

The Grapevine

A Publication From
The Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan

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Upcoming EVENTS



Notes from the PRESIDENT

MAY 4, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

TIME **FESTA DELLA LIRA**

- 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting

LOCATION

- Zuccaro's Banquet Center
46601 Gratiot Ave., Chesterfield

JUNE 8, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Eastpointe Manor
24611 Gratiot Ave., Eastpointe



JUNE 27, 2016 • MONDAY

33rd ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Honoring Joseph P. Ventimiglia

TIME

- Lunch served at 10:30 AM
- 12 Noon Shotgun Start

LOCATION

- Scalawag's Country Club
52100 Fairchild, Chesterfield



SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING

NETWORK NIGHT

TIME

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

LOCATION

- Palazzo Grande
54460 Van Dyke, Shelby Twp.

Finally the weather has broken and spring is here. I am looking forward to a great year as we continue to grow our membership. The IACC needs to recruit new members every year and we have provided some tools to give to prospective members as you ask them to consider joining. We recently published a new directory listing our members by their profession. The directory should be used among us and given to prospective members who wish to use someone services in their occupation. We also have brochures that can be handed out to prospective members that explain who we are and how you can become a member. So, please make every effort to bring in new members every meeting for 2016.

We have two events that are coming up and as always the events would not be successful without your support. Our committee members are working very hard to make these events successful; however, they need your help. Please help out any way you can.

- May 4th – Festa Della Lira at Zuccaro's
Chaired by Tony Giordano & Chuck Shermetaro
- June 27 – Annual Scholarship Golf Outing
at Scalawags Golf Club
Chaired by Andy Agosta

Please join me at these great events and help show your support for the Chamber.

As you know these two events fund our charity and scholarship programs for the year. They are also a great way to showcase the Chamber. Scholarship night has been changed to June 8th– Scholarship Award Presentation at Eastpointe Manor. Please mark your calendar.

Together we need to commit to support the Italian American Chamber of Commerce with our focus on making the chamber the best we could be. I am proud to call myself a member of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce. I know that all of you feel the same way.

Vito Pianello
President



Chairman's CORNER

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Show it by your good life; by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom" James 3:13

As members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce, we have many Italian & non-Italian friends that look to us as examples of Leaders in the Italian American Community. We meet once a month to break bread together and network about our businesses, and this is what a good chamber of commerce is all about. However, we are also here to unite as one voice for the Italian American Business Community. We talk about Integrity, Respect, Honor, Love and Charity, but do we really practice these things? Are we being peacemakers or are we stirring the brew of contention? I challenge all of us to think about the image we are projecting to the community. It doesn't matter if you are dealing with a fellow member, or someone else in your community, as an Italian American Business leader, it is our duty to always perform at the highest level, doing what is right & fair. Others will see how you do business and look up to you as someone of Integrity! As members of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce, we are looked upon in our community as leaders, and leaders, lead by example!

Peace,

Tom Bommarito, Chairman of the Board

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The Italian American Bar Association of Michigan *Announces*

PRO BONO NIGHT

Wednesday, May 26th, 2016

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

at the

ITALIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY



43843 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038



The Italian American Bar Association of Michigan will be hosting a Pro Bono Legal Day on May 20, 2015, during which volunteer-attorneys from our organization will be available (at no charge) to provide general guidance on a broad range of topics, including, immigration, family law, real estate, general business, and employment law. This event is intended to fulfill our organization's commitment to providing legal education for the benefit of our community.

If you have further questions, please contact: the Italian Cultural Center at 586-228-3030



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Chamber Archives

– sharing our history

Luigi Del Bianco – Master Stone Carver Artist (1892-1969)

When my children were young (1970) we were on our way back to Michigan from visiting my sister in California. I decided I wanted to see Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. This added 600 miles to a very long tiring drive. I am very happy that we did; what an awe inspiring site. The 60' tall faces of four great American Presidents carved in stone; George Washington (1732-1799), Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) and Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919).

This project, funded by both public and private contributions, began in 1927 and was completed in 1941. This story is not about one of our Chamber members, but that of an Italian immigrant who played a very important role in the making of a great American monument which attracts millions of tourists each year.

Luigi was born on a ship in France while his parents were returning to Italy from a trip to the United States. Their home in Italy was Meduno, in the Province of Pordenone.

As a little boy he took a great interest in his Fathers work as a wood carver. Always hanging around his shop and asking questions. At 11 years old his Father took him to Austria to study under a master stone carver. At age 13 he was sent to Venice for additional training. At 17, he came to America when his American Cousins wrote that stone carvers were in great demand here in the land of the free.

At the age of 21 when World War 1 started, he returned to Italy to fight for his birth Country. After the war he returned to America and returned to his work as a stone carver. In 1920 he met and married Nicoletta Cardarelli and they settled in Port Chester, NY to raise their family.

He was employed by Gutzon Borglum (the designer and project manager of Mount Rushmore); a well-known artist/ stone sculpture. He worked on many projects while under his employment. In 1930 Luigi was offered by Mr. Borglum a job on the Mount Rushmore project where he was paid \$1.50 per hour, almost three times the amount the average worker was paid on that project. When you think about stone carving it is physically demanding work and also unhealthy because of the dusty environment. But it is also an art form requiring craftsman's skills.

This article is based on information researched on the internet. It is somewhat controversial, because the Del Bianco family rightfully wants their father's legacy to be that of the chief Carver of the Mount Rushmore faces. They have in their possession documentation whereas Mr. Borglum names Luigi as the chief carver on the project. The NPR (National Park Service) state that Mr. Del Bianco was just one of many people employed to work on Mount Rushmore.

Based on what we have read it is very unlikely that he would be paid the above stated rate if he was just another worker.

We choose to believe that he was a very important part of this great American Monument.

It appears that the NPR is attempting to be politically correct and avoid offending other worker families. So I choose to believe that Mr. Del Bianco was the hands on chief main carver on Mt. Rushmore.

So Chamber members be proud, this is another example of when an American Italian or an Italian American played a very important role in the making of America.

Thanks to our Debra, for making me aware of Luigi Del Bianco.

Be well. The Archive Committee, P. Calcaterra, G. Esposito and F. Pompa.

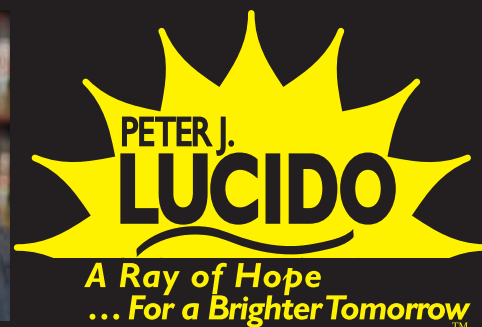
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Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

May

5/2 Caccamo, Gaetano
5/4 Russo, Agostino
5/5 Morelli, Jr., Frank
5/7 Agosta, Anthony Allan
5/7 Valente Jr., Mark
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.
5/17 Paglia, Enzo
5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey
5/23 Scalzi, Frank
5/28 Maniaci, Frank
5/30 Lawroski, Eric

June

6/1 Viviano, Anthony J.
6/1 Slongo, David A.
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 Kozlowski, Christina M.
6/22 Provenzano, Nunzio
6/26 DiGiuseppe, Jr., John
6/26 Bonaldi, Ezio
6/29 Ruggeri, Philip

July

7/1 Pompa, Frank
7/1 Apone, Anthony
7/2 Bernabei, Frank A.
7/2 Morelli Sr., William A.
7/4 Scaglione, Albert P.
7/14 DeCarolus, John
7/15 Varano, Sal Mario
7/15 Fontana, Carl
7/18 Galli, David F.
7/18 Timpa, James
7/19 Viviano, Paul
7/22 Baffo, Matthew
7/24 Schnepfer, Roy
7/29 Simone, MD, Piero A.
7/30 Bartolomeo, Dawn
7/30 Grimaudo, Joseph
7/31 Lucido, Peter J.

August

8/2 Seleno, Andrew A.
8/3 Toia, Joseph
8/4 Pascarella, Antonio
8/7 Belcastro, Domenico
8/9 DiPiazza, John
8/11 Maceroni, Hon. Peter
8/12 Bossio, Alan J.
8/17 Bergmann, John P.
8/19 Militello, Stefano
8/22 Giordano, Anthony
8/23 Zuccaro, Dino
8/25 Salerno, Sr., Ramo A.
8/26 Petruzzello, Frank
8/28 Messina, Nino
8/29 Ventimiglia, Sam P.

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February 3, Meeting • Petruzzello's Banquet Center



A packed house enjoying the presentation!



Big smiles all around! Lets eat!



Members enjoying the fine wine provided by Frank Petruzzello!



President Pianello along with guest speaker Pirette Simpson of the Andrea Doria Project.

March 2, Meeting • Fern Hill Golf Club



Dr. Charles Shermetaro announcing the winning 50/50 ticket!



President Pianello encouraging new membership!



Lucia DiCicco of Hinman & DiCicco PLC, speaking on elder care.

↓ Nice turn out at beautiful Fern Hill Golf Club.



President Vito Pianello and newest member David A. Slongo of Atlantic Precision Products →



April 6 Wine Tasting Meeting • Andiamo Italia



Luigi explaining the next wine choice!
Dr. Tony Giordano... "get your Festa Della Lira tickets"



Gary DeCarlo gives it "thumbs up!"



Luigi Giachi, President, Tenuta Torciano vineyard in Tuscany



Members enjoying the variety of wines

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Festa Italiana

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Administrative Asst.

Editor

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Graphics/Printing

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Photography

Angela Pippi

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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."