

December Newsletter

Volume 6

AZItalianchamber.org

Issue 12

LATEST & GREATEST...

Welcome Dana Drew Shaw to our Board of Directors!



Dana Drew Shaw is a proud Italian American whose deep family roots and several years spent living in Italy shaped her enduring connection to Italian culture. During her time in Italy, she played professional basketball and worked with various Italian companies, experiences that strengthened her appreciation for people, traditions, and business community.

Dana currently serves as the Vice President of Government Relations at Grand Canyon University, where she leads the university's strategic engagement with elected officials, community partners, and policy stakeholders.

More gala sponsors signing up...

azitalianchamber.org/gala

As we come close to our 1/31/26 gala...we'd like to introduce you to the latest sponsors taking part in the event more. Table Sponsorships are sold-out... but there are some tickets and branding opportunities remaining:

- Greco & Sons - grecoandsons.com
- Peroni - peroniitalia.com
- Dextera - dexterallc.com
- Bolzano - bolzanoconstruction.com
- Angrest

Jerry Colangelo...thank you for your support!

We are grateful to Jerry Colangelo, who's never ending support for the Italian American community is very well known. Jerry and his organization are supporting our 2026 gala once again. There are never enough words for what Jerry does...



THANK YOU!

New Members!

Chapman BMW

Sal Cucco and the Chapman BMW group have joined us. Sal grew up in Brooklyn, NY and came to us from Las Vegas, NV. Chapman BMW has always been a successful dealership in Arizona...but with Sal there, that success will only multiply. If you're in the market for a car **"you got a guy"**. They sell many different vehicles both new and pre-owned at Chapman BMW - chapmanbmwoncamelback.com Stay tuned as Chapman is working on a special for Chamber members...



Latest Craze Productions

Jeremy Martorano is an Italian American living here in the valley. His company delivers strategic event production & management nationwide. We are also happy to have Latest Craze as the audio/video company for our gala! Check them out at latestcrazeproductions.com

Rizzo Financial Group

Paul Rizzo and his associates offer a wide variety of services depending on your needs and stage of life. Whether it's financial planning, retirement planning, asset management, wealth planning, tax management or legacy planning...he can assist as needed. We welcome him to the Chamber and are glad to have him aboard.

Rizzofinancial.com



NIAF – Voyage of Discovery – candidates

We are accepting applications for the National Italian American Foundation's Voyage of Discovery program.

We've had people ask about the program. The absolute best ways to learn more are at:

niaf.org/programs/voyage-of-discovery

and contacting our Young Professionals Board Leader – Robb Olivieri at
robbolivieri@gmail.com

The deadline is in Q1 2026. Don't wait too long.



Chamber Members Promotional Opportunities

Silent Auction items

If you'd like to donate a silent auction item for our 1/31/26 gala, please let us know. Any good or service with at least \$500 value can be donated and we will include it in our silent auction that evening. Our gala committee will review for approval and proceeds go towards the event and our charity for the evening.

Youtube videos

We would love to have our members share a 30 second video promoting their business. This is free for members and we are more than willing to post it on our Youtube account for all to see. Not only would your video be present, but it is content we can share in support of your efforts. It can be made on a phone, though more professional is better. Let us know if you have questions and we can help.



Chef Joey's Christmas Dinner

A number of us attended Chef Joey's annual dinner for friends and family. This event is a tribute to his late father and legendary restaurateur Tomaso Maggiore. A lot of fun, a lot of food and a lot of toys donated to the Central Arizona Shelter Services organization (cassaz.org). Joey has been an unwavering supporter of the Chamber...and we support him and his family strongly



FINANCIALS FOR NOVEMBER

Revenue - \$6,619



Expenses - \$8,025

Cash -\$24,889

Debt - \$0

* The AZ Italian American Chamber receives no public funding.

* All Chamber personnel are 100% volunteers

Italian American Candidates Running for Office

Robb Olivier

Robb Olivier works to build bridges in our community and create new jobs to power Phoenix's future.

He runs the Luminosity Lab at Arizona State University, an R&D program to empower student entrepreneurs. Their award-winning work improves lives in Phoenix and creates new companies that transform our city for the better. Their work created safer face masks during COVID, fed hundreds of people who couldn't access food banks, and has secured dozens of patents and millions of dollars in investment for Arizona-based companies.

Robb4phx.com



Joe Forte

Why Joe Forte?

Joe Forte is a dedicated Tempe resident with a track record of service and leadership: U.S. Navy Veteran. Served our country with honor.

Small Business Owner. Knows what it takes to create jobs and opportunity. Founder, Keep Tempe Beautiful. Committed to a cleaner, greener Tempe. ASU Alumni. First-generation college graduate, driven to learn and lead. Community Leader. Commissioner on Tempe's Development Review Commission, Board Member of the Kiwanis Club of Tempe, Board Member of Tempe Sister Cities, and Member of the Tempe Diablos.

Forte4Tempe.com



Upcoming Italian American Events

Chamber Events in green

JANUARY 16TH @ 8:00 AM - JANUARY 19TH @ 5:00 PM

4th Annual Italian American Future Leader Convention

JANUARY 31ST 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

2026 Arizona Italian American Gala

FEBRUARY 7th 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Leonardo DaVinci Lodge 2992 - CARNEVALE DI VENEZIA
2026

FEBRUARY 12th 6:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Arizona European Young Entrepreneur Award

ARIZONA ITALIAN AMERICAN

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Maggiore Group (Restaurant, Food, & Beverage)

BMW Chapman (Professional & Business Services)

ICAP Italian Citizenship Assistance Program (Professional & Business Services)

Riot Hospitality Group (Restaurant, Food, & Beverage)

WIPFLI (Professional & Business Services)

SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

Professional & Business Services

AEC Electric

Always This Good

Anchor Funding

Arizona Real Estate Investors Association

Arizona Roofing Systems

Comparison Insurance Agency

Crescuta Management Group

D-MAK Productions

Dahir Tax and Accounting Firm

Deaf Protection

Greenlink Human Capital Management

Laundry Wheel

Latest Craze Productions

Paragon Contracting, LLC

Prime Mechanical Solutions - A Caruso Company

Rizzo Financial Group

Ryan Austin & Associates, LLC

Soto Law Firm - Sheala De Martini

The Fiorini Agency

Universal Strategies Limited

Valentino Signature Services - Investigations & Consulting

Vincente (Vince) Guarino, CFP® Financial Advisor

WestPac Wealth Partners

Healthcare & Healthy Lifestyle

Arizona Pain and Posture

Optimum Vision and Eye Care

Our Hearts Enter

Real Estate Sales, Rentals, & Services

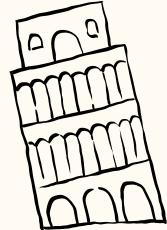
Affronti & Sons

Desert Dimensions

ExtraVirgin Properties

Mario Licciardi

Phoenician Properties Realty LLC



Home & Building Services / Supplies

Caruso Sublime
Marco's Tankless LLC
Aristocrat Architectural Services

Home & Garden

Canyon State Landscape Co

Restaurant, Food, & Beverage

The Italian Daughter
Tutti Santi
Virtu Honest Craft / Pizzeria Virtu
Creations in Catering
Pasta Rea

Specialty Food & Beverage

Casa Dolci
Dolce Vita
Italian Harmony [Bakery, Cucina, & Deli]
Magnum's Cigar, Wine, & Liquor

Community Organizations

Comfort Bears in a Catastrophe
Italian Association of Arizona

Arts, Culture, & Entertainment

Total Gavone Clothing

Advertising Specialties

Remember The Name

Attractions, Recreation, & Sports

Sanctuary Tactical

Tours & Vacation Services

Fantastica Italia – Customized Vacations

Individual Member

Gustavo Dalotto

Non-Profit Members

French American Chamber of Commerce – Rocky Mountain – AZ Chapter (Community Organizations & Non-Profits)

Girls Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine

Italian American Club of Las Vegas

Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Leonardo DaVinci Lodge #2992, West Phoenix, subordinate Lodge of OSDIA

The Founders – EMERITUS

Collaborating Organizations

American Society of Italian Legions of Merit
Carefree & Cave Creek Italian American Club
Casa Belvedere – The Italian Cultural Foundation
Columbus Citizens Foundation
Colorado Italian American Business Association of Colorado
Council of Presidents of Major Italian American Orgs.
Fountain Hills Italian Interest Group
Honorary Consulate of Italy in Arizona
Italian American Future Leaders
Italian American Baseball Foundation
Italy America Chamber of Commerce
Italian American Civil Rights League
Italian American Club of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
Italian American Leadership Forum
Italian American Museum of Los Angeles
Italian Association of Arizona
Italian Chamber of Commerce of Northern California
Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento
Italian Enclaves Historical Society
Italic Institute of America
Italian Cultural Society
Italian Portland
Italian Trade Agency
Little Italy of Los Angeles Association
Little Italy San Jose
National Italian American Foundation
National Organization of Italian American Women
Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America
Phoenix Sister Cities – Catania
San Francisco Italian Athletic Club
The Founders – Arizona Italian Business Group
Unico National

**Let us know if you need any
help with introductions or would like to recommend other groups**

EOs Message...

Occasionally, we are asked about political positions and thoughts on political matters. Our position has always been that we support the Italian American community on a whole. The community will have many different people, and they have many different philosophies. Some of our members are passionate about certain political ideologies. I'm sure this is true for those in any organization. We are primarily a business organization with heavy cultural Italian American overtones.

With this said, we support our Italian, Italian American and Italian supporting community regardless of politics. In a nutshell, we support what's best for our members and their businesses. At the end of the day, most of our members are advocating for the Italian American community beyond politics. And of course, we certainly would not support anything that hurts our members or community. The goal is to create solidarity in our community, relationships with other groups, to have a voice that can be heard, and to generate financial strength among our members. And of course, we'll have a lot of great times along the way.

Buon Natale, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am hoping 2026 is a prosperous year for everyone.

Sincerely, Pete



Christmas in Rockefeller Center