



NOVEMBER MEETING

Riunione di novembre

The November AIH Membership Meeting included our annual "Italian Jeopardy" game hosted by Tom "Alex Trebeck" Fioritto at Pine Ridge Country Club. At the end of regular play Teams 1 & 2 each had earned \$1,900, while Teams 3 & 4 were in negative numbers. In Final Jeopardy, both Teams 1 and 2 wagered their entire winnings. Unfortunately, both Teams got the question wrong, so, at the end of the day, nobody won.

As always, Tom did a terrific job of organizing and running the game.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER dicembre

NOTE: Because of all the holiday commitments we all have, there will be no Membership Meeting in December.

11 December, Sunday

AIH Family Christmas Party at LaMalfa. See the attached flyer for more details and to sign up.

Reservations are required

JANUARY gennaio

25 January, Wednesday

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club. The Speaker will be Kirtland High School Head Football Coach Tiger LaVerde.

FEBRUARY febbraio

5 February, Sunday

AIHC Super Big Football Game Party. This is the first of three AIH Charities annual fund raising events. This event is Co-Chaired by Tony Munaretto and Dave Vegh. More information will be forthcoming.

Reservations are required

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di dicembre

Gary Hegler	1
Judge Mark Bartolotta.....	3
Dennis LoConti	11
Bob Andreano.....	14
Jamie DiFrancesco.....	19
Dennis Rosa	24

BUON GIORNO

Carmon had no issues to report.

Carmon Rozzo, Buon Giorno Chair

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS IN ITALY

Feast of St. Ambrose.....	7
Feast of the Immaculate Conception.....	8
December Solstice	22
Christmas Day	25
St. Stephen's Day.....	26
New Year's Eve	31

CHRISTMAS IN ITALY

One of the most important ways of celebrating Christmas in Italy is displaying the Nativity crib scene. Using a crib to help tell the Christmas story was made popular by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. The previous year he had visited Bethlehem and saw the stable, where it was thought that Jesus was born.

On Christmas Eve, it's common that no meat (and sometimes no dairy) is eaten. Often a light seafood meal is eaten and then people go to Midnight Mass. The types of fish and how they are served vary between different regions in Italy.

When people return from Mass, if it's cold, they might have a slice of Italian Christmas Cake called 'Panettone' which is like a dry fruity sponge cake and a cup of hot chocolate!

For many Italian-American families a big Christmas Eve meal of different fish dishes is now a very popular tradition. It's known as The Feast of the Seven Fishes ('Ester dei Sette Pesci'). The feast seems to have its roots in southern Italy and was brought over to the USA by Italian immigrants in the 1800s. It now seems more popular in American than it is in Italy!

There are different theories as to why there are seven fish dishes eaten. Some think that seven represents the seven days

of creation in the Bible. Other say it represents the seven holy sacraments of the Catholic Church. But some families have more than seven dishes. You might have nine (to represent the Christian trinity times three), or 13 (to represent Jesus and his 12 disciples), or 11 (for the 11 disciples without Jesus or Judas!).

The Christmas celebrations typically start eight days before Christmas with special 'Novenas' or a series of prayers and church services.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2018

President	David Vegh
Vice President	Gus Paolucci
Secretary	Glenn Pizzuti
Treasurer.....	Bill Petrello
Trustee	Judge Mike Cicconetti
Trustee	Rio DeGennaro Jr.
Trustee	Jim Federico Sr.
Trustee	Mike LaMalfa
Trustee	Don Rapposelli
Trustee	Tony Munaretto
Trustee	John Perrotti
Trustee	Ron Wassum

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments to this Newsletter include:

- Christmas Party Flyer, 2 pages

AND FINALLY...

From the Officers and Trustees of the Americans of Italian Heritage,
To every Member and their families...

Buon Natale!