



# The Grapevine

A Publication From  
**The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan**  
**Spring Issue • 2012 • Volume 11 • Number 2**  
**Visit Our New Website at: [www.iaccm.net](http://www.iaccm.net)**



## Upcoming EVENTS

**APRIL 18, 2012 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

### **FESTA DELLA LIRA**

#### **TIME**

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

#### **LOCATION**

- Petruzzello's Banquet Center  
6950 Rochester Road, Troy

**MAY 9, 2012 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

#### **TIME**

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

#### **LOCATION**

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center  
46601 Gratiot, Chesterfield

**JUNE 6, 2012 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION**

#### **TIME**

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

#### **LOCATION**

- Mirage Banquet Center  
16980 18 Mile Road, Clinton Township

**JUNE 26, 2012 • TUESDAY • GOLF OUTING**

### **29TH Annual Memorial Golf Outing honoring Gus Russo**

- 1 PM shotgun start

#### **LOCATION**

- Scalawags Country Club  
52100 Fairchild, Chesterfield

**For tickets/info contact Andy Agosta,  
248-561-1266**



## Notes from the PRESIDENT

First and foremost, please remember our next general membership meeting:

- April 18th – **Festa Della Lira**, Petruzzello's Banquet Center, 6950 Rochester Road, Troy! SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

I would like to start with....I hope all is well and that everyone is enjoying a more prosperous year than the past. I am very proud to announce that our new "associate level membership" is in full swing, and going strong. We have installed approximately 7 new young adult members, and several more have expressed interest in just the past few weeks. This has also awakened our regular membership and corporate membership levels with approximately 6 new members. I want to thank all of you for working together to keep the Italian American Chamber of Commerce growing!

In our newsletter, The Grapevine, and on our website, [iaccm.net](http://iaccm.net), you will find many of our members are offering special discounts to you. Please check the web page regularly to find the new add-on's, as well as currently available discounts and offers to all IACCM members. I have had the pleasure of doing business with some of our members, and have been greatly satisfied with the service and cost. The IACCM is a great networking tool, and we need to continue to help and support one another.

New and current members...please remember:

- At the May 9th meeting at Zuccaro's Banquet Center, there will be a couple of tables inside the hall for you to leave any promotional materials regarding your business. These tables will be available at all meetings for the remainder of the year.
- 29th annual **John B. Agosta Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing is Tuesday, June 26, 2012**, at Scalawag's Country Club, 52100 Fairchild Road in Chesterfield. The event will be honoring long time Chamber member Gus Russo. I ask all of our members to call the Chamber office, or Andy Agosta at 248-561-1266 to reserve your spot or foursome. This has been a great event, lots of fun and camaraderie, a great way to meet new members, network, and enjoy!

*Continued on page 3*



## Chairman's CORNER

Welcome Spring....it offers all of us a new start to a new season!

Our recent membership growth was a success by any standard and is due in large part to the dedication and hard work of President Joe Ventimiglia and the 2012 Officers and Board of Directors. By adding the new associate level membership to our organization, it has brought young, vibrant adults forward who are just starting out with their own businesses. You, as members, have also successfully invited your business friends to become members of the Chamber. You are each valuable to the success of the Chamber. It is now up to each of us to recognize these new members at any function we may attend, and to thank them for joining with us in furthering the mission of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce.

Upturns, downturns and even rapid business growth can be challenging. The Chamber is committed to offering support through direct resources and by referrals. Some resources may include buying nearby. Being a part of a business community means supporting each other by buying locally. Another resource is Business networking. Through business alliances, the Chamber sponsors several networking events each year at our general membership meetings. Sign- up sheets are available at all of our meetings. Here are some tips for successful networking:

1. Keep in mind that networking is about being genuine and authentic, building trust and relationships, and seeing how you can help others.
2. Ask yourself what your goals are in participating in networking meetings. Some meetings are based more on learning, making contacts, and/or volunteering rather than on strictly making business connections.
3. Hold volunteer positions in organizations. This is a great way to stay visible and give back to groups that have helped you.
4. Ask open-ended questions in networking conversations. This means questions that ask who, what, where, when, and how as opposed to those that can be answered with a simple yes or no. This form of questioning opens up the discussion and shows listeners that you are interested in them.
5. Become known as a powerful resource for others. When you are known as a strong resource, people remember to turn to you for suggestions, ideas, names of other people, etc. This keeps you visible to them.
6. Have a clear understanding of what you do and why, for whom, and what makes your doing it special or different from others doing the same thing. In order to get referrals, you must first have a clear understanding of what you do that you can easily articulate to others.
7. Be able to articulate what you are looking for and how others may help you. Too often people in conversations ask, "How may I help you?" and no immediate answer comes to mind.
8. Follow through quickly and efficiently on referrals you are given. When people give you referrals, your actions are a reflection on them. Respect and honor that and your referrals will grow.
9. Call those you meet who may benefit from what you do and vice versa. Express that you enjoyed meeting them, and ask if you could get together and share ideas.

Tony Rubino  
Chairman of the Board

## Motivational Moments — SPRING 2012

*By William A. Morelli, Sr.*

We are just finished with the easiest winter that I can remember, and I can remember a lot of them. We also just celebrated one of the Greatest Christian Holidays – Easter - and our promise of everlasting life. What a great way to start our new year – little snow and a super spring leading into the future. Hopefully, we will all take advantage of the great weather and enjoy our favorite outdoor activities.

As we get into this warm season, may we remember to be grateful for all the gifts we are given everyday. Remember that every day you have another 86,400 seconds to do something positive or not – the choice is yours. To help you choose the right things, I share with you the following:

- Be kinder than necessary.
- Look for opportunities to make people feel important.
- Don't forget, we are judged by what we give, not by what we get.
- Every morning, wake up and say, "Dear Lord, I don't want anything better, just send me more of the same."
- Make the most of the best and the least of the worst.
- Remember that to love and to be loved is the greatest joy in the world.
- Remember that a successful marriage depends on two things: (1) finding the right person, and (2) being the right person.
- Children spell "love" **T-I-M-E**.
- When you walk you talk, people listen.

And finally - remember to Smile, Give Hugs and Tell Someone You Love Them.

### The Italian American Cultural Society Buy-A-Brick Order Form

Plans are underway to build bocce courts at the Italian American Cultural Center. The Bocce Courts Committee is selling a limited series of outdoor paving bricks, which will lead to the bocce courts.

The inscribed bricks are a wonderful, permanent way to commemorate a special memory, family, loved one, graduate, or promote your local business. Your inscription on a 4" X 8" brick can include 3 lines, with up to 18 characters per line including spaces. Orders for bricks are now being accepted through September 30, 2012. Further information can be obtained by calling the IACS office at 586-228-3030.

Contributions to buy a brick:

\$150 – IACS Members


\$180 – Senior Non-Member

– One-year complimentary IACS Senior Membership

\$190 – Non-Member – One-year complimentary IACS Individual Membership (Under age 60)

\$210 – Non-Member – One-year complimentary IACS Family Membership





# Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

## April

4/3 Aiello, Mark  
4/3 Calunas, William  
4/7 Calcaterra, Michael J.  
4/12 Poliuto, Valerio  
4/13 DiBartolomeo, Richard D.  
4/16 Cerroni, Dante  
4/17 Canzano, Roger  
4/18 Lazzara, Michael  
4/19 Lanni, Angelo S.  
4/23 Giacalone, Leonard  
4/23 Palazzola, Anthony  
4/25 Tundo, Samuel  
4/25 Rocca, Lawrence  
4/29 Vitale, Vincenzo  
4/30 Gallo, Tony J.  
4/30 Roselli, Antonio

## May

5/2 Caccamo, Gaetano  
5/4 Russo, Agostino  
5/5 Morelli, Jr., Frank A.  
5/7 Valente Jr., Mark  
5/7 Agosta, Anthony Allan  
5/12 Russo, John

5/13 Lucido, Paul G.  
5/14 Calcaterra, Paul R.  
5/15 Pirrone, Joseph  
5/16 Velardo, Armand  
5/17 Giarmarco, Julius H.  
5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey  
5/23 Scalzi, Frank  
5/26 Marino, Frank  
5/29 Polsinelli, Vincenzo  
5/30 Lawroski, Eric

## June

6/1 Viviano, Anthony J.  
6/2 Nagy, Charles  
6/2 Locricchio, Michael  
6/3 LaRosa, Dominic J.  
6/7 Benenati, Dr. Anthony V.  
6/12 Pavlick, Marty  
6/15 Ventimiglia, Christina M.  
6/16 Notte, Richard  
6/16 Severini III, Fred  
6/22 Provenzano, Nunzio  
6/26 DiGiuseppe, Jr., John  
6/26 Bonaldi, Ezio  
6/29 Ruggeri, Philip

## Notes From The President

*Continued from page 1*

The IACCM Holy Family memorial mass is in the works and is scheduled for Sunday, October 28, 2012. The mass will begin at 11:30 am. We have been fortunate in having several members step up and sponsor the day's events! The schedule for the day is as follows: bus transportation to Holy Family Church with pick-up at the Italian American Cultural Society at 10:00/10:30 am, breakfast following mass, and transportation back to the Cultural Society. This will be a great day to spend with each other while meeting new families, and at the same time supporting Holy Family Church when they need us the most. The entire day is of no cost to anyone, thanks to the generosity of our fellow members. I hope that you will set that date aside NOW, and plan for a wonderful event. Please remember that seats are limited, so notify the Chamber office as soon as possible!

Other events coming up that are important to attend, or help if you can:

- Thrilla at the Villa, May 16th, 2012, Villa Penna, 43985 Hayes Road, Sterling Heights. The IACCM has been a proud supporter of this event, benefiting The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Tickets are \$150 per person and are available on a first come-first serve basis. This event has raised over \$75000+ every year for this worthwhile charity. This is a SOLD OUT event every year.....don't wait. Contact the Chamber office or Tony Rubino at 586-873-2905 for tickets.
- We have 3 more poker fundraisers scheduled for 2012: (please volunteer to help!)
  - o August 26-29, 2012, The River Poker Lounge, 48762 Van Dyke Avenue Shelby Township, MI 48317
  - o October 18-21, 2012, Cadas Poker & Sports Grill, 44935 Hayes, Sterling Heights, MI 48313
  - o November 27-30, 2012, The River Poker Lounge, 48762 Van Dyke Avenue Shelby Township, MI 48317

Thank you and God Bless the Italian American Chamber of Commerce!

Joseph P. Ventimiglia

## IACCM Memorial Mass

### Holy Family Church • October 28, 2012

Please join the IACCM in attending a memorial mass at Holy Family Church at 11:30 am, followed by a pancake breakfast. There will be two buses leaving the Italian American Cultural Society at 10:30 am, with a return time of approximately 3 pm.

Bus #1 compliments of: Al Marino, Sorrento's Pizza & Charles Colombo, Colombo Law, PLLC

Bus #2 compliments of: Peter A. Fuciarelli, Oak Hills Construction  
Pancake breakfast compliments of: Sam Ventimiglia, Great Lakes Wealth Planning - Frank Palazzolo, Bufalino & Palazzolo - Frank Coppola, Coppola & Associates, P.C., CPA

Reservations are mandatory and will be taken on a first come/first serve basis, with a capacity of 92. Space is limited to IACCM members/family first. Please contact the Chamber office to reserve your spot.



Jack Tocco Jr., Holy Family Parish Council Vice President,  
Fr. Pino of Holy Family Church & Joseph P. Ventimiglia

## Holy Family Church Pancake Breakfast

### Sunday, October 28 • 11:30 am Mass

3 Pancakes, 2 Sausages, Orange Juice,  
Fruit & Beverage  
Bake Sale for dessert

Call the IACCM office for more information



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# Italian American Chamber of Commerce

## January 4, 2012 Installation of Officers Dinner / I.A.C.S



2012 Officers/Board of Directors

Above picture L-R, Front to Back; Financial Secretary Michael Locricchio, 1st Vice President Andrew Agosta, Chairman Anthony Rubino, President Joseph P. Ventimiglia, Secretary David F. Galli, Treasurer Antonio DeLuca, Joseph Pellegrino, Paul Calcaterra, Thomas Lanni, Joseph Lucido, Michel Tenaglia, Angela Pippi, Daniel Galli, Vito Pianello, Stefano Militello, Joseph Toia, David Lazzara, Peter A. Fuciarelli



2012 Past Presidents Council

L-R, Front to Back Paul Calcaterra, Ned Piccinini, William A. Morelli, Thomas Bommarito, Salvatore P. Ventimiglia, Gus Russo, Thomas Lanni, Immediate Past President Joseph Toia, Ronald A. DiBartolomeo, Ned R. Piccinini



2011 President Joseph Toia accepting appreciation award from 2012 President Joseph P. Ventimiglia



Judge Caretti swearing in the first group of Associate Members for 2012. L-R; Christina Ventimiglia, Jaclyn Ventimiglia, Anthony Apone, Colin Casey, William Calunas



2011 President Joseph Toia presenting an appreciation award to 2011 Chairman of the Board Ned R. Piccinini

## February 1, 2012/Eastpointe Manor



President Ventimiglia announcing some up-coming IACCM events for 2012



Angela Pippi and Dan Galli discussing this year's Festa Della Lira, April 18th at Petruzzello's.



Honorable Peter Maceroni swearing in newest members Mark Garagiola, Lucia DiCicco and Louis Michael



Members awaiting the wonderful dinner prepared by Benny Bommarito of Eastpointe Manor

Chairman Tony Rubino and President Joseph P. Ventimiglia sharing a few laughs!



## March 7, 2012, Andiamo Italia



Guest Jack Tocco Jr.,  
Holy Family Parish  
Council Vice President



Members enjoying  
a great meal!



Judge Caretti swearing in  
new members Sam LaGrasso  
and Vince Rubino



Andy Agosta discussing the IACCM  
golf outing honoring Gus Russo  
on June 26th at  
Scalawags Country Club.



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# **ITALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MICHIGAN ARCHIVE UPDATE**

The Chamber was founded in 1919.

We are submitting this article for publication primarily to make our membership aware that we, as an organization, do have archive information documenting a good portion of our history. As you can see, in approximately eight or nine years we will have reached a major milestone of one hundred years of existence.

As a group of proud Italian Americans it is in our best interest to see that the archive activity of our Chamber is a continuing program which we do not allow to die because of lack of participation. I think this a great opportunity to recruit new and younger members to get involved to ensure that this activity lives and grows. We need to keep up with new technology which will allow us one day soon to store our Archives (backup) via the computer.

It is our intent from time to time to provide Grapevine updates with items we feel may be newsworthy and of interest to our membership.

Let us try to visualize the beginning, 1919. A period of Tin Lizzies competing on muddy roads with the last of the horse and carriage transportation. Radio in its infancy; no television or computers or any of the technology that we enjoy in today's daily life. Yes, life at that period was much harsher, but we had one thing in common with the Italian American of today, and that is pride of our heritage.

The life expectancy for men in 1919 was 48 years. Only 10 % of the homes had telephones. Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores. Fuel for homes was mostly coal and that meant soot covered walls and serious wall washing every spring. The average US wage earner had yearly income around \$300 to \$400. 95% of child births took place at home. 20% of the population couldn't read or write. High school graduation was around 10 %. The point, is, that by comparison to the present time, things were very primitive.

A small group of proud Italian American men were brought together by the then Italian Consulate of Detroit, Pietro Cardiello to form an organization intended to promote business between the United States and Italy. They named it "The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Detroit". Some of the names of record that were part of that first group are Attorney's Joseph Schippacasse and Anthony Sperti, Dr. Vincent Mancusso and businessmen Andrew Maglia, Mark Valente Sr., and Frank Loverde.

We are told in the very beginning that meetings were held above the Loverde Hardware store on Gratiot near Forest. We are also told that during World War II the group met secretly, because Italy was at the start of the war on the wrong side of the conflict. Of course they were concerned with the repercussions. This kind of establishes the mind set for what things may have been like 92 years ago.

In future articles we intend to provide more detail on what the paper version of our archives contains, and also how you can take part in this activity. In the meantime, stay healthy and stay proud of your heritage. You are a citizen of the greatest country in the world and should take pride in knowing that our people (Italian Americans) played a powerful role in building this great land to what it is today. Be a proud Italian American. God bless you all.

If you have any information which you feel may add to our Chamber history, please call the Chamber Office or any of the mentioned committee members.

The Archives Committee  
Frank Pompa – Chairperson  
Committee Members - Paul Calcaterra, Gino Esposito and Joe Grimaudo.



# Grapevine Membership Business Directory

## ★ ACCOUNTANT/CPA

**Metzler Locricchio Serra & Co., PC**  
Michael A. Locricchio, J.D., CPA  
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**(586) 228-3900**

## Joseph Toia, P.C.

47678 Van Dyke Avenue • Shelby Twp., MI 48317  
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[joetoialaw@gmail.com](mailto:joetoialaw@gmail.com)

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## **The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan**

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Andrew Agosta

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Anthony Rubino

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Michael Locricchio

#### **TREASURER**

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Thomas Lanni

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Joseph Lucido

Joseph R. Pellegrino

#### **TERMS ENDING 2013**

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Vito Pianello

Michel Tenaglia

#### **TERMS ENDING 2014**

Daniel Galli

Stefano Militello

Angela Pippi

### **PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL**

#### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Joseph Toia

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL**

2010 Thomas Bommarito

2009 Ned R. Piccinini

2008 Ronald A. DiBartolomeo

2007 Salvatore P. Ventimiglia

2006 William A. Morelli, Sr.

2004 Paul Calcaterra

2000 Benedetto Marrocco

1999 Augustino Russo

1998 Ned Piccinini

1994 Angelo Lanni

1991 Thomas B. Lanni

1985 Dr. Charles Marinelli

1979 Frank Pompa

1978 Mark Valente, Jr.

1976 Sam Ripepi

1974 Joseph Grimaudo

## **Mission Statement**

### ***The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan***

"To nurture an environment for business and professional growth inclusive of our Italian history and culture, that provides our members the commercial, educational, and charitable forums necessary to inspire pride throughout the Italian community, and to establish a relationship of trust and service between our members and our fellow citizens."



Ask About the Savings on  
Our Season Ticket Package

***ticketmaster***

# Andiamo

## CELEBRITY SHOWROOM

From Country to Old School Classic Hits, Our Up-Close & Personal 2012 Concert Series is Filled with Grammy Award Winning Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famers



**Mark Randisi**  
**"Salute to Sinatra"**  
**5.10.12**

"Chairman of the Board" tribute. You'll be swept up in the emotion he brings. Celebrate all of the classics such as My Way and New York, New York.



**Glen Campbell**  
**5.9.12 & 5.11.12**

Come see a true Country Music pop culture legend. Glen Campbell has it all! From dirt-poor, tinytown Arkansas origins to Hollywood triumphs on the charts, TV and movies.



**Scintas** 6.15.12

This Vegas mainstay has long been a Celebrity Showroom favorite playing annually to sold-out crowds. Come laugh-out-loud and see musical comedy with dead-on impressions.



**Joan Rivers** 9.14.12

Rivers is a force of nature and one of the hardest-working celebrities in the world. An entertainment legend of unparalleled accomplishment and talent, creating her own brand. Joan is —uninhibited, uncensored, and hilariously unequaled!



**Regis Philbin** 10.26.12

Come see the face of which millions of Americans woke up to every morning! Regis Philbin has become a cultural icon in television broadcasting, and is returning to Andiamo once again to entertain you!



**Aaron Caruso** 11.2.12

"Pavarotti meets the Rat Pack" is how people are describing this classic Las Vegas musical variety show by Michigan native, Aaron Caruso. From fun Italian songs to Broadway hits, lots of laughs and a Veteran's tribute, this Las Vegas style show is not to be missed.



**Clint Holmes** 11.16.12

Harrah's "Entertainer of Choice for the Millennium," is currently starring in Takin' It Uptown. "Entertainer of the Year" three times, the multi-talented, charismatic Clint Holmes is a true American treasure.



**Scintas Holiday Show**  
**12.6.12, 12.7.12**  
**& 12.8.12**

Make this spectacular holiday show a family tradition all your own! This is the perfect venue for your holiday party! Dinner/ticket packages available.



**Karen Newman**  
**Holiday Show**  
**12.9.12**

The "Voice of the Detroit Red Wings" in this spectacular annual holiday concert.

**ANDIAMO BOX OFFICE**  
**(586) 268-3200**  
AndiamoShowroom.com

**TICKETMASTER**  
**(800) 745-3000**  
Ticketmaster.com

**SHOWTIME**  
All 2012 Tickets on Sale NOW!

Save the Date:  
April 26, 2012



*The Conversion of the Magdalen, Michelangelo da Merisi, called Caravaggio, ca. 1598, oil and tempera on canvas. Detroit Institute of Arts*

## *An Evening with the Masters* Italian Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts

*Presented by Salvador Salort-Pons, head of the European Art department and curator of European Painting*

Italian American Cultural Center  
Thursday, April 26, 7-9 p.m.

Free, but reservations requested. For more information or to make a reservation,  
email [partoftheart@dia.org](mailto:partoftheart@dia.org) or call 313.833.2356.



### **The Detroit Institute of Arts Visits the Italian American Cultural Center for An Evening with the Masters- Italian Art at the DIA**

Detroit –Get an exclusive insider's view of the Italian art collection at the Detroit Institute of Arts on April 26 at the Italian American Cultural Center. An evening with the Masters – Italian Art at the DIA begins at 7 p.m. with a welcome from the museum's director Graham W.J. Beal and a talk about the master works in the museum's Italian art collection by curator Salvador Salort-Pons. After the talk, guests can enjoy coffee and dessert, while meeting representatives from the DIA and Metro Detroit's Italian community.

The DIA's Italian art collection is recognized as one of the finest collections in America. It includes vast holdings of Italian paintings, particularly rich in works from the 1400's to 1700's by artists including Caravaggio, Botticelli and Bellini. The museum also has a renowned collection of Italian sculpture by famed artists such as Donatello and Bernini.

The evening will also offer guests details about the wonderful programs the DIA offers at the museum and in the community. The DIA has a vibrant schedule of the nation's top art exhibitions, along with great performances, art classes and gallery talks on Friday nights and during the day on Sundays. Additionally, the DIA has programs that can be brought into the community, such as docent-led Speakers Bureau talks and Art to the Schools in-classroom discussions.

Each guest to the event will receive a special package with information about the DIA and free passes to visit the museum. To register for An Evening with the Masters – Italian Art at the DIA e-mail [partoftheart@dia.org](mailto:partoftheart@dia.org) or call 313-833-2356.