

La Nostra Voce

Sempre Insieme ~ Always Together

American Italian Cultural Society
1918 Donmaur Drive • Crest Hill, IL 60403

President's Report May/ maggio

Hello Club Members

It's May, I'm pleased to share an update on our society's activities, progress, and upcoming plans.

Highlights

- **Cultural Events:** Abruzzo night had a sold-out crowd with a cultural experience of the Abruzzo region for all to enjoy. It was a beautiful event.
- **Membership Engagement:** We welcomed two new members last month: Lisa Giacaione-Oberdin and Anthony Mottola.
- **Facility Updates:** Routine maintenance and spring preparation are underway. We will be planting flowers and outdoor cleanup on May 24th at 6PM. Clean-up and organization of the indoor upstairs bocce area is still to be scheduled.

May Events & Activities

- **Spaghetti Dinner:** Will take place Thursday May 14th, 11am to 7pm. Contact Andrea DiVecchio, Dave Margliano or Dan Brandolino for volunteering. This is our last full spaghetti dinner till summer break. We will have a bonus garlic and oil spaghetti dinner on June 11 which will be open to the public.
- **Queen of Hearts:** Every Monday starting at 5pm. The current pot as of 4/26/26 is over \$13,161.00. We wish you luck. Food is available for purchase on certain nights. Check our Facebook for the weekly menu. If you have a meal idea and would like to volunteer and help cook with one of our six kitchen managers, please let us know.
- **Festa meeting:** Next festa meeting will be Wednesday May 20th, at 7pm. Please attend if you would like to be involved with our festa. Contact Christina Hayden or Dan Brandolino for volunteering.
- **AICS Scholarship:** The deadline to apply for the AICS Scholarship is May 15th. Any senior in high school can apply for a chance at one of our two scholarships. First place, \$1,500.00 a year for 4 years and second place, \$750.00 a year for 4 years. Applications are available on our website.
- **Wine Contest:** The Wine Contest has been rescheduled for the Fall. More details to follow.

Save the Date

June 11th Bonus Garlic oil spaghetti dinner, June 20th AICS club picnic, July 12 Italian heritage night at Joliet slammers stadium, July 18 80s/90s freestyle party, August 7, 8, 9 Festa Italiana

Administrative Notes

- **Meetings:** The May board meeting will take place on May 6th at 7pm. General meeting is May 28th at 7pm. Agenda items include summer event planning, scholarship updates, and facility improvements.
- **Financial Overview:** The Society remains in strong financial standing and fundraising efforts continue to support our club and its cultural initiatives. Thank you all for your time and efforts.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** As always, we rely on the generosity of our members. Anyone interested in helping with events, positions or chairing an event are encouraged to reach out.

A Personal Message

Toni Van Gampler has stepped down as a board member due to schedule conflicts. We thank her for all her support. We will be advertising to fill in the reminder of her position this month. Finally, I would like to wish all the moms a happy and well-deserved Mother's Day.

Always Together/Sempre Insieme
Dan Brandolino
President, American Italian Cultural Society



Inside this issue:

President's Letter	1
Upcoming Events & BOD Opening	2
Calendar & Scholarship Info	3
Event Information	4
In Case You Missed It	5
Festa Italiana	6
San Marino	7
Sunshine Report Hall Rental Info	8
Puzzle	9
AICS Directory	10
Sponsors	11
Info Page	12

CLUB HOURS

SUNDAY

6:30 PM -11:00 PM

MONDAY

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

THURSDAY

6:30 PM -11:00 PM

SATURDAY

6:30PM - 11:0 PM

Phone: 815-725-7450

Fax: 815-725-9074

Email office:

officemanager@americanitalian.org

Email for newsletter:

Andrea.DiVecchio@americanitalian.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



QUEEN OF HEARTS EVERY MONDAY NIGHT 5-9 PM

Cut off time to purchase a ticket for the Queen is 7:30pm, with the drawing at 8:00pm

MAY 6 - WEDNESDAY	BOARD MEETING	7:00pm
MAY 14 - THURSDAY	SPAGHETTI DINNER	11am-7pm
MAY 20 - WEDNESDAY	FESTA MEETING	7:00pm
MAY 21 - THURSDAY	BOOK CLUB	12:00pm
MAY 24 - SUNDAY	FLOWER PLANTING	6:00pm
MAY 25 - MONDAY	CLUB CLOSED	
MAY 28 - THURSDAY	GENERAL MEETING	7:00pm

SAVE THE DATES!

JUN 11 - THURSDAY	"BONUS" SPAGHETTI DINNER <i>garlic & oil!</i>
JUN 20 - SATURDAY	CLUB PICNIC
JUL 12 - SUNDAY	JOLIET SLAMMERS ITALIAN NIGHT
JUL 18 - SATURDAY	80's PARTY
AUG 7, 8, 9	FESTA ITALIANA

We are hereby informing the membership that effective April 6, 2026, we received a resignation letter from a Board of Director for the 61 and over age group.

If anyone is interested in filling out the remaining term, ending December 2026, please notify our President Dan Brandolino by May 31, 2026.

The permanent replacement shall be elected to fill the vacancy by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Officer's & Board of Directors and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacant position. (As per Article V, Section 8 of the AICS Bylaws)



ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: General Power and Responsibilities

The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Directors must abide in all respects with the Corporation policies set forth in these bylaws and with other policies adopted by the Corporation and characterize personal commitment to the values of the Corporation.

CALENDAR

May

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4  Q O H	5	6  Board Meeting 7:00pm	7	8	9
10 	11  Q O H	12	13	14  Spaghetti Dinner 11am-7pm	15	16
17	18  Q O H	19	20  Festa Meeting 7:00pm	21  Book Clubs 12:00pm	22	23
24  Flower Planting 6:00pm	25  Memorial Day CLUB CLOSED	26	27	28  General Meeting 7:00pm	29	30
31						



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Scholarship
Program
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What You Get

- ✓ Four Year Scholarship
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Further Information

 www.americanitalian.org

**Apply
Now!**



EVENT INFORMATION ~ Don't miss out!

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
QUEEN OF HEARTS

**PLAY WEEKLY FOR
A CHANCE TO WIN**



DRAWING EVERY MONDAY
TICKETS \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

CLUB HOURS
SUNDAY 6:30 PM-11:00 PM
MONDAY 5:00 PM-9:00 PM
THURSDAY 6:30 PM-11:00 PM

1918 DAUNMAUR DRIVE CRIST HILL IL 60403

AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
1918 DONMAUR DR. CREST HILL, IL
815-725-7450

Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday
May 14, 2026
11am to 7pm
or until we run out!

Also available for sale

MEATBALLS \$3.00 FOR 2  **SAUCE \$8.00/QUART**

HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS & SALAD DRESSING

Skip the Line & Order Online!
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 or scan the QR Code to place your order
Some restrictions may apply



DATE
MAY 24
START
6:00PM

Flower Planting

**COME HELP US MAKE
THE EXTERIOR OF OUR
CLUB BEAUTIFUL!**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
GARDENING TOOLS,
GLOVES, ETC.
WE'LL PROVIDE THE
FLOWERS**



REMINDER

General Meeting

Thursday
May 28, 2026
7:00pm

**Delicious Snacks will be
served after the meeting!**



AICS WINE CLUB

WINE TASTING

Begins at \$16.00 per person for 4 tastings
***Tax & Tip additional**



MAY 30, 2026
12:00PM

Gilded Edge Winery
9396 Plattville Rd. Newark, IL 60541
MORE INFO & RESERVE YOUR SPACE :
ANDREA 815-529-0036 BY 5/23

Save the Date
26th Annual
Festa Italiana

Voted Best in Will County
10 Years in a Row!

Friday, August 7, 2026 | 5:00pm-11:00pm
Saturday, August 8, 2026 | 5:00pm-11:00pm
Sunday, August 9, 2026 | 11:00am-9:00pm

FREE ADMISSION
 Serving our FULL menu all three days

Entertainment Schedule

Friday, August 7th 5:30pm Don't Matter to Me 8:30pm Pearl Snap	Saturday, August 8th 5:00pm Vito Zatto 7:30pm Cadillac Groove
Sunday, August 9th 11:00am Outdoor Mass & Procession 12:00pm Ross Failla 2:30pm Pasta Eating Contest 3:00pm Jersey Girls 5:30pm Hoodwinked	* Entertainment All Day * Bake Sale * Games for the kids * Raffles and much, much more!

For More information visit our website
americanitalian.org or scan the QR code
 American Italian Cultural Society
 1918 Donmaur Dr.
 Crest Hill, IL 60403



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!



THANK YOU AICS MEMBERS

AICS members are certainly generous! We collected bags and boxes of necessities and goodies for the Veterans who reside in the Manteno Veterans Home. They were so thankful for all of the items you so generously donated. We will be doing this again in the future to help our Vets.

APRIL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who helped with our April Spaghetti Dinner. It was well attended and our patrons were well fed. We served 1,310 dinners and 1,230 orders of meatballs and we couldn't have done it without all of you. Our bake sale sold \$1,082 of delicious home baked goods made by our members. Thank you everyone!



Abruzzo Regional Dinner

Our Abruzzo Regional Dinner was held on April 11th and what a night it was! Under the leadership of Maria Carestia, the Carestia and Brandolino families gave us an evening to remember. From the delicious homemade pasta and bread to the regional meat and vegetable dishes the dinner was delicious. We enjoyed the accordion music of Tony Brandolino which led to a sing along and some tarantella dancing. During dinner, we were serenaded by Chicagoland crooner Frankie Seta. An informative video presentation was presented with the sights, sounds and flavors of the Abruzzo region. It was an evening of Abruzzo regional pride and sharing of culture and traditions. Thank you to everyone who put their heart into this splendid evening.

A warm Thank You to our
HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

We sincerely appreciate all the time, effort and attention to detail that went into capturing the essence of the beautiful Abruzzo region.
Thank you for bringing the vision to life- it truly means so much.

~Ali Brandolino	~Pasquale Carestia
~Daniel Brandolino	~Caesare Conte
~Danny Brandolino	~Sandi Doyle
~Julius Brandolino	~Jason Doyle
~Marco Brandolino	~Maria Gukasian
~Stephanie Brandolino	~Amelia Hayden
~Tony Brandolino	~Christina Hayden
~Anna Binkley	~Harper Hayden
~Gary Binkley	~Marianna Carestia
~Maria Carestia	~Scott Nicholson
	~Jackson Nicholson

A heartfelt thank you to all the additional volunteers who came together over the last few days to help make this event run smoothly. Your generosity and support truly make all the difference.



FESTA ITALIANA



The poster is framed by a thick red and green border. It features a circular logo on the left with the text 'FESTA AMERICAN ITALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY' and 'SEMPRE INSIEME ALWAYS TOGETHER'. The main text reads 'Save the Date 26th Annual Festa Italiana'. Below this, it says 'Voted Best in Will County 10 Years in a Row!'. The event dates and times are listed: Friday, August 7, 2026 (5:00pm-11:00pm), Saturday, August 8, 2026 (5:00pm-11:00pm), and Sunday, August 9, 2026 (11:00am-9:00pm). It states 'FREE ADMISSION' and 'Serving our FULL menu all three days'. An 'Entertainment Schedule' box lists activities for each day. A QR code is at the bottom left, and contact information for the American Italian Cultural Society is at the bottom right. Decorative elements include a heart with the Italian flag and a 'VOLUNTEER' button.

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Festa Italiana

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5:30pm Don't Matter to Me	5:00pm Vito Zatto
8:30pm Pearl Snap	7:30pm Cadillac Groove

Sunday, August 9th

11:00am Outdoor Mass & Procecion	★ Entertainment All Day
12:00pm Ross Failla	★ Bake Sale
2:30pm Pasta Eating Contest	★ Games for the kids
3:00pm Jersey Girls	★ Raffles and much, much more!
5:30pm Hoodwinked	

For More information visit our website
americanitalian.org or scan the QR code
American Italian Cultural Society
1918 Donmaur Dr.
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Plans are well under way for our 26th annual Festa Italiana. Please pick up your membership packet containing information, volunteer form and raffle tickets at the May 14th Spaghetti Dinner. This will help defray our costs on postage. Thank you!

SAN MARINO - Landlocked in Italy

Vatican City is not the only landlocked sovereign state within the borders of Italy. The other is the Most Serene Republic of San Marino, which is also the oldest surviving sovereign constitutional republic in the world. Hidden away in the heart of Italy, it is the fifth smallest country in the world and the third smallest country in Europe. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage sight since 2008.

The landlocked microstate of San Marino is surrounded entirely on all sides by Italy sandwiched in between the Italian regions of Emilia-Romagna and Marche. It is located close to the Adriatic Coast and the Italian city of Rimini. The country is only twenty four square miles in size and has a population of thirty four thousand people. The capital of San Marino is Città di San Marino (City of San Marino) which is located 739 meters above sea level on the top of Monte Titano and is one of the nine Castelli which make up San Marino – the other eight are Acquaviva, Borgo Maggiore, Chiesanuova, Domagnano, Faetano, Fiorentino, Montegiardino and Serravalle.

As San Marino does not have a train station or an airport, it is only accessible by car or bus and the closest major international airport is in Bologna about 80 miles away. You can also take the train from Rimini. While there is no border control when you enter San Marino, you will still need a valid passport to visit and the same entry requirements apply in San Marino as in Italy.

San Marino lays claim to the titles of oldest constitutional republic and oldest surviving sovereign state. Legend says that San Marino was founded in the year 301 CE by Saint Marinus, a stonemason who came from the island of Arba which was part of the Roman Empire (today known as the island of Rab in modern-day Croatia). He had been working on the city walls in Rimini (also part of the Roman Empire) and preaching the Christian gospel to slaves. At the time the Roman Empire was still Pagan, and fearing persecution he fled to nearby Monte Titano where he built a chapel and lived as a hermit. As his reputation grew, others started to follow him to the mountain until finally the owner of Mount Titano decided to gift the land to him. Marinus was canonized by the church and his feast day is September 3, the date in 301 on which he founded San Marino. In memory of Marinus, the area was named the Land of San Marino, then the Community of San Marino, and finally the Republic of San Marino.

There is no president or prime minister. Instead, the head of state is known as the Captain Regent. Two Captain Regents serve at the same time for terms of six months. The two Captain Regents are usually from different parties and are voted by San Marino's Grand and General Council. The 60 members of the Grand and General Council (the most powerful council) are elected by the people of San Marino to five-year terms. In addition to voting for the Captain Regents, they also elect the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Treasury to the Grand Council (10 total members). San Marino has had more female heads of state than anywhere else in the world.

Though not a part of the European Union, the official currency is the Euro thanks to a special monetary agreement with the EU. The official language of San Marino is Italian, which is used for all government, education and business purposes. Additionally, the Sammarinese dialect is widely spoken by roughly 83% of the population, particularly among the older generation. The population is approximately 34,000.

Abraham Lincoln expressed his admiration for San Marino in a letter to a Captains Regent in 1861, saying, "Although your dominion is small, nevertheless your State is one of the most honored throughout history..." In response, they granted him citizenship. Lincoln has been honored on San Marino postage stamps three times.

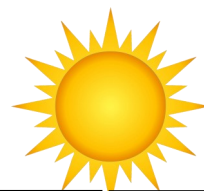
Being completely surrounded by Italy, the cuisine of San Marino is heavily influenced by it, especially by the neighboring regions of Emilia Romagna and Le Marche. Local dishes include *fagioli con le cotiche*, a bean and bacon soup made for Christmas; *pasta e ceci*, a chickpea and noodle soup made with garlic and rosemary; *nidi di rondine*, a baked pasta dish with smoked ham, beef, cheese and tomato; and roast rabbit with fennel. *Erbazzone* is a spinach-based dish that includes cheese and onions. *Piada*, which is made of flatbread with various fillings is similar to the *piscina* from Emilia Romagna. Desserts include a cake called *Torta Tre Monti* (Cake of the Three Mountains/Towers), named for the three towers of San Marino, which is a layered wafer cake covered in chocolate. There is also the *Torta Titano*, a layered dessert made with cookies, hazelnuts, chocolate, cream and coffee. The country also produces wines, such as Brugneto and Tessano Cask-Aged red wines) and Biancale and Roncale (still white wines).

You can explore San Marino in just a day or two. Its landscape is made up of Castles and Towers, and once you get to the top, you can enjoy the striking view of the Adriatic coast. Strolling through the alleys of its historic center, immersed in a medieval atmosphere, is like taking a trip back in time, but San Marino is also a land of shopping and modern attractions also suitable for families. It has monuments and museums, shopping malls and outlet stores, activities to do with children and a rich calendar of cultural events. If you want to avoid the crowds, you may want to explore this hidden gem of a country landlocked within Italy.





Sunshine Report



Carolyn McDonald - 1st
 Sherri Forillo - 2nd
 JoAnn Kohlhagen - 4th
 Maria Sandstrom - 4th
 Robin Margliano - 7th
 Maria Carestia - 8th
 Ron Onesti - 8th
 Sergio Murer - 12th



Vanessa Pascente - 16th
 Vincent Cerri - 18th
 Karen Pascarella - 18th
 Linda Likar - 19th
 Kelly German - 21st
 Carla Boucher - 22nd
 Regina Corbin - 22nd



Matthew Mauzer - 23rd
 Catherine Cerri - 24th
 Gary Binkley - 25th
 Jim Columbus - 29th
 Rosanna Lamanna - 30th
 Caesare Conte - 31st
 Peter Skroko - 31st



Lisa Giacaione-Oberdin
 Anthony Mottola



Bill Conte
 Mike Lazzari
 Paula Skiotes
 Judy Moroz



Dominic Talarico & Ante
 Acosta on their graduation
 from the police academy
 Carla Liburdi on her Masters
 Degree from Notre Dame



Mary Atwood and Tom
 Giarrante on the passing
 of their brother Robert
 Giarrante

The Munoz Family on the
 passing of club member
 Claudia Munoz

Debbie and Steve Petrella
 on the passing of Debbie's
 brother Roy Ravagnie

Barbara and Victor Corsetti
 on the passing of Barb's
 son Matthew Mondrella

The Fumagalli Family on
 the passing of former club
 member and past club vice
 president Mark Fumagalli

If you are having, or know someone who is having a milestone birthday or anniversary, or know of an illness, condolence or a special congratulations for our members or if you want to be excluded from the Sunshine Report please contact
 Anna Binkley (815) 342-6524 / Email: anna9108@att.net or
 Robin Margliano (815) 531-9116 / Email: rmargliano@aol.com



American Italian Cultural Society

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MOTHER'S
DAY**

BASEBALL

BLOSSOM

BUMBLEBEE

BUTTERFLY

CINCO DE MAYO

FLOWERS



Merry MONTH OF May

Word Search



GARDEN

GEMINI

GREEN

LADYBUG

LAWNMOWER

MAYPOLE

MEMORIAL DAY

MOM

MOTHER'S DAY

PIÑATA

PLANT

SEEDS

SPRING

SUNSHINE

TAURUS

TEACHER

AICS DIRECTORY

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President	Dan Brandolino	(815) 919-5440	dan.brandolino@americanitalian.org
Vice President	Christina Hayden	(815) 409-0511	christinamhayden8@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Todd Maland	(815) 791-5215	recsec851@aol.com
Treasurer	Marco Coladipietro	(815) 530-3516	Marco.Coladipietro@americanitalian.org
Sergeant-at-Arms	Carla Liburdi	((815) 931-0667	carla.l@americanitalian.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - TRUSTEES

Paolo Binkley	(708) 488-6297	paolobinkley2002@gmail.com
Catherine Cerri	(815) 355-2055	kat2478@aol.com
Dane Carlyle	(815) 585-3189	dcarlyle22@gmail.com
Tony D'Amico	(630) 308-0019	tdamico256@aol.com
Zak Kohlhagen	(708) 417-8402	Zak918@sbcglobal.net
Franca Liburdi	(815) 768-9812	francaliburdi@aol.com
Sharon Muhich	(815) 347-9299	muhich1946@gmail.com
Vanessa Pascente	(815) 274-9235	Vpascente71@gmail.com

CLUB CONTACTS

AICS General Email			officemanager@americanitalian.org
Bar Manager	Matt Mauzer	(815) 325-7631	mmauzer@att.net
Building/Grounds	Gary Binkley	(815) 342-6521	bink25002@yahoo.com
Call All	Sandi Doyle	(815) 409-0513	officemanager@americanitalian.org
Decorating	Robin Margliano	(815) 531-9116	rmargliano@aol.com
Festa Italiana	Dan Brandolino	(815) 919-5440	danbrandolino@aol.com
Hall Rental	Vanessa Pascente	(815) 274-9235	Vpascente71@gmail.com
Kitchen Manager			kitchenmanager@americanitalian.org
Newsletter Ads	Sandi Doyle	(815) 409-0513	officemanager@americanitalian.org
Newsletter Editor	Andrea DiVecchio	(815) 529-0036	Andrea.DiVecchio@americanitalian.org
Office Manager	Sandi Doyle	(815) 409-0513	officemanager@americanitalian.org
Scholarship	Dan Brandolino	(815) 919-5440	danbrandolino@aol.com
Sunshine	Anna Binkley Robin Margliano	(815) 342-6524 (815) 531-9116	anna9108@att.net rmagliano@aol.com
Welcome Committee	Vanessa Pascente	(815) 274-9235	Vpascente71@gmail.com
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bwellner@msclawfirm.com

www.msclawfirm.com

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The Leoni Conte Group at Morgan Stanley

William Conte
Portfolio Management Director
Senior Vice President
Wealth Advisor
1150 Essington Rd
Joliet, IL 60435
+1 815 728 8640
William.Conte@morganstanley.com
NMLS #1253200

Andrew Leoni CFP®
Executive Director
Portfolio Management Director
Financial Advisor
NMLS #1326737
AI Insurance license #17522192
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American Italian Cultural Society

1918 Donmaur Drive
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Phone: 815-725-7450

Fax: 815-725-9074

Email office:

officemanager@americanitalian.org

Email for newsletter:

Andrea.DiVecchio@americanitalian.org



For more info please visit us on the web:
www.americanitalian.org
or



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Our spaghetti dinner is held the 2nd Thursday of the month from September until May every year. We are looking for more student volunteers to work in the dining room. If you can help or know any high school student who would like to work a few hours, please contact: **Robin Margliano**

815-531-9116

Did you know you can access member information from our AICS website? You can see pics from the club, download a new membership application and see copies of our newsletters. There's a member portal where you can sign up with your email.

Member access code is AICS2024
Please contact:

officemanager@americanitalian.org
for more information.

Scan to visit our website

