



January • February
2019



Italia

NEWSLETTER of the ITALIAN WORKMEN'S CLUB

914 Regent Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53715

IWC President Antonio Re, (608) 577-8787, Membership Secretary Tom Smith (608) 221-4226

Italia Editor Phyllis DeGioia • IWC phone: (608) 258-1880 • www.iwcmadison.com

President's Message



By Antonio Re

On January 1st 2019, I assumed the leadership of the Italian Workmen's (IWC) as president and set in motion a number of initiatives designed to move the club into a new direction. As a 11-year member of the IWC, I have had the privilege and honor to share in many culturally enriching events including Festa Italia. I have also been a keen observer of the club processes and how annual business is conducted. Moreover, I have listened to fellow members about their desire for change and I know that my election was based on the aspiration of moving the club into a new direction while also honoring long-standing cultural traditions.

My observations and discussions lead me to believe that many members expect change. However, change is very difficult because it pushes emotions into the unknown, which may cause anxiety and create situ-

ations of discord. I understand this from a personal and a professional level because I have been involved in change my entire life. What I do know for certainty is that change has been a loyal companion that has enabled me to learn about innovation, collaboration, flexibility of thinking, inclusion, loyalty, and working with people to bring about constructive and purposeful transformation designed for the improvement of systems, processes, projects and health.

The process of change that I am alluding to will come in the form of a well-designed and thought-out master plan that will explore every aspect of the club and more importantly, how the IWC morphs into the future. The master plan initiative will be led by the IWC council, but will also gather input from the general membership at each stage of the development process. The rationale for creating a master plan allows for the development of a planning document that will allow the club to discuss items from preservation

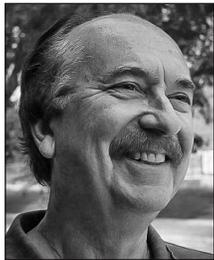
of the building to how we conduct Festa Italia. The master plan will be a living, editable document we can use to make decisions today and which subsequent administrations will be able to utilize to make informed decisions about the club's future.

As part of the change process it is my desire to have a closer working relationship with the Italian American Women's Club in order to enrich our mutual missions. Our collective interests in advocating for Italian-American culture is fundamental and by working together both clubs can benefit from the richness of collaboration. I plan to visit the IAWC February to begin a conversation.

I am happy to be serving as the IWC president and invite each member to be active participants in the functions of the club. Change does not happen in a vacuum, it requires a medium, and the medium is the heart and soul of each member sharing their time and talents to continue the legacy the founders set in motion when they set the first stone in 1912. ■

Membership News

By **Tom Smith**



For years many readers have enjoyed the column written by **Catherine Tripalin Murray** for *Italia*. When

Catherine decided it was time for a change, I was asked if I would be interested in assuming that responsibility for the newsletter. Having enjoyed her writings on people, places and all things Italian, I knew I would have big shoes to fill, but in the interests of the Club agreed to step up. Truth be told, writing has been a big part of my life and I do enjoy it, so it didn't require a lot of persuasion.

In the future, I would welcome hearing from members if there are topics they would like to see featured here. Whether it be a story about a member you would like to see featured, some historical event or place significant to our culture or heritage, whatever you feel might be of interest to the membership, I'd welcome hearing from you.

Absent that kind of input, for this first and transitional column, as Membership Secretary I thought it might be interesting to write something about the membership of our Club and what that membership -- at a summary level -- looks like. After all, in any organization, its members are at the heart of things, and a look at the make-up of our membership reveals some interesting things.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines membership as "the state of belonging to or being part of a group or organization: the state of being a member." What does that mean... belonging to or being a part of something?

For the Italian Workmen's Club, that something means being part of a group of men dedicated to the Club's mission "to preserve and promote the history, culture, language, and traditions of Italians and Italian Americans." The IWC is devoted to providing social opportunities that encourage its members to embrace their common Italian heritage, and to engage with the surrounding community, thereby increasing awareness of and appreciation for the collective achievements, honors and contributions of their ancestors.

When someone becomes a part of the Club they join a group committed to this mission. They take an oath and promise to help fulfill the mission of the Club by lending both their time and talent in service to the Club. Active participation in the Club is in fact the duty of every member, each in their own way, but a duty that also comes with great enjoyment.

So, what does the membership of the Club look like? In the beginning, in January of 1912, 12 men came together to form the "Club Laboratorio Italiani Sicilia." In that first year there were 43 charter members. In more recent years the membership has hovered around 160 members, many with long histories in the Club, others joining only recently.

We have members from every generation. There are those from *The Silent Generation* (born 1928-1945); *Baby Boomers* (1946-1964); *Generation X* (1965-1980); and *Millennials* (1981-1996). From septuagenarians and octogenarians to those in their twenties, there are members of all ages.

There are men who have been members of the Club for 30, 40, 50... even a few as long as 60 years. But the Club has lost a number of members over the years as well (some have passed away, others relocated), with new members joining every year. In fact, it may be surprising for some to learn that almost half of the membership has joined in the last 10 years. In fact, as of 2018 one-third of the members had joined in just the past five years.

There are members from many walks of life. Tradesmen and professionals, workers and managers, civic leaders, teachers and students. There are those actively pursuing their vocations and careers, and others who have left the paid work force (one rarely calls it "retired" these days) volunteering in the community and/or pursuing their avocation(s).

There are many members who come from families with deep roots in the Italian community, who were born and raised in the part of Madison known as Greenbush. But there are also many others who come from other cities in Wisconsin and other

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Amichevole Novita (Friendly News)

By Catherine Tripalin Murray



There have been many highlights in my life worth remembering, but 1988

exploded with pride and excitement when my first Greenbush cook book, *a taste of memories from the old "Bush"* made its debut which, in turn, prompted a request to create an Italian Workmen's Club monthly newsletter with a modern look. With **Rossario Parisi** as President, and member **Tony Bonanno** at my side, being Editor-in-Chief of *Italia* found me launching an adventure that required attending board meetings to make certain all the facts, figures, subjects, celebrations and other highlights were recorded with accuracy, which they were, and from the bottom of my heart.

The first congratulatory note arrived from Fore Pros' Golf Shops, Ltd... handwritten by longtime IWC member, the late George Schiro: "*Gentlemen, The new newsletter is a piece of art. Great job done by some real pro's. Keep up the good*

work. It is something to be proud of!! Sincerely, George Schiro fu Joe.

As editor for the next 18 years, every single newsletter was completed with pride beyond description until realizing it was time for a change. Being replaced by Barbara Cuccia Chase allowed me to become a contributing writer while establishing my very own *Amichevole Novita* column with "friendly news" featuring IWC members.

Being involved with the IWC for the past 30 years has created a personal pride that is truly indescribable.

Though not a member, everything the IWC has accomplished is celebrated by me in my own way. So when a past president suggested my farewell include the names of those I've had the privilege of featuring since 1990, some two and three times, it begins with Rose and **Sam Amato** and continues with **Nick Quartuccio, Salvatore "Sam" Sanfillippo, Joe Brusca, Mike Zaccone, Al Bondioli, Ole Parisi, Schiavo, George Fabian, Ted Balistreri, Giuseppe Gandolfo, Nick Stassi, Tony Paratore, John Scalissi, Frank Genna, Frank Schiro, Ross DePaola, Jim Capacio, Rich Viviani, Vito Schiro, Den-**

nis Puccetti, Phil Clementi, Jr. Ross Parisi, George and Teresa Cerniglia, Tony Bruno, Tony Rane, Steve Sasso, Nno Amato, Frank J. Schiro, Paul Genna, Jay Moretti, Nick Baldarotta, Vic Gallina, Dick Murray, Pete Cerniglia, Paul Romano, Mike Bruno, Mike Lumina, Riccardo Gandolfo, Raul DeLuna, Bill Czajkowski, Joe Cabibbo, Joe Troia, Vince Colletti, Tony Fiore, Phil Clementi, Sr., Carlo Bonura, Vito DiPiazza, George Capaci, Ken Savonne, John Caliva, Joe DiPiazza, Chuck Parisi, Rick Alexander, Vince Puglielli, Enzo Carletta, Joe Melli, Butch Pulara, Jim Vellucci, Travis Hunter, Frank Bucaida, Jason Mascitti, Patrick DePula, Gene Urso, Ban Scalissi, Dan Malone Vito Cerniglia, Ron Giordan, Frank Alfano, Todd Cambio, Tom Pisapia, Joe "Chicken" Cerniglia, George "G.G." Schiro, Mario Russo, Antonio Re, Nate Troia, David Rizzo, Mike Cammilleri, Greg Schroeder, Dennis DiCarlantonio, Ron Gatti, Jack Theel, Bob Schiro, Louis Cassini, Steve Loniello, Jim Trameri, Leonard "Dino" Novara, Joe Tripalin, Pete Cerniglia, John Fiorello, and Dan Dyer.

Farewell, and *Mille Grazie* to Editor **Phyllis DeGioia** and the exceptional and beloved **Italian Workmen's Club**. What a joy, honor, and adventure it has been.



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Mantova, Madison's Sister City in Italy

In 2000, after visiting Madison, the Consulate General of Italy, Enrico Granara and the Agricultural Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, recommended a sister city relationship be established between Madison and Mantova. The similarities between Madison and Mantova are significant. Both are surrounded by water and have dairy farms, breeding equipment manufacturers, and manufacturers of agricultural equipment.

Mayor Susan Bauman of Madison and Mayor Gianfranco Burchiellaro of Mantova exchanged initial e-mails and agreed to pursue a sister city relationship. Mayor Bauman contacted a representative of the Italian Workmen's Club to see if there was any interest from the Italian Community of Madison. The Italian Workmen's Club and the Italian American Women's Club have been developing the relationship since November 2000.

Residents of each city have visited each other, staying in homes and getting to know more about each other's country. Visiting groups have been to the Mayor's office in each city.

Mantova is also a city full of art, located in the Lombard Region of northern Italy. In Italy, the city is referred to as Mantua, as it is in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Mantova was chosen as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. ■

Festa Italia 2019 – SAVE THE DATE!

May 31-June 2, 2019
 McKee Farms Park, Fitchburg

Italia

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states around the country, who bring their own family heritage and history with them to the Club, wherever they were born or raised.

Looking at our membership one thing becomes clear. We are a Club with deep roots in the community, a rich history, and an amazing assembly of men. The strength and vitality of this Club comes from its members and what each and every one of them brings to it. Whether it's attending our monthly meetings to discuss Club business and enjoy a meal with fellow members, volunteering to lead and/or participate in Club events or activities (help with Festa Italia is especially critical), or helping a fellow member, the future of the Club and its success in achieving its mission depends on its members...it depends on you. ■



IWC Birthdays

January

James Trameri	1/5
Steve Urso	1/8
Matthew Jarosz	1/9
Michael Dovin	1/10
Dave Valenza	1/13
Scott Varese	1/14
Carlo J. Bonura	1/17
Michael Luckey	1/17
Nick Baldarotta	1/23
Peter Cerniglia	1/24
Carmine Ciarletta	1/24
Richard Trameri	1/29
Daniel Blasiole	1/31
Jason Mascitti	1/31

February

Thomas Speranza	2/3
Louis Cassini	2/4
Joe Alfano	2/12
Vito Cerniglia	2/13
Matt Rossetto	2/19
Joseph M. Schiro	2/19
Michael Alioto	2/21
Vincent Ritacca	2/21
Joseph A. Scarpelli, Jr.	2/22
Robert Chiesa	2/24
Stephen Sasso	2/26
Frank Alfano	2/27
Rossario G. Parisi	2/28

IAWC Birthdays

Katie West	Jan 20
Cheryl Parrino	Jan 21
Phyllis DeGioia	Feb 3
Angela Masino	Feb 3
Kristi Dohm	Feb 6
Sister Toni Palermo	Feb 15
Toni Gunnison	Feb 16
Kathy Williams	Feb 17



How did he do that? Enjoying the wonders of magic at the Children's Christmas party!

Schiro to the Rescue!

Remember the August 2018 rains that caused so much flooding in and around Madison? There were some dramatic rescues by first-responders to cars that were swept off the roadways into waters so treacherous that they submerged the vehicles. Officers Nathan Katzenmeyer and **Rob Schiro** performed a dramatic rescue which appeared in the State Journal on August 26, 2018. Rob had the foresight to stop and acquire a life jacket while enroute to the scene which proved crucial in the rescue. With the help of DNR and Fire Dept. rescue boats, Katzenmeyer and Schiro were able to free the occupant of a submerged car and save him. ■■

Condolences

Flo Caravello Hanke, 98, who grew up in Greenbush, passed away on Jan. 1. She was born on April 1, 1920, in Madison, the daughter of Joseph and Mamie (Pizzolato) Caravello and grew up in the Greenbush neighborhood. Flo married Hank Hankel in 1939.

Bernice C. Pellitteri died on Nov 6 of Alzheimer's disease. She was born in 1932, weighing less than 2 pounds. The doctor wrapped her in cotton, soaked it in oil, and placed her in a dresser drawer by the heat of the oven door. She married married Angelo Pellitteri in 1952. She lived with her in-laws and learned to cook Italian food better than some Italians. True to her heritage, she could also cook the best Southern food, and we enjoyed her fried chicken, baked macaroni and cheese and collard greens on many occasions. Her children are Teresa, Ann, Toni, Fran, and Joe. ■■



Italian Culture Lectures

In addition to regular classes, the Italian language program includes several enrichment lectures by special guest speakers. These are held at the IWC clubhouse, are free, and only require advance registration. Anyone interested in learning more about Italian culture is welcome to attend.

Mafia and anti-mafia from Italy's unification to the 80s [Feb 2, 2019 2 pm]

Simple history of Italian language [Mar 27, 2019 2 pm]

The art to build a violin and performance of musicians [Apr 27 2 pm]

For information and registration call **Maristella Cantini** at (608) 239-2879 or e-mail italianwclub@gmail.com. ■■

Meeting Dates

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

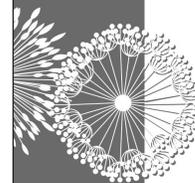
IWC Membership Meetings – 3rd
Tuesday of Each Month 7:00 pm

Please clip and post this calendar.

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1. Italian beginner session: Mon. Jan. 28 -Apr. 22, 2019 6:30 -8:00 pm \$165
2. Italian Intermediate: Wed. Jan 23- Apr. 17, 2019 6-7:30pm, \$165
3. It. Literature (in Italian) Fri. Jan 25- Apr. 26, 2018 4-5;30 pm, \$165
4. Italian for Children, Sat. Jan 26 May 11 2019, 10:30am-12pm. \$165 [no class 04/20]

Phone _____ email: _____

Mailing address _____

Course attended (circle one)
beginner-intermediate-advanced-children _____

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Previous exposure to Italian or other languages: _____

Food Allergies _____

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Grazie!





Italian Workmen's Club

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THE LIVING HISTORY OF THE GREENBUSH

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2019

2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

914 REGENT STREET

With the influx of new and younger members of both the IWC and IAWC, the feeling is that they have heard about the Bush in passing but have not heard about it in detail from members of each club who have been born and raised in the Bush.

We will have a panel discussion along with videos of where the Bush was and is today plus stories about schooling, activities, etc.

Event is open to the public and guests including families and friends are invited

NO CHARGE AND NO RSVP REQUIRED