

## Famous SICILIANS ... besides me ...

### Artists, writers, and musicians

- [Henry Armetta](#), ([Palermo, Sicily, July 4, 1888](#) - [San Diego, California, October 21, 1945](#)) was a movie character actor who appeared in at least 150 films, starting in silents as early as 1915 to a movie released in 1946, after his death. In 1938 he played in "Everybody Sing" with [Judy Garland](#), [Allan Jones](#), and [Fanny Brice](#). In 1941, he was hilarious as the father of an Italian family shopping for beds in "The Big Store" with the [Marx Brothers](#) and [Tony Martin](#). He appeared in at least 24 films in 1934 alone, sometimes uncredited.
- [Armand Assante](#) was born on [October 4, 1949](#) in [New York City, New York](#) to an [Sicilian](#) father and an [Irish](#) mother. Assante is an accomplished [character actor](#), with his big break coming in 1974 in "The Lords of Flatbush". His sometimes sinister look has made him a popular choice for movies and TV.
- [Joseph Barbera](#), born **Joseph Roland Barbera** ([March 24, 1911](#) - [December 18, 2006](#)), is an [animator](#), [cartoon artist](#), [storyboard](#) artist, [director](#), [producer](#) and co-founder, together with [William Hanna](#) of [Hanna-Barbera](#) (now known as [Cartoon Network Studios](#)). The studio produced well-known cartoons such as [The Huckleberry Hound Show](#), [The Flintstones](#), [The Jetsons](#), and [Scooby-Doo](#).
- [Sonny Bono](#), born **Salvatore Phillip Bono** ([February 16, 1935](#) - [January 5, 1998](#)) was an [American record producer](#), [singer](#), [actor](#) and [politician](#) whose career spanned over three decades.
- [Argentina Brunetti](#), ([August 31, 1907](#) - [December 20, 2005](#)) was an [actress](#) and [writer](#). She followed [Mimi Aguglia](#), her famous mother's footsteps in the [theater](#). She began her movie debut in the [Frank Capra](#) classic [It's a Wonderful Life](#) (1946), as Mrs. Martini. Throughout her varied career she has also written and performed in daily [radio](#) shows, became a member of the '[Hollywood Foreign Press Association](#)', writing numerous articles on Hollywood personalities, authored books, written music and acted in over 57 television programs and 68 movies in which she mainly played multi-ethnic roles. She hosted a weekly weblog on the Internet, called [Argentina Brunetti's Hollywood Stories](#), which her son plans to continue running, and has written a biographical novel called *In Sicilian Company*.
- [Frank Capra](#), ([May 18, 1897](#) - [September 3, 1991](#)) was an [American film director](#) and a major creative force behind a number of highly popular films. Born **Francesco Rosario Capra** in [Bisacquino, Sicily](#), Capra moved with his family to America in 1903, settling in [Los Angeles, California](#).
- [Richard S. Castellano](#), ([September 4, 1933](#) - [December 10, 1988](#)). The actor became famous as [Pete Clemenza](#) in [The Godfather](#).
- [Gary Chester](#) ([October 27, 1924](#) - [August 17, 1987](#)) (born **Cesario Gurciullo** in Saracusa, Italy) was one of the twentieth century's busiest studio drummers. Gary is counted as one of the greats when it comes to studio session drummers.<sup>[1]</sup> His work appears on thousands of tracks, including hundreds of hit records from the '50s, '60s and '70s. He claimed to have logged some 15,000 studio sessions over three decades. He is on the short list of 20th Century Drummers' Hall of Fame.<sup>[2]</sup>

- [Iron Eyes Cody](#), ([April 3, 1904](#) - [January 4, 1999](#)) was an [actor](#) born in [Kaplan, Louisiana](#). He was born **Espera DeCorti**, the son of [Sicilian](#) immigrants **Francesca Salpietra** and **Antonio DeCorti**. He was not born a [Native American](#), but he claimed to be part [Cherokee](#) and part [Cree](#). Cody and his wife **Bertha Parker** adopted children that were Native American. Cody began his acting career at the age of 12 and continued to work until the time of his death. In 1996, the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) exposed his true heritage, but Cody denied it.
- [Dan Cortese](#), (born [September 14, 1967](#) near [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#)) is an [actor](#). Born in the [Pittsburgh](#) suburb of [Sewickley, Pennsylvania](#), Cortese first came to prominence as host of [MTV Sports](#) from 1992 to 1993. He has had starring roles in the 1993 remake of [Route 66](#), [Traps](#), [Melrose Place](#), [The Single Guy](#), [Veronica's Closet](#), and [Ball & Chain](#).
- [Alan Dale](#), ([July 9, 1926](#) - [April 20, 2002](#)) was a singer of [traditional popular](#) and [rock'n'roll](#) music. He was born **Aldo Sigismondi** in the [Brooklyn](#) borough of [New York, New York](#). His father, **Aristide Sigismondi**, immigrated to the [United States](#) from [Abruzzi, Italy](#) in 1904 at the age of 21, and became a [comedian](#) in [Italian language](#) theater, with a [radio](#) program of his own. His mother, **Agata "Kate" Sigismondi**, was born in [Messina, Sicily](#), and was 15 years younger than Aristide.
- [Arturo Di Modica](#) is a [New York City](#) artist, born in [Sicily](#), best known for his sculpture [Charging Bull](#) (also known as the "Wall Street Bull"), which he installed without permission in front of the [New York Stock Exchange](#) in December 1989. The piece is now on loan to the [New York City Department of Parks and Recreation](#) who have placed it in nearby [Bowling Green](#) park. Di Modica now lives in [New York City](#).
- [Ben Gazzara](#), (born **Biagio Anthony Gazzara** on [August 28, 1930](#), in [New York City](#)), is an [actor](#) in [television](#) and [motion pictures](#). Born to [Sicilian](#) immigrants, **Antonio Gazzara** and **Angela Consumano**, Gazzara grew up on New York's tough [Lower East Side](#). He found relief from his bleak surroundings in joining a theater company at a very young age. Years later, he said that the discovery of his love for acting saved him from the crime that was all around him during his teenage years.
- [Lino Graglia](#) is the [Dalton Cross](#) Professor of Law at the [University of Texas](#) specializing in [antitrust](#) litigation. He obtained a [BA](#) from the [City College of New York](#) in 1952, and an [LLB](#) from [Columbia University](#) in 1954. He worked in the [United States Department of Justice](#) during the administration of President [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#). Graglia is an outspoken [Catholic conservative](#) of [Sicilian](#) background. He is a well known critic of [affirmative action](#) and [racial quotas](#).
- [Frankie Laine](#), born **Frank Paul LoVecchio** on [March 30, 1913](#), is an influential [American](#) singer. Frankie's parents emigrated from [Monreale, Sicily](#) to Chicago's "Little Italy". At 17 he sang before a crowd of 5,000 at The Merry Garden Ballroom to such enthusiastic applause that he ended up performing five encores on his first night. But success as a singer was another 17 years away. Frankie Laine's 70-plus year career spanned most of the 20th century and has continued into the 21st. Laine was a key figure in the golden age of [popular music](#), and remains, quite possibly the greatest singer of all time. On [June 12, 1996](#), he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 27th Annual Songwriters' Hall of Fame awards ceremony at the New York Sheraton.
- [Cyndi Lauper](#), (born [June 22, 1953](#)), **Cynthia Ann Stephanie Lauper**, better known as **Cyndi Lauper**, is a singer whose melodic voice and wild costumes have come to epitomize the 1980s, the decade in which she first came to fame. She was born in [Queens, New York](#) to [Swiss German-American](#) Fred

Lauper and [Sicilian Italian-American](#) Catrine Dominique.

- [Patti LuPone](#), (born [April 21, 1949](#) in [Northport, New York](#)) is an American singer and actress of [Sicilian](#) descent.<sup>[3]</sup> She is a graduate of [Northport High School](#). An important player in contemporary American [musical theater](#), she has performed on [Broadway](#) in works by [Andrew Lloyd Webber](#), [Stephen Sondheim](#) and others. She won a [Tony Award](#) for [Evita](#) in 1980.
- [Leo Martello](#), (1931 - 2000) was an author, lecturer, [gay civil rights](#) activist, and an early voice in the American [Neopagan](#) movement. He drew heavily on his [Sicilian](#) heritage, teaching the [Strega Tradition](#) which was named after the Italian word for Witch. As a founder of the [Witches Anti-Defamation League](#) (later the [Alternative Religions Education Network](#)) he was known for his lively and sometimes confrontational style. For example, in his books he tried to popularize the "Witches' Curse" which was "I wish you on yourself". He was profiled in [Margot Adler's](#) [Drawing Down the Moon](#).
- [Natalie Merchant](#), (born [October 26, 1963](#) in [Jamestown, New York, USA](#)) is a versatile [musician](#). Merchant co-founded and fronted the successful band [10,000 Maniacs](#) in 1981, but left the band in 1993 for a solo career. Her father's original Italian name was **Mercante** but was americanized into **Merchant**. Her mother's side is Irish.
- [Sal Mineo](#), born **Salvatore Mineo, Jr.** ([January 10, 1939](#) - [February 12, 1976](#)) was an [American actor](#) and [theater director](#), famous for his [Academy Award](#)-nominated performance opposite [James Dean](#) in the film [Rebel Without a Cause](#). Mineo, born in [The Bronx](#), [New York City](#) as the son of a [Sicilian](#) coffin maker, was enrolled by his mother in dancing and acting school at an early age.
- [Al Pacino](#), born **Alfredo James Pacino** (born [April 25, 1940](#) in [The Bronx, New York, USA](#)) is an [American film actor](#). Pacino is the son of Salvatore Pacino (who was born in [Italy](#)) and Rose Gerard (the daughter of an [Italian](#)-born father and a [New York](#)-born mother of [Italian](#) descent). His parents divorced while Pacino was still a child. His grandparents originate from [Corleone](#), [Sicily](#).
- [Louis Prima](#) was born into a musical family of [Sicilian/Italian](#) descent in [New Orleans](#). He studied [violin](#) for several years as a child. His older brother [Leon Prima](#) was a well regarded local bandleader. Prima was proud of his heritage, and made a point of letting the audience know at every performance that he was [Italian-American](#) and from New Orleans. His singing and playing showed that he absorbed many of the same influences as his fellow Crescent City musician, [Louis Armstrong](#), particularly in his hoarse voice and [scat singing](#).
- [Mario Puzo](#), ([October 15, 1920](#) - [July 2, 1999](#)) was an American author known for his fictional books about the [Mafia](#). Puzo was born into a family of [Sicilian](#) immigrants living in the "[Hell's Kitchen](#)" neighborhood of [New York City](#). Many of his books draw heavily on this Sicilian heritage.
- [Leah Remini](#), (born [June 15, 1970](#) in [Brooklyn, New York](#)) is an [actress](#). She is best known for her role as Carrie Heffernan on the sitcom [The King of Queens](#). Her father **George Remini**, owner of an asbestos company, originates from [Sicily](#). Her mother **Vicki Marshall**, a high school principal, is [Jewish](#).
- [Pete Rugolo](#), (born [December 25, 1915](#)) is a Sicilian-born composer and arranger. He was born in [Patti, Sicily](#), but his parents emigrated to the United States in 1920 and settled in [Santa Rosa, California](#). He started

his musical career playing the [baritone](#), like his father, but he quickly branched out into other instruments, notably the [French horn](#) and the piano. He is most famous for his writing for the [Stan Kenton](#) Orchestra, although he led a long and successful career as a [composer](#) and [arranger](#) based in Los Angeles for many years. He has written for [the Four Freshmen](#) (for whom he was musical director) and many others.

- [Martin Scorsese](#), (pronounced as Scor-SEH-see) (born [November 17, 1942](#) in [Queens, New York, USA](#)) is a multi-[Oscar](#) nominated [film director](#). Martin Scorsese came from a working class [Italian-American](#) family, hailing from the Sicilian town of [Polizzi Generosa](#); his father **Luciano Charles Scorsese** (1912-1993) was a pants presser in New York's garment district. He struggled to earn enough money to attend university, but has shown enormous gratitude to his parents for helping him realize his dreams. His parents were the subject of Scorsese's documentary [Italianamerican](#) and made numerous cameo appearances in his films before their deaths. For years, his mother worked as the official caterer for all of Scorsese's films and his father helped in the wardrobe department.
- [Gia Scala](#), born **Giovanna Scoglio** in [Liverpool, England](#), to an aristocratic [Sicilian](#) father, **Pietro Scoglio**, and an [Irish](#) mother, **Eileen Sullivan**. Raised from infancy in [Sicily](#), she moved to the [United States](#) at age fourteen where she studied and worked in [New York City](#). She studied acting and in 1954 was signed to a contract by [Universal Studios](#) in [Hollywood](#). She received wide recognition for her performance of "Anna" in the 1961 film, [The Guns of Navarone](#). She ended her life with a drug overdose in 1972. Gia Scala is interred in the [Holy Cross Cemetery](#) in [Culver City, California](#).
- [Anthony Scarpa](#), musician
- [Vincent Schiavelli](#), ([November 10, 1948](#) - [December 26, 2005](#)) is a noted character actor known for his work in film and on [television](#). He was born into a [Sicilian/Italian-American](#) family in [Brooklyn, New York](#). He studied acting through the Theater Program at [New York University](#) and began working on the stage in the 1960s. Having a respected Sicilian chef for a grandfather rubbed off on Vincent Schiavelli, as he is also the author of a number of cookbooks and food articles for magazines and newspapers. He received a [James Beard Foundation](#) Journalism Award in 2001 and has been nominated on a number of other occasions. He succumbed to [lung cancer](#) at age 57, passing away at his home in [Polizzi Generosa, Italy](#), the town in Sicily where his grandfather emigrated from and which he wrote about in his 2002 book, *Many Beautiful Things: Stories and Recipes from Polizzi Generosa* ([ISBN 0-7432-1528-1](#)).
- [Frank Sinatra](#), born **Francis Albert Sinatra** ([December 12, 1915](#) - [May 14, 1998](#)) was an [American singer](#) who is considered one of the finest vocalists of all time, renowned for his impeccable phrasing and timing. Many critics place him alongside [Bing Crosby](#), [Elvis Presley](#), and [The Beatles](#) as the most important popular music figures of the 20th century. [3] Sinatra launched a second career as a dramatic [film actor](#), and became admired for a screen persona distinctly tougher than his smooth singing style. Sinatra also had a larger-than-life presence in the public eye, and as "The Chairman of the Board" became an American [icon](#), known for his brash, sometimes swaggering attitude, as embodied by his [signature song](#) "My Way". He was born in [Hoboken, New Jersey](#) as the only child of a quiet [Sicilian](#) fireman father, **Anthony Martin Sinatra** (1894-1969). Anthony had emigrated to the United States in 1895. His mother, **Natalie Della Gavarante** (1896-1977), was a talented, tempestuous [Ligurian](#), who worked as a part-time abortionist. She was known as "Dolly", and emigrated in 1897.
- [Tony Sirico](#), (born [July 29, 1942](#) in [Brooklyn, New York](#)) is an actor who is most famous for his role as [Paulie Walnuts](#) on the [HBO TV](#) series, [The](#)

- [Sopranos](#). Prior to becoming an actor, Sirico spent some time in jail for holding up a number of night clubs in the late 1960s and early 1970s. While in prison, he became interested in acting from watching a theater group that came to perform. When he got out of jail, Sirico played gangsters in a number of films.
- [Sylvester Stallone](#), born **Sylvester Enzo Stallone** ([July 6, 1946](#) in [New York City](#)) is an [American film actor](#), [director](#), [producer](#), and [screenwriter](#). He is often referred to by his [nickname](#), "Sly". He achieved his greatest [successes](#) in a number of [action films](#), notably the [Rocky](#) and [Rambo](#) series. He was born to Frank Stallone Sr. (a beautician who was an immigrant from [Castellammare del Golfo](#), [Sicily](#)) and Jacqueline "Jackie" Labofish, an [American](#) astrologer of 1/4 [Russian Jewish](#) descent.
  - [Tommy Tallarico](#), born **Thomas V. Tallarico** (born [February 18, 1968](#)) is an accomplished [American video game music composer](#).
  - [Johnny Thunders](#), born **John Anthony Genzale, Jr.** ([July 15, 1952](#) - [April 23, 1991](#)), was a [rock and roll guitarist](#) and singer, first with the [New York Dolls](#), the proto-punk [glam rockers](#) of the early '70s. During the late '70s, he was a familiar figure on the [New York](#) punk scene, both with [The Heartbreakers](#) and as a solo artist. His guitar work was highly influential in [punk rock](#) music.
  - [Aida Turturro](#), (born [September 25, 1962](#)) is an actress who is most well-known for playing [Janice Soprano](#), sister of [New Jersey](#) mob boss, [Tony Soprano](#), on the [HBO](#), [TV](#) series, [The Sopranos](#), a role which netted her an [Emmy Award](#) nomination.
  - [John Turturro](#), (born [February 28, 1957](#)) is an [American actor](#). He has appeared in over sixty movies, and is well known for his ability to effortlessly change both his demeanour and physique. Turturro was born in [Brooklyn](#), [New York](#) to an [Sicilian Catholic](#) family. He completed his [MFA](#) at the [Yale](#) School of [Drama](#). He worked as an [extra](#) in [Raging Bull](#) (1980).
  - [Steven Tyler](#), born **Steven Victor Tallarico** ([March 26, 1948](#)), frontman for legendary rock band [Aerosmith](#).
  - [Frank Vincent](#), (born **Frank Vincent Gattuso** on [August 4, 1939](#)) is an [Italian-American actor](#). He was born in [North Adams, Massachusetts](#), but was raised in [Jersey City, New Jersey](#). His father was also called Frank. His mother was Mary (nee Ricci). Frank has two brothers: Nick and Jimmy. Frank's father was one of six children, all born in the USA to Sicilian immigrants: **Niccolo Gattuso** and **Francesca di Peri**. He was spotted by [Martin Scorsese](#) in a low-budget gangster movie called *Death Collector*. Scorsese was impressed and hired Vincent to star in [Raging Bull](#). [Joe Pesci](#) co-starred with Vincent in *The Death Collector* and the two were reunited in several other movies; another familiar co-star of Vincent is [Robert De Niro](#).
  - [Emanuele Viscuso](#), (born [December 24, 1952](#) in [Palermo](#) ), is the creator of the Sicilian Film Festival, a showcase of Sicilian directors and movies founded in Miami in 2006. He also founded FIMO (International Organ Music Festival) in Castelbuono, Sicily in 2008. Viscuso lives in [Miami](#), in [Milano](#) and in [Castelbuono, Sicily](#). Besides his work as president of this festival, Viscuso is a musician, a sculptor, a writer and a designer. His most famous piece is the 45-foot-large sculpture "Wave-bridge on the imaginary" at the Milan Malpensa international airport. His design is mostly expressed with his world famous trompe l'oeil wall paper collection. Emanuele Viscuso has taken part to the Esperia\* STS-120/10A Mission, launched on [October 23, 2007](#) from the NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, in Florida as delegate in Florida of Accademia Italiana della

Cucina, a Cultural Institution of the Italian Republic. The City of Miami Beach, where he resides since November 2000, recognized his cultural involvement in the community with the "Key to the City" in [October 17, 2007](#).

- [Guy Williams](#), ([January 14, 1924](#) - [May 7, 1989](#)), born **Armando Joseph Catalano** in [New York City](#), the son of [Sicilian](#) immigrants. He was an [American](#) actor who played [swashbuckling](#) action heroes in the 1950s and 1960s. An accomplished [fencer](#), his most famous role was [Zorro](#) in two [Walt Disney](#) movies and [television series](#) of that name (1957-1959). Nearly a half-century later, [Zorro](#) is still being aired all over [South America](#), from [Argentina](#) to [Venezuela](#), in some places twice daily. [Zorro](#) continues to be the most popular U.S. series ever to have appeared on South American television.
- [Frank Zappa](#), born **Frank Vincent Zappa** ([December 21, 1940](#) - [December 4, 1993](#)) was a [composer](#), [guitarist](#), [singer](#) and [satirist](#). In his 33-year musical career, Zappa proved to be one of the most prolific musicians ever, releasing over 60 albums during his life. His father, **Francis Zappa** was born in [Alcamo](#), [Sicily](#). His mother **Rose Marie Colimore** was of half [Italian](#), 1/4 [Sicilian](#) and 1/4 [French](#) descent.
- [Philip Zimbardo](#), (born [March 23, 1933](#)) is an [American psychologist](#), best-known for his [Stanford prison experiment](#) and bestselling introductions to psychology. Zimbardo was born to [Sicilian](#) parents, **George Zimbardo** and **Margaret Bisicchia** and grew up in [New York City](#), in the South [Bronx](#).

## Athletes

- [Charles Atlas](#), (1892-1972), born **Angelo Siciliano** in [Italy](#), he moved to [Brooklyn](#), [New York](#) at a young age. Initially a small, weak child, Siciliano worked hard to tone his muscles, using a variety of weights. Contemplating the strength of a tiger in a zoo, he conceived the idea of working muscle against muscle, rather than working out with weights. Using this system, later dubbed [Dynamic tension](#), he acquired a physique that earned him the nickname "Charles Atlas", after the mythical [Atlas](#), the [Titan](#) who held up the heavens. He later filed for and received trademark status for the name. He soon took the role of [strongman](#) in the [Coney Island Circus Side](#). His company, Charles Atlas, Ltd. (1929-and continuing today) markets a fitness program for the "97-pound weakling", a registered trademark.
- [Dom DiMaggio](#), born **Dominic Paul DiMaggio** (born [February 12, 1917](#) in [San Francisco, California](#)) is a former [center fielder](#) in [Major League Baseball](#) who played his entire career for the [Boston Red Sox](#) (1940-42, 1946-53). His small stature (standing five feet nine inches) and eyeglasses earned him the nickname "The Little Professor". He is the brother of outfielders [Joe DiMaggio](#) and [Vince DiMaggio](#). DiMaggio was a teammate and close friend of Ted Williams, [Bobby Doerr](#), and [Johnny Pesky](#). Their friendship was chronicled in [David Halberstam](#)'s book *The Teammates*. Dom DiMaggio was inducted to the [Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame](#) in 1995.
- [Joe DiMaggio](#), born **Giuseppe Paolo DiMaggio, Jr.** ([November 25, 1914](#) - [March 8, 1999](#)), nicknamed "Joltin' Joe" and "The Yankee Clipper," was an [Italian American center fielder](#) in [Major League Baseball](#) who played his entire career (1936-1951) for the [New York Yankees](#). The eighth of nine children, DiMaggio was born in a two-room house in [Martinez, California](#) to [Sicilian](#) immigrants; delivered by a [midwife](#). His mother, Rosalia, named him "Giuseppe" for his father; "Paolo" was in honor of [Saint Paul](#), Giuseppe's favorite saint. The family moved to [San Francisco](#) when Joe was one year old.

- [Vince DiMaggio](#), **Vincent Paul DiMaggio** ([September 6, 1912](#) - [October 3, 1986](#)) was a [Major League Baseball center fielder](#) and right-handed batter who played in the [National League](#) for the [Boston Bees](#) (1937-38), [Cincinnati Reds](#) (1939-40), [Pittsburgh Pirates](#) (1940-46) and [New York Giants](#) (1946). The older brother of [Joe](#) and [Dom](#), DiMaggio was born in [Martinez, California](#).
- [Johnny Dundee](#), (b. [November 22, 1893](#), d. [April 22, 1965](#)) was a [featherweight](#) and [junior lightweight boxer](#) who fought from 1910 until 1932. Dundee was born **Giuseppe Carrora** in [Sciaccia, Sicily](#), but was raised in the [United States](#). Although today he is almost completely forgotten, Dundee was highly regarded by many old time boxing experts. [Ring Magazine](#) founder and editor, [Nat Fleischer](#), rated Dundee in the top five of his list of greatest featherweights of all time.
- [Paul Malignaggi](#), (b. [November 23, 1980](#)) is a professional [junior welterweight boxer](#) and a former [IBF Junior Welterweight Champion](#) most notable for defeating [Lovemore N'dou](#) twice, as well as losing in bouts with [Miguel Cotto](#) and [Ricky Hatton](#).
- [Mike Piazza](#), born **Michael Joseph Piazza** ([September 4, 1968](#) in [Norristown, Pennsylvania, USA](#)) is a [U.S. Major League Baseball](#) player. He is generally recognized as the top-hitting [catcher](#) of all time. He is a ten time [All-Star](#). On [May 5, 2004](#), Piazza surpassed [Carlton Fisk](#) for most [home runs](#) by a catcher with the 352nd of his career. Mike grew up for the first few years of his life in a small house in [Phoenixville, Pennsylvania](#). The house was barely big enough to have Mike's entire family inside. His family consisted of his two parents, Vince and Veronica Piazza, and his brothers Vince Jr., Danny, Tony and Tommy.
- [Gene Sarazen](#), (also known as **Gene Saraceni**) ([February 27, 1902](#) - [May 13, 1999](#)) is one of the few [golfers](#) to win all the [major championships](#) in his career, including
  - o 1922 [U.S. Open](#)
  - o 1922 [PGA Championship](#)
  - o 1923 [PGA Championship](#)
  - o 1932 [U.S. Open](#)
  - o 1932 [British Open](#)
  - o 1933 [PGA Championship](#)
  - o 1935 [The Masters](#)

Winner of 39 [PGA Tour](#) events, Sarazen was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974. He invented the modern [sand wedge](#) in 1930. He hit "The shot heard 'round the world" in the 1935 Masters. It was a final round 225-yard 4-wood on the par-5 15th hole that went in, giving him a very rare double eagle 2 on the hole. It led to him later winning the tournament in a playoff. For many years after his retirement, he was a familiar figure as an honorary starter at the Masters.

## Jazz artists

- [Sharkey Bonano](#) ([April 9, 1904](#) - [March 27, 1972](#)) was born with the name **Joseph Gustaf Bonano** in the Milenburg neighborhood of [New Orleans, Louisiana](#), by the shores of [Lake Pontchartrain](#). He sometimes billed himself as **Sharkey Banana** or **Sharkey Bananas**.
- [Chick Corea](#), born **Armando Anthony Corea** ([June 12, 1941](#)).
- [Eddie Costa](#) (1930-1962) is a [jazz pianist](#) based in [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#).

- [Steve Gadd](#), ([April 9, 1945](#), [Rochester, New York](#))
- [Jimmy Giuffre](#), born **James Peter Giuffre** ([Dallas, Texas](#), 1921).
- [Scott La Faro](#), born **Rocco Scott LaFaro** ([April 3, 1936](#), [Newark, New Jersey](#) - [July 6, 1961](#), [Flint, New York](#)). Not of Sicilian descent, family originated from Calabria.
- [Papa Jack Laine](#), born **George Vital Laine** aka *Papa Jack* ([September 21, 1873](#) - [June 1, 1966](#)).
- [Eddie Lang](#), ([October 25, 1902](#) - [March 26, 1933](#)), born **Salvatore Massaro**, the son of an [Italian-American](#) instrument maker in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#).
- [Nick LaRocca](#), born **Dominic James La Rocca** ([New Orleans, Louisiana](#), [April 11, 1889](#) - [New Orleans, February 22, 1961](#)).
- [Joe Lovano](#), born **Joseph Salvatore Lovano** ([December 29, 1952](#) in [Cleveland, Ohio](#)).
- [Chuck Mangione](#), born [November 29, 1940](#). Also brother Gaspare "Gap", a musician and Uncle Gerlando "Jerre", an Author.
- [Wingy Manone](#), born **Joseph Matthews Mannone** (sic), ([February 13, 1900](#), [New Orleans](#) - [July 9, 1982](#)).
- [Charlie Mariano](#) (b.1923)
- [Joe Marsala](#) (1907-1978)
- [Pat Martino](#), born **Pat Azzara** ([August 25, 1944](#)) in South [Philadelphia](#).
- [Joe Morello](#), born [July 17, 1929](#) in [Springfield, Massachusetts](#).
- [Joe Pass](#), born **Joseph Anthony Passalacqua**, [January 13, 1929](#), [New Brunswick, New Jersey](#) - [May 23, 1994](#), [Los Angeles, California](#).
- [John Patitucci](#), born 1959 in [Brooklyn, New York](#).
- [Art Pepper](#), (1925-82) (Sicilian mother)
- [Louis Prima](#) ([December 7, 1910](#)- [August 24, 1978](#)). Prima was born into a musical family of [Sicilian](#) descent in [New Orleans](#). Prima was proud of his heritage, and made a point of letting the audience know at every performance that he was [Italian-American](#) and from New Orleans.
- [Leon Roppolo](#), ([March 16, 1902](#) - [October 5, 1943](#)). **Leon Joseph Roppolo** (nicknamed "Rap") was born in [Lutcher, Louisiana](#), upriver from [New Orleans](#).
- [Frank Rosolino](#), ([August 20, 1926](#), [Detroit, Michigan](#) - [November 26, 1978](#), [Los Angeles, California](#)).

- [Tony Scott](#), (b.1921)
- [John Serry](#) (originally **Serrapica**) was born in [New York City](#) and is half Sicilian and half Campanese.
- [Joe Venuti](#), born **Giuseppe Venuti**, ([September 16, 1903](#) - [August 14, 1978](#)). Venuti was born aboard a ship as his parents emigrated from [Sicily](#).
- [George Wallington](#), born **Giacinto Figlia**, [October 27, 1923](#), [Palermo, Sicily](#) - [Cape Coral, Miami, February 15, 1993](#)).
- [Agrippino & Michele Manteo](#), [Grammichele, Catania, Famous Sicilian Marionette Family](#).