



May • June
2017



Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

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President's Message



Late Spring and Early Summer in Wisconsin means school is almost over, temperatures are beginning

to maintain a comfortable level and the opportunity to enjoy the sights, sounds and aromas of life outdoors is there for the taking. Don't let it pass by. It's all too easy to say, "I'll do that tomorrow," or "We'll take that vacation next year." Embrace every day as the gift that it is.

Recent / Current / Upcoming Events

Wine Making (April - May)

The "oaked" wine was bottled at the April and May membership meetings. The early returns on this year's vintage are very positive. Thanks to all who helped in the breaking of the skins, pressing of the grapes and bottling of the clubhouse red.

Sauce Tasting (May 7)

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." The results

of this year's competition were not known at press time.

Festa Italia 2017 (June 2 - 4)

Read more about Festa Italia on pages 4-5 of this newsletter

Thoughtfully consider volunteering for a shift or two.

Install fencing, sell beverage or raffle tickets, staff the admission

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Last year's Little Miss Festas, Madelyn Crouthamel and Giovanni Scalissi, had a fantastic time. Read more later about this year's Little Miss Festas. Photo by Ross DePaola.

Italian Culture

Folk Dancers Celebrate Neopolitan Art at the Chazen

A touring art exhibit of Francesco de Mura at the Chazen Art Museum was celebrated during the ART•SPIN Community Day with a performance by the Italian Folk Dancers of Madison. The group, led by **Raul De Luna**, learned some new dances for the March 4th performance. The museum also offered activities for children.

In the Light of Naples: The Art of Francesco de Mura, is the first ever retrospective of one of the greatest painters of the Golden Age of Naples. The traveling exhibition features two paintings from the Chazen's permanent collection.

Nearly a third of De Mura's works were destroyed in the American and British bombing of Naples during World War II, including his series of frescoes at the abbey of Monte Cassino; fortunately, the touring exhibition includes oil sketches of these lost works. The exhibit moved on elsewhere in early April.



The Italian Folk Dancers of Madison danced La Raspa with the audience. Many audience members joined in, creating a large circle that wove around the floor. Photo by David Rizzo.



Birthdays (IWC)

May

Enzo Ciarletta (1)
Robert Smith (4)
Eric Holmes (5)
William Batista (7)
Trevor Conti (10)
Anthony Gatti (26)
Frank Zampardi (10)
Joe Brusca (12)
Ron Giordan (16)
Michael Cerniglia (17)
Nicholas Schiavo (17)
Jim Pullara (19)
Jay Moretti (20)
Ron Gatti (23)
Vincent Fedeli (26)
Anthony Fiore (26)
Christopher Schroeder (26)
Greg Thoemke (26)
John Colletti (27)
George Colletti (28)

June

Antonio Rauti (1)
John Baker (3)
Todd Cambio (4)
Nick Lemin (4)
Anthony Balistreri (6)
Gary Berger (8)
Angelo LaBarro (11)
Frederick Underhill
Dick Murray (12)
Bab Lavigna (17)
Christopher Eaglin (20)
Charles Cameron (30)

President's Message

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.

You don't have to be an IWC member to volunteer. Spouses, significant others, siblings, children, neighbors and friends are all welcome.

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 have completed their work on the various elements of the project in anticipation of a ribbon cutting ceremony in late Spring 2017. 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

We're adding new members every month. Attendance at our monthly membership meetings is up and the mood is strikingly upbeat and fun. We'll continue to promote our club to our community, highlighted by our very visible membership drive at Festa Italia.

Envision The Future

The Strategic Plan Committee will complete Phase I of their work this Spring.

Revised versions of the By-Laws and Policies & Procedures were reviewed by the Council in April and will be voted on by the General Membership in June.

Work on Phase II will commence after Festa.

The Council will continue to work closely with:

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

Former Mayor Dave Cieslewicz gave a presentation on The Regent Street Corridor Project to our Council in March. Although few details are available, there does appear to be the potential opportunity to work with the city to enrich our Italian Heritage offerings for future generations.

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.

Alla prossima volta, statevi bene e Dio vi benedica.

David Rizzo

Condolences

John Troia passed away on Feb 15, too late for us to mention it in the previous issue. Unfortunately, one month after his death, his 46-year old daughter Angela also died of natural causes. Our deepest condolences go to Nicki Troia and the Troia family.

John married Nicki Weber in 1970 in Madison. He worked for Gardner Baking Co. as a route salesman for 21 years and was currently employed with Zimbrick Inc. as a dealer trade driver. John was very involved with the community. He was a member of the 13th Evacuation Hospital Unit of Wisconsin National Guard for 10 years; one of the founding members in 1977 of the Fitchrona EMS, where he was an EMT for 13 years and served on the Fitchrona EMS Commission from 2005-2009; a member of the Italian's Workmen's Club, Madison Motorcycle Club, Wisconsin Dual Sports Riders Club, and a life member of the American Motorcyclist Association.

John was a caring and generous person who loved to help the groups he was involved with raise money for community charities. He looked out for neighbors and helped them whenever he could. As an avid motorcyclist for 50 years, he loved riding and helping to organize events so that others could ride. John was an active member of All Saints Lutheran Church and especially enjoyed anything to do with hospitality and talking to people. He had a special love for dogs, past and present, and developed a special bond with

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Festa Italia

“Our Annual Cultural Picnic & Music Festival” June 2 - 4

Let me begin by thanking my co – chairs, Ross DePaola and Greg Schroeder. Their leadership and the dedicated efforts of the many committee members has resulted in a plan for Festa Italia 2017 that brings together tradition and new ideas for one of Dane County’s premier ethnic festivals.

McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg will again be the site for our annual celebration of Italian food, music, culture and fun for the whole family. Whether you’re looking to share a nice meal with your family, enjoy live music with friends, or simply sip a glass of wine in the sun, Festa Italia is the place to be. As a reminder, profits from this event help fund scholarships for local high school students, who are planning to attend four – year or two – year degree programs.

Food & Beverage

Food options start with a spaghetti and meatball dinner, complete with salad and bread. Other offerings from area restaurants and food providers range from Italian sausage, beef, meatball, chicken and porketta sandwiches to pizza, risotto, calamari, caponata, arancini sfingi, gelato, kettle corn, soft pretzels, cannoli, and a variety of Italian cookies.

We’ll have our usual variety of beverage choices including



It’s time for Festa Italia again!

several red and white wines from Southern Italy Imports, Budweiser and Gray’s beer offerings and our very own “Greenbush” beer will be back again after a successful introduction last year. A variety of Pepsi soft drink products will also be available.

Musical Entertainment

Musical acts for all three days will feature traditional favorites along with some new sounds to broaden our audience reach. We get things kicked off on Friday with *Yid Vicious* performing Yiddish folk music in a tribute to the multi-cultural make-up of the original Greenbush neighborhood. Our main stage feature band for Friday night is *VO5*. This disco, funk dance band made their Festa debut last year, and we’re glad to have them back.

The Rousers kick off the main stage lineup on Saturday with their dance-driven rock and roll. *Universal Sound*, a mainstay of Festa, keeps things rockin’ with rhythmic sounds of the ‘60’s, ‘70’s and ‘80’s. *Steely Dane*, headlines the stage on Saturday night. This sixteen piece ensemble combines jazz, rock and R&B sensibilities for faithful reproductions of the memorable music of Steely Dan. Accordionist, *Jim Giacalone* returns to play traditional favorites on the Culture Tent stage and Festa grounds. *Joe Scalissi* kicks things off on Sunday afternoon performing his renowned “Happy Hour” impersonation and tribute to Dean Martin. This year’s special show salutes what would have been Dean’s 100th birthday. Main stage entertainment concludes with the return of *The Jimmys*, and their wildly

popular authentic blues, soul and R&B selections.

Italian Culture, Kids Activities & Sports

Our Culture Tent will be filled with historical pictures of the old Greenbush Neighborhood. We'll also have "Stories of the Greenbush" panel discussions. In addition, we'll have a video presentation of individual memories of the old neighborhood, where Festa began. The tent really comes alive with cooking demonstrations from local experts on Saturday and Sunday. A "Flags of Italy" parade and presentation will entertain and educate. Our very own Italian Folk Dancers will perform throughout the weekend. We'll also honor the most distinguished and longest tenured members of both the IWC and IAWC. A catholic mass will be conducted on Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

Wayne the Wizard will entertain children of all ages with his magic act and Truly Remarkable Loon will amaze and amuse with his masterful exhibition of juggling expertise.

A face paint artist will also delight and NEW THIS YEAR, a children's game area, where kids can play a variety of games and win prizes.

There's a pasta-eating contest (Saturday afternoon) and a soccer skills demonstration (Sunday). There'll also be bocce tournaments on Saturday and Sunday. ■■



The Parade of Flags led by Giovanna Micelli-Jeffries allows attendees to learn about the region from which their families came.

Festa - Volunteers Needed

The Mission of the IWC is to preserve and promote the history, culture, language and traditions of Italians and Italian Americans. Our ancestors valued the importance of gathering to celebrate with neighbors and friends. Festa Italia continues that tradition.

The members of our Festa Planning Committee are volunteering their time and energy to plan Festa, but they can't execute it alone. We need everyone to participate.

I would like all members to enjoy the tastes, sights, sounds and camaraderie of Festa.

I also ask you to volunteer a few hours of your time to staff one or more of the many roles required to ensure a successful event. We've made it easy for you to volunteer with the on-line SignUpGenius service, or you can sign up at one of our monthly membership meetings.

You don't have to be an IWC member to volunteer. Invite spouses, significant others, siblings, children, neighbors and friends to join you.

If you have any questions about how to sign up, please contact Greg Schroeder at greg_schroeder@charter.net.

David Rizzo ■■

IAWC Report

The IAWC celebrated its 83rd anniversary by dining at Nonno's Ristorante Italiano. **Katie West**, our reigning Woman of the Year, spoke briefly during the dinner. About 24 members ate together in a noisy celebration of camaraderie and sisterhood. Members who hadn't seen each other in a while caught up, as many of our honorees joined us. Members helped each other out by offering rides to those no longer driving. All in all, it was an appropriately happy celebration!

Anyone wishing to learn how to or help bake a lot of *cucidati* for Festa, we will be at the FEED Kitchen on Wed May 31 and Thurs June 1 from 5-9 pm. This traditional cookie takes quite a production and some experience to make, and thankfully they sell like crazy. (We ply Vito **Cerniglia** with them for letting us use his refrigerated truck). We'd love to have you join us. Please contact president **Phyllis DeGioia** at phyllis4226@att.net.

Little Miss Festas

This year our two Little Miss Festas are Lilyana Zanesco, 7, daughter of Cindy and **David Zanesco**; and Giuliana Varriale, 6, the daughter of Dan and Katie (Masino) Varriale. Giuliana's great-grandmother is **Phyllis Masino**, and her aunt is **Angela Masino**.



Giuliana Varriale



Lilyana Zanesco

Lilyana is half Italian, as her father's parents immigrated to Canada from Treviso just before he was born. David, who joined IWC last year, is 100 percent Italian. Many members of his family still reside in an Italian area of Ontario, and when the family is together they speak in Italian. David was raised on a vineyard and still bottles wine and cures meats. Nonna is still living and will be so proud to see her granddaughter carry on the family heritage. Lilyana is being raised with a blend of Italian and American traditions to try and keep the language, food, and customs alive in their family. Lilyana likes to tell everyone she meets that she is Italian and knows several words; one of her favorites is *canottiera* (undershirt).

Families of both Giuliana's parents are from Piana degli Albanesi. Giuliana has attended Festa every year since she was four weeks old. Her favorite part is spending time with her grandfather in the cultural tent and hearing about his childhood growing up in Greenbush. In 2014 she got to see her aunt, Angela Masino, be the Festa Queen and she said

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Mary Schiro June 9

Jean Musillami June 21

Katie LeTourneau June 23



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his granddog, Jake.

John is survived by his wife, Nicki; daughter, Angela Troia (now deceased); son, Nathan (Liz) Troia; granddaughters, Isabel, Emily and Ava; brothers, Sal (Judy) Troia, Joe (Sharon) Troia, and Jack (Pam) Troia; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. ■■

Little Miss Festas cont. from page 6

she couldn't wait until she was old enough to be the queen. She enjoyed walking around Festa with her and talking to all the people. The following year her cousin, Sophia Bettinger, was one of the first Little Miss Festas. Giuliana loves cooking her favorite Italian dishes with her mother and grandmother. Last year in lieu of gifts for her birthday, Giuliana asked for donations to the K9 fund for the Fitchburg Police Department. Her father is a patrol sergeant there and helped her raise over \$400 towards the purchase of a new police dog. ■■

Calendar of Events

IWC

- Sausage Making & Pasta Making (Fall)
- Children's Christmas Party Dec 10
- Adult Christmas Party Dec 19

IAWC

- Thanksgiving Potluck Nov 8
- Corn (Bingo) Party Nov 19
- Feast of Seven Fishes Dec 7
- No meeting in January

Traveling to Italy: May and June Holidays

When you plan a trip to Italy, it helps to know when holidays fall and what they can mean to a tourist. It's best to look it up somewhere so you won't be disappointed by closures.

May 1: The first of May marks Labor Day, and one of the few holidays in Italy where almost all museums and shops in Italy are closed.

June 2: The Festa della Repubblica

marks the birth and unification of the Italian Republic. In Rome they give a huge, patriotic military parade for this national holiday.

Members in Italy:

April: Tim Gatti

May: Penny and Ross DePaola

(let editor Phyllis DeGioia know if you're going) ■■

Taste of Italy

Some members of both clubs went by the bus IWC chartered to the annual Taste of Italy in Milwaukee. Before the event, however, the bus stopped on Brady Street so people could shop at Glorioso's and Sciortino Bakery. People dropped a fair amount of money in both stores. Participants then went to the event at the Italian Community Center, where you can buy a taste of food, beer or wine for \$1.50. The popular event spawned a large crowd, all enjoying filling themselves to near bursting, and waddled to the bus.

Turns out the incredible cannoli sold at Taste of Italy was provided by Sciortino's. Of course, an Italian bakery would be the kind of place where you can strain over 130 pounds of ricotta at one time, and thus pre-pack hundreds of cannoli shells early without anything getting too damp.

Phyllis DeGioia
President, IAWC ■■

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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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