



January • February
2018



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

President's Message



I was born in November and it's usually a damp and dreary month, but this year brought brilliant colors, warmer than normal temperatures and a chance to put up holiday decorations without freezing one's fingers. The December weather seemed to return to normal and we had at least some snow for the Christmas season. Take time to share a cup of cheer with family, neighbors and friends and make time to do an act of kindness for those less fortunate. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and will have a blessed, safe and happy new year.

Updates

Honor The Past

Our club will soon celebrate its 106th birthday. An influx of new members in the last three months of 2017 pushed our membership back over

the 160 mark. Our ancestors prided themselves on helping each other in all situations, and our Member Oath speaks to "lending my time and talent for the moral and material benefit of the Club." I encourage all members to honor their predecessors by volunteering to cook a meal, become a member of the Council, or help in the planning or execution of a social event.

Celebrate The Present

On Sunday, December 10th our Children's Christmas Party was held

at the club. Thirty kids (most of them still small enough for Santa's knee) enjoyed games, cookies, arts and crafts, a magic show and juggling act, and of course a visit from St. Nick. Each child left with a toy, a bag full of goodies and lasting memories for themselves and their parents and grandparents in attendance. A special thanks to **Ross DePaola** for organizing the event, **Mark Salerno** for setting up the games, and **Sandy Hunter** for the delicious sweet treats.

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Children and grandchildren of members line up to sit on Santa's lap, or just talk to him.
Photo by Phyllis DeGioia.

Italian Tourism Tips



The ski resort at Breuil-Cervinia Valtournenche Zermatt is one of the largest in the Alps.

When we think of traveling to Italy, we often envision going to the famous cities, such as Florence, Rome, and Venice, or specific islands such as Sicily. We think of Italy mostly as a warm country where we can indulge in hot days. We usually don't think of it as a winter playground, but the country that provides so much regional diversity also provides skiing year round in the Alps as well as sweet heat.

The Italian tourism folks want to correct our impression, even though many of us remember the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino:

The ski resort at Breuil-Cervinia Valtournenche Zermatt is one of the

largest in the Alps; it covers three valleys and two countries (Italy and Switzerland), with over 224 miles of ski slopes, so varied and incomparable that skiers can continuously change the type of slope.

Yet this is not only a spot for Alpine skiing, but also for snowboarding and freestyle skiing. A park for freestyle skiing and snowboarding, Indianpark opened in Cervinia in 2003, offering 1,312 feet x 328 feet of slopes to these two groups. In Valtournenche it is the Wild West Park that dominates, with a permanent course for ski cross and freestyle.

Everyone knows it as Cervinia, a ski locality renowned for its beautiful

panoramas and diverse ski courses, but the label Cervinia includes a much ampler mountainous zone. The ski district of Breuil-Cervinia expands from the 5,000 feet of Valtournenche to the 11,181 feet of Plateau Rosà, brushing past the 13,123 feet of Piccolo Cervino (Little Cervino), until it finally reaches the Massif of Cervino. Standing at an imposing 14,692 feet, Mount Cervino symbolizes better than any other mountain the lines of a perfect pyramid.

Breuil-Cervinia rose up over 200 years ago at the base of Mount Cervino, in the Breuil Basin, an immense pasturage in Cervino; up until recently, it could only be reached after hours on foot. In the dialect of Val d'Aosta, *breuil* means "land of many waters," a testimony to the area's many lakes, torrents and water flows that characterize it.

In the early 1930s, the number of construction projects in Breuil could be counted on one hand until 1934 when the Cervino Society was founded. Then in 1936, the first cable car connecting Breuil to Plan Maison was installed, thus leading to the development of one of the principal ski hubs in Italy and Europe.

Breuil-Cervinia is the ideal destination for cross-country skiing, with a track running up to 1.86 miles that is adapted to the needs of both beginners and advanced skiers. Given the high altitudes here (6,726 feet) and plenty of snow, the slopes are open all winter long. Now it is extremely easy to reach; Breuil-Cervinia sits where Valtournenche begins. With Mount Cervino as its background, it is surrounded by the Grandes Murailles Mountain Chain, a series of peaks,

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Condolences

Nina Capaci Soehnlein, age 94, passed away Friday, Nov. 17, 2017, at St. Mary's Care Center in Madison from complications of Alzheimer's. She was born in Madison, Wis., on May 4, 1923, to John and Rose (DeGregorio) Capaci and grew up in a large, loving Italian family on South Park Street in the Greenbush area. She married the love of her life, Donald Soehnlein, on Feb. 2, 1946, and worked at the Colonial Dairy Bar on Park Street, until dedicating her life to raising her family. Everyone she met was welcome in her home and became a lifelong friend. Her caring smile, generosity, kindness, positive attitude and, of course, her cooking will be missed. She was most happy when surrounded by family, friends and children...as long as they were well fed. She is survived by her three children, Nancy (Michael) Downs, Donna (Norm) Wills, and James (Lynn) Soehnlein and five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, Emily Pierce; and two sisters, Jenny (Jerry) McGuire and Delores Annen.

John Clementi Sr., age 76, of Fitchburg, passed away Nov. 5, at home surrounded by his family. He was born in Madison to Joseph and Lorraine (Faust) Clementi. His family lived in the Greenbush area where John attended St. Joseph grade school. He attended Central High School where he graduated class of 1959. On Oct. 22, 1960, John married the love of his life, Charleen A. Ackerman. John worked for his dad at the family filling station business on Regent Street until it was sold. Then he worked with his dad at the Badger Tavern on University Avenue, Madison, for several years. He then launched his own business, Clementi's Lounge and Restaurant, in Monona. The last several years he worked for the Madison Metropolitan School District where he retired. He is survived by his wife, Charleen; his children, John Jr. (Lora) of McFarland, Joseph of Fitchburg and Cheryl (Larry) Langman of Waukesha; grandchildren, his siblings, Joseph "Butch" Clementi of California and Lorrie (David) Manning of Cottage Grove. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Anthony Clementi. ■■



Buonissimo! Sweet potato fries and onion rings were high on the list for Mantova visitors Luca, Claudia and Sebastiano who visited Madison for the holidays. Taken at Laughing Larry's Lunchroom truck stop off of I-90. Photo by Ross DePaola.

Grapevine

Luca Modeno, his wife Claudia and their toddler Sebastiano, of Madison's sister city Mantova, stayed with Penny and **Ross DePaola** over the Christmas holiday. Many club members know Luca and Claudia, and some went to their wedding a few years ago. Luca is a professional musician who played at Festa Italia a few times. For those who have met Luca and braved the bitter cold that night, a get-together was held at the club house. Ross and Penny took them to Paisley Park in Minneapolis because Prince is Luca's favorite musician. They went to Chicago before flying home. ■■

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Adult classes –(tentative schedule)

Beginning level:

6-7:30 PM – Monday, January 22- April 9, 2018

Low intermediate:

5:45- 7:15 PM - Wednesday, January 21- April 11, 2018

Advanced level:

6:00 – 7:30 PM - Friday, January 25 – April 12, 2018

Regular \$150.00; senior citizen (over 65) \$125.00; IWC and IAWC members \$95.00

Children classes Schedule & Cost:

(4- 9) Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:45 am - January 20– April 28, 2018

(10-12), Saturdays, 11:00– 12:00 am – January 20– April 28, 2018

\$140.00 (two siblings=\$ 240.00); limited scholarships available

Location: All classes are held at IWC, 914 Regent, 53715, Madison, WI.

Please note: the schedule may change due to enrollment or other factors. Please contact us immediately if you have any particular request, we will do all it takes to accommodate you.

New Event: Fundraiser for Scholarship

A wine and cheese tasting reception to raise funds for the new George and Inez Fabian Scholarship Program will be held Sunday, January 28 at the club from 2-6 pm. Admission is \$25 a person. There will be door prizes, raffles, and stories. An RSVP by Jan. 10 is required due to limited seating being available. Contact **Frank Alfano** at (608) 445-9186 or falfano@charter.net.

none of which is under 11,480 feet. In Champlève (remaining in Valtournenche), skiers can find two other tracks (approximately 2.5 miles 4 miles long), in Maen.

The allure of the resorts and localities in Breuil-Cervinia is without a doubt that ski activities can be enjoyed throughout the entire year. In fact, a piece of the Matterhorn Ski Paradise (the Italo-Swiss ski resort linking Valtournenche, Breuil-Cervinia and Zermatt), sits on the Plateau Rosa glacier. The Ski Paradise features 217 miles of ski slopes and a large number of ski lift systems, including a cable car that ascends almost all the way to the top of Piccolo Cervino’s peak. ■■

IAWC Report

Happy New Year! As my inaugural note as incoming IAWC president, I first want to say how honored I am to be able to contribute to the legacy of the Club as we pursue our mission to preserve, promote, and protect our Italian-American heritage, values, and traditions. I next want to take a moment to thank **Phyllis DeGioia** for her outstanding leadership as our president over the past few years; we stand on the shoulders of giants!

I'd also like to welcome the five amazing women who will be our 2018 Board: **Ashleigh Yonke** (vice president), **Linda Belz** (treasurer), **Terri Belz** (secretary), **Annemarie Newman** (member at large) and **Charmaine Pellitteri** (member at large). Ashleigh, Linda, Annemarie and I were on the last board.

I first joined the IAWC to connect with my heritage, spend time with my grandmother, **Phyllis Masino**, and figure out how to make a decent cuccidati. But the more time I spent with these remarkable sister members, the more deeply involved I wanted to become. With your support and friendship, we look forward to an amazing 2018!

Angela Masino, President, IAWC

Our new bulletin board was installed in December. It displays copies of the most recent edition of our newsletter, along with CIAO newsletters. It also will show our 2018 schedule of social events and sign-up sheets to volunteer for various club events and activities.

Envision The Future

With membership stabilized and several necessary building maintenance and repair projects behind us, we're poised for a great 2018. Give some thought to how you can help our club move forward.

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 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 ■■

New Italian Conversation Group Beginning

IAWC is creating an Italian conversation group that will meet for the first time on January 9. Decisions will be made then about what day to meet and how often, but initial thoughts are to meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The group will meet at **Stella Cantini's** new Tuscan Language Academy at 6417 Odana Rd., Suite 10-C, in Madison. Finalized details will be announced. There is no cost or need to make every meeting; participants need not be members of either club.

This conversation group is not intended for beginners, but to provide intermediate and advanced speakers a way to keep up or improve their conversation skills. For information, contact **Sarah Oakley** at soakley@gmail.com or 920-858-3763. ■■

Italia

Italia is published bimonthly by the Italian Workmen's Club. Subscriptions available for \$18 per year. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced without express written permission.

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Phyllis DeGioia

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and Antonino Re**

LISTS
Ross DePaola

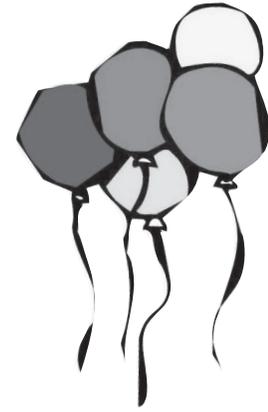
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Birthdays, IWC

January

James Trameri (5) • Steve Urso (8)
Matthew Jarosz (9) • Dave Valenza (13)
Scott Varese (14) • Carlo Bonura (17)
Michael Luckey • (17) Nick Baldarotta (23)
Peter Cerniglia (24) • Carmine Ciarletta (24)
Daniel Blasiolo (31) • Jason Mascitti (31)

February

Thomas Speranza (3) • Louis Cassini (4)
Thomas Gerrmanotta (10)
Joe Alfano (12) • Vito Cerniglia (13)
Matt Rossetto (19) • Joseph Schiro (19)
Michael Alioto (21) • Vincent Ritacca (21)
Joseph Scarpelli Jr (22) • Robert Chiesa (24)
Stephen Sasso (26) • Frank Alfano (27)
Rossario Parisi (28)

IAWC

Marcia Smecko Jan 1
Katie West Jan 20
Cheryl Parrino Jan 21
Regina DeTrana-Hinricks Jan 4
Phyllis DeGioia Feb 3
Angela Masino Feb 3
Kristi Dohm Feb 6
Sister Toni Palermo Feb 15
Toni Gunnison Feb 16

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Meeting Dates

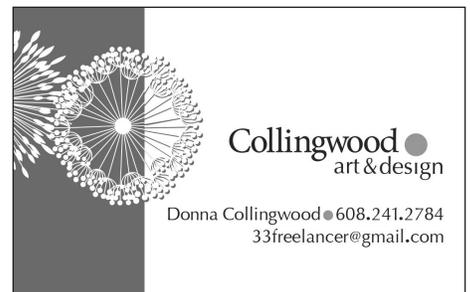
IWC Council Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of
Each Month 7:00 pm

IWC Membership Meetings – 3rd
Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm

Please clip and post this calendar.



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Pizza, Wine & Cultural Italian Trivia Night

Saturday, February 17, 7:00-10:00pm
Italian Workmen's Club Clubhouse
914 Regent Street

Cost \$10/person

Payable at the door

IWC/IAWC Members & Guests Welcome!

Pizza by: *Salvatore's Tomato Pies*

Wines by: *Southern Italy Imports*

Trivia Contest

(Teams of 4 - come as a team or form/join a team when you come):

Topics:

- Food • Geography • Sports • Art • History
(cultural moment/demonstration as appropriate!)

Prizes: 1st: 4 \$20 Gift Certificates

2nd: 4 \$10 Gift Certificates

- Questions: contact Frank Alfano at falfano@charter.net



Bus Tour of Southeast Wisconsin Italian Clubs

- SATURDAY MAY 19
- Reservations Due April 24
- 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



Italian Community Center
Milwaukee
Arrive: 9:00 AM

- Breakfast
- Facility Tour



Roma Lodge
Racine
Arrive: 11:30 AM

- Lunch
- Bocce Tournament



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

- Antipasti
- Shopping



Italian American Club
Kenosha
Arrive: 4:30 PM

- Cocktails
- Dinner

Return to Madison: 8:30 PM Dutch Mill Park & Ride

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