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BIRTHDAY'S:

July Birthday:

Fred Lucia 7/11
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Msgr. Frank Chiodo 7/6
Steven Utterson 7/4
Daniel Leonetti 7/4
Tomas Formaro 7/15
Joe Grandanette 7/24
Pete Leo 7/24
Joseph Leonetti 7/13
Anthony Madonia 7/25
Steve Righi 7/20
Joseph Romeo 7/11
Ildo Rossi 7/22
Victor Scavo 7/15
Londo Vivone III 7/18

August Birthday:

Sean Bagniewski 8/17
Gennaro Ligouri 8/24
George Houston 8/22
Joe Cardamon 8/20
Michael Branco 8/25
John Fontanini 8/1
Joseph Aversa 8/28
Joe Aversa 8/14
Anthony Cianciaruso 8/8
Charles Cordaro 8/24
Clarence Jobe Jr. 8/18
Frank Vito 8/17
John Sposeto Jr. 8/1
Mike Scione Jr. 8/3

September Birthday:

Joe Gatto 9/15
Darren Marasco 9/12
Dominic Berardi 9/1
Rico Bertagnolli 9/4
John Comito 9/23
Sam Gillotti 9/8
Mike Mauro 9/29
Thomas Renda 9/19
Patrick Renda 9/25
Lorenzo Serena 9/25

SOCIETY OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN NEWSLETTER STAFF

PUBLISHER / EDITOR: SAMUIL PANE
EDITOR: VICTOR SCAGLIONE
DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION: JOE PANE
ADVERTISING: SAMUIL PANE



SOCIETY OF ITALIAN-AMERICANS NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Society of Italian-Americans

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3 JULY 1, 2016

PRESIDENTS CORNER:



Hello Gentlemen,

Summer is finally upon us so you know what that means, Festival time. The dates for this year's festival are Friday July 29th and Saturday July 30th. Volunteer help is needed in our men's booth helping to sell sausage sandwiches and meatball sandwiches. This year we are also adding meatballs on a stick. New this year, we will again be selling pop and water from our booth. We need all the help we can get with the additional items being sold. This year our booth is being headed up by John Comito and John Sposeto, please contact either one of them to sign up for a shift or two. We will also have a sign-up sheet at our next meeting. Help is also needed around the festival grounds, from the gates to the beer/ wine tents. Yes, this year the festival will be selling wine/ wine spritzers. There is a sign-up email link for these located on the festival website. We recently sent an email to our members with that link. If you do not have access to a computer then you can contact Vince Scavo at 321-9509. Please encourage your wives or adult children to also volunteer their services. One last area we need volunteer help is set up and tear down of the festival grounds. The tear down will be after midnight on July 30th/31st. You can contact me if you will be willing to help out. The more hands we have, the quicker the grounds can be cleaned up and removed. If any of your high school kids need service hours for their up-coming school year, this would be a wonderful time to get those hours. Please help do your part for our Italian Heritage and for the success of the festival.

It is also time to renew our dues. Other than those new members who recently paid their dues, Sam should be sending out information to all members noting dues are due by August 31, 2016. Please encourage your Italian family members and friends who are currently not members to join our organization. Same can be said for encouraging our Italian ladies to continue or join our auxiliary. We may hold a membership drive sometime in the near future. We would like to see our membership grow for a stronger future for generations to come.

For the members who have not been able to attend a meeting in a while, I would like you to know that our building committee has been looking for a possible new building to call our own. The problem is, every time we think we found something there is a snag and usually it is due to new city regulations. The days of finding a building and buying it are gone. There are improvement regulations, bathroom regulations, occupancy restrictions etc. Fear not, the building committee is working hard to find us a new home to call our own; it's just going to take some time. If you ever see something on the Southside that you think may work for us, please contact anyone on the building committee, myself, Victor Scaglione, Pete Leonetti, Rick Trower, John Sposeto, John Comito, Mario Tumea, Sam Pane or Pete Tursi and we will look into it. - Continue on Page 3

The Next Meetings Will be at Belizzi-MacRae American Legion

*July 10, 2016
Aug. 14, 2016
Sept. 11, 2016
Oct. 9, 2016*

*4:00pm Board Meeting
5:00pm Membership*

If you would like to get the newsletter by e-mail please contact Samuil Pane at samuilpane@yahoo.com

Did you know that you can download a new membership form from our website!

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EDITORIAL:

As we get closer to the Annual Italian—American Heritage festival we should reflect on our heritage and where we are going as a organization. In the last few years we have seen a decrease in our membership. This would be a great time to talk to your kids and grandkids and ask them to join. If we do not bring in more members we could see our organization wither and die in the not so distant future.

I would also like to invite you to come and visit our booth and have one of our famous sausage or meatball sandwich. See you at the Fest!

Samuil Pane
Membership
Publisher Newsletter

IN MEMORIAL:

James "Jimmy" Leo, Sr. 83, passed away Monday, April 4, 2016 at Unity Point Health Des Moines Methodist.

Jimmy was born May 3, 1932 in Des Moines to Pete and Mary (Fazio) Leo. He worked as a cobbler with his brothers and later retired from the City of Des Moines after 36 years of service. Jimmy was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church and the Society of Italian Americans. He enjoyed playing pitch and cribbage and watching westerns with his beloved dog, Lucy. He will be fondly remembered by his family as "Johnny on the Spot" whenever anyone needed a helping hand.



Gasper Joseph Anania, 89, passed away on May 13, 2016. Gasper was born on December 29, 1926, to Angelo and Lucy (Sarcone) Anania and spent his whole life on the south side of Des Moines in a very large, tight-knit womb-to-tomb family.

After graduating from Dowling High School in 1944, he served his country honorably in the Army. He married Lucia Macri in 1951 and together they raised four children. He owned and operated Pete's Tavern and then was a successful salesman for over 40 years.

Gasper was a very kind man that was loved by many. He never knew a stranger. He was the life of the party and could make anyone laugh by rattling off joke after joke. He loved making people laugh. Sitting around and visiting with valued friends and family was his favorite thing to do.

He was a lifelong member of St. Anthony Catholic Church and a proud member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and the Society of Italian Americans.



Joseph Vincent Anania, 79, passed away Friday, May 13, 2016 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Joseph was born March 5, 1937 in Des Moines to Michael and Catherine (Renda) Anania. He graduated from St. Anthony Catholic School, Dowling High School and studied two years in seminary. Joseph owned and operated J & A Insurance. He was an active member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus and the Society of Italian Americans. Joseph had a fondness for corvettes, especially red ones.

EVENTS:

- **Italian American Heritage Festival:** July 29 & 30, 2016 at the Western Gateway Park in downtown Des Moines for more information go to <http://www.italianfestivalofiowa.com/>
- Columbus Day October 10, 2016
- Deceased Members Mass November, 2016
- SIA Christmas Party 2016 - More Information to Come Later

FAMOUS ITALIAN INVENTIONS:

Jeans - especially blue ones – are usually identified with American culture, but their origins are Italian. In fact, denim can be traced back to the northern city of Genoa in the 17th century, where the cloth was worn by sailors. It is thought that the word “jeans” comes from the French word for Genoa

Newspapers. Arguably, the newspaper can be traced back to Venice in 1556, when the government published monthly hand-written news-sheets, called “avvisi”. No crosswords or cartoons: the avvisi typically used to carry political, military and economic news.

Telephone. Although Alexander Bell was the first to be awarded a patent for the electric telephone, Italian Antonio Meucci is often credited as the true inventor of the phone. The Italian immigrant to the US began developing a voice communication device - called the “teletrofono” - in 1849. True, it didn't look much like a telephone, but it apparently worked. Only in 2002 was his role in the invention process acknowledged by the US Congress.

Battery. The first electric battery, the voltaic pile, was created by Alessandro Volta (the name should give you a clue), who published his findings in 1800. It was the first practical way of generating electricity that could continuously provide an electrical current to a circuit.

Banks. These can be traced to medieval and early Renaissance Italy, the most famous being the Medici Bank, founded by Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici in 1397. The oldest bank still in operation today is Monte dei Paschi di Siena, which opened in 1472.

Piano. Bartolomeo Cristofori, who came from Padua, northern Italy, is recognized as the inventor of the piano. He worked as a harpsichord maker for the Grand Prince of Tuscany, Ferdinando de' Medici, and used his knowledge to build the first piano in around 1700.

CONTUATION FROM PAGE 1 - PRESIDENTS CORNER:

Thank you to the 23 members who were able to attend our last meeting/ lunch outing at Prairie Meadows. Thank you to John and Victor Scaglione for helping put together the outing. With their help, we were able to use a private room for our meeting. The all-you-can-eat buffet was right outside that room. There was quite a variety of food for us all to enjoy.

Our next meeting will be back at the Belizzi-MacRae American Legion on July 10, 2016. The board meeting begins at 4:00pm and the regular meeting begins at 5:00pm.

Things we need to start thinking about in the coming months are the Columbus Day activities. The elections in November will be for our 3 auditor seats and 3 at large seats. Our deceased member mass, Christmas party and whatever else comes our way.

Until then, enjoy your summer and please volunteer all the time you can at the festival.

Arrivederci,

Frank L. Morano, Jr.
President, Society of Italian Americans