

# March Newsletter

Volume 7

AZItalianchamber.org

Issue 3

## **LATEST & GREATEST...**

**September 18, 2026**



## **AZ DIAMONDBACKS - ITALIAN HERITAGE NIGHT**

We have added this event to the schedule. It's been a great time as we have gotten more engaged. Please let us know if you'd like your business to have a booth at the stadium on this night. We can provide more details for you... feel free to contact us and we can connect you with the Diamondbacks organization.

The DBacks are playing the Yankees...which makes the game even more exciting for many of our New York Italians living in AZ.

The special event ticket package includes a game ticket to the D-backs vs. Yankees game as well as an Italian inspired D-backs hat (limited availability).

Visit the Italian cultural area in La Terraza located by Section 300. More event details to come...

[mlb.com/dbacks/tickets/promotions/themes/italian-heritage-celebration](http://mlb.com/dbacks/tickets/promotions/themes/italian-heritage-celebration)

## **The Italy National Baseball team is on fire!**

The team was in town to play the Chicago Cubs and the Los Angeles Angels. We'd like to thank Marco Landi and the Federazione Italiana Baseball Softball for inviting us to the game. Our friend and former LA Councilmember Joe Buscaino was also in from California for the events. The Chamber was happy to have our Young Professional Board Leader Robb Olivieri and Advisory Board Member Joe Forte attend the games. We were proud to help schedule Ripalta Bufo to sing the national anthem for one of the games.

The Italian team went on to Houston, beating the United States, Mexico and Puerto Rico to reach the quarterfinals in the World Baseball Classic.

# Grand Canyon University Basketball

The Chamber was honored to join GCU in cheering on the team for their last game at home.

Board Member Dana Drew Shaw does an incredible job at the University, and we were honored to have incredible seats at the arena.

In attendance was the legend himself...Mr. Jerry Colangelo. We were happy to have an opportunity to thank him for his unwavering support of the Chamber. To top it off...GCU won by a large margin. Thank you to our members that came out to enjoy the evening



# Final Home Game

## Massimo Sommacampagna: On the committee for selecting the Arizona-European Young Entrepreneur Award.

The Chamber worked hand in hand with the other European Chambers to select the first award recipient for this award. Thanks, Mass for representing us amazingly in this new initiative. Belgian-American Jenna Leurquin received the award and we thank longtime friend Flora Tromelin for leading the initiative. As always, the Chamber builds bridges and for our members to expand and broaden their horizons with.



## The Chamber attended the NIAF honoring of Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida.

The Chamber attended the NIAF honoring of Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida. Among the many activities we undertake, we strive to strengthen strategic relationships throughout the US and world. Ron DeSantis received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Public Service. The event was held at the Trump International Golf Course in West Palm Beach Florida. It was nice to meet and reconnect with the many friends in attendance.



### **A thank you to renewing Corporate Member ICAP!**

The Italian Citizenship Assistance Program is a great organization. They make Italian dual citizenship simple, combining expert guidance with affordability for your entire citizenship journey. We thank them for their continued support - [icapbridging2worlds.com](http://icapbridging2worlds.com)

## **We are saddened by the passing of Margherita Bertola Fray...**

As a young woman in Italy during World War II, Margherita served as a partisan courier in the Italian Resistance, helping those who fought for the liberation of Italy from Nazi occupation and Fascism. Like many courageous women of her generation, she risked her life for freedom.

For many years Margherita lived in Scottsdale, where she became a beloved member of the Italian community. Many of us remember seeing her at our festivals, always ready with a warm smile and stories of her youth and of the war years—reminding us of the sacrifices that made freedom possible.

Margherita remained proudly Italian her entire life, never renouncing her citizenship and always maintaining a deep love for her homeland and the values she once fought to defend. She passed away in Scottsdale on February 27, 2026, at the remarkable age of 99.



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# Upcoming Italian American Events

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Chamber Events in green

**MARCH 18TH @ 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

Carefree and Cavecreek Italian American Club Lasagna Contest

**MARCH 19th 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Festa di San Giuseppe at All Saints Church in Mesa, Arizona

**MARCH 25th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Icons of Integrity Lunch Learn – (Paige Peterson & Jay Zweig) – Workplace Integrity Institute

**MARCH 26th 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America – Phoenix Lodge 3017 – Lodge Meeting & Dinner

**MAY 7th 7:30 PM**

Tara Cannistraci ‘The Bronx Barbie’ Stand Up

**SEPTEMBER 18th 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Arizona Diamondbacks vs Yankees – Italian Heritage Celebration

**SEPTEMBER 18th 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

Andrea Bocelli “Romanza – 30th Anniversary World Tour”

## FINANCIALS FOR MARCH

Revenue - \$11,945

Expenses - \$7,954

Cash - \$14,775

Debt - \$0

\* The AZ Italian American Chamber receives no public funding.

\* All Chamber personnel are 100% volunteers



## CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Maggiore Group (Restaurant, Food, & Beverage)  
BMW Chapman (Professional & Business Services)  
First International Bank and Trust ( Professional & Business Services)  
Greco & Sons (Food Distributor)  
ICAP Italian Citizenship Assistance Program (Professional & Business Services)  
Riot Hospitality Group (Restaurant, Food, & Beverage)  
WIPFLI (Professional & Business Services)

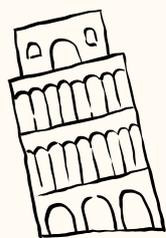
## SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

### Professional & Business Services

AEC Electric  
Always This Good  
Anchor Funding  
Arizona Real Estate Investors Association  
Arizona Roofing Systems  
Comparion Insurance Agency  
Corporate Insurance Solutions  
Crescuta Management Group  
D-MAK Productions  
Dahir Tax and Accounting Firm  
Deaf Protection  
1st International Bank and Trust  
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**

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 Publishing



## **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

Girls Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine

Italian American Club of Las Vegas

Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Lodge #3017, Phoenix, subordinate Lodge of OSDIA

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  
Il Circolo - 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**

## *CEO's Message...*

*The calendar is stacked for 2026. We always recommend getting out to events and meeting new people. Italian American sports have come into focus strongly this year. The Italian baseball team has everyone talking. At a local level, we've gotten involved with GCU basketball and The Italian Heritage night with the AZ Diamondbacks is now on the schedule for September. Please let us know if you'd like your business to have a booth there...it's great exposure. We're always interested in feedback from you...so, please feel free to reach-out to us.*

*Sincerely,* *Pete*