



Italian American Club of Lansing

Our motto: God, Country, and Family (Dio, Patria e Famiglia).

lansingiac.org

Newsletter: November – December 2024

Inc. 1971

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Buon Natale!





Presidents Message... *Merry Christmas!*

Dear Members and Supporters,

As the holidays are arriving and it's time for family and friends, we take a pause from the everyday activities, to acknowledge and be thankful for all the blessings that we have in our lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all of you, for your continued membership support. Also, thank you to those attendees and supporters of our Club events. Our events during the year would not be possible without the tremendous time, efforts, and commitment from our board members.

In September, I was honored to host a delegation of five individuals from Pianezza, (city near Torino) which is a sister city to Lansing. We had a joint display booth between the IAC of Lansing and Pianezza at the Lansing Regional Sister City 30th Year Celebration. Our joint display promoted and showcased our beautiful Italian heritage and culture. I am proud to say that I have gained a Northern Italian family. It was a true honor! Stay tuned to some great happenings that will be occurring from this sister city affiliation.

Especially, I would like to say "thank you" to our event sponsors: Dr. Christine Tenaglia, Giorgio Burigana, Real Estate Agent with Exit Realty; Jack Miceli, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones of Okemos; Joe Sambaer, Mortgage Officer, Dart Bank; and Paul and Val Orlando, Agents with the Orlando Allstate Agency. Their support helps the Club with every day and events expenses. Grazie!

In the month of October, we celebrated Italian Heritage month by hosting our annual Pasta Dinner, a Tailgate event at the homecoming game of Michigan State University, golf outing. Also, our very own the Honorable Judge Charles Filice received a tribute from the Remo Salerno trip to Lansing Committee, in observance of Columbus Day. Congratulations to Judge Filice, for your many years of commitment to the Italian community in Lansing.

On Sunday, December 8th, is the Club's Christmas party, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, at the Pizza House, in East Lansing. There is minimal cost to members and non-members, to help off-set costs.

Also, wanted to inform you that our very own Fr. Enzo Addari, will be relocating to Lake Zurich, Illinois. It is difficult to find the words to express to how much he has meant to the IAC of Lansing and the Italian community in Michigan. We will miss you greatly! and wish you the very best.

I encourage you, to consider in becoming a member of the IAC of Lansing! Your membership is vital in helping to maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions. Also, consider in being a sponsor by simply visiting the IAC of Lansing's website, www.lansingiac.org, and download a membership or sponsorship application! Thank you for your support!

I wish you and your family a wonderful healthy and prosperous holiday season. Thank you for your support in 2024! Be proud of your Italian heritage! Remember to share those wonderful traditions with your family members.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Best regards,
Tony De Luca



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members:

\$15.00

Non-Members:

\$25.00

Children Under

12: FREE



Sunday Dec. 8th, 2024

1:00-4:00pm

Pizza House

4790 Hagadorn Rd.

STE 116

East Lansing, MI 48823

Meal Includes:

Various Pizzas and Pastas,
Chicken Tenders, Salads, and
Soft Drinks.

Best efforts to accommodate
dietary restriction will be made

Special Guests:

SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS!

(Santa would be thrilled to
give presents to any child
whose parents provide one that
is wrapped and labeled)

Please bring a traditional homemade dessert to share with everyone!

RSVP no later than Dec. 2nd!

Please **RSVP** via the Facebook event **AS WELL AS** an email to either IACofLansing@gmail.com or deluca_iac@yahoo.com

Donations of non-perishable food items for the benefit of the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry at St. Therese Church will be collected at the Party.



Welcome New Members!

Dana Maxwell

Larry and Gail Rinaldi-Meyer

Thank you for helping to maintain the Italian culture, heritage, and traditions!

If you have not renewed your membership or know of someone that should become a member. Renew or join, today!!

Visit the IAC's website www.lansingiac.org, and complete and return your membership or renewal application.

Thank you. Grazie.



Italian Dinner Night – October 5, 2024

Meatballs anyone?



Colorful hall set-up.



Jim and Paul in the kitchen.



Cooking mass production!



Tony, Dane, and Fr. Enzo



Tony and Mayor Andy Schor



Guests enjoying the evening.



More pictures on IAC website: www.lansingiac.org

IAC of Lansing's Tailgate at Michigan State University

Saturday, October 19, 2024

A WONDERFUL EVENT AND DAY!



Frank and Madeline



Master Chef – Dane!



Dane and Giorgio



Dane and Tony



Steve, Frank, and Dane



Greg and Madeline



The Orlando Family Members

Lansing Sister City Commission – 30th Year Celebration

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Visit by delegation from Pianezza (TO), Italy

Sister City affiliation: Pianezza and Lansing

**Benvenuto!
Welcome to
Lansing!**



Pictured: (L to R) Antonio Del Gaudio, Stefano Colamesta, Laura Cardone, Deputy Mayor–Riccardo Gentile, Emma Bostwick (from LEAP), Silvio De Valeri, Tony De Luca, and Giorgio Burigana.

Meeting w/Lansing Mayor Andy Schor

MSU Italian Professors - Reception



Pictured: (L to R) Laura Cardone, Antonio Del Gaudio, Deputy Mayor–Riccardo Gentile, Mayor Andy Schor, Stefano Colamesta, Silvio De Valeri, and Tony De Luca.



Delegation meeting with MSU Italian professors, organized by Professor Carmen De Lorenzo.

30th Celebration Display Booth



Stefano Colamesta, Pianezza City Council Member, at the Pianezza and IAC of Lansing's display booth.



Deputy Mayor, Riccardo Gentile, addressing the attendees.

Golf Event

Saturday, October 26, 2024 – Groesbeck Golf Course



Beautiful sunny and breezy day for golf!



Pictured (L/R): Bob, Giorgio, Tony, Dane, and John



On the green!



Putting, with the hopes for a birdie!



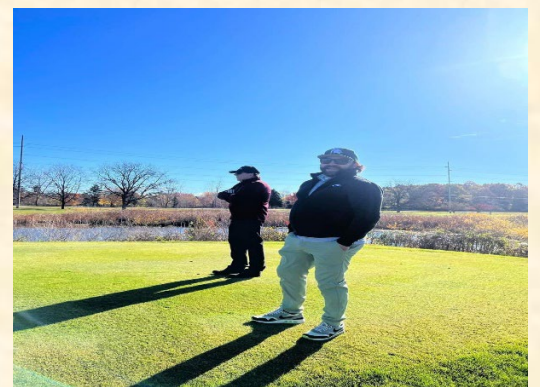
Pictured (L/R): Tony, John, and Giorgio



Giorgio teeing-up for that long drive!



John and Giorgio posing for the camera.



Tony and John, enjoying the sunny day.

The Ramo Salerno Bus trip to Lansing – Observance of Columbus Day – October 9, 2024

The Honorable Judge Charles Filice was recognized for his long-standing commitment and dedication to the Italian community in Lansing.



Hon. Judge Filice speaking to attendees



Board members and members of the IAC of Lansing.



Hon. Judge Filice receives the proclamation from State Rep Joe Aragona.



Hon. Judge Filice with grandchildren



Congratulations Judge Filice! On your award and for all that you have done and continue to do, for the Italian community of Lansing!

Courtesy of: La Gazzetta Italiana

Christmas Celebrations & Traditions in Italy

When it comes to Christmas traditions, celebrations and, most importantly, la famiglia, there is no other place in the world quite like Italy. It is a great place to be at Christmas time, as the colorful ways and traditions in which the festival is celebrated captivates many. Over the years I have been fortunate and blessed to have experienced and witnessed the celebrations and events that occur throughout Italy during this very special time of the year.

Christmas in Italy means a season of celebrations and not just celebrating one particular day. If you are weary of how commercialized Christmas has become in the United States, Italy would be a lovely change of pace. Shying away from the commercial, which seems to overwhelm us here in the USA, Christmas in Italy is really about the joy of family. Children in Italy do not write letters to Santa. Rather, they write letters to their parents, telling them how much they love and appreciate them. The letters are placed under the father's plate for the Christmas Eve dinner and ceremoniously read after the meal. Christmas season in Italy is traditionally celebrated from Christmas Eve through the Epiphany (January 6). This follows the pagan season of celebrations that started with Saturnalia, a winter solstice festival, and ended with the Roman New Year.

The Italian Christmas season generally lasts three weeks beginning with the Novena, the eight days before Christmas. This is a period of celebration when music fills the air. Young musicians go around playing their musical instruments, singing Christmas carols and reciting Christmas poems. Preparations for the Christmas holiday are begun in earnest by families during the Novena.

Italian Christmas Traditions

LA BEFANA

Although Babo Natale (Father Christmas) and giving presents on Christmas are becoming more common, the main day for gift giving is the Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas when the three wise men gave Baby Jesus their gifts. In Italy, presents are brought by La Befana, who arrives in the night to fill children's stockings with candy and trinkets. Supposedly, La Befana was a witch at whose house the three wise men stopped and asked for directions. They asked her to join them and she declined. Later, a shepherd also stopped and asked her to go with him to see the Christ child. Again, the old witch said no. After the shepherd left, La Befana saw the great light in the heavens and thought she should have gone to see the child. So she gathered up some toys that had belonged to her own child who had passed away and hurried to find the three kings. She could never find them or the stable. Now, as the myth goes, she wanders around each Christmas giving toys to children, hoping to find the Christ child when she undertakes her journey to Bethlehem.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Christmas decorations and trees are becoming more popular in Italy. Lights and decorations are often seen starting on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, or even the end of November. The main focus of the decorations continues to be the PRESEPE (Nativity scene or crèche). Almost every church has a PRESEPE and they are also often found outdoors in a piazza or public area. Another Italian tradition is to set up a tiered table called "The Tree of Lights," which is decorated with colored paper, pinecones, small

pendants and candles. The bottom tier typically holds a nativity, and the second tier hold fruits and candles. The rest of the layers are reserved for gifts.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE FEAST

Traditionally, a meatless dinner is eaten on Christmas Eve with the family, which includes seven types of fish (for the sacraments) and, depending on the town of origin, as many as thirteen. Baccala (salted dried cod fish), capitone (eel), calamari (squid), scungili (conch meat) and vongole (clams) are typically included in the meal, as are sweets with nuts and almonds. Sweets may include biscotti, panforte, pandoro and almost always includes panettone. This is all followed by a living nativity scene and a midnight mass. Dinner on Christmas day is usually meat-based.

Although you will find Christmas celebrations all over Italy, the following are some of the most unusual or most popular events held throughout Italy.

Napoli is one of the best cities to visit for Nativity cribs. In Naples there is the Via San Gregorio Armeno, a market where you can purchase any display you may need for your nativity scene. You can buy everything from traditional pieces such as angels and stars to moss-covered houses and wells filled with water. Naples and southern Italy have other Christmas traditions. One of the more unusual sounds of Christmas in Italy is the sound of bagpipes. The Zampognari (shepherds who play the bagpipes) come from their homes to perform in the market squares of Calabria, Naples, Abruzzo and Rome. The Zampognari wear traditional outfits of sheepskin vests, leather breeches and dark woolen cloaks and stop before every shrine to the Madonna and every Nativity scene to play their music. Many travel from the mountains of the Abruzzo Region to play outside churches and in popular city squares.

ROME: SAINT PETER'S SQUARE in the Vatican City holds a popular midnight mass attended by thousands of people from all over the world. In Rome, cannons are fired from the CASTEL SANT ANGELO on Christmas Eve. At noon on Christmas Day the Pope appears on his balcony to bless the crowd gathered in the Piazza San Pietro.

As Italians the greatest gift that we cherish most is the importance of LA FAMIGLIA. The holiday season is a special time of the year to get together and share it with those you love and hold dear. For this we can all be very proud of our heritage and culture like no other in the world.



Italian American Club of Lansing

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Membership year is May 1st to April 30th)

Member(s) Name: _____

Italian Family Name Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Family Membership: *(names of children)*

Membership Fee: *(check applicable category):*

- \$45.00/Family** (children up to 18 years of age) **\$35.00/Individual** (18 years or older)
 \$15.00/Senior/Retiree (70 years & older) **\$20.00/Student** (ages 18 to 25)
 \$30.00/Associate/Supporter (referred by 2 active members)

Referred by: _____

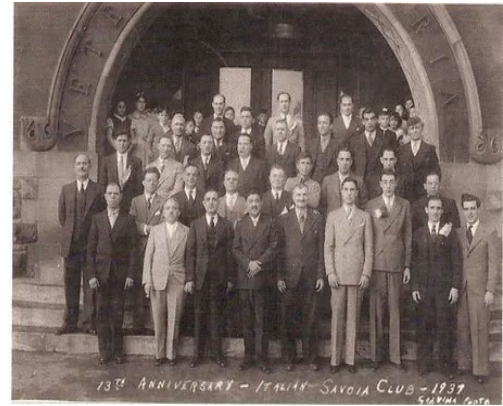
Mail Application and Payment: Italian American Club of Lansing
P.O. Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48909

If you have questions, please email buriganagiorgio@gmail.com.

Maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions by supporting the IAC of Lansing!

The Italian American Club of Lansing

Inc. 1971



Founded in 1935, by a group of Italians who were very grateful to their adopted country for the opportunities given them and fiercely proud of their heritage.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Option 1- Platinum Package \$500 per year

- Full Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events, on Facebook, and logo at events.
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 2- Gold Package \$250 per year

- Half Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events, and on Facebook
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 3- Silver Package \$100 per year

- Quarter Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 4 - Individual sponsorship \$50 – recognition in November/December newsletter.

Interested in being a Sponsor? Please email: iacoflansing@gmail.com.

Thank you. Grazie.



Italian American Club of Lansing

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Sponsorship Level: *(circle applicable level)*

\$500.00 - Platinum

\$250.00 - Gold

\$100.00 - Silver

\$50.00 - Individual

Sponsorship Category: *(check applicable category)*

General Sponsorship *(One year – May 1st to April 30^t, newsletters, website)*

Event Sponsorship *(Recognition at event)*

Mail Application and Payment: Italian American Club of Lansing
P.O. Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48909

If you have questions, please email: Tony De Luca, at deluca_iac@yahoo.com

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Thank you. Grazie!

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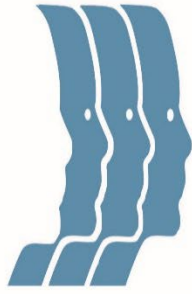
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