



## NEWSLETTER

MAY maggio 2021

### APRIL MEETING

Riunione aprile

We had no official Membership Meeting in April but we did have a Social Gathering at Pine Ridge Country Club on Wednesday, 28 April. Members were invited to bring their spouses and guests. We had over 40 attendees and they all seemed to have a great time.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Prossimi eventi

#### MAY maggio

26 May, Wednesday

**Membership Meeting** – 6:30p at Pine Ridge Country Club. Our speaker will be Brian Fife, Wine Manager and Sommelier at World Wines and Liquor.

#### JUNE giugno

30 June, Wednesday

**Membership Meeting** – 6:30p at Pine Ridge Country Club. Our speaker will be Bob DiBiasio from the Cleveland Indians.

#### JULY luglio

28 July, Wednesday

**Membership Meeting** – TBD

#### AUGUST agosto

20 August, Friday

**Golf Outing** – Erie Shores Golf Club in Madison, Ohio. See Attachment 1 for Golf Outing Sign-up Sheet.

25 August, Wednesday

**Membership Meeting / Club Bocce**

**Tournament** at Spirits in Willoughby, 3872 Erie Sreet, Willoughby, Ohio. Committee co-chairs: Ron Wassum and Tony Iliano Sr.

#### SEPTEMBER settembre

29 September, Wednesday

**Membership Meeting** – 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** – More information to follow

#### NOVEMBER novembre

17 November, Wednesday

**Membership Meeting** (Game Night) – More information to follow

#### DECEMBER dicembre

12 December, Sunday

**Club Family Christmas Party** at Pine Ridge Country Club. More information to follow

### AIHC SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

This is your last reminder. Applications are due in a couple days.

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.

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.

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Compleanni di maggio

Tony Vitantonio .....	3
Angelo LaSpina .....	3
Ron Terriaco .....	5
Dan Farina .....	6
Norman Ingrassia .....	6
Mike Camino .....	7
Marty Norsic .....	8
Ken Mancuso .....	12
Bill Petrello .....	21
Dr. Alfonso Rossi .....	24

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

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

salute e benessere

Fortunately there are no names to mentioned here this month.

### ROCKY COLAVITO MEMORIAL

The Italian American Brotherhood is constructing a memorial to Rocky Colavito in Little Italy. Our own Matt Gambatese has been very active in that group, helping to raise funding to cast a statue of Rocky and construct

a memorial in which to display that statue. If you want to get involved by purchasing a memorial brick for the plaza, take a look at attachment 2.

### SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

- May. 1: Batman Day
- May. 4: Star Wars Day  
"may the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you"
- May. 7: No Pants Day
- May. 10: Clean Up Your Room Day
- May. 11: Twilight Zone Day
- May. 15: Chocolate Chip Day
- May. 21: Pizza Party Day
- May. 21: Talk Like Yoda Day
- May. 28: Hamburger Day
- May. 31: Macaroon Day

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

### ITALIAN EVENTS IN MAY

#### Country wide

There are several things that Italy takes seriously like enjoying life away from work, reveling in the history and art within its museums, its wine, and its beautiful countryside.

- May Day: May 1, is a public holiday all over Italy. It is celebrated similarly to America's Labor Day. Many services will be closed, but you may find interesting parades and festivals to celebrate the day. Expect big crowds in popular Italian tourist destinations.
- Giro d'Italia: Italy's big bike race, similar to the Tour de France, starts in early May and lasts most of the month. The race takes in scenic countryside and it is fun to watch a leg or two.
- Night of Museums: One Saturday in mid-May, museums in many Italian cities are open late, often with free admission and special events.
- Cantine Aperte: "Open cantinas" is a big wine celebration throughout Italy the last two weekends of May, when cantinas and wineries, many normally closed to the public, invite guests for tastings and tours. There is often food and live music, and, of course, bottles of wine available to purchase.

#### Abruzzo

Abruzzo is east of Rome with the Adriatic coastline and the Apennine Mountains in this region. National parks and forest cover much



of its rugged interior. The region includes hilltop towns that date to the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

- Snake Handlers' Procession: On the first Thursday in May, in the town of Cocullo, Italy, a statue of St. Dominic, the town's patron saint, is carried through town covered with live snakes. According to lore, the festival dates back thousands of years to pre-Christian times. To appease the Vatican, the event was adapted to additionally honor St. Dominic, who is believed to provide protection against snake bites for people working in the fields. Also, St. Dominic can intercede on your behalf for relieving toothaches and wolf bites.
- The Flower Festival of Bucchianico: In preparation of the feast of St. Urban, the town's patron saint, this town's people do a reenactment of a 13th-century military event and hosts a parade of more than 300 women balancing beautiful floral bouquets on their heads on the third Sunday in May.
- The Daffodil Festival: In the Abruzzo town of Rocca di Mezzo, you can celebrate the coming of spring with folk dancing and a parade on the last Sunday in May.

### Emilia Romagna

The Emilia Romagna region is found between the Po River, the Adriatic Sea, and the Apennine Mountain chain that forms Italy's backbone. It is most famous for its cuisine offerings like *prosciutto* (cured ham) from Parma, *Parmesan Reggiano* (cheese), and balsamic vinegar from Modena.

- Il Palio di Ferrara: Ferrara hosts a historic horse race dating from 1279. It is run the last Sunday in May. There are parades, flag throwing contests, and other events every weekend in May including a historical procession to the castle with over 1,000 people in Renaissance costumes on the Saturday night of the weekend before the race.
- Medieval Parade and Jousting Tournament: The town of Grazzano Visconti is a replica of a Medieval Italian town and it hosts a parade and tournament with a nod to the Medieval time period on the last Sunday in May.

### Lazio

Lazio, also referred to as Latium in a more archaic form, is the region that contains Rome. However, when you hear people refer to Lazio,

most are referring to the towns and area just outside of Rome.

- The Wedding of the Trees: In Italian, called *Sposalizio dell'Albero*, this festival takes place May 8 in the northern Lazio town of Vetralla. A couple of oak trees are decorated with garlands, horsemen offer bouquets of the first spring flowers, and new trees are planted while everyone enjoys a free picnic lunch. The ceremony revives Vetralla's sovereignty over the forests and continues the time-honored tradition of giving each citizen a cubic meter of firewood annually.
- La Barabbata: The Barabbata Festival is held every year on May 14 on the shores of Lake Bolsena in the fishing village of Marta near Viterbo. The festival is a Catholicised rendition of the pagan rites of spring that consists of a parade honoring the Virgin Mary. In this procession, men wear costumes representing the old trades and carry their tools while white buffalo pull floats carrying the fruits of the trades.

### Liguria

Liguria is a coastal region of northwestern Italy. Its capital is Genoa. The region is considered the Italian Riviera and is popular with tourists for its beaches, towns, and cuisine.

- In the Fish Festival of St. Fortunato, the patron saint of fishermen is celebrated in the village of Camogli, south of Genoa, the second Sunday in May. Saturday night there is a huge fireworks display and bonfire competition followed by free fried fish on Sunday.

### Piedmont

The northwest corner of Italy is the Piedmont region, which borders the Alps. Piedmont translates from Latin to mean "the foot of the mountains."

- The Risotto Festival: The first Sunday in May in the Piedmont town of Sessame is a huge feast celebrating Italian risotto, a special rice dish dating back to the 13th century.
- Roman Fest: The Roman Fest is a three-day reenactment of a typical ancient Roman festival in the Piedmont town of Alessandria, the last weekend of May. The festival includes parades, feasts, staged gladiator combat, and chariot races.

### Sardinia and Sicily

Sardinia and Sicily are large Italian islands off the coast of Italy in the Mediterranean Sea. Both have beautiful beaches. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean and has one of the most active volcanoes in the world, Mt. Etna.

- Sagra di Sant Eufisio: On May 1, one of the most important festivals in Sardinia features a colorful four-day procession from Cagliari to the Romanesque church of Saint Eufisio on the beach at Nora. Decorated ox carts and horsemen accompany the saint's statue in a parade followed by food and dancing.
- Infiorata di Noto: A huge festival with flower petal art displays and a parade, takes place in Noto, Sicily, the third weekend of May.

### Tuscany

Tuscany is Italy's largest region and was the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. Florence is its capital.

- Pinocchio's Birthday: May 25 in the Tuscan town of Pescia within the village of Collodi, the village celebrates the "puppet with the ever-growing nose," Pinocchio. Collodi is the pen name of the Italian author who penned the story in the 1880s, which has since been popularized further by a 1940 Disney movie.
- The Chianti Wine Festival: On the last Sunday in May and first Sunday in June, the Chianti Wine Festival takes place in Montepertoli in the Chianti wine-making region of Tuscany.

### Umbria

Umbria, called Italy's green heart, is similar to adjacent Tuscany with verdant forests. Although it is landlocked, it has Lake Trasimeno, one of the largest lakes in Italy.

- Ring Race and Procession: This festival in Narni boasts reenactments of 14th-century contests and parades through May 12. It usually starts near the end of April.
- Calendimaggio: Celebrated in early May in Assisi, this festival is a spectacular display of Medieval and Renaissance costumes and life. The festival includes theater shows, concerts, dances, processions, archery, crossbow, and flag-waving displays.
- La Palombella: Hosted in Orvieto, this festival represents the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. The festival is held on Pentecost Sunday, seven weeks after



Easter, which usually falls in May. The festival takes place in the plaza in front of the Orvieto Cathedral and ends with a fireworks display.

- The Festa dei Ceri: This candle race and costumed parade in Gubbio takes place May 15 and is followed by a historical cross-bow exhibition on the last Sunday of May.

### **Veneto**

Veneto is a gem of a region in the northeast corner of Italy. It is bound on the west by Lake Garda, on the north by the Dolomite Mountains, and on the east by the Adriatic Sea. It is the home region of Venice, the city built on 100 small islands.

- The Festa della Sensa, or Ascension Festival, is held on the first Sunday after Ascension Day (40 days after Easter) in Venice. The ceremony commemorates Venice's marriage to the sea and in past times, the Doge threw a gold ring into the sea to unite Venice and the sea. In modern times a regatta heads from Saint Mark's Square to Saint Nicolo culminating with a gold ring being thrown into the sea. There is also a huge fair.

*The above information was obtained from [www.tripsavvy.com](http://www.tripsavvy.com)*

## **CINCO DE MAYO**

Cinco de Mayo, Spanish for "Fifth of May" is an annual celebration held on May 5. The date is observed to commemorate the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza. The victory of the smaller Mexican force against a larger French force was a boost to morale for the Mexicans. Zaragoza died months after the battle due to illness. A year after the battle, a larger French force defeated the Mexican army at the Second Battle of Puebla, and Mexico City soon fell to the invaders.

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo has taken on a significance beyond that in Mexico. More popularly celebrated in the United States than Mexico, the date has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture. These celebrations began in California, where they have been observed annually since 1863. The day gained nationwide popularity in the 1980s thanks especially to advertising campaigns by beer and wine companies.

Today, Cinco de Mayo generates beer sales on par with the Super Bowl.

In Mexico, the commemoration of the battle continues to be mostly ceremonial, such as through military parades or battle reenactments. The city of Puebla marks the event with an arts festival, a festival of local cuisine, and re-enactments of the battle.

Cinco de Mayo is sometimes mistaken for Mexico's Independence Day—the most important national holiday in Mexico—which is celebrated on September 16, commemorating the Cry of Dolores, which initiated the war of Mexican independence from Spain.

## **MIUCCIA PRADA**

Miuccia BianchiPrada was born in Milan, Italy, 10 May 1949. Under her leadership, the small but respected leather goods shop founded by her grandfather Mario in 1913, became one of the premier design brands on the international fashion scene. Her breakout item was a black nylon backpack with a red metal triangle.

Prada handbags were *the* status symbol of the 1990s and Prada came to dominate the world of accessories, handbags and shoes, picking up where Gucci had left off. Today, Prada is a multi-national corporation whose portfolio of luxury brands includes Helmut Lang, Fendi, Jil Sander, and Church and Co. Miuccia also founded her own fashion company, turning her nickname, Miu-Miu, into a famous brand name.

*The above information was taken from the Living Language – Italian 2021 Calendar*

## **MOTHER'S DAY**

The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she

believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday, the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Although Jarvis was successful in founding Mother's Day, she became resentful of the commercialization of the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day, and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards. Jarvis protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and at a meeting of American War Mothers in 1925. By this time, carnations had become associated with Mother's Day, and the selling of carnations by the American War Mothers to raise money angered Jarvis, who was arrested for disturbing the peace.

In 1912 Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrase "Second Sunday in May, Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, Founder", and created the Mother's Day International Association. She specifically noted that "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world." This is also the spelling used by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in his 1914 presidential proclamation, by the U.S. Congress in relevant bills, and by various U.S. presidents in their proclamations concerning Mother's Day.

While the United States holiday was adopted by some other countries, existing celebrations, held on different dates honoring motherhood,



have become described as "Mother's Day", such as Mothering Sunday in the United Kingdom or, in Greece, the Eastern Orthodox celebration of the presentation of Jesus Christ to the temple (2 February of Julian Calendar). Both the secular and religious Mother Day are present in Greece. Mothering Sunday is often referred to as "Mother's Day" even though it is an unrelated celebration.

Mother's Day in Italy was celebrated for the first time on 24 December 1933 as the "Day of the mother and the child" (Giornata della madre e del fanciullo). It was instituted by the Opera nazionale maternità e infanzia in order to publicly reward the most prolific Italian women every year.

After World War II, Mother's Day was first celebrated on 12 May 1957 in Assisi, at the initiative of Reverend Otello Migliosi, the parish priest of the Tordibetto church. This celebration was so popular that in the following year Mother's Day was adopted throughout Italy. On 18 December 1958, a proposal was presented to the Italian Senate to make the holiday official.

The above information was taken from the 2021 Wikipedia.

ARMED FORCES DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY

There are three days each year that we recognize the service and sacrifices of members of our Armed Forces. These days are not interchangeable, and they are not days set aside to recognize just anyone who has passed away. They are intended to recognize members of our Armed Forces only.



Armed Forces Day this year falls on Saturday, 15 May. Armed Forces Day honors all members of the military currently serving in any branch of our Armed Forces.

Memorial Day this year falls on May 31st. Memorial Day honors all members of the military who died while serving in any branch of our Armed Forces. The holiday, which is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May, was previously observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

Veterans Day this year falls on Thursday, 11 November. The WW-I Armistice with Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Veterans Day honors all military veterans who have served in any branch of our Armed Forces.

FUN FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy.

France and Italy produce over 40 percent of all wine consumed in the world.

In Italy, the Apennine Mountains form the peninsula's backbone; the Alps form its northern boundary.

Italy adopted the euro as its currency in Jan. 1999.

The actual smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It is located within the boundaries of Rome and has an area of two tennis courts.

In Italy, Santa Claus is called Babbo Natale.

Florence was the first city to mint its own gold coins in 1252.

The Po is Italy's principal river.

Canned herring were called "sardines" because the canning process was first developed in Sardinia.

Sicily and Sardinia are Italy's largest islands.

Napoleon had conquered Italy by the time he was 26 years old.

The Bank of America was originally called the Bank of Italy.

Cantaloupes are named after the gardens of Cantaloupe, Italy, where this melon is believed to have first been grown.

A LITTLE LIGHT TRIVIA

How did an English police force become known as "Scotland Yard"?

In the tenth century, in an effort to stop hostilities between their two countries, the English gave a Scottish king land in London with the provision that he build a castle on it and live there for a few months every year. Seven centuries later, with the two nations united under one king, the land returned to English ownership. In 1829, the London police took up residence on the land, which by then was known as Scotland Yard.

The above information was obtained from The Little Book of Answers by Doug Lennox.

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. Golf Outing Sign-up Sheet
2. Rocky Colavito Memorial flyer

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 them to me at GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com