

# Italian American Club of Lansing



## Newsletter

*Motto: Dio, Patria e Famiglia (God, Country, and family)*

Lansingiac.org

P.O Box 27456, Lansing, MI 48909

September/October 2024

### Italian American Club of Lansing

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the IAC of Lansing*



# From the IAC President...



Dear Members and Supporters,

The end of Summer is drawing near and soon we will see the splendid colors of Fall. We are busy planning various activities for the next couple of months. Make sure to visit the Club's website and Facebook Page for more details and information.

Here is just a glance of upcoming club activities (events) and from other Italian organizations from around the State.

Please include these special dates in your 2024/25 calendar!

We are excited about our new Club logo! I want to say "thank you" to Dane Dario for all his work in creating the logo and to those committee members that provided suggestions and input. Grazie! The new logo is awesome!!

**Board Meeting** – September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, Foster Community Center, Room 211. The meeting is open to Club members.

**Lansing Sister City Commission – 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration event. Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**, at the Lansing Center, starting 6:00pm. The City of Lansing has a sister city affiliation with the City of Pianezza (near Torino) and a friendship affiliation with Cosenza (city in Calabria Region). The IAC of Lansing will have a booth representing Italy. Other countries with sister city affiliations with Lansing will also be represented. There will be food stations at the various booths and entertainment representations from each country. The Italian entertainment will be provided by our very own Pino Marelli. The cost for this event is \$75.00. I have tickets available for sale. Please let me know if interested in attending. This will be a fun and enjoyable evening!

**Annual Pasta Dinner (Italian Dinner Night) – Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**, at Cristo Rey Church – Parish Hall, doors open at 6:00 pm. Ticket prices: \$30/adults, \$25/children (6-12 years), free (children under 6). Music/Entertainment provided by: Pino Marelli. A delicious menu is planned: pasta with pomodoro sauce, Italian sausage, meatballs, salad, dessert, and more.... Purchase your tickets from any of the board members today! A limited number of tickets will be sold due to capacity. The proceeds will benefit the St. Louis Center of Chelsea, IAC of Lansing, and Allen Neighborhood Center. If you would like to be a sponsor, please inquire from any board members or visit the IAC of Lansing's website.

If you have yet to renew your IAC of Lansing membership for 2024/25, please renew today! Your membership is vital in helping to maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions. Encourage family members, friends, and colleagues who are not members to join! Simply have them visit [www.lansingiac.org](http://www.lansingiac.org), for more details and to download a membership application! Grazie.

Best regards,  
Cordiali saluti,

*Tony De Luca*

## Inside ...

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## Colosseum - Rome



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!**

# Events and Happenings



## Italian American Club of Lansing

www.lansingiac.org or Like us on Facebook

### September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5 <i>Board Meeting 6:30 pm – Foster Community Center</i>	6	7  vs Maryland (away)
8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14 - Lansing SisterCity -30 <sup>th</sup> Celebraion – 6:00pm Lansing Center  MSU vs Praire Creek A&M (home)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 - IAC Golf Event   vs Boston College (away)
22 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox)	23	24	25	26	27	28  vs Ohio State (home)
29	30	<b>Pasta Dinner: Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 6:00 pm, Cristo Rey</b>  <b>– Parish Hall. Purchase your tickets, today!!</b>				



# Italian American Club of Lansing

www.lansingiac.org or Facebook

## Events and Happenings

## October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <b>Board Meeting</b> 6:30 pm – Foster Community Center	4  vs Oregon 9:00pm (away)	5 <b>Pasta Dinner –</b> 6:00pm, Cristo Rey – Parish Hall
6	7	8	9 <b>Columbus Day</b> Event - State Capitol - 11:00 am	10	11	12  - bye game
13	14 <b>Columbus</b> <b>Day</b> 	15	16	17	18	19  vs Iowa (home) <b>IAC of Lansing –</b> <b>Tailgate</b> 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26  <b>IAC – Golf Event</b>  vs Michigan (away)
27	28	29	30	31 <b>Halloween</b> 	- MSU Football Games 	

# AN EVENING OF GLOBAL DIVERSITY



## LANSING REGIONAL

### *Sister Cities Commission*



## 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FOOD, MUSIC, VENDORS, EXHIBITORS, ENTERTAINMENT & AWARDS!

LANSING  
CENTER

333 E Michigan Ave,  
Lansing, MI 48933

SATURDAY  
SEPT. 14TH

Tickets available from **Tony De Luca.**

6 P.M.  
\$75.00



SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET(S)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT AND SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITES,  
PLEASE CONTACT MAXINE HANKINS CAIN AT [MAXINECAIN@ME.COM](mailto:MAXINECAIN@ME.COM)

# ITALIAN DINNER NIGHT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

## TICKETS:

*Adults:*

\$30.00

*Children (6-12):*

\$25.00

*Children Under 6:*

FREE



Saturday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Cristo Rey Church-*

*Parish Hall*

*201 W. Miller Rd, Lansing*

Doors Open at 6:00pm

CASH BAR!

*(No Credit Cards)*

### Menu Includes:

Pasta with Pomodoro  
Sauce, Italian Sausage,  
Meatballs, Salad, Dessert,  
and MORE...

### Music/Entertainment

Presented by:

PINO MARELLI

Proceeds and Donations will benefit: IAC of Lansing, St. Louis Center of Chelsea, and Allen Neighborhood Center

Tickets are LIMITED!

Purchase your tickets from an IACL Board Member or find more details at [lansingiac.org](http://lansingiac.org)

## SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!!!

# *IACL Golf Outing!* *Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



IACofLansing@gmail.com

**Come and enjoy a day of golf! Email your outing(s) selection.  
Golf courses to be determined.**

# IACL GOLF OUTING



OCT. 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

IACofLansing@gmail.com





## TAILGATE EVENT

**Please join us for the first ever IACL tailgate, on Oct.19<sup>th</sup>, as MSU hosts the Iowa Hawkeyes. This tailgate is co-hosted by Beaumont Bronze, which has been tailgating at MSU football games for the last seven years and is run by IAC of Lansing Board Member, Dane Dario.**

**There will be food, drinks, and plenty of entertainment throughout the course of the day. While kickoff time is still to be determined, the tailgate may start as early as 7:00 am, and will go through the end of the game. Beaumont Bronze also comes equipped with a projector with a 92" screen, so even if you don't have tickets to the game, you are more than welcome to stick around and watch it live. As always, this event is BYOB and encouraged to bring a dish to share .**

A graphic for a tailgate event. It features three vertical panels: a green panel on the left with the IACL logo and the date 'Oct. 19th, 2024'; a white panel in the center with a black Spartan helmet logo and the word 'TAILGATE!'; and a red panel on the right with the Beaumont Bronze logo and the text 'MSU vs. Iowa'. The top of the graphic has the text 'Italian American Club of Lansing' in a light grey font.

Italian American Club of Lansing

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

TAILGATE!

MSU vs. Iowa

[www.lansingiac.org](http://www.lansingiac.org)

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Members in the news....

# GET TO KNOW BIG MO!

FUNTYME  
JOURNAL  
ISSUE AUG. 2024

'BIG MO' is a character with deeper history than meets the eye. Originally conceived in the 70's, Mo was a daunting project proposed by Valentino DeRosa. DeRosa was inspired by a Mister Frank Moore, who ran a similar fun park in the former's home state of Pennsylvania. Moore's park was filled with impressive handmade figures, as was the only feasible option for the time. DeRosa teamed up with his nephew, John DeRosa, who was a current art student at the time.

Mid-Michigan



*Mason Has Monster*

(Fig. 1, LANSING STATE JOURNAL. 1972)

They consulted Richard Cross Sr. (John's teacher and mentor) Who ultimately spearheaded the project. 'Mo' (short for monster?) was initially sculpted from clay in several pieces and then cast. The negatives were then coated with fiberglass resin and assembled on a steel frame assembled by Funtyme co-owner Frank Orlando Sr. The team even consulted the library to be sure they were developing the most realistic representation possible.



(Fig. 2, Big Mo as found by police, removed from storage, 2021)

However, loyal Funtyme Adventure Park-goers will notice that the nine-foot tall gorilla has not been present on the property for the last two decades. Despite his sturdy construction and weight of 415 lbs, 'Big Mo' was stolen from the park in 2004. "I had to open up for the day and he was just gone!" says Paul Orlando, (DeRosa's Nephew). Paul filed a police report, but with no leads spirits were low. It came as a shock six months later, when the police appeared claiming they had found the large primate in a culvert off Route 127. A state trooper who thought he had simply seen some large roadkill, inspected the scene to find Big Mo in pieces. The sculpture was presumed to have been thrown off the Harper Rd. bridge months prior. Without the means to restore him at the time, and not wanting to disturb Cross in his late age, 'Big Mo' was placed in storage indefinitely.

In 2021, the project resumed. Using his self taught fiberglass skills, Anthony Orlando made 'Big Mo' whole again. Mo was finally ready for painting and cosmetic work in late spring of the current year. Another art student in the family, Valentino Orlando II, was enlisted to repaint Mo as he stands today. 'Funtyme' owners have stated, "Customers always asked about the big gorilla. Those who remember Big Mo now have kids of their own; we are thrilled to have him back now providing generations of fun."

'Big Mo' Guards the park today (now bolted to the concrete) as he once did long ago, in memory of Val DeRosa, Frank Orlando Sr, John DeRosa, and Richard Cross Sr.



(Fig. 3, The next generation restores 'Mo,' 2024)

*Ramo Salerno*  
**Trip To Lansing 2024**  
*Italian Heritage*



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Ramo Salerno and Maria Stante envisioned bringing Italian people to Lansing to celebrate Italian immigration to Michigan. They believed it was crucial for Italian Americans to visit their state capitol and see where their laws are made. They also wanted to honor Italian Americans who have significantly contributed to their communities by commemorating them through proclamations from the legislature. Ramo Salerno upheld this tradition for over 20 years, and we hope to continue it in his name for many years to come.

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**Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.**  
***The Capitol of the Great State of Michigan***  
**124 N. Capitol Ave. P.O. Box 30014**

THE CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT THE ANDERSON BUILDING ON THE FIFTH FLOOR IN THE MACKINAC ROOM OVERLOOKING THE CAPITOL BUILDING. AFTER A BRIEF LUNCH, SINCE THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR, THE LEGISLATORS MAY NOT BE ON SITE. HOWEVER, WE WILL STILL BE ABLE TO WALK ON THE SENATE FLOOR, AND OUR HOST WILL PROVIDE US WITH A LIMITED GUIDED TOUR."



# 10 Things You May Not Know About Christopher Columbus

- by Christopher Klein

## ✓ COLUMBUS DIDN'T SET OUT TO PROVE THE EARTH WAS ROUND

Forget those myths perpetuated by everyone from [Washington Irving](#) to Bugs Bunny. There was no need for [Christopher Columbus](#) to debunk the flat-earthers—the ancient Greeks had already done so. As early as the sixth century B.C., the Greek mathematician Pythagoras surmised the world was round, and two centuries later Aristotle backed him up with astronomical observations. By 1492, most educated people [knew](#) the planet was not shaped like a pancake.

## ✓ THREE COUNTRIES REFUSED TO BACK COLUMBUS' VOYAGE

For nearly a decade, Columbus lobbied European monarchies bankrolled his quest to discover a western sea route to Asia. In Portugal, England and France, the response was the same: no. The experts told Columbus his calculations were wrong and that the voyage would take much longer than he thought. Royal advisors in Spain raised similar concerns to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Turns out the naysayers were right. Columbus dramatically underestimated the earth's circumference and the size of the oceans. Luckily for him, he ran into the uncharted Americas.

## ✓ COLUMBUS WAS LIKELY NOT THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

That distinction is generally given to the Norse Viking [Leif Eriksson](#), who is believed to have landed in present-day Newfoundland around 1000 A.D., almost five centuries before Columbus set sail. Some historians even claim that Ireland's Saint Brendan or other Celtic people crossed the Atlantic before Eriksson. While the United States commemorates Columbus—even though he never set foot on the North American mainland—with parades and a federal holiday, Leif Eriksson Day on October 9 receives little fanfare.

## ✓ NINA AND PINTA WERE NOT THE NAMES OF TWO OF THE THREE SHIPS

In 15th-century Spain, ships were traditionally named after saints. Salty sailors, however, bestowed less-than-sacred nicknames upon their vessels. Mariners dubbed one of the three ships on Columbus's 1492 voyage the Pinta, Spanish for "the painted one" or "prostitute." The Santa Clara, meanwhile, was nicknamed the Nina in honor of its owner, Juan Nino. Although Santa Maria is called by its official name, its nickname was La Gallega, after the province of Galicia in which it was built.

### ✓ THE SANTA MARIA WRECKED ON COLUMBUS' HISTORIC VOYAGE

On Christmas Eve of 1492, a cabin boy ran Columbus's flagship into a coral reef on the northern coast of Hispaniola, near present-day Cap Haitien, Haiti. Its crew spent a very un-merry Christmas salvaging the Santa Maria's cargo. Columbus returned to Spain aboard the Nina, but he had to leave nearly 40 crew members behind to start the first European settlement in the Americas—La Navidad. When Columbus returned to the settlement in the fall of 1493, none of the crew was found alive.

### ✓ COLUMBUS RETURNED TO SPAIN IN CHAINS

Columbus's governance of Hispaniola could be [brutal and tyrannical](#). Colonists complained to the monarchy about mismanagement, and a royal commissioner dispatched to Hispaniola arrested Columbus in August 1500 and brought him back to Spain in chains. Although Columbus was stripped of his governorship, King Ferdinand not only granted the explorer his freedom but subsidized a fourth voyage.

### ✓ COLUMBUS MADE FOUR VOYAGES TO THE NEW WORLD

Although best known for his historic 1492 expedition, Columbus returned to the Americas three more times in the following decade. His voyages took him to the Caribbean islands, South America and Central America.



## ✓ A LUNAR ECLIPSE MAY HAVE SAVED COLUMBUS

In February 1504, a desperate Columbus was stranded in Jamaica, abandoned by half his crew and denied food by the islanders. The heavens that he relied on for navigation, however, would guide him safely once again. Knowing from his almanac that a lunar eclipse was coming on February 29, 1504, Columbus warned the islanders that his god was upset with their refusal of food and that the moon would “rise inflamed with wrath” as an expression of divine displeasure. On the appointed night, the eclipse darkened the moon and turned it red, and the terrified islanders offered provisions and beseeched Columbus to ask his god for mercy.

## ✓ HEIRS OF COLUMBUS AND THE SPANISH MONARCHY WERE IN LITIGATION UNTIL 1790

After the death of Columbus, his heirs waged a lengthy legal battle with the Spanish crown, claiming that the monarchy short-changed them on money and profits due the explorer. Most of the Columbian lawsuits were settled by 1536, but the legal proceedings nearly dragged on until the 300th anniversary of Columbus’ famous voyage.

## ✓ EVEN IN DEATH, COLUMBUS CONTINUED TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC

Following his death in 1506, Columbus was buried in Valladolid, Spain, and then moved to Seville. At the request of his daughter-in-law, the bodies of Columbus and his son Diego were shipped across the Atlantic to Hispaniola and interred in a Santo Domingo cathedral. When the French captured the island in 1795, the Spanish dug up remains thought to be those of the explorer and moved them to Cuba before returning them to Seville after the Spanish-American War in 1898.

However, a box with human remains and the explorer’s name was discovered inside the Santo Domingo cathedral in 1877. Did the Spaniards exhume the wrong body? DNA testing in 2006 found evidence that at least some of the remains in Seville are those of Columbus. The Dominican Republic has refused to let the other remains be tested. It could be possible that, aptly, pieces of Columbus are both in the New World and the Old World.



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# Italian American Club of Lansing

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Membership year is May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>t</sup>, 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 [jacoflansing@gmail.com](mailto:jacoflansing@gmail.com)

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**Thank you. Grazie!**

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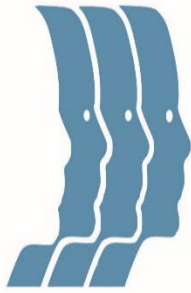
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