ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING

November/December 2026

NEWSLETTER - NOTIZIE

Inc. 1971

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

ROMA—VATICAN



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MERRY CHRISTMAS! BUON NATALE!



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RENEW YOUR IAC MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!



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 beautiful fall season arrives, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to another wonderful season.

Autumn is a special time of year. As we enjoy the changing colors of the leaves and the crisp fall air, we are reminded of the importance of family, friendship, and the traditions that bring us together. Our Italian heritage teaches us to appreciate good food, good company, and the joy of sharing special moments with one another.

I would like to thank our members, volunteers, committees, and Board of Directors for their continued dedication and support. Our club is more than a place to gather; it is a family where friendships grow, traditions are preserved, and memories are made. Your participation and enthusiasm are what keep our club strong and vibrant.

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, may we remember the true meaning of the holidays: love, generosity, peace, and togetherness. May our celebrations be filled with laughter, delicious Italian dishes, cherished traditions, and the warmth of family and friends.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful fall season, a Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

Thank you for being a special part of our Italian Club family. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and celebrating many more special occasions together.

If you have yet to become a member, **JOIN Today!** Help preserve our Italian traditions, culture and heritage. Simply visit **www.lansingiac.org**, for more details and information. *Thank you. Grazie!*

Warm regards,

Tony

CHIRSTMAS PARTY (FESTA D' NATALE)

Please join us for this year's Christmas party event, on **Sunday, December 6th! The event will be held at:**

Tony M's Restaurant, 3420 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing.





The festivities will be from **1:00pm until 4:00pm**, there is a minimal cost to help off-set expenses (members $15.00 and non-members $25.00). A delicious food menu will be served along with desserts that are provided by attendees.

We are requesting an RSVP, no later than December 1st. This is 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! Also, if you would like your child to receive a gift from Santa, please bring a wrapped gift with your child's name.

Also, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the *St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry, at St. Therese Church.* We look forward to seeing you! See flyer in this newsletter, for more information.

Buone Feste a tutti!

Lansing Regional Sister City Commission

Italy Sub-Committee—Chair, Tony De Luca

- ***Sister City—Pianezza, Region of Piomonte***
- ***Friendship City Cosenza—Region of Calabria***







2026—VISIT TO PIANEZZA AND COSENZA, ITALY

By: Tony De Luca

As a Commissioner on the Lansing Regional Sister City Commission and Chair of Sub-Committee on Italy. In September, myself and a delegation from Lansing visited our sister city of Pianezza (near Torino).

During this visit, we were able to meet with some business and government officials from the Region of Piomonte; this included representatives from of the Region's Commercial Council which is their chamber of commerce; various representatives from the manufacturing and industrial industries of the region, and some family business owners.

We also visited a middle school which hosted students from Lansing this past May. In the very near future the Lansing School District will be hosting students from Pianezza to further strengthening a student exchange program.

The main focus of the visit surrounded economic development and attracting business from the Torino area to Lansing. In the very near future you will be hearing more of some projects and initiatives between Pianezza and Lansing. The project initiative is "*Casa Italia*".

A big thank you to Pianezza Mayor, Antonio Castello and many individuals from his administrative staff and others from Pianezza, for their warm hospitality. We were made to feel like family! Thank you to all the folks from Pianezza! Mille grazie a tutti!

On my next stop, I visited the Region of Calabria, my birthplace. I was able to enjoy some precious time with the relatives. I visited cities along the beautiful Calabrian coastline and enjoyed delicious food and wonderful scenery! What a beautiful region!

Also, as part of my visit it provided me an opportunity to meet Mr. Orlandino Greco, who has been delegated by the President of the Region of Calabria, Roberto Occhiuto, the role of being responsible of relations between the region and the Calabrian's from around the world.

Our discussions focused around developing an economic, student exchanges, and business relationships. Cosenza which is a city within the Region of



Mr. Orlandino Greco and myself.



Pianezza Mayor, Antonio Castello and Lansing Mayor, Andy Schor.

IAC of Lansing Board Member in action ....



Pictured: L-R: State Rep. Joe Aragona, Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo, and Pam White (The Italian Tribue)

On October 7th, at the State Capitol, Prof. Carmen De Lorenzo, received a proclamation recognizing her work in the Italian community, around the state of Michigan.

Prof. De Lorenzo is the head of the Italian Language in the Classics and Romance Department, at Michigan State University; a board member of the IAC of Lansing; and recently elected as President of the NOI Foundation which is an organization that is dedicated to fostering the study of the Italian language and culture in schools from K-12 and adults. NOI is under the jurisdiction of the Italian Consulate of Detroit.

Congratulations Carmen! Well deserved!

La Dolce Vita Market

This event is in conjunction with the NOI Foundation and the Italian American Club of Livonia.

Wear your Italian Spirit While Supporting 10+ Women Owned Local Businesses!

Featuring authentic Italian Food, Drinks, Clothes, Books, Candles, and More!

Plus Blind Date with a Book – Italian Edition, Special Guest Authors.

Support local women-owned businesses.

Tickets are $20.00, Scan the QR Code to purchase your tickets.

Excellent opportunity to find those unique Christmas gifts!



Come and enjoy this special screening and conversation……



ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMMUNITY HONORING the 125th ANNIVERSARY of those ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS KILLED in the 1901 ADRIAN TRAIN CRASH

Background

On Thanksgiving Eve, in 1901, two trains collided near Adrian, Michigan, where over 100 Italian immigrants perished. They had recently arrived to the United States for a better life. In New York, they were headed to Colorado and California to work in the mines.

Their dreams never came true because the two cars in which they were traveling were shattered on impact and instantly caught fire when an overhead kerosene lamp fell to the floor, blocking the escape of those trapped inside, most being reduced to ashes.

Unidentified remains were placed in 5 coffins and buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Adrian. For decades, they were forgotten - lost to history...until 2016. Then Adrian Mayor Jim Berryman, Kyle Griffith PhD, discovered the unmarked graves. And with the help of the Consul of Italy in Detroit Maria Luisa Lapresa and COM.IT.TES Detroit President Domenico Ruggirello, the community rallied to create a monument. A sculpture was created by Italian-American artist, Sergio De Giusti. It was unveiled on September 24, 2016 at a Memorial Service and Dedication at Oakwood Cemetery. Since the initial dedication, 3 other memorial events have occurred at the cemetery in 2017, 2021 and 2023.

The 125th Anniversary of the tragedy will be remembered on November 21, 2026, at Oakwood Cemetery in Adrian, MI, next to the *"Sogni Persi" (lost dreams)* monument followed by speakers and a luncheon at Adrian College. See related Program Flyer.

COMITATI DEGLI ITALIANI ALL'ESTERO
COMITES DETROIT

Footnote: IAC of Lansing is a sponsor of the 125th Anniversary commemorative book.

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LANSING
DIO, PATRIA E FAMIGLIA
125th Anniversary
of honoring the memory of those Italians that perished in Adrian, Michigan, Wabash Train Tragedy of 1901.
www.lansingiac.org

125th
WRECK ON THE WABASH
MEMORIAL
November 21, 2026

REMEMBER • HONOR • PRESERVE
People • Stories • A Shared History

EVENT PROGRAM



10:30 am **Arrive at Oakwood Cemetery**
@ Sogni Persi monument

Oakwood Cemetery
333 E. Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, Michigan 49221

11:00 – 11:30 am **Blessing**
Fr. Daniele Criscione, PIME

After Cemetery blessing/visit, program continues at the Adrian Tobias Center.



110 E. Madison Street, Adrian MI 49221
Located just off Ritchie Marketplace

11:45 am – 1:30 pm **Buffet Luncheon**
$15 cash or credit card paid at checkout

Noon – 1:00 pm **Speakers**

- Paolo Zanotto, Consul of Italy in Detroit
- Tony Di Ponio, President COMITES-Detroit
- Kyle Griffith PhD, Professor Adrian College
- Laurie Perkins PhD, Historian
- Carmen De Lorenzo, Professor Michigan State University
- A Story that Crossed the Atlantic – a short video
  by Francesca Giudici, Loretta Meme' & Marina Riva
  researchers from Sondrio province

1:30 pm **Departures**

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 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.





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ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES IN LANSING SCHOOLS

As it was previously mentioned the in the September/October newsletter that there is a project of teaching the Italian language and culture into some of Lansing 's high schools. We are happy to report that through the efforts NOI's foundation, Executive Director, Raffaella Medoro-Naurato and Tony De Luca.

Everett High School will be offering Italian language for the 2027/28 school year. There is also continuing efforts to introduce the Italian language classes in other schools throughout the Lansing area.

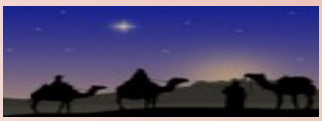
If you have a son or daughter that attends any of the schools that offer Italian language courses, encourage them to enroll in the classes. Learning the beautiful Italian language will inspire them to become engaged in the wonderful aspects that Italy has t offer! Culture, traditions, and heritage!

N.O.I. Foundation
Nuovi Orizzonti Italiani

Italian Christmas Traditions

Article contribution by: *Andi Brancato and Sue Spagnuolo*

How would you be celebrating Christmas if you lived in Italy? Here are some ideas of what you can expect!





The Calendar



Christmas in Italy begins on December 8th, with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the day on which families typically put up the Christmas tree, Christmas decorations, including the *presepe* (nativity scene), as well as the Christmas tree, are usually put up on this day., and ends on January 6, of the following year with the Epiphany and in some areas female puppets are burned on a pyre to symbolize, along with the end of the Christmas period, the death of the old year and the beginning of a new one. December 26th, Saint Stephen's Day, is also a public holiday in Italy. The Italian term *Natale* derives from the Latin *natalis*, which literally means 'birth',] and the greetings in Italian are *buon Natale* (Merry Christmas) and *felice Natale* ('happy Christmas').

December 24th is the vigil of Natale or La Vigilia di Natale, or Christmas Eve. It features the traditional seven course Festa dei Sette Pesci, the Feast of the Seven Fishes (or Festa dei Sette Pesci) and is most popular in Southern Italy.



Christmas Day traditionally starts with Mass that marks the birth of Jesus, followed by a family meal. While most families have a nativity set in their home, they gather around it in the evening to reflect on the true meaning of the day.

All the celebrating and feasting of the previous few days warrant a national holiday of rest, which is December 26, officially Santo Stefano Day.

New Year's Eve is known as La Festa di San Silvestro and is a time for celebration with family and friends. At midnight, Italians gather around the TV to watch Il Concerto di Capodanno - a televised music concert - and sing 'Auld Lang Syne'. Fireworks are often set off to commemorate the start of a new year.

The Gifts

Traditions regarding the exchanging of gifts vary from region to region, as this may take place either on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day. Presents for children are left underneath the Christmas tree either by Santa Claus (called Babbo Natale) or, according to older traditions, by Baby Jesus himself. In some regions children receive gifts earlier (at St. Lucy's Day) or later (on Epiphany).

Typical bearers of gifts from the Christmas period in Italy are Saint Lucia (December 13th), Christ Child, *Babbo Natale* (the name given to Santa Claus), and, on Epiphany, the Befana.

Strenna

Strenna or *Strenna di Natale* is a gift that is usual to make or receive in Italy at Christmas time. This custom comes from the tradition of ancient Rome which involved the exchange of gifts of good wishes during the Saturnalia, a series of festivities that took place each year between December 17 and 23 in honor of the god Saturn and preceding the day of the *Natalis Solis Invicti*. The term derives from the Latin *Strena*, word probably of Sabine origin, with the meaning 'gift of good luck'.

Recipes……

Looking for specific meal ideas? The Feast of the Seven Fishes is an Italian-American Christmas Eve tradition rooted in the Roman Catholic practice of fasting from meat on Christmas Eve. The specific concept and name of the Feast of the Seven Fishes evolved in the United States, particularly among Southern Italian and Sicilian immigrants in urban hubs like New York and Philadelphia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The first known printed use of the phrase appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper in the 1980's. The number seven was later tied to Catholic symbolism, such as the seven sacraments, the seven days of Creation, or the Seven Hills of Rome.

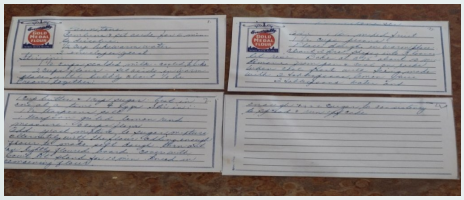


The roots of this tradition go back to southern Italy, where Christmas eve, La Vigilia, was kept as a meatless day for old Catholic fasting reasons. In Italy, the meal is simply called La Cena della Vigilia or ll Cenone. Families cooked seafood, but there was never a strict number and they never called it 7 fishes; each region and family cooked what was locally available. Common menu items often include salted cod (baccala'), fried smelts, calamari, shrimp, clams, and eels

What we know today as the Feast of the Seven fishes is really a blend of old Italian customs and Italian-American creativity. So, whether your family makes 1, 7 or 17 fishes, the heart of the tradition stays the same. It's about faith, family, and remembering where we come from. *(Thank you Sue Spagnuolo)*

The Christmas Day dinner traditionally consists of typical Italian Christmas dishes, such as agnolini, cappelletti, agnolotti pavesi, capon, lamb, eel, panettone, pandoro, torrone, panforte, struffoli, mustacciuoli, bisciola, cavallucci, veneziana, pizzelle, zelten, or others, depending on the regional cuisine.

Panettone



Panettone is an Italian type of sweet bread and fruitcake, originally from Milan, usually prepared and enjoyed for Christmas and New Year in Western, Southern, and Southeastern Europe, as well as other countries throughout the world. The oldest reference to panettone is found in a register of expenses of the Borromeo college of Pavia in 1599. But the origins of this dessert probably date back to the 12th century. The name *panettone* perhaps derives from *pan del Ton*, referring to one of the legends about the origins of this dessert, which was allegedly created by a scullery boy named Toni in the service of Duke Ludovico. This cake was particularly appreciated by the writer Alessandro Manzoni and by the composer Giuseppe Verdi.

Efforts are underway to obtain protected designation of origin and *denominazione di origine controllata* status for this product.

Andi Brancato submitted this recipe and recalls her mom making this treat only once a year, for Christmas. It was an all-day affair, with the entire family pitching. The delicious smell filled the air, even before the panetonne went into the oven. On Christmas morning (but not until then!), it was sliced, toasted and buttered for the best breakfast of the year!

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:

- **Italian Film Festival, Friday, November 20th, on the campus of MSU, East Lansing**
- **125th Anniversary of Adrian Train Wreck, Saturday, November 21st, Adrian, MI**
- **Thanksgiving—Thursday, November 26th**
- **IAC of Lansing board meeting, Thursday, December 3rd, 6:30 pm, Foster Community Center**
- **Christmas Party—Sundy, December 6, 2026, at Tony M's Restaurant, 3420 S. Creyts Rd. Lansing**
- **Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24th**
- **Christmas Day—Friday, December 25th**
- **New Years Day—Friday, January 1st**
- **"La Befania" (Epiphany), January 6th, 2027**

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!

Consider becoming a sponsor supporter!

Visit: https://www.lansingiac.org

Like us on Facebook!



Thank you sponsors for your support! Grazie!

If NOT a current sponsor become a sponsor today!

(Additional details attached)

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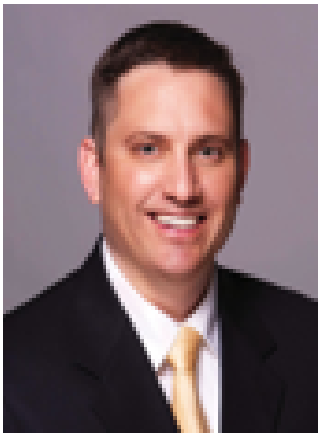

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DIO, PATRIA E FAMIGLIA

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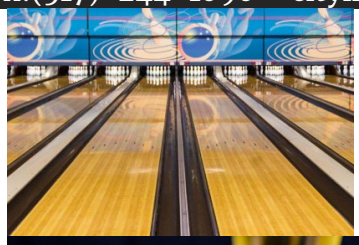



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Italian American Club of Lansing

This sponsor space is available.

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

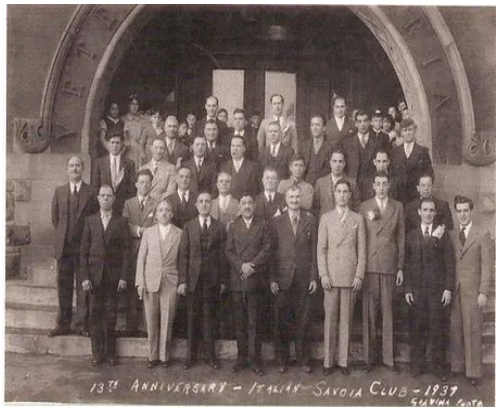
If you have questions, please email iacoflansing@gmail.com

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 30t , newsletters, website)***
_____ **Event Sponsorship** ***(Recognition at event)***

Mail Application and Payment: Italian American Club of Lansing
P.O. Box 27456
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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!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members:

$15.00

Non-Members:

$25.00

Children Under 6:

FREE

Revert to your current membership status to determine your applicable payment.

Sunday, Dec. 6h, 2026

1:00-4:00 pm

Tony M's Restaurnat

34220 S. Creyts Rd.
Lansing

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 traditonal 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**

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.

LA DOLCE VITA MARKET

November 14, 2026 From 3-6PM

Italian American Club of Livonia, MI

Wear Your Italian Spirit While Supporting 10+ Women Owned Local Businesses!

Tickets $20 to Enter

Featuring:

Authentic Italian Food, Drinks, Clothes, Books, Candles, and More!

Blind Date with a Book – Italian Edition

Special Guest Authors



SPECIAL SCREENINGS & CONVERSATION

MARCELLA

The Woman Who Taught America Italian Cooking

All Screenings are Free and Open to the Public

Join us for a special multi-day event celebrating the life and legacy of Marcella Hazan, the woman who transformed how Americans understand and cook Italian food.

We invite you to a complimentary screening where through the documentary *Marcella*, brings her ordinary journey—froly to the United States—and her lasting insting impact on food, culture, and identity.

Featuring

DIRECTOR

PETER MILLER

In person for a conversation following the screenings.

EVENT DATES & LOCATIONS

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

6:00 PM

University Auditorium 146

Hosted by:

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 20, 2026

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

10:00 AM

SNY S20

Hosted by:

Department of Romance & Classical Studies
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

A CELEBRATION OF

Food. Memory. Migration. Inspiration.

IN COLLABORATION WITH

College of Arts & Letters
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Film Studies
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of English
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for European and Eurasian Studies
International Studies and Programs
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

CONSULATE OF ITALY IN DETROIT

A STORY THAT RECIPES CAN'T CONTAIN.

A legacy that continues.

While screenings are free, registration is recommended due to limited seating.

125th
Wreck on the Wabash
Memorial

November 21, 2026

REMEMBER • HONOR • PRESERVE

People • Stories • A Shared History

Event Program



10:30 am **Arrive at Oakwood Cemetery**
@ Sogni Persi monument

Oakwood Cemetery
333 E. Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, Michigan 49221

11:00 – 11:30 am **Blessing**
Fr. Daniele Criscione, PIME

After Cemetery blessing/visit, program continues at the Adrian Tobias Center.



110 E. Madison Street, Adrian MI 49221
Located just off Ritchie Marketplace

11:45 am – 1:30 pm **Buffet Luncheon**
$15 cash or credit card paid at checkout

Noon – 1:00 pm **Speakers**

- Paolo Zanotto, Consul of Italy in Detroit
- Tony Di Ponio, President COMITES-Detroit
- Kyle Griffith PhD, Professor Adrian College
- Laurie Perkins PhD, Historian
- Carmen De Lorenzo, Professor Michigan State University
- A Story that Crossed the Atlantic – a short video
  by Francesca Giudici, Loretta Meme' & Marina Riva
  researchers from Sondrio province

1:30 pm **Departures**