

NUTS & BOLTS

Trending:

SEE HOW
THE BIG GUY
CELEBRATES
HIS BIRTHDAY PG. 6



A LOOK AT THE HAPPENINGS ATOP RED MOUNTAIN AT VULCAN® PARK AND MUSEUM

A LOOK INTO LINN-HENLEY



Discovering La Storia

The *La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community* exhibition opened in Linn-Henley Gallery in September. Since then, individuals and groups have visited Vulcan Park and Museum to learn about the rich Italian heritage of Birmingham and how its culture helped shape our community.

In October, the Junior Patrons of the Birmingham Museum of Art held an event at Vulcan Park and Museum and toured *La Storia*. The group had an overwhelmingly positive experience in the exhibition that a few of its members had to share.

"The *La Storia* exhibit was mesmerizing, and our group was buzzing with lively conversation long after our tour," said Lee Handley, a member of the Junior Patrons of the Birmingham Museum of Art. "We learned so much about the history of our city in an impactful way. Many of our guests even returned to the exhibit and remained there until the end of the evening."

Another member of the Junior Patrons, Vincent J. "V. J." Graffeo commented on the high quality of the exhibit and its ability to successfully portray the story of Italian immigrants in Birmingham.

"Being a Birmingham-born Italian American, it was very interesting to see the story of my ancestors who traveled across the Atlantic and settled here. The pictures, objects and narratives told a poignant story," said Graffeo. "The exhibit very elegantly and informatively portrays a piece of Birmingham's history and the notable Italians in the community, and it is great that Vulcan is able to display such a high-quality exhibit in a temporary gallery."

Leadership Birmingham also toured *La Storia*, and Michele Forman, Director of Media Studies at UAB and member of the current Leadership Birmingham class, shared her positive experience of the exhibit.

"I learned so much about the rich contributions of the Italian-



Junior Patrons Member and Birmingham-born Italian American, Vincent J. "V. J." Graffeo

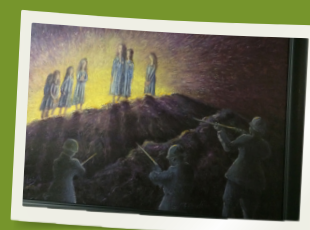
American community in Birmingham when our Leadership Birmingham group toured the *La Storia* exhibition," said Forman. "I loved seeing the old photographs and artifacts in combination with the video oral histories, and I am especially proud of our UAB students who had such an amazing opportunity to participate in the making of those."

Forman also returned with out-of-town visitors who had an Italian heritage. "They were so moved by *La Storia* since they had no idea of the cultural diversity in Birmingham," said Forman.

La Storia will remain in Linn-Henley Gallery through September 9, 2015. If your group is interested in a private tour, please give us a call. The group package is \$10 per person and includes entrance to the *La Storia* exhibit, a keepsake book of the exhibit and entrance into Vulcan Center museum and the observation balcony. For a nominal fee, one of our knowledgeable docents will provide your group with a detailed historical perspective of the intricate display. Additionally, we have wonderful packages arranged with food and wine for your group to have a private reception or packages whereby your group can enjoy lunch or dinner at Vulcan along with a private tour.

The next exhibit coming to Linn-Henley Gallery is *Darkness into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors through Photography and Art*.

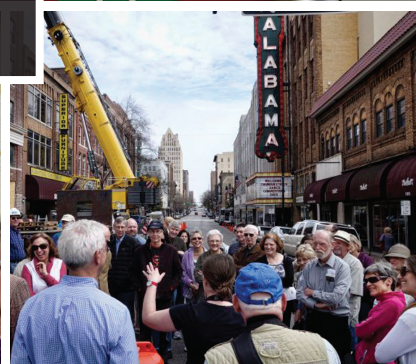
This educational exhibit features the stories of Alabama Holocaust survivors and offers an in-depth understanding of Holocaust history and its impact on these individuals and their families. More information on this new exhibit will soon be available at visitvulcan.com. You can also follow Vulcan Park and Museum on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay up to date on the latest news and events.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST



Vulcan Park and Museum is dedicated to our community. Here, you'll find "V," our mascot, decked out at the 5 Points St. Patrick's Day Parade, scenes from this spring's Birmingham Revealed series as well as our 2015 Spring Walking Tour series. To learn about these events and more, see visitvulcan.com.



PRESERVING THE ORIGINAL IRON MAN

In 1999, our region's beloved symbol had fallen into such a state of disrepair that the city had to take emergency action to close the park rather than have park visitors endangered by falling bits of rusted iron.

After a \$16 million nationally recognized restoration of the statue, renovation of the park and addition of the museum, Vulcan has once again stood proudly as our grand civic symbol, and Vulcan Park Foundation is committed to keep Vulcan in excellent condition - for many generations to come.

Created to represent the young city of Birmingham, and the state of Alabama, at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, Vulcan was displayed inside the Palace of Mines and Metallurgy. Giuseppe Moretti designed the statue with this protected environment in mind, leaving the top of Vulcan's head open. When Vulcan was erected outdoors, an ill fitted "toupee," which served as a maintenance hatch, was added. By the 1990s, due to years of water infiltration through the head, along with other poorly conceived modifications, exposure to the elements had taken its toll.

When Vulcan Park Foundation undertook the massive job of restoring Vulcan, it was imperative that this project be done correctly and in a manner that would stand the test of time – not in terms of one or two generations, but for a century or more. The painstaking attention to detail observed through the restoration process resulted in the project's receipt in 2006 of the nation's highest honor in historic preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award.

Ongoing preventative maintenance is required to preserve Vulcan for the future. Each year, Vulcan receives a physical, wherein experts examine the statue inside and out. Any maintenance needs, such as caulking cracks or tightening bolts, are addressed. To protect the exterior, Vulcan must be periodically painted.

The costs for Vulcan's maintenance are in keeping with his size – colossal. Your attendance at Vulcan Park and Museum events, your use of our private event facility and contributions of your time or financial resources all help us to achieve our primary goal – to preserve our Vulcan as the enduring symbol of who we are and who we hope to be in the many years to come.

Did you know?

1. Did you know that the Vulcan Statue weighs 101,200 pounds? That's equivalent to 11 full-grown elephants or 20,240 red clay bricks!

2. Did you know that for more than 50 years, Vulcan used to hold a torchlight that signaled red for traffic fatalities?

3. Or, that in 1904, artist Giuseppe Moretti won a medal at the Word's Fair for his creation of Vulcan?

4. Did you know that Vulcan was removed from his home atop Red Mountain in 1999 to undergo repairs?

How about
that it was in
October 1903
that Vulcan
was chosen
to represent
Birmingham
and Alabama?

WE'VE BEEN SHARING LITTLE-KNOWN VULCAN FACTS LIKE THESE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA EVERY OTHER WEEK FOR #FUNFACTFRIDAY.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram so you'll never miss a fun fact! You can also follow V's adventures in and around Birmingham, keep up with happenings in the community and stay tuned in to what's going on at Vulcan Park and Museum.

We encourage everyone to share your love for the original iron man by "Vulcaning!" Snap a picture of you or your friends posing like the Vulcan statue and post it to social media with #Vulcaning. You can also tag Vulcan himself on Twitter and Instagram with @visitvulcan. Each quarter, we pick a winner for the best #Vulcaning photo and that person wins free admission to visit the park and museum, tickets to upcoming events or other fun prizes!

CONNECT WITH US!

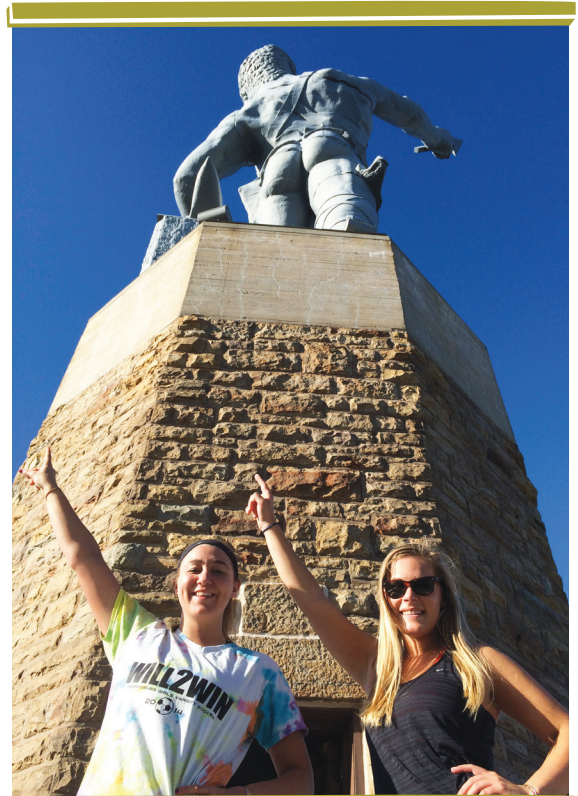
Facebook: www.facebook.com/visitvulcan

Twitter: @visitvulcan

Instagram: @visitvulcan



VULCANING



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Fun stop on our way to the beach."

- The Burghardt Family, Marysville, OH, visited March 2015

"Vulcan was a great, ideal venue for our son, Austin's, Bar Mitzvah. The staff was very easy to work with."

- Bridget and Steven Sikora, *Southern Jewish Life Magazine*, March 2015

"The Magic City is filled with mythic tales and none is taller than the Roman god of fire and forge, Vulcan...The superhero, cast from local iron in 1904, occupies a perch on Red Mountain with stunning views across the city and valley. Take the elevator to the top to truly appreciate Vulcan's watch post."

- *Paste Magazine*, "Greetings from Birmingham, AL," March 5, 2015

"Today, the Vulcan retains the title of the largest cast iron sculpture in the world, and, from its place of honor atop Red Mountain, is the best place in the city to catch a sunset Birmingham twinkle to life."

- *Porterbriggs.com* - *The Voice of the South*, "Forge, Fight, and Rainbow Light"
- *What to See in Birmingham*,
April 13, 2015

"It was very interesting. Makes me appreciate my job, and the ease of life today."

- Darcy Mendoza, Ocala, FL
visited March 2015

"Glad we stopped to see this marvel!"

- Joyce and Steve Henning,
Brodhead, WI,
visited March 2015

"In central Alabama, Vulcan is more than an icon; he's a member of the family, complete with his own foibles. Residents know that Vulcan stands for the region's work ethic and natural resources; a figure who hammers steel from the earth's raw materials. Birmingham's Iron Man." - *LA Times*, "Birmingham's Vulcan statue, often the butt of jokes, remains well-loved," April 12, 2015

HE'S HEAVY METAL. THE MUSIC IS NOT.

VULCAN MEMBERS \$8

**FAMILY MEMBER
CHILDREN 5-12 FREE**

Non-Member Adult-\$15

Non-Member Child-\$8

All children 4 and under-Free

DETAILS AVAILABLE AT

VISITVULCAN.COM

BANDS
BREWS
TASTES
VIEWS
2015

**VULCAN
AFTER
TIMES**

VULCAN

PARK & MUSEUM

**SEPT
20TH**

**OCT
4TH**

**OCT
18TH**



Birmingham Children's Theatre will perform a vignette from the classic children's story, *The Gingerbread Boy*.

BIRTHDAY BASH

THE BIG GUY IS TURNING 111

The most anticipated birthday celebration in Birmingham is just around the corner! When your city is home to a 56-ft tall iron statue of a burly, bearded, bare-bottomed man, you celebrate him in style. Vulcan, the world's largest cast iron statue and one of the most memorable pieces of civic art in the United States, turns 111 this year, and we're celebrating with his annual Birthday Bash on Sunday, June 7, from 12 – 4 p.m.!

Magic Town Clowns will be providing face painting and balloon art.



Sing “**Happy Birthday**” alongside Mayor William Bell and other partiers during a fun-filled, family celebration held at Vulcan Park and Museum. Admission to the party is \$5 and includes birthday refreshments as well as a wide variety of exciting activities for guests of all ages including:

- ▶ GameStop's room of multiple next-generation games (Xbox One, PS4, 3DS and Wii U).
- ▶ A “Kids' Workshop” from Home Depot where children can build bird houses, tool boxes and bug houses.

- ▶ Birmingham Children's Theatre will perform a vignette from the classic children's story, *The Gingerbread Boy*.
- ▶ Red Mountain Park will have dig boxes with reproductions of real Red Mountain artifacts and you'll get to take a spin on the Red Mountain Park prize wheel, featuring stickers, t-shirts, and zip lining tickets!
- ▶ Ruffner Mountain Nature Center will offer a “create a snake activity.” The kids will be able to pick their own colors of paper to build a chain in the shape of a snake's body.



VULCAN'S BIRTHDAY BASH

- ▶ The Southern Museum of Flight will be in attendance with a live plane exhibition, a paper airplane activity and a large outdoor floor puzzle.
- ▶ Native Alabama animals such as a skunk, opossum, barn owl, screech owl, grey rat snake, alligator, box turtle, corn snake, gopher or tortoise will be joining the party from the Birmingham Zoo.
- ▶ Magic Town Clowns will be providing awesome face painting and fun balloon art.
- ▶ Community drum jams will be led by Get Rhythm! This fun activity for the whole family requires no experience to celebrate Vulcan with your rhythmical spirit!
- ▶ The American Red Cross will be on site with a fun and educational preparedness relay where kids will learn to “stop, drop and roll,” prepare bandages for wounds, and how to pick the right items for a disaster kit.
- ▶ Attendees can enjoy a rock climbing wall, “Home Run Derby” and a birthday cake bounce house.
- ▶ The City of Birmingham Fire Department will be at the park with a firetruck!
- ▶ Latin American Soccer League will be screaming and kicking with anyone up for a friendly game of “futbol.”

Additionally, we will be unveiling all the personalized pavers that were purchased during our 2014 Brick Paver Campaign. Individuals, families and businesses purchased commemorative pavers as gifts or in honor of loved ones. These bricks will be displayed at the front entrance of Vulcan Park and Museum to celebrate the support that our community has given to maintaining Vulcan's rich heritage.

We appreciate the sponsorship of Brik Realty for making the personalized paver campaign possible. We'd also like to give a big thanks to our other supporters: Buffalo Rock Pepsi, CityVision, GameStop, Home Depot, Birmingham Fun and Family Magazine, Birmingham Parent Magazine, Vulcan Materials, EBSCO, Inc., Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Over The Mountain Journal and 98.3 FM La Jefa. The success of Vulcan Park and Museum is possible with the support of these generous organizations.



Ruffner Mountain Nature Center will offer a “create a snake activity.” The kids will be able to pick their own colors of paper to build a chain in the shape of a snake's body.

HUGE HAPPENINGS



The Vulcans 2015 Community Awards

Nominations for the second annual The Vulcans Community Awards open on June 1, 2015. Once again, the community will be called upon to identify those who have had a Vulcan-sized impact on our region. The 2015 nominees should exemplify characteristics of the mythical Roman god, Vulcan. Additionally, the contenders should be deserving of recognition for their civic pride, progress and leadership in Birmingham's seven county area including Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Blount, Bibb, Chilton and Walker counties. Nominees must live in, or have lived in, the community during the time of their notable contributions. Posthumous nominations are accepted. Self-nominations are discouraged. The online nomination form and full list of requirements can be found at visitvulcan.com on June 1, 2015.

After submitting your nomination, make plans to attend this year's event that promises to be a captivating and inspiring evening. On October 8, The Vulcans 2015 will showcase leaders in the Birmingham region who are making a collective and positive impact on our region. The unique program will feature thoughtful and engaging presentations from the five top award recipients.

"I am still extremely honored and humbled to have received The Vulcans' first Servant Leadership Award and to be listed among the inaugural distinguished honorees," Chief of Police A.C. Roper said. **"The Vulcans Community Awards embody all of the qualities that make Birmingham so special."**



Chief of Police A.C. Roper,
recipient of The Vulcans' first
Servant Leadership Award

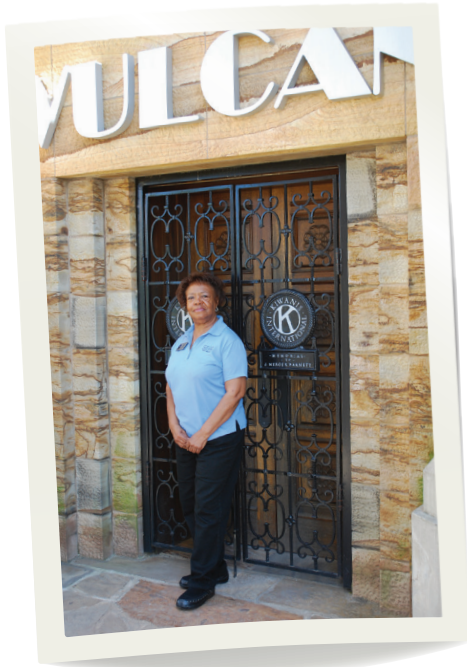
Thunder on the Mountain 2015

Thunder on the Mountain, Vulcan Park and Museum's Fourth of July fireworks extravaganza, has been hailed as one of the largest and most exquisite Independence Day traditions in the state of Alabama.

This year will be no exception. **On Saturday, July 4 at 9:00 p.m., Thunder on the Mountain 2015 will once again illuminate the skies above Birmingham's treasured iron man.** This year's show will last approximately 20 minutes and will feature a variety of sparkling fireworks that will brighten the sky with vibrant colors and patterns. The show, as always, will be choreographed to a musical soundtrack that will feature a mix of patriotic favorites and popular musical performances. To enhance your experience, you can tune in to hear the official soundtrack on these local radio channels: 104.7 WZZK, 106.9 The Eagle, Easy 97.3, 98.7 Kiss FM, 95.7 Jamz, 107.3 Birmingham Mountain Radio, 1500 AM Juan and 98.3 FM La Jefa. The entire show will be televised live on Fox 6 WBRC-TV.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE VULCAN MEANS UNITY



“One of my favorite things – and I have a lot – about working at Vulcan Park and Museum is meeting people that come to see Vulcan from all over the world.”

Our Vulcan has graced Birmingham with his presence for 111 years, and growing up in Jefferson County, Alabama, one tends to have fond memories of the honorable, iconic statue. This holds true for one exceptional Vulcan Park and Museum employee.

Pam Ellis has worked as a visitor services representative for almost nine years. In those years, she has greeted dignitaries, educated thousands of school children, and welcomed many international visitors.

“One of my favorite things – and I have a lot – about working at Vulcan Park and Museum is meeting people that come to see Vulcan from all over the world,” Pam said. “Vulcan truly is a worldwide icon. I have met visitors from France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, China, Japan, Vietnam, Germany, Poland and Canada.

Pam says it’s special that guests witness the most spectacular view in Birmingham – day or night – while studying our city’s history.

While meeting and greeting international guests is compelling for Pam, she has also had many experiences with local visitors that she remembers fondly.

“After visiting with a lady here at the park, I learned that she was leaving the country the following day,” she said. “Shortly after she left, I noticed her wallet sitting on the gift shop counter. I bolted outside and ran quickly down the hill to catch her so she wouldn’t be missing it when she arrived at the airport. I still remember her thankfulness to this day.”

Another significant impact that Pam is proud to have is that on our school-aged visitors. She says: “Sometimes, a student could be afraid to go up to the observation tower. I calmly settle them and let them know what they will see when they reach the top. I tell them to take in the city view and to look for low-flying airplanes coming in for a landing at the airport in the distance. When the kids come back to ground level, they are amazed at the cool things they have seen and they aren’t afraid anymore.”

Those stories are really what it’s all about for Pam and the entire Vulcan Park and Museum staff. She repeatedly says that one of the most rewarding aspects of her job is being able to make the guests feel special at this place she feels is peaceful and tranquil.

For Pam, working at Vulcan Park and Museum is not only a job, it reaches her deeper than just that. “Vulcan represents me. Vulcan represents everyone in this city. Vulcan is our symbol of unity.”

COLOSSAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

9 (Sat)—Girl Scouts
“Building Birmingham”

31 (Sun)—Sunday
Afternoon Tour of Italian
Catholic Churches
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
by Dr. Campbell, an
Alabama historian

JUNE

7 (Sun)—Vulcan’s 111th
Birthday Bash
Noon – 4:00 p.m.

24 (Wed)—Boy Scouts
Flag raising ceremony

JULY

4 (Sat)—Thunder
on the Mountain
9:00 p.m.

AUGUST

28 (Fri)—Event Venue
Open House
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

1 (Tues)—Italian
History Day
9:00 a.m. – Noon

20 (Sun)—Vulcan
AfterTunes

24 (Thurs)—Linn-
Henley Gallery exhibit
opening *Darkness into
Life: Alabama Holocaust
Survivors through
Photography and Art*

OCTOBER

4 (Sun)—Vulcan
AfterTunes

8 (Thurs)—The Vulcans
Community Awards

10 (Sat)—Girl Scouts
“Vulcan Visionaries”

18 (Sun)—Vulcan
AfterTunes

28 (Wed)—Annual
Teacher Symposium

NOVEMBER

7 (Sat)—Girl Scouts
“History Mysteries”

8 (Sun)—Kristallnacht
Reception

16 (Sat)—Thank-A-Vet
9:00 a.m. – Noon



Students from Birmingham area schools were at Vulcan Park and Museum on May 6 for the 2nd Annual Brent Newman Memorial Egg Drop put on by the UAB School of Engineering.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Vulcan Park and Museum launched its Corporate Partners Program in November 2014, providing a way for Vulcan Park Foundation to thank its supporters. This new program appeals to corporations of any size who want to offer support but are not seeking significant promotional opportunities associated with an event. We

are grateful to our inaugural corporate partners: EBSCO, Inc., Vulcan Materials, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Protective Life Corporation, The Fresh Market, and Chick-Fil-A. *To learn more about becoming a Vulcan Park and Museum Corporate Partner see visitvulcan.com/support.*



The Navy Operational Support Center in Bessemer came to Vulcan Park and Museum in March to kick off the 100th anniversary of the Navy Reserve. We were honored by their presence and appreciate their service to our country.

BUY A PIECE OF BIRMINGHAM



Vulcan's Gift Shop, located inside Vulcan Center, is open seven days a week and coincides with Museum hours. Select items are available online at visitvulcan.com or VPM's Facebook page - facebook.com/visitvulcan. Visit the shop today to see new additions on the shelves.

Featured Items

THE ORIGINAL B'HAM SHIRT

\$24.99 (PLUS TAX)

The newest addition of Alabama-made items in Vulcan's Gift Shop is The Original BHAM T-shirts. Two designs are available from Adult Small to Adult 2X. Don't miss out on these cool locally crafted shirts and be an ambassador for BHAM!

PLUSH VULCAN

\$14.99 (PLUS TAX)

Cuddle up with Plush Vulcan – he's soft and furry and approximately 11" tall. Take this little "Big Guy" home with you or even to school for show and tell! Plush Vulcan is safe for ages 3 years and older.

ATTENTION VULCAN MEMBERS! Receive a 10% discount in Vulcan's Gift Shop year-round. (Available in-store only)

FUNDAMENTALS



Celebrate Vulcan's
111th Birthday Bash on
Sunday, June 7, 2015

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open 7 Days a Week

MUSEUM:

Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun 1-6 p.m.

OBSERVATION TOWER:

Mon-Sat 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun 1-10 p.m.

ADMISSION CHARGED

Free for Vulcan Members!

Vision

To evoke inspiration and pride in the region and its potential for the future, just as the statue of Vulcan did when it was first created in 1904.

Mission

To preserve and promote Vulcan as the symbol for the Birmingham region, to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham's history and culture, and to encourage exploration of the region.

Contact Information

General Questions or Comments: info@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409

Field Trips & Group Tours: fieldtrips@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x29

Volunteer Opportunities: lelliott@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x29

Event Venue Usage: event@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x22

Membership & Giving: syates@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x23

Vulcan's Gift Shop: oblomeley@visitvulcan.com; 205.933.1409 x32



PARK & MUSEUM

1701 VALLEY VIEW DRIVE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35209

VISITVULCAN.COM



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Please support Vulcan Park and Museum at visitvulcan.com. Contributions made on-line at our secure website conserve paper and postage.

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A GIANT IMPACT

When planning programs and exhibitions at Vulcan Park and Museum, all ages and backgrounds are taken into consideration in an effort to make an enormous impression on our community members. This includes students – one particular student in fact.

Briarwood Christian School rising fifth grader, Christopher Vizzina, visited the museum and the *La Storia: Birmingham's Italian Community* exhibition shortly after its launch in the fall of 2014. This tour, for Christopher, wasn't just something brand new for him – Christopher happens to be a fifth-generation Sicilian American in Birmingham. This experience was like a step back in time to learn more about his Sicilian American heritage and where his family originated.

"My great great grandfather is from Vizzini, Sicily. I visited Sicily in 2014 with my mom [Carolyn], dad [Chris] and my godmother Aunt Rose Sarris and her family (Uncle George Sarris and Yorgo Sarris)," Christopher said. "Both my dad and Aunt Rose's family are from Sicily."

Prior to coming to see *La Storia*, Christopher already knew several things about his heritage. In reference to the Sicilian Americans who migrated to Birmingham, Christopher said: "They all lived in one neighborhood, they liked to cook, and they had big families."

After studying the gallery exhibit thoroughly, Christopher said he was able to learn much more than what he knew about why the Sicilian people migrated to Birmingham – to build a life for their families in an industrially progressing country. "They started a lot of different businesses," he said. A lot of those businesses are still present and successful in Birmingham today.

Christopher says he is very proud to be of Sicilian lineage. His journey through *La Storia* gave him the understanding he needed to help with his school book report on Italy. He was even able to encourage his entire class to take a field trip to see *La Storia*.

Talk about impact...we'd call that giant!



CHRISTOPHER VIZZINA

Briarwood Christian School fifth grader and fifth-generation Sicilian American