

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

November/December 2025



Inc. 1971

NEWSLETTER - NOTIZIE

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

COLOSSEO—ROMA

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MERRY CHRISTMAS! BUON NATALE!



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Welcome New Members!

- **Alexa Zisa**
- **Julia De Rosa**
- **Michael Gillespie**
- **Patrick De Rosa**
- **Michael Sdao**
- **Ron Sdao**
- **Maryann Sdao**



**Thank you for helping to maintain the beautiful Italian heritage,
culture, and traditions!**



Tony De Luca, President

**Buon Natale e
Felice Anno
Nuovo!**

**Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters,

As the Fall season has arrived and the holidays will soon be upon us.

The months of September and October were quite busy with various Club functions. In early September we held our Tailgate event on the MSU campus, it was great and enjoyable time. Also, in September, we held our Italian Business Network meet-up. I hope that those of you that own businesses or are professionals will participate in future network meet-ups. It provides an opportunity to promote your business and network with other professionals. Be on the look out for the next scheduled network meeting!

In October, we held our annual Italian Dinner night fundraiser, this is our largest event of the year and once again, it was a great success! A special thank you to all the board members, the many volunteers, and attendees that made this event wonderful display of Italian culture and herit-

age. Grazie!

Also, in October our very own Hon. Frank De Luca received a proclamation for his dedication and commitment to the Italian community in the greater Lansing area, from Ramo Salerno Bus Trip to Lansing Group, this was also in observation of Columbus Day. Congratulations Frank!

On a sadder note we recently experienced the passing of two former board members, Fred Capolongo and Bill Altimore. May they rest in peace.

As we now approach the last two months of 2025, first and foremost, I want to wish all of you and your families a very joyous and healthy holiday season. May you receive the many blessing of Thanksgiving and your Christmas season be filled with great joy and happiness.

We look forward to your participation and support in all the 2026 Club events! If not a member, JOIN Today! Or, if you have yet to renew your membership, take ACTION today! *Thank you. Grazie!*

CHRISTMAS PARTY (FESTA D' NATALE)

Please join us for this year's Christmas party event, on **Sunday, December 7th!** The event will be held at:

The Pizza House, 4790 S. Hagadorn Rd. (Hannah Center Plaza), East Lansing.



The festivities begin at **1:00pm and go through 4:00pm**, there is a minimal cost to help off-set expenses (members \$15.00 and non-members \$25.00). A delicious menu will be served: (2-types of pasta, various styles of pizzas, breadsticks, chicken tenders, salad, and soft drinks).

We are requesting an RSVP, no later than December 1st. To assure that we order the correct amount of food.

Also, we will have a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, so if you would like your child to have a picture with Santa, this will be a great opportunity. Please bring a wrapped gift with your child's name, so that Santa can distribute to your son or daughter. Small children will receive a copy of the "La Befana" by Tommie de Paola.

Alos, we wil be collecting non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry at St. Therese Church.

We look forward to seeing you at this event and share the celebration of the holiday season. Buone Feste!

See attached flyer to this newsletter....

*Lansing Regional Sister City
Commission*



*Italy Sub-Committee—
Chair, Tony De Luca*

- **Sister City with
Pianezza (TO)**
- **Friendship City
with
Cosenza (CA)**



**Cosenza Mayor Franz Ca-
ruso and Tony De Luca**

VISIT TO PIANEZZA AND COSENZA

I currently serve as a Commissioner with the Lansing Regional Sister City Commission, Sub-Committee on Italy. Last month, I was honored to be in the role of ambassador to represent the City of Lansing, in the sister city of Pianezza, near Torino, and Friendship city of Cosenza. I was accompanied by a couple of other commissioners to form a Lansing delegation.

During our visit, we were able to meet some very influential individuals which included the President of Region of Piemonte; representatives from of the Commercial Council of Piemonte; representatives from the Industrial Union; representatives from the Torino Airport; representative from the manufacturing association, and many other business owners. We also visited a middle school, to start discussions on student exchange programs.

Mayor Antonio Castello and individuals from his staff and many others from Pianezza provided warm hospitality and made us feel that we were part of a family. Not only did we participate in business meetings, but were personally had the pleasure of meeting many residents from Pianezza. During of our dinner events, I had the pleasure of meeting Santo Facili, President/CEO of Alfa-Romeo and Maserati.

My next stop after Pianezza was the region of Calabria, where I was born. Through my relatives contacts, a meeting was arranged with the Mayor of Cosenza, Franz Caruso, who was gracious enough to open his schedule for a meeting. I also had the opportunity to spend time with my many relatives that live near Cosenza. What a fantastic time! I feel blessed for the opportunity.



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 housework 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.



ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES IN LANSING SCHOOLS?

As you might have seen recently on the program on WILX-10 about the NOI Foundation teaches children in Michigan about Italian language and culture. IAC of Lansing's President Tony De Luca is working with NOI's Executive Director, Raffaella Naurato, to bring Italian language classes to some schools in the Lansing area.

Here is some additional information about NOI. **The N.O.I. (Nuovi Orizzonti Italiani or New Italian Horizons) is a Michigan non-profit educational corporation with tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code devoted to promoting the teaching of the Italian Language and Culture through the Consulate of Italy in Detroit.**

The objective of the N.O.I. Foundation is to allow as many students as possible to study and learn the Italian language and Culture. To achieve this goal, the N.O.I. Foundation is prepared to assist public and private schools interested in our program by providing educational materials, books, videos, manipulatives, and, if necessary, some financial support.

So, if you know of any high school student that might be interested in learning the Italian language, please encourage them to sign-up for the course when it is presented. Of course, this Italian language class will only be offered if there is enough interest.

Also, through the Lansing Regional Sister City Commission there will be some upcoming opportunities for an high school students exchange program with Sister City of Pianezza and possibly Cosenza. If a student already knows a little of the Italian language, that will make their experience of the exchange even more exciting. Stay tune for more information on the schools and start of classes, as it becomes available.

Italian Christmas Traditions

Italian Christmas traditions include celebrating from December 8th to January 6th, featuring customs like the Nativity scene, La Befana delivering gifts on Epiphany, and a meat-free Christmas Eve dinner focused on seafood. Families often gather for festive meals, enjoy Christmas markets, and participate in local folklore and music, such as the zampognari playing bagpipes.

Overview of Italian Christmas Traditions

Christmas in Italy is celebrated from December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, to January 6th, the Epiphany. This festive season is rich with unique customs, food, and family gatherings.

KEY TRADITIONS

NATIVITY SCENES

- **PRESEPE:** The tradition of creating nativity scenes, or "presepi," is particularly strong in Naples, where artisans craft detailed figures representing village life.
- **LIVING NATIVITIES:** IN SOUTHERN ITALY, COMMUNITIES REENACT THE NATIVITY SCENE, BRINGING THE STORY TO LIFE WITH ACTORS AND ANIMALS.

LA BEFANA

- **GIFT-GIVING:** ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EPIPHANY (JANUARY 5TH), LA BEFANA, A KIND OLD WITCH, DELIVERS GIFTS TO CHILDREN. GOOD CHILDREN RECEIVE SWEETS, WHILE NAUGHTY ONES MAY FIND COAL.

CHRISTMAS EVE FEAST

- **LA VIGILIA:** ITALIANS TRADITIONALLY ENJOY A MEAT-FREE MEAL ON CHRISTMAS EVE, OFTEN FEATURING MULTIPLE SEAFOOD DISHES. THIS PRACTICE IS ROOTED IN CATHOLIC CUSTOMS OF PURIFICATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

- **MERCATINI DI NATALE:** OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKETS ARE POPULAR, OFFERING LOCAL CRAFTS, FOOD, AND FESTIVE TREATS LIKE ROASTED CHESTNUTS AND PANETTONE.

CELEBRATORY ACTIVITIES

- **MIDNIGHT MASS**

MANY ITALIANS ATTEND MIDNIGHT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE, ESPECIALLY IN VATICAN CITY, WHERE THE POPE LEADS THE SERVICE.

MUSIC AND FESTIVITIES

- **ZAMPOGNARI:** BAGPIPE PLAYERS, KNOWN AS ZAMPOGNARI, PERFORM IN PUBLIC SQUARES, CONTINUING A TRADITION THAT DATES BACK TO ANCIENT TIMES.

DECORATIONS

- **CHRISTMAS TREES:** Trees are typically decorated on December 8th and remain up until the Epiphany. These traditions reflect Italy's rich cultural heritage and the importance of family and community during the holiday season.

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, sports 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 2025 CALENDARS!

We are planning a full calendar of events for 2025 and we look forward to your support and attendance of these events. Here is a short list of some scheduled Club or around the state Italian community events:

- **Thanksgiving—Thursday, November 27th**
- **Christmas Party—Sunday, December 7, 2025, at the Pizza House (Hannah Plaza), East Lansing**
- **Christmas Eve—Wednesday, December 24th**
- **Christmas Day—Thursday, December 25th**
- **2026—January 6th, “La Befania” (Epiphany)**

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

If you have a recipe(s) or a newsworthy item to share for an upcoming newsletter editions, send information to:

iacoflansing@gmail.com.



ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

P.O Box 27456
Lansing, MI 48901

E-mail: iacoflansing@gmail.com



**Join the IAC of Lansing
today!**

Or

Consider becoming a sponsor supporter!

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

Like us on Facebook!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members:

\$15.00

Non-Members:

\$25.00

Children Under

12: FREE



Sunday, Dec. 7th, 2025

1:00-4:00pm

Pizza House

4790 Hagadorn Rd.

STE 116

East Lansing, MI 48823

Meal Includes:

Various Pizzas and Pastas,
Chicken Tenders, Salads, and
Soft Drinks.

Best efforts to accommodate
dietary restriction will be made

Special Guests:

SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS!

(Santa would be thrilled to
give presents to any child
whose parents provide one that
is wrapped and labeled)

Please bring a traditional homemade dessert to share with everyone!

RSVP no later than Dec. 1st.

Please RSVP via the Facebook event AS WELL AS an email to either IACofLansing@gmail.com or deluca_iac@yahoo.com

**Donations of non-perishable food items for the benefit of the St. Vincent De Paul Food
Pantry at St. Therese Church will be collected at the Party.**



Italian American Club of Lansing

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or 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 Fee: *(check applicable category):*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00/Family (children up to 18 years of age) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00/Individual (18 years or older) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00/Senior/Retiree (70 years & older) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00/Student (ages 18 to 25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00/Associate/Supporter (referred by 2 active members) | |

Referred by: _____

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 sponsors for your
support! Grazie!

If NOT a current sponsor
become a sponsor today!

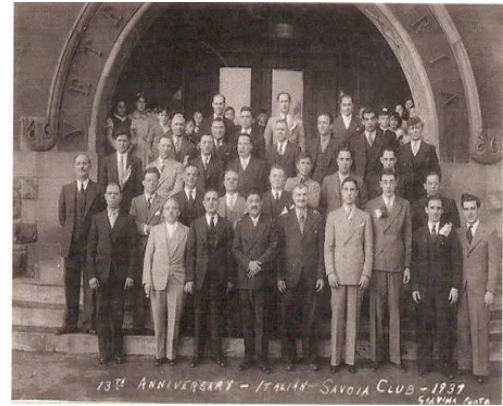
(Additional details attached)

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!

GOLD

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

We support the Italian American Club of Lansing.



Jack M Miceli, CRPC™

Financial Advisor

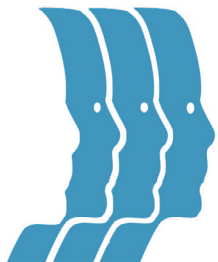
2390 Woodlake Dr Ste 340

Okemos, MI 48864

517-694-4954

MKT-5894O-A AECSPAD

> edwardjones.com



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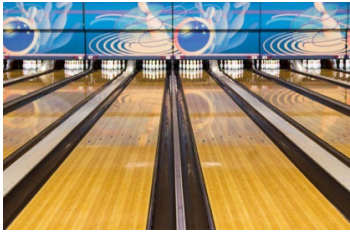
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