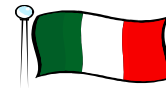


Italian American Club of Lansing



News



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

Since 1935

www.lansingiac.org

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November/December 2011

Italian American Club Board of Directors

Officers:

- Tony De Luca, President
- Paul Orlando, Past President
- Jim Mocerri, Vice President
- Hon. Frank De Luca, Orator
- Jennifer Orlando,
Recording Secretary
- Fred Capalongo, Guard
- Joe Sambaer, Treasurer
- Lou Sesti,
Financial Secretary
- Fr. Mark Inglot, Chaplin

Directors:

- Frank Badalamente
- Vito Cicinelli
- Hon. Charles Filice
- Brad Herson
- Lisa Herson
- Joe Joseph
- Amy Magistro-Kraus
- Kathleen LaMacchia
- Steve LaMacchia
- Phil Marazita
- Jean Orlando
- Susie Perna-Sambaer
- Eric Scorsone

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Christmas party



Christmas Party (Buon Natale)

Its difficult to imagine, its that time of the year to celebrate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The *IAC's Christmas Party* is scheduled for **Sunday, December 11, 2011**, 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, chicken nuggets, bread and salad, will be served It is rumored that a jolly old-man in a bright red suit and furry hat will be stopping by to celebrate our event. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10-\$20 value) with your child's name for distribution.

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

Also, there will be a cookie exchange, please bring your favorite Christmas dessert along with the recipe to share. In addition to the cookie exchange we are asking that you bring mittens, gloves, or scarf's to donate to St. Vincent Catholic Charities. Kids cookie decorating will also take place.

The Board of the Directors of the Italian American Club of Lansing, want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May there be peace on earth!

Please RSVP either by email iaclansing@yahoo.com or calling (517)974-1706.

Upcoming events for 2012

Mark your calendars for 3012!

1. **Italian Mixer**—February, date, time and place to be determined.
2. **2012 Spring Pasta Dinner**—**March**, date and time to be determined.
3. **Annual Meeting**—May.
4. **Annual Picnic & San Francesco di Paola Celebration**—Sunday, July 15th.
5. **Columbus Day Event**—October 14th.

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 Man 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.



More news....

New Board Directors

The IAC of Lansing would like to welcome three new board members, they are, Lisa Herson, Kathleen LaMacchia, and Steve LaMacchia. They replace Jim Covello, Gaetano Restivo, and a vacancy on the board.

Congratulations to the new board directors and thank you to those who previously served. Your service and commitment is greatly appreciated.

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.