



January • February
2015



Italia

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

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IWC Update

Italian Ambassador Visit:

Frank Alfano threw the gauntlet down when he heard that the Italian Ambassador to the US would be visiting either Madison or Milwaukee along with the Consul General in early December. Immediately, Frank hammered out an agenda and a hospitality offer that couldn't be refused and, shortly after the agenda was sent, it was announced that the His Excellency would visit Madison first on a trip that included other cities in the Midwest region. He wasn't disappointed.

The Ambassador was greeted at the airport with a security detail of representatives from the club. His agenda started with breakfast with Governor Walker (whose wife and father-in-law are of Italian descent) and included State Representative Peter Barca, Deputy Consul General Marco Graziosi, Cultural Affairs Director Andrea Raos, and club members **Frank Alfano, Ross DePaola, David Rizzo** and **Tony Bruno**. Breakfast was catered by IAWC member Sandy Hunter. Next came a visual tour of the



John Troia, Tim Gatti, Ross DePaola, Angela Masino, Joe Parisi, Phyllis DeGioia, Frank Alfano, Ambassador Claudio Bisognero, David Rizzo, Antonio Re, Giovanna Micelli-Jeffries and Tony Bruno.

UW campus from the 14th floor of Van Hise (arranged by Sara Mattavelli from the UW language department), followed by a lecture to students and faculty of the UW Italian Language Department (notably the largest Italian language program in the country!). The morning concluded in an executive luncheon at Porta Bella Restaurant that included Mayor Paul Soglin, County Executive (and proud IWC member) **Joe Parisi**, Representatives Peter Barca and Chris Sinicki, Chamber of Commerce President Zach Brandon, Deb Archer, President of the Greater Madison Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and many

others from the business community. The Ambassador graciously accepted gifts from the club, the Mayor, the County and even received gifts sent to the U.S. from our Sister City, Mantova! It was the very first time an Italian Ambassador to the U.S. had ever visited the State of Wisconsin. This prompted the Ambassador to wonder out loud during his luncheon speech "What took so long?"

The Ambassador was keenly interested in promoting Italian language as a bridge to commerce between the US and Italy. He recognized and praised the efforts of WisItalia and the success they've

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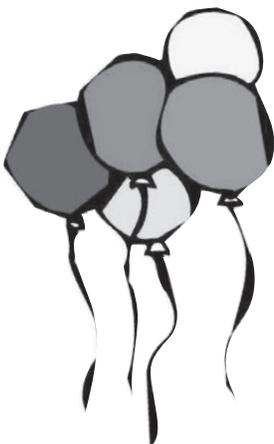


IAWC Calendar

- Nov 15 Corn (BINGO) party 6:30
Dec 3 Membership meeting 6:30 Cookie exchange
Dec Ring bells for Salvation Army at West Towne
Jan 2015 no meeting

IAWC Birthdays

- Marcia Smecko 1/1
Cheryl Parrino 1/21
Rosemary Troia 1/26
Phyllis DeGioia 2/3
Angela Masino 2/3
Kristi Dohm 2/6
Erin Mender 2/9
Toni Gunnison 2/16
Kathy Williams 2/17
Sister Toni Palermo 2/15
Marsha Oliva Miyagawa 2/24



President's Message



This is my first President's Message and I want to start by saying how honored I am to serve as president of the Italian Workmen's Club of Madison. I'm committed to combining our great traditions with new ideas that will add diversity and vitality to our club and community.

When I became a member four years ago, I immediately accepted the position of Membership Secretary, which helped me to quickly match names with faces. As a member of the Council, I was also able to participate in discussions on issues impacting both the short and long-term future of the club.

More recently, as Vice President and Festa Chair, I learned about the dedication of all the members who volunteer their time and effort to help us fulfill our mission of preserving the history, culture, language, and memories of our Italian ancestors who emigrated here in search of a better life.

A special thanks to our outgoing President, **Ross DePaola** for four years of great leadership and for making this such a seamless transition.

The month of December was noteworthy for several reasons.

On December 1, we hosted a visit to Madison by Claudio Bisogneiro, the Italian Ambassador to the United States. You can read more about this first ever event in our newsletter, but let

me just say a special thank you to **Frank Alfano** whose vision and extraordinary efforts made this possible.

The children's Christmas party took place on December 7. The smiling faces of over two dozen kids reminded us of what the spirit of Christmas is all about. Thank you to **Ross DePaola, Ron Giordan** and all who contributed their time.

The adult Christmas party took place on December 13. **Charlie Belz** and **Antonio Re** did a great job of organizing the event and everyone in attendance had a good time, especially tasting this year's wine.

Our new Vice President **Greg Schroeder** and several new council members were sworn in at our membership meeting on December 16. I look forward to working with Greg and the entire council; **Dan Dyer, Tony Bruno, Tony Fiore, John Troia, Tim Gatti, Mike Cammilleri, Trevor Conti, John Benjamin, Jim Trameri, Jim DiUlio, Charlie Belz, Ross DePaola, Antonio Re** and **Butch Pullara**. Together, we'll lead our club over the next two years.

As we begin 2015, I think our club should focus on these three ideas.

Honor The Past

Recognize the accomplishments of those members who built the club and remain its foundation.

Capture the stories and preserve the photos of the Greenbush neighborhood.

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Baking for Tutto Pasta

By Phyllis DeGioia, IAWC president

Before Festa Italia last year, **Butch Pullara** was doing electrical work at the Tutto Pasta trattoria at 305 State Street. He asked the owner, Pam McCord, if she'd be willing to put up posters for Festa, which she was. She hadn't heard of Festa Italia and enjoyed it when she went.

Pam stopped at the IAWC bake sale and asked if our club could bake for her restaurant. She liked the idea of offering her customers authentic Italian desserts made from scratch and baked by an Italian club. She thought she could advertise it. To bake for a restaurant requires using a commercial kitchen, which the kitchen at St Joseph's is not. After months of tossing the idea around and wondering if we could really do it, if it would be worth the effort, and if we could have enough volunteer interest to do it regularly, we decided to go for it. One large concern was preservation of our non-profit status, and the consensus was to have Pam donate to our scholarship fund.

IAWC will soon start baking desserts to be sold there. This month members are attending the required instructional class at the Food Enterprise & Economic Development (FEED) Kitchens

in Madison. FEED will help fill out the license information correctly, and we hope to have desserts at Tutto Pasta for Valentine's Day. Licensure could take longer than we hope, so we might not make that goal. But we sure will try!

Pam is not interested in cookies, but in cakes, pies, and tortes. IAWC members who wish to help will pitch in and bake once



in a while. If anyone is interested in baking for the restaurant contact Phyllis DeGioia. ■

Grapevine

The new Madison location of Patrick DuPula's new Salvatore's Tomato Pies received a great, half-page review in the Wisconsin State Journal. The review states "The long-awaited Salvatore's Tomato Pies Madison location could easily be four times as big to accommodate the restaurant's legion of fans." The Scorecard ends with "Bottom line: Salvatore's Tomato Pies makes a good case for believing the hype. Welcome to Madison, Sal." Congratulations, Patrick!

Italia is planning to write an article highlighting all the Italian restaurants and food service companies owned or managed by club members. Please contact Phyllis DeGioia at info@iawc-madison.com so that she knows who these members are. ■

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Italia

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Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



Take a moment to return to the past — 103 years to be exact — and imagine yourself as an immigrant who has settled here with others for a better life than what was left behind in their old country villages. Although there were countless issues in a new world to deal with on a daily basis, the most pressing concern had everything to do with the future, when an illness or death occurred and help would be needed from your fellow *paesani*.

That particular gathering more than a century ago in Madison in a place we identify being the old Greenbush neighborhood took place on January 18, 1912, when those desperate fears of our immigrant ancestors were addressed by Theodore Paratore with a group of 12 men who met in the rear of a store at 821 Regent Street operated by Angelo Maisano. No English spoken, or known, with dialects from villages left behind, stark realities required answers that would lead to patterning a club much like the mutual aid societies they knew of back home. The sun set that night on a club called *Lavoratori Siciliani Mutuo Soccoso e Beneficenza* that we know and love today as the Italian Workmen's Club, also respected as being one of the oldest continu-

ously active clubs of its kind in the United States.

Considering the precious legacy that began in 1912 when Francesco Barbato was sworn in as *numero uno presidente* with Paratore as his vice-president is now being embraced by **David Rizzo** as the club's new president with the same amount of passion recently passed on by retiring two-term IWC President **Ross DePaola** along with other IWC presidents who have also served the club with great pride and honor through the years. With this in mind, it's time to learn a bit more about Rizzo, who was born in Kenosha in 1952 to his Slovakian/Polish mother, Frances Haber Rizzo, and Italian father, John Rizzo, whose parents emigrated from Platania in Calabria, Italy in the early 20th century.

David attended the UW-Madison and graduated in 1974 with a degree in Journalism/Advertising. He worked in Marketing Communications at Jockey International, Kimberly Clark, and Oscar Mayer/Kraft, and is currently working part time at the UW-Madison as a consultant. Sponsored by **Frank Alfano**, he joined the IWC in the fall of 2010, immediately became Membership Secretary and assumed the role of Vice-President in 2013. He served as Festa Italia Chair in 2014 and steps in with great pride as the IWC's new president. And when there's a time out that intersperses daily schedules, he becomes an avid Badger sports fan (especially football), and also

enjoys golf, reading and recording music.

David and his wife, Barbara Teasdale Rizzo, a retired registered nurse, reside in Fitchburg, although he is from Kenosha. Their son, Brian, has a culinary degree from MATC and is Product Marketing Chef with Sub Zero Wolf; Brian resides in Verona with his wife, Jenny. Daughter Shannon has a degree in urban forestry from UW Stevens Point and lives in Madison. Though David's father was a cook in the army, David leaves the cooking to Brian, as well as Barbara who makes "fantastic minestrone, great Italian beef, and delicious lasagna" enjoyed by IWC members one night at the clubhouse.

Focusing on what he hopes to accomplish during his two-year term as president, Rizzo will also recognize the accomplishments of those members who built the club and remain its foundation. Another soft spot in his heart will embrace the club's mission to become experts in winemaking. Add that to celebrating the present with traditions firmly ingrained during Festa by adding wine & cheese tastings, sausage making, the annual Columbian of the Year celebration, and charity events as well as inaugurating events that will better engage younger members. And aside from nourishing the local scene with a major membership drive, the future will continue to strengthen ties with Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Green Bay clubs.

Needless to say, IWC President David Rizzo's design for the future is to be applauded by raising more than a few wine glasses. *Salute!* ■

Italian Workmen's Club
Children's Party 2014



had in developing Italian language classes the State. Notably, His Excellency left the luncheon in Madison and went immediately to an Italian language immersion school in Milwaukee (yes, Milwaukee did get visit as well!) In all, it was one of the proudest moments ever for the Italian Workmen's Club. Just a single whirlwind morning in time but encapsulated forever in history!

Christmas Parties Report:

The club's Children's party was held at the clubhouse on Sunday, December 7th with about 25 children in attendance. The children were entertained by Bob Kahn who performed various magic and juggling acts highlighted by the juggling of – plungers and dirty diapers (ewwww!!!). Many thanks to **Bill Battista** and **Ron Giordan**, who acquired gift bag items for the kids, and to **Butch & Nancy Pullara** who helped set-up the event. This wouldn't be possible without Santa's Helper, **Marcia Smecko**, who orchestrates the crafts for the kids. Also, **Jean Musillami** organized the refreshments and goodies! And then there's Santa. **Joe Cerniglia** (shhh!) listened with great intent as the kids told Santa their hopes and wishes for Christmas. As always, we carry on this tradition to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Over 50 people attended the Club's annual Christmas party held at the clubhouse on December 13th. It was wonderful



IWC bocce team (L to R) Nick Lemin, Jim Trameri, Tim Gatti and David Rizzo

to see all the tables full with joyous laughter and camaraderie. It was a great casual event for members and friends to just relax and take a break from the stresses of the holidays. Attendees dined on stuffed shells, cheeses, salami and crackers as well as many fine desserts – thanks to **Joe Cabibbo** and **Sandy Hunter**. We also provided a tasting of the new wine which will only improve with age. We have to thank organizer **Charlie Belz**, **Jim Trameri**, **Antonio Re**, **Jack Parrino** and **Butch & Nancy Pullara** for all their help!

International Festival

The club will, once again have a booth at the International Festival being held at the Overture Center on Saturday, February 21, from 10:30am-5:30pm. As we did last year, we'll be serving meatball sandwiches, Italian beef and olive salad. **Travis Hunter** is, once again, organizing the event which has become a great success for the club.

Festa Italia 2015

We've begun the planning for Festa Italia 2015 which will be held at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg. The chairmanship of Festa this year will be divided between **David Rizzo**, **Frank Alfano** and **Ross DePaola**. Each will have their committee assignments to insure the event runs smoothly. We broke new ground by having our first "virtual" meeting using an on-line meeting service as we would have cancelled due to inclement weather. We're well on our way to another successful event!

Bocce Tournament

On Saturday, January 10, a four-member team represented the IWC at the 6th Annual Roma Lodge Winter Bocce Tournament in Racine, WI. Pictured left to right above, **Nick Lemin**, **Jim Trameri**, **Tim Gatti** and **David Rizzo** enjoyed a full day of playing bocce, eating great Italian food, sampling cold beer and making new friends. The

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Celebrate The Present

Continue the traditions of Festa, Wine & Cheese Tastings, Sausage Making, Golf Tournament, Columbian of the Year Event and Charity Fund Raisers.

Add new events / activities to better engage our younger members.

Envision The Future

Build stronger ties with Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Green Bay clubs.

Aggressively pursue a membership drive.

In future newsletters, I'll include

updates of how we're progressing in these areas.

President's Mail Box

Send me an e-mail (david-rizzo@me.com) or drop a note in the box I'll provide in our club's office. If there's something you like or don't like about our club, I really want to hear from you. I can't promise that we'll address every need, or implement every idea, but I can promise you the courtesy of a response.

Fino alla prossima volta, essere bene e che Dio benedica.

David Rizzo ■■

Bocce continued from page 6

members of the Roma Lodge Bocce League took some time to explain and demonstrate the finer points of indoor bocce. Although lacking in experience playing on the fast surface, the IWC team was competitive throughout. As President Rizzo said, "We didn't come home with the trophy, but we scored our share of points, and made some of the veteran players a little nervous." This was the first of what the IWC hopes will be many more opportunities to engage with other Italian Clubs in the state during 2015. ■■



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

Feb 4 Giovanna Jeffries' book

Please clip and post this calendar.

Birthday Wishes

January

- Richard Parisi (5)
- William Fannucchi (6)
- Daniel Capacio (9)
- Matthew Jarosz (9)
- Todd Vitale (11)
- Arthur Bormett (14)
- Carlo Bonura (17)
- Nick Baldarotta (23)
- Peter Cerniglia (24)
- Carmine Ciarletta (24)
- Daniel Blasiole (31)
- Jason Mascitti (31)

February

- Joe LaBarbera (3)
- Thomas Speranza (3)
- Louis Cassini (4)
- Nate Troia (6)
- Thomas Germanotta (10)
- Frank Alfano (12)
- Joe Alfano (12)
- Carl Bruscato (13)
- Vito Cerniglia (13)
- Joseph Schiro (19)
- Vincent Ritacca (21)
- Joseph Scarpelli Jr (22)
- Robert Chiesa (24)
- Peter Sorce (24)
- Stephen Sasso (26)
- Rossario Parisi (28)



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WISITALIA ANNOUNCES

ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASSES AT THE IWC Winter Spring 2015

Are you interested in learning to speak the language of the "Bel Canto" and of the Arts, and discover the beauties and artistic traditions of Venice, Florence, Rome and more? Do you appreciate Italian style in fashion, cuisine, and craftsmanship? Are you planning to realize your dreams and to finally travel to Italy? Then enroll in ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASSES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN. Classes emphasize developing Italian speaking and listening skills and students are encouraged to speak and build their skills with every lesson. In addition to regular classes, the program includes a number of enrichment lectures by guest speakers.

Adult classes are offered at the Beginning, Low Intermediate and Advanced level during week evenings. Classes for children are held on Saturday mornings.

“ Adult classes:

Continuing Italian 2*: 5:30- 7:00 PM -Wednesday, Jan 21- April 8,2015

Low intermediate Italian* 5:45- 7:15: - Monday, Jan 19- April 6,2015

Advanced level: 6:00 - 7:30 PM - Thursday, Jan 22-April 9, 2015

Cost: \$140.00 (senior citizen, over 65, \$100.00; IWC members \$85.00)

*Textbook for Beginning & Low Intermediate classes available at University Bookstore - Hildale: *Ultimate Italian* (Banchieri & Lettieri), 2009.

“ Children classes (ages 4 to 9): Saturdays, Jan 17 – May 2, 2015

Saturdays 9:30-11:00 Cost: \$120.00 (scholarships available upon request)

Location: All classes are held at the Italian Workmen's Club (IWC), 914 Regent (corner of Park St.)

For information and registration call Giovanna @ 238-1991; e-mail: Italink1@charter.net

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____ tel: _____

Mailing Address: _____

email: _____

Children Only: Age: _____ School currently attending: _____

Previous exposure to Italian _____

Please check course you in which you wish to enroll:

_____ Mondays: 5:45- 7:15 p.m. Low Intermediate Italian: basic communication 2

_____ Wednesdays: 5:30-7:00 p.m. Continuing Italian: basic communication 1

_____ Thursdays: 6:00- 7:30 p.m. Advanced Conversation

Make check payable to WISITALIA-Madison and mail to:

Att, Giovanna Miceli Jeffries, 5517 Greening Lane/ Madison, WI 53705

APPLICATION FOR MISS FESTA ITALIA 2015

Festival dates – Friday May 29 – Sunday May 31

Festa Italia, an Italian Festival sponsored by the Italian Workmen’s Club of Madison is seeking applications for Miss Festa Italia 2015. Miss Festa must be at least 18 years of age. Miss Festa serves as a goodwill ambassador whose duties include representing the Italian Community of Madison at Festa Italia on the dates specified above, greeting and mingling with guests at the festival, participating in media events/opportunities with regard to the advertising/publicity for Festa Italia, and other duties as may be determined by the Festa Committee and the Italian Workmen’s Club Council.

Miss Festa will receive a stipend of \$200.00 from the Italian Workmen’s Club to cover costs associated with obtaining or creating a native Italian or Sicilian dress. She will also receive a floral crown and sash to wear with her dress.

Interested applicants should complete the form below and return it with a recent photograph and a one page letter/essay that tells us about your Italian heritage and why you would like to be considered as a candidate for Miss Festa Italia 2015. Return your application to:

**Miss Festa 2015
% Phyllis DeGioia
4226 Beverly Rd
Madison, WI 53711**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 3, 2015

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGE: _____

Italian Heritage: _____

School(s) currently attending: _____

Other education: _____

Employment/occupation: _____

Awards received: _____

Hobbies: _____

Community Service: _____

Talent: _____