



November • December  
2017



# Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

IWC President David Rizzo, (608) 852-3665, Membership Secretary Tom Smith (608) 221-4226  
Italia Editor Phyllis DeGioia • IWC phone: (608) 258-1880 • [www.iwcmadison.com](http://www.iwcmadison.com)

## • • • • President's Message • • • •



Fall is my favorite season. October weather in Wisconsin has been warmer than usual, but soon enough t-shirts, baseball caps and sun glasses will give way to sweaters, knitted hats and gloves. The unmistakable aroma of wood fires will fill the air and leaf raking will replace lawn mowing as nature prepares itself for winter. Take a drive in the countryside, or a walk in the neighborhood. Fill your mind with colorful images and your lungs with fresh air. Each day is precious. Don't waste even one.

tradition of wine-making alive is one of the best ways to honor our fathers and grandfathers. Our old wooden wine press produced eight carboys of juice, which will become wine ready for bottling early next year.

### Columbus Day Awards Banquet (October 15)

Our 45<sup>th</sup> annual awards banquet was held at the Porta Bella restaurant. The IAWC joined us again this year and together we filled the Mantova Room with 95 guests. We enjoyed hors'doeuvres, drinks, dinner and

dessert as we saluted the honorees.

**Charlie Belz** (IWC Columbian of the Year) and **Charmaine Pellitteri** (IAWC Woman of the Year) headlined the event, with **Mitch Henck** serving as master of ceremonies. Other award winners included Karin Wolf and **Debbie & Rick Hillebrand** (Community Service Awards); **John Troia** (Outstanding Service Award); and Francesco & Salvatore Schiro and **Sister Toni Ann Palermo** (Athletes of the Year). IWC scholarship

*continued page 4*



Columbian of the Year Charlie Belz and IWC President David Rizzo.

## Recent / Upcoming Events

### Wine Making (September)

The “breaking of the skins” took place on September 19<sup>th</sup> prior to our membership meeting. After allowing for the natural fermentation process to begin, we “pressed the grapes” on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Keeping the great

# Grapevine

## Condolences

Philippa "Phil" Warburg Rogge, age 92, died on Sept. 27. She grew up in Greenbush where her mother owned the Purple Lantern boarding house on N. Murray Ave. When Philippa was 11, she and her mother moved to Milwaukee where she completed high school. Phil returned to Madison to complete her B.A. at the University of Wisconsin, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. In college, Phil met and married William Rogge, a World War II veteran from a northern Wisconsin dairy farm. Phil completed her Masters in Guidance and Counseling at the University of Illinois, Urbana. When her marriage ended in the 1970s, she returned to Madison. □



Right, IAWC President Phyllis DeGioia and Woman of the Year Charmaine Pellitteri. Above: All winners of the Columbian Award who attended the banquet. Below: Sister Toni Palermo created laughter with her description of playing professional baseball as a teenager.



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## IAWC Report

### IAWC Report

A new board of directors was elected at our October meeting. The new board is:

**President - Angela Masino**

**Vice President - Ashleigh Yonke**

**Treasurer - Linda Belz**

**Secretary - Teri Belz**

**At large: Annemarie Newman,  
Charmaine Pellitteri**

Congratulations to everyone, board members and club alike! We're expecting great achievements from these women.

Our annual Thanksgiving pot luck will be held Nov. 8, NOT the first Wednesday of the month. This date change is due to the evening Mass at St. Joseph's on Nov 1. Also, it's held at 6 pm, not 6:30, because the evening lasts longer than usual. If you need a ride, one will be arranged for you. The club provides turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cooked by Rick Hillebrand, and the wine. Electronic signs ups will soon be available. IWC members are welcome to join us – we hope you do! - and to bring a dish to pass.

Our annual Bingo fundraiser will be held Saturday, Nov. 18. If you didn't sign up to help at the meeting, there will be an electronic sign up. **Angela Masino** is in charge of the Bingo committee.

A get-together at a paint bar is being planned for the afternoon of Dec 9, during which we can drink wine and paint a holiday/winter scene. We'll keep you updated.

Phyllis DeGioia

President, IAWC □

# Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



**I**t was back in November of 1989, shortly after my first Greenbush book was published, when the IWC offered me an opportunity to create a new club newsletter and to serve as editor. Deeply touched and enthused beyond description, I accepted and began with a brand new look that would include featuring proud longtime members who had lived for many years in the old Greenbush neighborhood. Twenty-eight years later, no longer editor but with the same dedication to the IWC, the celebration continues with "reporter" status that includes new members who grew up elsewhere, like **John Fiorello**. John and I met years ago when my son, Mike, who worked for Famous Footwear in their corporate headquarters, introduced me to their corporate chef. Needless to say, I was thrilled to meet an Italian chef, and now have the privilege of sharing him with you.

John Anthony Fiorello was born in Rockford, Illinois in 1944. Both sets of grandparents were Sicilian, born in the town of Aragona, province of Agrigento. His paternal grandparents emigrated to New Orleans before moving to Rockford, and his maternal grandparents

emigrated to New York before also moving to Rockford. Being 100 percent Sicilian meant many different doors opened while John was growing up there, but as an athlete he chose sports.

In 1965, at the age of 21 and married to his high school sweetheart Carolyn, John decided to join his father-in-law in Beloit where they owned and operated the well-known Manor Restaurant. Thirty years later, when his own children began graduating from college with plans to remain in Madison, the couple decided for the sake of family togetherness to make Madison their permanent home. A short time later, Famous Footwear hired John as their first corporate executive chef where he operated their facilities for 13 years before the company moved south to St. Louis, hoping John would join them. Instead, he chose to remain in Madison and has since retired from Madison School District's food operations department.

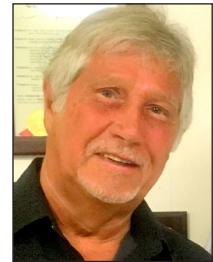
John's expertise in cooking has been self-taught and includes every

aspect of cooking from charcoaling steaks to pasta with red and white clam sauces and everything in between.

This, of course, carries over with a passion on a daily basis, while also preparing dinners for monthly IWC meetings, working in the pasta tent during Festa, the annual pasta sauce contest, and representing the IWC in Racine during their annual bocce tournament.

Glancing back, it was in 2016 when John's good friend, Keefe Bartz, encouraged the two to join the IWC, being sponsored by **Jim Trameri**, Keefe's brother-in-law. The decision became a gift that continues to bring endless experiences and good times with, as John describes "many great Italian Americans" at 914 Regent Street.

To John Fiorello, Salute! □



## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Each club welcomes the other at their Christmas holiday party. Both are pot lucks this year.

IAWC's Feast of the Seven Fishes is Wednesday, **Dec 6 at 6:30 pm**. IWC's pot luck for adults is Tuesday, **Dec 19 at 7 pm**.

# President's Message

winners were also recognized, although no IAWC winners were able to attend.

## **History of the Greenbush Panel Discussion (October 18)**

Working in conjunction with the Madison Public Library, we hosted "The Living History of the Greenbush" featuring a distinguished and diverse panel of former residents. They shared stories and provided information about the people, places, moments and events that characterized the old neighborhood.

## **Sausage Making (October 28)**

A big thanks to Todd Cambio and Dennis Di Carlantonio for once again hosting our sausage making event at the club.

## **Annual Picnic**

The Annual Picnic was cancelled due to cold weather, and we will get it scheduled earlier next year. Thanks to Butch Pullara and Jack Parrino for organizing it.

## **Roma Lodge Wine Tasting (November 11)**

We plan to enter the 2016 vintage of our Club Red in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual event at Roma Lodge in Racine. The lure of unlimited wine tasting and heavy hors d'oeuvres (which at Roma Lodge amounts to a bountiful Italian buffet) is sure to drive demand for tickets.

## **Children's Christmas Party (December 10)**

Bring your children, grandchildren

and great grandchildren to our annual celebration of Christmas. Plans are still being finalized, but holiday treats, entertainment and surprises are in store for the young and young at heart.

## **Adult Christmas Party (December 19)**

This year our celebration of the Christmas season will be a pot luck dinner on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, in place of our monthly membership meeting. IWC & IAWC members and spouses / partners are invited to attend and encouraged to bring a dish to pass.

## **Updates**

### **Honor The Past**

Making wine and sausage, hosting a pasta-making class, inviting members to compete in a sauce-tasting contest, conducting Italian language lessons for adults and children and getting together for other social occasions are just some of the ways we honor the traditions of our ancestors.

### **Celebrate The Present**

We welcomed six new members to our club in October. To be sure, our membership is fluid, but recent publicity from Festa Italia and the rededication of the "Spirit of Greenbush" monument along with concerted efforts to promote the club by our new Membership Committee have combined to provide good momentum as we end 2017 and look forward to 2018.

## **Envision The Future**

Our financial status is solid as our accounts have grown nicely with the recent bull market. We were able to pay for necessary repairs to our building without withdrawing significant funds from our long- term investments. Other improvements and upgrades will be considered by the Council in 2018 and will be discussed with membership throughout the year.

## **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 □



The son of the posthumous Outstanding Service Award, John Troia, accepted the plaque on his father's behalf. David Rizzo, Nathan Troia, and Dan Dyer.



Toni Gunnison sits at the front during a tour of Venice.

## The Club's Trip to Italy

By Frank Alfano

After a wonderful time visiting Venice and Verona, we arrived in Mantova on Wednesday evening. We includes Frank and Janette Alfano; Ed Shinnick and Julie Hood; **Toni Gunnison**; Charles James; **Tony Bruno** and his sons Tom, Joe and Brian.

On Thursday morning we experienced the city-wide market after which we had a meeting and reception with city officials in City Hall. After lunch, we took a tour of the Ducal Palace, Mantova's main attraction. This palace was the residence of the Gonzaga family, rulers of Mantova for nearly 400 years. Friday we visited the Palazzo Te. When it was first built in the early 1500s, it was a suburban villa, surrounded by water, a place where the Gonzaga dukes could get away and relax.

After the tour, we returned to the *Piazza Sordello* in Mantova for the start of the *Gran Premio Nuvolari* road rally. This rally featured over 300 European vintage sports cars and is dedicated to the memory of Tazio Nuvolari, “*il Mantovano Volante*” (the flying Mantuan). After lunch we toured Lago Superiore, which was overgrown with lotus plants. We visited the Sanctuary of Santa Maria delle Grazie, which has an embalmed alligator hanging from the ceiling. We then returned to Mantova for dinner at a restaurant that is known for its pizza. They did not disappoint us as several huge pizzas were served.

We met up with Rita Prigioni and Larry Godding, who drove up from Parma for the visit; Massimo Minotti in his Wisconsin cow-tipping t-shirt; Luca Modena and Claudia Bava; and Emiliano Paterlini.

The next day we bussed to Sabbioneta, the ideal city of Vespasiano Gonzaga where the first free-standing purpose built theater, *Teatro all'Antica* is located. The next day, Sunday, we left Mantova to return to Madison — probably about five pounds heavier — but with priceless memories of spending time with friends. ■

### Calendar of Events

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Nov 8    | <b>(not 1st)</b> - IAWC Thanksgiving Pot Luck |
| Nov 11 - | Roma Lodge Wine Tasting                       |
| Nov 18 - | IAWC Bingo Night                              |
| Dec 6 -  | WC Feast of the Seven Fishes                  |
| Dec 10 - | Children's Christmas Party                    |
| Dec 19 - | IWC Christmas pot luck                        |
| Jan -    | no IAWC meeting                               |

*Buon  
Natale*

### Italia

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**Phyllis DeGioia**

CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS  
**Catherine Tripalin Murray**  
**and Antonino Re**

LISTS  
**Ross DePaola**

SUBSCRIPTIONS & ADVERTISING  
**Mike Heald**

TYPESETTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN  
**Donna Collingwood**

PHOTOGRAPHY  
**Ross DePaola**

PRINTING  
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# Birthdays, IWC

## November

George Fabian (3) | Darren Marabelli (3)  
David Lombardo (7) | Jack Theel (7)  
Mitch Henck (9) | Rick Bonanno (10)  
David Rizzo (11) | Kenneth Urso (11)  
Daniel Amato (13) | Greg Schroeder (16)  
Mike Bender (18) | Travis DiPiazza (20)  
Mark Salerno (23) | Raul DeLuna (31)

## December

James Capacio (1) | Edward Nauman (4)  
Michael Reuhl (4) | Bennet Fraboni (7)  
John Valenza Jr. (7) | John Cioffredi (8)  
Patrick DePula (9) | Joseph Rane (10)  
Dennis Di Carlantonio (18)  
Frank Balisteri (20) | Robert Moccero (21)  
Dan Malone (22)

## IAWC

Angela Lioniello Nov 1  
Andrea Hunter Nov 7  
Rose Hoffhein Nov 11  
Joan O'Connor Nov 14  
Mary Troia Nov 14  
Annemarie Newman Nov 25  
Debby Hillebrand Dec 13  
Mary Ann Berger Dec 18  
Jeanette Montalto Dec 18



The city of Mantova held a reception for the Americans; seen are Mantova City Council President Massimo Allegretti, Frank Alfano, Tony Bruno, and Giuliana Varini. Photo by Tom Bruno.



Dining was always a group event.



Enjoying a tour in Venice are Giuliana Varini, Brian Bruno, Frank Alfano, Charles James, Joe Bruno, Tony Bruno, and Ed Shinnick.

**HO-CHUNK GAMING**  
**MADISON**

**S P O N S O R**

# Upcoming Events! - Mark Your Calendar!



## IAWC Feast of the Seven Fishes

Wednesday, Dec 6, 6:30 pm

IWC is invited to IAWC's Feast of the Seven Fishes potluck—Please bring a dish to pass! We'd love to have you join us for a traditional Christmas Eve celebration!  
Contact Phyllis DeGioia at [phyllis4226@att.net](mailto:phyllis4226@att.net) to sign up.



Refreshments!

Gifts!

Crafts!

Children's Christmas Party



Games!

Special Performance!

Special Guest!

Presented by the IWC

Sunday, December 10, 2017

1:00 - 3:00 pm

914 Regent Street, Madison (IWC clubhouse)

IAWC members welcome

Bring your children and grand children!

Ross DePaola, Chair  
Mark Salerno, Co-Chair

Reservations are  
not Required for the  
Children's Party!



## IWC Christmas Potluck!

Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 6:30pm



IWC Clubhouse  
914 Regent Street



IWC & IAWC members and a spouse or a guest are welcome. This will be a casual get-together in place of our regular club meeting.

Please bring a dish to pass, refreshments will be provided.

## **Meeting Dates**

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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**Vito Cerniglia**  
Owner / Manager  
Phone: (608) 848-3315  
Cell: (608) 516-8350