



# The Grapevine

A Publication From

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

**Spring Issue • 2014**

**Volume 13 • Number 2**

**Visit Our New Website at: [www.iaccm.net](http://www.iaccm.net)**



## Upcoming EVENTS

**MAY 7, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

### **FESTA DELLA LIRA**

#### **TIME**

- 6:30 PM General Membership Meeting

#### **LOCATION**

- Fern Hill Golf Club  
17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township

**JUNE 4, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

### **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION**

#### **TIME**

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

#### **LOCATION**

- Andiamo Italia  
7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren

**JUNE 23, 2014 • MONDAY**

### **31ST ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**

#### **Honoring Judge Peter Maceroni**

#### **TIME**

- lunch served starting at 11:30 AM
- 1:00 PM shotgun start

#### **LOCATION**

- Scalawag's Country Club  
52100 Fairchild, Chesterfield

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 • WEDNESDAY • MONTHLY MEETING**

#### **TIME**

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

#### **LOCATION**

- Rivercrest Banquet Center  
900 W. Avon Road, Rochester Hills



## Notes from the PRESIDENT

### **NO MATTER HOW LONG THE WINTER, SPRING IS SURE TO FOLLOW. - PROVERB**

Our Italian heritage teaches us through the celebration of St. Joseph feast day that all things are possible. From the simple fava bean will sprout a new plant with numerous off shoots, each different in some degree but valuable as food for life. Oranges represent the promise of continued life. They are the fruit that can carry us through hard winters if conserved and protected. The bread sustains us with valuable nutrients for our bodies and our souls. In this joyous time of spring, we are given the opportunity to personally evaluate where we are and where we should be directing our attention.

During the next few months we have some very important events that support our Chamber's scholarship funding.

May 7 – Festa Della Lira at Fern Hill Golf Club, an opportunity to win some money and enjoy being with friends and associates.

June 4 – We will be awarding our scholarships to an outstanding group of deserving young people. Scholarship applications are available at our Web site. Applications must be completed by April 1 of each year.

June 23 – The “Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan John B. Agosta Memorial, 31st Annual Scholarship Golf Outing”. This event was the original source of our Scholarship fund. It was founded by some of our legendary deceased members and we continue to honor them along with all who have gone before them.

The golf outing is SOLD-OUT but we can still make room for you at the dinner portion of this event. You can also purchase a hole sign to advertise your business which will be displayed at one of the holes during the outing.



## Chairman's CORNER

By the time you read this Grapevine issue I am hoping that all of the snow has finally melted and that the Tigers are at least 5 games over .500. Wouldn't that be great?!

Now, for matters at hand for the Italian American Chamber of Commerce of Michigan...At our last Board meeting held in January, we discussed issues including plans for programs to occur during this year as well as visionary plans for the future.

In the near term, we will be reviewing our by-laws for any necessary improvements or changes. This is good to do periodically, just to make sure they are in sync with our evolution. In other words, do they still make sense? Are they relevant? Are any new guidelines needed in our by-laws?

We also are discussing a membership drive, which may have started by the time you read this article. We have approximately 165 members and definitely should be bigger. The board is trying to develop a plan for increasing membership which will involve you. The board wants to make it easier for you to go out and recruit other successful Italian American professionals and business people like yourself. To stay vibrant, the organization needs to continuously grow and we are all part of that challenge.

Last but not least, I want to remind you that our 100th anniversary is in 2019. That's right, you heard me correctly, our 100th anniversary! We are starting to talk about that at the board meetings and will be announcing more about it at our regular membership meetings. So stay tuned. Your thoughts and ideas for ways to celebrate such an achievement will be very welcomed. Please make yourself part of the plans. Volunteer to sit on a Golden anniversary planning committee which I'm sure is soon to begin.

As our spring season winds down we will have enjoyed the Festa Della Lira followed by our meeting on June 4th and then it will be our summer break. In a snap of your fingers we will be playing golf at our annual golf outing on June 23rd.

Sign up for these events and be sure to bring guests and prospective members. Please get involved by participating and remember this more than anything, this is your Chamber and you need to help make it successful.

Best regards and enjoy your summer.

Sam Ventimiglia  
Chairman of the Board

## Italian-American Chamber of Commerce Birthdays for:

### May

5/1 Signorelli, Mario  
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.  
5/19 Varanelli, Jeffrey  
5/23 Scalzi, Frank  
5/26 Marino, Frank  
5/28 Maniaci, Frank  
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  
6/22 Provenzano, Nunzio  
6/26 DiGiuseppe, Jr., John  
6/26 Bonaldi, Ezio  
6/29 Ruggeri, Philip

### July

7/1 Pomp, Frank  
7/1 Apone, Anthony  
7/2 Bernabei, Frank A.  
7/2 Morelli Sr., William A.  
7/4 Scaglione, Albert P.  
7/11 Juarez, Leah  
7/14 DeCarolis, John  
7/15 Varano, Sal Mario  
7/15 Fontana, Carl  
7/18 Galli, David F.  
7/18 Timpa, James  
7/19 Ficano, Robert  
7/19 Viviano, Paul  
7/22 Baffo, Matthew  
7/24 Schnepfer, Roy  
7/29 Simone, MD, Piero A.  
7/30 Grimaudo, Joseph  
7/31 Lucido, Peter J.

### August

8/1 Cuglietta, Luigi  
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  
8/29 Ventimiglia, Sam P.

## Notes From The President

*Continued from page 1*

This year we are honoring is the Honorable Judge Peter Maceroni for his dedication to the community and this organization

July 18-20, the Festa Italiana at Freedom Hill a fun time for all and a chance to celebrate our heritage.

All of these events present excellent opportunities to network and develop new relationships that will advance all of us in our business and community. New ideas are always welcome. To keep our organization growing we need to continue to share our huge business acumen with all those connected to you.

As the snow slowly melts and the Summer warms the earth and our hearts, I hope that you take the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful state we live in and share the good things we all have to offer to one another.

Andy Agosta  
President

## **\$40 GUEST FEE ENFORCEMENT**

The Board of Directors of the IACCM has been allowing a "first time/potential member" to attend with an IACCM member at no charge since 2012 to encourage membership growth. This courtesy will continue to be available to the membership if the potential member or guest has not attended before. This rule needs to be enforced. ALL MEMBERS will be charged the \$40 guest fee, to be paid at the door, unless other arrangements have been made with the IACCM office in advance.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## **THE WEEKEND WHEN EVERYONE'S ITALIAN** **FREEDOM HILL COUNTY PARK** **JULY 18-20, 2014**



Dino Valle is Master of Ceremonies and Entertainment Coordinator with Coro Italiano performing. There is national and local entertainment throughout the weekend featuring live performances by Aaron Caruso, Lisa Agazzi, Eva Evola, Dino Valle, Michele Ramo, Mark Randisi, and Simone Vitale Band.

On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass begins at 11:00 a.m. at the park.

There is fun for the entire family. Don't miss the meat ball contest, the Beautiful Baby Contest and the hilarious Cannoli Eating Contest.

Visit a variety of your favorite local vendor booths including Andiamo's, Italian American Cultural Society, National Coney Island, Nino Salvaggio International Marketplace, Picano's, Randazzo Fresh Market, Il Fornaio Bakery, Stroh's ice cream, elephant ears, Paradise Sunglasses, and many more.

"La Festa Italiana" -- The aura, the food, the arts, the music, the opera, the pasta, the pizza, the espresso, Sambuca, and the finest Italian beer and wine. "Now that's Italian".

For more information, call the Italian American Cultural Society, (586) 228-3030.

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# IACCM General Membership Meeting

February 5, 2014/Italian American Cultural Society



"Cheers"



New members L-R  
Mauro Bianchini, Tri-Phase Commercial  
Construction, Larry Crocenzi, Great  
Lakes Tile Products, Antonio DeLuca  
representing corporate member San  
Marino Club, Judge Peter Maceroni,  
President Andy Agosta, and membership  
chairman Charles Colombo



IACCM members awaiting the  
delicious meal!



## General Membership Meeting • March 5, 2014 / Palazzo Grande



President Andy Agosta welcoming everyone to the beautiful Palazzo Grande.



Past President Joseph P. Ventimiglia giving appreciation gift to Jacquelyn for attending.



Guest Speaker Attorney Jacquelyn Rygiel Sprague speaking on elder law and estate planning.



IACCM members and guests enjoying good camaraderie and food!

## General Membership Meeting • April 9, 2014 / Eastpointe Manor



Corporate members →  
Property Concepts  
Mike, Tim, &  
Chris Poley

← Festa Della Lira co-chair  
Anthony Giordano reminding  
the membership of the  
upcoming event May 7  
at Fern Hill.



John Gentilia, owner of →  
Perfect View Blinds

← Jim Timpa with guest  
speakers Maj. Bart Ward and  
Amy Grinvalsky who spoke on  
the upcoming air show 9/6-9/7  
at Selfridge Air  
National Guard Base.





# Grapevine Membership Business Directory

## ★ AUTOMOBILE DEALERSHIP

### Blue Water Chrysler Dodge Jeep

Gus Russo – John Russo  
4080 24th Avenue • Port Huron, MI 48059  
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## ★ AUTOMOBILE REPAIR

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## ★ BANQUET CENTERS/ RESTAURANTS

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*www.themiragebanquets.com*  
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### Fern Hill Golf Club

Dario Lanni  
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**586-286-4700**  
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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."