

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

September/October 2026



Inc. 1971

NEWSLETTER- NOTIZIE

Motto: Dio, Patria e Famiglia (God, Country & Family)

FALL/AUTUNNO COLORS – IN ITALY

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Anna Kennedy

Thank you. Grazie.



Tony De Luca, President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE, TRADITION, AND COMMUNITY

As we welcome the beautiful colors and spirit of the fall season, I am reminded of the many traditions that bring us together as Italian Americans. Autumn is a time of gathering, celebrating, and giving thanks—values that are deeply rooted in our heritage.

Our Italian-American community has always understood the importance of family, friendship, faith, hard work, and service to others. These traditions have been passed from one generation to the next, helping preserve our culture while strengthening the communities we call home.

Fall also gives us an opportunity to reflect on all that we have accomplished together. Through our events, cultural programs, charitable efforts, and community activities, we continue to honor the sacrifices of those who

came before us while creating opportunities for future generations.

I encourage everyone to take part in the many celebrations and activities taking place this season. Share your family traditions with your children and grandchildren. Prepare the recipes handed down through generations. Tell the stories of your parents, grandparents, and ancestors. Most importantly, continue to make our Italian-American heritage a living part of our everyday lives.

As we gather around the table this fall, let us remember that our greatest strength is our community. When we stand together, support one another, and celebrate our shared heritage, we ensure that the Italian-American spirit will continue to flourish for generations to come.

If currently NOT a member of the IAC of Lansing. Join today! www.lansingiac.org.

Cooking Class—Sept. 10th, 6:00 pm

Join us for a unique hands-on cooking experience as we bring together two beloved traditions from opposite ends of Italy! “North meets South!” From Calabria region, you will learn to make Maccheroni and from the Liguria region, “Pesto Genovese”. It will be a delicious pairing of rustic Calabrian pasta with the fresh flavors of Liguria’s most famous sauce. All ingredients will be provided to you as you prepare the class dishes. At the end of class you can enjoy your dish with participants.

The event will be held on Thursday, September 10th, at the Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, starting at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$50.00 per participant and you **MUST** be preregistered by emailing: buriganagiorgio@gmail.com.



Maccheroni (Maccarruni)

Mangia, Impara, Condividi!

(Eat, Learn, Share!)



\$50 /PER PERSON

TAILGATE EVENT

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING TAILGATE

Sept. 12th, 2026

7:00am-Game End

Southeast Corner of the MSU Union



Please join us for this year's IACL's tailgate on the MSU campus, on **Saturday, Sept. 12th**! This year's tailgate will once again be graciously co-hosted by Beaumont Bronze, who have been tailgating at MSU Football games for the last nine years, and is coordinated by IACL's Vice President, Dane Dario.

Festivities will begin at **7:00 am**, as that is when MSU opens campus for night games. There will be food, drinks, entertainment, and games throughout the course of the day leading up to kickoff. Attendees are more than welcome to stay at the tailgate for the game as it will be aired at the tailgate on a 100" projector screen.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a plate to share around, but it is not required, however this event is BYOB. Stay tuned for an official Facebook event that will share greater details as we get closer to the big day.



ITALIAN DINNER NIGHT!

Italian Dinner Night!

Saturday,

**October 3rd
doors open at
6:00 pm.**

Location:

**Cristo Rey
Church—
Parish Hall**

Cost:

\$35 –Adults

**\$20.00 Chil-
dren (6-12)**

Free (under 6)

On **Saturday, October 3, 2026**, is our annual Italian Dinner Night, to be held at Cristo Rey Church—Parish Hall, doors open at 6:00 pm. A delicious menu will be served which includes pasta with homemade sauce (cooked by volunteers), homemade meatballs, Italian sausage, salad, dinner rolls, deserts, and coffee.

Tickets for this event are: \$35.00 for adults; \$20.00 for children (6-12 years of age); and Free to under 6yrs old. Purchase your tickets online by scanning the QR Code or from any board member or email iacoflansing@gmail.com

The proceeds from the dinner event will benefit: *the IAC's Scholarship Fund*. For more information see attached flyer or details visit: www.lansingiac.org. Purchase your tickets, today! Seating is limited!



ITALIAN COMMUNITY NEWS....NOTIZIE

Ramo Salerno Italian Heritage Bus Trip to Lansing

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation, for an exciting and enriching experience: The Ramo Salerno Italian-American Heritage Bus Trip to Lansing, on **Wednesday, October 7, 2026, approximately 11:00 am.**

There will be one person from (5) Michigan Italian-American clubs and cultural societies: Italian-American Cultural Society (Clinton Twp., MI), Italian-American Club of Livonia (Livonia, MI), Downriver Italian-American Club (Southgate, MI), the Italian-American Club of Lansing (Lansing, MI), and the Italian American Chamber of Commerce (Clinton Twp., MI) without selecting someone who has previously been honored with a proclamation.

This year, our very own board member, Professor Carmen De Lorenzo, will receive a proclamation for the dedication, years of teaching Italian language at Michigan State University and her continued volunteerism in preserving the Italian heritage and traditions, in the Lansing and Michigan Italian community. Congratulations, Professor De Lorenzo! A well deserved honor for all that you and have done!

Come and be part of this Italian heritage ceremony and support Camern! A delicious lunch is also provided to attendees, followed by a visit to the capitol.





ITALIAN DINNER NIGHT

Presented By the Italian American Club of Lansing

**An evening of authentic Italian Cuisine,
Culture, Heritage, Traditions, and Community**



Tickets

Adults: \$35

Children (6-12): \$20

Children Under 6: Free



Oct. 3rd, 2026 • 6pm

Cristo Rey Church- Parish Hall

201 W. Miller Rd. Lansing

Proceeds and Donationations will benefit the IACL Scholarship Fund!

Pics.... SOCIAL HOUR Event—held on July 23rd



Christopher Columbus — Italian Explorer

Courtesy of : World History Encyclopedia

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506, also known as Cristoffa Corombo in Ligurian and Cristoforo Colombo in Italian) was a Genoese explorer (identified as Italian) who became famous in his own time as the man who discovered the New World and, since the 19th century CE, is credited with the discovery of North America, specifically the region comprising the United States.

Actually, owing to the early 16th-century popularity of the published letters of the Florentine explorer Amerigo Vespucci (l. 1454-1512), detailing his three voyages to the “New World” between 1497-1504, the discovery of the Americas has been credited to him on world maps beginning in 1506 which is why the continents bear the feminine version of his name. Columbus made four voyages to the area of the Caribbean, exploring Cuba, Central America, South America, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the islands of the Bahamas, and others between 1492-1504:

- First Voyage: 1492-1493
- Second Voyage: 1493-1496
- Third Voyage: 1498-1500
- Fourth Voyage: 1502-1504

Columbus never set out to discover a New World, but to find a western sea route to the Far East to facilitate [trade](#) after the land route of the [Silk Road](#), between [Europe](#) and the East, had been closed by the [Ottoman Empire](#) in 1453, initiating the so-called Age of Exploration (also known as the Age of Discovery) which launched many European sea expeditions. Columbus' first voyage brought him to one of the islands of the Bahamas on 12 October 1492, which he claimed in the name of the monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and his wife Isabella of Castile of Spain. His next three voyages were made to consolidate Spain's control of the region and establish colonies.

Columbus is acknowledged as the first to establish contact between Europe and the Americas known as the [Columbian Exchange](#) whereby people, plants, technology, and other aspects of [culture](#) passed between the Old and the New World, transforming both and establishing the foundation for the modern age.

Although modern-day detractors of Columbus cite the Norse community in Newfoundland as the first “discovery of America”, the [Vikings](#) under [Leif Erikson](#), who landed in North America centuries before Columbus, had no effect on the indigenous population and their return to Greenland afterwards inspired no further expeditions.

Columbus' journeys, by contrast, opened the way for later European expeditions, but he himself never claimed to have discovered America. The story of his “discovery of America” was established and first celebrated in *A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* by the American author [Washington Irving](#) (l. 1783-1859 CE) published in 1828 CE and this narrative (largely fictional) would eventually contribute to the establishment of Columbus Day as a United States' holiday in 1906 CE, observed up through the present.

Columbus Day—Monday, October 12, 2026



Where did that come from?

PASTA!

Italy has contributed significantly to the joy of eating, regardless of what country you are. We all know pasta is one of the most popular foods EVER!! (Who doesn't like pasta?) But what's the real story behind this tasty food?



According to Wikipedia, the exact origin of pasta is unclear. Some say ancient China is responsible while others say Italy is the foundation (let's go with that version!) One common myth attributes pasta's creation to the legendary explorer Marco Polo, who is said to have brought pasta from China to Italy during his travels in the 13th century. However, this story has been debunked by historical evidence that suggests pasta existed in Italy long before Polo's time.

Another theory suggests that pasta was independently developed in different parts of the world, including China, the Middle East, and Italy.

It would be akin to the phenomena of the wheel, where a bunch of different ancient civilizations developed the marvel at varying times throughout history.

For example, ancient Chinese noodles and Arabic "*itriyah*" bear similarities to pasta, but they may have evolved separately from Italian pasta.



Archetrastus

References to pasta-like dishes in ancient civilizations offer intriguing insights. Among the earliest mentions, the Greek poet Archestratus wrote about "*laganon*," a possible precursor to pasta, in his works around 320 BCE. These early recipes described how to prepare and enjoy these dough-based delicacies, though their descriptions are vague enough to argue that *laganon* was a pastry dough, rather than pasta

Further evidence of pasta's existence comes from the Etruscan civilization in ancient Italy, dating back to the 4th century BCE from an Etruscan tomb.



Etruscan Tomb

These early Italians were known to consume a type of pasta, called *testaroli*, showcasing its presence in the region long before the common era. It is flat, spongy, and shaped into squares or diamonds. A far cry from the thin, stretched *spaghetti* noodles of today!

IAC's culinary expert, Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo, shared the history of a particular kind of pasta, *maccheroni al ferretto*, which is deeply rooted in the peasant traditions of Southern Italy. Historically, the pasta was crafted by Calabrian housewives using only basic, economical ingredients—durum wheat flour and water. Before modern kitchen utensils were available, early generations of Calabrian pasta makers fashioned these elongated curls by wrapping cords of dough around whatever thin rods—*ferretto tools*—they could find, such as bamboo, umbrella wires, or weeping willow twigs. The iron *ferretto* used to shape the pasta was highly *Ferretto* valued and was traditionally included in a young Calabrian bride's dowry.



Ferretto



A symbol of prosperity

The Neapolitan lucky horn, known in Naples as *Curniciello*, is a unique amulet said to bring luck and protection, is dear to the hearts of Neapolitans and has become well-known all over the globe. In this article, we will explore the history, features, and rituals around the Neapolitan horn to understand its importance better and use.

Ancient Roots: Phallic Symbolism and Cavemen Ancient myths about the Neapolitan lucky horn may be traced back to both Greek legends and the practices of our distant ancestors in the Stone Age. According to Greek mythology, the horn represents good fortune and fertile offspring since it is Priapus' phallus. Archaeologists have discovered similar symbols at Pompeii and Herculaneum, affirming the ongoing significance of this ancient depiction. Moreover, even in 3500 BC, cave dwellers contributed to the evolution of the practice. They believed the horns of the animals they killed would provide them with protection and power, so they hung them over the entrances to their caves.

Viking Warriors and the Rise of the Neapolitan Lucky Horn Lucky horns gained more and more importance over time. The Viking troops imitated their superiors and began showing off their horns. Artisans also fashioned the first versions of the Neapolitan horn from simple materials like clay or wood.

Characteristics of the Genuine Neapolitan Horn Not all horns are lucky. Neapolitan lucky horns are potent amulets due to their particular properties. "*Tuosto, stuorto, and cu'a punta*" (hard, crooked and pointed) must be articulated. These lovingly crafted horns are thought to absorb the makers' power and positive vibrations. In addition, the Neapolitan horn, a symbol of life, is also crimson-like blood. Its vivid hue embodies the amulet's protection.

Gifting Tradition The custom of giving the Neapolitan lucky horn as a gift ranks as one of the most intriguing characteristics of this amulet. People also regard the horn as a sacred object, insisting it should be received exclusively as a gift. Moreover, giving the horn as a present bestows meaning onto it and fills it with the giver's good intentions and energies.

Activating the Neapolitan Lucky Horn You can activate a Neapolitan horn's defensive abilities with a simple yet meaningful procedure. To properly display a horn given to you, stab its tip into the palm of your left hand. It is important to follow the same protocol when giving a Neapolitan horn as a gift. Many believe that this simple action activates the amulet's protective properties.

Broken Tips: A Sign of Success If the tip of the horn breaks, you should not worry about it. People consider it a badge of pride. As soon as the horn's tip breaks, it has absorbed enough negative energy to fulfill its purpose. Since you have fulfilled its protective function, you can exchange it for a new fortunate charm.

LEARN ITALIAN WITH GIORGIO

PRIME TIME at Hannah Community Center (See info below)

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 10

TO BOOK A SEAT CALL SAMANTHA JONCKHEERE (Prime Time)

At: 517-337.1113 or Email: s.jonckheere@cityofeastlansing.com

Beginning Italian Conversation 1

Fridays, September 4-October 9 (6 sessions),
10:30-11:30 a.m., Conference Room
Cost: \$60 (M), \$75 (NM)

In this practical and fun approach to learning a new language, learn how to start little conversations in Italian. Subjects include greetings, clothing, the alphabet, counting, and the days of the week, etc. No purchase of materials is required but please bring lined paper and a pen. Teacher Giorgio Burigana is an Italian national born in Venice. Minimum: 6, Maximum: 10
Instructor: Giorgio Burigana



Beginning Italian Conversation 2

Fridays, October 16-November 20
(6 sessions), 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
Conference Room
Cost \$60 (M), \$75 (NM)

A continuation from the first class, experienced students will progress to learn more specific and advanced Italian vocabulary and grammar, increasing their speaking fluency.
Minimum: 6, Maximum: 10
Instructor: Giorgio Burigana



Join Us
FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL



Aperitivo Cenato

A FUNDRAISING EVENT HOSTED BY THE NOI FOUNDATION

Enjoy an afternoon of Italian hospitality, drinks & light bites the way they do in Italy, all in support of our meaningful cause - to bring the Italian culture and language to our local schools and community.

WHEN
SEPT
12

TIME
3:00 PM
6:00 PM

WHERE
SILVIO'S
TRATTORIA
225 CANTON CTR RD.,
CANTON, MI 48188

\$60

Single Ticket - Event Only
included with ticket

- Delicious Italian small plates
- 1 drink ticket (spritz or wine)
- 2 hours of connecting with fellow Italian enthusiasts

New This Year!

\$100

**Pre-Event Culinary Experience
with Chef Silvio**
included with ticket

- 90 minute culinary class prior to event
- Delicious Italian small plates
- 1 drink ticket (spritz or wine)
- 2 hours of connecting with fellow Italian enthusiasts



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ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

Our Mission is to foster and maintain our proud Italian heritage, culture, and traditions for the next generations.

We offer a variety of activities, from cultural, sporting heritage events, concerts, dinner, events. We love to gather for festivals celebrating our common heritage. From here to Detroit we are all one group united in a common cause: community and the love for God, Country and Family.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **Board Meeting**— Thursday, September 3rd, 6:30 pm, Foster Community Center, Room 211
- **Italian Language Classes**—Hannah Community Center, September 4th
- **Cooking Class**— Thursday, September 10th, 6:00 pm, Allen Neighborhood Center
- **IAC L's Tailgate**—Saturday, September 12th, Michigan State Campus, near the MSU Union Building (look for Italian flags!)
- **NOI Foundation "Aperitivo Cenato"**—September 12th, Canton, MI
- **Board Meeting**— Thursday, October 1st, Foster Community Center, 6:30 pm, Room 211
- **Italian Dinner Night**—Saturday, October 3rd, Cristo Rey Parish Hall, 6:00 pm
- **Ramo Salerno Heritage Bus Trip to Lansing**— Wednesday, October 7th, Mackinac Room—across from the state capitol. (Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo will receive a proclamation)
- **Columbus Day Observation**— Monday, October 12th
- **Halloween** - Saturday, October 31st

Please note that dates and times of events, are subject to changes.

Send us a recipe(s) or a newsworthy items to be published in an upcoming newsletter edition. iacoflansing@gmail.com.



ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

P.O Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48901

E-mail: iacoflansing@gmail.com



If have yet to renew your membership, please do so today!

Or, if not a member. Join today!

Or, become a sponsor supporter!

Visit: <https://www.lansingiac.org/>

Like us on Facebook!

A special thank you to Andi Brancato, member, for article contributions to this newsletter.



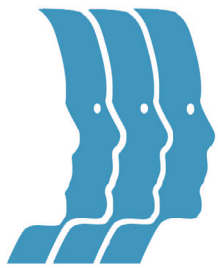
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support!**

Grazie!

Become a sponsor today!

(Additional details attached to this newsletter)

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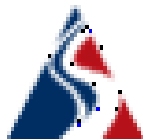
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Italian American Club of Lansing

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (check selection)

☐ **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

☐ **RENEWAL**

(Membership year is May 1st to April 30th)

Member(s) Name: _____

Italian Family Name Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Family Membership: (names of children)

Membership Category/Fee: (check applicable category):

☐ **\$45.00/Family** (children up to 18 years of age) ☐ **\$35.00/Individual** (18 years or older)

☐ **\$15.00/Senior/Retiree** (70 years & older) ☐ **\$20.00/Student** (ages 18 to 25)

☐ **\$30.00/Associate/Supporter** (referred by 2 active members)

For Associate/Supporter membership - provide referral by: _____

☐ **Please check box (✓) for automatic credit card yearly membership renewal option.** Provide your authorizing signature for automatic renewal: _____

Send Application and Payment to:

Italian American Club of Lansing, P.O. Box 27456, Lansing, MI 48909

If you have questions, please email iacoflansing@gmail.com

Maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions by supporting the IAC of Lansing!

The Italian American Club of Lansing

Inc. 1971



Founded in 1935, by a group of Italians who were very grateful to their adopted country for the opportunities given them and fiercely proud of their heritage.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Option 1- Platinum Package \$500 per year

- Full Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events, on Facebook, and logo at events.
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 2- Gold Package \$250 per year

- Half Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events, and on Facebook
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 3- Silver Package \$100 per year

- Quarter Page Advertisement in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal Thank You at Annual Events
- Opportunity to offer 10% discount on food or services to IACL members, listing on the website.

Option 4 - Individual sponsorship \$50 – recognition in November/December newsletter.

Interested in being a Sponsor? Please email: iacoflansing@gmail.com.

Thank you. Grazie.



Italian American Club of Lansing

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION

Company Name: _____

Contact Name:: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Sponsorship Level: *(circle applicable level)*

\$500.00 - Platinum

\$250.00 - Gold

\$100.00 - Silver

\$50.00 - Individual

Sponsorship Category: *(check applicable category)*

_____ **General Sponsorship** *(One year – May 1st to April 30^t, newsletters, website)*

_____ **Event Sponsorship** *(Recognition at event)*

Mail Application and Payment: Italian American Club of Lansing
P.O. Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48909

If you have questions, please email iacoflansing@gmail.com

Maintain the Italian heritage, culture, and traditions by supporting the IAC of Lansing!

Thank you. Grazie!