



March • April
2016



Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

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President's Message



Spring is only a few weeks away. It's a time for refreshing body, mind and spirit. Take a brisk walk, or an invigorating bike ride along the many trails in our community. Read a book, listen to music, embrace yoga, or discover other forms of relaxation to slow the pace of life. Share a smile and focus on the beauty that surrounds you, not the negative news that confounds you.

A big thanks to those who've renewed their membership for 2016. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please send a check to the IWC, attention **John Troia**, Membership Secretary.

Upcoming Events

Bottling the "Oaked" Wine (March 15)

We bottled most of our recent vintage prior to our January membership meeting. A special thanks to **Ross DePaola, Paul Meyer**

and **Todd Cambio** for their leadership. However, we added oak sticks to two of our carboys requiring a little more aging. The intent is to "soften up" the wine, making it smoother, less harsh and more quickly drinkable. Join us prior to our March membership meeting to bottle the "oaked" wine and have a taste. Take pride in preserving the tradition of authentic wine – making the way our ancestors did it.

Sauce Tasting (April 24)

Our annual sauce tasting contest will once again be organized and hosted by **Dr. Dan Malone**. Every Italian family has a sauce recipe that has been handed down from generation to generation. Each recipe is unique. Share yours and join in the fun. See the enclosed flyer for more details and information on how to enter.

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Gilda's Club

In early February, IAWC provided their fourth annual lasagna dinner for Gilda's Club, a Middleton community for people with cancer and their families. As usual, their dining room was full of people eager to have lasagna, bread, salad, and homemade cannoli.

Lasagna was made the night before by **Rick and Debby Hillebrand, Jean Musillami, Mary Troia, Linda Belz, and Ross Scovotti**. Servers at Gilda's included **Debby, Rick, Jean, Mary, Linda, Phyllis DeGioia** and **Barb Hillebrand**.

IWC and IAWC Combining Celebrations

By unanimous vote of both clubs, IAWC's Woman of the Year will now be held in October at the IWC's Columbian banquet. IAWC will still celebrate their anniversary in April, otherwise nothing will change for either club. Apparently everyone is looking forward to a joint celebration this coming October!

Baking Dessert for Tutto Pasta

IAWC began baking for Tutto Pasta, an Italian restaurant on State Street, to earn more money for scholarships. It was a long process to get to the point of baking for the restaurant for the first time for this Valentine's Day. First, a commercial kitchen was needed, and we ended up using FEED on the east side, which involved training, getting a license from the state, and getting a member, **Angela Masino**, certified in food safety. Soon we hope to have another member certified in food safety so that the same person doesn't have to be at FEED each time we bake. Pam McCloud, the owner of Tutto Pasta, is displaying a sign at the restaurant saying that the desserts were baked by IAWC.

For the inaugural session, Angela, who is in charge of the committee, chose to make a complicated custard and sponge cake with rum called *Zuppa Inglese* (English soup). It's called that because of its similarity to the British trifle. Angela was assisted by **Ashleigh Yonke**, who helped cook and clean, and **Phyllis DeGioia**, who ran to the grocery store twice in between cleaning sessions. ■■



Angela Masino frosts a custard, sponge and rum cake to be served at Tutto Pasta on State Street.

IWC

Ross Scovotti 2/13

March

Tom Pisapia (3)

Frank DiPiazza (10)

Jim DiUlio (13)

Joseph Puccio (13)

Joseph Melli Jr (18)

Mark Raimond (19)

Robert Brill (24)

Russ Cerniglia (29)

Antonio Re (29)

April

Mark Fumusa (5)

George Schiro (5)

Tom DiPiazza (8)

Dennis Puccetti (8)

Anthony DeGregoria (14)

Mario Russo (14)

John Caliva (15)

Tony Bonanno Jr (17)

Paul Meyer (17)

William Peden (17)

Karl Szewczyk (18)

Nino Amato (23)

Ricardo Gandolfo (26)

Daniel Langlois (27)

Dominic Cuccia (28)

Joseph Gmeinder (28)

Anthony Bruno (30)

IAWC

Judy Way April 7

Mary Katic April 10

Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



Ron Gatti and his sons, **Tim** and **Anto**, now grace the ever-growing list of IWC members, this time

carrying us back to a tiny northern Italian village of Fubini located in the hilly wine country of Piemonte where Ron's grandfather, Alfredo Gatti, was born in 1892. Back then, plans were made in the Gatti family that the oldest sibling would be the first to leave the homeland in search of a more fruitful life in America. In 1906, accompanied by three family friends, Alfredo, being the second child, set sail from Genova at the age of 14 to join his older brother, Carlo, to become cooks in New York City. The next to arrive at Ellis Island were two sisters. Because one had contacted tuberculosis during the voyage and was denied entry, both returned to Fubini. Any future plans for the remaining siblings were dismantled due to the onset of World War I and a questionable post-war Italian economy.

After Alfredo had mastered his role as a fine cook, he eventually moved to Chicago and became a professional chef at many restaurants, one being the prestigious Congress Hotel. Though not yet a citizen, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in France during World War I. When the war ended, he returned to the melting

pot of Chicago where he met and married Maria Kowalska, an immigrant from Poland. Sixteen years after initially arriving in this country, Alfredo became a naturalized citizen and two months later, Ron Gatti's father, Henry, was born.

Years later Henry Gatti met and married Ruth Fromm, of German ancestry, in the same Chicago north side neighborhood where Ron and his two sisters grew up. Although Alfredo would eventually retire to Florida, when family gathered visits always centered around playing bocce on the court Henry had built in their backyard, and the unforgettable Italian feasts. Those included incredible lasagna Ruth learned from her father-in-law, perfected with special touches under the guidance the master chef of Henry's siblings, Uncle Riccard; and the annual Christmas dinners held at his home, remembered for the volume of Italian food and number of courses...*ahhhhh mangiare...*

Summer vacations for the Gatti family meant driving north into Wisconsin and hundreds of miles beyond to reach Hurley and Hayward where cabins were rented on lakes. They tested their fishing skills while appreciating what Wisconsin offered. Those northern experiences developed into a passion that led Ron to a college degree in Wildlife Ecology from Iowa State, graduate school at UW-Madison, and a career in Wildlife

Research with the Wisconsin DNR.



While attending grad school in 1976, Ron met his wife Deb, from Madison's east side and a perfect match. She not only was a White Sox fan, but vacationed at the same Hayward resort with her family and spent her high school years living along the edge of the Greenbush neighborhood at Clyman Place and Murray Street. After marrying in 1981 and living in various local areas, they settled in Fitchburg with their sons, Tim and Anto.

Gatti continued on page 7



Madison and Mantova Exchange Children's Art

IWC and our sister city in Mantova have been talking about a pen pal relationship between the children in our cities for a couple of years. Finally, last fall a program was put in place. The artist in residence at the Goodman Community Center (a private non-profit whose mission is to strengthen the lives and serve the educational, social, and fitness needs of residents on Madison's near east side). David Kelly, came up with the original idea. He went to the City of Madison website to contact sister cities to see if any would be interested. He also contacted **Frank Alfano** about the possibility of an exchange.

Frank spoke with **David Rizzo** and **Tony Bruno**. They put Kelly in contact with Signora Diletta Piazza of the Mantova mayor's office to

see if they had any interest, and they did. Kelly then assigned the kids at Goodman to draw pictures about Madison and Wisconsin. The children drew about 250 pictures that were displayed at Goodman for about two weeks and then mailed to Mantova, where they were displayed at schools and will be at city hall later this month. Signora Piazza found schools that were interested in participating.

Frank contacted the Goodman Community Center, and Signora Piazza found appropriate classes.

On Feb. 5 at 8:30 a.m. (3:30 p.m. in Mantova), the children who drew the pictures were able to talk to each other over Skype. The children who drew the pictures

were able to see and talk to each other over Skype. The kids at Goodman gathered in front of the impressive display of artwork and communicated directly with a classroom full of eager and excited children in Mantova, led by Signora Piazza.

During the Skype session, the kids could ask each other questions and learn about cultural similarities and differences.

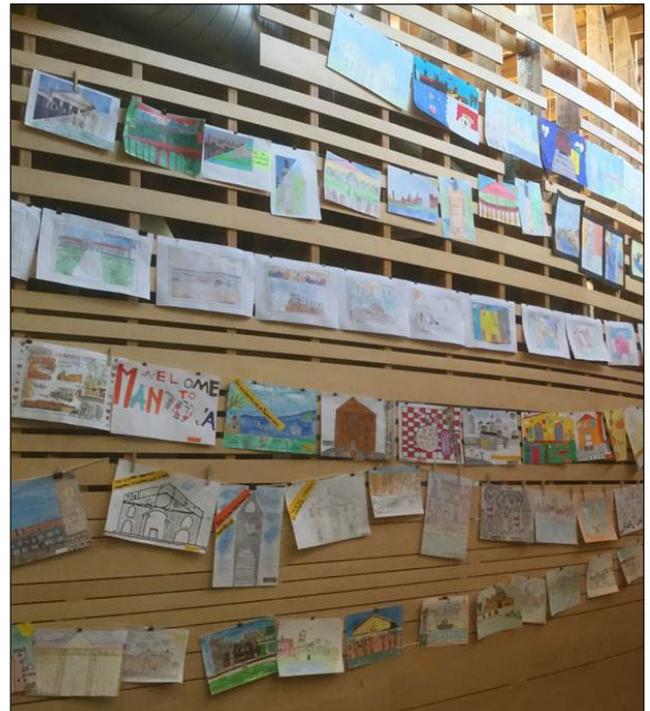
"The joy on their faces was priceless," David said.

Kelly is looking into the possibility of an Italian Day at Goodman in the near future, including a sampling of Italian food prepared by members of the IWC and IAWC.



Children at the Goodman Community Center talk on Skype with kids their age in Mantova. Frank Alfano is the middle of the three adults.

Art from children in Mantova was displayed at the Goodman Community Center. The art has now been given to Frank Alfano for the club's use.



President's Message *continued*

Bus Trip to Milwaukee, Racine & Kenosha (April 30)

Get on board for a full day of delicious food, refreshing beverages, a unique shopping experience, friendly sports competition and priceless camaraderie. Our deluxe motor coach tour will make stops at the ICC in Milwaukee, Roma Lodge in Racine and Tenuta's Delicatessen and Italian American Club in Kenosha. See the enclosed flyer for more details and information on how to reserve your seat(s).

Festa Italia (June 3 – 5)

Planning continues for our annual Cultural Picnic & Music Festival at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg. Our food and beverage offerings will feature traditional favorites and some new items. For entertainment, we'll welcome back some old friends and introduce some new performers. Visit our website iwcmadison.com for updates.

Festa Italia is our largest and most complex event. Proceeds help fund our scholarship account and provide assets for other club activities. We need all members to participate.

Volunteer sign – up sheets will be made available at membership meetings and on line. Sign up to

work a shift or two if you're able.

Raffle tickets will arrive soon. Make an effort to buy/sell your allotment.

Save the dates of June 3 - 5 and tell your neighbors and co-workers to join you for a celebration of all things Italian.

Updates

Honor The Past

The Neighborhood House (29 S. Mills Street) continues the celebration of their 100th anniversary by hosting another roundtable presentation on the History of the Greenbush. Come listen to the stories and lively discussion by distinguished members of the IWC and IAWC on Thursday, March 17 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

Celebrate The Present

The IWC Council is in the process of asking members for input on how to increase attendance at current meetings and events, and soliciting ideas for new events and activities. Whether it's a Card Party, Italian Themed Trivia Night, Pizza & a Movie at the club, Forming a Bocce League, or Visiting Local Italian Restaurants, our goal is to offer more diverse opportunities for

members to engage with their club. Look for updates on this initiative in future newsletters.

Envision The Future

In honor of the 15th anniversary of Madison's Sister City relationship with Mantova, **Frank Alfano** and **Tony Bruno** coordinated an art-work exchange between children at the Goodman Community Center and elementary school children in Mantova. The Goodman Center kids sent pictures of their hometown landmarks and the Mantova kids did the same. The highlight of the exchange was a Skype session.

The Italian Center project has entered the "lead gift" and general fund raising stage. Meetings have been set up with select local and regional businesses to fund operating expenses, and follow up

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Italia

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We treat every family as our own . . .

Calendar of Events

Feb 4:	Lasagna dinner at Gilda's Club	April 24:	IWC Sauce Tasting Contest
Feb 18:	Neighborhood House panel	April 30:	IWC Bus Trip
March 1:	Miss Festa applications due	Nov 2:	IAWC Thanksgiving Pot Luck
March 6:	IAWC Spaghetti dinner fund raiser	June 3-5	Festa Italia
March 17:	Neighborhood House panel	Oct 9:	Columbus Day Banquet
		Nov 19:	IAWC Corn (BINGO) Party

IWC and IAWC Combining Celebrations

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President continued from page 6

phone calls to potential sponsors throughout the state are being made to acquire funds for scholarships, fellowships and teaching aids.

President's Mail Box

Send me an e-mail (davidrizzo@me.com) or drop a note in the box I've provided 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 ■■



Fubini roots were further explored in 1991 when Ron accompanied his sister on a trip to Italy to visit family. That prompted three additional trips that included Henry, Deb, Tim and Anto in addition to stateside visits from eight cousins. Exploring their roots in person included seeing the bocce courts where Alfredo had played, which in turn stirred enough interest for Tim and Anto to return three more times to visit *la famiglia* in Fubini.

The incredible pride they experienced made both realize the importance of joining their father as members of the IWC. After Tim finished college in Minnesota, he returned to Madison and is now employed with the Madison school system. Anto graduated from the UW-Madison and is a banker in town. IWC meetings and activities have become great bonding experiences for all three, and with the support of Deb, they continue to learn and appreciate everything there is about being Italian.

With great pride, Ron assures them all that...*Alfredo would approve.*

To Ron Gatti and sons, Tim and Anto, salute! ■■



Mantova students talking to students in Madison via Skype.

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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Italian Workmen's Club – 104 years Old!

**914 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53715
Phone: (608) 258-1880**

ANNUAL SAUCE TASTING CONTEST AND PASTA DINNER



SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2016 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

BUS TOUR OF SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN ITALIAN CLUBS

•SATURDAY APRIL 30

- Deadline To Reserve Your Seat is **April 1**
- Open to IWC members, families and friends



- Join us for a full day of great food, choice beverages, wonderful music, sporting fun and priceless fellowship as we tour the Italian Clubs of Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha.

Departure: 7:30 AM Dutch Mill Park & Ride



Arrive: 9:00 AM
Italian Community Center
Milwaukee

- Breakfast
- Tour of Facility



Arrive: 11:30 AM
Roma Lodge
Racine

- Lunch
- Bocce Tournament



Arrive: 3:00 PM
Tenuta's Italian Deli
Kenosha

- Antipasto
- Shopping



Arrive: 4:30 PM
Italian American Club
Kenosha

- Cocktails
- Dinner

Arrival: 8:30 PM Dutch Mill Park & Ride

Return This Portion Of Flyer With Payment

Price = \$60.00 per person

- Includes:
 - Deluxe motor coach transportation
 - All meals and activities
 - Snacks and beverages on the coach

Bus Capacity is 55. Reserve Your Seat Now!

To Reserve Your Seat:

- Call or E-Mail Frank Alfano
 - (608) 445 - 9186
 - falfano@charter.net
- Reservation Deadline = April 1

Make Check Payable To: **Italian Workmen's Club**

(Payment Must Be Received By April 1)

Mail Payment (with this portion of flyer) To: IWC 914 Regent St. Madison 53715

NAME: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

APPLICATION FOR MISS FESTA ITALIA 2016

Festival dates – Friday June 3 – Sunday June 5

Festa Italia, an Italian Festival sponsored by the Italian Workmen's Club of Madison is seeking applications for Miss Festa Italia 2016. 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 \$400.00 from the Italian Workmen's Club and the Italian-American Women's Club to cover costs associated with obtaining or creating a traditional 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 electronically 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 2016. Return your application to:

Miss Festa 2016
% Phyllis DeGioia
info@iawc-madison.com

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS MARCH 1, 2016

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: _____