

Italian American Club of Lansing



News



Our motto: 'Dio`Patria e Famiglia (God, Country & Family)

Since 1935

www.lansingiac.org

Volume 4, Issue 5

IAC of Lansing, P.O. Box 27456, Lansing, MI 48909

November/December 2010

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News Items....



Christmas Party a success

The IAC's Christmas Party was held on **Sunday, December 5, 2010**, at *City Limits Restaurant* in Mason, Michigan.

There was plenty of delicious food, cookie decorating, holiday cheer and a surprised visit was made by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Donations of gloves, hats and scarfs were collected for St. Vincent De Paul.

The Board of Directors would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and Peace on Earth in 2011.!

Conversational Italian classes



If you ever wanted to learn conversational Italian, here is your opportunity. The class is scheduled to start on January 16, 2011, and run thru February.

The class will meet for six weeks on Sundays, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the *Wanderer's Teahouse and Café*, located 547 E. Grand River Ave, East Lansing (free parking in back of the teahouse).

The class will be taught by Elizabeth Marazita who has lived in Italy and fluent in the Italian language.

The cost of the class is \$50.00 for IAC Members and \$60.00 non-members, visit www.lansingiac.org for more information and enrollment form.

Italian Heritage Tour



If you ever wanted to tour Italy is your opportunity. The Italian heritage 10 day tour will be guided by world travelers Elizabeth Marazita and her cousin John Marazita. Places that you will visit are Rome, Florence, Pisa, Pompeii, Sorrento, Calabria, and Sicily.

The cost of the Italian Heritage Tour is \$2,800.00 per person which includes round trip flight from Detroit, accommodations (double-occupancy), dinner and breakfast, museum entrances, and bus transport within Italy. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Marazita at elizabeth@wanderersteahouse.com or visit www.lansingiac.org. The deadline to register is January 31, 2011, and a 50% down-payment is due.

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. 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.



Book of local author

Lisa Gigliotti, a member of the IAC of Lansing, has recently published the book, ***Coraggio! Lessons for Living from an Italian Grandmother Despite Illness Pain or Loss.***

In the book Lisa uses the stories told to her by her Nonna to explain how despite chronic illnesses and the loss of loved ones, with courage is possible to live a fulfilled life with joy and purpose. The stories, many taking place in Prov. Cosenza, Italy, describe characters who face adversity yet live a life filled with family, tradition and celebration. ***Coraggio!*** Is available at Schuler bookstores, Amazon.com, and www.withcourageican.com.



Upcoming events

1. January 16, 2011—**Conversational Italian classes** scheduled to start at Wanderer's Teahouse and Café.
2. **2011 Spring Pasta Dinner**, date and time yet to be determined.
3. **Italian Heritage Tour**—from March 4, 2011 thru March 14, 2011.