



May • June
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

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President's Message



The period of hibernation is well behind us. The fragrance of flowers, the sound of children playing, the taste

of food-off-the-grille and the sight of neighbors sharing stories all combine to give us hope that better times are ahead. Don't let the cacophony of political discord and the never-ending cycle of negative news distract you from enjoying life. Seize the day. Start a new hobby. Try a new food and wine combination. Make new friends. Whatever you do, do it well.

Recent / Current / Upcoming Events

Wine Making (April - May)

Ross DePaola and Todd Cambio led the effort to bottle the wine at the March and April 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.

Sister City Celebration & Italian Student Day (April 11-14 & April 26)

A representative from Mantova visited Madison to consult with UW researchers and the leaders of the Italian Culture & Language program. Also, the bi-annual visit from students studying Italian in Wisconsin area high schools was highlighted by a fun competition on campus and a pasta and meatball lunch prepared and served by members of the IWC and IAWC.

Olive Oil & Balsamic Vinegar Tasting (April 28)

The Social Activities Committee conducted this event featuring olive oils, vinegars, olive salads and antipastos from the Oilerie of Sun Prairie. Attendance numbers were not known at press time, but hats off to the team led by **Frank Alfano** as they try different types of events to encourage members to gather and enjoy good food and good fellowship.

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The two Little Miss Festas 2016, Madelyn Crouthamel and Giovanni Scalissi, had a great time and are likely to be friends for a long time to come. Photo by Ross DePaola.

Amichevole Novita (Friendly News)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



Alioto. The name has always intrigued me and I wondered why. When a decision was made to feature

Mike Alioto, it became an opportunity to learn more, and why, with a surprise at the end that he previously knew nothing about.

Let's begin with Mike's great-grandparents, Onofrio and Angela Alioto, who left Sicily in the 1890s to settle a world away in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Onofrio was well-respected in Milwaukee where their four children were born. Thomas, their first in 1900, would become Mike's grandfather, whose first child - also baptized Thomas - became Mike's father, born in 1927 near Brady Street where they resided. Mike remembers his grandpa always wore a suit, smoked cigars, and gave his grandson a 50-cent piece every time they visited each other, and Mike's father, Thomas, enjoyed sharing childhood experiences about playing Robin Hood in the woods along Lake Michigan. The Alioto house on Milwaukee's east side was large enough to accommodate the entire family who attended Mass

together nearby at St. Rita's.

Mike was born in 1969, the youngest of five boys and lived on the northwest side of Milwaukee. In 1995, after graduating from UW-Oshkosh with a degree in Special Education, he moved to the Madison area and worked part-time to help adults with disabilities. Since 2004, his career continues in that field while working for Catholic Charities.

When food is mentioned among Italian and Sicilian families, there's often a story reflecting traditions and for the Alioto family, that means serving homemade pizza loaded with anchovies to enjoy on Christmas Eve. Sweet treats include anise cookies their mom used to make for the little ones to decorate, and today Mike's younger brother, Steve, is in command with great-nieces and great-nephews to help along the way.

Mike and his wife Dawn met in the early 1990s when both were performing in community theaters. They married in 1996 and have two teenaged daughters with Italian names: Chiara born in 1998, and Gianna in 2002

Sponsored by his St. Maria Goretti friend **Andy Lager**, Mike became

an IWC member in 2016. He enjoyed volunteering in a variety of ways, was sworn in as a Club Council member last year, and last month became IWC's new Corresponding Secretary.



There's also a theatrical side of Mike Alioto. About 10 years ago, he was hired as an extra in *Public Enemies*, a major motion picture starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale. From thousands who auditioned as an extra in the film, Mike and a few locals were chosen by director Michael Mann to work on scenes shot in nearby Columbus. As a result, Mike met Depp and did some stand-in work for the movie. An unforgettable experience took place one night in the wee hours of the morning when he was standing in for the actor who played Baby Face Nelson. Mike was told to lie perfectly still, face down, on a cold hillside filled with both dry and wet leaves in Mirror Lake State Park until the scene was ready to roll and be filmed.

This brings to mind that many years ago the successful Broadway musical *Bye Bye Birdie* was performed by community theatres throughout the country. Mike Alioto starred as Conrad Birdie in *West Bend's Bye Bye Birdie* around 1990, and much earlier than that, I happened to be "Cricket," a teenage dancer during Madison Theatre Guild's *Bye Bye Birdie* production in Madison. What a small world it is.

To Mike Alioto, **Salute!** ■

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Condolences

Providence "Provie" Mary Brenz, age 93, passed away in February at Serenity Homes in DeForest. She was born on Oct. 19, 1924, in Madison, the daughter of Joseph Reda and Louisa Canepa. Providence retired from the State of Wisconsin in 1990. She was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church where she was active with St. Peter's Ladies Guild. She was a member of the Eagles Club, Italian American Women's Club and volunteered for the North/Eastside Coalition for the Aging (NESCO) for over 20 years. Providence also volunteered at Lakeview Elementary School. She enjoyed bowling and playing bingo at NESCO.

Frank Patrick Prestigiaco was born on St. Patrick's Day 75 years ago, which is the reason why this Sicilian was given the middle name Patrick. Frank was the last son, and youngest child of seven of Frank and Rose Prestigiaco. Frank grew up in the Greenbush neighborhood (the "Bush") until his mother and father moved to Sequoia Trail, where he lived until he was married. Frank

married the love of his life, Judith Ann Carroll in 1964 in Madison. Frank and Judy raised two loving children, Christopher Patrick and Rebecca Ann (Lamphear). He was the very proud Papa of three grandchildren, Owen, Max and Sam. Preceded in passing were his four brothers, Nick, Tony, Joe and Sam, and his sister, Mary Maiale. Frank graduated from Madison Business College in 1965 with an associate's degree in Accounting, and believed that you are never too old to stop learning. Frank went on to graduate later in life from Edgewood College with a major in Accounting and Business. His motto, "what the mind can conceive and believe, it will achieve" was something he passed on to all that touched him.

Carol Lynn Caruso was born on Dec. 14, 1954, in the Greenbush neighborhood of Madison, Wis. She passed away on Feb. 6, 2018, in Phoenix, Ariz. She is survived by her parents, Alphonse and Carrie Caruso, and her siblings, Rose Roberts, Patricia Caruso, Jim (Marla) Caruso, and Mike Caruso. She is also survived by her son, Anthony Tapia (Molly), and her grandsons, Caleb and Eli. Carol will also be missed by many extended family members, dear friends, and her church and school communities. ■

Summer Tourism in Italy

by The Local, September 2017

Tourism in Italy boomed in summer 2017, with an increase in visitor numbers expected to continue throughout the colder months.

In total, almost 50 million people spent the night at an Italian hotel during June, July, and August this year.

The exact number was 48.3 million, according to figures shared by Italian hotel trade association Federalberghi and the Cultural Ministry, and represented a two percent increase compared to last year.

On top of that, a further three million spent the night at an Airbnb accommodation, a huge 20 percent increase year-on-year.

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Resurrection Catholic Cemetery & Mausoleum

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Italia

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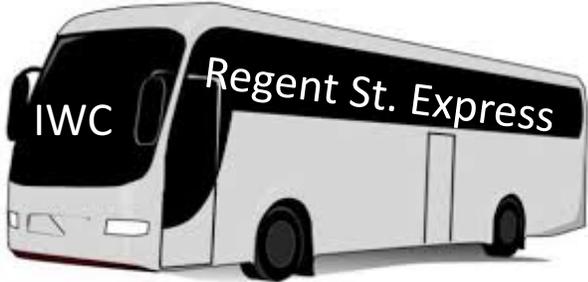
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Return: 9:00 PM Dutch Mill Park & Ride

Cost per person = \$25

- Includes deluxe motor coach transportation and snacks/beverages on the coach

Seating is limited to 55 people so IWC & IAWC members and spouses/guest will receive initial seating. A waiting list will be available for additional people if necessary.



Questions, contact Frank Alfano at falfano@charter.net

FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY JUNE 23
Make checks payable to and send to:
Italian Workmen’s Club 914 Regent Street Madison, WI 53715

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Number of waiting list guests: _____

The increase was not purely down to foreign visitors but also domestic tourists, with 34 million Italians holidaying in their own country - up 3.2 percent on last year.

The rise in visitor figures may not be welcome news to locals, however.

An anti-tourist movement is growing in some of the country's most popular beauty spots, including Venice and the towns of Cinque Terre, where local residents have protested against overcrowding in their cities and an impact on liveability.

One of the ways the government has tried to tackle the problem is by promoting lesser-explored corners of the country - and the plan seems to have had some success.

2017 was named the Italian 'Year of the Village', and the Culture Ministry reported an increase of 74 percent in tourism to rural areas this year, based on figures provided by Airbnb. Data from farming organization Coldiretti also showed an eight percent rise in overnight stays at Italian farmhouses. ■■



Festa Italia (June 1 – 3)

Attendance drives success. Block the dates on your calendar. Tell your neighbors and friends about the best ethnic festival in Dane County.

Food

Options range from a spaghetti and meatball dinner and Italian sausage, beef, meatball and chicken sandwiches to pizza, calamari, arancini, sfingi, gelato, cannoli, a variety of home-made Italian cookies, soft pretzels, kettle corn and more.

Entertainment

Friday

Italian music to suit every ear

Immigre - funky, afrojam beat

Kinfolk - soulful rhythm and blues

Saturday

Sicilian Serenaders - Italian songs on mandolin and guitar

Jim Giacalone - Italian songs on the accordion

Natty Nation - American rock and reggae

Eddie Butts Band - pop, funk, top-40 and contemporary r&b

Sunday

Joe Scalissi - Dean Martin "Happy Hour" impersonation and tribute

The JIMMYS - authentic blues, soul and r&b

Culture

Our large Culture Tent comes alive with historical pictures and videos of the old Greenbush Neighborhood, cooking demonstrations, a Flags of Italy parade, Italian Folk Dancers (on the main stage), roundtable discussions and Sunday Mass.

Fun

Wayne the Wizard fascinates children of all ages with his magic act and balloon animal skills. A face painting artist and a variety of children's games will delight and entertain kids all weekend long.

There's also bocce tournaments, a soccer skills demonstration and a pasta eating contest.

Volunteer

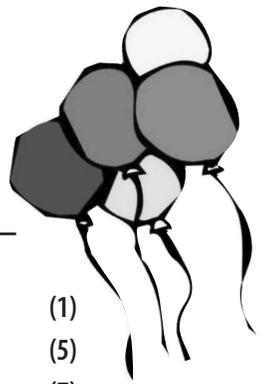
Thoughtfully consider volunteering for a shift or two.

Sell raffle tickets, staff the admission gate or culture tent, serve our pasta and meatball dinner, work the fry tent, sell pizza, hang signs, judge the bocce tournament, or drive a courtesy cart.

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

Giovanna Miceli-Jeffries Publishes Memoir

IAWC member and instructor of Italian at IWC for WisItalia for 25 years, Giovanna Miceli-Jeffries has just published *Bitter Trades*, a memoir. She gave a reading at A Room of One's Own in Madison on April 24. If you are interested in immigration stories from Italy to the U.S. this book is a must-read. Sicily was devastated after WWII, and Miceli-Jeffries brings you through the bittersweet experience of leaving her home, moving to Canada, and then to the U.S. ■■



IWC Birthdays

May

Enzo Ciarletta	(1)
Eric Holmes	(5)
William Battista	(7)
Trevor Conti	(10)
Anthony Gatti	(10)
Frank Fantazzi	(10)
Joe Brusca	(12)
Ron Giordan	(16)
Michael Cerniglia	(17)
James Pullara	(19)
Jay Moretti	(20)
Jim LeTourneau	(21)
Ron Gatti	(23)
Anthony D. Fiore	(26)
Christopher Schroeder	(26)
Greg Thoenke	(26)
John J. Colletti	(27)
Vincent Fedeli	(26)
George Colletti	(28)

June

John Baker	(3)
Todd Cambio	(4)
Nick Lemin	(4)
Joseph Shubat	(5)
Anthony Balistreri	(6)
Gary Berger	(8)
Angelo LaBarro	(11)
Frederick Underhill	(11)
Dick Murray	(12)
Bob Lavigna (17)
Charles Cameron	(30)

IAWC Birthdays

Betty Dybdahl	May 10
Mary Schiro	June 9
Jean Musillami	June 21
Katie LeTournea	June 23

Festa Italia! 2012



Bus Tour of Southeast Wisconsin Italian Clubs (May 19)

This bi-annual trip is always a popular outing. A full day of great food and drink, fun activities and culture, shopping and priceless memories. It also builds on the bonds we share with the Milwaukee (ICC), Racine (Roma Lodge) and Kenosha (Italian American club) clubs.

IAWC Report

By Angela Masino

Greetings from the IAWC! We've added a number of new members in 2018 and I'd like to welcome Maria Carlini, Donna Borowski, and Judy Masino. We are so pleased to have you as part of our club!

On March 24th the IAWC held a spaghetti fundraiser for Team Rubicon, a group of volunteers that unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams to communities affected by disaster. We raised over \$700 and are so excited to be able to support such a great charity. A big thank you to everyone who cooked, served, set-up, cleaned and ate!! And a special thank you to Ashleigh Yonke for organizing the event!

The IAWC is excited to be participating in Festa Italia again. We're already hard at work perfecting our *cucidati* recipe. If you're not familiar with *cucidati*, it's a traditional Italian cookie, originating in Sicily, that is filled with a mixture of figs and other fruits, nuts, and seasonings. It's a delicious taste of the Italian heritage. For the first time we will be taking cookie pre-orders so you'll be able to ensure we have your favorites!! More to come closer to Festa. ■■

Updates

Honor The Past

The Madison Living History website is now live. Several members of the IWC aided this effort by the Madison Public Library to preserve, among other things, the history and memories of the Greenbush Neighborhood. Audio and video excerpts of interviews and panel discussions are available on the website www.madisonlivinghistory.org.

Celebrate The Present

Tony Bruno was awarded the Leonardo da Vinci Award of Excellence by the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. Tony received the Community Leadership award on May 6 at Roma Lodge for his tireless efforts to promote the teaching of Italian language in Wisconsin schools through WisItalia and his leadership of fund raising efforts with the IWC's Charity Golf Outing and participation

on the Greenbush Heritage Foundation board.

Envision The Future

Our Council will consider bids to remodel and upgrade our club's kitchen. A five-member committee will review the bids, make a presentation to the Council and eventually to the full membership later this year.

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

2018 Calendar

IWC

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 Dec 18)

IAWC

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

Meeting Dates

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

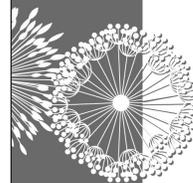
IWC Membership Meetings – 3rd
Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm

Please clip and post this calendar.

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