



DECEMBER MEETING

Riunione dicembre

There was no Executive Committee Meeting or Membership Meeting in December.

AIH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday afternoon, 9 December, Mike LaMalfa and Bill Petrello hosted the Clubs Family Christmas Party at LaMalfa. As expected, everyone, especially the children, had a terrific time. Thanks again to Mike LaMalfa and Bill Petrello for hosting this family event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

JANUARY gennaio

16 January, Wednesday

AIHC Executive Committee Meeting at LaMalfa @ 5:30p.

23 January, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

30 January, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be Tim Kehres, the Executive Director of Big Brothers and Sisters of Northeast Ohio.

FEBRUARY febbraio

20 February, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

27 February, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be Steve Legerski, Show Manager of the Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Power Auto-Rama.

MARCH marzo

20 March, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

27 March, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be A.J. Petitti, President of Petitti Garden Centers.

APRIL aprile

13 April, Saturday:

AIHC Italian Night at LaMalfa @ 6:30p. The event is coordinated by Bill Petrello and Mike

LaMalfa. This is the second of our Charities three annual fund raisers.

Reservations are required

10 April, Wednesday

AIHC Executive Committee Meeting at LaMalfa @ 5:30p.

17 April, Wednesday

AIH Executive Committee Meeting at The Mentor Firefighter's Museum @ 7:00p.

24 April, Wednesday:

AIH Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club @ 6:30p. The speaker will be Bob DiBiasio, Senior Vice President, Public Relations for the Cleveland Indians.

MAY maggio

7 May, Tuesday

AIHC Appreciation Night. The evening will start with dinner at Pastina's, here in Mentor, then a chartered bus will take us downtown to Playhouse Square where we will see A Bronx Tale. We have 80 seats in Orchestra A and B. The cost will be \$150.00 per couple.

Reservations are required

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di gennaio

Domiic Farinacci	1
Paul Fortunato	6
George Judy	8
Donnie Rapposelli	27

When you see these members this month, be sure to wish them buon compleanno.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

We're sorrow to report that our elder statesman and World War II veteran Joe Dardis, passed away on 19 December, 2018 at the age of 104. Please keep Joe and the Dardis family in your thoughts and prayers.

ITALIAN REGIONS AND PROVINCES

This month we will conclude our Italian Region information sheets series with the final two regions of Umbria and Veneto. In developing each of these regional fact sheets I have learned an awful lot about the customs and cultural aspects of our Italian Heritage and I hope you have enjoyed reading the information I was able to share. See the two attachments.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The Epiphany, also Theophany, Denha, Little Christmas, or Three Kings' Day, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Moreover, the feast of the Epiphany, in some Western Christian denominations, also initiates the liturgical season of Epiphanytide. Eastern Christians, on the other hand, commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. Qasr el Yahud in the West Bank, and Al-Maghtas in Jordan on the east bank, is considered to be the original site of the baptism of Jesus and the ministry of John the Baptist.

The traditional date for the feast is January 6. However, since 1970, the celebration is held in some countries on the Sunday after January 1. Eastern Churches following the Julian calendar observe the feast on what for most countries is January 19 because of the 13-day difference today between that calendar and the generally used Gregorian calendar. In many Western Christian Churches, the eve of the feast is celebrated as the Twelfth Night. The Monday after Epiphany is known as Plough Monday.

In Italian folklore, the Befana (pronounced [be fa:na]) is an old woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on Epiphany Eve (the night of January 5) in a similar way to St Nicholas or Santa Claus. She fills their socks with candy and presents if they were good, or a lump of coal or dark candy if they were bad. In many poorer parts of Italy and in particular rural Sicily, a stick in a stocking was placed instead of coal. Being a good housekeeper, many say she will sweep the floor before she leaves. To some the sweeping meant the sweeping away of the problems of the year. The child's family typically leaves a small glass of wine and a plate with a few morsels of food, often regional or local, for the Befana.

She is usually portrayed as a hag riding a broomstick through the air wearing a black shawl and is covered in soot because she enters the children's houses through the chimney. She is often smiling and carries a bag filled with candy, gifts, or both.



One Christian legend had it that Befana was approached by the biblical magi, also known as the Three Wise Men a few days before the birth of the Infant Jesus. They asked for directions to where the Son of God was, as they had seen his star in the sky, but she did not know. She provided them with shelter for a night, as she was considered the best housekeeper in the village, with the most pleasant home. The magi invited her to join them on the journey to find the baby Jesus, but she declined, stating she was too busy with her housework. Later, La Befana had a change of heart, and tried to search out the astrologers and Jesus. That night she was not able to find them, so to this day, La Befana is searching for the little baby. She leaves all the good children toys and candy or fruit, while the bad children get coal.

Another commonly heard Christian legend of La Befana starts at the time of the birth of baby Jesus. Befana spends her days cleaning and sweeping. One day the magi, also known as the three wise men, came to her door in search of baby Jesus. Befana turned them away because she was too busy cleaning. Befana later notices a bright light in the sky; she thinks this is the way to baby Jesus. She brought some baked goods and gifts for baby Jesus in her bag and took her broom to help the new mother clean and began her search for baby Jesus. She searched and searched for Baby Jesus, but never found him. Befana still searches today, after all these centuries. On the eve of the Epiphany, Befana comes to a house where there is a child and leaves a gift. Although she has been unsuccessful in her search, she still leaves gifts for good young children because the Christ Child can be found in all children.

Befana was never a widespread tradition among the whole Italian people, having originated in Rome and having only become well known and practiced by the rest of the population during the 20th century.

Now the Befana is celebrated throughout all of Italy, and has become a national icon. In the regions of Marche, Umbria and Latium, her figure is associated with the Papal States, where the Epiphany held the most importance. Urbana is thought to be her official home. Every year there is a big festival held to celebrate the holiday. About 30,000 to 50,000 people attend the festivities. Hundreds of

Befanas are present, swinging from the main tower. They juggle, dance and greet all the children.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lo sapevate?

The Italians played a significant role in the development of the Medical Thermometer that is used so frequently today. A medical thermometer (also called clinical thermometer) is used for measuring human or animal body temperature. The medical thermometer began as an instrument more appropriately called a water thermoscope, constructed by Galileo Galilei circa 1592–1593. It lacked an accurate scale with which to measure temperature and could be affected by changes in atmospheric pressure.

Italian physician Santorio Santorio is the first known individual to have put a measurable scale on the thermoscope and wrote of it in 1625, though he possibly invented one as early as 1612. His models were bulky, impractical and took a fair amount of time to take an accurate oral reading of the patient's temperature.

Two individuals switched from water to alcohol in the thermometer.

- The earliest is Ferdinando II de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany (1610–1670), who created an enclosed thermometer that used alcohol circa 1654.
- Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686–1736), a Polish-born Dutch physicist, engineer, and glass blower, made contributions to thermometers as well. He created an alcohol thermometer in 1709 and later innovated the mercury thermometer in 1714. Mercury, he found, responded more quickly to temperature changes than the previously used water.

Fahrenheit also created the temperature scale which is named after him, having recorded the system in 1724. The scale is still only mainly used for everyday applications in the United States, its territories and associated states as the Bahamas, Belize, and the Cayman Islands.

Prominent Dutch mathematician, astronomer and physicist Christiaan Huygens created a clinical thermometer in 1665, to which he added an early form of the centigrade scale by setting the scale to the freezing and boiling

points of water. By 1742 Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius created the Celsius temperature scale that was the reverse of the modern scale, in that 0 was the boiling point of water, while 100 was freezing. It would later be reversed by Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus (1707–1778) in 1744.

“BUSINESS CARD ADS” ON OUR WEBSITE

The club would like to extend the opportunity to its members to have a “Business Card ad” on our AIH Website. There would be no cost to the member. If you’re interested, send one of your business cards and a brief write up about your company to Dave Vegh, 8688 Applewood Court, Mentor, Ohio 44060, ph: 440-255-8944 email: DJVegh@gmail.com

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

AMERICANS of ITALIAN HERITAGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020

- President Gus Paolucci
- Vice President Ronald Wassum
- Secretary Glenn Pizzuti
- Treasurer William Petrello
- Trustee Mario Fioritto
- Trustee Rio DeGennaro Jr.
- Trustee James Federico Sr.
- Trustee Michael LaMalfa
- Trustee Anthony Munaretto
- Trustee Donald Rapposelli
- Trustee John Perrotti
- Trustee-Immediate Past Pres..... David Vegh

ATTACHMENTS

1. Umbria Region Text
2. Veneto Region Text