



March • April
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



Spring is just a few weeks away. Before you know it the roar of lawn mowers will replace the rumble of snow

blowers. Sweeping the front porch or sidewalk will replace shoveling the driveway. Inviting a neighbor to join you in the backyard for a drink will replace the exchange of a friendly wave as we disappear into our homes. It's a time for a new beginning. Don't waste a single day. Do something simple, or extraordinary, but do something.

wine into bottles. It was great to see several new members get involved.

Our Social Activities Committee came up with several new ideas to go along with some of our traditional events.

Pizza, Wine & Cultural Trivia Night (February 17)

Pizza from Salvatore's Tomato Pies and wine from Southern Italy Imports was enjoyed as members competed in an Italian Themed Trivia Contest. Some "cultural moments" were inserted between rounds to keep everyone entertained.

Italian Dessert & Bakery Tasting (March 24)

Mark your calendars for what should be a delightful afternoon of tasting an array of home-made Italian sweets. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Olive Oil & Balsamic Tasting (April 28)

Join us for a night of olive salads, antipasto and dipping oils from the Oilerie of Sun Prairie. See page 5 for details.

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Current / Upcoming Events

Wine Making (February / March)

The new vintage was bottled at the February and March membership meetings. Everyone involved with making the wine last fall is convinced that this will be one of our best batches ever. 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



The winners of the trivia contest were Mary and Phil Caravello and Rose and Jim LeTourneau. Congratulazioni! (See story page 3)

Amichevole Novita (Friendly News)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



There was a time when every last name of an Italian Workmen's Club member ended with a vowel. That was long ago when everyone had to be Italian, Sicilian, or Sicilian-Albanian with roots in Piana degli Albanesi, a village south of Palermo. And then, along came Scot-Irish **Dick Murray** in 1991 whose wife (me) was Sicilian and proudly immersed in "everything Italian." With the luck of the Irish, a change was made in the bylaws allowing him to become the first non-Italian to join the club at 914 Regent Street. He served the next 11 years as Festa Italia's Public Relations Chairman and the rest is history today as he is one of the club's oldest members.

Dan Dyer experienced the same dilemma of not having a single drop of Italian blood, claiming to be "lucky enough to marry Debbie Troia" and enjoying what the IWC has meant to him for the past 11 years. The difference in backgrounds

is that Dick grew up in an Italian neighborhood in Warren, Ohio, and Dan had the pleasure of growing up on the 600 block of S. Park Street near Greenbush. His father had been a paper boy in the Bush and knew many of the people who lived there. Besides Dan having a few Italian cousins, his mother and grandmother had two sisters who married members of the Cordio and Musillami families.

Stories shared by his father while Dan was growing up included his cousin, Frank Musillami, being "quite a character," while many others lived in the Greenbush neighborhood. When Dan joined the IWC, already familiar with names, he finally had the pleasure of meeting Nick Baldarotta, Sam Raimond, "Chow" Parisi, "Buffo" Cerniglia, and **George Fabian** who welcomed him with open arms.

Feeling comfortable with everything that surrounded him as a new IWC member became the impetus for Dan to participate in as many activities as possible. In turn, that also provided an opportunity to get to know members with various backgrounds, talents and skills that each possessed.



Eleven years ago, shortly after joining the IWC, another opportunity arose for Dan to become club secretary, which entailed carefully recording minutes from Council and Membership meetings. He accepted and has excelled at every level for the membership to be aware of exactly what their club is doing at any given moment.

And there's more. Every year, Dan takes charge of getting all the necessary permits and licenses required to conduct our outdoor music festival, Festa Italia. He has a great relationship with the Fitchburg city council, and his efficient handling of all the paperwork eliminates a lot of headaches. He also takes charge of decorating the City County Building's seasonal display. October, traditionally Italian Heritage month, finds Dan making sure that pictures, proclamations and other memorabilia are prominently and tastefully presented.

What Dan Dyer has achieved in everything he's accomplished becomes a part of the club's history. Considering that the IWC is just over 100 years old, Dan has been responsible for recording about 10 percent of IWC history. And along the way, thanks to his impeccable leadership as an active member, IWC honored him in 2012 as their Columbian of the Year.00

To Dan Dyer, Salute! ■■

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Condolences

Vito J. Pullara, age 85, of Madison, died on Jan. 15, 2018. He was born in 1932 to Gaspere and Maria (Palmeri) Pullara, in the Italian Greenbush Neighborhood in Madison. Vito was a carpenter by trade and finished his career working for the State of Wisconsin. In the past, Vito was a member of the Italian Workmen's Club. He is survived by his sister, Rose (Pullara) Mazzara; and many nieces and nephews (including **Butch Pullara**). Vito is further survived by his cat, Rose, whom he loved dearly. After a long road, Vito can now finally rest in peace. He was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene (Clemens) Pullara; his parents; sister, Mary; and his brother, Tony.

Mary Ann Troia, age 65, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on January 18, 2018. She was the daughter of Phillip and Joyce (Kroetz) Troia. Mary worked for the State of Wisconsin in the Department of Corrections for over 30 years. She was the past president for the Italian American Woman's Club (IAWC) and served as a member for many decades, and

was still active. She also enjoyed volunteering at her church. Some of her hobbies included participating in card night with friends, playing bingo and going to Ho-Chunk to play the slot machines. Above all, her most precious moments were spent with her two grandchildren, Garrett and Kaia. She is survived by her sons, Brandon (Melanie) Troia, and Rob Huddleston; grandchildren, Garrett and Kaia; siblings, Sandy (Bob) Brill, Phil Troia, Debbie (**Dan**) Dyer, and Jim Troia. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, sisters-in-law Darlene Troia and Nadine Troia.

Angeline Donarico Mason, age 94, died on January 6. Angie was born in 1923 in Madison, WI to Antonio and Jenni (Cuccia) Donarico. She grew up in the Italian Greenbush and attended Central High School. During WWII she lived in San Francisco, CA, returning to Madison after the war. Angie married Everett Mason in 1956 in Madison. She worked for 34 years at Oscar Mayer, and after retirement she worked at Red Lobster for 10 years. Later in her life she was a foster grandmother for 14 years at Central Wisconsin Center. Angie is survived by her only daughter, Angela (Robert) Federman; sons, Fred Fasel (Mike Ryals) and James (Michelle). She is preceded in death by her husband Everett; son, John Fasel; sister, Anne Oros. ■

Trivia Contest Winners

Two teams ended up in a tie at IWC's first Pizza, Wine & Cultural Italian Trivia Night, each having 34 of 40 possible points. Antonio Re had to open the book of hand signs for questions to break it. After all the trash talking and teasing throughout the evening, the foursome of Mary and Phil Caravello and Rose and Jim LeTourneau won the four \$20 gift certificates.

The categories included food, geography, sports, history and art. Mike Alioto occasionally stood in front of the map of Italy during geography questions to block it. How would you do during the event? Name four of the seven Italian racing cars. What is a type of art called that consists of painting on wet lime plaster?

Pizza was provided by Salvatore's Tomato Pies, and wine was sold by Southern Italy Imports. (thanks Patrick DuPula!): It's absolutely fantastic food. ■

Resurrection Catholic Cemetery & Mausoleum

Regent St., Madison WI
(2) Single side by side crypts
eye level; \$6,500.

John (608) 692-6616

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Italia

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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

Return This Portion of Flyer With Payment

Price = \$65 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!

Call or e-mail Frank Alfano

- (608) 445-9186
- falfano@charter.net
- Reservation deadline = April 24

Make Check Payable To: Italian Workmen's Club (Payment Must Be Received By April 24)

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

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$65 each = \$ _____

New Italian Instructor at IWC

Maristella Cantini is the new director of Italian classes at the IWC, through WisItalia, as Giovanna Miceli-Jeffries has retired from it. She has just joined IAWC. Stella also teaches an advanced session on Italian reading and conversation plus a course of Latin at Madison College and several sessions of Italian language.

Stella earned a Ph.D. in Italian contemporary literature from UW, with a minor in women's studies, in 2011. She has been teaching Italian in the U.S. for 17 years. She comes from a small town called Cecina in the province of Livorno; she goes back at least once a year, and more often when she is lucky. Her husband is from Wisconsin. She has two boys who are fraternal twins, Massimo and Alessandro.

In addition to teaching for WisItalia, she opened her own business, Tuscany Language Academy, two years ago. Her goal is to provide private, high quality Italian instruction, culture guidance, and academic competency. She serves a growing population of students, mostly professionals who work closely with Italian companies or Italian universities, study-abroad professors, or business leaders who travel to Italy often. She also works with travelers, or long-time Italian learners, children and young adult students for their study abroad.

Her school offers small group classes, tailored courses and subject-based learning. She decided to open the school to offer an alternative to bar-based classes, improvised Italian

instructors who charge high hourly rates and barely speak a foreign language. My plan is to become a pivot reference for all those who intend study and travel to Italy and truly learn a culture besides a few foreign words. She is highly prepared in literature, cinema and cultural studies.

She is working to introduce Italian in some schools in Madison and in other colleges in Wisconsin. She needs to attend and organize conferences and International.

In 2013, Stella published a book, an international research titled *Italian Women Filmmakers and the Gendered Screen* by Palgrave McMillan, and she is publishing another book this September on an Italian writer. The book is in Italian and published by an Italian press house called Mimesis. She has a monographical study on the project and is building an Italian website dedicated to Italian Women filmmakers. ■



First Annual

OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR TASTING PARTY

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018

914 REGENT STREET

7:00 – 10:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$5 per person

Olive oils, vinegars, olive salads and antipastos will be provided by:

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Lasagna for Gilda's Club

For the sixth year in a row, IAWC made a lasagna dinner from scratch that fed about 90 members of the cancer wellness and support group called Gilda's Club in Middleton. Thanks to the efforts of Rick and **Debby Hillebrand**, the dinner is a labor of love those whose lives have been affected by cancer at some point to those who are affected now. The dinner is so popular that the sign up for the dinner fills rapidly. Lane's Bakery donated a beautiful cake for the dinner.



Members and friends who served dinner were Barb and Roger, Hillebrand family members; Debby Hillebrand; Rick Hillebrand; Cathleen Fridono; Jean Musil-lami; and Phyllis DeGioia.

2018 Calendar

IWC

January	Fabian Scholarship Wine and Cheese (Sun Jan 28)
February	Pizza, Wine and Cultural/Trivia Night (Sat Feb 17)
March	Italian Dessert/Bakery Tasting (Sat March 24)
April	Olive Oil and Balsamic Tasting (Sat April 28)
May	ICC/Roma/Kenosha (Sat May 19)
June	Festa Italia 1-3
July	Eataly and Little Italy Chicago (Sat. July 14)
August	Picnic (Chazen Museum)(Dates TBA)
September	Sauce Tasting (TBA)
October	Columbian Banquet (Oct 8)
November	Whiskey Tasting Night (Dates TBA)
December	Christmas Party (Membership meeting Tues Dec 18)

IAWC

February	Lasagna Dinner for Gilda's Club (Feb 1)
March	Spaghetti Fundraiser for Team Rubican March 25)
April	WOY celebration (April 11)
June	Festa Italia (June 1, 2, 3)
October	Columbian Banquet (Oct 8)
November	Corn (BINGO) Party
December	Christmas Tea/Cookie Exchange

IAWC Report

By Angela Masino

2018 is off to a fast start! We've installed our new board and look forward to welcoming new members in the coming months

Mark your calendars and loosen your belt buckles for March 25th - the IAWC will be holding a Spaghetti Fundraiser. Good food, good conversation and for a good cause! Please contact Ashleigh Yonke (aeyonke@gmail.com) for more information on how to volunteer. ■■

IWC Birthdays

March

Tom Pisapia	(3)
Dominic Granello	(6)
Jim DiUlio	(13)
Mark Raimond	(19)
Robert Brill	(24)
Ernesto Livorni	(27)
Russ Cerniglia	(29)
Antonio Re	(29)
Andrew Salerno	(28)

April

Mark Fumusa	(5)
George Schiro	(5)
Michael Bormet	(7)
Dennis Puccetti	(8)
Tom DiPiazza	(8)
Tony DeGregoria	(14)
Mario Russo	(14)
John Caliva	(15)
Tony Bonanno, Jr.	(17)
Michael Horowitz	(18)
Thomas Klinzing	(21)
A. J. (Nino) Amato	(23)
Joseph Cristoforo	(24)
Ricardo Gandolfo	(26)
Daniel J. Langlois	(27)
Dominic DeSano	(28)
Joseph Gmeinder	(28)
Anthony Bruno	(30)

IAWC

Mary Katic, April 10

ICC/Roma Lodge/Kenosha Bus Trip (May 19)

This popular bi-annual event is back. Make your reservations early before all the seats are taken. See page 4 for details.

Festa Italia 2017 (June 1 – 3)

Planning continues for our annual Cultural Picnic & Music Festival at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg. Thank you to those who stepped up to lead committees.

Our beverage offerings will feature craft beer options, more wine choices and the return of the popular *Bella Grano* beer. Traditional favorites will headline the always great variety of food items along with some new twists. For entertainment, we'll welcome back some old friends and introduce some new performers. We also plan to have more activities and games for young children, an increased soccer presence, our famous pasta eating contest, Flags of Italy parade, culture tent, cooking demonstrations, bocce tournaments, member recognition, scholarship presentations, performances by the Italian Folk Dancers of Madison, and more. Visit our website iwcmadison.com for updates.

Festa Italia is our largest and most complex event. Proceeds help fund our scholarship account and provide revenue for building maintenance and upgrades. 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 1 - 3 and tell your neighbors and co-workers to join you for a celebration of all things Italian.

The IWC's Mission 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 tickets, staff the admission gate, serve food in the pasta tent, hang signs, judge the bocce tournament, or drive a courtesy cart.

Attendance drives success. Block the dates on your calendar.

Membership Dues Reminder

Thank you to the members who have already paid their annual dues. Your prompt response is very much appreciated. If you haven't already done so, please pay your dues by the end of March. You can mail them to the club at 914 Regent Street, Attention: Tom Smith, or you can attend a membership meeting and hand Tom a check in person.

Honor The Past

Park Street Shoe Repair, an iconic landmark for 80, years has closed its doors. **George Fabian**, and his father before him, repaired shoes of all types for countless thousands of Madisonians, sharpened hockey skates and stitched baseball gloves for former Badger and local high school athletes, and dispensed common sense wisdom at no charge. But more than that, the little shop served as the Italian Cultural Center,

a gathering place where political correctness was off limits and light-hearted problem solving was done with wry wit, a sip of coffee, and a bite of a donut.

Celebrate The Present

A scholarship named for George and his beloved, late wife Inez (Red) was established to help kids attend college that otherwise might not be able to afford it. Dozens of Wisconsin hockey alums got the scholarship fund started with generous donations. The IWC's Social Activities Committee organized a Wine & Cheese tasting event to raise additional money. On January 28th, 130 people showed up to thank George and share stories. The old clubhouse was bursting at the seams with good friends, laughter and generosity.

Envision The Future

Membership has stabilized at just over 160. We're positioned for more growth in 2018 as we continue to attract members of all age groups.

The necessary repair work has been completed on the exterior of our building. Our focus now shifts to the clubhouse itself as the Council will consider options to refurbish and/or redesign our kitchen.

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 ■

Meeting Dates

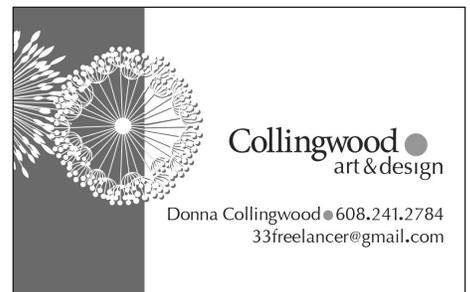
IWC Council Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of
Each Month 7:00 pm

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

Please clip and post this calendar.



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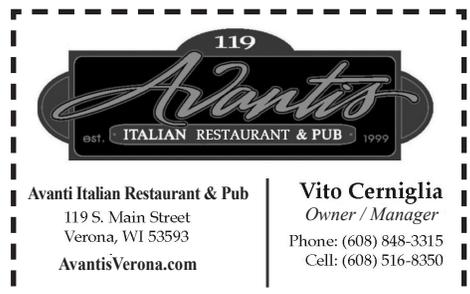
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Italian Workmen's Club

First Annual IWC/IAWC



Italian DESSERT and BAKED GOODS Party!



Saturday, March 24th
IWC Clubhouse
914 Regent St
1:00 – 4:00pm

Admission:
\$5.00/family



KIDS
Welcome!

Join us in sampling and enjoying home-made Italian desserts and baked goods seen at Festa Italia along with demonstrations.

Refreshments will be available!