



September • October
2015



Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

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President's Message



The air is crisp, the sun is shining and the leaves are changing. Get outside and enjoy what God provides. Fall in Wisconsin is my favorite season. Football, apple picking, pumpkin patches and hot cider. I'll even sneak in a few rounds of golf.

Recent Events

Roma Lodge Bocce Tournament (August 9)

Antonio Re, Jim Trameri and **Raul DeLuna** represented our club at the Roma Lodge Summer Bocce Tournament in Racine. Although a little shorthanded, they competed well and helped maintain our good relations with our brothers to the southeast.

Golf Outing (August 23)

Our annual golf outing was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Sun Prairie Golf Club. **Tony Bruno** (assisted by **Frank Alfano**) did a masterful job of organizing

the event, signing up sponsors and acquiring an impressive array of raffle prizes and auction items. **Vito Cerniglia** prepared a tasty sausage sandwich lunch, over 50 golfers enjoyed 18 holes of best ball golf and they were joined by 30 more for a delicious steak dinner with all the trimmings. We raised over \$2,000 for Badger Childhood Cancer Network and a check will be presented at our October membership meeting.

Summer Picnic (August 30)

Butch Pullara led a team that organized our club picnic at McKee Farms Park. **Vito Cerniglia** donated the sausages, **John Troia** manned the grill and **Jack Parrino** made sure all other necessary supplies were available. A nice variety of salads and desserts completed the feast, along with plenty of cold beverages. A good time was had by all in attendance.

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Mantova Mayor Welcomed!

On September 8, former IWC President Ross DePaola and IAWC President Phyllis DeGioia delivered a personal Sister City welcome to newly elected Mayor Mattia Pallazi in Mantova. Ross and Phyllis were there with Ross's family members to attend the wedding of Luca Modena and Claudia Bava. The meeting was very cordial and Ross invited Mayor Palazzi to visit the Madison and to explore how our cities might share ideas and commerce.



Ross DePaola and **Phyllis DeGioia** with Mantova Mayor **Mattia Palazzi** along with family and friends in Mantova.



Grapevine — Condolences

Condolences

Paul J. Cuccia, age 76, passed away peacefully, with his wife, Mary, at his side on Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, at his home. He was a true Madisonian, born and raised in the Greenbush neighborhood, the son of Vito and Katherine (Brashi) Cuccia. Paul was a proud member of the Madison Central High School class of 1957. In his youth he enjoyed playing fast pitch and slow pitch softball with such teams as Josies, Trameri's and Cellar Bar. He also enjoyed playing cribbage, going to the casino, bowling and picking mushrooms. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1964, including 13 months stationed in Germany. Paul worked for the City of Madison Street Department for 38 years and 8 months and was a proud 50+ year member of Local 236. Paul is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary (Metzker); sister, Lucy Gmeinder-Borcherding; nephews, Jim (Pam) Gmeinder, John (Liz) Gmeinder, and godson Joe (Tanya) Gmeinder.

Dean F. Harrison, age 69, of Madison, passed away July 28, 2015. He was born on Aug. 8, 1945, in Madison, the son of Francis and Mayme (Mitchell) Harrison. Dean, a native Madisonian, grew up in the Greenbush neighborhood, attended Catholic schools and graduated from Edgewood High School. He married Gail Borseth on July 18, 1987. He was a longtime employee, driver and trainer for Madison Metro. Prior to working for the City of Madison, he worked for Hartwig Mail Service. Dean is survived by his wife, Gail; children, Heather (Owen) Coats, Heidi (Jerry) Harrison, Heath (Dawn) Harrison, Hoyt (Monica) Harrison and Holden Harrison; stepchildren, Adam

(Kathleen) Borseth, Adrian (Shiva) Borseth, Eric (Lynda) Borseth and Doug Dallmann; 18 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Donna (Tom) Yaudes; brother-in-law, Ron Esser; and numerous other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Shirley Esser; brother, Donald Harrison; and nephew, Brian Yaudes.

Anthony Mathew Pelletter, age 71, passed away in his sleep at home Sept. 27. Tony was born on April 24, 1944, in Madison, to Mathew and Anna (Maggiore) Pelletter. He grew up in the Greenbush neighborhood, and was very proud of his Italian heritage. Tony attended St. Joseph Elementary School and graduated from Edgewood High School in 1962. Tony was married to Jean Malec in 1966, and together they had two sons, TJ and Michael. In 1987, Tony married Vicky Arndt. Tony was a self-employed public accountant in Monona, Wis. He loved his Harley Davidson motorcycles, was a dedicated Green Bay Packers fan his entire life, enjoyed ATVing and fishing for the big one. Most of all, Tony loved to tell his infamous stories of travel and adventure to anyone who would listen. Tony is survived by his loving wife, Vicky; his cherished son, TJ and his wife, Tina; his sister, Madeline (Ray) Laufenberg; and his brother, John (Rose) Pelletter. Tony is preceded in death by his son, Michael; niece, Julie Myslivy; nephew, Chris Thiel; his brother, Joe Pelletter; his brother-in-law, Dick Thiel; and his parents.

Wedding in Mantova

Congratulazione

Some Americans were invited to the Mantova wedding of Claudia Bava



IAWC Birthdays

Paola DiPiazza (Sept 10)

Phyllis Masino (Sept 20)

Sophie Healy (Oct 2)

Catherine Murray (Oct 4)

Linda Belz (Oct 20)

Sandy Hunter (Oct 25)

Flo Blazek (Oct 31)

Santina Ciarletta (Oct 31)

IWC Birthdays

September

Greg Puleo (5) • Richard DiSalvo (6)

Michael Lumina (6) ^a Jack Parrino (8)

Daniel Guerra Jr. (12)

Joseph Scalissi (16) • Peter Macaluso (17)

John Aiello (18) ^a John Benjamin (19)

Rossario DePaola (21) • Joseph (Buffo) Cerniglia (25) • Michael Liotta (26)

John Nora (27) • Matthew Coppla (30)

October

Sam Balistreri (4) • John Hunter (4)

Travis Hunter (7) • Luigi Vitiritti (10)

Donald Mash (12) • Kevin Miller (12)

Joseph Daguanno (15)

Michael Schmidt (15) • Andrew Lager (16)

Joseph (Pepo) Parisi (24)

Christopher Marini (29)

Steve Tortorici (30)

Mike Cammilleri (31)

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Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



There was a time when every member of the IWC sported a vowel at the end of their first and last name. Founded in 1912 as a mutual aid society patterned from those left behind in the old country, the club *Lavoratori Siciliani Mutuo Socorso e Beneficenza Societa* of founding members and those who joined later welcomed doors being opened for a better life in America despite having names others couldn't pronounce. Soon first names like Giuseppe, Giovanni, Antonio and Salvatore became shortened to Joe, John, Tony and Sal making it easier for non-Italians/Sicilians to use in the work place. And then there were nicknames, so cleverly attached along the way describing members in humorous fashion like "Golfball, Chicken, Lips, Boof, Tiny" and the list goes on as you'll see attached on a bulletin board inside the club. It was merely an ethnic beauty that flourished within their triangular shaped settlement.

Being a clever tradition and part of life in the old Greenbush neighborhood has somewhat disappeared with time, yet newer generations like IWC VP **Greg Schroeder** with no vowels at the end of his name continue to carry pride from the past with memories that will last forever. Mention his family names, Loniello and

Gianquinto, and it turns the first page of many chapters from a neighborhood that no longer exists. Greg's grandfather, Cecil Loniello, was born in Palermo, Sicily, in 1912. Two year later, Cecil, his mother and older sister, boarded a ship to join Cecil's father, who had arrived earlier in search of a new life for his family. When his father died, Cecil was only 13, and he began working at the railroad to help support his mother, three sisters and seven brothers. Much later, Cecil opened a business of his own called Capital Beverage, where he sold Huber beer and Silver Springs pop (soda). Retiring after 40 years, a celebration was held at the IWC clubhouse. In 1990, Cecil Loniello passed away.

Greg's grandmother, Jennie (Gianquinto), was born on a farm in Rockford and had four sisters and four brothers. There she met Cecil, who lived at the farm next door. When Jennie and Cecil married and settled down in Madison on Bowen Court in the Greenbush neighborhood, it was where they raised four boys, David, Fred, Russ and Joe, and a daughter, Angie, who would become Greg's



mother. His Nonna Jennie had been a homemaker and member of the Italian Women's Club who passed away in 1994.

Needless to say, Greg Schroeder's roots grow very deep in Greenbush, a neighborhood we refer to with great affection as the old "Bush." He grew up proudly immersed in Sicilian heritage through family picnics and festivals that eventually became the IWC's Festa Italia. Greg graduated from West High in 1986, was their wrestling state champion, entered the UW and became a member of their wrestling team. He received an undergraduate degree in economics and two master's degrees in statistics and business finance. After spending 10 years living in Manhattan and working on Wall Street as an investment analyst, he and his college sweetheart wife, Michelle, returned to Madison in 2004 to raise their family and be close to his brother Chris, and sister, Amber. A short month after arriving back home,

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President's Message *continued*

Following the meeting, Sister City advocate Diletta Piazza led the entourage on a tour of the recently opened Bibliotecha (Library) Teresiana and Teatro Bibiena (performance theater where Mozart once performed). In all, the visit planted seeds that we hope will grow for years to come!

Wine Making (Crush the Grapes – September 18)

A big thanks to **Paul Meyer** for purchasing and arranging for delivery of the grapes and coordinating the wine – making effort. The first step in the process (breaking the skins of the grapes) was completed at the club using our classic wooden wine press. Thanks also to **Jim Pullara, Dennis DiCarlantonio** (and his two children, Sirio and Isabella), **Todd Cambio** (and his friend from Japan, Koichiro Yamada), **Luigi Vittriti, John Benjamin, Andrew**

Lager, Ross DePaola, Dan Dyer, and Jack Theel for helping out. The natural fermentation process will eventually lead to the time – consuming pressing and bottling. Please consider joining your fellow members in helping to preserve the tradition of authentic wine – making the way our ancestors did it.

Elections

In keeping with our by-laws, we need to conduct elections in October for three of the six Councilman At Large positions on our council. A fully staffed council is vital to conducting the necessary business of the club. Please consider submitting your name as a candidate by sending an e-mail to davidrizzo@me.com.

Updates

Honor The Past

A diligent effort is underway to categorize and identify the people

and properties in the thousands of photos that we've accumulated over the years. Thanks to **Tim Gatti, Jack LeTourneau, Frank Alfano, Tony Bruno** and others for their efforts to preserve the history and heritage of the old Greenbush neighborhood.

Celebrate The Present

Join us on October 11 for our annual Columbus Day dinner at the Porta Bella restaurant. In addition to cocktails and a delicious dinner, we'll present our special awards for service to our club and the community.

Envision The Future

A special Review Committee has been meeting to develop ideas to increase revenue and control expenses for our annual Festa Italia.

A committee will begin meeting in October to develop a strategic plan for the club. The purpose is to ensure that our club remains strong and vibrant for future generations. ■

Italia

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Italian American Book Club, Madison

This club meets monthly at the Neighborhood House in Madison. Next meeting is October 21st, 6:30pm where they'll talk about Columbus and Jay Parini's novel Bay of Arrows. All the books to be discussed can be found for purchase on-line. For more information, contact Manuela at manuela.francavilla@gmail.com. You can also go to the website: <http://mfitalianlanguageservices.com/italian-american-readings/> and/or look them up on Facebook (where they also have a link to the website).

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Golf Outing

by **Tony Bruno**, *Golf Outing Chairman*

Fifty golfers made the trip out to the Sun Prairie Golf Course on Sunday, August 23, to enjoy sunny but cool weather, good company, great food, and a golf at a variety of levels. Another 35 people came out to join the golfers for a great steak dinner, cooked to perfection by the Cerniglia family, and to contribute to a worthy cause, the Badger Childhood Cancer Network (BCCN).

Mary Troia and her sisters, Sandy Brill and Debbie Dyer, got all the golfers registered and made sure every foursome had a team packet with two complimentary drink tickets, meal tickets, hole prize information, outing rules, an IWC Charity Classic golf ball, and a tee from Park Street Shoe Repair. **Ross DePaola** got all the team pictures taken before our tee off time.

All the golfers and helpers were treated to a sumptuous Italian sausage sandwich with sautéed green peppers and onions - and Vito's garlic sauce, before the left for their respective tee boxes. The **Cerniglias** roasted the sausages.

The format was a scramble with a shotgun start so that every foursome started at approximately the same time, and finished at approximately the same time, so that there was time to sit down with old friends and new acquaintances for a refreshing beverage - or two - before the luscious steak dinner. The steaks were chosen by **Vito Cerniglia** and cooked to perfection by Vito's *famiglia*; the golf course provided huge baked potatoes, sautéed mushrooms and onions, milk, coffee, soda, and chocolate chip cookies. Good bread was donated by Panera Bakery at East Towne.

After dinner, prizes were awarded to the three teams with the lowest scores, and winners of the flag events. Our special guests for the evening, whose child is suffering with cancer, described the treatments, anxieties, fears, and pressures they endured after his diagnosis, and how the BCCN is supporting and assisting them.

The annual raffle followed, which raises the bulk of the money we contribute to BCCN, and included a wide variety of prizes. Everyone who bought a raffle ticket won at least one prize. All the proceeds of this event, after expenses, are given to BCCN.

The evening - again - ended on a happy, positive note, and reinforced the idea that good things happen when we all work together. This event has run so smoothly and so much fun because of the work of our members, especially **Frank Alfano, Ross DePaola, Dan Dyer, John Troia, John Aiello, the Cerniglia family**, and our president, **Dave Rizzo**. We also want to thank our hole sponsor, QR Lending, and all the businesses who contributed prizes, food, and information, and the Sun Prairie Golf Course for helping to make our event a success. ■■

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Greg joined the IWC, sponsored by **Steve Sasso**.

Greg and Michelle, a podiatrist who works at Associated Podiatrists and Associated Physicians, are proud parents of two daughters, Bailey, age 13, and Brookelyn, age 8. Greg is co-founder of Wisco Investment Management, an independent investment advisor here in Madison, and serves as their portfolio manager. At Wisco, he works with individuals, families and businesses to help manage investment and retirement portfolios. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, playing golf, volunteering with the Badger Wrestling Club, Beat the Streets-Madison, and Madison South Rotary. Add that to being IWC Vice President and it's fair to say that Greg Schroeder is a happy Sicilian trooper intent on preserving his heritage while enjoying life to the fullest.

To you, Greg Schroeder, *Salute!* ■■

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and Luca Modena, a drummer who has played with two different bands at Festa Italia and has gotten to know many club members. Claudia has been to Madison also. **Phyllis DeGioia, Ross DePaola**, his wife Penny and daughter Laura, and some friends were thrilled to attend the nuptials, which were held at an old estate outside Mantova. The ceremony was held outside. The sheer volume of incredible food was nothing short of unbelievable, as were the number of wedding cakes, the live band, and the celebrations - such as having a blindfolded bride feel a number of men's faces to see if she knew her husband's, and having the blindfolded groom feel various ankles to see if he knew his wife's - were fascinating to watch as they were quite different from American weddings. IWC and IAWC say congratulazione to the newlyweds, who honeymooned in Portugal. ■■

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

Please clip and post this calendar.

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