

Founded 1994



Il Piccolo Giornale

August 2014

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

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20th Anniversary

Ferragosto Celebration !

by Lynn Thompson

Here it comes! On Saturday, August 16th, we will be celebrating 20 years of Club ItaloAmericano! Our Ferragosto party will take place at the Triangle Chalet in Baird Creek Parkway from 1:00 to 7:30.

A tasty meal is planned for 5:00, featuring Luigi's ciabatta sandwiches of Italian sausages in marinara sauce and green peppers and Italian sliced beef au jus with peppers and onions. Just as in Italy, this summer meal includes insalata (salad), anguria (watermelon) as the fruit, acqua (water), and dolci (dessert).

We have planned many fun activi-

ties and music throughout the day for young and old. Folks can vote for the best homemade meatballs, tiramisu, and wine, enjoy a casual game of bocce, horse-shoes, or Frisbee golf on the official disc golf course at the park, and dance the tarantella! Kids (of all ages!) can enjoy bean bags, bubbles, large balls, hula hoops, and more! And, souvenir DVD's and wine glasses will be for sale. Also, the park provides a beautiful natural backdrop for friendly strolls and chats at the many picnic tables. All this while you will be entertained by our own musicians, **Giovanni e Giovanni (John Contratto and John Salerno)**!

So, plan to come and invite your friends and family! Also, bring an appetizer or snack to share, your favorite beverage, your Frisbee, a

croquet set, and a lawn chair, if you like, and consider bringing your family's favorite homemade meatballs, tiramisu, and wine to enter in the competition!

If you are also interested in helping with setup (11:00 am), cleanup (7:00 pm), or in any other way, please call Vicky at 920-865-7229. Grazie!

Please see the official invitation with details and registration form to fill out and return by August 6th, attached to this newsletter. You must pre-register to attend, since no registrations will be accepted at the door for planning purposes.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the **Ferragosto 20th Anniversary Celebration!!!**

Salute!!

What is FERRAGOSTO?

by Janice Galt

Ferragosto, August 15th, (Augustus' rest), is a holiday time of long standing in Italian culture. It has ancient links to harvest time, and the end of intense agricultural labor. A period of rest, it included games such as horse racing, and is connected to the **Palio races in Siena each August.** In religion, it commemorates the **Assumption of Mary.**

Today, **Ferragosto** is still honored as a feast day, and families gather for a short holiday if they don't have the whole month off. Many families head to the beach for reunions and parties. August, being a national month-long vacation period, with **Ferragosto** as its apex, remains a central memory of each new generation. Because so many Italians are on vacation, we are often reminded to choose a different month to visit.

Our Club Italo Americano is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in the spirit of Ferragosto, a vital part of Italian family life, with friends meeting, fun, games, food, and music.

We hope you and all our past and present club members will gather this August 16th in recognition of what Italian culture and friendship mean to us all.

"Salute, e buon divertimento!"

Schulz Spur Nove

Italian Settlers Centennial

Celebration July 11- 12, 2014

by Peg Ricci Anderson

I was raised in a small Italian rural community about 7 miles north of **Merrill Wisconsin** called **Schulz Spur.** Beginning in 1914 until 1922 there were 9 immigrant Italian families who settled in **Schulz Spur.** My grandparents, **Luigi and Armelinda Ricci**

along with their 5 children were the first of the 9 families to buy 100 acres to settle in the **Schulz Spur community.**

I began working on the genealogy of my Italian heritage two years ago when I realized it would be 100 years in 2014 since the families began settling in the **Schulz Spur community.**

Last July 2013, I called 2-3 people from each of the 9 immigrant Italian families who lived in the **Merrill** area to ask if they would like to consider a celebration. We had 30-40 people show up for a meeting at a local restaurant in **Merrill.** It set the celebration in motion as we met nearly each month.

We called the celebration "**Schulz Spur Nove**". My son, **Jonathan Anderson** created the name, logo and website for people to register for the celebration and also for people to access important information regarding the celebration. About 400 people from 17 states, Canada and 3 from Italy attended the celebration. It was a joyful celebration with nonstop conversations and sharing of heritage stories. We were very fortunate to have **John Contratto** share delightful Italian music before and during our Saturday meal.

A wonderful addition to our gathering was the visit of a delegation from Italy. **Ms Silvia Bartolini, President of "Consulta degli Emiliano-Romagnoli nel Mondo" and Christa Collina who met with the descendants.** One of the aims of their activities is to keep and strengthen the links between the citizens of the **milia-Romagna Region** who emigrated abroad and their homeland. **President Enrico Belgrado of Italian Art of Living,** a non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the Italian culture abroad through food, gave a presentation at the celebration and brought Italian cheese and balsamic vinegar for people to taste.

If anyone would like to learn more about the Schulz Spur Italian Immigrant Centennial Celebration website, go to

www.schulzspurnove.com (click on the about page)

TEST YOUR ITALIAN

MONTH 4

il treno	the train
la stazione	the train station
il ristorante	the restaurant
la spiaggia	the beach
il museo	the museum
il biglietto	the ticket
la carta stradale	the road map

A che ora parte il treno?

What time does the train leave?

Parte alle dieci. E' ora di andare alla stazione.

The train leaves at 10:00. It is time to go to the train station.

Dov'e' la carta stradale? Voglio vedere dove si trova Roma.

Where is the map? I want to see where Rome is.

Vuoi andare a visitare il Museo Vaticano?

Do you want to visit the Vatican Museum?

Si, ma quanto costa il biglietto d'entrata?

Yes, but how much does the ticket cost?

Dopo la spiaggia vuoi andare al ristorante?

After the beach, do you want to go to the restaurant?

MEMERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome 2 new members this month.

Richard Carlstedt is 1/2 Italian on his mother's side.

His grandfather **Donato Bastiani** came from **Bagni di Lucca in Tuscany** and his grandmother was from the **Baldassari**

family in **Florence**.

Tracy Grasee joined us because she loves the Italian culture.

Benvenuti Tracy and Richard!

ItaloAmericano Club's

Seconda Passeggiatta

by JoAnna Kloster

Captain's Walk Winery

July 21, 2014

Amid galleons and ghosts, 37 club members shared a unique and intimate evening for our **second passeggiatta**. With blue skies above, and sparkling ripples in the Fox River ahead, members began the evening by posing for a group picture. We lined up on the entrance ramp to **Captain's Walk** like a determined crew of sailors ready for their maiden voyage at this new venue. Our trusty first mate, **Ron Bernard**, coached us into 3 shots for posterity and one just for fun - with hands and hats raised high.

Then it was off to the river. Walking along the trail was exhilarating. Warm summer breezes off the Fox tickled bare skin like soft caresses. A lovely experience after the deep freeze we'd endured this past winter. And we certainly weren't alone. Members kept an eye out during conversations for bicyclists sharing the trail and green space this evening. But, all in all, everyone enjoyed the saunter and conversation. Primed for dinner, everyone was now ready for air conditioning, appetizers, and vino!

This was a winery, after all. What better way to experience it, than by some wine tasting. And taste we did! Selections sampled were from the regular tasting, which included seven pours from a choice of 13 varieties of whites and reds. From refreshing and citrusy whites, to pink and

crisp rose's, to dark and luscious reds, everyone found something to like and linger over. Choices were determined by each member. Which was the really fun part. Our hostess provided brochures with descriptions of each wine. The phrase belly-up-to-the-bar lingered in the air as members clustered in pairs or triads perusing brochures, while weighing the pros and cons of each vintage. Glassware for the whites was stemmed and for the reds was stemless, which encouraged more swirling, smelling and lingering. Everyone found something enjoyable!

Amidst the tasting, members strolled between rooms for hors d'oeuvres. Noshing was the other venue for this evening. Members shared a cheese and meat platter, sour cream and spinach/artichoke dip, sliced baguettes, caprese skewers, chicken salad sandwich croissants, and Italian meatballs in red sauce. A bit into the tast-



ing, we also sampled two types of pizza: a white margarita style with ricotta cheese, and a traditional red sauce, mozzarella and sausage.

Following our noshing, we were treated to a brief but very interesting history of the house and winery, complete with ghost stories about "**Helen**" one of the unmarried daughters of the original owner. Seems she was not able to live out her final days in the house and ended up selling it. A change that didn't sit well with **Helen**.

Now, no one said the house was haunted,

mind you. But, as the story goes **Helen's** spirit (it is believed by those who have lived in and worked at Captain's Walk subsequently) still walks the halls and stairways - letting her presence be known whenever there are changes made in the house. And there have been a lot of changes since **Captain's Walk Winery** took ownership of the building.

Nevertheless, **Helen** was quiet this evening as we enjoyed the libations and eats at her former abode. Must have been the good energy members brought and shared with each other this summer night.

Mille grazie to Jackie (Gilardi) Kucera for organizing another fine passeggiata with Club ItaloAmericano !

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, September 11th, an outing to JaJora Olive Oil Company, 2069 Central Court, Green Bay, east side.

An evening to experience a wide variety of extra virgin olive oils, balsamic vinegars and more.

Look for more information in a separate email sent by Vicky (Piccione) Sobek.

FATE ATTENZIONE!!!!

CENA DI NATALE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED to SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2014

Because of a conflict with engagements at the Green Bay Yacht Club, we have changed the date from Saturday, December 13 to Saturday, December 6--one week earlier.

Musicale VII - Tuesday October 21 @ 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 XVIII - Saturday December 6 @ 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

Summer Bocce Ball League - July 28: 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.

Passeggiate - mid September [exact date 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.

Dinner & an Italian Movie - Fall Showing

on November 19

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.

31st Annual Green Bay Holiday Parade - Saturday November 22

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. This year's theme is Toyland Christmas. 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

August 16, Saturday 20th Anniversary Celebration

mid September Terza Passeggiata

October 21, Tuesday Musicale

November 19, Wednesday . . . Dinner & an Italian Movie

November 22, Saturday Green Bay Holiday Parade

December 6, Saturday . . . Cena di Natale



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on **Thursday 21 August 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 De-Pere**, **Luigi's Italian Bistro in Green Bay**, **Sammy's Pizza in Green Bay**, **Titletown Brewery in Green Bay**, and the **Captains Walk Winery in Green Bay**, and the **Captains Eatery 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

Questions— call me at 612-360-8246



PRIMA PASSEGGIATA PHOTOS



SECONDA PASSEGGIATA PHOTOS







**LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR BEING AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!!**