Tire Pro, Second Floor Conference Room
- Times: 5:30p

19 November 2025, Wednesday, AIH Membership Meeting

- Venue: Pine Ridge Country Club
- Cost: \$25.00 per attendee
- Times:
 - Cocktails and Fellowship: 6:00p – 7:00p
 - Dinner: 7:00p
 - Speaker: Following Dinner
 - Meeting: Following Speaker
- Speaker: **TBD-1**

December 2025

- In accordance with our Bylaws, there is no scheduled Executive Committee Meeting nor Membership Meeting in December.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di febbraio

Carmen Frederico	01
Michael Matriona	01
Lou Alberti	04
Jeff Studniarz	10

John Perrotti	15
Jim Federico Jr.	16
Carmen Cesa	24

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

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

- Trustee John Perrotti will be going in for some knee surgery this month.
- Member Richard O'Keefe's wife, Lynn, is home from the hospital and recovering.
- Former member Marty Norsic passed away on 21 January 2025 at the age of 79.

Please keep these members and their families 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 Gus Paolucci at Paolu88G@gmail.com or 440-477-5877

SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

Here are just a few of the not so well-known, special days this month for your observance.

- 01 Feb: Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- 02 Feb: Play your Ukulele Day
- 03 Feb: Carrot Cake Day
- 04 Feb: Stuffed Mushroom Day
- 09 Feb: Bagel and Lox Day
- 10 Feb: Umbrella Day
- 14 Feb: Ferris Wheel Day
- 15 Feb: Gumdrops Day
- 26 Feb: Pistachio Day
- 27 Feb: International Polar Bear Day

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

GROUNDHOG DAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025

Groundhog Day on February 2 is when we ask are we in for six more weeks of Winter? Only a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil knows for sure. Each year on Groundhog Day, people flock to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to await the forecast of the local rodent celebrity. Originating with German settlers, who came to Pennsylvania in the 1700s and brought their seasonal superstitions with them, legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow on February 2, the winter chill will continue. Oddly, if the weather is cloudy and he doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and early spring.

The Pennsylvania Dutch were German-speaking immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania. They developed their own take on the legend of Candlemas in the 18th and 19th centuries bringing with them the custom of

the native Groundhog as their annual weather announcer. Candlemas involved the clergy blessing and distributing candles needed for winter. The Pennsylvania Dutch transformed the idea by selecting an animal to predict their needs for winter.



The first-ever Groundhog Day was created by a local newspaper editor Clymer Freas around 1886, who convinced Groundhog hunter and local businessman, and all members of his Punxsutawney Groundhog club on the idea of Groundhog Day. Together, they all made their way to Gobbler's Knob where the Groundhog would make the final decision on the weather. Today, a group called the inner circle who wear top hats, conduct the official proceedings on February 2 in a Pennsylvania Dutch dialect, where tens of thousands of people attend the day's events every year.

Studies have proven that there is no strong correlation between a Groundhog spotting its own shadow and the arrival of spring subsequently. According to German lore, the badger known as Dachs is their forecasting animal. A separate version of traditions states that clear weather on the holy Christian day of Candlemas would often prohibit winter being prolonged.

Groundhog lore suggests much about Punxsutawney Phil. It is said that he drinks a magic "elixir of life" every summer, giving him seven more years to live. He has been predicting since around 1886, and a badger's life span is around six years roughly, so go figure. There is also supposedly only one Phil and any other groundhogs who attempt to do what he does, are imposters. He is said to speak to the club president on the day, in front of the crowds in Groundhogese which is understood and then translated.

The above information was taken from nationaltoday.com/groundhog-day

CALABRIA EARTHQUAKE 5 FEBRUARY 1783

On 5 February 1783, an estimated 7.5 to 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck southern Italy. It began at about 1:00 pm, local time, in the Calabria Province. Within a minute, more than one hundred villages were leveled throughout

the region. In several cases, communities were literally wiped away with no survivors or standing structures remaining. The quake also produced an uncommon number of cracks in the earth's surface. In one case, a mile-long ravine, nearly one hundred feet wide, was instantly created. According to one report, more than one hundred goats fell into another crack in the earth. A witness claimed that "two mountains on the opposite sides of a valley, walked from their original position until they met in the middle of the valley, and there, joining together, they intercepted the course of a river." New lakes also appeared across the region. Including aftershocks and the indirect effects of the earthquake, more than fifty thousand people died across the region.

The above information was taken from This Day in History, 2025 Page-A-Day Calendar.

BEATLES ARRIVE IN U.S.A.

7 FEBRUARY 1964

On 7 February 1964, the Beatles landed at JFK International Airport in New York for their first visit to America, just six days after scoring their first U.S. Number 1 hit with "I Want to Hold Your Hand." The Fab Four, dressed in mod suits and sporting their trademark pudding bowl haircuts, were greeted by three thousand screaming fans who caused a near riot when they stepped off the plane. Two days later, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr made their live television debut on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, drawing an estimated 73 million U.S. viewers. Sullivan immediately booked the Beatles for two more appearances that month. On 12 February, they gave back-to-back performances at New York's Carnegie Hall, and fan hysteria forced the police to close the streets. The Beatles returned to England on 22 February, having left a major imprint in the nation's cultural memory.

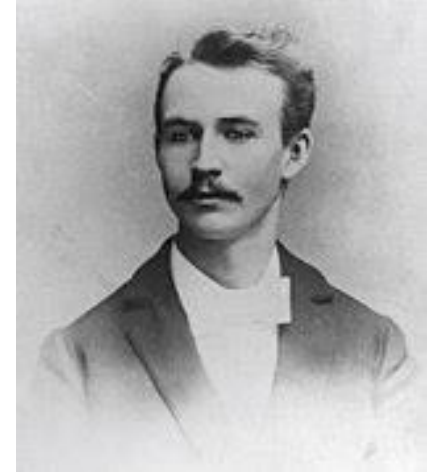
The above information was taken from This Day in History, 2025 Page-A-Day Calendar.

JELL-O 9 FEBRUARY 1897

Jell-O (stylized in all caps) is an American brand offering a variety of powdered gelatin dessert (fruit-flavored gels/jellies), pudding, and no-bake cream pie mixes. The original gelatin dessert (genericized as jello) is the signature of the brand. "Jell-O" is a registered trademark of Kraft Heinz, and is based in Chicago, Illinois.

The dessert was especially popular in the first half of the 20th century. The original gelatin dessert began in Le Roy, New York, in 1897, when Pearle Bixby Wait trademarked the name *Jell-O*. He and his wife May had made the product by adding strawberry, raspberry,

orange, and lemon flavoring to sugar and granulated gelatin (which had been patented in 1845). The powder is mixed with boiling water and then cooled to produce a gel.



Pearle Bixby Wait, creator of the "Jell-O" brand

Gelatin, a protein produced from collagen extracted from boiled bones, connective tissues, and other animal products, has been a component of food, particularly desserts, since the 15th century.

Gelatin was popularized in New York in the Victorian era with spectacular and complex jelly molds. Gelatin was sold in sheets and had to be purified, which was time-consuming. Gelatin desserts were the province of royalty and the relatively well-to-do. In 1845, a patent for powdered gelatin was obtained by industrialist Peter Cooper. This powdered gelatin was easy to manufacture and easier to use in cooking.

In 1897, in LeRoy, New York, carpenter and cough syrup manufacturer Pearle Bixby Wait trademarked a gelatin dessert called "Jell-O". Wait and his wife, May, added strawberry, raspberry, orange, and lemon flavoring to granulated gelatin and sugar. In 1899, Wait sold Jell-O to "Orator Francis Woodward".



1904 advertisement

Various elements were key to Jell-O becoming a mainstream product: new technologies, such as refrigeration, powdered gelatin and machine packaging, home economics classes, and the company's marketing.

Initially, Woodward struggled to sell the powdered product. Beginning in 1902, to raise awareness, Woodward's Genesee Pure Food Company placed advertisements in the *Ladies' Home Journal* proclaiming Jell-O to be "America's Most Famous Dessert."

Celebrity testimonials and recipes appeared in advertisements featuring actress Ethel Barrymore and opera singer Ernestine Schumann-Heink.

In 1934, sponsorship from Jell-O made comedian Jack Benny the dessert's spokesperson. At this time Post introduced a jingle ("featured" by the agency Young & Rubicam) that was familiar over several decades, in which the spelling "J-E-L-L-O" was (or could be) sung over a rising five-note musical theme.

The jingle was written by Don Bestor, who, at the time, was the bandleader on Jack Benny's radio show, "The Jell-O Program Starring Jack Benny."

The baby boom saw a significant increase in sales for Jell-O. Young mothers didn't have the supporting community structures of earlier generations, so marketers were quick to promote easy-to-prepare prepackaged foods. By this time, creating a Jell-O dessert required simply boiling water, combining the water with Jell-O, and putting the mixture into Tupperware molds and refrigerating it for a short time.

In 1964, the slogan "There's always room for Jell-O" was introduced, promoting the product as a "light dessert" that could easily be consumed even after a heavy meal.

Throughout the 1960s through the 1980s, Jell-O's sales steadily decreased. Marketers blamed this decline on decreasing family sizes, a "fast-paced" lifestyle and women's increasing employment. By 1986, a market study concluded that mothers with young children rarely purchased Jell-O.

To turn things around, Jell-O launched a massive marketing campaign, notably featuring Bill Cosby as spokesman. The campaign was a huge success, causing a significant market gain.

Cosby became the brand's spokesperson in 1974, and he continued as the voice of Jell-O for almost thirty years.

In 1990, General Foods was merged into Kraft Foods Inc. by parent company Philip Morris (now the Altria Group). New flavors were

introduced: watermelon, blueberry, cranberry, margarita, and piña colada, among others.



The original Jell-O Factory in Le Roy, New York, pictured in 2010

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Jell-O's family-friendly reputation was slightly tarnished by Jell-O shots and Jell-O wrestling.

As of 2011, there were over 420 million boxes of Jell-O gelatin and over 1 billion Jell-O cups sold in the United States each year. As of 2016, there were more than 110 products sold under the Jell-O brand name.

The above information was taken from Wikipedia

DISCOVERY OF PENICILLIN

14 FEBRUARY 1929

On 14 February 1929, Sir Alexander Fleming publicly announced his discovery of the mold by-product penicillin. Fleming was a young bacteriologist when he accidentally unearthed one of the greatest advancements of modern medicine in September of 1928. After leaving a plate of *Staphylococcus* bacteria uncovered, Fleming realized that a mold that had fallen on the culture had killed much of the bacteria. This first-known antibiotic led Fleming to win the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1945. Since its discovery, penicillin has changed the course of medicine and has allowed physicians to cure formerly critical and life-threatening illnesses including meningitis, pneumonia gonorrhea, and syphilis. Penicillin became an instrumental life-saving medicine in World War II, reducing the number of deaths and amputations during the war. During the first few months of 1943, there were approximately 400 million units of penicillin available, and by the end of the war, U.S. companies were making 650 billion units a month. Today, Penicillin is one of the most widely used antibiotics in the world.

The above information was taken from nationaltoday.com/groundhog-day

"MIRACLE ON ICE"

22 FEBRUARY 1980

On 22 February 1980, perhaps one of the most memorable sports moments in American history unfolded at the Lake Placid Winter Olympics. The young, relatively inexperienced men's American hockey team defeated the Soviet Union's team, who were strongly favored to win, and went on to win the gold medal. It

was the first Olympic defeat for the Soviet hockey team in twelve years.

The above information was taken from This Day in History, 2025 Page-A-Day Calendar.

FIRST NOLA MARDI GRAS 27 FEBRUARY 1827

On 27 February 1827, a group of students initiated the first Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans, Louisiana. Around the world, Carnival celebrations, spanning from Twelfth Night on 6 January through Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent, have been celebrated for centuries. Celebrations that resemble today's rambunctious Mardi Gras events took place in Louisiana when French settlers introduced the customs to the area. However, once Spain took control of the city in 1762, the raucous celebrations were banned.

It wasn't until 1827, after Louisiana became a U.S. state, that students who had traveled to Paris and witnessed Parisian Carnival, entered the streets New Orleans in masks and costumes, on Fat Tuesday, to resume the colorful celebration.

The early years of the celebration turned violent and uncontrollable, as there was little formal organization or oversight, but in the 1850s, the first Mardi Gras krewe took control of the planning and initiated a more formal celebration. Over the years, New Orleans has become known as the most animated and lively location for its Mardi Gras celebration.

The above information was taken from This Day in History, 2025 Page-A-Day Calendar.

ITALIAN EVENTS AND FESTIVALS IN FEBRUARY

February 14 to March 4: Carnevale di Venezia

The spectacular Venice Carnival runs from February 14 to March 4, 2025, enchanting visitors with its magnificent masks and costumes. If you visit Venice during this time, you'll notice it becomes a vibrant hub where enthusiasts from across the globe come to participate in the festivities. The epicenter of this celebration, Saint Mark's Square, along with various other squares in Venice, is teeming with people adorned in captivating masks and costumes, especially over the weekends.

History of the Venice Carnival

Originating in the 11th century as a celebration of Venice's victory over the Patriarch of Aquileia in 1162, the Venice Carnival became an official festival during the Renaissance. It blossomed particularly in the 18th century, drawing high society worldwide to indulge in vibrant festivities, highlighted by elaborate masks. The carnival experienced a hiatus

following Napoleon's invasion of Venice and it remained in limbo until 1979 when the Italian government revived it to bolster Venetian culture and history during the February holidays in Italy.

Venice Carnival: Most Popular Events



La Festa Veneziana: This event, which marks the carnival's inauguration, lasts two days and attracts both locals and tourists with a mesmerizing water parade and various performances.

Flight of the Angel: A time-honored tradition where an individual garbed as an angel gracefully descends from St. Mark's Basilica's bell tower to the square below, marking the official commencement of the carnival's joys.

Festa delle Marie: This event pays tribute to the age-old tradition where the Doge bestowed presents upon twelve underprivileged maidens. It encompasses a parade where twelve stunning Venetian girls, arrayed in period attire, grace the event, culminating in the crowning of one as the Maria of the Carnival.

Best Masked Costume Contest: A thrilling contest where attendees strut on stage in their flamboyant costumes and masks, vying for the title of the best-dressed participant, eventually leading to a grand finale showcasing the crème de la crème of the contestants.

February 8 to March 4: Carnevale di Viareggio (Tuscany)

Carnevale di Viareggio (Tuscany) is an occasion that cannot be missed if you find yourself in Italy during February. This vibrant event, pulsating in the heart of Tuscany, promises an exhilarating experience characterized by grandiose papier-mâché floats that truly are a sight to behold. The heartbeat of this festival, the majestic float parades, unfolds along a picturesque 2-kilometer route lining Viareggio's historic Liberty-era boardwalk, affectionately known as La Passeggiata.

But the magic doesn't end with the parades. The Carnevale di Viareggio offers a delightful platter of family-friendly activities for all ages. From masquerade balls that sweep you into a

whirl of colors and laughter to musical comedies that will have you tapping your feet, there's no end to the joyous celebrations.

Viareggio Carnival Official Mask: Burlamacco



Burlamacco. This iconic figure first graced the event in 1931, a creation by the talented Uberto Bonetti.

And here's a little insight from a seasoned attendee – since 2001, an awe-inspiring locale known as the Cittadella del Carnevale (Carnival Citadel), situated on the northern flank of Viareggio, has been the birthplace of the fantastic floats that dazzle spectators year after year.

February 3-5: Feast of Sant'Agatha (Catania)



The Feast of Sant'Agatha in Catania Sicily, from February 3rd to 5th is one of the most vibrant and spiritual celebrations in the Sicilian calendar when the entire city comes together in unity and zeal. The heart of the festival beats in the stunning Piazza del Duomo, a place bathed in the gentle glow of candles and echoing with the harmonious melodies of marching bands. People gather in droves, nearly a million from all corners of Sicily, all congregating to honor Saint Agatha, the valiant patron saint of Catania who embraced martyrdom in 251 AD.

Feast of Saint Agatha: Day 1

On the opening day, the city becomes a moving river of light as large votive candles traverse the streets (the "Candelore"). It's a sight to behold as jubilant crowds join in, their cheers harmonizing with the vibrant tunes of a marching band. You can feel the community spirit in the air. It's electrifying!

Feast of Saint Agatha: Day 2

As dawn breaks on the second day, a palpable anticipation hangs in the air. Today, the iconic procession of Saint Agatha's statue takes center stage. The statue gracefully moves through the streets, making poignant stops at locations interwoven with her life's story, a touching homage to her enduring spirit.

Feast of Saint Agatha: Day 3



Bravery, faith, and fireworks: witness the breathtaking climax of the Feast of Sant'Agata!

The grand finale on the third day is nothing short of breathtaking. Once more, the statue graces the streets, but this time, a courageous display awaits at the steep Via San Giuliano. Here, bearers sprint up and down with the statue, a thrilling testimony of their bravery and unwavering faith in the saint. Imagine the crowd erupting in cheers, a unified show of faith and devotion.

Just when you think the festivities have reached their pinnacle, the sky bursts into a symphony of colors. Grand fireworks light up the night sky, a beautiful climax to the days of spiritual connection and joyous celebrations.

February 2025 in Italy: Day-by-Day Guide February 1

- Premiere of Giacomo Puccini's "La Bohème" in Turin (1896): Celebrating the first performance of the iconic opera.

February 3

- Feast Day of San Biagio: A day dedicated to the venerated saint.
- Remembrance of the Cavalese Cable Car Crash (1998): Marking the tragic accident near Trento.

February 5

- Feast of Sant'Agatha (Catania): A grand Sicilian celebration marked by processions and feasts in honor of Catania's patron saint, Sant'Agatha.
- World Nutella Day: A day to revel in one of the best Italian chocolate brands, Nutella, uniting aficionados of this chocolate-hazelnut spread globally.

February 7

- Anniversary of the "Bonfire of the Vanities" in Florence (1497): On this day in 1497, Florence witnessed the fiery

"Bonfire of the Vanities," a mass burning of art, books, and luxury items stirred by the passionate preaching of Girolamo Savonarola on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday).

February 8

- Carnevale di Viareggio 2025: Italy's renowned festival featuring grandiose floats and vibrant parades along the Tuscan coast.
- Celebrating the Birth of Guercino (1591): Honoring the prominent Baroque painter.
- Remembering the Death of Nicola Salvi (1751): Reflecting on the architect's life behind the Trevi Fountain.

February 9

- Inauguration of Rome's Metropolitana (1955): Celebrating the opening of the first section of the underground system in Rome.

February 10

- Giorno del Ricordo: National Memorial Day remembering the victims of the Foibe massacres and the exodus of Istrian Italians during and after World War II.

February 11

- Anniversary of the Lateran Treaty (1929): Marking the agreement establishing Vatican City as an independent city-state.

February 12

- Commemorating Giuseppe Donizetti (1856): Reflecting on the life of the composer and musician.
- Franco Zeffirelli's Birthday Celebration (1923): Honoring the prominent Italian movie director.

February 13

- Remembering the Death of Benvenuto Cellini (1571): Honoring the life of the renowned artist and writer.

February 14

- Venice Carnival 2025: The official inauguration of the world-renowned Carnival of Venice, kicking off a season of vibrant celebrations and festivities.
- Valentine's Day (San Valentino): Embrace the language of love with a touch of Italian romance, celebrating affection and connection worldwide.
- Celebrating the Birth of Leon Battista Alberti (1404): Honoring the Renaissance humanist and artist.

February 15

- Galileo Galilei's Birthday Celebration (1564): Remembering the revolutionary scientist.
- Anniversary of the Monte Cassino Assault (1944): Reflecting on the significant WWII event.

February 16

- Remembering the Death of Giosuè Carducci (1907): Honoring the life of the Nobel laureate poet.
- Celebrating Valentino Rossi's Birthday (1979): Honoring the champion motorcycle road racer.

February 17

- Commemorating the Death of Giordano Bruno (1600): Reflecting on the life and tragic death of the philosopher and cosmological theorist.
- Random Acts of Kindness Day: A day to embody the warm, generous spirit of the Italian people by extending kindness in spontaneous ways globally.

February 18

- Michelangelo's Day of Remembrance (1564): On this day in 1564, Michelangelo Buonarroti died in Rome. Reflecting on the life of the legendary artist.
- Celebrating Enzo Ferrari's Birth (1898): Remembering the founder of the Ferrari, one of the most iconic Italian car brands.

February 20

- The Barber of Seville (Il Barbiere di Siviglia) Premiere Anniversary (1816): Celebrating the first performance of Rossini's opera in Rome.
- Remembering the Death of Ferruccio Lamborghini (1993): Honoring the life of the founder of Lamborghini, another iconic Italian car brand.
- National Love Your Pet Day (Celebrated in the US): A day to shower your furry friends affectionately and teach them a few Italian animal names, mirroring Italians' adoration for their cherished pets.

February 22

- Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter: Honoring the spiritual significance of the day in the Vatican.
- Commemorating the Death of Amerigo Vespucci (1512): Reflecting on the life of the explorer and namesake of America.
- World Thinking Day: A day to foster global thinking and perhaps ponder over famous Italian inventions, reflecting Italy's rich tradition of intellectual exploration.

February 24

- Commemorating the Death of Sandro Pertini (1990): Reflecting on the life of the Italian Resistance member and seventh President of Italy.

February 25

- Celebrating Enrico Caruso's Birth (1873): Remembering the legendary operatic tenor.

February 26

- Anniversary of Radio Italia's First Broadcast (1982): Celebrating the

beginning of the radio station dedicated to Italian music.

- National Pistachio Day (Celebrated in the US): A day to appreciate this popular nut, a staple in Italian cuisine, in various delightful preparations in the United States.

February 27

- Celebrating the Birth of Constantine the Great (272): Marking the birth of the Roman Emperor.

The above information was taken from leamitalianpod.com/2024/10/30/february-in-italy-events-festivals-holidays/

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 2024 – 30 June 2026

PresidentGus Paolucci
Vice PresidentCarmen Cesa
SecretaryGlenn Pizzuti
TreasurerVince Pona

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Trustee (e)Jim Federico Sr.
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Trustee (a)Greg Canteri
Trustee (a)Sal Carriere
Trustee (a)Dennis Rosa

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

ATTACHMENTS

No. 1: Italian Night Flyer