



Club Culturale Italiano, Inc.
 P.O. Box 14104, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87191
www.clubculturaleitaliano.org

JANUARY 2018

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FILM - INDIVISIBILI

Dates: January 7, 8, 9, 10, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: The Guild Theater
 3405 Central Ave NE, ABQ

Information: Tickets \$5 when you ask for the Italian Festival rate. See web site: www.guildcinema.com or call (505) 255-1848.



BOCCE TRAINING

Did you know? George Washington built a bocce court and played regularly at Mount Vernon in the 1780s. Today, any time is a good time to play bocce. Come and learn the game.

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018, Wednesday
 2:00 pm
 N. Domingo Baca Park

BOCCE TOURNAMENT

January 20, 2018, Saturday
 1:45 pm
 N. Domingo Baca Park



2018 CALENDAR

Feb 10 – Jul 29 - Da Vinci, the Genius
 NM Natural History
 Museum, ABQ, NM

Feb 10 – History of Italians in ABQ
 Scalo Northern Italian Grill,
 3500 Central Ave., ABQ

March 13 - 18 - Italian Film & Culture
 Festival

April 28 – Albuquerque Renaissance
 Faire, ABQ International
 Balloon Museum

Other events will be announced later.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

GENERAL MEETING

January 4, 2018

7:00 pm

At the North Domingo Baca
 Multigenerational Center

**NORTH DOMINGO BACA
 MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER**

7521 Carmel NE, Albuquerque, NM
 (505) 764-6475

<http://northdomingo.weebly.com>

Beverages and dessert will be provided following the meeting.

Directions from I25 North

Take exit 232 towards Paseo Del Norte E
 Merge onto Pan American NE Frontage
 Rd
 Turn first right onto Paseo Del Norte NE
 Turn left on Wyoming Blvd. NE
 Take the second left onto Carmel NE

Directions from I25 South

Take exit 232 towards Paseo Del Norte E
 Merge onto Pan American West Fwy NE
 Frontage Road South
 Take the first left onto Paseo Del Norte E
 Turn left on to Wyoming Blvd. NE
 Take the second left on to Carmel NE



BIRTHDAYS

Jill Pelissero-Towne – January 13th
Carmela Bentz – December 22nd
Ronald Bentz – January 22nd

ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald & Carmella Bentz – January 18th

GET WELL

Our wishes and prayers for a swift recovery go to those who need pray.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Virginia "Gigi" Brigante, age 91, who passed away on December 25, 2017. She was a founding and long term member of the Club Culturale Italiano. The Club will pray for her family and keep her in our memories. **Everyone is invited to attend a Rosary to be recited on Thursday, January 4, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at French Funerals' Lomas Chapel, 10500 Lomas Blvd, Albuquerque, NM. (505) 275-3500** Interment will be at the Santa Fe National Cemetery in the near future.



IF I HAVE MISSED ANYONE'S BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

OUR MONTH'S THOUGHT

"Jesus said, "Everything is possible for one who believes."
Mark 9:23

DUES

Dues are payable on January 1, 2018 please mail your dues to our PO Box or bring them to our January 2018 meeting, we would love to see you there. Dues are \$50.00 for couples and \$25.00 for singles.

CLUB MEMBERS:

If you would like to submit information (articles, recipes, news or other items) to Il Giornalino, please email it to:
Jennifer Murphy
Email: jenmurphyzq@yahoo.com
Subject line: Information for Il Giornalino

Please be sure that all printed information submitted is legible and ready for print. No faxes will be accepted. **Deadline is the 15th of each month.**

The advertisement rate for Il Giornalino for non-members is \$50.00 per year.



- If you know of a member in need of a
- Get Well, Sympathy, any special
- occasion card, or just a phone call;
- please call **Jennifer Murphy** at 822-
- 1806
-
- As the Club's Goodwill Ambassador,
- Jennifer will extend a greeting on our
- behalf.

GENE THERAPY CREATES NEW SKIN FOR A DYING BOY

The details of the following medical case were published in the November 2017 journal Nature. It is amazing what Italian doctors did for a dying boy.



Dr. Michele de Luca

Italian doctors treating a critically ill boy with a devastating skin disease used experimental gene therapy to create an entirely new skin for most of his body in a desperate attempt to save his life. The boy had a rare, incurable skin disease caused by genetic mutations. People with the disease lack critical proteins that attach the outer layer of the skin to the inner layer, resulting in

fragile skin with almost constant blisters and open sores.

The German boy, then 7, was hospitalized in June 2015 with blisters on his limbs, back and elsewhere. He quickly lost about 60 percent of the outer layer of his skin and was put into an induced coma to spare him further suffering. The doctors in Germany tried skin grafts from his father and donor skin but all failed.

The boy's parents asked about experimental treatments. Dr. Michele de Luca and his colleagues of the University of Modena, Italy were contacted by the German doctors treating the boy. Dr. de Luca told the family that the boy's precarious state meant that he might not survive the complicated surgeries needed to save him. "We were forced to do something dramatic because this kid was dying," said Dr. Michele de Luca.

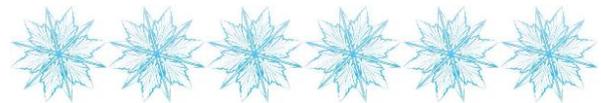
Dr. de Luca and his colleagues had previously used gene therapy to produce a small piece of skin in a similar case. In this boy's case to fix his gene mutations, the Italian doctors took a small piece of the boy's skin from an area that was OK. In the lab, they added a normal version of his bad gene to his skin cells. They grew sheets of the boy's skin in much the same way skin grafts are grown for burn victims.

In total, they grew close to 3 square feet of skin. The lab-grown skin was then transplanted onto the boy in 3 operations, ultimately covering 80 percent of his body. Ten days later, the new skin was already beginning to grow, Dr. De Luca said. After eight months, the doctors said that nearly all of the boy's skin had been generated by the modified stem cells.

Two years later, the boy is doing so well that he doesn't need any medication, is back in school and even playing soccer. So far, no problems have detected. Dr. De Luca said the boy will be monitored closely for skin cancer and other potential issues.

The boy and his family later visited Dr. De Luca and the other Italian doctors involved in his treatment. Dr. De Luca said he recalled how the boy spontaneously began taking off his clothes. "The boy was so happy with his new skin that he wanted to show off."

"This takes us a huge step forward," said Dr. Peter Marinkovich of Stanford University of Medicine, who has done related work. He said it was impressive that Dr. De Luca and his colleagues were able to make such large amount of viable skin after correcting the genetic deficit. Dr. Marinkovich said many patients don't survive beyond the age of 2.



Sakura Blossom (Cherry Tree Blossom)

The snow gently falls down from the blue sky,
And down, towards south migrating birds go.
Strongly and harshly does the North Wind blow,
Causing stones, twigs to willy-nilly fly.
As I sit here, I watch these scenes and sigh,
When I see the river no longer flows,
And to the ground, wilted flowers bow low,
This makes me ask, why we have winter; why?
But I too know the answer: to give rest,
To the birds and the animals and trees.
To show that pure white things can be awesome.
But when I touch snow, I feel hope at best:
If I wait, be patient, then I may seize,
A glimpse of the first Sakura blossom.

By Franchesca Mia Tortoza, 2016

Prepared by Jennifer Murphy

- https://www.poetrysoup.com/poems/about/sonnet_winter_poems
- "Gene therapy creates new skin for dying boy" by Marcia Cheng Albuquerque Journal, Thursday, November 9, 2017

Club Culturale Italiano, Inc.
P.O. Box 14104
Albuquerque, NM 87191

OFFICERS

President

Joe Santangelo
856-1260
Cell: 259-2952

Vice President

John Zito
828-4665

Secretary

Jennifer Murphy
822-1806

Treasurer

Anna Santangelo
856-1260

Club Culturale Italiano



BOARD of DIRECTORS

Chairperson

Joann Zito
828-4665

Board Members

Rosalba Maniaci
891-8456
Vito Coraci
821-3011
Cindy Deluca
857-9535
Gerrie Lepore
766-6220

Giornalino Editor

Jennifer Murphy
822-1806