



March • April  
2017



# Italia

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

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## President's Message



Late winter and early spring in Wisconsin is a time of upheaval. Cold temperatures, blustery winds and the occasional snow storm remind us that mowing the lawn, playing golf, or driving in the car with the windows down is still some time away. Yet we begin to see signs of a new beginning appear as buds on tree branches, shoots of plants fighting their way through hard packed soil, or a robin collecting nesting material. Take time to appreciate the gift of life, whatever the season.

### Recent / Current / Upcoming Events

#### Wine Making (February / March)

The new vintage was bottled at the February and March membership meetings. We did some tasting in January, and the collective opinion was that this year's batch was *molto bene*. After two

months of drinking wine out of a box, this was a welcome and positive change. Thanks to all who helped with the various stages of production from; purchasing the fruit, breaking the skins and pressing the grapes to stirring the bins, racking the carboys and syphoning the wine into bottles.

#### Roma Lodge Winter Bocce Tournament (February 4)

Once again our Roma Lodge

brothers invited us to join them for their Winter Bocce Tournament. A five-man team enjoyed playing indoor bocce, which is a very different game from the on-the-grass outdoor game that most of us have experienced. At press time, the results weren't known, but I'm confident that our team had lots of fun and plenty of great food and drink.

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## Easter in Italy

Easter, or *Pasqua*, is April 16<sup>th</sup> this year. While you are not likely to see the Easter Bunny there, you would see a religious procession or parade held in many towns and cities, although the days just prior to Easter Sunday involve solemn, dramatic processions. A statue of Jesus or his mother Mary is carried in street processions alongside large crowds. Many churches have special statues of the Virgin and Jesus that play a big part in the processions. The statues may be paraded through the city or displayed in the main square. Parade participants are often dressed in traditional ancient costumes. Olive branches

*continued* page 2

## Easter in Italy (continued)

are often used instead of or along with palm fronds in the processions and to decorate churches.

The biggest and most popular Mass is held by the Pope at Saint Peter's Basilica. On Good Friday, the Pope celebrates the Stations of the Cross (*Via Crucis*) in Rome near the Colosseum. A huge cross with burning torches lights the sky as the stations are described in several languages.

Enna in Sicily has a large procession on Good Friday, with more than 2,000 friars dressed in ancient costumes. Trapani, also in Sicily, is a good place to see processions during Holy Week. Their Good Friday procession, *Misteri di Trapani*, is 24 hours long. What's believed to be the oldest Good Friday procession in Italy is held in Chieti in the Abruzzo region during which Selecchi's *Miserere* is played by 100 violins. Some towns, such as Montefalco and Gualdo Tadino in Umbria, hold live scenarios during the night of Good Friday or plays enacting the Stations of the Cross, and beautiful torch light processions are held in Umbria hill towns such as Orvieto and Assisi.

In Florence, Easter Day is celebrated with the *Scoppio del Carro*, an exploding cart. A huge, decorated wagon is dragged through Florence by white oxen until it reaches *Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore* (the Duomo) in Florence's historic center. Following Mass, the Archbishop sends a dove-shaped rocket into the cart, igniting the fireworks in it. A parade in medieval costumes follows.

In Abruzzo's Sulmona, people dress in green and white, colors of peace, hope, and resurrection, and gather in the main piazza. The woman playing the Virgin Mary is dressed in black. As she moves to the fountain, doves are released and the woman is suddenly dressed in green. Music and feasting follow.

Since Easter is the end of the Lent season, food plays a big part in the celebrations. Eating begins at breakfast when a generous spread is laid out to break the 40 days of Lenten self-denial. But the main meal remains the iconic Italian lunch, centered around hand-rolled egg *tagliatelle* tossed with wild asparagus, roasted lamb and new potatoes, artichokes and other seasonal vegetables, and more chocolate. Pannetone and Colomba (dove shaped) breads are often given as gifts as are hollow chocolate eggs that usually come with a surprise inside. Some of those eggs can be six feet tall!

Easter pie is often served. Made with a ricotta base, it can be either sweet or savory.

A picnic to celebrate spring is often held the Monday after Easter. ■■



Think Spring!



## Birthdays

### IWC

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### March

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**Tom Pisapia (3)**  
**Jim DiUlio (13)**  
**Mark Raimond (19)**  
**Robert Brill (24)**  
**Ernesto Livorni (27)**  
**Andrew Salerno (28)**  
**Russ Cerniglia (29)**  
**Antonio Re (29)**

### April

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**George Schiro (5)**  
**Mark Fumusa (5)**  
**Tom DiPiazza (8)**  
**Dennis Puccetti (8)**  
**Tony DeGregoria (14)**  
**Mario Russo (14)**  
**John Caliva (15)**  
**Tony Bonanno Jr (17)**  
**Paul Meyer (17)**  
**Thomas Klinzing (21)**  
**Nino Amato (23)**  
**Ricardo Gandolfo (26)**  
**Daniel Langlois (27)**  
**Dominic Cuccia (28)**  
**Dominic DeSano (28)**  
**Joseph Gmeinder (28)**  
**Tony Bruno (30)**

# Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



**M**an cannot live on pasta alone. He needs meatballs, sausage and sauce to go with it.

Add cheese and a little *vino* and what more could one want?

Every time I settle in to feature an Italian Workmen's Club member, the same soulful feeling nourishes my pride with reflections from the past. It happened again last month while featuring longtime member **Leonard J. Novara**. Also known as **Dino**, Len is another ingredient that has made the IWC as special as it has been, and always will be.

Len's Sicilian immigrant parents, Gaspare and Rosa Novara, left their birthplaces of Paceco and Trapani behind in 1925 for a new life in America and settled among friends in Madison's old Greenbush neighborhood where jobs were said to be available. Because Sicilian was the only language used at home, he entered grade school lacking English skills he would learn along the way. As a young teen, despite the initial language barrier, in 1943 and 1944 he became captain of the altar boys at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Memories of growing up in the 700 block of Milton Street

stirred thoughts from the past that included his younger brother, Ernest Nunzio, and their mother, a seamstress who, during the heat of the summer months, spent seemingly endless days while she and friends harvested tomatoes to cut, boil down, and dry on boards set up in the front yard for the paste (*strattu*) necessary for making sauce during the months that followed. Len's job as a youngster was to keep the flies away during the process. His father, who never had a car but owned a bike he rode well into his 80s, worked construction, tended bar at DiCristina's Friendly Tavern, took pride in his vegetable garden, liked to hunt, loved to fish on Lake Monona, and was a member of the Bersagliere.

When Len graduated from Central High School in 1948, he joined the Wisconsin Air National Guard and married his high school sweetheart, Genevieve, at St. Joseph's. They'd be blessed later with two sons. Following his military discharge, Len sold office equipment and furniture for the Royal Typewriter Company and Rowley & Schlimgen.

Life for the Novaras was good. Every Sunday, for many years, Len and Ernie, aka Nunzie, and their families gathered for dinner at their parent's house. Enjoyed were meals of pasta, grilled steak

seasoned with grandpa's special tomato/garlic sauce that Len still makes today, chicken soup, calamari, and smelt. He mentions with a smile how much he loved his mother's anchovy pizza they called *faccia vecchia*, meaning "old face."

Len joined the IWC in 1975, being sponsored by **John Cuccia**. With a bit of humor, he remembers when **Frank Rane** was president and meetings became rather "hectic" at times with arguments between the Cuccia's and the Parisi's. For several years he was in charge of food served after the meetings,

*Novita* continued on page 7

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## Calendar of Events

### IWC

Sausage Making & Pasta Making	(Fall)
Children's Christmas Party	Dec 11
Adult Christmas Party	Dec 20

### IAWC

Thanksgiving Potluck	Nov 2
Corn (Bingo) Party	Nov 19
Feast of Seven Fishes	Dec 7
No meeting in January	

# President's Message

## Pasta Making (February 18)

**Antonio Re** volunteered his time and talent to host a hands-on pasta-making demonstration. This unique event is part of a larger effort to engage club members in fun, interactive activities at the clubhouse.

## International Festival (February 25)

**Travis Hunter** led our participation in the annual International Festival at the Overture Center. In addition to providing excellent community exposure, the efforts of our volunteer members also generate revenue for our club. Several members joined Travis in preparing meatball and hot beef sandwiches along with olive salad for sale to the hundreds of visitors to the popular, multi-cultural event. In addition, **Frank Alfano** and **Tony Bruno** distributed information about our club at our sister city booth.

## Italian Day (April 24)

High school students from around the state will gather in Madison for a day of immersion and enrichment in Italian culture. Led by WisItalia, and with the help of the Department of French and Italian studies at UW – Madison, this event allows students to engage in friendly competition and hands-on learning. Our club will host a spaghetti and meatball lunch for all participants at the clubhouse.

## Sauce Tasting (April - May)

Dr. **Dan Malone** agreed to coordinate our annual sauce tasting contest. For several years running, Dan has organized a fun event that features a spirited competition among members with home-made sauce recipes. Plenty of food and drink is always available, and a panel of local celebrity judges decides who will be declared "*Il Grande Pomodoro.*"

## Festa Italia 2017 (June 2 - 4)

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. We also plan to have more activities for young children and an increased soccer presence. Visit our website [iwcmadison.com](http://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.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be made available at membership meetings and on line via Sign Up Genius. Sign up to work a shift or two if you're able.

Raffle tickets will arrive in your mail soon. Buy/sell your allotment.

Save the dates of June 2 - 4 and tell your neighbors and co-workers to join you for a celebration of all things Italian.

The Mission of the IWC is to preserve and promote the history, culture, language, and traditions of Italians and Italian Americans. Festa Italia is the best demonstration of that mission in action. Participate in the mission.

A core group of members is volunteering their time to lead the various committees. This year, the regular names have been joined by some of our newer members, which is great to see and healthy for the club.

**Thoughtfully consider volunteering for a shift or two. Install fencing, sell beverage or raffle tickets, staff the admission gate or culture tent, serve food, hang signs, judge the bocce tournament, or drive a courtesy cart. Attendance drives success. Block the dates on your calendar.**

## Updates

### Honor The Past

Work continues on the restoration of the "Spirit of Greenbush" monument. The City of Madison Arts Commission, Pechmann Memorials and Findorff & Son Construction are working on the various elements of the project in anticipation of a ribbon cutting ceremony in late spring 2017.

*Continued on Page 5*

# IAWC Report

I was out of the country for our February meeting (IAWC does not have one in January) but I understand the meeting was good, and featured a lot of food. Members signed up to bring dinner at meetings throughout the year.

Because our Wednesday meetings coincide with two Masses on March 1 and November 1, and members voted to change the date of our meetings rather than have the event elsewhere. The revised dates will be announced soon.

**Mary Troia** is no longer eligible for a kidney transplant and has only been going out to doctor's appointments; she misses the companionship of our meetings. We miss her too. I encourage everyone who knows Mary to send her an email or card to boost her spirits and help keep that feeling of community that she has always had with the club. Mary's addresses are [marytroia1114@gmail.com](mailto:marytroia1114@gmail.com) and 802 West Main #14, Waunakee, WI 53597.

**Phyllis DeGioia**  
President, IAWC ■■

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## President's Continued From Page 4

Details about the timing and content of the ceremony will be communicated in advance to allow those interested in attending to adjust their schedules.

## Celebrate The Present

Attendance at our monthly meetings is up. We're adding a pasta making demonstration to our wine and sausage making and sauce tasting contest. Explorations into Italian art and film are available on campus. We'll be introducing new ideas later this year to give members more opportunities to get to know each other in a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere.

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*Italia*

Call **Mike Heald** for more information on advertising in *Italia*.

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## Italia

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## IAWC Birthdays

Judy Way, April 7

Mary Katic, April 10



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### Envision The Future

The Strategic Plan Committee will complete its work this spring.

The Council will continue to work closely with:

UW's Italian Language Program to establish an Italian Learning Center on campus, including a discussion on March 15 in Madison with Giuseppe Finocchiaro, the new Consul General from the Consulate General's office in Chicago.

The Regent Street Corridor Project to ensure and enrich our Italian Heritage offerings for future generations, including a status update and question and answer session with project leaders at our Council meeting on March 14.

### President's Mail Box

Send me an e-mail ([davidrizzo@me.com](mailto: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.

*Alla prossima volta, statevi bene e Dio vi benedica.*

David Rizzo ■



# Bus Trip to Milwaukee's Taste of Italy

If enough people sign up, there will be a bus on April 2 to the Taste of Italy in Milwaukee. The cost of the bus is \$25, and does not include what you spend on food from 24 vendors. Admission is free. We need 34 people to cover the cost of the bus. The bus will leave Dutch Mill Park and Ride at 9 am and we will be

back in Madison by 4:30. See the insert in this issue and contact **Frank Alfano** at [falfano@charter.net](mailto:falfano@charter.net). Reservations are due March 17. ■



## Free Italian Films at UW

Italian films with English subtitles are shown weekly, for free, at UW. Anyone is welcome. The viewing room has comfortable seats.

The films are in Italian with English subtitles. Some are relatively new and some are old. For example, one such film this semester is *Life is Beautiful (La vita è bella)* the 1999 comedy about a Jewish-Italian man and his son during the Holocaust earning seven Oscar nominations and winning three, including Best Actor for Roberto Benigni. In the 2013 **Buongiorno papà**, a 40-year-old man who loves to party and have fun discovers he has a daughter from an old one-night stand.

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1/30/17 L'oro di Napoli                           | 3/13/17 Le notti di Cabiria |
| 2/6/17 Bianca come il latte, rossa come il sangue | 3/27/17 Habemus papam       |
| 2/13/17 Mediterraneo                              | 4/3/17 Il sorpasso          |
| 2/20/17 La grande bellezza                        | 4/10/17 Pazzi di me         |
| 2/27/17 La vita è bella                           | 4/17/17 Io sono l'amore     |
| 3/6/17 Magnifica presenza                         | 4/24/17 La vita che vorrei  |
|   | 5/1/17 Buongiorno papà      |

When: Mondays at 7 p.m.

Where: Education L196 in the School of Education, 1000 Bascom Mall

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worked in the culture tent, helped make spaghetti during Festa Italia, stood guard at many Italian funerals and, on the lighter side, offered his services during several of the annual golf outings at the Sun Prairie Golf Club.

Len, Genevieve and family have traveled together throughout Italy several times, enjoying the beauty and everything it offered. They also visited Sicily to reunite with relatives. Their son, Derek, works in computer sales in Milwaukee, while son, Devin, is a detective in Utah.

Retirement allows Len to play golf, visit the library, travel to Utah, Florida and Arizona to spend time with their grandsons, attend daily mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, and enjoy monthly meetings at 914 Regent Street.

To Len Novara, *Salute!* ■■



## Go to Mantova this Fall to Celebrate Sister Cities

In 2002, the Madison-Mantova Sister City Program became official when both city councils signed documents. Starting in 2000, we have had several visits.

To celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, we are trying put together a delegation from Madison to visit Mantova in either September or October.

There will be two options for the visit. One is to leave Madison and fly into Venice and spend two days in Venice, then travel to Verona and Mantova for three days, and return to Madison (7-8 days).

The second option extends the trip to 14 days by visiting Florence, Rome and Sicily. The ESTIMATED COST of the 14-day trip without airfare is \$2,500 per person and the 7-day trip is ESTIMATED to be around \$1000 per person. Capitol Travel indicates that airfare between Madison and Venice is \$950 round trip, and between Madison - Venice-Palermo it is \$995 round trip.

In order to get these group rates, etc. we need 20 people, and that's for both the short and long trips. We do not need a deposit at this time but need a verbal commitment by March 3, 2017 so we can get confirmed pricing. Both trips are open to the public so friends, etc. are welcome.

If you are interested in either trip please contact **Frank Alfano** at [falfano@charter.net](mailto:falfano@charter.net) or 222-0747. ■■



## Italian Workmen's Club

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914 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53715  
Phone: (608) 258-1880, [www.iwcmadison.com](http://www.iwcmadison.com)

# ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER IN MILWAUKEE TASTE OF ITALY BUS TRIP SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2017

**LEAVE MADISON DUTCH MILL PARK N RIDE AT 9:00 AM  
ARRIVE BRADY STREET (Italian District) FOR SHOPPING.  
ARRIVE I.C.C. AT 11:30 AM FOR TASTE OF ITALY  
LEAVE MILWAUKEE AT 3:30 FOR RETURN TO MADISON  
ARRIVE BACK IN MADISON AT 4:30**

**COST PER PERSON: \$25 FOR BUS ONLY. We need 34 people  
to cover the cost of the Bus.**

**Taste of Italy will have approximately 24 food vendors at which  
you can purchase food items, etc. Admission is free**

**For information contact Frank Alfano at [falfano@charter.net](mailto:falfano@charter.net)**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks to be made out to and sent to:  
Italian Workmen's Club 914 Regent Street Madison, WI 53715  
Reservations due March 17, 2017 at the latest**

# Madison Italy Trip in 2017

*“MANTOVA CAPITALE ITALIANA DELLA CULTURA 2017”*

Day 1 Mon. Arrival in Venice. Overnight in Venice.

Day 2 Tue. Venice

A full day walking guided tour to explore this amazing city, from the Jewish Ghetto to Rialto Bridge and to Piazza San Marco. Among the “must sees,” one of the most beautiful churches in Venice, S.M. Gloriosa dei Frari. Overnight in Venice.

Day 3 Wed. Leave Venice for Mantova

AM After breakfast, private transfer to Mantova. Hotel check-in and time for lunch.

PM Guided tour of Mantova’s main attraction, the immense Ducal Palace, the huge residence of the Gonzaga family, rulers of Mantova for nearly 400 years.

Welcome dinner in town and overnight in Mantova.

Day 4 Thu. Mantova

AM Enjoy a free morning at the weekly open market.

Buffet lunch at the City Hall (?)

PM Guided Tour of Palazzo Te, the extraordinary suburban villa of the Gonzaga family masterpiece of Giulio Romano, pupil of Raphael.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Mantova.

Day 5 Fri. Mantova - Sabbioneta

AM Visit Sabbioneta the “ideal town” of Vespasiano Gonzaga: Mantova and Sabbioneta are both listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site as they stand for different models for a Renaissance town.

PM Optional boat tour on the River Mincio and visit the Sanctuary of Santa Maria delle Grazie, which lies on the river banks. Among the star features of this unique monument to popular devotion, an embalmed alligator hanging from the ceiling!

Transfer to Mantova for dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6 Sat. Leave Mantova for Florence

AM After breakfast, transfer by private bus to Florence. Stop at Pisa.

PM Time for lunch and for a picture by the leaning tower of Pisa.

Arrival in Florence and hotel check-in. Free time at leisure, dinner and overnight at the hotel in Florence.

Day 7 Sun. Florence

AM Hd guided tour of Florence major sights, the Cathedral with “Giotto's” bell tower, Palazzo Vecchio, Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti and Boboli's Garden.

PM Time for lunch and to explore more on your own. Dinner and overnight in Florence

Day 8 Mon. Leave Florence for Rome

AM After breakfast, private transfer to Rome. Hotel check-in and time for lunch.

PM Explore the great Roman piazzas, piazza di Spagna (Spanish Steps), piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain etc. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Rome.

Day 9 Tue. Ancient Rome

AM After breakfast, guided walking tour of the Ancient City. The Capitol, the southern summit of the Capitoline Hill, the Forum, the Imperial Fora, and the Colosseum. Overlooking the Forum is the Palatine Hill,

where Romulus is said to have founded Rome in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, and emperors lived for over 400 years.

Time for lunch

PM Optional visit to the Quirinale, where the President of the Republic of Italy lives.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 10 Wed. Rome, The Vatican City

AM After breakfast, guided tour of the Vatican including St Peter's, Catholicism's most sacred shrine, and the Vatican Museums, home to the Sistine Chapel and Raphael's Rooms as well as one of the world's most important art collection. Time for lunch

PM Free time at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 11 Thu. Leave Rome for Sicily

AM After breakfast, private transfer to Naples and sightseeing tour.

PM Overnight ferry to Palermo

Day 12 Fri. Sicily - Palermo and Monreale

AM Transfer to hotel in Palermo. Guided tour of the city of Palermo.

Visit the Palazzo Reale with the Cappella Palatina, the Duomo and the church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti. Time for lunch.

PM Transfer by private bus to the near town of Monreale and guided visit of the Duomo, one of the great sights of Norman Sicily.

Back to Palermo for dinner and overnight.

Day 13 Sat. Sicily - Palermo

AM Enjoy a free morning in Palermo for shopping or exploring the city on your own. Don't miss the Vucciria market, the largest and busiest market in Palermo. This medieval casbah-style market offers, besides the usual market ware, a wide selection of fresh fruit, vegetables and fish. Time for lunch.

PM Piana degli Albanesi

Day 14 Departure

**Estimated costs for a group of 20 people are \$2,500 per person**

It includes:

- accommodation in 3/4\* category hotels (double occupancy);
- breakfast included
- 1 overnight ferry Napoli/Palermo;
- 2 dinners in Rome
- all transfers by private bus and check-points;
- guided tours;
- entrance admissions to the Vatican Museums and to Colosseum
- assistance by Italian tour coordinator for all the trip
- travel insurance

It does not include:

- remaining meals;
- entrance admissions to museums and sights.
- everything not mentioned above

**CALENDAR of Events**

IWC Council Meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm

IWC Membership Meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm

*Please clip and post this calendar.*

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