

Celebrating 100+1 Years



March • April
2014

Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB
914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

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IWC Update

By Ross DePaola

International Festival

Club members proudly represented their club by serving the public meatball sandwiches, Italian beef sandwiches, and olive salad to hoards of cabin fever-struck Madison residents at the Overture Center on February 22nd. The event was to last from 12-5 pm but the club sold out of food by 2 pm and we had to close shop, and last year we had leftovers. What more does one need to know to conjure the word "success"? A hearty thank you to all who helped with the event!

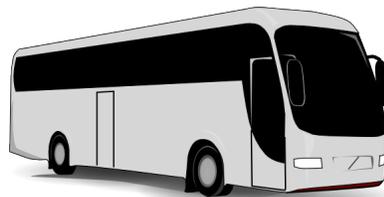
Festa Italia 2014

Planning for Festa this year is moving along under the leadership of Club Vice President and Festa Chairman, **David Rizzo**. For an entertainment preview, note that we're featuring the Booze Brothers on Friday, Universal Sound on Saturday night, and are rounding out the weekend with a performance by **Joe Scalissi** and the Dry Martinis on Sunday. In between, we'll have performances by Gerri DiMaggio

and Vince Amore among others. Many thanks to all the members who are working diligently to make the event a success.

Festa di Salciccia!

About 25 members gathered to make home-made sausage at the club on March 8th. Once the members put the meat-grinders together correctly, they filled yards of casings with pork, fennel, garlic wine and spices, just like their parents and grandparents used to make. This has all the makings of a regular bi-annual event and, dare I say, a tradition of its own.



Bus Trip

A bus trip organized by Social Committee Chair **David Rizzo** is scheduled to make the rounds to Italian clubs in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha on April 12th. The bus trip didn't require much more

than rumor to fill up quickly. At this writing, we're completely booked and have started a waiting list. We'll report on the event in the next newsletter.



Sauce Tasting

It's that time again! Thanks to veteran organizer Dr. **Dan Malone**, the event will be held at the clubhouse on April 27th. We promise to have several celebrity judges on hand. As you may recall, the audience and contestants can also participate in the judging, and the event is followed by a spaghetti dinner. See the attached flyer for more information on submitting and attending.

continued page 4

The Grapevine



A phone call was received by Catherine Murray in February from Leo Pullara, Butch Pullara's uncle, who grew up in the old Greenbush neighborhood and now resides with his wife, Arlene, in Sun City in Oro Valley, Arizona. Leo shared how much he enjoys receiving *Italia*, being updated with news about the IWC, his old friends, and the events sponsored by the club to preserve our Italian heritage and culture. He and Arlene celebrated their 52nd anniversary March 5th, and on March 28th Leo will celebrate his 89th birthday. The couple's daughter, Valerie, and granddaughter, Taylor, live only a short five miles away. Learning about the kind of winter Madison has experienced, Leo was quick to mention that he kept only one sweater for occasional chilly mornings or evenings, and that the grapefruit and orange trees in his backyard keep everyone happy, including his neighbors. Leo and Arlene said to say hello and passed on their wishes for a happy new year!

Condolences

Joseph J. Masino Jr. passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014. He was born in Madison on Aug. 4, 1914, to Joseph and Josephine Maisano. He grew up in the Greenbush and attended Central High School. He was a World War II veteran, having served with the U.S. Air Force. On Aug. 16, 1941, he was united in marriage to Anna "Vi" Mueller of Darlington.

Joe was proud to be 99 years old and the oldest member of the Italian Workman's Club. Honor guards were **Vito Cerniglia, George Cerniglia, Phil Clementi, and Tony Fiore**. He worked for the City of Madison for 29 years and refereed and umpired for the Home Talent League.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Vi, of 73 years; daughters, Mary (Bill) Becker of Golden, Colo., Gina (Mike Halvorsen) of Madison, and Leslie (Scott) Steeno of Aruba; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; son-in-law, Dave Johnson of Madison; and brothers, Richard Masino of Prairie du Chien, and Sam Masino of Florida.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nikki Johnson; granddaughter, Michaelyn Meinholz; and sisters, Jenny Masino and Mary Parisi. ■

CALENDAR of Events

- IWC Council Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm
- IWC Membership Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm
- January 19th Wine & Cheese Tasting
- February 22nd International Festival, Overture Center, 11:00-5:00 pm
- April 12th IWC Bus Tour, Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha
- April 27th IWC Sauce-Tasting Contest
- May 30, 31, June 1st Festa Italia!
- July 19th Wine & Cheese Tasting, Clubhouse
- August 24th IWC Club Picnic
- September IWC Charity Golf Outing (TBA)
- October 12th Columbus Day Banquet
- December 6th IWC Christmas Party
- December 7th IWC Children's Party

Please clip and post this calendar.



HO-CHUNK GAMING

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Italia

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President's Message



I hope you're all thinking spring! It's hard to find anything that can compare to watching life "spring" from

once-frozen ground that has looked barren for so long this winter. With spring comes the thought of gardening and planting. Some members have expressed interest in planting various types of tomatoes and having a tasting event in September. If this sounds interesting, please let me know what you intend to grow and we'll see if we can avoid duplication.

Club member **Travis Hunter** did a masterful job preparing for the International Festival at the Overture Center on February 22nd. The event was a resounding success – molte grazie a Travis and all the volunteers who represented the club well before the public, including: **Ricardo Gandolfo, Jim Trameri, David Rizzo, Todd Cambio, Paul Meyer,**

Charlie Belz, Todd Vitale, Ed Nauman and John Castronovo. Let's also not forget **Frank Alfano** and **Tony Bruno**, who manned the Sister City display for the entire event.

Many thanks to **Todd Cambio** and **Dennis Di Carlantonio** for, once again, hosting Festa di Salciccia at the clubhouse on March 8th! Todd told me he needed to host this because he simply needed the sausage. What more motivation can one need?

Festa Italia is coming sooner than you think - it's time to start selling Raffle Tickets! Keep a couple in your wallet as you never know when the opportunity will present itself to make a sale. This year, members received 10 tickets; if you sell 9, the remaining ticket is yours to enter! If you're unable to participate in Festa, this is one way you can help the club put this event on and raise money for scholarships.

Club council member **Antonio Re** has agreed to preside over the Greenbush Heritage Foundation and is in the process of holding board meetings. Our club will be promoting

the use of the GHF as the tax-exempt vehicle for making donations for our successful charity and scholarship programs. We are hoping this will encourage more donations in the future.

Our new interim *Italia* editor, Phyllis DeGioia, has been elected as the new president of the IAWC. On behalf of the club, congratulazione, Filomena! We are looking forward to working with you to make both our clubs successful in the future!

I'm very happy to announce that we haven't lost any members this cycle (thank goodness!). It gets better. Our club welcomes two new members – **Mike Reuhl** and **Trevor Conti**. Mike was sponsored by (and works for) **Dan Guerra**. One of Mike's first projects for Dan was re-designing the WisItalia website. Trevor was sponsored by me. He's an investment advisor for Edward Jones in Verona and noticed that one of his recently deceased clients (**Joe Genna**) was a member of the club. Curious, Trevor contacted me and has become a member. All I can say is that this is living proof that our elder members are still looking out for the club!

Cent' Anni (e due)! ■■

New Members



Mike Reuhl



Trevor Conti



Frank Alfano and John Troia making sausage at the clubhouse.



Club Upkeep

It's an old building so there's always lots of fixing and upgrading that needs to be done. We insulated some pipes and walls in the

clubhouse to combat the extreme cold weather we had for most of the winter (we survived with no damage). Additionally, we've upgraded the Internet service and

telephone to business class so that we can use more video, Internet and TV services at the club. We're also looking to replace both the boiler and water heater in the coming months. Know that we are diligently maintaining/updating our clubhouse in honor of those who built it and maintained it in the past, all while keeping an eye to the needs of newer members.

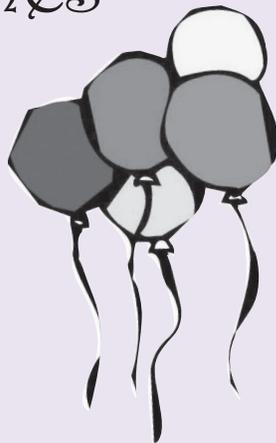
Advertising for Club Members

Do you have a business that offers services to the public? As a service to members, we're asking if you'd like to submit a short paragraph about your business and the services you offer and we'll run them (a few at a time) in the newsletter. If you need services, why not hire a paizan, eh? Please e-mail your entry to interim editor Phyllis DeGioia (woofingdog@tds.net) and we'll get it rolling! ■

Birthday Wishes

January Birthday Wishes

- Robert Brill (24)
- Russ Cerniglia (29)
- Frank DiPiazza (10)
- Jim DiUlio (13)
- Joseph Melli Jr. (18)
- Tom Pisapia (3)
- Tony Pullara (22)
- Antoni Re (29)



April Birthday Wishes

- A.J. (Nino) Amato (23)
- Tony Bonanno, Jr. (17)
- Anthony Bruno (30)
- John Caliva (15)
- Dominic Cuccia (28)
- Anthony DeGregoria (14)
- Tom DiPiazza (8)
- Mark Fumusa (5)
- Ricardo Gandolfo (26)
- Joseph Gmeinder (28)
- Daniel J. Langlois (27)
- Paul Meyer (17)
- William Peden (17)
- Dennis Puccetti (8)
- Mario Russo (14)
- George (fuJoe) Schiro (5)
- Karl Szewczyk (18) ■

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Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

Catherine Tripalin Murray

It's time to shed some light on Joe "Chicken" Cerniglia, an IWC member since the mid-1950s when he turned 18 and joined because it was exactly what his father had expected him to do.



Much time has passed since then and by now, Joe could have authored a book about growing up in the old Greenbush neighborhood and everything that followed. But there never seemed to be enough time to capture it all in writing.

Having known Joe since his Central High days, it became a two-hour reunion a few weeks ago when we settled in for a long conversation that began in the Old Country... Sicily to be exact... when his father, George Cerniglia, was born in Piana degli Albanesi, and another precious gift by the name of Teresa DiPiazza was born a short distance away in San Cipirello. They'd never meet in or around the small villages or miles that separated them, until they passed each other on a street thousands of miles away in Madison, Wisconsin, and a neighborhood called Greenbush.

George and Teresa married and settled in at 6 South Murray Street, next door to Carona's Grocery Store. It was where Joe and his three brothers grew up with the love and affection of wonderful parents and the togetherness of relatives and best friends. Though life was not perfected with endless amenities, living in the "Bush" offered something far greater than anyone living beyond its triangular boundaries could have imagined.

By the time Joe graduated from Central High in 1956, plans to attend college while polishing his baseball skills didn't materialize as planned. Because his Cerniglia-Schiro family had already established themselves as Madison detectives and policemen, Joe joined them as a policeman in Blooming Grove and when BG was annexed into the city of Madison, he served BG as a firefighter. The next giant step taken was becoming Middleton's Police Chief where he served from 1969-1974 before leaving to tackle life as a private detective, which led to establishing his own security business. Before long he was contacted by the Coliseum, known today as the Alliant Center, to guard Eric Clapton expected to arrive for his first "gig" in Mad City.

It was the beginning of providing limousines to and from airports and hotels with 24-hour security for well-known performers like Elvis Presley, Neal Diamond, Kenny Rogers, KISS, and seemingly everyone else in the world of rock and roll. He remembers having pizza with Barbara Mandrell, dinner at the Edgewater with Tony Bennett, managing Frank Sinatra, Wayne Newton, Diana Ross and the list goes on and on with enough to fill a book of memories, such as the fight witnessed by Elvis at the corner of E. Washington Avenue and Hwy 51. Elvis told Joe to stop the limo so he could help break up a fight between a gas station attendant and two men and when the men realized who he was, they got in their car and left in a hurry. The story was carried by newspapers throughout the country.

When limited seating at the Coliseum posed problems, performances were held elsewhere. Limiting the need for Joe's services meant that the years

sandwiched between 1970-1980 were ending and it was time to move on with other interesting chapters of employment.

Today, you'll find him at Madtown Pizza, a shop he owns with an abundance of pride and TLC at 912 E. Johnson (608-250-3333) by serving Italian beef, calzones, meatball subs, pasta, and pizza so great that a man from Chicago who ordered an 8-inch pizza, quickly ordered a 20-incher to carry back home. The cozy shop with a five star rating is open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. during the week, and until 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Joe also is employed as Director of Security and Transportation at Coventry Village, Madison's premier West Side Retirement Community, and transports residents for appointments and shopping trips.

After Joe and Kay Duncan were married in 1957, they were blessed with three children, Tony, Cathy, and Dominic, and further blessed with grandson Ryan. For Joe to have his brothers, Vito and Pete, here in Madison plus a seemingly endless supply of Cerniglia and Schiro relatives to connect with at any given moment, life can't get much better than that.

However, with everything he has achieved and enjoyed, his most favorite times during the past 15 years happen when he becomes Santa Claus to cancer patients at the American Family Children's Hospital. And if you've ever wondered who Santa is during the IWC's annual children's Christmas parties at the clubhouse, it's none other than our own...Joe "Chicken" Cerniglia.

To you, Joe, *Salute!* ! ■■





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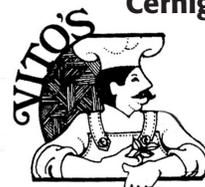
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ANNUAL SAUCE TASTING CONTEST AND PASTA DINNER



SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2014 AT THE CLUB

FROM 3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

**COST \$8.00 PER PERSON
(Includes Spaghetti Dinner)**



IF you're entering a sauce:

Sauce entrants must be a member of the Italian Workmen's Club or Italian American Women's Club. Sauces must be home-made (no canned or jarred sauces), can be cooked with meat and meat products but the meat pieces and bones must be removed prior to submittal. Each submittal must be one quart, NOT frozen and be at the Club by 2:30 PM on the day of the contest to be judged.

JUDGING WILL COMMENCE AT 3:00 PM

DINNER, PASTA & MEATBALLS, TO BE SERVED STARTING AT 4:00 PM

RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED (but not required)

PLEASE CONTACT

DR. DAN MALONE AT dmalone1949@gmail.com, OR

233-4047 OR THE CLUB AT 258-1880