



Tontitown Storia

Newsletter of the Tontitown Historical Museum (THM)

A Department of the City of Tontitown
Fall 2021, Vol. 16, No. 3



Saluti from the Board

Ciao from the Tontitown Historical Museum board members! We have exciting news to share with you: We have reopened the museum! We are now open to scheduled visits Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. Come visit and see some recently acquired artifacts. If you would like to schedule a visit, please call (479) 361-9800 or email museum@tontitownar.gov.

The Tontitown Historical Museum reopened the weekend of the Tontitown Grape Festival. We greatly enjoyed seeing our community enjoy the museum and sharing Tontitown's history. Now, we look forward to the **19th Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear** on Sunday, November 7 at 11:00am - 1:30pm at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. We are so excited to welcome this event back in-person this year. Enjoy a lunch of polenta, umedo, and dessert with your community! Share your family photos with the museum, bring an object for Show-N-Tell, and reconnect with your neighbors. See page 3 for more information and COVID-19 guidelines for event attendees. We hope to see you there!

Happy fall from the Tontitown Historical Museum board. We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. Thank you so much for supporting our community and our museum.

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Artifact Spotlight

Maestri Buffet

by Pam Herron, Museum Assistant



We are happy to share that thanks to the generosity of Philip and Mary Ann Zulpo Taldo our collection has a new acquisition. This beautiful buffet was purchased at auction and is currently on display in the Tontitown City Hall building.

The information that we have to date is that the buffet belonged to Father Pietro Bandini and was given to Aldo and Mary Ritter Quinn Maestri, and was in Mary Maestri's restaurant for many years.

We have this amazing early Tontitown photograph in our collection with the same buffet piece in the background. It is believed the photo was taken in Father Bandini's home in 1904 while family and friends gathered for Angelina Danzero's baptism, daughter of Domino and Bridget Danzero. We believe the women in this photograph are, L-R: unknown youth, Zelinda Bastianelli, Josephine Pantaleoni Maestri holding baby Angelina Danzero, Bridget Danzero, and Mary Bastianelli (at about age 14).

If anyone has more information on the buffet or this photograph, we would love to hear from you.

19th Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear



Sunday, November 7th, 2021
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
St. Joseph's Parish Hall

Grazie Mille!
Thank You to Venesian
Inn's Jeff & Melissa
Bowen for providing
their delicious umedo!

- Polenta, umedo, and dessert served - Donations accepted
- Copy your photos to add to museum collection
- Enjoy displays of photos from Tontitown's past
- Show-N-Tell: Bring a special family item to display for the afternoon
- Sign up for or renew your Amici membership
- Win door prizes, visit, and have fun!

2019 Polenta Smear photos by
Brenda Pianalto

Event sponsored by Tontitown
Historical Museum

The THM Board strongly
recommends all attendees
wear masks during the event,
regardless of vaccination
status.

Staff/Board Member Spotlight

with Emily Pianalto-Beshears, Museum Board Secretary, and her cat, Sirius



- What is your hometown?
 - Tontitown, Arkansas
- How long have you been living in Northwest Arkansas?
 - 28 years
- What is your role at the Tontitown Historical Museum?
 - Secretary
- What are your hobbies?
 - Knitting, writing, and reading
- What is your favorite quote/line from a movie?
 - "It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be."
- *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
- What makes you the happiest?
 - Completing a project
- What made you interested in getting involved in the THM?
 - Getting involved in bringing my heritage to more people
- What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
 - Planning for the future
- What do you hope to learn from your involvement with THM?
 - A better understanding of immigrants (past and their descendants) and what they bring to the melting pot of America
- In three words, how would you describe the mission and work of THM?
 - Commitment to community

Learn How to...Speak Italian

by Caroline Ceola-Franco



Have you always wanted to learn the basics of Italian, but the traditional methods seem overwhelming and intimidating? Look no further! From the book of *Italian Slangage*, Mike Ellis has made it easy, simple, and FUN.

Try reading the English words in **purple** that follow the Italian word or phrase below for some silly help with pronunciation and you'll have a quick start to an Italian conversation!

Hello/Goodbye - **Ciao** - **Chow**

Goodbye - **Arrivederci** - **Odd Eva Dare Chee**

Good evening - **Buonasera** - **Bonus Said a**

What is your name? - **Come ti chiami?** - **Comb Met Tee Key Ah Me?**

My name is... - **Mi chiamo...** - **Me Key Ah Moe...**

Where do you live? - **Dove vivi?** - **Dove Vay Vee Vee?**

May I? - **Posso?** - **Poe Sew?**

How are you? - **Come stai?** - **Comb Mess Tie?**

How's it going? - **Come va?** - **Come May Va?**

Are you well? - **Stai bene?** - **Sty Benny?**

Well - **Bene** - **Benny**

Very Well - **Molto bene** - **Mole Toe Benny**



Thank you, Amici members, for your memberships!
Your support means the world to us and helps us continue to preserve our history. A membership form to renew your membership or to become a new member is at the end of this newsletter. ***Grazie Mille, Amici!***

Heritage

Family of Frank Maestri
Family of Dick & Bernice Ardemagni McCauley
Family of Joe & Theresa Moore

Concordia

Jeff & Kay Franco
Kris & Stacey Hanby
Janette Ceola Rogers

Pete & Elaine Sbanotto
Gary & Sheryl Shores

Amici

Bill Ardemagni
Frank & Sharon Ardemagni
Richard & Bernadette Ardemagni
Dennis & Billie Bariola
Barbara Begnel Buckley
Jim & Sheila Perona Canup
Blake & Caroline Ceola
Holly Childs
Bryan McEuen & Bev Cortiana-McEuen
Jennifer De Martino
Eric & Julie den Boer
Mark & Annette Pianalto Drake
Laura Faraci
Rep. Charlotte Fite
Mark & Melissa Franco
Amanda Frazier
Craig & Carla Gourley
Adrienne Morsani Graham
Ken & Deloris Pianalto Green
Betty Hinshaw
Becky Howard
Leland & Mary Cortiana Lawrenz

Allyn Lord
M&M Tile Company
Leslie "Red" Maestri
James McConnell
Jim & Kathy Pianalto Miller
Bill & Marilyn Mussino
David & Rebecca Oskey
Carolyn Page
Ben & Loretta Pianalto Pappani
Evelyn Pellin
Ralph & Nancy Pendergraft (R&N Builders)
Andrew & Peggy Penzo
Chris & Annette Pianalto
Cindy Pianalto
Vince & Sandy Pianalto
Phillip & Margaret Piazza
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
Oronina Stolfo
Philip & Mary Ann Taldo
Tim & Melissa Tessaro
Tontitown Flea Market
Tontitown Winery

Family

Kurt & Penny Anderson
Loyce & Mary Ardemagni
Pauline Bariola
Rachelle Bariola
Bob & Patty Besom
Forest & Carolyn Bowen, Jr.
Robert & Ida Taldo Brady
Preston & Summer Ranalli Carter
Clint & Kara Jo Engle
Vic & Barbara Verucchi Faraci
D. Claud Fields, Jr.
Bary & Jennifer Pianalto Gills

Eugenia Hartman
Jason & Susan Kerr
Phill & Kathy Bariola Laursen
James & Xyta Lucas
Robert & Cheryl Ardemagni Martin
Karla Ardemagni McKinley
Brad & Megan Merrick
Stephanie Begnel Mullane
David & Heather Ranalli Peachee
Mike & Denise Pearce
Danny & Pat Pellin
Bernard & Sherry Pianalto

Amici Members

Family (continued)

Vince Pianalto
Gary & Sheryl Shores
Deborah J. Smith
Celia Cigainero Stigall

Jim & Janice Pianalto Swearingen
Max & Kay Taldo
Leticia Ceola Wilson

Individual

Ahmad Bayyari
Sandy Christopherson
Andrea Penzo Hale
Michael Hartman
Sharon Maestri

Brenda Pianalto
Roger Pianalto
Betty Sabatini
Patricia Simoni
Margi Maestri Tucker

Senior Family

Ken & Deborah Bailey
Paul & Bernice Bariola
Ahmad H. Bayyari
Rick & Kathy Brunetti
Doyle & Jeanette Burditt
Denis & Margie Ceola
Larry & Betty Dutton
Robert & Linda Elia
Raymond & Pauline Franco
Roy & Jettie Franco
Bill & Janet Gaiche
Bill & Marty Green
Tommy & Zita Greenlee
Eddie & Nancy Guinn
Marjorie A. Pianalto Horinek
Dale & Darlene Johnston
Jerry & Dorothy Kever
Gina Criman Lankston (Bruno Stolfi family)

Mary Catherine Neil
Larry & Carmelita Newquist
Mike & Rhonda Pellin
Claude & Agatha Penzo
Husk & Rita Penzo
Patricia Perona
Leonard & Evelyn Pianalto
Richard & Antoinette Pianalto
Ron & Ruth Fiori Poynor
Norbert & Judy Ranalli
Fred & Ruth Ann Roso Ritchie
Gary & Deanna Shackelford
Deborah Shouse & Ron Zoglin
Frank & Dolores Verucchi
Norman & Carol Walker
Nova Jean Fiori Watson
Ron & Toni Maestri Wirts

Senior Individual

Loretta Brunetti
Jim Cortiana
Norma Deines
Helen George
Ellen Verucchi Goff
Patsy Taldo Phillips Graham
John P. McGlone
Cindy Pianalto

Elizabeth Pianalto
Martha Pianalto
Larry & Cindy Sabatini
Lou Sharp
Marty Taldo
Mary Frances Maestri Vaughan
Dolores J. Wilson

Lifetime (Level Retired in 2014)

Loyce & Mary Ardemagni
Richard & Bernadette Ardemagni
Kenneth Brock
Mike & Bernadette Pianalto Collins
Genevieve (Genny) Della Rosa Deutsch
Paul & Dolores Maestri Stolfi Dicks
Leona Della Rosa Kasting
Allyn Lord
Frank & Evelyn Maestri
Lawrence McGlone

Frank & Carol Morsani
Art & Joyce Penzo
Clint Penzo
Shawn & Letty Penzo
Henry & Charlotte Piazza
Robert Serio
Dennis & Evelyn Shaw
Mary Costa Wersky-Colombero
Mike & Toni Zulpo

~ Donations in Memory and in Honor ~

*It is with gratitude and pride that we display Memorial and Honorarium (H)
donation plaques in the Tontitown Historical Museum.*

Beato & Violet Haney Ardemagni
Cathy Ardemagni
Cecil Ardemagni
Gene & Irma Taldo Ardemagni
Mike & Loyce Ardemagni
Gene Baker
Leo Baudino
Don & Philomene Ardemagni Begnel
Kathleen Brock
Kenneth Brock
C.J. and Olivia Pianalto Cigainero
Cel & Mary Ceola Cortiana
Gilbert & Lucia "Shortie" Cortiana
Gordon & Imogene Ardemagni Cortiana
Rudy Costa
Candida Morsani Crane
Lynda Cross
Albina Ranalli Dalla Rosa
Angelo & Irene Gaiche Dalla Rosa
James & Dominica Dalla Rosa
Bill & Fern Haney Fiori
Pete & Mary Cortiana Fiori
Joseph Angelo "Andy" Franco
Chuck & Mary Fucci
Emelio & Caterina Piazza Gaiche
Rita Taldo Gillis
Lillian Cortiana Granata
Tommy Granata
Russell Greenlee
Phyllis Brunetti Hale
Clementine Morsani Haney
Betty Hinshaw (H)
Anita "Sunny" Hinshaw
Lee Wana Keck

Anna Morsani Kitchell
Michael & Dawn Hinshaw Latham family (H)
Frank Maestri
Lynn Maestri
Paul & Judy Maestri's 50th Anniversary
Annabelle Lee Pozza Miller
Amerigo Morsani
Frank & Carol Morsani (H)
Helen Crane Morsani
Denise Pellin
Arthur Penzo (H)
Ed & Adele Bariola Penzo
The Perona Family
Claudine Penzo Pianalto
Frank & Clara Fiori Pianalto
Gabriel & Elsie Mae Fiori Pianalto
George (Giacinto) & Clara Pianalto
Leo & Lucy Ceola Pianalto
Henry Piazza (H)
John Hugo "J.H." Pozza
Nancy Jean Roso Robbins
Lizabeth Roso
Margaret Taldo Roso
Gloria Mae Maestri Sallis
Harry & Dorothy Fiori Sbanotto
Agatha Morsani Smith
Lillian Pianalto Smith
Marie Tessaro
Raymond & Juanita Toler
Bruce Vaughan
Daniel "Danny" Ray Watson
James & Luellen Penzo Weiss
Elizabeth Morsani Williams
Leon & Sally Verucchi Zulpo



BECOME AN AMICI MEMBER TODAY!

Join by completing and mailing the form at the end of our newsletter or by going to our website at tontitown.com/tontitown/museum. Play a part in preserving the heritage of Tontitown for generations to come.

ALREADY A MEMBER?

Amici memberships expire on January 1, 2022. Go to the website above or mail the form in this newsletter to renew!

Tontitown Historical Museum Board Members, 2021

Tontitown Storia is published by the Tontitown Historical Museum Board.
Please submit story ideas or comments to Katherine Karras at museum@tontitownar.gov.

Katherine Karras, President
Misty Piazza, Vice President
Emily Pianalto-Beshears, Secretary
Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Treasurer

Caroline Ceola-Franco
Heather Ranalli-Peachee
Jennifer De Martino
Riley Tessaro

**Open by scheduled appointment only Saturdays and
Sundays 1-4 pm. Call or email to schedule your visit.**

Contact us:
(479) 361-9800
museum@tontitownar.gov

251 E. Henri de Tonti Boulevard
P.O. Box 144
Tontitown, AR 72770



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Tontitown, Arkansas 72770



*"So Big,
This Little
Museum"*

Benefits

- Satisfaction in supporting the growth of the Tontitown Historical Museum to preserve and protect the heritage of Tontitown.
- 10% discount on Museum purchases
- Amici magnet

Mail your tax-deductible check to:

Tontitown Historical Museum
P.O. Box 144
Tontitown, AR 72770
(or give to any Museum Board member)

Annual *Amici* Membership Levels

- ☐ Individual – \$15
- ☐ Family – \$20
- ☐ Senior Individual – \$10
- ☐ Senior Family – \$15
- ☐ Amici – \$50 to \$249
- ☐ Concordia – \$250 to \$499
- ☐ Heritage – \$500+

**Renew
or Join
Today!**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Volunteers are the backbone of Tontitown Historical Museum. May we call on you to volunteer? ☐ Yes!