

Saluti from the Board

Ciao from the Tontitown Historical Museum board members! We have lots of good news to share with you. First, earlier this summer, we reopened the museum for drop-in visits. We are happy to be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00-4:00 pm again. We are excited to continue to share the history of Tontitown with you all.

It was a busy spring for the Tontitown Historical Museum. On March 14, we hosted the Italians of Sunnyside, The History – from 1895, Second Edition book discussion and signing with Dr. Anthony Borgognoni and our own Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Howard. We were fortunate to also have author Elizabeth "Libby" Olivi Borgognoni visit with us via Facetime from Lake Village, Arkansas. Thank you to the Tontitown Winery for generously hosting us in their wonderful space. Dr. Borgognoni and Dr. Howard provided enlightening insight, also found in the book, about the original Italian settlers who came to the Sunnyside Cotton Plantation and the experiences that led part of the group to migrate north to found Tontitown. We were happy that so many people turned out to be a part of this discussion and pick up a signed copy of the Italians of Sunnyside book.



Dr. Anthony Borgognoni talks with his mother, author Libby Borgognoni via Facetime



Dr. Rebecca Howard signs a book for Erica Ceola, visiting from Recoaro Terme, Italy





Left Photo, I-r: Chris Ranalli, Heather Ranalli-Peachee, Jennifer De Martino, Dr. Rebecca Howard

Right photo: Dr. Anthony Borgognoni

In early June, rescheduled from late May due to rainy weather, we held **Tontitown Heritage Day** at Harry Sbanotto Park. For the first time ever, we partnered with the Tontitown Market to combine forces and host a day as unique as Tontitown. Michael Pianalto provided amazing live music, the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History had an interactive quilt table, and a hot dog lunch provided and served by Centennial Bank complete with cookies from Ranalli Farms Produce. This was also our Second Annual Cake and Pie Auction with baked goods donated from Mama Z's, Village Inn, and Araiza Bakery. We had so many community members come together to help make this event a success and Grazie Mille to everyone who attended. The weather was almost as good as the conversation and community.







Thank you for another amazing spring and summer. We greatly appreciate your support for our community and our museum. We hope to see you soon!

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Artifact Spotlight – 1953 Queen Concordia Trophy

by Katherine Karras, Museum Volunteer

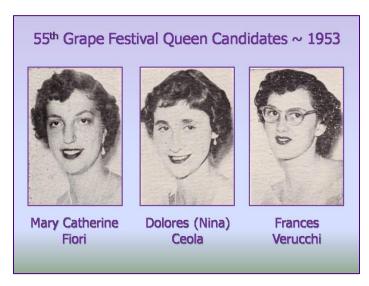


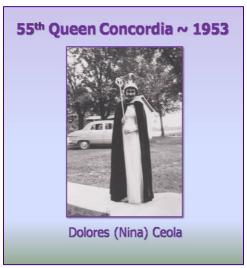
In 1953 at the 55th Tontitown Grape Festival, Dolores "Nina" Ceola Moody was crowned Queen Concordia. She received this trophy, with the inscription:

Front:
55th
TONTITOWN GRAPE FESTIVAL
DOLORES CEOLA
QUEEN CONCORDIA-LV
Tontitown, Arkansas
1953

Back:
PRESENTED BY
PERONA MILLING CO.
LOUIS PERONA

The Tontitown Grape Festival, originally beginning in the early 1900s, has selected a Queen through a number of different means. These have included selling the most raffle tickets, or even having the candidate's name drawn from a hat!





Museum Entrance Update

by Misty Piazza, Museum Board President





If you have driven past the Tontitown Historical Museum recently, you will see that the museum has upgraded a ramp to our entrance. Christopher Guy and others from Boy Scout Troop 81 built this for us as Christopher's Eagle Scout project. Troop 81 spent two weekends putting in the new ramp. Christopher and his family live in Cave Springs, Arkansas, and are always finding ways to give back to the community. Christopher graduated Summa Cum Laude and 3rd in his class from Classical Academy in Bentonville. He was accepted into the Honors College at the University of Arkansas and is majoring in Engineering. We are so thankful for their knowledge and energy to make this dream a reality for us here at the Tontitown Historical Museum. Now everyone will be able to easily enter the museum.



Christopher Guy



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. Renew annual memberships in January or at the Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear.

Thank You, Bill Gaiche

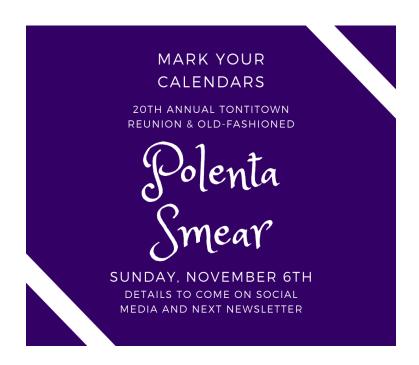
by Katherine Karras, Museum Volunteer







The Tontitown Historical Museum Board would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Bill Gaiche. He is a staunch supporter of the museum, attends all of our events, and even helps out as a carpenter when needed. Bill built our beautiful bookshelf (pictured above on the left) and a second Memorial board (pictured center) since our first was completely full. Grazie Mille, Bill! Thank you for your dedication to the museum!



Staff/Board Member Spotlight

with Riley Tessaro, Museum Board Member

- What is your hometown?
 - o Tontitown, Arkansas.
- How long have you been living in Northwest Arkansas?
 - All my life, except when I attended high school at Subiaco Academy in Subiaco, Arkansas and then joined the Air Force. In the 1950s to the 1970s, I was stationed in Thailand, Spain, Germany, South Carolina, and Alaska. Then, I moved our family back "home" to Tontitown.



- What is your role at the Tontitown Historical Museum?
 - I have been a THM Board member since 2006, and served as Vice-President from 2007 to 2011.
- What are your hobbies?
 - As a kid, and then even in the service, I played baseball. I played some for the traveling Tontitown team. We played in neighboring towns like West Fork, Elkins, and Paragould. I also played tennis at Subiaco Academy. I have always enjoyed playing bocce and gardening.
 - I have been a THM Board member since 2006, and served as Vice-President from 2007 to 2011.
- What makes you the happiest?
 - Lots of things. Mainly when I'm spending time with friends and family.
- What made you interested in getting involved in the THM?
 - Frank Maestri and Andy Franco asked me to help, and I was happy to. I have many memories of the Bastianelli home that houses the museum. When I was a young boy, every other day, I would carry two buckets of well water from the convent by the old Tontitown School to the Bastianelli house. It seemed like a pretty long way, and the water buckets were heavy.
- What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
 - The different things we do to preserve Tontitown's history.
- In three words/phrases, how would you describe the mission and work of THM?
 - Interesting, Important. Continuing to honor the people who started Tontitown.

Learn How to...Make Italian Lemon Ricotta Cookies

by Zita Mae Mantegani Greenlee

	10 1. 10 D. 4 Paking
	Stalian Lemon Ricotta Cookies
	1 c butter 1 T vanilla
	20 sugar 1 tsp. baking powder
N. F. S.	2 eggs 1 Tap. baking soda
	1 (169) ricotta cheese 4 C flour
	Preheat oven to 350°
	Grease cookie sheets or use farchment
	paper.
	In a large bowl cream butter and
BE SEAS	men Beat in every tree at a time.
	Stir in ricotta and vanilla.
Mil Hard	Mix flour, baking powder and baking soda
	in a small bowl to combine. Stir dry
	mixture into cheese mixture. Orop by
	rounded teaspoonful onto cookie sheet.
	Bake 8-10 minutes (cookies will stort to
	brown slightly around edges) allow to
	cool on cookie sheet for 5 min before
	removing to wire rack. Cool completely
	before icing.
	Icing: 3 C powdered sugar
V. Carrie	5 T lamon juice
	Stir together until smooth Dip cookies
	end place on wire rack to dry. (water as
	milk may be added I top at a time to make
0	a thinner consistency.)
	makes about 6 doz. I inch cookies
4	



Thank you, Amici members, for your 2022 (marked with an asterisk *) and 2021 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 & Evelyn 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*

Loyce & Mary Ardemagni*

Richard & Bernadette Ardemagni*

Dennis & Billie Bariola* Barbara Begnel Buckley Jim & Sheila Perona Canup*

Holly Childs*

Bryan & Bev Cortiana-McEuen*

Jennifer De Martino* Eric & Julie den Boer*

Genevieve (Genny) Della Rosa Deutsch*

Mark & Annette Pianalto Drake*

Laura Faraci*

Mark & Melissa Franco* Raymond & Pauline Franco* David & Amanda Frazier* Craig & Carla Gourley* Adrianne Morsani Graham Ken & Deloris Pianalto Green*

Betty Hinshaw*

Leona Della Rosa Kasting*

Gina Criman Lankston (Bruno Stolfi family)*

Leland & Mary Cortiana Lawrenz*

Allyn Lord

M&M Tile Company Leslie "Red" Maestri* Cheryl Ardemagni Martin* James McConnell*

Jim & Kathy Pianalto Miller* Bill & Marilyn Mussino*

Carolyn Page* Evelvn Pellin*

Ralph & Nancy Pendergraft (R&N Builders)*

Chris & Annette Pianalto

Sharon Pianalto*

Vince & Sandy Pianalto*

Oronina Stolfo

Philip & Mary Ann Taldo* Tim & Melissa Tessaro* **Tontitown Winery**

Family

Kurt & Penny Anderson* Bernice Bariola* Pauline Bariola* Bill & Penny Baskin* Bob & Patty Besom* Robert & Ida Taldo Brady*

Vic Faraci*

D. Claud Fields, Jr.* Rep. Charlotte Fite*

Bary & Jennifer Pianalto Gills*

Eugenia Hartman*

Phill & Kathy Bariola Laursen*

James & Xyta Lucas Karla Ardemagni McKinley* Brad & Megan Merrick* Stephanie Begnel Mullane* Ben & Loretta Pianalto Pappani* David & Heather Ranalli Peachee Mike & Denise Pianalto Pearce* Bernard & Sherry Pianalto

Vince Pianalto

Celia Cigainero StigalI*

Jim & Janice Pianalto Swearingen*

Max & Kay Taldo

Amici Members

Individual

Sandy Christopherson*
Andrea Penzo Hale*
Michael Hartman

Marjorie A. Pianalto Horinek*

Sharon Maestri

Roger Pianalto Ruth Fiori Poynor* Margi Maestri Tucker Leticia "Tish" Ceola Wilson*

Senior Family

Frank & Sharon Ardemagni*
Ahmad H. Bayyari
Forest & Carolyn Bowen, Jr.*
Rick & Kathy Brunetti*
Doyle & Jeanette Burditt
Denis & Margie Ceola*
Larry & Betty Dutton
Robert & Linda Elia*
Jettie Franco*
Bill & Janet Gaiche*
Bill & Marty Green*

Jerry & Dorothy Kever*
Danny & Pat Pellin*
Michael & Rhonda Pellin*
Claude & Agatha Penzo*
Richard & Antoinette Pianalto*
Phillip & Margaret Piazza*
Norbert & Judy Ranalli*
Fred & Ruth Ann Roso Ritchie
Larry & Cindy Sabatini*
Gary & Deanna Shackelford*
Truman & Dolores Stamps*
Norman & Carol Walker*

Senior Individual

Loretta Brunetti*
Jim Cortiana*
Norma Deines*
Ellen Verucchi Goff

Tommy & Zita Greenlee* Eddie & Nancy Guinn

Patsy Taldo Phillips Graham*

Mary Catherine Neil*

Carmelita Franco Newquist*

Brenda Pianalto* Cindy Pianalto* Elizabeth Pianalto* Martha Pianalto* Deborah Pierce*

Patricia Pianalto Simoni*

Ron & Toni Maestri Wirts*

Marty Taldo Riley Tessaro*

Mary Frances Maestri Vaughan*

Nova Jean Fiori Watson*

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 Barbara Ann Verucchi Faraci

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)

Albano & Agnes Pierce Maestri 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

Andrew Floyd Penzo

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

Pete & Lucy "Lou" Franco Pianalto

Charlotte Piazza

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

Tontitown Historical Museum Board Members, 2022

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

Misty Piazza, President

Jennifer De Martino, Vice President

Emily Pianalto-Beshears, Secretary

Bev Cortiana-McEuen, Treasurer

Caroline Franco-Ceola

Heather Ranalli-Peachee

Ethan Oxford

Riley Tessaro

Note: Photograph credits and Grazie Mille to former THM Board member and photographer Brenda Pianalto for taking wonderful photos at all our events.

Tontitown Historical Museum Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Call or email to schedule a special visit.

Contact us: 251 E. Henri de Tonti Boulevard (479) 361-9800 P.O. Box 144 Tontitown, AR 72770

2022 Museum and Community Events				
Date	Event			
Monday, October 31	Tontitown Halloween in the Park			
Sunday, November 6	20th Annual Tontitown Reunion and Old-Fashioned Polenta Smear			



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



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 gift

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+

Rer	lew
or J	oin
Tot	lay!

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!