



## NEWSLETTER

MARCH marzo 2021

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Riunione febbraio

We tried to put together an actual in-person Membership Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club for 24 February but only 10 people signed up. The minimum dinners we must buy from Dino's is 35, plus, by our Bylaws we must have a minimum of 20 members for a quorum, so we had to cancel that attempt to get back to our regular Meetings. We will try again as the environment improves.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

#### MARCH marzo

31 March, Wednesday

Membership Meeting – Cancelled due to COVID 19 concerns.

#### APRIL aprile

28 April, Wednesday

Membership Meeting – Social Gathering at Pine Ridge Country. Spouses and Guests allowed

#### MAY maggio

26 May, Wednesday

Membership Meeting – Outdoor Patio Meeting at Pine Ridge Country Club

#### JUNE giugno

30 June, Wednesday

Membership Meeting – TBD

#### JULY luglio

28 July, Wednesday

Membership Meeting – TBD

#### AUGUST agosto

20 August, Friday

Golf Outing – Erie Shores Golf Club in Madison, Ohio

#### SEPTEMBER settembre

29 September, Wednesday

Club Bocce Tournament – TBD

#### OCTOBER ottobre

1 October, Friday

AIHC Fund Raiser – LaVera Party Center in Willoughby Hills. More details to follow.

27 October, Wednesday

Club Clam Bake – TBD

#### NOVEMBER novembre

17 November, Wednesday

Membership Meeting (Game Night) – TBD

### DECEMBER dicembre

12 December, Sunday

Club Family Christmas Party – TBD

### AIHC SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Just a second reminder, the applications for the AIHC Student Scholarships have been given to the schools throughout Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula and Cuyahoga Counties. If you have a child or grandchild in any of those schools, have them fill out an application.

Also, applications for the Membership Student Grants are available online or at one of our meetings. Remember the Membership Student Grants are awarded via a simple drawing for the number of Grants we have available. So, if you have a child or grandchild looking to start college or some post high school training, get your name in the drawing.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di marzo

Glenn Pizzuti.....	1
Chris Cheraso.....	11
Tony Centanne.....	20

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

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

Vince Granito, one of the Club's Founding Fathers, passed away on Wednesday, 24 February, at the age of 79.

Please keep Vince and his family in your prayers.

### PI DAY

The 14<sup>th</sup> of March is PI day. Why is it the 14<sup>th</sup>? Well, that date would be written 3.14.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to "spring ahead." Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to "fall back."



### THE IDES OF MARCH

The Romans did not number each day of a month from the first to the last day. Instead, they counted back from three fixed points of the month:

- the Nones (the 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>, nine days *inclusive* before the Ides),
- the Ides (the 13<sup>th</sup> for most months, but the 15<sup>th</sup> in March, May, July, and October), and the
- Kalends (1<sup>st</sup> of the following month).

Originally the Ides were supposed to be determined by the full moon, reflecting the lunar origin of the Roman calendar. In the earliest calendar, the Ides of March would have been the first full moon of the new year.

The Ides of each month were sacred to Jupiter, the Romans' supreme deity. The Flamen Dialis, Jupiter's high priest, led the "Ides sheep" (*ovis Idulis*) in procession along the Via Sacra to the *arx*, where it was sacrificed.

In addition to the monthly sacrifice, the Ides of March was also the occasion of the Feast of Anna Perenna, a goddess of the year (Latin *annus*) whose festival originally concluded the ceremonies of the new year. The day was enthusiastically celebrated among the common people with picnics, drinking, and revelry. One source from late antiquity also places the Mamuralia on the Ides of March. This observance, which has aspects of scapegoat or ancient Greek *pharmakos* ritual, involved beating an old man dressed in animal skins and perhaps driving him from the city. The ritual may have been a new year festival representing the expulsion of the old year.

In the later Imperial period, the Ides began a "holy week" of festivals celebrating Cybele and Attis, being the day *Canna intrat* ("The Reed enters"), when Attis was born and found among

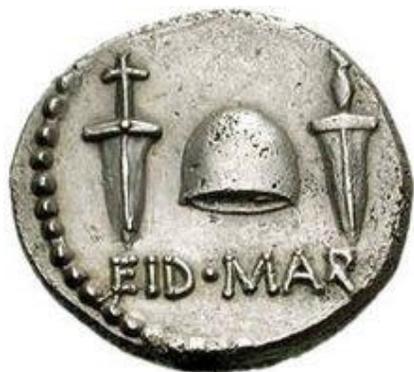
# Americans of Italian Heritage

NEWSLETTER

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the reeds of a Phrygian river. He was discovered by shepherds or the goddess Cybele, who was also known as the *Magna Mater* ("Great Mother") (narratives differ). A week later, on 22 March, the solemn commemoration of *Arbor intrat* ("The Tree enters") commemorated the death of Attis under a pine tree. A college of priests, the *dendrophoroi* ("tree bearers") annually cut down a tree, hung from it an image of Attis, and carried it to the temple of the Magna Mater with lamentations. The day was formalized as part of the official Roman calendar under Claudius (d. 54 AD). A three-day period of mourning followed, culminating with celebrating the rebirth of Attis on 25 March, the date of the vernal equinox on the Julian calendar.

In modern times, the Ides of March is best known as the date on which Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. Caesar was stabbed to death at a meeting of the Senate. As many as 60 conspirators, led by Brutus and Cassius, were involved. According to Plutarch, a seer had warned that harm would come to Caesar no later than the Ides of March. On his way to the Theatre of Pompey, where he would be assassinated, Caesar passed the seer and joked, "The Ides of March are come", implying that the prophecy had not been fulfilled, to which the seer replied "Aye, Caesar; but not gone." This meeting is famously dramatized in William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, when Caesar is warned by the soothsayer to "beware the Ides of March." The Roman Biographer Suetonius identifies the "seer" as a haruspex named Spurinna.



Caesar's death was a closing event in the crisis of the Roman Republic, and triggered the civil war that would result in the rise to sole power of his adopted heir Octavian (later known as

Augustus). Writing under Augustus, Ovid portrays the murder as a sacrilege, since Caesar was also the Pontifex Maximus of Rome and a priest of Vesta. On the fourth anniversary of Caesar's death in 40 BC, after achieving a victory at the siege of Perugia, Octavian executed 300 senators and equites who had fought against him under Lucius Antonius, the brother of Mark Antony. The executions were one of a series of actions taken by Octavian to avenge Caesar's death. Suetonius and the historian Cassius Dio characterized the slaughter as a religious sacrifice, noting that it occurred on the Ides of March at the new altar to the deified Julius.

*The above information was obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

## SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH

Mar. 4: March Forth and Do Something Day

Mar. 5: Cinco de Marzo

Mar. 6: Dentist's Day

Mar. 7: Alexander Graham Bell Day

Mar. 12: Alfred Hitchcock Day

Mar. 14: Pi Day

Mar. 15: Ides of March

Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day

Mar. 19: The swallows return to Capistrano

Mar. 22: International Goof Off Day

Mar. 24: Chocolate Covered Raisins Day

Mar. 26: Make Up Your Own Holiday Day

Mar. 28: Palm Sunday

*The above information was obtained from [timeanddate.com/holidays/fun](http://timeanddate.com/holidays/fun)*

## SPECIAL EVENTS THAT OCCURED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

**March 1, 1932** - The 20-month-old son of aviation pioneer Charles A. Lindbergh was kidnapped from his home in Hopewell, New Jersey. The Lindberghs then paid a \$50,000 ransom. However, on May 12, the boy's body was found in a wooded area a few miles from the house.

**March 1, 1974** - Seven former high-ranking officials of the Nixon White House were indicted for conspiring to obstruct the investigation into the Watergate break-in. Among those indicted; former chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, former top aide John Ehrlichman, and former attorney general John Mitchell.

**March 4, 1681** - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania.

**March 5, 1868** - The U.S. Senate convened as a court to hear charges against President Andrew Johnson during impeachment proceedings. The House of Representatives had already voted to impeach the President. The vote followed bitter opposition by the Radical Republicans in Congress to Johnson's reconstruction policies in the South. However, the effort to remove him failed in the Senate by just one vote and he remained in office.

**March 5, 1937** - Hormel invented SPAM and released it to the public on this day.

**March 6, 1836** - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on February 23rd, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.

**March 10, 1862** - The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.

**March 10, 1880** - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.

**March 12, 1888** - The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

**March 15, 44 B.C.** - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked "Et tu, Brute?" (You too, Brutus?) Caesar then gave up the struggle and was stabbed to death.

**March 24, 1989** - One of the largest oil spills in U.S. history occurred as the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in Prince William Sound off Alaska, resulting in 11 million gallons of oil



leaking into the natural habitat over a stretch of 45 miles.

**March 26, 1953** – Dr. Jonas Salk introduced his polio vaccine.

**March 30, 1981** - Newly elected President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel. The president was then rushed into surgery to remove a 22-caliber bullet from his left lung. "I should have ducked," Reagan joked. Three others were also hit including Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot in the forehead but survived. The president soon recovered from the surgery and returned to his duties.

*The above information was obtained from [historyplace.com/specials/calendar/march](http://historyplace.com/specials/calendar/march)*

## FAMOUS ITALIANS BORN IN MARCH

**Amerigo Vespucci**; 9 March 1454 – 22 February 1512) was an Italian-born merchant, explorer, and navigator from the Republic of Florence, from whose name the term "America" is derived. He became a Castilian citizen in 1505.

Between 1497 and 1504, Vespucci participated in at least two voyages of the Age of Discovery, first on behalf of Spain (1499–1500) and then for Portugal (1501–1502). In 1503 and 1505, two booklets were published under his name, containing colorful descriptions of these explorations and other alleged voyages. Both publications were extremely popular and widely read across much of Europe. Although historians still dispute the authorship and veracity of these accounts, at the time they were instrumental in raising awareness of the new discoveries and enhancing the reputation of Vespucci as an explorer and navigator.

Vespucci claimed to have understood, back in 1501 during his Portuguese expedition, that Brazil was part of a continent new to Europeans, which he called the *New World*. The claim inspired cartographer Martin Waldseemüller to recognize Vespucci's accomplishments in 1507 by applying the Latinized form "America" for the first time to a map showing the New World. Other cartographers followed suit, and by 1532 the

name America was permanently affixed to the newly discovered continents.

It is unknown whether Vespucci was ever aware of these honors. In 1505, he was made a citizen of Castile by royal decree and in 1508, he was appointed to the newly created position of chief navigator for Spain's *Casa de Contratación* (House of Trade) in Seville, a post he held until his death in 1512.

**Michelangelo**, born Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni; 6 March 1475 – 18 February 1564), known simply as Michelangelo, was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet of the High Renaissance, born in the Republic of Florence, who exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art. His artistic versatility was of such a high order that he is often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man, along with his rival, the fellow Florentine, Leonardo da Vinci. Several scholars have described Michelangelo as the greatest artist of his age and even as the greatest artist of all time.

A number of Michelangelo's works of painting, sculpture and architecture rank among the most famous in existence. His output in these fields was prodigious; given the sheer volume of surviving correspondence, sketches, and reminiscences, he is the best-documented artist of the 16th century. He sculpted two of his best-known works, the *Pietà* and *David*, before the age of thirty. Despite holding a low opinion of painting, he also created two of the most influential frescoes in the history of Western art: the scenes from Genesis on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, and *The Last Judgment* on its altar wall. His design of the Laurentian Library pioneered Mannerist architecture. At the age of 74, he succeeded Antonio da Sangallo the Younger as the architect of St. Peter's Basilica. He transformed the plan so that the western end was finished to his design, as was the dome, with some modification, after his death.

Michelangelo was the first Western artist whose biography was published while he was alive. In fact, two biographies were published during his lifetime. One of them, by Giorgio Vasari, proposed that Michelangelo's work transcended that of any artist living or dead, and was "supreme in not one art alone but in all three".

In his lifetime, Michelangelo was often called *Il Divino* ("the divine one"). His contemporaries often admired his *terribilità*—his ability to instill a sense of awe. Attempts by subsequent artists to imitate Michelangelo's impassioned, highly personal style resulted in Mannerism, the next major movement in Western art after the High Renaissance.

**Antonio Lucio Vivaldi**; 4 March 1678 – 28 July 1741) was an Italian Baroque composer, virtuoso violinist, teacher, impresario, and Roman Catholic priest. Born in Venice, the capital of the Venetian Republic, Vivaldi is regarded as one of the greatest Baroque composers, and his influence during his lifetime was widespread across Europe, being paramount in the development of Johann Sebastian Bach's instrumental music. He composed many instrumental concertos, for the violin and a variety of other musical instruments, as well as sacred choral works and more than forty operas. His best-known work is a series of violin concertos known as *the Four Seasons*.

Many of his compositions were written for the all-female music ensemble of the *Ospedale della Pietà*, a home for abandoned children. Vivaldi had worked there as a Catholic priest for 18 months and was employed there from 1703 to 1715 and from 1723 to 1740. Vivaldi also had some success with expensive stagings of his operas in Venice, Mantua and Vienna. After meeting the Emperor Charles VI, Vivaldi moved to Vienna, hoping for royal support. However, the Emperor died soon after Vivaldi's arrival, and Vivaldi himself died in poverty less than a year later.

After almost two centuries of decline, Vivaldi's music underwent a revival in the early 20th century, with much scholarly research devoted to his work. Many of Vivaldi's compositions, once thought lost, have been rediscovered - in one case as recently as 2006. His music remains widely popular in the present day and is regularly played the world over.

**Gioachino Antonio Rossini**; 29 February 1792 – 13 November 1868, was an Italian composer who gained fame for his 39 operas, although he also wrote many songs, some chamber music and piano pieces, and some sacred music. He set new standards for both comic and serious opera before retiring from

large-scale composition while still in his thirties, at the height of his popularity.

Born in Pesaro to parents who were both musicians (his father a trumpeter, his mother a singer), Rossini began to compose by the age of 12 and was educated at music school in Bologna. His first opera was performed in Venice in 1810 when he was 18 years old. In 1815 he was engaged to write operas and manage theatres in Naples. In the period 1810–1823 he wrote 34 operas for the Italian stage that were performed in Venice, Milan, Ferrara, Naples and elsewhere; this productivity necessitated an almost formulaic approach for some components (such as overtures) and a certain amount of self-borrowing. During this period he produced his most popular works including the comic operas *L'italiana in Algeri*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (known in English as *The Barber of Seville*) and *La Cenerentola*, which brought to a peak the *opera buffa* tradition he inherited from masters such as Domenico Cimarosa and Giovanni Paisiello. He also composed *opera seria* works such as *Otello*, *Tancredi* and *Semiramide*. All of these attracted admiration for their innovation in melody, harmonic and instrumental color, and dramatic form. In 1824 he was contracted by the Opéra in Paris, for which he produced an opera to celebrate the coronation of Charles X, *Il viaggio a Reims* (later cannibalized for his first opera in French, *Le comte Ory*), revisions of two of his Italian operas, *Le siège de Corinthe* and *Moïse*, and in 1829 his last opera, *Guillaume Tell*.

Rossini's withdrawal from opera for the last 40 years of his life has never been fully explained; contributory factors may have been ill-health, the wealth his success had brought him, and the rise of spectacular grand opera under composers such as Giacomo Meyerbeer. From the early 1830s to 1855, when he left Paris and was based in Bologna, Rossini wrote relatively little. On his return to Paris in 1855 he became renowned for his musical salons on Saturdays, regularly attended by musicians and the artistic and fashionable circles of Paris, for which he wrote the entertaining pieces *Péché de vieillesse*. Guests included Franz Liszt, Anton Rubinstein, Giuseppe Verdi, Meyerbeer and Joseph Joachim. Rossini's last major composition was his *Petite messe solennelle* (1863). He died in Paris in 1868.

**Gucci**, born Guccio Giovanbattista Giacinto Dario Maria Gucci; 26 March 1881 – 2 January 1953, was an Italian businessman and fashion designer. He is most known for being the founder of the fashion house of Gucci.

**Charles Ponzi**, born Carlo Pietro Giovanni Guglielmo Tebaldo Ponzi; March 3, 1882–January 18, 1949, was an Italian swindler and con artist in the U.S. and Canada. His aliases include *Charles Ponci*, *Carlo*, and *Charles P. Bianchi*. Born and raised in Italy, he became known in the early 1920s as a swindler in North America for his money-making scheme. He promised clients a 50% profit within 45 days or 100% profit within 90 days, by buying discounted postal reply coupons in other countries and redeeming them at face value in the U.S. as a form of arbitrage. In reality, Ponzi was paying earlier investors using the investments of later investors. While this type of fraudulent investment scheme was not originally invented by Ponzi, it became so identified with him that it now is referred to as a "Ponzi scheme." His scheme ran for over a year before it collapsed, costing his "investors" \$20 million (\$250 million as of 2020).

Ponzi may have been inspired by the scheme of William F. Miller (also known as "520% Miller"), a Brooklyn bookkeeper who in 1899 used a similar deception to take in \$1 million.



Charles Ponzi

**Vincent Mangano**, born Vincenzo Giovanni Mangano; March 28, 1888 – disappeared April 19, 1951, declared dead October 30, 1961, was an Italian-born mobster also known as "The Executioner" as named in a Brooklyn newspaper, and the head of what would come to be known as the Gambino crime family from 1931 to 1951. His brother, Philip Mangano, was his right-hand man and consigliere. He is also a distant paternal relative of former Genovese crime family underboss Venero Mangano and a suspected relative of Lawrence Mangano.

*The above information was obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

**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 2020 – 30 June 2022*

President..... Gus Paolucci  
 Vice President ..... Ronald Wassum  
 Secretary ..... Glenn Pizzuti  
 Treasurer ..... William Petrello

Trustee (e)..... Robert Andreanno  
 Trustee (e)..... Rio DeGennaro Jr.  
 Trustee (e)..... James Federico Sr.  
 Trustee (e)..... Mario Fioritto  
 Trustee (e)..... John Perrotti  
 Trustee (a)..... Anthony Illano Sr.  
 Trustee (a)..... Ken Mancuso  
 Trustee (Immediate Past Pres.) ..... David Vegh

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. None

**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 it to [GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com](mailto:GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com)