

Founded 1994



Il Piccolo Giornale is the official newsletter of Club ItaloAmericano of Green Bay, Wi.

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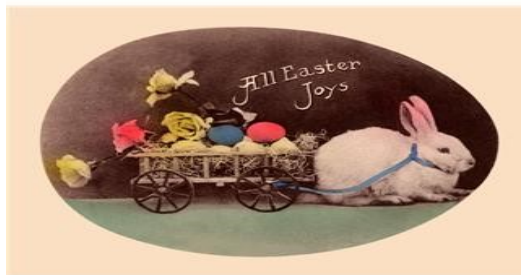
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Carnevale 2015

A Sure Cure for the Winter Blues!

By JoAnna Kloster

Poet T.S. Elliot once penned that “April is the cruelest month.” He obviously never lived in Wisconsin. We hearty Midwesterners know February is, by far, the cruelest - especially if you’re susceptible to the winter blues. By February, old man winter has worn out his welcome. Most folks are ready to warm their souls. A little camaraderie and a little fun would go a long way right about now.

Luckily, **Club ItaloAmericano** members know where to go to our amazing, annual **CARNEVALE!**...a sure cure for the winter doldrums.

A little background on this event- **Mardi Gras** is the final day of the season known as Carnival. From the Latin for “farewell to flesh,”

the end of **Carnival, Mardi Gras** was a last chance to eat meat, and, by extension, to party it up, before Lent. **Carnival** begins on the Day of Epiphany on Jan 6 and lasts until Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday which changes every year. Why? That’s for another article.

Decked out in colorfully adorned masks and, of course, tri-colored beads of purple, green and gold, approximately 40 club members attended this always engaging and entertaining event at **Luigi’s**. To ready the room, a small group met Sunday before the event to decorate masks, create centerpieces, and decorate the room for Tuesday’s festivities. Thank you **Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck, Lisa Iapalucci, Lynn Thompson, Lisa Meli, Mary & Morey Tabatabai, Martha Haugen, Patrick Parmentier, and guest, Mark Zittlow** for

your creative endeavors!

Some more history-the traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold were not chosen arbitrarily. **Rex, the King of Carnival, selected this scheme in 1892**, declaring purple for justice, green for faith, and gold for power. These colors were evident everywhere you looked as members mingled during the “welcoming” part of the evening.

On this special evening, our club had two guests of honor: **the Honorable Mayor Jim Schmitt and his lovely wife Dona**. Both were recognized as honorary members of **Club ItaloAmericano**. **Patrick Kloster, as MC**, read the official proclamation from the plaque. **Club president, Teofilo Schmitt** who thanked members for this wonderful honor and also mentioned **Green Bay’s sister city**

of **Lucca** and how thrilled he is for being recognized as a friend of the Italian community here in **Green Bay**. **The plaque will adorn a wall in City Hall.**

Throughout the evening musical club members **John Contratto and 4 members of the Mariucci family (Ardo, Mark, David, and Jane)** created a melodic, fun, and very Italian mood by sharing their instruments and voices!

Then it was time to eat! And eat we did from a splendid buffet of scrumptious Italian delights. **Chef Giovanni** provided the following: savory Italian sausage with peppers and onions, delicious chicken in red sauce, pasta, spicy mussels in red sauce, assorted pizzas with different toppings (mushrooms, black olives, pepperoni, peppers, and sausage), assorted bruschetta, and homemade bread for dipping.

After this feast, we all digested a bit while playing a rowdy round of Tombola (an Italiano version of BINGO) April while practicing our Italian numbers. A group of **Laurie Stimpson's** high school Italian students called the numbers and also assisted members with a bit of Italian tutoring when someone couldn't figure out the number being called.

Prizes were then awarded for the winning Tombola table as well as the masks voted as the three best by **Carnevale** attendees. **First place went to Mark Zittlow, second to Lisa Meli, and third to Lisa Iapalucci for their creative and beautiful creations!**

Finally it was time for dolci! This year, **Chef Giovanni** made his own tiramisu and cannoli. We were not disappointed. And another special treat was created by our own **Lisa Iapalucci**: her authentic **Mardi Gras King Cake**, a type of cake associated in a number of countries with the festival of Epiphany at the end of the Christmas season; in other places, it is associated with the pre-Lenten celebrations of Mardi Gras/Carnival. A plastic baby is baked inside the King Cake. The tradition is: whoever receives the baby in their piece of

cake must provide the next King Cake or throw the next party. King Cakes are made of a cinnamon filled dough in the shape of a hollow circle. The cake is topped with a delicious glazed topping and then sprinkled with sugar in the three traditional colors of purple, green, and gold. **Michele Koehler** got the baby in her slice. Looks like we know what **Michele** will be cooking next year for our **Carnevale!**

Our dolci were absolutely wonderful, and a perfect ending to a perfect night. **Club ItaloAmericano's Carnevale** a sure cure for the winter blues!

Calendar of Events for 2015

Club ItaloAmericano of Green Bay

Our 21st year

OUR PREMIER EVENTS

Carnevale (think "Mardi Gras") - Tuesday February 17 @ Luigi's on Manitowoc Road

Lent starts tomorrow so we celebrate heartily tonight. Come see the **Carnevale Masks the Italian language class students at Preble High and East High have made for this occasion.**

Good food, good friends, lots of "Italianismo" It couldn't be better.

Spaghetti Dinner/Columbus Day Celebration IX - Saturday October 10 @ Green Isle Park in Allouez

Come and see, smell and taste the great Italian spaghetti prepared by our own member chefs.

They really get into it. Bruschetta and garlic bread will be there. The Tarantella dance and the **"Italian Idol" show** will be fun. Saturday afternoon could not be any better.

Musicale VIII - Tuesday October 20 @ Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church on Comanche Ave

Our very own Maestro Giovanni (John) Contratto will once again masterfully put together another great evening program of Italian music performed by local talent. You will be amazed at the talent that lives in our area. At this event we pay homage to the great Italian composers whose works still echo after centuries. Also, the great Neapolitan songs we know and even explore Pop culture.

Cena di Natale XIX - Saturday December 5 @ Green Bay Yacht Club

Once again we celebrate Christmas in Italian fashion (or as close as we can) with great food, good wine and fellowship. The gathering before dinner is a time to catch up with what's happening with other Club members. Come join us and make your holiday complete.

OUR SPECIAL EVENTS

Dinner & an Italian Movie - Spring Showing on March 18 and Fall Showing on November 18

The evening begins with dinner at **Sammy's Pizza on Oneida Street** where we eat and trade stories. Then we head to the **Neville Public Museum for an Italian movie**. This program, the International Film Series, was the creation of the **Green Bay Film Society** and is free and open to the public. Our Club supplies an Italian movie to the program for both the spring series and the fall series.

Summer Bocce Ball League - April 27: Session 1 begins. July 27: Session 2 begins.

Put your team together and then get registered with the **Green Bay Parks Department**. There is a nominal fee for use and maintenance of the city's Bocce Ball courts. If you have never played it and are worried about learning it, cast your worries aside. By the time you are through the first game, you will feel like you have played it your whole life.

Summer Bocce Pot Luck - Sunday June 14

Halfway through the Bocce season we go to Colburn Park on a lovely Sunday afternoon and rehash the season so far. We celebrate with a few games of Bocce Ball and then gather around the table where the food and drink are waiting for us to enjoy. A perfect end to a mid-season break.

Passeggiate - mid June & mid July & mid August [exact dates TBD]

We find ourselves a nice trail or scenic urban location in the Greater Green Bay area where we take a leisurely stroll (which is a Passeggiata) and visit with other Club members and guests as we walk and talk. Then we find a nice place to eat and socialize, which is what Italians do so well.

32nd Annual Green Bay Holiday Parade - Saturday November 21

Last year was our first time participating in this great Green Bay tradition. Guiding a giant helium or air inflated animated balloon, such as Snoopy or Spider Man, down the street is fun and entertains the kids watching the parade.

An Italian float???

PLUS . . . there are events and happenings that Club members put together on their own, such as a road trip, a cooking demo, working a grape harvest @ Merl & Fatima Baenen's, going to Italian Fest in Milwaukee, just to name a few. If you want to put one together, Vicky will help get the word out.

CHRONOLOGY of EVENTS FOR THE REST OF 2015

March 18, WednesdayDinner & an

Italian Movie

April 27, Monday Bocce Ball League - session 1 begins

June 7, Sunday Bocce Pot Luck

mid JunePrima Passeggiata

mid JulySeconda Passeggiata

July 27, Monday Bocce Ball League - session 2 begins

mid August Terza Passeggiata

October 10, Saturday . . .Spaghetti Dinner

October 20, Tuesday Musicale

November 18, Wednesday . . .Dinner & an Italian Movie

November 21, Saturday Green Bay Holiday Parade

December 5, Saturday Cena di Natale

----- Fine -----

FOUR YOUR INFORMATION

BOCCE BALL REGISTRATION

It's not too late! Registration for the Park and Rec summer bocce league started on March 16 for returning teams.

New teams can register starting April 1. DEADLINE FOR RETURNING AND NEW TEAMS IS APRIL 15. For a registration form go to the Park and Rec. website or call 448-3365. Session 1 begins the week of April 26.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our member Melanie Riley has entered the Wisconsin's Classical singers competition and has advanced to the NATIONALS, that is being held in Chicago over Memorial weekend.

We know how gifted she is and wish her the very best in her venture.

Buona Fortuna

MEMBERSHIP

BENVENUTI

This month we have two more returning members, John and Pat (Paciotti) Utrie.

Welcome back!!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday 16 April at Luigi's on Manitowoc Road at 5:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all members. Please join us we would love to have you there. We have fun and get things done!

CLUB MEMBERS IN BUSINESS

We have several club members that are in the restaurant business, Bilotti's in DePere, Luigi's Italian Bistro in Green Bay, Sammy's Pizza in Green Bay, Titledown Brewery in Green Bay, and the Captains Walk Winery in Green Bay.

Whenever you visit these businesses, please mention that you are a member of Club ItaloAmericano as a support of their business and membership

ARTICLES FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for our newsletter. Information for each upcoming month needs to be submitted to me by the 25th. (think Christmas) of the month. You should email articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word and pictures in a jpeg format.

My email address is:

paolomarin1@gmail.com



Brenda Warren, Green Bay Public School District, President, Chris Wagner, Green Bay Public School District, Treasurer, Richard Gollnick, (representing WisItalia) Past President, Club Italo American of Green Bay, Laurie Stimpson, Italian Language Teacher Preble and East High Schools.



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Grant to Green Bay School Board for Italian Language Courses

On Monday evening March 16, 2015 Richard Gollnick, past President of Club Italo Americano of Green Bay, on behalf WisItalia, presented a grant of \$1,500.00 to the Green Bay School District for the exclusive use of fostering the Italian Language and culture the Green Bay school district.

Italian Language classes have been offered as an elective since 2008 at Preble and High Schools. Laurie Stimpson has been teaching the Italian Language classes since September 2014. There are currently 62 students enrolled in the Italian Language classes for 2014/2015 collectively, with an increase of 21 students for the 2015/2016 school year.

Questions— call me at 612-360-8246

