



**NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY gennaio 2022**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Buon anno*

Here's hoping 2022 is a great year for all of us!



**DECEMBER MEETING**

*Riunione dicembre*

In accordance with our Bylaws, there was no Executive Committee Meeting or Membership Meeting in December so we could all spend more time with our families.

**AIH ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our Annual Club Family Christmas Party was scheduled for Sunday, 12 December, at Pine Ridge Country Club. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the event due to a lack of signed up attendees. Hopefully, next year people won't be so concerned about getting together in large groups so we can return to our traditional party.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Prossimi eventi*

**JANUARY gennaio**

**10 January, Monday**

**AIHC College Football National Championship Game Pool**

Committee Chairs: Ron Wassum and Bill Petrello

Format: 100 square pool

Squares are \$50.00 each

Squares are available from: Ron Wassum at 440-487-3144 or Bill Petrello at 440-478-2935.

**19 January, Wednesday**

**AIH Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:00p

**26 January, Wednesday**

**AIH Membership Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:30p

Speaker: Tim Ausperk, the Club Pro from Black Brook Golf Course & Practice Center in Mentor.

**FEBRUARY febbraio**

**13 February, Sunday**

**AIHC Super Bowl LVI Pool**

Committee Chairman: Dave Vegh

Format: 100 square pool

Squares are \$100.00 each

Squares are available from: Dave Vegh or Bill Petrello.

**16 February, Wednesday**

**AIH Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:00p

**23 February, Wednesday**

**AIH Membership Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:30p

Speaker: TBD

**MARCH marzo**

**23 March, Wednesday**

**AIH Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:00p

**29 March, Tuesday**

AIH is 43 years old.

The Club was organized on 29 March 1979

**30 March, Wednesday**

**AIH Membership Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:30p

Speaker: TBD

**APRIL aprile**

**20 April, Wednesday**

**AIH Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:00p

**27 April, Wednesday**

**AIH Membership Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:30p

Speaker: Bob DiBiasio from the Cleveland Major League Baseball Team.

**MAY maggio**

**18 May, Wednesday**

**AIH Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:00p

**25 May, Wednesday**

**AIH Membership Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:30p

Special Event: Presentation of Slate of Nominees for Officers and Trustees for FY23 and FY24.

Speaker: TBD.

**JUNE giugno**

**22 June, Wednesday**

**AIH Executive Committee Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:00p

**29 June, Wednesday**

**AIH Membership Meeting**

Venue: The Buona Festa Social Club

Time: 6:30p

Special Event: Election of Officers and Trustees for FY23 and FY24.

Speaker: TBD.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

*Compleanni di gennaio*

Paul Fortunato .....	6
George Judy .....	8
Gabe Cicconetti .....	15
Donnie Rapposelli .....	27

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

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

*salute e benessere*

Committee Chair Richard O'Keefe has advised us that his wife, Lynn, was hospitalized for 13 days with COVID and pneumonia, but is now receiving treatment at home, and is on oxygen. Please keep Lynn and Richard in your prayers.

**SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY**

- 01 Jan: Polar Bear Plunge Day
- 02 Jan: Run it up the Flagpole and See If Anyone Salutes It Day
- 03 Jan: Fruitcake Toss Day
- 03 Jan: Festival of Sleep Day
- 04 Jan: Trivia Day
- 06 Jan: The Epiphany
- 09 Jan: Static Electricity Day
- 15 Jan: Bagel and Lox Day

# Americans of Italian Heritage

## NEWSLETTER

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17 Jan: Ditch Your New Year's Resolution Day  
19 Jan: Popcorn Day  
21 Jan: Squirrel Appreciation Day  
27 Jan: Chocolate Cake Day

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

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The biennial election of AIH Officers and Trustees will occur this year in June. This will be for a term from 1 July 2022 thru 30 June 2024.



The Slate of Nominees running for the Officers and Trustees positions will be presented at the May 2022 Membership Meeting. The election will be held at the June 2022 Membership Meeting.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee is Bob Studniarz. If you would like to be a part of this committee or would like to be a Nominee for one of the positions, please contact Bob Studniarz at 440-567-4344 or [RStudniarz54@outlook.com](mailto:RStudniarz54@outlook.com)

## 6 JANUARY FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Epiphany, also known as Theophany in the east, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation (theophany) 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 Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas. Moreover, the feast of the Epiphany, in some 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. The spot marked by Al-Maghtas in Jordan, adjacent to Qasr al-Yahud in the West 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. Those Eastern Churches which are still following the Julian calendar observe the feast on what, according to the internationally used Gregorian calendar, is January 19, because of the current 13-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.



In many Western Christian Churches, the eve of the feast is celebrated as Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve). The Monday after Epiphany is known as Plough Monday.

Popular Epiphany customs include Epiphany singing, chalking the door, having one's house blessed, consuming Three Kings Cake, winter swimming, as well as attending church services. It is customary for Christians in many localities to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve (Twelfth Night), although those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas, the conclusion of Epiphanytide. According to the first tradition, those who fail to remember to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve must leave them untouched until Candlemas, the second opportunity to remove them; failure to observe this custom is considered inauspicious.

*Above information obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

## JANUARY IN ITALY

### The Weather in Italy in January

On average, January is the coldest month in Italy. It's also the snowiest month in the

mountains, with an average of 11 inches of snowfall in cities and villages in the Dolomites to the Alps to the Apennines.

Northern Italy is frigid in January. While cities like Milan, Turin, Venice, and Bologna enjoy highs in the low 40s°F and lows around freezing, upper elevations in the mountains can see average highs and lows well below freezing.

January in Central Italy is also very cold. While it can be mild in the region during January, with highs averaging in the low 50s°F, it can also be bone-chilling. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Tuscany was in Firenzuola (near Florence) in January 1985, when temperatures plunged to -15°F. Florence and Rome average 8-10 days of precipitation during January, but it is usually rain or freezing rain rather than snow.

Southern Italy is cold but relatively mild compared to the rest of the peninsula during January. Highs in Naples, Palermo, and Cagliari average in the mid- to upper-50s °F, with lows in the high 30s to upper 40s °F. The region averages 8-9 days of rain in January and rarely sees snow.

### Holidays and Festivals, in Italy in January January 1 – New Year's Day

New Year's Day is a national holiday in Italy. Most shops, museums, restaurants, and other services will be closed so that everyone can recover from New Year's Eve Festivities. In Rome, for example, it's typical to spend New Year's Day taking a relaxing stroll with the family in the Villa Borghese.

While most take the cue to relax on January 1st, there are exceptions. In Venice, some bathers take a morning dip in the chilly waters of the Lido. Meanwhile, a few daredevil Romans take a New Year's Day dive off the Ponte Cavour into the frigid and murky water of the Tiber River.

### January 6 – Epiphany and Befana

A national holiday, Epiphany is officially the 12th day of Christmas and one on which Italian children celebrate the arrival of La Befana, a good witch. Venetians celebrate the day with a costumed Regatta of Befane on the lagoon.

While secular activities abound on this day, including the beginning of the winter sales, there are indeed religious events to mark the arrival of the Three Kings. Many churches and

communities throughout Italy perform living nativities for Epiphany. And *presepi*, those diorama-style nativity scenes common in every church, are still on display on January 6.

In the Vatican City, prior to a special Epiphany mass by the Pope in Saint Peter's, a procession of hundreds of people dressed in medieval costumes walk along the Via delle Consolazioni, the wide avenue leading up to the Vatican, carrying symbolic gifts for the pontiff.

Florence also holds a costumed parade, which goes from Palazzo Pitti to Piazza della Sigoria and then finishes at the Duomo.

### January 17 – Saint Anthony's Day (Festa di San Antonio Abate)

The Feast Day of Saint Anthony Abbott celebrates the patron saint of butchers, domestic animals, basket makers, and grave diggers. In Rome, for example, this feast day is celebrated at the church of Sant'Antonio Abate on the Esquiline Hill and the traditional "Blessing of the Beasts" that accompanies this day takes place in the nearby Piazza Sant'Eusebio.

In the Assisi hamlet of Santa Maria degli Angeli, the Feast Day of Sant'Antonio Abate is known as the Piatto di Sant'Antonio and includes a large procession of locals in 19th century period costumes and a parade of horses and other domesticated animals.

Elsewhere in Italy, particularly in the south, Sant'Antonio Abate is celebrated with bonfires, owing to the saint's association with the *Fuoco di Sant'Antonio*, Saint Anthony's fire, another name for the disease of Shingles.

*The above information was obtained from [italofile.com/january-italy/](http://italofile.com/january-italy/)*

## THE HISTORY OF OUR CALENDAR

The history of calendars, that is, of people creating and using methods for keeping track of days and larger divisions of time, covers a practice with ancient roots.

Archaeologists have reconstructed methods of timekeeping that go back to prehistoric times at least as old as the Neolithic. The natural units for timekeeping used by most historical societies are the day, the solar year and the lunation or lunar year. Calendars are explicit

schemes used for timekeeping. The first historically attested and formalized calendars date to the Bronze Age, dependent on the development of writing in the ancient Near East. The Sumerian calendar was the earliest, followed by the Egyptian, Assyrian and Elamite calendars.

A larger number of calendar systems of the ancient Near East appear in the Iron Age archaeological record, based on the Assyrian and Babylonian calendars. This includes the calendar of the Persian Empire, which in turn gave rise to the Zoroastrian calendar as well as the Hebrew calendar.

Calendars in antiquity were usually lunisolar, depending on the introduction of intercalary months to align the solar and the lunar years. This was mostly based on observation, but there may have been early attempts to model the pattern of intercalation algorithmically, as evidenced in the fragmentary 2nd-century Coligny calendar. Nevertheless, the Roman calendar contained very ancient remnants of a pre-Etruscan 10-month solar year.

The Roman calendar was reformed by Julius Caesar in 45 BC. The Julian calendar was no longer dependent on the observation of the new moon but simply followed an algorithm of introducing a leap day every four years. This created a dissociation of the calendar month from the lunation or lunar month.



In the 11th century in Persia, a calendar reform led by Khayyam was announced in 1079, when the length of the year was measured as 365.24219858156 days. Given that the length of the year is changing in the sixth decimal place over a person's lifetime, this is outstandingly accurate. For comparison the

length of the year at the end of the 19th century was 365.242196 days, while today it is 365.242190 days.

The Gregorian calendar was introduced as a refinement of the Julian calendar in 1582, and is today in worldwide use as the "*de facto*" calendar for secular purposes. The primary difference between the Julian Calendar and the Gregorian Calendar is that the Julian Calendar was based on a year being 365.25 days. The Gregorian Calendar is more accurately based on a year being 365.2425 days. Both calendars had a leap year every four years to account for the fraction of a day.

The term *calendar* itself is taken from the *calends*, the term for the first day of the month in the Roman calendar, related to the verb *calare* "to call out", referring to the calling or the announcement that the new moon was just seen. Latin *calendarium* meant "account book, register", as accounts were settled, and debts were collected on the *calends* of each month.

The Latin term was adopted in Old French as *calendier* and from there into Middle English as *calender* by the 13th century. The spelling *calendar* is from Early Modern English.

An alternative hypothesis connects "calendar" with *koledari* in Slavic, pre-Christian tradition, which was later incorporated into Christmas. *Kolo* means "circle, cycle" and *dar* means "a gift".

*Above information obtained from Wikipedia, 2021*

## IN MEMORIAM

The following is a list of members and relatives of members who either passed away or had serious health issues in 2021:

### January

- Frank Stinziano and his wife both contracted COVID.

### March

- Vince Granito passed away.

### September

- Bob Studiers cousin Joe Jerome passed away.
- Art Montoni's Mother-in-Law, Abbondanza Pilla passed away.

### October

- Mario Fioritto's cousin, Mike Fioritto passed away.

### December

- Bob Andreano had knee surgery.



**A LITTLE TRIVIA**

**Why do we say that someone who inherited wealth was “born with a silver spoon in his mouth”?**

If someone is “born with a silver spoon in his mouth,” it means he was born into wealth rather than having had to earn it. The expression comes from an old custom of godparents giving the gift of a spoon to a child at its christening to signify their responsibility for its nourishment and well-being. If they were wealthy, the spoon was usually silver, and if not, it would be pewter or tin.

**Why do we call a cowardly person “yellow”?**

Yellow, meaning cowardly, is actually an abbreviation of “yellow dog,” an American insult that first appeared in the nineteenth century to describe a cowardly or worthless person. In the early twentieth century, when employers were fighting trade unions, they insisted that new employees sign a pledge never to join a union. This pledge was called a “yellow dog” contract by union members, with the implication that anyone signing it was “yellow.”

**How did Clark Kent get his name?**

When conceived in 1934, Superman was endowed with the strength of ten men, but he couldn’t fly. After being turned down by fifteen syndicators, the Man of Steel took to the air and acquired the needed strength to become a super legend. Some say Superman’s success is within the storyline of his secret identity, whose name was derived from two popular actors of the time, Clark Gable and Kent Taylor.

**Who was Mortimer Mouse and whatever happened to him?**

Mortimer was Walt Disney’s name for a cartoon mouse in the historic 1928 cartoon “Plane Crazy.” When Walt came home and told his wife about the little mouse, she didn’t like the name “Mortimer” and suggested that “Mickey” was more pleasant-sounding. Walt thought about it for a while then grudgingly gave in, and that’s how Mickey, and not Mortimer, went on to become the foundation of an entertainment empire.

**How did the cartoon character Bugs Bunny get his name?**

In 1940, Warner Bros. asked its illustrators for sketches of a “tall, lanky, mean rabbit” for a cartoon titled “Hare-um Scare-um.” Someone

in the office labeled the submission from cartoonist “Bugs” Hardaway as “Bugs’ Bunny” and sent it in. Although his drawings weren’t used, the words that labeled them were given to the rabbit star of the 1940 cartoon, “A Wild Hare,” which introduced Bugs Bunny.

**How did the Wizard of Oz get his name?**

The classic tale of Dorothy in the land of Oz came from the imagination of L. Frank Baum, who made up the story for his son and a group of children one evening in 1899. When a little girl asked him the name of this magical land with the Scarecrow, Tinman, and Cowardly Lion, he looked around the room for inspiration. He happened to be sitting next to a filing cabinet with the drawers labeled “A-G,” “H-N,” and finally “O-Z,” which gave him the quick answer: “Oz.”

**How did the name Wendy originate?**

The name Wendy was created by J. M. Barrie for a character in his 1904 play, *Peter Pan*. The poet W. E. Henley, a close friend of Barrie’s, had a four-year old daughter, Margaret, and because her father always referred to Barrie as “friend,” she would try to imitate him by saying “fwend” or “fwendy-wendy.” Sadly, Margaret died at the age of six, but her expression lives on in *Peter Pan* and all the Wendy’s that have followed.

**Have you ever wondered how Cinderella could have walked in a glass slipper?**

The story of Cinderella was passed along orally for centuries before it was written down by Charles Perrault in 1697. While doing so he mistook the word *vair*, meaning ermine, for the word *verre*, meaning glass. By the time he realized his mistake, the story had become too popular to change, and so instead of ermine slippers, Cinderella wore glass slippers.

**Why is a beautiful blonde called a “blonde bombshell”?**

The expression “blonde bombshell,” often used to describe a dynamic and sexy woman with blonde hair, came from a 1933 movie starring Jean Harlow. Hollywood first titled the film *Bombshell*, but because it sounded like a war film, the British changed the title to *Blonde Bombshell*. It originally referred only to the platinum-haired Miss Harlow but has come to mean any gorgeous woman of the blonde persuasion.

*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. 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 them to me at [GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com](mailto:GPizzuti@GlennPizzutiArchitect.com)