

Italian American Club of Lansing



OSIA Lodge 2590



News



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Merry Christmas (Buon Natale!)

Christmas Party

Come and share some holiday cheer at the IAC's Christmas Party scheduled for **Sunday, December 14, 2008**, at Piazzano's Italian Restaurant, located at 1825 N. Grand River Ave., (1/2 mile west from Turner Street—Old Town).

The event will be from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A menu of gnocchi, baccala (salted cod fish), chicken nuggets, bread and salad, will be served. It is rumored that a jolly old-man in a bright red suit and furry hat might be stopping by. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10-\$20 value) with your child's name for distribution. Also, bring a Christmas bulb for exchange with others.

This event is **free** to IAC members who are in good standing. Non-members cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children 6 to 12 years old. Children under 6 free.

The Board of the Directors of the Italian American Club of Lansing, want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and Peace on Earth!

News from IAC's Women's Auxil- iary

Christmas Party—is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at the home of Diana Zack.

Dinner is catered by Honey Baked Ham. If you would like more information on the Christmas Party or on the IAC's Women's Auxiliary, please contact Christian Bozzo, President, at (517)622-1782.



In other News....

Mark your 2009 calendar!

Please place **March 7, 2009**, on your calendar for the IAC's *Spring Dinner*.

Once again the dinner will held at the IHM Hall which is located at 3815 S. Cedar Street, Lansing.

A delicious menu will consist of homemade meatballs, Italian sausage, smothered in homemade sauce along with a side of pasta.

This year there will only be a limited amount of tickets sold, tickets will be

available starting in January.

This is the IAC's biggest of event and you certainly do not want to miss out on the delicious authentic food.

The Legend of the “La Befana”

On January 6th. of each year in Italy they celebrate “La Befania”. It is a traditional holiday story that young and old still presently believe in, just like Santa Claus. The story has it that La Befana (a good old witch) delivers presents during the middle of the night. She delivers these presents to those children who have been good throughout the year.

This holiday marks the end of the Christmas season and the day that the three Wise Men arrived at the manger of the Christ child. Over the years the Epiphany has been a more celebrated holiday for the children of Italy than even Christmas.

As the legend has it the three Wise Men were in search of the Christ child when they decided to stop at a small house to ask directions. When they knocked on the door, an old woman holding a broom opened the door.

She saw three colorfully dressed Wise Men who were looking for the Christ child at her doorsteps..

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The old woman did not know who these three strange men were and was unable to point them in the right direction.

The three Wise Men asked the old woman to join in the journey of looking for the Christ child, and she declined because she had too much house work to be done. After the three men had left, the old woman felt that she had made a mistake of not joining the search and decided to catch up with the three Wise Men.

After many hours of searching she was not able to find the three Wise Men. The old woman felt that she missed a special opportunity to see the Christ child, so she proceeded to stop every child to give them a small treat with the hopes that one of the children would be the Christ child.



Christmas traditions in Southern Italy—

On Christmas Eve night in southern Italy, many town elders and their families carry the baby Jesus—a large size, life size doll—from door to door for families to greet the Savior. This is similar to the version of Christmas caroling.

The families kiss the baby and offer their visitors drinks and merriment.

Nativity Scene—

Italians favor the “presepe” or nativity scene over the traditional Christmas tree. Some households will have both. But everyone has a nativity scene—the baby Jesus is placed in the scene when the clock strikes midnight on Christmas Eve..

“Tu Scendi dalle Stelle”— is the anthem for the holiday season in Italy. This is Italy’s version of Silent Night.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!
Buon Natale e un Felice Anno Nuovo!

